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## U.S. SUPREME COURT GOT VOTING TURNOUT FACTS WRONG; DEMOCRACY PAYS THE PRICE

By Marc H. Morial  
To Be Equal

(TRICEEDNEYWIRE.COM)  
"What Alito doesn't mention is that since 2013, the racial turnout gap around the nation has exploded. It beggars belief that Alito was unaware of this fact. He reached back nearly 20 years to include the only two elections in American history in which Black and white turnout reached parity. Surely, he or one of his clerks checked to see whether they could update the Shelby County argument that racism in American elections was over by using more recent data. But the data is unambiguous: Roberts's assurances in Shelby County were spectacularly wrong." -- Kevin Morris, Brennan Center for Justice



Marc H. Morial

the nation into the dark and violent era of Jim Crow.

Last month's decision in Louisiana v Callais, like 2013's Shelby v Holder, is destined to live in infamy alongside Plessy. We cannot and must not allow a single moment - let alone 70 years, as we did with Plessy - to rectify the Court's mistake.

The Court and Congress must acknowledge the Callais decision was based on misleading data and restore the provisions of the Voting Rights Act that it overturned.

The deluge of racially-motivated voter suppression laws that Shelby unleashed made a mockery of Chief Justice John Roberts' claim that "current conditions" did not justify

Justice Samuel Alito's opinion relied on a false claim - "copied almost verbatim" from a Trump administration filing - that Black voter turnout had exceeded white voter turnout in two of the five most recent presidential elections.

federal protection against discriminatory state voting laws. So, too, does the frenzy of states to enact racially gerrymandered frenzy congressional maps disprove the majority's assumption that states would not exploit Callais to disguise discrimination as partisanship.

...see Court, page 3

What happens when the highest court in the land issues a decision based on faulty reasoning or inaccurate data?

The shameful Plessy v Ferguson in 1896 decision obliterated 30 years of hard-fought progress toward racial equality under the law and thrust



Umoja Weekend In Portsmouth  
May 22 - 24, 2026

Three-Day Waterfront Festival  
Honors African American Heritage

### PORTSMOUTH

The 34th Annual Umoja Festival takes place May 22-24, 2026, at Festival Park on the Portsmouth Waterfront. This free, family-friendly event is one of the longest-running events of its kind in the country to celebrate African American culture, heritage, and community spirit.

Rooted in the Kiswahili word Umoja, meaning unity, the festival was established in 1991 when the Portsmouth City Council affirmed its commitment to honoring and understanding cultural diversity. Named after the first principle of Kwanzaa, the Umoja Festival continues to celebrate unity

in family, community, and nation through music, food, art, and tradition.

Festival Highlights Include live music, international food vendors offering a variety of global flavors, a bustling marketplace of handcrafted art and jewelry.

The festival opens with the African tradition of requesting permission from the elders, setting the tone for a weekend of unity and celebration. It will close with a Gospel Jubilee, showcasing talented voices from across Hampton Roads.

For the full schedule and event details, visit [www.UmojaFestPortsmouth.com](http://www.UmojaFestPortsmouth.com).



## MAY IS MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

### HOW PROMINENT BLACK WOMEN HAVE BATTLED & DEFEATED DEPRESSION

By Rosaland Tyler  
Associate Editor  
New Journal and Guide



Photo: Philip Romano 2025  
Alicia Keys

More high-profile Black women are now speaking openly about a subject that was once taboo among many Blacks.

Biles sparked headlines when she withdrew from the individual all-around competition at the Tokyo Olympics on July 28, 2021, after undergoing a medical evaluation due to concerns about her mental health.

"I just felt like it would be a little bit better to take a back seat, work on my mindfulness," Biles said at a press conference. "You usually don't hear me say things like that, because I'll usually persevere and push through things...I've just never felt like this going into a competition before."

According to 2025 CDC records, more individuals are not only experiencing depression but also becoming aware of it. Specifically, depression is a mood disorder that causes persistent feelings of sadness and loss of interest. It is increasing nationwide at a time when awareness is also increasing, in other words. This means that while more than 1 in 8 people ages 12 and up in the US reported depression in recent years, according to the CDC's National Center for Health Statistics.

...see Mental, page 5

As some celebrate Mental Health Awareness Month in May, notice how more high-profile Black women are now speaking openly about a subject that was once taboo among many Blacks.

In fact, an increasing number of high-profile women are not only acknowledging that they suffered from chronic depression but are also explaining how they defeated it. Remember, Essence magazine Editor-in-Chief Susan L. Taylor? For decades, she wrote "In the Spirit," a breezy inspirational monthly column that urged Black women to "Love yourself." Yet she was personally suffering from deep depression that had crippled her as a child and

continued into adulthood.

Meanwhile, Alicia Keys, whose resume includes 17 Grammy Awards, told People in a 2007 interview that she actually felt "so sad all the time, and I couldn't shake it." But that was not the case with seven-time Olympic medalist Simone Biles. She vigorously shook her head no when some urged her to hide her own depression. Instead,

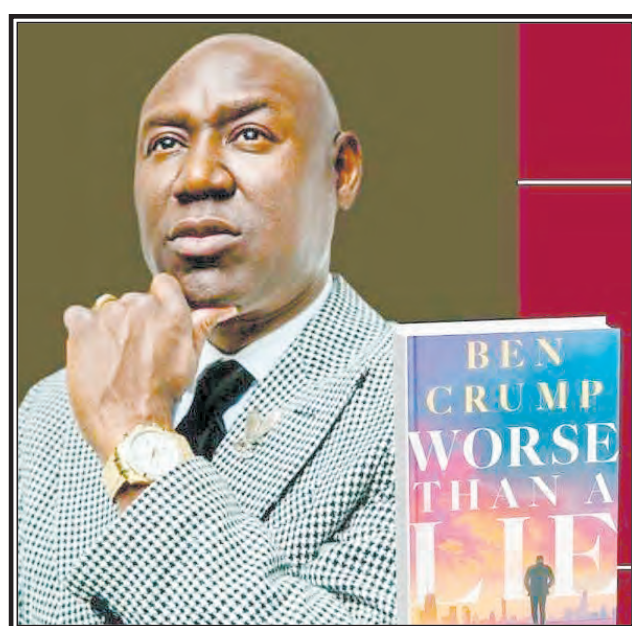
anchors. They protect our stories and strengthen community."

Crump's recent national book tour intentionally partnered with Black-owned bookstores, leading to sellouts, increased foot traffic, and measurable gains for businesses that often operate on narrow margins. His publisher reported tens of thousands of copies sold in early releases, with stores across cities from Washington to Los Angeles seeing spikes in both book sales and overall revenue. Industry data shows there are at least 306 Black-owned bookstores nationwide.

...see Crump, page 3

Civil rights attorney Ben Crump has helped drive nearly \$2 million in sales to Black-owned bookstores through his best-selling novel, "Worse Than a Lie," using his national platform to direct readers and attention to independent shops that serve as cultural and economic anchors in communities across the country.

"When you have a platform, you have a responsibility. Not just to speak, but to build," Crump said. "Black-owned bookstores are cultural



Ben Crump

### Before Memorial Day... There Was ... "Decoration Day"

By Leonard E. Colvin  
Chief Reporter Emeritus  
New Journal and Guide

“Decoration Day respected the sacrifices of our Black ancestors' warriors.”

— Charles Johnson, President AAHSP

Since May 30, 1868 the nation has uniformly observed a Memorial Day to recognize and remember the sacrifices of the nation's warriors who served and fell in battle.

But before there was Memorial Day, it was on "Decoration Day" in late May when communities adorned the grave sites of their dead kin. "Decoration Day was a very important holiday, back in the day," said Charles Johnson, the President of the African American Historical Society of Portsmouth (AAHSP). "It respected the sacrifices of our Black ancestors' warriors."

Starting in the early 1800s, in America specifically Appalachia, and Liberia where former Blacks migrated to the African continent, a fashion of "Decoration Day" was observed.

The first edition of paying tribute to the nation's fallen soldiers was organized by former slaves

and White Missionaries in Charleston, South Carolina in late May of 1865. It took place at a former brutal Confederate prison camp. Black and White soldiers who died there were finally given a proper burial.

After the Civil War, soldiers who fought for the Union Army, composed of mostly northern states formed "The Grand Army of the Republic."

Posts of the GAR were formed mostly in the North, but according to Charles Johnson's posts, were formed in Dixie.

One was formed by Norfolk-Portsmouth veterans. Black and White Union soldiers joined in fellowship to run it.

...see Decoration, page 3

### Ben Crump Channels Book Sales Into Millions For Black-Owned Bookstores

By Stacy M. Brown  
Special to the New Journal and Guide

Civil rights attorney Ben Crump has helped drive nearly \$2 million in sales to Black-owned bookstores through his best-selling novel, "Worse Than a Lie," using his national platform to direct readers and attention to independent shops that serve as cultural and economic anchors in communities across the country.

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# - TRENDING AROUND THE NATION - HOW SCHOOL PARKING LOTS ARE BECOMING SAFE PLACES FOR HOMELESS FAMILIES

By **Neal Morton**,  
The Hechinger Report  
Republished by The 19th

Special to the New Journal  
and Guide

## SAN DIEGO

As an 8-year-old boy steered his bicycle in figure eights, his mother piled three plates with pizza and pineapple slices from an outdoor kitchen shared with more than a dozen other families who call this parking lot home.

She carried the plates past her family's sedan — their last asset and, until recently, their only shelter — and placed the dinner inside a recreational vehicle assigned to them for the next six months. After dinner, she helped the third grader with his homework, then made sure he showered and brushed his teeth before bed. The next morning, she drove the 10 miles to her son's school, where she works as a part-time site monitor. Their belongings and beds and private bathroom, meanwhile, remained secure at the city-owned lot, where homeless families like theirs find temporary stability.

