

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

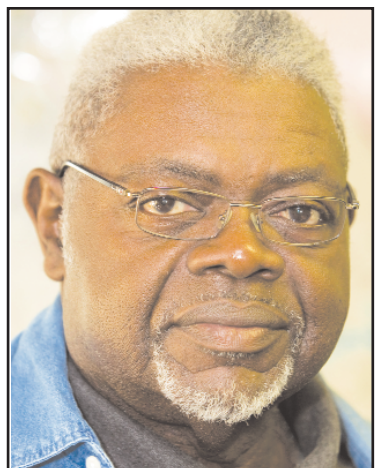


REV. JESSE JACKSON

GUEST EDITORIAL "Suleimani Assassination: President Trump is leading America toward war without end in the Middle East"

BY REV. JESSE JACKSON PAGE 4

BRUNSWICK COUNTY



BERNEST HEWETT

LIVING IN THE PAST

BY BERNEST HEWETT CONTRIBUTING WRITER

I find myself taken back years as I write this article. It is very upsetting that this would happen in these times. It occurs to me that by now people should have overcome their prejudices based on the color of one's skin. We find different races, ethnic groups, and genders of people working and living together in peace without the old Jim Crow of race. I have a young man who has been employed by the County of Brunswick for over thirty years who got sick and had to take time off from his regular work schedule. When the doctor told him he could go back to work on light duty, his supervisor said there was no light duty work on his job and there was no place for him until he could come back onto full, or regular, duty. He was then made to keep off his position with

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THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

News from the African American perspective without fear or favor

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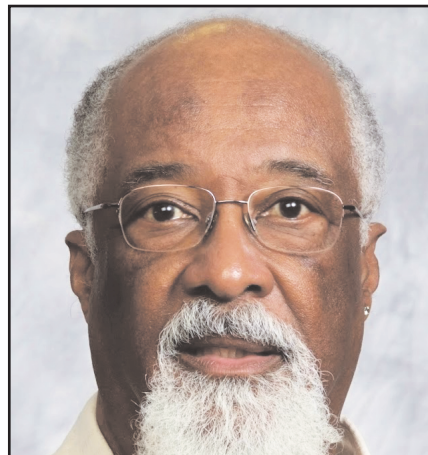
FIFTY CENTS

N.C. NAACP disappointed about Stein voter ID decision

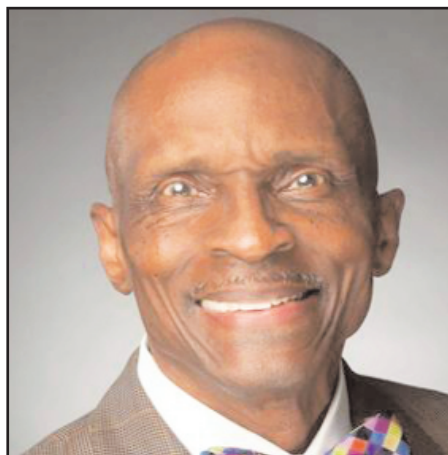
BY CASH MICHAELS OF THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

Beyond Republican pressure to do so, it's still not clear why State Attorney General Josh Stein, a Democrat, indicated last week that he will appeal a federal judge's preliminary injunction declaring the 2018 voter ID law unconstitutional.

That ruling, issued on the last day of 2019 by Judge Loretta Biggs, eliminated the voter photo ID requirement for the upcoming March 3, 2020 primaries,



ATTORNEY IRV JOYNER



REV. T. ANTHONY SPEARMAN



NC ATTY. GEN. JOSH STEIN

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New decade begins with clear Black agenda

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - A clear Black agenda is laid out for the future as civil rights leaders, elected officials, political observers and activists celebrated the close of yet another decade of struggle and victories. Voting rights, Black political participation, disparate killing and abuse of Black people by police; increasing White supremacy; and disparities in economic and educational systems will remain among the leading issues faced by African-Americans this decade. This according to a compilation of the highest profiled stories and reports between 2010 and 2020.

BY HAZEL TRICE EDNEY OF TRICEEDNEYWIRE.COM

BLACK POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

As the New Year of 2010 was celebrated, the euphoria hung heavily in the atmosphere as America had recently elected its first African-American president. A decade later, in 2020, the only three African-American Democratic presidential candidates - Sen. Cory Booker (D-N.J.), Sen. Kamala Harris (D-Calif.), and former Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick - did not even qualify for the last major debate Dec. 18 due to lack of financial support. Actually, by that time, Harris had already dropped out of the race. This leaves a field of White candidates in the forefront.

According to the latest CNN poll, former Vice President Joseph Biden continues to lead the race for the Democratic nomination. Among potential Democratic voters, Biden leads nationwide with 26 percent; Sen. Bernie Sanders is in a close second with 20 percent; and Sen. Elizabeth Warren is at 16 percent.

Nevertheless, Melanie Camp-bell, chair of the Black Women's Roundtable and president/CEO of the National Coalition on Black Civic Participation, among the most prominent national non-partisan Black voting advocates, is optimistic about the future of Black and women candidates.

"Until people vote, polls are just polls. They're a snapshot in time. President Obama, when he was a candidate, wasn't doing great. But you see

that he made it across the finish line," Campbell said. "I'm of the mindset that hopefully by January we'll see."

Former Georgia gubernatorial candidate Stacey Abrams, a Black woman, is among those being considered viable vice presidential candidates. Abrams rose to fame across the nation in 2018 as she fought against voter suppression in her campaign against Secretary of State Brian Kemp. He prevailed by only about 55,000 votes.

VOTING RIGHTS STILL UNDER ATTACK

Voting rights and voter suppression have remained front burner issues for the past two decades since President George W. Bush, amidst much fanfare in 2006, signed the reauthorization of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. But that hope quickly plummeted in 2013 as the U.S. Supreme Court gutted the Section 5 preclearance clause of the Voting Rights Act, which prohibited certain states and territories from changing voting laws without the oversight of and permission from the U.S. Department of Justice.

The Democrat-dominated U.S. House of Representatives, on December 6, 2019, passed legislation to restore the protections against changes in voting laws that could result in voter suppression. But the bill is not likely to become law under the predominately Republican Senate. And President Donald Trump has threatened to veto it.

While attacks from conservatives

on voting rights are seen as the bottom line of voter disenfranchisement across the nation, leading voting advocates also say apathy within the Black community has prevented some gains. Donna Brazile, former chair of the Democratic National Committee, documented that more than 7 million prospective Black voters (7,135,303) were not registered in the spring of 2018.

Growth of White supremacy at the crux of 85 percent Black support of Trump impeachment

Meanwhile the impeachment of President Trump by the U.S. House of Representatives for abuse of power and obstruction of Congress has won wide applause from Black voters. The charges against Trump are based on his attempt to pressure Ukraine to investigate his political rival, Joseph Biden, by withholding nearly \$400 million of military aid from the country.

"Eighty-five percent of African-Americans said President Trump should be impeached, the highest of any ethnic group, according to the latest NBC News-Wall Street Journal poll...However, only 41 percent of Whites do, according to the survey," reported Richard Prince of Journalisms.

Trump has become known for blatant insults against Black people. Those insults include his equating the rabid White supremacists who marched in Charlottesville, Va., resulting in the death of protestor Heather Heyer, with protestors who opposed

the White supremacists. Trump shocked millions when he said, there were "very fine people on both sides."

It is this kind of verbiage that has earned Trump a reputation as a racist, an extremist, and as one who has incited the growth and incubation of racism and White supremacy around the nation.

"The number of hate groups operating across America rose to a record high - 1,020 - in 2018 as President Trump continued to fan the flames of white resentment over immigration and the country's changing demographics. It was the fourth straight year of hate group growth - a 30 percent increase roughly coinciding with Trump's campaign and presidency," wrote the Southern Poverty Law Center, America's foremost tracker of racism and hate groups.

