

MISSING



EBONEE SPEARS

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

OUTside

Looking IN

OUR VOICE



ATTY. AL MCSURELY

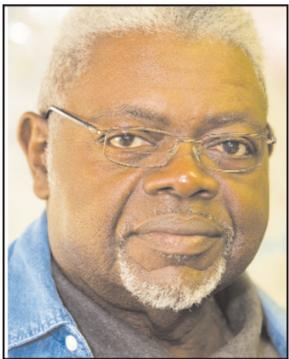
GUEST EDITORIAL

"Notes from old White civil rights lawyer"

BY

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BRUNSWICK COUNTY



BERNEST HEWETT

WATCH

BY BERNEST HEWETT CONTRIBUTING WRITER

We have survived the elections, and now we see how fair and equal our elected officials are! Look at their appointments to committees that count in decisions of government and community affairs. Watch for how people of color will be appointed or reappointed. How will this administration work to help against racial issues with true and working committees? How will they deal with unfair hiring and promotions? If you want to help truly make America great again, watch these things and remind your elected officials of them and that you are fighting for justice and let them know that you will unite with others who are doing the same. Assure them that, if they are not working for the good of the people, we will

Please see BRUNSWICK/ Page 2

THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

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PRESIDENT-ELECT JOE BIDEN

Will Biden keep his promises?

Civil rights groups meet with the President-elect, urging him to appoint Blacks to high level positions

BY JAYJUAN JONES AND HAML HARRIS FOR TRICEEDNEYWIRE.COM

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - A month after the 2020 presidential election, President-elect Joe Biden has begun to announce some of his appointments for potential cabinet and transition team positions.

However, his early selections to the Biden team have prompted some criticism. Rep. James E. Clyburn (D-S.C.), who is often credited with reviving Biden's candidacy after endorsing him in the Democratic primary in South Carolina, is among the most notable to express concerns about Biden's initial appointments.

"I want to see where the process leads to, what it produces," Clyburn told Juan Williams, a columnist for The Hill newspaper, in regard to the lack of diversity in his selections currently. "But so far it's not good."

These expressions from Clyburn and others, like NAACP President Derrick Johnson, indicated widespread concern in the civil rights community. Johnson had said on CNN that he was confused as to why Biden "has failed to confirm a meeting with the civil rights groups nearly a month after Election Day".

Due to the criticism about his current team picks, Johnson and representatives of a string of other civil rights groups met with Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris on Tuesday, Dec. 8.

On the day before that meeting took place, the Biden administration announced that he has selected retired Army Gen. Lloyd Austin, the former commander of US Central Command, to be his secretary of defense. If confirmed by the Senate, Austin would be the first Black man to become secretary of defense. His other picks of African-Americans include Rep. Marcia Fudge as secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD); Linda Thomas-Greenfield, ambassador to the United Nations, and Cecilia Rouse as chair of the Council of Economic Advisers.

But civil rights leaders, apparently pushing for secretary and director level positions, say Biden's initial appointments and nominations are not enough. They push for appointments to additional key positions such as attorney general.

Rev. Al Sharpton, president of the National Action Network, said a Black attorney general is one of his requests given the effort by President Donald Trump

and Attorney General Bill Barr to gut voting protections and Civil Rights. This has also been an explosive year for national protests against police shootings of Black people.

"We need him to have an Attorney General that will immediately restore those consent decrees and immediately deal with the Voting Rights Act," Sharpton said in a press briefing by the civil rights leaders following the meeting with Biden and Harris. "You can't mourn John Lewis on one hand and not move to protect what he was fighting for and what he shed blood for on the Edmund Pettus Bridge."

An official with the Biden-Harris transition, speaking to The Hill, defended the team's push for diversity, noting that 46 percent of all campaign staff were people of color and 52 percent were women. As well, Biden's team noted that he is still in the early stages of appointments, having only named fewer than a quarter of the federal positions he plans to highlight.

Both Biden and Harris told CNN's Jake Tapper in a televised interview that they are simply "not finished yet" as Biden repeated his promise to appoint an administration with record level diversity that "looks like America."

After spending nearly two hours with Biden and Harris, the civil rights leaders said in a virtual press briefing that a new day is breaking in terms of African-Americans being in the White House after four hard years of Donald Trump. But they are taking a wait and see attitude.

"Today the seven of us spent approximately one hour and 45 minutes with President-elect Biden, Vice-President-Elect Harris and Assistant to the President Cedric Richmond, discussing a range of very important issues relative to the transition of the future Biden administration and the challenges that this nation faces," said Marc Morial, president/CEO of the National Urban League, who led the briefing after the meeting.

"We talked extensively about the need for there to be a diverse cabinet, subcabinet and Presidential appointments," Morial said. "The president-elect said that he intends to make history when it comes to the appointment of African-Americans and Hispanics to his cabinet and his subcabinet...and while we will not judge the ultimate outcome, to me it was refreshing to hear."

NAACP President Derrick Johnson; Sharpton; Sherrilyn Ifill president and director-counsel of the

NAACP Legal Defense Fund, Kristen Clarke, president and executive director of the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law; Vanita Gupta, president of the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights; and Melanie Campbell, president/CEO of the National Coalition for Black Civic Participation, were also at the meeting.

"There has been diversity with President-elect Biden's initial appointments but before Rep Marcia Fudge was appointed to Secretary of Housing and Urban Development today there had not been any woman of color appointed to a statutory cabinet post," said Campbell, also convener of the Black Women's Roundtable.

Campbell added that one of her top concerns is how people of color are being treated in the Covid-19 Pandemic.

"They need to look at the issue of implicit bias in terms of how they are screening people during the Covid-19 pandemic," Campbell said. "I shared my own story with the President-Elect Biden of being a Covid-19 survivor and how after sent home with Tylenol only to be back in the hospital the next day in ICU."

Johnson said, "I am encouraged that this will be an ongoing dialogue and that racial equity will be a priority. We dedicated people who report directly to the President just like in cooperate America...It is important for our democracy to work for everyone and not just certain people."

Ifill said that she emphasized to the President-Elect about having a "Civil Rights agenda," that would focus on voting and policing and I also raised the issue of what is happening in our prisons today in terms of COVID. We need a strong Attorney General who has a demonstrated record of criminal justice reform as well as Civil Rights."

In terms of the federal bench, not just at the Supreme Court, "but to think that the reforms that are needed through-out the federal judicial system. I think the President-Elect and the Vice-President-Elect clearly listened," Ifill said.

Clarke concluded, "Under the Trump administration Black people have been silenced, marginalized and ignored. This meeting was intended to make clear that racial justice must be at the center of the Biden-Harris administration's approach to confronting the profound problems that we face in the nation. This meeting was intended to ensure that Black people will be listened to and this administration will respect our dignity and humanity."

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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## BRUNSWICK

Continued from Page 1

help expose them so that someone can take their place in the next election! "Make me to go in the path of thy commandments, for therein do I delight!" He watches over us. Trust in Him.

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

THE  
BLACK  
PRESS  
USE IT  
OR  
LOSE IT!

## COVID-19 vaccine is here, but will Blacks take it?

BY CASH MICHAELS  
OF THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

The vaccine to fight the deadly coronavirus is here, but will Blacks line up to take it?

If history is any teacher, not immediately. Indeed, many will share the online views of Irene F. from Brooklyn on Facebook.

"No. I will wait it out, just like I did the Flu vaccine," the retired office coordinator wrote. "I waited for years to see how it would affect others. I got my first flu vaccine in 2018."

Given how African-Americans statistically account for almost one-third of the COVID-19 cases here in North Carolina and across the country, one would naturally think that Blacks would be among

the first in line to receive a lifesaving dose.

As of this week, there are almost 15 million cases in the United States, with almost 300,000 deaths. Hospitals across the nation are running out of ICU beds, and new statewide restrictions are being enforced to limit the spread.

However, as history has shown, Blacks are all too familiar with being lied to by government health agencies, and the legacy of that lying is not easily forgotten.

In a recent December 6 NY Times column, entitled "How Black People Learned Not to Trust," opinion writer, Charles M. Blow chronicled the many racist abuses the American medical profession has committed against Black populations.

This distrust ranges from the mid-

1800's, when a man in Alabama named James Marion Sims built a reputation by performing surgical experimental procedures on Black enslaved females without the use of anesthesia, to former slaves being allowed to die of infections after the Civil War because White doctors and governments didn't want to treat them, to the forced sterilizations of mostly young Black females here in North Carolina and elsewhere under the banner of combating mental deficiencies, to the infamous 1932 Tuskegee Study of Untreated Syphilis in the Negro Male" by the federal Public Health Service (now known as the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention).

The retelling of that hateful episode is often wrong in the Black community, however. Hundreds of Black men in

Tuskegee, Alabama were never injected with syphilis, but rather, were observed for the effects of the sexually transmitted disease over 40 years, but made to believe that they were being treated for it.

According to the most recent Pew Research Center survey, 60% of all Americans say they will take the vaccine when available, but 21% said they do not intend to and are "pretty certain" more information will not change their minds.

Among African-Americans, 71% said they knew someone suffering from COVID-19 in the hospital.

"Black Americans continue to stand out as less inclined to get vaccinated than other racial and ethnic groups: 42% would do so, compared with 63% of Hispanic and 61% of White adults, the Pew Report adds.

## Civil rights groups escalate fight against high prescription drug costs

*Sharpton calls for 2021 to be 'the year of Black health equity'*

BY HAZEL TRICE EDNEY

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - D. B. Wright, former head of a non-profit religious organization in Washington, D.C., was well taken care of by his leadership board. He enjoyed an employment package that included full health care among other benefits.

"Being gainfully employed and having one of the best health insurances, I never thought about what medicines cost," he said in a recent interview. But then crisis hit. Following a divorce he moved back to his hometown of Albany, Ga., where he took a job with no benefits, which he eventually lost due to severe illnesses over the past five years. That's when reality set in.

"I had to borrow money from my family and friends in order to get the medication that I needed to treat various issues." Those issues included surgery to remove a baseball size tumor on his liver; a gall bladder removal and ultimately chronic pancreatitis.

In excruciating pain, Wright was prescribed a medicine called Creon to help with his digestion and relieve the pain. It worked wonders in the hospital. But upon discharge, he learned that Creon would cost him \$850 a month, well beyond his income of zero except what he could borrow from friends and family. Even with a coupon or pharmacy discount, he said, the price "was still beyond my financial ability."

Also dealing with high blood pressure and suffering through a spinal disorder that rendered him temporarily unable to walk, Wright has resolved what he believed to be the bottom line in America when it comes to prescription drugs. The doctors and pharmacists may be sympathetic, but the medication simply "costs what it costs," he said. "It was a horrendous experience. And it's so interesting that you need these medications to survive. It was horrible to go through. You kind of feel like if you don't have the money, you don't matter."

The experience of D.B. Wright, who asked to only use his initials to protect his privacy, is among the reasons that civil rights leaders and lawmakers across the nation are now pressing increasingly hard to establish public policies to monitor and help make prescription drug prices affordable. Best known for their efforts to address police misconduct, voting rights protections, racial inequality, and economic injustices, civil right organizations are now escalating their focus on issues in the

area of health care - particularly the high cost of prescription drugs.

"While there has been much partisan back and forth on these issues in Washington, there has not been enough conversation about reining in the profits and excesses of health insurance companies, which refuse to cover critical procedures, medicines and services in order to preserve their billions of dollars in profits," said the Rev. Al Sharpton in an Oct. 30, 2020 letter to Congressional Black Caucus Chairwoman Karen Bass (D-Calif.) "Let us make 2021 the year of Black health equity."

Sharpton's letter is part of a growing focus on racial disparities and inequities in health care, partially ignited by findings that people living in predominantly Black counties are nearly "three times more likely to die of the COVID-19 than predominately white counties," he said in his letter. The letter culminates more than a year of efforts by his National Action Network (NAN) and other civil rights and health organizations to deal with the suffering of people who must sometimes risk their lives by choosing to take care of other crucial bills instead of paying for prescription drugs.

