

'Slavery Was a Good Thing,' Clyburn Says MAGA Told Him

By **Aisha Winfrey**
Los Angeles WAVE
Wire Report

WASHINGTON, D.C.
U.S. Rep. James Clyburn, one of America's most influential Black political leaders, says that some MAGA Republicans told him directly that slavery was a good thing, according to a clip from a political news show that's gaining renewed attention online.

The South Carolina congressman also warned that some Make America Great Again loyalists would bring back Jim Crow-style systems in the U.S., if given the chance, according to the news clip.

Clyburn made the comments during an interview on PBS's "Firing Line with Margaret Hoover." According to Atlanta Black Star, a clip from the show that's

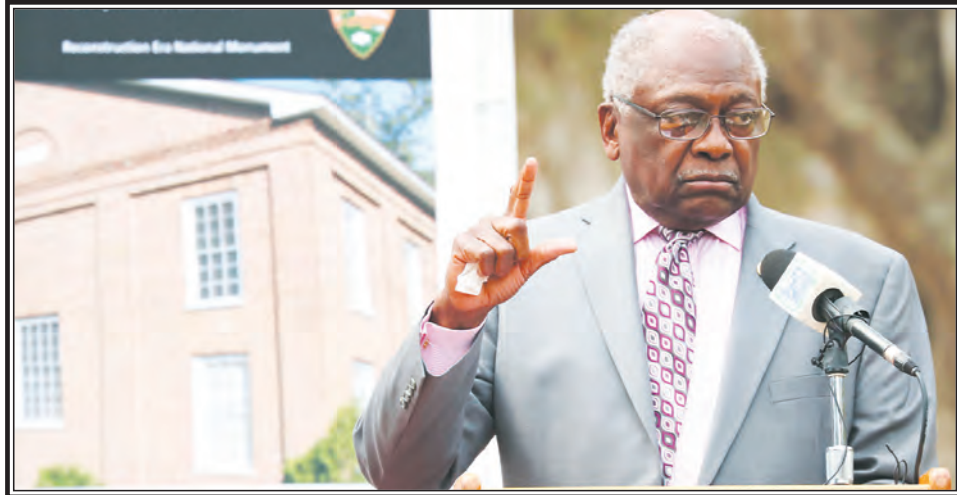


Photo: U.S. Park Service.

U.S. Congressman James Clyburn (SC-06) received a standing ovation for his role in establishing Reconstruction Era National Historical Park.

garnered recent attention online shows Clyburn detailing interactions he's had with MAGA loyalists, some of whom want the country to return to a segregated state.

When asked whether he thought MAGA

Republicans were explicitly racist, Clyburn said he doesn't liberally apply the term to the entire group.

"I'm very circumspect about using the term. There are racists," Clyburn said. "There are White Supremacists. There are

people who are supporters of this president who admit to me that they are White Supremacists. I've had people who support this president tell me that they thought slavery was a good thing."
...see **Clyburn**, page 3



Mental Health What Can You Do To Have A Happier Day?

By **Rosalind Tyler**
Associate Editor
New Journal and Guide

The secret to happiness can be found in your thoughts.

As the nation observes Mental Health Month in May, should you focus on amped-up insults and exhausting online fears, or focus on amping up your own unique traits which will make you feel stronger, braver and more resilient?

This month, ask yourself what I can do now to have a happier day, in other words.

The official 2026 mental health theme, "More Good Days, Together," urges you to steadfastly focus on doable tasks that will make others offer you support. This means roll up your sleeves, lace up your sneakers, get out there and take charge of your focal point.

"A good day is created through intentional mindset shifts, mindful habits, and small, positive actions that help you feel grounded, focused, and fulfilled," DeClutter

the Mind explained in a statement on its website.

"Having a good day doesn't need to seem like an impossible task. Even if you have moments where things don't go your way, or as planned, it's still possible to have a day you end up enjoying. The secret to happiness can be found in your thoughts. The way you frame your thinking can set you up to have a good day or bad day, it's all a matter of perspective."

This means you can wake up and deliberately focus on empowering facts. Norfolk, for example, has seen a significant decline in crime rates. Norfolk recorded 59,456 crimes in the year ending December 2024, down from 61,217 in the previous year.
...see **Mental**, page 3



Virginia Attorney General Jay Jones addresses the crowd at Ft. Monroe.

The plaza marks the landing place of the first enslaved Africans from Angola at Port Comfort (Hampton, VA) in 1619.

1619 African Landing Memorial Plaza Dedicated At Fort Monroe, Virginia

Story and Photos
By **Randy Singleton**
NJG Community
Correspondent

HAMPTON
State, local, and international leaders gathered with hundreds of community members for a dedication ceremony of the African Landing Memorial Plaza at Fort Monroe on Friday (April 24). The plaza marks the landing place of the first enslaved Africans from Angola at Port Comfort (Hampton, VA) in 1619. This event set

the stage for the beginning of the Transatlantic slave trade.

Virginia Governor Abigail Spanberger, Attorney General Jay Jones, and State Senator Mamie Locke were among the guest speakers. African drummers, faith and indigenous leaders, reenactors, and descendants of the Tucker family participated in the ceremonial program.

Tiles on the ground at the memorial point to Angola. Granite from Angola was used to build the memorial.



Gov. Abigail Spanberger



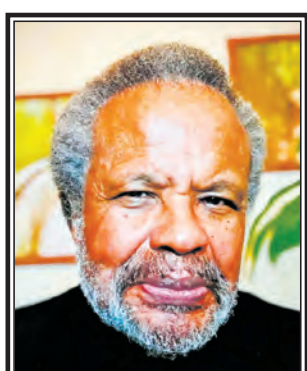
State Sen. Mamie Locke

Ambassadors Luncheon Celebrates NATO "History Is Very Much Influenced By Authoritarian Leaders"

By **Terrance Afer-Anderson**
Special to the New Journal and Guide

Having last Friday been invited by Valerie Stallings, M.D., former director, Norfolk Department of Public Health, I attended a NATO Ambassadors Lunch: Celebrating NATO Member Nations and Partner Nations. The event was held at the Norfolk Yacht and Country Club and hosted by the World Affairs Council of Hampton Roads.

The ambassadors in attendance included Mr. Takehiro Shimada, Deputy Chief of Mission to the U.S.;



Terrance Afer-Anderson

Japan; Madam Janna van Der Velde, Deputy Chief Mission to the U.S.; The Netherlands; Her Excellency Anniken Huitfeldt, Ambassador of Norway to the U.S.; and

The luncheon was presided over by Susan S. Bore', President of the local World Affairs Council.

Admiral Pierre Vandler, NATO Supreme Allied Commander Transformation. The panel session was moderated by Dr. Richard Maass, ODU Associate Professor of Political Science. The luncheon was presided over by Susan S. Bore', President of the local World Affairs Council.

At Dr. Stallings' invitation, I had previously attended other Ambassadors Luncheons, but in light of the current,

tentative state of international affairs, much precipitated by the controversial actions and edicts of U.S. President Donald Trump, I was particularly anxious to join this gathering. It did indeed prove immensely insightful, a compelling window on how many NATO nations currently view the United States and its tragically flawed current leader, albeit with tempered, somewhat tepid commentary.
...see **NATO**, page 3



Photo: Courtesy City of Norfolk

Planting A Tree For Earth Day In Norfolk

NORFOLK
On Thursday, April 23, former Tidewater Gardens residents participating in the city's People First Program came together to plant late spring crops and a tree at Purpose Park in honor of Earth Day.

Many of the participants had never gardened before.

Now, they're growing vegetables like tomatoes, lettuce, and squash and just as importantly, building friendships and rediscovering a sense of purpose.

The People First program provides a range of support services to meet the needs of residents.

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Federal Budget Proposal Ignores Affordability Crisis

DEEP CUTS TO HOUSING, EDUCATION, AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

By Charlene Crowell

(TRICEEDNEYWIRE.COM)

At a time when American families across the country are struggling to cope with rising costs of living, the White House's Fiscal Year 2027 budget proposal makes clear that federal help for working people is not in the cards.

"A historic paradigm shift in the budget process is occurring and is producing real results for the American public" stated Russell Vought, Director of the Office of Management and Budget in his comments to Congress.