"He likes it here," said the mother, M., who is being referred to by her first initial to protect her family's privacy. "We can actually cook. I waste less money. There's a lot to like."

Since late last year, M. and her family have been living in parking lots opened by the city of San Diego, the local school district and a nonprofit partner. Priced out of San Diego's housing market, they now call the RV lot their temporary home as they meet with a caseworker who helps them search for more permanent housing.

Family homelessness hit a record high in 2024, as the end of federal pandemic assistance and rising inflation pushed more families with children and unaccompanied youth out of their homes. A sluggish labor market and high housing costs have further strained family budgets. And now, as the number and visibility of unhoused families continue to climb, a handful of school districts are considering their parking lots as a way to shelter homeless students and their families. The city of San Diego began experimenting in 2017, when it partnered

with nonprofit Jewish Family Service (JFS) to convert the first of what are now four parking lots into safe places to sleep. It added its first lot prioritizing families in 2023. A few months later, as the city pushed a sweeping ban on public camping, officials with San Diego Unified School District approached the city with the idea of turning a vacant elementary and other district properties into temporary shelters.

The model is now spreading beyond California. In Ohio, the Cincinnati school district later this spring will open its first safe parking lot for families at a downtown elementary school. The teachers union for Fayette

## Never before have so many families in the U.S. lived without stable housing.

County Public Schools, in neighboring Kentucky, has asked its school board to follow Cincinnati's lead.

San Diego's parking program has drawn some opposition, including from nearby residents and private developers who worry about crime and impact on property values. Progressives here also wonder, quietly, whether the program diverts attention and resources from addressing why families lose their housing

in the first place.

The Trump administration, meanwhile, also has criticized safe parking lots as "dystopian" and "reprehensible" — even as it plans for major cuts to long-term housing programs. With the exception of the Rose Canyon lot where M. and her family are staying, San Diego's safe parking sites do not offer RVs. All sites offer security and portable bathrooms to families and most include microwaves and seating areas.

"The goal is for this to be a way station," Kristy Drake, the district's liaison for homeless and foster youth, said of the school district's lot. "When families drive onto this lot," Drake added, "they come into this wider network of support and resources. The goal is to move on. Hopefully no one's there too long."

Never before have so many families in the U.S. lived without stable housing, according to the most recent data from the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Its annual homeless census from January 2024 found nearly 260,000 people in families with children experiencing homelessness — a jump of

more than 50 percent since before the pandemic.

And those figures are likely undercounts: Experts often note that HUD's numbers don't capture "hidden" homelessness, such as families who sometimes pay out of pocket to stay in hotels and motels or couch-surf with friends and families to avoid the streets. And while the agency still hasn't released homeless numbers for 2025, early data from school districts and states around the country suggest youth homelessness continues to rise.

In California, family homelessness has risen 14 percent since before the pandemic.

## OBITUARY

Sept. 5, 1924 - Apr. 25, 2026

### MOTHER ELLIE VIOLA TWINE ROBERTS



Mother Ellie Viola Twine Roberts

On April 25, 2026, Mother Ellie Viola Twine Roberts peacefully transitioned home with the Lord. Mother Roberts lived to be 101 years old. She moved to Norfolk in 1947. During her last 11 years of life, she lived in Pomona, CA with her daughter Jean R. Barge and family.

Mother Ellie Viola Twine Roberts was born September 5, 1924, in Tyner, NC, to Alma Twine and Bertha White Twine. She was the eldest of six children.

She graduated from

Edenton High School and later attended Temple University. Upon returning home, she married Adolphus "Dot" Roberts, to whom she was married to for 55 years.

Mother Roberts was a member of C. H. Mason Memorial Church of God in Christ in Norfolk. She later joined Christ Cathedral Church of God in Christ and eventually Living Faith.

At age 59, she worked at the Christian Broadcasting Network (CBN) in Virginia

Beach as a prayer counselor. Over 15 years, she led over 2,500 souls to Christ.

Mother Roberts was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Adolphus Roberts, Sr.; her parents, Alma and Bertha Twine; her son Kirk Roberts; her daughter Gloria Outlaw; her brother, Lloyd Twine; and her sisters, Carnez Hunter, Mary Perry, and Alma Jean Collins.

She leaves to cherish her memory: her daughter, Jean R. Barge, Pomona, CA; her sons, A. Douglas

Roberts, Virginia Beach, and Arlis Parker (Lisa), Virginia Beach; her sister, Ida T. Hall, Edenton, NC; her daughter-in-law, Cheryl McCown, Norfolk; and her sister-in-law, Katherine Twine, Tyner, NC; 11 grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren, one great-great-grandchild, and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, a goddaughter, and dear friends.

The Celebration of Life is Saturday, May 23 at 11am at Beach Funeral Home — Elizabeth City.



## From The Guide Archives

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

May 27, 1927  
Edition of the Guide

### Dr. W.E.B. Dubois Speaks At First Calvary

#### NORFOLK

Dr. W.E.B. Dubois, editor of the Crisis (Magazine), gave to a group of citizens at First Calvary Baptist Church, a lecture refreshingly different from any heard in this city. The crowd was not large but Dr. Dubois spoke for about an hour absolutely unconcerned about the size of the audience.

His lecture dealt with the color problem. It was particularly enlightening due to the present crisis in China; the recent raid on the Soviet headquarters in London by Scotland Yard; the British policy in South Africa; the Russian-Chinese Alliance and other international problems on which color is playing the chief part. DuBois took his "hearers" on an enticing voyage through Asia, Europe and Africa and gave them a most interesting peep into diplomatic bungling that has provoked wars.

### Work Begins On C.J. Walker Home

#### INDIANAPOLIS, IND.

Perhaps the most inspiring sight ever witnessed in this city was the groundbreaking last week of the new home of the Madam C.J. Walker Manufacturing Company. Eager eyes watched the mammoth steam shovel scoop out the first dirt to make way for a structure which will help hasten in a day for the race in this city and in America.

It is the culmination of the dream of the late Madam C.J. Walker who planned, prior to her death, this event which but for her untimely death, would have been long since realized. But this race genius still lives in the hearts of her daughter, (A'Lelia Walker) and men and women who

urged her to "carry on."

The completed building is to be four stories with a basement of reinforced concrete steel, hydraulic press brick, a complete theater, store rooms, factory space, all costing a million dollars and more.

### Memorial Day Exercises At West Point and Mt. Calvary

#### NORFOLK

National Memorial Day will be observed under auspices of the Norfolk Memorial Association with services at Mt. Lebanon Baptist Church, Smith Street. Rev. James H. Billups, Pastor, will speak May 29 at 3:30 and May 30 during an exercise at West Point cemetery. Rev. A.S. McGowan, Pastor of St. John Wesley AME Church will deliver the oration.

A number of organizations will form the procession which will leave the Community Center at 800 Lincoln Street at 2 pm, from Olney Road to Church Street to Washington Avenue to Wood Street to Bank Street to the cemetery.

In Portsmouth the Memorial Day will be celebrated on May 30 with a parade and exercise at Mount Calvary Cemetery. The program will be as follows: the song, "America", public music provided by the Metropolitan Band; prayer by Chaplain W. H. Harris; Song "Onward Christian Soldiers" by the Patriotic Choir; reading general orders; the playing of the "Star Spangled Banner," public salutes, firing squad taps and benediction.

May 28, 1932  
Edition of the Guide

### Scottsboro Convictions To Be Reviewed

#### WASHINGTON, D.C.

Three petitions to review the convictions of seven youths for allegedly assaulting two

White girls near Scottsboro, Alabama, will be passed on to the United States Supreme Court May 31.

If the petitions for "writs of certiorari" are denied by the Supreme Court, the youth will be executed June 24. If the writs are granted their executions will be stayed (blocked) and their cases will be reviewed when the high court reconvenes in October.

The petitions were filed May 23 in the cases of Ozie Powell, Haywood Patterson, Charlie Weems and Clarence Norris against the state of Alabama. The petition challenges the validity of the convictions of the men.

### Negro Votes Hold Balance of Power

#### WASHINGTON, DC

The Negro vote holds the balance of power in 13 states and will come into its own this fall, according to statements made in an address in Washington, D.C. by Walter White, Secretary of the NAACP while addressing the closing meeting of the association's 23rd annual conference.

White said the Negro vote was increasingly militant and independent and "Negro voters, were no longer being taken in by the blandishments professional politicians" White and Black.

"I predict a greater independence of Negro voters in 1932 than has ever been known," said White "This militant independent vote holds the balance of power in 13 states with a total electoral vote of 187. In this year of unemployment, depression and revolt, the Negro vote will play a potent role in additional states with a total of electoral college vote of 62.

May 26, 1956  
Edition of the Guide

### GUIDE Reporter Almost

#### Arrested

#### JACKSON, N.C.

A GUIDE reporter-photographer was almost arrested while covering a trial here because a local police officer mistakenly thought he was "an outsider here "sweetening up those niggers."

J. Andrew Bowler, Jr, veteran GUIDE lensman-writer, was approached in front of the Northampton County Courthouse and accused of being an NAACP...Nigger lover," and told that "we don't stand for that kind of thing here..."

Had it not been for the fact that Bowler told the police officer, threatening to arrest him, he received permission to take pictures and talk to principals in "a trial that has just been heard, he could have been a guest of the county."

The journalist was in the locale covering the trial of Northampton County Versus James R. Walker Jr. Walker is a local lawyer who attempted to help his clients register to vote May 12 in Gumberry.

May 26, 1999  
Edition of the Guide

### A Look At Living Conditions Of The Poor

#### By Brenda H. Andrews

Publisher

Vivian Anderson knows what poverty looks like in Pittsylvania County, Virginia and wants everybody else to get a full view.

