

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

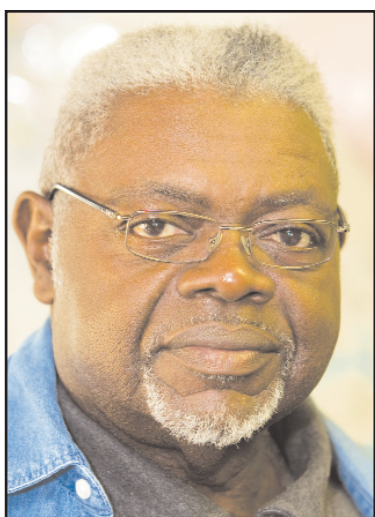


LAUREN V. BURKE

GUEST EDITORIAL "Signs COVID-19 is disproportionately impacting African Americans grow larger"

BY LAUREN BURKE PAGE 4

BRUNSWICK COUNTY



BERNEST HEWETT

A BAD POSITION

We the people now find ourselves in a bad position at this stage of the coronavirus crisis! People who are close to us and family of ours are living from pay check to pay check due to each person's debt or monthly bills. These people, having been out of work for the third week in a row, with no income nor idea of a time set to go back to work, are hurting badly. I feel bad for these families. We have very little of our own, but it's time to share what we can. This virus caught us

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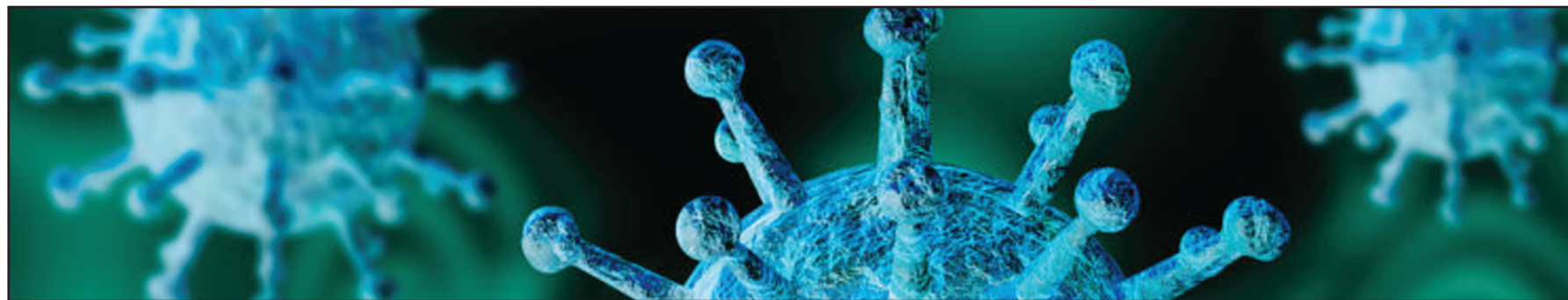
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News from the African American perspective without fear or favor

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COVID-19 UPDATE

Blacks increasing cases of COVID-19 across North Carolina

BY CASH MICHAELS OF THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

In Louisiana Monday, Gov. John Bell Edwards had stark news for his state - over 70% of its confirmed 15,000 COVID-19 cases were African-Americans.

"Slightly more than 70 percent of all deaths in Louisiana (from the virus) are of African Americans, who make up about 32 percent of the overall population of our state," he said Monday. "This is a big disparity, and we want to find out what that is attributable to ... and what we can do to slow that trend down."

In Chicago, more than half of those who've contracted coronavirus, and over 70% of those who have died, are African-American.

As of Monday, April 6th, North Carolina officially had approximately 3,000 cases of novel coronavirus (COVID-19), in over 90 of 100 counties, with approximately 40 deaths (unofficial numbers from late reporting county health departments had the numbers higher).

Of that number, over 690, or 37 percent, were Black. An estimated 22% (7) of Blacks known to have been infected with COVID-19 had died.

African-Americans make up an estimated 21% of North Carolina's population. Mecklenburg, Wake and Durham counties, counties with high Black populations, also have the most coronavirus cases across the State.

With published reports projecting that North Carolina could have as many as 750,000 people infected by the end of May if current social distancing policies are not maintained (Gov. Cooper's "stay at home" restrictions are scheduled to end on April 29th), the number of Blacks who could catch the virus if the percentages held at where they are now would be 277,000 African-American cases, and 165,000 dead.

As shocking as those numbers are, they are even more eye opening in other larger states.

As of Friday, April 3, while African-Americans make up just 15% of Michigan's population, they are 35% of the state's COVID-19 known cases. In Illinois - Blacks are 16% of the state's population but 36% of the coronavirus cases.

And in neighboring South Carolina, African-Americans tally in at 28% of the population, but at 36% of those infected with COVID-19.

Please see COVID 19/Page 2

NH COUNTY UPDATE Overall case count at 53 with 32 people recovered

New Hanover County Public Health officials are investigating one additional positive case of COVID-19, bringing the county's total overall case count to 53. The new case is a contact of a previously-confirmed case. The individual is isolated and Public Health is working on contact tracing to determine those who have been in close contact with them.

Of the 53 overall cases, there are 32 individuals who are considered recovered - meaning they have been fever free for at least three days without the use of fever reducing medication, they have improved respiratory symptoms, and it has been at least seven days since their symptom onset.

Beginning today, patient demographic percentages for COVID-19 cases in New Hanover County will be shared to provide an additional level of data that includes race, age and gender. Of the 53 overall cases of COVID-19 in New

NH COUNTY/Page 2

NNPA Senior Correspondent Stacy Brown and wife Shenay test positive for COVID-19



STACY BROWN

BY NSENGA BURTON, NNPA NEWSWIRE CULTURE AND ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

The National Newspaper Publishers Association has been hit again by the coronavirus. NNPA Senior Correspondent Stacy M. Brown and his wife Shenay have been diagnosed with COVID-19.

Brown recently chronicled the story of Jeffrey L. Boney, the multi-award-winning writer for the Houston Forward Times and the National Newspaper Publishers Association, who is in the intensive care unit at United Memorial Medical Center in Houston after being diagnosed on Friday, March 27, with COVID-19.

Brown and his wife, who both began experiencing symptoms at the beginning of the week, were diagnosed Friday, April 3, 2020 at a hospital in their home state of New Jersey.

Brown says he was shocked that he has it because he and his wife have been adhering to the social distance guidelines and only left home to go to the pharmacy to pick up prescriptions and the

grocery store.

An admitted germaphobe, Brown says the last time he remembers being in close proximity to others was during a meeting for the Black press held by the U.S. Senate on March 11. "A lot of Senators were there. The room was pretty small, and we were in close proximity to each other," says Brown. "Most were doing elbow bumps, but I remember being shocked that Senator Cory Booker actually shook my hand with all of the talk about Coronavirus," he adds. Brown has notified Senator Booker's office of his diagnosis.

Stacy and Shenay live at home with their three children: Talia, 21, Paris, 13 and Stacy Olivia, 8. They have two other adult children who live out of town. "The kids have been great, leaving food at the door. They don't have any symptoms and of course I don't want them to get it. I don't want them to have to face what my wife and I are facing."

Stacy and his wife, who were already social distancing within the home, are now officially living

Please see BROWN/Page 2



KRISTEN CLARKE

Civil rights lawyers demand state numbers with 'All Deliberate Speed' as African-Americans die disparately from COVID-19

BY HAZEL TRICE EDNEY

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - It is often said that when America gets a cold, Black America gets pneumonia - or far worse. That has proven to be the case once again this week in the wake of reports that Black people are contracting and dying from the Coronavirus in much greater numbers than other races.

"We are deeply concerned that African American communities are being hardest hit by the COVID19 pandemic, and that racial bias may be impacting the access they receive to testing and healthcare," said Kristen Clarke, president and executive director of Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law. "Equal access to healthcare is a critical civil rights issue, and during this novel pandemic, the public deserves nothing less than full transparency from this Administration and state public health offi-

Please see DEMAND/Page 2

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



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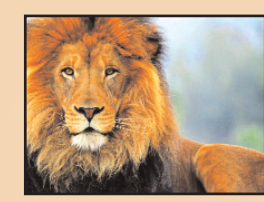
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**BRUNSWICK**  
Continued from Page 1

unprepared, and, with the present administration's doing away with parts of the Department of Infectious Disease, we are playing catch up and now out struggling for survival. God has been our strength in the past, and He will not let us fall now. He will take care of us! We must trust and pray for our people and their families. Thank God for the frontline workers, doctors, nurses, truckers, etc. May God bless you and keep you safe! Bernest Hewett is President Emeritus of the Brunswick County Branch of the NAACP.