If approved by Congress, this new "paradigm" will increase defense spending by \$1.5 trillion -44 percent increase, while slashing \$73 billion from domestic programs that many people have come to rely upon, like rental assistance, career training, and the Low-Income Energy Assistance Program.

In reaction, a chorus of concerned opposition has emerged, demanding that Congress account for how taxpayer dollars will be spent.

For example, the Center on Budget & Policy Priorities summarized its concerns with an April 3 statement: "...It makes cuts in a range of areas that matter to families, including education; healthy fruits and vegetables for low-income pregnant and postpartum parents, toddlers, and preschoolers; food assistance for low-income seniors; and utility assistance. It also cuts the number of households who get help paying the rent."

Other advocates addressed specific concerns on the future of education, housing, and consumer protections.

In response to the proposed \$3.2 billion cut to the Department of Education, National Education Association President Becky Pringle said, "It turns its back on students with disabilities, students from low-income families, students who live in rural areas — students that need more support, not less."

Among the Education Department's post-secondary programs slated for elimination in FY 2027 are: Student Support Services, Federal Family Education Loans, Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants, Upward Bound, and Career, Technical, and Adult



Education.

Proposed cuts to housing programs are even more severe: \$10.7 billion. An analysis by the Bipartisan Policy Center showed that HUD programs affected by the cuts include Community Development Block Grants (CBDG); homelessness assistance; rental assistance that helps the elderly and people with disabilities; family self-sufficiency and job training programs; and programs for fair housing investigation, enforcement and training programs

For Black America, already financially short-changed by nagging wealth inequality, the nation's affordability crisis worsens our ongoing quest for full participation in this nation's opportunities.

Our hopes and dreams still yearn to know and enjoy America's bounty, and not just its disproportionate burdens. A fair federal budget enacted by Congress is not only appropriate but deserved.

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

TO OUR READERS

ON THE PASSING OF NJG COLUMNIST SEAN C. BOWERS

The New Journal and Guide Family lost one of its foremost and most ardent advocates for justice and democracy with the sudden passing on April 23, 2026 of Local Voices Columnist Sean C. Bowers. For more than three decades, Sean lent great value to keeping relevant our mission as one where "evil could not thrive unopposed". Through his weekly columns, he raised issues and questions about fairness and equity at local, state and national levels.

He was especially proud to be a Caucasian writing in solidarity with a historic African American publication on the issues of democracy, justice and freedom. A Quaker by faith, he lived up to the tenets of brotherhood that he had been taught. We will miss his passion for life and making a difference with his life. We are grateful to have given him a platform that he valued and loved.

We extend sincere condolences to his wife, Kim, and his mother, Judith, and stepdad, Jack, and all other family members and

persons who knew and loved Sean. As we mourn his departure from us too soon, we are thankful that his works will live on through the archives of the New Journal and Guide for posterity.

—Publisher Brenda H. Andrews



Sean C. Bowers

2026 HAMPTON ROADS HOUSING SYMPOSIUM

Friday, May 22nd
9am to 2pm

Suffolk Center for Cultural Arts

Register at:
www.VHDC.org/events

From The Guide Archives

Archives taken from the pages of the (New) Journal and Guide



April 30 1927
Edition of the Guide

BOLLING BROOK NEWS

NORFOLK

The Sunday School of Bolling Brook Baptist Church is taking on new life in every phase of activity. Plans are being made to organize a progressive club which is expected to be very instrumental in advancing the young people's work of this community.

A \$500 drive is planned and is expected to end May 30 at which time an old-fashioned barbecue dinner will be served.

The Services at First Baptist Church were interesting and well attended. Miss Ellen Williams of Granby Street is able to be out again after having been ill at her home.

(Editor's Note: What remains of the Bolling Brook community exists eastward, across Granby Street from Granby High School.)

OAKWOOD NEWS

NORFOLK

Mt. Gilead Baptist Church is staging a pastor's popularity contest in an effort to raise enough funds to erect a new church building. Reverends L. Parker and Joseph Faltz are the contesting pastors.

There was a wonderful program rendered at Zion Church of Christ in Parkwood Terrace with a large audience of both White and Colored. A Tom-Thumb wedding was staged under the direction of Mrs. Narcissus Faltz of Mt. Gilead. Elder J. Joynes made some brief remarks.

April 28, 1973
Edition of the Guide

City Courts To Aid Crow Link

PORTSMOUTH

Dr. James W. Holley III, the only Black member

of the Portsmouth City Council, remains an outspoken opponent of the Bide-A-Wee golf course, an enterprise on city-owned property that has no Black members.

Holley stoutly contends that it is a racist operation which is illegal because Negroes are barred. Noted golfer, Chandler Harper, who operates the golf course, on contract from the city denies that Blacks are barred for reasons of race.

Harper points out that there are some Whites who are not members of the Lilly-White club. City Council defeated a motion by Councilman Raymond B. Smith that would have ordered City Attorney William J. O'Brien, Jr. to drop a tax suit now pending against Harper for \$25,000. Holley was the lone councilman to vote against giving Harper the tax relief and writing a new contract with the Golf club.

Students Beaten By Police

NORFOLK

In the Oceanview area of Norfolk, a crowd of high school students, after visiting the amusement park, ran into a problem. As the students were boarding their buses to return home "the crowd started pushing and shoving to get on the bus first," said Carlton Brown of Portsmouth. Brown, a student at Norcom High School with a girlfriend, was caught in the pushing and shoving as the crowd became rowdy, "the police started using night clubs to push it back," said Carlton.

"No motion was made toward the police, but then I said to the police they should not do that, poking their nightclubs in his girlfriend's stomach started it," the youth said.

Carlton reported the police then grabbed him out of the crowd.

Brown, 17, was then assaulted by two police officers, the youth told

reporters. In the melee, Carlton said he was moved to the back of the bus where he fell against the police car and was pushed inside of it. The two 4th Precinct officers along with Carlton and his parents appeared in court. Carlton was charged with resisting arrest, assaulting an officer and disorderly conduct, Mrs. Brown told reporters.

April 30, 1997
Edition of the Guide

Tiger Woods Smashes Records

By James Alsbrook
The Minority Report

The number of racial barriers was reduced sensationally on April 13 when Tiger Woods stroked and putted his way to fame, fortune and history. Fifty years after Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier in baseball, Eldrick "Tiger" Woods broke the color semi-barrier in Golf.

But a big difference shocked the world. Whereas Jackie was a team player and his greatness was partially controlled by the performance of his teammates, Tiger Woods is an individual whose solo performance is controlled not by a team manager or baseline coach but by himself.

The wide 17 stroke victory of Woods at the Masters Golf Classic April 13 caused stunned experts and former champions to say Tiger Woods already is the greatest golf player of all time and predicts that he will dominate golf for next 20 years.

Woods also reminds people of Arthur Ashe, the late great athlete who integrated professional tennis and rose to the top.

Woods became a professional in late August and immediately won these honors: Las Vegas Invitational; Walt Disney World/Oldsmobile

Classic; and the Mercedes Championship.

Women Address Violence In Virginia Beach

By Leonard E. Colvin

VIRGINIA BEACH

Last February Gerry Stewart's 16-year-old son was brutally beaten near the campus of Green Run High School in Virginia Beach by a group of schoolmates after he stood up to them during a confrontation earlier that day.

After investigating the matter, Stewart and her husband are convinced the youths who beat her son were members of one of a growing number of youth gangs which formed among Beach High School students recently.

Stewart, who is married to a Navy man, said the youth will be tried for assault and battery on her son.

Stewart believes Virginia Beach police and school authorities are ignoring an increase in gang activity and the high schools are a breeding ground.

She said city police and school officials will not admit that gangs are in Virginia Beach to avoid tarnishing the city's image as a White tourist attraction.

"Well, if the gangs get started in the city, they can kiss the idea of it being a peaceful place to bring your family on a summer weekend," Stewart said.

As a girl in Detroit, Michigan, Stewart was a gang member. She married her current husband "just to get out of the gang." That saved her but a lot of other kids "I fear did not get the chance."

Stewart said her experience as a gang member "has alerted me to the fact that I know youth gang activity when I see it. When the kids start talking to me about it, then I know something is wrong."

