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THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

News from the African American perspective without fear or favor

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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.

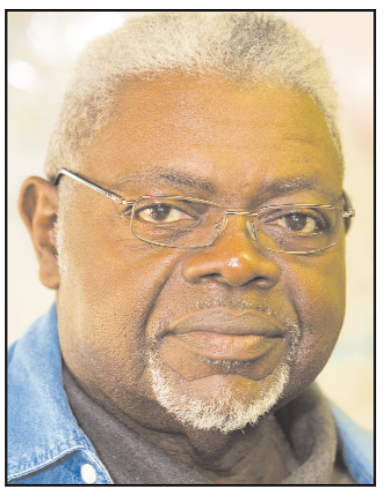
OUTside Looking IN

OUR VOICE

STACY BROWN

GUEST EDITORIAL
"African Americans poorer today than five years ago"
BY
STACY BROWN
PAGE 4

BRUNSWICK COUNTY



BERNEST HEWETT

ON VACATION

THEN

HBCU GRADUATIONS: Are they prepping for COVID-19 prevention spread

BY CASH MICHAELS
OF THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

Now that winter is just about over, many are preparing for the warm spring and summer months, and the traditional activities that come with them.

But right now, literally, as you read this, the sponsors of many of those upcoming events are wondering if they'll even happen at all, or if they do, how, all because of the ever increasing threat of COVID-19, the novel coronavirus.

In the Black community, where every week, people hug and greet each other at church or at social or civic events, graduations are on the horizon in secondary schools, HBCUs, and larger universities throughout May and June.

Tens of thousands of people, particularly families, will be coming to, or through, North Carolina, to take part.

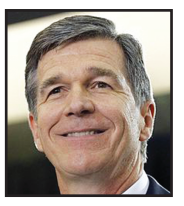
What can be done, or is being done, to safeguard against COVID-19 transmission in settings where joyous hugging, kissing, and vigorous handshaking are essential parts of the occasion? According to the U. S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), COVID-19 is a respiratory illness that is most commonly transmitted by close contact, person to person, via respiratory droplets (coughs, sneezes within six feet, or contact with contaminated surfaces or objects.

A quick review of HBCU campus websites in North Carolina found St. Augustine's University, Raleigh;

Please see **HBCU**/*Page 2*

State of Emergency

BY CASH MICHAELS
OF THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL



COOPER

North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper on Tuesday declared a state of emergency in response to growing cases of the novel coronavirus, otherwise known as COVID-19.

During a noon press conference, Cooper said the declaration allows North Carolina officials "increased flexibility in responding

Please see **COVID-19**/*Page 2*

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. MEMORIAL, WASHINGTON DC

NO WAR ON POVERTY: The King Holiday and American hypocrisy

BY CHARLENE MUHAMMAD
@SISCHARLENE

Across the United States, celebrations of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birth with weeklong tributes, including awards ceremonies, banquets, prayer breakfasts, school pageants, parades, and special church services were planned with the official Dr. King federal holiday.

"The first thing you need to realize, Dr. King was assassinated. Killed, murdered by officials who claimed to be so patriotic within this system," said Dr. Charles Steele, Jr., president and CEO of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, which Dr. King helped found.

SCLC is planning a new Poor People's

Please see **POVERTY**/*Page 2*

HOLLEY

ROBINSON

NC primary election breakdown

BY CASH MICHAELS
OF THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

North Carolina's next lieutenant governor will be African American. Yvonne Lewis Holley will be on the November ballot as a Democrat; Mark Robinson will be running as a Republican.

Early voting was key to victory for many Democratic candidates in the March 3, 2020 primaries, according to "VoteTracker," an online election project by the conservative Civitas Institute, using data from the North Carolina Board of Elections.

Per the One Stop Early Voting period, Feb.

Please see **PRIMARY**/*Page 2*

Surgeon General urges Americans not to buy surgical masks

SPECIAL TO THE TRICE EDNEY NEWS WIRE
FROM NORTHSTARNEWSTODAY.COM

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - U.S. Surgeon General Jerome M. Adams is urging Americans to stop buying disposable surgical masks because they are not effective in preventing the spread of the coronavirus.

And because of the growing demand for the masks, prices are rising and there is concern about a possible shortage of the masks for healthcare workers which would put them at risk.

"Not having a mask does not necessarily put you at the risk of contracting the disease," Adams wrote on Twitter. He explained that preventive measures like staying home when you are sick and washing your hands with soap and water can prevent the spread of disease. The demand for masks has caused a surge in prices at Amazon and eBay. He wrote in his twitter post "Seriously people-STOP BUYING MASKS!"

The latest numbers, according to CNN: "The novel coronavirus has infected more than 108,000 people around the world and killed more than 3,800."

More than 36,000 people have since recovered, according to the World Health Organization.

Known infections in the United States' had passed 500 on Monday this week, according to widespread reports.

U.S. SURGEON GENERAL
JEROME M. ADAMS

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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HBCU

Continued from Page 1

North Carolina Central University, Dur-ham; N. C. A&T State University, Greensboro; Fayetteville State Univer-sity in Fayetteville; and Bennett College for Women, Greensboro, as the only HBCUs out of ten across North Carolina to have COVID-19 advisories on their websites where they could be easily found.

Several of the schools have advised students coming back from international studies in China, Italy and other foreign countries known to be fighting COVID-19 spread, to self quarantine for 14 days upon return. All other students are advised to follow CDC guidelines in COVID-19 prevention.

When it comes to those guidelines for large gatherings and events like graduations, the CDC has issued "interim guidance."

"As the COVID-19 outbreak evolves, CDC strongly encourages event organizers and staff to prepare for the possibility of outbreaks in their communities. Creating an emergency plan for mass gatherings and large community events can help protect you and the health of your event participants and local community.'

The CDC guidance continues, "If possible, identify a space that can be used to isolate staff or participants who become ill at the event. Designate a space for staff and participants who may become sick and cannot leave the event immediately. Work with partners, such as local hospitals, to create a plan for treating staff and participants who do not live nearby. Include a plan for separating, and caring for, vulnerable populations.' [For more go to https:// www. cdc. gov/coronavirus/ 2019-ncov/community/large-events/mass-gatherings-ready-for-covid-19.htm]

COVID-19

Continued from Page 1

to containing the spread of the virus."

As of press time Tuesday, there were seven known COVID-19 cases in North Carolina.

Dr. Mandy Cohen, State Health and Human Services Secretary, advised that those most vulnerable to the disease, the elderly who have weakened immune systems, should remain home if they feel ill, should not travel, and should avoid large groups. She added that currently officials see no need to order a curtailment of large gatherings or events, as long as sanitary precautions are observed such as washing one's hands frequently, covering one's face when sneezing or coughing, or not touching of one's face.

Officials also want event organizers to adopt lenient refund policies for those who cancel out on attending an event.

Dr. Cohen added that, for now, they see no reason to call for the closure of schools, but with the situation across North Carolina rapidly changing, that will warrant constant monitoring.

For more information about the COVID-19 crisis in North Carolina, please go to https://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/public-health/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19-response-north-carolina.

PRIMARY

Continued from Page 1

13-29, 801,708 early ballots were cast, which the largest share between Thursday, Feb. 27 and Saturday Feb. 29.

Of that number, Democrats cast 380,326; Republicans cast 204,587; and unaffiliated voters cast 215, 660.

In terms of race, 587,760 early ballots were cast by Whites; 173,602 were cast by African-Americans and 33,315 were undesignated.

Females out balloted males 435, 830 to 341, 320 genderwise. 24,558 were undesignated.

The congressional district with the most early votes cast was District 4, in Wake County.

POVERTY

Continued from Page 1

Campaign focused on empowerment, education and food for those in poverty. A campaign against poverty and opposition to war were Dr. King's agenda items before his 1968 murder.

SCLC, a nonprofit, interfaith civil rights organization, was founded in January 1957 by, Rev. Joseph Lowery, Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth, Dr. King, Bayard Rustin and Rev. Ralph Abernathy in Atlanta.

Dr. Steele said the drum major for justice's opposition to the Vietnam War, and Poor People's Campaign led to his killing.

Dr. King was planning a mass march on Washington, D.C., as part of a campaign created in 1967 for freedom, independence, and self-determination, before he was assassinated by James Earl Ray on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tenn., on April 4, 1968.

Mr. Ray was said to have acted alone, but jurors in a December 1999 civil trial in Memphis, brought by the King family, ruled Dr. King died as a result of a high-level government conspiracy.

"We still are fighting this discrimination and the racism of this country, who is the richest in the world. America has always had wealth, but never cared anything about those who were less fortunate than those who had the wealth," Dr. Steele said.

"The movement in the 1960s won a Civil Rights Act and a Voting Rights Act, but the Poor People's Campaign was about building on that power to win economic justice. We won a Fair Housing Act and we got a War on Poverty, but America didn't win that war," said Reverend Dr. William Barber, II, leader of a multi-ethnic movement dedicated to Dr. King's work and legacy.

As president of the Repairers of the Breach, he has relaunched a Poor People's Campaign as a national call for moral revival.

"We gave up the field. And then reactionary forces attacked the movements and the moral narrative that had made it possible. Today, almost 55 years after the Voting Rights Act was passed, we have fewer voting rights protections than we did then," he told The Final Call via email.

The forces attacking living wages attack health care, support more military spending but say there is no money to fight climate change, argues Repairers of the Breach. Rev. Barber believes people are hurt by the "interlocking injustices" of poverty, racism, ecological devastation, militarism and religious nationalism.

"If they are cynical enough to stand together, we must be smart enough to come together," he said. Rev. Barber came to public attention through weekly Moral Monday gatherings that drew crowds to Raleigh, the capitol of North Carolina, calling for compassion and justice.

The current U.S. war footing and tensions with Iran only make matters worse, he and others said.

"We insist that militarism and the war economy are an intersecting injustice with poverty because in any war, the poor suffer first. Poor people in Iran will die if we attack, and poor people from America will be taken away from their families to suffer and die in battle. But poor people suffer twice, because the money our government could use to address needs for education, health care, housing, food security and climate justice will go to defense contractors who profit from war making," said Rev. Barber.

But even as activists and organizers picked up the King mantle to serve the poor and march for justice, politicians in his birthplace of Atlanta, Ga., gave up over $5 million in federal funding for housing and other services that would have helped vulnerable seniors and low-income residents.

When Fulton County Commissioners voted 4-3 to relinquish status as an Entitlement Community, it meant loss of money for community development, revitalizing neighborhoods, economic development, and better facilities and services. It was a slap in the face to the very communities Dr. King fought and died for, said activists.

"You got a system that is at war with poor people. It is the rich against the poor. It's nothing in the middle," said Dr. Steele.

Persistent poverty ignored in the USA

According to PovertyUSA.org, nearly 12 million youngsters, or about 1 in every 6 children live in poverty.

"According to 2018 U.S. Census Data, the highest poverty rate by race is found among Native Americans (25.4 percent), with Blacks (20.8 percent) having the second highest poverty rate, and Hispanics (of any race) having the third highest poverty rate (17.6 percent). Whites had a poverty rate of 10.1 percent, while Asians had a poverty rate at 10.1 percent," said PovertyUSA.org. The poverty rate for seniors, including higher costs for health care, is about 14.1 percent, said the organization.

"What's worse, 5.3 percent of the population-or 17.3 million people-live in deep poverty, with incomes below 50 percent of their poverty thresholds. And 29.9 percent of the population-or 93.6 million-live close to poverty, with incomes less than two times that of their poverty thresholds."

"In 2018, the median income for family households was $80,663, while the median income for nonfamily households was $38,122.

The USDA estimated that 11.1 percent of U.S. households were food insecure in 2018. This means that approximately 14.3 million households had difficulty providing enough food for all their members due to a lack of resources. Rates of food insecurity were substantially higher than the national average for households with incomes near or below the federal poverty line."

In 2017, Professor Philip Alston, United Nations Special Rapporteur, or investigator, on extreme poverty and human rights completed an extensive two-week fact-finding mission to determine whether persistent extreme poverty in the U.S. undermines or infringes on the basic human rights of Americans. His tour stops included Montgomery, Ala., Charleston, W. Va., Atlanta, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Puerto Rico and Washington, D.C.