For the past year Anderson has been encouraging the poor and elderly forgotten residents of the state's western corridor to tell their stories of the decrepit conditions they are accustomed to living

Anderson says poverty in this rural Virginia area is worse than the Eastern Shore.

Poverty in such locations is not acceptable to her nor should it be in a nation and a state that claims to value human life.

Anderson and her husband Howard moved to Chatham, Va. last year from Norfolk. Chatham, located in Pittsylvania County, is one of several cities in the area including Danville and Martinsville. He is a Class A Construction Contractor. She is an interior designer and contractor herself.

### AIDS Still High Among Blacks

#### By Leonard E. Colvin

In early May, state and local health officials were elated over reports indicating a decrease in the number of HIV/AIDS cases recorded in Virginia in 1998.

In 1998, for the first time, the number fell below 1,000 new cases.

Still private and public HIV/AIDS prevention and education advocates, said the news should be tempered by the high levels of infections and AIDS cases still persisting in the Black community compared to others.

According to Barbara Lea-Kruger, the Public Relations Coordinator of the Virginia Department of Health's Division of HIV/STD, the statistical picture of the Commonwealth's AIDS/HIV infections rates, indicates that Blacks are still heavily represented in rates of infections and reported new AIDS cases despite recent reported declines.

"HIV/AIDS infections have surpassed TB as the world's most dangerous disease," said Cynthia Rogers of the Norfolk Health Department's Minority AIDS Taskforce.

"Over 70 percent of the cases are lodged in the Black community. There is a slight decrease, but the numbers are disturbing from the Black community."



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**Top Row:** Leland Melvin, Victor Glover Sr., Herbert Jefferson Jr., Willie Daniels II, Edward Dwight  
**2nd Row:** Joan Higginbotham, Livingston Holder, Fred Gregory, Jim Reilly Bottom Row: Reginald Bullock, Robert Curbeam, Charlie Bolden, Winston Scott

# Black Astronauts And Aerospace Pioneers Reflect On Past and Future of Space Travel

Special to the New Journal and Guide

(TRICEEDNEYWIRE.COM) DENVER, CO.

In the wake of Artemis II's historic return from its mission around the moon, some of the nation's most accomplished Black astronauts, engineers, and aerospace pioneers came together for an intergenerational conversation about perseverance, representation, and the future of space exploration. The discussion became a meditation on history, possibility, and the cultural significance of who now gets to shape humanity's future beyond Earth.

The April 10 landing marked the first crewed journey into deep space since Apollo 8 in 1968. The mission also made history as the first to carry a woman, Christina Koch, a person of color, Victor Glover, and a non-U.S. citizen, Canadian Jeremy Hansen, around the moon, setting a new human deep-space distance record. Mission commander Reid Wiseman led the groundbreaking crew, whose achievement signaled not only technological progress but a profound cultural shift.

The online gathering was convened by Captain Willie Daniels (ret.), who has 48 years of association with United Airlines and founded SHADES OF BLUE, a nonprofit dedicated to introducing young people of color to aviation and aerospace careers.

The moment carried special meaning for Daniels because Artemis II pilot Victor Glover, Jr. was among SHADES OF BLUE'S earliest graduates.

Moderated by Reginald Bullock, the conversation featured a cohort of aerospace trailblazers.

## VICTOR GLOVER SR.

Victor Glover Sr. started the conversation by recounting his son's early years. He recalled encouraging the younger Victor to pursue becoming a Navy pilot instead of a Navy SEAL—a pivotal decision that ultimately placed him on the path to NASA. Even now, Glover said, the magnitude of his son's journey remains surreal, filled with pride, excitement, and the nervous awe of watching history unfold through family.

## ED DWIGHT

A generational perspective was shared by Ed Dwight, who in 1961 was selected by President John F. Kennedy to become America's first Black astronaut. Though denied the chance to fly during NASA's early years, Dwight ultimately fulfilled that dream decades later aboard Blue Origin's New Shepard, becoming America's oldest astronaut at age 90. Reflecting on Artemis II, he noted how dramatically both science and opportunity have evolved since the 1960s.

"They got the right guy to do what I could have and would have done had I had the chance,"

Dwight said. "There's so much science that has transpired since I was involved, and there's so much more to observe now in the science of space."

## CHARLES BOLDEN

Former NASA Administrator Charles Bolden, nomination by President Barack Obama and the first African American to lead the agency, reflected on his own path through the segregated South. He described how entry into the Naval Academy and later test pilot school once felt nearly impossible. His message to young people was clear: follow your passion, and when given leadership, take care of your people.

## JOAN HIGGINBOTHAM

That theme of internal belief was reiterated in the reflections of astronaut Joan Higginbotham. As one of the few African American women to travel into space, she spoke candidly about repeatedly finding herself as "the only one" in classrooms, labs, and professional spaces. The greatest challenge, she said, was learning to know she belonged. Once she overcame that barrier, her journey became larger than personal success—it became a visible pathway for others.

"As one of the few African American women to travel to space, I'm deeply aware that my journey carries meaning beyond my own experience," Higginbotham said. "It speaks to visibility, to access, and to the importance of

expanding what people believe is possible for themselves.

## LELAND MELVIN

Leland Melvin's story added another layer of resilience. After losing his hearing in a training accident and being told he would never fly in space, he leaned on childhood lessons of persistence and the support of trusted advocates who refused to let him quit. That belief carried him through two missions and remains central to how he now thinks about legacy: ensuring young people can see themselves in the story of space.

## WINSTON SCOTT

What makes Artemis II feel different, several panelists agreed, is that the mission transcends science alone. Winston Scott described it as a cultural breakthrough—one in which audiences are no longer primarily focused on race, gender, or nationality, but on the crew's shared excellence and precision. In that sense, the mission represents not only a triumph of engineering but the visible erosion of long-standing social barriers.

## FREDERICK GREGORY

Still, the group emphasized that symbolic breakthroughs must be followed by sustained action. Frederick Gregory, NASA's first Black acting administrator, stressed the importance of moving quickly into Artemis III and Artemis IV so public imagination and momentum

are not lost. Continuous progress toward lunar rendezvous, docking operations, surface research, and eventual missions to Mars will determine whether Artemis II becomes a lasting legacy or a singular exception.

"I hope that we're able to follow this with a quick Artemis III to work on the rendezvous and dockings with Blue Origin and SpaceX," Gregory said. "And then Artemis IV to get us back on the moon again as the beginning of the first adventure in the journey to get to Mars and beyond."



Others on the conversation were Robert Curbeam, Jim Reilly, Livingston Holder, and Herbert Jefferson Jr., best known for his role as Lieutenant Boomer on the original Battlestar Galactica television series. Together, they represented decades of progress, struggle, and excellence in American aerospace.

The cohort agreed that inspiration is the ultimate mission. Children need to see people who look like them talking about flying jets, designing rockets, and building future colonies beyond Earth. The most enduring legacy of Artemis II may not be the distance traveled, but the horizons expanded in the minds of the next generation.

The conversation can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v0aWtvAbt7E>.

## Crump

Continued from page 1

Many earn less than \$250,000 annually, a reality that underscores the need for sustained support.

Crump's career has placed him at the center of many of the nation's most consequential civil rights cases. From Trayvon Martin to George Floyd and Breonna Taylor, his work has produced landmark settlements and forced public scrutiny of policing practices and systemic inequities. The National Newspaper Publishers Association named him among the top Black newsmakers of the 21st century, citing his unmatched presence in national headlines over the past 25 years.

"Every time my name appears, it means we're facing a constitutional crisis, winning a landmark case, or representing a family who is dealing with unimaginable loss," Crump said. "The attention is not about me. It is about forcing America to confront what it too often wants to ignore."

Crump continues to take on active cases involving police use of force and accountability. In Boston, he is representing the family of Stephenson King Jr., who was shot

and killed by a police officer.

In Jacksonville, he called for an investigation into a violent arrest captured on video. "The police cannot be the ones who break the law if they want to be the example of how to uphold the law," Crump said.

At the same time, Crump has expanded his advocacy into economic and financial equity, including co-founding initiatives aimed at improving access to financial tools in underserved communities. "Change is moving fastest in public awareness," Crump said. "Where we lag most is consistent accountability in the systems people rely on every day. That's policing, healthcare, housing, and financial access."

Speaking recently to students at Bowie State University, Crump tied those concerns directly to outcomes in the justice system. "If you have a mental health crisis, the color of your skin should not equal a death sentence," he said.

He said one of the most pressing challenges is not just misinformation, but refusal to accept facts.

"What's more dangerous today is when people are confronted with the truth and still choose not to believe it, because that's how injustice repeats itself," Crump said.

## Court

Continued from page 1

Even more egregiously, Justice Samuel Alito's opinion relied on a false claim—"copied almost verbatim" from a Trump administration filing—that Black voter turnout had exceeded white voter turnout in two of the five most recent presidential elections.

As The Guardian's investigation revealed, the administration's false claim rested on a misleading voter turnout calculation: The administration calculated turnout using the entire adult population—including non-citizens, disenfranchised individuals, and others ineligible to vote, which artificially inflates turnout figures—particularly for Black voters. The generally accepted standard for calculating voter turnout is the Voting-Eligible Population (VEP). By the common standard, Black voter turnout in Louisiana has consistently trailed white turnout in every election since at least 2012.

In fact, the racial turnout gap not only widened nationwide since Shelby, it grew twice as fast in counties previously covered by the preclearance requirement that Shelby overturned.

Instead of acknowledging the truth of the late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg's observation that "throwing out preclearance when it has worked ... is like throwing

## Hard won civil rights protections cannot be snatched away on the basis of manipulative sleight-of-hand.

away your umbrella in a rainstorm because you are not getting wet," the majority blithely ignored the wreckage Shelby left in its wake and used its own willful delusion to justify even further destruction.

