

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



OUR VOICE "ONE SOLITARY LIFE" PAGE 4

BRUNSWICK COUNTY



BERNEST HEWETT

MORE OF DR. KING'S QUOTES

BY BERNEST HEWETT CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Last week, I helped bring one of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s speeches to the people in his day and time in his fight for the attention of the people to show the state of people of color in the United States. Their treatment was harsh and the need for it to be exposed was great. This week, I will write another one. I find that quite a few people of color don't know about Dr. King and the effect and appeal his speeches and marches had on our lives. This speech warns a man on how he stands with his brothers and sisters when trouble arises.

"An individual has not started living until he can rise above the narrow confines of his individualistic concerns to the broader of all humanity."

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THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

News from the African American perspective without fear or favor

VOLUME 93/No. 52

DECEMBER 24, 2020-DECEMBER 30, 2020

\$1.00



U. S. CONGRESSWOMAN MARCIA FUDGE



CEA'S CHAIR CECILIA ROUSE

Biden nominations broaden Black women's leadership roles: 1st Black woman to chair Council of Economic advisers, 2nd in 40 Years to head HUD

BY CHARLENE CROWELL FOR TRICEEDNEYWIRE.COM

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - The selection of California Senator Kamala Harris to join and then win the nation's Vice-Presidency gave unprecedented hope to Black women across the nation. Not only had a woman broken a glass ceiling in professional development; she was also Black and a graduate of Howard University, one of the nation's premier Historically Black Institutions.

In recent days, however, two more significant nominations by President-Elect Joe Biden signal that the presence of Black women in the new administration is expanding in other groundbreaking roles. If confirmed by the Senate, Cecilia Rouse, a renowned economist will become the first Black woman to chair the nation's Council of Economic Advisers (CEA) and Ohio's Rep. Marcia Fudge, a former Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus will become the second Black woman in 40 years to lead the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Never before in the nation's history have three Black women served in these three key posts. Moreover, as Black America seeks more fairness, inclusion, and equity with a new White House, these appointees are well-respected and ably qualified to serve in their respective roles.

Nominated on November 30 to serve as CEA's Chair, Cecilia Rouse is the current Dean of the Princeton School of Public and International Affairs (SPIA), and a former CEA member during the Obama Administration. Earlier, she additionally served as a Special Assistant to President Bill Clinton, serving in his National Economic Council.

As the Ivy League school's Katzman-Ernst Professor in Economics and Education and public affairs, she is also the founding director of the Princeton Education Research Section, a member of the National Academy of Education, the Brookings Institution, and a member of the editorial board of the American Economic Journal, focusing on economic policy.

Rouse joined Princeton in 1992, after earning her undergraduate and Ph.D. degrees in economics from Harvard University, and has led SPIA since 2012.

Princeton's President offered his best wishes for her new role.

"Ceci Rouse is a distinguished economist and an outstanding dean for the School," noted

Christopher L. Eisgruber, Princeton University's President. "For more than eight years she has led the School of Public and International Affairs with integrity and a steadfast commitment to scholarly excellence, diversity, and the free exchange of ideas. The School is stronger and better because of her contributions."

"I am proud that she has once again been called to serve our country, this time in one of its most important leadership roles," added Eisgruber.

In a recent Twitter post, Ms. Rouse wrote, "This job is about advising the President on how to rebuild and revive our economy. The planning for a fairer economy, grounded in facts and evidence, begins now."

Similarly, on December 11, President-Elect Biden nominated Ohio's Rep. Marcia Fudge to lead HUD. Also subject to Senate confirmation, Rep. Fudge will lead housing efforts to make bold investments in homeownership and access to affordable housing for low-income consumers, many of whom are Black, Brown and Native Families, according to the Biden-Harris transition. This effort will also mirror the over-arching Biden-Harris pledge to create "[a]n economy where Black, Latino, Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI), and Native American workers and families are finally welcomed as full participants."

On her December 11 remarks, Rep. Fudge reflected on the responsibilities she would assume as HUD Secretary.

