

**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.



**STATE BRIEFS**

**Thousands expected for Saturday's Moral March on Raleigh & HK on J**

[RALEIGH] All roads lead to Raleigh Saturday for the 12th Annual Moral March on Raleigh & Historic Thousands on Jones Street People's Assembly, sponsored by the NC NAACP, it's 125 local branches, and it's over 200 social justice coalition partners. This year's theme is "Taking the Resistance Straight to the Ballot Box," and thousands of demonstrators from across the state are expected to converge on downtown Raleigh early Saturday morning at 8:30 am for the pre-rally which begins at 9 am at the corner of Wilmington and South Streets near Shaw University. At 10 am, the march/people's Assembly begins to the state Capitol. For more information, go to naacpnc.org, or hkcnj.com.

**Quiet "Poor People's Campaign" pre-kickoff**

[RALEIGH] The official national kickoff of the 2018 Poor People's Campaign isn't supposed to begin until May, but last Tuesday, 30 cities across the nation, including here in Raleigh, started pre-kickoff marches with small, but determined groups of protesters. At least 30 gathered on the Halifax Mall across from the NC legislature, and rallied to demand that state and federal governments do much more to help the poor. Then they marched over to the Legislative Building, and delivered letters to the offices of Republican leaders Senate President Phil Berger, and House Speaker Tim Moore. The leaders of the national Poor People's Campaign are Bishop William Barber, former president of the NC NAACP, and Rev. Liz Theoharis.

**US Civil Rights Commission holds hearings in Raleigh**

[RALEIGH] Touring the nation, gathering testimony and evidence pertaining to the status of voting rights, the US Commission on Civil Rights came to Raleigh Feb. 2nd, hearing testimony, and allowing the public to speak to the issue. Throughout the daylong session, various panelists told the commission about why North Carolina is considered Ground Zero in the national battle over voter redistricting and voting rights. The state has repeatedly been chastised by state, federal courts, and even the US Supreme Court, for implementing unconstitutional laws and redistricting maps to gain partisan advantage come election time. The commission is expected to use the information gathered for an ongoing assessment of federal enforcement of the 1965 Voting Rights Act.

**BRUNSWICK COUNTY UPDATE**

**WILL RETURN SOON**

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

Serving Southeastern North Carolina since 1927 and an outgrowth of R.S. Jervay Printers established in 1901

THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

News from the African American perspective without fear or favor

VOLUME 91/No. 6

FEBRUARY 8, 2018 - FEBRUARY 14, 2018

FIFTY CENTS

**WITH CANDIDATE FILING MONDAY, NEW COURT DECISIONS LOOM LARGE**

BY CASH MICHAELS OF THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

Monday, Feb. 12, is the beginning of the filing period for candidates for public office in North Carolina. Technically, that's when Democrats and Republicans, hoping to compete in their respective party primaries for a chance to be ultimately selected to run in the fall 2018 midterm elections, commit themselves for either statewide or congressional office. However, thanks to an unceasing plethora of court cases involving legislative congressional and judicial redistricting, confusion has been the buzzword as to whether even the fil-

ing period will be allowed to commence.

At press time Tuesday, there was no official word of any delays that would disrupt the filing period. In fact, at least one court ruling last week cleared the way for several judicial candidates who originally were off the ballot.

U.S. District Court Judge Catherine Eagles partially granted a preliminary injunction against Senate Bill 656, which, when passed by the Republican-led NC General Assembly last year, eliminated judicial primary races. In her order, Judge Eagles said it made no sense to do away with primaries for statewide races for the State Court of Appeals and the NC

Supreme Court (currently there are races for both) because neither post is dependent on voting districts.

However, because District and Superior Court cases do involve voting districts, and the legislature is currently considering a new judicial redistricting map (expected to be debated and voted on this week, according to reports) Judge Eagles decided to allow the elimination of primaries in those races until she can decide whether the law was completely unconstitutional.

"The defendants have offered a legitimate governmental interest in

Please see **FILING PERIOD**/Page 3



**U.S. DISTRICT COURT JUDGE CATHERINE EAGLES**

**BURGAW**

**"THE UNFOLDING OF AFRO-AMERICAN HISTORY THROUGH THE EYE OF A LENS" ON EXHIBIT**



**Afro-American historic photographs focus of program**

SPECIAL TO THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

"The Unfolding of Afro-American History Through the Eye of a Lens" will be jointly presented by the Pender County Library and the Pender Historical Society in Burgaw on Saturday, Feb. 17 at 10:30am. The program is free to the public and will be held at the library at 103 S. Cowan St. in Burgaw.

The program will feature late 19th and early 20th century photographs from a private collection with commentary by Mr. Craig James, a Johnston County attorney. Mr. James collected the images from all over the country.

Craig James is a Pender County native from Maple Hill and a graduate of Pender High School. His ancestors were enslaved on the Sycamore Springs Plantation founded in 1767 by Isaac James. The land has been continuously owned by Isaac James' descendants for over 250 years. The African-American James descendants returned to hold a reunion on the plantation some years ago.

One of Craig James' treasured images taken circa 1933 is of his ancestor Nursey James born into slavery around 1842 at Sycamore Springs Plantation. After the Civil War and emancipation, she chose to remain there employed by Isaac James' descendants. She was a family matriarch; both the black and white descendants of those who lived on the plantation hold her memory with great affection and respect.

Craig James wrote, "American history is vividly expressed through photography. When it was taboo or unconstitutional to speak of the Negro as human, photography validated his history and substantiated the Negro plight." Mr. James also has



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO BY PENDER COUNTY LIBRARY PHOTO FROM THE PRIVATE COLLECTION BY MR. CRAIG JAMES, A JOHNSTON COUNTY ATTORNEY

published a booklet that will be for sale at the program that has highlights from his collection with his reflections and commentary from history.

Please see **EXHIBIT**/Page 2



**CATERINA JARBORO**

**Opera Wilmington celebrates Wilmington's first diva**



SPECIAL TO THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

BY JENNY CALLISON FOR OPERA WILMINGTON

Caterina Jarboro's name may not be familiar to many opera lovers today, but she deserves a place among the pantheon of singers. Born in 1898 in Wilmington, she rose like a phoenix from the ashes of an African American community ravaged by a political and economic coup d'etat, developing her musical gifts and forging a career on the opera stage.

Please see **DIVA**/Page 2

**Adams, Butterfield blast Trump on Black unemployment rate**

BY CASH MICHAELS OF THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

During his speech in Cincinnati Monday, Pres. Donald Trump attacked members of the Congressional Black Caucus who, while Republicans were loudly applauding, refused to clap while African kente' cloth draped their all-black attire, or acknowledge the President's announcement that Black unemployment has dropped to an historic 45 year low during his first State of the Union address to Congress and the nation.

"You're up there. You got half the room going totally crazy, wild, loved everything," Trump said in his

remarks Monday. "They want to do something great for our country, and you have the other side, even on positive news - really positive news - like that, they were like death, un-American. Somebody said treasonous. Yeah, I guess. Why not? Can we call that treason? Why not? I mean they certainly didn't seem to love our country very much."

Even before the Republican President accused them of "treason" for not applauding him, two prominent members of the CBC, Rep. Alma Adams (D-NC-12) and Rep. G.K. Butterfield (D-NC-1), had pretty much had their fill of Trump, especially after his infamous "s---hole" reference to Haiti and Africa.

So his subsequent taking credit for Black unemployment's going down to just single digits for the first time in a long time didn't help.

"African American unemployment has been going down for a decade, yet it's still double White unemployment," Rep. Adams tweeted Jan. 30th. "Would POTUS be celebrating if this stat were the other way around?"

The morning of the SOTU, when the Black Press called Rep. Butterfield at his office and asked how Washington was doing, the North Carolina congressman replied tongue-in-cheek,

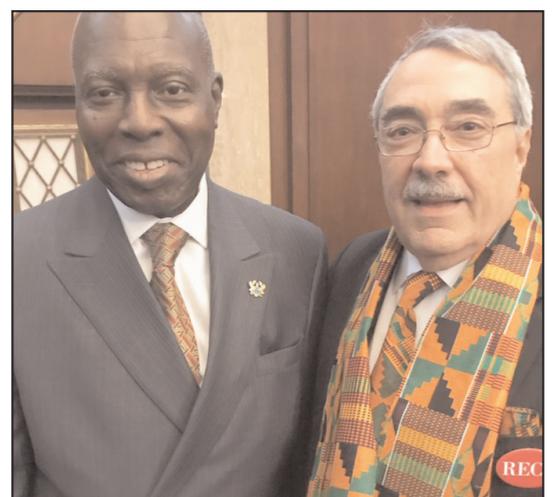


PHOTO COURTESY OF OFFICE OF BUTTERFIELD Rep. Butterfield with Ghana's Ambassador on the House Floor before the president's address.