Similarly focused, the NAACP national board of directors last year passed a resolution calling for Prescription Drug Affordability Boards (PDAB) in every state, which would "act as a watchdog for the public. It will carefully review drug costs and establish fair and affordable costs for state and local government."

The resolution continues, the "NAACP supports the creation of a Prescription Drug Affordability Board in each state to determine how best to make prescription drugs more affordable for their residents, including by examining the entire drug supply chain, including the role of drug manufacturers and Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBMs), and establishing maximum affordability payment rates for expensive drugs that create significant affordability problems for residents, building upon the tradition of health care cost scrutiny."

The state of Maryland last year became the first state in the nation to successfully create a PDAB with the national and state NAACP chapters "playing a critical role," as well as dozens of Black faith groups, labor, business and other non-profits, said Vincent DeMarco. DeMarco is president of the Maryland Citizens' Health Initiative (MCHI), which led the PDAB initiative in the state. The Maryland

board has won accolades from DeMarco.

"They are doing a very good job right now of examining what drugs are really high cost and what would make prescription drugs more affordable for people," he says. "So, it's really an exciting new way at the state level to address this problem."

Meanwhile, the national NAACP has continued to press for national solutions. Following up with another resolution in September 2020, the organization continued to press for equity and affordability in prescription drug access. The resolution outlined the harsh realities that people like D.B. Wright have faced.

Quoting the 2019 AARP Prescription Drug Survey of likely voters aged 50 and older, the resolution said that of the 463 African-American respondents, "40% believed they might have to limit necessities such as food, electricity and fuel in the future to afford their prescription medication," the resolution states.

Even with state assistance through programs like PDABs, advocates recognize that prescription drug prices are so out of control that some are still far too expensive.

"Maryland has made considerable gains in ensuring that quality health-care is more affordable and accessible for residents of our state," said a statement on the MCHI website.

"However, expensive life-saving drugs - some of which are close to six figures for treatment - threaten to derail the progress made in expanding health coverage. To contain rising healthcare costs, we must contain skyrocketing prescription drug costs."

The struggle to rein in high prescription drug prices has reached the U. S. Congress, but to no avail. U. S. Sen. Cory Booker (D-N.J.) last year introduced the Prescription Drug Affordability and Access Act, which would have created "an independent agency-the Bureau of Prescription Drug Affordability and Access-tasked with conducting reviews of drug prices and determining an appropriate list price."

However, the bill, S.3166, was sent to the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions on Jan. 8, 2020, but went no further during the 116th Congress. Technically, with only a few weeks before Congress goes to Christmas break, this means the bill will likely die in committee, but can be reintroduced in the 117th Congress when it reconvenes Jan. 3.

"In a country as wealthy as ours, it's downright shameful that people have

to choose between taking their medicine or paying for other basic necessities," Booker lamented in a statement. "Every day, millions of Americans struggle to afford their lifesaving medication while the manufacturers of these drugs profit hand over fist with limited to no oversight. On top of that, many of these drugs were developed through research funding from the federal government. We need systemic change that will meaningfully address the exorbitant, rising cost of prescription drugs and put the focus back on patients, not profits."

Health advocates such as Sen. Bernie Sanders and former senator, now Vice-President Elect Kamala Harris-who co-sponsored the bill with Booker - will likely not give up the fight. And given the incoming new Congress and White House administration the NAACP has said it will support the efforts that Sharpton and Booker, a CBC member, have expended.

"Sen. Booker's bill was an excellent first step," said Hilary Shelton, director of the NAACP Washington Bureau and vice president for advocacy and policy. "The bottom line is that we believe that health care is a civil right. And that means that the full gamut of what is quality health care is very important. This is one of many issues that still needs to be addressed and improved upon. It's not the only issue and it's not stand alone. It's crucially important in the categories of health care and economics. It's an important component of a comprehensive health care system that provides high quality health care for all Americans."

The issue is no doubt headed for increased debate in Washington as the civil rights community applies the pressure. But outside of the growing political battle, there are real people waiting and fighting alone, says Wright, who recently received a court ruling allowing him 100 percent disability benefits; plus, Medicaid which now covers the cost of his medicines.

"It took four years to get disability insurance or Medicaid," he said. "I would hope that the government grows a heart and recognize that the least that they can do is care for those who cannot care for themselves. I'm not talking about people who are trying to milk the system. I'm talking about real people who are having real challenges in life."

*This article is part of a series on the impact of high prescription drug costs on consumers made possible through the 2020 West Health and Families USA Media Fellowship.*

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STATE BRIEFS



**ORANGE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS APOLOGIZE FOR SLAVERY, BACK REPARATIONS**

[CHAPEL HILL] By 6-1 vote, the Orange County Board of Commissioners

Monday approved a resolution supporting reparations for the county's role in slavery, segregation, and systematic racism, thus joining the list of other North Carolina local governments that have also admitted to their roles in the historic denial of equal rights. The Orange County resolution calls for partnering with the African-American community in

investing "as first steps in providing long overdue reparations for centuries of suffering, loss, anguish injustice and trauma."

**WAKE COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM WILL STOP USING "RACIST" TERM**

[CARY] The Wake County Public School System has indicated that as of next year, it will stop using the term "grandfathering,"

because the term has racist origins dating back to when Black people were prevented from voting after the Civil War. WCPSS was made aware of the term's origin after a parent complained about its true meaning.

**ALAMANCE JUDGE BANS REPORTERS FROM COVERING BLM HEARING**

[GRAHAM] A local news-

paper publisher was handcuffed in court Tuesday after he objected to an Alamance County judge's decision not to allow reporters in the courtroom to attend a hearing involving Black Lives Matter demonstrators. According to published reports, reporters from The News and Observer and other media, requested a hearing on the matter from Judge

Fred Wilkins, but were refused. When Tom Boney Jr., publisher of the Alamance News tried to convince Judge Wilkins that he was wrong to bar the press, he was threatened with contempt of court, handcuffed and removed.

COMPILED BY CASH MICHAELS

# Federal appeals court reverses voter ID ruling

BY CASH MICHAELS OF THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

After a slew of NC voter ID victories for the NCNAACP, the tide may be starting to turn in the opposite direction.

A three-judge panel of the Fourth US Circuit Court of Appeals unanimously ordered the reversal of a lower court decision on the 2018 voter ID law last week, saying in part, that a Black federal judge made "numerous errors" in not allowing voter ID for the 2020 elections.

That federal appellate panel consisted of two Trump judicial appointees, and one Obama appointee..

It was Dec. 31, 2019, when US District Court Judge Loretta Biggs granted the NC NAACP and other local branches' motion for a preliminary injunction in their case NAACP v Cooper, stopping the 2018 voter ID law for the Nov. 2020 elections via a preliminary injunction.

But in its reversal last week, the appellate three-judge panel ruled that Judge Biggs had made "fundamental legal errors," and "...had incorrectly relied on

past intentionally racially discriminatory actions of the [NC] legislature," including that it had passed the 2013 Voter ID law which had been previously determined by the Fourth U. S. Court of Appeals as to have discriminated against Black NC voters with "surgical precision."

In the new ruling, the panel said that the courts can't use past history to determine if a legislature is passing racially biased legislation.

"A legislature's past acts do not condemn the acts of a later legislature, which we must presume acts in good faith," the Fourth Circuit panel ruled. Later in the ruling, the panel lauded the 2018 voter ID as being one of the best in the nation.

Irv Joyner, the lead attorney representing the NCNAACP on the matter, said the statewide civil rights organization "...is reviewing this decision, and we are considering all appellate options. We steadfastly believe that the Honorable Judge Biggs's findings and determinations were correct at the preliminary injunction phase. Nonetheless, under the reasoning of the deci-

sion today, the NCNAACP plaintiffs' evidence will also prevail at trial the full merits, and we look forward to the fight for justice ahead."

Rev. Dr. T. Anthony Spearman, president of the NCNAACP, said, "Our fight continues, no matter the

makeup of any court or any one decision, good or bad, on the journey to free and fair political participation.

Indeed this ruling is only one setback presently and does not mean that North Carolina's current voter ID will be in force per the next

election. The NCNAACP has two other voter ID cases pending in state court that also have preliminary

injunctions. All three cases have yet to receive 2021 trial dates.

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

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## OUR VOICE

### GUEST EDITORIAL

### ANGRY OLD CIVIL RIGHTS LAWYER; I'M NOT TIRED YET!

### Notes from old White civil rights lawyer

In 1973, Fred Trump, a major New York apartment builder-landlord, and his adoring son, Donald, were sued by New York's Human Relations Commission for discriminating against Black apartment seekers. Around the same time, another NYC apartment builder-landlord, was sued for the same crime. The USA represented the Human Relations Commission against LeFrak and the Trumps. When LeFrak saw the strong evidence against him, he quickly agreed to a joint announcement that the U.S. and he agreed no race discrimination would be allowed in all his buildings and a free month of rent to 50 Black families in them.

The Trumps, however, hired a young lawyer, Roy Cohn, to countersue the USA and the Human Relations Commission and Cohn litigated the suit for five more years while the Trump's continued their racist policies.

J. Edgar Hoover, the racist FBI director who ran a lilly-white FBI against Unions and Civil Rights organizations from the 1930's until his death in 1972, had, back in the historic 1953 period, recommended Roy Cohn to Sen Joseph McCarthy to be the lawyer for McCarthy's Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations. For two years, Hoover's sycophants gathered raw data the FBI had been collecting on radicals who had worked for Roosevelt's New Deal, particularly the Unions and Civil Rights Movements. Hoover's sycophants at the FBI and Roy Cohn designed the charts and lists Sen. McCarthy held up for the TV cameras, which made for good television.

The small black and white screens were tuned to the McCarthy show in 1954 in 80 million living rooms. Like Trump using the White House as backdrop for his Big Lies, the McCarthy Hearing Room gave his props and exaggerations more weight for the millions watching. The formula created a mass base of people who became scared of finding a 'communist' hiding under their bed. In fact, the great majority of Americans did not know the difference between Eugene Debs' Socialist Party and Adolf Hitler's National Socialist German Workers Party in the 1920's.

In April, 1954, McCarthy decided to smear the U.S. Army. The Army hired a strong Boston lawyer, Joseph Welsh. He bided his time during the hearings for awhile, until McCarthy, a deeply insecure narcissist, got cocky and charged Welsh's young associate with being a member of a "communist front" -the National Lawyers Guild. Welsh, while 80 million were watching at home, became an Angry Old White Lawyer, but Not Tired Yet. "Until this moment, Senator," Welsh exploded, "I think I never really gauged your cruelty or your recklessness."

Sen. McCarthy tried to interrupt Welsh to continue his attack on Welsh's young associate. In the voice a teacher uses with her second graders, Welsh said, "Let us not assassinate this lad further, Senator. You have done enough. Have you no sense of decency?"

The official Senate History of 'McCarthyism' claims that "Overnight, McCarthy's immense national popularity evaporated. Censured by his Senate colleagues, ostracized by his party, and ignored by the press, McCarthy died three years later, 48 years old and a broken man."

It was not that simple. The mass indoctrination of the public against labels of "socialism" and "communism" was never deconstructed. There is current evidence that half the population still are scared by labels, with no idea what they mean.

J. Edgar Hoover blamed civil rights and labor organizers for the devastation that slavery and Jim Crow had brought to the South until his death. He and his "special" agents spent millions of our money writing unauthorized biographies on Dr. King, Ella Baker, C.T. Vivian, John Lewis, Al McSurely, and other 1960's southern organizers. In 1967, Hoover and McCarthy's successor, Sen. John McClellan from Arkansas, created POCAM, a secret disinformation effort against Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr to prevent his leading the Poor Peoples Campaign in the Lincoln Memorial in the Spring of 1968. In fact, McClellan and Hoover colluded to put me on their (and Nixon's) Enemies List; to silence one of their biggest critics from attacking them, and to attack Margaret Herring and me from 1967-1982. (More about this later.)