"[O]ur task at the Department of Housing and Urban Development will be to stand up for the dignity of all Americans and deliver the promise of our nation to all those left out in the cold... We will fight for housing in every community that is affordable, decent, and safe. We will help more Americans the secure dream of home ownership, to close the gaps of inequity, build wealth and pass it onto their children...But perhaps most importantly of all, we will help people believe once again, that their government cares about them no matter who they are. That we understand their problems."

Elected to Congress in 2008, Rep. Fudge has represented Ohio's 11th District that includes 32 cities, suburbs and towns in Ohio's Cuyahoga and Summit Counties, including Cleveland, Akron, and Euclid. She is also a past Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus.

Prior to her election to Congress, she served in the Cuyahoga County Prosecutor's Office, and broke racial and gender barriers as the mayor of Warrensville Heights. As its mayor, she focused on revitalizing both a sagging retail base and

new residential construction.

A lawyer by training, Congresswoman Fudge is a graduate of Cleveland State University's Cleveland-Marshall School of Law, and earlier earned her bachelor's degree in business from The Ohio State University. She is a Past National President of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., and a member of its Greater Cleveland Alumnae Chapter.

Numerous housing stakeholders also expressed support for the Fudge nomination including top industry leaders like the Mortgage Bankers Association, and the National Association of Home Builders. This corporate support is matched by that of lawmakers, consumer and affordable housing advocates as well.

"An unflinching advocate for civil rights, Fudge brings decades of experience as a public servant and a strong commitment to ensuring equitable access to credit, education, healthy food, clean environments and other resources, which go hand-in-hand with access to housing," noted Lisa Rice, President and CEO of the National Fair Housing Alliance.

"Having served as mayor of Warrensville Heights, Ohio, Fudge will bring a unique understanding of how HUD programs are implemented on the ground locally," Rice said. "We are further encouraged by the incoming administration's indication that its Day One priorities for HUD will include reinstating the 2015 Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing and 2013 Disparate Impact rules."

Sharing that same concern on the Trump-era HUD rollbacks and the future of the Fair Housing Act is Nikitra Bailey, Executive Vice President with the Center for Responsible Lending (CRL).

"The 2015 AFFH rule was a step toward fulfilling that law's mandate of breaking down segregation and the inequity it created. In quashing the rule, the Trump administration has taken our nation backwards, denying people the freedom to choose where they live and exacerbating the issues that we struggle with as our nation reckons with racial injustice today," said Bailey. "The administration should reverse this action and take the necessary steps to ensure that all people, including Black Americans, can fairly participate in the American Dream."

Following the 1968 enactment of the Fair Housing Act, Black America's rate of homeownership grew consistently until 2007 and the disproportionate foreclosures borne by Black and

Please see NOMINATIONS/Page 3

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



CELEBRATE THE REASON FOR THE SEASON

THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL • December 24, 2020 • SECTION B



FILE PHOTO BY JOHN DAVIS

MANY HOMES IN WILMINGTON ARE DECORATED WITH LIGHTS AND LAWN SCENES IN CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS.

A Reason for the Season

A REPRINT

BY JOHANNA THATCH BRIGGS
OF THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

As Wilmington grows in population, the community is becoming culturally diverse. Therefore, we must recognize all religious holidays that are celebrated during this season. People are joined by one common denominator this time of the year, and this is the hope for world peace.

The first step in achieving unity is to learn about each other's belief and their history, so that we can understand one another. Below

are the explanations of the various holiday traditions as they are celebrated in Wilmington:

Christmas: Popular American Tradition

The traditional Christmas is not a single but prolonged period. Normally, from December 24 through January 6 includes the new year, thus increasing the festival value of Christmas.

The traditional date for Christmas is obviously from the birthdate of Jesus. This date is nearly the shortest day of the year; and from old times, this was an important agricultural solar feast-

ing period in Europe. The actual birthdate of Jesus is not known, and thus the early church fathers in the fourth century fixed the day as December 25th.

