

MISSING



EBONEY SPEARS

Wilmington Police are continuing their search for 30 year old Eboney 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 Eboney's whereabouts. If you know where Spears may be, call Wilmington Police at (910) 343-3600 or use Text-a-Tip.

SERVICES

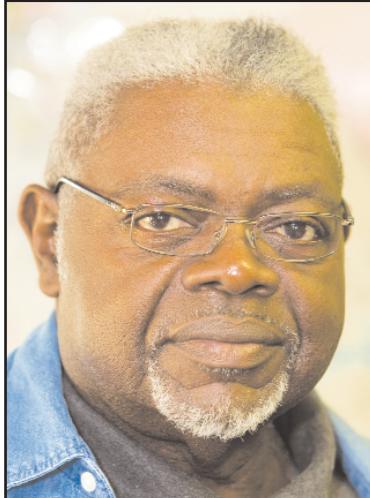


DOROTHY S. DESHIELDS

A public viewing will be held from 3:00 - 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 28, 2020 at Davis Funeral Home, 901 S 5th Ave., Wilmington, NC 28401. The Funeral Cortege will travel to the International School at Gregory, 1106 Ann St., Wilmington, NC 28401, on Friday, May 29, 2020 arriving at 12:15 pm for a moment of reflection. Graveside Services will follow at 1:00 PM at Greenlawn Memorial Park, 1311 Shipyard Blvd., Wilmington, NC 28412.

In lieu of flowers, the family is requesting contributions be made in Dorothy's memory to one of the following: Glow Academy 4100 Sunglow Dr., Wilmington, NC, 28405 or The Community Boys & Girls Club, 901 Nixon Street, Wilmington, NC, 28401 Dorothy Deshields Memorial Fund, <https://www.staug.edu/giving>. By mail (checks payable to: Saint Augustine's University Division of University Advancement & External Affairs), 1315 Oakwood Ave., Raleigh, NC 27610.

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ATTORNEY JAMES W. LEA



DAMEON SHEPARD



MONICA SHEPARD



D.A. BEN DAVID & SHERIFF ALAN CUTLER

REVISING "TERROR" IN PENDER

EXCLUSIVE

Attorney for the Shepard family speaks

BY CASH MICHAELS
OF THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

For Wilmington attorney, Attorney James W. Lea, the Monica and Dameon Shepard case is a chilling example of how precious the right to be safe and secure, especially in one's own home, should be for every American citizen.

However, what's even more clear now, after the events of May 3, 2020, is that, when a young African-American male can't escape the probable peril of being Black in America, even in his house, then strong, swift action must be taken.

Attorney Lea represents the Shepards in the case that is still sending shock waves across North Carolina and the nation, the case of the "angry" all White mob assault on their Avendale home late that May 3 night, allegedly in search of a missing 15 year old biracial adopted sister of the NHC deputy sheriff leading the armed group, and the Black male teen she was falsely reported to have been with.

Attorney James Rutherford is representing Jordan Kita, and, in a published interview and letter, is steadfast that race was not an issue

in the incident, even though a careful analysis by The Journal (this edition) clearly indicates that it could have been.

The Journal spoke with Attorney Lea by phone exclusively Friday, May 22, to get the latest on the case from his perspective. His answers have been abbreviated for this story.

How are Monica and her 18-year-old son, Dameon, doing? Have they recovered from this ordeal?

Lea - There is never going to be a recovery from something like that. That's something that stays with you the rest of your life, but the Shepards have had so much support. They've gotten support obviously from the Black community but the White community as well. They are very close with their neighbors and have been living in that [predominately-White] neighborhood for quite a while. That's the group that came out that night, [called the sheriff's dept.] and demanded that someone do something to protect [the Shepards].

[In subsequent interviews, Monica Shepard has also lauded her White neighbors, saying that her family and they are "tight-knit."]

James Rutherford, the attorney for now former NHC Deputy Sheriff

Jordan Kita, claims in a written statement that all of this is just one "colossal misunderstanding," that race was never a factor in the incident, and directly charges that you "...recklessly put out that defamatory narrative" and that "statements made by Mr. Lea are wrong, slanderous, and disgusting." The attorney says on video, 'Make no mistake. This case is not about race; it's about a missing child.'

How do you respond?

Lea - What are you to think? Imagine what would have happened if you had 15 Black people - three of them armed - on the front door steps of a White family's house, and the Pender County Sheriff's Dept showed up? What do you think would have happened in that kind of situation?

So [the attorney] can claim anything he wants to about me...I called it like I saw it, and I'm not yet backing off of that and probably won't.

Wrong is wrong, whether you're Black, White, whatever color you are. The case will unfold as time goes on. We're investigating it and looking

Please see ATTORNEY /Page 2

AN ANALYSIS
What really happened during Kita-Shepard incident?

BY CASH MICHAELS
OF THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

On the night of May 3, 2020, there was a loud bang on the door of the home where Monica Shepard and her son, Dameon, 18, reside in the Avendale community of Rocky Point, in Pender County.

Dameon, who was playing video games, opened the door, not realizing that what would happen next would forever change his life.

There are at least two sides to what happened next. Ultimately, it will be courts of law - both criminal and civil - which will determine what the truth is. However, for now, based on all available published reports, video interviews, and statements from participants and both attorneys in the case, The Journal has been able to put together this analysis to determine where the sides collide.

Please see ANALYSIS /Page 2

Dorothy Sheridan DeShields: Faith leader and education policy advocate succumbs

BY BEVERLY SMALLS
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

An African Methodist Episcopal Church faith leader, and influential Twenty-First Century education policy maker, Dorothy Sheridan DeShields died May 20.

Formal reflections of her life include a funeral cortege that will travel to the International School at Gregory, 1106 Ann St. for tributes that will begin at 12:15 p.m., Friday, May 29.

Prior to becoming the New Hanover County Schools' Executive Director of the Office of Quality Development, or an elected member of the school system's board of education, DeShields was founding principal and a developer of the Magnet Gregory School of Science, Mathematics and Technology.

COVID19 related social distancing and masking practices are designated for the Friday outdoor Gregory Memorial, and the public viewing at Davis Funeral Home, 901 South Fifth St., from 3 to 6 p.m., today.

A family graveside service for final rites will be in



DOROTHY SHERIDAN DESHIELDS

Greenlawn Memorial Park.

Deshields' church members, classmates and friends echo similar sentiments about her character carriage.

No matter the height or depth of her influence or professional titles, she never forgot who she was.

She knew how to, and wanted to communicate with people from any background.

The Wilmington native was the daughter of a very popular and faithful Mount Olive AME Church member, and neighborhood leader, the late Theodosia Sheridan.

Deshields was also mentored in professional and community life by Bertha Todd, retired county education administrator, and local African-American Historian.

"Dot," as she was affectionately known by many, also mentored her beloved cousin, Dr. Earl Sheridan to enter elective public office service.

Her prodigal relative became a Wilmington City Councilman, and eventual Mayor Pro Tem.

Please see DESHIELDS /Page 2



**Andrea Harris,
economic development leader, dies**

BY CASH MICHAELS
OF THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

Last weekend, by order of Gov. Roy Cooper, state government building flags flew at half staff in honor of an inspiring leader, who was best known for standing strong for Black economic development

Please see HARRIS /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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All news must be submitted two weeks in advance by Fridays at 5 p.m.

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HARRIS

Continued from Page 1

and advancement. She mentored many to become public servants and leaders in Black and women-owned businesses.

And she rarely said "no" if she knew she could help anyone in need in the community.

The death of activist and Black economic development leader, Andrea Lynette Harris, 72, last week, co-founder of the nonprofit NC Institute of Minority Economic Development (aka "The Institute"), came as a shock to those who knew, loved and respected her. The sincere and overflowing outpouring of sorrow and condolences was testament to the impressive legacy of service Ms. Harris gave the state of North Carolina.

"It is not enough to just be in the room," Ms. Harris is famous for saying. "You must be at the table."

She is credited with generating over \$1 billion to Black and women-owned businesses, which, in turn, has led to home ownership across the state.

"Andrea Harris was a trailblazer who never stopped fighting for social and racial equity in our state," said Gov. Cooper in a statement May 20. "When doors were intentionally shut, she broke through for women and minority-owned businesses to succeed, modeled excellence in advocacy and mentored scores of freedom fighters. She left an indelible impact on North Carolina's business and

DESHIELDS

Continued from Page 1

Dorothy DeShields' influence and integrity also shone brightly during multiple decades of leadership roles in Mount Olive AME Church.

"This is a tremendous loss for our church spiritually, individually, financially, and many ways because she had leadership skills above and beyond," said Helena Boykin Highsmith who worked closely with DeShields.

Days prior to her death the ailing church member contact-

ed the Highsmiths to come to pick up an extra offering for the Mother's Day Missionary Department project that provided individuals with \$50 gift cards.

Though DeShields might have been categorized as, "sick and shut-in," she requested that regular church tithes and offerings be collected from her home.

She was the founding director of the Mount Olive Church Tutoring Program under the leadership of Rev. Anthony Watson.

DeShields and Highsmith co-chaired the church mortgage

liquidation under the pastorate of the Rev. Artie Odom.

Providing services as Assistant Sunday School Superintendent, 2nd Vice President of the Missionary Society, co-founder of the Mount Olive Thespians, Steward Board member, and former Women's Day and Homecoming chairperson are Dorothy DeShields' legacies.

She is survived by a son, Brian, two grandchildren, Kia and Brianna, three brothers, William Street, Robert and Michael Sheridan, sisters in law, cousins, nieces, nephews, and friends.

Tributes and words of sympathy abound for the family.

Dr. Lee Monroe, fellow Willistonian of the Class of 1961, grieves DeShields' death.

"She never forgot where she came from as she tackled policy issues which directed public school education for all," Monroe said.

"She and her sage counsel will be sorely missed."

Fellow past Gregory principal, and New Hanover County Schools' administrator, Emma Jackson also offers personal reflections.

"She was a woman of exceptional warmth and wisdom.

Her loss leaves a void in all our lives that will not be readily filled."

Jackson, Karen Beatty, President of The Links Inc. and other members will participate with formal tributes during the Friday program on the steps of Gregory School.

The brief program will include a musical tribute by DeShields' former Links member, and Willistonian, Marva Mapson Robinson.

"We know that she has gone to the rest that she so ably earned," Jackson said of, "Dot," her personal friend and colleague.

that she is and very impressed with Dameon, who is graduating from Laney High School this year. Lea, the former chair of the New Hanover Democratic Party, admits he's not Black, but thanks to his parents, he has respect for all people, regardless of color; and has had it during his over forty years practicing law.

It was one of Monica Shepard's close White neighbors who was so outraged after witnessing the Jordan Kita incident, that, having been a client of Atty. Lea before, highly recommended him to the Shepards. They met with him, and the rest is history.

Lea says it's apparent that the Pender County Sheriff's Dept. and the New Hanover/Pender D.A.'s office were going to slow drag the case before he got involved. Once he saw that, Atty James Lea made getting justice for Monica and Dameon Shepard his top priority.

Two days later, D.A. Ben David and Pender County Sheriff Alan Cutler held a press conference, announcing charges in the case, and that Jordan Kita had been fired from the NHC Sheriff's Dept.

[Editor's Note - be sure to read *The Journal's* analysis of the case in this edition]

ATTORNEY

Continued from Page 1

ing at lawsuits against both [Pender and New Hanover] counties' sheriff's departments.

If, in fact, what Kita says is true, which is what he's contending in that article [and video] that the Pender County Sheriff's Department was involved [in the search] and gave him a green light to do what he did, is the way I read it, if that is in fact true, then Pender County Sheriff's Department is in a lot of trouble.

Kita's attorney claims that "there was no criminal intent in any of Jordan's actions," yet Kita knew he was wearing a law enforcement uniform, complete with his service revolver, in another county on a personal errand, used his foot to prevent a resident of his legal address from closing the door of his own home, and demanded entry to that home repeatedly after being told by both Dameon and his mother to leave.

Lea - There's no way there can be [no criminal intent]. The minute you step foot on somebody's property, and you've not been invited to be there, you're committing trespass. That's a crime. As a police officer you're bound to know that...Everybody knows that. If you come up to the door, and you open the door, and they tell you to go away, and you don't

leave, you're continuing that crime.

