

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

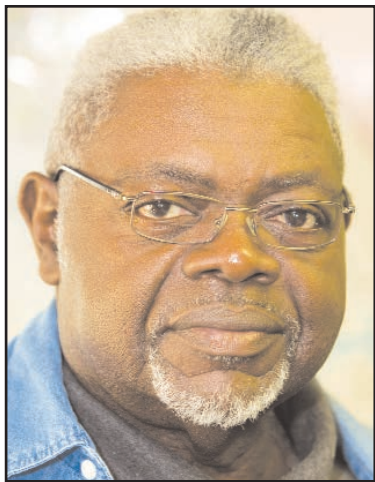
OUR VOICE



ROGER CALDWELL

GUEST EDITORIAL
 "Stand up and be counted –
 Make Black count –
 Be Powerful"
 BY
ROGER CALDWELL
 PAGE 4

BRUNSWICK COUNTY



BERNEST HEWETT

WE WILL SURVIVE

COVID-19 is of epic proportions and is coming our way. We need first of all to pray that his protection will cover us and that we stand in His grace correctly and that He keeps on blessing us. God gave each human being five senses and the ability to use them (some a little faster than others). Let's pay attention to directions. Keep your families safe. Wash your hands! Keep exposed surfaces clean and keep out of large crowds. We overcame slavery! We fought wars! We farmed from sunup to sundown for the right to embrace freedom without harassment, but our faith is sealed by God's plan. We must stand still and see the power of God. When the course of COVID-19 has been run, your answer will be with you and your family and all

Please see **BRUNSWICK/**Page 2

THE WILMINGTON
JOURNAL

News from the African American perspective without fear or favor

VOLUME 93/No. 12

MARCH 19, 2020 -MARCH 25, 2020

\$1.00

Black community wrestles with COVID-19 pandemic

BY CASH MICHAELS
 OF THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

When Gov. Roy Cooper ordered no public gatherings of 100 or more people in order to stem the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19), Black churches across North Carolina knew they immediately had a problem.

"I'm going to just say it," opined one prominent North Carolina Black minister on Facebook. "Science has defeated faith in America as of this day! These cancellations are too much! Megachurches, I understand, but your 20, 30, 50 member churches are small groups, to an extent anyway. For those size churches, maybe divide into

smaller groups, A, B, and, C. Groups of 10 or 20 folks could have a more devotional type worship together in different spots of the church such as sanctuary, fellowship hall, Bible Study classroom. Come on, people of faith!"

Still, many Black churches last weekend posted notices on their websites, advising their congregations and visitors that, because of the health crisis, their services were either temporarily cancelled, or would be livestreamed online so that they could be watched from home.

"Coronavirus Update," bellowed the full screen advisory for Guilford Baptist Church in

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

First presumptive positive COVID-19 case identified in New Hanover County

FROM NH COUNTY
 COMMUNICATIONS & OUTREACH

NEW HANOVER COUNTY, NC - New Hanover County Public Health officials have identified the first and only presumptive positive case of the novel coronavirus, COVID-19 in New Hanover County. The person went to their doctor with symptoms on Monday, March 16 and a test was con-

Please see **FIRST CASE/**Page 2



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

DOUGLASS ACADEMY KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS

Douglass Academy kindergarteners celebrate Learning to Read

Douglass Academy kindergarten students proudly showed off their reading skills during their "I Can Read" ceremony. Kindergarten students received their own book and an "I Can Read" certificate to celebrate their landmark achievement of learning to read. The ceremony was held before a packed audience of family members. Students also dressed up as their favorite letters.

Headmaster Nikki Chaney commented, "We are so proud of our kindergarten students! Learning to read paves the way for all future success. We work hard at Douglass Academy to ensure all students are reading by kindergarten. As our name-

sake, Frederick Douglass, said, 'Once you learn to read, you will be forever free.'"