There are many customs which Americans practice. The most common traditions are decorating their homes, the exchanging of gifts, and the gathering of family together. Driving through neighborhoods, one may notice the various ways in which people decorate their homes. Some homes may simply don a single wreath on the door, while some homes may be trimmed with colorful lights.

Perhaps, some homes may be seen with a manger scene or Santa Claus with his reindeer. Embellishments will vary according to personal taste, but the custom of the Christmas Tree is the most common symbol of celebration. This tradition is usually associated with eternal life.

There are roots in the custom of exchanging presents as well. There is St. Nicholas, who is the anonymous benefactor. There is also the tradition of Magi giving precious gifts to Jesus, and there is the Roman custom of giving gifts of good luck to children during

Saturnalia. In the American tradition of giving, children hang stockings, leave Santa Clause milk and cookies and wait impatiently for the bearded man in a red suit.

One final Christmas tradition is the gathering of family and the sharing of large meals. An innumerable variety of cakes and pastries, often very intricate, were, and are, baked only for Christmas. In the past, cakes were often hung from Christmas trees. Whatever custom one chooses to practice, the common thread that joins Americans is the idea that the holidays are a time for family unity.



FILE PHOTO

WORSHIPPERS JOIN HANDS ON NEW YEAR'S EVE AT AN OHIO'S CHURCH'S ANNUAL WATCH NIGHT SERVICE. THE SERVICE HOLDS SPECIAL MEANING FOR MANY BLACK CHURCHES THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY AS IT COMMEMORATES THE EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION ABOLISHING SLAVERY IN 10 STATES OF THE CONFEDERACY ON JAN. 1, 1863.

Watch Night Dates Back to Slavery

BY GARY FLOWERS

For all Christians, the Christmas holidays are the most sacred and spiritual time of the calendar year. For African American Christians, the week after December 25 holds immense significance as well.

On September 22, 1862, President Abraham Lincoln, following a decisive Union military victory over Confederate forces at Antietam, Maryland, penned and signed the Emancipation Proclamation. The Proclamation would free enslaved

African Americans in Confederate states that seceded from the United States of America (Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Louisiana, Arkansas, Texas, and Mississippi).

The Emancipation Proclamation was to be effective January 1, 1863. As such, Christmas of 1862 was a most significant time, and the week following was the most important week of enslaved African Americans, who had fought, bled, prayed, strategized, and died for their legal emancipation. Yet their spirits were reminded of freedom through song.

The Negro spirituals, developed as sacred songs of African Americans, who were forcibly converted to Christianity by ungodly Whites, who disrespected the religions and cosmology of Africans legally designated as slaves. Regardless of earthly bondage and inhumane degradation, enslaved African Americans established spirituals to uplift their souls from the bondage, in the words of James Weldon Johnson, "felt in the day when hope, unborn, had died."

During enslavement, many states outlawed gatherings of the enslaved. Nonetheless, African

Americans gathered in camp meetings after sunset, following 14-hour work days, in secluded and wooded areas to feed their souls through song. For example, singers longed for freedom in "There Will Be a Great Camp Meeting in the Promised Land." Likewise, in "In Dat Great Gittin' Up Morning" the writer prophesied freedom from bondage and expressed wishes that the freed would "fare you well." Similarly, the Spiritual "My Soul Be at Res" featured the lyrics: "One of deese mornins my soul be at res."

Leading up to January 1, 1863, our enslaved ancestors sang and

prayed. On December 31, religious leaders asked the faithful to have a camp meeting (church service) to watch for freedom in the morning. The idea was to spiritually ensure that President Lincoln's promise of emancipation would be fulfilled, and thus Watch Night service was established. Emancipation Day featured the diet of the day in 1863 (collard greens, black-eyed peas, pigs' feet, yams). Today, many African American communities celebrate Emancipation Day.

Gary Flowers is CEO and Executive Director of Black Leadership Forum, Inc.



