

MISSING



EBONEE SPEARS

Wilmington Police are continuing their search for 30 year old Ebonee Spears of Wilmington. The local Crimestoppers organization has joined with the Wilmington Police Department in offering a reward of up to \$5,000 for information on Ebonee's whereabouts. If you know where Spears may be, call Wilmington Police at (910) 343-3600 or use Text-a-Tip.

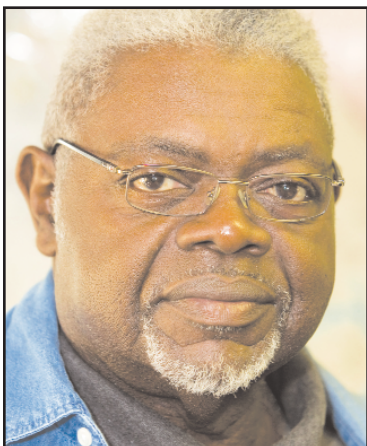
OUTside Looking IN

OUR VOICE



"ONE SOLITARY LIFE" PAGE 4

BRUNSWICK COUNTY



BERNEST HEWETT

REMEMBER THE REASON

BY BERNEST HEWETT CONTRIBUTING WRITER

It is Christmas time again and time again to reflect on past years, which hold our victories and downfalls. We have the problems of open racism, ethnic hatred, human trafficking, voter fraud, election standards, broken laws, healthcare problems, and many more, which man has injected in order to have his own way or mislead his brother. However, but, as usual, God stepped in and held us through the storms of life. We must work hard and lean on our faith. He lived and died so that we might be free. This time of year tells us he was born to this earth so that we may have life and live.

Let's not forget the reason for the season. It's our time to give God the praise and the thanks and the glory. Lord, don't forget your servants. Keep us in your care. To God be the glory for all He has done.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

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

THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

News from the African American perspective without fear or favor

VOLUME 91/No. 51

DECEMBER 20 - DECEMBER 26, 2018

FIFTY CENTS

How McCrory tried to frame Black Bladen PAC with 2016 loss

BY CASH MICHAELS OF THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

As North Carolina, indeed, the nation, awaits the final conclusions involving alleged election fraud in Bladen County from the NC Board of Elections (whose hearing is now scheduled for Jan. 11), the Wake County District Attorney's Office, the State Bureau of Investigation, and now even, reportedly, the Federal Bureau of Investigation; a group of local African-American residents known as the Bladen Improvement Association (BIA), a political action committee (PAC), is relieved that they are not in the crosshairs of yet another probe into their proven lawful electoral activities.

But they know full well what it feels like to be investigated and falsely accused just because they're Black, help voters with their ballots, and have historically endorsed mostly Democrats.

It was just two years ago when then first term Republican Gov. Pat McCrory, having lost his bid for reelection in a close race to Democratic challenger and then State Attorney General Roy Cooper, falsely alleged that voter "malfeasance and irregularities" caused his defeat in several counties across North Carolina, including Bladen.



FORMER GOVERNOR PAT MCCRORY

McCrory and his attorneys, along with the NC Republican Party, contended that thousands of votes in over 50 counties statewide were in question, charged that Democrats were responsible and that "felons," people who also voted in other states, and even "dead" people, were allowed to illegally cast ballots. His goal was either to win the race outright or meet a legal threshold so that the Republican-led NC General Assembly would then, by law, choose the "winner" of the gubernatorial election, who McCrory

assumed would be him.

Two factors cast doubt on McCrory's claims: Donald Trump and other GOP'ers won throughout North Carolina and all of the county election boards which certified his race were led by Republicans.

However, that didn't stop conservative media, like Red State.com, from taking up McCrory's "voter fraud" crusade.

"Did somebody say Democrat corruption," bellowed the first line in its Nov. 15, 2016 commentary.

After noting that a complaint had

been filed with the local Bladen County Board of Elections, "...in response to several hundred fraudulent absentee ballots, all voting a straight Democrat ticket..." it went on to allege, "The filed complaint described the situation as an "absentee ballot mill," and it was perpetuated by the Bladen Improvement Association PAC (BIA), which is funded by the North Carolina Democrat Party."

And exactly who filed that complaint? None other than Leslie McCrae Dowless, the very same "person of interest" at the center of the current allegations involving illegal absentee ballot harvesting in the Mark Harris vs. Dan McCready Ninth Congressional District election fiasco.

Dowless, whom Republican Harris admits to knowing and hiring, is alleged to have coordinated and managed an operation during both the GOP primary last May and the November 2018 midterm elections, where people who worked for



DOWLESS

Please see MCCRORY/Page 3



THE FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE NC NAACP CHARGES THAT LAWMAKERS CHOSE TO "...FOCUS ON AN UNNECESSARY PHOTO ID BILL, RATHER THAN DEAL WITH THE REAL ISSUES THAT ARE IMPACTING NORTH CAROLINIANS."

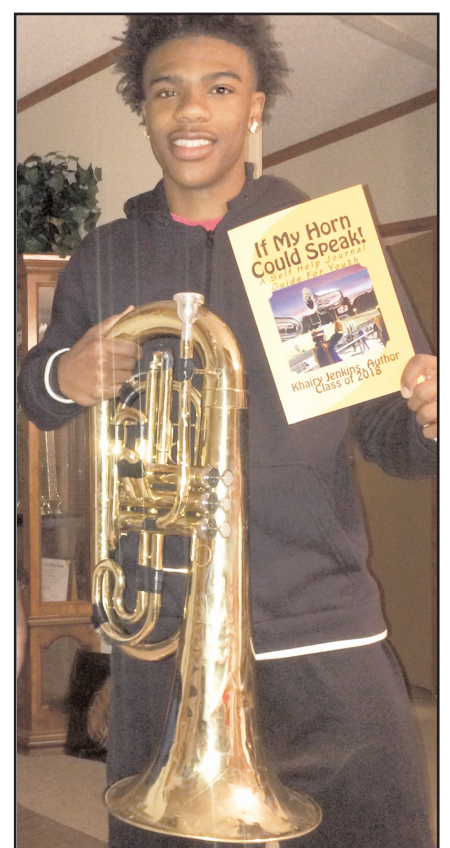
REV. BARBER BLASTS VOTER ID LAW

BY CASH MICHAELS OF THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

The Reverend Dr. William Barber, President of Repairers of the Breach, and Co-chair of the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call to Revival, blasted the Republican-led NC legislature Monday for using the recently called special session primarily to pass a new voter photo ID law, instead of addressing the urgent needs of those suffering in the aftermath of September's Hurricane Florence.

"We call a special session in the season of Thanksgiving, Christmas and Advent, and this legislature could have taken that time to address the needs of poor people and sick people throughout North Carolina," Rev. Barber said. Noting that at least one million people in North Carolina do not have health insurance, Barber chided North Carolina lawmakers for not using the special session time to extend

Please see BARBER/Page 3



KHAIRY ISHAAN JENKINS

A&T freshman, musician and author releases first book, just in time for Christmas

BY PHYLLIS BOYKIN CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Attending college as a freshman is a daunting task for almost anyone. Academic demands, grueling schedules, meeting and adapting to new people from diverse back-

Please see JENKINS Page 2

AT PRESS TIME

The Wilmington Journal is still partially operating from a remote area. Our building has much damage and some of our equipment is still inoperable. Please continue to bear with us as we work to return to normalcy. The Staff and Management of The Wilmington Journal



THE WILMINGTON
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RECYCLE

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BY

SPREADING

THE NEWS



JENKINS

Continued from Page 1

grounds consistently, time management, and other unfamiliar adaptations to college life away from familiar surroundings, are true tests of campus survival, which some manage successfully and others struggle to make the necessary adjustments.

Khairy Ishaan Jenkins, who is a freshman at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University in Greensboro, seems to be taking it all in stride as he recently completed his first semester of college successfully, and is looking forward to the start of his second semester in January. It is fair to say Jenkins is living his dreams on his own terms and simultaneously enjoying every minute of it.

Jenkins attributes his current success, determination and razor focus to multiple factors that include his mother, Alycia Shaw, who he refers to as his "great support system", and the "primary stimulus" behind his having written and published his first book titled, *If My Horn Could Speak - A Self-Help Journal Guide for Youth*.

Jenkins admits using the information from his book filled with "useful points-of-reference" when he must make decisions he considers important and those that could be life altering, if wrong choices are acted upon at any time during his day-to-day living. He is grateful to have authored a book at age 16, which he and his mother self published because they did not have finances to seek external publishers' support.

Jenkins, who initially had no idea or intentions of writing a book, shared that his mom "tricked him into writing a book" by encouraging him to write down his daily thoughts. She began saving their text message exchanges that they later found helpful when actually composing the book. Discussions that involved inquiring about "how her son's day was progressing", "what decisions he had made", "lessons learned", and "what, if anything, he might do differently", were all topics that required the engagement of reflective thought processing and discernment necessary to make the best choices based upon various circumstances.