While this corrupt show was taking place in the Senate, across the Street at the U.S. Supreme Court and up Georgia Avenue at the Howard Law School, the NAACP Legal Defense Fund Director, Thurgood Marshall, waited for the historic decision in Brown v. Topeka Kansas School Board. Brother Marshall had argued the case in 1952, and shortly afterwards, the new President Eisenhower appointed Earl Warren Chief Justice. Warren knew when he took the job, he wanted to make a strong decision and unanimous decision. If the Court were to make a revolution in the south, he wanted a unanimous court to agree to do the Right thing.

The word was out. Warren was going to rule sometime in the Spring. On May 17, 1954, Chief Warren and his eight white colleagues walked out to a full Supreme Court room. Warren took out his copy of the decision, and read it slowly, glancing at Thurgood Marshall sitting in the front row. Segregated Schools humiliate Black Kids and make them think less of themselves. Any form of Segregation deprives Black and White kids equal protection of the law.

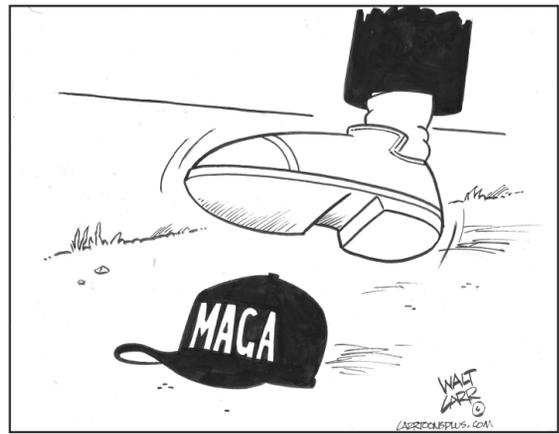
The Black Press, the NAACP, and the newer, more agile, civil rights organizations that grew out of the NAACP's magnificent victory in Brown in 1954, had our marching orders. We

Please see **OUR VOICE** / on this page



Al McSurely

## VISUAL VOICE



## YOUR VOICE

### The same amount of money and expert staff that slowed down the opioid crisis in Wilmington, NC can slow down the shooting crisis

There are many community groups doing a great job with their limited resources to help solve this crisis. We need the city leaders to develop a department to deal with these shooting, lack of jobs and job training crisis. They can secure grants to coordinate with the other community groups.

Whatever task force Wilmington has been paying to work on these problems are doing nothing and must be replaced. Drive-by shooter, your mother, dad, brother, sister, aunt, uncle, cousins, teachers, friends, the minister (the last time you were in a church) and your higher power, all said.

"Do not kill". Gunslingers, you say you could not do four years in high school because it was boring, but the, gangster in you, can do twenty years in a boring fifty prison with no central heat or air. The food is worse than a school lunch and if they serve a dessert, the older and stronger cons will take it from you. Remember there is not enough space to keep prisoners six feet apart, no new facemask every day, few bottles of hand liquid or wipes to sanitize the bars, not enough warm water to wash your hands seven times a day, but there is an abundance of Covid-19, a "real killer", in many cells. A brave MAN, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., once said in a speech. "Before you speak negatively about a person ask yourself, is it true, necessary, helpful and lastly is it kind? If your answer is NO,

maybe you should keep your mouth shut and mine your own business. Before you show your "running buddies" that you are BAD and will shoot anyone who disrespect you.

Take a few minutes look around, take a deep breath because you will throw away your car, money, boy or girl friend, all the good food your mother cooked, a cool tall one and wings as you watch the game with your friends and bet on your team, all your dreams, freedom and maybe the rest of your life. Ask yourself? Is shooting this person you hate so much necessary, is it true what he said about you, and who will you help by killing him or her. Two families will attend a funeral, one physically at the graveyard and the other emotionally when the judge send you to prison and the bailiff walk you out that side

door. Both mothers and fathers will die inside and grieve forever. Please take a long look in your mirror and tell yourself then your "homeboys" it is better to light a candle than to curse the darkness.

Find a job, any job and remember that work is not a punishment, but a blessing. Start working on your GED, learn a trade, go to community college. Listen to your parents, teachers, positive friends and follow the teachings of your grandmothers' and grandfather's higher power. You are not a ganister, brother, and sister, you are loved by many and that alone makes you somebody. Is my all-American city, Wilmington, NC the only community with a drive-by shooting crisis???

James J. Hankins  
Wilmington, NC

## MATTERS OF OPINION

### Obvious need for food and shelter

(Via TriceEdneyWire.com)

I remember watching late-night television ads that solicited donations for inhabitants of foreign countries trapped in misfortune and suffering the deprivation of what could only be called fundamental human necessities -- adequate food and clean water. My stomach would churn, and my heart would ache every time I saw the depiction of malnourished children with distended stomachs and swarms of flies circling and landing on/in their mouths and nostrils.

Anyone who has taken Psychology 101 or who is familiar with the science of human behavior has, at least,

a passing familiarity with Abraham Maslow's theory of

the hierarchy of needs. Although not a believer in absolute behavior, I recognize the validity of certain theoretical predictions. I only mention Maslow because at the foundation of his theory is the "common human need" for acquiring and maintaining basic physiological needs (e.g. air, water, food, and shelter). Maslow asserts this



Dr. E. Faye Williams

as the first step in maximizing human potential. Without these basics, it is difficult (almost impossible) to focus on anything else.

The current COVID-19 Pandemic, or more accurately the government's inadequate response to it, reminds me of what my good friend Dick Gregory used to say about the state of our union. "When white America gets the sniffls," he would say, "Black America suffers with Pneumonia." Low-income families and families of color are disproportionately affected by multiple, overlapping issues like lack of affordable housing, social isolation, chronic or acute health problems, high medical costs, and

low wages. COVID has impacted our complete existence with, for many, immeasurable effect upon food security and shelter.

In our society, those who live through a 24-hour period without their stomachs aching from hunger are truly blessed. While Conservatives (Republicans) in the US Senate, through inaction, demonstrate their lack of concern as underserved and ignored communities of color move closer to a disaster equal to the late-night ads referred to earlier. Anyone questioning that statement

WILLIAMS  
Continued on page 5

## Where have the jobs gone?

(Via TriceEdneyWire.com)

Have you ever seen a pig dance a jig? I don't mean to be rude, but the one-minute press conference that the current President called to celebrate the stock market clearing the 30,000 mark was the equivalent of a pig dancing a jig. He had been under seclusion for the three weeks since he lost the election to President-elect Joe Biden, playing more golf than President Obama ever did. If he works his frustrations out on the golf course, pity the caddy.

In any case, when the Dow Jones Industrial average cleared the 30,000 mark, the "economic recovery" President could not resist a camera turn. He also refused to reply to any questions. But what could we expect from a President who had sequestered himself for three weeks, bunkering

down inside his tax-supported home, venturing to play golf with tax-supported security?

While 45 was celebrating and golfing, too many of our Americans got upset with the news. Weekly, at least 700,000 are filing unemployment claims. Fewer than March, but too many to claim "economic recovery." The first Friday employment situation report was disappointing. The report said the rate "edged down" to 6.7 percent. That means it moved only slightly and that the 245,000 jobs created fell far short of the 450,000 that economists had expected. It means that the so-called recovery is not recovering right now and



Dr. Julianne Malveaux

that the news of pandemic flare-ups will make it worse.

As soon as the market cleared 30,000, though, folks were selling grotesque celebratory t-shirts on Amazon. They are owning the victory that gave them a 30,000 stock market and food lines snaking around city blocks. They are celebrating their jig-dancing President while ignoring the folks who are crying out for relief. Why are so many so indifferent to the human suffering resulting from job loss and the pandemic?

The 6.7 percent unemployment rate is bad enough. More than 100,000 government employees lost their jobs last month. Some of these are census workers, but some have lost jobs when their cities and states have cut back. Teachers, nurses, police officers, and firefighters have jobs on the line. And the Senate is fiddling while America starves.

Congress has offered legislation since May, compromising along the way, but the Senate has held the line in punishing hungry and unemployed people to fulfill their political gains.

Beyond the overall unemployment rate, there are ugly realities. Nearly 3.9 million people have been unemployed for at least half a year. Many of them have lost their unemployment benefits. Fourteen million people say they are either not working or working less because of corona. Nearly half a million have left the labor force just last month. People are suffering, and it seems as if our legislators don't care. So there are those who are celebrating stock gains and others who have seen absolutely no gain. Some are celebrating economic success, while

MALVEAUX  
Continued on page 5

## OUR VOICE

Continued from this page

had our legal underpinning. We had the high moral ground. We can file Title VI complaints under the Civil Rights Act, when we restore the Department of JUSTICE.

Let's get to work. Support the Black Press. Support The Wilmington Journal in its efforts to restore its Hurricane-Damaged Building. Support the Truth-the-Best Antidote to Big Lies, Rumors, and Disinformation. And Keep the Faith-Get your Covid Shots when Dr. Fauci

approves them. We are Not Tired Yet.

Al McSurely considers himself a ju jitsu lawyer, using the law and the legal process to defend people of color and turn the tables on governmental entities acting unconstitutionally.

For more than 30 years,

McSurely has been an uncompromising civil rights activist and attorney, helping reconstitute the NAACP branch in his adopted hometown of Chapel Hill, and volunteering as a leader of the North Carolina state NAACP conference and the new Poor People's Campaign.

**WILLIAMS**

*Continued from page 4*

only has to turn-on the television to see the miles-long lines of cars waiting at food distribution centers across the nation.

If food insecurity is not bad enough, the COVID crisis has created the additional problem of increased homelessness. Under the government's initial CARES Act, eviction protections were instituted to provide financial protections to support tenants and landlords. These CARES provisions expired on

July 25, 2020 but have been replaced by state or local moratoria that are typically based on the type of property financing. Unfortunately, most of these moratoria expire on December 31, 2020 and open the door to mass evictions.

One must ask, what type of people would allow our nation to devolve into a Pandemic-driven wasteland and why? One answer was given as Mitch McConnell allowed the HEROES bill, approved in the House of Representatives in May, to languish on his desk for over seven months without a coun-

teroffer. Another answer was given as I watched Mitch McConnell chuckle with glee as the plight of the needy was described in his Senate debate. It was reiterated in the McConnell Stimulus Plan that offered no relief to individual citizens. It was reinforced by reports from numerous news analysts stating that the Republican Senate rejects any additional stimulus. These rejections of the impoverished persist as massive tax relief is provided the wealthy. The bottom-line answer: **THEY DON'T CARE!!!**

Regrettably, it appears as

politicians responsible for protecting the masses have been lulled into inaction by the belief that the poor will "suffer through it." They have discounted the emotional and financial pain and suffering concurrent with this pandemic. I doubt that Americans of any background or race will stand idly by and watch their children suffer in hunger and without shelter.

*Dr. E. Faye Williams is President of the National Congress of Black Women and host of "Wake Up and Stay Woke" on WPFW-89.3 FM.*

**CRAZY FAITH MINISTRIES**  
**America the Beautiful under assault**

It is eerie to watch, but this country is in a war being waged by some of her own citizens, people who call themselves American and patriots.

It seems that Trump supporters - both civilian and elected lawmakers - do not like democracy. They are working to overturn the results of the Nov. 3 general election - unabashedly and boldly, and they are threatening violence if they do not get their way.

Ironically, those who are fighting to overturn the election show up at Trump rallies waving American flags - but one has to question their right to do that as they are fighting to kill the government - and its Constitution - that people fought and died to protect and save.

They do not want, nor do they respect - the United States of America. They want a government where "liberty and justice for all" is relegated for just some people who live here, and they are not shy about admitting it. Some

have bought into the idea that Democrats are "radical left wing socialists" who want to take their rights away. That phrase has become a gaslight for a deeply racist resentment; what some believe is that this country has given too many rights to non-white people, specifically African Americans. (<https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2017/09/28/views-about-whether-whites-benefit-from-social-advantages-split-sharply-along-racial-and-partisan-lines/>)

What is at once interesting and frightening is the call for violence by Trump supporters if the president is not successful in stealing the election from Mr. Biden (an irony, as the battle cry of Trump supporters is "stop the steal," reflecting their belief that the Democrats stole the election even as they openly support the efforts of Republicans, including the president, to steal the legitimately and legally won election of Biden.) There are few Republicans who have challenged or criticized the dangerous rhetoric. Trump supporters are ready to use violence (the president told the Proud Boys to "stand back and stand by) in one of his debates. ([https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qIHhB1ZMV\\_o](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qIHhB1ZMV_o))

More than a few angry white Trump supporters have warned that the country is headed toward civil war. The question is, who would be fighting whom? Would those fighting against the union be fighting for an autocracy? Would such a fight primarily be between traditional white Republicans and Trump supporters who believe that democracy should not be the law of the land?

