

MISSING



EBONEE SPEARS

Wilmington Police are continuing their search for 30 year old Ebonee Spears of Wilmington. The local Crimestoppers organization has joined with the Wilmington Police Department in offering a reward of up to \$5,000 for information on Ebonee's whereabouts. If you know where Spears may be, call Wilmington Police at (910) 343-3600 or use Text-a-Tip.

OUTside Looking IN

OUR VOICE

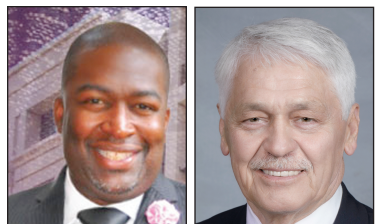


REV. JESSE JACKSON

GUEST EDITORIAL "Let prisoners go during COVID-19 Pandemic"

BY REV. JESSE JACKSON PAGE 4

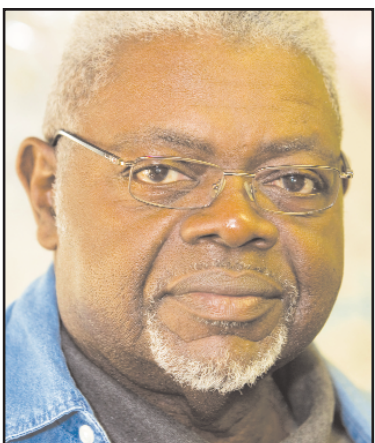
COMMUNITY



REV. ARMOUR SENATOR PETERSON

SOUL FOOD COVID-19 PAGE 6

BRUNSWICK COUNTY



BERNEST HEWETT

WE MUST DO BETTER

BY BERNEST HEWETT CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The last two months have brought back to me memories of my days in school. I attended Brunswick County Training School. Many other BCT graduates and I remember the teachers' teaching and drilling into our heads about how we must learn to read and write. We were taught

Please see BRUNSWICK/Page 2

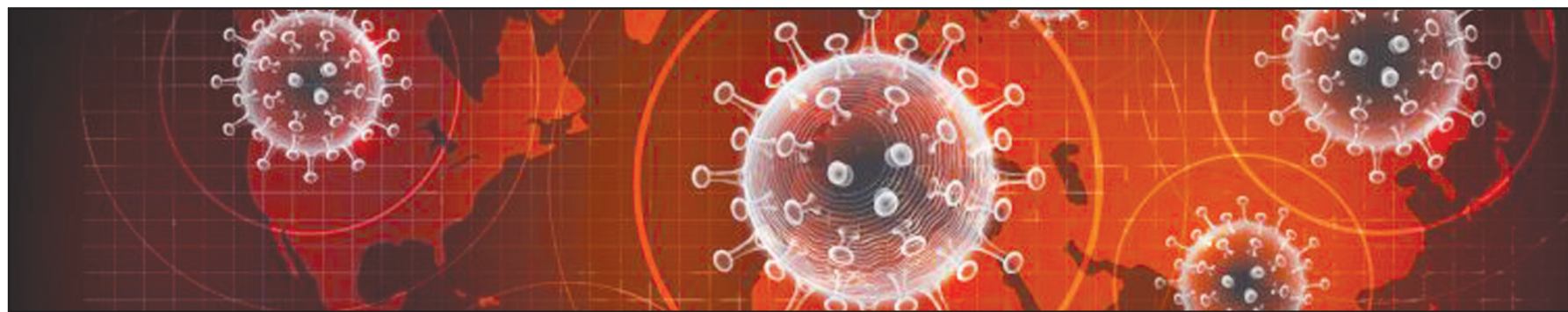
THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

News from the African American perspective without fear or favor

VOLUME 93/No. 18

APRIL 30, 2020 -MAY 6, 2020

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COVID-19 UPDATE

County-wide COVID-19 testing has begun, residents remain under Stay At Home Order

NEW HANOVER COUNTY, NC - New Hanover County began its expanded diagnostic testing for COVID-19, with more than 100 tested on the first day at the drive-through testing site. Results of tests are expected in the coming days, and data specific to this effort will be shared on the county's website during the next four weeks of expanded testing.

Residents who are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms can call the New Hanover County Coronavirus Call Center at 910-798-6800 Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., to be pre-screened by a public health nurse before being referred for a test. County-wide testing is expected to continue through May 22.

To date, there have been 81 lab-confirmed cases of COVID-19 in

New Hanover County, and of those 57 people have recovered, 21 are still ill and experiencing symptoms, and there have been three deaths.

County Restrictions Expire, Stay At Home Order Remains in Place

New Hanover County's additional county-wide restrictions expire today at 5 p.m., but residents and businesses will remain under the Governor's Stay At Home Order that is in place until at least May 8. In addition, the City of Wilmington and Carolina, Kure and Wrightsville beaches have implemented additional restrictions for their municipalities.

"We have stayed ahead of the curve, and I have confidence that residents will continue their per-

sonal measures that keep themselves and one another protected from COVID-19," said New Hanover County Board of Commissioners Chair Julia Olson-Boseman. "I recently announced that I would be letting the county-wide restrictions expire this week, based on the current data from Public Health, NHRMC's capacity and the hospital system's metrics that they are actively monitoring, as well as the information we are going to have from the county's expanded COVID-19 testing program. Now that we have better data and metrics around the virus in our community, I believe that allowing New Hanover County, our residents and businesses, to be in line with the Governor's Order provides our community with the

right amount of mitigation measures. But I have encouraged the mayors of our municipalities to do what they feel is in the best interest of their distinct communities, and they made some of those announcements today."

Specific information related to the county's order expiring, as well as other municipal restrictions is below:

• Restaurants can now allow carry-out food service, in addition to continuing curbside and delivery (dine-in service is still prohibited under the Governor's Order).

# Businesses that are outlined under the Governor's Order

Please see NHCOUNTY/Page 2



NNPA PHOTO

Rep. Maxine Waters (D-Calif.) announces that her sister is dying at a hospital in St. Louis after being infected by the coronavirus.

Emotional Maxine Waters announces that her sister is near death with COVID-19

BY STACY M. BROWN NNPA NEWSWIRE SENIOR CORRESPONDENT @StacyBrownMedia

"I'm going to take a moment to dedicate this legislation to my dear sister, who is dying in a hospital in St. Louis, Missouri right now, infected by the coronavirus," Waters announced as she voted on a new coronavirus small business package.