As Khairy Jenkins matured, naturally his decision-making skills continued to improve and his recorded thoughts evolved into the age-appropriate, self-help journal that he and other young adults, between the middle and high school grade ranges, will find useful in helping them to make more appropriate life choices. Some readers in particular may find the book useful when making decisions when their parents, older siblings, teachers, and others may not be available to offer guidance during crucial times in their lives.

Jenkins admits that when his mother shared that she "had kept all their conversations" and began encouraging him to write a book, he

was not exactly insightful as to how he would have the time to ever make that happen. He had so much to do and more on his plate than he believed he could handle when she shared her proposal that he "should write a book" during his senior year at James B. Dudley High School.

He knew his mother had insisted on keeping his schedule packed with school work, music, volunteering, and other activities, so that Jenkins would remain focused on his plans for college after graduation. Knowing that, Jenkins was taken aback at the thought that his mother assumed he could now add authoring a book to his busy schedule.

However, when he began examining all the information his mother had retained and his own journal notes, Jenkins soon realized that the possibility of publishing a book was well within his means.

Without further delay, he began composing his book and working closely with his mother to format the information to identify the appropriate photographs to com-

pliment the content. Their action plans began coming together smoother than Jenkins had ever imagined.

When all was said and done, and he saw his finished publication, Jenkins was very grateful that he had followed his mother's advice about writing a book and leaving behind a "lasting legacy" from which others could benefit from at his beloved Dudley High School. After completing the book, he realized that he had accomplished something important just as other Dudley Alumni before him had done.

Jenkins admits being a true "Band Head", and his love and appreciation for the role that music has played throughout his life, made incorporating his horn into the book's theme easier for him. He admits constantly listening to music even as he writes, reviews and studies in preparation for classes and exams at A&T. He cannot imagine life without his music, so it completely complements his book.

Having begun playing his horn in grade six, Jenkins talks freely regarding the

significance music has had in who he has become. Just like writing, being a skilled musician and performing in A&T's world renowned Blue and Gold Marching Machine Band, are the actual manifestations of the ambitions he envisioned for himself.

Since having published his book, Jenkins has had opportunities to conduct book signings and to speak with young adults regarding the book's contents. He somewhat closely relates to their life choices. Those public speaking opportunities have increased his self-confidence and impromptu speaking skills for which he is grateful, and looks forward to future opportunities to speak about his book to others.

He admits that he "enjoys interacting with youth, who are experiencing similar issues just as he did" when he was their same ages. He sees the publication of his first book as an important way to demonstrate to others that they too can accomplish goals and other endeavors which they may have doubted could ever be accomplished.

Jenkins concluded by sharing that "seeing my published book made me feel I could accomplish anything that I seriously put my mind to"; and that he "looks forward to the composition and publication of his next book".

Jenkins added that "whatever life offers him" during his pursuits of dual-major degrees in Animal Science and Animal Laboratory Science from A&T that he anticipates completing by 2023, he expects to do successfully.

Jenkins and his mother reside in Greensboro. Jenkins has two older siblings, Alexander and Elizabeth, and his father, Kevin Pressley. Kudos to Khairy Isaan Jenkins and Alycia Shaw, on their outstanding joint publication! We look forward to what awaits him as he lives out his dreams! "Aggie Pride!"

To purchase copies of *If My Horn Could Speak: A Self-Help Journal Guide for Youth* just in time for Christmas, visit: <https://www.amazon.com>, for details.

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STATE BRIEFS



COMPILED BY CASH MICHAELS

STATE SENATE OVERRIDES GOV. COOPER'S VETO ON VOTER ID LAW

[RALEIGH] Using the last days of its supermajority, the NC Senate voted to override

Gov. Roy Cooper's veto of the new voter photo ID law that passed the Republican-led legislature last week. Cooper blasted the law, say that it was a "solution in search of a problem," but lawmakers countered that they had no choice but to pass it since voters ratified the voter ID amendment to the state Constitution during the midterm elections. The state House, at press time Tuesday, hadn't voted to override yet,

but that is expected by the end of the week.

BLADEN COUNTY RESIDENTS EXPRESS CONCERNS ABOUT BALLOT CONTROVERSY AT TOWN HALL MEETING

[BLADENBORO] Anger and frustration were on full display during a town hall meeting at First Baptist Church in Bladenboro Tuesday as residents came together, not only to listen to leaders like Rev. Dr.

T. Anthony Spearman of the NC NAACP commit to finding out the truth behind allegations that absentee ballots were illegally manipulated during the 2018 midterm election between 9th District Congressional candidates Mark Harris and Dan McCready. Several residents spoke of people coming to their homes and taking their unsealed ballots, even though that is illegal under North Carolina law. The stat Board of

Elections has called for a hearing on the matter for Jan. 11th.

WAKE SHERIFF RELEASES 19 UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS

[RALEIGH] The new sheriff of Wake County, Gerald Baker, has kept one of his campaign promises. Vowing, if elected, that his department would no longer work with agents of the US Immigration and Customs

Enforcement in holding undocumented immigrants for possible deportation, Sheriff Baker released sixteen detainees from the county jail after they'd either served their term, or posted bond. Another 79 are being held for state charges, but Baker says they will soon be let go as well. Sheriff Baker is one of the newly elected sheriffs across the state who promised to no longer hold detainees for ICE.

MCCRORY

Continued from Page 1

him illegally collected, or even changed, the votes on unsealed absentee ballots distributed throughout Bladen County, ultimately delivering a 905-vote victory for Harris.

However, in 2016, it was Dowless who was claiming to be the victim of illegal

absentee ballot shenanigans in his race for local Soil and Water Conservation District supervisor.

Lawyers for the McCrory campaign latched on to Dowless' Bladen election complaint, alleging that it was indicative of what was happening across the State. "The staggering evidence of voter fraud in Bladen County and the number of similar (read Black) PACs that the North Carolina Democratic

Party donated to shortly before the start of early vote requires close examination throughout the state."

Dowless, a convicted felon, alleged that the absentee ballots had the witness signatures of paid BIA members. Red State.com called this "shocking evidence."

The North Carolina Board of Elections (NCBOE) investigated and found that nothing the BIA did was illegal. The witness signatures (two

are required) were done at the time the voter signed their ballot, and the BIA canvassers also did GOTV (get out the vote). Indeed, their names were reported to the local and State BOE by BIA. There was nothing illegal about what they did, or BIA's getting contributions from the State Democratic Party, or various Democratic candidates or elected officials to operate.

In the end, not one absen-

tee ballot with which the BIA worked was deemed illegal, and Cooper ultimately defeated McCrory statewide after a recount by over 10,000 votes, weeks later.

"The procedures, the methodology used by the (BIA) did not violate State law," Atty. Joyner maintained the NCBOE ruled. "They had been trained by the State Board, and did it the right way"

Burned by the experience, the BIA and their Attorney

Joyner braced for more false allegations this year and decided not to engage in any absentee ballot activity for the 2018 midterm elections.

It is most likely now, given what is known about allegations pointing toward Dowless and Harris, the Bladen Improvement Association will not be targeted this time.

However, if so, BIA and Attorney Joyner stand at the ready.

BARBER

Continued from Page 1

Medicare to the poor, many of whom live in the flood ravaged counties affected by Hurricane Florence.

The NC General Assembly did pass an initial \$850 million hurricane recovery package in October, \$450 million of which could be spent right away for construction, rebuilding damaged schools, or help some rebuild their home.

Still, critics say the amount was not enough to help the many victims still dealing with the after effects

of the 2016 Hurricane Matthew.

"Thousands of people in those areas could benefit from a raise in the minimum wage and a living wage. TOPhat would really help them recover. Did this legislature choose to hear their cries? No!" Rev. Barber roared.

The former President of the NCNAACP charged that lawmakers chose to "...focus on an unnecessary photo ID bill, rather than deal with the real issues that are impacting North Carolinians."

Barber continued that there are currently lawsuits filed challenging how the

voter ID and other proposed amendments to the State's constitution were placed on the referendum ballot. He also announced that the Poor People's Campaign is supporting an NCNAACP lawsuit against how the legislature passed the laws calling for the "unconstitutional" amendments, challenging "the whole process in the first place."

Rev. Barber also

announced that the Poor People's Campaign is working on a "major, major" statewide bus tour and a "major poor people's march on the State Capitol in the spring of 2019.

"We are not going to be silent," Barber vowed. "And we're not going to stop fighting for the 4.7 million poor people in this State, and the over one million people who do not have healthcare."

To the press, Rev. Barber said, "The "story" isn't that the legislature overrode Gov. Roy Cooper's veto. The story is they called this legislature back into session! It's an unconstitutionally constituted legislature, and, instead of all of the good things they could have done to help the hurting, the broken and the poor people of this State, they chose to act contrary to our deepest moral values

and contrary to the season of Thanksgiving and Christmas, and contrary to our own [state] Constitution, that says "...the first duty ...of a civilized and Christian state, is to provide beneficent provisions for the poor, the orphaned, and the unfortunate," Rev. Barber said. "This legislature ...is out of order," Barber concluded, "... and we have to continue to fight!"