If you're armed on their property, there's another crime. That's assault. If you are putting your foot in their door, you are breaking and entering, and they can't close their door. So, I don't know how you get around the criminal intent part of it, when you're purposefully walking on somebody's property armed, refusing to leave the door when they tell you to leave, sticking your foot in the door. That's just impossible to ...those two things are completely inconsistent.

Is there any truth to the claim that the Pender County Sheriff's Dept. was working with Jordan Kita in the search for his little sister at the time?

Lea - We haven't gotten to the final conclusion on that. We've not been able to prove that any of (Kita's contention) is correct. But what is interesting about this is after [the mob] left, the Pender County Sheriff's Dept. was called. Two deputies came out, and their captain, on that Sunday evening, and following them was the same [mob] apparently...followed them back to the scene of the crime, and [the Pender deputies] got the full story right on the spot from the Shepards and the neighbors, and yet, no names were taken from the so-called [mob]. No arrests were made. No statements were taken down.

So it does make it a little suspicious ...more than a little

suspicious, that [Pender deputies] came out there that night, took no action, and this crowd followed them back to the scene of the Shepard's house.

Mr. Kita, sort of threw [Pender County Sheriff's Dept.] under the bus in that article, if you really read it. I don't know whether they sanctioned somebody going to somebody's house with a gun...but, they may have. They sure as heck let them drive away that night. Well see. That's unfolding as we speak.

Does it stretch credulity to believe that Jordan Kita gets a group of people together, some of them armed, to go to a specific address looking for someone named "Josiah" on a tip, yet not have even a broad idea of what Josiah looked like? Kita's attorney said they had "zero description of Josiah." On video, the attorney says, "time was of the essence." But how is that possible if they don't even know who or what the missing girl is supposedly with?

Lea - I don't believe that, to be honest with you, because Dameon is darker skinned, but sort of looks similar to Josiah...I've seen pictures of both of them.

To me, when they got to that house, and saw that it was a Black young man, they had to clearly be looking...I mean if they were looking for a White man, they would have turned around and said, "we have the wrong house."

As noted, Lekayda went missing on the evening of Sunday May 3. If anyone knows her whereabouts, please call the Pender County Sheriff's Office at 910-259-1212."

According to a video interview conducted by Port City News with Timothy Kita, his wife, Mary, and their son Jordan's attorney, James Rutherford (Jordan himself was not allowed to speak on advice of his attorney) - all White. Lekayda is a biracial child, who has been living with the Kita family for ten years. They consider her their "daughter" and Jordan's "sister."

On video, Timothy Kita called the search a "frantic situation" with neighbors helping to look through the woods, a Pender County sheriff's Dept. helicopter involved, and drones from the Pender County Fire Dept. in the air. They searched through multiple empty houses and knocked on several doors in theirs and other neighborhoods.

The whole time, the Kitas were getting tips by phone and texts as to where the teen was last seen. Both Timothy and Mary Kita say the Pender County Sheriff's Dept. "was with us every step of the way" and were exchanging phone calls and texts with them "the entire night."

At one point, after it had gotten dark, they got a tip that Lekayda was seen in the predominantly White community of Avendale. They say they were also "given the name Josiah," someone they believed attended the same high school she did.

The Kitas, on video, claim that they "...asked if it was OK if we knocked on doors (in Avendale) and ask if anyone had seen her, and we had pictures of her, and we were told 'yes' by the Pender Sheriff's Dept. officers working with them.

They went to the Avendale address which they were told belonged to Josiah, hoping to find Lekayda there, unharmed.

About three vehicles pulled up to the street where the Shepards reside. They were one of just two Black families that had lived in the neighborhood over the years, and a "Josiah" did once live next door with his mother but had moved a month earlier, published reports say.

Out of those three vehicles exited approximately 15 White men, women, and, possibly, at least one child. They gathered in front of the Shepard's home and on their front porch.

One of the men is confirmed to have brought an AR-15 assault weapon (he's been charged, though his attorney claims his client broke no laws). Dameon Shepard said that,

Upon word of her passing,

they clearly knew they were looking for a Black individual, I think, because they went to that house but could not leave because they thought Dameon was Josiah. So, they had to have some body else.

Again, Jordan Kita's attorney claims that this is just a big misunderstanding, but you see real damages here. What are they?

Lea - Being a young Black man in America, this is something you never really get over. You don't get over that. When somebody intrudes on your space, that's not something you get over anytime soon. That's just a gross violation of every right as a citizen, your civil rights, everything else.

When do you expect to file your lawsuit on behalf of the Shepards?

[Atty. Lea replied that his firm is very careful with research, noting the lawsuits they've recently filed in the NHC School System sex scandal case which they're handling. So it may take one, maybe two, months for them to complete their investigation in the Shepard's case and file. By that time, the court system may be back up and running from its COVID-19 pandemic pause]

Lea - We're going to make sure our "is" are dotted and "t's" are crossed so that we file what we know is a strong lawsuit.

Attorney James Lea says he's an admirer of Monica Shepard and the strong mother

doesn't believe race a motive in the frightening incident. Yet both Dameon and Monica recall Kita and another man with him trying to get Dameon to admit that he was Josiah, telling him that they were "given his name."

Coupled with the fact that two of the group had guns with them close to the door, in addition to Jordan Kita (who had his service weapon holstered), and it seems not only that they knew Josiah was Black from the tip (he is, though lighter and skinnier than Dameon), but they were allegedly expecting trouble when they went to the house, as a result.

Besides, how do you search for someone without knowing something about what they broadly look like?

One more thing-about the guns. Timothy Kita insists that there was no rifle there (Dameon says he saw a man carrying one who was standing away from the door), and that, when they realized that one of their crowd brought an assault weapon, they told him to put it away, and he took it back to his vehicle.

If he did, it wasn't before he had the weapon with him at the door when Jordan Kita allegedly tried to gain entry, and Dameon could clearly see it. That means the man with the AR-15 was on the Shepard's property without their permission. As indicated earlier, he has been charged with "terrorizing the public."

At his May 8 press conference, District 8 Attorney Ben David vowed that the case "will continue to be a high priority." He further called it a "case this serious," and warned the public against judging what the case is and is not about, before it went to court.

Jordan Kita had been fired from his job as a NHC Sheriff's Dept. jailer and charged with several misdemeanors, including breaking and entering. Observers note that he dodged what easily could have been serious felonies.

Pender County Sheriff Alan Cutler praised his deputies for not making any arrests, choosing to "diffuse" the situation first, and then investigate later. He also admitted that there may have been enough evidence to make arrest that night, but his deputies were prudent not to.

15 year-old Lekayda Nicole Kempisty was found unharmed at 9 a.m. May 4 in New Hanover County.

NC NAACP petitions SEC for Sen. Burr to be expelled

BY CASH MICHAELS
OF THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

The president of the NC NAACP, The Reverend Dr. T. Anthony Spearman, and former president, The Reverend Dr. William J. Barber, II, have issued a petition demanding "a thorough investigation" by the U. S. Senate Ethics Committee into allegations that senior Sen. Richard Burr (R-NC) profited from the COVID-19 pandemic when he sold 32 sets of stocks on February 13, 2020, just prior to the stock market's crashing, and the nation's being warned about severe threat the pandemic posed.

Sen. Burr allegedly sold

the stocks, netting \$1.7 million, based on classified information not available to the public, otherwise known as "insider trading."

Once reported, Burr relinquished his chairmanship of the Senate Intelligence Committee and has asked the Senate Ethics Committee to investigate the matter.

On May 14, it was reported that FBI agents served a search warrant and seized Sen. Burr's cell phone in order to track his alleged communications and build



REV. WILLIAM BARBER



REV. T. A. SPEARMAN



SEN. RICHARD BURR

a case against him. Burr has insisted that he's done nothing wrong

and that information he employed to sell his stocks was public information.

The NC NAACP petition quotes former U. S. Attorney Preet Bharara, an expert in insider stock trading cases, as calling the Burr case "a very, very big deal."

"This is something the FBI or DOJ does not take lightly. It requires layers of review, the blessing of a judge, and consideration of severe reputational harm to a sitting U. S. senator."

"We believe a thorough SEC (Senate Ethics Committee) investigation shall lead to the Senate's expulsion of Sen. Burr..." according to the U. S. Constitution.

Reverends Spearman and Barber say they are working on a digital copy of the petition for people to sign, but, for now, interested petitioners should be able to access one at www.naacp-nc.org, or they can call the NC NAACP office to request that their names be included among the signatories or send to PO Box 7186, Greensboro, NC 27407.

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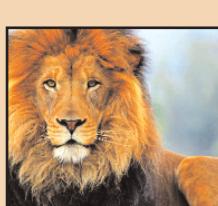
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VOICES

4 THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL



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

RAINBOW COALITION

Americans have united before to defeat an external enemy and we can again

(Via TriceEdneyWire.com)

We live in a time of bitter divisions. Today, even the wearing of masks has become a partisan question. Yet, as this Memorial Day weekend reminds us, this country has united before to meet external threats. The calamity that has been wrought by the coronavirus is the result of an external attack - this time by a virus rather than an armed enemy.

It too should be a time of national unity, of rallying together to share the sacrifices, to help one another through the crisis, and to rebuild the country afterwards. Today, however, it is too easy to slip into small-minded partisanship, or to hold onto ideological blinders, even when it has never been more important to revive the better angels of our spirit. Consider that about 35 million people have filed for unemployment benefits, with millions more unemployed but not counted.

Hundreds of thousands of small businesses have closed, never to open again. Major retailers like JC Penny and J. Crew are declaring bankruptcy. Manufacturing plants like Ford that reopened had to close again as workers got struck by the virus. Major industries like the airlines are alive primarily because of assistance from the government and the Federal Reserve. This stunning reality - beyond anything suffered since the Great Depression itself - takes massive human causalities.

More than 90,000 people now have died from the virus itself, with tens of thousands more weakened or crippled from its ravages. But the casualties are far greater. Homeowners and renters can't pay their mortgages or rent. Graduates can't stay up with their student loans. Small businesses exhaust their reserves and are forced to lay off the team of workers they have assembled. Frontline workers deal with staggering stress, while at constant risk of infection. States and localities faced with plummeting revenues and rising costs have started to lay off vital workers and cut vital services. People are sensibly scared, worried and angry because of plans and hopes that were suddenly dashed through no fault of their own.

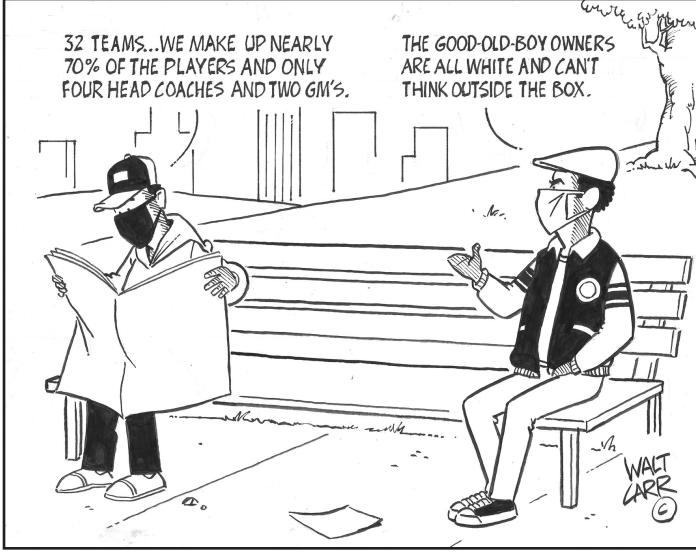
At this time, as in wartime, the government must act. It must act to organize our collective response to the attack, to organize needed medical and protective gear, to figure out testing and tracing strategies, to distribute health resources, to galvanize an all-out press for a remedy. It must also act to limit the damage - to keep families in their homes, small businesses in their offices or stores, workers in their jobs. This cannot descend into partisan posturing. In recent days, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell has stated that he feels no "urgency" to aid states and localities, suggesting that states could go bankrupt, and that the crisis was largely one of "blue-state" mismanagement. Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham has stated that any extension of supplemental unemployment benefits would occur only over "our dead bodies." McConnell dismissed the rescue package passed through the House as simply "aspirational" and adjourned the Senate until June.

The casualties are not partisan. They are Republican and Democrat, liberal and conservative, small business owners and small farmers, meat packers and more. They are disproportionately the most vulnerable: middle- and low-income families, the poor, the old, the sick. They are in red states and blue states. McConnell knows this. Just as the causalities are not partisan, the response cannot be. Let us hope he is using this holiday break to think through a response that is of the scale necessary to meet the crisis.