Waters is not the only member of Congress who has been affected by the pandemic. Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.), Rep. Amy

Klobuchar (D-Minn.), Rep. Ben McAdams (D-Ut.), Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart (R-Fla.), and a host of other lawmakers have in some way have personally felt the devastation of COVID-19.

Waters' emotional announcement brought a wave of support from staunch followers, supporters, and friends of the longtime congresswoman known affectionately as "Auntie Maxine."

"To hear that Elizabeth Warren has lost her

Please see WATERS/Page 2



DR. T. ANTHONY SPEARMAN

NC NAACP urges expansion of Medicaid

BY CASH MICHAELS OF THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

In an April 28, 2020, letter, Dr. T. Anthony Spearman, President, NCNAACP, urged Republican legislative leaders of the N. C. General Assembly to use the COVID-19 pandemic crisis to expand Medicaid and help the needy who are being struck hardest by it.

"You have with your power to immediately allow our widely

Please see MEDICAID/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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JOURNAL

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## BRUNSWICK

Continued from Page 1

how to fill out applications, write resumes (company or public standards). I write this because in these times I find that some of our young people can't fill out the necessary paper work for those things that are happening around us now. By that, I mean food programs, health programs, etc. With all these computers, tablets, and, of course, I Phones, etc. on the market and in our homes, our children are still being left behind. We must begin to concentrate on what these kids are being exposed to and get them to the right programs. This Fortnite, Mortal Kombat, and other such games are not educating our children. In fact, they are destroying more minds than they are helping! Young men and women, boys and girls, are staying up all night, playing these games! Our children need to know how to take care of simple information and, at least, complete simple forms.

I find that too many of our youth can't do these things by themselves. We must do better. We must not continue to fail our youth. Their minds are being programmed for failure by this type of entertainment!

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

## NH COUNTY

Continued from Page 1

can open, but establishments that cannot comply with social distancing like close-contact businesses must remain closed.

# The Governor's Executive Order 131 also requires stores that are operating to implement social distancing policies, that includes limiting the occupancy in a store and implementing physical distancing markers.

# Retail establishments within the city limits must also keep dressing rooms closed, under the city's order.

# Auto and boat dealers in the city limits must comply with 11-point protocol, under the city's order.

• **Hotels, motels and short-term rentals** in the unincor-

porated county (i.e., those outside of the city limits and the beach communities) can open, but cannot have any dine-in operations and must comply with the Governor's Order for social distancing. In addition:

# City of Wilmington has extended restrictions on short-term rentals until 5 p.m. on May 4.

# Carolina Beach, Kure Beach, and Wrightsville Beach have extended restrictions on short-term rentals until May 8.

• **Team sports facilities**, including basketball and volleyball courts, in the unincorporated county can open but must adhere to social distancing requirements and groups cannot be larger than 10 people. Team sports facilities within the City of Wilmington must remain closed, under the city's order.

• **Beaches** are open with limitations as ordered by each of the beach towns.

For an overview of these restrictions and other frequently asked questions, visit [Health.NHCgov.com](http://Health.NHCgov.com).

• At this time, our known infection numbers appear manageable within the county, and we hope that continues to be true in the weeks and months to come," said New Hanover County Public Health Preparedness Coordinator Lisa Brown. "Our expanded testing is already proving to be an important service for our community, with more than 100 people scheduled for testing in the first day. And the data we are able to obtain for this testing will help us better understand if and where community transmission and outbreaks are, by identifying new cases of COVID-19. This

data, coupled with other information we have, is important as we begin to reopen businesses and see other activity in our area - so that we can actively monitor the public's health."

## Slow the Spread

As mitigation measures begin to lift, the public is encouraged to continue personal protective actions to help keep the rate of COVID-19 low and to slow the spread of the virus:

- Comply with the Governor's Stay at Home Order.
- 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, countertops and daily work surfaces).

As of April 29, there have been 81 lab-confirmed cases of COVID-19 in New Hanover County. For more information about COVID-19 in New Hanover County, visit [Health.NHCgov.com](http://Health.NHCgov.com), call our Public Health Coronavirus Call Center at 910-798-6800, and follow the county's trusted social media pages: Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and Nextdoor.

## MEDICAID

Continued from Page 1

respected State and County Health Directors to put into effect a containment strategy, complementing the mitigation strategy, which has slowed, but not reversed, the ring number of cases and deaths we now experience. With the new Medicaid money released, we can move to a testing and tracing containment

policy in the hotspots that are popping out across the state; nursing homes, prisons, jails, large plants, and other places. This action will give us the ability to truly control the pandemic."

Spearman's letter to Senate Majority Leader, Phil Berger and House Speaker, Tim Moore comes as the NC legislature reconvenes in special session this week to consider further measures needed to deal

with impact of the novel coronavirus pandemic.

As of this writing, North Carolina had confirmed over 9,415 cases, with over 336 deaths. At least 39% of those are in the African-American community.

Spearman also expressed concern that, if the legislature does expand Medicaid, it will only be for the duration of the pandemic, as Speaker Moore has offered. Governor Cooper has

held fast for expanding Medicaid permanently, even before the COVID-19.

Dr. Spearman also cautioned that statistics are already showing how disproportionately COVID-19 is impacting African-Americans.

"Expanding Medicaid now is crucial for the survival of all our state's citizens," Rev. Spearman continued. "Today we have more than a half million neighbors unable to access

healthcare unless they are so sick they need costly emergency care. They are the frontline workers who some call heroes during the pandemic; some call them essential now..."

"Pandemics arise without warning, and people need to have the ability to access care in place when they first happen," Rev. Spearman concluded. "In that case, the best decision would be to expand Medicaid now."

## WATERS

Continued from Page 1

brother and Maxine Waters is losing her sister is heart-breaking. My heart goes out to these incredible women who fight for truth and justice for all. Bless you, both," Rosanna Arquette, an actor, producer, director, and activist, wrote on Twitter.

"This is awful news. Sending love to one of our dearest AM Joy favorites, Rep. Maxine Waters, who has always been so kind and so generous to us with her

weekend time," stated news personality, Joy-Ann Reid.

"Congresswoman, our whole team, and I will go ahead and speak for our viewers-we are praying for your sister and family," Reid added.