Again, what is interesting is that as these people - Trump supporters - say they are "American," is it possible to be American and at the same time fight against the government of the country you claim to love? If one is not defending and protecting this country as it is, what is one fighting for?

On this anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor, the questions about what is swirling in America only grow. The battle cry of this president - "Make America Great Again" - was always swathed in racist undertones. Should they bear arms, how would the patriots who hate America envision her after their uprising? What would be the place of non-whites - African American, Asian, Hispanic, Somali ...and so many more - in this country? What would America stand for? Would Trump supporters storm government buildings - something they have said is totally unacceptable and which has been named as a reason for militia members going to protests - and destroy them? The president has a vendetta against states that have Democratic governors; would an uprising result in all of the states being assigned Republican governors?

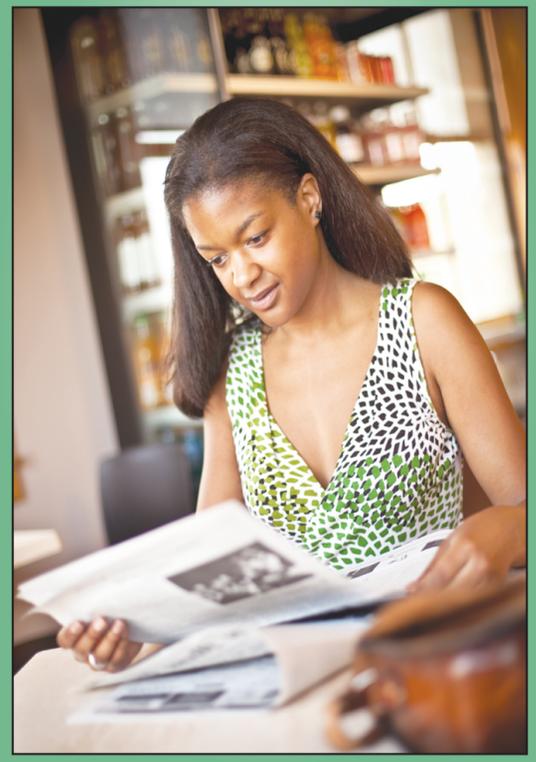
The questions keep coming as the situation grows more and more toxic and dangerous. Before those who believed in slavery seceded from the Union, they developed their own flag and put in place their own president. They found that secession kept them from being able to take advantage of the wealth and resources of the United States but they were serious about staying separate from the Union which had had the audacity to fight against the Southern way of life.

Trump supporters want something different from what we currently have. They are preparing for violent civil war, and too few Republicans are stepping up and doing what they can to tone down the rhetoric in an effort to avert violence. America the beautiful is now America the battered. The president is acting like a jilted lover who has decided that if he cannot have the object of his attention - in this case this country - then nobody will have her, and just as jilted lovers too often kill the person they say they love in an effort to "hold on" to her/him, this country is working to kill the country, the majority of citizens who decided they no longer wanted him as their leader.

Both Trump and his supporters should put down the American flag. Their assault on America is reprehensible and is a betrayal of the country they say they are defending.

*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](mailto:cassady2euca@icloud.com).*

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



**MALVEAUX**

*Continued from page 4*

too many others are scrambling for their next meal.

Those who are working are facing more challenging conditions than before the pandemic. Because of a lack of funds, many cities are cutting public transportation, increasing waiting times, and crowding. The cut in transportation services is

understandable, as is the reduction in other services. Where does that leave us, though, when there are fewer busses, less garbage collection, and fewer other public services.

The House of Representatives and Senate are squabbling about how much relief is needed but seem close to an agreement that will provide much-needed, and insufficient aid. President Obama told Rev. Al

Sharpton, "any recovery is going to require government to spend even more than it already has." As it now stands, the government is more interested in making political points than in helping citizens. For some, it boils down to the Dow Jones Industrial Average (DJIA). For others, it is a matter of the unemployment rate and its reverberations.

This is what we know for sure - corona is taking a

tremendous toll on our society and economy every single day. Christmas is coming, and too many folks will find empty stockings. On both sides of the aisle, our legislators deserve nothing more than a lump of coal. Bah, humbug!

*Dr. Julianne Malveaux is an economist and author. For more information please visit [www.juliannemalveaux.com](http://www.juliannemalveaux.com) or email [booking@juliannemalveaux.com](mailto:booking@juliannemalveaux.com).*

**REALITY CHECK**

**Black folks' concerns about COVID-19 vaccine are not unwarranted**

(Via TriceEdneyWire.com)

Those who believe that the concerns of numerous black folks about the soon-to-be-available COVID-19 vaccine is unwarranted should check out the following observations and commentary about the American medical profession that are included in my book, "The Harlem Hospital Story: 100 Years of Struggle against Illness and White Supremacy."

Dr. W. Montague Cobb, who was a medical historian and Professor of Anatomy at Howard University and the first African American to earn a PhD in anthropology, has been quoted as saying "Negro patients in countless numbers served to advance the cause of medical science through their reactions to new or little tried therapeutic measures. The use of the Negro patient for experimentation and the development of surgical procedures and techniques rests

on a tradition that began with the advent of chattel slavery in America in 1619."

In his book, "Sins of the Fathers: A Study of the American Slave Trade, 1441-1807," James Pope-Hennessy, wrote that "Once the African captives were put ashore, the slave traders began earnestly selling moribund or 'refuse' Africans at public auctions to, among others, surgeons to be used for medical experimentation."

Henry Irving Tragle in his book, "The Southampton Slave Revolt: A Compilation of Source Materials," wrote "...In the circulator of the South Carolina Medical School for that year (1831), I find this remarkable suggestion: 'Some advantages of peculiar charac-

ter are connected with this institution. No place in the United States affords so great opportunities for the questions of medical knowledge, subjects being obtained among the colored population in sufficient numbers for every purpose and proper dissection carried without offending an individual....' The suggestion was made by a medical student in South Carolina in a letter to a friend in New Jersey.

According to William S. Drewry in his book, "The Southampton Insurrection," the body of Nat Turner who was executed for leading an armed revolt against enslavers "was delivered to the doctors who skinned it and made grease of the flesh. His skeleton was for many years the possession of Dr. Massenberg..."

Dr. Frances Cress Welsing once wrote that concerned and aware black people were very disturbed "by repeated

attempts to imply that African people are the source responsible for the origin of this new deadly virus (AIDS) and for its spread throughout the world....Aware black people are knowledgeable about the long-standing Tuskegee syphilis experiments which were conducted for a period of 40 years (1932-1972) on unsuspecting black men and their families..."

All of the above show clearly that concerns of numerous black folks about the possibility of white supremacy treatment in the medical profession are not unwarranted. Therefore, we as black folks, while taking advantage of advances in medical treatment must be on the alert for anything that reflects experimentation.

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



**A. Peter Bailey**



**Ben Jealous**

more than six months ago.

Even the Trump administration was willing to negotiate with Democrats, but McConnell has acted in bad faith. McConnell held relief hostage because he has insisted that any legislation must exempt companies from legal accountability for outbreaks or deaths within workplaces. Before the election, he told Trump not to make a deal with Democrats. And since then, he has cut his already weak counteroffer in half.

Does the wealthy McConnell not understand how many Americans are going hungry? Twenty-two percent of Black households reported going hungry in one recent week, which the Washington Post noted was more than double the rate for white Americans.

As House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and State Minority Leader Chuck Schumer wrote

in a letter to McConnell before Thanksgiving, economists agree that the country needs a much bigger aid package than he has been willing to consider to keep people and the economy from sinking further.

If the Senate doesn't act now, more Americans will be hurt. Unemployment benefits run out the day after Christmas. A freeze on student loan payments, protections against evictions, and expanded paid family medical leave will all run out at the end of the month.

The threat to families is devastating. Almost one-third of Black renters have fallen behind on their rent. Meanwhile, in spite of the moratorium on evictions during the pandemic, the real estate management company owned in part by Trump's son-in-law and White House aide Jared Kushner is suing to evict hundreds of tenants who have fallen behind on their rent.

The need for action is urgent. But McConnell has used the Senate's time this fall to push right-wing Trump judges into lifetime positions on the federal

courts. He adjourned the Senate for Thanksgiving without bringing up relief legislation.

President-elect Joe Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris have put the new administration's coronavirus task force in place. Biden has called on Congress to pass legislation like the HEROES Act the House passed back in May. It is long past time for Senate Republicans to deal with their Democratic colleagues in good faith, and to give American families the relief they need and deserve.

*Ben Jealous serves as president of People For the American Way and People For the American Way Foundation. Jealous has decades of experience as a leader, coalition builder, campaigner for social justice and seasoned nonprofit executive. In 2008, he was chosen as the youngest-ever president and CEO of the NAACP. He is a graduate of Columbia University and Oxford, where he was a Rhodes Scholar, and he has taught at Princeton and the University of Pennsylvania.*

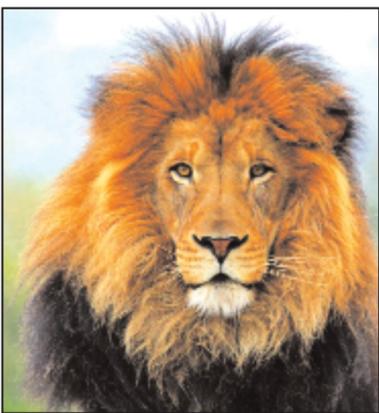
**Demand that Mitch McConnell and Senate Republicans stop blocking COVID-19 relief**

(Via TriceEdneyWire.com)

It is going to be a hard Christmas for many Americans. The number of people hospitalized with COVID-19 is soaring. The virus is spreading faster than ever. Families and small business owners whose incomes have been devastated by the COVID-19 pandemic are being hurt by the U.S. Senate's refusal to provide any relief since April.

This suffering is not shared equally. Black and brown people have been hit harder than other Americans by the pandemic in many ways. We get sicker and die more often. We have been hit harder by the economic fallout, too. And Senate Republicans' refusal to give Americans what is needed to protect our families and get the economy going again just extends the inequitable burden that we are bearing.

There is no mystery about the source of the problem. It is Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, who has refused to even consider a meaningful COVID relief bill, including the HEROES Act passed by the House of Representatives



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

## GET THAT DEED AND FLIP THOSE KEYS!

## Tax returns

We are coming to the end of another year and tax filing is starting to be a forefront thought and topic of conversation.

This week I want to talk to you about how not filing or wrongly filing could hinder you from purchasing your 1st-home.

Before I get started, note that there are a few exceptions to what I'm about to share, and a few lenders may not require the last 2-years of tax returns. Some lenders may have special programs that will accept a non-traditional approach to verifying income. I have seen this in the industry, and I will share more about that at

another time.

Whether a W-2 employee or 1099 self-employed, sharing the last 2 years of tax returns when applying for a home loan will be required. Your returns will tell the lender a lot about your family's makeup and finances. Any documentation that your lender can get a hold of that provides as much of a complete picture of your actual income will be asked for. Not much shows them better than tax returns. Get prepared to hand over the



**Brenda Dixon**

returns especially if self-employed. If self-employed, your Schedule C will be heavily looked at. All those business expenses deducted from your gross income gives the net income. This figure carries a lot of weight. Most banks will look at your last 2 years of self-employment returns and get an average of what you have made by adding the 2 years together and dividing by two. However, it is not as simple as that and your overall return will be reviewed to calculate the max loan amount lender is most comfortable in giving you.