**THE BLACK PRESS USE IT OR LOSE IT!**



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

**COVID-19**  
Continued from Page 1

Even without COVID-19, the death rate for African-Americans "...is generally higher than whites for heart disease, stroke, cancer, asthma, influenza and pneumonia, diabetes, HIV/AIDS, and homicide," states the 2017 U.S. Health and Human Services report, based on 2015 findings. However, now, with the

**NH COUNTY**  
Continued from Page 1

Hanover County:  
 • 52% female, 45% male  
 • 72% White, 15% percent Black/African American, 9% Hispanic/Latino, and 4% Unknown  
 • 0% are 0-17 years old, 9% are 18-24 years old, 36% are 25-49 years old, 32% are 50-64 years old, and 23% are 65+ years old.  
 "At this time, the demographics of our COVID-19 patients are in line with New Hanover County's overall demographics," said Public Health Preparedness Coordinator Lisa Brown. "But across the country, we are seeing a concerning trend that African Americans are statistically having more severe illness than other demographic groups and that is something we are actively monitoring in our own community. We do know that African Americans may statistically have a higher rate of diabetes, heart disease and hypertension, and other health conditions that have been identified as risk factors for becoming more

**BROWN**  
Continued from Page 1

in separate parts of the house. Stacy is in the basement while his wife lives on the top floor. His children leave food, medication and vitamins at their doors. Stacy, who has been following the rapid spread of the virus, had attributed his early symptoms of COVID-19 to allergies. He and the family spent a wonderful day outside in their backyard grilling about a week ago. The Browns live on half an acre, so they have lots of space and aren't right next door to anyone. They began experiencing symptoms shortly thereafter. "My wife had a slight temperature, and in my case, I still have not had a temperature. I've had a sore throat all week and at night it gets worse," says Brown. After having trouble with his chest, back, breathing and a headache, Brown and his wife headed to the Emergency Room at their local hospital

**DEMAND**  
Continued from Page 1

To fully confront this pandemic, we must ensure that communities of color receive equitable health care and treatment during this crisis. Comprehensive and publicly-available racial data is a necessary weapon in the fight to confront COVID-19." Clarke said in a phone conference with reporters this week that the Lawyers Committee hopes to obtain volunteer responses and compliance by federal agencies and the states. "But we're prepared to use every tool in our arsenal as we move forward" if those responsible for the data do not move with "all deliberate speed." She implied that the situation could end up in court based on Title 6 of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibits race discrimination by any program or activity that receives funds or financial assistance from the federal government as do hospitals and states. Clarke announced that the Lawyers Committee and more than 400 medical professionals

novel coronavirus added to the list, spreading at a frightening rate, (North Carolina is doubling its overall cases in days now instead of weeks) the impact on the Black community here in the Tar Heel State and across the nation is expected to be devastating. Indeed, because several chronic diseases like diabetes are so prevalent in the African-American community, many Black medical professionals are bracing themselves for the worst and warning the community to pay serious heed to the

severely ill if they get COVID-19. We know that there are underlying health inequities that could also lead to what is being seen nationally too. So I want to emphasize again to every single person in our community: please do all you can to help prevent the spread of COVID-19...stay home, physically distance yourself from others, and do not gather in groups. These steps will help keep you safe and protect others - and this will save lives."

**Stay At Home**  
New Hanover County residents remain under the Governor Cooper's state-wide Stay at Home Executive Order and New Hanover County's county-wide restrictions. Residents should only leave their homes for essential work, to take care of others, obtain food, seek medical care, or volunteer for a charitable service. Groups are limited to no more than 10 people, and people must practice physical distancing and remain six feet apart from others. "I know this weekend and coming days are typically a time for family get-togethers for Easter and Passover celebrations," said New Hanover

where they received chest x-rays and throat swabs. "The doctor said we definitely have the virus," his voice dropping. "The ER doctor is a specialist in infectious diseases and says the more cases she sees, the more she believes it's in the air," he added. Brown and his wife were diagnosed based on their symptoms and sent home with prescriptions for Tylenol and inhalers. "We're not at the point yet where we need to be on ventilators, but if our symptoms don't improve, then we'll have to be admitted and isolated." The Browns have fluid in their lungs and Stacy has an underlying condition. Brown understands the severity of the situation having three children at home. They have held conference calls with all of their children regarding the end-of-life care and decisions that would have to be made, which is sobering. Brown has tried to make a case for testing the girls to see if they have it, but the hospital won't hear of it. "I have tried to talk them into testing the girls,

social distancing directives issued by Gov. Cooper weeks ago. North Carolina is fortunate. It is one of the few states breaking down its daily cases by race, thus making it easier to track the virus. Neither the U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention nor the World Health Organization does as of press time. In a March 27th letter to U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar, from Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass)

County Board of Commissioners Chair Julia Olson-Boseman. "But we are at a critical time in our fight against COVID-19 and it is so important that you stay at home. We know this virus is here in our community and our region, so traveling anywhere except for those essential reasons would put you and those around you at greater risk. We have to keep staying in front of this virus, and these restrictions are helping us do that. So please listen. Please stay home and stay safe."

**Essential Retail Stores**  
Retailers have been asked, under the county's order, to close off "any portion of its facility dedicated to non-essential goods that it is reasonably capable of closing." However, essential business retailers may choose to close off additional areas of their store, more restrictive of the state and local orders. Below is an outline of general items and goods deemed essential under the state-wide and county-wide orders, as determined by the county and city legal teams. If a business chooses to limit the sale of essential items in their establishment, they can

and Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley requested that his agency start keeping track of COVID-19 in communities of color and publish the results. "Without demographic data on the race and ethnicity of patients being tested, the rate of positive test results and outcomes for those with COVID-19, it will be impossible for practitioners and policy makers to address disparities in health outcomes and inequities in access to testing and treatment as they emerge,"

do that as that is their business decision. • Essential: food/beverages/groceries (for people and pets), pharmacy/medicine items, health/beauty items, electronics (especially those that assist with mobility, like cell phones), office supplies, educational books, lawn/garden, construction/hardware/home maintenance, housewares, appliances, vehicle maintenance and repair • Non-Essential: furniture, clothing (except for specific clothing used to make cloth masks), sporting goods, toys (for people or pets), music, movies, greeting cards & party supplies. As a reminder, retailers are able to sell any and all goods online and via curbside pick-up. View a list of frequently asked questions related to the current orders, which includes a list of essential and non-essential businesses, here.

**Slow the Spread**  
Steps that everyone can take to slow the spread of COVID-19 include:  
 • Comply with the Governor's Stay at Home Order and New Hanover

doctor and there are a lot of unknowns about COVID-19, but he says to listen to trusted scientists and doctors. "Talk to people who are going to speak with authority who know what they're talking about and get the right information like James E.K. Hildreth, M.D., president and chief executive officer of Meharry Medical College, who is one of the top experts on infectious diseases in the world," he adds. In addition to trusting experts in the field, Brown suggests that folks continue practicing social distancing, wear masks and limit leaving the house as much as possible. Brown was checking the mail periodically before but says now that he has no plans to continue doing so. He wants people to do everything they can to avoid COVID-19. "Listen to the experts and listen to your inner voice," he cautions. "When I first learned of the seriousness of COVID-19, I discontinued a medication for an underlying condition

Warren and Pressley wrote. "This lack of information will exacerbate existing health disparities and result in the loss of lives in vulnerable communities. It will also hamper the efforts of public health officials to track and contain the novel coronavirus in the areas that are at the highest risk of continued spread." Until a vaccine is developed, can the African-American community here and elsewhere survive as the coronavirus spreads?

- Wear Cloth Face Coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain.
- Stay home unless you must travel for essential purposes. If you must leave your home, follow proper physical distancing protocols: don't gather in groups of more than 10 and stay at least 6 feet away from others.
- Stay home if you are sick, even if you are an essential worker. And cover your coughs and sneezes.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for 20 seconds.
- Clean and disinfect surfaces that are frequently touched (like your phone, tablet, counter tops and daily work surfaces).