"The United States is one of the world's richest, most powerful and technologically innovative countries; but neither its wealth nor its power nor its technology is being harnessed to address the situation in which 40 million people continue to live in poverty," he reported in a presentation to the UN's Human Rights Council.

"Instead of realizing its founders' admirable commitments, today's United States has proved itself to be exceptional in far more problematic ways that are shockingly at odds with its immense wealth and its founding commitment to human rights. As a result, contrasts between private wealth and public squalor abound," he said.

Work still undone

Dr. Steele is very frustrated looking at conditions in America and the belief by many Blacks that they have made it.

Black people have been set back 50 years by hypocritical actions, like the Supreme Court's decision to gut the 1965 Voting Rights Act. Key provisions of the law protecting voting rights in states with histories of discrimination were eliminated, said the SCLC leader.

On Jan. 6, a coalition of faith, civic and community leaders led by the Concerned Black Clergy of Atlanta called on Fulton County officials to reverse their position during a press conference at Vicars Community Center in southwest Atlanta. On Jan. 8 senior citizens' appeals during a council meeting for the same fell on deaf ears. Media reports said officials had trouble tracking how the funding was spent.

But Community Development Block Grants help pay for affordable housing, emergency grants, home investment partnership grants, neighborhood stabilization program funds, affordable housing for the most vulnerable communities, and create jobs through business expansion and retention. Emergency solutions grants pay for street outreach, emergency shelter, rapid rehousing and homelessness prevention. There was talk the county's decision could be reconsidered Jan. 23.

"The city of Atlanta has failed Dr. King's dream, but the people at the grassroots level have not given up and keep pressing the agenda of his Poor People's campaign," said Reginald Muhammad, a political scientist and professor at Clark Atlanta University.

"Much of Blacks' political engagement is social symbolic. Many people are about to vote for Bernie Sanders or Joe Biden but those politicians know it's about photo ops and pats on the backs, but Blacks won't have any demands when it relates to public policy," he said.

"We are in an immoral war, right now," said Reverend Dr. Gerald Durley, pastor emeritus of Providence Missionary Baptist Church in Atlanta. "These were immoral decisions … those of us who have a social conscience must stand up as Dr. King said, we must combat this evilness, this inequality, this injustice, and come up with moral decisions for the least, the lost, the left behind," he added.

"It's atrocious," said Abdul Sharrieff Muhammad, who heads the Nation of Islam's Southern regional headquarters in Atlanta. He was describing housing conditions in Atlanta and throughout the South. "That's still happening, right now, what Dr. King was fighting for, as we still struggle and try to gain some of that momentum back, and still struggle, and that's why we must do for self, or suffer the consequences, and that's what we are doing now, because we did not do for ourselves like we should have, and now we're suffering the consequences," said Min. Sharrieff Muhammad, also co-chair of the 10,000 Fearless Headquarters of the South.

The program grew out of the Nation of Islam Minister Louis Farrakhan's call for Blacks to make their communities safe and decent places to live and demand justice through economic withdrawal, or selective buying.

During the run up to the 20th anniversary of the historic 1995 Million Man March, October 10, 2015, Minister Farrakhan called for Blacks to redistribute the pain through an economic boycott of Christmas in the fight for justice. His call wasn't limited to any faith, or political ideology.

"Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., on the night before he was assassinated, was talking so strong," said Min. Farrakhan. "But after he was assassinated, they reduced him to a 'dream.' Every time they mention Dr. King's name, he is 'The Dreamer'-but they did not kill our brother because he dreamed."

"… Dr. King knew death was on him, and he told the people at Mason Temple COGIC in Memphis, Tennessee, on April 3, 1968, in his speech 'I've Been to the Mountaintop:' 'We have to redistribute the pain; when we're in pain, we've got to make them feel pain,' " said Minister Farrakhan, echoing Dr. King's words.

Over half a million people go homeless on a single night in the United States, according to the White House Council of Economic Advisors.

"Approximately 65 percent are found in homeless shelters, and the other 35 percent-just under 200,000-are found unsheltered on streets (in places not intended for human habitation, such as sidewalks, parks, cars, or abandoned buildings), according to "The State of Homelessness in America" in 2019.

The report found homelessness concentrated in major cities on the West Coast and the Northeast, with almost half (47 percent) of all unsheltered homeless people in California. That's about four times as high as California's share of the overall U.S. population, it added. Rates of sheltered homelessness were highest in Boston, New York City, and Washington, D.C., with New York City alone containing over one-fifth of all sheltered homeless people in the United States.

Like national activists, organizers, and advocates for the poor, "State of Homelessness in America" blamed decades of misguided and faulty government policies.

Advocates also blamed the Trump administration, presidents before him, and some Black politicians they charged with selling out. In December, President Trump announced plans to drop nearly 700,000 Americans from the federal food stamp program. The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, as the program is officially called, made work requirements more stringent for those seen as able-bodied adults without dependents. Some 55,000 people were likely to lose benefits in Cook County, Ill., alone. The final rule is effective in April.

That change came on the heels of a decision by the Trump administration, the U.S. Conference of Mayors warned "would escalate food insecurity and hunger for an estimated 3.1 million individuals-including children, seniors, and people with disabilities in our states, regions and cities nationwide. Furthermore, this proposal will put children's health and development at risk by removing their access to healthy school meals; and harm our economy by reducing the amount of SNAP dollars available to spur regional and local economic activity."

"USDA has estimated that during times of economic downturn, every additional $5 dollars in SNAP benefits generates up to $9 dollars of economic activity, and every $1 billion increase in SNAP benefits results in 8,900 full-time equivalent jobs," added the U.S. Conference of Mayors.

(*via nnpa. Final Call* staff contributed to this report.)

STATE BRIEFS

NHC SCHOOL BOARD ATTORNEY RESIGNS

[WILMINGTON] Saying that he's been subjected to "extreme harassment and attempts at intimidation by several members of the public," Wayne Bullard, attorney for the New Hanover County School Board, submitted his resignation as general counsel, effective March 17th. Bullard had apparently recorded several speakers during a March 3rd public hearing "who were attacking me' he continued. Bullard maintained in his letter that he had the right to protect himself.

191 TO BE LAID OFF BY VIDANT HEALTH

[GREENVILLE] Thanks to an $18 million budget shortfall, 200 employees are scheduled to be laid off by Vidant Health, according to published reports. An email from Chief Executive Dr. Michael Waldrum stated that the layoffs would be in the business and administration side of the health care corporation. "While beds are full and patient volumes are up, net revenue has declined and costs associated with serving our mission have increased. This resulted in an $18 million budget shortfall …"

UNIVERSITIES READY TO CANCEL CLASSES BECAUSE OF COVID-19

[RALEIGH] Administrators at Shaw University in Raleigh and Campbell University in Buies Creek say if more and more cases of COVID-19 become evident in the state, they are prepared to cancel classes on campus, and conduct courses online instead. They are also prepared to do the same with students who are quarantined after return from foreign studies.

COMPILED BY CASH MICHAELS

Fast-growing NC cities say census critical for boosting resources

BY NADIA RAMLAGAN
OF NCNS

BURLINGTON, N.C. -- In the coming weeks, North Carolinians will have a chance to fill out their U.S. Census forms online or by mail.

Cities across the state are working to ensure that groups that have traditionally been harder to count, including toddlers, immigrant families and kinship families, all are accounted for.

Burlington Mayor Ian Baltutis says he wants residents, especially families with children under age five, to know that city services depend on getting accurate census counts.

"The census is absolutely critical to everything we do as cities, because we have to understand what the demographics are of our communities, how many people are in our communities and then, figure out how best to serve them," he states. "And in a fast growing state like North Carolina, that makes it even more critical."

Researchers believe up to 2 million children under age five could be missed in the 2020 count, meaning less funding for North Carolina schools, hospitals, libraries and other resources.

Baltutis adds residents should know federal law requires that all information collected be kept confidential and cannot be shared with law enforcement, courts or immigration authorities.

Baltutis is also concerned about shrinking access to affordable housing. He says having an accurate count of residents will help city planners come up with strategies to tackle the problem.

"As a bridge community between the Triad and the Triangle, we're seeing growth from both directions," he states. "We're seeing folks who can no longer afford to live in the Triad and Triangle moving into our market. And so, we recognize that poses a burden on those who already live in the community and may be priced out of the houses they've lived in for years."

Baltutis adds many federal housing programs that low-income families depend on, such as Section 8 vouchers, housing tax credits and home energy assistance, all are based on data from the census.

If I could do one thing, I'd tell the world she counts.

Communities are as rich and diverse as their needs. That's why completing the 2020 Census matters. It's a safe and confidential step toward having an impact on how public funds flow through our communities. That could mean more resources in your area for special needs. It's within your control.

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United States® Census 2020

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

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

Study: African Americans poorer today than five years ago

(Via NNPANewsWire.com)

African Americans were more likely to be unemployed than Americans overall in 2018 than they were in 2013, according to a new study that details the economic and financial progress African Americans have made over five years.

Researchers at Lending Tree, the popular website that connects borrowers with lenders, found that while unemployment decreased for African Americans by 36 percent – from 16.6 percent in 2013 to 10.6 percent in 2018 — it was still five percentage points higher than the unemployment rate for Americans as a whole.

The unemployment rate for Americans overall in 2013 was 9.7 percent, which fell to 5.9 percent in 2018.

"I don't want to get political here, but I would hope that this report would color how people view the approaches that the parties and candidates take toward legislative and social issues, and how those things are framed," Lending Tree Lead Researcher Kali McFadden told NNPA Newswire.

Stacy M. Brown

"It certainly demonstrates that, even though people talk about how much better economically things are, African Americans are more in the hole than they were five years ago."

Among other key findings, the median household income for African Americans grew by 13.4 percent, roughly the same rate of 13.7 percent for Americans as a whole. But, it remains 33 percent below the national average.

The study revealed that the median household income for Blacks in 2018 was $40,155 — more than $20,000 less than the $60,293 median household income for Americans as a whole.

The median individual earnings for African American workers — which were already 16 percent lower than the median personal earnings for American workers as a whole — grew by 7.1 percent, compared with 9.5 percent for workers as a whole.

That means that the earnings gap between African Americans and Americans as a whole increased by 11.2 percent between 2013 and 2018.

And, although household income increased, the income gap between Black Americans and Americans as a whole remained steady at 33 percent. In comparison, the wage gap between Blacks and Americans as a whole increased 11 percent from 2013 to 2018.

While homeownership rates fell for Americans overall between 2013 and 2018, Blacks saw a more significant drop of 4.7 percent, compared with 1.7 percent for Americans as a whole.

Study authors concluded that there are four metro areas in which Black homeowners have closed the gap within 20 percent – all of them are in the South, specifically in the Carolinas.

Minnesota, Minn., has the most substantial gap, at 64 percent.

What McFadden said she found most striking is the advances made in education by African Americans, which didn't translate into more economic prosperity in the Black community.

"In almost every metric we examined, African Americans realized slower growth than the country as a whole, but they did outpace their peers when it comes to higher education," McFadden noted.

The study revealed that African Americans are closing the higher education gap as the percentage of Black people with a bachelor's degree rose from 18.6 percent in 2013 to 21.1 percent in 2018 – an increase of 13.5 percent.

The increase for Americans as a whole was just 9.4 percent – from 28.8 percent in 2013 to 31.5 percent in 2018, Lending Tree researchers found.

Black residents of Riverside, Calif., Pine Bluff, Ark. and San Antonio have closed the gap with the whole of their communities when it comes to earning higher education degrees.

Residents of Charlottesville, Va. have seen that gap widen the most: 66 percent.

"The education findings to me really were the most striking, the most disheartening and frightening," McFadden lamented.

"You know, we'd really hope that education would create a more even playing field and the fact that African Americans are exceeding the growth rate in higher education degrees shows a lot of things. It shows achievement, and it shows that families are directing their children, and it shows a lot of groundswell for entering the professional working world."