Please see **BLASTED**/Page 2

TO ADVERTISE OR SUBSCRIBE, CALL (910) 762-5502

VISIT US AT WWW.WILMINGTONJOURNAL.COM



THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

ISSN 0049-7649 - AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER Dedicated to R.S. Jervay, Founder of R.S. Jervay Printers, 1901 and T.C. Jervay, Sr., Founder of The Wilmington Journal, An offspring of the Cape Fear Journal, 1927

WE ACCEPT



Shawn Jervay Thatch Chief Operating Officer Mary Alice Jervay Thatch Publisher/Editor Johanna Thatch Briggs Assistant Editor Cash Michaels Reporter/Editorial Staff Edward Crumdy Accounts Executive John Davis Photographer DeShon Briggs Distributor Joshua Allen Distributor

Opinions expressed by columnists in this newspaper do not necessarily represent the policy of this paper. The Wilmington Journal cannot accept yard sale and dinner sale announcements as briefs. These are considered advertisements. Community and religious briefs are designated for public service announcements, which are free and open to the public.

EXHIBIT

Continued from Page 1

The program launches an ongoing effort by the library to establish a special permanent collection to draw from for an online exhibit of local historic African-American photographs. Historical subjects include people, church, school and community life in general.

The goal of the project is to highlight and preserve Afro-American life and history in the greater Cape Fear region in association with the library's heritage research center. Call 259-1234 or come by the library for more information.

For more information about contributing to the special collection or about the Feb. 17 program, visit the library website at penderpubliclibrary.org or call 259-1234. The program is presented with financial support from the Friends of the Pender County Library.



BLASTED

Continued from Page 1

"Not well, not well! I don't think this President is going to say anything constructive."

When asked about the decline in Black unemployment (which was 6.8, a fall from a high of over 15.2 years earlier), Butterfield echoed his North Carolina colleague's sentiment.

"Pres. Barack Obama worked very hard to get the economy under control," Rep. Butterfield said. "When Obama stepped into the Oval Office, he inherited a terrible economy. We were bleeding 700,000-800,000 jobs per month. The automotive industry was about to shut down. The stock market was plummeting. Consumer confidence was at an all-time low... Things were not good."

"He inherited a trillion and a truck half dollar deficit. So

for eight years, he very painfully tried to get the unemployment rate down... So what Donald trump is experiencing now is simply a continuation of a trend that began during the Obama years," Congressman Butterfield continued.

There's no question the Black unemployment rate is down, but what gets overlooked in that conversation is Black underemployment. I know a lot of people who are employed, but are very unhappy because they're making minimum wage or near minimum wage. So we have to talk about Black underemployment as well."

Butterfield went on to say that Black unemployment was 6.8 percent, but the overall jobless rate was 4.1 percent, meaning it was still high compared to the national average.

That was Tuesday, Jan. 30, the night of Pres. Trump's SOTU.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ALMA ADAMS/TWEET CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS AT STATE OF THE UNION: CONGRESSWOMAN ALMA ADAMS IS ON SECOND ROW THIRD FROM RIGHT.

Three days later, Black unemployment was reported at 7.7 percent, up almost a full point.

Tweeting a frowning face

she had during the SOTU, Congresswoman Adams wrote, "That face you make when you learn that the Black unemployment rate

has one of the largest increases in years to 7.7%.

Adams ended the Feb. 2 tweet, "#ThingsTrump Wont TalkAbout #SOTU."

DIVA

Continued from Page 1

Jarboro achieved an important "first": she was the first female African American diva to perform a leading role on an American opera stage with an otherwise all-white American company, preceding Marian Anderson's appearance at the Metropolitan Opera by 22 years.

Opera Wilmington will celebrate "Wilmington's first diva" at a two-day event Friday and Saturday, Feb. 23 and 24, at Beckwith Hall, University of North Carolina Wilmington. "Celebrating Caterina Jarboro" will set Jarboro's life and career against the racial climate of her day as well as the emergence of black culture into the mainstream through such movements as the Harlem Renaissance.

Jarboro's grand-nephew Richard Yarborough, a professor at UCLA, will share his memories of "Aunt Katherine." A distant relative, rising soprano Jemeesa Yarborough, will give a master class Friday afternoon at UNCW.

Jemeesa Yarborough will be featured also in a concert the evening of Feb. 23, singing some of her famous relative's repertoire. Also featured on the program are Marva Robinson and the Williston Alumni Chorus and the Snipes Academy Chorus.

Jarboro's significant achievements were due to her determination and courage as well as to her abundance of talent.

Christened Katherine Lee Yarborough at St. Thomas Catholic Church, she was the daughter of an American Indian mother and a black father who was a prominent local barber. The family lived at 214 Church Street.

According to BlackPast.org, "She received elementary school education at St. Thomas, and later attended Gregory Normal School." Her parents died when she was a teenager, and in 1916, she traveled to Brooklyn, New York, to live with an aunt and study music in the big city.

Jarboro's "unusual vocal talent" was recognized when she was very young, according to a February 2007 story in the Wilmington Star News, which continued, "Once Negro music gained popularity on Broadway, Jarboro got a job in the chorus of Shuffle Along, getting paid \$50 a week."

Realizing that her opportunities in the U.S. were limited, Jarboro went to Europe, where she made her grand opera debut in the title role of Verdi's Aida at La Scala in Milan. She had a successful career abroad, performing at opera houses in major European cities. That brought her to the attention of opera producers in her native country, and in 1933 she was cast in a leading role in a Chicago Opera Company production at Manhattan's Hippodrome.

Through the efforts of Thomas C. Jervay, then-publisher of the Wilmington Journal, and of Tony Rivenbark, Jarboro returned to Wilmington in the 1950's to perform benefit concerts at Thalian Hall.

Jarboro retired as a singer in 1955, 20 years after turning down an audition at the Metropolitan Opera House,

the Star News story reported, adding, "She felt it was beneath her after singing opera in Paris, Madrid, Vienna, Warsaw and Moscow. She had previously been

denied membership into the Metropolitan Opera Association after people learned she was not Italian."

The singer died in 1986 at her home in Manhattan.

For details about "Celebrating Caterina Jarboro," visit www.operawilmington.org. Seminar sessions are free of charge; tickets to the concert are \$25. The event

is made possible with support from the UNCW Office of the Arts and Department of Music, as well as from the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute.

Advertisement for Food Lion MVP Shop & Earn. Text includes: 'SHOP & EARN MVP CUSTOMER REWARDS', 'ARE YOU EARNING MORE SAVINGS TODAY?', 'Earn rewards on top of your MVP Savings', 'SAVE \$20 Save an average of \$20 more in MVP Savings each month!', '\$10 BONUS Sign up to get \$10 Bonus Digital Rewards when you spend \$30.', 'Activate today at foodlion.com or on the Food Lion Mobile App!', 'FOOD LION'. Includes images of money and fresh produce.

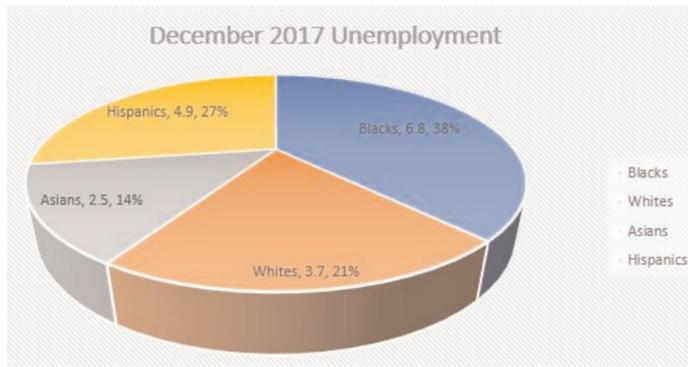
# Black jobless rate is back up in less than a week

BY FREDERICK H. LOWE

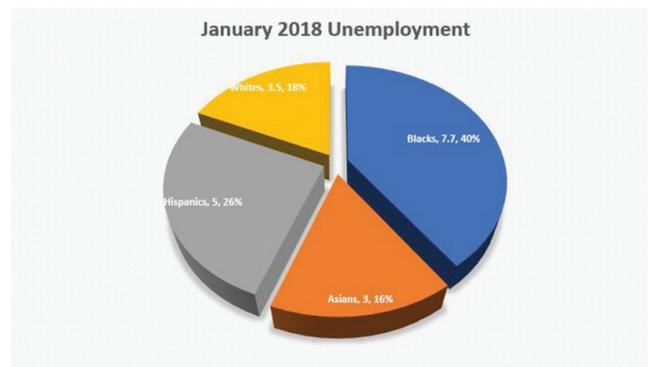
SPECIAL TO THE TRICE EDNEY NEWS WIRE FROM NORTHSTARNEWS TODAY.COM

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - Less than a week after President Donald Trump used his bully pulpit-The State of the Union Address-to tell the nation that black unemployment had dropped to the lowest level ever recorded, the Black jobless rate went back up, although non-farm businesses added 200,000 new jobs in January, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics has reported.

President Trump said Jan. 30 "that unemployment claims hit a 45-year low. It's something I'm very proud



Black Unemployment Rate - December 2017



Black Unemployment Rate - January 2018

of. African-American unemployment stands at the lowest rate ever recorded."

