

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.

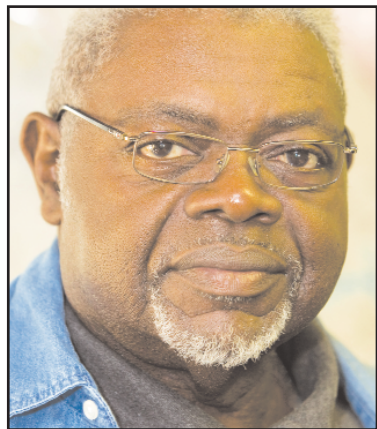
OUR COMMUNITY MOURNS



DOROTHY S. DESHIELDS

Dorothy DeShields, Williston Senior High School graduate, former New Hanover County Schools principal and former New Hanover County Schools board member passed away on Wednesday. Services are entrusted to Davis Funeral Home, 901 S. 5th Ave, Wilmington, NC 28401. Please share memories and condolences with the family at www.davisfuneralhomenc.com.

BRUNSWICK COUNTY



BERNEST HEWETT

MEMORIAL DAY

BY BERNEST HEWETT
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

This week, as we go into Memorial Day here in Brunswick County, we have a lot of veterans who need to be told that we are proud of them for their services and sacrifices, and, as I write, I can think of one who served his country well and then served his community also very well. He is known all over Brunswick County and Columbus County. His commitment to freedom was untiring through community service and political society.

My person of honor is known to many people as "Ask Willie Richardson" and to some others as "the Vegetable Man." He is one of the last Black Korean War veterans of combat left here in Brunswick County! So, if you see him, get a chance to speak to him, or even give him a call, let him know that *his service was*, and still is, very much appreciated!

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

THE WILMINGTON
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News from the African American perspective without fear or favor

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**ATTORNEY FOR KITA:
"COLOSSAL MISUNDERSTANDING"**

BY CASH MICHAELS
OF THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

The attorney for the former NHC sheriff's deputy who allegedly led an "angry White mob" erroneously to the home of a Pender County Black family, looking for his younger sister on May 3, says there was no racism involved and that it is all just some "colossal misunderstanding."

Meanwhile, a Pender County community leader says, regardless of the reason, that Black family was "terrorized," and he wants District Attorney Ben David to hand the case over to the FBI so that the truth can come out and justice be done.

Justice seems to be moving slowly in the Jordan Kita case, wherein the former NHC deputy, in uniform, allegedly led an "angry White mob," some with guns, of at least 15 people, to the home of Monica and Dameon Shepard in the Avendale community of

Rocky Point in Pender County, angrily demanding to know the whereabouts of his younger sister (who was found unharmed the next morning), and someone named "Josiah."

Both Dameon, 18, and his mother, Monica, vehemently denied knowing anything about the missing girl or anything about Josiah, especially when Kita allegedly tried to force his way into their home. Soon Pender deputies came to the scene but took no names and arrested no one. Five days later, New Hanover/Pender County District Attorney Ben David announced that Kita had been fired as a NHC deputy and was charged with forcible breaking and entering and willful failure to discharge duties. Another man allegedly with Kita May 3 who was carrying a weapon was charged with terrorizing the public.

According to WECT-TV, former NHC Deputy Kita was in uniform that night because he left his shift at the detention center early and didn't change clothes,

and his little sister is biracial. In fact, even though Jordan Kita is White, his family is biracial. The Kita family also claims they were working with the Pender County Sheriff's Department in the search.

James Rutherford, attorney for the Kita family, told the TV station that race had nothing to do with the events of May 3 and blames that "defamatory narrative" on the Shepard's attorney, Attorney James W. Lea.

In a statement to the media, Attorney Rutherford reiterated that the events of May 3 were not about race but, instead, about "...a family searching for a troubled teenager...and time was against them....the teen the family has had guardianship over for more than 10 years, is biracial. It is even more difficult to reconcile when considering the fact that this is not the only biracial child in the home.

Please see **KITA**/Page 2

**Local
Butner
inmate
dies of
COVID-19**



GARY NIXON

BY BEVERLY SMALLS
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Gary Edward Nixon, age 57 died April 12 after being transferred out of North Carolina's Butner Federal Prison Complex to an unknown site.

Though the former Laney High student had eight siblings, including one that had applied and testified in 2018 for a court appointed guardianship due to his health issues, family were denied information about the medical facility he was moved to.

From March 29 until April 13 nobody knew where Nixon was, according to his sister, Jackie Brown Adair of Leland.

The family was notified of his death on a Monday, their brother died Easter Sunday, April 12 in Duke Regional Hospital in Durham.

Nixon's death certificate documents COVID-19

infection as the cause from chronic respiratory distress. Four of five long-term health issues were listed as related medical conditions -- COPD, Diabetes, Hypertension, and Sarcoidosis.

Though Nixon also suffered for years with Sleep Apnea and was usually provided with CPAP equipment by Butner staff, that condition was not listed on the death certificate.

"We tried repeatedly ... we could have been allowed to communicate with his doctor," Adair said of her brother's terminal crisis.

"That was very heart wrenching."
A few weeks prior to being hospitalized Gary had called another sister, Katrina Harris who resides in Maryland.

"He told me had been really sick and really thought he was leaving here, going to die," Harris said.

Please see **NIXON**/Page 2

**Should state
lawmakers reveal
their emails in
voter ID case?**

BY CASH MICHAELS
OF THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

Should state lawmakers be compelled to reveal their legislative emails related to Senate Bill 824, the legislature's latest voter ID case?

That was the argument before a Wake Superior Court three-judge panel last week as Jeff Loperfido, senior counsel with the Southern Coalition for Social Justice argued to have the emails released in *Holmes v. Moore*.

Gov. Cooper vetoed SB824 after the Republican-led legislature passed it in December 2018 after voters ratified a constitutional amendment making voter ID a law a month earlier. Cooper's veto was overridden, but a lawsuit ensued, and the State Appellate Court has prevented the law from being enacted with a preliminary injunction until the court case is heard.