Let us hope that he can move from obstruction to negotiation, figuring out the compromises needed to move legislation through the Senate. Most Americans would agree that aiding those who are unemployed through no fault of their own is not controversial. Some conservative Senate Republicans have joined with the most progressive House Democrats to champion a paycheck guarantee program that would support small business owners to pay their employees even when their businesses are locked down.

That would enable workers to keep their benefits, get their pay, and owners to sustain their teams. That is neither a blue nor a red program, it is common sense. Similarly, most Americans would agree that we have to ensure that everyone can get treatment and testing without worrying about how to pay for it. Most would agree that we shouldn't bankrupt the post office. Most would agree that we have to make voting safe in the fall. Voting by mail is not a partisan agenda; it is a safety agenda. This is a time when leaders must emerge, move beyond their comfort zone, and offer bold responses to a stark crisis. This is not a moment for posturing. It is a time for patriotism, for solidarity, for action. Let us hope that Memorial Day celebrations may help our leaders remember that challenge.

Jesse Jackson is CEO/President of the Rainbow Coalition.



VISUAL VOICE



YOUR VOICE

HOW MUCH ARE OUR LIVES WORTH?

Now that deaths from Covid-19 have reached the 100,000 threshold, perhaps this is a good time to come up with an amount that best represents the dollar value of a human life. To help with the math, I will employ one of North Carolina's most successful investors, Senator Richard Burr.

You may recall that shortly after attending a closed-door meeting that included warnings of a potentially devastating economic threat from the coronavirus, Senator Burr, on February 13, sold between \$618,000 and \$1,700,000 in stock, while at the same time downplaying the threat to the public. Weeks later, the market crashed, losing 30% of its value in a matter of days.

Research published on April 15 revealed that "the vast majority, as much as 90%, of U.S. deaths from the coronavirus outbreak, could have been avoided if strict social distancing measures were imposed just two weeks earlier."

So, now we know how much our lives are worth, at least to

er." Had Senator Burr called the New York Times instead of his broker, tens of thousands of American lives could have been spared.

With that in mind, let's do the math. Since deaths are increasing daily, we will use the total of 100,000 deaths as of Memorial Day - a fitting day, indeed - in our calculations. Considering the research referenced above, 90% of those deaths, or 90,000 lives, were lost thanks to the suppression of critical information by Senator Burr, among others.

Experts have estimated that Senator Burr avoided a drop in the value of his portfolio of around \$250,000. By dividing this amount by the number of avoidable deaths, we arrive at a valuation of \$2.78 per life lost.

In other words, given the choice between one American life and \$2.78, Senator Burr chose the latter. And if you happen to be one of 1,679,189 who came down with the virus, you can take comfort in knowing that Richard Burr sold you out for 14.8 cents.

So, now we know how much our lives are worth, at least to

Senator Burr and, sadly, to his Republican colleagues who have remained silent in the face of his reprehensible behavior in a time of national crisis.

Jeffrey Zalles
Southport NC

DURING A CRISIS, ROMAN EMPEROR NERO PLAYED THE FIDDLE AND UNITED STATES PRESIDENT/ DICTATOR TRUMP PLAYED GOLF

TRUMP is well known for giving nicknames to anyone who dares to disagree with him, and it is always a cut down. Growing up, my son loved watching wrestling on TV. One of his favorite wrestlers was The Undertaker and his phony manager Paul Bearer. Those two worked well together and controlled the match with their illegal tactics. I watched it with him and we both knew it was just clean entertainment. What I am watching on TV now is not clean entertainment but illegal tactics by TRUMP and Senate Majority leader Mitch McConnell. They are lawmakers who control the executive branch and one-half of the legislative branch. With Bill Barr as Attorney General and five conservatives on the Supreme Court, we need to vote BLUE in every election between now and November 3rd or kiss our country good-bye. Trump and McConnell's treatment of poor and middle-class people is disgraceful. "When you get them down, keep them down". On March 2, 2020, the U.S. Supreme Court agreed to hear the suit filed by the Trump administration and 18 Republican State Attorney Generals to end the Affordable Care Act. If they win, 20 million people will be kicked off health care. My nickname for TRUMP is The Undertaker, over 100,000 dead, and his phony manager/partner in crime is Paul Bearer, Mitch McConnell. We can only stop them by registering and voting. This is a call for HELP. ARE YOU REGISTERED???

James J. Hankins
Wilmington, NC

MATTERS OF OPINION

What about our children?

(Via TriceEdneyWire.com)

Like many who've had to shelter-in-place, I've had time for introspection and reflection. I've had to limit contact with family members, but I've had the opportunity to share memories and plan for future engagements with them. As leader of a national organization, I've had to plan for the utilization of new creative procedures to keep our organization operational. I'm a community activist, so I've had to examine



Dr. E. Faye Williams

and evaluate the impact of COVID-19 on our communities.

In mid-May 2020, the Center of Disease Control issued a report which states, in part:

The effects of COVID-19 on the health of racial and ethnic minority groups are still emerging; however, current data suggest a disproportionate burden of illness and death among racial and ethnic minority groups. Among COVID-19 deaths for which race and ethnicity data were available, New York City identified death rates among African Americans (92.3 deaths per 100,000) Hispanics (74.3, both) substantially higher than that of whites (45.2) or Asians (34.5).

Much has been said about the current disparate impact of COVID-19 on communities of color; very little attention has

been placed on a plan for healing that will be essential post-pandemic. I place special emphasis on the impact of COVID-19 on the mental health of our youth. I can only imagine the weight of uncertainty that's been added to their customary burden. If not before COVID-19, our children must suffer, to varying degrees, with emotional distress that can only be labeled Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

The American Psychiatric Association defines PTSD as: A psychiatric disorder that can occur in people who've experienced or witnessed a traumatic event such as a natural disaster, serious accident, terrorist act, war/combat, rape or other violent personal assault. People with PTSD have intense, disturbing thoughts

and feelings related to their experiences that last long after the traumatic event has ended. They may relive the event through flashbacks or nightmares; they may feel sadness, fear or anger; and they may feel... estranged from other people.

I would think the initial temporary school closures were greeted by our youth as an extra spring break! I'd also speculate that, when these closures were applied to the remaining school year and students realized a longer separation from friends and normalcy, they had to face another demoralizing disappointment in a sequence of many. For

WILLIAMS

Continued on page 5

What about the children?

(Via TriceEdneyWire.com)

Do you see the light at the end of the coronavirus tunnel? With all 50 states and the District of Columbia either lifting "shelter in place" orders or relaxing them, with restaurants opening, albeit at half capacity, things seem to be slowly returning to "normal" whatever that is. Many of us are still "social distancing," as defined by the Centers for Disease Control as staying six feet away from each other and covering our noses and mouths. We are in a recession. It won't get better until we have a corona vaccine, and until we provide more support for workers.



Dr. Julianne Malveaux

The recession will abate when people get back to work, and when people start spending money. But most parents can't confidently return to work without safe, reliable child care. And it isn't clear how small children can observe social distancing guidelines, standing six feet away from other children. Will child care centers have to accept fewer children so that they can keep children apart?

How will it affect their bottom line? Many daycare providers won't survive coronavirus, reducing the already scarce supply of child care. Summer plans have gone kaput. Air travel is down 90 percent, as people still aren't ready to get on a plane. What does that do to family vacations or plans for summer camp? Many parents look forward to a kid-free week or so, and many children enjoy the educational enrichment that comes with summer camp. Now, many par-

ents will patch together plans. Something is likely to fall between the cracks.

In some jurisdictions, the delivery of education will look very different than in the past. Some districts are considering having young people at school one or two days a week, or a week or so a month. How will working families manage child care when young people are not at school?

If getting people back to work is essential to economic recovery, then we had better start thinking of the children. Why is there such a shortage of affordable child care? Why don't we have a family policy that supports families with food, child care, and other necessities? If we want parents to work, then we have to be prepared to support them.

Many people see the child care issue as a women's issue because most people assume that women should be in charge of their children. But

in nearly half (46 percent) of all households, both parents work. Child care should not be solely a woman's job. If we are to meet our labor market needs, then the child care issue is not a women's issue, but a societal issue.

Part of the issue is ensuring that child care workers and other domestic workers paid fairly. The average child care worker earns \$11.17 an hour, or about \$23,000 a year. If a single mom with two children makes that much, she is below the poverty line. How can she focus on caring for your children when she always worried about making ends meet?

In July 2019, Senator Kamala Harris (D-CA) and Congresswoman Premila Jaypal (D-WA) introduced the Domestic Workers Bill of Rights to protect the 2 million

MALVEAUX

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WILLIAMS

Continued from page 4

many food and shelter security became real and immediate. Some have become victims of domestic violence sparked by routine practice or proximity anxiety. For many more, illness and death of family and friends and the real potential of personal illness or death have become thoughts which are their constant companions.

More long-term, the educa-

tional disparities and academic gaps suggest loss of future opportunities for some. Academic and athletic scholarships which depend on evaluation results of completed school years will not be realized. These obvious assaults on the mental health of youth will go unchecked and unanswered.

Historically, our communities have been reluctant to accept the existence of mental health problems - ignoring rather than addressing them.

If healing is our true purpose, we must first acknowledge the full scope of the issues - general and individual - which confront the target of our concern. We can no longer count on the intestinal fortitude of victims to shepherd them through their trauma. Some need help!

We must become more thorough and sincere in demonstrating our concern. Instead of the casual, "How ya doing?" our inquiry must be a more thorough one like

"Is there anything I can do to help you?" or a variety of probing questions that'll help our youth express themselves. We must remember that their healing begins with us. Unchecked, the impact of their trauma becomes generational.

Dr. E. Faye Williams is National President of the National Congress of Black Women and Host of "Wake Up and Stay Woke" on WPFW-FM 89.3 Radio in Washington, DC.

MALVEAUX

Continued from page 4

domestic workers who provide caretaking for seniors, children, and others. The legislation has not passed the Republican-led Senate, but its introduction is significant. Several states, including New York, Washington, and Hawaii, have passed similar legislation.

Perhaps the indifference to legislation like this is reflective of the fact that the majority of

domestic workers are women of color and immigrant women. These women are relatively powerless unless they are organized, and Ajen Poo, who leads the National Domestic Workers Alliance committed to organizing domestic workers. When we ask about the children, we must ask about their children first since they are among the most vulnerable.

The children of people who are economically secure will enjoy good care. They'll

have tutors, computers, broadband, vacations and more. They won't get the opportunity to play, but their parents have the means to get them everything else they need. But the children in low-income families won't have everything they need. They will fall behind in school with the patchwork arrangements that are available to them. Some will go hungry because some food programs have run out of food.

People can't go back to work unless they have a safe place to keep their children. Our recession reminds us of the need for universal child care and fair treatment for domestic workers. People love to say they believe that children are the future, but even as they move their lips, no sound is coming out, there is no action.

Dr. Julianne Malveaux is an economist. She can be reached at www.juliannealmeaux.com.

TO BE EQUAL

Even while physically distant, 2020 grads find ways to celebrate and inspire

(Via TriceEdneyWire.com)

"No one does big things by themselves. Right now, when people are scared, it's easy to be cynical and say let me just look out for myself; or my family, or people who look or think or pray like me. But if we're going to get through these difficult times; if we're going to create a world where everybody has the opportunity to find a job, and afford college; if we're going to save the environment and defeat future pandemics, then we're going to have to do it together." - President Barack Obama, National High School Class of 2020 Commencement



Marc
Morial

down schools and colleges and robbed graduating seniors of long-awaited rituals like proms and class trips.

My family planted a sign in our yard to show how proud we are of my son. But that

march across the stage to receive a diploma, to shake the hand of the principal or the dean and to hear the exuberant cheers of friends and family, simply is not to be in 2020.

One graduating senior in Los Angeles, Lincoln Debenham thought of a way to make graduation special for everyone: he asked President Barack Obama to deliver a national address. And President Obama obliged - not just for high schools, but colleges as well.

He was introduced for his high school commencement speech by Chicago Urban League Project Ready student Aniyah Fisher, who served as an intern at the Obama Foundation as a part of the Youth Job Corps Program and is headed to the University of Michigan in the fall.