Why are the returns important and what is the lender looking for on the returns? It

will tell if you're claiming more or fewer dependents in your household than you put on your application. This is important if trying to get one of those special loans that give incentives based on family size and income. It will show if you're reporting "less" income as self-employed than you put on your loan application. The more income you have, the higher the qualifying loan amount to purchase a home will be. Therefore, some try to "inflate" income on the application, but that lean tax returns will bust that balloon quickly. On the flip side, it will also show if you're claiming "more" income than putting on the loan application. Some loan

programs give extra perks and incentives to lower/moderate-income brackets. The returns show if you owed money at the end of the tax years and the lender will require proof that those taxes are paid in full. If not paid in full, then the lender will want to see a repayment arrangement in place that is being paid as agreed. If you have rental income and want to use it to qualify for a higher loan amount, those rent payments must be documented in a certain way on those returns to be counted. They are also looking for any unreported annuity, pension, and other types of income. Assets on the returns that are not on the loan application will send

a red flag... a trained underwriter's eyes look at those returns for all types of data. Therefore, make sure the info you put on the loan application is the same info you reported on your tax returns or you will have a lot of explaining to do. As always, the fewer questions you create for yourself, the better when it comes to applying for a home loan.

Until next week, share this article with at least 3 people and reach out for your FREE personalized action plan to OWN in 18 mos. or less.

*Brenda Dixon, Dixon Realty Since 1991, 27 yrs. F/T expertise. Brenda@getthat-deed.com.*

## UNCW launches Diversity and Inclusion Fellows Program

Twelve faculty and staff members have been selected as fellows for the Diversity and Inclusion Fellows Program established by UNCW Office of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion, in partnership with the Office of the Provost, the Division of Student Affairs, the Office of Business Affairs and the Office of General Counsel.

Fellows will collaborate with each of the offices to design programs, policies, and/or procedures that focus on cultivating inclusive partnerships or community engagement with diverse external organizations, said Donyell Roseboro, the university's interim chief diversity officer.

"The program gives us the opportunity to extend the work while at the same time expanding our creative capacity to foster an inclusive climate at UNCW," said Roseboro. "We have staff and faculty with a wide range of expertise in research, writing, problem-solving, academic and student services, documentary film, and photo-journalism. I am thrilled to have such a diverse group joining us. It is my hope that the program will strengthen our collaborative efforts and help us to better cultivate a sense of belonging for students, faculty and staff."

The fellows will assist the offices in addressing institutional priorities:

- Recruitment, retention and success of diverse students, faculty and staff

- Analyzing and expanding curricular offerings

- Cultivating inclusive partnerships or community engagement with diverse external organizations

- Developing policies and procedures for the reporting and addressing of bias incidents

- Facilitating grant collaborations to support diversity and inclusion initiatives

- Development and evaluation of innovative professional development in diversity and inclusion for students, staff and faculty

Fellows will serve for a minimum of one year and a

maximum of three consecutive years. Each fellow will commit to creating a proposal that includes a timeline with clear objectives and outcomes, attending regular project meetings with divisions relevant to the fellow's project and sharing the results of fellowship work on campus and with community organizations in a spring research and engagement forum. Selection for the program was based on an application process, interviews and feedback from a selection committee.

Faculty and staff selected as fellows are:

- Babette Boyd, Senior Lecturer, Department of Sociology and Criminology

- Kimberly Cook, Professor of Sociology and Criminology, Department of Sociology and Criminology

- Melissa Crowe, Lecturer and MFA Coordinator, Department of Creative Writing

- Teddy Howell, Residence Coordinator, Housing & Residence Life

- Jeff Janowski, Photography Services Manager, Office of University Relations

- Mike Jefferson, Residence Coordinator, Housing & Residence Life

- Venita Jenkins, Content and Communication Specialist, Office of University Relations

- Leah Mayo, Center for

- Healthy Communities Coordinator, College of Health and Human Services

- Christine Pesetski, Assistant Dean of Undergraduate Studies and University College Director, University College

- J. Randolph Jr., Associate Professor of Spanish and Education and World Language Teacher Education Coordinator, Department of World Languages and Cultures

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# A road map to relieving America's \$1.7 trillion student debt: 20 years of student loan repayments still leave Black borrowers owing 95 percent

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - Although the year 2020 has been dominated by continuing news coverage of the COVID-19 pandemic's rising death toll that has now claimed the lives of nearly 300,000 Americans, it is not the only challenge facing the nation. Amid rising unemployment and food insecurity, an estimated 45 million Americans struggle at the same time with the crushing weight of more than \$1.7 trillion in student debt.

**Charlene Crowell**

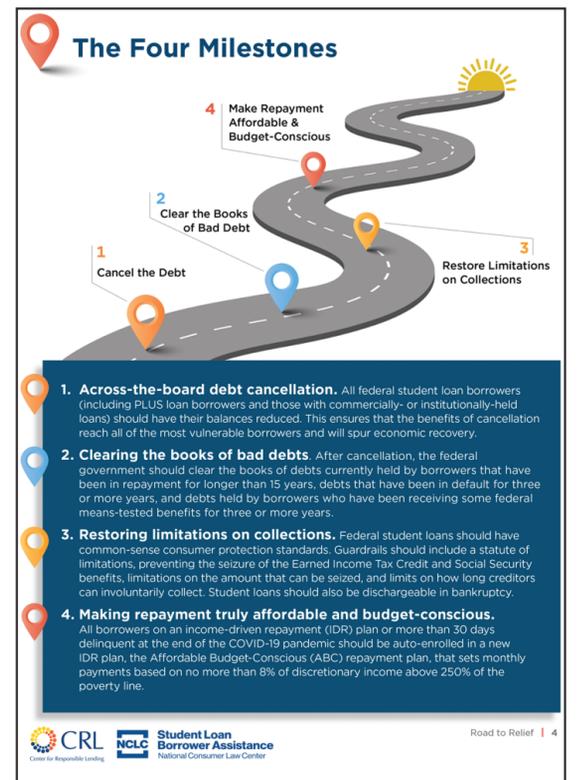
A disproportionate amount of this financial burden is carried by Blacks and other borrowers of color. These racial disparities in student debt cannot be ignored: massive debts delay, if not deny, wealth-building opportunities for Blacks and others who believe that higher education remains the bridge to a financially secure future. Before the COVID-19 pandemic and its resulting recession one of every four student loan borrowers was in either default or serious delinquency. Black student experience default at a much higher rate (37.5%) than their peers who are Latino (20%), or White (12.4%), according to an independent report by the Brookings Institution. Even after 20 years of loan repayments, the typical Black borrower still owes 95% of the original cumulative balance. A new research report, jointly released by the National Consumer Law Center (NCLC) and the Center for Responsible Lending (CRL), outlines the financial toll taken by this unsustainable debt and pinpoints remedies to systemat-

ically address the crisis. In part, the report states: "Pursuit of education in America should not be such a high stakes gamble...Borrowers who took out loans to access an education should not have those debts follow them to the grave." Entitled, Road to Relief: Supporting Federal Student Loan Borrowers During the COVID-19 Crisis and Beyond, the report encourages President-Elect Biden to keep his campaign promise to cancel significant amounts of student debt among his first executive actions taken on his first day of office, and specifically recommends:

Across-the-board debt cancellation. All federal student loan borrowers (including PLUS loan borrowers and those with commercially- or institutionally held loans) should have their balances reduced. This ensures that the benefits of cancellation reach the most vulnerable borrowers and spurs economic recovery; Clearing the books of bad debts. After cancellation, the federal government should clear the books of debts currently held by borrowers that have been in repayment for longer than 15 years, debts that have been in default for 3 or more years, and debts held by borrowers who have been receiving federal means-tested benefits for 3 or more years; Restoring limitations on collections. Federal student loans should have common-sense consumer protection standards. Guardrails should include a statute of limitations, preventing the seizure of the Earned Income Tax Credit and Social Security benefits, limitations on the amount that can be seized, and limits on how long creditors can involuntarily collect. Student

loans should also be dischargeable in bankruptcy; and Making repayment truly affordable and budget-conscious. All borrowers on an income-driven repayment (IDR) plan or more than 30 days delinquent at the end of the COVID-19 pandemic should be auto-enrolled in a new IDR plan, the Affordable Budget-Conscious (ABC) repayment plan, that sets monthly payments based on no more than 8% of discretionary income above 250% of the poverty line. "Taken together, these steps will ensure that all federal borrowers, accounting for over 90% of the outstanding student loan balances, receive substantial relief...Public investment, not reliance on loans, should once again be the foundation of how we pay for higher education," states the report. "The federal government must stop borrowers from continuing to drown in student debt by a system that has been inequitable and broken for decades," continued Yu. "Abusive debt collection practices seize critical funds, such as Social Security and the Earned Income Tax Credit, and with no time limit on collection these practices can follow borrowers to the grave." Ashley Harrington, CRL's Federal Advocacy Director and Senior Counsel spoke directly to the racial equity implications. "For many, especially Black and Latino borrowers, repayment has been too onerous and too long, preventing them from achieving financial security even under normal circumstances," noted Harrington. "Short-term payment suspension alone will not help struggling borrowers who have lost their jobs or who

were already in default or serious delinquency before the public health crisis started." "To address our current recession and stimulate economic recovery, we urge President-Elect Biden to immediately follow these simple steps and prevent further financial devastation for vulnerable borrowers and communities," added Harrington. "The time to cancel student debt and provide student borrowers with significant relief is now." While student loan debt cancellation and the other proposed reforms would provide much-needed relief to borrowers, it would also bring the opportunity to redirect these dollars to better participate in the nation's economy. Starting a business or transitioning from renters to homeowners are but two examples of ways to build wealth and financial security. Other major research reports have also connected lengthy student debt and its restrictions to economic mobility and lifetime wealth-building. Research has established that student debt can prevent borrowers from buying homes, starting businesses, going to graduate school, and even starting families. For example, a 2019 research report by Brandeis University's Institute on Assets and Social Policy found that after 20 years of student loan repayments, the median debt of White borrowing students has been reduced by 94 percent—with almost half holding no student debt—whereas Black borrowers at the median still owe 95 percent of their cumulative borrowing total. "It is clear that in the context of existing inequalities in wealth and assets by race/ethnicity, the privatized system of higher edu-



**THE FOUR MILESTONES**

ation financing serves to further exacerbate the racial wealth gap among young people," states the Brandeis report. "It has saddled young borrowers of color, particularly Black borrowers, with debt that creates economic insecurity for decades and limits new wealth-generating opportunities such as homeownership." Despite noble contributions and achievements, there is no doubt that as a people we continue to be financially short-changed. Now as we approach a New Year and a new White House, systemic changes are both needed and possible. Cancelling student debt and reforming the repayment system are vital for Black borrowers and communities.

But targeted actions in other areas of concern are also necessary before this and future Black Americans can secure financial stability or build wealth. An even longer road map to relief – beyond student debt – must address other root causes of the racial wealth gap. Access to affordable credit - including safe and responsible mortgage loans- and an end to all forms of predatory lending are representative of these 'other' reforms. Lifting the trillion-dollar debt of student loans is an important first step to financial equality. Charlene Crowell is a Senior Fellow with the Center for Responsible Lending. She can be reached at charlene.crowell@responsiblelending.org.



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The Community Energy Center, a cooperative with the National Newspaper Publishers Association and National Association of Hispanic Publications Media, will provide information and perspectives on the integral role of the energy sector in daily life for American families in a wide range of communities.

**Scotty E. Williams**

Scotty E. Williams, age 54, of Piedmont, South Carolina (formerly of Shallotte, passed away Wednesday, November 18, 2020. A graveside service will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 19, 2020 at Johnson Cemetery, 4700 Todd Road, Shallotte, North Carolina 28470.

