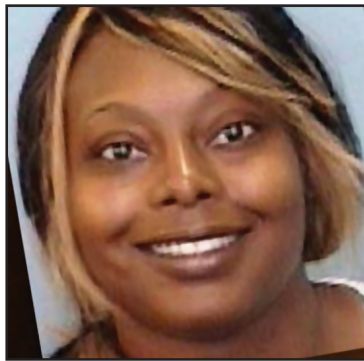


MISSING



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.

ON THE WEB



Bill Cosby's daughter, Ensa dies at 44



New Study: U. S. schools are failing to teach the hard history of American slavery
Educators not prepared to teach it. Textbooks have insufficient information about it.



NAACP files suit against Myrtle Beach for racially discriminatory practices during Black Bike Week
City and Police Accused of Separate and Unequal Treatment of Black Bikers versus White Bikers

BRUNSWICK COUNTY UPDATE



BERNEST HEWETT

Study the candidates

BY **BERNEST HEWETT**
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Brunswick County, this is the time for you to watch and learn your candidates for offices in this County this coming election. If they are running for re-election,

Please see **BRUNSWICK**
Page 2

THE WILMINGTON
JOURNAL

News from the African American perspective without fear or favor

VOLUME 91/No. 9

MARCH 1, 2018 - MARCH 7, 2018

FIFTY CENTS

EXCLUSIVE

How a fatal NC police shooting was used to suppress the Black vote

BY **CASH MICHAELS**
OF THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

On Sept. 20, 2016, an African-American Charlotte-Mecklenburg police officer fatally shot Keith Lamont Scott, a 43-year Black man. Officers say Scott brandished a handgun as he got out of a parked vehicle but refused to drop it when ordered.

The fatal shooting sparked two nights of violent demonstrations as thousands of people, predominately Black, took to the streets of the Queen City in protest.

However, according to a young

social activist named Conrad James, he was asked to come to Charlotte and hold an angry rally protesting the shooting. The riots and the heated controversy in the police aftermath, it turns out, was tailor made for a Russian backed conspiracy to suppress the Black vote in North Carolina in the 2016 Presidential election.

Thanks to the recently released indictments by Special Counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into alleged Russian interference into the 2016 elections to help Republican candidate Donald Trump defeat Democrat Hillary Clinton, it is now known that Russian operatives, in an effort to sour

Black voters on the Clinton campaign, sponsored "Down with Hillary" rallies, and would invite unwitting American activists to take part.

However, while that was true in other parts of the nation, according to Conrad James in an exclusive interview right after the Mueller indictments were revealed, that was not the case in Charlotte and in Greensboro. Instead of "Down with Hillary," anger at the police, per the Keith Lamont fatal shooting, was the

Please see **SUPPRESSION**
Page 2



ACTIVIST CONRAD JAMES



This picture is just a small sampling of the headstones throughout the cemetery and the cleaning that lies ahead.

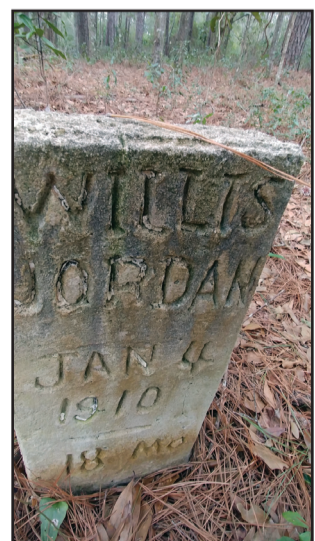


ALL PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED BY ELISE MUHAMMED
At the headstone of Oliver Harris, b. 1890 is Idris Muhammad, Jameel Cromartie, Wesley Nixon, Melissa Freeman Cromartie, Henry McNeil, Elise Muhammad, Sheila Carr, Bill Freeman, Nuri Muhammad, Brian Carr, Tracy Moore. The Harris Family area is one of the lesser grown-over areas, and near the entrance of the cemetery.



BY **ELISE MUHAMMAD**
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Approximately 30 people clearing the 5 acres of Freeman Cemetery at Seabreeze over the last two weeks are calling for more volunteers to join this weekend. The goal is to clear the thick brush and small trees that all but cover hundreds of the headstones, markers and graves of mostly Blacks and Native/Indians. They are all connected to the Black owned beach and fishing community residents prior to the 1950's. Several headstones note births as early as 1788, but an uncounted number is almost completely hidden.



Infant Willis Jordan was only 18 months old at his death. His is just one of many headstones from the Jordan Family in the cemetery.



Headstone of Robert Bruce Freeman (Jr.) b. 1859, grandson of Alexander Freeman and Charity Freeman, foundation to one of the most important black landowning families in the county.

pond, vegetable garden and strawberry patch, that Henry McNeil recalls from his childhood.

He, Nixon, Bill Freeman and Richard McNeil, the staple "older generation" that have been present each week, are encouraged that some of the "younger folks" are also on hand with chain saws, gloves, machetes, and other tools to facilitate documentation of this historic area and time.