I had the honor last week of addressing the 2020 graduates of the nation's Historically Black Colleges and Universities, along with

President Obama, actor Kevin Hart, NBA stars and Vince Carter, and choreographer and National Urban League honoree Debbie Allen. The event, Show Me Your Walk: HBCU Edition, was a joyful celebration of pride and hope for the future. I reminded the graduates that they stand on the shoulders of the generations that have gone before. And they must be strong enough to lift up the generations that come after.

The members of the Class of 2020 will carry with them forever the lessons of graduating into a world beset by a pandemic and economic crisis. It can be easy to dismiss the familiar themes of commencement speeches as meaningless platitudes. But as President Obama told the HBCU graduates, this pandemic has torn back the curtain on the idea that many of the folks in charge know what they're doing, and If the world's going to get better, it's going to be up to the class of 2020.

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

disproportionately affected.

Speaking on behalf of the 12-million strong American Federation of Labor and the Congress of Industrial Organizations, more commonly known as the AFL-CIO, Richard L. Trumka, its President sent a May 15 letter to Congress that spoke to the real-life concerns of working people.

"Don't tell us we should wait a little longer for the unemployment benefits we earned or the health insurance we deserve," wrote the AFL-CIO's Trumka. "We have waited long enough."

"Don't tell us we should sacrifice our pensions," he continued. "Don't tell us states should go bankrupt or that federal relief is a blue state bailout. We are all vulnerable, and this nation deserves better."

Later that day, a new \$3 trillion legislative initiative known as the HEROES Act, passed the U.S. House of Representatives on Friday, May 15 on a 208-199 vote, and awaits review and action by the U.S. Senate.

But how swiftly will the upper chamber move on the new COVID-19 plan? And how many Senate amendments will strike at key provisions passed by the House?

Introduced on May 12 by New York Congresswoman Nita Lowey, the HEROES Act had 11 co-sponsors representing the additional states of Arizona, California, Massachusetts, New Jersey, and Virginia and provides a broad assortment of new and renewed assistance targeted to essential workers, first

responders, minority-owned and other small businesses, students, the homeless and others.

For example, housing concerns for renters, homeowners and the homeless in the HEROES Act would extend the CARES Act's previous moratorium on evictions and foreclosures. But it would also provide new housing assistance with \$100 billion in emergency rental assistance, \$75 billion for homeowner assistance, and \$11.5 billion in homeless grants and expand Section 8 vouchers with a \$1 billion revenue infusion. The bill also includes \$500 million for Section 202 Housing for the Elderly, \$100 million for housing counseling, and \$14 million for fair housing activities.

Similarly, debt collections against either minority-owned and other small businesses or consumers would be suspended during the pandemic. Consumers would not be subjected to negative credit reporting and debt collection, while the Federal Reserve would be required to make low-cost, deferrable loans to small businesses, nonprofits, and public universities. Nonprofits serving low-income communities could be eligible for these loans to be forgiven.

Before the early evening House vote, multiple stakeholder groups spoke out in support of the bill.

"The HEROES Act focuses on real people because consumers drive our economy and we can't just leave American families to trickle-down help from businesses," said Lauren Saunders, associate director of the National Consumer Law Center (NCLC).

For Abby Shafroth, an NCLC attorney, criminal jus-

tice issues were a particularly key part of the legislation.

"The last thing that we need right now is to have people in unsafe prisons and jails for the crime of being poor," said Shafroth. "By prohibiting the government from incarcerating people for nonpayment of debts, restricting the use of money bail to detain poor people who have not been convicted of a crime, and incentivizing state and local governments to suspend imposition and collection of fines and fees during the crisis, the HEROES Act protects people from being imprisoned or trapped in the broken criminal justice system merely because they are unable to afford a debt or a fine."

Before House voting began and speaking on the chamber's floor, Chairwoman Maxine Waters of the House Financial Services Committee summarized the feelings of many citizens and lawmakers alike.

"We hear Members on both sides of the aisle talking about how much they love America, how much they love their constituents, said Waters. "Put up or shut up. Now is the time to do it."

That advice needs to be heard in the Senate, where the bill's outcome is unclear. Although the House inserted provisions to address wide-ranging concerns, there is no guarantee that the Senate will act promptly or as generously.

Even so, the Center for Responsible Lending (CRL) remains hopeful that the act will not only be preserved, but strengthened.

"The HEROES Act shows strong promise and address-

CRAZY FAITH MINISTRIES

Has privilege caused White supremacists to be crybabies?

The quarantine and shelter-in-place rules due to the coronavirus have not been fun for anybody, but have helped some people from either getting the virus or dying from it, and the insistence on having people wear face masks - mostly so those who may unknowingly be carrying the virus cannot pass it on to anyone else, has not seemed prohibitive. In fact, it has been a wise move.

So why is it that people - many with guns - were seen on the steps of, in front of, and inside of, state capitol buildings, demanding that the restrictions be lifted? (<https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/politics-news/hundreds-protest-michigan-lawmakers-consider-extending-governors-emergency-powers-n1196886>) And why are so many people refusing to wear masks, citing a violation of their First Amendment rights? (<https://www.cnn.com/2020/05/06/health/why-people-dont-wear-masks-wellness-trnd/index.html>) (<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/heres-why-some-people-are-not-wearing-masks-during-n1200701>)

Watching the protests going on, the rebellion against sheltering in place, with people deliberately gathering in groups has been fascinating. The rules being put in place, although they have been hard on businesses - were not put in place to oppress people, but to save lives, and yet, there is this angry rebellion, primarily from whites, and primarily from whites who are supporters of the president.

The president has given tacit approval for their outbursts, and has said nothing about them carrying guns into government buildings. (<https://www.businessinsider.com/trump-protestors-with-guns-in-michigan-capitol-are-very-good-people-2020-5>) These people, he has said, are "very good people but they're angry." The message is that if you are angry, then you should exercise your constitutional rights - unless, of course, you are a black man or woman protesting real injustice. Colin Kaepernick represented the anger of many when he knelt rather than singing the national anthem, and he was excoriated by the president and banned, basically, from the National Football League. (NFL) Apparently, in the eyes of the GOP, only some anger - white anger - is acceptable.

But watching these reactions of some white people, and reading their retorts on social media, there is a question which keeps rising to the surface of my thoughts - and that is, "why are these people such crybabies?" White privilege has spoiled them into believing they are better than everyone else and, as such, deserve special treatment, and our society has basically obliged their wishes and supported their beliefs.

But this virus has run roughshod over their sense of entitlement. Suffering is all right for other people, but when they are forced to suffer, along with everyone else, they complain - and at least some of them pick up their guns. They whine about their rights being attacked, forgetting all the ways this society has attacked and taken away the rights of so many others. And it seems that in their privileged minds, they have come to the point where they believe they do not have to care about other people and if they get sick because of a disgruntled white American who refuses to wear a mask and practice social distancing.

Oppressed people in this country have endured injustice from the time the United States was born. From Native Americans, to enslaved Africans, to the Latinx community, women, the Japanese after World War II, Muslims - so many groups of people have had to learn how to "grin and bear it" as their rights have been stomped on, denied, and taken away not to protect themselves and other people, but rather to uphold and maintain the white power structure. So many whites refuse to admit the damage that racism and sexism have done to the status of American citizens who happen not to be white and male. They in fact sigh with exasperation when people speak up and mention that they are being oppressed.

These rules are not being put in place to bring white people down; they are being put in place to save vast numbers of people from a disease that doesn't care if one is white and Republican or black and Democrat. The virus doesn't care where people live and if they have a college education. The virus is a formidable and deadly enemy, though, and the only way to effectively fight it, as medical measures are being researched - is to be in community with each other and follow the rules until it is safe to lay those rules down.

Those who have lived under the thumb of oppression get it.

It's too bad that the privileged do not get it, and in the process of their rebellion, are threatening the lives and health of so many. It feels like they feel like their privilege does not require them to care about others, that the privilege they have always had should simply be allowed now, no matter what it costs or how it affects others. Like children who throw tantrums when they do not get their way, white supremacists are doing likewise.

It is too bad they cannot be given a pacifier and made to be quiet - for the sake of the lives of so many who will be affected by their self-centeredness and blatant disregard of the needs of others. White supremacy hurts us all - including those who have been led to believe that their skin color puts them above the rule of law and the guidelines of human decency. © Susan K Williams Smith R

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

CROWELL

Continued from this page

es important needs of low-income families impacted by COVID-19, such as mortgage and forbearance relief, extended unemployment benefits, food assistance, and protections against harmful debt collection activities and negative credit reporting."

"We hear Members on both sides of the aisle talking about how much they love America, how much they love their constituents, said Waters. "Put up or shut up. Now is the time to do it."

That advice needs to be heard in the Senate, where the bill's outcome is unclear. Although the House inserted provisions to address wide-ranging concerns, there is no guarantee that the Senate will act promptly or as generously.

Even so, the Center for Responsible Lending (CRL) remains hopeful that the act will not only be preserved, but strengthened.

"The HEROES Act shows strong promise and address-

inequitable - they won't help many of the student loan borrowers due to its structural flaws that exclude millions from getting relief."

Harrington also noted how the HEROES Act fails to include "important safeguards against high-cost lending and abusive overdraft fees" during the crisis.

"The Senate should act swiftly to include these additional consumer protections and ensure that all those with student debt are able to benefit from debt cancellation," concluded Harrington.

Charlene Crowell is a senior fellow with the Center for Responsible Lending. She can be reached at charlene.crowell@responsiblelending.org.

THE BLACK PRESS:
USE It or LOSE It!

CROWELL

Continued on this page

GET THAT DEED AND FLIP THOSE KEYS!**Your home is more than a home!**

This week I want to share with you just how many ways your home could generate income for you if it's desired or needed. In these uncertain times some are wondering if they will be able to rebound from the shutdowns. Some are wondering if keeping their homes will be smart when there are talks of a recession. Each family must make the best decision for themselves but let me tell you ways you can keep it and GAIN from it even if a recession hits and property values dip a little. FYI: With real estate, what goes down, will eventually go

back up. God is not making any more land and if you have a deed, you can find a way to win with it.

Let's look at this, if you own a home and you need to generate extra cash, consider sharing your entire home by the month, the day, or for the week. I know with the virus you got to be extra careful at this time, but you can still do it. There are some families that move completely out of their homes

for a few months and live with relatives so they can use their homes to generate income. Consider the Airbnb option in which you can lease your home by the day, week, or monthly basis. This option will give you more income than a traditional 12-month lease. You could also stay in the home and lease out spare bedrooms if you don't want to move out at all. I have rented several Airbnb with the owners still home and I didn't bother them, and they didn't bother me, lol. They got their \$70 for the night and wish me well as I left that next morning. What about a roommate?

Brenda
Dixon

Yes, if you have an extra bedroom, no matter your age, you can still have a roommate to sign a 6 or 12-month lease that can pay you and help offset your mortgage cost. You may have family or friends that are not able to carry a full load of their current rental but could afford to pay you to share your home.

Did you know that there are businesses that are looking for a location to do strategy sessions and training, and would love a home where the kitchen could be used to set up a nice brunch and set up table/chairs in a living room and do a brunch/lunch and

learn? How about setting up your home as a unique Airbnb that caters to couples celebrating anniversaries. How about renting out your garage or yard for people that are traveling out of town and don't want to leave their car at the airport nor at their apartment building, etc. How about leasing out spaces in your back yard for people to plant mini gardens? Oh by now you are getting the picture. Yes, you must be careful with this COVID still running around but just like the hotels, the stores, etc. if you put in the extra safeguards and careful practices in place,

you can offer your home up to generate these revenues. Just a thought, just another way your home can work for you in addition to gaining equity in it the longer you keep it. Just like I stated earlier; even if values come down from periodic recessions, eventually they will go back UP.

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.

Brenda Dixon, Dixon Realty Since 1991, 27 yrs. F/T expertise. Brenda@getthatdeed.com.



