



**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**

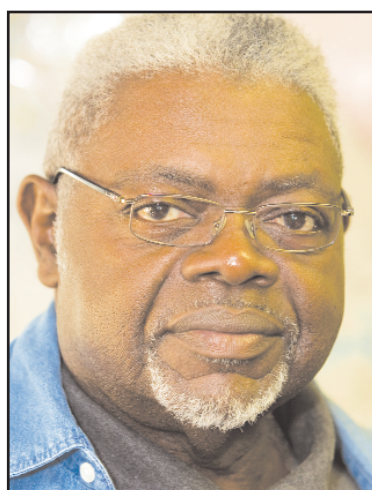


**DR. JULIANNE MALVEAUX**

**GUEST  
EDITORIAL  
"Injustice revealed  
and dramatized"**

BY  
**DR. JULIANNE  
MALVEAUX  
PAGE 4**

**BRUNSWICK  
COUNTY**



**BERNEST HEWETT**

**KEEP YOUR EYES  
ON THE PRIZE**

BY **BERNEST HEWETT**  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER  
We should never be satisfied with "I know it is wrong, but this time we will place a White in this position, and, when another position comes open, we will hire a Black. Things have gotten out of control, but we will put one of your people in a job to show good faith. We have worked with your people and know that some things are not where they should be, but if you take my son or daughter alongside you and teach him or her the job, it will clear up a

Please see  
**BRUNSWICK/Page 2**

# THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

News from the African American perspective without fear or favor

VOLUME 92/No. 24

JUNE 13, 2019 - JUNE 19, 2019

FIFTY CENTS



**THE CENTRAL PARK FIVE**

**EXCLUSIVE**  
**For Ben Chavis,  
Central Park Five  
invokes memories of  
Wilmington Ten Case**



**THE REV. DR. BENJAMIN CHAVIS**

BY **CASH MICHAELS**  
OF THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

Racist law enforcement, framing innocent young black males for a crime they didn't commit, falsely convicting them and branding them as "animals," sentencing them to prison where they suffered, only to have their innocence proven many years later not by law, but by chance.

The case of the Central Park Five? Yes, but also, says Rev. Dr. Benjamin Chavis, the case of the Wilmington Ten.

He should know.  
"As I watched with profound interest Ava DuVernay's genius Netflix series "When They See Us" on the infamous New York Central Park Five case of false and unjust imprisonment in the 1980s and 1990s, I was vividly reminded

about the infamous North Carolina Wilmington Ten case of false and unjust imprisonment in the 1970s," Dr. Chavis, now the president/CEO of the National Newspaper Publishers Association, recalled recently in an exclusive interview.

The "Ten," - nine black activists and one white woman led by Rev. Chavis, were falsely tried and convicted of the firebombing of a white-owned grocery store in Wilmington, NC in February, 1971.

The young activists were also falsely charged with firing shots at firefighters and police officers dealing with the blaze.

A racist white prosecutor made an example of Chavis and the group, falsely trying and convicting them of the charges, based on no physical evidence, and bribed state's witnesses' testimonies.

Wilmington's white press branded them as

"dangerous" black militants.

The Wilmington Ten were collectively sentenced to 282 years in prison.

"White supremacist institutionalized command and control over the nation's criminal justice system was exposed in both of these tragic true stories," Chavis says now.

As dramatized in "When They See Us," the Five struggled to survive when they were imprisoned from six to thirteen years.

Many of the Wilmington Ten were also marked men when they were sent away.

Chavis once tearfully told how he "refused to leave my cell" for the first eight months to shower, because he was warned that there was "a conspiracy to take us out, while we were in..."

Please see  
**CHAVIS/Page 3**



(CASH MICHAELS PHOTO)  
**CONGRESSWOMAN KAREN BASS (D-CA), IS INTRODUCED TO STUDENTS OF NC HBCUs, AS HER COLLEAGUE, U.S. REP. ALMA ADAMS (D-NC-12) LOOKS ON.**

**CBC Chair Bass tells NC: "The urgency is now**

BY **CASH MICHAELS**  
OF THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

Borrowing from this year's NCLBC Foundation theme, "The Urgency is Now: Investing in Our Future Today, Tomorrow and Beyond, California Congresswoman Karen Bass, a Democrat and chair of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC), warned that African-Americans have to fight the same civil rights battles they thought they had won many years ago and now have to win again.

"We have to fight, once again, for the right to vote, for civil rights protection in our justice, health and education systems, just to name a few."

Rep. Bass made her remarks during the 37th Annual North Carolina Legislative Black Caucus Foundation William L. Wainwright Scholarship

Banquet at the Sheraton Imperial RTP in Durham Friday, June 7, 2019.

Governor Roy Cooper also spoke at the event.

Bass charged that the wealth of America is based on "200 years of free labor from our ancestors." She went on to note how, after Blacks were freed from slavery and worked hard building businesses and communities, only to have them destroyed by white supremacists, "...the African American experience is characterized by horrific oppression but amazing resilience."

"At each juncture of our history, we resisted (oppression) and fought back. We didn't just accept racial discrimination and segregation," Rep. Bass continued. "We fought until we ended it."

Bass went on to say that, by studying the African

Please see **BASS/Page 2**

**Expected  
U.S.  
Supreme  
Court  
ruling could  
help NC A&T  
students**

BY **CASH MICHAELS**  
OF THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

A ruling from the U.S. Supreme Court, regarding whether partisan gerrymandering is constitutional, is expected sometime this summer, and when it comes, students at NC A&T University in Greensboro will be paying very close attention.

Since February 2016, 10,000 students at the world's largest historically Black university have had to figure out which congressional district they reside in, the Sixth, represented by Republican Congressman Mark Walker, or the Thirteenth, represented by Republican Rep. Ted Budd.

Prior to the Republican-led NC General Assembly redrawing of 13 congressional districts in 2016 by court order, all 188 acres of NC A&T's campus was located in the 12th Congressional District, represented by Congresswoman Alma Adams, a Democrat. However, after 2016, the 12th was shifted to Mecklenburg County, forcing Adams, who had lived

Please see **A AND T/Page 2**

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  
JOURNAL

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All news must be submitted two  
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## BRUNSWICK

Continued from Page 1

place for you." We don't  
need to settle for those  
excuses any longer.

We must stand up and  
vote! We must be educated  
on the facts that count for us  
and what got us here! The  
grace of God and education  
have partly freed us. God's  
grace gave us life and  
strength to fight this enemy  
of hate and injustice. God's  
blessings have given us a  
way to education and  
finances. God's mercy has  
given us the strength to  
keep going. We now must  
begin to trust God and use  
the tools of this world to  
move forward and move for  
more progress. We must not  
let this leadership in gov-  
ernment stall our progress!  
We must press ahead, even  
with all the things that  
seem to be in our way! We  
will not step backward! The  
way to success is not always  
easy, but the reward is  
great! Keep praying! Keep  
pushing! Keep your mind on  
the prize!

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

## BASS

Continued from Page 1

American struggles of the  
past, we can learn how to  
survive "...the extraordi-  
nary moment that we are  
living in right now."

Though obviously refer-  
ring to Pres. Donald Trump,  
without calling his name,  
CBC Chair Bass said the  
nation has seen "mean-spir-  
ited leaders before, but his  
"...instability is on full dis-  
play for the world to see."