As interest in genealogical research increases, the significance of documenting Black cemeteries is apparent. Researchers note the lack of public documentation of Black families as compared to that of White families. Pre-Civil War census reports list Blacks as property and use only first names given by former slave owners. Early post slavery reports list only the heads of households, and the genders and approximate ages of those within. Fires destroyed other New Hanover County records

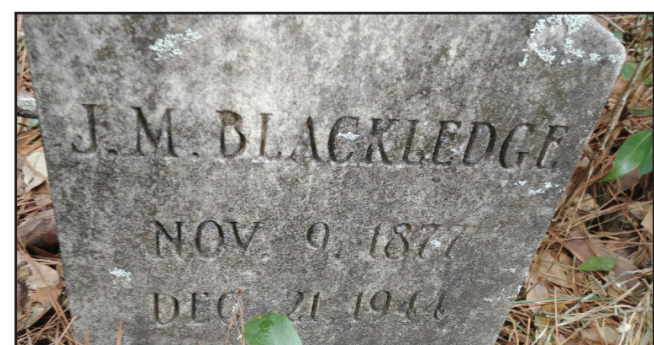
and, reportedly, those of Black owned Sadgwar Funeral Home.

All of these facts heighten the need to preserve the Freeman Cemetery of Seabreeze, a major part of the historical landscape referenced in several local books, pamphlets and documentaries.

"We are hoping to clear away as much brush as possible before the spring brings in new growth," says McNeil. The next community clean up will be Saturday, March 3, 8:00 a. m. - 12:00 noon.



Headstone of Thomas McQuillan, born 1840.



J.M. Blackledge b. 1877, owner of the Blue Moon dance hall, and a clothes cleaning business in the Seabreeze Community. Many other headstones for the Blackledge family are in the cemetery.



Jameel Cromartie is cutting down in an area that is very wooded with graves sites almost hidden. He is a descendant of Alexander and Robert Bruce Freeman, known to own large tracts of land from Carolina Beach to Masonboro Sound and beyond. His grandfather, Bill Freeman is grandson of Roscoe Freeman whose homestead still stands in the Seabreeze area.



Richard McNeil worked from early morning to clear brush and foliage from the site. The McNeil headstones are numerous in the cemetery. The McNeil Family Reunion is held yearly and the family is one of the main pillars in the Seabreeze community.



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

SUPPRESSION Continued from Page 1

vehicle used to encourage specifically young Black prospective voters to express their general anger and frustration with "the system" and "police brutality," by not voting at all. The logical calculation, according to James, who was asked by an allegedly Russian backed group called "BlackMattersUSA" to come to Charlotte and lead an angry rally designed to further stir up community tensions, was that because Hillary Clinton, not Donald Trump, depended on the Black vote and young people to win the presidency, her electoral effort in North Carolina would almost exclusively suffer.

demonstration group called "Living Ultra-violet," best known in July 2016 for taking to the streets in Raleigh and peacefully protesting the fatal police shootings of Alton Sterling in Baton Rouge, La. and Philando Castile in Minnesota, as well as the murders of five police officers in Dallas, Texas. James was interviewed by Raleigh TV station WTVD during that demonstration, where he stated that his group "...rallies around the Black Lives Matters movement to uplift [people of color]." James also noted that the group had no hatred towards law enforcement or White people. James says a woman saw him on television, and contacted him three days later about coming to Charlotte and speaking at a protest rally there. Because he didn't know much

about "BlackMattersUSA," he was impressed with their apolitical factual rhetoric and online following. However, they had no framework for the rally. James countered that he'd come, but only if he could coordinate the rally himself (James saw it as a golden opportunity to promote his own nonprofit group). The woman agreed. However, when the young Raleigh activist arrived in Charlotte in October 2016, based on who he met (two "Black kids with a White dude behind them...who didn't say anything"), and what he heard and saw, it was clear that BlackMattersUSA had an agenda far different from his own. James was committed to peace and constructive engagement, but what he was seeing were attempts "...to add fuel to the fire," designed to increase anti-police tensions,

frustrations and distrust, and ultimately cause those attending the rally to socially and civically disengage. James told ABC News recently that people with "BlackMattersUSA" "...were definitely trying to stir up trouble." In Oct. 2017, a Russian investigative journalist named "Andre," tracking Russian connections, contacted James through Facebook, and informed him of the group's Russian ties and funding. "He completely blew my mind," James recalls. James was eventually asked to testify before a Congressional committee but declined. If subpoenaed by Special Counsel Robert Mueller, James says he would have no choice but to testify but wouldn't be happy about it. Based on what he saw and heard, there's little doubt in his mind now

that what he witnessed was a Russian attempt during the 2016 campaign at Black voter suppression. Conrad James says that, given his experience, he looks over his shoulder now, not knowing whether friend or foe is lurking near, and yes, he does believe that the Trump Campaign was well aware that the Russians were doing something to help the businessman get elected. As for Hillary Clinton, she lost North Carolina - a state that Barack Obama won in 2008 by just 14,000 votes- by 177,000 to Trump. According to NPR, the Black vote for Clinton was six points fewer for her than Pres. Obama's Black support in 2012. If it had been the same, she would have won the North Carolina by 191,000 votes and secured North Carolina's 15 electoral college votes.