His love and memories will remain in the heart of his wife, Shelia Johnson Williams of the home; children, Darius A. Williams and Lauren A. Williams both of Charlotte; Parents, David L. Williams and Linda Barnes Williams both of Wilson; siblings, Rosalind W. Hopkins (Norbert) of Norfolk, VA, Shaun K. Williams of Wilson, Daryl W. Williams of Fredericksburg, VA and Jerry L. Merrick of Navassa. *Services entrusted to Davis Funeral Home, 901 S. 5th Ave, Wilmington, NC 28401. Please share memories and condolences with the family at www.davisfuner- alhomenc.com.*

**Norma J. Speller**

Norma J. Speller, age 78, of Wilmington, passed away Thursday, November 26, 2020. A celebration of Mrs. Speller's life was held on Wednesday, December 2, 2020 at Davis Funeral Home. Interment followed at Greenlawn Memorial Park.

She leaves to cherish her memory, her husband, Frank J. Speller of the home; children, Tommy Easterling of Tacoma, WA, Derrick Speller (Islah) of Wilmington, Pamela Easterling Petty (Lennie) of Tacoma, WA and Sabrina Speller Clinton of Silver Spring, MD, 11 grandchildren, 14 great-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.davisfuner- alhomenc.com.*

**Louis O. Stackhouse**

Louis Oliver Stackhouse, son of the late Roy Stackhouse and Addie Mae Jewett departed this life on Friday, November 27, 2020 at Brunswick Cove Nursing Home in Winnabow, North Carolina. He was born January 10, 1931 in Winnabow, North Carolina. At a very early age Louis accepted Jesus Christ as his Lord and personal Savior. This then led to him singing in a gospel quartet alongside two of his brothers, Joseph and Leroy. Louis was also a self-taught musician who could play the piano and the guitar effortlessly.

In the mid-1950s Louis relocated from North Carolina to New Jersey, where he resided for many years before returning back to his place of birth. Louis was predeceased by his grandson Louis Sirmans Jr., His siblings Leroy Stackhouse, Joseph Stackhouse, Eldin Stackhouse, Collie Stackhouse, Harold Jewett, and Joyce Ann Jones.

He leaves to cherish his precious memories two daughters, May Ella Talley Sirmans of Plainfield, New Jersey and Addie(Casey) Stackhouse-Mitchell of Riviera Beach, Florida; five grandchildren, Alan Singer-Talley, Jerome Singer-Talley, Shurell Sirmans, Dezmaralla Nowell and Marcella Nowell; two great-granddaughters, Kiarah Sirmans and Layla

Singer; four siblings, Shirley Smith of Americus Georgia, Sarah(Clyde) Bowens of Anderson South Carolina, Cleveland(Dorothy) Jewett of Front Royal, Virginia and Barbara Jewett of Duluth Georgia and a host of nieces nephews 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.davisfuner- alhomenc.com.*

**Nasir D. Leonard**

Nasir D. Leonard, age 20, of Wilmington, passed away Wednesday, December 2, 2020.

Public viewing 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 12, 2020 at Davis Funeral Home, 901 S 5th Ave., Wilmington, NC 28401. Walk through only - NO GATHERING OR LIN- GERING.

A graveside service will be conducted at 2:00 p.m., Sunday, December 13, 2020 at Calvary Memorial Cemetery.

His love and memories will remain in the heart of his mother, DeShawna C. Wilson of the home; father, James H. Leonard, Jr. of Wilmington; siblings, Kevin Freeman, Quay'Shaun Fennell, Jamasz Leonard and Ahshaun Parker all of Wilmington; maternal grandparents, Johnnie M. Jacobs and Larry Jacobs both of Wilmington; pater- nal grandfather, James H. Leonard, Sr. of Greensboro 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.davisfuner- alhomenc.com.*



**Ollie Louise McCree**  
October 2, 1928-  
December 14, 1995

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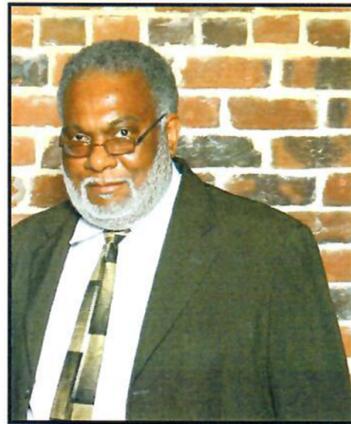
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In Memoriam



**Connie Drain Green**  
Funeral Director

TELL SOMEBODY

"And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." Luke 2:13,14

Peace - Absence of war  
Freedom from quarrels and disagreements  
Inner Contentment

It is the will of God that there be peace on earth. "In the beginning, God created the heaven and the earth." Genesis 1:1 "The earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein." Psalm 24:1 Jesus taught his disciples to pray in Matthew 6:9,10, "Thy

kingdom come! Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven." There should be peace on earth, because there is peace in heaven.

Jesus said in Matthew 24:6a, "And ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars:" You may wonder, Lord when will there be peace on earth? Before we can completely end one war, another war has started.

It seems that there is war going on somewhere in the earth at all times! Nations are rising



Sylvia Hooper

against nations, and kingdoms against kingdoms, but when the Lord says "peace," there shall be peace! Men say they are for peace, and all the while preparing for war, so how can we have peace on earth? There will come a day, according to the word of the Lord, when the wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together." And neither shall they learn war anymore. (Micah 4:3)

In I Cor. 7:15, we read, that God has called us to peace, even in our marriage relationships. Psalm 133:1 says, "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity. (freedom from quarrels

and disagreements) No matter how much chaos is in the world, peace is always a possibility! How so, some may wonder?

Peace is a legacy of Jesus Christ. "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." St. John 14:27 "These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world." John 16:33 Inner peace comes from trusting in the Lord and abiding in his word.

Peace is a promise to the Believers in Christ who keep

their minds stayed on him and who love him and his law. Psalm 29:11, "The Lord will give strength unto his people; the Lord will bless his people with peace." Psalm 119:165, "Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them." Isaiah 26:3, "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee." Philippians 4:7, "And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." 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

Saint John Missionary Baptist Church completes Book of Revelation

Saint John Missionary Baptist Church of Bolivia NC just completed the study of the book of Revelation during Coronavirus Pandemic and it was done through a conference call, which lasted about six months.

First, I want to thank Bro Archie Glaspy and the Saint John Church Family for allowing me to be one of the instructors for the class. I want to share with you some of the high lights of the study. The Book Revelation is given by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ to the beloved disciple John, who was the writer of St. John, first, second and third John; and the only disciple who die a natural death.

John received direct revelation from Jesus Christ, it was as though he had a ringside seat in the portals of glory because he was caught into the third heaven.

Rev.1:1-3 (KJV) 1The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servant's things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John: 2Who bare record of the word of God, and the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that

he saw. There was a saying in the Black Church when I was a young man, that only two kinds of people go into the book of revelation, a wise man or a fool so that it was a close book in many of our churches. But that was a trick of the devil and it is contrary to the teaching of the Book, it promised a special blessing to those who will read and study the book: 1:3, 3Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand. Before we get into the teaching of Revelation, which is the message of Jesus after His death, resurrection, and ascending back to heaven to the right hand of the Father. Let's examine what He said while on the earth: In Matt. 24:2-7 (KJV) 2And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? verily I say unto you, There shall not be left



Rev. Naconiel Fullwood

here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down. 3And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and the end of the world? 4And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. 5For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. 6And ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. 7For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places (This lesson was given in piecemeal but Revelation is given in great detail, the destruction of Jerusalem took place in 70, AD).

Rev. 1:4-5 (KJV) 4John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace is unto you, and peace, from him, which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne; 5And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of

the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him, that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his blood,

"This is the first great declaration to the church. The great gifts of grace and peace are now available to man. But note where. It is not found among men. Neither God's grace (favor) nor the great gift of peace can be found upon earth. Grace and peace come only from heaven, only from God and His Spirit and His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ".

1. "Grace and peace come only from the eternal and unchangeable God. Note how God is described: "God who is and who was and who is to come."

That is, God is eternal and He is unchangeable. He is the infinite God, the only living and true God. He is today as He was, and He shall be the same in the ages to come. This means the most wonderful thing: God has infinite power and knowledge. He knows that we need His grace, His care and provision, and His peace. And He has the power to give us grace and peace. All we have to do is go to Him-to Him who is the source of grace and

peace."

2. "Jesus Christ is the first to arise from the dead. That is, He is the first to arise who never again had to die. The words "first-begotten" or "firstborn" mean to be the first in rank; to be supreme and preeminent in the resurrection. Of all the people who have arisen from the dead, Jesus Christ is Supreme. It is He who is the Son of God; therefore, it is His resurrection that is the supreme and preeminent resurrection. All other people arise because He arose. All believers shall arise to live with God eternal-ly because He arose and conquered death for us. Because He arose, we too shall arise if we believe that He died and rose for us".

3. "Jesus Christ is the prince of the kings of the earth. Jesus Christ has been raised from the dead and exalted to the right hand of God's throne. He and He alone has been given the seat of Sovereign rule over the earth. The world may seem chaotic and the problems too enormous to be handled. But Jesus Christ is in control, and He can handle it all. However, a man may legitimately ask: Why does God

not go ahead and come and straighten out the chaotic mess and evil of the world? God tells us as plainly as human language can say it:

Jesus Christ has delayed His return so that more people can be saved and live eternally with God. But someday, and from the weight of the evidence the day will be soon, Jesus Christ is returning to take over the rule of the world. He and He alone is going to rule and bring the reign of righteousness to the earth. He alone is the prince of the kings of the earth". (POSB-C). Be not deceive what we see taking place in this country is the spirit of the anti-Christ, already rooted, grounded, and controlling the political system and the church is ignorant of the spirit of the anti-Christ. Father in heaven I pray in the Name of Jesus that the eyes of the church may be open to seeing through the lens of the Bible, which is the eternal truth. Amen

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

OP-ED: Stopping the exploitation of prisoners and their families requires more comprehensive solutions

(ViaNNPANewswire.com)

The year 2020 brought renewed global focus to issues of social justice in America. Racial disparities and inequities highlighted by the COVID-19 pandemic to the killings of George Floyd and so many other of Black and Brown Americans at the hands of police officers have all contributed to the evolving social justice "reckoning" across the nation.

As part of this long overdue redress about institutional and systemic racism, renewed attention should also be focused on the many injustices within the U.S. correctional system. Black and Brown Americans are disproportionately imprisoned in the United States.

Much of the public outrage has been directed at the officials who have been unable to prevent the fatal spread of COVID-19 in jails and prisons throughout the country. But in addition, there were too many governors who were unwilling to reduce prison populations by releasing individuals who posed no threat to public safety. As a result, nearly 200,000 incarcerated Americans have been infected as of November 2020 according to the Marshall Project.

The criticism of the correctional system does not stop with the prison officials themselves but extends to the full spectrum of private companies that provide services to correctional agencies. Among those that find themselves in the crosshairs of the growing critical scrutiny

are a group of specialized telecommunications companies.

These companies provide two connected services to the corrections industry: communications tools that people in jails and prisons use to connect with family and people on the outside (telephones, but also modern devices like digital tablets); and security and investigatory tools built into the communications tech, which help correctional agencies monitor for criminal activity.



Dr. Benjamin Chavis Jr.

On the surface, these may appear to be both good things. The problem, however, comes in how these products are paid for. See, it's not the correctional agencies that pay for these services – companies charge for every call made, but it's the families and friends of the imprisoned making the calls or accepting the calls that end up paying those bills.

It obviously costs money to build, install, maintain, and secure this technology. But, not all or even most of this money that is paid for those services goes to the telecoms themselves.

What most people do not know is that the government takes a cut of the revenue – in many cases, the lion's share. For example, in 2018 incarcerated individuals in Connecticut paid \$13.2 mil-

lion for phone calls. Nearly 60% of that money went to the state.

Because of this model, the cost of making a call or sending an email from a correctional facility can be much higher than on the outside. And these costs can vary widely from state to state. In 2019, according to the Prison Policy Initiative, the average cost of a call from a jail in New Jersey cost \$1.26, while that same call in Arkansas cost \$14.49.

Prison telecom companies have faced strong criticism in recent years from elected and community leaders for their role in these charges. I have expressed concern about the way these contracts put an unreasonable financial burden on families in our communities. In my civil rights career, I have experienced firsthand how prisoners and their families are taken advantage of and financially challenged by jail and prison regulated services.