She noted how the President  
pushes policies that indeed  
undermine the progress of  
African-Americans.

However, she also recalled  
with pride Pres. Obama, not-  
ing how "...we believed that  
he was so amazing, that he  
would single handedly change  
our world [and] correct all  
that was wrong. We wished  
him well and went back to  
our lives" That was a mis-  
take, however, Bass main-  
tained.

"We did not take much  
responsibility to help by  
participating in our govern-

ment. We thought he was  
going to solve all of our  
problems."

Rep. Bass charged that  
African-Americans are  
"...paying a heavy price for  
the complacency that set in  
"...after we had achieve so  
much," especially after the  
election of Pres. Obama.

"I truly hope that we learn  
from this difficult period  
that no one person is going  
to save us," she went on.  
"Voting [for] and electing  
the right people into office is  
only the bare minimum of

our responsibility."

Blacks must vote in strong  
numbers "every single elec-  
tion," not just every four years  
during presidential contests,  
she said. "Be involved and stay  
involved at every level." Elected  
officials must be directed to  
what are the important issues  
that need to be addressed.

Rep. Bass, who said that  
the "number one priority  
has to be that everyone is  
registered to vote in every  
election..." also noted that  
elected officials must work

with the African American  
press to keep the communi-  
ty fully informed as to their  
progress made on key issues  
of interest.

"[The CBC] is setting out  
to organize a communica-  
tions campaign so Black  
America will learn about the  
hidden figures of the CBC,"  
Chairwoman Bass told the  
audience. "So many times  
throughout our history, the  
accomplishments of our  
folks are not recognized,  
not known, or don't other-  
wise receive the credit."

## A AND T

Continued from Page 1

and worked in Greensboro,  
to move to Charlotte.

"Cutting the campus in  
half congressionally was a  
way to maximize Republican  
congressional representation,"  
admitted Rep. David Lewis  
(R-Harnett), co-chair of the  
Joint Legislative Redistricting  
Committee. "I acknowledge  
freely that this would be a  
political gerrymander, which  
is not against the law," he  
told committee members then.

That's the question, how-  
ever, that the U.S. Supreme

Court is expected to decide  
sometime this summer, if  
not as soon as this month.  
The High Court has been  
hearing arguments, not just  
from North Carolina, but  
Maryland, Michigan and  
Ohio, about whether

partisan redistricting is  
unconstitutional under the  
premise that lawmakers of  
either party's being able to  
codify their extreme politi-  
cal advantage in drawing  
voting maps, they leave little  
chance for voters of the  
opposite political party to  
ever be able to choose a  
representative that appeals  
to their interests.

For example, 10 of the North  
Carolina's 13 congressional  
districts are drawn to elect  
Republicans primarily, even  
though Republicans only  
carried 51 percent of the  
total vote. Court testimony  
has proven that the districts  
could have been drawn to  
reflect the state's even split  
of Democrats to Republi-  
cans but deliberately  
wasn't.

In fact, Rep. Lewis once  
bragged that the only reason  
why there were ten Republi-  
can-leaning congressional  
districts is that they couldn't  
figure out how to come up  
with eleven.

The zeal to maximize

Republican political advan-  
tage is the reason why stu-  
dents at NC A&T University  
have to wrestle with, not  
only confusion when it  
comes to which polling place  
at which they are properly  
registered to vote, near cam-  
pus or on campus, but also  
apathy and distrust about  
the political process in gen-  
eral, according to Bradley  
Hunt, chair of the NC NAACP's  
Political Action Committee,  
and NC A&T alumnus.

In the last election  
(November 2018 midterms),  
the students were still com-  
mitted to voting, and the

(overall general) turnout  
was decent, but I'm not sure  
there was a significant  
turnout of students at the  
campus...." Hunt said, not-  
ing that NC A&T students  
were well aware the power  
and voting strength they  
once had as a campus had  
been diluted.

"If we can restore com-  
mon sense districts, not only  
for NC A&T, but across the  
state, I think we can see a  
better representation...rep-  
resentatives who are better  
reflective of the electorate,"  
Hunt added. "[Now], the  
needs of the communities  
are not being addressed."

**OCEAN CITY JAZZ FESTIVAL**  
JULY 5TH-7TH

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-JOHN BROWN LITTLE BIG BAND  
-THE SAX PACK FEATURING  
JEFF KASHIWA, STEVE COLE & MARCUS ANDERSON

SATURDAY  
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-OCJF ALL-STARS FEATURING  
CYRUS CHESTNUT, MARK WHITFIELD,  
DERRICK GARDNER AND JOHN BROWN  
-ERIC DARIUS

SUNDAY  
-JOHN BROWN QUINTET  
-ADAM HAWLEY FEATURING  
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**“If the lions do not write their own history,  
then the hunters will get all the credit.”**

**----AN AFRICAN PROVERB**



**STATE BRIEFS**



COMPILED BY CASH MICHAELS

**REV. BARBER APPEALS TRESPASSING CONVICTION**

[RALEIGH] The former past president of the NCNAACP has appealed his conviction in Wake District Court last week on a misdemeanor charge of second-degree trespassing for

refusing to leave the NC General Assembly building during a protest in 2017. Rev. Dr. William Barber, president of Repairers of the Breach, and co-convenor of the Poor People's Campaign: a National Call for Revival. "Our lawyers were not allowed fully to argue constitutional rights," Barber said in a text after the jury decision. The civil rights leader had tried to argue that the state Constitution allows for citizens to go to the legislature, because it is a publicly-owned building, and "instruct" lawmakers on the

issues they should be addressing. Republican legislative leaders refused to meet with Barber, which is why he refused to leave when ordered. However, the judge cut off any discussion of Rev. Barber's motive for, which he feels limited his defense.

**SEN. BISHOP DEMANDS BLACK SHERIFF RESIGN OVER ICE CONTROVERSY**

[CHARLOTTE] The Republican candidate in the new Ninth Congressional District race the sheriff of Mecklenburg County to

resign because of his "reckless policies" concerning the release of an Honduran man charged with domestic violence. But Sheriff Garry McFadden say state Sen. Dan Bishop, the GOP candidate, has never worked in law enforcement, and doesn't understand that detaining alleged illegal immigrants for ICE is not his job, and corrodes the trust between county residents and his agency, which is why he refuses to hold alleged detainees. The state legislature is currently debating a law that, if passed, would compel NC

sheriffs to hold illegal immigrants for federal ICE agents.

**TABOR CORRECTIONAL INMATE SUES FOR BET CABLE CHANNEL**

[COLUMBUS COUNTY] A man serving a 12-year prison sentence at Tabor Correctional has filed a federal lawsuit against officials at the facility, claiming that his constitutional rights are being violated because Black Entertainment Television has been banned from the cable television lineup that is offered to inmates, thus

denying black inmates, like himself, the same right to enjoy programming like white inmates do when they watch TNT, Discovery and AMC. Maurice Alexander Williamson claims in the suit that black inmates had signed a petition for BET to prison officials, but were denied. The Tabor Correctional administration says BET was turned down because of "graphic content and violence." Ironically, the cable channels allowed have their share of graphic content and violence, Williamson notes.

**CHAVIS**

Continued from Page 1

behind bars.

"I don't want you to see my case in isolation," Chavis told the National Press Club in March 2011. "What they put us through, is what hundreds of thousands of our people go through in these correctional institutions."