One night while looking at a local newscast covering

a story related to "Mothers Against Crime (MAC)", she then called the leader of the group and now "I have someone on my side to help me and other mothers who are afraid to death about the gang violence."

Mothers Against Violence was formed seven years ago by a single mother Jackie McDonald whose sons were brutally murdered in the city of Norfolk and in New York where she hails.

None of the incidents were drug related. They were just innocent bystanders.

AFR'AM Fest Prepares for 11th Year

NORFOLK

Richard Love has been involved with the planning and execution of the AFR'AM Fest since its inception. For the past five years he has been the Project Director of the festival and each year he has seen his share of obstacles.

Usually, complications have centered around money or the lack of it, causing Love and others involved with the event to be concerned it would be negatively affected or even postponed days before it was to take place.

This year is no different, according to the director, but new challenges are being faced.

One of its premiere sponsors, AT&T is not participating this year. Last year AT&T donated \$5,000 to support the area's oldest and most popular African American cultural festival.

The company is contributing \$500,000 to Norfolk Festevents, Inc. which coordinates Harbor Fest and other programs at the city's Town Point Park.

Another AFR'AM sponsor, Hoffman Distributors, also backed out of its annual \$2,000 donation this year.

But the company will sponsor the Norfolk events such as the Town Point Park Jazz Festival which for the first time this year has been moved to the weekend before AFR'AM Fest.

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NATO

Continued from page 1



As of April 2026, there are 32 member countries in NATO. The alliance consists of countries from North America and Europe, which operate as a collective security organization.

Still, there was no shortage of unabashed assessments. Yet, at the outset, before the proceedings began, Bore' advised, for completely understandable concerns of political expediency, no quotes were to be directly attributed to the ambassadors present. With such a cushion, the speakers, while measured, spoke with great passion and conviction. To illustrate, the very title of this story was uttered by one of the panelists.

It is also worth noting that, while NATO itself reports, for the period January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2027, the U.S. is committed to providing the largest share of the alliance's cost for its Civil Budget, Military Budget and NATO Security Investment, 14.9039%, an actual decrease from its March 7, 2024 to December 31, 2025 of 15.8813%, one of the ambassadors pointed out some rationalization for that disparity, "More U.S. cities are nuclear targets than those in Europe."

Another ambassador made a rather profound observation many nations tend to too readily dismiss when it comes to peacefully settling international

disputes; advising that the Cold War between the U.S. and then Soviet Union, which endured for 44 years from 1974 to 1991, was not won on the battlefield. The suggestion was that, today, the world might well be "too fragmented" for such diplomatic settlement of global hostilities. Indeed, the unprecedented resolution for such an epic, decades-long agitation was the dissolution of the Soviet Union, aka the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR). It became the Russian Federation, its current president Vladimir Putin is serving his fifth term.

Russia was often referenced during the ambassadors' luncheon. While there was no specific, protracted reference made to the curious and perplexing relationship Trump has had with Putin, a world leader even more

volatile than himself, much concern was expressed about Russian actions and potentialities.

NATO's defense against Russia is a primary interest, as well as potential member nations such as Ukraine. The ambassadors noted the alliance strongly encouraged Russia not to invade Ukraine, adding, "We cannot let Russia win this war."

At a historic summit held in The Hague last year, the first ever conducted in the Netherlands, NATO not alone increased its GDP to 5%, 3.5% for military expenditures and 1.5% for security-related spending, the allies also reaffirmed their long support of Ukraine, incorporated into that spending goal. The organization has been interested in cybersecurity and in 2024 developed the NATO Cyber Defense Pledge Conference.

like "separate but equal" policies with the help of the Supreme Court.

"Anything that's happened before can happen again," Clyburn said. "All it takes is a rogue Supreme Court."

In the same discussion, Clyburn spoke about his book "The First Eight," which looks at South Carolina's first Black members of Congress after the Civil War and how they

shaped political progress.

Clyburn wrote the book following the deadly U.S. Capitol insurrection on Jan. 6, 2021, which he believes was inspired by the Antebellum era and came to pass as a result of reactionary politics.

He also referenced earlier polling of Trump supporters that showed differing views on emancipation and Civil War history.

Clyburn

Continued from page 1

Clyburn said he believes the MAGA Republicans "wish to get us back as close to slavery as they can possibly get us" without violating the Constitution and would attempt to reinstate Jim Crow-

The ambassadors appeared in unison to quickly assess that the U.S. entry into the war was exclusively an American, a Trump, decision. They offered no further comment, beyond adding, "We cannot send our troops to the Middle East."

The ambassadors at the luncheon noted Russia, China and North Korea are the largest violators and pose the greatest threat to cybersecurity.

In addition to fielding questions from moderator Maass, the audience was invited to participate. It was great to see the larger share of those inquiries came from area students. Norfolk State, Old Dominion, Christopher Newport, William & Mary, and Virginia Wesleyan

universities, and Tidewater Community College, as well as Booker T. Washington and First Colonial high schools, were well represented.

Of urgent interest of course was the current war that the United States and Israel are waging against Iran. The ambassadors appeared in unison to quickly assess that the U.S. entry into the war was exclusively an American, a Trump, decision. They offered no further

comment, beyond adding, "We cannot send our troops to the Middle East."

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization was founded in Washington, D.C. on April 4, 1949. Twelve countries established the historic transatlantic alliance to prevent Soviet expansionism and to develop a strong allied defense following World War II. As of March 2024, there are 32 member nations.

The alliance of ambassadors attending the World Affairs Council luncheon still today support that mission, acknowledging, "NATO is the best way to protect ourselves."

Terrance Afer-Anderson is a writer, actor, director and producer. He is also President/CEO, TerraVizion Entertainment Network.

Mental

Continued from page 1

This includes a decrease in stalking and harassment, theft from a person, public order, violence against the person, knife crime, criminal damage, arson, bicycle theft, violence with and without injury, and vehicle, according to news reports.

Or, you can deliberately shift your focus to the fact that people are living longer.

The nation is aging and the mortality rate has inched up. Census records show Black Americans have an increased life expectancy rate (from 60.5 years in the 1950s to 76 years in the 2010s, a 20.4 percent increase) and white Americans (from 69 years in the 1950s to 79.3 years in the 2010s, a 13 percent rise).

Or you can deliberately

This month, start a gratitude journal. Jot down 10 things you're grateful for on a scrap piece of paper.

focus on several new reports that show you how to feel safe including one that tells you how to sidestep online fraud by ignoring, blocking and deleting calls and messages that use fake phone numbers in search engines and online ads, in order to ruin your finances.

Another new report says you can lower your cholesterol level by adding exercise to a healthy diet.

Or you can look at the challenging political landscape and focus on the fact that you can vote in local elections to preserve your rights.

Or you can focus on the fact that you can leave an abusive relationship and launch a new identity.

This month, start a gratitude journal. Jot

down 10 things you're grateful for on a scrap piece of paper. Launch a series of good deeds. Meditate. Socialize with positive people. Go for a walk and listen to nature.

"The difference between a good day and bad day is where you put your mental focus," DeClutter explained.

"If you're constantly thinking 'Wow, I have way more good things in my life than I realized', you'll start to feel an abundance of goodness allowing you to improve your day. Gratitude doesn't mean that bad things don't happen or that you should shove them down and pretend they're invisible. It's more about realizing that no matter how rainy the day, there's always a beautiful rainbow nearby."

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WHAT THE DATA SAY

By Wornie Reed, Ph.D.



PROFESSOR EMERITUS OF SOCIOLOGY
VIRGINIA TECH

TRUMP'S TARIFFS

"We have billions of dollars coming into our Treasury — billions — from China. We never had 10 cents coming into our Treasury; now we have billions coming in," President Trump claimed on January 24, 2019. On May 5, he tweeted: "For 10 months, China has been paying Tariffs to the USA"

Of course this is false. Tariffs are import taxes that companies importing goods into the United States pay. And they usually pass these increased costs onto consumers. Was Trump lying or ignorant? At that point it clearly seemed to be ignorance.

But in Trump's State of the Union address in February of this year he proclaimed, "As time goes by, I believe that tariffs, paid for by foreign countries, will, like in the past, substantially replace the modern-day system of income tax, taking a great financial burden off the people that I love." That still seems like ignorance.

