



Portsmouth Mayor Shannon Glover performs the African tradition of seeking permission from the community's elders before beginning the festival. The 2026 Umoja Elders were Mr. Rick Germain – Umoja King and Ms. Wilda Annette Battle – Umoja Queen.

34TH UMOJA FESTIVAL IN PORTSMOUTH

By Randy Singleton
Community Affairs Correspondent
New Journal and Guide

PORTSMOUTH

The cloudy skies with intermittent rain drizzle on Memorial Day weekend did not slow down the celebratory momentum of Portsmouth's 34th annual Umoja Festival at Pavilion Park. Large crowds showed up over the three-day holiday weekend to enjoy the city's salute to its culture, unity, diversity, and historical heritage.

Food trucks and arts & crafts vendors were on the

grounds and a children's village was set up for the kids. Festival-goers were entertained Friday and Saturday afternoon with free performances by local musical artists, such as Rajazz, Brandon Roberts, Point of Vue, TFC Band, Revelation, Groove Crew Band and the Jukebox Band.

Saturday evening and Sunday the music continued with Sunday's performances highlighting gospel artist.

Portsmouth Mayor Shannon Glover thanked the New Journal and Guide for its coverage of this year's Umoja Festival.

INSIDE

S.C. Lawmakers Reject Trump-Backed Plan; Clyburn's District Is Secured For Midterms

...see story **page 2A**

U.S. Supreme Court Got The Voting Data Wrong; Must Restore Voting Rights

By Marc H. Morial
To Be Equal

TRICEDNEYWIRE.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

Last month's decision in Louisiana v Callais, like 2013's Shelby v Holder, is destined to live in infamy.

thrust 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.

...see **Court**, page 2A



Barry Wesley Brown

READY ACADEMY MILESTONE

NORFOLK

Take a good look at the young fellow in the photo. He was the very first admitted student at READY Academy at age 5. This week he returns to the 2026 READY Professional of graduates as a Lemon Legal "full-scholarship" graduate of the William and Mary Law School.

...see **page 5A**



STILL ILLEGAL Governor Vetoes Bill For Retail Sales of Recreational Cannabis

RICHMOND

In 2021, Virginia took a progressive step forward in recreational cannabis use, becoming the first Southern state to legalize simple possession of marijuana. But lawmakers postponed creation of a legal retail market at that time, leaving the state in an unusual position where possession was legal but recreational sales were not.

State Sen. Louise Lucas of Portsmouth became one of the leading voices pushing to complete that second step – establishing a regulated retail marketplace.

Last week Virginia's new Governor vetoed legislation lawmakers had approved that would have established a retail framework for the recreational sale of cannabis.

Gov. Abigail Spanberger explained her veto in a statement.

"As Virginia pursues a legal retail market, it is critical that we incorporate lessons learned by other states and ensure that our regulatory framework is fully prepared to provide strong oversight from day one."

...see **Veto**, page 5A

Honors For Cecelia Tucker

VWU AWARDS POSTHUMOUS HONORARY DEGREE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY BESTOWS STATE RESOLUTION

VIRGINIA BEACH

The campus of Virginia Wesleyan University on May 16 was the setting for two public commemorative presentations honoring the life and legacy of the late Cecelia "Cee Cee" Tucker.

During the university's 2026 Commencement Ceremony, University President Dr. Scott Miller posthumously awarded Tucker, an educator and civic leader, the Doctor of Humane Letters (honoris causa). She had served in the Office of President Miller for several years following her retirement from Old Dominion University in 2022. There she

served four ODU presidents for more than three decades. Her daughter, Dr. Kelly J. Tucker, accepted the honorary VWU degree on her mother's behalf.

Following the Commencement program during a private luncheon, Virginia Delegate Bonita Anthony (House District 92) read a Resolution, co-hosted by Anthony and Sen. Angelia Williams Graves of Norfolk, and adopted by the Virginia General Assembly, celebrating Tucker's life. It was presented to Dr. Kelly J. Tucker who accepted it alongside Del. Anthony and President Scott.

Cecelia Taliaferro Tucker, known

affectionately as "Cee Cee," passed away on July 29, 2025, at the age of 86.

In making the posthumous presentations, both Dr. Miller and Del. Anthony noted Tucker's enduring legacy of deep compassion, visionary leadership, and transformative service.

The Resolution noted "with great sadness the loss of Cecelia Taliaferro Tucker, a beloved educator, civil rights advocate, and community leader whose life of service strengthened institutions, uplifted generations, and helped shape the character of Hampton Roads and the Commonwealth."



Photo: Courtesy of VWU

Dr. Kelly J. Tucker accepts Doctor of Humane Letters on behalf of her mother, Cecelia T. Tucker.



Photo: Brenda H. Andrews

(L-R): Dr. Scott Miller, Dr. Kelly Tucker, Del. Bonita Anthony.

NAACP Targets College Sports Programs Over Voting Rights Attacks

WASHINGTON

The NAACP recently launched the "Out of Bounds" campaign, a national call for Black athletes, families, fans, alumni, and consumers to withhold athletic and financial support from public universities in states that have moved to limit, weaken, or erase Black voting representation. This comes in the wake of the Supreme Court's 6-3 ruling in Louisiana v. Callais, which gutted what was left of the Voting Rights Act.

The NAACP identified eight priority states – Tennessee, Louisiana, Alabama, Florida, Mississippi, South Carolina, Texas, and Georgia – and targeted flagship public athletic programs generating more than \$100 million in annual revenue that continue to recruit Black athletes while their state governments dismantle the



Derrick Johnson
President, NAACP

political power of Black communities.

"What these states have done is not a policy disagreement. It is a sprint to erase Black political power," said Derrick Johnson, President & CEO, NAACP. "These actions happened in days, in some cases in hours, of a Supreme Court ruling that gives extremist lawmakers a playbook to erode Black representation."

...see **NAACP**, page 5A

S.C. Lawmakers Reject Trump-Backed Plan; Clyburn's District Is Secured For Midterms

New Journal and Guide Staff

COLUMBIA, SC

The Republican-controlled South Carolina Senate on Tuesday, May 26, rejected a Trump-backed congressional redistricting proposal that critics said was designed to weaken longtime Democratic Congressman Jim Clyburn and strengthen the GOP's hold on the state's congressional delegation.

The proposed map would have reshaped Clyburn's 6th Congressional District — the only Democratic-held district in South Carolina — into a more Republican-leaning seat. Trump had publicly pushed Republican lawmakers to redraw the lines ahead of the 2026 midterm elections as part of a broader national GOP redistricting effort.

But several Republican senators joined



Cong. Jim Clyburn (D-SC)

Democrats in opposing the measure, arguing that changing district lines after early voting had already begun would undermine voter confidence and create confusion. The Senate failed to advance

the proposal after key procedural votes fell short.

The decision preserves Clyburn's district for the upcoming election cycle and represents a rare political setback for Trump's influence within a Republican-led Southern legislature. Clyburn praised lawmakers who opposed the plan, calling the vote a victory for fairness and stability in the election process.

The failed proposal also carries broader national implications. Republicans have sought mid-decade redistricting changes in several Southern states in hopes of expanding their narrow majority in the U.S. House. Civil rights advocates and Democrats have argued that many of the efforts disproportionately target Black voting power and minority representation.

This article was AI generated.

Court

Continued from page 1A

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

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

Justice Alito's opinion claimed Black voter turnout exceeded white voter turnout in 2 of 5 most recent presidential elections.

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 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.

"NEW JUNETEENTH WALK IN HISTORY" NORFOLK'S JUNETEENTH EVENTS INCLUDE NEW JOURNAL AND GUIDE EXHIBIT

By Rosaland Tyler

Associate Editor

New Journal and Guide

The self-guided tour will feature 20 large exhibit panels on Juneteenth's background, and Norfolk's waterway role in the Maritime Underground Railroad used by the enslaved population escaping North.

There will be something for everyone at Norfolk's three-day celebration of Juneteenth, Sail250@ Virginia, and the 50th Annual Norfolk Harborfest, June 19-21, 2026.

So grab a lawn chair and head out to Norfolk's annual Juneteenth celebration on June 19, where activities are planned at Town Point Park, located along the scenic downtown Norfolk waterfront.

The New Journal and Guide is one of the eight Juneteenth sponsors, which also include the City of Norfolk, Dominion Energy, Virginia is for Lovers, WHRO Public Media, 100.5 The Vibe, WNSB Hot 91, and 95.7 R&B.

The 126-year-old historic New Journal and Guide partnered with Fest Events organizers to present this year's "New Juneteenth Walk in History" exhibit. The self-guided tour will feature 20 large exhibit panels on Juneteenth's background, local African-American history and Norfolk's waterway role in the Maritime Underground Railroad used by the enslaved population escaping North.

History will also come to life at Juneteenth Norfolk with live portrayals of historical African-American figures. Located throughout the event, these interpreters provide engaging, first-person perspectives that illuminate the struggles, achievements, and enduring legacy of those who helped shape our nation.

This year's entertainment lineup will offer visitors free live music from national and regional artists and family-friendly activities.

The Freedom Fireworks Show finale will light up the sky over the Elizabeth River, and provide a stunning fireworks finale to cap off the Juneteenth national holiday on Friday, June 19, 2026, at 9:30 p.m.

Norfolk Mayor, Dr. Kenneth Cooper Alexander said, "Juneteenth stands as a legacy of enduring freedom, and it also celebrates diversity as the strength of our community. This year, Norfolk's waterfront will come alive as we gather for a historic weekend filled with culture, connection, and oneness. I look forward to welcoming residents and visitors alike as we honor our shared history and continue shaping a bright and united future."

The celebration of Juneteenth during the weekend adds depth, meaning, and perspective as two other large commemoration — Sail250@ Virginia, and the 50th Annual Norfolk Harborfest — are happening across the waterfront during the same weekend. This historic alignment marks the first time that three significant celebrations will share the same stage in Norfolk, creating a unique moment of reflection, unity, and celebration for our city,

the Commonwealth, and our nation.

The opening day's activities on June 19 will begin at 10 a.m. and include an array of events that will run the gamut from a JuJu (steel drums) performance on the Front Street Stage at 2:30 p.m., to R&B Singer Shann performing at the Boathouse Stage at 2:45 p.m.

Sister Sledge will perform on the main stage at 6 p.m.

Patti Labelle will perform

on the main stage at 8 p.m. LittKeys, a Virginia Beach duo will wrap up the Friday, June 19 lineup at 9:45 p.m. at the Boathouse Stage.

During the three-day celebration, about a dozen exhibits will be displayed at The Discovery Deck — Education Center on June 19-21 from noon to 7 p.m. daily.

A partnership between Norfolk State University Radio and Music Theory

Studios of Norfolk will provide special musical programming on "Juneteenth Radio." Cultural and historical interviews, quotes, readings and music will be broadcast over the waterfront public address system on "Juneteenth Radio."

Food and retail vendors will add a global vibe.

For more information on Norfolk Festevents' 2026 Season of Events, visit Festevents.org.



From The Guide's Archives

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

May 29, 1926 Edition of the Guide

City Takes Option On Barraud Tract

NORFOLK

City council authorized the purchase of more land for parks, and in the shuffle, the 17-acre tract in the northeastern stretches of the city suburbs known as the Barraud property is destined to be the first park located in or near a colored residential section.

This decision which has been waiting at the gate for the past five years, went through riding on the back of another appropriation for whites of a land tract at Ocean View acquired for \$80,000.

The purchase price of the Barraud farm of 17-acres was \$17,500. The Ocean View site will be used as it was announced for park purposes and for the operation of a municipal bathing beach. Presumably a portion of this will be dedicated to the use of colored citizens or additional property will be acquired later for their use.

Seeking Colored President For Howard

WASHINGTON, D.C.

It is reliably reported by persons close in touch with Alumni activities at Howard University, that officials there are doing all in their power to place a Negro in the Presidency there. The move, inspired by the alumni, has the active cooperation of all strong influences of the institution.

Reports have it that the position has been offered to Bishop J.A. Gregg, former president of Wilberforce University (Ohio) but it is not believed he will accept the office.

May 21, 1927 Edition of the Guide

Refugee Walks To Norfolk

NORFOLK

Talk about your "slow

train through Arkansas," William Granville Harris, giving his age as slightly beyond the century mark or 101-years, and his last known address as about two miles outside the city of Little Rock and near the base of the Mississippi, arrived at this city after many days fleeing from the flood down the way.