"That's really the story you need to know!"

Other members of the Ten also faced the everyday prospect of rapes and beatings by fellow inmates, just like the Central Park Five.

And in both cases, their respective families suffered mightily.

However, in both cases, not one of the incarcerated ever copped to a plea to end their imprisonment, choosing not to lie to escape punishment.

"The Central Park 5 and the Wilmington 10 cases, however, should not be seen as some exceptional aberration of what should be a just criminal justice system in America

when it comes to Black America," Dr. Chavis says now. "These two cases epitomize the deep seated racism and racially motivated prosecutorial and law enforcement racist bias against Black Americans and other people of color across the nation that continues to this very day unabated."

The Central Park Five were exonerated in 2002 when another man admitted to the 1989 rape in prison, exonerating the Five with DNA evidence. They collectively settled their wrongful conviction lawsuit with a reluctant New York City for \$41 million in 2014.

The Wilmington Ten were granted pardons of innocence by Gov. Beverly Perdue in 2012 when evidence was uncovered by The Black Press that the racist white prosecutor rigged a "KKK" jury to convict them.

Gov. Perdue later said that she was urged by many in North Carolina's criminal justice system not to grant the pardons, but she refused, calling the false prosecution of the Ten, "naked racism."



THE WILMINGTON TEN

In both the Wilmington Ten and Central Park Five cases, exonerating evidence

was found beyond the scope of the law enforcement.

"Hopefully the enduring

public impact of "When They See Us" will lead to a fundamental reform of the

criminal justice system in the United States," Rev. Dr. Chavis says.

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**TODAY'S NEWS IS TOMORROW'S BLACK HISTORY**  
**THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL IS A RECORDER OF BLACK HISTORY**



## THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

The Wilmington Journal was founded on the principle of the Black Press Credo. The Black Press believes that America can best lead the world away from racial and national antagonism when it accords to every person, regardless of race, color or creed, full human and legal rights. Hating no person in the firm belief that all are hurt as long as anyone is held back.

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## OUR VOICE

### GUEST EDITORIAL

## Injustice revealed and dramatized

(Via TriceEdneyWire.com)

Many know them as the Central Park Five, but filmmaker Ava DuVernay forces us to see the five wrongfully convicted men as individuals. Their names are names we must remember, as individual, courageous, principled Black and Brown men. They are Corey Wise, Raymond Santana, Yusef Salaam, Antron McCray, and Kevin Richardson. DuVernay's new Netflix mini-series, "When They See Us", ask what "they" see when they see young men of color. They see criminals. They see violence. They don't see their precious youth, a youth that was snatched away by a racist criminal injustice system that railroaded them.

The 1989 rape of Trisha Meili horrified New York City. But there was no evidence that the five accused young men were the perpetrators. Indeed, much later, another man confessed to her rape. Meanwhile, Raymond, Yusef, Antron, and Kevin were sentenced to five to seven years. Each served at least five. Corey Wise was 16, so he was tried and convicted as an adult. He served 12 years and was brutalized and beaten throughout his incarceration. In jail, a rapist is just one step up from a child molester, and the racial dynamics of prison life were such that Corey was a target for abuse.

Dr. Julianne Malveaux

"When They See Us" is harrowing and humanizing. It digs into the marrow of the bones of the accused men and their families. It reminds us that the cost of unjust incarcerations is felt not only by the incarcerated but also by their families. We see the ways families dealt with the unlawful imprisonment of their loved ones. Some hover and hug, some distance themselves, and all of the lives are complicated by the economic challenges that lower-income families face. Who can pay for a decent lawyer? For visits that may be hundreds of hours, and too many dollars, away from a home base? Who writes? Who can't write? How do incarcerated people maintain dignity and equilibrium?

"When They See Us" is important, not because it tells the story of five young men – Raymond, Yusef, Antron, Kevin, and Corey – who were scapegoated, but because it reminds us that this case is but the tip of the iceberg. Thanks to the Innocence Project and other dedicated people, these men were exonerated, their convictions vacated, and a financial settlement awarded to them, providing them with about a million dollars for every year incarcerated. How many young men of color, though, are unjustly arrested, tried, and convicted. How many have been so railroaded that after hours of interrogation (as with Raymond, Yusef, Antron, Kevin, and Corey) they choose to confess to crimes they did not commit because they are frightened. Their vacated sentences and their financial settlement is some form of vindication, but as they all have said, nothing can bring those years back. Some are angry, some are depressed, and some have offered themselves as speakers to talk about the flaws in the criminal justice system. Corey Wise, who got the most substantial financial settlement because of the longest time he spent in jail, generously donated \$190,000 to the Colorado Innocence Project.

The ugly underbelly of this story is the white women who insist that these young men must have been guilty of something. Linda Fairstein, the prosecutor in the case, is depicted as benign of the rules and withholding evidence. Why? Because she could. She is the epitome of Becky, of Miss Ann, of a white woman who was prepared to ruin young lives, even though there was no evidence to tie Raymond, Yusef, Antron, Kevin, and Corey to the rape of Trisha Meili. Fairstein has been spanked in the court of public opinion, being so vilified that she has stepped down from the board of her alma mater, Vassar College. But she is adamant in her insistence that she did nothing wrong. Even though she lied. Even though there was a weak train of evidence, with no DNA. Even though. But she is a privileged white woman who took her ticket to ride into author stardom. The Mystery Writers of America chose to rescind her award. Good for them!

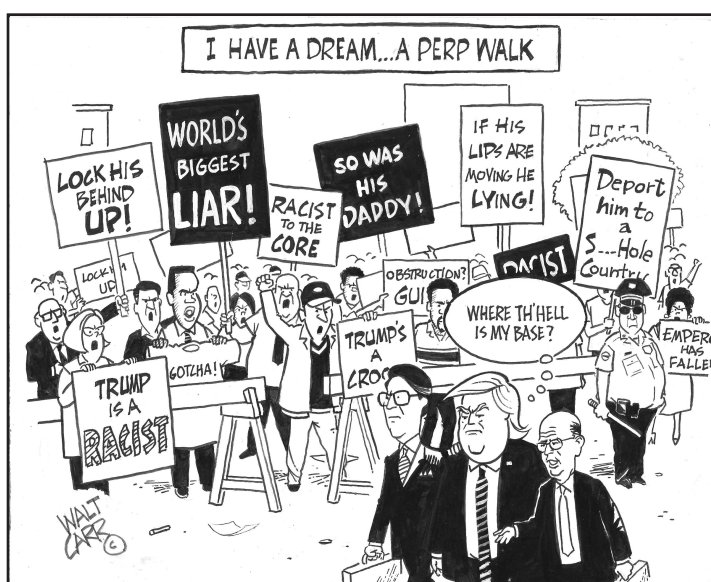
And then there is the victim, Trisha Meili. No one should have experienced the brutality that she did. She is entitled to grace, understanding, and compassion. She is not entitled to accuse young men whose DNA was not on her, whose alleged attack on her was not verified. Even as we applaud her survival, we abhor the ways she supports the corrupt Linda Fairstein and the police officers who coerced false confessions from the accused young men.