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

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BRUNSWICK Continued from Page 1

study their record, from where they come, what they did to move this county forward, how they feel about racial issues in this County and fairness and justice for all. Remember, Brunswick County, which has the name of being the most racially biased county of the one hundred counties in North Carolina, this is not what we want for a safe and sound future. We must remember that what affects one race affects others, no matter if you are Black, White, Hispanic, etc. It is time to look through this so-called conservative movement and begin to look for the truth rather than little white lies of large proportions. We must be able to keep our freedom and try to keep our justice system here in Brunswick County working. Very few of our elected officials are fair and just. Check their records. Don't let talk from uninformed sources make up your mind. Don't allow people with closed minds to stop you from making your choice of candidates. There are people who will share the right information with you. Don't be fooled! Bernest Hewett is President Emeritus of the Brunswick County Branch the NAACP.

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

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



STATE BRIEFS

COMPILED BY CASH MICHAELS

NC REPUBLICANS FEEL THEY CAN WEATHER 2018 MIDTERMS

[RALEIGH] According to conservative columnist John Hood, North Carolina Republican leaders are "...feeling cautiously optimistic about the 2018 midterms," despite the constant drumbeat of negative press about the Trump Administration in Washington, and the low approval ratings the GOP-led NC legislature is currently getting in public polling. Hood points to three factors for optimism - "Money, maps and momentum." First, the Republicans have a fundraising edge over Democrats going into the fall, in addition to outside groups also spending money to keep Republicans in power. In terms of maps, two negative decisions against the Republicans regarding their unconstitutional redistricting maps are currently tied up in the courts, and are not likely to be resolved anytime soon given the appeals process.

And finally, thank rising poll numbers for the Trump tax reform law that polls show is becoming more and more popular, as some Americans are seeing slightly bigger paychecks. Add to that an improved economy, and Republicans feel that they can hold on to their supermajority this fall.

Democrats, on the other hand, are counting on mounting dissatisfaction with the Trump Administration, and NC Republican policies, like eliminating judicial elections.

STATE ELECTIONS DIRECTOR WANTS ELECTION SECURITY TIGHTENED

[RALEIGH] Kim Strach, state director of the NC Board of Elections and Ethics Enforcement, has asked state lawmakers, in a letter, to strengthen various current election laws in order to provide more ballot security to North Carolina's voting process. "Much has transpired since the Department of Homeland Security designated the elections sector as critical infrastructure in January 2017," Strach wrote. "We, along with the nation, have gained a disturbing but more accurate understanding of the threats confronting systems that administer elections." Strach is recommending that no voting system be connected to any wired or wireless networks; only certified electronic voter check-in systems be used; a secure electronic transmission system be created for receiving absentee and overseas military ballots; make it a misdemeanor for anyone not a county elections employee to copy voter records; Allow criminal background checks for all full-time or temporary elections workers.

RECYCLE THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL BY SPREADING THE NEWS

EXCLUSIVE Wilmington pastor stands strong against racist letter

EDITOR'S NOTE:
The language used in the racist letter is offensive to all of us. However, we are printing the exact words used. We will not clean up this vile letter. The Wilmington Journal will continue to print "all the news without fear or favor."

BY CASH MICHAELS OF THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

[WILMINGTON] A Wilmington pastor has expressed concern about security at her church in the aftermath of receiving a racist letter that referred to impoverished African-American communities as "Nigger town..."

Rev. Dierdre Parker, pastor of Speaks Temple A.M.E. Zion Church at 1120 Dawson Street in Wilmington, posted half of the crude, and vile letter that was mailed to her church on her Facebook page Sunday.

"There is a part of me that wonders if I should get security at the church?" Pastor Parker posted. "Will I need to keep my eyes on the door while I'm preaching? But who would walk into a church and hurt someone, right?"

"That's what we all thought until 9 people were murdered in Charleston. So what do we do now? All I know is that I will continue to trust God, and I will continue to do what I've been called to do. Nobody said it would be easy."

The letter is addressed to "MINISTER, Head Pastor" with Speaks Temple AMEZ's address, and was post-marked "Charlotte, NC 282" on "14FEB 2018 PM 4 L." It reads:

Go to any city in the United States of America, any city. Go to the area of the city where you see drug dealers standing on the street corner, whores walking the street, metal bars or metal grating over the shop windows, run down houses with dirt yards, seedy buildings with windows shattered or broken out, creepy people (lazy bums) sitting on porches (porch monkeys), beat up cars and trucks, fat ass women, big lipped ape men, blue gummed people wandering around, a stench in the air, illegitimate kids everywhere, etc...