He arrived on that "slow train" which in his case happened to be his two uprights (feet). When he told his story to the GUIDE, he had a bushy head of straight and flowing silvery locks and equally much on his face of the same hue, a pair of overalls, a khaki short, a blue sack coat of 1880 vintage, a companion hat and a supporting cane improvised from a non-descript bush. He declares he tramped it on foot all the way from Little Rock to Norfolk, excluding the distance between Portsmouth and Suffolk which he rode, he says on the generosity of a Southall bus driver.

Despite his alleged long tramp, he was in good spirits when he talked to the GUIDE, being thankful that he had succeeded in putting about 900 miles between himself and the turbulent Mississippi River.

He said he took the Little Rock March 1 with the intention of not being drowned or buried in Arkansas taking his first conveyance, which was his feet and away from so much rising water.

He followed the railroad most of the way he said, coming right out of Little Rock down the lines of the Southern Railroad to Bristol, Tennessee then into Virginia, touching Salem, Staunton, Roanoke and other points which he could not easily remember, requiring about 70 days to make the trip.

Back in Arkansas he was a tenant farmer generating some 18 bales of cotton a season, which was destroyed by the flood all except two bales which he had already sold. He has no living relatives that he

knows of.

He walks sprightly, smokes and drinks when he can and says he has never been sick a day in his life.

May 19, 1956 Edition of the Guide

Mary W. Hopkins Dies At Church Altar

NORFOLK

Mrs. Mary W. Hopkins, 74, died last Sunday morning as she was at the altar! A life-long Norfolk resident and member of St. John's AME Church, Hopkins had taught the Richard Allen Bible classes as usual. After Sunday School she was arranging flowers on the altar when stricken by a heart attack. She died a few minutes later.

Funeral services will be held at St. John's May 17. She attended the old Norfolk Mission college.

Newport News Gets More Time

NEWPORT NEWS

Newport News was granted more time in which to submit its written answer to the school desegregation suit filed here by a number of colored parents and school age children.

Norfolk federal district Judge Walter E. Hoffman entered an order that gives the city until June 11 to file its reply. The reply had been due this week.

Local authorities have assured state leaders support in their efforts to defend the city's dual-school system.

Attorney General Lindsay Almond formally announced his intention of entering this suit filed against the Newport News School Board.

Newport News is one of three cities which have suits filed against them by colored parents seeking to prevent them from operating racially segregated schools. The other communities are Charlottesville, and Norfolk.

Clarke Junior High

To Cost \$1.5 Million

PORTSMOUTH

A move to ease overcrowding in colored elementary schools in Portsmouth will cost 1.5 million dollars and will change an existing junior high school to an elementary school.

The figure represents the building and equipment for the new S.H. Clarke Junior High School. The Riddick-Weaver Junior High School will become an elementary school.

A.J. Mapp, school superintendent, said the project is scheduled to be completed in time for the 1957 school year. The new building to be constructed on Airline Turnpike east of Jeffrey Wilson Homes will accommodate 1,200 students including those pupils now attending Riddick-Weaver.

Clarke Junior High School will have 45 classrooms, a gymnasium, auditorium, health clinic, library, art room, industrial school and office facilities.

May 22, 2002 Edition of the Guide

Author Seeking Stories About Sterilization Victims

By Leonard E. Colvin

Mary Bishops wants to tell a very tragic part of Virginia and the nation's history in a book she is planning on writing.

For the past two years she has been sifting through state records, perusing pages of old and new phone books, newspaper clippings and following up endless tips on the whereabouts and lives of families of the people who were sterilized in the state's mental hospitals from 1912 to 1978.

In an effort to keep what the state defined as emotionally and physically feeble-minded men and women from having more children and dirtying the white race's gene pool, they

were sterilized.

It was part of a tragic legal policy of Eugenics fostered during the early 1900s and sanctioned by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1927, with the famous Virginia vs. Buck case. The court sided with Virginia which was seeking to codify its 1924 Racial Integrity Act and the policy of sterilizing feeble-minded adults and children.

Some 38 states have such laws in place. Virginia sterilized some 8,000 people, according to Bishops. But her research leads her to believe there were many more which the state does not admit or those who were sterilized by private doctors or nurses.



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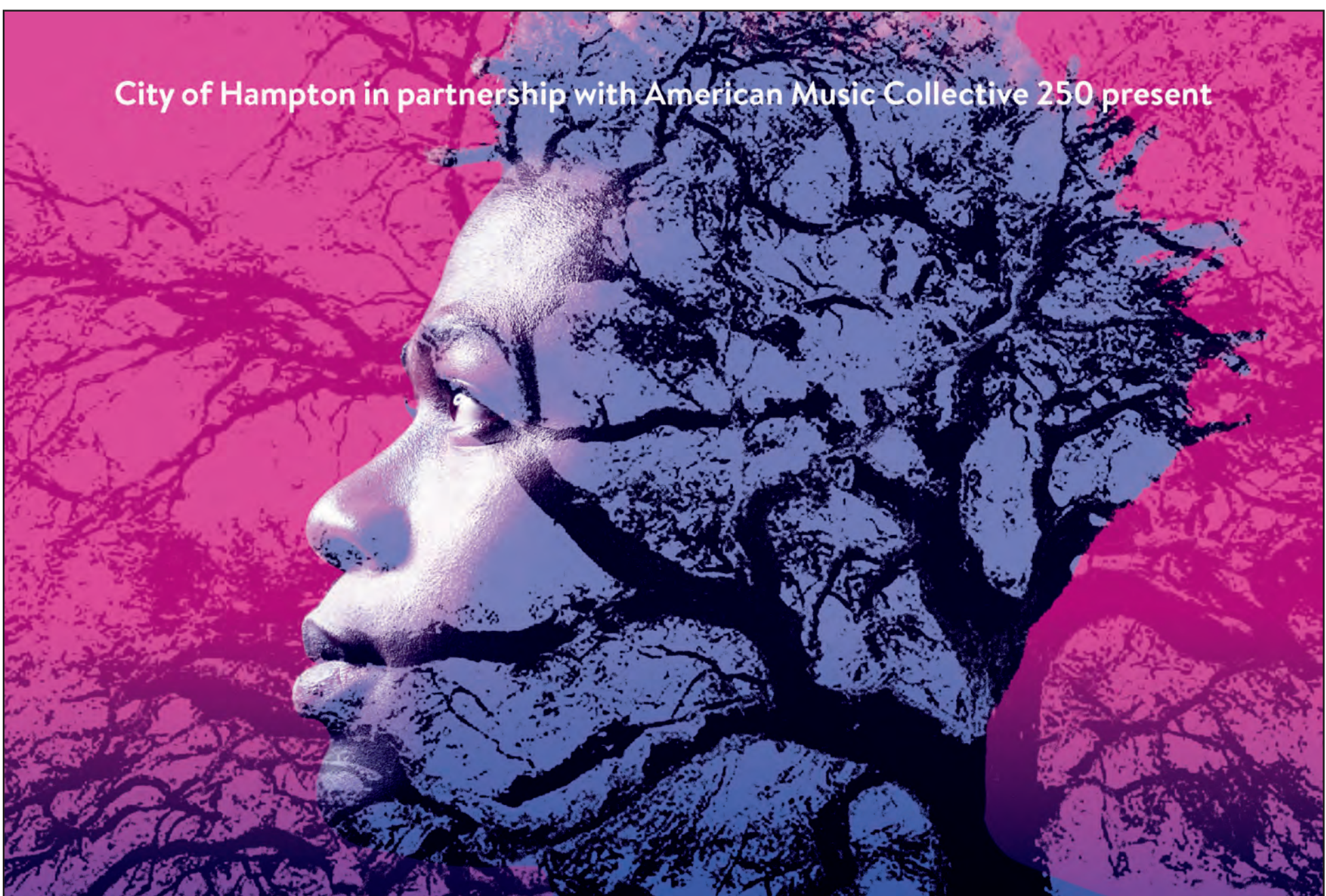
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City of Hampton in partnership with American Music Collective 250 present



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MORE ARTISTS TO BE ANNOUNCED

Join us at Fort Monroe on June 19 for a day-long celebration of history, culture and freedom. View the Sail250® Virginia Parade of Sail, a major maritime event featuring international tall ships and military vessels, at the Fort Monroe seawall as it makes its way to downtown Norfolk. Enjoy a powerful Juneteenth celebration with cultural displays, performers, live music, food and vendors.

9 am – 12 noon
View the Parade of Sail at the Fort Monroe seawall

10 am – 6 pm
Juneteenth celebration with cultural displays, exhibits and vendors in Continental Park

12 noon – 6 pm
Live music and entertainment in Continental Park

For more information:



WHAT THE DATA SAY

By Wornie Reed, Ph.D.



PROFESSOR EMERITUS OF SOCIOLOGY
VIRGINIA TECH

Democrats Are Poor At Public Relations

Most of the public holds Republicans responsible for the recent government shutdown over the Department of Homeland Security funding bill; however, Republicans argue that Democrats are the cause, and many people including some Democrats believe them, as they do not know what the Congressional Democrats were doing or trying to do.

They do not know this because of a perennial problem of Democrats. Democrats do not communicate regularly with the public. They fail the test of what one Republican strategist argued decades ago, "If you want someone to know something you must tell them - repeatedly."

Responding to the reign of terror by ICE and the Border Patrol (See Minneapolis), Congressional Democrats were trying to bring about changes to the operation of these agencies. They proposed a list of 10 changes that would be necessary to get their support of the funding bills. The most significant of these changes were Targeted Enforcement, No Masks, and ID requirements.

Targeted Enforcement: DHS officers cannot enter private property without a judicial warrant. End indiscriminate arrests and improve warrant procedures and standards. Require verification that a person is not a US citizen before holding them in immigration detention.

No Masks: Prohibit ICE and immigration enforcement agents from wearing masks and other face coverings.

Require ID: Require DHS officers conducting immigration enforcement to display their agency, unique ID number and last name. Require them to verbalize their ID number and last name if asked.

Listed below are some other changes that Congressional Democrats wanted.

A perennial problem of Democrats is they do not communicate regularly with the public

- Prohibit funds from being used to conduct enforcement near sensitive locations, including medical facilities, schools, childcare facilities, churches, polling places, courts, etc.
- Prohibit DHS officers from conducting stops, questioning and searches based on an individual's presence at certain locations, their job, their spoken language and accent, or their race or ethnicity.
- Place into law a reasonable use-of-force policy, expand training and require certification of officers. In the case of an incident, the officer must be removed from the field until an investigation is concluded.
- Preserve the ability of state and local jurisdictions to investigate and prosecute potential crimes and use-of-excessive-force incidents. Require that evidence is preserved and shared with jurisdictions. Require the consent of states and localities to conduct large-scale operations outside of targeted immigration enforcement.
- Make clear that all buildings where people are detained must abide by the same basic detention standards that require immediate access to a person's attorney to prevent citizen arrests or detention. Allow states to sue the DHS for violations of all requirements. Prohibit limitations on member visits to ICE facilities regardless of how those facilities are funded.
- Require use of body-worn cameras when interacting with the public and mandate requirements for the storage and access of footage. Prohibit tracking, creating or maintaining databases of individuals participating

- in first amendment activities.
- Regulate and standardize the type of uniforms and equipment DHS officers employ during enforcement operations to bring them in line with civil enforcement.

These kinds of requirements are what police normally abide by, and so should ICE. The Democrats put forth legislation and amendments to implement these changes, but Congressional Republicans refused each one.

Please note that ICE and the Border Patrol were not shut down along with other agencies in Homeland Security.