Thus the hearing last week, wherein Loperfido went before the three-judge panel, requesting that it order Republican lawmakers to turn over their emails and other documents related to passage of SB824.

"Time after time, this General Assembly has been found guilty of employing improper racial considerations when passing laws. It's against

Please see **EMAILS**/Page 2

Senate bill to establish Black female task force

BY CASH MICHAELS
OF THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

With the NC General Assembly back in session this week, one of the more notable bills filed of particular interest to the African-American community is Senate Bill 775, "Funds/Est. Black Women & Girls Task Force."

"An act to establish the North Carolina Black Women and Girls' Task Force and to appropriate funds for the task force," the heading says.

Filed on Thursday, May 14, by Senators Erica D. Smith [Bertie] and Natalie Murdock [Durham], the



SENATOR NATALIE MURDOCK



SENATOR ERICA D. SMITH

Please see **TASK FORCE**/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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STATE BRIEFS

FORMER NC REP. LARRY WOMBLE, DEAD AT 78
 [WINSTON-SALEM] Best known for championing the cause of victims of North Carolina's 40-year sterilization program, former Rep. Larry Womble died at his home last week of natural causes. He was 78. A former local alderman, Womble went onto serve in the NC House of Representatives in 1995 for nine terms. He left the House in 2012 after almost losing his life in a car accident. It was through his efforts that in 2013, sterilization victims received compensation from the state.

LEGISLATURE RECONVENES WITH BIG BUDGET CHALLENGES
 [RALEIGH] Lawmakers came back to Raleigh the week, facing staggering challenges because of what the COVID-19 pandemic has done to the state. With most businesses closed and many North Carolinians out of work, retail and income tax collections are low, forcing lawmakers to decide what services will have to be cut. In addition, many citizens have not gotten their unemployment checks, primarily because when the pandemic hit, it overwhelmed the system, thus causing long delays. Plus, Republican lawmakers will try to pass bills countering Gov. Cooper COVID-19 restrictions on restaurants and bars.

CHURCHES REOPEN AFTER FEDERAL JUDGE TEMPORARILY STRIKES DOWN GOVERNOR'S RESTRICTION
 [RALEIGH] Churches across North Carolina reopened for service last Sunday after a federal judge temporarily struck down part of Gov. Cooper's restriction on indoor churches because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The churches said the indoor prohibition violated their constitutional rights. The governor countered that have church congregations in close quarters only contributed to the spread of the virus. A hearing on the matter is scheduled for May 29th.

COMPILED BY CASH MICHAELS

KITA

Continued from Page 1

"Jordan considers the teen to be his sister, Attorney Rutherford continued. "She has lived with his family for more than ten years. He loves her very much, just as he loves all his siblings, biological or otherwise. When his mother called him frantically on the night of May 3, Jordan was working at the New Hanover County Detention Facility. His shift did not end for several more hours. Understanding the emergent circumstances, he left work and rushed to help find the sister he loves so much." "He did not lead any mob as has been reported. He was

not a leader of anything this evening. The search party, consisting of children, teenagers and adults, was a disorganized hodgepodge of people receiving rapidly changing information through social media, text and phone calls. Many doors were knocked upon that evening on multiple streets. Upon hearing the plight, several people joined to help search for the missing teen." "Hours into the search, a tip was received from a youngster that this missing teen was seen with Josiah. Eventually another youngster gave an address. This address was broadcasted via phone calls and text. At this point the hodgepodge of individuals and small groups that were independently searching

for this missing teen came to what later is known as the Shepard's address. It is true the name given is Josiah. However, at no time did anyone mistake Dameon for Josiah. There was zero description of Josiah." "This case is nothing more than a colossal misunderstanding," Attorney Rutherford insisted and added that there was also no criminal intent. "It is not lost on Jordan and his family how the Shepard's must feel. Instead of fighting in the court of public opinion, this family wishes to do what they have always done, and that is to put race aside and do what is right. They would love nothing more than to sit down with the Shepard family and

express how sorry they are that they were a part of leaving them feeling as they felt." However, Rev. Dante A. Murphy, of Southern Coalition for Equal Protection Under the Law, isn't buying it. "The Journal sent the Pender County based activist a copy of Attorney Rutherford's statement on behalf of the Kita family." "Attorneys have very creative ways at attempting to explain away the reality of facts," Rev. Murphy replied, referring to the fact that Kita did try to muscle his way into the Shepard's home, that there were at least three people with guns present as part of an angry White mob, and the Shepards were left fearing for

their lives in their home. "One family's being in "crisis mode" does not justify another family's be terrorized," Rev. Murphy continued. "It is my hope that District Attorney Ben David will refer this matter to the FBI for investigation. The public deserves to know the details of what happened that night." "The offer to meet with the family is a blatant disregard for the seriousness of the situation. It is usually victims who request to meet with perpetrators in order to bring closure to a traumatic event, not the other way around. The Kita family may be sincerely sorry for their actions, but their illegal actions left a mother and child wounded, perhaps for life."

NIXON

Continued from Page 1

Nixon had also repeatedly assured siblings he might be released early due to Corona issues in NC prisons. Attorney General William Barr's April 3 directive that chronically ill federal nonviolent inmates most vulnerable to contracting COVID-19 should be considered for possible early supervised release gave him more hope. He had also sought such release due to personal health issues several months before Corona Virus infections began spreading across the globe. Gary Nixon had been ail-

ing physically for years. He was also plagued by poor decisions that linked to legal issues. Drug-related incarcerations, and the, "Not Guilty," resolution of a shooting in self-defense had been downfalls for the brother described as likeable, very loving, and fun. "I don't even think it was the money, that had him involved with drug dealing. I think it was more than likely linked to what he thought was power," Adair said. Known as a gifted handyman and construction worker, Gary had prior to Hurricane Florence completely renovated the Old Scotts Hill home of his moth-