The Federal Reserve Bank of New York published an analysis in February that found over 90 percent of Mr. Trump's 2025 tariffs were passed onto U.S. consumers and businesses in the form of higher costs. It found that from January through August of last year, U.S. importers bore 94% of tariff costs.

The tariffs have increased consumer costs by roughly \$1,230-\$1,700 per household annually, raised manufacturing costs, and impacted global trade relations.

The tariffs have generated over \$214 billion in revenue but

The tariffs have increased consumer costs by roughly \$1,230-\$1,700 per household annually, raised manufacturing costs, and impacted global trade relations.

also triggered increased inflation and food prices. Please note that Trump is causing some of the inflation he is so concerned about--re Fed Chair Powell. He has wanted Fed Chairman Powell to lower interest rates

Trump is still seething after the Supreme Court invalidated tariffs he imposed under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act — a wartime law that authorizes the president to regulate imports when the country is faced with an "unusual and extraordinary" national security threat.

Why does Trump keep insisting that foreign companies pay U.S. tariffs? Is he lying or is he still ignorant about tariffs? A strong case could be made for either answer. There is a record of his telling over 31,000 lies during his first term, and his ignorance was on display back then on tariffs. But there were more.

An article in Time magazine in 2019, during Trump's first term as president warned us that of all the gambles in electing the most politically inexperienced candidate ever to the highest elected office in the world, the danger of ignorance may prove the greatest.

Early in the Covid pandemic in a meeting with pharmaceutical executives Trump

expressed his ignorance by asking whether seasonal flu vaccines could work on the Coronavirus. And of course, this got worse with Trump publicly encouraging his top health officials to study the injection of bleach into the human body as a means of fighting Covid.

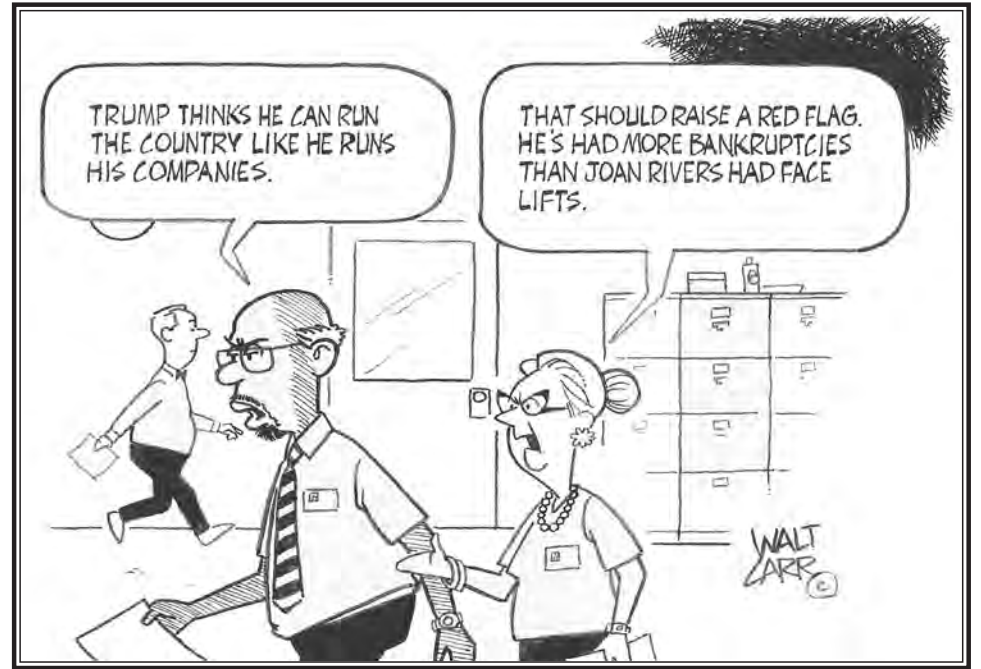
His officials obviously ignored that request but apparently could not thwart an ignorance that "could kill millions." Trump claims that he did not know Iran might attack its neighbors and close the Strait of Hormuz in response to the U.S. and Israel attacking Iran. He insisted that none of the experts thought this possible when in effect just about every expert outside the Trump administration thought it was both possible and likely.

Both tendencies could be at play here—ignorance that he did not know about the consequences and lying about expert advice he received, with him typically overruling their advice, that is, if he allowed any experts into the discussion—another problematic practice.

Regardless—lie or ignorance, the consequences may be dire for many people—fuel and fertilizer shortages causing problems in the U.S. but life and death situations in developing countries.

CARRTOON By Walt Carr

From Laughin', Lyin' & Signifyin'



NFL FOOTBALL LEAGUE DRAFT

By Dr. E. Faye Williams

(TRICEEDNEYWIRE.COM)

For so many years as a journalist, I have written about science, racism, women's rights, health, justice, legal matters, worldwide events, wars, politics and so much more. After looking at the NFL Football Draft this year, I decided it was time I wrote an article about sports.

I am a graduate of several schools popular for their sports teams. Among them UCLA when Kareem Abdul-Jabbar was there; and the University of Southern California when O.J. Simpson was there. I didn't graduate from the University of Michigan, but I did study there and follow football. However, I attended and graduated from Grambling University in Louisiana, and Grambling wasn't as big as those schools, but in my heart, Grambling was always the greatest when it came to sports.

You see, Grambling had not only the great band, the great speech and dramatic arts department, the great basketball team and baseball team, but



Dr. E. Faye Williams

I congratulate all the Moms who sacrificed so often alone to get their sons to where they are now.

Hilton, Charlie Hardnett, Rex Tippitt and so many more, who became friends and one of them who introduced me to professional football was the late Willie Davis.

As I watched the recent NFL Draft, I thought of all the young men who now have great opportunities before them--especially young Black men. As their names were called because they were the greatest in their chosen sport, most of their families and friends were there to rejoice about the great opportunity with which they were being presented.

If Coach Robinson were there with them, along with the opportunity for which they were selected, he would have told them about the great responsibility before them.

...see NFL Draft, page 5

THE CRISIS CALLING FROM INSIDE THE HOUSE

By Marc H. Morial
To Be Equal

(TRICEEDNEYWIRE.COM)

Dr. Cerina Fairfax, Vice Mayor Nancy Metayer Bowen, Shayla Elkins, 5; Kayla Pugh, 6; Layla Pugh, 7; Markaydon Pugh, 10; Sariah Snow, 11; Khedarrion Snow, 6; Braylon Snow, 5; and Jayla Elkins, who was just 3 years old. Each of these women and all eight of these children died at the hands of men who were supposed to protect and provide for them in the last month.

Unfortunately, these murders aren't happening in a vacuum. Stories of angry, despondent men violently killing their wives, girlfriends, and children are occurring in our community at an alarming rate. And far



Marc H. Morial

too often, we're left asking why.

In the mass shooting in Shreveport, the nation's deadliest since 2024, the family of the shooter, Shamar Elkins, stated he was struggling with his mental health in the midst of a divorce before killing his family.

The disturbing pattern in each of these cases is a group of men not just struggling with mental health, but a general lack of value for the lives of their loved ones.

Former Lt. Governor of Virginia Justin Fairfax was also said to have been experiencing isolation and depressive episodes before killing his wife and himself days after being requested to appear at a divorce hearing. And after murdering his wife, Nancy, Stephen Bowen told his uncle that he "couldn't take it anymore."

The disturbing pattern in each of these cases is a group of men not just struggling with mental health, but a general lack of value for the

lives of their loved ones. Taken together, these cases reveal something larger than individual tragedy; they reveal a crisis hiding in plain sight.

Researchers have documented the rise of a male loneliness epidemic that was sweeping the country, and its effects on emotional stability, ability to connect with others, and even how men perceive reality. Researchers also found that in the absence of meaningful relationships, men who

spent more time online often found themselves targeted by algorithms that promote toxic podcasters and influencers who spout negative tropes and stereotypes about women. This world, called the "red pill," encourages men to dehumanize and assert power over women socially, at home, and in the workplace.

While there's no direct correlation between these tragedies and toxic internet culture, the risks of isolation and the inability or refusal to engage with mental health supports are evident. But for many men of color, accessing mental healthcare isn't easy.