She continued:

"The fact that other economic indicators aren't keeping pace with that is really startling. And, I don't have a good reason for why that is. We know about workplace bias, and we know about resume bias."

McFadden opined that student loans are more of a hindrance to African Americans than others. "If you're less likely to come from a family that has the kind of wealth that can help support your schooling, it's obviously going to be a problem in terms of accumulating debt," she stated.

For those attending historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs), McFadden believes the lack of funding at those schools contributes to high student debt.

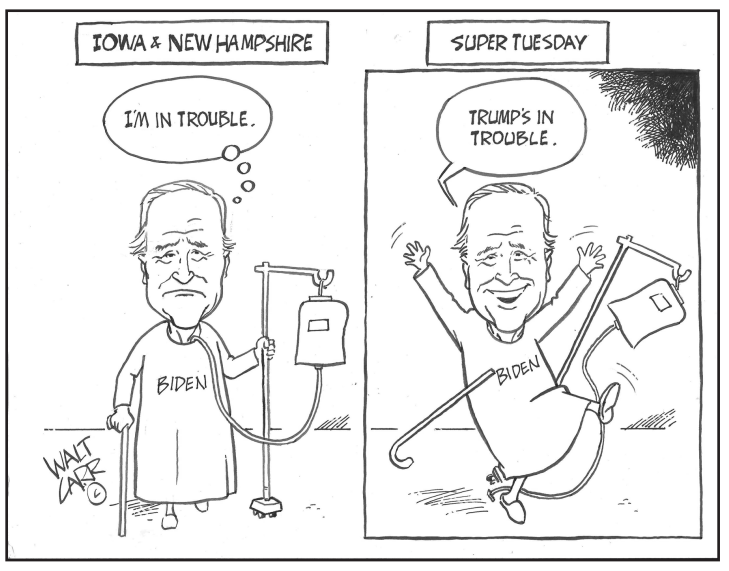
"HBCUs just don't have the endowments that the most prestigious schools have. We have reports that show where parents are borrowing to send their kids to school, and those debts are harder to pay," McFadden added.

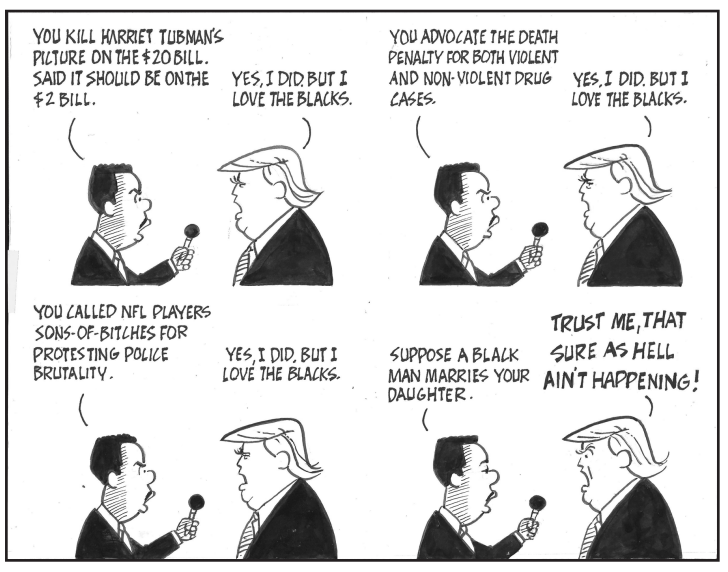
The comprehensive study did reveal places where African Americans are faring well.

Researchers found that the Cape Coral-Ft. Myers, Fla., metro area is leading the country in economic advancement for African Americans. The population has grown by 17 percent, median household income is up by 26 percent, and individual earnings are up by 22 percent.

Please see
OUR VOICE *this page*

Visual Voice





MATTERS OF OPINION

Honoring our own mothers

(Via TriceEdneyWire.com)

Just like Black History month, Women's History Month started our as only a week. Along the way, we were ultimately honored with an International Women's Day. Women around the world are celebrated that day. There's an African proverb that tells us, "It is the women who hold the sky up." I can vouch for that in the Black community. So many Black women grew up without the benefit of fathers in our homes, but rarely do we to use that as an excuse for our not doing things that should be done to protect our families and communities. I've known some of the greatest female activists in the Black community who take on monumental roles.

Dr. E. Faye Williams

Every year in March, we do a special celebration of the women. Some celebrate women every day of our lives. On a personal note, my mother is just a few months away from being 98 years old. She's fine in most ways, but just a bit hard of hearing and having a bit of a challenge remembering things. Though she has lost a bit of her ability to live in her home alone—she wants to live there, and as a family we are making that possible.

When my brother passed away a few months ago, my sisters and I decided to take her to live with one of our sisters a distance of about three and a half hours from where Mother has lived alone all of her life since her 9 children left home to strike out on our own. A few weeks ago, she informed us she wanted to return to her home. We reluctantly took her there. I spent a week with her once she was back. Another sister spent a week. Another sister spent two weeks with her to this point. A niece is on her way to spend a few days with her grandmother. Another sister is coming from Los Angeles to spend a month with her. We'll then start the cycle all over again. Some might think the scheduling is a bit of a challenge since we are all many miles away, but my sisters and I thought about all the sacrifices our mother has made for us, and if she wants to live in her home, we're going to make it possible.

While you have indulged me with a personal story, that is the history of so many Black women with their families. I salute all of the Black women who've done, and would do the same for their mothers.

Every year women in this country get a Presidential proclamation honoring women. The women mentioned are generally women who've made the history books and have had public honors, but so often the women, like my mother, and their caretakers who are just ordinary women who've often done extraordinary things to nurture their families and the families of many in their areas, but they never get any special recognition.

I know that we have Dr. Katherine Johnson of Hidden Figures fame, Ida B. Wells-Barnett--our anti-lynching crusader, Sojourner Truth who first sued a white man successfully to get her son back, Rosa Parks who sat on a bus for our rights, Harriet Tubman who brought a lot of our people from slavery to freedom, Fannie Lou Hamer who took beatings to gain our right to vote and others too numerous to name, but for this Women's History Month, let us vow to honor our own mothers who may not be in a history book, but their greatness comes from what they've done for their families and their communities without fanfare and deserve to have their own children honor them.

"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.

Sisters in Stem - Challenges and triumphs

(Via TriceEdneyWire.com)

Few in these United States had heard of Katherine Johnson, the gifted mathematician who finished high school and college at 18. How could we know when scientists are often stereotyped as old white men wearing white lab coats, with glasses sliding down their noses? You might not have known unless you'd picked up Margot Lee Shetterly's book (2015), Hidden Figures: The Story of the African-American Women Who Helped Win the Space Race, or saw the movie Hidden Figures, which was loosely based on the book. Thanks to the film, more people know of Katherine Johnson's outstanding work.

Dr. Julianne Malveaux

Katherine Johnson made her transition at the end of February at the robust age of 101, on the cusp of Women's History Month. Because of the film and the heightened awareness of the many Black women who were scientific pioneers, President Barack Obama awarded her the Medal of Freedom in 2015. A building is named after her at the Langley Air Force Base in Hampton, Virginia. Hopefully, thousands of young Black girls who aspire to careers in science are inspired and motivated by her.

Katherine Johnson was classified as a "sub-professional", ranking only slightly higher than janitors and clerical workers. Yet she was the "computer" (which is what she was called) that astronaut John Glenn asked to check the math that a mainframe computer had done. Her work is still being used today! Johnson graduated from an HBCU at 18. She was mentored by William Schieffelin Claytor, reportedly only the third African American to earn a Ph.D. in mathematics. She and Claytor may not have crossed paths had not segregation limited Claytor's choices. Most Blacks who earned doctorates taught at HBCUs because others would not hire them, or if they were hired, they were treated differently, and often disrespectfully.

If Black girls (and the rest of us) are excited by the legacy of the late Katherine Johnson, they will be further inspired by a new book by Tanya Bolden. Changing the Equation: 50+ Black Women in STEM (Abrams Books) that highlights Black women scientists in an array of fields, including medicine. It is being marketed as a children's book, but anyone can pick up this book and learn more about the women who forged a career path that few women and even fewer Black women have attempted. Changing the Equation was meticulously researched and includes a glossary of terms and career descriptions. Not only is it a perfect gift for aspiring scientists, but it is also a necessary resource for librarians and science teachers.

Most of the women in this book are not widely known, which makes this book all the more valuable. Dr. Rebecca Lee (Davis) Crumpler was the first Black woman to earn a medical degree. She attended the New England Female Medical College and graduated in 1864. She worked, for a time, at the Freedman's Bureau, the organization charged with addressing the needs of people who were formerly enslaved. Also in the medical field, Dr. Myra Adele Logan was the first woman and only the ninth person to perform open-heart surgery in 1943. Today, just two percent of our nation's physicians are Black women, and despite the need for more medical professionals, that low number has not improved. In 2016, Dr. Tamika Cross attempted to assist a patient in distress on a flight, while flight attendants asked her if she was 'an actual physician". Two years later, in a similar situation, Dr. Fatima Cody Stanford attempted to offer medical assistance on a flight and had several requests for ID.

Many do not consider physicians when they look at folks in the STEM fields, but one might argue that they must master the same rigorous coursework that doctors undertake. Bolden chooses to include physicians in her book, and that is an enhancement, not a distraction, from the message that Black women "Change the Equation" when they choose to study math, science, and medicine.

Bolden showcases women who have made their mark in history, and others who will continue to make history. Dr. Shirley Ann Jackson was the first Black woman to earn a Ph.D. from MIT in 1973. She is the inventor of call waiting and caller ID. Today she serves as President of the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. She served on the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in the Clinton Administration and was awarded the National Medal of Science by President Obama.

The women Tanya Bolden highlights include engineers, biologists, robotics specialists, and others, amazing women who, while "hidden" from the public eye, make significant contributions in medicine and the other STEM fields. All too often, Women's History Month tends to focus on women in the humanities or politics, sending the signal to our young women that the sciences do not deserve attention. Changing the Equation reminds us that there are trailblazing women in the sciences that can serve as inspiration and virtual role models for all of us.

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.juliannemalveaux.com.

OUR VOICE

continued *from this page*

Homeownership is up by 50 percent in Cape Coral-Ft. Myers, and unemployment is down by 66 percent.

Also, 25 percent more Black residents in the Cape Coral-Ft. Myers area is attaining higher education degrees than they were in 2013.

Grand Rapids, Mich., and Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minn., came in second and third place, respectively. The five locations with the least overall gains for African Americans are all in the South – Houma-Thibodaux, La., Shreveport-Bossier City, La., Hammond, La., Goldsboro, N.C., and Hilton Head Island-Beaufort, S.C.

When asked what's the biggest takeaway from the study, McFadden called most of the details "depressing for African Americans."

Stacy M. Brown, NNPA Newswire Senior Correspondent.

TO BE EQUAL

Urgent phase of Census begins with arrival of information by mail beginning March 12th

(Via TriceEdneyWire.com)

"The money that pays for hospitals, that pays for affordable housing…If our people are not counted, they literally do not receive the resources necessary. And as a consequence, we have weaker infrastructure, we have terrible hospitals, we have doctor shortages, we have overcrowded schools. All of those things happen because of the Census." – **Stacy Abrams, founder of Fair Count and former Georgia gubernatorial nominee**

Beginning on March 12, households across America will begin receiving official Census Bureau mail with detailed information on how to respond to the 2020 Census online, by phone, or by mail.

This marks the first phase in the most urgent imperative of the decade. More than just a head count, the decennial census determines how legislative districts are drawn, how voting power is distributed among communities, and how $675 billion in federal dollars will be allocated and invested.

If Black people are undercounted by 1.7 million, as many forecasts predict, it will cost states 3.4 billion dollars a year.

As soon as households receive this invitation in the mail, they can respond online, by phone, or by mail. This is the first time in history Americans can respond to the Census online. The information arriving in mailboxes next week will list a website listed and a Census ID, which can be used starting March 12.

Marc Morial

All responses, whether given online, by mail or in person, are confidential under federal law.