er, the late Mary Louise Nixon, from the roof to the flooring. "He was a 'Jack of all trades,'" the Leland sibling said of his skills in electrical, plumbing, air conditioning systems, and more. Though Nixon thought he had gotten better from a severe illness that had him bedridden in mid-March, the next call Harris received from her brother was devastating. "He told me had been taken to a hospital and they were going to induce a coma and put him on a ventilator. He said they would not let him tell where he was." Whoever was with Nixon did not allow him to talk long

because they needed to induce the comatose state right away. Harris doesn't know if the person with him was a Butner or hospital staff person. She was able to speak with a person and requested details regarding a name or number they could have as a contact to keep up with Gary's condition. The sister was given a telephone number. Attempted contacts led to long holds and eventually transfers to the extension of a, "counselor." That person never answered or responded in spite of the voice message request for specific information. "We kept asking, 'What

hospital is he in, to get updates,'" Adair said. April 17, five days after Gary Nixon's death, an ABC News Raleigh-Durham affiliate reported that the Butner Federal Prison Complex had more COVID19 cases than any federal prison in the United States. By May 18 NC prisons had tested 32,000 inmates. Five deaths and 600 COVID19 cases were documented. The federal prison staff were recently provided free testing for Corona Virus detection. A month earlier, by mid April, Butner Federal Prison already had 25 infected staff, 66 infected inmates, and four deaths linked to COVID-19.

EMAILS

Continued from Page 1

this backdrop of persistent malfeasance and with the fundamental right to vote at stake that plaintiffs move this court for certain discovery that will shine much needed light on the motivations of a General Assembly that has repeatedly abused the qualified legislative privilege, a privilege meant to

safeguard legitimate legislative activity done in the public's interest and not to provide cover for the personal or partisan interests of legislators in private," said Attorney Loperfido. Plaintiff's attorney was asking the court to rule that state lawmakers only have qualified legislative privilege, meaning that some of the business they conduct is not protected from public scrutiny. Loperfido made clear that,

given the Republican-led legislature's past history with passing voter ID laws, that "...significant circumstantial evidence already exists suggesting that legislators have targeted African-Americans with discriminatory laws for the purpose of excluding them from the political process. We believe privilege must yield." Republican state lawmakers disagreed, and their attorney countered that they are entitled to absolute privilege,

meaning that all of their documents, communications and emails related to passage of legislation should always be held in secret. If not, they would be unable to carry out their duties. However, Attorney Loperfido wasn't buying it. He noted that "...a substantially similar [voter ID] law was struck down as racially discriminatory, that the large majority of the same bad actors set out to do it again,

that they rushed to put a law in place before they lost their super-majority power, that they did limited debate, limited public input, no new analysis, no new data on ID possession and then again, withheld the same type of ID's that they knew were disproportionately held by African-Americans." At the end of arguments, the judicial panel indicated that it would render a decision by the end of May.

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TASK FORCE
 Continued from Page 1

Task Force shall serve as an advisory committee to study disaggregated findings concerning the well being of cis-gender and transgender Black women and girls in the State. In conducting this examina-

tion, the Task Force shall examine the following issues:

- Study the health and wealth disparities of Black women and their impact.
- Review educational justice principles for Black girls and the impact of trauma to learning.
- Research all forms of violence to, and on, Black women and girls.
- Consider the impact of the criminal and juvenile justice system on Black women and girls, including incarceration of Black women and girls.
- Examine the effect of political advocacy and engagement, employment, and healthcare, especially in the context of disparate impacts of COVID-19, cancer, stress disorders, high blood pressure, maternal morbidity and infant mortality, reproduction, and other disparate health factors.

If established, the NC Black Women and Girls' Task Force would be in the NC Dept. of Administration "for budgetary purposes only."

There would be 13 members, consisting of:

- Nine grassroots-led selected North Carolina advocacy nonprofit organization leaders that serve Black women and/or girls who have an established mission of saving Black women and/or girls within the State for a minimum of two years and appointed by the Secretary of Administration or his or her designee; two persons who are members of the Senate at the time of appointment, at least one of whom represents the minority party, appointed by the President Pro temper of the Senate; two members of the State House.
- All members would be appointed for two years.

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The Wilmington Journal was founded on the principle of the Black Press Credo. The Black Press believes that America can best lead the world away from racial and national antagonism when it accords to every person, regardless of race, color or creed, full human and legal rights. Hating no person in the firm belief that all are hurt as long as anyone is held back.

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OUR VOICE

GUEST EDITORIAL

TO BE EQUAL

Investigate not just Ahmad's death, but the system that let his killers escape

(Via TriceEdneyWire.com)

"The sad truth is that Ahmaud's case isn't unique at all. He is a representation of the ongoing level of distrust that a large part of our communities have in law enforcement and elected officials and the importance of placing reform like-minded people in office who will uphold the highest standards of the law for everyone, regardless of color. The anger and frustration being expressed by professional athletes and people of color all over the country stems from a centuries-long thread of violence against the black body that goes without consequence or justice." — Former NFL Player Malcom Jenkins, co-founder of The Players' Coalition

The pattern is nauseatingly familiar.

An unarmed person of color is killed by police or by self-appointed vigilantes. Authorities accept, without question, an explanation of self-defense. It is only after the disinfecting sunlight of public attention arouses outrage that the wheels of justice begin to turn. And so it has been for Ahmaud Arbery, a 25-year-old Georgia man shot to death while jogging in February.

The 64-year-old former police investigator and his 34-year-old son who are charged in his death told police he thought Mr. Arbery looked like a man suspected in several break-ins in the area.

No break-ins had been reported in the area for seven weeks before the shooting.

The father and son, Gregory and Travis McMichael, armed themselves and chased Ahmaud in a pickup truck before the younger man fired the fatal shots from his shotgun.

No one was arrested. Shortly afterward, the prosecutor with jurisdiction over the case recused herself, because the elder McMichael had worked in her office. The second prosecutor, whose son worked in the same office also recused himself. But before he did, he made it clear to the police that he accepted the McMichael's claim of self-defense.

By the time the New York Times published its first account of the killing, two months had passed with no arrests. It was only two weeks later, after a video of the armed chase emerged that the third prosecutor assigned to the case said he would present it to a grand jury. That same day, the Georgia Bureau of Investigation took over the case from local police. Two days later, Ahmaud's attackers were arrested.