There are financial barriers that keep Black men out of care. Stigmas associated with therapy, like being labeled "crazy" or "weak," encourage men to compartmentalize

and use self-soothing tactics like drinking or substances that raise the risk of violent outbursts. And with only 4 percent of mental health professionals being Black, finding professionals that men can connect with is also a challenge.

The combination of feeling like finding help is impossible, compartmentalizing that leads to isolation, and predatory algorithms that spew hatred towards women has created a perfect storm for violence and self-harm. According to the National Library of Medicine, suicide has become the third leading cause of death among Black people, and for younger men, most vulnerable to alienating internet culture, rates of mental health decline are rising.

...see Crisis, page 5



THIS WEEK IN BLACK HISTORY

APRIL 30 - MAY 6, 2026

<p>April 30, 1863</p> <p>Sarah Thompson Garnet becomes the first African American female principal in the New York City public school system.</p>	<p>May 1, 1986</p> <p>Shaunita Latrice "Tia" Norfleet, the first and, as of 2016, only African American female to be licensed as a NASCAR driver, born</p>	<p>May 2, 1920</p> <p>First game of the National Negro Baseball League is played in Indianapolis.</p>	<p>May 3, 1845</p> <p>Macon B. Allen, first Black lawyer admitted to the bar, passed examination at Worcester, Massachusetts</p>	<p>May 4, 1896</p> <p>Cowboy Bill Pickett earns the title of inventor of Bull Dogging.</p> <p>May 4, 1961</p> <p>Thirteen Freedom riders began bus trip through South.</p>	<p>May 5, 1969</p> <p>Moneta Sleet becomes the first African American to win a Pulitzer Prize for his photograph of Mrs. Coretta Scott King and her daughter at her husband's funeral</p>	<p>May 6, 1812</p> <p>Marin R. Delany, pioneer Black nationalist, born free in Charles Town, Virginia.</p>
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- GOOD NEWS FROM AROUND THE NATION -

“Hot Wing Capital of the World”

Memphis Hosts Its 24th Annual Hot Wing Festival

Benefitting Ronald McDonald House & St. Jude

By Candace A. Gray
New Tri-State Defender

The story of the hot wing — crispy, sauced and synonymous with gatherings across the country — has long been credited to Buffalo, New York. But as food historians and cultural storytellers continue to revisit its roots, many now acknowledge a deeper and often overlooked narrative: the influence of Black culinary innovation in shaping what would become an American staple.

Long before the dish reached national fame, a Black chef and entrepreneur, John Young, was already experimenting with fried chicken and sauces in Buffalo. Young laid the groundwork for what Memphis has now claimed as its own, as the Hot Wing Capital of the World. The hot wing traveled far beyond Buffalo, finding a vibrant home in Memphis, where wings are not just food, but culture.

That culture was on display at the 24th Annual World Championship Hot Wing Contest & Festival, Saturday, April 18. What began in 2003 as a modest gathering with just seven teams in Poplar Lounge’s parking lot has grown into an internationally recognized event, drawing competitors from across the globe and solidifying Memphis’ reputation as the Hot Wing Capital of the World.

More than just a food festival, the event reflects the spirit of Memphis itself, community-driven, rooted in family and culture and undoubtedly soulful. Hosted by the nonprofit Wings Over Memphis, the festival continues to prioritize both flavor and philanthropy. This year, proceeds will benefit two impactful causes, Ronald McDonald House West Tennessee & Northeast Arkansas and the St. Jude Walk. Together, these organizations support families navigating some of life’s most challenging moments, offering housing, care and hope to children fighting cancer and their loved ones.



Photo: Courtesy

Members of the Smoke That Chick team gather for a photo, representing the competitive spirit and creativity that define the nearly 40 teams vying for top honors.

From wings to music to dance and wing eating contests, and everything in between, there was something for everyone.

“At its heart, this festival has always been about Memphis showing up for those in need,” said festival founder Paul Gagliano. “We started small, but our mission has always been to bring people together around something we all love and use that energy and passion to give back. To see how the community has embraced it through the years, and how it now impacts families across the world, that’s what makes it all worth it.”

At its core, the festival is about participation. Whether participants are seasoned pitmasters, backyard grill enthusiasts or simply someone who loves a good wing, the festival is open to all. This inclusivity is part of what has helped the festival endure for nearly a quarter century.

Attendees didn’t just watch; they were part of the action. With “Wing Bucks” in hand, attendees moved from booth to booth, sampling creations from nearly 40 teams, each



Photo: Courtesy

Three young festivalgoers enjoy wings together, reflecting the family-friendly atmosphere at the annual event, where community and giving back are at the heart of the celebration.

bringing their own twist to the craft. For a small donation, guests tasted wings that ranged from classic Buffalo-style to globally inspired flavors that reflect Memphis’ diverse culinary scene.

The competition itself was fierce. Teams vied for cash prizes, bragging rights and trophies, with top honors including \$2,500 for first place.

Meanwhile, the World Wing Cup Series reached its climactic fifth year, where the top teams from the past five years, inclusive of this year, competed for a \$25,000 grand prize. It was a high-stakes moment that underscored how far this festival has come. From local cook-off to international stage, wings were serious business, as Kansas City Barbeque Society provided judges.

This year, first-year participants laid the groundwork for the 2030 World Wing Cup Series II.

But the wings were only part of the story. The festival blended Memphis music, movement and overall moxie. Live performances from local acts kept the energy high throughout the day, while the Memphis Second Line Jazz Band led the opening parade complete with chickens on leashes in a playful nod to the event’s theme. The Soul Train Review and Dance Contest, powered by DJ Alpha Whiskey, invited attendees to celebrate Black music and win cash prizes.

From wings to music to dance and wing eating contests, and everything in between, there was something for everyone.

NFL Draft

Continued from page 4

Everybody can’t be the greatest educator, the greatest doctor, the greatest lawyer, but their talents have already shown they can be the greatest in their chosen profession, and their responsibilities are no less as an athlete than those in other professions. Especially young men who have not yet succeeded in anything because of a lack of opportunity can and do look up to successful athletes!

I pray that the happiness, the glee, the great and determined attitude and the emotion I saw in the draft will remain with them as they make us proud and inspire and help other young people in sports to follow in their footsteps.

Bud Clark, from my hometown in Alexandria, Louisiana was just drafted by the Seattle

Seahawks and I have the same hope for success for him. At the close of this article, I was still waiting and pulling for Jacobian Guillory, also from my hometown in Louisiana, will be successfully drafted.

With Mother’s Day coming up soon, I want to congratulate all the Black women who were right there with their sons cheering them on from day one. I don’t disregard the fathers who were there, too, or who for whatever reason were not there at the Draft, but I now understand when young men do well in any sport, at the end, they shout out, “Hey Mom” or send a loving signal to her.

I congratulate all the Moms who sacrificed so often alone to get their sons to where they are now, and it’s on these young men to make Mom, Dad and the family proud during their career in the National Football League! I will tell them what else I wish for them when I see them at the dugout after a game!

Crisis

Continued from page 4

Tackling this crisis that is tearing our families and community apart will take acknowledging the structural issues that are breaking down the mental health of Black men while holding men accountable for their actions.

Making mental health the center of these stories risks minimizing the decisions that these men made to take

the lives of their loved ones. And imposing accountability without investing in preventative measures to ensure that these acts of violence don’t happen again is also short-sighted.

This means calling it what it is: a structural decline in the value of human lives. And these cases, in our community, are examples of the devaluing of Black lives.

If you or a loved one needs support with anxiety, depression, or thoughts of self-harm or harm against others, call or text 988 for help today.

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HBCU

Southern University’s Division II Title In Esports Makes HBCU History

BATON ROUGE, LA
Southern University has distinguished itself as the first HBCU (Historically Black College or University) to win a Division II title in collegiate esports.

Led by Coby Robinson, a sophomore computer science major, Southern claimed the Eastern College Athletic Conference EA Sports College Football National Championship on April 22 in a best-of-five series against Bellarmine University. Robinson clinched the series 3-2 with a 38-29 victory in a winner-take-all Game 5.

It was the first time ever, an HBCU had qualified for the ECAC EA Sports College Football Division 2 National Championship.

This happened by design. Southern University has been building something inside the Esports Innovation Lab that most institutions are still trying to figure

EDGE prepares students for the evolving digital landscape while writing new chapters in HBCU history.