To prepare for the launch of Census 2020, National Urban League has gathered key civil rights leaders and mayors from across the nation for National Tele-Town Hall on Tuesday, March 10, at 8pm Eastern Time, to discuss how to make sure our communities are fairly counted. Martin Luther King III, co-chair of New York State's Complete Count Committee, is the keynote speaker. We'll be joined by the mayors of Dallas, New Orleans, Buffalo and other cities.

I can't overstate how important it is for Black Americans to participate in the Census. This will be the 24th Census undertaken in the history of the nation, and for the first eight, most African Americans counted as only three-fifths of a person.

Historically, African Americans have been undercounted. In 1970, my predecessor Whitney M. Young testified to Congress that there had been a 15 percent undercount of Black families, though official Census statistics place the figure near 8 percent.

"The extent to which the 1960 undercount has shortchanged inner-city residents of the political representation and economic assistance to which they are entitled is incalculable," Young testified. "Two million blacks missed in 1960 could symbolize the loss of five congressmen and scores of state legislators to the Black community."

In response to the failures of the Census to accurately count African Americans, Young launched the first Make Black Count campaign with a coalition of other civil rights organizations. To prevent another historic undercount, we have revived this historic campaign.

April 1 is Census Day. Every household in America will have received an invitation to participate by this date . Wherever you're living on April 1, is what you will report as your address. Whoever is living at that dwelling on that date – every single person, whether related or not – should be count as a member of that household.

During April, census-takers will begin visiting places where large groups of people live, such as college campuses and senior-citizen centers.

Throughout the summer, census-takers will visit homes who have not responded online or by mail.

The Census Bureau will deliver the count to Congress in December.

The next few months are critical if we want our communities fairly represented. Join the Tele-Town Hall to find out how you can help.

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

RAINBOW COALITION

Why I support Sen. Bernie Sanders

(Via TriceEdneyWire.com)

I am proud to endorse Sen. Bernie Sanders for president of the United States. While I consider Joe Biden, his opponent for the Democratic Party nomination, a decent man, I stand with Sanders.

Here is why. I stand with Sanders because it is vital that President Donald Trump be voted out of office in November. Poll after poll has shown that Bernie Sanders leads Trump, generally with a greater margin than other contenders.

Sanders has the highest popular approval rating of any public official in America. That is not because he is warm and fuzzy. It is because people know that he tells it like it is. Integrity and credibility are two essential attributes in taking on a con man like Donald Trump who lies constantly. Sanders has the history, the vision and the platform to defeat Trump.

He is best situated to expose Trump's fake populism. He voted against the corporate trade treaties — and can expose the president's broken promise to workers on trade. He opposed the war in Iraq — and can expose Trump's broken promise to end the forever wars. He led the call to build an economy that works for working people — and can expose the reality that what Trump calls the best economy ever still does not work for most Americans.

Sanders champions an agenda that will address the fundamental challenges facing working people. That includes Medicare for All to ensure that health care is a right, not a privilege — something particularly imperative in the age of coronavirus.

A Green New Deal that addresses the existential threat of climate change while creating millions of good jobs. Tuition free college and large investment in education and advanced training so that every child can get the education he or she needs. A $15 minimum wage, politics to empower workers and unions, and a trade policy that works for working people. Comprehensive immigration reform, universal childcare, criminal justice reform to end mass incarceration and more.

Rev. Jesse Jackson, Sr.

Sanders will beat Trump by summoning America to a new day, not by calling for a return to yesterday.Democrats cannot defeat Trump without inspiring young people to come out and vote in largenumbers. Sanders is the only candidate who has inspired a new generation and earned theirover-whelming support.In the face of Trump, many seek shelter in the safe, the establishment, the so-called moderate. Weshould not forget the record of moderate, establishment candidates — from Walter Mondale in 1984to Mike Dukakis in 1988 to Hillary Clinton in 2016.Democrats do not fare well as the party of Wall Street or the credit card companies.

We win when webring the working class and the middle class together, when we stand for diversity against division,for the poor against greed. No candidate has done more to forge that coalition than Bernie Sanders.Dr. Martin Luther King would be proud that African American voters are called the "black firewall"in the 2020 campaign. He would ask a simple question: What will be the return on the firewall'sinvestment?With the exception of Native Americans, African Americans are the people suffering the greatestsocial and economic distress in the United States. Our needs are not moderate.

The most progressive social and economic path gives us the best chance to catch up and Sanders represents that path.Biden is a decent man, but he has a different record. We said no to Clarence Thomas, he said yes. Wesaid no to the Crime Bill, he championed it. We said no to the Iraq War, he cheered it on. We favoredaffirmative action, he sought to limit it.Biden has done well among African American voters largely because he is seen as connected toBarack Obama. Yet he was placed on the ticket to balance it, not to enhance it. Biden has offered novision and no bold reforms. He offers safe haven and moderation.But his moderation does little to address the pain of African Americans, or of working peoplegenerally. What does moderate mean when people don't have affordable health care?

Or when students are crushed by debt in order to get an education? Or when workers are undermined by tradetreaties written in executive suites? Sanders, on the other hand, is called a radical, a man of the left. But he represents not the left wing,but the moral center. Health care for all is the moral center. Tuition free college is the moral center.A Middle East policy that recognizes both Israel and Palestine, the moral center.When he asked for my endorsement, I expressed my concerns about pressing issues.Sanders was happy to confirm his commitment to almost all of them, ranging from Medicare for All, to a wealth tax that would provide funds to reinvest in America, to large-scale investment in publiceducation, to ensuring that every teacher is paid at least $60,000 per year, to putting an AfricanAmerican woman on the Supreme Court, to promising an end to endless wars.In 1988 when I ran for president championing a Medicare for All plan, Sanders, then mayor of Burlington, endorsed me. Now I am proud to stand with him not only because he stood with me, but because he stands with working people across this country.

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

Ending workforce discrimination is up to us

(Via NNPANewsWire.com)

Workforce discrimination exists because we often fail to disengage from our own biases. In every industry and in every sector, headlines glaringly reflect on the grievances of the 21st century workforce: gender pay inequity, racial discrimination and ageism. All act as adversarial realities in the fight for economic opportunity and equality.

Advocacy against discriminatory practices could not be more prescient today as far as working men and women are concerned. Today, the American worker faces many challenges as more corporations corrode the promises of a democracy and global competition strips them of a decent living wage. The playing field is not level and the absence of diversity is central in preserving the status quo of systemic discrimination.

During my tenure at the Conference of Minority Transportation Officials (COMTO), it became clear to me that access was the foundation of economic opportunity. The transportation sector lacked diversity, equity and inclusion, and this was glaringly obvious to both leadership and employees. Pathways began to emerge to grow a diverse pool of talent, but it was obvious that a more organizational framework was needed to operate at full capacity to best serve veterans, women, underrepresented, and underserved workers; groups that had been previously overlooked.

Dwayne Sampson

The urgency to transform the pipeline of professionals in my field to deter workforce discrimination led me to create the Transportation Diversity Council (TDC) in 2010 in New York. The big idea welded together community partnerships with transportation agencies and businesses—to merge the demands and needs of a sector with individuals who were hungry to work. The lucrative sector had room for a creative repositioning to benefit companies and workers, and this called for dedicated and purposeful action.

Bronx Design and Construction Academy was born in 2011 as a key partner to TDC thanks to the NYC Mayor's Office and Schools Chancellor Joel Klein. The program set in motion a unique environment of workforce development for underserved students curious about the transportation and construction sector. I've had the privilege to invite students from diverse backgrounds and thanks to our quality staff, we've given hope and have produced life-changing outcomes to a wide range of students, including low-income, DACA recipients, and international youth.

Today, TDC is also making cross-country strides and demonstrating its workforce development model in key geographies. Local engagement in communities like Anniston, Alabama, is one of TDC's markers of success with New Flyer of America, the largest transit bus manufacturer in the states.

In various regions, we have been able to help formerly incarcerated workers, like Jason Webster, have a shot at turning their life around. Previously behind bars for 16 years, Jason's rocky beginnings did not prevent him from a New Flyer career, which kickstarted with programmatic TDC offerings in emotional intelligence, financial health and specialized training. Preparing America's workforce towards the advancement of diversity, equity and inclusion in our industries requires a holistic program that is based on empathy, confidence-building, guidance and workforce retention.

Partners, like New Flyer, understand that we need to disengage from old biases, and live up to levelling that playing field by working arduously for equal opportunity for the most disenfranchised worker—there are thousands of individuals like Jason across the United States just waiting to have that one chance to triumph and excel after unimaginable hardship. We are here for them. We hope to build upon our success stories where mentoring, work readiness, life skills training and support, all factor in to help a worker get their foot in the door to contribute to society.

Throughout 2020, and as we

SAMPSON
Continued on this page

CRAZY FAITH MINISTRIES

Coming to grips with the threat of Christian Nationalism

The scriptures say that we do not wrestle against flesh and blood but against powers and principalities. Specifically, Ephesians 6:12 says, (in the King James Version KKJV) of the Bible): For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against power, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."

It never occurred to me that different groups of people who call themselves Christian interpret not only this verse differently, but words in the entire Bible. What some groups of Christians call "truth," another totally dismisses as being against the will of God.

Rev. Susan K. Smith

As I grew up, I came to realize that not everyone who reads the words of Jesus interprets them in the way I was taught. I was stunned, still, though, when I read that the late Sen. Robert Byrd (D-WV), questioned about his belief in the Bible, and in the words of Jesus the Christ, said upon being asked if he understood the story of the Good Samaritan, and the "Great Commandment," that says we are to "love our neighbor as ourselves" said, "Of course I know the scriptures! But nowhere do the scriptures say that we do not get to choose our neighbor!"

That interview stunned me. I grew up believing the words of Jesus, found in the Gospels, could only be interpreted one way. In fact, I grew up believing that the Bible could likewise be interpreted only one way. The words ..were the words, not at all difficult to read and understand. In my way of thinking, there was no question as to how they should be interpreted.

But there is and there have been vastly different ways of interpreting words which have given life to oppressed people. In her book, The Power Worshippers, Katherine Stewart notes that Christian Nationalists have a very different worldview - based on their interpretation of the Bible. First of all, many believe that the New International Version (NIV) Bible is sacrilege - that it "perverts Jesus Christ into Lucifer." She also notes that this group of people believe that "scripture opposes public assistance for the poor unless it passes through church coffers, that it votes against environmentalism, that it opposes gun regulations, favors privatization of schools through vouchers, and tells us that same-sex relationships are an abomination and emphatically does not want women to have access to comprehensive, twenty-first century reproductive medical care." (pp.16-17)

This group also believes that "true Christians" are supposed to exercise dominion over the "seven mountains" of culture: government, business, education, the media, arts and entertainment, family, and religion."(p. 25)

This is a movement which is not dying but which instead is growing and has been for some time. It is a group which would have approved of the late Bob Jones, founder and president of the Bob Jones University, who said in an Easter Sunday morning broadcast in 1960 that "God is the author of segregation."

These ways of looking at the Bible are totally anathema to me, and I suppose to many others, but the truth is, those Christians who are not a part of the Christian Nationalist movement need to be aware and actively engaged to making sure a different interpretation of scripture is being taught. The Bible's directives to believe in justice, to take care of those who are hungry and thirsty and naked and lost seem clear to me, as does the meaning of the Great Commandment, but what is clear to me is almost considered blasphemous to members of the Christian Nationalist movement.

In my work studying how black and white people see God, I already determined that there are two different gods for each ethnic group. I am not the first person to decide this; white theologians in history decided the same thing, some deciding that their God could not possibly have created black people. But the fact that "the Bible" can be and is the object of such disparate interpretations is rattling, to say the least.

Stewart notes in her book that many Christian nationalists feel persecuted; that feeling is behind their cry for "religious freedom." Progressive Christians, she says, have been way behind in getting their message out. She says "progressive religious voices have figured out only how to grab a headline here or there for the benefit of sympathetic audiences. They do not know how to seize the reins of political power."