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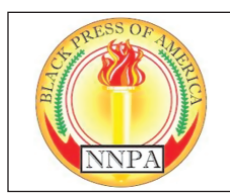
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THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

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OUR VOICE

One Solitary Life



He was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman. He grew up in another obscure village, where He worked in a carpenter shop until He was thirty, then for three years He was an itinerant preacher. He never had a family or owned a home. He never set foot inside a big city. He never traveled two hundred miles from the place He was born. He never wrote a book, or held an office. He did none of the things that usually accompany greatness.

While He was still a young man, the tide of popular opinion turned against Him. His friends deserted Him. He was turned over to His enemies, and went through the mockery of a trial. He was nailed to a cross between two thieves. While He was dying, His executioners gambled for the only piece of property He had, His coat. When He was dead, He was taken down and laid in a borrowed grave.

Twenty centuries have come and gone, and today He is the central figure for much of the human race. All the armies that ever marched, and all the navies that ever sailed, and all the parliaments that ever sat, and all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of man upon this earth as powerfully as the "One Solitary Life." --Author Unknown--

We, at *The Wilmington Journal*, wish you the very best that life has to offer today and always.

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—SALUTES—

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

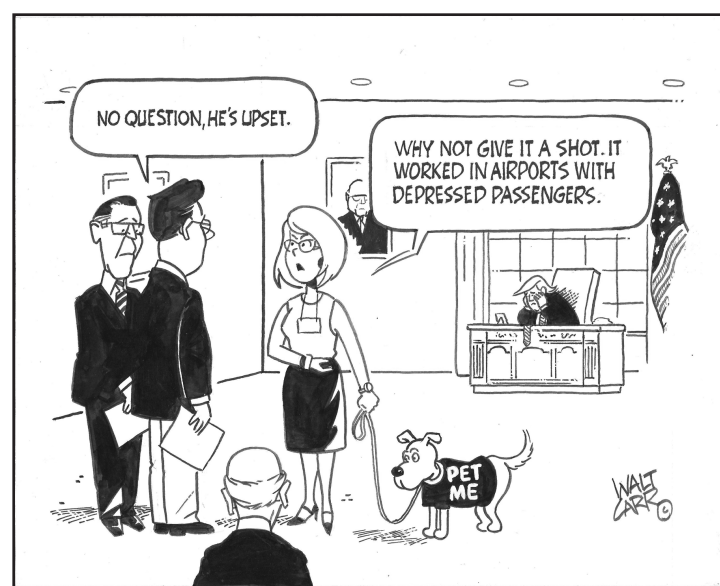
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Visual Voice



MATTERS OF OPINION

What's next?

(Via TriceEdneyWire.com)

What's next? One of the first things I heard about this week was a group of high schoolers in New Hampshire feeling okay with joining the nastiness of the person living in the White House. I guess their music was inspired by #45's crude behavior and his entertaining a 'gangsta' rapper in the White House by the name of Kanye West who sings a crude song called "I Love It." (Look online for the song and you'll understand why our "Respect Us" campaign is critical.) It's directed at Black women, so I guess those students thought it was okay for them to sing, "Let's kill all the blacks" in a racist rendition of Jingle Bells. #45 sets such a low standard!



Dr. E. Faye Williams

I thought we'd heard just about everything there was about #45 and his criminal cohorts. This week alone, we've saw Michael Cohn get 3 years of jail time for his activities with #45 who would like to have us believe he hardly knew Mr. Cohen. He has been claiming Cohen did very little work for him. Of course, now he would have us believe Cohen did lots of stuff for him or on his behalf, which he apparently allowed and directed Cohen to handle. He says he was thinking that as a lawyer Cohen knew what he was doing. He followed that up saying even if he did those things for which Cohen has now been sentenced to 3 years in jail, that was not a violation. First, he told us he knew nothing about the payments to Stormy Daniels, and we'd have to ask Cohen about that. Guess he's figured out he can have it both ways!

We just learned that the Cohen raid spurs a new criminal probe on #45's inauguration spending. All that money has raised questions about how

big those parties were! Until now, #45 must have been awfully proud that he'd raised about twice as much as President Barack Obama's committee raised. Now, he's probably asking himself why he raised so much because there is a mighty big question that's probably giving him grief. The question being from whom did all of that money come and what did he promise to do in exchange for all of that money! The answer just might lie in that raid on Michael Cohen's home and office. There was a lot of smoke in that raid. Now, we may soon see a lot of fire!

The past week has been a nightmare for #45 because Cohen has promised to give even more information that may not sound too good to #45. It's hard to keep up with all of the criminal and alleged criminal activity of #45 and his cohorts.

It didn't help that Maria Butina, the Russian woman who Vladimir Putin claims to have no idea who she is, has agreed to talk AND cooperate

in the investigation. She admits to trying to infiltrate the NRA and from what we now know, her cooperation may be about the direct involvement of the NRA in #45's campaign in an effort to help #45 win the election in 2016. She admits to engaging in a conspiracy against our nation by trying to influence our politics. She admitted working closely with a U.S. citizen—member of the Republican Party. There goes that lie about Republicans loving America more than any of the rest of us! Add to that the group of high schoolers appearing to give the Nazi salute at their high school prom a short time ago and the group in Charlottesville, VA that #45 thought consisted of good people!

I think we are going to find out what's next soon!

Dr. E. Faye Williams is National President of the National Congress of Black Women; host of "Wake Up and Stay Woke" on WPFM-FM 89.3 in Washington, DC.

ESSA: A roadmap for achieving equity in education

(Via NNPAnewswire.com)

States are in the driver's seat when it comes to improving their struggling schools. But how can we make sure they're not taking the "path of least resistance" when it comes to this important work, risking the academic prospects for students of color.

Building on the work done by Bellwether Education Partners, which conducted independent peer reviews of all 50 states' and the District of Columbia's ESSA plans that were required to be submitted to the U.S. Department of Education for approval, the Collaborative for Student Success analyzed plans to see which states are taking advantage of new-found flexibility regarding equity in education. The new report, Check State Plans: Promise to Practice, found that just 17 states met its threshold for even having enough public information to review. The report notes that the results are "sobering" in that "more than 9 million students attend schools that do not meet anyone's standard for what is acceptable." This is particularly acute for students of color and who come from low-income families.

The fact is, achievement gaps between white and black students exist. We see this time and again in the National Assessment of Education Progress as well as on individual states' annual assessments. Students who attend inner city public schools tend to fare worse than their peers in suburban public schools. The gaps are even more pronounced when we look at private schools that draw privileged students away from city institutions. These racial divides segregate communities.

A report from the Young Invincibles examines these divides and developed three main findings: (1) minorities disproportionately enroll in for-profit and community colleges, which can condemn them to a vicious cycle of debt; (2) college costs hit minority students harder than their white peers; and (3) the achievement gap is racially divided. While 36.2 percent of white students completed four years of college in 2015, just 22.5 percent of black students could say the same, according to the analysis. While that's much better than the 1974 numbers in which just 5.5 percent of black students finished four years of college compared to 14 percent of white students, that progress leaves little cheer.

State education chiefs and their in-state partners at teaching and research institutions plus educators on the front lines have a real chance to make a difference for black students and other minorities. But do they have the courage to make the necessary changes?

The Collaborative's report is a good starting point, and it provides a roadmap written by education and policy leaders who are displaying the courage necessary to create bold plans that prioritize equity. Low-performing schools must be identified as such and be given real plans with real accountability measures to improve. There have to be consequences for students who don't make the grade, but for too long, our education system as a whole has punished students by not giving them the tools they need to succeed. We have to look at the institutions and root out systemic problems.

As such, the Promise to Practice reviewers evaluated state plans based on a rubric that included whether the state has a coherent vision for improving student outcomes, whether there is a strategic use of funding and alignment of resources, the use of evidence-based interventions, and how well state leaders engaged stakeholders. That last component is perhaps one of the most interesting aspects of ESSA – federal lawmakers required states to gather input from a wide range of groups outside of traditional education. Civic groups, business leaders, parents and community activists were given a seat at the table.

We watched excitedly as several NAACP groups got involved from the very beginning, helping policy and lawmakers understand community and even neighborhood needs for the betterment of students. Still, it disheartens

ing to learn that just 17 states are ready to identify and provide the kinds of supports that low-performing schools require. Other states can look at Colorado, which has developed a clear menu of school improvement items for districts to choose from, or Nevada where districts have to describe how their strategies for addressing equity gaps in funding applications. Nevada is also using equity-oriented data like behavior and attendance to understand schools' challenges.