I remember 1989. I remember the inflammatory press describing young Black and Brown men as animals off "wilding." I remember writing and talking about the inhumanity of their descriptions and about the lies the press inflamed. And I remember one Donald Trump who was so outraged that he spent \$85,000 to take out full-page ads asking that five young men get the death penalty for a crime they did not commit. He has yet to apologize. He doesn't do that. He is the one who needs to be incarcerated.

I am grateful to Ava DuVernay for her sensitive production of this story, as well as to Ken Burns for an earlier documentary. I am mindful that these accused men are the tip of the iceberg. The coercion that they experienced happens every day. And I am thankful that the Innocence Project supports the wrongfully incarcerated. But at the bottom line, y'all, I'm mad as hell. What can we do about it?

Julianne Malveaux is an author and economist. Her latest project MALVEAUX! On UDCTV is available on youtube.com. For booking, wholesale inquiries or for more info visit [www.juliannealveaux.com](http://www.juliannealveaux.com).

## Visual Voice



## YOUR VOICE

### BLESS ALL YOU PARENTS FOR THE 24/7 18 YEAR LOVE AND GUIDANCE YOU GIVE YOUR CHILDREN

"Education makes a people easy to lead, but difficult to drive; easy to govern, but

impossible to enslave". -Henry Peter Brougham. Schools will be out for the summer soon, so you need to start planning now for your children to continue their education in June and July. You were their 1st teachers and must take on that

important role in the summer. Most schools give the student a suggested list of books to read. You parents can find lessons and test on any grade level and subject on the internet. Serious ballplayers practice their sport during their off-

season and serious students read something every day. Is your child a serious student? If yes great, if no, you have two months to make them one!!!

James J. Hankins  
Wilmington, NC

## MATTERS OF OPINION

### REALITY CHECK

## Number 45, AKA Donald Trump, is not an aberration

(Via TriceEdneyWire.com)

The American news media is deceiving the world when it consistently describes Number 45 as an aberration in the history of the United States presidency. Equally deceiving is its describing and romanticizing the American voting public as some kind of godly people who are devoted to liberty and justice for all citizens of this country.

Rather than being an aberration, Number 45 is a direct descendant of the presidents,

including Saint George Washington and Saint Thomas Jefferson, who bought, sold, owned and exploited African men, women and children. He's also a direct descendant of those presidents who did absolutely nothing from the Reconstruction Era through the 1960's as leaders in the former Confederate States of America economically and politically oppressed Black people, including those who fought in the Civil War, World War I, World War II, and the Korean and Vietnam wars respectively.

Number 45 is also a direct descendant of those presidents who sat by passively as thousands of Black folks were lynched and otherwise murdered by white suprema-

cists/racists mostly in the former Confederate States of America. Their victims included Black combat veterans. Therefore, Number 45, a draft dodger, is by no definition an aberration.

As for the American voting public, through the years the overwhelming majority of them looked on, often with relish, as atrocities were committed against black people. They voted for politicians who did little, if anything, to stop or punish the white supremacist/racist terrorists. It was overwhelmingly white American men and women who put Number 45 into the White House. Not one of them can say that he or she was deceived by him. He made it very clear in the Republican primary cam-

paigns and in the general election campaign who and what he was and is. In fact, that's one positive thing that can be said about him.

Number 45 is the personification of most White males in this country and, unfortunately, a sizable number of Black men for whom I have coined the name "Blawhis" i.e. black-whites.

When, if ever, is the American media going to tell it like it is? Number 45 is not an aberration, and the White American voting public is not composed of bamboozled innocents.

A. Peter Bailey, whose latest book is *Witnessing Brother Malcolm X, the Master Teacher*, can be reached at [apeterb@verizon.net](mailto:apeterb@verizon.net).

## We're better than that

(Via TriceEdneyWire.com)

I can't remember a time in my adult life when I wasn't working on justice issues on behalf of people in my community. I've worked for the benefit of women who shared my views and some who, but it's rare that I'm embarrassed about something women are doing. Lately, I've taken the time to view a lot of videos on various rappers, and tried to give them the benefit of the doubt. I understand the argument about what they do is the life they live. Some say it's their reality. Well, "My life ain't been no crystal stair" as the saying goes. I've had my ups and my downs, but I've always wanted to do better and I've tried to help others do the same.

We're better than a lot of

what I see. I've sat for hours viewing videos that made me sick, but I had a purpose. I didn't just want to say, "Rapping is the style and some young people who do the really hate-filled and vulgar stuff don't know any better or aren't capable of doing something reputable to make a living. Then I began viewing videos that explain how people of other races lure young people into contributing to their own oppression because they're so caught up in being a star! They're lured into horrible things, given money, flashy cars and everything they could ever hope for except decency. They're introduced to drugs and crime and spending on things they'll never need—but it becomes a part of their lifestyle. Then one day they think they're a star, and get "uppity" enough to ask for their own money instead of having things issued out to them. They then find that other people have gotten rich on them while the rapper, with few exceptions, is actually in debt.

I see beautiful and smart

appearing young women resorting to a low life of which their parents never taught them. I identify with them simply because they are Black and women. I cringe and become drained when I see a group like the one called "City Girls" dancing and prancing and shamelessly using vulgarities in front of white men who appear to be shocked by the sight of what the women are doing. I keep saying to myself, "We're better than that." I ask myself if this is why our ancestors often died to gain opportunities for all of us, including our sisters to be able to be free to do anything they want to do.

Some argue with me saying they're exercising their freedom of speech or freedom of expression. I think you will agree those are not freedoms that advance any of our righteous causes. Please go to your computer and look up City Girls Act Up. Look up Cardi B, Nikki Minaj (and I am not yet asking you to look up some of the men who encourage drug use, murder, rape,

etc. Just look up the young women rappers I've named and ask yourself if this is what the Essence Festival should be promoting as the essence of a Black woman. This year, City Girls are invited to the Essence Festival along with First Lady Michelle Obama! On the one hand, they've invited a woman of substance, along with a group with no class. Essence Festival leaders need to hear from you about their choices of who represents Black Women.

Lately, J.T., a member of City Girls, has been forced to experience "success" of her group behind federal prison bars for a case of fraud. Her lawyer is actually trying to get her out on good behavior. Look at the City Girls video and see if you can find the good behavior.

Dr. E. Faye Williams is National President of the National Congress of Black Women and she is host of "Wake Up and Stay Woke" on WPFW-89.3 FM radio. [www.nationalcongressbw.org](http://www.nationalcongressbw.org).



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



## New Hanover County

**New Hanover County NAACP Branch** will sponsor SANKOFA a free summer 2019 African American Heritage Workshop for students ages 10-15, from June 25th- July 25th (Tuesdays and Thursdays) 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. [LITE LUNCH provided] Parent and/or adult are asked to bring the student and complete the registration form on Saturday, June 22, 2019 between 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. at Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church (719 Walnut Street) Contact number 910-512-1026 for information- <http://www.nhnaacp.com/>

## Community Briefs

Sankofa, the name of the workshop is taken from the Akan language of Ghana and means "go back and take." It symbolizes one taking what is good from the past and bringing it into the present in order to make progress through the proper use of knowledge.