Christopher Turner, Director and Head Coach of Southern University EDGE

out. The Digital Gaming Ecosystem, known as EDGE, was designed from the ground up to develop students who compete at the highest level and carry the institution’s name with distinction.

Southern University’s competitor, Coby Robinson, delivered the performance that sealed it. Down a game to Indiana University East, Robinson came back to win Game 2 by a commanding 41-21 margin. Game 3 went to overtime, and with the season on the line, Robinson executed a perfect field goal to close

it 45-42 and send Southern University to the national stage.

Christopher Turner, Director and Head Coach of Southern University EDGE, captured the weight of the moment: “This is a monumental moment for Southern University and for the entire HBCU landscape. This is about showing the world that our excellence in esports is just as historic as our excellence on the football

field.”
About Southern University Esports Southern University’s Digital Gaming Ecosystem exists to prove that Jaguar excellence has no ceiling. Through competitive gaming, content creation, and STEAM-based career development, EDGE prepares students for the evolving digital landscape while writing new chapters in HBCU history.

MOMENTS of MEDITATION

By Rev. Dr. Archie L. Edwards, Sr.

DEVOTIONALS: FROM MIND TO MOUTH READ:

1 CORINTHIANS 2:12-16

These things we also speak, . . . in words which . . . the Holy Spirit teaches.
— 1 Corinthians 2:13

◆◆◆
Have you ever heard of the condition called “aphasia”? It is the loss of the ability to speak. This problem results when the message from the brain is unable to get to the tongue because of an injury or illness.

A similar spiritual malady affects many Christians. They know Jesus Christ but they never speak of Him. They are familiar with God’s plan of salvation but they never communicate it to others. They do not demonstrate the impelling force of the

early Christians who said, “For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard” (Acts 4:20).

This faulty connection between knowledge and testimony must be corrected. Often fear causes the breakdown or sometimes sin blocks our freedom to speak about Christ. Only as the believer relies on the power of the Holy Spirit and forsakes his sin can he consistently share Christ with others.

Just before His ascension, the risen Christ assured His disciples of power for the transmission of His message to the world (Acts 1: 8). That power is the indwelling presence of His Holy Spirit. Every believer

has this source. But if we quench or grieve the Holy Spirit, our witness in words will be either ineffective or nonexistence.

Let’s evaluate ourselves. Are we relaying to others the knowledge we have of Jesus Christ? We must keep the message of the gospel flowing to those around us who need to hear it. We can’t let spiritual aphasia cripple our witness.

◆◆◆
Have you pointed the lost to Jesus and urged them on Him to believe? Have you ever told of the life everlasting that all, if they will, may receive?
Crosby

THOUGHT: *If we have God’s Word in mind, He can put the right words in our mouth.*



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REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS
CONTRACT ID #: C00127838DB147
I-64 AT EXIT 211 INTERCHANGE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) is seeking Statements of Qualifications for the I-64 at Exit 211 Interchange Improvement design-build project from qualified and experienced respondents with design and construction experience. The project scope includes converting the existing interchange into a four-lane diverging diamond interchange. The proposed improvements include widening Route 106, new bridge construction, sidewalks, widening and reconstruction of four ramps, drainage, stormwater management facilities, traffic signals and lighting.

The work includes but is not limited to: roadway and bridge design, survey, environmental, geotechnical, hydraulics and stormwater management, traffic control devices, transportation management plan, traffic signals, utility relocation, quality assurance and quality control, construction engineering and inspection, and overall project management.

Questions/clarifications regarding the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) should be submitted to Daniel McBride, P.E., DBIA (daniel.mcbride@vdot.virginia.gov).

Copies of the RFQ and additional submittal requirements can be found on Bid Express (bidexpress.com)

The Department assures compliance with Title VI requirements of non-discrimination in all activities pursuant to this advertisement.

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CHILDREN'S PROGRAM LAUNCHES IN PORTSMOUTH TO IMPACT LITERACY

PORTSMOUTH

Amid a growing literacy crisis in Virginia, where 43% of students are not reading proficiently by third grade—with even greater disparities in some communities—E3: Elevate Early Education, in partnership with Portsmouth-based nonprofit Chainbreakers, Inc., is taking bold action. On Saturday, April 25, 2026, the organizations launched the Dolly Parton's Imagination Library of Portsmouth at the Children's Museum of Virginia—an initiative designed to provide equitable access to books for children across the City of Portsmouth.

Across Virginia, many communities face "book deserts," where children lack access to books in their homes. Over 7,000 children need equitable access to quality books in their home. This

initiative is part of a broader, statewide effort to ensure that every child can read by third grade, aligning with Virginia's comprehensive literacy strategy, including the Virginia Literacy Act and the Virginia Language and Literacy Screener System (VALLSS).

The Dolly Parton's Imagination Library mails free, high-quality, age-appropriate books each month to children from birth to age five—regardless of family income. Families enrolled at birth can build a home library of more than 60 books, each accompanied by a personal letter from Dolly Parton, along with reading tips and activities designed to support early childhood development.

E3: Elevate Early Education was selected by The Dollywood Foundation and

contracted by the Virginia Department of Education to serve as the State Program Partner, overseeing daily operations and expanding access through strategic public-private investment.

"This is about more than books—it's about equity, opportunity, and giving every child in Portsmouth the chance to succeed from the very beginning," said Lisa Howard, Founder of E3: Elevate Early Education. "When we put books in the hands of children and resources in the hands of families, we are building stronger futures, stronger readers, and stronger communities."

Howard hosted the official ribbon-cutting ceremony and unveiling of the Imagination Library in Portsmouth. Families in attendance were gifted books.

Local Nonprofits Get A Boost From Cooper Hurley Firm

NORFOLK

Cooper Hurley Injury Lawyers is launching a new community-focused initiative that will provide free billboard space across Hampton Roads to local nonprofit organizations, helping raise awareness of their missions and expand their reach.

"Our Bill, Your Board" is designed to spotlight organizations doing meaningful work in the region, many of which may not otherwise have access to large-scale advertising platforms.

"At its core, this initiative is about amplifying the work of local nonprofits," said Jim Hurley, partner, Cooper Hurley Injury Lawyers. "There are so many organizations making a real difference every day, and we want to use our platform to help elevate their voices and connect them with the broader community."

Through "Our Bill, Your Board", Cooper Hurley will donate two billboards in prominent locations

throughout Hampton Roads. These placements are intended to bring visibility to causes that strengthen the community while reinforcing the firm's long-standing commitment to local engagement. The Suffolk Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority received one donated billboard in Suffolk and one in Norfolk through the end of March.

Billboards were chosen for their unique ability to deliver high-impact, community-wide exposure. Unlike digital or niche platforms, outdoor advertising reaches a broad local audience and places nonprofit organizations in the same visual space typically reserved for major

brands. The campaign will also be supported by public relations, digital and social media efforts to extend each organization's story beyond the billboard itself.

Initial nonprofit partners will include organizations with established relationships with the firm, as well as those connected to Cooper Hurley's annual "Vote for a Cause" campaign.

Community organizations that are not currently affiliated with the firm are also encouraged to participate in "Vote for a Cause."

For more information about "Our Bill, Your Board", visit <https://cooperhurley.com/community/>

May 19th Wanda Sykes Special Filmed at Hampton U. To Debut On Netflix

By Rosaland Tyler

Associate Editor
New Journal and Guide



Photo: Wikipedia/
By Greg Hernandez

Wanda Sykes

On May 19, Netflix will debut "Legacy," a one-hour comedy special that Comedian Wanda Sykes filmed Feb. 20-21, 2024, at Hampton University's historic Robert C. Ogden Hall.

Sykes returns to her roots for her third Netflix stand-up special. Acclaimed filmmaker Julie Dash directed the comedy special that features the comedian's trademark wit and fearless insight which have earned her multiple Emmy wins and nominations.

She was born in Portsmouth but moved with her family to Maryland when she was in the third grade. Her mother, Marion Louise, worked as a banker, and her father, Harry Ellsworth Sykes, was a U.S. Army colonel employed at the Pentagon.