Douglass Academy is one of four charter schools managed by The Roger Bacon Academy, Inc. founded in 1999 by education pioneer Baker Mitchell. The other schools include Charter Day School in Leland, Columbus Charter School in Whiteville, and South Brunswick Charter School in Southport with a combined enrollment of over 2,100 students in K-8. All four are tuition-free, charter schools that welcome all students, regardless of income, ability, or address. To learn more or enroll online, please visit EnrollRBA.com



LETHIA HANKINS

League of Women Voters honor Lethia Hankins

BY BEVERLY SMALLS
 CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The late Lethia Hankins, regional church leader, community icon in political and education circles will be honored by The League of Women Voters of the Lower Cape Fear.

A portrait of Hankins who served as an elected member of Wilmington City Council from 2003 until 2007 has been com-

Please see **HANKINS/**Page 2

Do the U. S. Census race/gender questions default to "white" & "male", if you refuse to answer?

BY CASH MICHAELS
 OF THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

A New Hanover County commissioner sent a "formal request" to the Director of the U. S. Census Bureau last month, asking if it were true that if a citizen refused to answer a question about either his or her race or gender, the survey would automatically default to "White" and "male."

"I write to you as a member of the New Hanover County Board of

Commissioners and as the Co-chairman of the New Hanover County Complete Count Committee," Commissioner Barfield wrote to Steven Dillingham, Director of the U.S. Census Bureau on March 11, 2020.

"During our March 5 Complete Count Committee meeting, we were alarmed to learn from our Census Bureau partners that a person who declines to answer the survey's questions regarding racial background and gender would be defaulted to "White" and "male," Barfield contin-

ued. "As an African-American man who is a leader in this community, I found the revelation troubling and something I sincerely hope the Census Bureau will reconsider," Barfield continued. "Our committee consists of community leaders from a variety of races and ethnic backgrounds."

"Every member was shocked to learn this development."

Please see **CENSUS/**Page 2



COMMISSIONER JONATHAN BARFIELD

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



THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL
 ISSN 0049-7649
AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER
 Dedicated to R.S. Jervay,
 Founder of R.S. Jervay Printers,
 1901 and T.C. Jervay, Sr.,
 Founder of *The Wilmington Journal*, An offspring of
 the Cape Fear Journal, 1927
 Published Weekly At
 412 South Seventh Street,
 Wilmington, NC 28401
 By Wilmington Journal, Inc.
 P.O. Box 1020,
 Wilmington, NC 28402
 Periodical Postage Paid At
 Wilmington, NC 28402
 (910) 762-5502,
 Fax: (910) 343-1334,
 Email: wilmjournal@aol.com
 Website:
 www.wilmingtonjournal.com
 Single Copy \$1.00
 Local Subscriptions \$45 Yearly,
 Out of Town \$50 Yearly,
 Foreign \$55 Yearly
 Payable in Advance. (Taxes
 Included)
 Address all communications and
 make all checks and
 money orders payable to:
 The Wilmington Journal,
 P.O. Box 1020,
 Wilmington, NC 28402

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BRUNSWICK
 Continued from Page 1

those that He has blessed. Get prepared and use that which God has given you.
 Don't put your family in a dangerous way! We can, and will, survive this virus! Don't be foolish! Follow instructions! Lean not on your own understanding. Trust in God!
Bernest Hewett is President Emeritus of the Brunswick County Branch of the NAACP.

THE BLACK PRESS USE IT OR LOSE IT!



STATE BRIEFS



CHAIN STORES ESTABLISH SPECIAL ELDERLY SHOPPING HOURS

[RALEIGH] In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, major grocery chains have set up special hours for the elderly to come and do their shopping. Chains like Whole Foods, Dollar General, and Target are allowing persons 60 years of age and older to shop at least one hour before they open their doors to the general public. Many of those store are also closing early to allow more time for deep cleaning of their facilities. Check a store's website for more details.

NORTH CAROLINA LISTS 63 POSITIVE COVID-19 CASES AS OF WEDNESDAY
 [RALEIGH] Sixty-three patients have tested positive for the COVID-19 virus as of

Wednesday of this week, state health officials say. On Tuesday, the number of known cases were 40. At that rate, the state could easily see it's 100th case by this weekend. Experts say now that more testing is being done, expect the number of COVID-19 cases to rise dramatically in the coming weeks.