There's so much anger and divisiveness in our society today, but the importance of education equity should be among the things on which we can all agree. Every single student in every single school, no matter where that school is located or what kind of home life the child has, must be given the tools and knowledge to succeed. We shouldn't have to fight for this right – the right to an education. And yet we find ourselves year in, year out looking aghast at assessment scores that prove achievement gaps are still there. Thought-provoking analyses like that done by the Collaborative for Student Success will help close those gaps until they are well and truly gone.

Elizabeth Primas is an educator who spent more than 40 years working to improve education for children. She is the program manager for the NNPA's Every Student Succeeds Act Public Awareness Campaign. Follow her on Twitter @elizabethprimas.

Tell them you read it in

THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

RAINBOW COALITION

Donald Trump's border wall demand is dressed up with more lies about immigrants

"Yes, if we don't get what we want, one way or the other ... I will shut down the government," said President Trump to Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer and House Speaker-designate Nancy Pelosi, referring to his demand for \$5 billion to build his border wall.

of thieves. He is ignored by a priest and a religious official. He is saved by a Samaritan — a people who were widely despised at the time — who binds his wounds, takes him to an inn and pays his fare. "Go and do likewise," Jesus instructs.



Rev. Jesse Jackson, Sr.

In contrast, Trump slanders the strangers. His administration has ripped babies from their parents, shackled pregnant women, locked up thousands indefinitely. He has constricted legal immigration, even as employers seek new workers as the baby boomers age and retire. And now he threatens to shut down a good part of our own government unless he can waste billions on the wall that Mexico won't pay for.

In the midterm elections, Trump, worried about mobilizing his base, descended into hysteria, threatening to revoke the citizenship of those born here — a direct violation of the Constitution — rousing fears

about a supposed invading army of migrants, eventually dispatching 7,000 troops to the border; an insult to our military and to our border patrols.

He succeeded in raising the importance of the issue, but he lost the argument. Democrats swept to a majority in the House. Polls showed most Americans still believe that immigrants benefit this nation, as opposed to costing it. The percentage of Americans supporting lower levels of immigration has fallen from a high of nearly two-thirds in the mid-1990s to an all-time low of less than 30 percent in June.

Rep. Pramila Jayapal, who immigrated from India at 16 and is the first Indian-American woman elected to the House of Representatives and one of 12 naturalized citizens, notes that a bipartisan comprehensive immigration reform bill exists — one that once got 68 votes in the U.S. Senate.

It paid for more border security, while providing a clear road map to citizenship for the 11 million undocumented, including the Dreamers, and fixed many of the problems of our system: outdated family visa caps, cruel immigration

backlogs, and a failure to address pressing needs of employers.

Trump, however, doesn't seek a solution; he seeks the preservation of an issue — one that he believes can help him divide and conquer.

What's needed instead, as Rep. Jayapal wrote, is a moral imagination about immigration. This is not about "open borders," as Trump slanders Democrats. It is about creating a humane, sensible, smart system to deal with legal immigration, cut down on illegal entry and address those desperately seeking asylum.

We would also be wise to seek to assist rather than destabilize our neighbors so that their economies thrive. People don't want to leave their homes. Only desperation for their families leads them to venture into the unknown.

As we head into this holiday season, it is a good time for each of us to look into our hearts, to see our neighbors without blinders. They aren't seeking to invade America. They aren't long-

JACKSON

Continued on this page

CRAZY FAITH MINISTRIES

The Myth of "Law and Order" in America

I have long been troubled by the fact that politicians, including judges and lawmakers, will and do swear "upon the Bible" that they will "faithfully execute" the requirements of their offices or "tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth" but once in office or on the witness stand, promptly ignore their very promises - made, presumably, to God.

This president, as have all presidents, made serious promises to "... faithfully execute the Office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States," but at every turn, seems intent on dismantling the components of this government in order to impose his desire to be an authoritarian leader.

United States senators and representatives likewise promise to "support and defend the Constitution," but their commitment right now is clearly to support and defend the president, at the expense of many of the people who elected them.

Presumably, many people lie while testifying in criminal cases, but when law enforcement officers do it - which they frequently do - the result is too often people being wrongly convicted and imprisoned. A report published by The Innocence Project determined that since 2015, police lied under oath more than 25 times. (<https://www.innocenceproject.org/prevalence-police-lying/>)

My hunch is that that number is far greater than we know. Why is this kind of lying tolerated by a judicial system which touts its commitment to "law and order?" And why aren't more Americans upset that in the current administration, not only is the lying leading to a total disrespect for the rule of law but is also contributing to the ruination of this government as we have known it?

And then there is the big question: in a country in which citizens boast of being "Christian," even as they put down other religions, why is lying tolerated even though people supposedly pledge their obedience to God by putting their hands on the Bible? Where is the outcry?

What we are seeing is the raw disrespect people in power have for "law and order," and their arrogance in ignoring it even as they break the rule of law themselves. A woman who as a young girl was caught up in sex trafficking and ended up killing a man whom she thought was going to kill her must spend 51 years in jail before she can be considered for parole. (https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/cytoia-brown-life-sentence-supreme-court_us_5c0c7f30e4b0ab8cf693f5c5), while a young white college student will get no jail time for allegedly raping a young woman, even though he is now not being allowed to graduate. (https://www.washingtonpost.com/education/2018/12/13/former-baylor-frat-president-accused-rape-got-no-jail-time-now-is-barred-graduation/?utm_term=.4ace4b484a7a)

Crystal Mason voted because she thought that she was allowed under Texas law even though she had a criminal past, but found out the hard way that her supposition was incorrect and she was sentenced to five more years in prison for voter fraud (<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/crystal-mason-texas-woman-sentenced-to-5-years-for-voter-fraud-speaks-out-on-felon-voting-rights/>) while Brian Kemp, who was Secretary of State in Georgia even as he ran for governor, won that election and is not being held accountable in spite of evidence of voter suppression. (<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/11/04/us/politics/georgia-elections-kemp-voters-hack.html>)

All of this, and so much more, goes on in this country in spite of oaths uttered promising to uphold the law "so help me God."

What this reveals is a disregard and a disrespect for the United States Constitution and for the God whom people say they loved. We have in this country a disdain for God's law and an arrogance about the need to promise to obey and follow laws made by human beings. There is no "law and order" in this country when it comes to how the wealthy and powerful live their lives. They do what they want, law and US Constitution notwithstanding, confident that they can use their money - which is their power - to circumvent whatever laws they may break.

Meanwhile, people who have few resources to even survive, let alone pay for attorneys who know how to work the system, end up in prison for crimes which should not be the basis for them being locked up for decades. For example, a friend of mine shared that she has a cousin who is spending 25 years in prison for stealing \$25 from a store, while former Donald Trump attorney Michael Cohen will serve only three years for crimes which may adversely affect this country for a long time.

Police officers get away with using state-sanctioned violence in their work, while a woman in Florida who abided by the "stand your ground" laws and fired a shot into the air to fend off a man who was about to attack her was given 20 years in prison. (<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/02/07/us/marissa-alexander-released-stand-your-ground.html>)

The judicial system in this country is apparently one that can be deftly manipulated and bypasses if one has the resources to do it. "Law and order" is of no concern to the wealthy; they use the system to increase their wealth and chew up, swallow and throw away laws that should by definition bring them down. Meanwhile, our prisons are filled with people, too many of whom committed crimes which could have been punished in a more productive way for them and for society. The absence of law and order in the practices of the powerful is killing this country by killing individual communities.

To the rich and powerful, it seems on this end that to them, the notion of an exacting God, one which holds all people to accountability, is of no concern. They have no more regard for God than they do to the Christian Bible on which they place their hands when they promise to uphold, protect and preserve this country and its ideals.

The Bible says that God will not be mocked. Maybe not, but God has remained strangely quiet as the rich and powerful tout the myth of "law and order" to justify their treatment of "the least of these." To be clear, they have shown that upholding "law and order" is viewed by them as a way to hold onto their power at the expense of everyone else.

Rev. Susan K Smith is available for lectures, workshops and preaching. Contact her at revsuekim@sbcglobal.net, or visit her page at www.crazyfaithministries.org.

JACKSON

Continued from this page

ing to leave their families, their homes, their communities. They are struggling to

survive. They are strangers on the Jericho Road.

We should meet them with an open heart, not a closed mind.

Rev. Jesse Jackson is the founder of Rainbow Coalition.

TO BE EQUAL

Congratulations to Rep. Karen Bass, elected to chair the largest ever Congressional Black Caucus

(Via TriceEdneyWire.com)

"More than building a career, what I have done throughout my life is followed my passion for activism ... So the theme I've noticed in my life is that great success has come when I was simply doing the things I was passionate about to make whatever difference I could. That's the lesson I would have to offer to anyone and that's always lead with your passion. But I'm not done yet." — U.S. Rep. Karen Bass, chair-elect, Congressional Black Caucus

She was the first to lead a state legislative body when she was sworn in as Speaker of the California State Assembly in 2008. She led the state through the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression, fast-tracking economic stimulus legislation to jumpstart billions of dollars' worth of infrastructure projects. Her successful bipartisan efforts to negotiate a state budget during the economic crisis earned the 2010 John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award.