May the gifts of peace, love, and joy be yours to cherish this holiday season. Thank you for your kind patronage and the gift of your friendship. We enjoy serving you.

From the management and staff of
THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

In loving memory of

Thomas C. Jervay, Sr., November 30, 1914 - December 28, 1993

Willie E. Jervay, June 27, 1921 - June 16, 2012

Katherine Jervay Tate, March 27, 1949 - January 27, 2015

Thomas C. Jervay, Jr., May 11, 1946 - September 10, 1982

Jonathan Q. Allen, June 26, 1989 - June 2, 2014

THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL
 ISSN 0049-7649
 AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER
 Dedicated to R.S. Jervay,
 Founder of R.S. Jervay Printers,
 1901 and T.C. Jervay, Sr.,
 Founder of *The Wilmington Journal*,
 an offspring of the Cape Fear Journal,
 1927
 Published Weekly At
 412 South Seventh Street,
 Wilmington, NC 28401
 By Wilmington Journal, Inc.
 P.O. Box 1020,
 Wilmington, NC 28402
 Periodical Postage Paid At
 Wilmington, NC 28402
 (910) 762-5502,
 Fax: (910) 343-1334,
 Email: wilmjournal@aol.com
 Website:
 www.wilmingtonjournal.com
 Single Copy \$1.00
 Local Subscriptions \$45 Yearly,
 Out of Town \$50 Yearly,
 Foreign \$55 Yearly
 Payable in Advance. (Taxes
 Included)
 Address all communications and
 make all checks and
 money orders payable to:
 The Wilmington Journal,
 P.O. Box 1020,
 Wilmington, NC 28402

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After 44 years in prison, Governor Cooper grants Ronnie Long pardon of innocence

BY CASH MICHAELS
 OF THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

[CONCORD] In August 2020, Ronnie Long was legally deemed a free man by a federal court which, after 44 years, vacated his first-degree rape and burglary charge.

On Dec. 17, 2020, Gov. Roy Cooper put the icing on the cake by issuing a pardon of innocence to Ronnie Long, legally certifying that Long never raped and robbed the 54 year old White woman for whom he was wrongfully convicted in October 1976.

Long can now collect compensation from the state for his false conviction.

Long, who was falsely



RONNIE LONG

convicted when he was just 20 years old by an all White jury, was one of five men to whom Cooper, who had never issued any prior pardons during his tenure as

governor, granted clemency last week.

"We must continue to work to reform our justice system and acknowledge when people have been wrongly convicted," Gov. Cooper said in a statement upon granting the clemencies. "I have carefully reviewed the facts in each of these cases and, while I cannot give these men back the time they served, I am granting them Pardons of Innocence in the hope that they might be better able to move forward in their lives," Gov. Cooper said.

The four others beyond Long had been falsely convicted for unrelated crimes.

It was earlier this year when the U. S. Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals

ruled that Long, 64, had been the victim of "extreme and continuous police misconduct" after 44 years behind bars.

He was released on August 31, 2020 when the State of North Carolina, after determining that the evidence proving his innocence had been hidden and his rights violated, moved to vacate the false convictions, thus immediately releasing him from prison.

There was never any physical evidence connecting Long to the crime. He was serving an 80-year sentence before his release in August.

Afterward, Long told CBS News, "I feel as though the criminal justice system here in this State failed me."

COVID-19: Keeping safe for the holidays

BY GLENN ELLIS
 FOR TRICEEDNEYWIRE.COM

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - After almost eight months of quarantine, face masks, and hand sanitizer, we are now in the middle of two unprecedented events: the COVID-19 pandemic and the first holiday season under measures that have changed how we carry out our family traditions. The reality is clear; according to a Kaiser Family Foundation's health tracking poll, two-thirds of the public are worried they or their family will get sick from the coronavirus. These disruptions brought with them some very difficult emotional and mental challenges. Sadly, they are the result of the demands we have all been put under in adapting to the danger of this coronavirus.