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE BLASTS LT. GOV. FOREST FOR COUNTERING COOPER'S ORDER
 [RALEIGH] A spokesper-

son for Gov. Roy Cooper blasted Republican Lt. Gov. Dan Forest to alleging publicly that Cooper did not have the authority to order the closing of bars and restaurants in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Spokesperson Sadie Weiner said, ' it's one thing to disagree. It's another to create a chaotic situation in the middle of a pandemic. The Governor is taking action to protect the health and safety of North Carolinians and does not need concurrence. The Governor and the

Secretary of DHHS have the authority to do this under state public health and emergency powers law." Rep. Yvonne Lewis Holley, Democratic candidate for Lt. Governor in November, confirmed that Gov. Cooper has the legal authority to do what is necessary to safeguard the health and wellbeing of the public. "I stand with him," she said.

COMPILED BY CASH MICHAELS

HANKINS
 Continued from Page 1

missioned by the League. It will be unveiled August 26. According to Hankin's daughter, Angela Metts, details of the summer event

are forthcoming. The League of Women Voters of LFC is a non-partisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. The League uses education and advocacy to influence

public policy. The former City Councilwoman worked with many local groups to affect change and policies. She served the community as a local historian, and co-chaired the 1898 Foundation. Hankins, a Wilmington native was the daughter of

the deceased Ben and Mary Sherman. She learned and followed Christianity and active worship participation from watching their services in First Baptist Church. Active in the NAACP, and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, she received numerous

awards and served on many boards including Cape Fear Community College, and the United Way of LCF. A graduate of Williston Industrial High class of 1951, Hankins taught there, and for Hoggard, and Lane high schools.

COVID-19
 Continued from Page 1

Greensboro. "Our region is being impacted by the spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19) illness. Federal and state health officials have advised local organizations to minimize public gatherings as this is one of the primary venues by which this virus spreads." The Guilford Baptist Church website advisory continued, "It is imperative that organizations look to

the health of their members as well as take whatever steps are necessary to avoid overwhelming the health-care system. Out of concern for our congregation and guests, Guilford Baptist is implementing the following changes, effective March 13, 2020, through at least March 29th, 2020." The advisory went on to announce that all church activities other than Sunday morning worship had been suspended, and the church campus would be closed except for 10:30 a. m. worship

service, which would be streamed later at 3 p. m. online. "Because this illness disproportionately impacted the elderly, those with chronic respiratory conditions, cardiac disease and other chronic illnesses, those in this category are encouraged to consider staying home." No doubt, with states, including North Carolina, increasing restrictions on public movements and gatherings, the African-American community is feeling the heat as well. Schools

statewide have been ordered closed. Major grocery stores are closing earlier in order to limit access and provide more "off time" for cleaning. Local community centers and public buildings have been closed and district court cases postponed. People have been ordered to work from home. However, most importantly, Black communities have a disproportionate rate of poverty and poor health, both interchangeably undermining the other generationally, health experts say.

Couple that with undernourished young people and a plethora of elderly residents, and COVID-19 serves to ascerbate an already tentative health desert. With mostly large families already occupying small spaces in urban public housing or in rural communities, following advisories of the constant washing of hands, and covering coughs or sneezes, is about the best that can be done to safeguard the further spread of the virus in poorer communities of color.

FIRST CASE
 Continued from Page 1

ducted at that time. Isolation protocols were implemented immediately and test results showed a presumptive positive result of COVID-19 Wednesday, March 18, 2020. Initial contact tracing indicates that this is a travel-related case. "While this is the first case of the novel coronavirus in our community, it is something we've been preparing to respond to with our state and local partners," said New Hanover County Board of Commissioners Chair Julia Olson-Boseman. "Our Public Health team is working closely with this individual to monitor their wellbeing and to make contact with anyone they have had close contact with over the last two weeks to mitigate any potential spread of the virus." New Hanover County Public Health issued isolation orders. The individual is

doing well and has agreed to isolate in their home until criteria for clearance of COVID-19 is met. "Our community has already implemented a number of measures that reduce individual risk of COVID-19, and have taken heed of the guidance shared from the state and our local team who has been working on these plans for the last several weeks," said Olson-Boseman. "It's important to remain calm and continue practicing social distancing, stay away from crowds and keep six feet between you and others to help keep our community safe and healthy. Stay home if you are able and make sure you are always relying on trusted resources for information." New Hanover County has been sharing guidance to reduce the risk of COVID-19 in the community over the last several weeks, including reminders about personal hygiene, disinfecting items, and limiting gatherings to 10