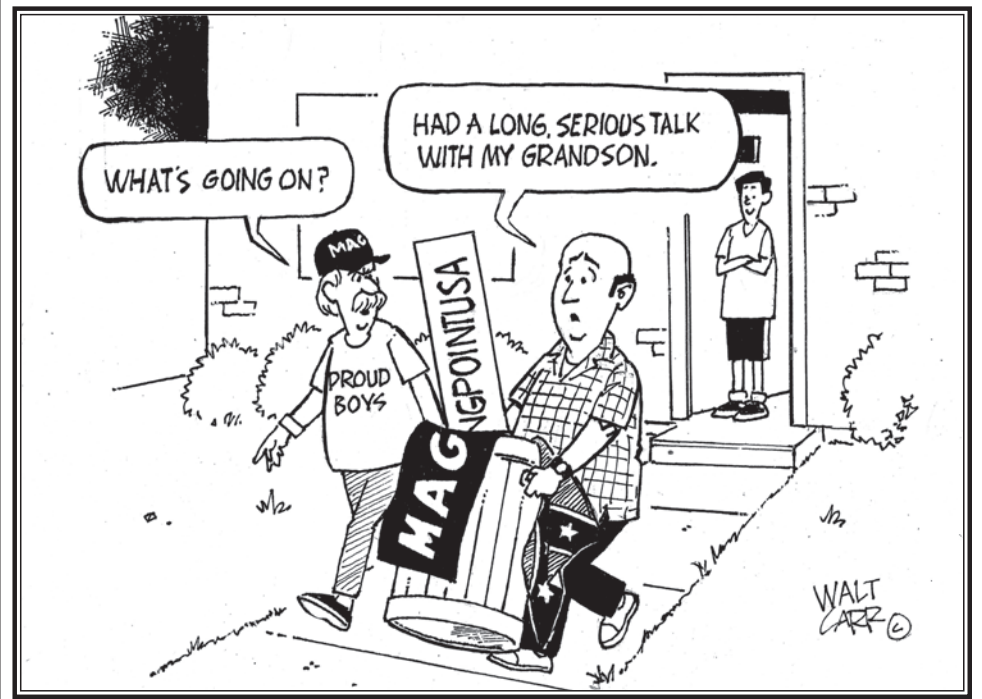
This is because Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has a historic multibillion-dollar budget. Congressional Republicans provided a massive \$75 billion package last spring that ICE can utilize over several years. Regrettably, ICE has a larger budget than the U.S. Marine Corps. Yet, Republicans in Congress recently passed budget blueprints via legislative maneuvering to inject another \$70 billion into ICE and Border Patrol.

The bottom line is that the Congressional Democrats kept trying to get the kinds of changes to ICE that the public apparently wants. And significantly, the Democrats kept proposing legislation that would fund all agencies except ICE and the Border Patrol. For example, they kept trying to fund FEMA and TSA, but the Republicans rebuffed all those efforts.

Of course, a key thing the Democrats must start doing is explaining to the public - repeatedly - what they are doing or trying to do and why.

CARRTOON By Walt Carr

Author of Laughin', Lyin' & Signifyin'



DOING NOTHING WON'T HELP!

By Dr. E. Faye Williams

(TRICEEDNEYWIRE.COM)

So much is happening in our nation that people don't know what to do. Unfortunately, although we are seeing behavior from those elected and appointed to serve the people, more people have begun to think there is nothing they can do, but that is a position that will encourage more difficulties for everybody.

When everything we think of seems to be going wrong, the person responsible for our well-being was off gallivanting in China. He took his Secretary of Defense (or War, as Hegseth calls it) and Secretary of State in the middle of an unsettled war that Trump started for no reason, and don't forget, he took along many of his wealthy male friends presumably to find business with which they will return to the country and provide Trump with his share.

As he left the country, he made it clear he doesn't care about those of us he left behind. He did let us know, in addition to the many tax dollars he has already spent killing little schoolgirls and numerous other Iranians under the pretense of making life better, but for whom I'm not sure!

There are still a few people like Louisiana's non-Black elected officials who still swear by him and believe a calvary is on the way to take care of them. This despite the millions and billions



Dr. E. Faye Williams

Trump should be using taxpayer money to fix problems he caused.

rich, his memory seems to fail him about the satisfactory health plan called "ObamaCare" the people had when President Obama left us after his term as the BEST PRESIDENT EVER!

The person who lives in our White House now also missed the fact that President Obama also had a working agreement with the Iranians regarding nuclear weapons, but Trump did away with that, and as the super deal-maker thought he could do better. But we see how that has worked out by how much of our tax dollars the dealmaker has spent causing everything we have to go up! We don't know about the wars he claimed he ended, but we know about the ones he started!

Now, my friends, don't say there is nothing we can do or NOTHING WILL HELP! There is something! We can continue protesting what Trump has gotten us into. We can DEFINITELY VOTE!

Have a serious talk with your elected officials and tell them what you want. Include no more wars and no more corruption!

Dr. E. Faye Williams, President of The Dick Gregory Society.

AT 250 YEARS, CONFRONTING SHACKLES OUR FOUNDERS WARNED US ABOUT

By Ben Jealous

(TRICEEDNEYWIRE.COM)

My grandmother was born in 1916 on the same red Virginia ground where her grandfather was born enslaved. She lived to one hundred and five. She carried the weight of what her family had been to my family, and what her family had been to itself, the way you carry a stone you cannot put down. When she died, the stone passed to me.

I went looking. What I found was a paradox written in blood. The man Thomas Jefferson called "the most learned and logical" of the founding generation was my fifth great-grandfather. In 1766 he wrote that Parliament's fleets and armies might give it power, but not right. He wrote that shackles, however nicely polished, would never sit easy on free men. He was Jefferson's cousin and political mentor. He helped invent the American argument.

He owned thirty human beings.

In 1769, in Jefferson's first session in the House of Burgesses, the young man asked his old mentor to do one brave thing: introduce a bill making it easier for masters to free the people they enslaved. Bland did as Jefferson asked. He was denounced as an enemy to his



Ben Jealous

A man who understood that government without consent is tyranny could not break the shackles in his own house. He kept his thirty slaves. He died still holding them.

country. In Jefferson's words, he was "treated with the grossest indecorum."

He kept his thirty slaves. He died still holding them.

That is the strange courage of the founding. A man who understood that government without consent is tyranny could not break the shackles in his own house. He indicted himself with his own argument. So did Jefferson. So did every Virginia patriot who signed his name to natural rights while holding the title to another human being.

They wrote the creed anyway. They knew it would destabilize them. And the argument they could not finish was picked up by the people they would not free.

A hundred years later, the great-great-grandson of the man they would not free left the place of his enslavement as a

teenager and never looked back. He cobbled shoes. He preached. He kept a lighthouse on the same point of land where the patriot's plantation once stood. In 1879 the people of Prince George and Surry Counties elected him to the Virginia House of Delegates as part of the most successful biracial coalition in the nineteenth-century South.

They abolished the poll tax. They tore down the public whipping post. They founded what is now Virginia State University. They rebuilt the colleges the war had broken. They funded free public schools for every Virginia child, Black and White. They built, for one bright moment, the Virginia the patriot could have written into law and would not.

The Danville Massacre of 1883 ended that coalition with

bullets. The argument went unfinished again.

It is unfinished still. Read the grievances in the Declaration of Independence one more time. Standing armies in our streets without the consent of our legislatures. The military rendered superior to the civil power.

Quartering armed troops among us. The protection of armed men, by mock trial, from punishment for murders committed against us.

Last June the President federalized California National Guardsmen and active-duty Marines and sent them into Los Angeles over the governor's objection. A federal judge ruled it violated the Posse Comitatus Act. Patrick Henry warned of exactly this in 1788. He used almost the same words.

The Fourth Amendment was written because British officers used general warrants - blank checks to search any home, any paper, any person. In 2024 the Fifth Circuit ruled that geofence warrants, which sweep up the data of everyone near a crime scene, are "modern-day general warrants" forbidden by the Constitution. The court named the colonial writs of assistance.

Section 702 of FISA lets the government query Americans' communications - swept up in surveillance of foreign targets

- without a warrant. The 1033 Program has poured seven billion dollars of military gear into ten thousand local police departments. Breonna Taylor was killed in her bed. Amir Locke was killed in his sleep. Both by officers serving no-knock warrants. Both, in the language of 1776, victims of armed troops quartered among us, protected from punishment by a mock trial.

This is not a left issue. It is not a right issue. Ron Wyden and Rand Paul wrote the Fourth Amendment Is Not For Sale Act together. The ACLU and Cato agree. The grievances are not partisan because the grievances are not new. They are the same grievances written in the same hand against the same kind of power.

The patriot understood the principle and could not live by it. His descendant lived it and was outvoted by force. My grandmother carried the weight of that unfinished business her whole life and never put it down.

It was unfinished in 1776. Unfinished in 1865. Unfinished in 1965.

It is unfinished now.

And it is ours to finish. Ben Jealous is a professor of practice at the University of Pennsylvania and former President & CEO of the NAACP.

READY IS “READY” TO PASS THE BATON

First Baptist’s READY Academy Marks Milestone

Special to the New Journal and Guide

NORFOLK

A special excitement is abuzz at The First Baptist Church READY Academy Christian School as it prepares to graduate its 2026 Class of Kindergarten students. Officials say READY (Reaching Educationally Aspiring Dynamic Youth) will celebrate its most unique and unusual Kindergarten Graduation ever on May 29.

Each year the school’s annual stellar program presents its 5-year-old Graduating Class reflecting how “READY” they are to transition from their preschool and kindergarten years to 1st Grade and elementary school.

Additionally, the Academy welcomes back READY Academy alumni who are now High School and College Graduates as special guests. These former young READY students who are now young adults return to their alma-mater – in their academic regalia – and lead the “Pomp and Circumstance” Procession right before the excited and accomplished K5 Graduates enter in their beautiful blue and gold READY regalia.

This creative tradition of “Passing the Baton” from the former READY Runners (students) who have successfully completed high school or college – and most with academic honors – to these bright-eyed, bubbly 1st time 5-year old Graduates has been leaving a lasting and inspiring impact on these young minds to reach for every level of learning.

It is a tradition that was started in 2018 when READY’s 1st Class of 15 K5 Graduates returned to show the K5 Class of 2018



Barry, 5, graduates from READY



2022: Barry graduates from Hampton University



2026: Callim Barry Wesley Brown J.D.

where they could be in 12 years.

But READY Academy has one more returning alum on the 2026 program, making this year’s occasion most unique.

The very first admitted student at READY Academy – Barry Wesley Brown – will be returning and participating in the Processional as Barry Wesley Brown J.D. – a Lemon Legal “full-scholarship” graduate of the William and Mary Law School.

Brown returned to march as an Honor Graduate of Norfolk Christian High School, and he returned to march for a second time in 2022 with a BASC Degree in Political Science and Government from Hampton University.

His appearance this year in such a prestigious and accomplished position that all began with his READY Academy education is a milestone in the school’s history.

For the 1st Superintendent and Visionary Leader, Dr. Robert G. Murray, Pastor Emeritus of First Baptist Church; and the Original READY Administration Team of Amanda Murray, Rosa Edwards, and M. Trovone Artis, who are all retired; and Sherry Brooks

and Thelma Hardy, who are still serving – this milestone is a “vision becoming reality.”

For the Current Superintendent and Visionary Leader, Rev. Jerry L. Holmes, Senior Pastor of First Baptist Church; and the Current READY Administration Team of Fatima Joyner, Gale Mills, and Rev. T. Michele Logan; and the still serving duo of Sherry Brooks and Thelma Hardy, who have been growing the school since 2022 from 160 to 176 students, this 21st K5 Graduation is a celebration of continued innovation and academic excellence.

In addition to participating in the 2026 graduation, this year’s 30 Alumni Graduates

Each year the school’s annual stellar program presents its 5-year-old Graduating Class as they prepare to transition to 1st Grade and elementary school.

will enjoy a “Welcome Back” Class Reunion Reception and receive a Souvenir Booklet about their accomplishments, a special certificate and a Book Scholarship from READY’s foundation investment. Further, 36 committed alumni scholarship donors will get to meet their recipients for the first time.

To ensure that this unique tradition of inviting READY’s Alumni Classes to “give back” by “coming back,” there is a dedicated READY Alumni Graduates Team of Geraldine Gilliam, Victoria Davidson, Rev. T. Michele Logan, Sharon Powell, Sherry Brooks, Amanda Murray, and Principal Fatima Joyner who work diligently to make it all happen.

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Veto

Continued from page 1A

That includes clear enforcement authority and sufficient resources for compliance, testing, and inspections, and robust tools to crack down on bad actors who continue to profit from the illicit market.”

Coverage from VPM News described cannabis legislation as one of the major issues creating tension between Democratic lawmakers and Gov. Abigail Spanberger in 2026 after lawmakers rejected some gubernatorial amendments.