December's jobless rate for Blacks was 6.8 percent down from a high of 16.8 percent in March 2010. The

jobless rate in December was the lowest since 1972 when BLS began reporting the employment rate for Blacks and Whites at monthly hearings of the Congressional Joint Economic Committee. The drop,

however, did not last long. It rose to 7.7 percent in January, according to BLS.

The jobless rate for Black men 20 and over was 7.5 percent in January compared with 6.6 percent in

December. The unemployment rate for Black women 20 and older was 6.6 percent in January compared with 5.8 percent in December. The overall unemployment rate was 4.1 percent. Non-

farm businesses added jobs in construction, food services, drinking places, health care and manufacturing added jobs.

## Coalition of Black organizations to hold United Nations protest February 15 against Trump

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - #ProudAfricans, a coalition of African, Caribbean, and African-American human rights and professional organizations, will lead a protest rally outside the United Nations Headquarters at Dag Hammarskjold Plaza Park in New York City on Feb. 15 to denounce the recent racist and bigoted anti-Africa comments by U.S. President Donald Trump, according to the Institute of the Black World 21st Century (IBW), a member of the coalition.

The "Repudiating and Educating Trump" Protest Rally will take place at 11 a.m. on 47 Street between First and Second Avenues.

Recent insults from Trump, reportedly referring to Haiti and African nations as S\*\*\*hole countries during an Oval Office meeting, have apparently sparked an uprising in which numerous other issues are being brought to the surface. Those issues include the relationship between Africa and the U. S. and the widespread mistreatment of nations of color.

"The rally will also highlight the past and continuing contributions by people of African descent to the creation of wealth and prosperity in the United States and other Western countries. In addition, the coalition will denounce the brutal exploita-

tion of African migrants whose plight was highlighted in a recent CNN expose showing auctions of African migrants who have been enslaved in Libya," states a release from IBW.

It continues, "At the UN rally, the coalition will raise public awareness of the thousands of young Africans who continue to drown during desperate voyages across the Mediterranean to seek employment in Europe because the economies of their own countries have been ravaged by policies imposed by the World Bank and the IMF in collusion with corrupt regimes generally maintained in power by US and European governments."

IBW says the coalition aims to issue "a set of demands to the White House, the United Nations, and other International organizations to address the socio-economic and political marginalization of Africans and African descendants all over the world."

#ProudAfricans Coalition has been organized by the United African Congress (UAC), a New York-based organization representing African immigrants in the U.S. The UAC is led by Dr. Mohammed Nurhusein, chairman, and Sidique Wai, president and national spokesperson.



PHOTO COURTESY TRICEEDNEYWIRE.COM  
Organizing committee for the "Repudiating and Educating Trump" Protest Rally Feb. 15

"We are Africans of diverse backgrounds from across the continent and the diaspora who are proud of our heritage, who have come together to denounce strongly, without stooping to his level of depravity, the vile and racist characterization of people of African descent by the current occupant of the House that enslaved Africans built," states Dr. Nurhusein, a retired physician, in the release, which also quotes other leaders.

"As an Immigrant from Morocco and as a human rights activist and community organizer I also denounce

the hateful words used to describe my beautiful motherland Africa," said Ms. Souad Kirama founder and director of New Horizon Center for Advocacy and Development. "We are here in this wonderful newly founded coalition to say it loud and clear #ProudAfrican!"

IBW President/CEO Ron Daniels, a distinguished CUNY professor, is one of the chief organizers of the protest rally at the UN. "As president of the Institute of the Black World 21st Century and convener of the Pan African Unity Dialogue, I am proud to stand with our sis-

ters and brothers in the diaspora in repudiating the foul-mouthed insults that spewed recently from the current occupant of the White House. We will not be disrespected," Daniels stated.

Bourema Niamebe, a leader of New York City-based African Diaspora Coalition for Justice, one of the protest organizers, says, "Donald Trump represents the kind of racism towards Africans and African immigrants that we see around the world today. As the world now knows from the recent CNN expose, Africans are even being auctioned into slavery in Libya. This is the

21st century and we will not stand for it."

The rally is expected to draw large numbers of people from the continental African immigrant, African-American, Caribbean-American and Latino communities from the Tri-State area and across the nation.

The coalition's priorities are anchored by the framework of "Protest, Policy, Power" and speakers will challenge the current socio-economic policies that negatively impact African communities at the local, national and international levels and will offer a number of solutions. In so doing, participating organizations will broaden and deepen their alliances for unified actions moving forward.

In addition to United African Congress (UAC) and IBW, the protest rally is endorsed by Give Them A Hand Foundation, African Diaspora Coalition for Justice, Nextmedia.tv, The Black Star News, African Women Solidarity Action for Development, African Hope Committee, African Commission of Newark, New Jersey, and the African Human Rights Commission.

For more information on the protest: 212-340-1975; info@nextmedia.tv; or Facebook: proudafricansempowerment.

### FILING PERIOD

Continued from Page 1

this change as to elections of Superior and District Court judges, as the legislature plans to redistrict these seats this year and primaries using current district lines may be unnecessary and will cause confusion if, and when, the

redistricting is complete," Judge Eagles wrote in her opinion. "The defendants have made no showing of any governmental interest supporting the abolishment of a mechanism to narrow the field in partisan appellate judicial races, as those judges are elected statewide and are not subject to redistricting."

Meanwhile, in the legisla-

tive redistricting case where a federal three-judge panel ruled that the maps drawn by a court appointed special master should be used to correct the racially gerrymandered voting districts drawn by GOP lawmakers, the U.S. Supreme Court Tuesday temporarily blocked a special master's maps for Wake and Mecklenburg counties, while allowing maps for six other redrawn counties to stand. Republican legislative leaders petitioned for an emer-

gency stay, as well as a notice of appeal.

It is not known why the Wake and Mecklenburg county maps were blocked.

In all, there are five redistricting cases pending in the both federal and state courts in North Carolina, and most observers expect that, because these cases deal with how voting districts are drawn, while the filing for office may not be delayed, the May primaries may be for at least a month.

**POWER 1220AM**  
**WENC**  
Whiteville, North Carolina

**Godwin Communication, LLC**

Godwin Communications passion is to inspire people through good radio programing that uplift, motivate and empower people to achieve greatness.

Our local station WENC has served Columbus County and surrounding areas since 1974. We are committed to providing the highest quality of service.

Our goal is to introduce a wholesome format with positive connotations to assist the spiritual growth of our listeners. We feel this goal is attainable because of our coverage.

Our station broadcasts National News and Sports from the NBC and NC Network. The coverage of WENC is Southeastern North Carolina and Northeastern South Carolina, which includes Bladen, Horry, Roberson, and Columbus counties

Interested in Career Opportunities at Godwin Communications, Give us a Call.

Godwin Communications, LLC  
108 Radio Station Rd  
Whiteville, North Carolina 28472  
Tel: (910) 642-2133  
Website: [www.power1220am.com](http://www.power1220am.com)  
Email: [aneshia@embarqmail.com](mailto:aneshia@embarqmail.com)

UNCW  
University of North Carolina Wilmington

**STOMPIN' AT THE SAVOY**

Saturday, April 21, 2018  
7 - 11 pm  
Burney Center Ballroom, UNCW Campus  
601 S. College Road  
Wilmington, NC

Join us for a wonderful evening as we raise money for diversity scholarships at UNCW

Featuring live music by ENVISION

Semi-formal attire  
\$60 per person  
(Includes heavy hors d'oeuvres, beer and wine)

Tickets can be purchased online at [giving.uncw.edu/stompin](http://giving.uncw.edu/stompin)

Purchase your tickets by April 13, tickets sold after this date are \$75 each

**WILMINGTON TALK TITAN**  
HOME OF OLD SCHOOL CLASSICS

**WLTT 1180 AM**  
Live Streaming Radio & on iTunes  
[www.1180WLTT.com](http://www.1180WLTT.com)  
comments@1180wltt.com • 910.833.7118

**Gospel Joy** **WWIL 1490 AM**

**Rejoice!** Musical Soulfood

Streaming Live or on iTunes  
[www.gospeljoy1490.net](http://www.gospeljoy1490.net)  
email: [rejoice@gospeljoy1490.net](mailto:rejoice@gospeljoy1490.net)

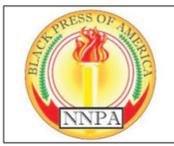
Wilmington North Carolina Chapter  
Of The Links, Incorporated  
PRESENTS THE 48th ANNUAL  
FINE ARTS BRUNCH

KALEIDOSCOPE XXXV  
~Building a Healthy Legacy through Education~

Hilton Wilmington Riverside  
301 N. Water Street  
Wilmington, N.C. 28401

Saturday, March 10, 2018  
11:00 a.m.

**DONATION \$50.00**



**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 [wilmjournal@aol.com](mailto:wilmjournal@aol.com) or via fax at (910) 343-1334.