people or less. View guidance from New Hanover County for households, businesses, community organizations and others at Health.NHCgov.com/Coronavirus. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, most people with COVID-19 have mild to moderate respiratory illness, with those over 65 or with underlying health issues at higher risk of serious illness, necessitating community guidance to reduce risk to this population. Symptoms can include fever, cough and shortness of breath and most cases are mild in severity. Residents are encouraged to continue prevention measures and practice limited contact with others:
 • Practice social distancing: avoid crowds, gatherings of more than 10 people, and maintain 6 feet of distance from others.
 • Wash hands frequently with soap and water, and for at least 20 seconds each time.

- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
 - Avoid close contact with people who are ill.
 - Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze.
 - Do not reuse tissue after coughing, sneezing, or blowing your nose.
 - Clean and disinfect surfaces that are frequently touched (like your phone, tablet, countertops and daily work surfaces).
 - Stay home and away from others when you are sick.
- Currently, the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) has established COVID-19 testing standards. Only those who meet the following criteria should ask their doctor or local health department about being tested for COVID-19:
1. Have fever or lower respiratory symptoms (cough, shortness of breath) and close contact with a confirmed COVID-19 case within

- the past 14 days
 2. Have fever and lower respiratory symptoms (cough, shortness of breath) and a negative flu test
- If you are experiencing symptoms consistent with COVID-19, call your health-care provider or walk-in clinic before visiting the office to alert staff of symptoms, so they can take appropriate steps to prepare for your visit. New Hanover County has established a Coronavirus Call Center for residents to speak with a nurse to assess their individual risk and, if needed, be connected to a provider. The Coronavirus Call Center can be reached at 910-798-6800 and is open Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. As of 4:20 p.m. Wednesday, March 18, 2020, there is one presumptive positive case of COVID-19 in New Hanover County and preparedness plans are in place for the health and safety of our community.

CENSUS
 Continued from Page 1

But what is the U. S. Census? As mandated by Article 1, Section 2, of the U. S. Constitution, the country conducts a headcount of its population once every ten years. "The census provides critical data that lawmakers, business owners, teachers, and many others use to provide daily services, products, and support for you and your community. Every year, billions of dollars in federal funding go to hospitals, fire departments, schools, roads, and other resources based on census data," the U.S. Census website states. "The results of the census also determine the number of seats each state will have in the U. S. House of Representatives, and they are used to draw congressional and state legislative districts," the U.S. Census website states. Thus, the reason Commissioner Barfield was so concerned about what was discussed during his committee meeting. "Defaulting non-answers to "White" and "male" could skew the data that will be used for the next ten years to determine federal spending and representation," Barfield

wrote. So is the census survey allegation true? According to a statement from the Public Information Office of the U.S. Census Bureau, no. "There is no automatic default for missing responses to the race and sex questions, the Census Bureau said.

"Questionnaires with incomplete information are still counted, but we highly encourage people to fill out the census as completely and accurately as possible." "In the 2020 census we are planning to use administrative information, such as from some federal and state records or previous census responses,

to fill in missing data. We may also use other information provided about the household or persons living in the household. As a last resort, we use statistical techniques to impute for missing responses.

The only way to ensure we tabulate the choice that most closely aligns with how you identify is for you to respond." Commissioner Barfield did not respond to a request for comment by press time.

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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

**Stand up and be counted –
Make Black count – Be Powerful**

(Via NNPAnewsWire.com)

Last week, National Urban League (NUL) President and CEO Marc Morial spent the day in Central Florida to discuss and emphasize the importance of the 2020 census.

Morial, who has led the National Urban League since 2003, is at the helm of the country's oldest civil rights and urban advocacy organization, which through 90 affiliates serving 300 communities empowers more than two million people annually.

With the 2020 census already beginning to reach homes in the United States, Morial joined Central Florida Urban League President and CEO Glenton Gilzean Jr. to host a series of events meant to help remove any and all obstacles that threaten an accurate count in the Black community.