POLICE KILLINGS OF BLACK PEOPLE IS NOW A LEADING CAUSE OF DEATH

Trump was elected to office amidst an already volatile racial atmosphere in which the loose knit organization, Black Lives Matter, and others had emboldened the movement against police brutality and killings of Blacks, starting with the hashtag #BlackLivesMatter following the Feb. 26, 2012 killing of Trayvon Martin, 17, in Sanford, Fla.

Despite protests, the killings have

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Democrats warned about Trump's strategy to woo Black voters

BY CASH MICHAELS OF THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

Jonathan Capehart is a respected African-American opinion writer at The Washington Post. He is known for keeping a sharp eye on President Donald Trump and what his policies are doing to the Black community.

This week, Capehart attracted a

lot of attention with a piece entitled, "Three Things Trump Is Doing That Should Scare the Hell out of Democrats."

Three things...the last of which is extremely important to African-Americans Democrats, especially here in North Carolina.

The first, according to Capehart, is that, despite impeachment, the Republican National Committee

(which will be bringing its national convention to Charlotte this August 24-27) and the Trump re-election campaign, have raised a staggering \$493 million just in 2019 alone.

Experts agree that that is a formidable haul that would make any

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JONATHAN CAPEHART

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



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**BRUNSWICK**  
 Continued from Page 1

Brunswick County another record of time before he could return to work. He, as a Black man, had no other option but to take this in order to keep his job. The same thing happened to a White employee working at the same position, and he was written a letter which said that he could come back to work on light duty, and they would give him help with his job. What was this? Why did this happen? How is this acceptable in this day and time?  
 This is discrimination at its worst! The County cannot accept this at anytime! There is no excuse for it! It is time that people begin to understand that this behavior will be checked and called out for what it is!  
 I find that, on a regular basis, the race hate is happening more frequently. We must not stand by and let this happen! The NAACP has been contacted for investigation and help.  
 There should be contact with the elected officials here in Brunswick County. The NAACP, Black Caucus, and Brunswick County leaders to try and stop these types of actions! There should be peace for the people of Brunswick County. We cannot live in a disrespectful society!  
 Bernest Hewett is President Emeritus of the Brunswick County Chapter of the NAACP.

**NEW DECADE**  
 Continued from Page 1

remained consistent. According to a scientific report contained in the August 20, 2019 issue of the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States or America, police violence is now a "leading cause of death among young Black men."  
 Over the past decade, several high profile cases of Black people killed by police have become household names. They include Philando Castile, 32, shot seven times in Falcon Heights, Minnesota after telling Officer Jeronimo Yanez that he had a legal fire arm and assured him he was not reaching for it; Walter Scott, 50, shot in the back while running away from North Charleston, S. C. police Officer Michael Slager; Mike Brown, 18, shot dead in Ferguson, Mo. after confronted by police Officer Darren Wilson while simply walking down the street in his neighborhood; Eric Garner, 43, choked to death while pleading, "I can't breathe" after confronted by Staten Island, N.Y. police officers while standing

on the street; Tamir Rice, 12, immediately shot by Cleveland, Ohio Officer Timothy Loehmann as Rice wielded a play gun; and Baltimore's Freddie Gray, 25, who was arrested as he left a coffee shop and died of a spinal cord injury sustained while in police custody.  
 These cases, among others, resulted in national protests as well as fiery riots in Ferguson and Baltimore. In Ferguson, the debut of police using military equipment shocked the world.  
 Yet, the most recent outrageous attacks by police have taken another turn. In recent incidents, police have attacked Black people in their own homes. Botham Jean, 26, was killed while sitting in his Dallas apartment as off-duty officer Amber Guyger burst in and shot him, later claiming she thought it was her apartment. Then 28-year-old Atatiana Jefferson, playing video games with her 8-year-old nephew, was shot dead through the window of her Fort Worth home by Officer Aaron Dean who subsequently resigned and is now charged with murder.

**BLACK ECONOMIC DISPARITIES STILL RAGING ACROSS THE U. S.**

On this issue, the statistics speak for themselves:  
 • In February, 2019, there were only 2.6 million Black-owned businesses in the United States, whereas the U.S. Black population is estimated to be more than 40 million, according to the U. S. Black Chamber Inc.  
 • The median wealth of White households is 20 times that of Black households.  
 • The rate of Black homeownership in America was at 41.1 percent, according to 2019 census numbers - even lower than it was when the Fair Housing Act was signed into law 51 years ago on April 11, 1968. The White homeownership rate hovered at approximately 73 percent, according to the National Association of Real Estate Brokers. This issue prompted the founding of Black Wealth 2020 five years ago, a coalition of organizations established as a catalyst for Black economic justice.  
 • Regardless of how high or low the national employment rate fluctuated over the past two decades, without fail,

Black employment remained only half that of Whites.  
 • Gentrification, called the new "negro removal" program, by Ron Daniels of the Institute of the Black World - 21st Century, continues to displace Black people and culture in record numbers in cities across the nation. The gentrification issue prompted an "emergency summit" by IBW last spring and promises to remain the focus of civil rights leaders.  
 Racial disparities in education and discipline continues as major issue in public schools  
 According to the U. S. Department of Education, Black children comprise 15 percent of students in public schools across the U. S. Yet, they accounted for 31 percent of the students either referred to law enforcement or arrested, according to the most recent US Department of Education's Civil Rights Data Collection published bi-report annually.  
 Likewise, standardized test scores at majority Black public schools remain low, compared to majority White schools. But that has little to do with academic ability and much to do with wealth gaps reports

The racial "achievement gap" in standardized-test scores shouldn't be considered a racial gap at all, according to a study by the Center for Education Policy Analysis, which argues that the achievement gap should be called a "poverty gap."  
 "U.S. public schools are highly segregated by both race and class," says the report, released in the fall of 2019. "We use 8 years of data from all public school districts in the U.S. We find that racial school segregation is strongly associated with the magnitude of achievement gaps in 3rd grade, and with the rate at which gaps grow from third to eighth grade. The association of racial segregation with achievement gaps is completely accounted for by racial differences in school poverty: racial segregation appears to be harmful because it concentrates minority students in high-poverty schools, which are, on average, less effective than lower-poverty schools."  
 Given the weight of these issues and others that have lingered from one decade to another, there is no doubt they will continue to fuel the civil rights agenda for years to come.

**STEIN**  
 Continued from Page 1

as the NC NAACP petitioned for as part of its lawsuit to stop the law.  
 Parts of the 2018 voter ID law, better known as SB 824, "...were impermissibly motivated, at least in part, by discriminatory intent," wrote Judge Biggs in her 60-page ruling, noting that the Republican-led General Assembly's previous 2013 voter photo ID law was also racially tinged for the purpose of voter suppression.  
 "The preliminary evidence demonstrates a clear likelihood that plaintiffs will establish that discrimination was behind the law: SB 824 was enacted against a backdrop of recurring state-sanctioned racial discrimination and voter suppression efforts, both in the far and more recent past, and the State's polarized electorate presents the opportunity to exploit race for partisan gain."  
 However, the civil rights organization's hopes that the law might also be stalled for the November 2020 general elec-

tion were dashed when Stein made it clear in a Jan. 2, 2020 press release that his office will appeal the injunction "pending a trial."  
 "However,...the [NC Department of Justice] will not seek a stay of this injunction before the primary," the AG's office continued. "The U. S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit will review the district court's decision, but we anticipate that photo identification will not be required to vote in the primary per the district court's decision."  
 Republican legislative leaders demanded that AG Stein petition for an immediate stay of Judge Biggs' preliminary injunction, thus allowing voter ID for the March primaries.  
 "This last-ditch effort from an unelected judge to stymie the implementation of voter ID and prohibit the legislature from defending the law it wrote is inappropriate. Legislative leaders have worked in good faith to accept numerous forms of ID's and allow for certain exclusions. The result is one of the most lenient voter ID laws in the nation," the GOP statement said.  
 Lt. Gov. Dan Forest, a Republican candidate for gov-

ernor, also weighed in with both barrels.  
 "The only reason to oppose photo voter ID is if you intend to commit fraud at the ballot box."  
 However, Stein didn't listen. Still, even with the delay until after the March primaries, his decision was not welcomed by the plaintiffs either.  
 "This decision should not be appealed," Rev. Dr. T. Anthony Spearman, President of the NC NAACP, said in a Jan. 3 statement.  
 "Racism in our voting system cannot be accepted and should not be defended. In this climate, at this time in our history, we cannot afford equivocation on the question of justice and any stench of racism in our laws."  
 Attorney Irving Joyner, Chair of the NC NAACP's Legal Redress Committee, said, "We deeply regret the decision by the attorney general to appeal Judge Biggs' thoughtful and well reasoned opinion," later adding, "We would urge the Attorney General to reconsider the decision to appeal and allow all of us to complete preparation for the trial in this matter."