The 2026 legislation had aimed to:

- Create licensed cannabis retailers;
- Regulate hemp and marijuana sales;
- Establish tax revenue streams, and;
- Begin retail sales in 2027

Spanberger’s Republican predecessor, former Gov. Glenn Youngkin, had vetoed similar legislation in 2024 and 2025.

Spanberger added that she remains committed to getting the legislation right for her approval.

Patrons of the bill State Sen. Lashreese Aird,

D-Henrico County, and Del. Paul Krizek, D-Fairfax County, responded that the Governor’s veto overlooks the “reality that cannabis is already being sold everyday across Virginia” in an unregulated and illicit market.

Krizek said, “The Governor’s decision leaves the Commonwealth exactly where we have been since 2021: with an unchecked illicit market, hurting our communities, harming our youth and putting adults at risk. Virginians deserve better than continued inaction veiled behind excuses about getting it right.”

In an interview, Aird said she is unsure if she plans to reintroduce legislation to create a framework for recreational cannabis sales in 2027.

“We do have the joint commission that oversees the transition of the commonwealth into a retail marketplace, and we’re going to spend the summer and fall having those conversations,” she said.

“If the governor is adamant about some of the recommendations in her substitute, those things will be non-starters, and therefore it would be very difficult to see a bill in ‘27. Those are the things we need to spend the time discussing in the interim.”

NAACP

Continued from page 1A

“The NAACP will not watch the same institutions that depend on Black athletic prowess to fill their stadiums and their bank accounts remain silent while their states strip Black communities of their voice.”

Johnson continued, “Out of Bounds is our answer: we are naming the contradiction, and we are calling on Black athletes, families, fans, and consumers to act on it. The same power that built these programs can be redirected. And it will be.”

The economic stakes of the campaign are significant. The flagship universities in the eight targeted states collectively generate billions of dollars in annual athletic revenue.

The “Out of Bounds” campaign focuses on one primary ask, calling on top football and basketball recruits currently being actively recruited by targeted programs to withhold their commitments until the states in question restore fair congressional maps and meaningful Black representation.

The campaign also calls on current college athletes – including those who may already be enrolled at targeted programs – to consider their options, including the transfer portal, and to use their platforms and NIL reach to elevate fair maps and voting rights.

“This generation of Black athletes understands something that those who came before them were never afforded the chance to say so plainly: your talent is yours, and so is your community’s political power,” said Tylik McMillan, National Director, Youth and College Division, NAACP. “These are not separate issues. The state that is working to erase your grandmother’s congressional district is the same state whose governor will stand on the field and celebrate your touchdown or game-winning shot.”

“We are asking young people – recruits, current athletes, fans – to see that connection clearly and to act on it. The Out of Bounds campaign is about redirecting what has always been ours, power and perseverance.”

The campaign issues calls to action across three audiences. • Black athletes and recruits are asked to withhold commitments from targeted programs, to ask coaches and athletic directors where their universities stand on voting rights, and to visit and seriously consider HBCUs. • Current college athletes are asked to use their platforms to elevate the issue, to ask institutional leadership for public statements opposing racial vote dilution, and to consider all available options under the transfer portal. • Fans, alumni, donors, and consumers are asked to stop purchasing tickets, merchandise, and licensed apparel from targeted programs and to redirect that spending to HBCUs – their athletics programs, scholarship funds, NIL collectives, bands, and alumni foundations.

The “Out of Bounds” campaign focuses on one primary ask, calling on top football and basketball recruits currently being actively recruited by targeted programs to withhold their commitments until the states in question restore fair congressional maps and meaningful Black representation.

Chesapeake Democratic Committee Honors Community Leaders During May Meeting

Special to the New Journal and Guide

CHESAPEAKE

Before an audience of 80, the Chesapeake Democratic Committee honored community leaders George Wilson, Eddie Franklin, Victor Bynum, Tim Ruth, Joe Staton, Ingrid Ferebee and Joseph Davis at the CDC’s May meeting for working in their respective communities to increase voter participation in the recent election.

CDC Chairman Jim Lang lauded the community leaders for knowing the importance of the vote to tell the government exactly what the citizens want. The leaders that the CDC honored, said Lang, “know that our vote is the way that we bring about change.”

The community leaders lifted up their communities by making sure they vote, said Lang. “In doing so, these leaders empowered people to make up their own mind, instead of having others do it for them.”

Lang spoke on the power and purpose of voting.

“If we are tired of the median white household having 6 to 10 times the wealth of the median Black household, it is up to us to do something about it. If we think it is wrong that Black defendants consistently receive longer prison sentences and are incarcerated at higher rates than similarly situated white defendants, it is up to us to do something about it. The ‘something’ is to vote.

“The vote is how we



Jim Lang, CDC Chairman, congratulates civic leaders holding plaques.

The community leaders “lifted up their communities by making sure they vote,” said Lang. “In doing so, these leaders empowered people to make up their own mind, instead of having others do it for them.”

force our government to do what we want. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. warned that when we do not vote we forfeit the right to make up our own mind – it is made up for us.

“With 45 days of early voting, mail in voting, and election day voting, it has never been easier to vote in Chesapeake. Still, an unacceptably large number of people habitually refuse to vote in any election other than the Presidential election that takes place every four years. In

certain neighborhoods in South Norfolk section of Chesapeake as many as four out of five refuse to vote in the “off year” elections and, in so doing, these nonvoters consent to and condone the policies imposed on them by those who do vote.

“The next Presidential election is in 2028 but there is an important election in November 2026 – the midterm election where we will choose a U.S. Senator, our U.S. Congressional Representatives,

five members of the Chesapeake City Council and five members of the Chesapeake School Board.

“A person who refuses to vote in this midterm election is telling our government that it’s okay that 30 percent of the nation’s wealth is held by the top 1 percent in America. The person who refuses to vote tells the government that it is okay to concentrate wealth in the few, depriving the many of a living wage, depriving the many of the ability to rent a decent home, depriving the many of the ability to afford groceries and gas for their car, and depriving the many of affordable, quality health care.

“If we think these things are wrong, it is up to us to do something about it.”



THE DIGITAL DOWNLOAD

Breaking down technology, one week at a time

By Delegate Cliff Hayes, Jr.

COURT CASE – WHO WON?

By Delegate Cliff Hayes

The recent court victory involving Sam Altman and Elon Musk is about far more than a disagreement between two technology titans. It is really a window into one of the most important debates of our generation: Who should control artificial intelligence, and how do we ensure it serves the public good?

Years ago, OpenAI was founded as a nonprofit organization with a bold mission, to develop artificial intelligence safely and for the benefit of humanity. Elon Musk was one of the original founders. Over time, however, OpenAI evolved into a commercial powerhouse with billions of dollars in investments and strategic partnerships, particularly with Microsoft.

Musk argued that OpenAI had drifted

away from its original mission and became too profit driven. OpenAI and Sam Altman argued that massive investment and commercialization were necessary to build advanced AI systems responsibly and competitively.

This week, the court sided with OpenAI. The ruling was largely procedural, determining that Musk waited too long to bring certain legal claims. Nevertheless,

the decision strengthens OpenAI's position and clears a major obstacle for its continued growth.

But beneath the courtroom drama lies a deeper issue. As artificial intelligence becomes more powerful, the stakes become enormous. AI is already reshaping healthcare, education, transportation, government services, cybersecurity, and the economy itself. Soon, quantum computing and next generation AI systems could require even more energy, infrastructure, and governance than we can currently imagine.

The real question is not simply who won the lawsuit. The real question is whether society can move fast with innovation while still maintaining public trust, accountability, transparency, and safety.

As I often say, innovation without guardrails is reckless, but guardrails without innovation is suffocating.

Virginia has already positioned itself as a national leader in technology policy through consumer data protection, artificial intelligence discussions, and thoughtful innovation frameworks. Cases like this remind us why balanced governance matters. Being first is not always the same as leading. True leadership requires wisdom, discipline, and responsibility.

Artificial intelligence will help define the future of humanity. The challenge before us is ensuring that future benefits everyone, not just a select few.

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TWP Celebrates Youth Leaders; Youth Poets Saluted For Social Impact

Chesapeake Poet Is HR Youth Laureate

Special to the New Journal and Guide

NORFOLK

At a time when young people across the country are demanding to be heard, Virginia has named its newest youth poetic leaders.

Teens With a Purpose, in partnership with the National Youth Poet Laureate Program under the leadership of Urban Word, recently appointed Tris Meagher of Midlothian as the 2026 Virginia Youth Poet Laureate and Breanna Downing of Chesapeake as the 2026 Hampton Roads Youth Poet Laureate, marking Breanna's second consecutive year receiving the regional honor.

More than a poetry title, the Youth Poet Laureate distinction recognizes young people who are using their voices, artistry, and leadership to create change in their communities through civic engagement, advocacy, and creative expression.

"These young people are not only exceptional writers, they are truth tellers, bridge builders, and community leaders," said Deirdre Love, founder and Chief Cultural Officer of Teens With a Purpose.

"In a time when many youth feel unseen or unheard, these poets remind us that young voices are powerful enough to shape culture, challenge injustice, and inspire hope."

The 2026 adjudication process included in-person evaluations held at the TCC Joint-Use Library and the Downing-Gross Cultural Arts Center. Finalists and honorees were celebrated during the official announcement ceremony at the Chrysler Museum Glass Studio on April 6.

Community leaders, educators, parents and arts advocates gathered to honor the young poets, including former Virginia Poet Laureate Tim Seibles, Norfolk Deputy City Manager James Rogers, and Norfolk Public Schools Senior Coordinator of Secondary English Jeremy Clark.

Breanna Downing, who



Photo: Courtesy

Breanna Downing performs winning poem. 2026 Hampton Roads Youth Poet Laureate



Photo: Courtesy

Briana Belcher and James Rogers, City of Norfolk

performs under the poetic name "Verity Amour," creates deeply personal work inspired by her experiences with hunger, survival and being unhoused.

Through vivid storytelling and chilling repetition, Verity Amour's Miss Mary Mack, performed at a gun violence awareness gathering at the Virginia State Capitol, confronts the human cost of gun violence by placing listeners inside the interrupted life of a young girl whose celebration becomes tragedy. Her poem reads: "What I thought would be a memory for the books turned into my obituary."

As Virginia's official pathway into the national

program, Teens With a Purpose continues to elevate youth voices from across the Commonwealth onto regional and national stages. The newly appointed laureates will now have the opportunity to advance toward becoming the next Regional and National Youth Poet Laureates.

Love says, For Teens With a Purpose, the moment represents something larger than competition.

"It's about creating space where young people know their voices matter. Poetry becomes leadership. Poetry becomes healing. Poetry becomes a way for young people to imagine and build a better future."



Photo: Courtesy

(L-R): Malik Jordan, Deirdre A. Love, Michelle Sims, Shannah Marzuq, Shana Smith Coleman, Andre Love, Imagine Carter, Jeremy Clark, Tim Seibles, James Rogers



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It all starts with the Juneteenth Festival — celebrating community, culture and freedom — on Friday June 19. Then, the High Street Festival is back with two days of live music, food trucks, and carnival rides along High Street, all as part of the biggest event Portsmouth has ever hosted.

Plan your visit today!
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"Many stories matter. Stories have been used to dispossess and to malign. But stories can also be used to empower, and to humanize. Stories can break the dignity of a people. But stories can also repair that broken dignity."

- Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

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Rajazz Band



Student Dancers From Churchland High School



Brandon Roberts



Crowd

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PORTSMOUTH | May 22-24

All photos by Randy Singleton

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**THIS WEEK IN
BLACK HISTORY**
MAY 28 - JUNE 3

May 28, 1940
Betty Shabazz, activist and widow of Malcolm X, born in Detroit, Michigan.

May 29, 1973
Thomas Bradley elected mayor of Los Angeles.

May 30, 1965
First Black student, Vivian Malone, graduated from the University of Alabama.

May 31, 1924
Patricia Harris, the first Black woman to hold a presidential cabinet position, born in Mattoon Illinois.

June 1, 1973
WGPR becomes the 1st TV station owned by African Americans given a permit to operate.

June 2, 1899
Black Americans observed day of fasting called by National Afro-American Council to protest lynching and racial massacres.

June 3, 1919
Liberty Life Insurance Company (Chicago), the first old-line legal reserve company organized by Blacks in the North, incorporated.