In a previous Twitter post, Waters repeated her demand for universal coronavirus testing. "Twitter family, please use the power and influence of Twitter to demand testing, testing, testing," Waters wrote.

Considered by many to be one of the most powerful women in American poli-

tics, Waters has gained a reputation as a fearless and outspoken advocate for women, children, people of color, and the poor.

Elected in November 2018 to her fifteenth term in the U.S. House of Representatives with more than 70 percent of the vote in the 43rd Congressional District of California, Waters represents a large part of South Los Angeles.

Her district includes the communities of Westchester, Playa Del Rey, and Watts and the unincorporated areas of Los Angeles

County comprised of Lennox, West Athens, West Carson, Harbor Gateway, and El Camino Village. The 43rd District also includes the diverse cities of Gardena, Hawthorne, Inglewood, Lawndale, Lomita, and Torrance.

According to her biography, Waters made history as the first woman and first African American Chair of the House Financial Services Committee. An integral member of Congressional Democratic Leadership, Congresswoman Waters serves as a

member of the Steering & Policy Committee and is the Co-Chair of the bipartisan Congressional Task Force on Alzheimer's Disease. She is also a member of the Congressional Progressive Caucus, and member and past chair of the Congressional Black Caucus.

"So, saddened to hear about Maxine Waters' sister," NBC News personality Maya Wiley wrote. "She rightly demands that Congress must immediately turn to the next package of legislation."

# REGISTER TO VOTE: PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION IS IN NOVEMBER



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

STATE BRIEFS



NY TIMES POINTS TO TRIANGLE AS NEXT NATIONAL COVID-19 HOTSPOT

[RALEIGH] According to the *New York Times*, the Durham-Chapel Hill area ranks high for becoming the next COVID-19 hotspot because it has logged at least 20 COVID-19 deaths. Raleigh is twelfth on the list.

FOUR ARRESTED FROM TUESDAY'S REOPEN PROTEST

[RALEIGH] Four participants in Tuesday's "ReOpenNC" protest in downtown Raleigh, including the cofounder - Ashley Smith, were arrested and charged with resisting a public officer, and violation of an executive order. One of the other four - Jonathan Warren - was charged with damage to property after damaging the "north east gate" the executive mansion by pulling on it so violently that it was broken, a police report said, noting that Warren caused the damage

by trying to gain access during the demonstration.

Hundreds of predominantly white protestors converged on the governor's mansion, and the legislative building as the new special session began. They want Gov. Cooper to drop his COVID-19 restrictions.

NC FAITH LEADERS SEE CLIMATE, COVID-19 AS MORAL ISSUES

BY NADIA RAMLAGAN OF NCNS

[RALEIGH] On Earth Day, faith leaders reflected on how they believe climate

change and the coronavirus crisis will change humanity.

Susannah Tuttle directs Interfaith Power and Light, a North Carolina Council of Churches program that works with congregations to promote renewable energy and raise awareness about the climate crisis. The group celebrates its 85th anniversary this year.

Racial and economic inequities are amplified as communities face hurricanes, drought and other effects of climate change, Tuttle said, "and, as a moral imperative, we must be making the connections of

the COVID-19 pandemic to our shared global climate emergency."

According to EPA data, North Carolina's climate warmed one-half to one degree Fahrenheit over the last century, and the state's coastal waters are rising about one inch every decade, leading to eroding beaches and severe flooding.

Tuttle said she believes the coronavirus offers an opportunity for state lawmakers to improve air and water quality, and curb greenhouse-gas emissions, even as the Trump administration continues to unravel federal environmental regulations.

"If they only put the economy and business first, with the very economic system that has created the

problem in the first place of inequality and injustice, in this country and in North Carolina," she said, "then it'll be crystal clear what they value most."

Studies have shown that low-income neighborhoods and communities of color disproportionately are located near coal-fired power plants, hog farms and industrial manufacturers, emitting toxins linked to cancer, lung disease and other health burdens. Emerging research also indicates that people of color are becoming sick and dying of COVID-19 at higher rates than other groups.

COMPILED BY CASH MICHAELS



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## OUR VOICE

### GUEST EDITORIAL

#### RAINBOW COALITION

### Let prisoners go during COVID-19 Pandemic

(Via TriceEdneyWire.com)

Across the United States and across the world, prisoners are among the most vulnerable to the coronavirus. Overcrowded facilities, shortages of food and medicine, and totally inadequate testing expose prisoners who are disproportionately poor and afflicted with prior conditions that render them vulnerable to the disease.

Prisoners increasingly are protesting their conditions, objecting to being sentenced to die in prison.

Experts across the world are urging governments to reduce their prison populations swiftly. Michelle Bachelet, the United Nations high commissioner for Human Rights, warned that "The consequences of neglecting [overcrowded conditions] are potentially catastrophic."

Many countries have begun to act. Turkey's parliament authorized the release of 45,000 prisoners. Indonesia has released at least 30,000. Even Iran's dictatorial regime has released roughly 85,000 detainees, while dealing harshly with those protesting the risks.

The United States locks up more people than any other country in the world, largely because of harsh and wrong-headed policies. Fifty-five thousand are detained in jail awaiting trials, too poor to pay for their freedom under the current cash bail system that is prevalent in many states.

The Prison Policy Initiative reports that 48,000 children are incarcerated on any given day. Many are charged only with "status offenses," such as truancy or homelessness. The Health and Human Services office in charge of the custody of unaccompanied undocumented minors reports that 2,000 are locked up. The New York Times reports that 59 in custody have already tested positive for COVID-19.

In California, The Marshall Project notes, more than one in seven prisoners are over the age of 55. The percentage of those 55 and older in prison in the country has tripled over the course of this century.

As Piper Kerman, author of "Orange is the New Black," wrote in the Washington Post, this is largely the result of prison sentences that are longer than those imposed by any other country. "Elderly probationers and parolees have some of the lowest recidivism rates of all former inmates. Releasing such people poses very low public safety risks and will have a dramatic effect on preserving public health."

After an outbreak killed six inmates in a federal prison in Lisbon, Ohio, U.S. District Court Judge James Gwin decried the "shockingly limited" amount of testing, noting that the prison has received fewer than 100 tests, while a state prison of similar size had done about 4,000 tests. Two federal prisons in New York City reported that they had tested a total of only 19 inmates since the outbreak began; 11 were positive.