Then the letter rhetorically asks in bold letters, "WHERE ARE YOU? Answer: Nigger town, of course."

That was the first, and only part of the racist letter that Parker made public Sunday.

Monday evening, during an exclusive interview, Pastor Parker revealed that she didn't post the second half of the letter because it was even worse:

"Niggers do not give a s---t about anything.

They're lazy. They stink. They're uneducated. They riot. They loot. They will steal you blind. They will not work for a living. They are the parasites of the land.

Niggers suck off the white man. Niggers have always sucked off the white man.

Niggers do nothing to contribute to the society in which we live.

Nothing...nothing at all. How do you starve a nigger? Hide his food stamps under a pair of work boots."

The letter is not signed, and there was no return address.

The Wilmington Police Dept. did interview Pastor Parker about the letter Monday evening, and took it with them. They are expected to increase patrols in the area of Speaks Temple, but explained that's the best they can do without knowing who sent it.

The state Attorney General's Office also contacted Pastor Parker about the letter.

Deborah Dicks Maxwell, president of the New Hanover County NAACP, was outraged.



REV. DIERDRE PARKER

"This is unacceptable at anytime, but especially in 2018," Ms. Maxwell said in a statement. "We sincerely hope this is the only correspondence that was sent, but it was one too many."

Many on social media - black and white - have also expressed shock and outrage at the letter, wondering if other black churches across the state will get similar mis-



SPEAKS TEMPLE A.M.E.ZION CHURCH

PHOTO BY JOHN DAVIS

sives in the mail.

Pastor Parker has communicated with other clergy in Wilmington, including her

pastor, Rev. Dr. Cliff Barnett of Warner Temple A.M.E. Zion Church, to whom she also gave a copy of the letter.

"I think more churches, or black businesses might get it," Pastor Parker said. "I just think they started with us."

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OUR VOICE

GUEST EDITORIAL

Toward a multiracial youth coalition

(Via TriceEdneyWire.com)

One cannot help but be riveted by the outstanding response from the young survivors of the carnage at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, and their absolute audacity in confronting both Florida legislators and the President with their frustration at the absence of common sense gun control.

During a CNN Town Hall, student Cameron Kasky asked Senator Marco Rubio whether he would continue to take money from the National Rifle Association, the organization students have focused on as one of the reason there are no common sense gun laws. Rubio said he would continue to take money from the NRA (they own a \$3 million slice of his hide), but that he would agree to change laws so no one under 21 could purchase an automatic weapon, and that he would agree to outlaw the bump stocks that transform semi-automatic weapons to automatic weapons.

All of the students who have spoken up have been impressive, so much so that CNN commentator Jack Kingston (former Georgia Republican congressman) and other of his ilk have asserted that these students are "crisis actors" who are being "manipulated" by "liberals" and "Democrats". All you have to do is listen to one of these young people, hear the tears trailing at the end of their voices, and hear their frustrated voices rising into yelling, to know they have not been coached. The emotion is too raw, the feelings are too real, and one young woman told a CNN reporter that she "resented" the notion of manipulation. These young people are between 14 and 18, middle and upper-middle-class young people who have had the benefit of a civics education. They plan to March on Washington on March 14th, and have already attracted support from Oprah Winfrey, George and Amal Clooney, and others.

The Parkland young people have been savvy enough to note that their school was not shot up by an immigrant but by a homegrown terrorist. They have implicitly rejected the rhetoric that comes from 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue about dangerous immigrants. Imagine that they actively reached out to some of the dreamers and encouraged them to be part of the youth movement for common sense gun laws. Some dreamers will be vulnerable to being deported as early as March 6. If these youth can combine their movements with their demands, they could develop a very powerful movement.

Imagine further, that the young people who have been exposed to gun violence on the streets of cities like Chicago and Washington, DC joined the Parkland movement, and that a group of diverse young people came together to push politicians to do better on legislation that affects their generation. This includes gun laws, but may also include health care, and access to education. Even though the Parkland young'uns come from middle-class backgrounds, they are surely aware of the narrowing of opportunities for the middle class. If these mostly white young people could join with youth of color, they could mirror the dream that Dr. Martin Luther King had when he talked about multiracial coalitions.

Perhaps I'm being overly optimistic about the possibility of a multiracial youth coalition. We have seen several young white men pick up automatic weapons and kill multiple people. Dylan Roof was just 21 when he killed nine African Americans at Emanuel African American Episcopal Church. Nikolas Cruz, the killer in Parkland, is 19. Even as the Parkland students galvanize, there are forces that are also galvanizing young people. These are the neo-Nazis, the white supremacists, and the downright racists who appeal to young white men who somehow feel that others have more opportunity than they do. These are the folks who listen to the siren call of 45's rhetoric and eagerly embrace his divisiveness.