Appallingly, the defense attorney who leaked the video said he thought it would exonerate the attackers because Ahmaud didn't freeze when the attackers told him to stop.

It boggles the mind that in the year 2020 there are still people in positions of authority who accept, unquestioningly, the notion that a Black man who fails to heed the orders of a white man on the street deserves instant death.

It seems clear that without the national attention focused on the case, there would have been no justice for Ahmaud. And that, as much as Ahmaud's death itself, is what must be investigated.

This week the Washington Post revealed that the elder McMichael was stripped of his law enforcement certification and power to arrest a year more than a year before the shooting because he repeatedly failed to complete required training. He also was he was stripped of his powers to arrest people in January 2006 because of an undisclosed infraction.

Furthermore, the Glynn County Police Department, which led the investigation before the Georgia Bureau of Investigation took over the case, has a history of corruption and scandals.

Glynn County Police Chief John Powell was indicted for perjury and witness tampering four days after the Arbery shooting. He remains on administrative leave.

The police department lost its state certification in 2018 because it did not meet basic policing standards. Only 12 percent of the police force was African American, even though African Americans make up 26 percent of the county's population.

Last year, the county's drug task force was disbanded after a state-led investigation found extensive misconduct by Glynn County officers.

A lieutenant with a long history of violent behavior shot and killed his estranged wife in 2018 before taking his own life. The wife's family is suing the department for failing to intervene.

Without the persistence of Ahmaud's family to seek justice, the corruption would have been allowed to fester.

Meanwhile, another tragic killing, the death of 26-year-old Breonna Taylor, has risen to national attention. The EMT shot to death by Louisville police executing a no-knock search warrant. The police were not wearing body cameras. Her family have sued the police and the case is under review.

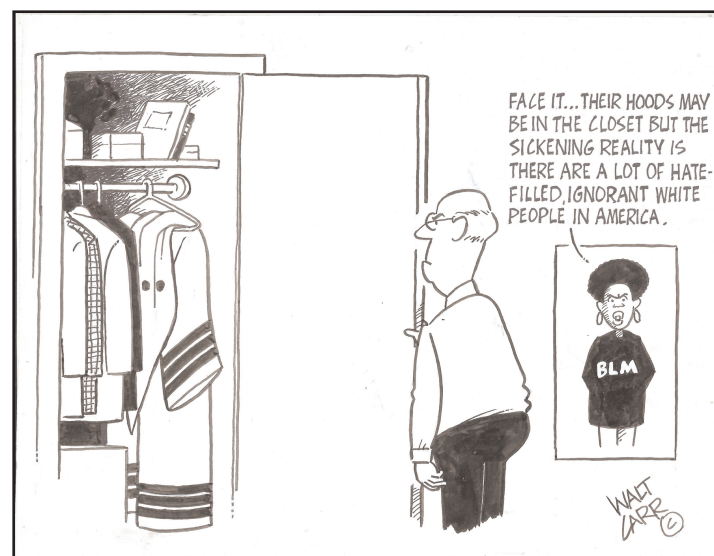
The National Urban League stands in solidarity with the other civil rights and social justice advocates and activists who have called on U.S. Attorney William Barr to investigate these killings and the work of the police and prosecutors involved.

An unsigned note left at the spot where Ahmaud was killed reads: "Ahmaud - I am so sorry. I should have stopped them. I am so sorry." We, as a nation, should have stopped them, and must stop it from happening again.

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



Marc Morial



Visual Voice

YOUR VOICE

WISHFUL THINKING

It was thought that a recent Brunswick County Board of Commissioners meeting would end surprisingly with my support of all major decisions on such issues as a \$122 million water purification system (reverse osmosis) for Gen X and the 2020-2021 budget process. Unfortunately, commissioners (five) began an

unscheduled, unfair discussion of Governor Roy Cooper's mandatory guidelines for COVID-19 and hurricane Florence—"cheap shot" statement about photo-op visits. It is unbelievable that commissioners would consider a resolution demanding that Governor Cooper allow each county (100!) to set their own COVID-19 guidelines. Evidently, they are not aware

of the chaotic (Wild, Wild West) conditions created in this country when the U.S. President allowed each state (50) to set their own guidelines. States are bidding against each other for healthcare supplies, ignoring escalating COVID-19 cases while opening businesses, and failing to report the number of deaths in nursing homes. I would not feel comfortable visiting relatives in

Georgia, Texas, or South Dakota. However, thanks to Governor Cooper's Phase 1, 2, and 3 guidelines, visits can soon be made to relatives in Charlotte, Greensboro, and Raleigh without worry. It is my wish that his plan(s) would be implemented throughout the country.

William Flythe
Southport, NC

MATTERS OF OPINION

Message to my sisters

(Via TriceEdneyWire.com)

Nobody knows better than Black women the challenges Black women and men still face. We must stand by each other no matter what.

Some might hate the phrase used by Black women who would ask the slave master to allow her to whip her son because she knew if the slave master did it, he'd likely beat her son to death. Black mothers would tell their son as she commenced to beating him, "This is going to hurt me more than it hurts you."

Her son didn't understand that but she knew if she left it to the slave master, he might beat her son to death. Black women have always stepped up to the plate to defend and show our love for Black men—even when some of their historical

behavior hurt us. For centuries, we've jointly had to deal with racism from which the wounds have never healed. When we see Black men trying to assist us in dealing with the many challenges in our lives, we must see them as GOOD BROTHERS. In the National Congress of Black Women, on every program where we honor women for their work, we honor Black men.

We honor Black men who work for the ERA. Recently, I met Bobby Hunter formerly with the Harlem Globetrotters. This brother probably does more to help in passing the ERA than I do—and that's saying a lot.

We honor Black men who respect and appreciate Black women for our competence. We honor those who do not define beauty as limited to women of all other races or cultures. We appreciate those who include all shades of skin, all types of hair, all dress sizes, etc.