## OUR VOICE

GUEST EDITORIAL

### How you can celebrate Black History Month

(Via TriceEdneyWire.com)

Every year, the Association for the Study of African American Life and History selects a theme for Black History Month. This year, the theme, African Americans in Times of War, is meant to commemorate the end of World War I, the war that supposedly made the world "safe for democracy". It is a war that African Americans fought for the right to fight in, a war that saw African Americans go abroad to fight for democracy, only to come home and be oppressed by segregation. Undoubtedly, there will be many programs designed to lift up this theme, which ASALH sees as an opportunity to reflect on the African American role in all wars, including the contemporary "war on terrorism".



Dr. Julianne Malveaux

What will you do to celebrate Black History Month? Many will participate in programs at their schools or churches. Some will gather for lunches and dinners and reflect on African American history. However, I wonder how many will simply let the month of February slide without doing anything to commemorate this month. Carter G. Woodson, the founder of ASALH and Black History Month (originally Negro History Week), would be spinning in his grave, if he knew how few of us celebrate this month. (Of course, Black history is also American history, and we ought to celebrate Black history every month of the year!)

Dr. Eugene Williams, Sr. (a retired educator in the DC area) reached out to professional basketball teams to ask them to feature Lift Every Voice and Sing, the Negro National Anthem that was penned by James Weldon Johnson sung at games in the month of February. He has commitments from the Washington Wizards, the Cleveland Cavaliers, the Golden State Warriors and George Washington University. Other teams, including the LA Lakers and the Atlanta Hawks, are considering the effort as well. Dr. Williams isn't representing an organization - he just had a great idea, and started calling NBA team offices with his request.

What will you do to celebrate Black History Month? Will you mount an effort like Dr. Williams? His independent effort will have an impact and ensure that NBA games commemorate Black history. What can you do? Here are a few ideas:

**JOIN ASALH** ([www.asalh.org](http://www.asalh.org)). Memberships range from \$45 for students to \$100 (or more for life memberships). What better way to celebrate Black History Month than by supporting the organization founded by the man who made our celebration possible?

**REGISTER TO VOTE!** The struggle for the right to vote is an integral part of our Black history. Rev. Jesse Jackson once said, "The hands that picked peaches can now pick Presidents". There are lots of important races in 2018, and you honor Fannie Lou Hamer, Medgar Evers, Dr. Martin Luther King, Rosa Parks, and so many others with your vote.

**HELP SOMEONE MAKE BLACK HISTORY.** In Georgia, state legislator Stacey Abrams, is running for Governor. She can win, too, if she can get the voter turnout and financial support that she needs. If you live in Georgia, you can help this woman become the first African American to be Governor of a southern state. You can learn more about her and get involved in her campaign by checking her out at [www.staceyabrams.com](http://www.staceyabrams.com). Help this sister make history!

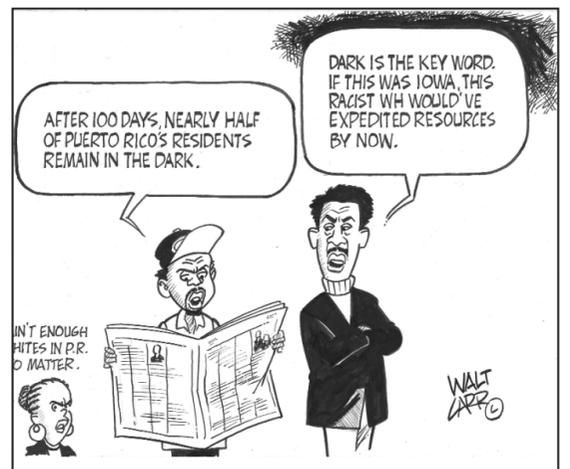
**MAKE LEARNING BLACK HISTORY A FAMILY GAME.** An organization called Urban Intellectuals has developed two volumes of flashcards that explore aspects of Black History. You can check them out on Facebook, [www.facebook.com/urbanintellectuals](http://www.facebook.com/urbanintellectuals), order their cards, and learn more of our history.

**GIVE A CHILD A GIFT OF A BLACK HISTORY BOOK.** One of my favorites, *Preaching to the Chickens: The Story of Young John Lewis*, by Jabari Asim, celebrates a contemporary hero, Congressman John Lewis. Another, *Minty: The Story of a Young Harriet Tubman* by Alan Schroeder, tells the story of the Maryland icon who helped dozens of enslaved people escape through the Underground Railroad (legend says it is hundreds, but at Harriet Tubman Museum (operated by the National Park Service in Church Creek, Maryland) researchers say some of the estimates are too high. *The Youngest Marcher: The Story of Audrey Faye Hendricks, a Young Civil Rights Activist* by Cynthia Levinson will motivate young people to activism. *Sit In: How Four Friends Stood Up By Sitting Down* by Andrea Davis Pinkney and Brian Pinkney will also motivate young people to take on activist roles.

There are so many other things you might do to celebrate Black History Month. Encourage your friends, regardless of race, to learn more about the amazing story of African American survival and resilience despite the racism that defines this country. May your Black History Month be exciting and enlightening!

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

## Visual Voice



## YOUR VOICE

**Trump is 3/5 of a man who is intellectually, morally and mentally challenged!**

Murphy's Law "if anything can go wrong it will" can now be called TRUMP'S law. TRUMP calls himself a stable genius while his Secretary of State calls him a moron. Our "great negotiator" caused our government to shut down. This shutdown will cause millions (some who live paycheck to paycheck) to lose pay. It will also stop medical care, food distribution and add suffering and death for a few of our brother and sisters. We must register and vote out TRUMP like politicians at the local, state and national level or spend the next three years in the Twilight Zone!!!

James J. Hankins  
 Wilmington, NC

**I remember being a businessman in Wilmington, NC as a youth, I was a paperboy**

and what that meant was I knew a lot of folks, the families of the youth that I went to school and strangers that

became friends. I had a bike and would get up early in the morning and roll my *StarNews* papers and do my route and eat when I got back home and head for school. I sold the *Wilmington Journal* for Mr. Thomas Jervay and the Afro-American along with the *Journal and Guide* for Miss Hooper. I loved to read those papers because I could see what other folks in other places were doing. Every now and then I would read the *Pittsburgh Courier*. Reading was key as we were encouraged to do good in school and go to college and for those who could not afford college many left and joined the Military as others headed North, seemingly to cede what we called home to White People.

Back then there was Tank Town where most of the men were Longshoremen working on the sugar boats and earning what was considered good money for their families. The kids headed for schools came out of Tank Town marching as if in a ritual procession across Third Street going to Dudley, Peabody or across town to Williston, trying to get an edu-

cation. Many would be walking across town as the buses filled with White students rode by with an occasional taunt. Of course we would taunt back and invite them to come off the bus and say it to our faces. No takers. The Longshoremen would meet in the small place on the corner of 4th and Harnett Street, hanging around checking the board for work, just across the street from Brown's Cleaners. They have a bigger Union Hall but no big plans for developing and growing the community. Why? Are our religious organizations and civic organizations afraid of our Power? We seem to separate too quickly before we see a harvest. Do you believe that we have Power?

On the days that I would collect the money for my papers which was mostly on Saturdays, I would go into a lot of homes and businesses owned by Black people. In the stores along Nixon Street there was the McGuire Brothers Store in the block before the Boy's Club. There were no girl members back then with Earl Jackson and

Mr. Best operating the Club and the winning basketball team, "The Little Pros." I tried out, but got cut the first day.

Sometimes while in a home to collect, there would be food being prepared and folks then would invite me to "have some." My Mother told me to decline and I tried, but those biscuits and jam sometimes overruled and I had me some. A lot of times one of the children would have to go to the store and I would too for my family. We were told to go to Mr. Rudolph, or Miss Gussie or your neighborhood grocer and say, my Mama or Grandma said, and then you would place the order and to put it on her bill. Done deal and that was my first introduction to credit. Credit would evolve as the salesman would slowly drive in the community with ALL kinds of wares in their cars and station wagons and parlaying their credit profits into stores with bigger items and

Haywood Fennell  
 Veteran/Author/Activist  
 Boston, MA

## MATTERS OF OPINION

### RAINBOW COALITION

### Tax cut will widen the racial wage gap

(Via TriceEdneyWire.com)

President Donald Trump keeps boasting about the low black unemployment rate, although African Americans still suffer nearly twice the unemployment rate as whites do. What Trump never mentions is the growing racial wealth gap: the economic disparity between



Rev. Jesse Jackson, Sr.

whites and people of color that plagues this country. The statistics from the Federal Reserve are clear. Median black household net worth - what assets the black households in the middle have after subtracting debts - is \$17,600.

That of the typical white household is nearly 10 times greater at \$171,000. The reason for this shocking disparity is clear. As an economic letter from authors of the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco notes, "For the past several decades, black workers have fared worse than white workers in the U.S. labor market. Despite government policies designed to reduce or eliminate racial disparities, black workers continue to experience lower

wages and higher unemployment rates than whites. Black workers still earn less than their white counterparts in a worsening trend that holds true even after accounting for differences in age, education, job type, and geography."