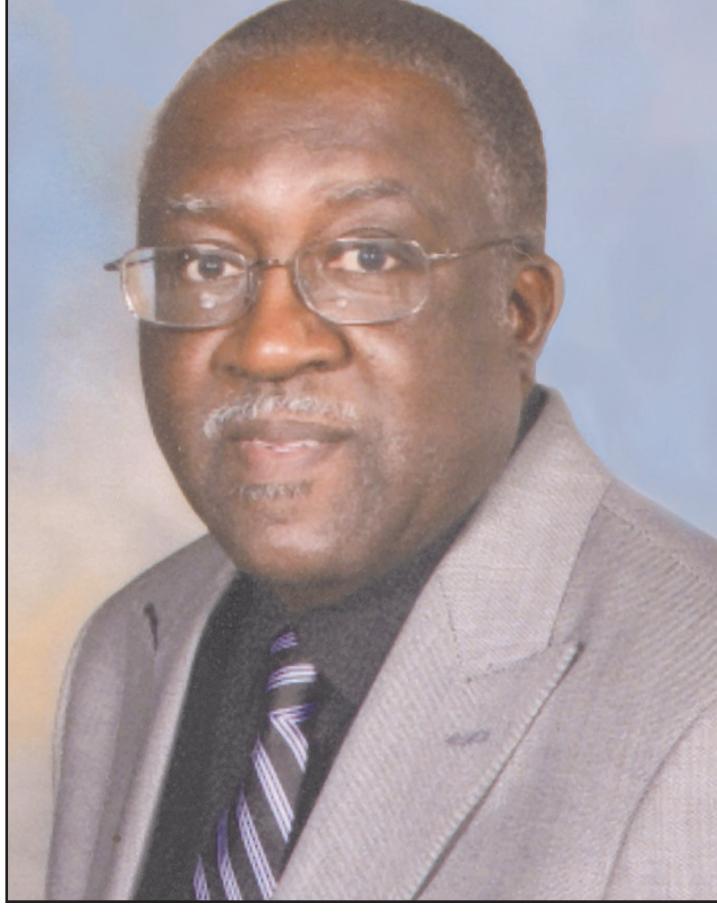
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2020 DNC delegate announcement

DR. WILLIAM FLYTHE

It was announced recently that voters from Brunswick and seven other counties at the 7th Congressional District Convention on May 16 elected Dr. William Flythe as a delegate to the Democratic National Convention. The 7th District consist of the following counties-Bladen, Brunswick, Columbus, Harnett, Johnston, New Hanover, Pender, and Sampson. The virtual or in-person Convention will be held in Milwaukee, WI during the month of August.

Dr. Flythe, a retired

chemist/educator, has been a community activist in the Southport area for over 40 years. He is a Baptist deacon at a local church, President of Save Our Community (youth oriented group), and a Board member of ROCAME (STEM-oriented student organization). Dr. Flythe served for five years as a member of the Brunswick Co. Planning Board and Treasurer of the Brunswick County Democratic Party. He looks forward to discussing such issues as healthcare, environment, public education, and the economy.

NCDHHS provides one-time payment to families with children in Work First Cash Assistance Program

RALEIGH — Today, the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) began distributing a one-time supplemental payment to families enrolled in the Work First Cash Assistance program with one or more children. These payments are intended to help vulnerable families during the economic disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"So many North Carolina families are in need right now, with many people out of work or seeing a reduction in working hours," said NCDHHS Secretary Mandy Cohen, M.D. "This one-time payment will provide thousands of our most economically vulnerable families with extra financial support to help pay for basic necessities."

All Work First Cash Assistance families that received a benefit in April and had one or more children in their household will receive a supplement of \$265 per child for a total of more

than 17,000 children. Some families will receive the payment today on their Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) card, others will receive the payment on Monday via a direct deposit.

Work First is North Carolina's Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program. The Work First program provides parents with short-term training and other services to help them become employed and move toward self-sufficiency.

Families in which grandparents and relatives are caring for their relative children and legal guardians can receive services and support that prevent children from unnecessarily entering the foster care system.

To learn more about the Work First program, visit www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/social-services/work-first-family-assistance.

To learn more about North Carolina's broader COVID-19 response, visit covid19.ncdhhs.gov.

NFL announces major steps to incentive teams to hire minorities for top posts

BY STACY M. BROWN
NNPA NEWSPWIRE SENIOR CORRESPONDENT

National Football League teams must now interview at least two minority candidates for head coaching positions under new resolutions that the league hopes will improve diversity among its 32 teams.

In an expansion of its Rooney Rule, which had previously called on teams to interview minority candidates, the league said teams must also interview at least one minority candidate for coordinator openings and one external candidate for positions in teams' front offices.

"While we have seen positive strides in our coaching ranks over the years aided by the Rooney Rule, we recognize, after the last two seasons, that we can and must do more," Commissioner Roger Goodell said during a media conference call.

"The policy changes made today are bold and demonstrate the commitment of our ownership to increase diversity in leadership positions throughout the league."

Troy Vincent, the NFL's executive vice president of football operations and second-in-command to Goodell, said the league is now in a better position to not only hire minorities and women but to retain their services.

"What the chairman (Art Rooney II) and the commissioner did today and what the ownership voted on today has been a fight for decades to get mobility that has disproportionately affected people of color," Vincent stated.

"Just the ability to get an

interview, you don't get hired unless you have an interview. The mobility resolution today was significant and historic, because it has been a fight for decades. That's the foundation. Frankly, we would call that the linchpin of these inequalities. With these initiatives, the enhancement of the Rooney Rule, which is a tool; it just allows us to have a broader scope of how we look at things."

The new rules include a provision that begins in 2021, which states that teams will no longer restrict staff from interviewing with other clubs for "bona fide" coaching or front office positions. Goodell called the commitment to improving diversity throughout the league is "critical" for future success.

"While we have seen positive strides in our coaching ranks over the years aided by the Rooney Rule, we recognize, after the last two seasons, that we can and must do more," Goodell said.

"The policy changes made today are bold and demonstrate the commitment of our ownership to increase diversity in leadership positions throughout the league."

Clubs also will be required to "include minorities and, or, female applicants in the interview processes for senior-level front office positions such as club president and senior executives in communications, finance, human resources, legal, football operations, sales, marketing, sponsorship, information technology and security positions," according to the expanded rule.

Also, league officials stated that they would use an advisor-



Photo: U.S. Defense website / SSG Teddy Wade / Wikimedia Commons

National Football League (NFL) Commissioner Roger Goodell delivers remarks during an event at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., launching an initiative between the Army and the NFL to work to raise awareness about traumatic brain injury.

ry panel to further strategies aimed at fostering an inclusive culture of opportunity both on and off the field.

Goodell also promised to improve the league's pipeline

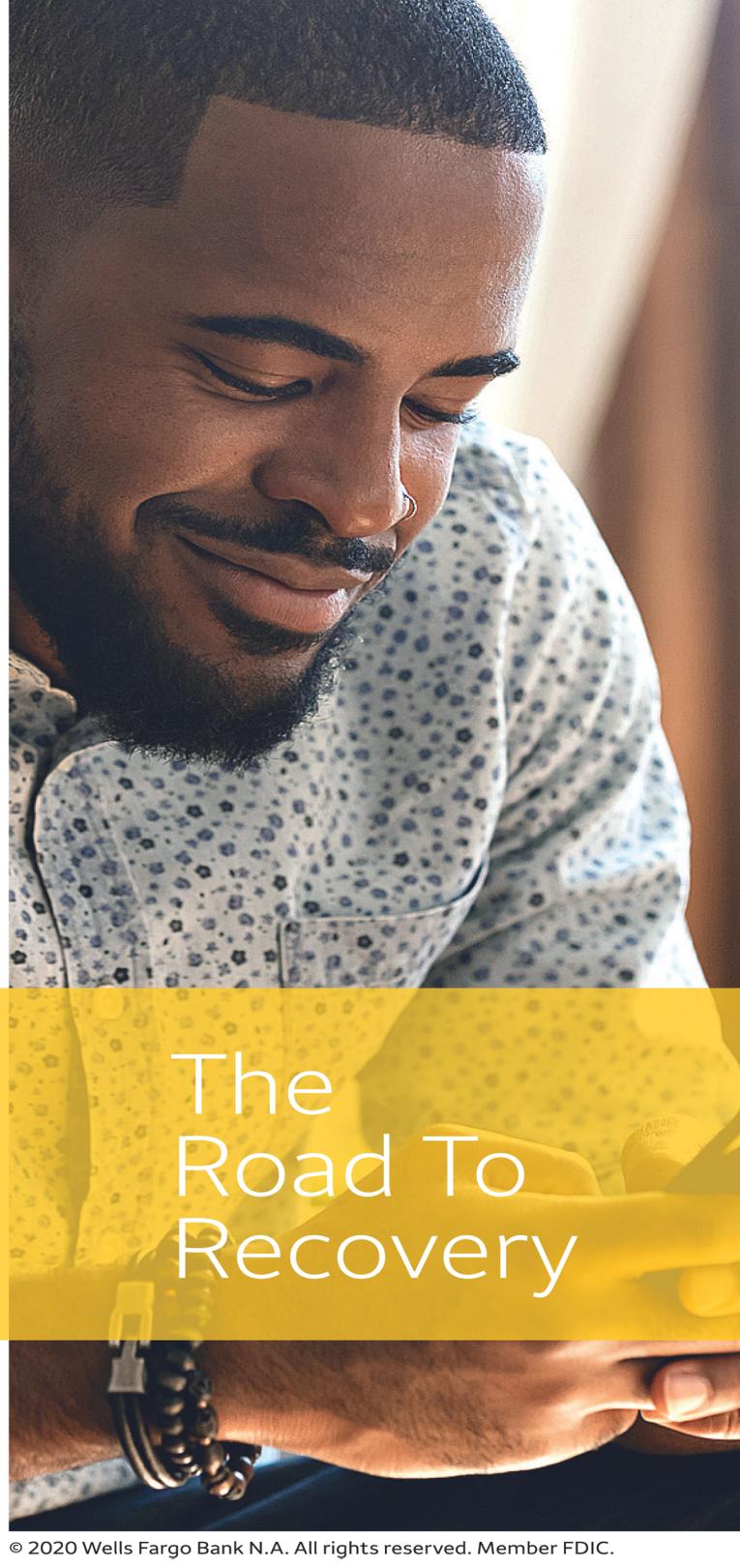
for minority coaching and player personnel candidates with assistance from its Bill Walsh NFL Diversity Coaching Fellowship.

"This fight has been going

on for a long time," said Vincent, who could one day become the league's first African American commissioner.

"The facts are we have a

broken system, and we're looking to implement things to change the direction in where we're going, and it's been south. Not a gradual south but a direct south."



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Relief: Tools And Resources To Navigate Today's Financial Crisis

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In the face of so much uncertainty what many of us need most are answers to our most pressing questions, and a plan to help determine our next moves on the road to recovery. Wells Fargo is committed to providing information necessary to help address your unique financial needs and concerns, starting with the tools and resources to find relief.

How can I protect my credit report if I can't keep up with my loans?

The best way to protect your credit report is to make arrangements directly with your lender. Try asking your bank/lender about deferring payments and interest on your loans/credit lines and having fees waived. On a case-by-case basis, Wells Fargo is offering fee waivers, payment deferrals, and other expanded assistance for credit card, auto, mortgage, small business lending, and personal lending customers who contact us.

Can I apply for a credit limit increase for disaster relief?

In this time of crisis, increasing the limit on your credit card could be a way to help alleviate some financial strain and increase your purchasing power. We're currently reviewing credit card line increases on an individual basis over the phone. To find out your options, reach out to your bank directly.

What are some programs that can help me get by?

The government has designed programs to provide support and relief to those in need during this time. Here are some highlights of the CARES Act that may impact your finances:

Unemployment

There have been temporary changes made to unemployment eligibility. Today, workers who are furloughed, but haven't been fully laid off, are eligible. This special program also extends to those who are typically self-employed and/or part of the gig economy.

Paid Leave

The Families First Coronavirus Response Act is now covering up to 12 weeks of family leave for families who have faced school/daycare closure because of the pandemic and must stay home with their children.

Small Business

Wells Fargo is committed to helping as many small business customers as possible through programs like the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) established by the CARES Act. Wells Fargo mobilized thousands of employees and introduced new automation to rapidly process as many PPP applications for submission to the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA).

Wells Fargo is with you as you embark on your road to recovery. To learn more about our COVID-19 relief efforts visit wellsfargo.com/heretohelp.



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**YaYah Abu Malik
(John Samuel King)**

YaYah Abu Malik (John Samuel King) died May 16, 2020. Graveside services were held Thursday, May 21, 2020 in Riegelwood, NC. A Service of John H. Shaw's Son Funeral Home.

Kenneth Brown

Kenneth Brown died May 19, 2020. Funeral services were held on Saturday, May 23, 2020 at Willie L. Shaw, Jr. Memorial Chapel.