Television Icon Jayne Kennedy To Headline Inaugural Circle of Care Honors In Norfolk

NORFOLK

Medicine & Music – Healing, Hope, and Harmony, Inc., a Virginia-based 501(c)(3) non-profit, 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.

The program begins at 2 p.m. in the Granby Ballroom and includes a moderated fireside conversation with Kennedy, a medal



Jayne Kennedy

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. 100 percent of proceeds support Medicine & Music's community wellness programs.



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A message from the National Diabetes Education Program, sponsored by the National Institutes of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. www.ndep.nih.gov

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Keynote Speaker



Nita Thompson

Sickle Cell Educator & Advocate
National Juneteenth Observance Foundation



HAMPTON ROADS NON-PROFIT PUTS DIVERSE ABILITIES ON CENTER STAGE

Special to the New Journal and Guide

The entire movement is dedicated to the legacy of Ms. Blake Edwards, the first Miss Abilities Chesapeake ...

The Blake Edwards Arts Foundation, a 501(c)3 in Hampton Roads, is challenging the fashion industry to rethink its definition of beauty following the success of the Marvel on the Runway Fashion Brunch. Held at the Virginia Beach Convention Center on March 21 in honor of World Down Syndrome Day, the event served as a major public awareness campaign, putting models with Down Syndrome, Autism, and diverse abilities on center stage.

Hampton Roads has more than 200,000 people living with disabilities. They want organizations that support, make their lives better, and highlight their talents. For generations, the fashion industry has maintained a narrow standard of beauty that overlooks and censors individuals with disabilities. This annual event shifts the public focus away from perceived limitations and places it on the models' talents and victories.

"Pure love is the only motivation for this event - a love that does not judge, but simply accepts," says visionary Dr. Donita Edwards. "We are here to show the world that true style has no boundaries."

The movement brought together 30 models, ranging in age from 1 to 40, who proved that visibility matters. This year's "Denim & Disney" theme was envisioned by model Joshua Parsons, whose dream of a Disney-themed runway was brought to life by the foundation. Models walked the runway inspired by characters like Belle, Tiana, Tinkerbell, and Woody, drawing tears of joy from families and capturing the attention of livestream viewers across the country, including Ohio and Pennsylvania.

community advocacy was alive hours before the event began. While Hampton Roads slept, a dedicated team of volunteers transformed an empty hall into an empowering runway. Organizers noted the day was a beautiful reflection of Psalm 118:23: "This is the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes."

The entire movement is dedicated to the legacy of Ms. Blake Edwards, the first Miss Abilities Chesapeake, born with Down Syndrome. The foundation continues to use her light to spark public conversation, educate the community, and advocate for inclusion.

This effort was championed by amazing donors and local community partners, including The Mount @ Chesapeake (Pastor LJay and Dr. Keshia Brown), Publix, Wawa, Target, VA Stage Company, Jason's Deli, Oriental Trading, and Autobell.

To keep the momentum of this advocacy moving forward, the Blake Edwards Arts Foundation has announced its next showcase for March 20, 2027. The community is invited to join the mission, spread the message, or donate to support future campaigns.

To Get Involved: Contact Dr. Donita Edwards at B. Edwardsarts@gmail.com and visit the website https://the-blake-edwards-arts-foundation.square.site/

All photos Courtesy



Disney style models



Blake Edwards in God Is Lit apparel



Asia Love



Mary as Tinkerbell and Sasha as Tianna



Aiden starring as Woody and Horse Bullseye



Bridgerton Star Andra



Calvin and Shayla

Delegate Michael Feggans To Serve As Co-Chair of VB Safety Task Force

VIRGINIA BEACH

Following discussions with city leadership, Delegate Michael Feggans (HD-97) announced recently that he has volunteered to serve as Co-Chair of the newly established Mayor's Task Force for a Safer Virginia Beach.

Feggans, a member of the Virginia House Public Safety Committee, retired Air Force veteran, and longtime Virginia Beach resident, said the task force is an opportunity to bring together community leaders, public safety professionals, educators, and local stakeholders to help shape proactive, forward-looking solutions that balance public safety, economic growth, and quality of life in Virginia Beach.

As Co-Chair, Feggans said his focus will be on ensuring the task force recommendations are rooted in collaboration and community engagement: "My role on this task force will be to help lead conversations centered around data-driven and evidence-based solutions that continue making Virginia Beach the safest city of its size in America," Feggans said. "We will look at what has worked, identify areas where the

city and community can become more engaged in the process, and help craft recommendations that strengthen public safety while maintaining trust and transparency."

Feggans emphasized that while Virginia Beach has long been recognized as one of the safest large cities in America, continued growth and an evolving tourism market require proactive, long-term leadership focused on prevention, coordination, and community involvement. "Public safety is about making sure residents, visitors, businesses, and families feel safe in every part of our city while continuing to provide the resources needed to our first responders," Feggans said.

"Our oceanfront is a critical economic engine, but every neighborhood and corridor in Virginia Beach matters. As Co-Chair, I look forward to bringing people together, listening to the community, and helping develop collaborative, evidence-based recommendations that keep Virginia Beach moving forward."

Delegate Michael B. Feggans represents the 97th House District (Virginia Beach). District Office: (757) 204-1524

JUNE 19-22 WEEKEND

PORTSMOUTH INVITES VENDORS FOR SAIL250/SAILVA CELEBRATION

PORTSMOUTH

The City of Portsmouth is now accepting vendor applications for the Sail250/SailVA commemorative events, scheduled for June 19-22, 2026, in downtown Portsmouth.

This historic celebration marks the 250th anniversary of American independence and is expected to draw thousands of visitors from across the Hampton Roads region and beyond. "We're looking for food, beverage,

retail, and experiential vendors who are ready to engage with a high-energy crowd and contribute to the festival atmosphere. If you're set up to sell, serve, or delight, we want to hear from you," the City of Portsmouth said in a statement.

Vendor applications are available online and reviewed as they come in, so there's no need to wait until a deadline but early submission is encouraged. Once selected, you'll receive

everything you need to set up and get ready for one of the largest maritime gatherings in Hampton Roads history.

Whether you're an established business or an independent artisan, this is a unique opportunity to connect with a large, engaged audience while being part of a once-in-a-generation celebration.

To apply or learn more, visit: www.sailvirginia2026portsmouth.com/vendors.

Wedding Bells Ring Out In Portsmouth

PORTSMOUTH

Family and friends gathered at the home of Rev. Joseph and Mrs. Virginia Ricks to share in the bliss of matrimony that was 29 years and 10 months in the making.

Rev. Ricks performed the ceremony for Mr. Anthony McCray and the newly titled Mrs. Glenda Ricks Green Hall McCray in the Ricks' backyard at poolside. A plated dinner reception followed with the happy newlyweds greeting and shaking the hands of guests who marveled at the McCrays' union after their lengthy relationship. The cutting and sharing of the wedding cake made the occasion officially well-done.

Rev. Ricks is the nephew of the Mrs. McCray and expressed his delight that the happy couple had chosen him to bring the two together in holy matrimony.

All Photos: Courtesy



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New Journal & Guide 543-6531
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VIRGINIA BEACH'S 3RD ANNUAL VB STREET ART FESTIVAL TAKES PLACE MAY 29-31

VIRGINIA BEACH
The ViBe Creative District will host the 3rd Annual VB Street Art Festival May 29 to May 31 on 18th Street and 19th Street in the central Virginia Beach resort arts district. In total, 75 artists applied to participate in 2026, creating tough competition where only 15 artists could be selected by the Virginia Beach Public Art Committee.

Artists selected represent Virginia, North Carolina, Wisconsin and Florida. All 15 artists will paint new murals on the neighborhood identifier sculptures lining the corners of 18th Street from Cypress to Baltic and 19th Street from Parks Avenue to Baltic Avenue over the three-day weekend event. The public is encouraged to watch the

action while walking the 1.5-mile loop to see the streets come alive with creativity.

"The VB Street Art Festival highlights the connectivity of the ViBe Creative District to our neighbors at the Virginia Beach Convention Center on the west and the new Atlantic Park complex on the east," said ViBe Creative District executive director Kate Pittman. "This is public art as place making in action - happening live for everyone to watch and engage in the practice of street art."

The 3rd Annual VB Street Art Festival is presented by The Runnymede Corporation with support from MEB Construction and in partnership with the City of Virginia Beach Arts & Humanities Commission.

Each sculptural, multi-faceted neighborhood identifier will get a new life as it is repainted live during the festival. The 1.5-mile route is designed to be easily walkable to see all 15 artists working. Visitors have the opportunity to meet the artists while they work. In total, 75 artists from 3 countries, 16 states and cities through Virginia applied - the top 15 designs were chosen by the Virginia Beach Public Art Committee.

Visitors have the opportunity to meet the artists while they work, listen to the artist's audio recordings online at VBStreetArt.com and try their hand at mural painting at The Creative Well Arts Foundation, our festival headquarters, from 10am to 5 p.m. daily May 29 to May 31.

ISN'T SHE LOVELY? REV. DEE EDWARDS' 80TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

By Blaire Edwards
Special to the New Journal and Guide

We never thought how fast time flies, looking into her loving eyes. But isn't she lovely, made from love? EIGHTY YEARS BEAUTIFUL!

On May 3, 2026, friends and family, old and new, from near and far, celebrated my Lola's 80th birthday. She entered a wonderfully decorated room of standing ovations and smiling faces as Stevie Wonder's voice filled the place with "Isn't She Lovely."

All were gathered to honor this remarkable matriarch as we reflected back on EIGHTY years of history.



Photo: Courtesy

Dr. Delores "Dee" Edwards

If you ask our family, they will tell you that when Stevie Wonder penned the lyrics to "Isn't She Lovely," he must have had her in mind. Each generation carries a piece of her spirit - her kindness, strength, and unwavering faith. You can see it in her husband of 63 years, Rev. Dr. James Edwards, III; three daughters (Monica Ferebee, Rev. Dr. Donita, and Jaimie Caleb); two sons in love; eight grandchildren (Winfield, Korinn, Blake, Toya, Blaire, Kyndal, Joi and Keith James); and four great-grandchildren (Javon, Nasaiah, Kaila and

Terrell Jr "Pi").

If you ask her extended family members and longtime friends, classmates, and sisters of both Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and Iota Phi Lambda Sorority, Inc., they speak of how her spirituality and gracious presence is and always will be a blessing to others. She is the perfect example of style, grace, and sisterhood.

Not only was she excited to be in the room to celebrate her big day, but all 100+ guests were as well. We knew this was a time to give flowers to the one that had paved a path of dedication, strength and

courage blazed by the fire within her, giving honor and recognition to the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Rev. Dee W. Edwards acknowledges her gifts and on Sunday, May 3, we were able to show her the impact of her gift.

Happy 80th Birthday to my Lola, Rev. Delores Winfield Edwards!

The life motto by which she would wish to be known is, "May the Life I live speak for me." Her favorite Scripture is, "When my heart is overwhelmed: lead me to a rock that is higher than I." Psalm 61:2b (KJV)



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

Norfolk, VA 23523

The dates for the next four games are:

- 1) Mon., June 1, 2026
- 2) Mon., June 8, 2026
- 3) Mon., June 15, 2026
- 4) Mon., June 22, 2026

- QUESTIONS:**
- 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?

- 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.

Effingham Street Family YMCA
1013 Effingham St., Portsmouth, VA 23704

Saturdays 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

- The dates for the next four games are:
- 1) Sat., May 30, 2026
 - 2) Sat., June 6, 2026
 - 3) Sat., June 13, 2026
 - 4) Sat., June 20, 2026

Tidewater Bridge Club's Winning Players In The May 20, 2026 Game:

- Malinda Harris-Peoples
Lillye Holly
Wilma Horne
Sharon Kelly-Green
Shirley Nottingham
Lawrence Owes
Gene Payne
Aldis Raymond
Joan Snellings
Ron Snellings
Sandra Starkey
Rose Ward

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

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



Photo: Courtesy

Dr. Delores "Dee" Edwards (seated 2nd from left) surrounded her family.

URC Gathers Volunteers, Partners And Guests "At The Table Together"

NORFOLK

The Urban Renewal Center (URC) is celebrating a successful Winter Shelter season in helping persons in need with an "At The Table Together" evening on May 28. URC, under the directorship of Dr. Antipas Harris, is bringing together volunteers, supporters, community partners, and URC's Winter Shelter guests for a communal meal.