Still, if we believe, as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. once said, "the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice", then we must be optimistic about positive developments in the political arena. The young people who have risen up are a positive development. If they are able to join with young people of color to push politicians in the right direction, we will all be better off!

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 for booking, wholesale inquiries or for more info visit www.juliannemalveaux.com.

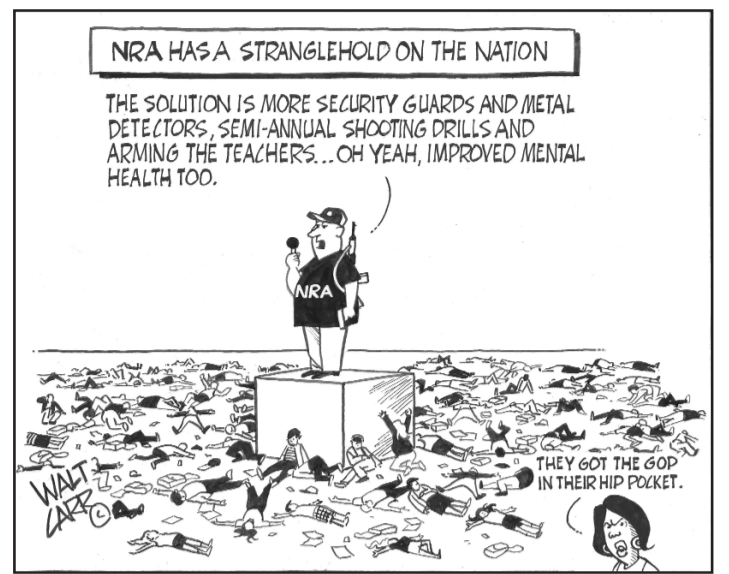
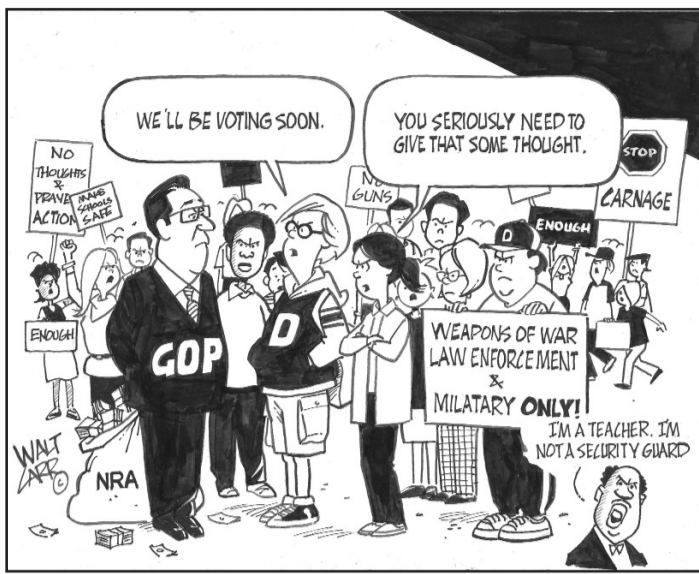
VOICE YOUR OPINION!!

WRITE A LETTER TO



THE EDITOR, TODAY!

Visual Voice



YOUR VOICE

I DID NOT SEE THE MOVIE "SUPERFLY" NOR HAVE I SEEN "BLACK PANTHER," THE MOVIE THAT IS RAKING IN A LOT OF MONEY AS DID "SUPERFLY"

Both of these movies were based on fantasy. THE FIRST MOVIE WAS BASED ON HOW WE EXPLOIT OURSELVES AND THE OTHER MOVIE WAS BASED ON HOW A HERO SAVED US. One was from the street styles of hustling, pimping and committing crimes and violence. The other comes from the pages of a Marvel comic book with the movie having inferences to our History so I am told. As we were distracted from the high rise of deaths and disasters from heroin during the time of Superfly across this nation based on emulations of the characters, we lost focus and thought that replicating such a life style was better than struggling for a better life, a better community. The costumes worn in the movie "Superfly" became regular outfits for millions of African Americans and we were consumers and grossed no income in any manner. Many became "paragons of tragic living," as I remember hearing then and now, jails, institutions and death.

With ALL the majesty that is Africa, and in order seemingly for our People and others to enjoy our persona, we have to spend our money to see a made up story about a hero. Well, wasn't Marcus Garvey a hero or Harriet Tubman a sheroe? What about Patricia Harris or Constance Baker-Motley just to name a few that we as a People, even as a Nation should learn about, but not from the pages of some obscure comic book called Marvel.

We seem to embrace that which is not true as our History and remain in the dark because we do not read and pay high prices for movie tickets and that doesn't include the sweets and drinks. There are no movies, not yet telling our stories of conquering Iberia and ruling for hundred of years and would later be called Spain. There are no stories of the great institutions of learning in Timbuktu in Mali when Europeans were living as nomads with no where near the advancements of our Ancestors. Claim your History by knowing it and stop shaming it by trying to associate a money making movie as true. I marvel at you for taking the side of the comic book by Marvel that will make more profit for Disney. The fall out in various merchandise and games associated with the film will have folks spending for years and we do not own a store to sell any of these future products. How do we gain or are we still slaves?