Sykes graduated from Hampton with a bachelor of science degree in marketing and launched her stand-up career in Washington, D.C. during a Coors Light Super Talent Showcase, according to PBS. After performing for the first time in front of

a live audience in 1987, she joined the writing team on The Chris Rock Show and also made many appearances on the show. The writing team was nominated for four Emmys, and in 1999, won for Outstanding Writing for a variety, music, or comedy special.

She is a member of the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority and has written for The Keenan Ivory Wayans Show and made acting appearances on a number of sitcoms like Seinfeld and The New Adventures of Old Christine.

Her May 19 comedy special on Netflix will debut about a week after she performs at the Dolby Theatre in Hollywood on May 7.

Week after week... the latest articles and much more.

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THE BRIDGE CORNER

Hello and welcome to The Bridge Corner. Using the information on beginning bridge basics as presented in the New Journal & Guide since January 8, 2026, answer the following questions as they relate to the hand below. Then, bid and play the hand:

Dealer: North

♠ J 5 2
♥ K Q J 8
♦ 9 3
♣ 10 8 6 4

♠ A K 8
♥ 10 7 5
♦ A K Q
♣ 9 5 3 2

♠ Q 10 6 4
♥ 6 4 2
♦ J 10 8 6
♣ J 7

The contract would be 3 N/T.

5) West would first mention the strain of the contract (No Trump). West is the declarer.

6) The player to the left of declarer will make the opening lead. North makes the opening lead. The hand of declarer's partner (East), the dummy is placed face up on the table.

7) East and West (with West as declarer) should end up with nine tricks.

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The dates for the next four games are:

- 1) Wed., May 6, 2026
- 2) Wed., May 13, 2026
- 3) Wed., May 20, 2026
- 4) Wed., May 27, 2026

**Effingham Street Family
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The dates for the next four games are:

- 1) Sat., May 2, 2026
- 2) Sat., May 9, 2026
- 3) Sat., May 16, 2026
- 4) Sat., May 23, 2026

**Tidewater Bridge Club's
Winning Players In The
Apr. 22, 2026 Game:**

Malinda Harris-Peoples
Lillye Holly
Wilma Horne
Sharon Kelly-Green
Shirley Nottingham
Lawrence Owes
Leon Ragland
Aldis Raymond
Joan Snellings
Sandra Starkey
Elva Taylor
Rose Ward

Game fee is \$6.25 (paid BEFORE the game thru our voucher system. Contact L. Owes at email below). Light snacks and water provided; bring your lunch.

Contact Lawrence Owes at la.owes1@gmail.com for additional information.

QUESTIONS:

1) Do North and South have a suit they like best? Do East and West have a suit they like well enough to be the trump suit? If a partnership can't find a trump suit, how do they agree on the final strain for the contract?

2) How many tricks can North calculate taking? How many tricks can South calculate taking? What is the combined number of tricks North and South can take

3) How many tricks can East calculate taking? How many tricks can West calculate taking? What is the combined number of tricks East and West predict winning?

4) Which partnership predicted winning the higher number of tricks? What would the contract be?

5) Which partner was the first to bid the strain of the contract? This partner will be the declarer

6) Who makes the

opening lead?

7) How many tricks can East and West take as a partnership?

ANSWERS:

1) North - South do not have a suit they would like to have as trump. East - West do not have a suit they would like to have as trump. If a partnership cannot a suit they would like as trump, then the strain would be No Trump.

2) North can estimate two or three tricks. South can estimate one trick. North - South can calculate at most three or four tricks.

3) East can calculate four tricks. West can predict five tricks. East - West can estimate a combined total of nine tricks.

4) East & West predicted a higher number of tricks.

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THE NEXT CHALLENGE AWAITS

THREE BLACK COLLEGE VETS IN NFL DRAFT; TEN IN TOTAL GETTING SHOTS; JOHNSON IN AT JACKSON STATE

KARUN PRUNTY: Goes from Kansas to NC A&T to Wake Forest and is first black college product taken in 2026 NFL Draft.

UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

FORMER STANDOUT TREY JOHNSON TO LEAD JACKSON STATE BASKETBALL:

JACKSON, Miss. | Jackson State University Division of Athletics Vice President/Director of Athletics Ashley Robinson removed the interim tag from **Trey Johnson**, formally announcing on April 15 the former standout Tiger hoopster as the new head men's basketball coach at his alma mater.

"There are not many chances you get to have one of your own lead program, and we have that with Trey Johnson," Robinson said. "He brings a championship pedigree as a player here at Jackson State and has won at every level as a player and a coach. We are excited about the opportunity of having a former Tiger lead our men's basketball program."

Johnson has served as the associate head coach at JSU under **Mo Williams** over the past four seasons and has been instrumental in developing top talent and mentoring a slew of all-SWAC performers. He takes over after Williams left to become an assistant at Kentucky.

"I am deeply honored and humbled to be chosen to lead the men's basketball program here at my alma mater," Johnson said. "This university is more than just a place to me, it is part of my foundation, my character, the fabric of who I am. As a former student-athlete and champion here, I understand firsthand the pride, passion, and tradition that define this program and this community. My family's rich history with Jackson State has shaped my life's journey. This opportunity is personal. It's about pouring back into the same institution and city that poured so much into me, while honoring those who came before me and building something that future Tigers will be proud to carry forward."

Johnson is widely regarded as one of the most decorated players in program history. During his standout collegiate career, he earned back-to-back first team all-SWAC honors (2005-06, 2006-07) and was named the 2006-07 SWAC Player of the Year after a dominant senior campaign in which he averaged over 27 points per game, ranking among the nation's top scorers. He also garnered preseason player of the year honors, was named SWAC Tournament MVP, and led the Tigers to the 2007 SWAC Tournament Championship and an NCAA Tournament appearance.

His legacy at Jackson State is cemented in the record books. He remains the program's single-season all-time leader in scoring (points per game and total points), free throws made, and free throws attempted, while also joining the prestigious 1,000-point club in just two seasons. In recognition of his historic impact, Johnson was inducted into the Jackson State Sports Hall of Fame in 2020.

Johnson's connection to Jackson State runs deep. His father, brother, wife, and several extended family members also attended the university. His wife, **Dana Johnson** (Yoshimura), is a former SWAC champion and defensive player of the year in volleyball.

After a pro career that saw have short stints with ten NBA teams, three NBA D-League teams and seven teams overseas, Johnson began his collegiate coaching career at **Alabama State** in 2020, coaching under Williams where he served as associate head coach for two seasons before joining Williams when he moved to JSU.

THE STAT CORNER

WHO ARE THE BEST PERFORMERS IN BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

NFL UNDRAFTED FREE AGENT SIGNINGS

CLEVELAND BROWNS
Ja'Naylon Dupree, WR, Jackson State

DETROIT LIONS
Erick Hunter LB, Morgan State

JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS
J'Mari Taylor RB, NC Central/Virginia

ROOKIE MINICAMP INVITES

ATLANTA FALCONS
Jaylon Shelton CB, Prairie View A&M

MINNESOTA VIKINGS
Jeremiah Williams DL, Jackson State

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS
Quincy Ivory, DL, Jackson State

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS / ATLANTA FALCONS
Curtis Allen, RB, Virginia Union

Troubling pattern emerging for HBCU NFL draftees

LUT WILLIAMS
BCSP Editor

What do 2026 HBCU NFL Draftees **Karon Prunty**, **Kevin Coleman** and **Andre Fuller** have in common with 2025 HBCU draftees **Travis Hunter**, **Bhayshul Tuten**, **Shedeur Sanders** and **Jacory Croskey-Merritt**?

ANSWER: The three 2026 picks are like four of the five former HBCU players drafted in 2025 that played at but didn't finish their college careers on HBCU rosters.

That was the case in 2025 for Hunter and Sanders (Jackson State to Colorado), Tuten (North Carolina A&T to Virginia Tech) and Jacory Croskey-Merritt (Alabama State to New Mexico to Arizona).

It's also the case for this year's selections of Prunty (Kansas to North Carolina A&T to Wake Forest), Coleman (Jackson State to Louisville to Mississippi State to Missouri) and Fuller (Arkansas-Pine Bluff to Toledo). The only 2025 draftee to finish his career at an HBCU was Alabama A&M offensive lineman **Carson Vinson**.

It appears that in this current era, dominated by the transfer portal and NIL, the HBCU to PWI to NFL Draft route is becoming the norm rather than the exception.