As of 5 p.m. on Wednesday, April 8, 2020, there have been 53 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in New Hanover County. For updates and resources related to the COVID-19 virus in New Hanover County, visit [Health.NHCGov.com/Coronavirus](http://Health.NHCGov.com/Coronavirus), call our Public Health Coronavirus Call Center at 910-798-6800, and follow the county's trusted social media pages: [Twitter](https://twitter.com/HealthNHCGov), [Facebook](https://facebook.com/HealthNHCGov), [Instagram](https://instagram.com/HealthNHCGov), and [Nextdoor](https://nextdoor.com/HealthNHCGov).

that suppresses your immune system. Had I not done that, I might very well have ended up in ICU on a ventilator," Brown said. "I'm not advocating skipping your medication but talk to your doctor and if you can make it without meds that suppress your immune system for a little while, then you should think about it." Brown is thinking about a lot of factors as he and his wife face the biggest fight of their lives. "I was already afraid of it, so I wasn't taking any unnecessary chances. Now I'm more afraid because I still got it. My wife has it too," he laments. When asked what he wants the readers to know, Brown pauses momentarily. "Don't be a hero. The only heroes are the healthcare professionals," he offers. "The bottom line is COVID-19 is real. It is not a game or a conspiracy. It is here and spreading rapidly and we must take as many precautions as possible to stay safe."

percent of confirmed cases and 41.2 percent of deaths as of April 6.  
 • Similarly, Michigan's population is 14 percent Black, but African-Americans currently make up 34 percent of COVID-19 cases and 40 percent of deaths.  
 • On April 3rd, *Pro Publica* reported that in Milwaukee County, where the population is 26 percent Black, African-Americans currently comprise "almost half of [the] County's 941 cases and 81 percent of its 27 deaths."  
 "The data coming out of these states is likely indicative of the disproportionate impact that COVID-19 is having on Black communities and other communities of color throughout the country," the release states. The Lawyers Committee points out that the "CDC is not currently publicly reporting racial or ethnic demographic data for COVID-19 cases or tests performed across the country. Yet, the CDC requests this critical information from health departments through the COVID-19 Case Report Form "to track the impact of the outbreak and inform public health

response." Dr. Uche Blackstock, founder & CEO, Advancing Health Equity says the COVID-19 crisis will bring racial health disparities to the forefront of health policy issues. "Despite significant advances in healthcare and health technology over the last five decades, racialized health disparities have been both persistent and profound. Black Americans have carried the highest burden of chronic diseases, shortest life expectancies, and highest maternal and infant mortality rates," Blackstock said in a release. "As we have already seen, the COVID-19 pandemic has and will undoubtedly amplify racialized health inequities, further devastating Black and other marginalized communities. Collecting racial and ethnic demographic data on testing, cases, and health outcomes will be imperative to mitigating the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on our already vulnerable populations and will ensure healthcare resources are allocated equitably." In the press call held Monday, reporter Stephon

Johnson of the New York Amsterdam News asked why New York State would release infection numbers by counties, by burrow and zip code; yet has not taken the extra step to release the numbers by race since that can be deduced by zip code. "It's hard to understand intent," Clark responded. "What we do know is that we face a grave crisis. And everything that we have seen, including reports from health professionals on the front lines and the data that have emerged from pockets of the country, all make clear that this crisis is having a starker impact on African-Americans. We hope that officials will find the political will to do their part and to bring transparency to the crisis to shine a light on all of the ways in which the crisis is impacting communities." She continued, "We have seen data along lines of geography and gender. We've seen it broken down by day. And it's critical that officials right now take the next step and shine a light on the racial impact that COVID-19 is having across the country."

STATE BRIEFS



STATE EMPLOYEES WANT HAZARD PAY

[RALEIGH] The State Employees Association of North Carolina wants Gov. Roy Cooper and the legisla-

ture to grant hazard pay to all state workers at prisons and other state facilities "in essential jobs where social distancing is impossible or impractical." In an April 4th letter, SEANC Director Ardis Watkins requested that state employees get time-and-a-half as long as the state emergency lasts. No response from either from the governor or legislative leaders at press

time.

ISOLATED ELDERLY CITIZENS AT GREATER RISK DURING CRISIS

[GREENSBORO] Elderly citizens who live by themselves and are self-dependent for food and medicine are at greater risk during the COVID-19 crisis, because they can ill-afford to run out of their essentials, health officials say. In addition,

even without the crisis, many seniors have to deal with loneliness and depression. Some seniors, fearful of contracting the deadly virus, have cut back on in-home care services to minimize coming in contact with the outside world. Many elder services across the state have established routine calling to their clients to make sure they're alright, and get a read on their

needs.

NORTH CAROLINA TO HIT 500,000 JOBLESS CLAIMS

[RALEIGH] 21,000 out-of-work North Carolinians have filed for jobless benefits every day in the three weeks since a state of emergency was declared because of the COVID-19 crisis, published reports say. The state has approved approximate-

ly \$30 million in unemployment benefits, and federal government benefits are expected to assist as well. Congress approved benefits of \$600 per week for up to four months. Per state benefits, 110,000 have been proved thus far.

COMPILED BY CASH MICHAELS

Trump, GOP are afraid of mail-in ballots

BY CASH MICHAELS OF THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

As it stands now, come November 3, if North Carolina voters choose to mail in their ballots, they may do so, or go to their local voting precincts to cast their ballots.

However, because of the spread of the novel coronavirus and concerns about state-mandated social distancing restrictions remaining in force through then, there are many Democrats nationally

who would prefer to see the presidential and local elections conducted by mail.

"Vote by mail is so important to ... our democracy so that people have access to voting and not be deterred, especially at this time, by the admonition to stay home," Pelosi told reporters last week. She wants to put the proposal in the next \$1 trillion COVID-19 response legislation that Congress will take up.

In the U. S. Senate, Sen. Amy Klobucher (D-MN) is sponsor-

ing a bill designed to accomplish the same thing.

Several states, including Hawaii, Alaska and Wyoming, already ditched their in-person primaries in lieu of mail-in ballots for different dates. Advocates say, with questions looming over the November general, now is the time to establish a national mail-in policy.

However, prominent Republican leaders, including no less than President Trump, counter that making voting easier and more efficient is not good for the country, because it's primarily bad for the GOP.

"They had things, levels of voting, that if you ever agreed to it you'd never have a Republican elected in this country again," Trump said earlier this week of the Democratic proposal.

Another major Republican leader, Speaker of the Georgia House, David Ralston, is also not pleased with mail-in plans for balloting. The state is mailing registered voters a form so that they can get an absentee ballot in the mail for the May 19 primary.

Ralston, like the President, believes mail-in ballots open up possibilities of fraud, but then he added, "The President said it best. This will be extremely devastating to Republicans and conservatives in Georgia."

Every registered voter is going to get one of these. Now I ask you ... what was turnout in the primary back in 2018 or 2016. Was it 100%? No. No. It's way, way, way lower. This will certainly drive up turnout."



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## OUR VOICE

### GUEST EDITORIAL

## Signs COVID-19 is disproportionately impacting African Americans grow larger

(Via NNPAnewsWire.com)

In a letter dated February 4, and sent to U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar, Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) and Rep. Ayanna Pressley (D-MA) said comprehensive demographic data on people tested or treated for the virus that causes COVID-19 doesn't exist.

Cities with large black populations have now emerged as new hot spots for the spread of the virus. They include Houston, New York, Detroit and New Orleans. Nearly 70 percent of the COVID-19 deaths in New Orleans have been African American.

"Any attempt to contain COVID-19 in the United States will have to address its potential spread in low-income communities of color, first and foremost to protect the lives of people in those communities, but also to slow the spread of the virus in the country as a whole," Warren and Pressley the lawmakers wrote to Azar.

"States MUST start tracking and reporting race data in connection with #Covid\_19. As of Friday morning, African Americans made up almost half of Milwaukee County's 945 #Covid\_19cases and 81% of all 27 deaths in a county whose population is 26% Black," wrote attorney Kristen Clarke of the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law on April 3rd.