Of course it is good to see an African American director along with its cast, but if we are to know ourselves, let us not forget who the Black Panthers represented and how once proud many of us were to finally have somebodies standing for our rights, not a super hero created by a comic book, but real folks that knew our pain and said ENOUGH! Those men and women tried to stand for our rights with some being murdered in their sleep and hunted down and jailed. That is our reality, a reality that many try to escape by going to a movie that exploits our dignity and our struggle. WHAT ARE OUR CREATIVE OPTIONS WHEN IT COMES TO MOVIE MAKING ABOUT OUR HISTORY? This was not written for you to agree or disagree, just for you to think.

Popcorn anybody?

Haywood Fennell
Boston, MA

MATTERS OF OPINION

RAINBOW COALITION

Janus case is part of continuing attack on workers

(Via TriceEdneyWire.com)

On Monday, the U.S. Supreme Court heard arguments in the case of Janus v. AFSCME; a ruling is expected in a few months. The case is the culmination of a concerted right-wing attack on the unions of teachers, police officers, firefighters, nurses and other public sector workers. If successful, it will lower working family incomes across the country, in union and non-union households, in public sector and private sector alike.



Rev. Jesse Jackson, Sr.

The question is fundamental. No worker can be forced to belong to a union. Public sector unions, however, are required to negotiate and represent all workers in a workplace whether they belong to the union or not. Current law allows unions to collect "fair share fees" for the basic costs the union incurs for representing non-union members who benefit not only from the higher wages and benefits that the union negotiates but also from the representation - sometimes costly - the union provides in personal grievance proceedings and other contract disputes with the employer.

In the Janus case, Mark Janus, a social worker in Illinois who is not a member of the union, claims that paying fees for services he benefits from is somehow a violation of his right to free speech. The chances are good that the five right-wing activist judges on the Supreme Court may well overturn more than 40 years of precedents to support this bizarre argument. The Janus case doesn't arise from widespread popular opposition to unions. It is part of a concerted, multi-faceted assault on worker organization financed by zealous right-wing foundations like the Koch Institute, the Bradley Foundation, the Uihlein Foundation, the Walton Foundation and more. It is a central reason why the Republican Senate outrageously refused even to bring President Obama's Supreme Court nomination to a vote, essentially stealing a Supreme Court seat for the right.

Reactionary employers - like Walmart and the Walton family - bitterly oppose unions for obvious reasons. Unions empower workers to gain a fairer share of the profits and productivity that they help to generate. That reduces the amount of money investors and owners can make off with.

JACKSON
Continued on page 5

The Second Amendment and White anxiety

There has been yet another school shooting in America. The multiple murders at the Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida mark the 18th school shooting in this nation since the beginning of the year. And once again the only response by elected officials has been to offer "thoughts and prayers" for the victims and their families. News anchors and pundits scratch their heads and ask, "What can be done to fix this?" while ignoring the obvious answer - limit access to guns.

If this seems like madness, it's because it is. This country clearly has a gun problem, a problem that can be solved if we act, as so many countries around the world have done. But we choose not to. Much of the blame for these killings is placed at the feet of the National Rifle Association (NRA), the political behemoth that slides dollars into the pockets of every conservative federal elected official and to many state politicians as well. These "bribes" ensure that conservative politicians will not enact any meaningful legislation that will stop or slow the flow of guns, even into the hands of the criminally insane. But the NRA could not exist without a culture in this country that places a higher priority on the right to gun ownership than on the lives of school children.



Oscar H. Blayton

The main question then becomes, "How did this madness come to dictate America's priorities?" In attempting to answer this question, we cannot ignore the racial dynamic of America's obsession with guns. White men can walk the streets with fully loaded automatic rifles and suffer no negative consequences, while people of color are shot dead for having a toy gun. This is because the freedom of Americans to bears arms that is not the real issue here; it is the freedom of white Americans to arm themselves against people of color (who are perceived as a threat). Even though the great majority of mass shooters are

white, the perceived threat is the armed person of color. The psyches of many white Americans are tainted by a fear of retribution for past wrongs and injustices committed against people of color. This fear will not go away anytime soon because for as long as the injustices persist, the fear will persist and the gun culture will persist. So, the mass killings will persist. Typically, and ironically, the victims of American injustice are not doing the killing. A segment of the white populace that is armed to the teeth unleashes its murderous anxiety by firing assault weapons, killing the innocent. It may seem farfetched to quote a character from a "Star Wars" episode, but in this case, the warning by Master Jedi Yoda's makes sense: "Fear is the path to the dark side. Fear leads to anger. Anger leads to hate. Hate leads to suffering."