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 Out-of-town subscriptions will be 50.00 per year.  
 These price changes are necessary because of the increase in mailing and production fees.  
 Thank you for your continued support.  
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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**



**2,500 NC MARINE TROOPS DEPLOYED TO MIDDLE EAST**

[CAMP LEJEUNE] In the aftermath of the U.S. drone killing of Iranian General Qasem Suleimani, 2,500 U.S. troops from the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit

are being sent to the Middle East to help quell tensions there. They will be joining 3,500 troops from the U.S. Army's 82nd Airborne that were deployed after President Trump warned Iran against any retaliation for the killing. On Tuesday night, 12 Iranian ballistic missiles rained down on Iraqi military bases housing U.S. troops stationed there to fight ISIS. At press time, no word of any casualties.

**FAMILIES EVACUATED FROM PUBLIC HOUSING BECAUSE OF CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING**

[DURHAM] Over 170 families have been evacuated from McDougald Terrace Public Housing Complex after inspectors determined dangerous levels of carbon monoxide poisoning that may have been responsible for the deaths of two infants and a third young child who lived near-

by. Over a dozen residents have had to be taken to the hospital since November. Officials are checking gas-powered furnaces, ovens and water heaters.

**HUNDREDS PAY LAST RESPECT TO SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE OLA LEWIS**

[BRUNSWICK COUNTY] She was the longest serving female judge in North Carolina, in addition to being the first woman and

African-American judge to serve in the 14th Judicial District. She was also the youngest judge ever elected in the state. That's why hundreds of friends and colleagues joined the family of the late Superior Court Judge Ola Lewis to honor her memory January 3rd as her body laid in repose in the rotunda of the Brunswick County Courthouse. Judge Lewis died December 30th after she lost her battle

with liver cancer. Funeral services were held for her Saturday, Jan. 4th at the Odell Williamson Auditorium in Bolivia.

COMPILED BY CASH MICHAELS

**WARNING**

Continued from Page 1

incumbent President hard to beat.

The second reason Capehart says Democrats should be nervous about regarding the 2020 elections is that, beyond White evangelicals, whose support the Republican President cultivates religiously, there is evidence that Trump is also cultivating White Latinos, who reportedly see no connection between themselves

and the struggling Latinos and Mexicans whom Trump is building a wall to keep out of the United States.

However, the third, and most important reason, for the purposes of this story, of which Capehart warns Democrats to be leery in Trump's 2020 campaign moves is that he has effected certain overtures for Black support.

"Just as with the Latino vote, Trump's outreach to African Americans isn't about winning a majority of their votes," Capehart

writes. "It's about shaving off enough votes from the expected Democratic hold on the Black vote to eke out a win. If the dropoff in Black votes that happened between 2012 (President Barack Obama's re-election) and 2016 happens again in 2020, Trump will win."

Yes, even with repeated accusations of racism against Trump because of his statements, or policies, against African-Americans, if he can pull at least 8% nationally of the Black vote, that can hurt any

Democratic opponent in key electoral college states.

It is no secret that the African-American voter is the most loyal to the Democratic Party of all of its traditional constituencies. However, with young African-Americans leaning away from the party in favor of more progressive political figures who are Democrats in name only, not to mention Blacks who feel that the party has always taken their votes for granted, all of a sudden, African-American Democratic loyal-

ty becomes a real factor.

"African American voters have signaled they will not lie low, be quiet, and take one for the team because of the greater goal of taking Trump out of office," wrote columnist Mary C. Curtis for *Roll Call Magazine* last June.

Yet there is another reason Capehart is keeping a keen eye on the "Blacks for Trump" factor. That is Black men.

Even though Black women are the strongest Democratic Party voters, outpacing even White men and women, Black men are the prime Trump target, Capehart says.

"According to the 2016 exit polls, [Hillary] Clinton won Black women by 90 percentage points, but her advantage over Trump with Black men was just 69 percentage points," Capehart reports. "Thirteen percent of African-American men voted for Trump and five percent voted for third-party candidates. That's 18

percent of Black male votes that went to someone other than the Democrat."

This explains why the Democratic candidates have been turning their attention to African-American men on the campaign trail," Capehart adds.

Another factor working for Trump is voter ID. While its status is still unknown here in North Carolina for the 2020 general election in November, there are 34 other states where voter photo identification is alive and well and is a useful tool to suppress the Black vote.

Finally, here in North Carolina, White turnout in 2020 may exceed the 71 percent White registered turnout that beat out the 64% registered Black voter turnout in 2016, which was nine points behind 2008's 73% Black registered turnout the first time Barack Obama ran for President, according to political science professor, Michael Bitzer, of Catawba College in Salisbury.

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## OUR VOICE

### GUEST EDITORIAL

#### RAINBOW COALITION

### President Trump is leading America toward war without end in the Middle East

(Via TriceEdneyWire.com)

It has come to this. An impeached president — still pending trial in the Senate — orders the assassination of a leading Iranian general as he is meeting with the leader of Iraq, a supposed ally. He does so without consultation, much less approval, of Congress. Besieged at home, he lashes out abroad.

This president ran on the promise to end the “endless wars” in the Middle East. Earlier, he ordered and then wisely called off bombing strikes on Iran, saying that he did not want a war. Now he claims that he has acted to stop a war, not start one. He is either deliberately misleading the American people or deluding himself. Assassination of a foreign official is not the road to peace; violence almost inevitably begets violence. He has acted on what his own officials call “razor-thin” evidence, shocking his own military advisers.



Rev. Jesse Jackson, Sr.

U.S. presidents now claim the right — and have the capability — to target and assassinate anyone in any place, foreigner or citizen, if they decide — on the basis of secret and often scant intelligence — that the person may be considering an attack on U.S. allies or soldiers or representatives in the future. They call this potential threat evidence of an “imminent attack,” to pay mock respect to the international law that they are trampling.

General Qassim Suleimani is portrayed as a terrorist with American blood on his hands. But he was not a stateless terrorist. He was a high official in a foreign government with which we are not at war. Assassinating him is an act of war. Ironically, Iran and the Shiite militias in Iraq that Suleimani guided were leading, if unacknowledged, allies in the fight against ISIS, who are largely Sunnis. Similarly, those who attacked the U.S. on 9/11 were Sunnis, almost all from Saudi Arabia, funded largely by Saudi money. The Taliban in Afghanistan are Sunni. The attack on Yemen was led by Saudi Arabia, which is Sunni.

Iran fought against ISIS in Iraq and Syria. Yet, somehow, it has become Trump’s leading target.

The road to this escalating conflict can be traced back to Trump’s perverse hatred of all things achieved by former President Barack Obama. One of Trump’s first acts was to pull the U.S. out of the Iran nuclear pact, over the objections of our allies and his own military advisers. He ramped up sanctions on Iran, seeking to force them to surrender to a “better deal.” The result has been escalating tension and violence, as Iran has demonstrated — in attacks on Saudi oil facilities and on tankers in the Persian Gulf — that it has the capacity to strike back. Now, after the assassination, the entire region girds itself for the retaliation that has already been promised.

This is utter folly. Under George Bush, the U.S. destabilized this region by invading Iraq. That calamity has fostered escalating violence. Obama added to the mess seeking regime change in Syria and in Libya, spreading the chaos.