Census challenges include closing the digital divide for rural and poor Black communities and ensuring an accurate count of young Black/Brown children, Black/Brown men, foster children, newborns (0-4), all immigrants and all extended family members.

Morial noted that individuals can be counted online, via the phone, through mail or if none of those options are available to them, through a visit to their home by a census taker.

Local outreach efforts began with a roundtable with elected officials. Organized by the Central Florida Urban League and hosted by Orange County Mayor Jerry Demings and City of Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer, more than two dozen local leaders came together to discuss ways to improve messaging and ensure an accurate count.

"Don't underestimate the power of the local news. Keeping this message in front of the people, with radio and the newspapers, works. The challenge for mayors and legislatures is to keep this going until the end of July," emphasized Morial.

Adding to the discussion was Mayor Demings, who spoke about exceeding the 70 percent goal that the census has established as a measure for success. The mayor has also scheduled meetings with ministers and different community organizations to emphasize their participation.

"The census is a once-in-a-decade national civic engagement activity, and it requires that everyone is counted, said Glenton Gilzean Jr. "Our founders embedded the census into the Constitution for a reason."

While reaching local elected officials was important, that evening, the CFUL and Spectrum jointly held a townhall with Morial, enabling this message to reach homes across Central Florida. The public event, which will be aired on My News 13 and Bay News 9 in the coming weeks, emphasized how a census undercount would hurt Black communities.

In 2010, the State of Florida was ranked third in the country in unresponsiveness. This led to an estimated 71,000 children who were not counted and an underfunding of \$67 million annually. Locally, nearly 7,000 children are on the waiting list for early childhood education due to the 2010 undercount and lack of subsequent resources.

"Open your voice at work. Open your voice in community organizations. Open your voice with the social media. Accurate counting determines money and power, and the leadership must ensure we get an accurate count," added Morial. "Our leaders must take charge of the conversation in our community and shape our future. The town hall meeting was excellent, and it created awareness and education for everyone who attended."

"I encourage everyone to watch this town hall when it airs locally to ensure they are not dissuaded by misinformation, and to realize how critical the upcoming count is. Remember: everybody counts," said Glenton Gilzean Jr.

Roger Caldwell is a NNPA Newswire Contributor.

THE BLACK PRESS: USE It or LOSE It!



Visual Voice



YOUR VOICE

A LIE IS A LIE AND TRUMP IS THE BIGGEST LIAR IN HISTORY

As a teacher, I often told my students "your actions are so loud that I can't hear what you are saying". Example: Pence has a daily briefing telling us the progress of our fight with the Coronavirus. The number of tests they claim daily are like the number of fish the fisherman said he caught every time he repeated the story. He and TRUMP tell us to stay 6 feet away from each other to keep

down the spread as the 18 or more people they showcase on stage with them stand shoulder to shoulder. Their mouths are about sixteen inches apart and TRUMP shook hands with six VIP CEO's. We people have grouped ourselves into two types: Christians and Atheists. There are four types of Christians full-time, part-time, Christmas and Easter Sunday only (smile) and retired. There are two types of atheists. The ones that say there is no GOD and the ones that live as if there is no GOD. There are a lot of self-proclaimed Christian's in the 2nd category of atheists.

We are faced with two deadly problems, Coronavirus and Trumpism. Our lives and our children's lives are now in the hands of this idiot TRUMP. He is not governing like a President of the United States but ruling as a dictator like his friends and brothers Vladimir Putin and Kim Jong Un. President Obama formed an emergency task force to study pandemic around the world and be prepared, study and defeat them. TRUMP had and has so much hatred and jealousy toward Obama that he disbanded it. We made a big mistake by not voting, thereby

electing TRUMP. GOD gave and is giving us many opportunities to stop him, impeachment trial, statewide elections and November 3, 2020 elections. Regardless of whomever you believe and follow, we all need, for the future of our children, to come together register and vote TRUMP and all his totally corrupt politicians out of office. As for me and my household, we will believe in GOD, call the wicked wicked serve GOD and vote all the parasites out.