## Brunswick County

**The Town of Navassa** will hold their 38th Annual Homecoming Parade on Saturday, July 6th at 10:00 a.m. A street fair with games, vendors and music will follow at the Navassa Community Center, 338 Main Street. The festivities will begin July 4th with Kids Day from 7:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. with free food, games and music. July 5th a Luau theme dance will be held from 9:00 p.m. - 1:00 a.m. They are inviting queens, civic groups, churches, community leaders, business vendors, etc. to participate. Please contact the Navassa Parade Committee at 910-371-2432 or email at [navassaparade@gmail.com](mailto:navassaparade@gmail.com) to get further information.

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

Compiled By Wilmington Journal Staff

## Murray receives Congressional President's Award

SUBMITTED BY  
GERALDINE ARMSTRONG

Wilmington Early College held their annual awards night on Thursday, May 9, 2019.

The Murray Family is very proud of Vianca M. Murray, who received the Congressional President's Award.

Vianca is an eleventh grade student with a 4.0 GPA, a member of the National Honor Society and VETA K APPA Sorority. She is a member of the Wilmington Symphony Orchestra (plays the violin), Girl Scout Troop 1597, an Ambassador and candidate for the Golden Award and sings with The Wilmington's Girl Choir.

Vianca plans to attend Winston-Salem State University after graduation next year. She wants to major in physical therapy on a path to receive her doctorate in Exercise Therapy. She is employed at POWER PLAY and serves as an after school



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

VIANCA MURRAY

counselor and party host.

Vianca is the daughter of Michael and Vanessa Murray; the granddaughter of Bruce and Lorraine Raynor (deceased) and Roscoe and Martha Simpson (deceased) and great-granddaughter of Dave and Mollie Murray (deceased).

The Murray Family will honor Vianca at their annual family reunion.

## Whiteville woman to compete for Miss North Carolina crown on June 22

BY GRANT MERRITT  
OF THE NEWS REPORTER

With a desire to cure cancer, instill confidence in women and improve her dancing talent, Whiteville native Maya Campbell has her eyes set on becoming the next Miss North Carolina on June 22. As the reigning Miss Wilmington, Campbell has met all requirements and has an extensive history of competing on stage for various crowns.

Campbell started her pageant career at six years old in a Fourth of July pageant, but she took a break and started competing in pageants again during her middle school and high school years. Her most recent pageant titles include the 81st N.C. Strawberry Festival Princess, Miss Wilmington Outstanding Teen, the 84th N.C. Strawberry Festival Queen and now serving as Miss Wilmington.

Campbell, the 21-year-old daughter of Melvin and Barbara Campbell, is an East Carolina University student working toward a degree in public health with the intent of attending medical school after graduation. She is a 2016 graduate of Whiteville High School.

The Miss Wilmington pageant is open to Columbus County residents, and Campbell said she worked hard to improve her tap dancing talent and interview skills to get where she is today. She said the road to becoming Miss Wilmington came from countless practices and trusting in God.

"The night of the Miss Wilmington pageant, I was pretty much running on muscle memory from that point," Campbell said. "It was simply my timing, and I couldn't be happier with the results."

Her dancing talent blossomed in training at Amy's Academy of Dance Arts in Chadbourne during Campbell's younger years in pageantry. By her senior year of high school, she trained at Simply Dance under Staci

Ezell. She said that tap dancing was her "baby" and favorite form of dance to express herself.

During the week of June 17-22, Campbell will compete for the Miss North Carolina crown. She will go through several phases of competition throughout the week with a 10-minute private interview, on-stage interview, talent showcase, evening wear and social impact statement made on stage. Under the new Miss America 2.0 re-branding, the swimsuit phase of the competition was eliminated. Campbell explained the new ideals for Miss America 2.0 emphasizes the empowered woman from all walks of life to further highlight the four points of the Miss America crown: scholarship, style, service and success.

Campbell's favorite part of preparing for the Miss North Carolina pageant is the sheer amount of things thrown at her at once. Being able to keep up and grow as a person has helped her be herself on stage. Her favorite pastime with her titles is being able to attend events like the North Carolina Strawberry Festival and interact with the community while feeling the support and motivation to keep competing in pageants.

"Being able to come home and feel the love and support is really great for me," she said.

Campbell recently attended Camp Miss NC, a pageant designed to help contestants bond and learn about each other in a casual environment with no makeup or evening gowns, Campbell explained. She said the camp is a reminder that each contestant is unique and has all the tools to be their own Miss North Carolina.

"I'm learning so many skills that will help me way after the crown, regardless if I was crowned Miss North Carolina or not," Campbell said. "I'm able to work on my interview skills and public speaking on my social impact initiative platform which is



MISS WILMINGTON MAYA CAMPBELL

Relay for Life. I'm able to show off my talent and my sense of style."

With the support of all contestants in the Miss North Carolina pageant, Campbell said everyone has learned to be just as happy as the contestant who is crowned on June 22. She said everyone feels like sisters and will support each other no matter who wins.

"I'm able to speak about the Miss America organization which is the largest scholarship foundation in the world for women," Campbell said. "I'm able to go out and be spokesperson for so many different things."

Campbell's social impact initiative is called Relay 365 where she advocates for 365 days of support for Relay for Life - not just the once-a-year

local Relay event in each community. She explained that her initiative calls for all-year support of cancer cure research with the American Cancer Society.

Campbell said that feeling comfortable in her own skin and being confident are things she has learned over her years of pageant competition. She has been able to overcome any fears on stage and add skills to her toolbox that will help her in front of the judges. It is her hope to teach other women how to be strong and confident if she wins Miss North Carolina.

Campbell urges everyone to visit [abc11.com/missnc](http://abc11.com/missnc) to vote for her as the People's Choice to ensure her spot in the top 15 of the Miss North Carolina pageant on finals night.

# SEA HAWK fam

FAMILY ARTS MATINEES

TICKETS \$5 ALL SUMMER

JUNE 20 - AUGUST 1  
THURSDAYS AT 10:30 A.M.  
KENAN AUDITORIUM

JUNE 20 | SOUTH BOSSA PROJECT  
FAMILY-FRIENDLY LATIN JAZZ

JUNE 27 | CASEY'S LAUGH AND LEARN  
"THE INSANE SCIENCE OF FAIRYLAND"

JULY 11 | BROCCOLI BROTHERS CIRCUS  
CREATIVE AND EDUCATIONAL PERFORMANCE

JULY 18 | MAKE TROUBLE THEATRE  
"A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM"  
SENSORY-FRIENDLY

JULY 25 | SHANA TUCKER  
"CHAMBER SOUL"  
SENSORY-FRIENDLY

AUGUST 1 | WILMINGTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA  
SMALLER BITES TRIO  
SENSORY-FRIENDLY

UNCW Office of the Arts is delighted to present SEA HAWK Family Arts Matinees (SEA HAWK FAM), a series designed to engage families through performing arts. Group discounts are available, and summer camp field trips are welcome!

bit.ly/UNCWFAM  
UNCW Arts Ticket Office: 910.962.3500

Accommodations for disabilities may be requested by calling 910.962.3500 at least three days prior to the event. UNCW is an EEO/AA institution.

## Tell them you read it in THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

**NCDOT TO HOLD PUBLIC MEETING FOR THE PROPOSED U.S. 17 INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS AT MAIN STREET/FRONTAGE ROAD AND AT MAIN STREET/OLD SHALLOTTE ROAD NEAR SHALLOTTE IN BRUNSWICK COUNTY**

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**STIP PROJECT NO. R-5857**

The N.C. Department of Transportation will hold a public meeting regarding the proposed intersection improvements at the intersection of U.S. 17 at U.S. 17 Business (Main Street)/Frontage Road N.W., north of Shallotte, and U.S. 17 at U.S. 17 Business (Main Street)/Old Shallotte Road (S.R. 1316), south of Shallotte in Brunswick County. The primary purpose of this project is to improve traffic flow at the intersections.