We honor those who don't sit back and say, "That's a woman's" job while they

watch the woman do all the house work, take care of the children, work the polls on election day, get out the vote, without realizing the job would have been easier if there had been a cooperative effort.

Sure, it hurt some of us when we heard that 11% of Black men didn't vote for Stacey Abrams for Governor. Yet, it hurts all of us if we don't encourage Black men to work with us to get out the vote in the election on November 3rd. We have to make an effort to reach out to them and appreciate the 89% who did support Stacey. Black women have been getting credit for various political victories in recent years. Let's work to make that headline say Black people made the difference!

We have to be inclusive, to involve them in what we're doing from the beginning and applaud those who've been on the Biden calls even though we call ourselves "Black Women for Biden."

Although there're some Black men who're reluctant to involve us in what they're

doing until they want us to take action to help them accomplish their goals that are often our goals, too—but we don't have a say in developing them.

Never-the-less, we must be in the real struggles together and show our appreciation for the Black men who get it, and who want to be there with us even when they aren't sure how to help.

I understand Black men who're uncertain about what to do when it comes to working with women because of this new day where accusations spring into action 30 or 40 years after someone allegedly touched them. We must understand that reluctance, and allow Black men to be comfortable working with us—because we do need each other to succeed, not only in the coming elections, but in everything that has the potential for helping our community.

Dr. E. Faye Williams. National President of the National Congress of Black Women. Host of "Wake Up and Stay Woke" on WPFWM 89.3.



Dr. E. Faye Williams



Dr. Julianne Malveaux

aggressively. I'm not as outraged at Manafort's early release as I am disturbed about the other 4622 elderly inmates, most who lack the resources and access that Manafort had. Nearly forty percent of those incarcerated in federal prisons are African American, many serving very long sentences for drug-related crimes. Many have some of the same underlying medical conditions and "fear of coronavirus" that Manafort had. How many of them will get an early release and the relative luxury of home confinement?

The treatment of a wealthy, older white man and a poor, older Black man is vastly different. Prisons are a breeding ground for the coronavirus. Prisons are overcrowded with social distancing an impossibility since an average cell, about five feet by five, does not allow six feet of distancing. Recent studies show that the COVID19 germs from a loud conversation or a cough linger for minutes, sufficient time to infect another person.

Old, sick and incarcerated

(Via TriceEdneyWire.com)

There were 4623 incarcerated people over 65 in federal prisons during the first week of May. Until May 12, Paul Manafort, Mr. Trump's one-time campaign manager, was one of them. The 71-year-old petitioned the court for release

because of his age, heart condition, and "fear of coronavirus."

Yet the federal correctional institution that housed Manafort had no coronavirus cases, and Manafort had served fewer than two years of his more than seven-year sentence. Recently developed federal guidelines suggest at-home confinement for those at risk who have served more than half of their sentence or have less than eighteen months of jail time left to serve. Manafort meets none of these criteria, but he apparently had enough high-priced lawyers to push his case

but a near-certainty. Prison infections are so widespread that some activists describe them as "death camps." Older people don't commit violent crimes (although they commit financial crimes and perjury). Releasing those over 65 who were convicted of drug crimes and other nonviolent crimes saves money and has little social cost.

But incarceration is an economic driver for some communities. Federal prisons employ tens of thousands of people. In some isolated communities, these prisons are a significant source of employment. Releasing prisoners early may cause layoffs. Is this why we insist on keeping so many people locked up for such long periods? Parole was eliminated in federal prison in the mid-1980s, allowing "good behavior" only after 85 percent of a sentence has been served. But Manafort, citing "fear of corona," ended up serving less than a quarter of his sentence.

Can an old Black man get the Manafort treatment and serve the rest of his sentence in a cushy condo in Northern Virginia? Manafort had a lot less to fear, at his minimum security prison, than a Black

inmate might. Other countries have reacted to corona crowding by releasing inmates in the tens of thousands. According to David Anderson of the International Legal Foundation, Iran released more than half of its prisoners—100,000 of 189,000.

Palestine is holding emergency court sessions to allow inmates to petition for release. Other countries seem to understand that COVID and crowding don't work and are releasing prisoners. Meanwhile, our country, in Anderson's words, is "addicted to punishment."

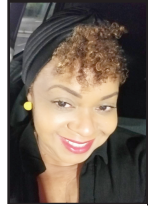
In keeping nonviolent inmates incarcerated, we are "prioritizing punishment over public health." The inmates aren't the only ones at risk. Correctional officers, lawyers, and visiting family members are also vulnerable. We are so committed to getting a "pound of flesh" from those incarcerated that we refuse to consider the high costs of incarceration. Consider the case of former Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick. Convicted of per-

MALVEAUX
Continued on page 5

GET THAT DEED AND FLIP THOSE KEYS!

RENT TO OWN.... The Pros, The Cons

After recently running across a few families lately telling of horrors from entering into a lease to own contract, I wanted to share with you again why these agreements may not be a good idea. Rent to Own aka Lease/Purchase, in my 29 yr career, I've been asked my opinion of this many times. I do have a very strong opinion of whether it's a good idea or not but let me table that for now. Instead, let me give you some information to better help you evaluate for yourself whether it's a good idea or not.



Brenda Dixon

The main reason most Tenant/Buyers consider this option of purchasing vs. traditional is generally for the same reasons. The top (3) are Current credit history, Not enough job history/verifiable income, or too much existing open credit causing debt/ratio to be off the charts. All of these reasons are valid and could hinder pre-approval

to purchase now. So now let's talk about what most encounter when entering into a lease-purchase. In most cases, the Seller/Landlord will require a sizable down payment at the time you enter into the agreement. They will most likely charge you more monthly than a regular rental amount and agree to apply a portion of that payment towards your purchase. The purchase price is negotiated at the beginning so if you're doing agreement in the peak market and the market declines, it could cause some problems. The agreement will require exercising your right to purchase "end date". Most agreements will have a clause that says "IF YOU FAIL" to exercise your right to purchase by that

said "end date" that all monies paid upfront and set-asides towards purchase will be forever forfeited and LOSS to Tenant/Buyer. Also, most agreements will say that the Tenant/Buyer is responsible for all repairs and maintenance of the home. With so much at stake, it is very important for the Tenant/Buyer to KNOW that they can turn things around within allotted timeframe in order to get a mortgage. Entering into an agreement before knowing this could cause a HUGE financial hardship. Now, let's flip side this and talk about some possible benefits for the Tenant/Buyer. If you have evaluated your current situation and feeling confident in meeting the purchase deadline, some benefits may exist like: You're already in a home that you love and know everything about it. You've negotiated sales price at the beginning and if the market continues on the

UPSWING, the home likely will gain equity and the rewards of that go to the buyer. Buyer/Tenant increases their downpayment towards purchase each month which could result in the lower mortgage amount. So as you can see there are several things that could be a plus or minus on the Rent to Own scorecard.