At least one of these companies, Securus Technologies, appears to have taken this criticism to heart. In 2017, Securus was acquired by Platinum Equity, which is headed by Detroit Pistons owner Tom Gores. At the time, many of us would have reasonably assumed that a private equity firm would simply extract as much value from the company as possible and then sell it at a profit.

But that's not what Gores did. Instead, he appears to have undertaken an effort to change some of the problematic business practices that have long plagued the correc-

tional telecom industry. At the beginning of this year Gores brought in a new CEO for Securus, who committed to lowering their prices and improving the services they provide to incarcerated Americans.

If you approach such a promise with a healthy dose of skepticism, you're not alone – especially knowing the history of this industry. But for the moment, Securus seems to be making good on its promises.

According to company updates, Securus has so far reduced the average cost of calls by 30%. It has renegotiated lower rates with 56 correctional agencies this year. It has been offering free calls and other communications to incarcerated individuals impacted by the pandemic – over 30 million to date.

Was that enough? No. Far from it. But it was an important start, and one that no other company in the prison telecom space has so far matched. Yet Gores appears to have been singled out for criticism by a group of advocates for the incarcerated. Sometimes even those with good intentions can find themselves caught up in the systemic problems of the correctional industry.

Those attacks came to a head this year when critics demanded that the LA County Museum of Art (LACMA) remove Gores from its board. They called him a "prison profiteer," despite the fact that – as the LA Times notes – Gores had pledged 100% of his personal stake in Securus to helping reform its operations.

LACMA eventually bowed to pressure and, to avoid further friction, Gores resigned his seat. This is exactly an example the consequences of poor judgement in public advocacy that does not actually help bring relief to the families of the mass incarcerated. Did LACMA improve the life of a single incarcerated individual by doing so? It did not.

To be clear, the prison telecom industry remains in need of serious reform. We need to hold Securus and other telecoms accountable for changing their harmful business practices. But if we want people to do the right thing then we need to acknowledge when they actually strive to do the right thing.

So where do we go from here? The solution is not, as some have suggested, to eliminate these companies altogether. The services they provide are needed, and few believe they could be offered at the same quality or efficiency by the public sector. The security tools offered are necessary as well – among other things, they help prevent attempts to cause harm from within prison walls, from harassing victims to operating criminal activities on the outside.

Individuals who have been sentenced to prison for a crime are already paying their debt to society. They should not also be forced to pay to help plug holes in the budget of a local warden or sheriff.

State and county officials need to stop collecting "commissions" on these services,

and where possible they should contribute public funds to reduce the costs of these communications tools for incarcerated Americans.

Securus also needs to go further. Although they have lowered costs, their products remain far too costly for some of the most vulnerable members of our society. In addition, their competitors need to follow suit – including the biggest operator in this space, Global Tel Link.

While our democracy remains politically, socially, and economically divided, we all have just witnessed the transformative power of the vote by millions of people who care about the future of our nation.

Ultimately, correctional telecom companies depend on contracts from state and local corrections agencies. The heads of those agencies are appointed by elected officials. Criminal justice reform was on the national ballot.

Voters must now hold all elected officials accountable on a wide array of issues including the issue of improving the telecom services offered to prisoners and their families. Stop the exploitation of prisoners and their families. Prison wardens, county sheriffs, and state officials resolutely should stop taking advantage of incarcerated people.

Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr. is President and CEO of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) and Executive Producer/Host of The Chavis Chronicle. www.TheChavisChronicles.com & dr.bchavis@nnpa.org



Tell them you read it in THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

# Why AARP cares

(Via NNPAnewswire.com)

SUBMITTED BY AARP

AARP is recognizing November/December as caregiving theme months

AARP is striving to make it easier for older people to live independently and remain in their homes and communities where they prefer to be, surrounded by family and friends. By providing planning resources and additional forms of support to family caregivers, AARP hopes to create a country where people can continue to live in their homes and communities for as long as they choose.

**To help achieve this, AARP is:**

Supporting the millions of family caregivers who provide unpaid care to their loved ones with resources and tools.

Advocating for and providing better quality, affordable and accessible services to help older people live independently and the family caregivers who help them.

## Definition of a Family Caregiver

A 'family caregiver' is defined as an adult age 18 or older who is providing unpaid short-term or long-term care to a parent, spouse, friend or other adult loved one who needs help with everyday activities and personal tasks such as transportation, managing finances, scheduling appointments, shopping, bathing, dressing, preparing meals, wound care and/or medication management.

### Message Points

Family and friends are the backbones of America's care system, providing the bulk of care for older people in the U.S. as they strive to live independently.

If you are not currently a family caregiver, at some point in your life you either will be a caregiver or need a caregiver.

Family caregiving is harder and more complicated than ever as families have increasing demands on their time.

Many family caregivers

don't think of themselves as caregivers—they see themselves as sons, daughters, spouses, and friends just doing what families do for each other.

Today, family caregivers are asked to carry out health care tasks that would make a first-year nursing student tremble (like wound care, tube feedings) without adequate training.

The job of caregiving that family members do for free can be harder than a job in the paid workforce.

Workplace policies that support employee caregivers can also benefit companies by enhancing productivity and enabling workers to keep up with their duties. Almost 3 out of 4 workers age 40 and older say that allowing work flexibility for caregiving would help improve work/life balance.

Employers can help employees who are family caregivers by providing flexible or teleworking arrangements, referrals to community resources, and affordable back-up care.



AARP is recognizing November/December as caregiving theme months.

### Statistics on Caregivers

Today, more than 1 in 5 Americans are caregivers. When looking at caregivers for adults only, there are almost 48 million Americans providing care to a family member or friend age 18 or older.<sup>2</sup>

The total estimated eco-

nomomic value of uncompensated care provided by family caregivers in 2017 was 470 billion. This surpasses the total combined value-added to the U.S. economy by the agriculture/forestry and mining sectors (\$438 billion in 2017) and exceeds the combined value added to the U.S. economy by the education and arts/entertainment sectors (\$460 billion in 2017).<sup>1</sup>

The ratio of potential family caregivers to the growing number of older people has already begun a steep decline. In 2010, there were 7 potential family caregivers for every person age 80 and older. By 2030, that ratio will fall sharply to 4 to 1 and is projected to drop further to 3 to 1 in 2050.<sup>1</sup>

On average, caregivers are 49-years-olds caring for 69-year-olds. 89 percent of caregivers take care of a relative, while just 10 percent care for a friend, neighbor, or other non-relative.<sup>2</sup>

Nearly half (46%) of caregivers are under the age of 50 and 54% are 50+. Male caregivers are younger with 42% being under the age of 50.

Nearly three in ten (29%) caregivers are Millennials or Gen Z. Another 29% are Gen X, 34% are Baby Boomers and 7% are the Silent Generation.

Caregivers overall are becoming as diverse as the American population.<sup>1</sup>

6 in 10 caregivers report working while caregiving and the majority have experienced at least one work-related impact (61 percent).<sup>2</sup>

About 32% of family caregivers provide at least 21 hours of care a week, on average providing 59 hours of care weekly. This is in addition to their part- or full-time job.<sup>2</sup>

54% of caregivers expect to be caring for someone in the next five years. However, making plans for future care, such as instructions for handling financial matters, health care decisions, or living arrangements, is still not the norm among caregivers.<sup>2</sup>

According to recent research from Harvard Business School, nearly one in three workers said they quit their jobs for caregiving responsibilities across the lifespan.<sup>1</sup>

### Emotional and Financial Impact of Caregiving

Family caregivers are at risk of emotional, health, and financial problems:

36% of caregivers report high emotional stress from the demands of caregiving.<sup>2</sup>

Family caregivers are at increased risk of chronic loneliness. 42 percent of family caregivers reported being lonely compared with non-

caregivers (34 percent) in midlife and older ages.<sup>1</sup>

Those in high-intensity care situations more often feel alone (29 percent vs. 16 percent medium to low-intensity situations), as do those providing 21 or more hours of care (30 percent vs. 17 percent caring for 20 or fewer hours weekly).<sup>2</sup>

The financial impact on working caregivers who leave the labor force due to caregiving demands can be severe. A study estimated the economic cost of foregone earnings by family caregivers of older adults at \$67 billion in 2013.<sup>1</sup>

In addition to forgone earnings, most family caregivers incur steep out-of-pocket costs related to caregiving. 78 percent of family caregivers incurred these costs as a result of caregiving.<sup>3</sup>

Caregiving can be an all-consuming experience that leaves the caregiver exhausted and lonely. But it can also be an enormously meaningful accomplishment. Half of the caregivers (51%) feel their role gives them a sense of purpose or meaning in life.

### African American Caregivers

14 percent of family caregivers in the U.S. report being non-Hispanic African American or Black.<sup>2</sup>

On average, African American caregivers are 47-years-olds caring for 64-year-olds.<sup>2</sup>

African American caregivers have been caring for 5.2 years on average. They report providing 31.2 hours of care weekly, helping with medical/nursing tasks.<sup>5</sup>

African American caregivers report experiencing 2.4 financial impacts as a result of providing care—more than either non-Hispanic white or Asian caregivers—most commonly stopping saving, leaving bills unpaid or paying them late, or taking on more debt.<sup>5</sup>

African American caregivers typically care for a parent, spouse, or grandparent. About half of African American caregivers feel they had no choice in taking on their role, but the majority find a sense of purpose or meaning in that role—more so than non-Hispanic white or Asian caregivers.<sup>5</sup>

### AARP Resources

AARP has tools, information, and support available for family caregivers. The AARP Family Caregiving Website ([www.aarp.org/caregiving](http://www.aarp.org/caregiving)) provides an easy way to join an online community of other family caregivers, learn about local services, get helpful information, and connect with others who understand caregiving challenges.

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**LEGAL NOTICES**

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

Having qualified on the 4th day of November, 2020, as Executor of the Estate of **JAMES LEWIS MARTIN**, Deceased, late of New Hanover County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the decedent to exhibit the same to the Executor, Beverly Foscolo, at 523 Wallington Road - Wilmington, NC 28409, on or before the **17th day of February, 2021**, 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 13th day of November, 2020.

Beverly Foscolo, 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

November 19, 26, December 3, 10, 2020.

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

The undersigned, having qualified as Executrix of the estate of **Garrett Jay Johnson**, deceased, of the New Hanover County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the **26th day of February, 2021**, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to said estate please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This the 26th day of November, 2020

Brenda G. Johnson, Executrix  
2615 Hwy 301 N  
Dillon, SC 29536

November 26, December 3, 10, 17, 2020

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

The undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the estate of **Joann Yeip Hanley**, deceased, of the New Hanover County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the **26th day of February, 2021**, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to said estate please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This the 26th day of November, 2020

Andrew Hanley, Executor  
31 Robert E Lee Dr.  
Wilmington, NC 28412

November 26, December 3, 10, 17, 2020

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

The undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the estate of **Norval Stirling Herbert**, deceased, of the New Hanover County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the **26th day of February, 2021**, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to said estate please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This the 26th day of November, 2020

Gary Stirling Herbert, Executor  
777 Bonaire Rd.  
Wilmington, NC 28412

November 26, December 3, 10, 17, 2020

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

The undersigned, having qualified as Executrix of the estate of **Yolanda Denise Denham**, deceased, of the New Hanover County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the **3rd day of March, 2021**, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to said estate please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This the 3rd day of December, 2020

Marc Smith, Jr., Administrator  
1118 Zinnia Court  
Wilmington, NC 28401

December 3, 10, 17, 24, 2020

**LEGAL NOTICES**

**NOTICE OF ACTION  
CONSTRUCTIVE SERVICE  
(NO PROPERTY)  
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE  
SEVENTEENTH JUDICIAL  
CIRCUIT  
IN AND FOR BROWARD  
COUNTY, FLORIDA  
CASE NO.: FMCE-20-007893  
(41)  
FAMILY DIVISION  
JUDGE: BAILEY**

**IN THE MATTER OF THE  
TERMINATION OF  
PARENTAL RIGHTS FOR THE  
PROPOSED  
ADOPTION OF:  
JAMARI PRINCE JAMES DUDLEY  
GILES,  
D.O.B. 05/21/2008,  
Adoptee/Minor Child.**

**NOTICE OF ACTION ON  
PETITION TO TERMINATE  
PARENTAL RIGHTS FOR  
THE PROPOSED ADOPTION OF A  
MINOR CHILD**

**TO: JAMES DESMOND DUDLEY  
217 WESTCHESTER RD.,  
WILMINGTON, NC 28409-8509**

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that petitioner, SHAYLISA HAYNES, has filed an action for adoption of your child, JAMARI PRINCE JAMES DUDLEY. A final hearing has been scheduled in this matter for 2/25/2021 at 8:45 a.m. in front of the honorable Judge Dennis Bailpy in Room # WW11172 of the Broward County Courthouse located at 201 SE 6th Street, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301, or via Zoom Conference, if the courthouse is closed to the public, on that date, at the below information:  
Link:  
<https://17thflcourts.zoom.us/j/462550124>  
Meeting ID: 462 550 124  
Phone: (888) 475-4499; (877) 853-5257; (833) 548-0282; or (833) 548-0276

If you fail to appear, an order granting the adoption and termination of your parental rights of your child will be entered for the Petitioner. You are required to serve a copy of your written answer and defenses, if any, to ELISAVETA ALEXIEVA, attorney for Petitioner, whose address is LEGAL AID SERVICE OF SOUTH FLORIDA, INC., P.O. BOX 120910, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33312-0016, and file the original with the Clerk of this Court at 201 SE 6th Street, Room 04130, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301, on or before January 20, 2021, before service on Petitioner or immediately thereafter. If you fail to do so, a default may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the petition.