An April 3rd report in ProPublica analysis stated that "early data shows African Americans have contracted and died of coronavirus at an alarming rate."

"African Americans made up almost half of Milwaukee County's 945 cases and 81% of its 27 deaths in a county whose population is 26% black. Milwaukee is tracking COVID-19 cases by race — one of few cities that does so.

In Michigan, where the state's population is 14% black, African Americans made up 35% of cases and 40% of deaths as of Friday morning. Louisiana has not published case breakdowns by race either.

"COVID is just unmasking the deep disinvestment in our communities, the historical injustices and the impact of residential segregation," said Dr. Camera Jones, who spent 13 years at the CDC. "This is the time to name racism as the cause of all of those things. The overrepresentation of people of color ... is not just a happenstance ... It's because we're not valued."

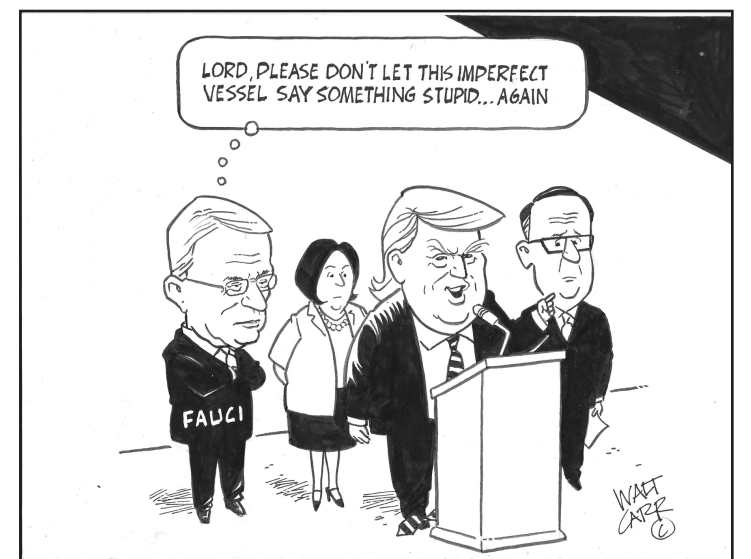
As public health officials watched cases rise in March misinformation has also been a factor. Rumors and conspiracy theories proliferated on social media, pushing the bogus idea that black people are immune to the COVID-19. Much of the initial focus was on international travel and closing borders and not underlying health disparities that persist in the U.S.

Lauren Victoria Burke is an independent journalist for NNPA and the host of the podcast BURKFILE. She is also a political strategist as Principal of Win Digital Media LLC. She may be contacted at [LBurke007@gmail.com](mailto:LBurke007@gmail.com) and on twitter at @LVBurke.

## THE BLACK PRESS: USE It or LOSE It!



## Visual Voice



## YOUR VOICE

### THREE WORDS OR ACTIONS TO HELP YOU GET THROUGH THIS CORONAVIRUS

There was a kind, loving giving billionaire name Job in the bible. The devil told GOD Job is only good because you are good to him. If you take away his wife, children and money he will leave you and curse you out. GOD took away everything Job had but he still trusted and loved GOD. Job's 1st wife told him you are a fool; you should just curse GOD out and die. If you feel like Job's wife, follow

her advice, and use these three words to curse GOD out. "FORGET YOU GOD". There are 435 members of the U.S. House of Representatives and they all are up for reelection in 2020. You have one representing or misrepresenting you. What is his or her name? There are 100 U.S. Senators, two for each state, representing or misrepresenting you. What are their names? Check to see if yours is up for reelection. There will be more bills discussed and passed by congress that will give us back some of the tax money we have paid. All of us are taxpayers

even if we do not file income tax because everything you buy in the U.S. is taxed. Ten years ago, our tax dollars were given to banks and other billionaires' businesses to keep them from falling flat on their faces. This time it is time for us poor and middle class to be bailed out. We want our government, the richest in the world, to stop our rent, mortgage, loan, credit card, students' loans, car, loan companies, payday loans and other payments for three months. This list does not include SEARS because

you never pay them off (smile). We need to tell our Congresspersons what we want by three methods, "WRITE, E-MAIL, TEXT". Finally, those of us who dare to call ourselves Christians must only use three words to help us not overeat during stay in place mandate, steady our blood sugar and blood pressure thereby placing ourselves in a decent state of equilibrium. "LORD HAVE MERCY".

James J. Hankins  
Wilmington, NC

## MATTERS OF OPINION

### L.O.V.E is the answer

(Via TriceEdneyWire.com)

A few years ago, I met A.J. Ali. A.J. is a service-disabled veteran who served honorably in the U.S. Air Force as a Journalist and Media Relations Specialist. He was based at Vandenberg AFB in CA, Comiso Air Station nuclear missile base in Sicily, and McClellan AFB in CA. He was a member of the USAF Soccer Team. He's an actor, TV host, director, producer and writer. He asked several friends to write on the subject L.O.V.E Is The Answer for a book. The book was meant to put principles of love into action to build a stronger



Dr. E. Faye Williams

police-community marriage with people of color. At that time, I was unsure what my approach would be. I just went to my computer, like others asked to contribute to the book, and began writing. I sent my interpretation of what he was asking the very same day. He sent a note back and told me what I had written was perfect.

What I didn't know was that he had a lot of friends and he'd asked them to address the same subject! I'm sure you would recognize names of other writers who did a masterful job addressing the subject. The book was recently released, and now that we're all basically confined to home this is the perfect time for you to be introduced to L.O.V.E Is The Answer. Along with the book is an award-winning film called WALKING WHILE BLACK: L.O.V.E. Is The Answer. See the trailer for the film at

[www.WalkingWhileBlack.com](http://www.WalkingWhileBlack.com).

The book was developed pre-coronavirus time, but it is so appropriate for such a time as this. You can learn more about the book and the L.O.V.E Is The Answer Movement and its writers who rose to the challenge as I tried to do putting it together with A.J.'s guidance. See <http://loveistheanswermovement.com/the-book/>

The film and the book can be the answer to equip our nation to learn how to utilize the power of transformational love to break down walls and build bridges of reconciliation. When we finally come to a close of this coronavirus and all of the destruction it is leaving behind, many people will be looking for ways to be better souls. A.J. encourages us to "Learn about your community. Open your heart to the people in it. Volunteer to be part of the solution in their lives, and Empower oth-

ers to do the same." That is the acronym for the book—L.O.V.E!

He reminds us to, "Remember, this too shall pass. When we get the all-clear, do we want to return into the same broken communities, or do we want to use this time to heal our communities from the inside out? Use this time to better prepare yourself to be a bridge in your community when we are all able to reconnect in person and go about our daily routines. I challenge you to read the L.O.V.E. Is The Answer book, watch the film, participate in our webinars, and make this difficult time a time of learning and growth."

While we're confined to home, this would be a good time to invite friends to participate in Zoom calls with you

**WILLIAMS**

Continued on page 5

## Who gets the ventilators?

(Via TriceEdneyWire.com)

The "big and bad" United States is seeing its world dominance recede. We are being vanquished both by a virus and by the ignorance of the "Commander in Chief. We now know that there are not enough tests to detect the coronavirus, nor enough ventilators to treat all of those who are ill. Medical professionals are talking openly about the choices they will make and the fact that some people will be judged more likely to survive than others. Through which lens will these medical professionals decide who gets a ventilator? Will age be the only lens, advantaging a 30-year-old over an 80-year-old? Will there be other filters? Will a man with children get preference over a single woman? An author over a homeless person? A white person over a person of color? Medical professionals are being asked to choose and to judge. How will their conscious or unconscious bias play a role in their



Dr. Julianne Malveaux

judgments? The Institute of Medicine (IOM) describes itself as "an independent, nonprofit organization that works outside of government to provide unbiased and authoritative advice to decision-makers and the public" On its website, it acknowledges "evidence of racial and ethnic disparities in health care." Will this evidence influence the distribution of ventilators?

People will need these ventilators to breathe. They may need them for weeks, not days. Some will survive, and some won't. The survival rate is a function of the bizarre avoidance our so-called leaders make decisions about this pandemic. But who will be saved? An innocent infant or the despot who lives in the house that enslaved people built?