It seems that if ever there was a time for "progressive religious voices" to make themselves heard, it is now, because the Christian nationalists are on a mission to seize political power by using their version of the meaning of God, Jesus, and the Bible." Living in denial of what we are facing seems not only troubling but an indication of a lack of awareness of what is going on. People tend not to believe that "the worst" can happen to them: not in their neighborhoods, their schools, their country …and in their religion. That is a way of thinking which always proves to be wrong.

In this time of transition, those who disagree with the Christian nationalists need to step up and speak out …or be forever forced to hold their peace.

Rev. Dr. Susan K Smith is nearing completion of a book, "On the Shores of America: Two Nations, Two Gods" and in November, her book, "Rest for the Justice-Seeking Soul" will be released by Whitaker House Publishers. To inquire about booking her, contact cassady2euca@icloud.com.

SAMPSON

Continued from this page

continue to think about what we can do to empower others, I encourage all entrepreneurs and business owners to reconfigure their talent pipeline to equitably account for diversity. Exposure to opportunity is indeed everything for the American worker. It is the foundation for a democracy and a change agent when it comes to truly closing the door on discrimin*ation.*

Dwayne Sampson is the Founder and President of the Transportation Diversity Council.

VOICE YOUR OPINION!!

WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR, TODAY!

New Hanover County

The New Hanover NAACP monthly meeting is Thursday, March 26, 7 pm at St. Stephen AME Church, 501 Red Cross Street, Wilmington. The meeting will feature information on the Mind, Body & Soul Health Fair April 25 at the MLK Center, 8th Street, Wilmington. Other important state and community issues will also 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 nhc-naacp@gmail.com.

Community Briefs

Spring 2020 Programs at Wrightsville Beach Parks & Recreation:

TENNIS LESSONS Mondays & Wednesdays March 9 - 25, 2020. Youth Lessons: Ages 6-8 meet from 3:30 - 4:30 pm Ages 9-12 meet from 4:30 - 5:30 pm Adult Lessons: Adults meet from 6:00 - 7:00 pm

BASKETBALL FOR YOUTH

The Youth League's Basketball program is designed for kids to learn the game of basketball through strong fundamentals drills, game experience, and work ethic while having a tremendous amount of fun. Thursdays, April 2—May 21, 2020. Ages 6—9: 4:00 p.m.—5:30 p.m. Ages 10—13: 5:45 p.m.—7:15 p.m.

FLAG FOOTBALL FOR YOUTH

The Youth League's Flag Football program was developed to help kids learn basic and advanced concepts of football while gaining game experience. The Wrightsville Beach Flag Football league emphasizes the importance of teamwork and good sportsmanship. Wednesdays, April 1—May 20, 2020' Ages 6—9: 4:00 p.m.—5:30 p.m. Ages 10—13: 5:45 p.m.—7:15 p.m.

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

Compiled By Wilmington Journal Staff

UNCW's Health and Human Services Week focuses on healthy minds, bodies and communities

Wilmington, N.C. -- In late March, Health and Human Services Week will celebrate healthy minds, bodies and communities, and will address important issues like veteran suicide prevention. Health and Human Services Week is the College of Health and Human Services' signature university-community event. The weeklong celebration reflects the College's mission of creating transformative learning experiences, advancing knowledge through research and scholarly activity, and engaging communities.

Health and Human Services Week is slated for March 23-27 on the UNCW campus. The 23 events planned this year range from lectures and showcases to wellness activities and art programs.

"We encourage students, faculty, staff and community partners to attend, to celebrate health and wellness, and to learn new information and skills to keep themselves and the community healthy," said Ashley Wells, assistant dean for community engagement and impact. "We enjoy this week and see it as an opportunity to enhance our learning, our relationship building and our commitment to enhancing health and quality of life."

The week kicks off with the annual Research and Innovation Day, featuring a keynote, "Health Care Innovation in VA and the Military" from the Honorable Robert Wilkie, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. The presentation will highlight ways the military and Veterans Affairs are using innovative technologies and approaches to address health concerns amongst soldiers.

The lecture begins at noon in Kenan Auditorium. Tickets are required and are available through the Kenan Auditorium Box Office Monday-Friday from noon until 4 p.m. For questions regarding tickets, including reserving blocks of tickets for classes, contact Abigail Beck at becka@uncw.edu or call 910.962.3500.

A majority of the events are open to the public. Visit https://uncw.edu/chhs/community/hhsweek-schedule.html for a detailed schedule.

Highlights of the rest of the week include:

Tuesday, March 24: Film: "What Counts"

3 p.m. McNeill Hall, Room 1005

"What Counts" highlights the stories and experiences of a growing group of leaders who are taking critical steps to end health disparities among their patients. Spanning a diverse set of geographies and organizations, the film shows what's possible when we reimagine what counts as healthcare. A panel discussion will follow.

Wednesday, March 25: Impacts of Childhood Poverty: Taking the Pulse on Poverty

6 p.m. McNeill Hall, Room 1005

Explore issues of children living in poverty including health, education and the social service system. Panelists will speak about their expertise and discuss how to address these challenges. Learn how collaborating with UNCW faculty, staff and students can help to address some of the issues related to childhood poverty.

Thursday, March 26: Homemade Happiness 2 p.m. McNeill Hall, Room 1051

What do we need to be happy? Explore different researched strategies that increase our ability to be happy. Learn scientifically proven ingredients to homemade happiness including mindfulness, self-compassion, gratitude, sharing positive experiences, having a purpose, and kindness, while hearing suggestions of concrete methods of implementation to improve your daily wellbeing.

Friday, March 27: The Impact of Historical Trauma and Racism in Wilmington: Promoting Resilience and Healing

7 p.m. McNeill Hall, Room 1005

This event provides a better understanding of Wil-mington's unique history and the legacy of historical and racial trauma existent today. Experience the Invisibility Project's powerful dance and spoken word performance that conveys the emotional narrative of Wilmington's history in the wake of the 1898 coup d'état and massacre. Hear from local community leaders to help us connect the past to the present, exploring contemporary issues relevant to service provision within the context of historical trauma and racism. A reception will follow.

Coronavirus Epidemic: What are viruses anyway?

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - During the current coronavirus epidemic, the CDC recommends that we wash our hands long enough to sing Happy Birthday two times.

But, were they talking about the traditional version or the Stevie Wonder version? Every Black person I know now, and every birthday celebration I've been a part of, for years, sings the Stevie Wonder version. The lack of clarity on this by the CDC lets me know that there is a need for different sets of information needed for different communities and cultures (according to their needs and interests) in communicating and providing information during this current epidemic.

According to the National Assessment of Adult Literacy, only 12 percent of adults in the United States have a high level of health literacy, according to the National Assessment of Adult Literacy. In other words, nearly nine out of 10 adults lack the skills needed to fully manage their health care and prevent disease. Public health officials and the medical community assume patients understand and can manage their own health care. If a patient doesn't have the literacy skills necessary to comprehend basic words, it is unlikely that he or she will be able to engage with their care, which is typically made up of complex directions and complicated terminology.

That means that only a good day, most of have no idea what the basics are for being health; not mention understanding strains of viruses, transmission, and vaccine development, incubation, etc.

Wouldn't you think that at some point in this current coronavirus crisis, government or public health officials would have provided us with a basic understanding of exactly what viruses are; how they work; and why they are so potentially deadly?

Glenn Ellis

Let me give it a try…

A virus is a tiny, infectious particle that can reproduce only by infecting a host cell. Viruses "commandeer" the host cell and use its resources to make more viruses, basically reprogramming it to become a virus factory.

Viruses prey upon all living organisms, turning them into virus Xerox machines.

Unlike a bacterium or a cell of an animal, a virus lacks the ability to replicate on its own. A virus does contain some genetic information critical for making copies of itself, but it can't get the job done without the help of a cell's "duplicating" equipment, borrowing enzymes and other molecules to create even more virus.

though the smallest viruses are only about one-millionth of an inch long, they live up to their Latin namesake - poison. They are capable of infecting and hijacking a human body, creating health hazards as minor as the common flu and as disastrous as the AIDS epidemic.

Now, let's tackle one of the basic questions many people have. How many different viruses are there on planet Earth?

Seems like every time we turn around, there's a "new" virus circulating around the globe. Scientist then start scrambling to identify it and find a treatment and/or vaccine for it. Invariably, this leads to everything from outright fear to conspiracy theories! In the absence for more (and sometimes different) messaging to targeted populations, controlling the spread of the virus and protecting people will continue to be an uphill climb.

Let me just remind some and inform others; there are far more viruses on this planet than there are people! You can't see them or feel them, but millions of airborne viruses are wafting around you each day, and billions more microbial travelers are descending everywhere on Earth, after riding air currents around the world.

Think about this: Scientists estimate that there are roughly 1,031,103,110 viruses at any given moment on earth. If you were somehow able to wrangle up all 1,031,103,110 of these viruses and line them end-to-end, your virus column would extend nearly 200200200 light years into space. To put it another way, there are over ten million times more viruses on Earth than there are stars in the entire universe.

We didn't always have the need as a society to be reminded of such fundamental hygiene practices. I remember as a kid, coming in the house after playing outside with my friends. The very first thing I would hear would be, "wash your hands". Hygiene and family/community protection were second nature. Without any empirical data, I have to wonder if there is a connection between the loss of this general consciousness in our communities and the increase in both the rise of drug resistant bacteria and the rise of deadly viruses.

At the end of the day, with proper information delivered to respective communities based on their unique needs and abilities, we will find out that the basic behaviors needed to stay healthy, in general, are the same behaviors we should all be adopting in the face of any viral epidemic, including coronavirus.

Washing your hands; Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth; stay home if you are sick: we all know the advice on protecting ourselves form the coronavirus.

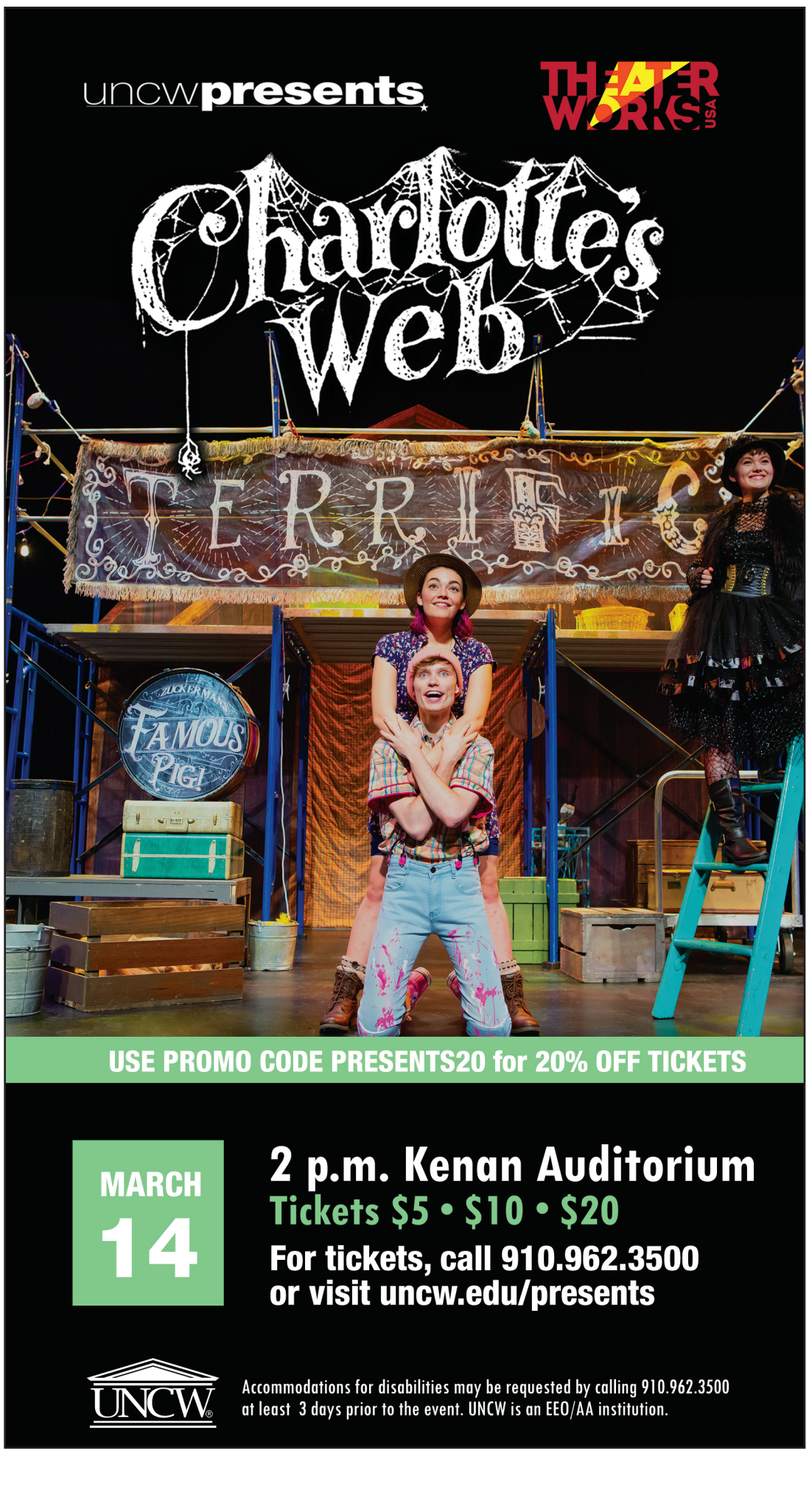
Oh yeah, you only need to wash your hands long enough to sing the Stevie Wonder version of Happy Birthday once!