Trump was right when he said it was time for the U.S. to get out of the Middle East. We have no stake in the spreading conflict between Sunnis and Shiites. We have no desire to send the hundreds of thousands of troops needed to win a war or enforce a peace. All we are doing is squandering American lives and resources in an armed presence that simply adds to the violence without leading to a resolution.

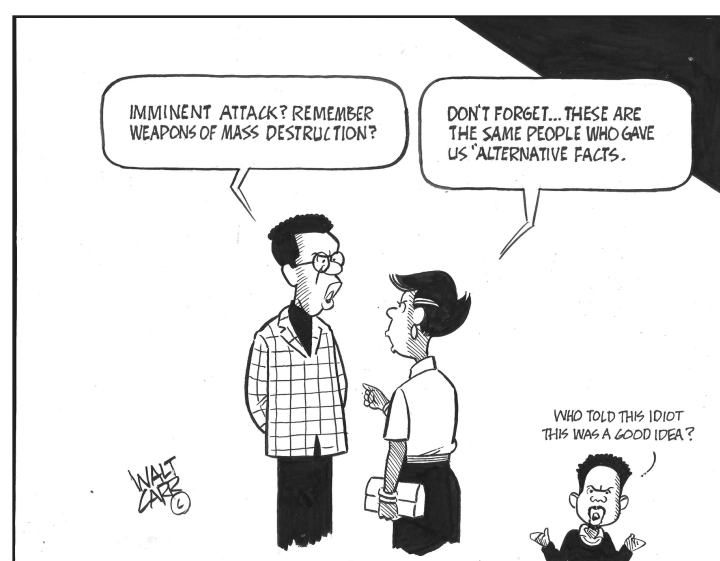
Why has Trump abandoned his campaign promise? Why did he abandon his wise decision not to strike Iran earlier? The only thing that has changed is that he has been impeached. Is he ramping up violence abroad to distract from the overwhelming evidence of his offenses? Is he using the U.S. military as a political campaign prop?

The next move is in Iran’s hands. If the regime reacts predictably by striking back, the assassination will lead to escalating violence. Eye for an eye, tooth for a tooth, and soon all are left without sight and without teeth. Iran could — if its leaders can rise above their grief and their anger — use this moment to take an initiative for peace, calling on our allies to join in convening a negotiation, opening a path to less violence and greater exchange. Trump may not wish to respond, but surely our allies in Europe would jump at the chance.

Clearly Congress must assert its constitutional war powers and limit the license of this or any president to wage war or assassinate foreign leaders on a whim. It must insist on public hearings to review the basis for the assassination. We need hearings on what we are doing in the Middle East and how we begin to bring the troops home. Congress needs to pass a renewed war powers resolution instructing the president to bring the troops home, not send more of them to the region. If Congress cannot curb a rogue president, then this republic is in deep trouble. And the American people and its soldiers are headed deeper into wars without victory and without end.

Rev. Jesse Jackson, Sr., is the founder of Rainbow Coalition.

## Visual Voice



## YOUR VOICE

### I AM HUMAN, JUST LIKE YOU

On a recent ride into town, I found myself behind a car with a bumper sticker that read SUPPORT OUR TROOPS. I imagined addressing the driver: “What exactly does your bumper sticker mean? How are you supporting our troops? Do you send them gifts for Christmas? Donate to veterans causes? Do you vote for candi-

dates who will keep them safe by providing arms for them in battle or for candidates who will keep them safe by staying out of conflicts? Are you implying that I don’t support our troops because my car does not display the same message?”

It’s been decades since I’ve met anyone who does not respect and admire the men and women who put themselves in harm’s way to protect us.

And what about the bumper stickers that say PEACE? “What statement are you making? That you are for peace? As opposed to what? Have you ever met anyone who is against peace?”

The truth is that these bumper stickers have nothing at all to do with our troops or world peace. Rather, their sole purpose is to let others know what side you’re on. They are no different than the colors

worn by rival gangs in cities across America.

So, at the dawn of this new decade, perhaps it’s time to begin dismantling the social and political divisions in our country. The bumpers of our cars may be the best place to start. And if you must display something, may I suggest I AM HUMAN – JUST LIKE YOU.

Jeffrey Zalles Southport, NC

## MATTERS OF OPINION

### 20/20 Vision

(Via TriceEdneyWire.com)

For some reason whenever I go to the eye doctor, I expect to get a good report on my vision. Sometimes I get one. Sometimes I don’t, but I am always hopeful. This year, I am truly hopeful that our leaders will have 20/20 vision so they can stop the warring attitudes and practices and the punishing behaviors toward the most vulnerable they have been chosen lead.

My prayer is for them to not just pray for, but work for a better and just world for all no matter where people live, the color of their skin or the culture from which they come.

My dream is for world leaders to care about everybody’s children, that no child would be left behind, that every child

would have access to a useable education. Years ago when young people graduated from high school, it was understood that all of them would not be going to college, so they were taught useable skills so that they could go to work to make a living right out of high school. Whatever some may think of those days, I want to see that part of our past come back.

Is it possible for all of us to give meaning to this year being 20/20? Let it be the cue for all of us to think about what we can do to show that we have clearer vision. With wars, poor education systems, injustices especially for women and non-white people, the unemployment rate with a lack of livable wages for so many, the lack of hope for too many people, and the desire for instant gratification—these things lead to desperation and other negative outcomes.

Too many leaders have lost that 20/20 vision of where we should be going such that nobody wants to, or sees the wisdom of following them. We’ve lost confidence in them

because few of them seem to care about nothing more than their own well-being.

General Colin Powell said, “Leadership is a position of problem solving which is conflict resolution. The day people stop bringing you (meaning leaders) their problems is the day you have stopped leading them. They’ve either lost confidence that you can help or concluded you do not care. Either case this is a failure of leadership.”

He also said, “Leadership is all about people. It is not about organizations. It is not about plans. It is not about strategies. It is all about people motivating people to get the job done. You have to be people centered.”

Further, he said, “None of us can change our yesterdays but all of us can change our tomorrows.”

There was a time that leaders convened with positive motives—really willing to compromise in order to accomplish great things for all the people. We, the people have a responsibility in electing and

choosing leaders who make good on their promises once elected or chosen and not ones who just begin to flip flop on their promises depending on the way the wind blows or the money finds its way to their pockets. On that note, we the people must insist upon overturning the destructive Citizens United.

We, the people, must be determined that our leaders are qualified to lead. Just look at the man people elected to our White House has done to undermine certain members of his team. He is the total opposite of what a leader should be. He not only does not offer leadership for all the people, he does not offer leadership for vision to his team whose members might want to do the right thing. We, the people, must demand 20/20 visionary leaders.

“Dr. E. Faye Williams is National President of the National Congress of Black Women and host of “Wake Up and Stay Woke” on WPFW-FM 89.3.

## Will money rule in this Presidential race?

(Via TriceEdneWire.com)

Democrats started this Presidential campaign season with more than 20 candidates. Eventually, it dropped to about a dozen, with, so far, only five of those “qualified” to appear on the next debate stage. But debate performance doesn’t seem to matter much. Both Senator Kamala Harris and former Obama cabinet member Julian Castro having had excellent debate performances, and yet they have still dropped out of the race.

It’s a money thing. With just \$9 million in the bank, Senator Harris said she couldn’t see her way clear to the nomination given her extremely limited resources. Castro, matching Harris in grace and reflectiveness, said: “It just wasn’t our time.” He, too, felt he did not have enough money in the bank to compete. It almost certainly would have helped these candidates qualify if they had the resources, say, of former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg, who pumped \$100 million into his campaign in just one month!

In fairness, though, it is essential to note that Senator

Bernie Sanders raised a whopping \$34.5 million in the fourth quarter of 2019 alone. Mayor Pete Buttigieg and former VP Joe Biden raised more than \$20 million in that quarter; and Senator Elizabeth Warren came close. The deadline for filing finance reports is later this month, so I’m cautious in concluding based on news articles and partial reports. Still, generally, those who have something to crow about put their numbers out there early.