Dr. Dorothy Irene Height was 98 when she died in 2010. She was productive until her final days. In her own words, she was "dressed and in her right mind" until the end. Would the doctor choosing who got a ventilator see the history contained in that precious black body? Or would he make choices based on stereotypes? I know that by Black 92-year-old mama, disabled by a stroke, still gives her children strength and love, smiles, and sharp reprimands (yes, the

lady hit me when I used profanity in her presence. Whose life would I trade that for?)

We must not forget the many ways that Black bodies were used for medical experiments, from the use of Black women's genitalia to develop gynecology through the Tuskegee syphilis studies that lasted from 1932 through 1972. Black people's lives have too often been white people's experiments. It is not paranoid, but merely cautious, to wonder who will get the ventilators, and whose needs will be sidelined. Now the words "Black Lives Matter" take on a more pointed meaning.

This coronavirus illustrates our nation's faultlines by class race and gender. The coronavirus also refutes the notion of our nation's exceptionalism. The United States just ain't all that, despite our "greatest" rhetoric. We are stumbling compared to other countries - Italy, China, Spain - who have attempted, generously, to show us the way forward.

One of the populations I've heard very little about is incarcerated people. How do you socially distance when you are confined, with another person, in a small cell? Given our collective disdain for the incarcerated, will an incarcerated person with coronavirus have

a chance?

Incarcerated people aren't the only people at risk. All marginalized people are, in one way or another, at risk. Ventilators cost between \$25,000 and \$50,000 and even more when there is competition to obtain them. Will hospitals with limited resources be able to obtain ventilators? Those who are income-challenged are more likely to go to hospitals that are under-resourced. Lower-income people are at greater risk and have less access to quality health care.

The coronavirus will hit princes and paupers, members of Congress and members of the clergy, computer whizzes and those who don't have computers. We may all be at risk from the coronavirus, but class, race, and gender will likely determine who has the best chance at recovery. We can't call ourselves "great" unless we are fair. Will everyone have a chance to recover from this virus?

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



## Russell Simmons brings back Def Comedy Jam to raise money for Coronavirus ravaged areas

BY STACY M. BROWN  
NNPA NEWSWIRE SENIOR  
CORRESPONDENT

Hip-hop and business mogul Russell Simmons has seen the devastation of the novel coronavirus and the effect it has had on his hometown of Hollis Queens, New York, and the rest of the world.

Now the iconic Def Jam founder is bringing back one of his legendary creations to help raise money for those devastated by the pandemic.

Simmons is leading a group of producers who, on Sunday, April 5, will premiere "Def Comedy Jam Presents: Healing Through Laughter," a marathon fundraiser hosted by Cedric the Entertainer.

The program will air online beginning at 10 p.m. EST, and Simmons' Instagram page will be updated to provide more information. Simmons has established a GoFundMe page with the hopes of raising as much as \$100,000 to help with supplies to assist those in

need.

Supplies purchased and collected from proceeds will be distributed among essential workers in Queens and Brooklyn, New York, and those in the Logan section of Philadelphia.

"Let's begin to fund the effort to raise money and awareness to make sure people putting their life on the line to work in our communities have the safety kits they need," Simmons wrote on Twitter.

As of Thursday, April 2, New York had more than 92,300 confirmed coronavirus cases, including approximately 52,000 in the city. New York accounts for 42 percent of the virus-related deaths in the United States, and hospitals around the Empire State and, in particular, throughout the Big Apple, have been overwhelmed with cases.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo said the state's stockpile contained 2,200 ventilators, but about 350 new patients daily needed them.

"2,200 disappears very

quickly," Cuomo said, according to the New York Times.

The goal of the Def Comedy Jam Marathon is to raise funds to provide basic needs for essential workers in vulnerable and underserved communities.

Supplies include items like hand sanitizer and masks for the most vulnerable communities currently impacted by COVID-19.

Simmons said 100 percent of the proceeds raised would be used to benefit individuals in inner-city communities – specifically targeting his hometown of Hollis, Queens, which has been highlighted as the most affected area in New York.

"Brave and inspiring people within the community are putting up a valiant fight against COVID-19, we must support them," Simmons stated.

The original Def Comedy Jam aired on HBO from 1992 to 1997 and featured such talent as Martin Lawrence, Chris Tucker, Bernie Mac, and many others.

Simmons had said he was inspired to create the original Def Comedy Jam after watching Jerry Lewis' "The Nutty Professor."

The rebooted fundraiser is produced by Erica Ford of the nonprofit Life Camp, Inc., Gushcloud, O'Neal McKnight, Bob Sumner, Althea Lim, and Simmons' Rush Philanthropic.

Def Comedy Jam: Healing through Laughter will feature Def Jam's original DJ, Kid Capri. It will include comedians Spice Adams, Tony Baker, Gary Owen, Mike Epps, Sommore, Bill Bellamy, Affion Crockett, Deon Cole, Corey Holcomb, Ashima Franklin, Adele Givens, Jess Hilarious, DL Hughley, JB Smoove, and Michael Blackson.

While a host of other comedians are expected to join, those making their debut under the Def Comedy Jam umbrella are GC Studio's Reggie Couz, KMoore The Goat, and Kellye Hardy. DJ Cassidy will lead an afterparty.

## State of Emergency declared for Black America as public health experts reveal Coronavirus is airborne

BY STACY M. BROWN  
NNPA NEWSWIRE SENIOR  
CORRESPONDENT

While many medical doctors maintain that the novel coronavirus is transmitted through droplets from coughs or sneezes, more and more medical experts and officials who work primarily with infectious respiratory illnesses and aerosols are convinced that the disease is airborne.

Today, as a result of recent medical research and data, The National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) President and CEO, Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr. has issued a solemn national public warning and alert to nearly 50 million African Americans. "Black America is now in a state of emergency as a result of the disproportionately deadly impact of the coronavirus pandemic on our families and communities across the United States," Chavis stated. "The coronavirus is now airborne. That means that the coronavirus can be in air that we breathe."

"Black Americans should stay at home and only leave home for critical life-essential reasons," Chavis emphasized. "In fact, all Americans should stay at home to mitigate the spread of the coronavirus pandemic. But I must emphasize that because before the spread of the coronavirus, Black Americans were already disproportionately burdened with multiple preexisting health conditions, including asthma, diabetes, and heart disease, our communities are more vulnerable to the impact of the coronavirus, including higher rates of fatalities."

A Pro Publica report revealed that African Americans made up almost half of Milwaukee County's 945 cases and 81 percent of its 27 deaths in a county whose population is only 26 percent Black.

Milwaukee is one of the few places in the United States that is tracking the racial breakdown of people who have been infected by the novel coronavirus, offering a glimpse at the disproportionate destruction it is inflicting on Black communities nationwide.

In Michigan, where the state's population is 14 percent Black, African Americans made up 35 percent of cases and 40 percent of deaths as of Friday, April 3.

Detroit, where a majority of residents are Black, has emerged as a hot spot with a high death toll. As has New Orleans, according to Pro Publica.

Louisiana has not published case breakdowns by race, but 40 percent of the state's deaths have happened in Orleans Parish, where the majority of residents are Black.

Illinois and North Carolina are two of the few areas publishing statistics on COVID-19 cases by race, and their data shows a disproportionate number of African Americans were infected, according to the report.

Dr. Ebony Hilton, associate professor of anesthesiology and critical care medicine at the University of Virginia Health Systems.

Dr. Ebony Hilton, associate professor of anesthesiology and critical care medicine at the University of Virginia Health Systems.

"We know in the US that there are great discrepancies in not only the diagnosis but the treatment that African Americans and other minorities are afforded," stated Dr. Ebony Hilton, associate professor of anesthesiology and critical care medicine at the University of Virginia Health Systems.

"So, I want to make sure that in this pandemic, that Black and brown people are treated in the same way and that these tests are made available in the same pattern as for white people," Dr. Hilton said.

Medical experts have also sounded the alarm that the virus could well be transmitted through the air.

"Currently available research supports the possibility that (COVID-19) could be spread via bioaerosols generated directly by patients' exhalation," Harvey Fineberg, who heads a standing committee on

Emerging Infectious Diseases and 21st Century Health Threats, wrote in an April 1, 2020 letter to Kelvin Droegemeier, the head of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP).