However, there are always unknowns, unforeseen, unexpected turns of events that could also happen. What if a loss of job/income happens. What if the seller doesn't keep hazard insurance on the home and an incident occurs that would have been covered. What if the seller took your monthly rent and did not pay his mortgage and here comes a pre-foreclosure notice on the door: What if the seller dies. What if there's an out of the blue County rezoning plan for that area or D.O.T road project pops up. What if the

school district map changes and you wanted this home just because of that. What if, what if, WHAT IF. Those are the things that can't be predicted but definitely worth consideration and better yet, wise to be addressed in an attorney-drafted Lease/Purchase agreement. In my 29 yrs, I have seen many Buyers/Tenants have life events that they did not plan on when they entered that agreement. It is for that reason that I strongly urge you to evaluate "Is it wiser to do a straight rent or straight purchase and nothing in-between?". It's been that "in-between" where the waters get muddy even for the Seller/Landlord. Things are not always roses on their end either. I've even heard tales of deposits and set-asides not being enough to put the property back in sellable condition when the Buyer/Tenant failed to upkeep and abandoned. What if the market

turns downward and the buyer walks and now have to put on the market at a lower price. What if you were depending on those sale proceeds for retirement or other family needs and the list goes on.

Oh, I'm sure there must be some success stories out there so, at the end of the day, you must make the best business decision for your family. At least now whether buyer/tenant or seller/landlord, you can consider a Lease/Purchase with EYES WIDE OPEN to some of the Pros and Cons. That is truly the only way to enter into any contractual obligation anyway, EYES WIDE!

Until next week, share this article with at least 3 people and reach out for your Free personalized Action Plan to OWN in the next 18 months or less.

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FOOD  LION

A phone call away: UNCW nursing professor Paula Reid connects with students during pandemic



PAULA REID

Wilmington, N.C. -- Paula Reid recognized that a few of her graduate students, including nurses on the front lines of the pandemic, were struggling due to stress and concerns about COVID-19. She picked up the phone to check on them and to see how she could offer help.

"When you're in a stressful situation, it can be hard to process. I realized a phone call may be the best form of communication," said Reid, an associate professor in the School of Nursing. "During the calls, I was able to connect with students and work through the steps to establish the foundation for their final projects. There were multiple variables going on; some had hours cut at work and concerns about clinical hours."

Reid's graduate classes were online prior to the transition to remote instruction. The asynchronous online learning format works best for graduate students that are practicing registered nurses, she said, as it offers the most flexibility to juggle competing priorities. Asynchronous learning happens on the individual's schedule. Instructors provide reading materials, video lectures, assignments and exams on an online platform, and students have the ability to access and satisfy class requirements within a flexible time frame.

One of the challenges of

online classes is the inability to visualize non-verbal behaviors and measure the tenor of the student and class, she explained.

"I know my own feelings, concerns, uncertainties and anxieties," said Reid. "It was not rocket science for me to imagine they were at the same place and changed some assignments to decrease some impending pressure and stress."

The COVID-19 crisis does not remove or change the service responsibilities associated with a tenured senior faculty member; Reid continued. "Life goes on...multiple Zoom meetings and preparations for the summer and fall semester."

The pandemic has hit close to home for Reid. Two family members, who live outside of North Carolina, tested positive for the virus and were hospitalized. Her 90-year old mother, who lives in Kansas City, was hospitalized for a health issue not related to COVID-19. She was not allowed visitors. During that time, Reid's aunt passed away. She was unable to attend the funeral due to Kansas City's stay-at-home order.

"Living alone during this 'stay-at home' period for a social person is difficult," she said. "Sitting on the porch and communicating with neighbors at a distance is an answer to prayer. We are all in this together, but in different ways for different people."

Helen Parker Moore

Helen Parker Moore died May 10, 2020. Graveside services were held on Saturday, May 16, 2020 at John Smith Cemetery, Southport, NC.

Helen was born in Southport, NC on August 16, 1927. She was the daughter of the late Lee Ethel Berry and Donnie Hankins. Helen graduated from Brunswick County Training in Southport, NC. On May 2, 1959, she married her love, Robert Wilson Moore, Jr. and to his union was born Donna Jane Moore. She attended Thelma Walker Beauty School in Phoenix, Arizona and was certified as a licensed beautician. During her lifetime Helen worked at various jobs including, heading shrimp in the yacht basin; employed by Bill Wells and as a nurse's aide a Ocean Trail Convalescent Center. At a young age she joined St. James African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, Southport, North Carolina and served faithfully in many capacities. Helen joined the Order of the eastern tar on February 6, 1962. She was a loving mother and grandmother. Helen always had a beautiful smile and was very kind to all. She was preceded in death by her mother and husband.

She leaves to cherish her memory: a devoted daughter, Donna Jane Moore of Southport, NC; granddaughter, Heather Moore Prevoe (Brian); four great-granddaughters, Alexandria Moore, Ayrannah Moore, Brianna Prevoe and Brielle Prevoe all of Southport, NC; a special cousin, Betty Walden of Phoenix, AZ and a host of family and friends. *A Service of John H. Shaw's Son Funeral Home.*

Daiquan Evander Jacobs

Daiquan Evander Jacobs entered into eternal rest on Sunday, May 10, 2020. Graveside services were held Sunday, May 17th at Calvary Memorial Cemetery.