And for some, money isn’t the only issue. Did they meet the thresholds the Democratic party set for debate qualification? Do they and their advisors think they can win? What are the polls saying? So even though Kristen Gillibrand had \$14.9 million in the bank when she dropped out of the race last August, she was not polling well and failed to qualify for the September debate. Meanwhile, Senator Corey Booker did not qualify for the last debate, but he is hanging in there.

Although Booker and entrepreneur Andrew Yang are still in the race, the Democratic field is mostly white, and the January debate stage on January 14, 2020, in Des Moines, Iowa is likely to be all-white. The white folks on the stage may be “qualified”, but I find them no more qualified than, say, Julian Castro and Kamala Harris. Their greatest flaw was the inability to compete in this multi-million dollar cacophony of voices.

Neither Harris nor Castro will suffer much for dropping out of the race. Some say that Castro will run for governor of Texas. Harris has three years more of a Senate term, and she is an effective presence in Capitol Hill. I didn’t like seeing either of them dropping out of the race, but the loss is ours, not theirs. The way the election cycle works, candidates can get a big boost if they can win either Iowa or New Hampshire. But with the debate qualification set so high, voters in those states will not have the opportunity to see some great possibilities in action because they don’t qualify for the debates.

To be sure, it was useful to narrow the field of candidates from an unwieldy number to a more manageable one. And candidates all appreciate the fact that they have more time to go in-depth answering questions. Still, if it’s an all-white debate stage, what does that say about progress in this nation? What does it say about the Democratic Party, which presents itself as a big-tent party that has embraced diversity?

For Democrats, there are three keys to winning this election. First, Dems must engage “new voters,” including young people and first-time voters. Next, Dems must monitor the rules around elections so that they do not discriminate and scrutinize the ways people are removed from the voting rolls. Finally, and most importantly,

Democrats must place significant effort on getting out the vote in November (and during the primaries), and new voters and especially communities of color, must be targeted.

Election protection organizations have the monitoring issue covered, and there are likely to be massive GOTV (get out the vote) efforts led by civil society organizations. But what engages new voters? They must feel that the political process reflects them. Already Latino voters are concerned that Democrats aren’t vying for their vote. And African American voters think that the Democratic Party takes them for granted.

To engage new voters, perhaps Democrats need to examine their rules to embrace more candidates of color. And they need to fight for legislation that makes it easier to vote. Democrats like to call themselves candidates of the “underdog.” But when billionaires like Steyer and Bloomberg come sauntering through the door, concern for the underdog seems to go out of the

Dr. Julianne Malveaux is an economist, author, media contributor and educator. Her latest project MALVEAUX! On UDCTV is available on youtube.com. For booking, wholesale inquiries or for more info visit www.julianne-malveaux.com.

VOICE YOUR OPINION!  
WRITE A LETTER TO  
THE EDITOR TODAY



## New Hanover County

The New Hanover NAACP monthly meeting is Thursday, January 23rd, 7:00 p.m. at St. Stephen AME Church, 501 Red Cross Street, Wilmington.

The meeting will include information on the 2020 Moral March on Raleigh and The Historic Thousands on Jones Street Peoples' Assembly Saturday, February 8th, beginning at 10am. The HKonJ Peoples' Assembly coalition is made up of more than 125 North Carolina NAACP branches, youth councils and college chapters from across the state and members of over 200 other social and justice organizations. Other important state and community issues will be on the agenda as well as upcoming New Hanover NAACP branch activities and events. Members and friends are encouraged to attend. For more information, call 910-508-9414 or email nhcnaacp@gmail.com.

## Community Briefs

The New Hanover County NAACP hosts its 16th annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast Saturday, January 18th at 9:00 a.m. at the Midtown YMCA, 709 George Anderson Drive, Wilmington. Featured speaker is Dr. Jay Augustine, JD, pastor of St. Joseph AME Church, Durham and national chaplain of Alpha Psi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. Church of the Year and Minister of the Year will also be recognized. All proceeds benefit New Hanover NAACP's youth programs, including ACT-SO, Sankofa Summer Academy, Youth Council and scholarships. Tickets are a \$30 donation and can be purchased at the Wilmington Journal, 412 South Seventh Street and Davis Funeral Home, 901 Fifth Avenue. Online tickets are available through eventbrite.com event/NHC NAACP MLK, Jr Breakfast, or ordered from New Hanover NAACP, P.O. Box 2199, Wilmington, NC 28402. For more information, call 910-508-9414 or email nhcnaacp@gmail.com.

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

Compiled By Wilmington Journal Staff

Mount Zion  
African Methodist Episcopal Church

111 North Fifth Avenue Wilmington, NC 28401

STEWARDESS BOARD  
ANNUAL ANNIVERSARY

Sunday January 12, 2020  
3:00 P.M.



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Ministry

RO2W2E Dance  
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Reverend Artie Odum – Presiding Elder, Northern District  
Reverend Jerould Richburg – Pastor  
Mrs. Lulu Davis – Stewardess Board President

## Amanda Knox to keynote LINC, Inc. 20th Anniversary Milestones Dinner

Kim Cook, UNCW professor of Sociology and Criminology, met Amanda Knox at an Innocence Projects annual conference. They exchanged books - Knox's *Waiting to Be Heard*, and Cook's *Life after Death Row* - talked about their mutual passion for criminal justice system reform, and formed a friendship.

Cook, LINC, Inc. board chair, knew Knox would be a compelling speaker for LINC's annual Milestones dinner. "Amanda makes it really clear that everybody deserves compassion, and that we, as a society, need to do a better job of supporting people as they overcome traumas, especially the trauma of incarceration," says Cook. "I am excited she agreed to join us; a big celebration like LINC's 20th anniversary merits a speaker with a big message."

Between 2007 and 2015, Knox spent four years in an Italian prison and eight years on trial for a murder of which she was later exonerated. She now works to inspire people toward empathy and perspective instead of judgement. Knox's work shares synergies with LINC, Inc's mission: rehabilitation instead of incarceration, restorative justice, and fighting misogynistic stereotypes in criminal justice, racial inequity in sentencing, interrogation reform, public shaming, public vilification, and media

demonization of justice-involved individuals.

The 6th Annual Milestones Dinner will include induction of new LINC Society members LeeAnne Quattrocci PA, Cape Fear Memorial Foundation, Gifted Hands Services, and Autism Support and Programs. Graduates from the M.E. Roberts Transitional Living Campus will also be recognized.

"Amanda's message of providing compassionate services and support aligns with LINC's mission to provide a safety net for men and women returning to society after being in prison," says Frankie Roberts, LINC, Inc. executive director. "For twenty years, we have been committed to turning setbacks into comebacks, and this year's Milestones Dinner will celebrate everyone who contributes to our success in destigmatizing formerly incarcerated individuals."

The event will be held Monday, February 3, 2020, at Hotel Ballast, 301 South Water Street, Wilmington, NC, with a 6pm reception and 7pm dinner. Tickets, sponsorship information, and reservations can be made at the event website (<https://linc-nc.org/milestones>).

LINC, Inc. provides transitional living and case management services to meet the immediate needs of men and women returning from prison, assisting them in becoming productive mem-



AMANDA KNOX

bers of the community. LINC, Inc. operates the Marvin E. Roberts Transitional Living Campus which offers shelter, food, and clothing in a therapeutic environment for up to 25 men and 20 women, 25 and older, who have been recently released from State and/or Federal prisons or local jails. LINC, Inc., through its L.I.T.E. Manhood program, works to educate and motivate youth to make positive life choices with culturally

specific youth development services for African American young men ages 16-24. LINC, Inc., founded in June 2000 by Executive Director Frankie Roberts and co-founder Tracey Ray, is a Wilmington, North Carolina 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, a member of the New Hanover County Local Reentry Council, and the first North Carolina chapter of the statewide Second Chance Alliance.