Remember, I'm not a doctor. I just sound like one.

Take good care of yourself and live the best life possible!

The information included in this column is for educational purposes only. I do not dispense medical advice or prescribe the use of any technique as a replacement form of treatment for physical, mental or medical problems by your doctor either directly or indirectly.

Glenn Ellis, is Research Bioethics Fellow at Harvard Medical School and author of Which Doctor?, and Information is the Best Medicine. Ellis is an active media contributor on Health Equity and Medical Ethics. For more good health information visit: www.glennellis.com.



Debbie Meares

Debbie Meares, age 63, of Wilmington, passed away Saturday, February 29, 2020. A celebration of Mrs. Meares' life was held on Saturday, March 7, 2020 at Davis Funeral Home. Interment followed at Greenlawn Memorial Park.

Her love and memories will remain in the heart of her husband, Jonathan Meares of the home; children, Kenneth Scott Meares, Kimberly Denise Meares and Rozette Nixon (Antonio) all of Wilmington; sister, Vicky Bowman (Tracy) of Wilmington; brothers, Tony Richardson (Phyllis) and Clifton Richardson (Cathy) both of Wilmington and Allen Richardson of Fayetteville, 6 grandchildren and a host of other relatives 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.*

Mary Green

Mary Alice Green, daughter of the late James Walter Evans and Ida L. Evans was born on November 20, 1944 in Wilmington, North Carolina. She went home to be with the Lord on March 2, 2020. A celebration of Ms. Green's life was held on Tuesday, March 10, 2020 at Mt. Nebo Baptist Church. Interment followed at Pine Forest Cemetery.

Mary was educated in the New Hanover County School System. She attended Williston Industrial School, graduating in the fifties. She also graduated from Cape Fear Community College receiving a Nurse's Aide degree and continued on to work in the home health care field.

Ida married John Henry Green on August 19, 1960, who preceded her in death. She was a member of Mt. Nebo Missionary Baptist Church and attended regularly. Ida enjoyed traveling, cooking and spending time with her family. But, most of all she enjoyed attending her beloved Mt. Nebo Missionary Baptist Church and singing on the Unity Choir and Senior Choir. She loved her pastor and her church family and was always willing to lend a helping hand.

She leaves to cherish fond memories: her children, James Walter Green of Kinston, NC, Douglas Eugene Green (Regina) of Charlotte, NC, Sandra Ann Green, Lacy Anthony Green and Darryl Thomas Green, all of Wilmington, NC, and John Ingram Green of New Bern, NC; 4 grandchildren; 7 great-grandchildren; her siblings, one sister, Josephine Hull of Bronx, NY and one brother, James Walter Evans, Jr. of Wilmington, NC; and a host of nieces, nephews, 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.*

Clarence Nixon

Clarence Nathan Nixon, age 80, of Castle Hayne, passed away Saturday, March 7, 2020. Friends are cordially invited to a visitation with the family from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 12, 2020 at Davis Funeral Home, 901 S 5th Ave., Wilmington, NC 28401. A celebration of Mr. Nixon's life will be conducted at 12:00 p.m., Friday, March 13, 2020 at Shoulders Branch Missionary Baptist Church, 4404 Holly Shelter Rd., Castle Hayne, NC 28429. Interment will follow at the church 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.*

David "Dick" McMillian

David "Dick" McMillian died March 2, 2020. Funeral services were held on Saturday, March 7, 2020 at Union Missionary Baptist Church. Burial followed in Greenlawn Memorial Park.

David James McMillian, Sr., affectionately known as "Dick" was born December 31, 1928 to the late Daniel and Odessa Harvey McMillian. At an early age, he accepted Jesus Christ as his personal Savior and joined Pleasant Hill Baptist Church in Kelly, North Carolina. After being drafted into the United States Army and serving in the Korean War, David began his work career as a self-employed dry wall hanger. He operated his business for over 50 plus years and was known as the best journeyman dry waller in the city. In addition to his parents, David was preceded in death by his grandson, Tori Simmons and his sister, Geneva Bracey. He was joined in holy matrimony to Marie Barmore and to this union seven children were born.

"Dick" leaves to cherish his loving memories: nine children, David McMillian, Jr. (Equilla) of Wilmington, NC, Dale McMillian King (James) of Fayetteville, NC, Gwendolyn McMillian Batts (Fred), Leonia McMillian Jones (Terry), Reginald McMillian (Donna), Dawne McMillan Simmons, and Danette McMillian Henry all of Wilmington, NC, Lynda McMillian Clifford of Washington, DC and Crystal Thompson Jenkins (Robert) of Jacksonville, NC; 51 grandchildren; 115 great-grandchildren; 9 great-great-grandchildren; one brother, Willie Coston, Jr. (Odessa) of Palmdale, CA; three sisters, Rose Coston of Wilmington, NC, Rev. Joanne Hollis and Doris McMillian of Brooklyn, NY; a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends, including two special friends, Lonnie Miller and Rev. Thomasina Brailford. *A Service of John H. Shaw's Son Funeral Home.*

Gertrude Burton Banks

Gertrude Burton Banks died March 4, 2020. Funeral services were held Monday, March 9th at Willie L Shaw Jr. Memorial Chapel. Burial followed in Greenlawn Memorial Park.

Gertrude, daughter of the late Edward ad Luella Banks Burton was born on September 8, 1922. "Gertie" as she was known to family and friends received her formal education in Brunswick county Schools. She had a personality that would light up a room and pick you up when you were sad. She was preceded in death by all her siblings. She leaves to cherish her memories: one son, Bobby Lee Burton of New Brunswick, NJ; one granddaughter, Damita Henderson (Edward) two great-granddaughters, Jasmine and Jamie Henderson; three great-great-granddaughters, Janashia, Jahara Henderson and Jalecia Jacobs; two special nieces, Eloise Bellamy of Somerset, NJ and Annie L. Pickett of New Brunswick, NJ; one special nephew, Herbert L. Burton (Ebony) of Citra, FL; two special great-nieces, Antoinette Nixon (Hezekiah), Carlene Mosley (Samuel) ad Rose M. Lucas all of Wilmington, NC and a host of other nieces, nephews and relatives. *A Service of John H. Shaw's Son Funeral Home.*

James Butler "BoPete" Bowman

James Butler "BoPete" Bowman died March 3, 2020. Funeral services were held Tuesday, march 10, 2020 at Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church. Burial followed in Calvary Memorial Cemetery.

"BoPete son of the late Alberta Harvin and David Butler was born March 10, 1936. James attended New Hanover County Public Schools and enjoyed gardening, landscaping and building. He worked for the International Longshoremen's Association Local 1426 until his retirement in 1997. He was a member of Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church. He was preceded in death by his wife, Emerald Simmons Bowman.

BoPete leaves to cherish his memory: his children, Angie (Wayne) Mitchell of the home, James (Brenda) Bowman of Durham, NC, Geno (Lynn) Bowman of South Carolina and Kevin Ripley; grandchildren, Shantez Bowman, Deshauna Mitchell, Rhondy Mitchell, Kenya Whitfield, Kyle Bowman, Kalia Bowman and Krystina Ripley; 15 great-grandchildren; sisters, Lottie (Eddie) Artis, Shirley (Robert) Griffin, Thelma Hawes and Retha Brown; sisters-in-law, Lucy (Arthur) Daniels; brother-in-law, David (Diane) Simmons; a host of nieces, nephews, cousins other relatives and friend, including special friends, Richard Simpson, Donnie Robbins and James Ross. *A Service of John H. Shaw's Son Funeral Home.*

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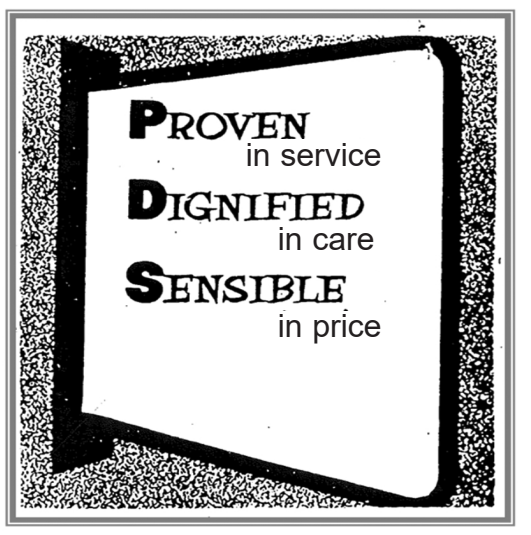

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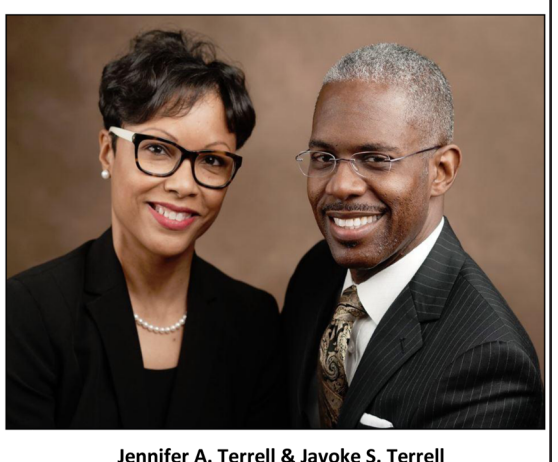

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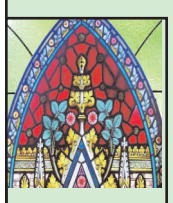
New Hanover County

St. Andrew AMEZ Church is offering tutoring to all children and youth in grades 2-12 every Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. Refreshments will be served. On Sunday, March 15th at 11:00 a.m. Jamias Black of Walter's Chapel AME Zion Church, Bolton, NC witll be the youth guest speaker

St. Stephen AME Church, 501 Red Cross St, will hold the following events during March.



Religious Briefs

1. First Responders Appreciation Day; Sunday March 15th, 10:00 am. For more information contact the Church at 910 762-9829.
2. Rev. Dan Lewis, Pastor, 1st Presbyterian Church, Wilmington will be Guest Preacher at St. Stephen AME Church, 501 Red Cross St, Wilmington, Tuesday, March 17th, 7:00 pm. For more information call St. Stephen at 910 762-9829.
3. St. Stephen AME Church, 501 Red Cross St., Wilmington presents Sing for Peace! Interfaith Gospel Workshop. Friday, March 20th from 6 - 8 pm and Saturday, March 21st from 10 am - 4 pm. Gospel Concert on Saturday, March 22nd at 3 pm. For more info call St. Stephen at 910 762-9829.
4. Rev. Dr. Florence S. Brown, Presiding Elder of "Lumberton District".Annual Conference, AME Zion Church will be the Guest Preacher at St. Stephen AME Church, 501 Red Cross St., Wilmington; Sunday, March 29th at 10:00 am. For more info call St. Stephen at 910 762-9829.