"At the Table Together" celebrates generosity, compassion, and willingness of supporters who helped and provided hope for those in need this past winter, Harris said.

"The support created something far greater than shelter alone," he said. "Together, we built community. Together, we lived out what a beloved community can look like - a place where every person is welcomed, valued, and invited to the table."

He continued, "At the Urban Renewal Center, we believe this is the kind of world we are called to build: one where strangers become neighbors, where barriers give way to belonging, and where everyone has a seat

at the table."

Harris said the evening is not a fundraiser or formal program.

"It is simply time to gather together. To reconnect. To meet new friends. To laugh, share stories, break bread, and enjoy one another's company as one community and one family."

"And dinner is on us."

The Winter Shelter program operates from late December through mid-March and provides shelter to those in need through a rotating network of host churches in partnership with the Coalition of Norfolk Churches. Overnight bedding, dinner and breakfast are provided, offering a safe, warm space during some of harshest winter nights.

URC operates several other programs for young and older citizens designed to impact the quality of life of the community.

URC is affiliated with First Presbyterian Church of Norfolk where the meal is planned.

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MOMENTS of MEDITATION

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

DEVOTIONALS: THE CARPENTER'S TOOLS READ: ROMANS 12: 3-8

"For we are laborers together with God."

-1 Corinthians 3:9

The Bible says every Christian possesses one or more spiritual gifts. Although they may differ, each contributes to the work of the Lord. If believers would exercise their abilities instead of criticizing each other, much more would be accomplished for eternity.

R. T. Moore gave the following parable that illustrates this truth: A carpenter's tools were having a conference. Brother Hammer was presiding, but the others informed him that he'd have to leave because he was too noisy. "Alright," he said. "I'll go, but Brother Plane must withdraw too. There's no depth to his

work. It is always on the surface." Brother Plane responded. "Well, Brother Rule will also have to go. He's constantly measuring people as if he were the only one who's right."

Brother Rule complained about Brother Sandpaper, saying, "He's rougher than he ought to be. He's always rubbing people the wrong way."

In the midst of the discussion, the Carpenter of Nazareth walked in. He went to His workbench to make a pulpit from which to preach the gospel. He used the hammer, the plane, the rule and the sandpaper. After the pulpit was finished, Brother Rule arose and said, "I see now that all of us are laborers together with God."

What a picture of all of us! We criticize one another, thinking things should be done our way. We forget


that the Carpenter needs many different tools to do His work.

Let's learn to appreciate the various gifts God has given to His own. We'll then be able to work together in the great task to which He has called us.

worth,
Together we are the "Salt of the earth;"
So it's all for each and each for all.
United we stand, divided we fall!
-Anonymous

THOUGHT: We can't all play the same part in God's great orchestra, but we should all play in harmony.

◆◆◆
Alone our work is of little



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OBITUARY

Sept. 5, 1924 - Apr. 25, 2026 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

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 more than 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 was Saturday, May 23 at 11am at Beach Funeral Home - Elizabeth City.

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NEW SENIOR PASTOR AT SHILOH BAPTIST HAS MINISTERIAL ROOTS DATING FIVE GENERATIONS

Assumes Position After Church Conducts Near 2-Year Search

By Brenda H. Andrews

Publisher
New Journal and Guide

NORFOLK

On Sunday, June 7, 2026, Shiloh Baptist Church of Norfolk is prepared to welcome to the pulpit its newest senior pastor in the church's 146 years of existence. After a near two-year search for the leader, church officials and members earlier this year chose Rev. Dr. Jonathan Michael Tennail for the position.

Dr. Tennail arrives from Winston-Salem, N.C., where, until now, he was serving as Admissions and Enrollment Counselor at Wake Forest University School of Divinity and Associate Pastor at Galilee Missionary Baptist Church. With 14 active years of experience in ministry work, his sterling reputation and his resume of accomplishments suggest he may be older than his 40-something age. But that's because he answered the call of God to preach and began the spiritual journey in his 20s.

He was licensed to preach at his childhood church, New Zion Baptist Church in 2011 and ordained by the Baptist Ministers Fellowship of Chicago and Vicinity in June 2012.

In fact, as he tells the story, his journey could be said to predate his birth.

His maternal grandmother has lineage back to the antebellum period of American enslavement when his fifth and sixth great grandfathers (Allen Tate, Sr. and Allen Tate, Jr.) were given the deed to two acres on the Tate plantation in Benton, Mississippi in 1884. It would be organized as Antioch Missionary Baptist Church in Benton, with Allen Tate, Sr. as the first pastor and Allen Tate, Jr. the second pastor.

On his maternal grandfather's side, four of his great-grand uncles organized and pastored congregations in Chicago. Further, his maternal grandfather organized and pastored two churches in Chicago and four of his mother's brothers were pastors/preachers.

During an interview for this story, Tennail chuckled about receiving his own personal call to preach, "It was not something I ran to ..."

But surely it was something he could not and did not run from, he said. Nor has he ever doubted his calling, as he has reconciled himself to know his profession as one called by God.

Tennail earned his Bachelor of Arts from Xavier University; his Master of Divinity from Wake Forest University; and his Doctor of Ministry from United Technological Seminary. Additionally, his Clinical Pastoral Education credentials allowed him to serve as a hospital chaplain and provider of spiritual care to patients, families and healthcare staff.

The new Senior Pastor will relieve Shiloh's Interim Pastor for the past several months, Rev. Dr. Amanda Haines, the former Youth Minister at Shiloh from 2014-2022 who currently serves on the national level at Lott Carey Headquarters in Maryland. She has traveled weekly to Norfolk to lead the church during its transitional period.

Tennail ascends to the position held by several well-known and community-oriented men in the church's history, one being Rev. Dr. Keith



Rev. Dr. Jonathan Michael Tennail



"Young preacher with an old soul."

I. Jones, the immediate Past Senior Pastor from 2008 to 2024. Jones, a former Army chaplain, maintained a high profile in Hampton Roads among his clergymen and women, while serving on a number of community outreach boards, to include the Norfolk State University Foundation Board for several years.

For forty years from 1967 to 2007, the church's Senior Pastor was the late Rev. Dr. John D. Foster who also served on the Norfolk School Board and Norfolk City Council. In 2003, he became the first African-American to receive the prestigious First Citizen Distinguished Service Award from the Cosmopolitan Club of Norfolk.

Pastor Tennail has served as Senior Pastor at Calvary Baptist Church of Chicago; and pastor in Residence at the Concord

Baptist Church of Christ in Brooklyn, N.Y. He also has worked in higher education roles at Wiley University and Johnson C. Smith University, and, most recently Wake Forest University School of Divinity.

Beyond his professional roles, Dr. JT, as he is called by some, is a gifted musician, active member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity and proud uncle to his beloved "Charly Girl."

Shiloh's Diaconate Chairman, George Parker, who led the church's near two-year search, said in the church's press statement announcing its new Senior Pastor, "We are thrilled to welcome Dr. Tennail to our congregation. We believe his leadership will help guide us into a vibrant new chapter as Shiloh continues to be a beacon of love, serving Christ while serving people."

Dr. JT said friends describe him as a bridge-builder who connects people and embodies both traditional and contemporary approaches to ministry.

One guest to Shiloh who heard him preach recently during the Easter Sunday morning service described him a "young preacher with an old soul."

He pondered the description before saying he sees himself called to be with people in all phases of life.

The new Senior Pastor said he is excited about coming to Shiloh and learning what God has been doing in and through the church and, now, he is becoming a part of where God is leading Shiloh.

Tennail grew up in Chicago, which he describes as a city of neighborhoods. He envisions Hampton Roads with its seven-city massive landscape as

similar in that the people he will soon encounter at Shiloh will come from cities throughout the area, requiring him to relate to people across different demographics, professions and generations.

Dr. JT says he is looking to reestablish the historic relationship between Shiloh Baptist and its closest neighbor – Norfolk State University. He believes his background in higher education is a special asset toward that end.

"We have an opportunity to make Shiloh a spiritual home for students; a place where young people can be nurtured and challenged," he said.

He has fond memories of his own college days and how through attending church-sponsored Sunday dinner meals, he and fellow students developed a camaraderie among themselves that continued into adulthood. He will be

looking for ways to foster that kind of fellowship experience for college students locally.

Dr. Tennail has some bold ideas about community involvement and development and the importance of the church as an agent of change outside of the walls of the building.

"God cares deeply about how we live in community," he said.

As his arrival date draws near, Pastor Tennail says he's up to the challenges that await him. And when necessary, he's open to saying, "I don't know," as he seeks solutions. "The church needs to be honest," he said. "The most faithful thing a pastor can say is 'I don't know.'"

He continued, "Young people want to see that we also have some doubts and struggles, too."

That idea led him to a discussion about the value of "struggling" as part of developing faith in believing that God can resolve difficult challenges.

In the church's press statement, he called his selection a "sacred privilege."

"I believe God is guiding this congregation into a new season marked by renewed unity, spiritual depth, and fresh vision for ministry."

He continued, "I am eager to walk alongside this church family – preaching the Word faithfully, loving people well, and helping equip every member to live out their faith with courage and compassion in our community."

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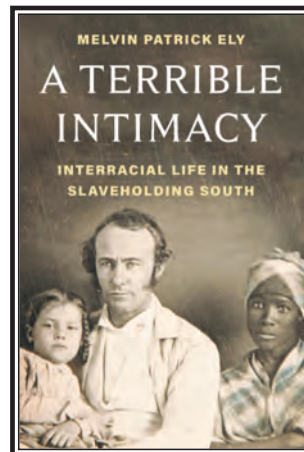
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BOOKWORM REVIEW

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

A TERRIBLE INTIMACY: INTERRACIAL LIFE IN THE SLAVEHOLDING SOUTH



“A Terrible Intimacy: Interracial Life in the Slaveholding South” by Melvin Patrick Ely ©2026, Henry Holt \$31.99, 368 pages

Time served. If you’ve ever faced a judge in a courtroom, that’s what you hope to hear. A few hours in a concrete room, maybe an uncomfortable overnight, done. It’s not fun, it might be embarrassing, but it’s over and you move on, chastised. Unless, as in the new book “A Terrible Intimacy” by Melvin Patrick Ely, time served was a lifetime.

When you think about slavery, the image of large fields and entire households full of enslaved people probably comes to mind.

That, says Ely, isn’t the whole story. In the years prior to the Civil War, he says, roughly “one-quarter of America’s enslaved people lived on large plantations with 50 or more forced laborers...” Another 25 percent dwelt on smaller plantations with slightly fewer enslaved people.

The rest – about half of this country’s enslaved people – lived on small farmsteads; in fact, households that held five or fewer enslaved people “were very numerous.”

This, Ely says, meant that slaveholders were

very familiar with those they held in bondage, and they likely knew those held by their neighbors. They might have attended church with enslaved people, or sought medical help from an enslaved Black doctor.

“Trade across racial lines was frequent,” he says, “shared recreation not rare.”

Such “intimacy” sometimes led to looser rules for enslaved people. It also led to a surprise: “An enslaved person charged with a crime in Virginia, and in the South generally, would have had legal representation” in the case of an alleged crime.

A Black man named Tom, for example, was accused of killing an overseer in a fight – but was the fight cloaked in a whole other matter? Nancy Morgan was viciously murdered by a “negro” named Solomon – or was she nothing more

than “a wayward, shiftless pauper”? Mary Tatum accused George of rape. Was it a case of mistaken identity?

And when Hillery Richardson was mortally wounded by William, the jury had to decide: who was really the victim?

So you say you’re a big fan of mysteries. Nothing like a good whodunit, right? Then check out “A Terrible Intimacy” and see if it doesn’t fit just perfectly.

Because it will. Reading author Melvin Patrick Ely’s work is like having Matlock on the sofa by you, and Easy Rawlins next to her. It’s part courtroom procedural, with a historical angle that Ely is studiously careful to explain, and the kind of excitement you’d expect from life-or-death testimonies, a few shockers, and some heartbreak. Readers will clearly understand Ely’s obvious excitement in teasing apart these tales – they are, after all, things that happened to real people in real court cases, presented with a shared knowledge of 19th-century vocabulary and slang, culture, and with filled-in-the-blanks for deeper understanding. If you feel like a real sleuth while you’re reading, you’re not far off.