He was born on September 8, 1996 to Qualamoneka L. Brown and LeVander Jacobs in Wilmington, North Carolina. Daiquan attended the New Hanover County Public Schools and received his high school diploma. He was employed at Colonial Materials and enjoyed his job, working along-side Virgil J. Brown. He truly lived his life to the fullest. His simple pleasures included riding his dirt bike and also teaching his younger cousins how to ride. He enjoyed traveling and exploring. His fashion sense was impeccable and he touched the hearts of many. God bestowed many talents upon him which manifested through his leadership, resourcefulness, and extreme determination. Whatever Daiquan set his mind to accomplish, despite the challenges, he accomplished. He was ambitious and strong-willed, he embodied enough of both to rule a world. The bond that he shared with his mother was pure and loving. They were more than mother and son, they were best friends. He truly admired his mother, who was always there for him. Daiquan's loving and selfless spirit motivated him to give his all to his family and to protect those he loved. As he matured, he fell in love with a beautiful young lady, LaStacia. He took so much pride in asking her hand in marriage with hopes of making her his wife. More than anything, his joy was his son Eli. Eli intro-

duced a love to him that he had never experienced. Eli introduced Daiquan to fatherhood. Psalm 91 was his favorite scripture. "He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty..."

He leaves to cherish his memory: the love of his life, fiancée, LaStacia Jones; his heartbeat, his son, Eli Johan Jacobs; his adoring mother, Qualamoneka L. Brown; father, LeVander Jacobs (Dedra); dad, Virgil J. Brown; sisters, Maleyah Jacobs and Kyche' Stokes; brothers, LeVander Boney, Jamal Jacobs, Sincere Bragg and Christin Brown; grandmothers, Cynthia B. Waters and Minister Martha Jacobs; grandfather, Arthur "Granda Slice" King, Sr.; great-grandmothers, Elosie T. Brown and Peggy Nixon; great-great-grandparents, John and Mildred Jacobs and Mary Parker; aunts, Crystal Waters, Antonette Waters, Raven Waters, Renee Waters, Latifah King and Sundarkia Hill (Dr. William); uncles, Anthony Brown, Prince Waters, Arthur King, Jr. and Arkeem Grady; god mother, Dawn Fleming; a host of cousins with whom he was raised; other loving relatives that are too numerous to name; all of his friends who were just that, friends. *A Service of John H. Shaw's Son Funeral Home.*

Oscar "Bo" Williams

Oscar "Bo" Williams died May 12, 2020. Graveside services were held on Monday, May 18, 2020 at Mt. Ararat Church Cemetery.

Oscar, known as "Bo" to his family and friends, was born on May 12, 1961 to the late Harlee and Mary Williams. He was educated in the New Hanover County School System. He worked for Barnes Truck and Tire for many years along with various other tire companies in the area. He was preceded in death by three brothers, Sylvester Greene, Mack Williams and Russell Williams. He leaves to cherish his memories: his children, Tyshawn Johnson, Shamon Brown, Oscar Williams, Jr., Demeatrice Williams, Dejaun Brown, Lashawna Johnson, Ashanti Brown, Whitney Brown and Maleka Smith, all of Wilmington, NC; 24 grandchildren; 4 great-grandchildren; siblings, James Williams, Louis Greene (Ida), Lee Williams (Patricia), Mary Ann McCrimmon (Eli), Jacqueline Haynes and Nadine Frazier (Oliver) all of Wilmington, NC; special friends, Princess, Perk, Richard, Moose and David; and a host of other relatives and friends. *A Service of John H. Shaw's Son Funeral Home.*

Tomeca Rachell Whitehead

Tomeca Rachell Wwhitehead died May 13, 2020. Graveside services were held Tuesday, May 19, 2020 at the Evans Mitchell Cemetery, Bolivia, NC.

Tomeca, the daughter of Thaddeus T. Hill, Jr. and Thomasina Whitehead Owens was born on February 11, 1982. At a young age she joined Brown's Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church, Southport, North Carolina. She was preceded in death by her grandparents Thaddeus T. Hill, Sr., Thomas Jefferson Whitehead, Sr., and Addie Lee Whitehead. Tomeca attended South Brunswick High School, Class of 2000. During her lifetime she worked various jobs including: a

bus driver for Brunswick County Schools and as a childcare worker for the Forum of Salisbury, North Carolina.

Tomeca leaves to cherish her memories: a devoted husband, Charles Onan Blue, Sr.; five children, Alyssa Shr'ee Hill, Lyndon Tristan Hill, Olivia Ivy Blue, Charles Onan Blue, Jr. and Chase Omari Blue; father, Thaddeus T. Hill, Jr. (Pamela); mother, Thomasina Whitehead Owens (James); brothers, Stephan Parker (Monique), Thaddeus T. Hill, III, Justin Hill; grandmother, Catherine M. Hill; brother-in-law, Kevin Mitchell; sister-in-law, Adrienne Williams; aunts, Katrena Robbins, Vanessa Reaves, Letitia Clemmons (Greg), Patricia Hill-Miller (Brent), Cynthia Ricks, Thelma Whitehead, Eva Holmes (William), Barbara Hawkins, Maggie Bizzell (Steven Purefoy), Adeliade Muhammed; great-aunt, Addie McCracken; special cousin, Monica Jones; and a host of cousins, other relatives and friends. *A Service of John H. Shaw's Son Funeral Home.*

Lee Tyson

Lee Tyson died May 12, 2020. Funeral services will be held 5:30 P M on Wednesday, May 20, 2020 at Willie L. Shaw Jr. Memorial Chapel. *A Service of John H. Shaw's Son Funeral Home.*

YaYah Abu Malik

YaYah Abu Malik (John Samuel King) died May 16, 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.*

Kenneth Brown

Kenneth Brown died May 19, 2020. Funeral services will be held 3:30 p.m. on Saturday, May 23, 2020 at Willie L. Shaw, Jr. Memorial Chapel. Visitation will be 30 minutes prior to the service. *A Service of John H. Shaw's Son Funeral Home.*

Elsie Hardy-Murrill

Elsie Maurice Hardy-Murrill was born July 17, 1948 in Wilmington, NC to the late Robert L. Hardy and Florence Odessa Brown-Hardy. She departed this life on May 9, 2020 while in Yale New Haven Hospital in New Haven, Connecticut. Graveside services were held on Monday, May 18, 2020 at New Hope Freewill Baptist Church Cemetery.