He was born July 16, 1952 to the late Dallas J. Brown, Sr. and Dorthenia Green. Kenneth received his education in the Pender County School System and graduated from Atkinson High School in Atkinson, NC. Shortly after graduating, he joined the U.S. Military for several years. After leaving the military he started working at Fennell Florist delivering flowers for several years. Then he migrated into being a Pest Control Exterminator for ears. After that, he started working for Star News as a delivery driver along with doing lawn service upon retirement.

He leaves to cherish his memory: his wife, Sandra Brown; daughter, Yolanda Edwards; two sons, Kenneth Brown, Jr., Brandon Brown; a loving and caring granddaughter, Kayla Edwards; siblings, Edwin Adams (Terry) of Watha, NC, Steve Brown and Franklin Brown (Betty) all of Atkinson, NC, Rex Brown, Dennis Brown and Dalthenia Brown all of Wilmington, NC, Linda Munn (Ronald) of Atkinson, NC, Dallas Brown, Jr. of Wilmington, NC and Randall Brown of Fayetteville, NC; brothers-in-law, Wayne Edwards of Savannah, GA, Larry Edwards and Terry Edwards both of Wilmington, NC; sisters-in-law, Wanda Edwards Jones of Wilmington, NC, Regenia Edwards of Charlotte, NC and Debra Edwards of Lumberton, NC; aunts, Helen Whitaker of Hampton, VA, Bernice Harvey and Nora Mae Gullap of Atkinson and Dixie Smith of Buffalo, NY; uncle, Cecil Brown (Geraldine) of Buffalo, NY; a host of nieces, nephews and friends. A Service of John H. Shaw's Son Funeral Home.

**Levern Shawn
"SKIDOG" Grady**

Levern Shawn "SKIDOG" Grady died May 18, 2020. Funeral services were held on Saturday, May 23rd at the ILA Hall. Burial followed in Summerville AME Zion Church Cemetery.

Shawn was born on April 30, 1970 to Apostle Carolyn Carter and Johnny Jones in

Wilmington, North Carolina. Shawn, better known as "SkiDog" was well known throughout the Port City. As we sit in a fog of how unreal all of this feels, what remains still and clear to all of us, is what a good person Shawn was, and how much he loved his family, his friends and the Port City. He was a Son. He was a Father. He was a Nephew, Cousin and Friend. To most, he will be a Champion of the Port City because he was a hero with no cape. He gave so much of himself to make the City of Wilmington a better place. Shawn graduated from New Hanover High School in the Class of 1989. He liked sports, and was a great basketball player during his high school career. Shawn always worked to make sure people in our community were taken care of through his work with SkiDog Promotions. For every party thrown at a club, some of the proceeds always went to having a cookout for the community. SkiDog Promotions did a yearly shoe drive for the kids in the Port City with bookbags, clothing and food drives, and he also had Stop the Violence events. Shawn was the kind of man where giving was second nature to him. He just wanted the best for the Port City. It will not be the same without him. He will be missed and loved beyond measure. As we miss Shawn today, we carry his memory on with the work we can do. Now, we have one of the best angels and the span of his wings cover us in ways he never would have imagined. Shawn will always be here for the Port City through us. SkiDog Promotions will not stop.

He leaves to cherish his memories to: his mother, Apostle Carolyn Carter and stepfather, John Carter of Wilmington, NC; his father, Johnny Jones of Wilmington, NC; one daughter, Shanika Nicole Barrett of New Jersey; his beloved son, Kyshaun Flowers of Wilmington, NC; two granddaughters, Sanariyah and Ryenn; a special loved one and friend, Danielle T. Williams and children, Amir and Amaya of Wilmington, NC; seven aunts: Hazel Hankins of Wilmington, NC, Gloria Jenkins (Luther) of Leland, NC, Annie Mae Grady of Winston-Salem, NC, Dorothy Fullwood of Supply, NC, Alfreda Grady of Wilmington, NC, Catherine Richardson (Clifton, Sr.) of Wilmington, NC and Arnell Grady of Wilmington, NC; five uncles: Lester Everett of Navassa, NC, Alexander Grady, Sr. of Annapolis, MD, Larry "Pop" Grady of Brick, NJ, Reginald Robinson, Sr. of Leland, NC and John Grady of Charlotte, NC, great-aunt,

Charlene Everett of Florida; two special cousins, Marilyn Grady and Steve Grady; a host of nieces, nephews, many cousins, other relatives and many, many friends including special friends, Zac Johnson, Carlos Barnes, Jermaine Thomas, Aretha Session, Selena Cobbs, DJ P-Money, DJ Champ, Brandon "Bigg B" Hickman, Sandra "Boss Lady" McClammy, Kevin Spears and Cory Wrisborne. A Service of John H. Shaw's Son Funeral Home.

Hannah Wilson

Hannah Wilson died May 23, 2020. Graveside services will be 12:00 noon on Saturday, May 30, 2020 at Calvary Memorial Cemetery. A Service of John H. Shaw's Son Funeral Home.

Lynn Greene

Lynn Greene died May 24, 2020. Graveside services will be held 11:00 a.m. on Monday, June 1, 2020 at the Pollock Cemetery, Scotts Hill Community. A Service of John H. Shaw's Son Funeral Home.

Derrick "Heavy D" Ballard

Derrick "Heavy D" Ballard died May 24, 2020. Graveside services will be held 12:00 noon on Friday, May 29, 2020 at Johnson Chapel Church Cemetery, Leland, NC. A Service of John H. Shaw's Son Funeral Home.

Lashayne Hill

Lashayne Hill died May 21, 2020. Funeral services will be held 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 28, 2020 at Willie L. Shaw Jr. Memorial Chapel. A Service of John H. Shaw's Son Funeral Home.

Mary Graham

Mary Graham died May 25, 2020. Graveside services will be held 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 2, 2020 at the Freeman Cemetery, Bolton, NC. A Service of John H. Shaw's Son Funeral Home.

Willie Singletary

Willie Singletary died May 26, 2020. Graveside services will be held 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 30, 2020 at Dark Branch Cemetery, Winnabow, NC. A Service of John H. Shaw's Son Funeral Home.

Brian Glaspie

Brian Glaspie died May 25, 2020. Graveside services will be held 12:00 on Sunday, May 31, 2020 at Calvary Memorial Cemetery. A Service of John H. Shaw's Son Funeral Home.

Edward L. Hamlin

Edward L. Hamlin, age 91, of Wilmington, passed away Thursday, May 14, 2020. A graveside service was held 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.davisfuneralhome-nc.com.

Hunt M. Jones

Hunt M. Jones, age 70, of Wilmington, passed away Friday, May 15, 2020. A visitation will be held from 3:00 - 6:00 p.m. on Friday, May 29, 2020 at Davis Funeral Home, 901 S 5th Ave., Wilmington, NC 28401. Graveside services 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 30, 2020 at Greenlawn Memorial Park, 1311 Shipyard Blvd., Wilmington, NC 28412. Services entrusted to Davis Funeral Home, 901 S. 5th Ave., Wilmington, NC 28401. Please share memories and condolences with the family at www.davisfuneralhome-nc.com.

Dorothy DeShields

Dorothy M. DeShields, age 76, of Wilmington, passed away Wednesday, May 20, 2020. Public Viewing 3:00 - 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, May



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Funeral Director

TELL SOMEBODY

"Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not high minded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God who giveth us richly all things to enjoy: That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate. Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life." I Timothy 6:17-19

Oppress: To burden with cruel or unjust social or political restraints

Reproach: To discredit, To dishonor; To Disgrace

Covetous: greedy of wealth and gain

The responsibility of the rich and powerful, is to show the grace, mercy, and the love of God to the poor and the vulnerable. The way in which we treat the elderly, the poor, and the fatherless, show the condition of our

hearts toward God. God wants his people who has been blessed by him to also show kindness to the strangers who dwell among us. Our blessings and abundant bounty is not just for our benefit. We have been blessed to be a blessing! The more we bless others, the more we have become blessed as a nation and as a people. The more we reach out to others in need, God has provided for our needs and he is glorified in the process. If and when we shut up our bowels of compassion toward to poor and needy or the hurting and the helpless, we bring a reproach upon the name of the God we say that we serve. We should warn the rich to examine their attitudes towards the poor. God cares for us all and he loves everybody, both rich and poor!

Proverbs 13:34 says, "Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach (shame and disgrace) to any people."

Proverbs 14:31 says, "He that oppresseth the poor reproach-

es his Maker.

Luke 12:15 says, "Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth." Read the parable of the rich fool. Luke 12:16 - 21

Proverbs 22:2 says, "The rich and the poor meet together: (have this in common) the Lord is the maker of them all.

Psalm 33:12 says, "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord; and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance."

America is a wealthy and blessed nation. Not because of who sits in the oval office, but because of God, who sits on the throne! The wealth, riches, and prosperity of our nation is in part because of the fulfilled

promise of God in response to the obedience and faithfulness of the forefathers of our country. They were God fearing men and women who trusted and acknowledged God as they lay the foundations of this great nation. Many of our laws were based on Christian virtue and scriptural foundations.

Read the following scriptures and warn the rich.

Exodus 22:21 says, "For thou shalt neither vex a stranger, nor oppress him for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt."

Proverbs 22:16, says, "He that oppresseth the poor to increase his riches, and he that giveth to the rich, shall surely come to want. (poverty)

Proverbs 22:22, says, "Rob not the poor, because he is poor: neither oppress the afflicted in the gate: For the Lord will plead their cause, and spoil the soul of those that spoil them."

We have to warn the rich. Proverbs 16:18 says, "Pride goeth before destruction, and a

haughty spirit before a fall." All souls belong to God and He cares for us all.

There are some who in error ... associate wealth and gain with godliness. I Timothy 6:5-10 speaks on this issue, "Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds. And destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself. But godliness with contentment is great gain.

For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content. But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.

For the love of money is the root of all evil."

We should not condemn the rich, but we should pray that they become convicted of their sin lest they fall into a snare. God has made many men rich. Some of them are

righteous and some of them are wicked. We should appreciate the righteous and warn the wicked. God is the Judge 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

The hypocrisy of the Nation, the health care system, the church, and the civil rights leadership!

All verses are KJV unless otherwise posted

The Abortion pandemic in this country and the world (which is man-made) is worse than all the known diseases! The most natural and healthiest of God-given ability to mankind is procreations (beget or bring forth offspring: propagate, reproduce). Abortion is a diabolical scheme against God, nature (unborn) is barbaric; savagely cruel, and exceedingly brutal, (falsely call a woman health care). Notice how God describes this miraculous thing be form in the womb of the mother. HEAR THE WORD OF THE LORD ON THIS SUBJECT: Isaiah 13:13-18, (ERV) You formed the way I think and feel. You put me together in my mother's womb.¹⁴ I praise you because you made me in such a wonderful way. I know how amazing that was!¹⁵ You could see my bones grow as my body took shape, hidden in my mother's womb. ¹⁶ You could see my body grow each passing day. You listed all my parts, and not one of them

was missing.¹⁷ Your thoughts are beyond my understanding. They cannot be measured!¹⁸ If I could count them, they would be more than all the grains of sand. But when I finished, I would have just b e g u n .

Isaiah 7:14, 14 Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

Jer.1:4-5, 4 Then the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,⁵ Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee, and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations. Lu.1:30-32, 30 And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favor with God.³¹ And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS.³² He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David.

Eccl.12:14, Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. 14 For

God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.

*"All the US abortion counters show results with one decimal place displayed. This was originally done to show that these a b o r t i o n counters are active and not a static count. If you look at abortion procedures like Dilation & Evacuation or Partial-Birth abortion, you realize that a b o r t i o n takes place in pieces over time so the decimal places do represent some reality.

* Why did we include a "black baby counter": Two African-American Religious-based web sites asked us to put in a black baby counter to highlight the disparity of the high number of abortions in the black population. Margaret Sanger, the founder of Planned Parenthood, had

this as an objective in her eugenics plan. (Black babies abortions since '73 in US 18,592,308.5).

* Why is there an "After 16 weeks gestation" abortion counter? There is a lot of argument about "When does life begin"? It would seem to be pretty hard for anyone to argue that a baby at 16 weeks gestation "is just a blob of tissue" based on what the scientific community knows today about the development of a baby at 16 weeks:

- The body is fully formed, the fingers and toes have fingerprints & nails.

- Is about 5 inches long and weighs about 3 ounces, about the size of a large Avocado.