This has to change before the pandemic spreads, and prisons across the country go up in flames as prisoners' riot against their conditions.

Inmates awaiting trial, the elderly, the afflicted, and those who have served much of their sentence should get early release, if possible quarantined at home to ensure they are safe.

The space freed up should be used to provide more "social distancing," while emergency steps are taken to provide adequate medicine, protective equipment like masks and gloves, and food.

Correctional officials need particular priority, for they are most at risk and, if infected, could spread the virus in the local communities. And the failure to provide adequate testing in prisons and jails, as well as in society as a whole, is utterly inexcusable at this late date.

The crisis should also lead to larger reforms—drastically reducing sentences while expanding alternatives to incarceration, ending the cash bail system and the practice of locking poor people up while they await trial, expanding parole, reducing the overcrowded and primitive conditions of too many jails and prisons.

The virus is like getting hit by a club across the head. Perhaps that might help bring us to our senses.

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

Tell them you read it in

THE

WILMINGTON JOURNAL



## Visual Voice



## YOUR VOICE

### I HAVE A DREAM THAT THE GOOD PEOPLE WILL REGISTER, TURN OUT IN RECORD NUMBERS AND VOTE ON NOVEMBER 3RD

We will elect Joe Biden President and his vice-president will be Val Demings or Stacy Abrams.

President #46 Biden will appoint Patricia Harris as Attorney General. AG Patricia Harris will prosecute TRUMP and Barr using every federal law she researched and wrote on her legal pad and placed in her Corinthian leather attaché.

Elizabeth Warren will be his Treasury Secretary and, she will investigate the big banks and all other parasitic financial institutions and organizations then send her findings to AG Harris for prosecutions. TRUMP and Barr will shred the paperwork on all the illegal activities they can remember but they will miss some because they had so many. The honest and dedicated career government workers will hold some documents back to aid the AG in their prosecution. 99% of the world leaders have sent TRUMP a "Dear John" letter.

President Biden will ask Barack Obama to be our Secretary of State to renew our respectable relationships with world leaders. All persons appointed by President Biden will be professionally qualified, reviewed and recommended by a diverse search committee. Joe Biden will never appoint an Education Secretary who never attended a public school, rode a school bus or taught a single lesson. He also would not appoint a dog breeder to oversee giving COVID-19 responses. We will not weaken the U.S. Senate by

removing two extremely valuable members because, we will add at least six new Democrats. We will defeat Mitch McConnell (Kentucky), Lindsey Graham (South Carolina), Thom Tillis (North Carolina), Martha McSally (Arizona), Cory Gardner (Colorado) and Susan Collins (Maine).

Independence Day for all good people will be on November 4, 2020 and we will sing "Happy Days Are Here Again!!!"

James J. Hankins  
Wilmington, NC

## MATTERS OF OPINION

### TO BE EQUAL

### NUL's Advocacy gives small minority-owned businesses and community-based institutions better access to COVID-19 relief funding

(Via TriceEdneyWire.com)

"The story of minority-owned businesses struggling to access capital is the story of banking practices that too often exclude people of color as potential customers. A federally guaranteed loan program must not do the same." — Letter to Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin and Small Business Administration head Jovita Carranza from 23 Senators

The \$349 billion Paycheck Protection Program established by Congress earlier this month was supposed to help sustain small businesses imperiled by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The money ran out in less than two weeks.

Then we found out that the vast majority of the funding — \$243.4 million — went to huge, publicly-traded companies

instead of legitimate small businesses.

Some of the companies are valued at more than \$100 million, have millions in cash on hand, and — unlike the legitimate small businesses who didn't see a dime of the funding — have easy access to other revenue sources. Fiesta Restaurant Group, which received a \$10 million loan, owns the Taco Cabana and Pollo Tropical chains and operates more than 300 restaurants. The company saw more than \$660 million in sales last year.

The most highly-valued company, Shake Shack, is worth \$1.6 billion. Following backlash, Shake Shack returned the \$10 million it received. Determined to get funding

to legitimate small businesses, the National Urban League advocated relentlessly to make sure the next relief package included targeted relief for the neighborhood-based businesses that have been the hardest-hit by the crisis.

While our efforts have met with some success, much remains to be done.

Our work with Congress resulted in the inclusion of dedicated funding for Small Business Administration Disaster Loans and Grants and for community-based lenders.

There is no question that the aid package that Congress passed this week was much enhanced by the provisions for which we advocated so strenuously. Our movement pushed relentlessly for these dedicated funding pools.

I'm especially grateful for the efforts of Senators Chuck Schumer, Sherrod Brown,

Chris Van Hollen, Ben Cardin and Cory Booker. We urge immediate passage in the House and appreciate the work of Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Representatives Karen Bass, Maxine Waters and Nydia Velazquez.

The legislation includes: \$60 Billion Set-aside for Smaller Lenders: A \$60 billion set-aside within PPP for small and mid-sized banks and credit unions as well as community-based lending institutions.

Most importantly, this set-aside funding will help ensure that unbanked and underserved businesses can get access to PPP. This includes minority-owned businesses, rural businesses, small mom and pop businesses, and smaller nonprofits that too often have been pushed to the back of the line in the pro-

MORIAL

Continued on page 5

## Donald John Trump is hazardous to your health

(Via TriceEdneyWire.com)

The daily White House coronavirus briefings have made me cringe, scream, shake my head, and even laugh! The President of the United States offers medical advice, minimizes the coronavirus, injects partisanship into his remarks, and generally treated these critical briefings as his daily open mike. He uses his bully pulpit to praise and to scold, giving particular scorn for the media. Not only is this man vindictive, but also brusque and churlish.

His ignorance hit a nadir, though, when he suggested, on April 23, that sunlight and heat might heal the coronavirus. Then he said that since bleach and other disinfectants could rid surfaces of the coronavirus, bleach and disinfectants might also work on people. His comment was so alarming that Lysol should not be used internally, "Under no circumstances should our disinfectant products be administered into the human body through injection, ingestion, or any other route," a Lysol spokesperson told NBC News. A day later, he attempted to explain his remarks, but he outright lied about what he

said. Is 45 this ignorant, or is he merely deflecting from the many mistakes he has made, as our nation's leader, in combating the deadly and highly infectious virus? From urging people to go to church on

Easter Sunday (he took it back), to telling states they can open for business before testing results are back, he has taken the nation's health into his hands and imperiled our

collective health as a result. Not to mention his enthusiastic embrace of hydroxychloroquine, touting it in several press briefings as a "game-changer." The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has cautioned against the use of the drug except in a hospital setting or clinical trial. Did 45 ask for their advice? Or did he go to med school when none of us were looking?