The meeting will be held **Monday, June 24** from **5-7 p.m.** at the **Shallotte Town Hall** located at **110 Cheers Street** in **Shallotte**. The public may attend at any time during the meeting hours. Please note there will be no formal presentation.

At the meeting there will be maps of the proposed plans as well as project team members who will be available to answer your questions and receive feedback. All comments will be taken into consideration as the project progresses. The opportunity to submit written comments will be provided at the meeting or may be done by phone, email or mail no later than **July 24**.

As information becomes available, it may be viewed at the R-5857 project website: <https://publicinput.com/US-17Shallotte>.

For additional information please contact NCDOT Project Manager Michael Bass at (910) 341-2000 or consultant Project Manager David Wilver at (919) 326-6359. Comments may also be submitted to [US-17Shallotte@publicinput.com](mailto:US-17Shallotte@publicinput.com) or 324 Blackwell Street, Suite 1200, Durham, N.C., 27701.

NCDOT will provide auxiliary aids and services under the Americans with Disabilities Act for disabled persons who wish to participate in this meeting. Anyone requiring special services should contact Lauren Putnam at [Inputnam1@ncdot.gov](mailto:Inputnam1@ncdot.gov) or (919) 707-6072 as early as possible, so that arrangements can be made.

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Persons who do not speak English, or have a limited ability to read, speak or understand English, may receive interpretive services upon request prior to the meeting by calling 1-800-481-6494.

Aquellos personas que no hablan inglés, o tienen limitaciones para leer, hablar o entender inglés, podrán recibir servicios de interpretación si los solicitan antes de la reunión llamando al 1-800-481-6494.

## Habib court #159 celebrates Thanksgiving feast and holds Miss HABIB contest

BY GERALDINE ARMSTRONG  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

On Sunday, May 26, 2019 at Habib Temple #159, 602 Orange Street, Wilmington, North Carolina, Habib Court #159 Daughters, held their annual MISS HABIB CONTEST. This annual contest is held as a fundraiser for charitable donations given throughout the year.

Habib Court gives annually to: "Tools for School", National Diabetic Initiative, Prescribed Medication Program, etc. to name a few. An annual scholarship to a local high school graduate with a "C" or above grade average with plans to attend college or other institute of higher learning is also awarded. Students may contact any member of Habib Court #159 to apply.

The contestants for Ms. Habib were Eva Battle, Joni Callahan and Dorene Crumpler. The winner was Daughter Joni Callahan. She was crowned by Daughter Mamie Davis, 2018 Miss Habib.

Dt. Joni Callahan is a patient coordinator (Wilmington Treatment Center) in Wilmington, North Carolina. She has been a member of Habib Court #159 for several years. She was very excited and pleased to receive this title. She will reign until May 2020.

The annual THANKSGIVING FEAST of HABIB COURT #159 was held Sunday, May 19, 2019 at Mt. Nebo Missionary Baptist Church located at 801 South Tenth Street, Wilmington, North Carolina, Reverend Richard W. Smith, Pastor.

What a wonderful service! The Unity Choir really lifted hearts with their songs of praise, (God Has Smiled On Me, Blessed Quietness, We'll All Be Ready, Jesus Promised and



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
**2019 MISS HABIB JONI CALLAHAN WITH 2018 MISS HABIB MAMIE DAVIS**

My Soul Is Anchored in the Lord).

Thanksgiving Service: "What a Friend We Have In Jesus", Prayer-High Priestess, Scripture-Psalm 100 by Noble James Parker; song-Faith of Our Fathers, Litany of Praise, The Basic Principles of the Daughters; song-"My Faith Looks Up To Thee".

This traditional annual "feast of honor" is celebrated by all courts in the Deserts of the United States of America and abroad.

Following the ceremony, what a "message" that was

received, given by Reverend Smith! "See What the Lord Will Do!" Scripture reference, Micah 2: 7-10. He spoke of many ways God has brought us through our trials, lifted burdens and still keeps us in His care. What a powerful message for reflection!

Following the benediction, a delicious dinner was served in the Carrie Ballard Fellowship Hall and the food, as well as the fellowship was simply wonderful! PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW!

## GET THAT DEED AND FLIP THOSE KEYS! BEFORE THEY LEAVE US, Change the deed!

This week I want to share with you how not taking care of some financial planning could hurt so many.

In my 28-yr. realtor career I have run across numerous families that were about to lose their property due to 1) Not all heirs agree to sell 2) Not all heirs have been paying their share of taxes and 3) Some of the heirs or their spouses had personal outstanding tax liens and other judgments that attached to the heir property.

Let's talk about each one so you can get a better understanding of the impact. Many don't know that not only do the original heirs have an interest in the property but if any of those heirs are married, so do their spouses. If any of the original heirs that are unmarried dies before the heir property is sold, then their children and their children's spouses will inherit their interest in that property. #1- If all heirs that have an interest in a property do not agree to sell or agree to sell at a mutually agreeable amount then the

property can't be sold until they all do agree. If no agreement can be reached then a legal proceeding would have to be done to force the sale. #2- So many times the burden of keeping taxes paid on heir property falls on one or two people because no one else is chipping in or stepping up. That wears thin after a while or just get too expensive. That then causes the property to go into a property tax lien sale. If the families don't come together to agree to sell it for fair market price vs. losing it to tax lien sale, then that property will be lost for a fraction of what it's worth and NO ONE gets anything. Sadly I've seen both #1 and #2 way too much and it truly saddens me. Not coming together on one accord robs everyone of their inheritance. Lastly, #3- If any of the heirs or their spouses have outstanding IRS or State tax judgments or repo car judgments or old apartment building judgments or ANY KIND of judgments, all those judgments attach to the heir property and must be paid in full before ANY of the heirs can get their inheritance portion of the sale. This one right here is a HUGE problem. The more heirs involved the more concerns. Yes, it seems unfair but it is the law and there is no

way of getting around it but to noror it. That is why my topic says, BEFORE THEY LEAVE US, Change the deed!"

I encourage everyone that owns property and have grown children to call a family meeting and find out if everyone has their personal financials in order. If you find that some have outstanding judgments then you need to decide which child is the most financially sound and put the deed in their name with the understanding of how the property should be sold and proceeds divided when the time comes. If you change the deed before you're called on home, then none of the other kids or their spouse's bad debts will ever attach to the property. Proper planning will avoid so much and stop the continuance losses of real estate in our community. We truly have lost enough!

Until next week, please share this article with at least 3 people and tell them to reach out for their Free personalized Action Plan to OWN in the next 18 months or less.

Brenda Dixon, Dixon Realty Since 1991, 27 yrs. F/T expertise. Brenda@getthat-deed.com.



**Brenda Dixon**



**HONOR YOUR GRADUATE IN THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL'S GRADUATION EDITION TO BE PUBLISHED THURSDAY, JUNE 20, 2019**  
For more information, call Shawn Thatch at 910-762-5502 or stop by the office at 412 South 7th Street.