Trump is trumpeting rising wages but in the first year of the Trump administration, the median weekly earnings of African Americans went down, not up, when adjusted for inflation. Forty-five percent of black families own homes, compared with 73 percent of white families. African Americans were the hardest hit by the financial collapse, in part because banks targeted the worst liar's loans to African-American and Latino families, assuring them that they could refinance when the value of their homes rose. When the bottom fell out, the families found themselves underwater, and bankers, like current Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin, then made big bucks foreclosing on the victims.

The measure of this, as the report *Foreclosed* details, can be seen in the fact that the wealth of African-American families had recovered to its pre-crash level by 2016 - not counting the value of their homes. But the average home

equity for African Americans was still \$16,700 less. The very working and middle class families that reached to buy a home were still struggling to get back to where they were in 2007. Over the same period - from 2007 to 2016, the average wealth of the top 1 percent increased by a mere \$4.9 million.

The Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) is far from a perfect health care plan, but it did allow African Americans to lower the number of uninsured among the non-elderly by 1.8 million. Trump and Republican efforts to repeal Obamacare and to throw millions off Medicaid will disproportionately hurt African Americans and Latinos. Inequality is still getting worse. As the Pew Research Center reports, the typical wealth of upper-income families was seven times that of middle income families in 2016, a gap that has doubled since 1983. Similarly, upper-income families have 75 times the wealth of lower-income families in 2016, compared with 28 times the wealth in 1983. And African-American and Latino families are disproportionately more likely to be among the low-income families.

Trump is not to blame for this disparity, just as he is not the reason for current low

unemployment rates. The question is what will the administration do going forward? This week, I will travel to New York where the Rainbow Push Wall Street project will convene bankers, religious and civil rights leaders, economists and union leaders to discuss the growing racial wealth gap. We will explore how the workers' pension funds - from universities, from unions, from public employees, from churches - could be used safely to green line the neighborhoods that are too often redlined.

With federal guarantees, real investment could rebuild neighborhoods, seed small businesses, build affordable housing and create jobs. With the tax cut projected to add more than \$1 trillion to the deficit over a decade, the Republican-led Congress is looking to slash, not expand, federal support for working and poor people and impoverished rural and urban communities. With federal guarantees and more independent pension fund management, new capital for vital investments might be freed up. If Trump were serious about dealing with the wealth gap, he would be leading this discussion, not ignoring it.

Rev. Jesse Jackson, Sr. is founder and president PUSH/Rainbow Coalition.



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

TO BE EQUAL

State of the Union offers a ray of hope for infrastructure

(Via TriceEdneyWire.com)

"It turns out that advancing equal opportunity and economic empowerment is both morally right and good economics, because discrimination, poverty and ignorance restrict growth, while investments in education, infrastructure and scientific and technological research increase it, creating more good jobs and new wealth for all of us." - President Bill Clinton

Since the presidential election last year, the Urban League Movement has been vocal in oppos-

ing those of the new administration's policies which erode civil rights and opportunities for underserved communities. But we have remained optimistic that we could find common ground in the area of infrastructure development.

In his State of the Union address earlier this week,



Marc Morial

President Trump sounded a hopeful but vague note on rebuilding the nation's crumbling infrastructure:

Tonight, I am calling on the Congress to produce a bill that generates at least \$1.5 trillion for the new infrastructure investment we need. Every Federal dollar should be leveraged by partnering with State and local governments and, where appropriate, tapping into private sector investment - to permanently fix the infrastructure deficit ... Together, we can reclaim our building heritage. We will build gleaming new roads, bridges, high-

ways, railways, and waterways across our land. And we will do it with American heart, American hands, and American grit.

Analysis of the Administration's plan has found it "light on federal funds and details." Of the \$1.5 trillion, only \$200 billion would come from federal funds - which would be offset by unspecified budget cuts.

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

CRAZY FAITH MINISTRIES

The stubbornness of racism, God notwithstanding

It would seem that with so many people, black, white and brown, claiming to be Christian and to follow the teaching of Jesus the Christ, there would be no racism. The power of Christianity rests in its belief in agape love, and we are all commanded follow what is known as "the Great Commandment" and "love our neighbor as ourselves."

But unless we all hate ourselves, making it Biblical to hate others, something is terribly wrong, for while so many of us of different hues claim to be Christian, what we do and how we do it is decidedly in violation of what we are supposed to do.

In spite of the Bible's lofty and powerful words, and in spite of the US Constitution which establishes the precept that "all men are created equal," we have failed and are failing to beat racism.

In an article which appeared in the Washington Post, Yale University social psychologist Jennifer Richeson said that "unless parents specifically teach their children not to be racist, they will be." She said that "racism is in the air around us."

Rev. Susan K. Smith

(https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/speaking-of-science/wp/2017/08/14/why-are-people-still-racist-what-science-says-about-americas-race-problem/?utm\_term=.1a3fa3d737b3)

It is safe to say that we all carry implicit biases; such biases are present not only in the area of race but in sex, age, and even the perception of beauty.

But many of those who study the Bible and who tout the central theme of Christianity are some of the most rabid racists. They have, over the years, been more interested in preserving the white supremacist way of life, and have been unable to accept that their actions - spoken and behavioral - are puzzling and seem contradictory to the way the God of the Christian Bible tells us to live.

Theologian James Cone wrote in his book *The Cross and the Lynching Tree* acknowledges the difficulty which religious black people have in reconciling racism in the presence of a so-called loving and good God. He said "white supremacy tears faith to pieces and turns the heart away from God. The more I believed in God, the harder it became to sustain any faith."

Scientists believe that the cause of persisting and stubborn racism is because humans have a natural "us vs them" mentality which is a part of our biological make up. The only way to change bias - which scientists say is in our blood - is to change culture.

There are a lot of troubling realities which are hard to understand when studying the history of white violence against black people. Violent racists have carried out their acts of hatred with no fear of retribution or punishment from God. Violent racists have had no problem with lynching innocent blacks, for example, on a Saturday night and heading to their church on a Sunday morning. They have been taught that God is against the seeking of justice for all people; some were taught in the 60s, for example, that working with blacks and Liberals for the civil rights of black people was against the will of God. To work for civil rights, many were taught, meant that one could put one's salvation at risk.

The recent attention given to Recy Taylor, the black woman who was raped by six white men, who never went to prison for what they did, has caused interest into how black women have been violated by white men over time. These men were considered to be "good, Christian people." And yet, their actions were vile and vicious, and did not raise a bevy of white Christians to stand up and demand they pay for their crime.

It is a fact that racial prejudice is not only a part of American life but is part of a world-wide hatred and disdain of people of color. God is present; oppressed and oppressor say they worship that God, but the fact is, the biological dispensation to be racist has caused cultural Christianity to have a larger voice in the sphere of racism than biblical Christianity.

In spite of what appears to any person of color what to us are clearly racist policies, those in the White House and in Washington, DC would object vehemently - and do, in fact object - to being called racist. It is profoundly frustrating primarily we believe that because of God, such racism should not be tolerated.

The fact that the god of the oppressor remains silent causes the faith of some, like Cone said, to be torn to pieces. Instead of acquiescing to feelings of despair; however, perhaps it is time for there to be more concerted effort to meld Christian doctrine with historical reality in order to bring to light the contradiction between claiming to love God while at the same time, hating so many that God created.

Rev. Dr. Susan K Smith is a teacher, preacher and does workshops on learning the difference between the religion of Jesus and the religion of empire. Contact her at [revsuekim@sbcglobal.net](mailto:revsuekim@sbcglobal.net).

Distraction

(Via TriceEdneyWire.com)

We've just heard #45's first State of the Union message. Some had hoped he'd be decent, if not presidential.



Dr. E. Faye Williams

Considering White House paranoia over the Russia investigation, for many, his speech has already been pushed into the fog of forgetfulness by news of the public release of classified information from the House of Representatives' Intelligence Committee. In coming days, you must guard against manufactured news that is nothing more than a distraction to past, present and future miscreant behavior by the current administration.

As I write this, there are roughly thirty-nine weeks remaining until the Mid-term Elections. My best instincts tell me that it is far past time when we must reject the myriad of distractions that have been launched by the current administration and focus on,

in my humble opinion, the most important issue facing our nation - the manipulation and subversion of our electoral process by an adversarial foreign government. Although this threat was verified by our national security agencies as valid and operational in favor of #45 during the 2016 presidential election, little has been done by #45 or the Republican led Congress to remedy this problem.

On November 6, 2018, I doubt that many Americans will remember the \$130,000 in hush-money paid to Stephanie Clifford by a Trump attorney or even that her stage name is "Stormy Daniels." Only a few will remember that, allegedly angry with #45 because of the "Stormy" revelation, Melania pulled-out of her scheduled trip with #45 to the big corporate/financial 'shindig' in Davos, Switzerland.

I'm also sure that only those directly or indirectly affected by #45's intemperate, "Sh!?!hole" comments will retain active and conscious memory of those unbalanced remarks. Only because he demonstrates his indecisiveness so frequently will millions of Americans wonder what policy decisions will

spring from the warped mind of that "very stable genius?" In November, after the accumulation of nearly two year's worth of exaggeration, misrepresentation and outright LIES, averaging a little more than five per day, I'm sure most Americans will have placed most of them into the trash bag of their memories.