Marc Morial

As a member of the House Judiciary Committee and its Task Force on Over-Criminalization, Rep. Bass is well-positioned to effect advance one of the CBC's signature issues, criminal justice reform. Earlier this year, the Committee passed the Formerly Incarcerated Reenter

Society Transformed Safely Transitioning Every Person (FIRST STEP) Act with an overwhelming bipartisan majority.

Rep. Bass has been a leading advocate for a legislative package based largely on the National Urban League's Main Street Marshall Plan, the Jobs and Justice Act. As she explained in a statement announcing the introduction of the omnibus bill, during the 2016 Presidential campaign, an infamous question was asked of African Americans: "What do you have to lose?"

Rep. Bass and the CBC executive leadership team answered that question in the form a 130-page policy document titled, "We Have A Lot to Lose: Solutions to Advance Black Families in the 21st Century." That document, along with the Main Street Marshall Plan, served as the basis for the Jobs and Justice Act.

Prior to serving in elected office, Rep. Bass worked as a Physician Assistant and

served as a clinical instructor at the University of Southern California's Keck School of Medicine. In response to the gang violence epidemic sweeping Los Angeles in 1990, Rep. Bass founded Community Coalition, a community-based social justice organization addressing the root causes of injustice.

The other officers elected to lead the CBC for the 116th Congress are Rep. Joyce Beatty (Ohio 3rd), 1st Vice Chair; Rep. Brenda Lawrence (Michigan 14th), 2nd Vice Chair; Rep. Hank Johnson (Georgia 4th), Secretary; Rep. A. Donald McEachin (Virginia 4th), Whip; and Congressman-elect Steven Horsford (Nevada 4th), Parliamentarian.

We congratulate Rep. Bass and the rest of the leadership team and look forward to working with the CBC in the coming two years to address issues of opportunity, equality, and justice.

Marc Morial is President/CEO of the National Urban League.

To be young, gifted, and dead

(Via TriceEdneyWire.com)

McKenzie Adams wanted to be a scientist. The gregarious 9-year-old Alabama girl was just that, a girl, a little girl, a brown-skinned baby girl with braids or, in one picture, just a side ponytail. She wanted to be a scientist, and her family described her as "bubbly" but bubbles burst, sometimes in the worst way. McKenzie hung herself in her grandmother's home in the face of racist bullying and taunting, which included the vile directive to kill herself. Her fellow students didn't like the fact that she was friends with a white boy, and we don't know enough to know whether the deathly hazing came from Black or white students. All we know is that a child is dead, a baby black girl is dead. Her suicide has shaken me to my very soul.

currency is at the bottom of the societal totem pole. What, you might ask, does that have to do with public policy? The demonization and denigration of Black women seep into the ways we are dealt with in the public space, and even in the workplace.

Little McKenzie could not take being called ugly, Black, and more. She was not immunized from the ways we live in a racially hostile space. She could have been a scientist.



Dr. Julianne Malveaux

dead. She is not the only young Black child who has died by her own hand. Earlier this year, US News and World Report writer Joseph P. Williams reported that suicide rates among Black children were rising. He highlighted children, both male and female, promising young people who ended their own lives. According to Williams, "More elementary aged African American children have been taking their own lives, and Black boys and girls between the ages of 5 and 12 are doing so at roughly twice the rate of white kids the same age."

Researchers say they don't know why young Black children are killing themselves, but if we speculate we can factor in mental illness, family dysfunction, unstable socioeconomic conditions and, in my opinion, hostility to African American people that many Black children

cannot help but internalize. How might young Black people process the killing of Tamir Rice? The murder of Sandra Bland? In Baltimore, the vicious killing of Freddy Gray? Some young people might look at these incidents, and the barrage of episodes directed at Black people, and wonder if there is a safe space for them.

Part of the challenge with Black children and suicide is that Black people are not accustomed to sharing their feelings. Indeed, mental health issues are often dismissed among African Americans. Folk are told to "pray" about depressed feelings, forgetting that prayer without works is dead. Adults and children are advised to shrug it off when there is no shrugging to do. The feelings of dystopia, nihilism, and depression that many African Americans experience because of the hostility they experience by merely living in their skin shows up in suicides, but also in homicides and in other acting out. And while young Black men may indulge in senseless violence, young Black women too often turn their pain inward not outward.

Gender stereotypes are not always appropriate. Both Black girls and boys are killing themselves. Both Black girls and boys are working out some of their pain through violence. According to some data, Black girls are now involved in violent incidents with each other almost as often as Black boys (blame the housewives, just kidding). Both Black girls and Black boys are being

JACKSON

Continued from this page

New Hanover County

Burnett-Eaton Museum Foundation Kwanzaa Committee will present its Kwanzaa Market Festival from December 26th- January 1st. Pre-registration is required by December 15th. For more information contact Islah Speller at 910-795-8597.

Community Briefs

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

Compiled By Wilmington Journal Staff

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!!



HAPPY 30TH BIRTHDAY DAD

Heaven hold our Father on this special day. Lord we ask this of you to tell him we are okay...then put your arms around him and tell him that his children Amiya, Makayla and Makhi, love and miss him. Happy Birthday Daddy!

Love,
Amiya, Makayla and Makhi

HAPPY 30TH BIRTHDAY MONTREAL

Although we are still sad for your loss, we are pleased to understand that you are now in paradise and from above you can enlighten our path and protect us.

We want to tell you that we will always have the best memories of you and that you will always be in our heart. We love you and we wish you a Happy 30th Birthday!

Love,
The Family

HOMETOWN NEWS FROM BRUNSWICK COUNTY

Seniors citizens are important people

Senior citizens are important people because they are very helpful in many places of the community. The Christmas holidays are included. Small children and adults alike look forward to them. Even in this joyous seasons, we senior citizens continue to think of those affected by the recent hurricanes.



Verniece Stanley

There are many people still in need of help. Some still have debris in their yards and on the side of the road. We have volunteers from out of state helping. We are thankful for getting help for the poor and homeless people living near us. It is hard to survive in times like these, and it's not getting better.

We can't overlook the very cold winter season. Living in substandard housing, with inadequate food and health-care, large and small families remain in need daily. Some people are barely getting by from one pay day to the next. Their children are in and out of school because of bad weather.

We can go back one hundred years or more when we had storms occur. Many experienced heartbreaking situations while watching and waiting for the storms to pass over.

Let's change your thoughts for awhile. We do live in the land of plenty where we can enjoy time spent with visiting relatives and friends. It's a time for true happiness.

The state of Florida is warm in the winter season. You may think people that live in such a glamorous, fun filled place are happier than others. If so, you are mistaken about the nature of happiness. Many intelligent people still equate happiness with fun. The truth is that fun and happiness have little, or nothing, in common. Fun is what we experience during an act. Happiness is what we experience after an act. It is a deeper, more abiding, emotion.

Families across the country will enjoy the Christmas Holidays in many different ways. Gifts are something bestowed upon one another voluntarily without any compensation in return. We are willing to give and receive gifts throughout the holiday season. We want the truth to be

told again and again when it is absolutely necessary during the Christmas holidays and beyond.

Verniece E. Stanley is a native of Brunswick County. She grew up on a farm but wanted more excitement in life. She graduated from high school in Brunswick County in 1948 and graduated from Fayetteville State Teachers' College in 1952. She taught school in Brunswick County for nine years. She moved to Baltimore, Maryland, married, and taught school for twenty-five more years. She received her master's degree from Morgan State College in Baltimore City. She retired and moved back to Bolivia, N. C. where she enjoys writing articles for The Wilmington Journal and is an active member of the NAACP Board.

GET THAT DEED AND FLIP THOSE KEYS!

More is lost....INDECISIONS

This week I want to share with you how important it is to make some important decisions sooner vs. later.



Brenda Dixon

In real estate, there will always be only one home, one building on that lot in that city at any given time. No two properties are alike even if they are identical in appearance from the external. There is something, some characteristics that will always make it different. Not to mention that

even in the same condo/townhome development, it's not in the same space/place. The sun won't shine in the windows the same. The parking spots won't be in the same location, nothing will be the same. Countless regrets have come from my clients over the years for not making a decision sooner and that cost them a property they really loved.

There have been times when the very first property viewed was the perfect one but they just wanted to see what else was out there. Trust me I know how huge a purchase this is and everyone should be at peace with their

decisions. In today's market when the affordability is so lacking and the choices of areas are even more scarce, you must be prepared to make a decision as quickly as possible. Especially if you're in the \$200,000 and under market. That is the price point for many 1st-timers buyers in our area and the pickings are beyond slim.

So going into the new year and when you're blessed to get a pre-approval to start searching for your 1st home, I encourage you to RUN not walk. I encourage you to view it, and if you love it, go immediately to your secret closet, pray to your Higher Power and ask for PEACE,

GUIDANCE and a DECISION. I promise you, in real estate, more is lost in indecision vs. making the wrong one, truly it is.