"One must be cautious in imputing the findings with one respiratory virus to another respiratory virus, as each virus may have its own effective infectious inoculum and distinct aerosolization characteristics," Fineberg wrote.

"Studies that rely on PCR to detect the presence of viral RNA may not represent virus in sufficient amounts to produce infection. Nevertheless, the presence of viral RNA in air droplets and aerosols indicates the possibility of viral transmission via these routes."

Fineberg penned the letter in response to a request from the White House OSTP. The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine convened a standing committee of experts to help inform OSTP on critical science and policy issues related to emerging infectious diseases and other public health threats.

The standing committee includes members with expertise in emerging infectious diseases, public health, public health preparedness and response, biological sciences, clinical care and crisis standards of care, risk communication, and regulatory issues.

"The results of available studies are consistent with aerosolization of virus from normal breathing," Fineberg wrote.

He noted an airflow modeling study that followed a coronavirus outbreak in Hong Kong in the early 2000s supports the potential for transmission via bioaerosols.

In that study, the significantly increased risk of infection to residents on higher floors of a building that was home to an infected individual indicated to the researchers a pattern of disease consistent with a rising plume of contaminated warm air.

"In the mind of scientists working on this, there's absolutely no doubt that the virus spreads in the air. This is a no-brainer." Lidia Morawska, at the Queensland University of Technology in Brisbane, Australia, told the medical website, nature.com.

A March 2020 Cambridge Research study of those with influenza revealed that 39 percent of individuals exhaled infectious aerosols, which experts noted that, as long as an airspace is shared with someone else, breathing in the air they exhale, it's possible for airborne transmission of the coronavirus.

"It's airborne," Dr. Angela Guerrero, an emergency medicine specialist in New Jersey, told NNPA Newswire.

"If someone has the disease, they don't have to cough and sneeze or spit. If you then go into their space, you can probably get it," Dr. Guerrero stated.

Some experts said they are convinced that a primary reason that governments and organizations like the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO) have shied away from stating that the virus is in the air is to prevent panic and because it could take years and cost hundreds of millions of lives before indisputable evidence can be presented.

"We shouldn't let perfect be the enemy of convincing," Michael Osterholm, an infectious disease epidemiologist at the University of Minnesota, stated.

A spokeswoman for the WHO told NNPA Newswire that the organization is focused solely on treatment and trials.

"As far as treatment for COVID-19 is concerned, so far, we have no evidence that any particular drug is effective, but researchers around the world are working hard on this. More than 20 vaccines are in development globally, and several therapeutics are in clinical trials," stated WHO spokeswoman Ashley Baldwin.

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**Robert Lee McDonald**

Robert Lee McDonald died March 28, 2020. Graveside services were on Friday, April 3, 2020 at Greenlawn Memorial Park.

Robert Lee McDonald was born on February 16, 1946 in Wilmington, North Carolina. He is predeceased by both parents, Mr. Clinton P. McDonald and Mrs. Rosa L. Wilson McDonald and one sister, Mrs. Dorothy Mae Wilson (James). He attended New Hanover County Public Schools and graduated from Williston Senior High School in 1966. Robert served honorably as a Sergeant in the United States Army during the Vietnam War. He received an honorable discharge with a commendation medal and a purple heart. Afterward, he maintained a career with CSX Transportation (RR) for 20+ years. Robert Lee McDonald was joined in holy matrimony to Addie R. Terry on January 17, 1970. They were blessed with two sons in this union. Robert enjoyed time with his family; and prior to declining in health, Robert was a committed member of St. Phillip Methodist Episcopal Church. He was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle, and friend.

Robert leaves to cherish his memories: his wife, Addie R. McDonald; two sons, Dr. Edward McDonald of Atlanta, GA and Mr. Israel McDonald (Rachel) of Charlotte, NC; three grandsons, Jacob McDonald of Charlotte, NC, Oscar McDonald and Isaac McDonald of Atlanta, GA; ten siblings, Mr. Herbert L. McDonald (Christina) of San Diego, CA, Mr. Claude McDonald of Wilmington, NC, Mr. Charles McDonald (Debbie) of Durham, NC, Mr. Dennis McDonald and Mr. Jeffrey McDonald (Lynette) both of Wilmington, NC, Mrs. Ethel Thurston of Somerset, NJ, Mrs. Lillian Grove (LaBaron) of Mobile, Alabama, Mrs. Margaret A. Nixon (Alvin), Mrs. Carolyn McDonald and Mrs. Debbie McMillian all of Wilmington, NC; and a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends. A Service of John H. Shaw's Son Funeral Home.

**Toni Denise "Nieceybaby" Walker Cook**

Toni Denise "Nieceybaby" Walker Cook, died March 30, 2020. Funeral services were held on Saturday, April 4,

2020 at Willie L. Shaw Jr. Memorial Chapel.

Toni was born to Shirley Hooper and the late Ellis Hooper and to the late Oliver T. Perkins in Navassa, NC on September 23, 1959. She was preceded in death by her siblings, Wanda Walker, Willie Lowery, Sr., Deedre Flowers and Janet Bryd. "Nieceybaby" was a graduate of North Brunswick High School in Leland, NC. After graduation in 1980, Toni left North Carolina to pursue her education in Atlanta, Georgia. There she met her soulmate, Earnest L. Cook. They were married in 1982 and to this union two daughters were born. Toni enjoyed life, but most of all she loved her family.

She leaves to cherish her memories: her husband, Earnest Cook; daughters, Taiesha Cook and Valiesha Millens (Willie); grandchildren, Naja Bryant, Kamarie Nelson, Zaria Lee, Samaria Nelson, Jamar Millens, Lenar Millens, John Williams, Jon'ne Cook, Jaleyah Williams; brothers and sisters, Curtis Walker, Sandra Wise (Kevin), Sylvia Williams (Ronnie), Craig Radford (Sherry), Evette Townes, Shirley Hankins, Andrea Bush (James), Sidney Davis; uncles, Melvin Walker (Rosa), Carl Walker; aunts, Vivian Bowman (Leon), Maggie Brown-Rodgers; mother-in-law, Mattie Lee Clemmons; brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, Niles Clemmons (Paula), Ralph Clemmons, Jr., Cathy Chatman (Mack), Linda Durham (Charles, Sr.), Connie Jones, Janice Clemmons, Ruby Hermsen, Tammy Feanny (Maxwell); a special friend, Valorie Hatten; a host of nieces, nephews and many close friends. A Service of John H. Shaw's Son Funeral Home.

**Marcus LaVel Small**

Marcus LaVel Small died March 31, 2020. Graveside services were held Sunday, April 5, 2020 at St. Thomas Cemetery.

Marcus was a twin born on August 11, 1979 to Jimmie and Glenda Small. He loved to play his games and listen to rap music. Marcus was very outgoing and never met a stranger. He graduated in the Class of 2000 from South Brunswick High School. He was preceded in death by his grandparents, several aunts, uncles and cousins.

Marcus leaves to cherish his precious memories: his

parents, Jimmie and Glenda Small; his twin sister, Marchetta Small all of the home; his brother, Jimmie Jr. (Tameka) of Leland, NC; nieces, Jim'Mna and Kierra Small of Leland, NC; great-nieces, Harmonie and Chloe of Leland, NC, all whom he loved dearly; aunts, Oreda Waddell, Debra Waddell both of Leland, NC, Angie Barnhill, LaTisha Grady and Sheron Grady all of Wilmington, NC; uncles Johnnie Small of Leland, NC and Gilbert Waddell, Geno Grady (Tracey) all of Wilmington, NC and Robert Hall (Tanita) of Newark, NJ; a host of other relatives and friends including the Brunswick Interagency Program. A Service of John H. Shaw's Son Funeral Home.

**James Robbins**

James Robbins died April 1, 2020. A memorial service will be held at a later date. A Service of John H. Shaw's Son Funeral Home.

**Howard Davis**

Howard Davis died April 3, 2020. A private service was held on Thursday, April 9, 2020. A Service of John H. Shaw's Son Funeral Home.

**Martha Wheeler**

Martha Wheeler died April 3, 2020. Graveside services were held Thursday, April 9, 2020 at Calvary Memorial Cemetery. A Service of John H. Shaw's Son Funeral Home.