James J. Hankins
Wilmington, NC

MATTERS OF OPINION

REALITY CHECK

Corona confusion and March Madness

(Via TriceEdneyWire.com)

Recently, while delivering a lecture on my extensive overwhelmingly Black, magazine collection, I showed the students the June 28, 1963 issue of Life Magazine which cover showed a grieving Mrs. Myrlie Evers consoling her young son at funeral services for the great warrior, Medgar Evers. Brother Medgar had been assassinated by a white racist terrorist in the War Against White Supremacy. During my lecture, I stopped and asked the students if they knew who Medgar Evers was. Only three of the 50 students raised their hands affirmatively. This means that 46 of the 49 black students (one was white) had no idea of the major contributions that Brother Medgar had

made in the fight for equal rights, equal opportunity and equal justice in the violently white supremacist state of Mississippi and throughout the former Confederate states of America.

My immediate reaction was anger at the students, but I caught myself when realizing their ages. However, I did explain to them that Brother Medgar's son was crying hard for a father who had given his life to help the students and others enjoy some of the opportunities they have today. "If Medgar Evers and hundreds of others had not put their lives on

the line, you would not be in the position you are in today," I told them. "It is absurd that someone from your homes, your churches, your schools, your fraternities and sororities etc. have not made you aware of such a talented intelligent, determined and committed warrior." The situation once again confirmed my position that the education system in this country will never, in the foreseeable future, teach the real history of black folks in the United States. It's time for the aforementioned institutions and organizations to make teaching our history an integral part of their agenda.



A. Peter Bailey

In a February 1981 must read Ebony Magazine article, "Why Black History Is Important to You," the brilliant journalist/historian

Lerone Bennett, Jr. stated that our history is a bet that our ancestors placed that we must now cover. When 46 of 49 black students in a university classroom don't know who Medgar Evers was, it is clearly evident that we, as a group of black people, are not covering the bet made by our ancestors. It also reinforces my belief that we, at least thus far, as a group of people we have not proven worthy of the supreme sacrifice made by ancestors such as Brother Medgar and numerous other warriors who were murdered and assassinated by white supremacist terrorists.

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

Black students must be taught the pivotal legacy of Medgar Evers

(Via TriceEdneyWire.com)

Basketball fans were looking forward to March Madness, those weeks when the best college teams face off against each other. Madness is replete this March, but it isn't on the basketball courts.

The dangerous coronavirus which can be transmitted by a cough, a touch, or "direct contact" is spreading all over the world. It is madness that the United States, which loves to brag about our world superiority, comes up short when it comes to coronavirus testing.

Many who have been exposed to the virus have not been tested because test kits are in short supply. In reaction, March Madness has been canceled, as has professional basketball and other sports. In New York and other locations, public safety prohibits large gatherings, causing St. Patrick's Day parades to be canceled. Broadway is likely to go dark because of the prohibition of groups of more than five hundred people, and most Broadway theaters hold more than a thousand people. Some colleges and universities have told students to stay home for spring break and offered online classes. Some K-12 schools are closed for weeks because of the virus. And millions of workers have been told they should work from home

because of the virus. All of these factors contribute to the volatile stock market; all of the gains shareholders realized since 2016 have now been wiped out.

Much of this might have been avoided, but for the fact that 45 did not initially take this virus seriously. Instead, when informed of this pandemic, the President's initial reaction was a wholly vacuous assurance that the virus was "just like the flu," and would go away "when it gets hot." Instead, the repercussions from the coronavirus are massive. The stock market tanked during the week when 45 first dismissed the virus, and then imposed travel restrictions, preventing some people from traveling to the United States.

The spread of the coronavirus reveals weaknesses in the armor of the country, some describe as "the greatest country" in the world. The coronavirus has been declared a pandemic, a world emergency. The United States is woefully unprepared to manage this emergency. The focus of this administration has been to slash the public sector and provide tax breaks for the wealthy. Public health

(or any other kind) has not been a priority for this administration. Managing a world pandemic is beyond the capacity of the private sector.

Both Democratic presidential candidates Joe Biden and Bernie Sanders have given substantive speeches on their approach to this coronavirus. Unlike the President, these Democrats were concerned with the children who get school lunch when schools are closed. They were concerned with the contingent workers who won't get paid when they don't work, unlike government and other employees who will be paid no matter what. Both Biden and Sanders talked about the weakness in our public health system, and the ways that hospitals will be burdened if this virus gets worse. Yet, 45 addressed this matter with a pithy eleven-minute speech that was full of outright lies and misinformation.