During the daily briefings, I've been extremely impressed by Dr. Anthony Fauci, the

blunt-talking director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. While he is not disagreeable, he is not afraid to openly disagree with 45. He's been leading NIAID since 1984 and was instrumental in working on ways to contain the HIV/AIDS epidemic. The President seems so tone-deaf to Dr. Fauci's advice and the advice of Dr. Deborah Birx, the White House Coronavirus Response Coordinator. Previously, she served as the United States Global Coronavirus Response Coordinator. Watching her body language when 45 speaks suggests that she does not have to contradict him verbally to make her displeasure. When he ignores the advice of these medical experts, he endangers our health. According to the President, there has been sufficient testing. Most experts disagree. He says that anyone who wants a test can get one. That's a bald-faced lie. Indeed Larry Hogan, the governor of Maryland, had to get 500,000 tests from South Korea because the federal government either didn't have them or would not distribute them.

Mr. Trump has missed no opportunity to praise himself

for doing "a great job" in combatting the coronavirus. He has missed no opportunity to demean or condescend to the media. He has turned a severe world pandemic into a chance to bloviate, lie, and offer self-congratulations. I laugh to keep from screaming, even though since I'm sheltering in place, no one would hear me. While there is nothing funny about a virus that has, in just a couple of months, killed more than 50,000 people, some of the Trump remarks are amusing, amazing, and, ultimately, disgusting.

The White House attitude toward the states also endangers our health. Disaster relief funds include money for hospitals. It also has money available for the states. But through a murky set of rules, the states cannot use the funds for state operations, only for COVID-19 related expenses. How do we tell the difference, especially when state operations (including health operations) are strained by the virus? Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell says the states can

MALVEAUX

Continued on page 5



## Corona Soul Food Roundtable

BY BEVERLY SMALLS  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Monday, a third Soul Food Corona Virus-related Zoom virtual meeting included members of the faith community, politicians, and state administrators.

The Rev. Jermaine Armour of Saint Luke African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, NC Senator Harper

Peterson, and community activist, Devon Scott led discussions that impact the general public, and African-Americans specifically.

"We've got to get out there and educate," Rev. Armour said.

He related that his church is located in a South Wilmington neighborhood that includes poor residents.

"I'm seeing lots of people

with no masks, no gloves, no social distancing."

Stephanie Pigues, Gov. Roy Cooper's Political Director also voiced concern, and offered to connect him with volunteers and organized groups that make masks.

"Cell phones tell us where you are," Pigues said referring to North Carolinians.

"More people are going out, getting a little more wreck

less." Informing participants that citizens need to stay home and safe, she also stressed a need for the state to have a steady decline in Corona Virus cases before shelter in place restrictions end.

Rev. Armour said pastors are discussing ways the needs of communities and individuals can be met.



NC SENATOR  
HARPER PETERSON



REV.  
JERMAINE ARMOUR

Information about where resources are include, sources of protective coverings like masks, and food supplies.

"The harvest is plentiful," he said referring to those in local areas that need assistance from faith communities and others.

Saint Luke already offered a grocery service in connection with food banks and related services.

It is currently run by appointments, said the pastor who had given out bags of groceries before participating in the Monday meeting.

He also informed that the, "Poor People's Campaign," has made contact to discuss a future Webinar designed to communicate with faith leaders and interested parties regarding Covid 19 needs.

Senator Harper Peterson was introduced to the virtual group by Sonya Patrick, NC Black Leadership Caucus Chairperson who referred to him as, "a politician who has served us well."

Peterson said his office is involved in community efforts that are proactive in slowing the virus.

"We're going back in session," Sen. Peterson said of the Raleigh General Assembly.

"Our \$1.4 billion compromise budget includes money for mental health needs."

The NC House and Senate compromise bill would add to

resources received from the CARES program, and should pass by April 30, according to the senator.

The new funding would also get aid and testing provisions into the hands of service groups.

Shaunta Anthony, Minority and Political Affairs Director for the NC Democratic Party spoke of activating compassion in communities that might not have access to masks.

"We can take this opportunity to create masks," Anthony said.

"Interfaith circles need to work together," she said referring to herself as a, "Zionite."

Devon Scott's participation in the Zoom format stressed needs to make area residents aware of opportunities available to them that are linked to unemployment and other resources.

"I'm finding places to get information to everybody, opportunities for relief," Scott said and shared other concerns.

"We can't forget about this election year, mail-in ballots."

Other meeting participants included Officer Blackwell from the New Hanover County Sheriff's Department, Deb Williams of, "Stay At Home NC," and LaShonda Wallace of the NAACP.

Wallace said her organization will offer a Webinar for faith leaders next week.

### Watch out for COVID-19 Scams

Scammers are exploiting your fears about the COVID-19 pandemic to steal your money and information. The North Carolina Department of Justice (NCDOJ) is here to help.

Here are a few ways you can protect yourself:

- Do not provide personal or financial information in response to unsolicited calls or messages.
- Be suspicious of calls claiming to be from a government agency. Caller ID can be faked. Hang up and call the number listed on the agency's website to verify.
- To submit information to the IRS related to your recovery payment, go only to IRS.gov/coronavirus and not any other website.
- Hang up on robocalls from people trying to sell you pandemic-related products.
- Research charities carefully before you give money.



Scammers may offer a "miracle cure" or preventive supplement for COVID-19. Always check with a doctor before buying or taking a new medication.



NCDOJ is working to protect North Carolinians from scams. If you believe you have been scammed, file a complaint at [NCDOJ.gov/complaint](https://www.ncdoj.gov/complaint) or 1-877-5-NO-SCAM.



## If I could do one thing, I'd have a daycare closer to work.

If you could do one thing for your community, what would it be? More daycare centers? More funding for Head Start? Completing the 2020 Census is a safe and easy way to inform how billions of dollars in funding flow into your community for hundreds of services. **Respond online, by phone, or by mail.**

Complete the census at:

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**Walter Lee Jones**

Walter Lee Jones, son of the late John Walter Jones and Mattie Jones was born on October 5, 1947, in Wilmington, North Carolina. He departed this life and received his angel wings on Monday, April 20, 2020 while at home.