I think, however, that, based on their personalized concerns, enough people will remember some of what I've described or some of the other voluminous deviations from presidential normalcy committed by #45.

What is lacking is that we're yet to address the issue of Russian interference in our electoral process. Unfortunately, prolonged attention given to any of the issues I've mentioned does disservice to our individual and national interests. By not taking remedial action, we're inviting the same interference in the 2018 and subsequent elections.

Not being one to offer a problem without a solution, I am calling on NCBW members and all others who find logic in my weekly missives to inundate their Members of the House of Representatives and Senators with calls/let-

ters urging them to ignore the distractions. They must divert their full-attention from the never-ending deluge of "Trump initiated drama" and concentrate on developing remedies for the deficiencies that have allowed the Russians, or any other adversary, to interfere with our most sacred civil process. Change will not occur without your influence.

In his last address to the Senate before his resignation, then-Senator Al Franken warned, "At the end of the day, it's going to be up to the American people... We will always have the democracy we deserve, if not the government we want."

We ALL have the responsibility to stand against those, like #45, who would deconstruct those institutions that provide for the orderly operation of government and that have given us relatively consistent social stability. We've seen how #45 and those aligned with his perverse value system try to govern. The democracy we strive for must not and shall not allow them to succeed.

Dr. E. Faye Williams, National President of the National Congress of Black Women, Inc. [www.nationalcongressbw.org-202/678-6788](http://www.nationalcongressbw.org-202/678-6788).

A gentle scolding of a dear ally

In January of 1963, I was in my senior year at my all-Black high school and required to take a course in U.S. Government. Our teacher was a World War II veteran who was also the basketball coach with an easy-going manner. We spent more time discussing current events than dead presidents and supreme court justices.



Oscar H. Blayton

The most recent civil rights demonstration was usually the topic of discourse. But one day, in the middle of that month, our teacher asked the class if we knew who Malcolm X was. Every hand in the room went up. But when asked to explain who he was, few of us were able to say more than he was a "Black Muslim" and that he had once been in prison.

Two weeks earlier Malcolm had led a demonstration at New York County's Criminal Court Building, in Manhattan, protesting police hostility toward two Nation of Islam Muslims who had been selling Muhammad Speaks newspapers in Times Square on Christmas Day. This demonstration received national attention and 30 years later was portrayed in Spike Lee's film bearing Malcolm X's name. But as a 17-year-old high school student at the time, I had not been paying much attention.

A few weeks later, on February 13, Malcolm led a demonstration of 230 Muslims in Times Square, protesting police brutality. America was now paying even more attention to Malcolm X and the Nation of Islam.

The immediate response from white America was that the Nation of Islam was subversive and dangerous, a fringe group led by Elijah

Muhammad and Malcolm X that preached a hatred of all white people.

But a year earlier, in 1962, Malcolm had been speaking less about the racially skewed teachings of Elijah Muhammad and had begun getting more involved in seeking civil rights and justice for African Americans. But the damage had been done. The worst of Malcolm X's words were weaponized against him and he was declared as being beyond redemption. By the time of his assassination in February 1965, he had been condemned as an anathema to America and its values. This was a view held by conservatives, most liberals and many Blacks.

In January 1999, the United States Postal Service issued a stamp in honor of Malcolm X.

Malcolm could not have changed from the time of his assassination until his being honored by the Postal Service. He was dead. What had changed was America. It became clear to our nation that the wrongs and injustices against which Malcolm fought were real and his struggle had virtue. Despite his offensive words in his earlier career, Malcolm sought to make America a better place.

In recent weeks, news has surfaced that Barack Obama stood for a photograph in 2005 with Minister Louis Farrakhan, the current leader of the Nation of Islam. The overheated reaction by numerous white liberals to this revelation is reminiscent of the reaction to Malcolm X 50 years ago. This inability of these white liberals to contextualize Malcolm X within the American fabric in 1965 and Louis Farrakhan in 2018 reveals a daunting problem that has handicapped the progress of African Americans for many decades.

Too many white liberals want to make Black folk in their own image. In the mental construct of the world

they wish to create, there is a place for Black folk, but not Black folk like Malcolm X or Louis Farrakhan. To some white liberals, the Malcolms and the Farrakhans are wrinkles in the American fabric that must be removed if a future liberal America is to be smooth. But those wrinkles have been created by centuries of racism, both in the U.S. and abroad and they cannot be removed without destroying the fabric itself.

Too many white liberals see African Americans as two-dimensional cutouts that can be disbursed throughout a liberal America. Our presence would be devoid of our history of slavery, Jim Crow and modern-day oppression and the social complexities which they have created. Our presence would also be disconnected from other oppressed people of the world. In a word, our presence would be non-threatening to the preferred world order of most white liberals. But that is a white liberal fantasy that cannot exist in a world as complex as ours. It is a flawed national view and a flawed worldview.

One person who typifies the white liberals holding these flawed views is Alan Dershowitz. Dershowitz, a Harvard law professor emeritus has championed many liberal causes and shown himself to be deeply concerned with civil rights. Nonetheless, he is reported to have said on Fox News recently that had he known of the Obama - Farrakhan photograph taken in 2005, he would not have supported Obama's presidential bid in 2008.

Citing offensive remarks attributed to Farrakhan about Judaism and Israel, Dershowitz has denounced him as a subversive, un-American anti-Semite.

The problems with Alan Dershowitz's position regarding Obama's taking a picture with Farrakhan are two-fold. First, by associating Obama with Farrakhan's views he is

painting with too broad a brush. Many politicians have their pictures taken with individuals with whom they do not agree politically or ideologically. In 2005, Farrakhan, as a resident of Illinois, was one of Obama's constituents. Farrakhan also was the religious leader of many of Obama's Illinois constituents. To categorically state that Obama should not have taken a picture with Farrakhan ignores the complexity of the African American community and takes Obama out of that context by asserting that his main concern should have been the comfort level of white liberals.

In 2014 the White House hosted the US Africa Summit and several of the African heads of state who attended and had their photographs taken with President Obama and the First Lady, are notorious human rights violators. Did these photo-ops prompt the same level of concern from Dershowitz?

Does Dershowitz condemn Obama for having his picture taken with Vladimir Putin?

There is not enough room here to list the many interactions of Obama's predecessors with controversial figures that drew little attention, but I feel compelled to mention one. In 1915 Woodrow Wilson hosted a screening of D.W. Griffith's extraordinarily racist film "Birth of a Nation." It was one of the first screenings of a film at the White House and members of Wilson's cabinet were in attendance along with their families. Wilson's hosting the screening of "Birth of a Nation" barely rates a footnote in American history while Obama's having his picture taken with Farrakhan has some white liberals like Dershowitz in conniptions.

The disparate responses to these two events point out a

BLAYTON

Continued from this page

war of ideas between Black folk and many white liberals. A war that has simmered in this nation since its birth and continues to this day.

For the most part, this has been an asymmetrical war with wealth and power aligned on one side minimizing racist affronts, and truth and paucity on the other side, struggling to articulate the true condition of Black folk in America. From the slaveholding days through the Jim Crow era, the Civil Rights Movement and now the Black Lives Matter Movement, Black folk have been hobbled by the condemnation of white liberals when a spoken truth gives rise to white discomfort.

The second problem with Alan Dershowitz's complaint is the static nature of his worldview. Just as Malcolm X was celebrated on a U.S. postage stamp for his struggle for social justice 50 years after he was considered an anathema to America, there may come a time when Louis Farrakhan's efforts may be seen through the lens of history as a struggle for essential human rights. It is not Alan Dershowitz's place, as an ally, to grant credentials to leaders within the Black community based solely on his worldview. Nor is it his place to use that worldview to denounce leaders in the Black community.

Unfortunately, this is not the first time that Dershowitz has attempted to do this. Beginning in August 2016 he has been attacking Black Lives Matter for their showing support of and solidarity with the people of Palestine. He even went so far as to write in the Boston Globe, "Black Lives Matter should rescind the portions of the platform that falsely accuse Israel of genocide and apartheid. If it does not, it risks ending in the dustbin of history, along with other discredited bigoted groups."

This pronouncement smacks of hubris. Alan Dershowitz has allied himself with Black folk on many issues. But being an ally on many issues does not give him license to speak as an ally on all issues. The influence of white liberals who fear all radical Black thinking is what led many Black folks to condemn Malcolm X during his lifetime. The fact that Malcolm was feted 30 years later is proof that those white liberals and the Black folk that followed them were wrong.

We can love our allies, and still have a concern that they do not speak against our interest when our interests diverge from theirs. Alan Dershowitz and others of our allies must come to understand this.

Oscar H. Blayton is a former Marine Corps combat pilot and human rights activist who practices law in Virginia.