To those whites prone to such behavior, Donald Trump has given license to openly fear and hate people of color. The resulting suffering has followed, as night follows the day. The problem of mass shootings is most definitely a gun

problem. It is also undeniably a mental health problem. And at the base of it all, the root of the gun culture that allows the mentally ill to run around with the capability to commit multiple murders is white America's fear of people of color. But the fear that many white people have of people of color pales in comparison to their fear of a Black man with a gun. The high-water mark for American gun control legislation during the last eighty years was in the late 1960s, due in large part to the Black Panther Party showing up heavily armed at the California State House in May 1967. The sight of armed Black men with large afros and berets sent a chill down America's spine and sparked political activity that eventually led to new gun control laws being passed in federal and state legislatures. In the years since, law enforcement across the country struck heavy blows against Black organizations perceived to be radical, armed and dangerous. These organizations began to fade and the perceived

BLAYTON
Continued on page 5

New Hanover County

Moneet's Closet Prom Drive will be accepting donations at Beautiful Beginning Boutique, 4314 Market St. Suite 17, Wednesday-Saturday from 12:30 p.m.- 7:00 p.m., Johnson's VIP Barber and Salon, 3138 Wrightsville Ave., Tuesday-Friday from 10:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m. Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church, 3701 princess Pl. Dr., Tuesday- Friday from 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Community Briefs

"Miss Eva Palmer Arriving," an afternoon with local author and talk show host Derrick Anderson will be held on Saturday, March 10 at 4:00 at Pomegranate Books. Derrick's debut novel, is about African-American life in the armed services during the Vietnam War. Derrick will be discussing the book and signing copies. Pomegranate is located at 4418 Park Avenue. For more information please call 910-452-1107.

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

Compiled By Wilmington Journal Staff

Manny Lloyd joins UNCW Upperman African American Cultural Center

Manny Lloyd '17 has been named the cultural enrichment programs coordinator at UNCW Upperman African American Cultural Center.

Lloyd, who received his bachelor's degree in political science from UNCW, had served as a temporary coordinator since August 2017. He officially joined the center in February 2018.

"We are excited about the possibilities that lie ahead for Manny as one who possesses so many amazing qualities," said Sean Palmer, Upperman African American Cultural Center director. "He is an asset to our endeavors to create dynamic programming that honors our unique culture."

During his undergraduate studies, Lloyd was a participant in the Upperman Center's Excellence Project, a peer mentoring program, as both a mentee and ultimately a mentor. That experience led him to seek a career in higher education.

"I saw the impact administrators can have on students and the community as a whole," he said. "I hope I can inspire students of all races and ethnicities to pursue a fuller, more complete understanding and appreciation for African culture. I also want to help black students see the beauty of what blackness has to offer and expand



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
MANNY LLOYD

their understanding of what it means to appreciate your identity as an African American."

As a cultural enrichment programs coordinator, Lloyd will help the center offer programming designed to help individuals to better understand African and African American culture. This year, the center is exploring the history and influence of the Gullah Geechee culture throughout African American life.

Programming offered by the Upperman African American Cultural Center, part of the Office of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion, supports UNCW's commitment to inclusiveness as outlined in its Strategic Plan.

Friends School of Wilmington (NC) is seeking a dynamic Lead Kindergarten Teacher beginning August, 2018

The Lead Kindergarten Teacher is responsible for planning and implementing a curriculum based on Montessori and inquiry-based practice with the help of a full-time assistant. Duties include creating and overseeing a nurturing, individualized, child-centered, "prepared environment" that enables each child to develop according to his/her needs, interests, and abilities.

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Please send your resume, a statement of educational philosophy, and three references to Head of School Brenda Esch at brenda@fsw.org,

Complete applications received by March 15th will receive priority consideration.

HOMETOWN NEWS FROM BRUNSWICK COUNTY

A time to speak out and let our voices be heard

As I have often reminded us before, we live in steadily changing times. They are changing in our local community, in North Carolina, in the United States and the world at large. Senseless violence in our communities is much more prevalent than ever. Senseless shootings and other types of



Verniece Stanley

killings are occurring more and more readily each day. As recently as February 14, 2018, Valentine's Day, 17 students and staff were gunned down at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida. Besides the 17 who were shot fatally, 14 others were injured and hospitalized as a result of the shooting.

This has been the most recent in a long string of shootings in large gatherings of people and is considered one of the

world's most deadly killings. This has raised great concerns among a great many people with regard to how to stop such killings. As a result of this shooting, concerned people, particularly students and young people, along with local, state, and national leaders, saddened and outraged, have spoken out in objection to the sale and distribution among private citizens, etc. automatic rifles/weaponry that is really intended for military use. The cry has been that there is no place for such weapons of mass destruction, in this case the AR-15, except in the military.