Copies of all court documents in this case, including orders, are available at the Clerk of the Circuit Court's office. You may review these documents upon request.

You must keep the Clerk of the Circuit Court's office notified of your current address. (You may file Notice of Current Address, Florida Family Law Form 12.915.) Future papers in this lawsuit will be mailed to the address on record at the Clerk's office.

**WARNING:** Rule 12.285, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure, requires certain automatic disclosure of documents and Information. Failure to comply can result in sanctions, including dismissal or striking of pleadings.

This the 19th day of November, 2020

CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT  
By: BRENDA D. FORMAN  
As Deputy Clerk  
Respectfully submitted,  
Legal Aid Service of Broward County, Inc.  
Children's Advocacy Project-Kinship Project  
491 N. State Road 7/  
Plantation, Florida 33317  
Tel: (954) 736-2412/  
Fax: (954) 736-2480  
Primary eservice:  
lmaria-montero@legalaid.org  
ealexieva@le.galaid.org  
Secondary eservice:  
ieian@legalaid.org  
rgarcia@legalaid.org  
Fla. Bar  
I-MONTERO, Esquire  
f.: 65923  
ELIS A VET A ALEXIEVA, Esquire  
Fla. Bar No.: 64698  
Attorneys for the  
Petitioners/Relative Caregivers

December 10, 17, 24, 21, 2020

**LEGAL NOTICES**

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS  
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
COUNTY OF NEW HANOVER  
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE  
OF  
MARJORIE POWELL, Deceased.  
IN THE GENERAL COURT OF  
JUSTICE  
SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION  
FILE NO: 20E 1426**

The undersigned qualified as the Administrator of the Estate of **Majorie Powell**, deceased, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them same to **LaTonya Myers**, Administrator, at the address set out below, on or before March 10, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded as bar to recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the decedent will please make payment to the undersigned at either address set out below.

This the 10th day of December, 2020.

The Law Office of Erma L. Johnson, P.C.  
2803 Market Street  
Po Box 696  
Wilmington, NC 28402

December 10, 17, 24, 31, 2020

**EXECUTOR'S NOTICE  
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
COUNTY OF NEW HANOVER  
IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE  
SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION  
BEFORE THE CLERK  
FILE NO. 20 E 001444  
IN THE MATTER OF:  
EXECUTOR'S NOTICE  
ADELAIDE SCALES WARD**

Having qualified as Executor of the Estate of **Adelaide Scales Ward** of New Hanover County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons having claims against the estate of said Adelaide Scales Ward to present them to the undersigned on or before **March 10, 2021**, that being three (3) months from the first date of publication of this Notice or same shall be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate please make immediate payment.

This the 10th day of December, 2020.

Edward L. Ward, Junior  
Executor of the Estate of  
Adelaide Scales Ward  
c/o Stephen E. Culbreth  
CULBRETH LAW FIRM  
P.O. Box 446  
Wilmington, N. C. 28402

December 10, 17, 24, 31, 2020

**NOTICE OF SERVICE OF  
PROCESS BY PUBLICATION  
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
NEW HANOVER COUNTY  
In the Superior Court  
Before the Clerk  
New Hanover County File  
Number: 20-SP-379**

**In the Matter of the Estate of  
Berton N. Wright, deceased  
(New Hanover County File No.:  
19-E-1205)  
To: Unknown Heirs of Berton  
N. Wright:**

Take notice that a special proceeding has been filed in New Hanover County to determine the heirs of Berton N. Wright. Berton N. Wright ("Decedent") died on August 21, 2019 in New Hanover County, North Carolina without leaving a will. The Administrator of the Estate of Berton N. Wright seeks to determine the heirs of the Decedent.

All Unknown Heirs of Berton N. Wright are asked to contact the Administrator of the Estate, Charlotte Noel Fox, 701 Market Street, Wilmington NC 28401.

You are required to file a written response no later than Wednesday, January 6, 2021, and upon your failure to do so any order entered by the Court shall be binding as if you were personally before the Court and any payment or distribution made by the Administrator under orders of the Court shall have the effect of fully discharging such personal representative and any sureties on the personal representative's official bond to the full extent of such payment or distribution as ordered.

This, the 26th day of November, 2020.

ESTATE OF BERTON N. WRIGHT  
Charlotte Noel Fox  
Administrator of the  
Estate of Berton N. Wright  
Craig & Fox, PLLC  
701 Market Street  
Wilmington, NC 28401  
Phone: (910) 815-0085  
Fax: (910) 815-1095

November 26, December 3, 10, 2020

**LEGAL NOTICES**

**NOTICE OF SERVICE OF  
PROCESS BY PUBLICATION  
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
NEW HANOVER COUNTY**

**In the Superior Court  
Before the Clerk  
New Hanover County File  
Number: 20-SP-399**

**CHARLOTTE NOEL FOX,  
Administrator for the Estate of  
LISA ANNE WOLAK, Petitioner,  
vs. ELIZABETH ANN SCHOPF  
COLE, MEGAN LITZAU KANAL,  
BRIAN K. HUGHES, JOAN  
MARIE SCHOPF LEHMAN,  
JASON LITZAU, EDWARD  
WOLAK, AND UNKNOWN  
HEIRS OF LISA ANNE WOLAK,  
Respondents.**

**To Unknown Heirs of Lisa Anne  
Wolak:**

TAKE NOTICE that a special proceeding seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action. The nature of the relief being sought is as follows:

A Petition for Possession, Custody and Control of Real Property and Sale of Real Property by Private Sale to Pay Debts of Lisa Anne Wolak. The real property sought to be sold is described as follows:

"Phase all of Lot 182, of Glen Oaks, Phase II, at Porters Neck Plantation as the same is shown on a map thereof entitled, "A Final Plat of Glen Oaks, Phase II, at Porters Neck Plantation", recorded April 27, 1999 in Map Book 38, Page 349, of the New Hanover County Registry.

SUBJECT to the Protective Covenants Porters Neck Plantation, recorded June 13, 1991, in Book 1555, at Page 957; and to the Protective Covenants Porters Neck Plantation Golf and Recreational Facilities, recorded June 13, 1991, in Book 1555, at Page 982, all of the New Hanover County Registry, and all Amendments thereto."

Also being identified as Tax Parcel ID # R03700-002-145-000

Address: 8805 Champion Hills Dr.,  
Wilmington, NC 28411.

Pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 28-A-13-3, Petitioner seeks to take possession, custody and control of said real property and sell the real property at a private sale in accordance with Chapter 1, Article 29A of the North Carolina General Statutes and to apply the proceeds of the sale of the real property; first, to the satisfaction of the debts and other claims against the Estate and the costs of administration; and after satisfaction of the debts and other claims against the Estate and costs of administration, distribute to the heirs.

You are required to file a written response by Wednesday, January 20, 2021, and upon your failure to do so any order entered by the Court shall be binding as if you were personally before the Court and any payment or distribution made by the Administrator under orders of the Court shall have the effect of fully discharging such personal representative and any sureties on the personal representative's official bond to the full extent of such payment or distribution as ordered.

This, the 10th day of December, 2020.

CRAIGE & FOX, PLLC  
Charlotte Noel Fox  
N.C. State Bar No. 32678  
Administrator of the  
Estate of Lisa Anne Wolak  
701 Market Street  
Wilmington, North Carolina 28401  
Telephone: (910) 815-0085  
Facsimile: (910) 815-1095

December 10, 17, 24, 2020

**LEGAL NOTICES**

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS  
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
COUNTY OF NEW HANOVER  
IN THE GENERAL  
COURT OF JUSTICE  
SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION  
20-E-1163  
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE  
OF JOHN V. SUTTON, JR.**

The undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of **John V. Sutton, Jr.**, deceased, late of New Hanover County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate to exhibit them to the undersigned at the address set out below on or before the **19th day of February, 2021**, or this Notice will be plead in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to the estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned at the address set out below.

This the 19th day of November, 2020.

John Matthew Sutton, Executor  
of the Estate of John V. Sutton, Jr.  
c/o H. Kenneth Stephens, II  
STEPHENS LAW FIRM, P.C.  
Post Office Box 2237  
Wilmington, NC 28402

November 19, 26, December 3, 10, 2020

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

Having qualified on the 25th day of August, 2020, as Co-Executors Of The Estate Of **Leland Leroy Smith, Jr.**, deceased, of New Hanover County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons having claims against the decedent or said Estate to present them to the undersigned on or before **March 3, 2021**, a date that is three (3) months from the date of the first publication of this Notice, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of any recovery. Please direct all claims to the attention of Sharon Smith Gore, Estate Of Leland Leroy Smith, Jr., 530 Sea Castle Court, Wilmington, North Carolina 28412. All persons indebted to said Estate are hereby requested to make immediate payment thereto.

This the 1st day of December, 2020.

SHARON SMITH GORE,  
Co-Executor Of The Estate Of  
Leland Leroy Smith, Jr.  
530 Sea Castle Court  
Wilmington, North Carolina 28412  
LELAND DAVIS SMITH,  
Co-Executor Of The Estate Of  
Leland Leroy Smith, Jr.  
745 Creek Road  
Whiteville, North Carolina 28472  
T. SCOTT SESSIONS, Attorney For  
The Estate Of  
Leland Leroy Smith, Jr.  
The McGougan Law Firm  
130 Jefferson Street  
Whiteville, North Carolina 28472

December 3, 10, 17, 24, 2020

**NOTICE OF SERVICE OF  
PROCESS BY PUBLICATION  
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
COUNTY OF NEW HANOVER  
IN THE GENERAL COURT OF  
JUSTICE DISTRICT COURT  
DIVISION  
COURT FILE #: 19-CVD-4215**

**JANE HALL BROWN  
v.  
CHARLES HUEGEL**

Take notice that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-titled action. The nature of the relief sought is as follows: Breach of Contract and Money Owed.

YOU ARE REQUIRED to make defense not later than January 13, 2021 and upon your failure to do so, Plaintiff will apply to the Court for the relief sought.

This, the 26th day of November, 2020.

Toni J. Hardin, State Bar #50754  
Olivia B. Chaban, State Bar #50588  
Kilroy Hardin, P.C.  
P.O. Box 999  
Hampstead, NC 28443  
910-803-0821 (Phone)  
910-803-0042 (Fax)

November 26, December 3, 10, 2020

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Phone: (910) 763-4671  
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