This is a book well-told by a great storyteller, and if you’re a fan of courtroom-thriller novels or historical events, you won’t be sorry to find it. Start “A Terrible Intimacy” and it will serve you well.

FUN PUZZLES FOR YOUR LEISURE

Theme: Candy

ACROSS

- Family room staple
- Refrigerator sound
- *One of original Life Savers flavors
- Diabolical
- Supernatural life force
- Dust allergy triggers
- Magnesium silicate
- Thor’s father
- Audience’s approval
- *Coconutty candy bar (2 words)
- Baltimore player
- Dip a _____ the water
- Acronym, abbr.
- *“The Freshmaker” candy
- Deck painter, often
- Flight info
- Russia’s plain
- Nat of Jazz
- N in RN
- Across, in verse
- *Inspired by “Willie Wonka & the Chocolate Factory
- Under the weather
- Lipase or sucrose, e.g.
- Part of a match
- English traveling courts
- Ones with title
- ___ Aviv
- Sign of life
- Between Phi and Kappa
- *Once known as Chicken Feed (2 words)
- Trollop, in the olden days
- Eyeball rudely
- “I ___ wed”
- Opposite of fires
- Bear’s den
- Gives a hand
- Between ids and super-egos
- Symbol of industriousness
- *Dad’s ___ Beer Barrels candy

DOWN

- _____ good example
- Like West Wing’s office
- 35mm, e.g.
- “Little Men” author
- Mecca pilgrim
- Teamsters group
- “Out of ____, one”
- *Good & Plenty flavor
- It will
- Animal protein
- Is, in France
- Unassuming
- Muhammad’s birthplace
- Gallows loop
- *Polished off candy, e.g.
- High IQ society
- Lady’s pocketbook
- Narcotics agents
- Light on one’s feet
- Relating to Scandinavia
- Village V.I.P.
- Catches one’s breath
- Ages and ages
- *Pfefferminz, for short
- *“Taste the Rainbow” candies
- Broadway’s news boy
- Ray-finned fish
- Decompose
- Ardors
- Bee’s favorite drink
- Like a Druid
- Without illumination
- Place for mutinous sailor
- France’s currency
- *Other Rocket Fizz product
- Kent State state
- Do over
- Hatchling’s home
- Café alternative

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11	
12					13				14				
15					16				17				
18				19					20				
				21					22				
23	24	25					26			27	28	29	
30				31		32	33			34			
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43				44					45		46		
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	50	51					52				53	54	55
56							57				58		
59							60				61		
62							63				64		

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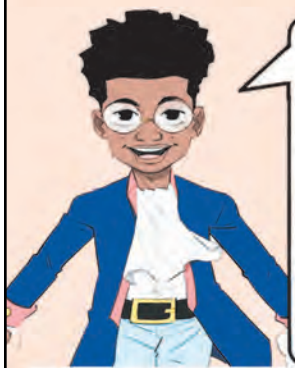
9	6	2	4	5	7	8	1	3
5	4	3	8	9	1	7	6	2
1	8	7	2	9	3	6	5	4
7	5	9	3	1	9	4	2	8
8	2	1	7	4	5	9	3	6
4	3	9	6	2	8	5	7	1
2	7	8	9	3	4	1	9	5
6	1	4	5	7	2	3	8	6
3	9	5	1	8	6	2	4	7

T	O	O	R		A	N	T		S	O	G	E								
S	D	I	V		R	L	A	I	R	S	I	R	H							
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E					L	I	M	E			H	U	M		F	A	S	O	F	A

... answers to this week's puzzles



BLACK FUNERAL TRADITIONS & THE CHURCH ACTIVITY SHEET



Hi Everyone!
Sankofa 82 and I have traveled the United States and discovered that there is such a rich cultural heritage of Black churches and Black owned funeral homes. Because enslaved people were not allowed to gather in groups, it was equally as difficult to hold a church service as it was to host a funeral. But yet Black people found a way to worship together as well as bury their loved ones.

BURIAL SOCIETIES

In the north, Blacks who were not slaves formed "burial societies" through their churches. Burial societies were organizations where you paid into a policy weekly, in hopes that by the time of your death your funeral expenses would be fully paid. This helped to give rise to the funeral home business. Black funeral parlors were some of the first businesses to be set up by Black American entrepreneurs.

BLUESTONE CHURCH



One of the first churches was the African Baptist or "Bluestone" Church. This church was founded on the William Byrd plantation near the Bluestone River in Virginia. This was the first organized Black church in Virginia. Africans adapted to christianity easily because it preached many of the same beliefs that they followed in Africa. The christian belief about "life after death" was also appealing because it offered the promise that they would someday unite with their ancestors again.

ONE MINUTE MADNESS

In one minute, unscramble the words. The first letter of the word is in bold.

- ruBali tiesScoei _____
- stnoeBleu urhChc _____
- iiCvl tghiRs _____
- wiseL ralFuen Hemo _____
- canArif istBtpa _____

ARTHUR "A.G." GASTON FUNERAL HOME

Gaston established a funeral home chain with 13 branches, an Insurance company, a Savings and Loans Company, a Business College, and Gaston Motel. Gaston, as well as other Funeral Directors, were community leaders. When Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. came to Birmingham it was Gaston that put up the \$5,000 for King to help bail him out of jail. Although King was bailed out, it was not before he finished writing his famous "Letter From A Birmingham Jail." Many funeral directors used their hearse and limousines to chauffeur King and his entourage around the city. They also used their funeral homes to lodge Civil Rights leaders. Funeral homes throughout the south were safe havens for Civil Rights leaders and workers.

HOWARD K. HILL FUNERAL SERVICES



Howard K. Hill Funeral Services has been serving the Connecticut area communities for many years. They operate under a unique service called Aria Urban Prosperity Fund, funded by their own operation and community support. This community development fund provides financial education in the community in an effort to change the mindset from poverty to prosperity. Just as older established funeral homes of the past, Hill also believes in being a strong community leader that is involved with civil rights activity.

TELL THE TRUTH

Print the letter T on the line if the statement is True or F if the statement is False.

- ___ Arthur "A.G." Gaston's was only used for funeral services.
- ___ Some Funeral Directors are community leaders.
- ___ The Alexander Funeral Home was not involved with Civil Rights.
- ___ Many Funeral Directors aided the Civil Rights movement.
- ___ Gaston was a multimillionaire with several businesses.
- ___ The Aria Urban Prosperity Fund is run by Howard Hill Funeral

FIND THE ANSWER

Answer the question by putting the correct letter on the line provided.

- A John Marrant, 1755-1791
- B Aspire to inspire before we expire
- C worship, fellowship, discipleship, ministry, mission
- D A "repast" (repast)
- E Black and sometimes white
- F It is considered a sign of respect
- G First African Baptist Church of Savannah, GA., 1777
- H Supported meetings, rallies, marches, people

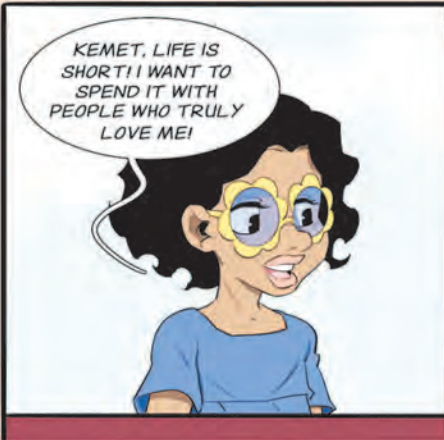
- What color is typically worn to a funeral? _____
- Why do people wear black to a funeral? _____
- What is the post- funeral meal often called? _____
- What is a possible quote said at a funeral? _____
- What role did the civil rights movement play in the Black church? _____
- Who was the first Black pastor? _____
- What is the name of the first Black church? _____
- What are the five purposes of the church? _____

R. S. LEWIS FUNERAL HOME



This Memphis, Tenn. funeral home has been around more than 100 years. The business was started by Robert Lewis Sr. in the 1900s. He also built Memphis' first large Black baseball park and helped many Black players who came during segregation. Also it was his funeral home that had the honor of handling Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. 's remains.

KEMET



BLACK FUNERALS



WWW.JOEYOUNG.ORG KEMET ACTIVITY SHEETS © 2026 BY JOE YOUNG



ANSWER KEY

- TELL THE TRUTH
F, T, F, T, T, T
- ONE MINUTE MADNESS!
Burial Societies
Bluestone Church
Civil Rights
Lewis Funeral Home
African Baptist
- FIND THE ANSWER
E, F, D, B, H, A, G, C

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ENDINGS AND STARTS

ALABAMA STATE TAKES SWAC BASEBALL, ADVANCES; D2 TRACK RESULTS; CIAA, MEAC ANNOUNCE AWARDS

UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

SERVICE FOR CHARLIE NEAL:

The Homegoing service for legendary broadcaster and black college icon **Charlie Neal** will be held on Saturday, June 12, 2026 at the First Baptist Church of Glenarden at 600 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro, Md.

The viewing will be held at 10:00 a.m. with the funeral at 11:00 a.m.

FAYETTEVILLE STATE ATHLETICS STALWART DR. PEGGY GREEN PASSES:

Fayetteville, N.C. — The Fayetteville State University community mourns the passing of **Peggy Green Ed.D.**, a revered educator, coach, administrator, and trailblazer whose influence shaped generations of Broncos both in the classroom and in competition.

Green formerly served as FSU's head volleyball and basketball coach and as an instructor dedicating her career to preparing future educators in health and physical education, embodying a commitment to academic excellence and student success that extended far beyond the classroom.

Green later served as FSU's senior woman administrator from 1989 to 2011, where she was a steadfast advocate for student-athletes and equity in collegiate sports. Her service extended to numerous NCAA committees, including the Division II Women's Basketball Committee, where she served as chair, further amplifying her influence on the national stage.

Her contributions were recognized with numerous honors, including induction into the CIAA Hall of Fame and receiving the prestigious NACWAA Lifetime Achievement Award—one of the highest honors for leaders in women's athletics. Funeral services for Dr. Green were held on Wednesday, May 27 in Carthage, Mississippi.

THE STAT CORNER

WHO ARE THE BEST PERFORMERS IN BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

BLACK COLLEGE ATHLETES IN NCAA DIV. I OUTDOOR TRACK & FIELD REGIONALS

EVENT	NAME	CLASS	SCHOOL	TIME/SCORE
WEST REGIONAL - MEN				
Three ranked below 30th				
EAST REGIONAL - MEN				
100 METERS				
22	Solomon Hammond	SR-4	Coppin State	10.13
30	Derrick Williams	SO-2	Alcorn State	10.17
200 METERS				
21	Shanard Walker	SR-4	Bethune-Cookman	20.43
30	Derrick Williams	SO-2	Alcorn State	20.49
400 METERS				
24	Xzaviah Taylor	JR-3	N. Carolina A&T	45.61
110 HURDLES				
5	Isaiah Taylor	JR-3	N. Carolina A&T	13.30
9	Jason Holmes	JR-3	N. Carolina A&T	13.37
12	Joseph DeRosier	SO-2	Florida A&M	13.50
24	Desmond Smith	SO-2	N. Carolina A&T	13.75
29	Yashahya Brown	SO-2	Hampton	13.80
400 HURDLES				
9	Xzaviah Taylor	JR-3	N. Carolina A&T	49.58
18	Isaiah Taylor	JR-3	N. Carolina A&T	50.33
4 x 400 RELAY				
12			N. Carolina A&T	3:03.47
HIGH JUMP				
22	Drew Dillard	SO-2	Howard	2.15m
30	Roman Smith	SR-4	Southern	2.14m
LONG JUMP				
8	Michael Carter	SO-2	Bethune-Cookman	7.89m
21	Joseph Gaynor	SO-2	Florida A&M	7.75m
29	Marous White	JR-3	Hampton	7.69m
29	Kai Wedderburn	JR-3	Southern	7.69m
TRIPLE JUMP				
7	Isaiah Riggins	SO-2	Alabama State	16.01m
19	Anthony Woods	SR-4	Alabama State	15.71m
25	Kristopher Stephens	SO-2	Norfolk State	15.64m
30	Xavier Partee	JR-3	N. Carolina A&T	15.57m
WOMEN				
100 METERS				
17	Diandrenique Gaines	SR-4	Florida A&M	11.15
17	Janaree Kinchen	FR-1	Florida A&M	11.15
29	Yahnari Lyons	SO-2	Howard	11.22
200 METERS				
4	Yahnari Lyons	SO-2	Howard	22.34
16	Diandrenique Gaines	SR-4	Florida A&M	22.72
100 HURDLES				
15	Marcia Sey	SR-4	Howard	12.96
21	T'yanah Adams	SO-2	Florida A&M	13.07
22	Rasunek Tyler-Thompson	SR-4	Alabama State	13.08
24	Brooklyn Robinson	SR-4	Norfolk State	13.13
400 HURDLES				
7	Cenaiya Billups	SO-2	Howard	56.57
25	Katelyn Smith	JR-3	Florida A&M	57.95
30	Lindsay Johnson	SO-2	Howard	58.24
4 x 100 RELAY				
20			Howard	43.64
21			Florida A&M	43.85
HIGH JUMP				
4	Spirit Morgan	SR-4	N. Carolina A&T	1.84m
LONG JUMP				
16	Senali Gaines	FR-1	SC State	6.34m
24	Arayana Ladson	SO-2	Florida A&M	6.29m
TRIPLE JUMP				
12	Daedrian Beville	FR-1	Alabama State	13.22m
16	Marissa Telf	SR-4	Grambling	13.16m
23	Lanijah Henderson	JR-3	Morgan State	13.03m
23	Olivia Dowd	JR-3	N. Carolina A&T	13.03m

For NCAA Division I Outdoor Track & Field, 48 declared individuals per event are accepted into each First Round site, and then the top 12 from each site advance to the Championships, so that means 24 total qualifiers per event from East + West combined make it to the championship round (Eugene, OR - June 10-13). We have listed above athletes ranked in the top 30.