Constitutional law cannot rest on false facts. Hard won civil rights protections cannot be snatched away on the basis of manipulative sleight-of-hand.

The Supreme Court itself has explicitly recognized that precedents resting on demonstrably false or fundamentally outdated factual assumptions warrant reconsideration or overruling. In his concurrence in *Ramos v. Louisiana*, Justice Brett Kavanaugh's wrote, "A precedent that is egregiously wrong...or based on a demonstrably false factual premise should not continue to bind the Court."

The Supreme Court has the power to shape political power and voter representation for generations. Plessy, to the nation's everlasting shame, grotesquely distorted that power. This generation has the opportunity—and the responsibility—to steer the nation back toward justice.

## Decoration

Continued from page 1

Johnson said the first recorded instance of the then mostly Black Norfolk-Portsmouth GAR "Decoration Day" event was in 1884. The Veterans collaborated with Black civic and social organizations, he said, and organized a parade.

The parade marched to the Wilson and Calvary cemeteries where Black veterans were interned, and family decorated their graves with flowers and seashells.

Another part of this story is related to the 20-foot high monument dedicated to the Black Civil War dead in Portsmouth's Lincoln Cemetery. Johnson said his association's research on the Calvary and Lincoln observances unearthed a fascinating tale about it and the one located in West Point Cemetery in Norfolk.

After the Civil War, Confederate veterans fueled by the "Lost Cause and Redemption" propaganda of the war, and funds collected by the Daughters of the Confederacy, built huge monuments to their heroes who fought to maintain slavery.

By coincidence or intent, as in case of Norfolk and Portsmouth, Black Historians say these

## The Decoration Day parade in 1884 marched to the Wilson and Calvary cemeteries where Black veterans were interned.

structures were built at, or near the sites of the Slave Markets

Units of the GAR, built their monuments, too, mostly in the North. In the South, Black political and civic leaders raised money to build theirs, too.

In Portsmouth starting in 1892, the GAR launched a campaign to raise money to have such a monument in Mt. Olive-Wilson. But, in 1916 the Silas Fellows Post of the GAR raised enough money to erect the current monument at the Lincoln Memorial.

Norfolk's fund raising effort started about the same time as the one in Portsmouth. It managed to raise enough to build the base of the structure by 1916. In 1920 the West Point Monument was fully completed and dedicated.

"Over the years there has always been a debate on which was first, the monument in Norfolk or Portsmouth," said Johnson. "I don't think it matters, both communities sought to recognize the importance of our history."

# WHAT THE DATA SAY

By Wornie Reed, Ph.D.

PROFESSOR EMERITUS OF SOCIOLOGY VIRGINIA TECH



## Wentworth Cheswell: BLACK MAN WHO RODE WITH PAUL REVERE

Paul Revere's famous ride in April 1775 was not his first, nor his only ride. In the middle of December 1774, two messengers on horseback carried news to the people of New Hampshire's seacoast. Two British warships were headed to New Castle to reinforce Fort William and Mary. The messengers, or dispatch riders, helped organize the resistance. One messenger was Paul Revere. And one was Wentworth Cheswell, a nonwhite man.

Revere made quite a few rides before the war broke out, and so did dozens of dispatch riders before and during the American Revolution. As part of the secret patriot network, the riders shared intelligence about the enemy and communications between the colonial provisional governments. Wentworth Cheswell took a number of rides like Revere. He volunteered for military service and fought at Saratoga. He is also considered New Hampshire's first archaeologist — and the first African American elected to public office in the United States.

Wentworth was born on April 11, 1746, to a biracial father and a white mother. Wentworth's father, Hopestill, a free black, was a successful housebuilder who afforded Wentworth a privileged education, leading Wentworth to work as a schoolmaster in Newmarket. By the time he reached 21, he owned more than 30 acres and a pew in the meetinghouse. At 21, he married 17-year-old Mary Davis, a young white woman from Durham, N.H.

**This year, as we celebrate the 250th anniversary of the founding of the country, I will post occasional pieces like this about the role of Black Americans in the Revolutionary War.**

They then had 13 children. In 1768, 22-year-old Wentworth Cheswell was elected town constable, becoming, probably, the first African American elected to public office. For all but one year of his life, Cheswell held public office, including town selectman, assessor, justice of the peace, and auditor.

For several years, New England colonists had risen up in sporadic violence to protest the British Parliament's taxation and restrictions. Boston had its Tea Party, Providence its Gaspee Affair, and New Hampshire its Pine Tree Riot — to name a few. In the fall of 1774, the British government grew concerned about the rebellion then developing. So, it secretly banned the export of munitions to the American colonies, and in September, the British seized the gunpowder in Charlestown, Mass.

On Dec. 13, 1774, Paul Revere rode the 66 miles to Portsmouth with a letter from Boston's Committee of Correspondence to its counterparts in Portsmouth and Exeter. The letter advised them to seize the weapons and gunpowder at the fort before the British warships arrived.

Portsmouth mustered volunteers for an assault the next day on the British soldiers who guarded the fort. The men of

Newmarket, a strongly patriotic town, wanted to take part in the attack as well. But where and how?

Wentworth Cheswell then rode to Exeter to find out from the Committee of Correspondence where the Newmarket volunteers should go. The next day, 400 New Hampshire men marched on the fort and forced it to surrender. They took 100 barrels of gunpowder, light cannon, and small arms. The ships never arrived, but the patriots used the captured gunpowder and weapons in the Siege of Boston.

Cheswell enlisted in Col. John Langdon's Company of Light Horse Volunteers and fought at the Battle of Saratoga. After completing his military service, he returned to Newmarket, where he ran a store next to his schoolhouse. As a prosperous, well-educated citizen, he continued to lead in the town.

Wentworth Cheswell died at age 70 of typhus on March 8, 1817. He and his descendants were buried on his farm. Three years later, Wentworth Cheswell's name surfaced on the floor of the U.S. Senate. Sen. David Morrill of New Hampshire rose to speak against the Missouri Compromise, which forbade biracial people from obtaining citizenship in Missouri.

...see **Cheswell**, page 5

## CARRTOON By Walt Carr

Author of Laughin', Lyin' & Signifyin'



## Brown's Unfinished Promise

By Julianne Malveaux

(TRICEEDNEYWIRE.COM)

Seventy-one years ago, the Supreme Court issued its ruling in *Brown v. Board of Education*, declaring that separate educational facilities are inherently unequal. For generations of Black families, Brown represented more than a legal decision. It represented aspiration, validation, and possibility. It affirmed a simple but transformative principle: Black children deserved access to the full promise of American education.

That promise remains unfinished.

This year, Brown Day arrived during a season of commencements and reflection. On May 16, 2026, Bennett College celebrated its centennial commencement, honoring one hundred years of Black women pursuing excellence against extraordinary odds. As Bennett's 15th president from 2007 to 2012, I was especially honored to return for the centennial celebration and witness another generation of Black women stepping boldly into their futures.

To stand on Bennett's



Julianne Malveaux

campus was to witness the power of educational persistence — generations of women who insisted on learning, leadership, and achievement even when the nation offered them unequal schools, unequal resources, and unequal expectations.

That history matters because we are once again debating the meaning and purpose of education in America.

We hear constant alarm about declining test scores, learning loss, teacher shortages, and struggling schools. But too often these conversations avoid the deeper question: who actually receives a quality education in America, and who does not?

Brown rested on a radical

**Many of the same political voices lamenting declining educational outcomes are simultaneously attacking the institutions that help students learn**

premise for its time — that Black children deserved the same educational investment as white children. Not leftover resources. Not overcrowded classrooms. Not crumbling facilities. Not diminished expectations. Equal opportunity.

Yet decades later, educational inequality remains deeply embedded in American life. School districts are still shaped by segregated housing patterns and unequal tax bases. Schools serving Black students are more likely to experience staffing shortages, aging facilities, fewer advanced courses, and harsher disciplinary systems.

...see **Brown**, page 5

# DECONSTRUCTING CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM

By David W. Marshall

(TRICEEDNEYWIRE.COM)

Several years ago, while I was speaking with one of my mentors, I showed him a church photo that was very disturbing to me. In the center of the picture was a person, whom I assumed to be the pastor, standing at the pulpit and shaking hands with another man. As members of the congregation sat and watched, Klansmen dressed in their typical hoods and robes sat in separate rows of the choir section. Another row of Klansmen stood, lined up in front of the pulpit while facing the congregation. Approximately 37 Ku Klux Klan members were prominently present among the church congregation.



David W. Marshall

All the while, a large sign that read "Jesus Saves" hung on the wall above the choir section. I told my mentor, who is a retired white pastor, my thoughts about the disturbing picture. I told him it was impossible for them to be Christians despite being in church. I asked my mentor for his thoughts because he has always helped me

**Christian nationalism attempts to redefine the definition of what makes a "true American."**

understand controversial issues from a white pastor's perspective. He said they were Christians, but they were not Christ-like Christians. He went on to explain that the Black church not only sees Jesus as a savior but also as a liberator. I told him that while this photo was taken in the 1920s, the same spirit is present in many white congregations today.

The picture presents two contrasting messages within a building considered a place of service and worship to God. On the one hand, the symbolic meaning of the

"Jesus Saves" sign is that it promotes the message of Christ as savior. On the other hand, the presence of the Ku Klux Klan in a house of worship exposes the unwillingness to accept the teachings of Jesus, which contradict their own culture of racial and religious intolerance.

Klansmen were established as defenders of white and Protestant superiority. The core belief behind white supremacy is that white Anglo-Saxon Protestants are a superior race, and Protestants are a superior religion, making the ideal American citizen both white and

Protestant. Even though Klansmen considered themselves followers of Jesus Christ, they were violent enforcers of racial and religious intolerance against Catholics, Jews, immigrants, and Black people.