Let me end this week with WISHING YOU AND YOURS A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS. May it be filled with joy, laughter, and an abundance of love! Enjoy it and be GOOD for one another.

Until next week, please share this article with 3 people and reach out for your personalized game plan to purchase your first home in the next 18 months or less.

Brenda Dixon, Dixon Realty Since 1991, 27 yrs. F/T expertise. Brenda@getthatdeed.com. 910-262-4836.

May the gifts of peace, love, and joy be yours to cherish this holiday season.

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*From the management and staff of
THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL*

This holiday, give more than just gifts.

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That's what it's all about. Happy holidays from AARP.®

Go to aarp.org/blackcommunity

AARP®
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Every Good and Perfect Gift is from Above... James 1:17

*Merry Christmas to All of You from all of us at St. Stephen African Methodist Episcopal Church
501 Red Cross Street
Wilmington, NC 28401
Reverend Thomas O'Neal Nixon, Senior Pastor
Please join us Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. for the Celebration of the Birth of Jesus Christ!*



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Jesus is the reason for the season!!

St. Andrew AME Zion Church
1201 S. 9th Street
Wilmington, NC 28401



Reverend Dorian T. Daniels, Sr., Pastor

Merry Christmas! *From Our Family to Yours*



Pastor & Mrs. Johnson A. Hooper
Faith Outreach COGIC Family
Jacksonville, NC

Email: FOMCOGIC@ymail.com
www.facebook.com/fomcogicjacksonvillnc



Family is why we do it all.

From Our Family To Yours

Happy Holidays!

Cedric Dickerson, Agent We all feel the same commitment to care for our families. Helping you meet your insurance needs is part of my commitment to you.

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The Blessing of Hope
and the Peace of God's Love.*

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William O. Boykin, Manager

Eunice Boone-Bowen, William R. Boykin, Michelle Brooks, Edward "Bubba" Crumdy, Robert Garrison, Beverly Hedgebeth, Rev. Terry L. Jones, Demetrius Jordan, Michael Lawson, Monita McLaughlin, Wanda Poole, Mychal Robinson, Bernard "LP" Stevens, James Stevenson, LaShonda Sidbury-Teague, Carolyn Waddell-Mack, Jillian Waddell and Thaddeus Williams

Cassandra L. Hall

Cassandra "Sandra" Lee Hall, was born July 27, 1955 to the late Dorothy Mae Johnson and the late Huey L. Pigford, Sr. On Wednesday, December 5, 2018, Sandra passed away at the age of 63. Funeral services were held on Tuesday, December 11, 2018 at Davis Funeral Home. Interment followed in Hooper Hill Cemetery.

She leaves to honor and cherish her memories, her husband, Joseph Hall; son, Eddie Hall (Yolanda); step-son, Brian Hooper (Tish); brothers, James E. Johnson, Huey L. Pigford (Germaine) and Eric Pigford; sister, Elaine Williams (Terrell) and a host of other family and friends. *Services entrusted to Davis Funeral Home, 901 S. 5th Ave, Wilmington, NC 28401. Please share memories and condolences with the family at www.davisfuneralhomenc.com.*

Alpearl Murphy

Alpearl Murphy, age 95, entered into eternal rest on Wednesday, December 12, 2018. She was born August 4, 1923 in Little River Township, South Carolina to the late James Albert and Ada Vaught Bryant. Funeral services were held on Monday, December 17, 2018 at Davis Funeral Home. Internment followed in Calvary Memorial Cemetery.

Alpearl was educated in the public schools of Horry County. She retired as a housekeeper after several years as a faithful worker.

She married James Murphy and moved to Wilmington where she has resided over the past years. James was a devoted and loving husband to Alpearl for fifty-four years.

Alpearl was preceded in death by two sisters, Loubeartha and Leona Bryant and two brothers, Clinton and James N. Bryant, Sr.

She leaves to cherish her memories, two brothers-in-law, Robert Murphy (Patricia) and James Hall; special cousin, Barbara Highsmith; special friend, Inez Overton and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. *Services entrusted to Davis Funeral Home, 901 S. 5th Ave, Wilmington, NC 28401. Please share memories and condolences with the family at www.davisfuneralhomenc.com.*

Nathaniel O. Bryant

Nathaniel O. Bryant, age 80, of Leland, passed away Monday, December 10, 2018. A celebration of Mr. Bryant's life was held on Saturday, December 15, 2018 at St. James AME Zion Church. Interment followed in the Bryant Family Cemetery.

Mr. Nathaniel O. Bryant, son of the later Bessie Mae

Bryant was born on August 16, 1938 in the Spring Hill Community of Leland, North Carolina. He was known by family and friends as "Nay Boy".

Nathaniel was the eldest of seven with three brothers preceding him in death, his twin Daniel, Lorenza, and Roosevelt Bryant.

Nathaniel was a very hard worker. He worked for Horton Iron and Metal Company for many years and he also enjoyed working in his garden. "Nay Boy" enjoyed life and he lived it to the fullest.

His survivors include: his daughters, Paulette Malone (D'Edwin) of Atlanta, GA and Evette Miller of Durham, NC; one granddaughter, Anaya Malone of Atlanta, GA; one sister, Laura Young (Richard) of Leland, NC; three brothers, Landon Bryant (Elizabeth) of Wilmington, NC, Joe Bryant (Connie) of Leland, NC and Simuel Bunting (Deloris) of Wilmington, NC; sisters-in-law, Sarah Ann Bryant and Enda Bryant; one very special aunt, Ruth Harrison of Leland, NC; a host of nieces, nephews, many cousins and friends, including special friends, Keith and Mary Wise and Charlie and Teresa James. *Services entrusted to Davis Funeral Home, 901 S. 5th Ave, Wilmington, NC 28401. Please share memories and condolences with the family at www.davisfuneralhome.com.*

William "Buck" Gore

William "Buck" Gore died December 5, 2018 in Buffalo, NY. Funeral services were held on Saturday, December 15, 2018 at First Baptist Church, Southport, NC. Burial followed in the Northwood Cemetery.

William was born on October 10, 1949 to the late Harry "Jake" and Phyllis Gore in Southport, NC., where he attended school. "Buck" as he was known by family and friends was a member of First Baptist Church where he sang in the choir. He worked numerous jobs throughout his life including longshoreman and jailer. "Buck" loved to eat, play bid whist and watch west-erns. He was also preceded in death by his wife, Elizabeth "Liz" Gore and son, William (Mae) Keith Gore.

He leaves behind to honor his memory: his children, Phyllis (Anthony) Cunningham of Buffalo, NY, Eugene (Christy) Peterson of Bolivia, NC, Greg (Melanie) Peterson of Wisconsin, Corey Gore of Southport, NC and Chris (Damita) Gore of Portsmouth, VA; a host of grandchildren, great-grandchildren, other family and friends. *A Service of John H Shaw's Son Funeral Home.*

Estelle Davis

Estelle Davis died

December 10, 2018 in Charlotte, NC. Funeral services were held on Saturday, December 15, 2018 at St. Andrew AME Zion Church. Burial followed in Calvary Cemetery.

Estelle Chavis Davis, daughter of the late Pearl and Henry Lee Chavis, was born September 19, 1931 in Hope Mills, North Carolina. Estelle attended and graduated from Cumberland County Public Schools. She joined Nathan Davis Sr. in Holy Matrimony on July 13, 1948. Out of this union was born two daughters: Lawanda and Deborah, and three sons: Reginald, Nathan Jr., and Henry. Estelle had been a devoted member of Saint Andrew A.M.E. Zion for many years. She attended until her relocation to Charlotte, North Carolina to live with Reggie and Wanda. During her time in Charlotte she joined University Park Baptist Church. She was a kind, loving, and funny person, full of spunk who would always tell it like it is. She was a great cook and those who knew her well knew she loved a good Friday night Bingo.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Nathan and two children, Henry, and Deborah. She leaves to cherish her memory: three children, Nathan Davis, Jr. (Angela), Lawanda Walker (Don), and Reginald Davis; 9 grandchildren; 25 great-grandchildren; 9 great-great-grandchildren; three brothers, Otis Chavis, James Easter Jr., and Thomas Easter; two sisters, Lucy Aikens (Teddy) and Margaret Green (David); one special daughter, Roni Smith; and a host of other relatives and friends. *A Service of John H Shaw's Son Funeral Home.*

Byron Funderburk

Byron Funderburk died December 14, 2018. Funeral services will be held 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, December 22, 2018 at St. Phillip AME Church. Visitation will be one hour prior to the service on Saturday, only. *A Service of John H Shaw's Son Funeral Home.*

Cathleen Greene

Cathleen Greene died December 16, 2018 at NHRMC. Memorial services will be held 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 22, 2018 at the Willie L. Shaw Jr. Memorial Chapel. *A Service of John H Shaw's Son Funeral Home.*