BLAYTON

Continued on this page

## CBC members back CFPB payday lending accountability actions

(TriceEdneyWire.com)

In the wake of a recent series of anti-consumer actions taken by Mick Mulvaney, the Trump-appointed Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's Acting Director, a bicameral call for accountability was released on January 31. Led by Congress-woman Maxine Waters of California and Sen. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts, two other Congressional Black Caucus Members, Congressmen Keith Ellison (MN) and Al Green (TX) joined Senators Richard Blumenthal (CT) and Jeff Merkley (OR) as signatories.

Together, the group of lawmakers seek to know what prompted Mr. Mulvaney's actions as well as his ties to the payday lending industry.

A January 31 letter calls into question the following specific actions that have occurred over the past month:

Halting implementation of the agency's final rule preventing abusive payday lending (the 'Payday Rule');

Announcement of the Bureau's intention to initiate a rulemaking process that

appears designed to weaken the Payday Rule;

Withdrawing a Bureau lawsuit against four online payday lenders who allegedly misled customers on interest rates that spanned a low of 440 percent to as high as 950 percent; and

Ending an investigation of World Acceptance Corporation, a high-cost installment lender that began in 2014 after consumers complained of unaffordable loans and aggressive collection practices.

"For too long, some payday, auto title, and installment lenders have taken advantage of American workers who need a little extra money to pay an unexpected medical bill or fix their car," wrote the lawmakers. "For too many families, one unexpected expense or tight week traps them in a cycle of debt that lasts months or years...The rule finalized by the CFPB last October was carefully balanced to end

that cycle of debt while ensuring that borrowers retain access to needed credit."

The Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform Act that created the CFPB intended for it to be an independent agency, charged with serving as the consumer's financial cop-on-the-beat. Its director was to be nominated by the President and confirmed by the Senate to a five-year term of service. Additionally, CFPB was to secure its funding directly from the Federal Reserve Bank, rather than through Congress' annual appropriations process that could enable powerful special interests to restrict necessary funding.

Even though the Dodd-Frank Act also defined succession plan for an Acting Director in the event of personnel changes, two people were appointed to this same role. One, Leandra English was lawfully appointed by the now-departed Director Richard Cordray, while another, Mr. Mulvaney, was appointed by President Trump. The lawmakers' letter is addressed to both appointees.

An appellate federal court

will eventually decide who should be the legal Acting Director; but in the interim, Mulvaney leads CFPB while retaining his position as Director of the Office of Management and Budget. In his prior role as a South Carolina Congressman, he co-sponsored a bill to eliminate the CFPB and accepted nearly \$63,000 in campaign donations from payday lenders. These donations included \$4,500 from World Acceptance Corporation's political action committee.

"The CFPB spent five years honing the Payday Rule, conducting research and reviewing over one million comments from all types of stakeholders: from payday lender, to state regulators, to faith leaders," wrote Ranking Members Warren and Waters.

Now Mr. Mulvaney oversees the daily operations of the same Bureau that returned \$12 billion to nearly 30 million consumers in about six years. Instead of regulating financial services, this Acting Director prefers allowing private enterprise to determine consumers' choices – including those that are harmful and predatory.

He also wants financial businesses to have more input on determining what regulations CFPB should use in their supervision and monitoring.

As CFPB's Acting Director, Mulvaney also wrote a letter to Federal Reserve Chairwoman Janet Yellen advising that "for Second Quarter of Fiscal Year 2018, the Bureau is requesting \$0." Mulvaney added, "While this approximately \$145 million may not make much of a dent in the deficit, the men and women at the Bureau are proud to do their part to be responsible stewards of taxpayer dollars."

When the federal deficit is hundreds of trillions of dollars, it strains credulity to believe that \$145 million will lighten the nation's debt. But an emerging pattern of the current Administration is to allow lengthy delays that could eventually become denials. As this column has previously reported, key consumer protections in student loans have been delayed as well, and through the Congressional Review Act, a rule that would have allowed consumers to have their own day in court to resolve finan-

cial and credit issues has also been rejected. Moreover, Mulvaney directed the CFPB to delay implementation of its prepaid card rule that was designed to help stop abusive fees for users.

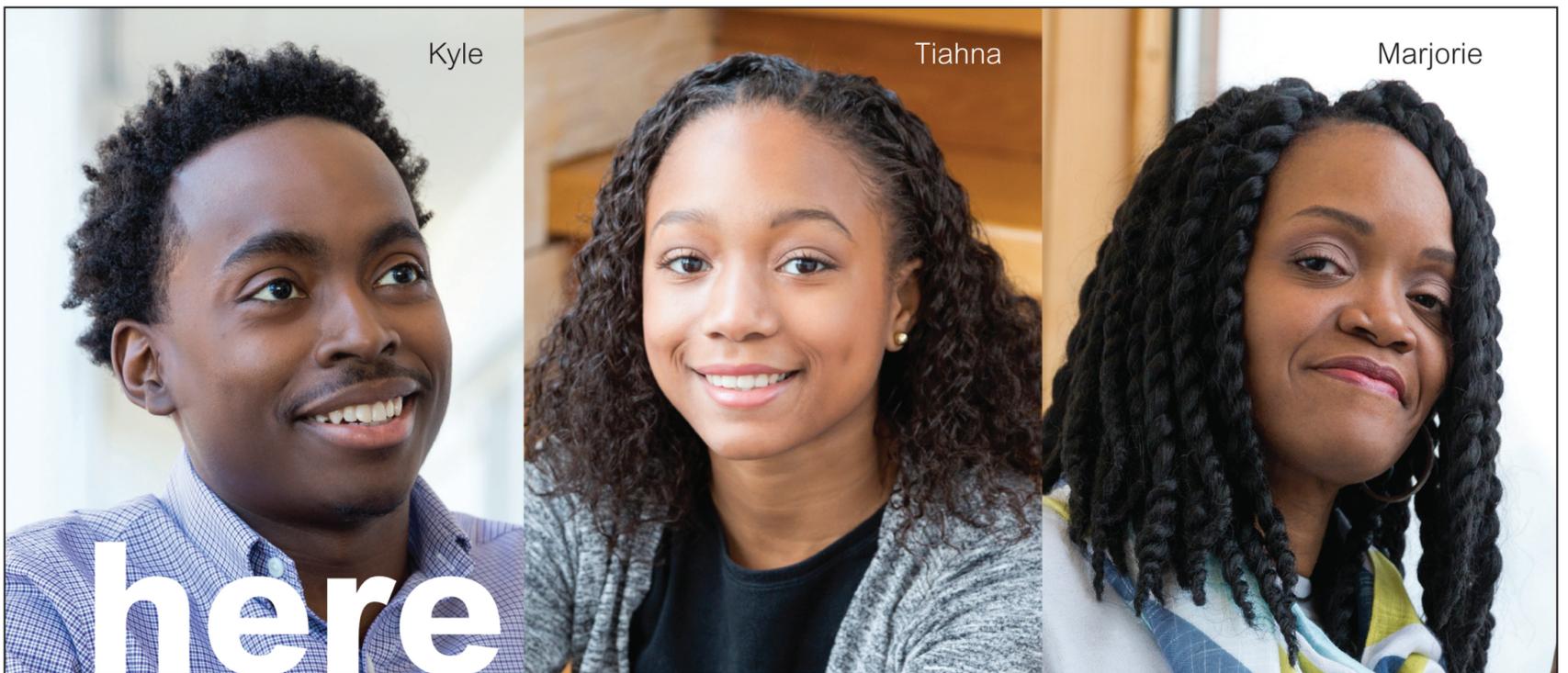
If sparing taxpayers unnecessary costs is the guiding force, then why has both the CFPB and Department of Education rejected earlier negotiated rulemaking and begun the process anew – at taxpayers' expense?

"I certainly understand the desire to protect taxpayer dollars," said Debbie Goldstein, Executive Vice President with the Center for Responsible Lending, "but I think the mission of the CFPB is to protect the taxpayers, the American people, from lenders who target them for high-cost and unaffordable loans. And the best way to save Americans millions of dollars is by preventing predatory lending, not by draining the CFPB's resources."

*Charlene Crowell is the Center for Responsible Lending's communications deputy director. She can be reached at [charlene.crowell@responsiblelending.org](mailto:charlene.crowell@responsiblelending.org).*



Charlene Crowell



# here

# to listen, to learn, and make a difference.



**Pfizer**  
Rare Disease

Sickle cell disease (SCD) is the most common rare inherited blood disorder in the US, and primarily impacts people of African and Hispanic descent. Affecting nearly 100,000 Americans, greater education and improved treatment options are desperately needed.

Pfizer Rare Disease is working with the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) and the SCD community to make a lasting impact through life-changing innovations, trusted partnerships, and relentless passion.

Visit [Pfizer.com/RareDisease](https://www.pfizer.com/RareDisease) to learn more.

Pfizer Rare Disease  
— HONORS —

**BLACK  
HISTORY  
MONTH**

**New Hanover County**

**City of Wilmington Community Development** will be hosting Home Buyer Education classes on Saturday, February 10, 2018, 9 am - 3 pm and Saturday, March 10, 2018 at 115 N. 3rd Street, 5th Floor Conference Room, Wilmington, NC. For more information or to register, please call 910-341-7836.