The main outcry has been in reference to school safety. Parents are disturbed that the times have changed to the point in which parents no longer feel comfortable sending their children to school in the morning. They have a concern that the children may be murdered or maimed at school between the time they drop them off, or are dropped off by the school bus, and the time for them to return home in the afternoon.

We must spend more money in an effort to protect our people. There is simply too much senseless killing of both the young and the old. We want to feel that we can attend any lawful gathering we wish without having to worry about being killed in the process. Children ought to feel a sense of security as they sit in schools where they are trying to acquire the best education possible. Worshipers ought to feel secure as they attend church services and worship God in their own way. They ought not have to worry about having someone come in and "shoot up the place." Sports fans and other such event attendees ought to feel nothing but a sense of security from danger as they attend fun events whenever and wherever they choose.

People are speaking out and demonstrating their right to assemble in protest to the laxity of gun laws in this country. It is their right to let their voices be heard and we are hearing from more and more who are concerned with safety for all

concerned. More and more, political leaders from every branch of government are being called into question and called upon to bring back automatic weapons ban and stop the senseless mass shootings as we have come to know them.

It's a time for us all to speak out and let our own voices be heard.

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.

Williston Alumni Assn. commemorates the closing of Williston

BY LINDA PEARCE
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Fifty years ago, the doors of Williston Senior High School were closed as ordered by the New Hanover County School Board. Gone was the institution that had been the cornerstone of quality education and center of life in the black community. That simple act initiated a profound change in the lives of local blacks, the effects of which are still being felt.

This July, the Williston Alumni Association remembers this life-changing action with two days of activities that will bring former Willistonians together to share memories and to bear

homage to the greatest school under the sun.

On Tuesday, July 3rd, the organization will sponsor the Legacy Motown Revue Show at the Scottish Rite Temple where former students, family and friends may gather to enjoy music from "back in the day". We have contracted with a dynamic group and we promise you an outstanding and entertaining evening.

On Wednesday, July 4th, we will meet on the grounds of our former high school for our traditional Mix from 10AM-2PM. We will also include a program that acknowledges the great loss to this community when Williston Senior High School closed its doors for the

last time as a high school.

The cost of the two days is \$50. Checks should be made payable to WAA and mailed to P.O. Box 2, Wilmington, NC, 28402. The deadline for receipt of fees is March 31st.

The Alumni Association gives scholarships annually with the goal of assisting descendants of former Willistonians with their pursuit of a secondary education. Please consider sending a donation for our scholarships as well as your annual dues of \$24 if you are, or want to be, a member of the Williston Alumni Assn. If you will, please put a note in your mailing so we may forward your donations to the

proper place. Those of you who received our mailout need to get your information back to us as soon as possible as we are going to open the Motown Revue to the public after the March 31st deadline. If you need more information, please call Linda Pearce Thomas, '63, at (910)232-8310, Sonja Bull Green, '64 at (910)763-5291, Barbara Adger DeVane, '63, at (910)395-4616 or Bill Holden, '61, at (703) 868-6089.

We are looking forward to seeing everybody this holiday, as usual, but especially because of the special significance of this year - 50 years since the closing of our beloved high school.

SPECIAL OCCASION

Mrs. Mable Robbins Davis celebrates 95 years



MRS. MABLE ROBBINS DAVIS WITH FAMILY

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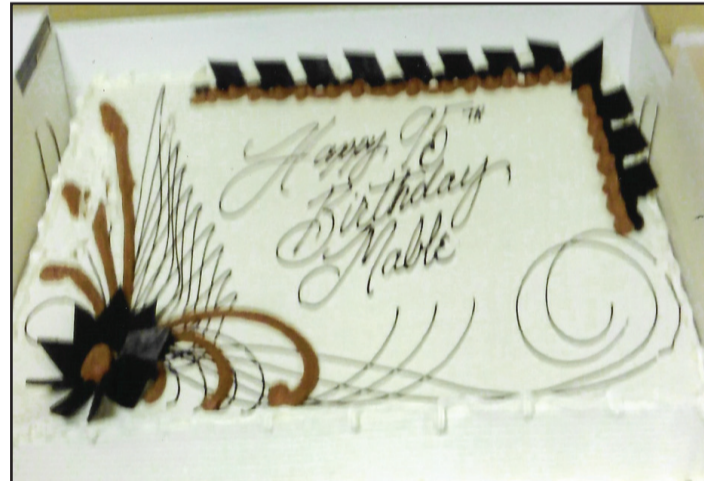
February 8, 2018 over 100 family and friends surprised Mrs. Mable Robbins Davis for her birthday celebration.

They came from New York, Washington, DC, Virginia, New

Jersey, The City and the surrounding area and gathered in the beautifully decorated fellowship hall of the First Baptist Missionary Church on Saturday, February 10, 2018 to

surprise her.

What an enjoyable time and thanks to all who came, sent cards, gifts, etc. God bless everyone and thank to all who made this a great celebration!!



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

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Questions, please contact Nikishia McKnight at 910-604-9576.

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