Walter was educated in the New Hanover County School System and graduated from Williston Senior High School in the Class of 1966. Following high school, Walter enlisted in the United States Air force and was stationed at Langley Air force Base in Hampton, Virginia. He proudly served his country in the Vietnam Wars a Military Policeman. He had extensive combat history and participated in several military operations. After his tour of duty, Walter moved back to Wilmington, North Carolina and began working at General Electric. He ended his employment with Flower Baking as an independent route salesperson in 2011, after suffering a brain aneurysm.

Walter was affectionately known as "grandpa" and "granddaddy" to his grandchildren and "Wa-Wa" to his great-grandchildren. He was a homeboy and loved being at home, watching television and talking to his wife. He was an avid news watcher. Walter loved jazz, NFL Football and NBA Basketball. He was a loving and devoted husband, father, brother, son, uncle and friend.

We will all remember the countless times he made us smile. He was our precious jewel that cannot be replaced.

In addition to his parents, Walter was also preceded in death by five siblings.

He leaves to cherish fond memories: his devoted and loving wife of 32 years, Linda; one beloved daughter, Ngina Allen; four sons, Chester (Sharon) DeVane, Vernon (Charmin) DeVane, Jamar Johnson and Malik Johnson; one sister, Shirley (Robert) Garrett of Savannah, GA.; three grandsons, Maurice (Dawnetta) Allen, Montez Gibbs and Desmond Raeford; four granddaughters, Cheriekke Dreher, Brianna DeVane, Dominique Yost and Kendra Yost; fourteen great-grandchildren; two adopted sons, Dewayne Burch and Ronald Robinson, Jr.; a special niece, Teresa (Clayton) Johnson; three sisters-in-law; four nieces; seven nephews, other relatives and friends. *A service of Adkins-Drain Funeral Service, 515 So. 8th Street, Wilmington, N. C.*

*Condolences may be made at [adkinsdrainfuneralservice.com](http://adkinsdrainfuneralservice.com).*

**Gary Edward Nixon**

Gary Edward Nixon, affectionately known as ("G/Fat Daddy) was born to the late Mary Brown Nixon and James Edward Johnson November 6, 1962, in Wilmington, North Carolina. He transitioned from this life to his Heavenly Home on April 12, 2020, at Duke University Medical Center, Durham, North Carolina. Graveside services were held April 25, 2020, at Pollock Cemetery, Scotts Hill Community, Wilmington, North Carolina.

Gary gave his life to Christ at Ebenezer A.M.E. Church in Fort Washington, Maryland. Gary attended Laney High School in Wilmington, North Carolina and later studied and earned his GED. In his early years, he worked in construction in Wilmington North Carolina. He was a jack of all trades and a master of none" - in other words he possessed many skills, but was not a specialist in any specific one of them.

Gary was a kind, fun loving, outgoing and a giving man who never met a stranger. He never missed an opportunity to tell a joke and keep you laughing and when the conversation became too serious for him, he would tell you, "I got this"!

Gary was preceded in death by two brothers, Robert Carnell (Pluto) Brown and Gregory (Peanut) Dale Nixon.

He leaves to cherish his memories: Four sisters: Jacqueline A. Greer Adir (Holloway), Leland, North Carolina and Eleanor L. Spicer, Wilmington, North Carolina; Barbara Nixon Slade (Jim), Upper Marlboro, Maryland and Katrina B. Nixon Harris, Capitol Heights, Maryland; Sister-in-law, Linda Brown, Tabor city, North Carolina; three brothers: Charles E. Brown, Wilmington, North Carolina; Kenneth R. Nixon, Greenbelt, Maryland and Reginald Johnson, Wilmington, North Carolina; one Aunt, Lizzie Nixon, Wilmington, North Carolina; a host of nieces, great nieces, nephews, great nephews, cousins and friends; including devoted friends who were special to him, Rick Simpson and Michael (Heavy) Matthews. *A service of Adkins-Drain Funeral Service, 515 So. 8th Street, Wilmington, N. C. Condolences may be made at [adkinsdrainfuneralservice.com](http://adkinsdrainfuneralservice.com).*

**With over 50,000 dead, Civil Rights leaders urge African Americans to remain at home**

**BY LAUREN VICTORIA BURKE**  
NNPA NEWSWIRE CONTRIBUTOR

With the coronavirus death toll passing 50,000 during the last week in April, Black leaders in the U.S. have taken to warning their communities of the danger of opening the country back up too soon.

The coronavirus has devastated the Black community in Detroit and all of the fatalities in Richmond, Va. are African Americans. Though the numbers are showing signs of slowing down Black leaders are taking no chances.

On Friday, April 24 a group of civil rights leaders encouraged African Americans to "stay-at-home" shortly after the Governor of Georgia decided to lift the state's stay-at-home order. The CDC guidelines outline that if COVID-19 stats remain down for 14 days straight the state can re-open. Many Governors are following those guidelines.

Melanie Campbell, President of the National Coalition on Black Civic Participation, joined a group of Black faith and civil rights leaders and the heads of the largest historically Black reli-

gious denominations to encourage African Americans to "stay at home" until there is evidence that it's safe to go out.

A letter authored by Rev. Al Sharpton (NAN), Rev. Dr. W. Franklyn Richardson (CNBC), Sherrilyn Ifill (NAACP, LDF), Marc Morial (NUL), Derrick Johnson (NAACP), Melanie Campbell (BWR), Kristen Clarke (Lawyers' Committee) encouraged people to stay at home.

We, the undersigned, have joined together to state our unequivocal and firm opposition to the premature effort of governors to willfully reopen their states. The actions of these governors, which demonstrate reckless disregard for the health and life of Black residents, compel us to speak out and take action to protect ourselves," the letter began.

"We encourage all Black churches and businesses to remain closed during this critical period. The denominations and independent churches represented in this statement, which comprise a combined membership of more than 25 million people and more than 30,000 congre-

gations, intend to remain closed and to continue to worship virtually, with the same dedication and love that we brought to the church. The civil rights organizations represented are working tirelessly to protect our communities from injustice and inequality as this country responds to the pandemic," the letter added.