**William Murphy**

William Murphy died April 3, 2020. A memorial service will be held at a later date. A Service of John H. Shaw's Son Funeral Home.

**Adrian Smith**

Adrian Smith died in Ashville, NC. Graveside services will be held 3:00 p.m. Saturday, April 11, 2020 at Calvary Memorial Cemetery. A Service of John H. Shaw's Son Funeral Home.

**Irving Everett**

Irving Everett died April 7, 2020. Funeral arrangements are incomplete and will be announced later by John H. Shaw's Son Funeral Home. A Service of John H. Shaw's Son Funeral Home.

**IN MEMORIAM:**

**Lean on Me: Singer-Songwriting legend Bill Withers dies at 81**

BY LAUREN VICTORIA BURKE  
NNPA NEWSWIRE  
CONTRIBUTOR

Three-time Grammy Award winner Bill Withers, a singer-songwriter of music with lyrics and harmony carrying messages that stayed in the minds of many listening in an indelible way, has died at 81. Withers passed away in Los Angeles.

Withers' family referenced a heart condition as the cause of his death which has not been linked to COVID-19.

His song "Lean on Me" is one of the most popular in modern popular music and was judged to be one of the greatest songs of all time by Rolling Stone magazine along with "Ain't No Sunshine."

Withers soulful songs "Lean on Me," "Lovely Day" and "Ain't No Sunshine," have now become standards heard for five decades in feature films and in the background of endless TV episodes.

Withers most recently appeared in the documentary The Black Godfather on Netflix. The film, directed by Reginald Hudlin, was a tribute to the life of influential music executive Clarence Avant and was released by Netflix last year. Avant detailed his association with Withers.

"I kept listening to him. I kept listening to Harlem and I kept listening to "Grandma's Hands" — and you say to yourself: You didn't hear many records with people talking



(Photo: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/annulla/3011590291/> Wikimedia Commons)

**2008 Bill Withers Tribute: Pictured are Bill Withers & Corey Withers**

about their grandmothers, but everybody has one. His records to me made so much common sense. It was like you were just talking to somebody. You listen to "Lean on Me." One of the songs he wrote that I still think is a great song talked about the Vietnam War," influential music executive Clarence Avant explained.

"All those kinds of things just resonated with me and I said wow this guy has got it," Avant said of Withers. At the time Avant owned Sussex Records. Avant signed Withers and had Stax Records associate Booker T. Jones produce Withers' first album. Withers later signed with Columbia Records.

Bill Withers was born on July 4, 1938 in Slab Fork, West Virginia, a coal mining town. He recorded from 1970 until 1985 and his hits included

"Lean on Me", "Ain't No Sunshine", "Use Me", "Just the Two of Us", "Lovely Day", and "Grandma's Hands." His life was the subject of the 2009 documentary film Still Bill and he was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2015.

"Lean on Me," was performed at the inaugurations of both Barack Obama and Bill Clinton.

Withers married actress Denise Nicholas in 1973 but they divorced in 1974. In 1976, Withers married Marcia Johnson, and they had two children, Todd and Kori.

Lauren Victoria Burke is an independent journalist for NNPA and the host of the podcast BURKEFILE. She is also a political strategist as Principal of Win Digital Media LLC. She may be contacted at [LBurke007@gmail.com](mailto:LBurke007@gmail.com) and on twitter at @LVBurke.





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**Message Regarding the Coronavirus Outbreak:**

We're taking the Coronavirus (Covid-19) outbreak very seriously, as our top priority is keeping the families we serve and our staff members safe. We are still here to serve our families and we're doing everything we can to keep our facility and equipment clean and sanitized. The National Funeral Directors Association also is giving us further information about how we can prevent the spread of this virus in our community.

We encourage you to stay informed about this virus and how to stay safe. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website is a great place to start:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

**Current Restrictions**  
**WILMINGTON LOCATION:** Per New Hanover County restrictions, the maximum number of guest allowed during a visitation or funeral service will be 10 people.  
**BRUNSWICK COUNTY:** Per the executive order from Governor Roy Cooper, the maximum number of guest allowed during a visitation or funeral service will be 50 people.

Javoque & Jennifer Terrell

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## TELL SOMEBODY

## "I Am The Resurrection"

"Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live." John 11:25

"Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen: And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain. Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not.

For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised: And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins. Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished. If in this

life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.

But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive." I Corinthians 15:12-22

"And when the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, had bought sweet spices, that they might come and anoint him. And very early in the morning the first day of the week, they came unto the sepulcher at the rising of the sun.

And they said among themselves, Who shall roll us away

the stone from the door of the sepulcher? And when they looked, they saw that the stone was rolled away: for it was very great. And entering into the sepulcher, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a long white garment; and they were affrighted.



Sylvia Hooper

And he saith unto them, Be not affrighted: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified he is risen; he is not here: behold the place where they laid him.

But go your way, tell his disciples and Peter that he goeth before you into Galilee: there shall ye see him, as he said unto you." Mark 16: 1-7

"Now when Jesus was risen early the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had cast seven devils. And she went and told them that had been with him, as they mourned and wept. And they, when they had heard that he was alive, and had been seen of her, believed not. After that he appeared in another form unto two of them, as they walked, and went into the country. And they went and told it unto the residue: neither believed they them.

Afterward he appeared

unto the eleven as they sat at meat and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen. And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature."

Mark 16: 9-14

"So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God. And they went forth, and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen." Mark 16: 19-20

Tell Somebody Happy Resurrection Day!  
"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

## The Coronavirus is a product of what we are sowing

All scriptures are from the KJV unless otherwise posted

The current president of the United States ran his campaign spouting "America First," coupled with his infamous "Make America Great Again!" The slogans hit a nerve - an enthusiastic nerve - with his base who apparently believe that America has too often been bedfellows with countries and with policies which threaten its sovereignty and power.

The president has not missed opportunities to push his ideology, if it may be called that, so it was surprising to me that in the heat of this pandemic, he has not seemed eager to come to the aid of Americans - those who are sick and dying and those who are working to attend to them and keep them alive - even as governors of states have pleaded for help.

But what is worse is that this country has apparently been sending - selling - the same equipment and gear to foreign countries that our own Americans have been doing all but begging for. According to reports, USAID has been sending those items to China. (<https://www.politico.com/news/2020/03/31/pence-task-force-coronavirus-aid-157806>)

Rep. Maxine Waters (D-California) blasted the president this week, calling out his hypocrisy as she railed against the shipment of 17.8 tons of medical supplies - including masks, gloves, gauze, and respirators - to China in February as the coronavirus broke out there, while calling expressions of concern that the virus could become a pandemic a "hoax."

The president and his team, of course, discount the complaints being raised against the

administration but also admit that they are sending materials to other countries - "things we don't need," the president has said.



Rev. Naaniel Fullwood

right with the possibility that the virus might cause over 200,000 people in this country to die - while other countries are getting the material that might have saved lives here?

There is yet another compo-

ment about what is going on that is deeply troubling. The president seems not to be interested in helping any governor in states experiencing the most infections from the COVID19 virus who has crossed him, disagreed with him, or who supported his impeachment.

With a spirit of vengeance that is breathtaking in its depth and width, the president has all but ignored the requests of the governors from New York, California, Michigan, and Washington while making sure states with supportive and sycophantic Republican governors get all that they need, maybe even more. Florida, for example, where young people gathered in huge groups during spring break on its beaches with no pushback from Governor Ron DeSantis, received "100 percent of its first two requests" while other states have been sent only a

meager portion of what they need. ([https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/governors-plead-for-medical-equipment-from-federal-stockpile-plagued-by-shortages-and-confusion/2020/03/31/18aadda0-728d-11ea-87da-77a8136c1a6d\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/governors-plead-for-medical-equipment-from-federal-stockpile-plagued-by-shortages-and-confusion/2020/03/31/18aadda0-728d-11ea-87da-77a8136c1a6d_story.html))

Is there a goal here? A game plan? Is the plan to let huge numbers of Americans who may or may not be Trump supporters just die off? There is no rush, it seems, to come up with a plan to protect and serve the elderly, the incarcerated, or the homeless. Even as the number of dead bodies is increasing on a daily basis, their bodies put into refrigerated morgue trucks as funeral homes scramble to handle the exploding demand and need for funerals, this president seems unconcerned. (<https://nymag.com/intelligencer/2020/04/new-york-refrigerated-truck-bod->

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/02/nyregion/coronavirus-new-york-bodies.html>). There seems to be little to no concern from the federal government on the capacity of the health system in this country to handle this crisis, and even less concern for the lives and well-beings of the health-care workers, who in this "war" that the president has declared himself to be president of, are suffering from extreme fatigue from being overworked, getting the virus themselves and some, dying.