Archie Smoakes

Archie Smoakes died December 17, 2018. Funeral services will be held 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 23, 2018 at God's Royal Family Church of God. (Sunset Park area). Burial will follow in Calvary Cemetery. *A Service of John H Shaw's Son Funeral Home.*

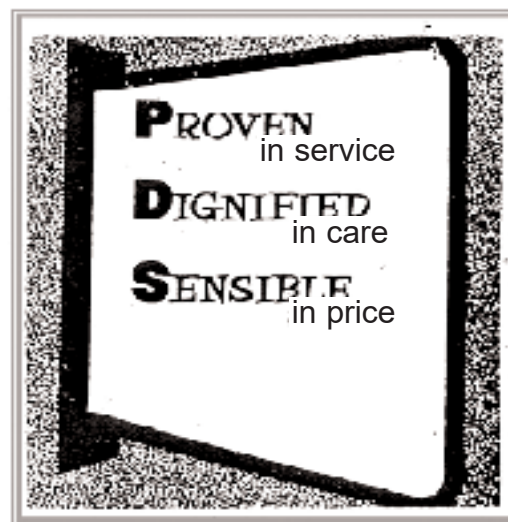
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Samuel Drain, Jr.
and Allene Drain
In Memoriam



Connie Drain Green
Funeral Director

New Hanover County

Faith Temple Church, 1119 S. 4th St., WATCH NIGHT CELEBRATION will be held on Monday night, December 31st at 10:00 p.m. Join Faith Temple for Watch Night Service, featuring musical and dance groups, and special guest, Gospel Comedian and renowned evangelist Mother Spirit. This will be a time of rejoicing as we celebrate the "Victory at Midnight". The public is invited to attend.

St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 600 Grace St., will hold a free community Kwanzaa Fashion Show on Monday, December 31st. Volunteers are needed. For more information contact Beverly Faison at 757-218-2223.

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

Compiled By Wilmington Journal Staff

Members of Congress introduce Bill to award Aretha Franklin with Congressional Gold Medal



Many of the tributes to Franklin since her passing have emphasized not only her musical talent but her role in shaping and empowering the role of women with songs that gave voice to life experiences from a decidedly female perspective.

BY LAUREN VICTORIA BURKE
NNPA NEWSWIRE CONTRIBUTOR

In the wake of the August 16th death of the "Queen of Soul," Aretha Franklin, Senators Kamala Harris (D-CA) and Orrin Hatch (R-UT), along with Representatives Brenda Lawrence (D-MD) and Doug Collins (R-GA) have introduced legislation to posthumously award Franklin the Congressional Gold Medal.

The legendary artist died of pancreatic cancer at the age of 76.

"Aretha was simply a legend. Her work and impact will be felt for generations to come, and it's long past time Congress honor her with the Congressional Gold Medal," said Senator Harris in an August 21 release.

The legislation will be called, "The Aretha Franklin Congressional Gold Medal Act" and, should it become law, it will honor Franklin's role in "shaping the nation's cultural and socially relevant discography and highlight how she was an example to all people in how one person's talents can make a difference in the lives of millions of people across the globe."

Many of the tributes to Franklin since her passing have emphasized not only her musical talent but her role in shaping and empowering the role of women with songs that gave voice to life experiences from a decidedly female perspective.

Aretha Franklin's involvement in civil rights is also noted in the legislation. Her

music often served as a call to action that inspired thousands to join civil rights movements and still maintains a social context that resonates across events even in present day.

"I am proud to join Senator Harris in introducing a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to honor an American music legend, Aretha Franklin, for her contributions to American music culture," said Rep. Lawrence.

"Aretha Franklin was soul personified and she gave us the gift of her voice, her truth and her unapologetic passion to demand compassion, love and R-E-S-P-E-C-T for women everywhere. An iconic entertainer, powerful civil rights leader, history maker and a beautiful spirit I was privileged to call friend; we honor this Detroit native, the true Queen of Soul. She will be dearly missed, never forgotten and always treasured," Lawrence added.

"Aretha Franklin's legacy, like her voice, will sing through the generations," said Senator Hatch. "Through her talent, she touched the hearts of millions, lifting all of us with songs of hope and humanity. Aretha brought light, laughter, and love to all who would hear. I'm grateful to play a small role in honoring the life of this remarkable artist."

The legislation is expected to pass and be signed into law.

Lauren Victoria Burke is an independent journalist and writer for NNPA as well as a political analyst and communications strategist. She may be contacted at LBurke007@gmail.com and on twitter at [@LVBurke](https://twitter.com/LVBurke).

SENIOR CITIZENS' FELLOWSHIP

"Jesus is the reason"

BY FANNIE ALLEN AND SHEILA ROSS
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

It is the time of year for us to realize "Jesus is the reason for the season." We celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ our messiah and Savior. The Senior Citizen Fellowship met for the last time for the year to celebrate birthdays and have our Christmas cele-

bration. It is always great for our fellowship to meet and greet each other in love. Our meeting was called to order by our president Mrs. Gladys Taylor. Minister Doris McQuillan led us in, "Joy to the world" and gave prayer. Mrs. Margie Robinson led us in "Jesus what a wonderful child." Our members who celebrated their birthdays from July -

December were given gifts. They were very pleased. We then exchanged gifts and said hellos and thank yous. Our visitor was Mrs. Anna McKoy, who also sang, "Mary did you know?" Mrs. Cynthia Sparrow was back with us after her fall and being in rehab. Our prayers go out to Mr. George Hill in his absence today. Our meal was catered by Middle of the Island. It

was great. After eating we had more fellowshiping and laughs. Everyone had a joyful time.

To our readers we wish you a Merry Christmas and the best of the new year with God's help. We will be back in January with more of our news and fellowship. Thank you to all that contribute to the success of this fellowship. To all to God be the Glory!

A WORD FROM THE LORD

I receive Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior

The greatest historical event is, God manifested in the flesh or God becoming a man to redeem him from the curse of the Law. John 3:16-17 (KJV) 16 For God so loved the world, that

he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. 17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that through him might be saved.

I saw this posted on Youtube and it says share it: I like to share it with you to provoke thought: "Please find these encouraging Words. Just checking whether you understand this: John 3:16.

A little boy was selling newspapers on the corner, the people were in and out of the cold. The little boy was so cold that he wasn't trying to sell many papers. He walked up to a policeman and said; Mister, you wouldn't happen to know where a poor boy could find a warm place to sleep tonight would you? You see, I sleep in a box up around the corner there and the ally and its awful cold

in there for tonight. Sure would be nice to have a warm place to stay.

The policeman looked down at the little boy and said; You go down the street to that big white house and you knock on the door. When they come out the door you just say; John 3:16 and they will let you in. So he did, He walked up the steps and knocked on the door, and a lady answered. He looked up and said, "John 3:16. The lady said, come on in, Son.

She took him in and she sat him down in a split bottom rocker in front of a great big old fireplace, and she went off. The boy sat there for a while and thought to himself: John 3:16, I don't understand it, but it sure makes a cold boy warm. Later she come back and asked him are you hungry? He said, well, just a little. I haven't eaten in a couple of days, and I guess I could stand a little bit of food.

The lady took him in the kitchen and sat him down to a table full of wonderful food. He ate and ate until he couldn't eat any more. Then he thought to himself: John 3:16, Boy, I sure don't understand it but it sure makes a hungry boy full. She took him upstairs to a bathroom to a huge bathtub filled with warm water, and he sat there and soaked for a while. As he soaked, he thought to himself: John 3:16, I sure don't understand it, but it sure makes a dirty boy clean.

You know, I've not had a bath, a real bath, in my whole life. The only bath I ever had was when I stood in front of that big old fire hydrant as they flushed it out. The lady came in and got him. She took him to a room, tucked him into a big old feather bed, pulled the covers up around his neck, kissed him goodnight and turned out the lights. As he lay in the darkness and looked out the window at the snow coming down on that cold night, he thought to himself: John 3:16, I don't understand it but it sure makes a tired boy rest.

The next morning the lady came back up and took him down again to that same big table full of food. After he ate, she took him back to that same big old split bottom rocker in front of the fireplace and picked up a big old Bible. She sat down in front of him and looked into his young face. Do you understand John 3:16? She asked gently, He replied, No ma'am, I don't. The first time I ever heard it was last night when the policeman told me to use it. She opened the Bible to John 3:16 and began to explain to him about Jesus. Right there, in front of that big old fireplace, he gave his heart and life to Jesus.

He sat there and thought: John 3:16? I don't understand it, but it sure makes a lost boy feel safe. You know, I have to confess I don't understand it

either: how God was willing to send His son to die for me, and how Jesus would agree to do such a thing. I don't understand the agony of the Father and every angel in heaven as they watched Jesus suffer and die. I don't understand the intense love for Me that kept Jesus on the cross till the end. I don't understand it, but it sure does make life worth living.

John 3:16-17 (KJV) 16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. 17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved."