- The baby is moving about: may grasp for the umbilical cord, suck it's the thumb, and is capable of making facial expressions and kicking at the amniotic sac.

- The heart & circulatory system and the urinary tract are fully functioning. and the blood is pumping through these tiny veins

- The baby is inhaling and exhaling the amniotic fluid through the lungs.

- The eyes are in the proper

position, and the baby can see straight ahead & blink his/her eyelids.

- The genitals have formed. In the case of a girl, the uterus has already developed and the ovaries are in the proper place.

- Umberto Castiello, University of Padova, Italy reported unborn babies can interact as early as 14 weeks into the pregnancy: "We conclude that performance of movements towards the co-twin is not accidental: already starting from the 14th week of gestation twin fetuses execute movements specifically aimed at the co-twin.

Documentation for the basis for the abortion counters (Guttmacher, etc.) As of 5/26/2020 9:20 AM 347,455 abortions in this country and this morning there was 920, abortion, and the coronavirus death a little over a 100,000 for the year.

There are more human beings kill by design in this Country every day than the coronavirus Pandemic and yet there is no outcry: yes Hypocrisy, hypocrisy and the black church is also silence on the issue of the inhumane

killing of black babies and yet we cry out that black lives matter, if it doesn't matter in the safest place in the womb, then how can it matter on streets of our cities or how can there be any such thing as police brutality? You cannot ignore the facts of the matter.

The question should be asked what is the solution to these problems: 2 Chron. 7:14,14 If my people, which are called by my name, shall 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 will heal their land. Father, in the name of Jesus, we pray and ask forgiveness of our sins of compromising the principles of your word and the violations of the basic human rights of the infants in its mother womb to develop and grow as you have designed it to be! Amen.

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



Rev.
Naoniel
Fullwood

Effective February 13, 2020,
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NNPA Exclusive: Iconic entertainer and entrepreneur, Ice Cube, speaks to the Black Press of America

BY STACY M. BROWN
NNPA NEWSPWIRE SENIOR CORRESPONDENT

Like very few others, Ice Cube is celebrated for his groundbreaking accomplishments in music, film, sports and entrepreneurship.

The legendary South-Central Los Angeles-born megastar is currently celebrating the 30th anniversary of his debut solo album, Amerikka's Most Wanted, and the release of his 31st feature film, *The High Note*, which stars Cube, Tracee Ellis Ross and Dakota Johnson.

On Thursday, May 21, at 1PM ET, Cubes sat for an exclusive interview with the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA). The discussion will be broadcast live on Facebook and YouTube (facebook.com/blackpressusa/live and youtube.com/nnpa) and archived to various platforms, including Facebook, YouTube, and Vimeo.com.

"The NNPA is pleased excited to do this live stream with our Brother Leader Ice Cube on behalf of the Black Press of America," said Benjamin F.

Chavis, Jr., NNPA president and CEO. "Cube continues to spit truth to power in his lyrics, videos, music and the genius of his creative talent and high energy. In addition to learning more about his latest project, our discussion is especially important in light of the devastating COVID-19 pandemic and the increased racial tension between African Americans and the police."

"Thirty years ago, Ice Cube dropped his debut solo album, Amerikka's Most Wanted. After leaving N.W.A., he became an instant solo star, and his first video for Who's the Mack, even takes a shot at Trump," noted Andrew Barber, the founder of the influential music blog, *Fake Shore Drive*, in a tweet this week. "A true visionary and trendsetter."

Born in 1969, Cube's rise to superstardom began in the 1980s as a member of the group, N.W.A., which featured Dr. Dre, Eazy-E, DJ Yella, and MC Ren. As young visionaries, N.W.A. took the music world by storms with cutting and hard-hitting lyrics that included the 1988 blockbuster, *Straight Outta Compton*, which sold north of 3 million

copies.

One of N.W.A.'s most successful and controversial singles, *F... tha Police*, delved into the divide between young Black men and law enforcement.

A divide that has evolved into a chasm with police shootings of unarmed African Americans occurring



THE INTERVIEW: BLACKPRESSUSA + ICON, ENTERTAINER & ENTREPRENEUR, ICE CUBE

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almost daily.

When asked in a recent interview about the song, Cube reiterated why he and his bandmates believed the song was important in 1988, and why it still resonates today.

"At the time, Daryl Gates,

over at the LAPD, had declared a war on gangs. A war on gangs, to me, is a politically correct word to say a war on anybody you think is a gang member," Cube told the website, Colorlines.

"So, the way we dressed and

the way we looked and where we come from, you can mis-

take any kid for a gang member. Any good kid. Some of them dress like gangbangers, and they go to school every day because that's the fashion in the neighborhood," Cube stated.

"So, to declare that, it meant a war on every black kid with a baseball hat on, with a T-shirt on, some jeans and some tennis shoes. So, it was just too much to bear, to be under that kind of occupying force, who was abusive. It's just; enough is enough. Our music was our only weapon. Nonviolent protest."

After his debut solo album, Cube took the big screen by storm with a stirring performance in John Singleton's 1992 movie, *Boyz n the Hood*.

Cube has established a long-standing reputation for developing film franchises that are both critically-acclaimed and commercially successful, including *Barbershop*, *Friday*, *Ride-A-Long*, and *Are We There, Yet?*

"I keep the fire in me," Cube has said. "You gotta be able to survive in whatever environment you find yourself. The hood means everything to me. You never know when you could wind up back there."

NAACP Black media forum excludes Black newspapers

NNPA President and Black Publishers call for clarification and inclusion

BY HAZEL TRICE EDNEY

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - A recent NAACP "Black Media Speaks" forum plummeted into a conversation in which the future of hard-copy Black-owned newspapers was all but pronounced dead. To the shock of some of the members of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA), A federation of more than 200 Black-owned newspapers, there was not one Black newspaper journalist or publisher on the panel.

"In 2020, for there to be a virtual panel on Black Media and not invite or involve the NNPA or any of our member publishers to be on the panel goes beyond a mere oversight," said NNPA President/CEO Benjamin Chavis in an interview about the May 20 forum. "We're certainly going to meet about it as part of our ongoing strategic alliance between the NAACP and the NNPA."

Hosted by NAACP President/CEO Derrick Johnson and moderated by journalist Ed Gordon of Ed Gordon Media, formerly of BET, the forum had been widely promoted by the NAACP as a discussion on the need for Black media during the coronavirus pandemic and continued physical attacks on Black people by police and others. But those topics were barely mentioned during the entire hour.

Chavis was particularly taken-aback by remarks from panelists who painted a grim picture about the future of Black newspapers. Perhaps most notably were comments by Earl "Butch" Graves, president/CEO of Black Enterprise Magazine.

Graves was responding to a caller who identified herself as a second-generation publisher among those still "on the front line". She asked how members of the panel would use their positions to support Black print publications.

At first, Gordon responded briefly: "This is all about survival at this point." Gordon mentioned how he'd worked closely with Real Times Media CEO Hiram Jackson to assure the survival of several of his Black-owned newspapers - such as the Michigan Chronicle and the Chicago Defender - now fully online. Then Graves weighed in heavily.

"We can't be tone deaf though," Graves said. "The reality is it's like those that are in retail that thought that retail would always survive... Print is not going to survive. It will not be here five years from now. That's a hard pill to swallow but it is a reality. So, either you reinvent or you die. And the reality is that now Black-owned media companies need to accept that cold hard fact."

Dorothy Tucker, president of the National Association of



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF TRICEEDNEYWIRE.COM

Black Journalists (NABJ) and a long time reporter for CBS, Channel 2 in Chicago, had stated earlier that there are "170 African-American newspapers that still exist." And, she said, "It is critical that we as African-Americans support Black-owned media," including historic Black newspapers that fought for the freedom of Black people and continue to do so.

Underscoring the need for a Black newspaper representative on the panel, Chavis said Tucker's number, 170, was inaccurate. Based on the NNPA member papers received at the D.C.-based NNPA headquarters, he said, there are 220 NNPA newspapers in print and 10 online publications that are Black-owned.

Following up on Tucker's point, Graves continued, "We probably don't need 170 - or whatever the number is exactly, Dorothy... We will probably need less than that. But those will have to survive doing it a different way. You cannot continue to print and survive... We can see this right now. Print will not survive. Therefore, we will have to do something in a different capacity to make this work."

Chavis reflected on the videotaped forum. "It was like our epitaph. They were having the funeral, the eulogy, and the final rites." But, he noted, this is historically how the Black Press has been treated.

"For 193 years, the Black-owned press, since the days of Freedom's Journal, has faced the negative speculative and false analysis - not just from White supremacists about the value of the Black Press - but sometimes the history will show that at one point

some of our own people also attempted to undervalue the purpose, the mission, and the sustainability of the Black Press. By analogy, this is the same argument that people have said about HBCUs (Historically Black Colleges and Universities) and the same questions about the need for the continuation of the historic Black church. If there's any person of African descent who does not know the value of the Black-owned church, Black-owned HBCUs; Black-owned newspapers; then that person or group of people of African descent needs to re-immerse themselves in the history and the long struggle of African people to build our own institutions, to build our own businesses, and to have our own voice in all of the media platforms - print, digital, online and social media."

Chavis was not alone in articulating the views of the NNPA. Denise Rolark Barnes, normally a mild-mannered NNPA publisher and former NNPA chair, emailed a letter expressing "disgust" about the forum to NAACP Senior Vice President of Marketing and Communications Aba Blankson. Barnes sent the letter after listening to her staff at the Washington (DC) Informer Newspaper express strong concerns about the omission of Black newspaper representatives.

Barnes wrote, "I am sure by now you and President Johnson have heard from some of our Black Press publishers around the country expressing their disappointment with the NAACP's participation in last evening's Black Media Speaks event hosted [by] Ed Gordon. She wrote that the Informer staff

felt "consistent disrespect by the NAACP and NABJ. They shared their observations about how often Black journalists are featured in discussions about Black Media, who have never worked for the Black Press."

Barnes continued, "Understandably, we are all bewildered about why the nation's oldest civil rights organization would allow a discussion [about] Black media ownership without having someone from the nation's oldest black media ownership organization - the NNPA - at the table. This happens all too often, and I join my colleagues in expressing my disgust."

The letter concluded, "What our readers know, and the NAACP is ignorant of, is how the Black Press is growing more robust even in the midst of COVID-19. We are the ones on the ground, bringing to life the stories of how COVID-19 is affecting Black communities across the country. We are telling the under-reported stories of our survival despite an administration that has abandoned us, and organizations - including the NAACP - that ignores us. In print, we report these stories weekly, but online, we publish them every day."

Blankson responded the next day, directing a letter to Barnes, Chavis, NNPA Senior National Correspondent Stacy Brown, and the "NNPA Family." Both letters were copied to the Trice Edney News Wire.

Starting with how she appreciates "the direct feedback and your candor", Blankson continued, "Our partnership with the NNPA is important to us. We value our

shared engagements and take pride in sharing articles from the Washington Informer, Afro, Defender and others in the weekly news recaps distributed to our networks. While it was not our intent to exclude you, I recognize that was the impact."

Blankson said the Black Media Speaks forum was one of several events planned for this year. "In addition to NNPA, there are other voices we must include in future conversations, especially those about media. I want to use this moment to strengthen our relationship."

She offered to "work together to plan an NNPA /NAACP specific event in the coming weeks."

Blankson did not explain how or why members of NNPA or other reporters for Black newspapers were not invited to the "Black Media Speaks" panel in the first place. Neither did NAACP President Johnson respond to repeated requests for an interview about the matter.

However, the NAACP's Crisis Magazine, a quarterly print publication, was not spared amidst the criticism as NAACP President Johnson took it to task.

"We run the Crisis Magazine. It's been in continuous publication," he said. "But it's not timely. And we have to recognize that until we can develop the publication to where people can consume it in this new media reality - that they see the value in it - I can't fault others for not investing in Crisis when we have not kept up with the times. That's the reality across the board when we're talking about Black media."

Johnson said the Crisis has

survived mainly because it's been underwritten. "Because if it had to stand up on its own, it would have been out of business 50 years ago. So, we have to figure out a new business model to keep it moving."

Likewise, Graves said his late father, Earl Graves Sr., would not understand the decision he has now made to move Black Enterprise almost completely online. But, he said, it has been done with great success and an astronomical increase in readership.

Other members of the Black Media Speaks panel were Jeff Johnson, formerly of BET and currently of the Rickey Smiley Morning Show; April Ryan, White House Correspondent, American Urban Radio Network, and CNN political analyst; and Jemele Hill, writer for the Atlantic and host of her own podcast, *Jemele Hill Unbothered*.