## New Hanover County Schools to host Minority- and Women-Owned Business Fair

New Hanover County Schools will host a business fair for minority and women-owned business leaders on Thursday, January 23, 2020 from 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at New Hanover County's Board of Education Center, located at 1805 South 13th Street. District leaders from Facility Planning and Construction, Maintenance Operations, Transportation, Child Nutrition, Technology

and Purchasing departments will be available to answer questions about their specific divisions.

Guests will learn about bidding opportunities on service and purchasing contracts with the school district. Information will be provided on bidding requirements and procedures by the participating departments. A representative from the NC Department of Administration will share

information on the advantages of becoming a HUB-certified business and the documentation required for the application process. Attendees will benefit from networking opportunities to highlight their business with district leaders and other industry professionals.

Pursuant to School Board Policy 5312, New Hanover County Schools is committed to encouraging the participation of minority busi-

nesses in the school system's construction contracts. To learn more about the HUB-certification process, visit <https://ncadmin.nc.gov/businesses/hub/hub-certification>. For more information about the Minority and Women-owned Business Fair, contact Eddie Anderson, Assistant Superintendent of Operations for New Hanover County Schools, [eddie.anderson@nhcs.net](mailto:eddie.anderson@nhcs.net), (910) 254-4243.



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BOOTCAMP

JANUARY  
22-23, 2020

Is becoming a nonprofit director the next step in your career plan? QENO is sponsoring a workshop designed to help you learn what it takes to be an all-star executive director.

Each session will be led by an experienced executive director with the knowledge of what it takes to be successful. The fee is \$30.

Registration and a light breakfast begins at 9 a.m. The boot camp starts promptly at 9:30 a.m. Lunch and snacks will also be provided.

Sessions will include:

- Board Relations
- Financial Management
- Staff Relations
- Volunteer Relations
- Fund Development
- Program Planning
- Outcomes Measurement

Register online at  
[bit.ly/qenobootcamp](http://bit.ly/qenobootcamp)



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.

uncw presents

The Second City  
Jan. 28  
@7:30 p.m.



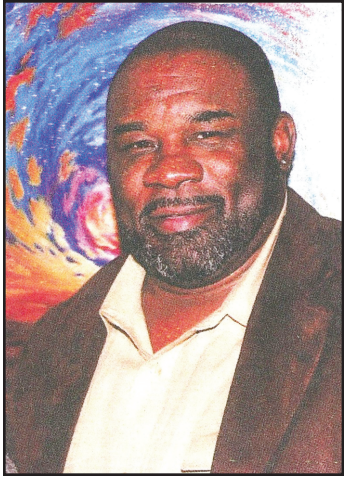
AILEY II  
Feb. 5  
@7:30 p.m.

UNCW Presents serves the local community by shining a spotlight on the intellectual life of the campus through inclusive, distinctive and diverse cultural programming. From the comedic stylings of *The Second City* to the power movements of *Ailey II*, our 28th season has something for everyone.

[uncw.edu/presents](http://uncw.edu/presents)  
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.



**Brian Keith White**

Brian Keith White, son of Lillie Pugh Shrewsberry and James White was born on March 8, 1967 in Wilmington, North Carolina. He departed this earthly life on December 26, 2019 in Greensboro, North Carolina.

Brian affectionately called "Sleepy" by his friends was educated in the New Hanover County School System graduating from E.A. Laney High School in the Class of 1985. He furthered his education at Winston Salem State University and Atlanta Technical College where he received his Barber's License, a trade he loved. Brian was employed at Caliente Cutz and was also a radio personality (BWhite@WDRB Media) for WGIV - The Soul of Charlotte.

Brian was a member of St. Stephen AME Church. He loved his church and participated in church activities. He also loved football, basketball and playing golf. But, most of all, Brian loved his family and he will be truly missed. He was preceded in death by his son, Brian Keith White, Jr.

He leaves to cherish fond memories: his son, Aaron Deunte' and his children, Aaron Jr., Jamari and Kenndi; daughter, Brittani and her children, Khylen and Karsyn; his loving "MOMMIE", Lillie Pugh Shrewsberry of Wilmington, NC; his father, James White of Virginia Beach, VA; two loving sisters, LaShawn and her son, LaManuel and Renita and her children, Justin, Courtney and Chelsie; grandfather, George "Duke" Pugh; loving aunts, Mrs. Lillie Martin Robinson, Ms. Deloris Carter Belen and Mrs. Mary "Lou Lou" White; godson, Branden Green; other dear and loving family members: Leroy Shiver, Jr., Tony Gore, Mrs. Barbara Elston and her children, Marquette and Erica of Charleston, SC; the Pugh, Martin, Rivers, White, Junious, LeSine, Miller and Canty families, other relatives and thousands of loving friends and YOU! A Service of John H. Shaw's Son Funeral Home.

**William Springer**

William Springer died December 30, 2019. Funeral services were held Saturday, January 4, 2019 at Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church. Burial followed in Pollock Cemetery.

William Shemont Springer "Mr. Springer", son of Mary Springer Corbett and Wayne

Nixon was born March 5, 1984 in Wilmington, North Carolina. He was formally educated in the New Hanover County School System. He continued his education at Cape Fear Community College. He was a man of love. William loved his family and friends and always protected that bond. William loved with a great heart and lived with a pursuit to find happiness, with a purpose. Every day he strived to fulfill and understand how to get his goals achieved, even when sometimes he could not see the way. But he had faith in His Creator and his sustainer of life. He kept his faith, even when he couldn't see a way. He was a man with a will and a way and he fought a good fight, even to the end. William loved to laugh and crack jokes. He loved to have a good time and was a very intelligent young man. He was preceded in death by his maternal grandparents, Jacqueline and Charlie "Ed" Springer; uncle, Robert Springer; great uncle, James Harper; cousin, Tasha Springer and his paternal brother, Ruben Irvin.

He leaves to cherish fond memories: his mother, Mary Springer Corbett (Joseph); father, Wayne Nixon; two brothers, Chaz Springer and Tre Scott of Wilmington, NC; one sister, Tikoyo Scott of Wilmington, NC; grandmother, Mrs. Mina Nixon; two aunts, Pamela Springer and Lillian Springer of Wilmington, NC; five uncles, Donald, Daryl, Charles (Diane), Greg, and Joseph (Bernadette Johnson); a special fiancé of twenty plus years, Jamie Stokley and her son, Jamiek Stokley that he raised as his own; two special nieces, Nya Scott and Emery Springer; a host of cousins, loved ones and friends. A Service of John H. Shaw's Son Funeral Home.

**Carolyn Ann Knox**

Carolyn Ann Knox died December 31, 2019. Funeral services were held Sunday, January 5, 2020 at Salvation and Deliverance Family Worship Center, Leland, NC. Burial followed in the church cemetery.

Carolyn was born on November 4, 1960 to the late Daniel L. and Sadie Bryant Knox. She attended Brunswick County Schools. Carolyn joined Salvation and Deliverance Family Worship Center where she remained a faithful and devoted member. All that knew Carolyn knew that she loved her family, friends and her community. She made certain to keep in touch with daily phone calls, sometimes multiple times a day, especially to remind all of her birthday. She reserved many of her calls for her older brother James whom she affectionately called "Pig" and her sister "Londa". She made certain to keep in close contact with them both for store runs and to confirm the time they were coming to visit her. She was preceded in death by her brother Pernell Knox.

Carolyn leaves to cherish her memory: one daughter, Shanice Knox-Hughes (Greg); three grandchildren, Trinity Robinson, Triston Robinson and

Geremiah Knox-Hughes whom she dearly loved; three brothers, Reverend James Knox (Debra), Sherman Knox, Nathaniel Knox; three sisters, Beulah Jackson (Rev. SC), Ella Mae Robbins (Donnie) and Yolanda Perkins; one uncle, Robert Bryant (Shirley); five aunts, Lorraine Bryant, Mary Lizzie Johnson (Butler), Josephine Harris (Thessalonias), Christine Vernon and Vergie Vernon; five nephews; ten nieces; one special cousin, Shirleen Bryant and a host of friends and acquaintances. A Service of John H. Shaw's Son Funeral Home.