John 3:16, is the sum total of the Christmas story and not Santa Claus; Jesus is the reason for the season! He is the free gift of eternal life to a lost and hopeless world, that does not know Him. Like the boy in story, will you give your heart and life to Him. Pray this simple prayer. Father, forgive me of my sins. I receive Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior. If you believe this, go and live for him in your new birth.

Reverend Naconiel Fullwood currently the pastor of MRDRC Ministries (Miracle, Restoration, Deliverance, Revival Center Ministries Inc.) located in Wilmington, NC.

TELL SOMEBODY

"The Reason For The Season" A Saviour Is Born!

In spite of over stated materialism and gross commercialization, the reason for the season remains the same! This story never gets old! It's significance never shifts. The focus never changes. Secular humanism can not steal the glory from God for the birth of his Son, Jesus Christ. The heavens continue to declare his glory and his church continues to publish His story. There

is no Christmas without Christ! Don't get it twisted, Jesus is now, and shall always be the reason for the season!

No other birth in the history of mankind has been heralded by angels, and so highly regarded and esteemed by men! This is because no one else was born, "Savior of the world." Matthew 1:21

"And, lo the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: For, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people."

In other words, members from every race, color, culture, and creed, will benefit from the birth of this wonderful child. Through reading the scripture, we can behold the King of Kings and Lord of Lords making his entrance into the world. He avoided the pomp and grandeur of a palatial setting, and chose instead a lowly manger. While the angels and heavenly host were celebrating this miraculous birth, the devil got mad and tried to kill the newborn king. He failed miserably, because God kept him alive. The world needed a Savior.

The reason the world needs a Savior is because, we were all born in sin and shaped in iniquity. (Psalm 51:5) According to Romans 6:23, we are told that , ""The wages of sin is death; but the

gift of God is eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved." John 3:16-17

God in his infinite goodness, has given us all a way of escape through the gift of his Son, Jesus Christ. For this reason, we give him praise, glory, and honor. Joy to the world, the Lord is come. Let earth receive her king. Let every heart prepare him room. Let heaven and nature sing, A Saviour is born !!!!!

Church, we cannot afford to lose our focus in a day and time like this! We can never forget the reality and finality of his birth.. This is not a cause for debate. No question about it. Jesus is The Reason for The Season. Be blessed , and continue to Tell Somebody!!!

Prayer: Father, we thank

you for sending your Son to be the Savior of the world. Help us to ever keep Jesus as the center of the Christmas celebration. In Jesus's Name, Amen.

"Mrs. Sylvia B. Hooper is a native Wilmingtonian, married to Pastor Johnson A. Hooper, First Lady of Faith Outreach COGIC, Jacksonville, N.C. She is a mother of three wonderful children and a proud grandmother! She is a Licensed Evangelist with COGIC, International. She is the President of P.W.E. Pastors Wives Empowerment Conference, an annual event held in honor of Pastors and ministers Wives. This support group's focus is to Encourage, Embrace and Empower Elect Ladies to be all they can be in Christ Jesus, while providing support to their husbands, who are Gospel preachers and pastors. Her heart's desire is to please the Lord, rescue the perishing, comfort the dying, and live a life that gives God glory!



May the gifts of peace, love, and joy be yours to cherish this holiday season.

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From the management and staff of THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

In loving memory of

Thomas C. Jervay, Sr., November 30, 1914 - December 28, 1993

Willie E. Jervay, June 27, 1921 - June 16, 2012

Katherine Jervay Tate, March 27, 1949 - January 27, 2015

Thomas C. Jervay, Jr., May 11, 1946 - September 10, 1982

Jonathan Q. Allen, June 26, 1989 - June 2, 2014

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF NEW HANOVER IN THE DISTRICT COURT JUVENILE SESSION FILE NO. 17 JT 273

IN THE MATTER OF: N.A.J.P. (DOB: 07/04/2017)

TO: RESPONDENTS: KIRA PRIDGEN, BIOLOGICAL MOTHER; RANDOLPH PRIVOTT, PUTATIVE FATHER; AND ANY UNKNOWN BIOLOGICAL FATHER OF THE ABOVE CAPTIONED FEMALE CHILD BORN IN WILMINGTON, NEW HANOVER COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA TO KIRA PRIDGEN

Take notice that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action. The nature of the relief being sought is as follows:

Termination of all parental rights you have to the above-captioned minor child.

You are required to make defense to such pleading within forty (40) days following Thursday, November 29, 2018, which date is the date of first publication of this Notice. Upon your failure to do so, the party seeking service against you will apply to the Court for the relief sought.

Attorney Alexis Perkins has been appointed to represent Kira Pridgen, and she can be reached at 320 Chestnut Street, Suite 201, Wilmington, North Carolina 28401 or (910) 343-5400.

Attorney Chris Oring has been appointed to represent Randolph Privott, and he can be reached at 705 N. 4th St., Wilmington, North Carolina 28401 or (910) 763-9925.

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT A HEARING ON THE PETITION TO TERMINATE YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS IS SCHEDULED FOR December 10, 2018, AT 9:30 A.M. or as soon thereafter as it may be heard, at the Office of Juvenile Justice, 138 N 4th Street, P.O. Box 2560, Wilmington, North Carolina, 28401.

This the 6th day of December, 2018.

Karen F. Richards Contract Attorney New Hanover County Department of Social Services PO Box 81 Wilmington, NC 28402 (910) 632-0424

December 6, 13, 20, 2018

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF NEW HANOVER IN THE DISTRICT COURT JUVENILE SESSION FILE NO. 17 JT 73, 74

IN THE MATTER OF: S.B.L. (dob: 6 January 2007) A.J.L. (dob: 11 January 2005)

TO: RESPONDENT-FATHER, MICHAEL BETANCOURT, AND ANY UNKNOWN FATHER

Take notice that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action. The nature of the relief being sought is as follows:

Termination of all parental rights you have to S.B.L. and A.J.L.

You are required to make defense to such pleading within forty (40) days following Thursday, December 13, 2018, which date is the date of first publication of this Notice. Upon your failure to do so, the party seeking service against you will apply to the Court for the relief sought. You have the right to attend this hearing and you have the right to be represented by counsel. Attorney Addison Palanza has been assigned to represent you. Counsel may be contacted at (910) 769-6884, 314 Walnut Street, Ste. 100, Wilmington, NC.

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT A HEARING ON THE PETITION TO TERMINATE YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS IS SCHEDULED FOR MONDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2019, AT 9:30 A.M., or upon a date and time set thereafter, at the Office of Juvenile Justice, 138 N 4th Street, Wilmington, North Carolina, 28401.

This the 11th day of December, 2018.

Jennifer G. Cooke Attorney - New Hanover Co. Dept. of Social Services 1650 Greenfield Street Wilmington, NC 28401 PO Drawer 1559 Wilmington, NC 28402-1559 (910) 798-3612 (910) 798-3772 * fax

December 13, 20, 27, 2018

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF NEW HANOVER IN THE DISTRICT COURT JUVENILE SESSION FILE NO. 18 JA 196

IN THE MATTER OF: I.R.D. (DOB: 16 March 2018)

TO: RESPONDENTS- PAR-ENTS, NICOLE RENEE JONES AND WILLIAM KEELER

Take notice that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action. The nature of the relief being sought is as follows:

Adjudication of Juvenile Petition filed on October 8, 2018 alleging that I.R.D. is a neglected and dependent juvenile.

You are required to make defense to such pleading within forty (40) days following Thursday, November 29, 2018, which date is the date of first publication of this Notice. Upon your failure to do so, the party seeking service against you will apply to the Court for the relief sought.

You have the right to attend this hearing and you have the right to be represented by counsel. Attorney Yulia Loshinsky has been assigned to represent Ms. Jones. Counsel may be contacted at (910) 939-1125, 313 Walnut Street, Wilmington, NC. Attorney Jennifer Harjo has been assigned to represent Mr. Keeler. Counsel may be contacted at 910-343-5400, 320 Chestnut Street, 2nd Floor, Wilmington, NC.

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT A HEARING TO ADJUDICATE THE JUVENILE PETITION IS SCHEDULED FOR WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9, 2019 AT 9:30 A.M., OR upon a date and time set thereafter, at the Office of Juvenile Justice, 138 N 4th Street, Wilmington, North Carolina, 28401.

This the 26th day of October, 2018.

Jennifer G. Cooke Attorney - New Hanover Co. Dept. of Social Services 1650 Greenfield Street Wilmington, NC 28401 PO Drawer 1559 Wilmington, NC 28402-1559 (910) 798-3612 (910) 798-3772 * fax

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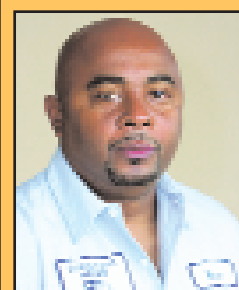
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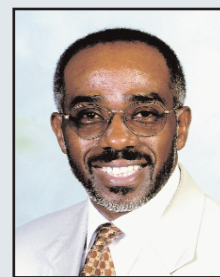
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