Near the close of the discussion, Gordon told the panel that he had an idea that he would be floating with each of them soon and he hopes at least a couple of them would agree. He did not say publicly what the idea is.

Chavis concluded, "I am a loyal and life-member of the NAACP and I know we will work this matter out. Both the NNPA and the NAACP need to be made stronger together by working together to help improve the overall quality of life of Black Americans and all others who cry out for freedom, justice and equality. Thus, the NNPA does not accept the eulogy, the final rites or the epitaphs that are now being untimely articulated by people who should know better."

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LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF NEW HANOVER

Having qualified as Executrix of the Estate of **Kimberly Ann Neuschafer (20-E-428)**, late of New Hanover County, Wilmington, North Carolina the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned at 701 Market Street, Wilmington, North Carolina, 28401 on or before **August 7, 2020** or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This the 5th day of May, 2020.

Amy Neuschafer
c/o Craige & Fox, PLLC
701 Market Street
Wilmington, NC 28401

May 7, 14, 21, 28, 2020

Notice to Creditors

Having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of **Kenneth R. Sneed, Sr. (19-E-144)**, late of New Hanover County, Wilmington, North Carolina the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned at 701 Market Street, Wilmington, North Carolina, 28401 on or before **August 14, 2020** or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This the 11th day of May, 2020.
Charlotte Noel Fox
Craige & Fox, PLLC
701 Market Street
Wilmington, NC 28401

May 14, 21, 28, June 4, 2020

Notice to Creditors

Having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of **Rose M. House, (20-E-212)**, late of New Hanover County, Wilmington, North Carolina the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned at 701 Market Street, Wilmington, North Carolina, 28401 on or before **August 14, 2020** or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This the 11th day of May, 2020.
Charlotte Noel Fox
Craige & Fox, PLLC
701 Market Street
Wilmington, NC 28401

May 14, 21, 28, June 4, 2020

NOTICE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF NEW HANOVER

The undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of **Charles Ramsaur Youngblood**, deceased, of New Hanover County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the **28th day of August, 2020**, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This 28th day of May, 2020.

Bruce A. Chappell, Jr., Executor of the Estate of Charles Ramsaur Youngblood
6401 Quail Run Road
Wilmington, NC 28409
MURCHISON, TAYLOR &
GIBSON, PLLC
1797 Eastwood Rd, Suite 101
Wilmington, NC 28403

May 28, June 4, 11, 18, 2020

NOTICE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF NEW HANOVER

The undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of **Anna W. Newbold**, deceased, of New Hanover County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the **28th day of August, 2020**, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This 28th day of May, 2020.

Commercial Bank & Trust of PA, Executor of the Estate of Anna W. Newbold
19 North Main Street
Greensburg, PA 15601
MURCHISON, TAYLOR &
GIBSON, PLLC
1797 Eastwood Rd, Suite 101
Wilmington, NC 28403

May 28, June 4, 11, 18, 2020

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF NEW HANOVER FILE NO. 19 E 1560

Deana Leigh Prestwood, having qualified as Administratrix of the Estate of **Shirley Nadean Burns**, deceased, late of New Hanover County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned at 5725 Oleander Drive, Suite C-3, Wilmington, NC 28403 on or before the **21st day of August, 2020** or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the said estate please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This the 30th day of April, 2020.

Deana Leigh Prestwood,
Administratrix
c/o D. Robert Williams, Jr., Esq.
Price & Williams, P.A.
Attorneys at Law
5725 Oleander Drive, Suite C-3
Wilmington, NC 28403
(910) 791-9422 phone
(910) 791-0432 fax

May 7, 14, 21, 28, 2020

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of **Martha LeAnne Jeffords (20-E-459)**, late of New Hanover County, Wilmington, North Carolina the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned at 701 Market Street, Wilmington, North Carolina, 28401 on or before **August 21, 2020** or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This the 19th day of May, 2020.

Kevin Scott Groves
c/o Craige & Fox, PLLC
701 Market Street
Wilmington, NC 28401

May 21, 28, June 4, 7, 2020

NOTICE TO CREDITORS STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF NEW HANOVER

Having qualified as Executrix of the Estate of **Teresa Mawson (20-E-479)**, late of New Hanover County, Wilmington, North Carolina the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned at 701 Market Street, Wilmington, North Carolina, 28401 on or before **August 28, 2020** or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This the 22nd day of May, 2020.

Beverly Cochran
c/o Craige & Fox, PLLC
701 Market Street
Wilmington, NC 28401

May 28, June 4, 11, 18, 2020

Request for Qualifications (RFQ)

SOLICITATION NO: COCCC18.04

HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON NORTH CAROLINA

STAFFING AND RECRUITING SERVICES

Proposals will be accepted at the Housing Authority of the City of Wilmington North Carolina (WHA Central Office), until date and time noted below.

• Project Information will be available for pickup on Tuesday, May 19, 2020 at the Central Office, located at 1524 S. 16th Street for a non-refundable charge of \$15.00 for project manual. Pick up, or Download Project Manual from our website at www.wha.net, click on Business Opportunities then RFQ- at no charge.

• Submission Date: Monday, June 8, 2020 at 2:00 P.M.

May 21, 28, 2020

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF NEW HANOVER

Having qualified on the 21st day of April, 2020, as Executor of the Estate of **JOHN W. SAWYER**, Deceased, late of New Hanover County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit the same to the Executor, Ann A. Sawyer, at 7225 Lounsbury Court, Wilmington, NC 28405, on or before the **5th day of August, 2020**, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the estate should make immediate payment.

This the 30th day of April, 2020.

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

May 7, 14, 21, 28, 2020

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF NEW HANOVER IN THE DISTRICT COURT JUVENILE SESSION FILE NO. 18 JA 78

IN THE MATTER OF:
E.B.G. (dob: 02 June 2004)
**TO: R E S P O N D E N T -
FATHER, JOSE BONILLA
GOMEZ**

Take notice that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action. The nature of the relief being sought is as follows:
Adjudication of Juvenile Petition filed on April 16, 2020 alleging that E.B.G. is a dependent juvenile.

You are required to make defense to such pleading within forty (40) days following Thursday, May 28, 2020, which date is the date of first publication of this Notice. Upon your failure to do so, the party seeking service against you will apply to the Court for the relief sought. You have the right to attend this hearing and you have the right to be represented by counsel. Attorney Jennifer Harjo has been assigned to represent you. Counsel may be contacted at (910) 343-5400, 320 Chestnut Street, Suite 201, Wilmington, NC 28401.

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT A HEARING TO ADJUDICATE THE JUVENILE PETITION IS SCHEDULED FOR WEDNESDAY, JULY 15, 2020, AT 9:30 A.M., or upon a date and time set thereafter, at the New Hanover County Courthouse, 316 Princess Street, Courtroom 100, Wilmington, North Carolina, 28401.

This the 28th day of May, 2020.

Jennifer G. Cooke
Attorney - New Hanover Co. Dept.
of Social Services
1650 Greenfield Street
Wilmington, NC 28401
PO Drawer 1559
Wilmington, NC 28402-1559
(910) 798-3612
(910) 798-3772 * fax

May 28, June 4, 11, 18, 2020

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF NEW HANOVER IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF LARRY GLENN HIERONYMUS,Deceased.

The undersigned, having heretofore qualified as Executrix of the Estate of **Larry Glenn Hieronymus**, deceased, late of New Hanover County, North Carolina, hereby notifies all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against said Estate to present them to the undersigned on or before **August 14, 2020**, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of any recovery thereon. All persons, firms, and corporations indebted to said Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This the 14th day of May, 2020.

Tande Dembinski (fka Tande A. Hieronymus)
3851 Eagleston Court
High Point, NC 27265
Tuggle Duggins, P.A.
100 N. Greene Street, Suite 600
Post Office Box 2888
Greensboro, North Carolina 27402
Telephone (336) 378-1431

May 14, 21, 28, June 4, 2020

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of **Fannie Mimms Stewart**, late of Wilmington, New Hanover County, North Carolina, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them in care of the Undersigned at 102 N. Fifth Ave., Wilmington, NC 28401, on or before **14th day of August, 2020** or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This the 14th day of May, 2020.

YOW, FOX & MANNEN, LLP
102 N. 5TH Ave.
Wilmington, NC 28401
Jerry A. Mannen, Jr.,
Administrator of the Estate of Fannie Mimms Stewart

May 14, 21, 28, June 4, 2020

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Having qualified as Executor of the Estate of **Cheryl L. Rodzik**, late of Wilmington, New Hanover County, North Carolina, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them in care of the Undersigned at 2005 Scrimshaw Place, Wilmington, NC 28405, on or before **14th day of August, 2020** or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This the 14th day of May, 2020.

Jerry A. Mannen, Jr., Attorney
YOW, FOX & MANNEN, LLP
102 N. 5TH Ave.
Wilmington, NC 28401
Todd A. Rodzik, Executor of the Estate of Cheryl L. Rodzik

May 14, 21, 28, June 4, 2020

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE

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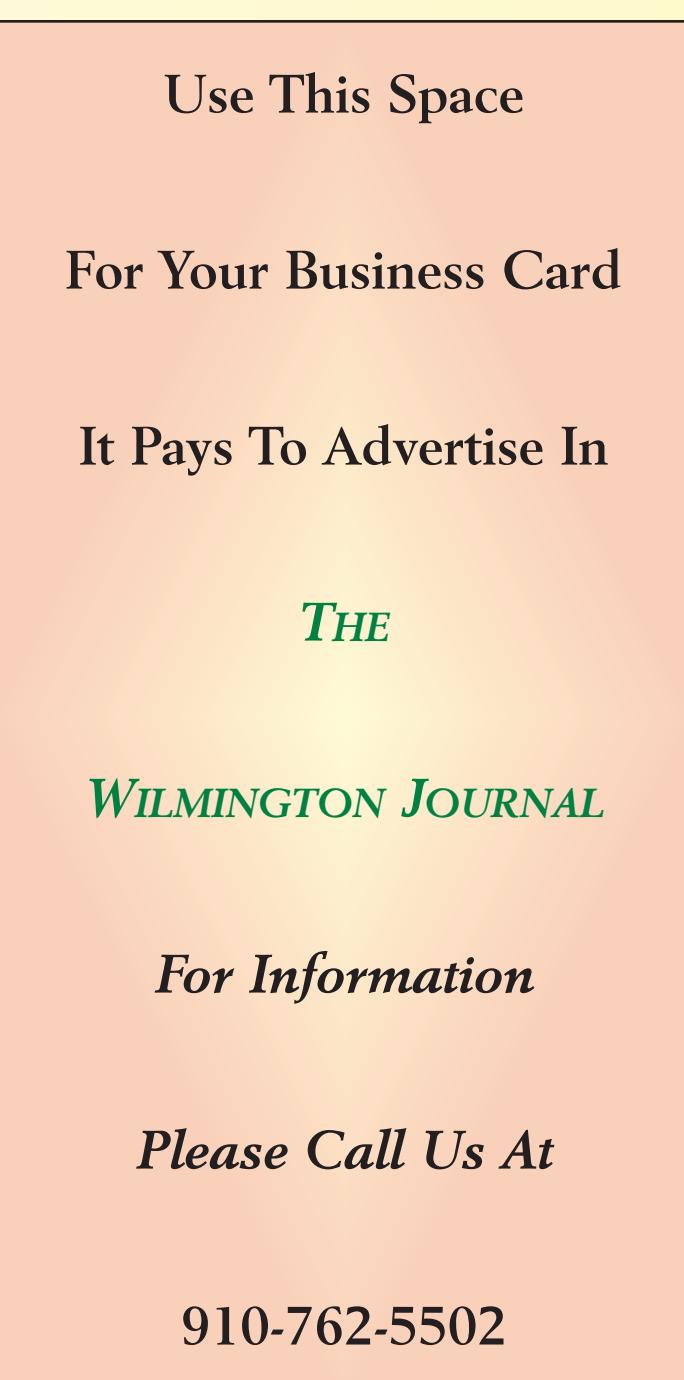
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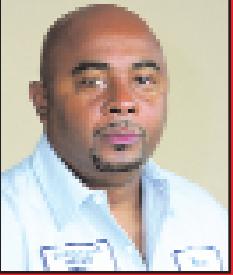


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