**Yasmar Washington**

Yasmar Washington died December 29, 2019. Funeral services were held Wednesday, January 8, 2020 at St. Andrew AME Zion Church. Burial followed in Calvary Memorial Cemetery. A Service of John H. Shaw's Son Funeral Home.

**Charlie Wilson**

Charlie Wilson died January 1, 2020. Funeral services will be held 1:30 p.m. on Friday, January 10, 2020 at First Born Holiness Church, Carolina Beach Road. Burial will follow in the Oak Grove Cemetery. A Service of John H. Shaw's Son Funeral Home.

**Eugene Green**

Eugene Green died January 1, 2020. Funeral services will be held 11:00 a.m. Saturday, January 11, 2020 at Warner Temple AME Zion Church. In lieu of flowers, please make donations to The Margaret Green Scholarship Foundation c/o Patricia Green; 3012 Braewood Court, Leland, NC. A Service of John H. Shaw's Son Funeral Home.

**Marvis W. McCrimmon**

Marvis W. McCrimmon died January 5, 2020. Funeral arrangements 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.

**Hazel Lee Miller**

Elder Hazel Lee Miller, age 64, of Wilmington, passed away Thursday, December 26, 2019.

A celebration of Elder Miller's life was held on Friday, January 3, 2020 at Union Missionary Baptist Church. Interment followed in Greenlawn Memorial Park.

He leaves to cherish her memories her mother, Mary Hewitt of Southport; siblings, Rose Hewitt Walker (Melvin) of Navassa and Elijah S. Hewitt, III of Wilmington and a host of nieces and nephews. 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.

**Gail V. Jones**

Gail V. Jones, age 61, of Leland, passed away Thursday, December 26, 2019. A memorial

service celebrating the life of Ms. Gail was held on Saturday, January 4, 2020 at Davis Funeral Home.

Her love and memories will remain in the hearts of her mother, Gladys M. Jones of Leland; sisters, Linda Jones (Hunt) of Wilmington and Barbara Johnson of Leland; brother, George W. Jones of Council 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.

**Rev. Dr. Floyd D. Jones, Sr.**

Rev. Dr. Floyd D. Jones, Sr., age 91, of Sneads Ferry, passed away Saturday, December 28, 2019. A celebration of Rev. Dr. Jones' life was held on Saturday, January 4, 2020 at Trent River Oakey Grove Missionary Baptist Association. Interment followed in Interfaith Community Cemetery.

His love and memories will remain in the hearts of his children, Gregory Jones (Sunnam) of Jacksonville, Terry Coleman (Clifton) of Camden, DE, Sheila Cannon Santos (Manny) of Leland, Floyd Jones, Jr. of Jacksonville and Eunice Amelia Dingle (Joe) of Germantown, MD, one grandchild, four great-grandchildren, 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.

**Gussie W. Mapson**

Gussie Wylene Mapson, age 75, of Leland, passed away Saturday, January 4, 2020.

Friends are cordially invited to a visitation with the family from 6:00 p.m.- 8:00 p.m. on Friday, January 10, 2020 at Davis Funeral Home, 901 S. 5th Ave., Wilmington, NC 28401. A celebration of Ms. Mapson's life will be conducted at 11:00 a.m., Saturday, January 11, 2020 at Union Missionary Baptist Church, 2711 Princess Place Dr., Wilmington, NC 28405. Interment will follow in Greenlawn Memorial Park. 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.

**Lena S. Butler**

Lena S. Butler, age 70, of Supply, passed away Tuesday, January 7, 2020. Friends are cordially invited to a visitation with the family from 5:00 p.m.- 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, January 11, 2020 at Davis Funeral Home, 1705 Southport-Supply Rd. SE, Bolivia, NC 28422. A celebration of Mrs. Butler's life will be conducted at 1:00 p.m., Sunday, January 12, 2020 at Oceanview Association Center, 7550 Ocean Hwy W, Sunset Beach, NC 28468. Interment will follow in Angela Faye Cemetery. 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.

**Charles Joyner**

Charles Joyner, age 96, of Southport, passed away Tuesday, January 7, 2020. Friends are cordially invited to a visitation with the family from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. on Monday, January 13, 2020 at Davis Funeral Home, 1705 Southport-

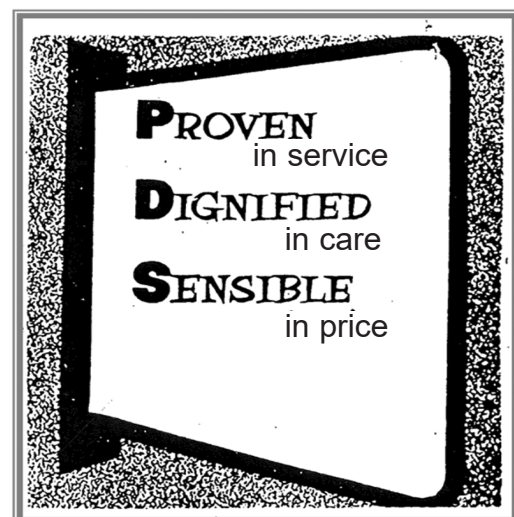
Supply Rd. SE, Bolivia, NC 28422. A celebration of Mr. Joyner's life will be conducted at 2:00 PM, Tuesday, January 14, 2020 at ILA Local 1838 Hall, 211 W. 10th St., Southport, NC 28561. Interment will follow at Northwood Cemetery. Services entrusted to Davis Funeral Home, 901 S. 5th Ave, Wilmington, NC 28401. Please share memories and condolences with the family at www.davisfuneralhomenc.com.



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Mt. Nebo Baptist Church, 801 S. 10th St., Unity Choir will celebrate their 26th anniversary with a musical program on Sunday, January 19th at 3:00 p.m.



Religious Briefs

St. Stephen AME Church, 501 Red Cross St., Wilmington. Women's Missionary Society will celebrate their Annual Day on Sunday, January 12th at 3:30 p.m. The speaker will be Sister D. Faye Conley, WMS President of the 2nd Episcopal District. Also the St. Stephen's will hold a New Year's Revival, Wednesday, January 15th- Friday, January 17th, 7:00 p.m. nightly. The speaker will be Reverend James A. Brown pastor of Light of The Word Missionary Baptist Church. The church will celebrate and honor their pillars (85 years of age and older during morning worship service Sunday, January 19th at 10:00 a.m. Guest preacher will be Reverend J.W. Nixon. For more information please call St. Stephen at 910 762-9829.

Martin Luther King Jr. Musical Celebration will be held on Tuesday, January 14th, 7:00 p.m. at Union Missionary Baptist Church. Musical guests include Mt. Zion Baptist Church, East Coast Community Choir, M & R Singers and Union Missionary Baptist Mass Choir. For more information contact Pastor Jeremy Buie or Barry Smith.

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

Compiled By Wilmington Journal Staff

SENIOR CITIZENS' FELLOWSHIP Happy New Year to All!

BY FANNIE ALLEN AND SHEILA ROSS CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Happy New Year to all God's children. God has allowed us see the beginning of a new year. TGBTG. Great things he has done. It is a bright and beautiful day another day that the Lord has made. Rejoice and be glad in it.

Our meeting place has changed to the Martin Luther King Center but our hearts and love are still here and in place. Mrs. Mary Jones the director of the Martin Luther King Center welcomed us today and provided us with information on programs that are offered at the center that have great benefits for seniors. Our meetings will continue to be held at the Martin Luther King Center while the Senior Center is being renovated.

Our greeting time was great today. Our meeting was called to order by our president Mrs. Gladys Taylor. Mrs.

Mary Greene our vice president asked Mrs. Holmes to come with our devotion. We opened with "So Glad I'm Here." Mrs. Mattie Holmes talked to the Lord for us today. Thank you God for hearing our prayers. Next we sang, "Blessed Assurance." We had expressions with grateful hearts. We also had readings of encouragement. The minutes were read by Mrs. Mildred Ellerby and approved. We had one visitor, Mrs. Bertha Syles and Mrs. Mattie Holmes welcomed her. Our meditation schedule was completed. We then had the callers report. All callers were given a hand of appreciation. Announcements and sick reports given by Mrs. Annie Haskins. She asked that we continue to pray for them and visit them. Mrs. Mary Martin made our day with laughter. Thank you Mrs. Martin. We sang, "Bind us Together" and prayer was given by Mrs. Mattie Holmes. There were 35 in attendance.