That's especially true when one considers that the most productive players that finished their 2025 careers at HBCUs – Virginia Union running back **Curtis Allen** and Morgan State linebacker **Erick Hunter** – were not taken in last week's draft.

Karon Prunty

Prunty (6-2, 192), 24, a Portsmouth, Va. native, began his career at Kansas and came to NC A&T after earning honorable mention all-Big 12 honors in his only year with the Jayhawks.

In three seasons with the Aggies, he was a defensive backbone earning first team all-Big South designation in 2022 and third-team all-CAA honors in 2023 and 2024. He then transferred to Wake Forest where he earned third team all-ACC honors with the Demon Deacons in the 2025 season.

He was the first player with black college experience off the draft boards going to New England with the 31st pick of the fifth round, 171st overall.

Prunty's, long, angular stature and 4.45-second 40 speed he showed in workouts has led to team-best numbers in pass break-ups in all three of his stops. For his college career, he totalled 151 tackles and six interceptions. At WFU, he was considered the top cornerback on the ACC's top passing defense.

Kevin Coleman Jr.

Coleman (5-11, 180), 22, out of St. Louis, Mo., was a consensus Top 100 prospect and Missouri's top ranked player out of high school

BLACK COLLEGE PLAYERS IN 2026 NFL DRAFT



NEW ENGLAND
Karon Prunty
6-2, 192, DB
NC A&T / Wake Forest
5th Round - 31st pick
171st overall



MIAMI
Kevin Coleman Jr.
5-11, 180, WR
Jackson State / Missouri
5th Round - 37th pick
177th overall



SEATTLE
Andre Fuller
6-1, 200, DB
Arkansas-Pine Bluff / Toledo
7th Round - 20th pick
236th overall

Fla., is a former walk-on at Arkansas-Pine Bluff who spent two years playing for the Golden Lions. In the COVID-19 shortened 2020 season he played in just six games. In 2021, he led the SWAC with 17 passes defended (14 pass break-ups and three interceptions).

In 2022, Fuller transferred to Toledo where he played for three seasons, missing the entire 2024 season with a sports hernia injury.

His breakout year was in 2025 where he started all 13 games at cornerback for the Rockets totalling 49 tackles, 11 passes defended including an interception while being named first-team All-Mid-American Conference (MAC) and a Group of Five All-American. At the conclusion of his collegiate career, Fuller was invited to the 2026 East-West Shrine Bowl and to the NFL Scouting Combine.

The Super Bowl-champion Seattle Seahawks plucked him off the draft boards with the 20th pick of the seventh and final round, 236th overall.

Fuller brings versatility and playmaking to the Seahawks defense, having played cornerback, nickel corner and safety during his time at Toledo in addition to playing multiple roles on special teams.

Curtis Allen

Running roughshod thru NCAA Div. II defenses to the tune of 2,400 rushing yards and 30 touchdowns and becoming the first HBCU recipient of the *Harlon Hill Trophy* as D2 offensive player of the year did not earn Petersburg, Va. native Allen (6-2, 215) a draft spot or a free agent contract. The CIAA player of the year has reportedly gotten rookie minicamp invites from both Seattle and Atlanta (see STAT CORNER).

Erick Hunter

Hunter (6-4, 220), 23, out of Capital Heights, Md., was a prolific performer during his time at Morgan State finishing his career as the second leading tackler in Bears' history with 296 tackles. He led the MEAC with 102 stops in 2025. He also showed his sideline-to-sideline skills in postseason workouts. He signed a free agent contract with the Detroit Lions.

J'Mari Taylor

Taylor (5-10, 199), 24, out of Charlotte, N. C., followed a similar path as Tuten, leaving a successful (four-year) stint in the MEAC at N. C. Central to earn first-team all-ACC honors at Virginia.

Taylor finished third in ACC rushing stats with 1,062 yards and 14 rushing scores, second-best in the conference.

Unlike Tuten, taken in the fourth round of the 2025 draft by Jacksonville, Taylor was not drafted but will join Tuten and the Jaguars on a rookie free agent contract.

BCSP Notes

Shaw captures eighth straight title at CIAA Women's Tennis championship

ETTRICK, Va. (Apr. 25, 2026) – Shaw closed out a dominant run at the **Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA®)** Women's Tennis Championship, securing its eighth consecutive title with a 4-2 victory over **Bluefield State** on Saturday at **Virginia State**.

The championship match opened with Shaw taking control in doubles play. Wins at the No. 1 and No. 3 positions secured the early 1-0 advantage, while the No. 2 match went unfinished.

Bluefield State responded in singles competition, earning victories at the No. 3 and No. 5 positions to even the match at 2-2. Shaw answered at the top of the lineup, delivering wins at No. 2 and No. 1 singles to clinch the match and the championship. Remaining matches were halted once the deciding point was secured.

The title caps a strong two-day performance for Shaw, which opened the championship with a 4-0 quarterfinal win over **Virginia Union**. The Lady Bears set the tone early with a sweep of doubles play and continued their dominance in singles, not conceding a game in completed matches.

Shaw advanced to the final with another 4-0 victory in the semifinal round over Virginia State. The Lady Bears secured the doubles point with wins at the No. 1 and No. 3 positions before adding straight set victories at No. 2, No. 3, and No. 5 singles to complete the sweep.

On the opposite side of the bracket, Bluefield State reached the championship match with a 4-0 quarterfinal win over **Livingstone**. After claiming the doubles point, Bluefield State maintained control throughout singles play to secure the result.

In the semifinal round, Bluefield State earned a 4-1 victory over **Johnson C. Smith**. The Big Blue secured the doubles point with a win at No. 1 and a default at No. 3, then added singles victories at No. 1 and No. 3 to advance.

Johnson C. Smith opened the championship with a 4-0 quarterfinal win over **Elizabeth City State**, while Virginia State advanced past **Winston-Salem State** with a 4-0 decision to round out the semifinal field.

With the victory, Shaw extends its championship streak to eight and continues its run as the standard in CIAA women's tennis.

Tuskegee captures SIAC Men's and Women's Tennis titles following historic wins

PEACHTREE CITY, Ga. — Tuskegee delivered on both sides of the bracket, claiming conference titles at the 2026 **SIAC Men's and Women's Tennis Tournament** presented by Toyota on Saturday at the Peachtree Tennis Center.

The women's program completed a historic three-peat, while the men captured their first championship since 2006.



SIAC TENNIS CHAMPS: Tuskegee men and women pose with their trophies.

WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP

The top-seeded Tuskegee women's team defeated No. 2 **Spring Hill** 4-0 in the championship round to secure its third consecutive conference title.

The Golden Tigers established control in doubles play, earning wins at No. 1 and No. 3 to claim the opening point. The pairing of **Ayawavi Vania Dotse** and **Leiloni Payton** posted a 6-3 victory at the top position, while **Asia McRae** and **Dayna Jackson** added a 6-1 win at No. 3.

In singles, Tuskegee closed the match with three decisive victories. Payton delivered a 6-3, 6-3 win at No. 2, while Jackson followed with a 6-2, 6-1 victory at No. 4. **Taylor Ford** added a 6-1, 6-3 win at No. 5 to secure the championship point.

Vania Dotse held a 7-6 (7-4), 1-0 lead at No. 1, while McRae was in progress at No. 3 before play was halted. **Adjowa-Sika Serena Pascaline** also held a 6-4, 3-1 advantage at No. 6 at the time of the clinch.

MEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP

The No. 2 Tuskegee men's team upset No. 1 **Spring Hill** with a 4-2 win in the championship match.

After dropping the doubles point, Tuskegee responded with a strong showing in singles, winning four courts to secure the title. **Thompson Thomu** delivered a three-set win at No. 1 (3-6, 6-3, 6-2), while **Shane Tapera** added a 6-3, 6-4 victory at No. 2.

Miles Wilson secured a 6-3, 3-6, 6-4 victory at No. 5, and **Emmanuel Wetey** contributed with a 6-2, 6-3 win at No. 6 to round out the scoring effort.

UP NEXT

With the titles secured, Tuskegee's men's and women's teams await seeding for the 2026 NCAA Division II Tennis Championships. Both programs will receive the conference's automatic bids to compete in the South Region.