There were three other HBCU athletes in the West Regional and 38 others in the East Regional ranked below 30th.

CIAA announces 2026 awardees

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — The Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA®) recognized outstanding student athletes, administrators, and member institutions during the 2026 CIAA Membership Awards Luncheon, celebrating excellence in academics, athletics, leadership, service, and institutional achievement throughout the 2025 to 2026 academic year.

Held as part of the conference's annual membership meetings, the luncheon highlighted the accomplishments of individuals and institutions that continue to advance the legacy and mission of the CIAA through leadership, competitive success, academic excellence, and community impact.

Institution awards went to **Fayetteville State and Virginia Union**.

FSU once secured the **Loretta Taylor Women's All-Sports Award**, presented to the conference's top women's athletics program based on a championship point system. During the 2025–26 season, the Broncos won conference championships in cross country, volleyball, indoor track & field, and bowling, finished runner-up in women's basketball, and placed third at the outdoor track & field championship.

Virginia Union took home the **C.H. Williams All-Sports Trophy** awarded annually to the institution with the conference's top men's athletic program. The Panthers won titles in indoor and outdoor track, the latter the first in 92 years of competition. This marks the second time Virginia Union has earned the honor after previously winning the award during the 2023-24 academic year. Virginia Union also became the first private institution to win the award multiple times since Hampton University accomplished the feat in 1991, 1992, and 1993.

Among the afternoon's highest individual honors were the CIAA Scholar Athlete of the Year awards.

Faith Kiplimo of Fayetteville State, a freshman distance runner from Kenya, was named the 2026 CIAA Female Scholar Athlete of the Year after earning a perfect 4.0 GPA while majoring in Nursing and excelling competitively at the championship level. Kiplimo won the 5,000 meters at the CIAA Outdoor Track & Field championships and took first indoors at 800 meters, one mile, 3,000 meters and the distance medley relay.

Jamieson Alston, an all-CIAA linebacker for Winston-Salem State football, earned 2026 CIAA Male Scholar Athlete of the Year honors after maintaining a 3.89 GPA in Business Administration while serving in multiple leadership and honor organizations across campus. Alston led the Rams with 81 tackles, 12.5 tackles for losses.

The CIAA also announced the recipients of the 2026 CIAA Post Graduate Scholarships, awarded to graduates pursuing advanced degrees in athletics, sports administration, sports medicine, and media relations. This year's recipients of the **Eric Moore Postgraduate Scholarship**, awarded in collaboration with the McLendon Foundation, were **Jade Holiday**, a women's volleyball player at Fayetteville State



and **Janiah Beech**, a cheerleader at Elizabeth City State.

The luncheon also celebrated recipients of the CIAA's annual administrator awards, voted on by conference membership and leadership. 2026 CIAA Faculty Athletics Representative of the Year honors were presented to **Dr. Deborah Quick** of Johnson C. Smith in recognition of her longstanding commitment to student athlete success and institutional leadership.

Deron Norwood of Fayetteville State was named the 2026 CIAA Compliance Director of the Year, while **Tristan Gunter** of Bowie State earned the **John Holley Sports Information Director of the Year Award**.

Lataya Hilliard Gray of Elizabeth City State received Senior Woman Administrator of the Year honors for her leadership, advocacy, and service within collegiate athletics. **Anthony Bennett** of Fayetteville State was recognized as the 2026 CIAA Athletic Director of the Year, endorsed by BSN SPORTS, for excellence in leadership, competitive success, and student athlete achievement.

The conference's prestigious **Jeanette Lee Award** was presented to **James DuBose**, Director of Athletics at ECSU, in recognition of his servant leadership, steady guidance, and



Kiplimo



Alston

commitment to advancing the CIAA during a period of transition and growth for the conference.

Fayetteville State University earned the 2026 Loretta Taylor Women's All Sports Award, while Virginia Union University received the C.H. Williams Men's All Sports Award.

Virginia Union University was also recognized with the 2026 Most Positive Game Environment Award, voted on by the CIAA Student Athlete Advisory Committee to acknowledge outstanding sportsmanship demonstrated by student athletes, coaches, and institutions throughout the year.

The luncheon concluded with closing remarks from CIAA Commissioner **Jacqie McWilliams Parker**, who congratulated the conference's honorees and reflected on another successful year across the association.

MEAC All-Sports Awards return to Norfolk State and Howard

NORFOLK, Va., May 22, 2026 -- Norfolk State University and Howard University continued their championship tradition Friday night, earning the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference's highest all-sports honors as the league celebrated the close of its historic 55th anniversary season.

Named after the founder of Bethune-Cookman College, the **Mary McLeod Bethune Award** honors the MEAC's top women's athletic program each academic year. The **Talmadge Layman Hill Award**, named after the former Morgan State student-athlete, coach, and MEAC pioneer, recognizes the conference's top men's athletic program.

The honors capped another historic year for both institutions. Norfolk State secured its fourth men's all-sports title in the past five years and 15th in program history, extending its conference record. Howard earned its fifth consecutive women's all-sports title and ninth overall.

Each institution received a \$20,000 award in recognition of its accomplishments.

Norfolk State powered its run to the men's title behind conference championships in cross country, indoor track & field, and outdoor track & field, finishing with 41.5 points in the final standings.

South Carolina State finished second with 37 points after winning the MEAC football championship, **Celebration Bowl** title, and a regular-season men's tennis championship. North Carolina Central placed third with 30 points, followed by Howard with 29.5 points.

On the women's side, Howard continued its conference dominance with 62.5 points, fueled by championships in cross country, indoor track & field, outdoor track & field, and regular-season titles in women's basketball and softball.

Norfolk State finished second with 45 points, while Morgan State placed third with 40.5 points, and Delaware State finished fourth with 39 points.

North Carolina Central was recognized for academic excellence, posting the MEAC's highest Academic Progress Rate (APR). The Eagles athletic department received a \$10,000 award.

Howard was also honored as the conference's Graduation Success Rate (GSR) leader. The Bison posted an 83-percent GSR, the highest among MEAC institutions earning a \$25,000 award.

Points are awarded in a descending order beginning with nine (9) points for championships or first-place regular-season finishes. The second-place team receives seven (7) points. Tied teams split the point total.

Points were awarded for regular-season finishes in each sport except cross country, indoor track & field and outdoor track & field, where points were awarded based on finishes at MEAC championships.



BCSP Spring Notes

Alabama State Claims SWAC Baseball Tournament title; Advances to Tuscaloosa Regional

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.- Alabama State captured the 2026 SWAC Baseball Tournament Championship Sunday afternoon with an 8-6 victory over Florida A&M at Rickwood Field, securing the Hornets' first conference tournament title and NCAA Tournament berth since 2022.



Oropeza

Alabama State used a balanced offensive attack and timely pitching performances to hold off a late Florida A&M rally and finish the tournament championship run with 13 hits.

Tournament MVP, ASU infielder **Miguel Oropeza**, paced the Hornets throughout the tournament, batting .571 with eight hits, 13 RBI, two home runs and a 1.143 slugging percentage across four games. Oropeza also contributed in the championship game with two hits, one RBI and two runs scored.

Fabian Santana continued his strong tournament performance in the title game, collecting two hits and one RBI. Santana closed tournament play batting .571 with eight hits and five RBI.

Trey Callaway delivered the biggest hit of the championship contest with a sixth inning three-run home run that extended the Alabama State lead to 8-2. Callaway finished the tournament with six RBI and a home run while batting .313 in four games.

On the mound, **Jorhan LaBoy** and **James Peterson** anchored Alabama State's pitching staff throughout the tournament. LaBoy posted a 1.93 ERA with six strikeouts in 9.1 innings pitched while Peterson recorded two saves and 11 strikeouts across 13.2 innings.

The Hornets learned on Monday that they will be placed in the Tuscaloosa Regional as part of a field that includes national seed Alabama, Oklahoma State and USC Upstate. Alabama State will play the Crimson Tide on Friday, May 29, at 7 p.m. on ESPN+.

Alabama (37-19) heads into the tournament as an at-large entrant and No. 7 national seed. The two teams faced off twice earlier this season. Alabama won the first game 2-1 on February 18 in Tuscaloosa and the second 13-4 in Montgomery on March 4.

Alabama State (34-21), the only HBCU in the field, is in the NCAA Tournament for the third time in program history.

ALL-TOURNAMENT TEAM
 Ryan Hunter - SOU; Andrey Martinez - BU-CU; Vinny Saumell, Aaron Grant - UAPB; Alex Monile, Jesus Campa, Jackson McKenzie, Jay Campbell - FAMU; Fabian

Santana, James Peterson, Jorhan LaBoy, Miguel Oropeza (MVP) - ALST

HBCU top finishers few and far between at NCAA Div. II Outdoor Track & Field championships

EMPORIA, Ga. — An event once dominated by Saint Augustine's of the CIAA and Lincoln (Mo.) — the NCAA Div. II Outdoor Track & Field Championships — had few top finishers from the black college ranks in the event completed here Saturday.

Virginia State had the top men's finish, tying for 30th place in the men's competition with seven points.

VSU sophomore **Leonie Bentley** earned two All-American honors and scored all seven points for the Trojans. In the 100-meter dash he qualified for the final with a time of 10.42 seconds then in the finals he placed sixth with a time of 10.34, good for three points.

In the 200-meter dash he qualified for the final with a time of 20.64 and in the final placed fifth with a time of 20.82 seconds for four points.

CIAA outdoor champion Virginia Union finished in a tie for 33rd with six points that came by virtue of junior **Zachary Jones's** third-place finish in the discus. Jones, the CIAA champion, threw a personal best of 58.06 meters (190' 6") in the final.

Benedict tied for 42nd with four points as senior long jumper **Zach Washington** placed fifth in the competition with a leap of 7.45 meters (24' 5 1/4").

Lincoln (Mo.) senior triple jumper **Malik Drummond** finished seventh in his event with a personal-best jump of 15.68 meters (51' 5 1/2 ") for two points.

Claffin was the only black college team to score on the women's side tying for 47th with four points. The Lady Tigers got its points by virtue of sophomore **Morgan Coverson-Springs** fifth-place finish in the 100-meter hurdles in a personal-best time of 13.38 seconds.

Led by legendary head coach, now retired head coach **George "Pup" Williams**, Saint Augustine's has captured a staggering 39 NCAA Division II national championships across both indoor and outdoor track and field, including 16 men's outdoor championships. St. Aug's won seven straight men's outdoor titles between 1989 and 1995 and had a five-peat from 2013 to 2017.

Under the guidance of 24-year Head Coach **Victor Thomas**, the Lincoln (Mo.) women's program has won 14 NAAP National Championships, eight outdoors.



Jones