When 45 campaigned four years ago, he said he'd fix infrastructure, which is a bipartisan issue. As soon as he entered the Oval Office, the infrastructure plan was forgotten. A strong and resilient public health system should be part of our infrastructure. Instead, that sector has been ignored by an administration that would rather feather the nests of billionaires than ensure that everyone who has been exposed to the coronavirus

can be tested.

The National Society of Civil Engineers issues a report card on our nation's infrastructure every two or three years. The most recent report card, from 2017, gives us a D+ grade on our infrastructure, our highways and bridges, public buildings and waterways, and more. We get a D+, and yet some brag about our "greatness." Once we were a world leader, but now we are a laughingstock, especially when our country has abdicated from leadership, blaming the pandemic on China and Europe. Anyone who understands globalization knows that our countries are intertwined, and there are no borders strong enough to eliminate disease.

Will March Madness turn into Adversity April and Miserable May? Will the Congress pass measures that will ameliorate the effects of this virus on our health, and on our economy? Candidates Biden and Sanders have offered ideas to minimize the impact of the coronavirus. Is anybody paying attention?

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.

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 nh-naacp@gmail.com.

Community Briefs

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

Compiled By Wilmington Journal Staff

Williston Alumni Scholarship applications in schools

The Williston Alumni Association has distributed scholarship applications to the appropriate personnel for New Hanover County High schools, Early College and North Brunswick High School.

If you are interested in applying, please get the form, complete it and fol-

low the instructions for returning them in a timely manner. Our scholarships are made possible through generous donations from the supporters of the Williston Alumni Association. They contribute so that our children can be provided financial assistance to help them further their education.

Wilmington NC Chapter - Links, Incorporated cancels March 2020 Brunch

In light of this current and growing Coronavirus (COVID-19) health threat, The Links, Incorporated, Wilmington (NC) Chapter has cancelled its' 50th Annual Fine Arts Brunch, Kaleidoscope XXXVII, which was scheduled for March 21, 2020. Our decision was driven

by The Links, Incorporated COVID -19 Task Force, national and state government, and local health authorities. We are concerned about the gravity of this current world pandemic, and the health of our friends and community. We all understand that these are unprecedented

times, and we urge you to follow the guidelines and protocols as put forth by public health officials. The Links, Incorporated, Wilmington (NC) Chapter would like to thank you for your understanding and support over the years. Please stay healthy and well. We will look forward to

seeing you next year at our March 20, 2021 Links Brunch, when the Wilmington (NC) Chapter will celebrate its 70th anniversary.

Sincerely, Karen Clay Beatty President

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Shirley Robinson McKoy

Shirley Robinson McKoy died March 13, 2020. Funeral services will be held 11:00 a.m. Saturday, March 21, 2020 at Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church (Eighth and Walnut). Burial will follow in Greenlawn Memorial Park. In lieu of flowers, please make contributions to the Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church Youth Department. A Service of John H. Shaw's Son Funeral Home.

James Reginald Haskins

James Reginald Haskins died March 10, 2020. Funeral services will be 11:00 a.m. Monday, March 23, 2020 at Willie L. Shaw, Jr. Memorial Chapel. Burial will follow in Greenlawn Memorial Park. A Service of John H. Shaw's Son Funeral Home.

Sherman L. Davis

Sherman L. Davis, age 72, of Leland, passed away Wednesday, March 11, 2020. Friends are cordially invited to a visitation with the family from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. on Friday, March 20, 2020 at Davis Funeral Home, 901 S. 5th Ave., Wilmington, NC 28401. A celebration of Mr. Davis' life will be conducted at 1:00 p.m., Saturday, March 21, 2020 at Hoopers Chapel Missionary Baptist Church, 3627 Dogwood Rd. NE, Leland, NC 28451. Interment will follow in Greenlawn Memorial Park. Services entrusted to Davis Funeral Home, 901 S. 5th Ave, Wilmington, NC 28401. Please share memories and condolences with the family at www.davisfuneralhomenc.com.