When President Trump allies were joined by top administration officials and conservative Christian clergy on the National Mall in Washington for a prayer gathering on May 17, I have no problem with prayer. As a Christian, I have no problem calling on God to heal our land. I have a problem with Christian nationalism, whose supporters believe that the United States was founded as and should be a Christian nation.

This belief is another example of how history

has been reframed in ways to support conservative agendas and political ideology, which are actually exclusive of "others" and un-American. To say America should be a Christian nation eliminates the constitutional protection against government-established religion.

While a Christian may not agree with those of the Muslim or Jewish faiths, we have a Constitutional First Amendment to abide by. The First Amendment addresses the rights associated with freedom of religion by prohibiting the Congressional establishment of one religion over another and protecting the right to the free exercise of their chosen religion.

...see **Nationalism**, page 5



## THIS WEEK IN BLACK HISTORY

MAY 21 - MAY 27, 2026

<p><b>May 21, 1881</b></p> <p><b>Blanche Kelso Bruce, the first black man to serve a full term in the senate, and the first person born into slavery to preside over the senate.</b></p>	<p><b>May 22, 1966</b></p> <p><b>Bill Cosby becomes the first African American to receive an Emmy for best actor in a dramatic series, for his role in I Spy</b></p>	<p><b>May 23, 1921</b></p> <p><b>Shuffle Along, first of a succession of popular musicals featuring Black talent, opened at the 63rd Street Music Hall, New York City.</b></p>	<p><b>May 24, 1856</b></p> <p><b>The Pottawatomie Massacre in Kansas. A pro-slavery settlement in Franklin County was attacked by an anti-slavery group led by John Brown.</b></p>	<p><b>May 25, 1943</b></p> <p><b>Henrietta Bradberry patents Bed Rack, to attach to the bed frame and allow the bed clothes to hang on it while allowing the bed to air out.</b></p>	<p><b>May 26, 1975</b></p> <p><b>Lauryn Hill, singer, songwriter and actress who shot to fame in the 1990s with her R&amp;B band "The Fugees", born in New Jersey</b></p>	<p><b>May 27, 1958</b></p> <p><b>Ernest Green graduated from Little Rock's Central High School with six hundred white classmates.</b></p>
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By Delegate Cliff Hayes, Jr.

# TRUTH IN THE DIGITAL AGE

By Delegate Cliff Hayes

In an era of artificial intelligence, one of the most important questions society faces is simple. How do we know what information we can trust?

AI systems are now capable of generating text, images, and even video that appear authentic. While these capabilities offer many useful applications, they also create new challenges for verifying the accuracy of

information. As these technologies become more common, systems that confirm authenticity will become increasingly important. Verified sources, trusted domains, and digital authentication tools will

play a critical role in helping citizens distinguish legitimate information from misleading content.

Public awareness is equally important. Citizens must develop stronger digital literacy skills so they can evaluate what they see online.

Technology companies, government agencies, and media organizations all share responsibility for strengthening systems that promote transparency and credibility.

Trust has always been essential to communication. In the digital era, protecting that trust requires both technological solutions and informed citizens.

Artificial intelligence may transform how information is created and shared, but society must remain committed to ensuring that truth remains visible and accessible.

## Cheswell

Continued from page 4

“In New Hampshire there was a man by the name of Cheswell, who, with his family, were respectable in point of abilities, property and character,” Morrill said. “He held some of the first offices in the town in which he resided, was appointed justice of the

peace for the county, and was perfectly competent to perform with ability all the duties of his various offices in the most prompt, accurate and acceptable manner. But this family are forbidden to enter and live in Missouri.”

Note: This year, as we celebrate the 250th anniversary of the founding of the country, I will post occasional pieces like this about the role of black Americans in the Revolutionary War.

## Nationalism

Continued from page 4

Christian nationalism attempts to redefine the definition of what makes a “true American.” It is simply denying individuals their rights to be seen and accepted as equal Americans if they choose to practice any faith other than Christianity. It becomes an example of how Christian rhetoric does not automatically translate into

sincere Christ-like actions. The daylong Rededicate 250 program on May 17 at the National Mall reminds me of the photo with a church displaying a “Jesus Saves” sign, and filled with people who embrace hatred and division.

When I see the Rededicate 250 event, I don’t see true Americans, nor do I see true Christ-like Christians.

David W. Marshall is the founder of the faith-based organization TRB: The Reconciled Body, and the author of the book *God Bless Our Divided America*.

## Mental

Continued from page 1

These numbers also mean overall depression prevalence has nearly doubled. It increased from 7.3 percent in 2015-16 to more than 13 percent in 2021-23. Meanwhile a 2022 CNN/Kaiser study showed that 90 percent of adults said the country is facing a mental health crisis, at a time when awareness is actually increasing.

“The question then is, has that truly increased, or have we just been able to identify it more?” Dr. Matt Mishkind, deputy director of the Johnson Depression Center at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus asked in an April 16, 2025 CNN interview. “I definitely think it has increased, and I think that’s because I think the world is a difficult place right now,” he said. “I think there’s been stressor after stressor after stressor for a long time now, and I think that is starting to truly affect people.”

## Some studies have said the country is facing a mental health crisis, at a time when awareness is actually increasing.

for a year. They guide and encourage challenged youngsters in one-to-one or group mentoring relationships, where several adults spend time with a larger number of children.

“With mentoring I see light shining at the end of a long dark tunnel,” Taylor said. “There is a chance that if I devote more time and space...(it will) give our children in peril a chance to develop the extraordinary in themselves.”

Meanwhile, Keys, the Grammy winner, described her journey from the darkness to the light. “I started burying my feelings, and it got to a point where I couldn’t even tell my family or my friends, ‘I’m twisted,’ or ‘I’m exhausted,’ or ‘I’m so angry.’ ... I became a master of putting up the wall so that I was unreadable,” she explained.

But Keys said she beat depression by shifting her perspective. As an entrepreneur, she began to create a comfortable, peaceful and productive working environment. “I have to work extra hard to create the proper culture,” Keys said. “It’s important to me that we are not only doing well in our business, but we’re doing well in our lives and that our families are well,” she said.

Biles’ journey from the darkness to the light bubbled to the surface when she withdrew from the 2021 Tokyo Olympics, citing a mental block. Prioritizing her mental health and stepping away to heal allowed Biles to defeat her depression. Three years later Biles won three golds and one silver at the 2024 Paris Olympics.

One problem is Blacks have historically refused to discuss depression since racism is a known but largely unacknowledged stressor that requires the mobilization of coping resources. Since racism is deeply embedded in the culture, according to a 2019 NIH study titled, “Stress and the Mental Health of Populations of Color: Advancing Our Understanding of Race-related Stressors,” many don’t bring it up.

It feels like a stray hair on your face, famed opera singer Marian Anderson said, describing the debilitating sting of racial prejudice decades ago, “Sometimes it’s like a hair across your cheek. You can’t see it, you can’t find it with your fingers, but you keep brushing at it because the feel of it is irritating.”

That’s how depression felt to Susan Taylor who is now 80. Meanwhile, Keys who is now 45, and Biles, age 29, offer similar comparisons. Although these three high-profile Black women have never complained publicly about racial discrimination, they have publicly discussed their journey from the darkness to the light.

Taylor, the former editor-in-chief at Essence described her depression in *Blackdoctor.org*. “I began spiraling downward, downward, downward and further and further into a depression that I couldn’t pull myself out of. I felt like everything coming out of my mouth was incorrect. I’m out there speaking in front of thousands of people with a smile pasted on my face but dying on the inside.”

In January 2008, Taylor left *Essence* magazine after 27 years. She began to work full-time as a mentor with the National CARES Mentoring Movement.

Individuals volunteer at least an hour a week

Depression is more likely to strike women rather than men, according to data from the CDC’s latest Youth Risk Behavior Survey. The report showed that more than half of high school girls (53 percent) said they felt persistently sad or hopeless – nearly twice the rate of share of boys (28 percent) who said the same and 14 percentage points higher than a decade earlier.

But, Taylor’s, Keys’ and Biles’ personal survival stories suggest depression is neither a gender issue nor a death sentence.

Taylor said she battled depression by recycling random flashes of insight. “My sadness and depression

came out of giving myself to my career before I would give myself to myself,” Taylor explained. “Everything for Essence; nothing for me.”

Taylor said, “I sought help, and everything began to unfold. Hiding sadness makes you more and more sad because it closes you off to your healing. Giving voice to what you’re feeling is part of the healing.”

Meanwhile, Keys described how she bounced back. “[Early in my career] people watched [me] intently. I’m a New Yorker. I didn’t want people to violate me. I immediately put up a wall, but I put up the worst kind of wall: the one that you pretend is not there. You think you’re protecting yourself but you’re actually hurting yourself. All I knew to do was just to fake it till you make it. Once I stopped doing that — which I have to remind myself to do every day — I started to feel much more honest, because I didn’t have to pretend.”

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## Brown

Continued from page 4

And here lies the contradiction. Many of the same political voices lamenting declining educational outcomes are simultaneously attacking the institutions that help students learn. They denounce falling test scores while censoring history, restricting honest conversations about race, undermining teachers, weakening diversity initiatives, and reducing educational resources for students who need them most. The ongoing weakening of the Department of Education sends a chilling message about national priorities.

We cannot claim to value excellence while starving the conditions that make excellence possible.

Declining scores do not emerge in isolation. Hunger affects learning. Housing instability affects learning. Underfunded schools affect learning. Poverty and

inequality affect learning. Educational outcomes reflect the conditions under which children live.

This is why HBCUs remain so important. Institutions like Bennett continue to nurture Black intellect, cultivate leadership, and affirm Black humanity, often while operating with fewer resources than predominantly white institutions. They remain places where students are encouraged not simply to survive, but to excel.