Several Republican governors appear to be taking their marching orders from President Donald Trump who is anxious to re-open the country economically while not referencing the over 50,000 dead Americans from COVID-19.

Issues around environmental racism, disparities in health care coverage and treatment and economic considerations are issues African Americans have to confront more than other communities.

The group Black Millennials for Flint are mobilizing to confront the problem of the continuous lack of clean water in the city after it was revealed that former Michigan Governor Rick Snyder made serious errors during the Flint water crisis.

"On April 25, 2014, a com-

pletely dehumanizing decision was made by former Governor Rick Snyder to switch from the Detroit Water System to the Flint River creating one of the most lethal man-made crises in American History. Fast forward to 2020, 6 years later, not a single individual involved in this act of genocide has been held accountable for the poisoning of an entire city," the group wrote.

"To put this in perspective, or to 'make it plain' as our elders say, the kindergartners in Flint that started this 2019-20 academic school year have not lived a single year of life without the threat of unclean drinking water. Their first year of their educational journey has now also been brought to a halt due to COVID-19," they added. The Flint water crisis continues along with the COVID-19 pandemic.

*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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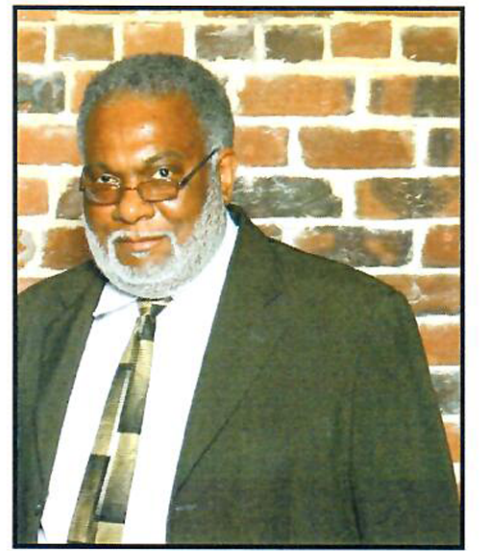
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**Message Regarding the Coronavirus Outbreak:**

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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Samuel Drain, Jr.  
and Allene Drain  
In Memoriam



Connie Drain Green  
Funeral Director

## TELL SOMEBODY

"These six things doth the Lord hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: Abomination - Something that elicits extreme dislike

## 1. A proud look

All pride is not bad. It can be a positive characteristic to have, when one has self respect or shows satisfaction in one's work or achievement. Pride is an overly high opinion of oneself, which can evolve into conceit, which is an overdeveloped opinion of one's abilities.

## 2. A lying tongue

A lie is a false statement purposely put forward as

truth. A lie is something meant to deceive or give a wrong impression. Proverbs 19:5 says, "A false witness shall not be unpunished, and he that speaketh lies shall not escape." Proverbs 12:22 says, "Lying lips are abomination to the Lord: but they that deal truly are his delight" Psalm 101:7b says, "He that telleth lies shall not tarry in my sight."

3. Hands that shed innocent blood.

Psalm 94:21,22 "But the Lord is my defense; and my God is the rock of my refuge. And he shall bring upon them their own iniquity, and shall

cut them off in their own wickedness; yea, the Lord our God shall cut them off."



Sylvia Hooper

the Lord are in every place, beholding the evil and the good." Proverbs 15:3

4. An heart that deviseth

wicked imaginations.

Imagination means to have a notion without a foundation. We cannot always follow our heart because....

"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?" Jeremiah 17:9

5. Feet that be swift in running to mischief. "Their feet run to evil, and they make haste to shed innocent blood." Isaiah 59:7a

6. A false witness that speaketh lies.

God's Law concerning being a false witness is included in one of the Ten Commandments. "Thou shalt

not bear false witness against thy neighbor." Exodus 20:16

7. He that soweth discord among brethren

Discord is marked by tension, strife, and the lack of agreement among persons. Proverbs 22:8 declares, "He that soweth iniquity shall reap vanity: and the rod of his anger shall fail."

Don't forget to Tell Somebody!!!

"Mrs. Sylvia B. Hooper is a native Wilmingtonian, married to Pastor Johnson A. Hooper, First Lady of Faith Outreach COGIC, Jacksonville, N.C. She is a mother of three wonderful

children and a proud grandmother! She is a Licensed Evangelist with COGIC, International. She is the President of P.W.E. Pastors Wives Empowerment Conference, an annual event held in honor of Pastors and ministers Wives. This support group's focus is to Encourage, Embrace and Empower Elect Ladies to be all they can be in Christ Jesus, while providing support to their husbands, who are Gospel preachers and pastors. Her heart's desire is to please the Lord, rescue the perishing, comfort the dying, and live a life that gives God glory!

## A WORD FROM THE LORD

## "God is still God and He still has not changed in the way He deals with the affairs of man"

The Battle Is Not Ours, But the Lords: 2 Chronicles 20:15, 2 Corinthians 10:4 Weapons Not Man made

The question for America and the world is no longer are we in a battle; but instead how do we fight the battle. A battle might creep upon you unaware but there is no mistake as to when it has arrived because it forces your attention from the ordinary: what, where and when to the specific: the defined pathogenic that causes the disease and this time in the form of a virus that causes not just sickness but death. What are we faced with, from where did it originate and when will we have to deal with the same demonic force in our own backyard? Fear not only begins to peak its gripping head, but also the panic of just the unknown.

We can learn from scripture which is designed not only for our learning but for ways of coping with any situation that can exist and involves man, "NIV Romans 15:4 For everything that was

written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope." John 16:24 KJV reminds us, "Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete."

Scripture gives us many accounts of men who knew where to go when they found themselves in a predicament that they themselves could not find the answer to. Man has been given the ability to solve ordinary problems but he needs to know that there is a God who has all the answers and waits on the humbling to ask.

"Jeremiah 33:3 NIV Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know." Then God repeats himself so no one misses it, "Psalms 91:15 NIV He will call on me,

and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble, I will deliver him and honor him." They were no smarter than we are, nor as laid back as some seem to appear. They just recognized the power and love of God!