Tremaine E. Mote

Tremaine E. Mote, age 38, of Leland, passed away Friday, March 13, 2020. A celebration of Tremaine's life was held on Wednesday, March 18, 2020 at Davis Funeral Home, 901 S 5th Ave., Wilmington, NC 28401. He leaves to cherish his memories, his parents, Bruce and Sheila Small; children,

Tremaine A. Mote of Leland and Sy'kir C. Mote of Raleigh; sisters, Treneise Small of Wilmington, LaTasha Culbreath of Wilmington, Shaderika Brown of Leland and Sharema Small of Wilmington; brother, Bruce S. Small of Leland; grandfather, Charles Bellamy (Gloria) of Wilmington 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.

Zenus Hartfield

Deacon Zenus Hartfield, Sr., age 80, of Bolivia, passed away Sunday, March 15, 2020. Friends are cordially invited to a visitation with the family from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 19, 2020 at Davis Funeral Home - Bolivia, 1705 Southport Supply Rd. SE, Bolivia, NC 28422. A celebration of Deacon Hartfield's life will be conducted at 1:00 p.m., Friday, March 20, 2020 at Davis Funeral Home - Bolivia, 1705 Southport Supply Rd. SE, Bolivia, NC 28422. Interment will follow in Piney Grove Community 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.

Major Leo Debose

Major Leo Debose, Jr. was born in Wilmington, North Carolina on August 16, 1934, to Major Leo Debose, Sr. and Early Williams Debose. He went to be with the Lord in the early morning of March 11, 2020.

After attending Williston Senior High School, he enlisted in the United States Army. While in the armed forces he attained a Bachelor of Professional Services from the College for Human Services in New York. Major retired from the United States Army, after giving full service to his country, on his birth-

day, August 16, 1994. Following retirement, he was employed by Creemore Mental Institution where he worked as a Nursing Assistant and held various supervisory positions.

He enjoyed cooking and often prepared meals for events at St. Stephen AME Church, receiving much acclaim for his tasty dishes. While at St. Stephen AME Church, he served as a Stewart and sang in the church choir. Major later established membership with Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church, where remained until his health failed.

He was married to Lois Debose for 15 years until her passing. When Lois learned of her failing health, she asked her best friend Addie, to take care of Major and be a companion to him because he was not well and needed someone. Addie agreed and has been there for him since.

Through the years, Major enjoyed breakfast outings with the guys and his best friend John Stukes. He especially loved watching sports, game shows and National Geographic. Major was a patient, loving and giving person with a heart of gold. He will be missed dearly.

He was preceded in death by his parents, wife Lois, son James Debose and daughter Deborah Debose.

He is survived by his sons Arthur Debose, Wilmington, N.C. and William Debose, Brooklyn, N.Y.; his sister Gloria Debose, Wilmington, N.C.; two nieces Carolyn Bryant, Brooklyn, N.Y. and Jackie Debose, Wilmington, N.C.; his devoted companion of nine years, Addie Allen and his best friend John Stukes.

Funeral services were held at Noon on Tuesday, March 17, 2020 at Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church. Burial in Greenlawn Memorial Park. Services entrusted to Adkins-Drain Funeral Service, 505 South Eighth Street, Wilmington, North Carolina 28401. Condolences may be shared at www.adkinsdrainfuneralservice.com.



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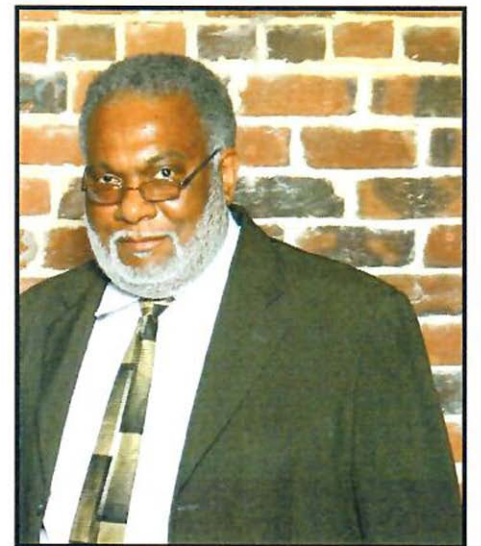
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