**King Franklin Dixon**

**Happy Father's Day!**

Grandad you were our friend, our hero and we will always love you with all our heart.

Love your grandchildren,  
Torrence Dixon and Tanya M. Dixon

CELEBRATING OUR FATHER'S LOVE



**Leroy Caldwell**  
**To My Husband - The Measure of a Man**

It's wonderful to have a husband who shares such interest and concern in the things I do, someone who shares the joy that comes my way and even shares the tears. You have shown me that you don't always have to understand me or agree with me in order to love me. You see me as the individual creation of God and you love me unconditionally. You are a man who supports and uplifts me and your family. The true measure of a man is when his words build up and not tear down, when he rises above challenges and discovers the greatness and goodness in himself, when he understands that love is not a weakness but strength. You are that measure of a man for me. You're not just my husband but my best friend and I love you, dearly. "The good man brings good things out of the good that's stored in him." Matthew 12:35. A man like you is a Lifetime Blessing - Happy Father's Day to an exceptional man.

Loving You Always,

Your Wife, Gloria Brinkley-Caldwell



**David "Skeet" Jones**

**We Love You Dad**

Your arms were our shelter  
Assuring us that it would be better  
Your hands were our comfort  
Lifting us up when we fell short.  
Your voice made us strong  
Teaching us what was right and wrong  
Your smile said it all  
Father, we love you more than all.  
Happy Father's Day!

Love,  
Sons, David Jones, Jr., Jerome Jones  
and Terrance Dixon  
Daughters, Pamela Davis, Audrey Carter

CELEBRATING OUR FATHER'S LOVE

CELEBRATING OUR FATHER'S LOVE

WELLS FARGO

There are no limits to what you can accomplish.

You have the power to redefine what's possible. From being the first to graduate college to becoming the next big star in your field — you work relentlessly to knock down barriers and build a stronger legacy. We call that being empowering. As you continue to create more financial stability for you and your family, Wells Fargo will be right by your side helping to make it happen. You've come this far. We can help you go further.

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you are empowering

# NATURAL GAS & OIL: RESPONSIBLY MEETING AMERICA'S ENERGY NEEDS

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Margaret Beatrice Hill Mason

Margaret Beatrice Hill Mason was born in Wilmington, NC to the late Rueben A. Hill, Sr and Florine Bryant Hill. She passed on into eternity on Monday, June 3, 2019 at Presbyterian Hospital in Charlotte NC.

Margaret was educated in the public schools of New Hanover County, attending Williston High School. She met and married Franklin D. Mason at an early age and remained married for 53 years until his death in 2010. During this union, her family then moved to Greensboro, NC in 1971 and then to Richmond, VA where she resided for 25 years. Margaret became a member of Crusade for Christ Christian Church Ministries under the leadership of Bishop John L. Harris where she fully enjoyed the services. After her retirement as a daycare teacher at Kindercare Learning Center her family moved to Charlotte, NC in 2000 where she lived until her death.

Margaret lived a very fulfilling life. To know her was to love her. She was full of laughter and joy wherever she was. Margaret was her happiest being surrounded with family and friends. Just to mention her name brought joy to your heart.

In addition to her husband, she was preceded in death by a daughter; Margaret (Robyn) Ann Hill; siblings, Rueben A. Hill, Jr; Doris Hill, Bennie Hill, Mildred Simmons, James Hill (unknown); and brother-in-law, Alexander Mason.

Margaret leaves to cherish her memories; son, Michael W Mason (Jeanette) of New Mexico; daughter; LaWanda J. Mason of Charlotte, NC; step-son, Michael Wall of Rockingham, NC; grandson, Jarrett M Mason (Shareese) of Las Vegas; great-grandchildren, Chosen J Mason, Power J Mason, Myles Mason, Brandon Mason; sisters, Rosa Marshall of Wilmington, NC, and Ruby Davis of Wilmington, NC. She also leaves a very special nephew, LaQuan Davis, along with a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

The family will receive friends 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. Saturday, June 15, 2019 at Summersett Funeral Home. The service will follow at 1:00 p.m. in Summersett Memorial Chapel; officiated by Reverend Alphonza Everett - Eulogy and Vanessa P. Ellison will be reading the obituary and acknowledgments. *Summersett Funeral Home is serving the Mason family. Online condolences may be made at [www.summersettfuneralhome.com](http://www.summersettfuneralhome.com).*

**Reverend Bobby Stukes**

Reverend Bobby Stukes died Friday, May 24, 2019. Memorial services will be held 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 15, 2019 at John H. Shaw's Son Funeral Home. *A Service of John H Shaw's Son Funeral Home.*

**Gerthel Graham**

Gerthel Graham died Monday, June 10, 2019 at New Hanover Regional Medical Center. Funeral services are incomplete and will be announced later by John H. Shaw's Son Funeral Home. *A Service of John H Shaw's Son Funeral Home.*

**Leroy Cotton**

Leroy Cotton died Wednesday, May 29, 2019. Memorial services will be held 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 13, 2019 at John H. Shaw's Son Funeral Home. *A Service of John H Shaw's Son Funeral Home.*

**Carrie Peters-McKoy**

Carrie Peers-McKoy died June 5, 2019. Funeral services were held on Wednesday, June 12, 2019 at Union Missionary Baptist Church. *A Service of John H Shaw's Son Funeral Home.*

**Henry Byas**

Henry Byas died June 6, 2019. Funeral services will be held 1:00 p.m. on Friday, June 14, 2019 at Union Missionary Baptist Church. *A Service of John H Shaw's Son Funeral Home.*

**James Orace Carpenter**

James Orace Carpenter died May 31, 2019. Funeral services were held on Wednesday, June 5, 2019 at St. Andrew AME Zion Church.

James, son of Joseph Carpenter, Sr. and Mary Smith Carpenter was born January 17, 1939. He made his transition on May 31, 2019 at New Hanover Regional Medical Center. James was educated in the New Hanover County Public Schools, proudly graduating with the Williston Senior High School Class of 1957. He entered into holy matrimony with Mary Etta Peoples and four children were born to this union. They remained married for over 33 years. James served in the United States Army for 8 years. He later began employment with the United States Postal Service in Brooklyn, NY where he retired after 35 years. Upon retirement, Carpenter as he was known to many, returned to Wilmington and resided at the homestead of his parents. James created his own community of family and friends, chosen from all walks of life. He joined Warner Temple AME Zion Church where he served as an usher. He loved the church and the pastor.

He leaves to cherish his memory: daughters, Cherilyn Carpenter (Danny) of Brooklyn, NY, Wanda Carpenter of Brooklyn, NY, Felicia Carpenter of Cheverly, MD and Dawn Carpenter of Brooklyn, NY; six grandchildren, Twanma, Caemlyn, Sloan Perrin, Jared, Shania and Calvin; great-grandchildren, Shane, Cannon and Sloan Anthony; a special son, Snooty; Mary Etta Peoples Carpenter; a host of nieces, nephews, family and friends. *A Service of John H Shaw's Son Funeral Home.*

**Homer Weston Fennell, Jr.**

Homer Weston Fennell, Jr. died May 30, 2019. Funeral services were held on Thursday, May 6, 2019 at Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church.