TELL SOMEBODY

"If the Blind Lead the Blind"

"And he spake a parable unto them, Can the blind lead the blind? Shall not they both fall into the ditch?" Luke 6:39

Blind - Being without sight

How do you know if you are following good leadership? We must be able to hear, and obey God's voice when choosing leadership. Proverbs 3:5,6 tells us to "Trust in the Lord with all our heart, and lean not to our own understanding. In all our ways to acknowledge him, and he shall direct our path." The choices we make in determining leadership reflect who we are, because we trust them enough to make decisions for us and our families. (Ephesians 5:1-20)

Matthew 7:15-20 says, "Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that bringeth not good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them."

Following leadership is

very important within the Body of Christ. The bible tells us to esteem our leaders highly, and to give honor to whom honor is due. For consciousness sake, we should believe that our leaders are also followers of Christ. When they preach or teach the scriptures to us, we should be following along with our own bibles wide open to confirm God's truths.



Sylvia Hooper

Our Christian leaders should also be living holy. How can they lead us to victory, if they are struggling with sin? We should also set high standards when choosing those to lead us politically. Apostle Paul was a great leader and wrote quite a bit of the New Testament, yet he humbly stated, "Follow me as I follow Christ."

The greatest leader this world has ever known, is in the person of Jesus Christ. He was and still is a perfect role model for leadership. In Matthew 4:19, he said to Peter and Andrew, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."

- 1. Jesus was fully focused on them individually.
2. He knew the plans he had

for their future
3. He recognized their potential
4. He was committed to their success, and willing to prepare them for the next level in life.
5. He loved them unconditionally

If a political leader begins to deviate away from the truth, maybe it is time to relieve him of his office. If a Christian leader begins to deviate away from the Word of God, we must remember to follow the Word of God which also agrees with the Holy Spirit! We should pray for those in leadership and hold God's Word higher than any man's opinion !!!

A good Christian leader is willing to model what their ministry teaches. A good leader sets the example, and is always seeking what is best for his/her followers.

A good Christian leader may use other sources of information or inspiration, but remains true to Holy scripture. His life is fruitful and he is concerned about the souls of his followers. He preaches good tidings to the meek, he binds up the brokenhearted, and proclaims liberty to those held captive by the enemy.

On the contrary, a leader who is blind, will seek to influence you more than Christ himself. Your life will be unfruitful and non productive if you are following someone who is spiritually blind. A

blind man cannot help but stumble. Everyone who follows a blind man will likewise stumble and fall into the same ditch as the blind leader! "Where there is no vision, the people perish, so choose your leaders wisely! You will have to live with the consequences of the choices that are made by your leaders. Remember, what happens when the blind lead the blind....."

Prayer: Father open our eyes to see what you want us to see when it comes to choosing our leaders politically and spiritually. Give us wisdom in Jesus Name we pray. Amen.

Tell Somebody!!!

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!

A WORD FROM THE LORD

God's Redemptive Plan, Part 1: Man's corruptible seed for God's incorruptible seed

Our awesome creator and the only true and living God, is about mapping out His pathway to a prepared place for all who will freely accept his plan of salvation. He wants to reconnect with His creation. The plan of salvation is the only way to a perfect reunion between man and his creation that existed in the garden of Eden. It has been revealed with a better covenant. John 14:3 GNT And after I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to myself, so that you will be where I am. The good news of the coming of the Messiah is here now through Jesus the Christ and purchased by his redemptive blood.

Man (Adam and Eve) were given dominion and authority over all God created. Man gave it away and lost the privilege of talking to God everyday and of knowing no evil. How awesome a gift of immeasurable love bestowed. Romans 3:10 "For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities, his eternal power and divine nature have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse. Romans 1:19 "...for what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown them." God knows, however, our frame, and therefore, extended grace and mercy instead of what we deserved.

I look at our God through his spoken word and one thing becomes very clear to me what God says about himself. He is a compassionate and loving Father that introduces himself to his creation. He wants us to know that he loves us with an everlasting love and that we are never left alone. He wants his creation to know that they are created with purpose. God wants us to be a replica of

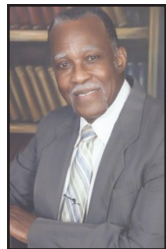
himself and that His unchanging love is the reason behind our existence. "I am the God that changes not". There is a consistency in God, that he declares. He says, I am the same yesterday, today and forever more. That means that love for you and I remains, whether or not we receive it, nor does the other more than 3500 counted verses of promises change. Solomon 8:6 "Place me like a seal over your heart, like a seal on your arm; for love is as strong as death...."

Moses left the children of Israel in the hands of Joshua to possess the remainder of their promised land. At the command of God, Joshua reminded the people of God's faithfulness. Joshua 23:14 "All (promises) have come to pass with you and in all your souls that not one thing hath failed of all the good things which Jehovah your God has promised." In Psalms 89:34, It is emphasized again "No, I will not break my covenant; I will not take away one word of what I have said." 2 Corin. 1:20 "For all the promises of God in Him are yes, and in Him amen, to the glory of God through us." To make perfectly sure that we understand and remember His faithfulness, in Isaiah, Chapter 7:14, "Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign. Behold a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son and shall call his name Immanuel. Mat, 1:18 KJV, "Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was expoused to Joseph, before they came together,

she was found with child of the Holy Ghost." It was not the seed of man, but the seed of woman by the Holy Ghost. Not contaminated in sin by man's seed but was implanted by the Holy Spirit. You and I can rest in the seed. That seed became flesh through Jesus Christ, Immanuel. The word of God is also seed. The power of the seed is manifested through speaking the word of God. It's a spoken word in faith. When the seed is planted in a prepared heart, spoken in an audible voice there is a predictable outcome. Then, God can't be anything but faithful to hasten to perform his word for you and I. Oh, the power that rest in the seed, God's written word! It has purpose, dynamite power: to be released or produced by words that can be activated by the power of planted words. The word planted in prepared soil is expected to germinate in its season for growth: proper soil which contains nutrients; proper nutrients required for the desired plant. A weed is a wild plant and will grow in almost any soil. It is wild, with tares and can also be destructive to other plant growth, giving little purpose. It is alive but has little purpose. But seed needs proper soil for a good root system that supports and anchors. Man, too, needs to be anchored to be able to withstand the wiles of the enemy and water; like the living water that satisfies. John 4:14 Amp. "But whosoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never thirst again; but the water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water satisfying his thirst for God, welling up continually flowing, bubbling within him to eternal life." Sunlight that's also needed, gives the planter more reward. 1 Peter 1:23

"You have been born again not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God. It takes special care for the seed itself, from planting, to taking care during germination to harvest time. If one gets tired after preparing the ground for planting, no seed is planted; tired after it germinates and starts to sprout and refuses to cultivate, no growth is completed, Then the wild grass and insects will come and destroy. The power remains in the seed but there is work to bring it to fruition. That means that we, as people of God, must, "Be ye doers of the word and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. We must follow the plan. We don't reach our full potential and blessing beyond measure, without doing the complete job of occupying until he comes. We must continuously read the word of God and be reminded of how the inner man, your soul, stays nourished to be fit for the master's use. That is doing the will of God, not starting and stopping, but until he returns or we go to meet him. That's to follow the mandate, the voice of God or his written word. It's all about his unmerited favor. The holiday without Jesus can leave you empty, tired and broken. Jesus has come to give you life and that more abundantly. There is still time to include Jesus in the celebration of his birthday. The reason for the season is to accept Jesus' redemption plan. This is the glory that God receives from you recognizing His gift of His only Son, the Christ. He's available for you. Say yes!

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



Rev. Naconiel Fullwood

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