So, "America first" means what, exactly?

I am confused.

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



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## Baldwin Branch provides school meals on its campus

The Baldwin Branch Missionary Baptist Church has been weekly transporting Bladen County School meals since its inception Mondays through Fridays. This is being administered by the transportation ministry. Meals normally are available on the campus; 4047 NC 242 Highway South; Elizabethtown NC between 11:00 -11:30 a.m. Four dedicated members are involved in this important mission. The church got involved in the deliveries due to the remarkable efforts of its member, Debra McKoy. Meals are distributed based on "first-come-first served". The general public is welcomed to pick up meals for the children.



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CHILDREN PICKING UP MEALS



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**LEGAL NOTICES**

**NOTICE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF NEW HANOVER**

The undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of **Lillian R. Romanak**, 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 **19th day of June, 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 19th day of March, 2020.

H. Scott Kennedy, Executor of the Estate of Lillian R. Romanak  
4414 Southfield Court  
Wilmington, NC 28405  
MURCHISON, TAYLOR & GIBSON, PLLC  
1979 Eastwood Rd, Suite 101  
Wilmington, NC 28403

March 19, 26, April 2, 9, 2020

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF NEW HANOVER**

Having qualified as Executrix of the Estate of **William Franklin Lane, (20-E-377)**, late of New Hanover County, Wilmington, 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 **July 9, 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 8th day of April, 2020

Frances Holdford Goodman  
c/o Craig & Fox, PLLC  
701 Market Street  
Wilmington, NC 28401  
910-815-0085

April 9, 16, 23, 30, 2020

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF NEW HANOVER**

Having qualified as Executrix of the Estate of **Margery Ray Burke Paylor aka Margery Burke Paylor, (20-E-376)**, late of New Hanover County, Wilmington, 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 **July 9, 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 8th day of April, 2020

Linda H. Robins  
c/o Craig & Fox, PLLC  
701 Market Street  
Wilmington, NC 28401  
910-815-0085

April 9, 16, 23, 30, 2020

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF NEW HANOVER**

The undersigned, having qualified as Administrator of the estate of **Neal Walter Ashcraft, Sr.**, 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 **19th 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 18th day of March, 2020

Larry Scott Ashcraft, Administrator  
5814 Ocean Hwy East  
Winnabow, NC 28479

March 19, 26, April 2, 9, 2020

**ADMINISTRATOR NOTICE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF NEW HANOVER**

The undersigned having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of **Robert Van Nes**, deceased, late of New Hanover County, this is to notify all persons having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the **26th day of June, 2020** or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This, the 26th day of March, 2020.

Tracey R. King  
5550 Carolina Beach Rd.  
Wilmington, NC 28412  
Administrator of the Estate of Robert Van Nes

March 26, April 2, 9, 16, 2020

**LEGAL NOTICES**

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS ESTATE FILE NO. 20-E-204**

Having qualified as Executor of the Estate of **SHIRLEY J. TILTON**, deceased, late of New Hanover County, North Carolina, the undersigned hereby notifies all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to present them, duly verified, to the undersigned, care of their attorney, on or before **June 26, 2020** (which date is at least three (3) months from the first publication of this notice), or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to said Estate will please make immediate settlement with the undersigned.

This the 19th day of March, 2020.

KENNETH R. SMITH, Executor of the Estate of SHIRLEY J. TILTON  
c/o Randall S. Hoose, Jr.  
ATLANTIC COAST LAW  
314 Walnut Street, Suite 100  
Wilmington, NC 28401-4160

March 19, 26, April, 2, 9, 2020

**NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF NEW HANOVER IN THE DISTRICT COURT JUVENILE SESSION FILE NO. 18 JT 205-207**

**IN THE MATTER OF: B.N.P. (DOB: 07/10/2018) J.J.C.J. (DOB: 06/08/2014) S.K.N.J. (DOB: 06/08/2013)**

**TO: RESPONDENT: ASHLEY STEWART, BIOLOGICAL MOTHER AND ANY UNKNOWN BIOLOGICAL FATHER OF THE ABOVE CAPTIONED CHILDREN BORN IN SANFORD, LEE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, AND FAYETTEVILLE, CUMBERLAND COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, TO ASHLEY STEWART**

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

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

You are required to make defense to such pleading within forty (40) days following April 2, 2020, which date is the date of first publication of this Notice. Upon your failure to do so, the party seeking service against you will apply to the Court for the relief sought. You have the right to attend this hearing and you have the right to be represented by counsel and can apply for court appointed counsel.

Attorney Yuliya Loshinsky was previously appointed to represent Ashley Stewart, and she can be reached at 313 Walnut Street, Suite 104, Wilmington, NC 28401 or (910) 939-1125.

**YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT A HEARING ON THE PETITION TO TERMINATE YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS IS SCHEDULED FOR MAY 18, 2020, AT 9:30 A.M. or as soon thereafter as it may be heard, at the New Hanover Courthouse, 316 Princess Street, Wilmington, North Carolina, 28401.**

This the 25th day of March, 2020.

Karen F. Richards, Attorney  
New Hanover County  
Department of Social Services  
PO Box 1559  
Wilmington, NC 28402  
(910) 798-3526 (phone)  
(910) 798-7833 (fax)

April 2, 9, 16, 2020

**LEGAL NOTICES**

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS ESTATE FILE NO. 20-E-330**

Having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of **WILLIAM ("BILLY") RONALD GILLIKIN, JR.**, deceased, late of New Hanover County, North Carolina, the undersigned hereby notifies all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to present them, duly verified, to the undersigned, care of their attorney, on or before **July 6, 2020** (which date is at least three (3) months from the first publication of this notice), or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to said Estate will please make immediate settlement with the undersigned.

This the 19th day of March, 2020.

VERONICA STARR AYERS, Administrator of the Estate of WILLIAM ("BILLY") RONALD GILLIKIN, JR.  
c/o Randall S. Hoose, Jr.  
ATLANTIC COAST LAW  
314 Walnut Street, Suite 100  
Wilmington, NC 28401-4160

April, 2, 9, 16, 23, 2020

**NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF NEW HANOVER IN THE DISTRICT COURT JUVENILE SESSION FILE NO. 19 JT 125**

**IN THE MATTER OF: N.I.C. (DOB: 12/07/2017)**

**TO: RESPONDENT: ZYNASIA CARROLL, BIOLOGICAL MOTHER AND ANY UNKNOWN BIOLOGICAL FATHER OF THE ABOVE CAPTIONED FEMALE CHILD BORN IN WILMINGTON, NEW HANOVER COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA TO ZYNASIA CARROLL**

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

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

You are required to make defense to such pleading within forty (40) days following March 26, 2020, which date is the date of first publication of this Notice. Upon your failure to do so, the party seeking service against you will apply to the Court for the relief sought. You have the right to attend this hearing and you have the right to be represented by counsel and can apply for court appointed counsel.

The New Hanover County Public Defender's Office has been appointed to represent Zynasia Carroll, and can be reached at 340 Chestnut Street, Wilmington, NC 28401 or (910) 343-5400.

**YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT A HEARING ON THE PETITION TO TERMINATE YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS IS SCHEDULED FOR MAY 11, 2020, AT 9:30 A.M. or as soon thereafter as it may be heard, at the New Hanover Courthouse, 316 Princess Street, Wilmington, North Carolina, 28401.**

This the 18th day of March, 2020.

Karen F. Richards, Attorney  
New Hanover County  
Department of Social Services  
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Across Platforms, 7 in 10 Adults Access Content from Newspaper Media Each Week (NAA.org, March 25, 2013)  
The American Newspaper Media Industry Revenue Profile 2012 (NAA.org, April 8, 2013)  
2013 Nielsen National Cross-Media Engagement Study (NAA.org, April 16, 2013)

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