Many HBCU graduations also occur near Mother’s Day, and that connection should not be overlooked. Behind countless graduates stands a mother or grandmother who stretched limited resources, worked exhausting hours, deferred her own dreams, and insisted that education mattered. Black educational achievement has always been sustained not only by institutions, but also by sacrifice.

Brown opened doors. America has yet to decide whether it is truly committed to what lies beyond them: equal opportunity, equal investment, and equal possibility.

### Public Notice

#### Updated weight limits on Virginia bridges and culverts

In accord with state and federal law, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) has imposed new or changed existing weight restrictions and installed new signage indicating the updated weight restrictions on the following bridges and culverts (structures) in Virginia within the last 30 days.

County/City	Field No.	Route #	Structure Name	Comments	Updated Date
CUMBERLAND	5734	613	SPORTS LAKE ROAD	RANDOLPH CREEK	4/30/2026
CHARLOTTE	4963	693	TERRELL ROAD	BRANCH OF TURNIP CREEK	4/28/2026
PRINCE EDWARD	13995	666N	DOUGLAS CHURCH ROAD	BUFFALO CREEK	4/28/2026
WYTHE	19731	663N	BISHOP THOMAS LANE	PINE RUN	4/23/2026
APPOMATTOX	1582	802	MT PLEASANT ROAD	CABIN BRANCH	4/15/2026
AMHERST	1441	622E	STAPLETON ROAD	CHRISTIAN MILL CREEK	4/11/2026
CARROLL	4809	100	SYLVATUS HWY101	ROCK CREEK	4/3/2026

The list above is not a comprehensive list of all structures with weight restrictions in the Commonwealth but shows only structures that have new or changed weight restrictions within the last 30 days. The list contains only basic structure identification and location information and the date the new or changed weight restriction and signage became effective.

For a full listing of all bridge and culvert weight restrictions with detailed information about specific structures, including location data and actual weight limits, visit [vdot.virginia.gov](http://vdot.virginia.gov) and navigate to Travel and traffic/For freight operators/Truck restrictions. This page references a posted structures report and a GIS map tool that contain detailed information about restricted structures in Virginia. To receive email notifications regarding new or updated weight restrictions for structures statewide, complete the sign-up form on the web page.

Notices regarding bridges and culverts with new or updated weight restrictions are published monthly by VDOT. For additional information or questions, please contact [haulingpermits@vdot.virginia.gov](mailto:haulingpermits@vdot.virginia.gov) or the Load Rating Program Manager, Manjil Devkota at 804-786-4064.

The Virginia Department of Transportation is committed to ensuring that no person is excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any of its programs or activities on the basis of race, color, or national origin, as protected by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need further information on VDOT’s Title VI Program or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, please contact the Virginia Department of Transportation’s Title VI Program Specialist at 804-786-2730 or [corina.herrera@vdot.virginia.gov](mailto:corina.herrera@vdot.virginia.gov).

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# MOMENTS of MEDITATION

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

## DEVOTIONALS:

## PARADOX?

### READ:

### 1 CORINTHIANS 2

But the natural map receiveth not the things of the spirit of God.

- 1 Corinthians 2:14



In our study of the scriptures, certain basic principles must be kept in mind to avoid bewilderment and frustration. When we are "rightly dividing the word of truth," we always distinguish between law and grace, flesh and spirit and the "standing" and "state" of the believer. Otherwise, utter confusion will result. With a proper approach to Bible study, however, that which seems paradoxical to the unbeliever is clearly understood by the spiritual and discerning Christian.

For example, in his essays on different characters of

the Christian, Lord Bacon wrote: "A Christian is one that believes things his reason cannot comprehend and hopes for things which neither he nor any man alive ever saw. He believes three to one and one to be three; a father not to be older than his son, and the son to be equal with his father. He believes himself to be precious in God's sight and yet loathes himself in his own. He dares not justify himself even in those things wherein he is able to find many faults. He is so ashamed that he dares not open his mouth before the Lord, yet comes with boldness to God and ask Him anything he needs. He hath within Him both flesh and spirit and yet he is

not a doubleminded man; he is often led captive by the law of sin, yet it never gets dominion over Him. He cannot sin, yet can do nothing without sin. He is so humble as to acknowledge himself to deserve nothing but evil and yet he believes that God means him all good." Paradoxical? Yes, to the unregenerate! But to the true believer, "the wisdom of God" (1 Corinthians 2:7).

◆◆◆  
The natural man receiveth not God's hidden wisdom true,  
for such things are by grace discerned just by the chosen few!  
G. W.

THOUGHT: No one who takes God for a teacher can long remain ignorant.



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## HU Dean Remarks On Correspondents Dinner During Defense Program

### NEWPORT NEWS

Julia A. Wilson, Dean of the Scripps Howard School of Journalism and Communications at Hampton University, moderated Women in Defense Industry Day 2026 on May 19.

Wilson, who attended the White House Correspondents Dinner in Washington, D.C. last month, spoke to the audience about situational awareness based on her personal experience at the affair and explain why business leaders must employ that same level of sensitivity in the current

environment as they conduct their day-to-day operations.

In addition to Wilson's presentation, conference attendees were able to network with federal government officials and local business leaders to gain a better understanding of how to win government contracts and grow their organizations.

The Greater Hampton Roads Chapter of Women in Defense Industry hosted the event in collaboration with the sponsor, Newport News Shipbuilding, a division of Hill & Ferguson Enterprises, LLC.

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# Television Icon Jayne Kennedy to Headline Inaugural Circle of Care Honors in Norfolk

**NORFOLK, VA**

Medicine & Music — Healing, Hope, and Harmony, Inc., a Virginia-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit, will host its inaugural First Circle of Care Honors on Sunday, June 14, 2026, at the Hilton Norfolk The Main. The event will feature television pioneer and wellness advocate Jayne Kennedy as the Featured Trailblazer Honoree, alongside a distinguished panel of community leaders dedicated to transforming how we care for one another.



Jayne Kennedy

The program begins at 2:00 p.m. in the Granby Ballroom and includes a moderated fireside conversation with Kennedy, a medal presentation ceremony honoring four Circle of Care Honorees, a live performance by a high school violin ensemble, a dessert reception, and a book signing where Ms. Kennedy will personally dedicate copies of her memoir, Plain Jayne, for every ticketed guest in attendance.

Jayne Kennedy made history as the first African American woman to co-host a network sports broadcast, breaking barriers on CBS's The NFL Today. Her career spans decades in television, film, and advocacy. In recent years, Kennedy has become a powerful voice for wellness, resilience, and the fight against loneliness — themes she explores with candor in her memoir, Plain Jayne.

The Circle of Care Honors will feature a fireside conversation moderated by

veteran broadcast journalist Barbara Ciara, exploring Jayne Kennedy's journey and her passion for community health and connection. Dr. LaJuana M. Collins, MD, a Medicine & Music board director, will serve as the event's medical authority, bringing clinical perspective to the conversation on wellness, prevention, and the health challenges facing seniors and underserved communities.

The First Circle of Care Honors will recognize four individuals whose work embodies the mission of Medicine & Music — healing through service, hope through action, and harmony through community.

In addition to Kennedy, Hampton Roads honorees are Rev. Dr. Yvonne V. Delk, the first African American woman ordained in the United Church of Christ; Christopher Tan — President & CEO, Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia and the Eastern Shore; and Captain

Carol Adams, Founder, Carol Adams Foundation.

**ABOUT MEDICINE & MUSIC**

Medicine & Music was founded in 2026 by Dr. Abraham Teklu, MD, a practicing physician and saxophonist serving as Medical Director, and Dee-Dee Teklu, Executive Director, who brings 35 years of experience in television news, communications, and work at NASA, along with her background as a gospel recording artist.

The organization pairs physician-led wellness conversations with live music, shared meals, and community connection — serving seniors and community groups across the Richmond-to-Hampton Roads corridor.

Tickets are available exclusively at [medicineandmusic.org](http://medicineandmusic.org). 100% of proceeds support Medicine & Music's community wellness programs.

# VIA Heritage Association To Induct Five Into 11th Hall of Fame Class June 12, Charlottesville

**CHARLOTTESVILLE**

The VIA Heritage Association Hall of Fame will induct its eleventh class for 2026 during a banquet ceremony on June 12, 2026 at the DoubleTree at 990 Hilton Heights RD Charlottesville, VA 22901. New Journal and Guide Publisher Brenda H. Andrews, a member of the VIA Class of 2024, is the keynote speaker.



Brenda H. Andrews

This year's VIA Hall of Fame inductees include two Athletes, two Coaches and two Contributors. Those inducted into the Hall of Fame are chosen by the VIA Heritage Association which is headquartered in Charlottesville and whose purpose it to preserve the heritage and legacy of African American high school students, sports and activities under segregation. It is dedicated to recognizing the rich heritage and legacy of African American students and adults who participated in the Virginia Interscholastic Association from 1954-70 and its predecessor organization, the Virginia Interscholastic Athletic League (VIAL).

Therefore, promoting greater appreciation and understanding of the contributions of Blacks to the history of the Commonwealth of Virginia is a primary objective. Tickets are single \$65.00, a table of 8 is \$500.00. Tickets may be purchased by contracting Jimmy Hollins at 434 825 6617. Ticket are on sale right now

**2026 INDUCTEES**

**Johnny Morris:**  
Guard, I.C. Norcom HS, Portsmouth, Va.

From 1957 – 1961, he led his I. C. Norcom team in winning the VIA eastern district tournament, and the State tournament. In 1961, Johnny set the eastern district scoring record with a 28-point per game average.