Homer was born on January 20, 1943 in Wilmington, North Carolina to the late Homer Weston Fennell, Sr. and Janie Wright Fennell. Homer was educated in the New Hanover County Public

School System, graduating from Williston Senior High School in the Class of 1961. Homer attended and graduated from Harris Barber College in Raleigh, North Carolina. He fulfilled his apprenticeship under Winston Merritt at a barber shop on Front Street in Wilmington. He later opened Fennell's Barber Shop on Eighth and Dawson Street. Homer joined the Wilmington Fire Department on Fourth and Dock Street, later moving to Cleveland, Ohio. While in Cleveland he worked as a Bus Driver for the City of Cleveland Transit Authority. He also attained a position at the Bethlehem Steel Mill. Homer also engaged in a landscaping business, later transferring that venture to Wilmington. Always seeking other fields of interest, he became an inspector for Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). In Wilmington, Homer was also elected to the Soil and Water Conservation Commission for New Hanover County. Being inspired by the success and progress of African Americans, he decided to share and promote these successes through a magazine that he started which was known as "Achievers Unlimited". Friends and family contributed by submitting and writing about their successes. From time to time, Homer could be seen working with family in the floral business. When his parents became ill, Homer stepped up and took over the family business. He demonstrated expert designing skills in a variety of floral arrangements and expanded the business from within the home to the community. Homer also became a longshoreman and continued in this field until the time of his retirement. Homer enjoyed life and took full advantage of every opportunity to expand his knowledge. He met no strangers and was always willing to teach someone or give a helping hand. He was a member of Port City Wheelers and the Sportsman Club. In March 2002 he traveled to New Mexico to bring home his sweetheart, Alice Boykins, who later became his loving, caring and devoted wife.

Homer transitioned on Thursday, May 30, 2019. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his sister, Delores Fennell Murphy and his gifted and devoted daughter, Dr. Zandi Kafue' Fennell. He leaves behind a litany of family friends and his loving wife, Alice Boykins-Fennell; five sons, Homer W. Fennell, III (Kimberly) of Raleigh, NC, Atty. Barry Brewington (Teare) of Charlotte, NC, LTC (Ret) Keith Xavier Fennell of Martinez, GA, Reverend Reginald Pickett (Natalie) of Bowie, MD and Bishop Richard Doug Moore (Robin) of Maryland; one daughter, Sonya Moore of Raleigh, NC; two sisters, Juanita Gipson of Lakeview Terrace, CA and Gwendolyn Fennell McKoy (Robert) of Wilmington, NC. His grands were an important part of his life and he always wanted them to excel. Although separated by miles, their visits were important and enlightening for him. They are: Brittany Fennell, Homer W. Fennell, IV, Parris Fennell, Xavier Fennell, Reginald Fennell, Reese Pickett, Ramsey Pickett, Jakiel Sanders, Dr. Pasha Sanders, Reyna Moore, Rahsaan Moore and one great-grand, Aaliyah Spain. *A Service of John H Shaw's Son Funeral Home.*

**Izola Solomon Byerson**

Izola Solomon Byerson died May

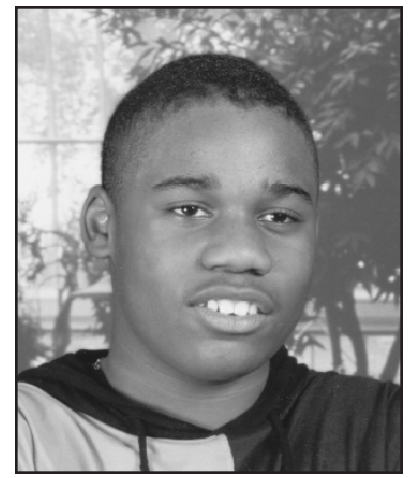
31, 2019. Funeral services were held on Friday, June 7, 2019 at St. Phillip AME Church. Burial followed in the Wilmington National Cemetery.

Izola, daughter of the late Samuel and Dora Solomon was born December 10, 1923, in Wilmington, North Carolina. She was married to the late Mr. Walter Byerson, Retired US Navy Veteran. From this union three children were born. She attended public schools in New Hanover County and was a member of the Williston Industrial High School Class of 1941. She was a life-long member of St. Phillip AME Church having accepted Christ as her Savior at an early age. She was an active and dedicated member of the following organizations: Class Leader of Class #3, Board of Stewards, President of Stewardess Board #5, Pastor's Aide, Women's Missionary Society, Junior Choir (1940-1950), Celestial Choir, Kitchen Committee, Floral Club and a member of Sunday school. She remained an active member until her health failed. She was a faithful employee of Sutton-Council Furniture Company; president of the Social Thrifty Club for 20 years, a member of United Senior Citizens, the United Order of Tents and the NACCP. She also volunteered at New Hanover Regional Medical Center for ten years. Ms. Byerson had a kind and loving spirit. She was compassionate, straight forward and honest. Her sense of style and fashion was beyond compare. She was graced with strong will, perseverance and self-assurance.

In addition to her parents and husband, Izola was preceded in death by her son, Walter Byerson, Jr and grandson, Galen Fisk Domino. She leaves to cherish her loving and precious memory: two children, Helen Byerson Wadell of Wilmington, NC and Evelyn Domino (Stan) of Coco, FL; daughter-in-law, Rosalind Byerson of

Please see OBITUARIES/ Page 10

**In Loving Memory Of**



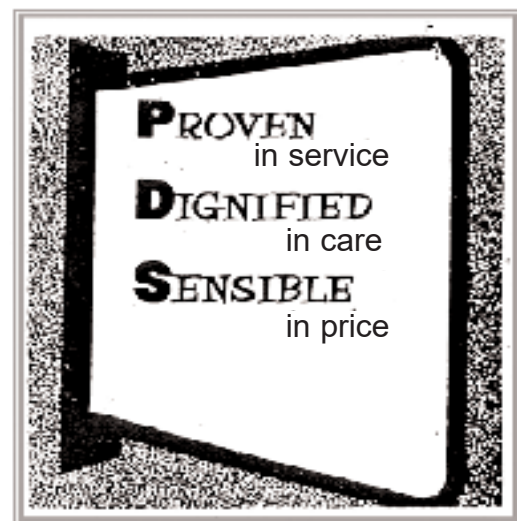
Christopher Brooks Thomas  
Sunrise: December 22, 1981  
Sunset: June 8, 1997

Oh, what a beautiful morning, oh what a beautiful day, I'm going home to my Jesus, everything's going my way. I woke up this morning bright lights all around, church folk dancing and shouting, everybody getting down. What is this place I asked? I didn't have to ask it twice; an angel turned to me and said "Chris, you're in Paradise." You're about to take journey, to nothing you can compare. You're in the arms of Jesus, there's happiness everywhere. Your time on earth with us is over; you've put away earthly things. The time has come and we're deeply saddened, but we know you've earned your wings. You're in the arms of Jesus and we know you're safe with Him, you're left us who love you, so many precious memories. You have paved the way for each of us and now we miss live a kind and gently life like you, with Jesus as our guide. We know you will be there to greet us on our appointed dates. When it's our turn to join you in Heaven's pearly gates. Chris, you were very special to me in so many ways. I'm hurting now, but I know God will see me through. I'll miss the talks we had and the letters too, but God has promised to comfort me and to keep me in His care. I'm already finding strength in knowing that not only were you special to me and all the family. But most importantly, YOU WERE EXTRA SPECIAL TO GOD.

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