As a child, she grew up in the Maco Community where she was a member of Christian Hope Christian Church and attended Lincoln School. At an early age, Elsie's family moved from Maco to Wilmington, North Carolina and there she attended Williston Junior and Senior High School.

Elsie later met the love of her life, Nathaniel Lee Murrill, to whom she married and moved to New Haven, Connecticut where her family relocated. To this union two children were born, her son, Frederick Eugene Murrill, and daughter, Nicole Murrill. Elsie's husband Nathaniel served in the US Navy and was stationed in Okinawa, Japan where they resided for three years. After Nathaniel completed his tour in Okinawa, the family returned to New Haven, Connecticut.

In addition to her father, Elsie was preceded in death by her twin sister, Diannah A. Hardy-Chestnut.

Elsie leaves to cherish her memory: son, Frederick Eugene Murrill, and daughter, Nicole Murrill, both of New Haven, CT., her loving mother, Florence Odessa Brown-Hardy, of Covington, GA.; two sisters, Vivian G. Hardy of Wilmington, NC. and Evelyn V. Hardy of Leland, NC.; one brother, Elder Allen M. Hardy of Covington, GA; and a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends. *Services entrusted to Davis Funeral Home, 901 S. 5th Ave, Wilmington, NC 28401. Please share memories and condolences with the family at www.davisfuneralhomenc.com.*

William Henry Jackson

William "Bill" H. Jackson peacefully entered into rest on Wednesday, May 13, 2020 at New Hanover Regional Medical Center. He was born on June 12, 1948 to the late Josh and Mary Lillie Jackson, Sr.

"Bill" or "BJ" as he was affectionately known, grew up in Taylor Homes. He started working in the grocery business while he was still in high school. Some of the stores he worked with included, Allen Carney, A & P, Hills Food, Parkers, Food Lion and he was currently employed with Piggly Wiggly.

Bill was educated in the New Hanover County Public School System graduating from New Hanover High School in the Class of 1968. His career in groceries spanned 40 years. He also worked for Wilmington Printing Company for 8 years. Bill was the owner and operator of B & J Cleaning Service doing commercial cleaning.

Brother Jackson was a member of Mt. Zion AME Church for many years but later joined Warner Temple AME Zion Church. At Warner he served on the Louis Frost Usher Board, the Steward Board and the Bereavement Committee.

In addition to his parents, Bill was also preceded in death by his

brother, Josh Jackson, Jr.

He leaves to cherish his memory: his wife of 30 years, Sandra Moore Jackson of the home; one daughter, Justina Jackson-Reyes (Alejandro, III) and grandchildren, Alejandro A. Reyes, IV and Jaxon Reyes all of Chesapeake, VA; two sisters, Mary J. Perry and Carol F. Phillips of Wilmington, NC; aunts and uncles, William "Butch" Nixon (Joan), James Moore (Juanita) and George MacRae, all of Wilmington, NC, Gertha Furlow of Willard, NC, Hazel Moore Layne, Estella Dixon (Claude), Mable Miller (Charles), Myrtle McNeill and Ruby Moore, all of Durham, NC; two sisters-in-law, Helen Jackson of Wilmington, NC and Marion Heggins (Bobby) of Durham, NC; a special nephew, Juan Jackson (Mary) of Newport News, VA; one godson, Emerald A. Josey; several nieces, nephews, cousins and many, many friends, including special friends, Mr. and Mrs. Sherman Lewis, Mr. and Mrs. Carlton Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Leon Franks and Mr. Frank Walker. *Services entrusted to Davis Funeral Home, 901 S. 5th Ave, Wilmington, NC 28401. Please share memories and condolences with the family at www.davisfuneralhomenc.com.*

Edward L. Hamlin

Edward L. Hamlin, age 91, of Wilmington, passed away Thursday, May 14, 2020. A graveside service will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, May 21, 2020 at Enoch Chapel Missionary Baptist Church Cemetery.

His love and memories will remain in the hearts of his children, Harriett Hamlin of Riverdale, MD and Leslie Karen Hamlin-Williams of Indianapolis, IN; sister, Vernice Hamlin of Harlem, NY, 2 grandchildren and a host of other relatives and friends. *Services entrusted to Davis Funeral Home, 901 S. 5th Ave, Wilmington, NC 28401. Please share memories and condolences with the family at www.davisfuneralhomenc.com.*

In Loving Memory Of



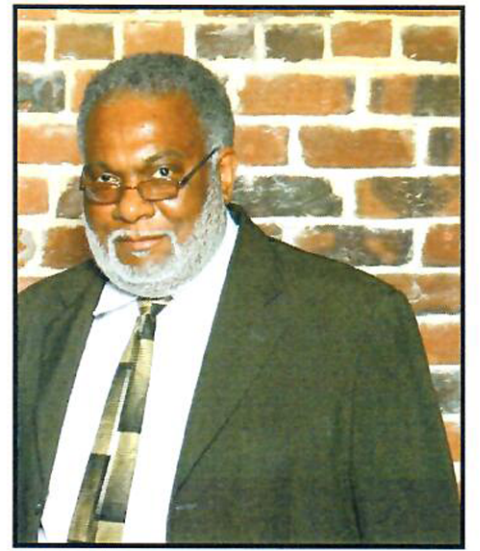
Rose Lee Dowdy
Sunrise: May 12, 1923
Sunset: May 3, 2008

A mother is one who understands the things you say and do. Who always overlooks your faults and sees the best in you. A mother is one whose special love inspires you day by day. Who fills your heart with gladness in her warm and thoughtful way. My mother was all these things and more, the greatest treasure I have ever known.

David Dowdy

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