**Ray L. Gillespie:**  
Four-Sport Star, John M. Langston HS, Danville, Va.

Holds lettering in baseball, basketball, football and track. In Ray's senior year he led the league in rushing in football, named to the all-star team in baseball and football. Ray won the 100-

and 200-yard dashes, as well as the high jump and broad jump in track.

**Horace S. Savage Jr.:**  
Coach, I.C. Norcom HS, Portsmouth, Va.

Coach guided the track team to a State Championship in 1959. He also led the football team to a District Championship and a State Runner-Up finish in 1967. Beyond the trophies, he built a culture of discipline, resilience, and academic excellence.

**Tommy Reamon Sr.:**  
Coach, Warwick HS, Newport News, Va

An outstanding coach who maximized his players' potential. He was credited with 195 total wins. Tommy swiftly turned around struggling teams, leading Gloucester to its best season in 20 years (5-5) and ending Denbigh's three-year losing streak.

**Donald A. Byers:**  
Contributor, Jackson P. Burley HS, Charlottesville, VA

From the age of 13 – 35 he played a lot of baseball. Donald is mentioned in a book called "Sunday coming" as one of the top first basemen of his era. Following his playing days, Donald served with distinction in law enforcement.

**Shelia B. Coates:**  
Contributor, Douglas HS, Leesburg, Va.

Over the years, she has testified before Local, State and Federal bodied advised policymakers, and been invited to the White House under multiple administrations. Today she continues to serve on numerous boards, panels, and committees, offering her expertise on women's rights, equity, community empowerment, inspiring generations to lead with purpose, courage, and conviction.



Hello and welcome to The Bridge Corner. In our last session, we did a review of the previous lessons covering beginning bridge basics. Let's continue using this prior information' bid and play the hand:

**Dealer:** North

- ♠ A 9 4
- ♥ A 7 6
- ♦ 9 6
- ♣ A J 9 6 3

- ♠ 7 3
- ♥ J 10 9
- ♦ K Q J 4 3
- ♣ Q 5 2

- ♠ 6 2
- ♥ 8 4 3 2
- ♦ A 7 5 2
- ♣ K 10 7

- ♠ K Q J 10 8 5
- ♥ K Q 5
- ♦ 10 8
- ♣ 8 4

**ANSWERS:**

- 1) Which suit do North and South like best? Who would suggest this suit first?
- 2) Why would it benefit them to find they like this suit?
- 3) How many tricks can North estimate taking? How about South?
- 4) How many tricks can North and South take as a partnership?
- 5) Which suit do East and West like best? Who would suggest this suit first?
- 6) How many tricks can East estimate taking? How about West?
- 7) How many tricks can East and West take as a partnership?
- 8) Which partnership predicted the most tricks? In which contract?
- 9) Who first mentioned the suit that is trump? Who is the declarer?
- 10) Who makes the opening lead?
- 11) Which hand is dummy?
- 12) What is the declarer's plan to make the contract?

- 1) North – South like the Spade suit best. South would suggest Spades first.
- 2) Because between North and South hands combined, there are NINE Spades between them: the opponents have only four Spades.
- 3) North can estimate taking three tricks. South can estimate taking six or seven tricks.
- 4) As a partnership, North and South can predict taking 10 tricks.
- 5) East and West like the Diamond suit best. West would probably bid Diamonds first.
- 6) East can take one or two tricks. West can take three or four tricks.
- 7) East and West can estimate taking six tricks.
- 8) North -South

calculated the higher number of tricks in Spades.

9) South mentioned the trump suit (Spades) first; therefore, South is declarer.

10) The player to the left of Declarer ALWAYS leads. Declarer is South, therefore West leads.

11) North's hand is dummy and is placed face up on the table.

12) The first time South wins a trick after West makes the opening lead, South plays the trump suit (Spades) until the opponents run out of Spades. South then takes the winners in the combined North – South hands. South should win/ take 10 tricks.

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- 2) Mon., June 1, 2026
- 3) Mon., June 8, 2026

4) Mon., June 15, 2026

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- 1) Sat., May 23, 2026
- 2) Sat., May 30, 2026
- 3) Sat., June 6, 2026
- 4) Sat., June 13, 2026

**Tidewater Bridge Club's Winning Players In The May 13, 2026 Game:**

Malinda Harris-Peoples  
Lillye Holly  
Sharon Kelly-Green  
Shirley Nottingham  
Lawrence Owes  
Gene Payne  
Leon Ragland  
Joan Snellings  
Ron Snellings  
Sandra Starkey

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](mailto:Lawrence.Owes@la.owes1@gmail.com) for additional information.

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**A LEGEND IS LOST**

**SWAC, MEAC CROWN TRACK & FIELD CHAMPS; JACKSON STATE BEST IN SWAC; SOFTBALL, BASEBALL RESULTS**

**CHARLIE NEAL:** At his induction ceremony to the SWAC Hall of Fame during the week of the 2023 Celebration Bowl in Atlanta. Neal passed on Tuesday at 80 after nearly 50 years covering HBCU sports.

**UNDER THE BANNER**

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS



**DYNAMIC DUO:** Charlie Neal (l.) and Lem Barney (r.) broadcasting for BET here at the 1993 Circle City Classic in Indianapolis. The duo helped introduce American TV audiences to black college football and basketball games and stayed together on the air for 24 years. Neal passed last Tuesday at 80.

**HBCU BROADCASTING GIANT CHARLIE NEAL PASSES:**

Legendary, veteran broadcaster **Charlie Neal**, whose name, voice and face became synonymous with black college sports over nearly 50 years, passed Tuesday night in his home outside Washington, D. C. after a year-long battle with a chronic illness.

Neal, 80, who's golden voice was made for radio and television, came to the broadcast booth as the play-by-play man for Bob Johnson's Black Entertainment Television (BET) in the early 1980s when the network pioneered weekly TV coverage of live black college football and basketball games. He teamed with **Jackson State** grad and NFL Hall of Famer **Lem Barney** as his broadcast partner for over 20 years to unite the then excitement, thrills and pageantry of HBCU sports with its glorious past and history.

After BET moved away from carrying live black college sports events in the early 2000s, Neal continued that role helming HBCU coverage for another black-owned entity, the Atlanta-based Major Broadcasting Company (MBC), before again taking the lead role as ESPN started its live coverage of black college sports games in the early 2000s. He called the first black college football game aired on ESPN and became the lead announcer of the coverage of black college games on ESPN and ESPN+.

When another black-owned broadcast network, Byron Allen's Allen Media Group, bought out streaming entity HBCUgo.tv in 2021 and inked major deals with HBCU conferences in 2022 to air black college games, they turned to Neal as their lead announcer as well. He served in that capacity until his battle with the disease began last Fall.

During his long career, Charlie rubbed shoulders with and became close friends with the gamut of men and women actors – the game's top players, coaches, administrators, school presidents and conference officials, game officials and referees, cheer squads, band directors, sponsors, network TV executives and fans – who are the on- and off-field generators of the spectacle of black college sports while also helping to mentor the next generation of men's and women's media personalities, and in so doing, he became part of the story.

All these entities turned to him in one way or another for their sporting events, award banquets, Hall of Fame ceremonies, athletic forums, schedule consultations and the like throughout his illustrious career.

He became truly "the name, voice and face of black college sports" as evidenced by his induction into the **CIAA, MEAC, SWAC** and **Black College Football** Halls of Fame. No other can lay claim to those honors.

In 2023, Neal became the first National Football Foundation (NFF) **Chris Schenkel Award** recipient from the HBCU ranks, an annual award given to a sports broadcaster who has had a long and distinguished career broadcasting college football.

The Philadelphia native and Villanova graduate, began his career as a radio disc jockey in his hometown before moving into television as a sports anchor in 1971 in Washington, D. C., later moving to similar roles in Detroit and New York City. Neal also worked for CBS Sports announcing college football, basketball, track & field, and gymnastics also doubling up with assignments from Turner Sports which included the first ever Goodwill Games in Moscow. He hosted the NBA halftime shows for TNT along with play-by play assignments on basketball, gymnastics, and track & field.

Away from his media endeavors the always nattily dressed Neal wore a plethora of hats that many did not see. He was a former basketball and football official, owner of a bus company that provided a host of services including transportation to and from games for high school and black college teams, and a consummate trainer of 'motormen' the term used in police circles to identify a motorcycle cop, or any law enforcement officer assigned to the motorcycle division. Above all, he was a decent and caring man.

In many more ways than one, Charlie Neal will be sorely missed.

# Jackson State claims SWAC Commissioner's Cup

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. – Jackson State claimed the top spot in the final 2025-26 Southwestern Athletic Conference Commissioner's Cup standings with 152.0 total points, edging Alabama State who finished second overall with 149.0 points.



captured the men's all-sports crown (C.D. Henry Award) with 70.5 points. Jackson State followed closely behind in second while Texas Southern finished third with 68.0 points. Florida A&M and Alabama State rounded out the top five men's programs.

Alcorn State – 75.5  
Grambling State – 70.5  
Mississippi Valley State – 36.5

The **Dr. James Frank Commissioner's Cup** Award annually recognizes the league institution that posts the strongest overall athletic performances across conference-sponsored sports throughout the academic year.

In the women's standings, Alabama State led the way followed by Jackson State and Southern. Alabama A&M finished fourth with 76.5 points while Texas Southern claimed fifth place with 70.5 points.

**WOMEN'S SPORTS RANKINGS (Jacket/Magee Award)**  
Alabama State – 92.0  
Jackson State – 83.0  
Southern – 80.0  
Alabama A&M – 76.5  
Texas Southern – 70.5  
Prairie View A&M – 67.5  
Florida A&M – 65.5  
Alcorn State – 43.5  
Bethune-Cookman – 42.5  
Grambling State – 40.5  
Arkansas-Pine Bluff – 34.0  
Mississippi Valley State – 20.5

Jackson State's championship run was fueled by strong performances across both men's and women's sports. The Tigers finished second in the men's standings with 69.0 points while placing second in the women's rankings with 83.0 points.