Brunswick County

Myrtle Grove AME Church, 216 Old Fayetteville Rd., Leland, NC will celebrate Women's Day on Sunday, March 15th at 3:00 p.m. The guest speaker will be Pastor Ruthlene Freeman of New Townsend Temple Ministries, Bolton, NC.

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

Compiled By Wilmington Journal Staff

Black leaders call out big insurance over surprise medical billing

BY HAZEL TRICE EDNEY

Prominent figures in the African-American community are calling on Congress to rein in large insurance companies as lawmakers look to address an increasingly urgent problem in the health care market that falls especially hard on working families, including African-Americans.

The problem is known as surprise medical billing, a situation that occurs when a patient is hospitalized and then receives a hefty bill from a doctor who turns out to be outside of his or her insurer's network.

The practice is costing American patients tens of millions of dollars in unforeseen medical fees, at a time when many are already burdened by higher premiums and rising co-payments. Nearly half of Americans say they have avoided going to the doctor despite being sick or injured for financial reasons.

Eliminating surprise billing has long been a priority for leaders of both parties. But it is now emerging as a key issue in the 2020 Democratic presidential primary, as candidates and other leading Democrats make the case around the country for broader health care reform. Former Vice President Joe Biden invoked the need to end surprise billing in his victory speech on Super Tuesday.

As the issue comes into greater focus, prominent African-American leaders are urging candidates and lawmakers to find a solution that holds health insurers accountable for limited coverage networks and inadequate access to health insurance for minority communities – two forces, they say, that have helped create the surprise billing problem.

Addressing a group of Black ministers in South Carolina recently, Reverend Al Sharpton said solving health care issues disproportionately impacting communities of color must be atop the progressive agenda. Fixing the problem of surprise billing, Sharpton said, needs to go hand in hand with better protection of uninsured and underinsured populations.

Sharpton, who heads the National Action Network, an influential civil rights organization with roots in Harlem and chapters throughout the country, warned about a proposed bill in Congress that would potentially deepen the problem of costs being passed onto patients by giving insurers even more control over the prices they pay out-of-network doctors working in emergency hospital settings.

He said the proposed bill must be defeated because it fails to protect the underinsured and the uninsured. Dealing these specific policies that affect the disadvantaged is what is necessary in the 2020 election, Sharpton said in a recent speech at the Missionary Baptist Church in North Charleston, S.C., according to the Post and Courier.

Sharpton referred to a current bill before Congress aimed at addressing a practice known as "surprise billing," which leaves patients on the hook for medical expenses even if they have insurance. The legislation needs to be defeated and replaced with something that would protect the underinsured and those with no insurance at all, he said, describing it as one of those "issues that's for the good of the people."

Dr. Benjamin Chavis, President and CEO of the National Newspaper Publishers Association and former Executive Director of the NAACP, directed even sharper criticism at insurance companies. In a piece published by Black Press USA, Chavis derided insurance executives for putting profits above patients.

"This outrageous situation benefits one group and one group alone: powerful insurance executives, who have managed to get off the financial hook for such bills, even as insurers shrink insurance coverage networks to wring more and more profits out of the system," Chavis wrote.

Chavis expressed strong opposition to any legislation that would give insurers more control over health care prices.

Experts say surprise medical billing is most common after emergency treatment on nonsurgical hospital visits, when doctors and specialists often work together in teams to provide the care patients need. For example, in the case of an emergency procedure, a patient's primary surgeon might be in her insurance network, but other clinicians who assist the surgeon, such as the anesthesiologist, might be out of network. In certain instances, the patients are left to foot the bill for out-of-network services.

Doctors have said that years of harmful cost-cutting measures taken by insurers are to blame. Many patients have been unwittingly pushed into highly restricted and increasingly narrow coverage networks, they say, leaving them with unanticipated costs insurers refuse to cover in full or at all. Doctors say insurance companies should be required to pay fair out-of-network rates, as determined by an independent arbitrator, for emergency care.

Insurers vehemently oppose that approach, instead calling for new rules that would enable them to limit how much they pay for emergency care provided by physicians who do not contract with them. They favor a system in which they would automatically pay median in-network rates for out-of-network services.

The dispute between doctors and insurers reached a

BLACK LEADERS
Continued on this page

SENIOR CITIZENS' FELLOWSHIP

Information on health and resources

BY FANNIE ALLEN AND SHEILA ROSS
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

What a friend we have in Jesus. Jesus says place who you are and what you have in my hands, your broken life, your story. Jesus knows that our of our emptiness, he can bring fullness out of our weakness. He can reveal His strength. We the Senior Citizen met at our usual place, time and the usual took place.

Our meeting was called to order by our president Mrs. Gladys Taylor. We opened with, "What a friend we have in Jesus." The Lord's Prayer was repeated in unison. Next we sang, "Lord I know you been so good." Mrs. Opal Midgett introduced our speaker for the day, Mrs. Charleen Wynn with the Department of Social Services. She gave us a lot of info that is available for seniors. Seniors might qualify for Medicaid, reductions in the cost for prescriptions or dental plans. There is a lot of information and benefits for seniors. Please take advantage by going to the Department of Social Services or to the Senior Center on Shipyard Blvd. Don't pass up an opportunity that could benefit you. Mrs. Wynn was thanked for all the info that was given to our group.

The minutes were read by Mrs. Mildred Ellerby and approved. We then had roll call. Mrs. Julia Bibbs then read from the book From Jesus with love. Next was the callers and Mrs. Janice Gordon was the winner with 8 present. Everyone was given a hand of appreciation. Announcements were read. In the absence of Mrs. Mary Martin we had no smiles. We sang, "Bind us Together." Mrs. Julia Bibbs gave prayer. There were 33 in attendance. Please be safe and protect yourselves from the viruses that are going around. Thank God for this day.

TELL SOMEBODY

"People Get Ready!"

"Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh." Matthew 24:44

Ready - prepared or available for service or action

For years we have been told that the coming of the Lord is drawing nigh and that in fact, Jesus is soon to come. We were told...Get Ready ! Get ready ! Get Ready! Scoffers and unbelievers seem to be amused that so many believers are yet holding on to their faith in God. These type of people are described in the bible as..."Ever learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth." II Timothy 3:7 They do not understand, God's word is true. If he spoke it, it shall come to pass!

"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to usward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentence. " People Get Ready !

If we believe this is true, then we need to live in a state of preparedness so we will be ready when the Lord Jesus comes for his church. In order to GET READY for his second coming , believers must have faith in him, be willing to (fulfil) carry out his will, and follow his teachings. People Get Ready!

Sylvia Hooper

Faith - Confident belief in the truth, value, or trustworthiness of a person, idea, or thing. In order to be ready for the coming of the Lord, we must have faith in his word and believe and receive his promised blessings! The blessings of the Lord maketh rich and adds no sorrow. The blessings of the Lord will provide much needed support and provide provisions to help us do the work of the ministry. Confident faith edifies and promotes God's people to walk in faith and victory.

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." Hebrews 11:1 "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." Hebrews 11:6

Fulfil - To carry out. .... In order to be ready for the coming of the Lord Jesus, we must walk in obedience to his word and pray that his will be done on earth, even as it is in heaven. We must do our part to make it happen! We are workers together with Christ!

Jesus said in Luke 6:46, "And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?"

Follow - To accept the guidance or leadership of . In order to be ready for the coming of the Lord, we must accept the leadership of Jesus Christ as our Lord and personal Saviour. If we follow Christ, we will accept his salvation. As we follow Christ, we will accept the gift of the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

"If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honor." John 12:26

Servant - One expressing submission or debt to another "Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as you think not the Son of man cometh. Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his Lord have made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season? Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing." Matthew 24:44-46. People Get Ready! And 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

"Neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling"

God wants you well spiritually and physically and mentally: Psalm 107:20, (KJV)"He sent his word, and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions" (sicknesses and diseases).

Healing has already been Provided through the atonement on the cross for those who will believe and receive it; God wants to heal you NOW!

Exodus 15:26,(KJV) "And said, If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the Lord thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments and keep all His statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the Lord that healeth thee". Chapter 23:25, "And ye shall serve the Lord your God, and he shall bless thy bread, and thy water; and I will take sickness away from the midst of thee". The Word of God has already provided the vaccine for all sicknesses and diseases, healing is available for you right NOW, if you can only believe! Let's examine the word of God further on this subject of healing for all, He always healing those who will Believe and receive His word on the matter.

Proverbs 4:20-23, (KJV)"My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings.21 Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart.22 For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh. 23 Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life. (ERV)22 My son, pay attention to what I say. Listen closely to my words. 21 Don't let them out of your sight. Never stop thinking about them. 22These words are the secret of life and health to all who discover them. 23 Above all, be careful what you think because your thoughts control your life". (above all don't get in fear, "fear is of the devil).

The Biblical Vaccine is defined as a spiritual substance used to stimulate the production of antibodies and provide immunity against all sicknesses and diseases, prepared from the causative agent of the diseases, that Jesus took into His own body on the cross that now provides the vaccine to heal ALL sicknesses and diseases.

Rev. Naconiel Fullwood

Isaiah 53:4-5,(ERV)"The fact is, it was our suffering he took on himself; he bore our pain. But we thought that God was punishing him, that God was beating him for something he did. 5 But he was being punished for what we did. He was crushed because of our guilt. He took the punishment we deserved, and this brought us peace. We were healed because of his pain". 1Peter 2:24, (ERV) "Christ carried our sins in his body on the cross. He did this so that we would stop living for sin and live for what is right. By his wounds, you were healed".

Now let's turn to the teaching of the infallible Word of God, which is the fountainhead of ALL TRUTH and the Revelation of the complete will of God for mankind.

Psalm 103:1-4, (MGS) 1-2 "O my soul, bless God. From head to toe, I'll bless his holy name! O my soul, bless God, don't forget a single blessing!3-5 He forgives your sins-everyone. He heals your diseases-everyone. He redeems you from hell-saves your life! He crowns you with love and mercy-a paradise crown. He wraps you in goodness-beauty eternal. He renews your youth-you're always young in his presence" (you can receive healing while you are read this article, only believe)

Psalm 34:1-8, (KJV)"I will bless the Lord at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth.2 My soul shall make her boast in the Lord: the humble shall hear thereof, and be glad.3 O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together.4 I sought the Lord, and he heard me and delivered me from all my fears. 5They looked unto him, and were lightened: and their faces were not ashamed. 6 This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him and saved him out of all his troubles. 7 The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear him and delivereth them.8 O taste and see that the Lord is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him.9 O fear the Lord, ye his saints: for there is no want to them that fear him.10 The young lions do lack, and suffer hunger: but they that seek the Lord shall not want any good thing".

Romans 10:17, (KJV)"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God".

Matt. 8:16-17, (KJV) "When the even was come, they brought unto him many that were possessed with devils: and he cast out the spirits with his word, and healed all that were sick:17 That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses".

Psalm 91:9-11, (KJV) "Because thou hast made the Lord, which is my refuge, even the most High, thy habitation;10 There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling.11 For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways". Vs. 14-16, "Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him: I will set him on high because he hath known my name.15 He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honor him.16 With long life will I satisfy him, and shew him my salvation". The Coronavirus is neutralized when you use the vaccine, the Word of God! Father, we thank you in the Name of Jesus that we are healed and no plague can come nigh us according to your word and I believe and receive your promises. Amen

Hebrews 13:8. (KJV)"Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever".

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

BLACK LEADERS
Continued on this page

Doctors and hospitals, for their part, raised concerns about ceding too much power to insurers to control rates. If only required to pay median in-network rates for out-of-network emergency services, the doctors and hospitals said, insurers could artificially drive down those rates by further restricting coverage networks.

Apparently, those concerns were shared by at least some members of Congress. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi is reported to have expressed serious concerns in private, saying "we are not going to give a handout to big insurance companies." The bill was ultimately defeated.