**New Hanover County Schools** will hold its annual Magnet and Choice Schools Fair on Thursday, February 22, 2018, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., at Independence Mall Center Court. The Magnet and Choice Schools Fair is an opportunity for the district to share with parents and the community detailed information about programs and how to register students. The Magnet and Choice Schools Fair will provide information on the following topics: Special Programs, Academic Programs, Gifted Programs, Student Perspectives, Staff Perspectives, Benefits, Lottery Process (where applicable), School Calendars and Application Timeline. All parents living in New Hanover County are welcome to attend. Bilingual families are invited to attend; bilingual liaisons will be available. There is no cost to attend. For more information, contact Sabra Wright, Title I Special Programs Specialist, at 910-251-6011, ext. 107 or Sabra.Wright@nhcs.net.

**Democratic Precinct 25** will hold precinct meeting on Wednesday, February 13th at Robert Taylor Senior Holmes, 1305 N. 5th Ave. at 6:30 p.m.

**Democratic Precincts W03 and W08** will hold annual meeting on Sunday, February 18th from 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. at South Front Apartments Community Room 1400 S. 2nd Street.

**Wilmington Precinct 29** will meet Tuesday, February 13th at Williston Middle School, 401 South 10th Street at 6:45 p.m. This will be a reorganizing meeting.

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

**Compiled By Wilmington Journal Staff**

**HOMETOWN NEWS FROM BRUNSWICK COUNTY**

**You have the right to speak**

**W**e have the right to both listen and speak up regarding issues in Brunswick which affect our lives. One such issue is the problem of toxins found in the water in this County. It has been found that there is contaminated water in rivers in the area. This has come about by various factors, such as waste materials having been dumped into nearby rivers. We should all be able to expect fresh clean water to drink. This is a matter of life and death. Clean water is a must for us to survive. There are safer and more healthful ways of disposing of toxic



**Verniece Stanley**

waste than dumping it into water which must be consumed by humans and "lower" animals. We need to speak out against "off shore drilling" for oil along the Brunswick County beaches. Such drilling could very well lead to the sickening or killing of the fish and other marine animals which we use for food. This could make people sick and also put many fishermen out of business. We could pay for this in the loss of good health and even life, as well as millions of dollars from the economy. We must speak up for a clean safe society so that we can enjoy the best health possible. Again, we must remain mindful that the flu is still spreading all over. A great many lives have been lost because of this epidemic,

many in North Carolina, some in the local vicinity. Some schools around the nation have closed to prevent students and staff from catching the flu at school and taking it home and to other places where they may go. Though the number of cases of the flu, and even deaths from it, have been exceptionally high this season, we must understand that the season nor the number of cases has not peaked. Everyone needs to be careful and make every effort to avoid contracting this disease and, in turn, spreading it to others. Secure as much information about its causes and symptoms as possible, and those experiencing its symptoms need to seek medical advice/care from your doctor/medical provider. For those who might not have

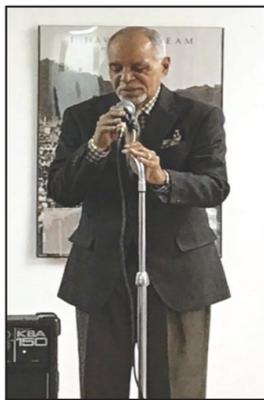
done so already, the first thing to do in an effort to avoid the flu is to get the flu shot. Do it today! *Verniece E. Stanley is a native of Brunswick County. She grew up on a farm but wanted more excitement in life. She graduated from high school in Brunswick County in 1948 and graduated from Fayetteville 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.*

**BLESSING HEARTS**

**BY CYNTHIA BROWN**  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

February is National Heart Disease Awareness month. According to the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute, one in four women dies of heart disease each year. This includes diseases of the heart and vascular system (including stroke). Worse, the National Coalition for Women with Heart Disease cautions that 46% of African American women suffer from high blood pressure, 56.8% do not meet federal physical activity guidelines and 82% are overweight or obese. Additionally, 40% of African American women have a 40% or higher likelihood of having a heart attack or stroke, and 6 in 10 women of color do not recognize heart disease as a serious health risk.

In an era when senior citizens are increasingly concerned about rising medical costs and equally concerned about the stability of pensions and/or social security, it is sometimes difficult to choose between nutritious diets and essential medicines. That's why the St. Stephen A.M.E. Church sponsored an afternoon



**DONALD GREEN**

tea event entitled "Bless Her Heart". The event was coordinated by the Christian Education Commission with support from the Women's Missionary Society and Health Ministry. The primary objective of the event was to engage friends and family members in fellowship, reflection and philanthropy over delectable refreshments and a variety of teas.

The 90 minute event included remarks from heart attack survivor Mr. Donald Green,



**CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS**  
**TABLE HOSTESS L-R, MARY LOCKHART, ANNETTE HAWES, LULA WILLIAMS, HARRIET CRUMMY, MARGARET FREDLAW, MAGDALENE JOHNSON, DEBORAH MAXWELL, CONSTANCE DRAIN GREEN AND CYNTHIA BROWN**

remarks from Mrs. Cynthia Brown on the generations of a woman's heart, Rev. Thomas O. Nixon on why we are our sisters' keepers, and heartfelt musical selections by Mrs. Linda Thomas and Angela Sparrow accompanied by Ms. Roberta Mayo.

Area churches and organizations were contacted in search of seniors in need of financial support. The nominees were

required to be females over the age of 65, on a fixed income and suffering from a form of cardiovascular disease. Six area churches responded to this clarification call - Mt. Zion AME, Old Scotts Hill AME, Shiloh Baptist Church, St. John AME, St. Phillip's AME and St. Stephen AME.

During the event, a preliminary report of gift cards to be distributed was reported. Each



**MEMBERS OF ALPHA PSI OMEGA CHAPTER OF ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY, INC.**  
**L TO R, DEBRA KNOX, VIVIAN ALEXANDER, MARGARET FREDLAW, IRMA QUINN, KIMBERLY BANKSTON, J.D. (CHAPTER PRESIDENT), ACQUENETTA WHEELER (HINES), M.D., CYNTHIA BROWN, LAKASHA FREDLAW BEST, NATALIE HINTON STALLING AND IVY MURRAIN**

nominee was to receive a \$200 gift card to purchase food or medicines. But the church was blessed to raise more than expected, so following a final tally from the event, each nominee will now receive a \$250 gift card.

St. Stephen AME has a rich history of sponsoring Afternoon Teas to support fellowship and local philanthropy.

Under the leadership of Rev. Thomas O. Nixon, the church plans to continue this effort annually to bless more hearts. A very special thank you is extended to church members, the general community, the New Hanover County Branch of the NAACP and members of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated/Alpha Psi Omega Chapter for the support given.

**OPERA WILMINGTON**

THIRD ANNUAL OPERA SYMPOSIUM  
**February 23-24**  
TWO-DAY SYMPOSIUM  
featuring presentations, music and a special exhibit

**FRIDAY, FEB. 23**  
Recital 7:30 p.m. TICKETED  
**Jemeesa Yarborough, soprano**  
**Marva Robinson, Williston Alumni Choir**  
**Snipes Academy Chorus**  
DIRECTED BY CHRISTA FAISON

FOR DETAILS AND TICKET INFORMATION, VISIT  
[www.uncw.edu/music](http://www.uncw.edu/music)

**CELEBRATING**  
**Caterina Jarboro**  
WILMINGTON'S FIRST DIVA

**Beckwith Recital Hall**  
**UNCW Cultural Arts Building**  
Co-sponsored by the UNCW Department of Music, Office of the Arts, Office of Community Engagement and the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute

**910.962.3500**

**UNCW**  
UNCW is an EEO/AA institution. Questions regarding UNCW's Title IX compliance should be directed to TitleIX@UNCW.edu. Questions regarding program access may be directed to 910.962.3500.

**MAHOGANY MATINEE**

EVERY MONDAY IN FEBRUARY  
IN UNCW LUMINA THEATER

**"Daughters of the Dust"**  
Feb. 5 - 5:45 p.m.  
The story of three generations of Gullah women on Saint Helena Island as they prepare to the North on mainland

**"Bin Yah"**  
Feb. 12 - 5:45 p.m.  
Explores the potential loss of important historic African American communities in Mt. Pleasant, SC, due to growth and development.

**"Black Beach/White Beach"**  
Feb. 19 - 5:45 p.m.  
Explores opposing viewpoints on segregation and integration, mutual love of motorcycle culture and racial tensions that reach a boiling point every spring in Myrtle Beach.

**"Wilmington On Fire"**  
Feb. 26 - 5:45 p.m.  
Film chronicles the attack on Wilmington's African American community by a heavily armed white mob on Nov. 10, 1898.

Screenings are free and open to the public.

**UNCW** **UPPERMAN AFRICAN AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER** **AFRICANA STUDIES**

EEO/AA Institution. Accommodations for disabilities may be requested by calling 910.962.2480 at least five days prior to the event.