The final overall standings saw Prairie View A&M finish sixth with 119.5 points, narrowly ahead of Alabama A&M's 119.0 points. Bethune-Cookman placed eighth overall followed by Arkansas-Pine Bluff, Alcorn State, Grambling State and Mississippi Valley State.

**MEN'S SPORTS RANKINGS (C.D. Henry Award)**  
Bethune-Cookman – 70.5  
Jackson State – 69.0  
Texas Southern – 68.0  
Florida A&M – 57.5  
Alabama State – 57.0  
Southern – 53.5  
Prairie View A&M – 52.0  
Arkansas-Pine Bluff – 45.0  
Alabama A&M – 42.5  
Alcorn State – 32.0  
Grambling State – 30.0  
Mississippi Valley State – 16.0

Alabama State secured the women's sports title (*Magee/Jacket Award*) after recording a league-best 92.0 points in women's competition while also finishing fifth in the men's standings with 57.0 points.

**OVERALL SPORTS RANKINGS (Dr. James Frank Commissioner's Cup Award)**  
Jackson State – 152.0  
Alabama State – 149.0  
Texas Southern – 138.5  
Southern – 133.5  
Florida A&M – 123.0  
Prairie View A&M – 119.5  
Alabama A&M – 119.0  
Bethune-Cookman – 113.0  
Arkansas-Pine Bluff – 79.0

Texas Southern finished third overall with 138.5 points followed by Southern in fourth with 133.5 points. Florida A&M rounded out the top five overall with 123.0 points.

On the men's side, Bethune-Cookman

## BCSP Spring Notes

### Jackson State Claims SWAC Men's Outdoor Track and Field title

BATON ROUGE, La. – Jackson State claimed the 2026 Southwestern Athletic Conference Men's Outdoor Track and Field Championship with 142 total points. Texas Southern finished second with 110 points while Bethune-Cookman placed third with 104.5 points.

The title marks Jackson State's first championship in Men's Outdoor Track and Field since 1990.

During the meet, Jackson State claimed a pair of gold medals with multiple student-athletes scoring points. **Collins Kibet** claimed the gold in the 3000-meter steeplechase with a time of 9:41.74, while **Kaiden Berry** - the co-Most Outstanding Field Performer - claimed gold in the shot put with a throw of 17.13 meters (56-02.50).

Jackson State's championship effort was also highlighted by **Sedgwick Pitts Jr.**'s fourth-place finish in the men's 200-meter dash and key performances in the decathlon from **Connor Cooper**, who finished fifth overall with 5,046 points.

Alcorn State's **Derrick Williams** delivered one of the fastest performances of the championship meet by winning the men's 200-meter dash in 20.49. Texas Southern's **Joshua Brown** placed second while Bethune-Cookman's **Shanard Walker** finished third.

Florida A&M's **Tyon Reed** claimed the men's 400-meter hurdles title with a winning mark of 51.43. **Prairie View A&M's Ronzell Woods** and **Alabama A&M's Nathan Anderson** finished second and third respectively. In the men's 800-meter run, **Arkansas-Pine Bluff's Kewarny Fletcher** captured the conference title with a winning time of 1:50.00 while **Southern's Marcus Deley** finished second in 1:51.07.

Texas Southern's **Donovan Brooks** secured the men's decathlon championship with 6,152 total points. Brooks posted event victories in the javelin throw, shot put and 1,500-meter run during the competition.

### Florida A&M Claims SWAC Women's Outdoor Track and Field title

BATON ROUGE, La. – Florida A&M captured the 2026 Southwestern Athletic Conference Women's Outdoor Track and Field Championship title with 145.50 total points, edging Alabama State (132). Southern placed third with 95.50 points while Alabama A&M finished fourth with 93 points.

Florida A&M was led by a dominant performance from **Diandrenique Gaines**, who won both the 100- and 200-meter dash. Gaines set a championship-record time of 11.15 in the 100 meters before claiming the 200-meter title in 22.72. Teammates **Kiersten Clark** and **Janaree Kinchen** also delivered strong performances for the Lady Rattlers in the sprint events.

Alabama A&M excelled in the 400-meter dash as **Alisha Wilson** and **Laila Gaynor** finished first and second respectively in the event finals. Wilson posted a winning time of 53.26 while Gaynor crossed the line just behind her at 53.27.

Alabama State's distance runners also played a major role in the team standings. **Aliyah Williams** swept both the women's 800-meter run and 1500-meter run, while teammate **Shone Walters** finished runner-up in both races.

In the women's long-distance events, Alabama A&M's **Laura Avila** claimed the 5,000-meter and 10,000-meter titles. Avila won the 5,000 meters in 18:20.40 before returning to take the 10,000-meter crown as well.

Southern's **Tashina Alase** delivered one of the top hurdle performances of the meet, running a time of 12.84 in the preliminaries of the women's 100-meter hurdles.

### Norfolk State claims fifth straight MEAC Men's Outdoor Track & Field title

NORFOLK, Va. – For the fifth consecutive season, the Norfolk State captured the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC) Men's Outdoor Track & Field Championship, finishing with 183 points while defending their home track.

Spartan **Kristopher Stephens** earned Outstanding Field Athlete of the Meet honors. Stephens claimed gold in the men's triple jump with a leap of 15.64 meters. **Kendrick Winfield** led the charge on championship Saturday, claiming gold in the 400-meter run with a time of 46.09 before winning the 200-meter final in 20.55.

Standout weekend performances from **Christopher Baskings** (sprints), **Daniel Mathenge** (distances), and **Landon Walker** (pole vault) were key in helping the Spartans total 183 points and secure their fifth straight MEAC crown.

Norfolk State head coach **Kenneth Giles** was named Outstanding Coach of the Meet.

North Carolina Central rookie **Aaron Alukunyang** earned Outstanding Runner of the Meet honors.

The championship concluded with a statement performance in the men's 4x400-meter relay, where the Spartans held off Coppin State and North Carolina Central to secure gold in 3:07.92.

### Howard wins fifth straight MEAC women's Track & Field title

NORFOLK, Va. – For the fifth straight season, the Howard Lady Bison claimed the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC) Women's Outdoor Track & Field Championship.

Following last year's record-breaking performance of 292 points, Howard finished this year's meet with 235 points, further solidifying its program as a powerhouse in HBCU track and field.

Howard head coach **David Oliver** was named Outstanding Coach of the Meet, while **Nihijah Darden** and **Yahnari Lyons** earned Co-Outstanding Runner of the Meet honors.

Lyons capped off a dominant season by winning the 200 meters in 22.94, and the Howard team had time to soak it all in as emotions flowed during the final women's event of the evening. The Bison raced to victory in the 4x400-meter relay with a time of 3:35.30, finishing 8.07 seconds ahead of the competition.

The Bison collected their first gold medal of championship Saturday in the 4x100-meter relay, setting the tone for the rest of the evening as they went on to win eight additional gold medals.

**Marcia Sey** claimed the women's 100-meter hurdles crown in 12.96, while teammate **Zoe Turner** captured the 400-meter title in 53.15. In the women's 800 meters, **Tiffany Mugubai** clocked in at 2:05.19, while **Cenaiya Billups** won the 400-meter hurdles title in 56.86.

Morgan State senior **Brylan Carter** claimed Outstanding Field Athlete of the Meet honors.

### Spring Hill eliminated in NCAA Div. II Softball South Regional

SAINT LEO, Fla. – The Spring Hill softball team's 2026 season came to an end in the NCAA Regional as the Badgers lost to fifth-seeded University of Tampa, 14-2, in Friday afternoon's elimination game.

The Badgers fell 1-0 to No. 1 Saint Leo after being one-hit in the opening game Thursday of the 2026 NCAA Division II South Regional. The Badgers finish the 2026 season with a 34-25 overall record after securing their third consecutive SIAC Tournament championship.

### Clafin shutout in NCAA Div. II Atlantic Softball Regional

CIAA champion **Clafin** was held to three hits in a 8-0 shutout loss to Shippensburg Thursday and could only master two more hits in a 13-0 shutout elimination loss to Glenville State Friday in NCAA Div. II Atlantic Regional. CIAA MVP **Aniyah Jackson** had one hit in each game.

The Panthers finished at 31-14 on the season.

### Edward Waters bows out in NCAA Div. II South Baseball Regional

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. – SIAC baseball champion Edward Waters fell to No. 1 seed West Florida 16-6 Thursday and dropped a close 3-2 decision to No. 4 seed Delta State Friday to be eliminated from the NCAA Div. II South Baseball Regional in Pensacola, Florida.

The Tigers fell behind 10-0 thru five innings vs. West Florida before scoring six runs over the final four innings. Designated hitter **Calvin Scott** had a solo home run and first baseman **Scott Torres** had a two-run single to lead EWU. Left fielder **Jordan Smith** scored two runs.

Delta State scored all three of its runs in the third inning Friday. Edward Waters answered with a sacrifice fly in the fourth inning and cut the deficit to one in the seventh on an RBI single by **Joseph Di Cesare**, but Delta State's bullpen shut the door late.

**SIAC returns to Macon for 2026 Football Media Day**

ATLANTA, Ga. – The Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference will kick off its 2026 football season with a return to Macon, Georgia, for SIAC Football Media Day on Wednesday, July 22.

Coaches and student-athletes from the league's 13 football programs will open the two-day event with the SIAC Community Service and Outreach Day on Tuesday, July 21.

SIAC Football Media Day will follow on Wednesday, July 22, and will be open only to institutions and approved members of the media.

**Terry Sims** at Clark Atlanta, **David Bowser** at Albany State and **Brad Sherrod** at Morehouse are the new coaches in the conference that will be in attendance at Media Day.