Now, as Congress returns to the issue early into the 2020 legislative session, it appears as though the debate could be layered into a larger conversation among progressives about the future of the nation's health care system.

The insistence of influential Black leaders that surprise bills are a symptom of a coverage accessibility problem for communities of color seems to open up a new front for Democrats looking to curtail the power of major insurance companies.

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LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF NEW HANOVER

Having qualified on the 24th day of February, 2020, as Executor of the Estate of **ROBERT R. HINCHCLIFFE,** Deceased, late of New Hanover County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the decedent to exhibit the same to the Executor, Kerry W. Key, at 7301 Forest Haven Estates, St. Louis, MO 62123, on or before the **3rd day of June, 2020,** or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the estate should make immediate payment.

This 26th day of February, 2020.

KERRY W. KEY, EXECUTOR
Attorney for the Estate:
J. Wesley Casteen, Esq., CPA
Carolina Legal Counsel
P.O. Box 12028
Wilmington, North Carolina 28405
Telephone (910) 256-3364

March 5, 12, 19, and 26, 2020

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF NEW HANOVER

The undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the estate of Virginia Bauerle McCormack, deceased, of the New Hanover County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 5th day of June, 2020, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to said estate please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This the 5th day of March, 2020

Cary D. McCormack, Executor
1800 Elease Lane
Wilmington, NC 28403

March 5, 12, 19, 26, 2020

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF NEW HANOVER

The undersigned, having qualified as Executrix of the estate of **Dorothy McGowan Paul,** deceased, of the New Hanover County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the **5th day of June, 2020,** or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to said estate please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This the 5th day of March, 2020

Lucretia P. Newkirk, Executrix
234 Oak Crest Dr.
Wilmington, NC 28403

March 5, 12, 19, 26, 2020

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF NEW HANOVER

The undersigned, having qualified as Executrix of the estate of **John Alexander Johnson,Jr.,** deceased, of the New Hanover County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the **12th day of June, 2020,** or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to said estate please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This the 12th day of March, 2020

Jean Jones Johnson, Executrix
5722 Camellia Lane
Wilmington, NC 28409

March 12, 19, 26, April 2, 2020

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF NEW HANOVER

The undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the estate of **James B. Hewett,** deceased, of the New Hanover County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the **12th day of June, 2020,** or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to said estate please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This the 12th day of March, 2020

Bernest Hewett, Executor
670 Hewettown Rd. SE
Bolivia, NC 28422

March 12, 19, 26, April 2, 2020

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NORTH CAROLINA
NEW HANOVER COUNTY

THE UNDERSIGNED, Peter A. Manley, having qualified on the 20th day of February, 2020, as Executor of the Estate of **Carolyn C. Manley (2020-E-179),** deceased, does hereby notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against said Estate that they must present them to the undersigned at DAVID E. ANDERSON, PLLC, 9111 Market Street, Suite A, Wilmington, North Carolina, 28411, on or before the **25th day of May, 2020,** or the claims will be forever barred thereafter, and this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. All persons, firms, and corporations indebted to said Estate will please make prompt payment to the undersigned at the above address.

This 27th day of February 2020.

Peter A. Manley
Executor
ESTATE OF CAROLYN C. MANLEY
David Anderson
Attorney at Law
9111 Market St, Ste A
Wilmington, NC 28411

February 27, March 5, 12, March 19, 2020

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF NEW HANOVER

Having qualified as Executrix of the Estate of **Rose M. House (20-E-212),** late of San Diego County, Oceanside, California the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned at 701 Market Street, Wilmington, North Carolina, 28401 on or before **May 27, 2020** or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This the 25th day of February, 2020

Jamie R. Richter
c/o Craige & Fox, PLLC
701 Market Street
Wilmington, NC 28401
910-815-0085

February 27, March 5, 12, 19, 2020

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF NEW HANOVER

The undersigned, having qualified on the 11th day of February, 2020 as Executor of the Estate of **Alice Boykin Tobias Miller, AKA Alice T. Miller (2020-E-166),** deceased, this is to notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against said Estate that they must present them to the undersigned at Post Office Box 1672, Wilmington, North Carolina 28402 on or before the 20th day of May, 2020 or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms, and corporations indebted to the said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This the 18th day of February 2020.

Robert Boykin, Executor
of the Estate of Alice Boykin Tobias Miller, AKA Alice T. Miller
c/o Gwendolyn Burrell, Attorney at Law
Post Office Box 1672
Wilmington, North Carolina 28402

February 20, 27, March 5, 12, 2020

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF NEW HANOVER

Having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of **Delores M. Bunch, (20-E-0126),** late of New Hanover County, Castle Hayne, North Carolina the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned at 701 Market Street, Wilmington, North Carolina, 28401 on or before **May 20, 2020** or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This the 17th day of February, 2020

Talmadge A. Bunch
c/o Craige & Fox, PLLC
701 Market Street
Wilmington, NC 28401
910-815-0085

February 20, 27, March 5, 12, 2020

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF NEW HANOVER

The undersigned, having qualified as Administratrix of the estate of **Charles Caspian Cribb,** deceased, of the New Hanover County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the **20th day of May, 2020,** or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to said estate please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This the 20th day of February, 2020

Diane Cribb, Adminstratrix
6123 Myrtle Grove Rd.
Wilmington, NC 24409

February 20, 27, March 5, 12, 2020

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA, NEW HANOVER COUNTY
In the General Court of Justice Superior Court Division
New Hanover County, 20 CVS 155

JEFFREY C. FOWLER, PLAINTIFF
v.
TABITHA RAE BACHERT, DEFENDANT

To Tabitha Rae Bachert:

Take notice that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action. The nature of the relief being sought is as follows: damages arising from motor vehicular negligence. You are required to make defense to such pleading not later than forty (40) days from the first running of this notice, exclusive of such date, which was March 5, 2020 and upon your failure to do so, the party seeking service against you will apply to the Court for the relief sought.

This the 5th day of March, 2020.

DAVID AND ASSOCIATES, P.L.L.C.
DAVID F. TURLINGTON
Attorney for the Plaintiff
1516 Dawson Street
Wilmington, North Carolina 28401
Telephone: 910/251-8088
Facsimile: 910/251-8430
North Carolina Bar Number: 20165
Email: dturlington@davidandassociates.com

March 5, 12, 19, 2020

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA, NEW HANOVER COUNTY
In the General Court of Justice Superior Court Division
New Hanover County
20 CVS 155

JEFFREY C. FOWLER, PLAINTIFF
v.
CHESTER LYNN BACHERT, DEFENDANT

To Chester Lynn Bachert:

Take notice that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action. The nature of the relief being sought is as follows: damages arising from motor vehicular negligence. You are required to make defense to such pleading not later than forty (40) days from the first running of this notice, exclusive of such date, which was March 5, 2020 and upon your failure to do so, the party seeking service against you will apply to the Court for the relief sought.

This the 5th day of March, 2020.

DAVID AND ASSOCIATES, P.L.L.C.
DAVID F. TURLINGTON
Attorney for the Plaintiff
1516 Dawson Street
Wilmington, North Carolina 28401
Telephone: 910/251-8088
Facsimile: 910/251-8430
North Carolina Bar Number: 20165
Email: dturlington@davidandassociates.com

March 5, 12, 19, 2020

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF NEW HANOVER

Having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of **Antionette Pridgen Campbell,** late of the New Hanover County, North Carolina, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned at 7 Northwood Drive, Wilmington, North Carolina, 28405 on or before **May 14, 2020,** or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to said estate please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This the 13th day of February, 2020

Ronald Earl Campbell, Administrator
Of the Estate of Antionette Pridgen Campbell
Douglas A. Fox, Attorney
YOW, FOX & MANNEN, LLP
102 N. 5TH Ave.
Wilmington, NC 28401

February 13, 20, 27, March 5, 2020

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Having qualified on the 13th day of February, 2020, as Executor of the Estate of **DALLIE E. BENNETT,** Deceased, late of New Hanover County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the decedent to exhibit the same to the Executor, Connie Lynn Bennett, at 4300 Tillson Road, Wilmington, NC 28412, on or before the **20th day of May, 2020,** or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the estate should make immediate payment.

This 14th day of February, 2020.

CONNIE LYNN BENNETT, EXECUTOR
Attorney for the Estate:
J. Wesley Casteen, Esq., CPA
Carolina Legal Counsel
P.O. Box 12028
Wilmington, North Carolina 28405
Telephone (910) 256-3364

February 20, 27, March 5, 12, 2020

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF NEW HANOVER

Having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of **Kenneth R. Snead, Sr. (19-E-144),** late of San Diego County, Oceanside, California the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned at 701 Market Street, Wilmington, North Carolina, 28401 on or before May 27, 2020 or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This the 25th day of February, 2020

Charlotte Noel Fox
Craige & Fox, PLLC
701 Market Street
Wilmington, NC 28401
910-815-0085

February 27, March 5, 12, 19, 2020

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF NEW HANOVER

The undersigned, having qualified as Administrator of the estate of **Dorothy Mae Gibbs,** deceased, of the New Hanover County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the **27th day of May, 2020,** or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to said estate please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This the 25th day of February, 2020

Kimberly Christine Bell, Administrator
1026 South 12th Street
Wilmington, NC 28401

February 27, March 5, 12, 19, 2020

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF NEW HANOVER

The undersigned, having qualified as Executrix of the estate of **Muriel Arrena Pearson,** deceased, of the New Hanover County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the **12th day of June, 2020,** or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to said estate please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This the 12th day of March, 2020

Elizabeth F. Dawson, Executrix
422 Forest Hills Dr.
Wilmington, NC 28403

March 12, 19, 26, April 2, 2020

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF NEW HANOVER

The undersigned, having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of **Johnnie Mae Fields,** deceased, of the New Hanover County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the **27th day of May, 2020,** or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to said estate please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This the 25th day of February, 2020

Tamika Jenkins, Administrator
PO Box 1554
Leland, NC 28451

February 27, March 5, 12, 19, 2020

NOTICE
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF NEW HANOVER

The undersigned, having qualified as Co-Executors of the Estate of **Lynette Helen Roller,** deceased, of New Hanover County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the **27th day of May, 2020,** or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This 27th day of February, 2020.

Jane Lynn Palmer Hexter, Co-Executor of the Estate of Lynette Helen Roller
7101 Saybrook Drive
Wilmington, NC 28405
Dale George Palmer, Co-Executor of the Estate of Lynette Helen Roller
14688 81st Ave N.
Maple Grove, MN 55311
MURCHISON, TAYLOR & GIBSON, PLLC
1979 Eastwood Rd, Suite 101
Wilmington, NC 28403

February 27, March 5, 12, 19, 2020

NOTICE
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF NEW HANOVER

The undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of **Charles O. Metzger,** deceased, of New Hanover County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the **27th day of May, 2020,** or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This 27th day of February, 2020.

Paul L. Metzger, Executor
of the Estate of Charles O. Metzger
1929 Parkside Drive
Denton, TX 76205
MURCHISON, TAYLOR & GIBSON, PLLC
1979 Eastwood Rd, Suite 101
Wilmington, NC 28403

February 27, March 5, 12, 19, 2020

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NORTH CAROLINA
NEW HANOVER COUNTY

THE UNDERSIGNED, Peter A. Manley, having qualified on the 10th day of March, 2020, as Executor of the Estate of **Carolyn C. Manley (2020-E-310),** deceased, does hereby notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against said Estate that they must present them to the undersigned at DAVID E. ANDERSON, PLLC, 9111 Market Street, Suite A, Wilmington, North Carolina, 28411, on or before the **15th day of June, 2020,** or the claims will be forever barred thereafter, and this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. All persons, firms, and corporations indebted to said Estate will please make prompt payment to the undersigned at the above address.

This 12th day of March 2020.

Peter A. Manley
Executor
ESTATE OF Carolyn C. Manley
David Anderson
Attorney at Law
9111 Market St, Ste A
Wilmington, NC 28411

March 12, 19, March 26, April 2, 2020

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