When Jeremiah, king of Judah was threatened by the Moabites and Ammonites with some of the Meunites, Jeremiah consulted the Lord and the Lord's answer was, you do not need to fight in this battle. Jeremiah gathered the people and began by praising the Lord for what he had already done for His people. "Power and might are in your hand and no man can withstand you." Just recognizing God's power stimulates what he has already placed in you and I. He continues in verse 9 by saying,

"If calamity comes upon us, whether the sword of judgment, or plague or famine, we will stand in your presence before this temple

(church now residing in our hearts) and cry unto you in our distress, and you will hear us and save us...." But the corona virus is upon us. We have no power to face this virus that is attacking us. "...We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you." Jeremiah realized that this is a crisis that I cannot handle in my humanness. I need help that man cannot give me, mainly because man is part of the problem.

The whole family (men, wives and children) came before the Lord. The Lord said, Do not be afraid or discouraged because of this vast army (Corona virus, greater than us all). For the battle is not yours, but God's." Can a heart be too proud to repent, to ask and to receive from God for our families and our friends? Or can fleeting pleasures pull you and I away from the answers that only God can awaken us to? "If my people who are

called by my name would humble themselves and pray and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and heal their land." 2 Chronicles 7:14 Jehoshaphat bowed down with his face to the ground, and all the people of Judah and Jerusalem fell down in worship before the Lord.

God uses his people to discover his wonders for those whom he died and cares for. But in saying that, we must also realize as in scripture, "2 Corinthians 10:4. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds." In I Timothy Chapter 1:18 Paul writes "Timothy, my son, here are my instruction for you, based on the prophetic words spoken about you earlier, May they help you fight well in the Lord's battles. 19 Cling

to your faith in Christ, and keep your conscience clear."

Only in Christ are we assured of security in this world and beyond. Find it in Christ today if you have not experienced that confidence and peace. He says, whosoever will let him come. You can do that by asking in prayer by repenting, believing and receiving. Say, Lord I believe you are the Christ, save me and forgive me from my sin. Father, we pray in the Name of Jesus, let the light of the glorious gospel which is the power of God unto salvation to everyone who believeth be manifested in every person who receives it. Amen. Safe in the arms of Jesus!

Please Note: This week's column was written by Mrs. Thelma Fullwood, First Lady of MRDRC Ministries (Mircle, Restoration, Deliverance, Revival Center Ministries Inc.) located in Wilmington, NC.

## Managing your overall health during the COVID-19 Pandemic

Brunswick County- The evolving situation surrounding coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) can trigger overwhelming emotions for a lot of people. These emotions can contribute to higher levels of stress and anxiety. The good news is you are not alone in how you may be feeling. There are resources available to help. Finding healthy ways to cope with stress can help make you, your loved ones, and coworkers stronger.

**Here are some helpful tips from the CDC and NCDHHS to help support your overall health:**

Take breaks from watching, reading, or listening to news stories, including social media. Hearing about the pan-

demically repeatedly can be upsetting. It is important to get your information from accurate sources. Employees can find information and receive updates from the County on our website: <https://www.brunswickcountync.gov>

Take care of your body. Take deep breaths, stretch, or meditate. Try to eat healthy, well-balanced meals, exercise regularly, and get plenty of sleep

Make time to unwind. There are several virtual activities that allow you to connect with others. You can maintain connections without increasing your risk of getting the virus by talking on the phone, texting or chatting

with people on social media platforms and apps.

Related: Brunswick County Library System Virtual Services

Seek additional resources. If you feel an overwhelming nervousness, a lingering sadness, or other prolonged reactions that adversely affect your job performance or interpersonal relationships, talk to someone you trust about how you are feeling. Trained and experienced mental health professionals are available via virtual means. For more information, click on the links below:

- Brunswick County COVID-19 Community Assistance
- COVID-19: Managing Your Overall Health (NCDHHS)

- COVID-19: Managing Stress and Anxiety (CDC)

You can also subscribe to receive the County's media releases using our Mailchimp sign up form. Suggested email lists are the Sunshine List or the Emergency Situation Updates list (Note: subscribing to multiple lists might result in duplicate emails).

**Local and State Public Health Call Lines**

The COVID-19 situation is a stressful situation for many of us. There are several resources available should you need to speak with someone anonymously at this time:

- Trillium: 877.685.2415 (24-hour availability in English and Spanish)

- Disaster Distress Helpline: 800.985.5990 or text TalkWithUs to 66746 (24-hour availability in English and Spanish)

- Hope4NC Helpline: 1-855-587-3463 (available 24/7)

- Hope4Healers Helpline (for health care professionals, emergency medical specialists, first responders, other staff who work in health care settings and their

families who are experiencing stress from being on the front lines of the state's COVID-19 response): 919-226-2002 (available 24/7)

More resources are available through the NC Department of Health & Human Services: COVID-19: Managing Your Overall Health

**Brunswick County Public Health Call Line**

The County is operating a joint information center with a Public Health Call Line and email to answer residents' coronavirus questions (available Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.). More information is also available on our website at <https://www.brunswickcountync.gov/coronavirus> Phone: 910.253.2339 Email: [coronavirus@brunswickcountync.gov](mailto:coronavirus@brunswickcountync.gov)

Individuals who have questions afterhours are encouraged to use the North Carolina 2-1-1 program or call the North Carolina Public Health Call Line, which has public health professionals available 24 hours a day every day to answer questions.

**NC Public Health Call Line (Open 24/7) 866.462.3821**

**North Carolina 2-1-1 Program For COVID-19 questions, dial 2-1-1 or 888-892-1162**

Sign up for updates by texting COVIDNC to 898211

Other Helpful Links and Resources

- CDC Main Coronavirus Website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/>

- NC DHHS Main Coronavirus Website: <https://www.ncdhhs.gov/coronavirus>

- Brunswick County Main Coronavirus Website: <https://www.brunswickcountync.gov/coronavirus/>

- NC DHHS Information for Individuals at Higher Risk: <https://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/public-health/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19-response-north-carolina/people-higher-risk>

- CDC Recommendations for Individuals at Higher Risk: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/specific-groups/high-risk-complications.html>

- Hope4NC Helplines: <https://www.ncdhhs.gov/news/press-releases/new-mental-health-supports-all-north-carolinians-including-health-care-workers>



**STAY HOME,  
SAVE LIVES**

We all need to do our part to slow the spread of COVID-19.

**Protect your family, protect your neighbors, protect North Carolina.**

**NCDHHS.GOV/CORONAVIRUS**

Call 2-1-1 for assistance

Text COVID19NC to 898211 for updates



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