You don't have to be a genius to have known that the mental and emotional toll of this pandemic wasn't going to be pretty; and it's not. Think about how it is affecting each of us on a personal level: illness or fear of illness, social isolation, economic insecurity, disruption of routine and loss of loved ones. The impact is real, and we can't kid ourselves, many of us living with some degree of depression and/or anxiety. On top of that, we have a generation or two of children and young people who are looking to us to guide them through. Our lives have been turned upside-down, but we must remember that our children and young people are impacted by the stress of their parents and other adults around them. So, if we are struggling with our own mental health during the holidays, you can believe that our young people are impacted as well.

Throughout the history of Blacks in this country, family and community have sustained us, even in the darkest moments of the racial inequities that have always existed. What's being asked of us now is to do something that is unlike anything we've ever thought possible - celebrate the holidays and honor family traditions without being

together. Let's not make the mistake of thinking that just because the holidays are here, we can just immerse ourselves into them, oblivious to the "wear and tear" of having spent the entire past year in the grips of one of the deadliest pandemics in history. This is especially true if you had a preexisting mental health issue, are a low-income individual, person of color, or close to someone who suffered or died from COVID-19. Enough time has passed for researchers to look at just how bad this pandemic has affected our mental and emotional health. A Boston University study found that the rates were higher than what we saw after 9/11 or Hurricane Katrina. Yet, unlike 9/11 or Katrina, COVID-19 isn't something bad that happens, and then we get back to "normal". It's not going to work like that, and many of us are hopeful for a way to contain or control the virus; not hoping to return to "normal". The many ramifications of this virus have made it clear; things can

never be like they were before. The consequences for mental and behavioral health are clear; spikes in interpersonal violence, suicide, and substance abuse. Homicide rates are already upwards of 50% than the previous year; prior to the pandemic. Hospitals aren't seeing a measurable rise in domestic child abuse, but the severity of the injuries that children coming to the emergency room with are far worse and violent than anything seen in the past. The economic impact on many families has led to feelings of frustration and uncertainty in relation to the inadequate basic supplies of food, water, clothes etc. It's tough, but we are all going to have to try our best to manage the stress and anxiety of this very different holiday season, under these unimaginable circumstances. The Center for Disease Control (CDC) reminds us that the safest way to celebrate the winter holidays is to celebrate at home with people who live with you. Gatherings with family and friends who do not

live with you can increase the chances of getting or spreading COVID-19 or the flu. We must remain vigilant in our understanding and respect for the deadly nature of COVID-19, and keep in mind the things that contribute to the risk of getting and spreading COVID-19 at small in-person gatherings. The CDC provides some factors in how this pandemic is spreading to inform your decision and acceptance of how things have to be this holiday season: Community levels of COVID-19; Exposure during travel; Location of the gathering; Duration of the gathering; Number and crowding of people at the gathering; Behaviors of attendees prior to the gathering; Behaviors of attendees during the gathering. These are too many things on the list that are out of our control for us to be a responsible decision and determine to maintain our past holiday traditions. As we all do our best to go through this unusual holiday season - Thanksgiving, Christmas, Diwali, Kwanzaa,

Hanukkah, New Year's, or whatever (or however) you and your family celebrated in the past - I'd like to "preach what I practice": I may not be able to spend this holiday with my loved ones this year, but I'm willing to spend this time apart so we can be with them next year and the year after that." *The information included in this column is for educational purposes only. I do not dispense medical advice or prescribe the use of any technique as a replacement form of treatment for physical, mental or medical problems by your doctor either directly or indirectly. Glenn Ellis, MPH is a Visiting Scholar at The National Bioethics Center at Tuskegee University and a Harvard Medical School Fellow in Research Bioethics and Writing. He is author of Which Doctor? and Information is the Best Medicine. Ellis is an active media contributor on Health Equity and Medical Ethics. For more good health information visit: www.glen-nellis.com*

BRUNSWICK

Continued from Page 1

Every man must decide whether he will walk in the light of creative altruism or the darkness of destructive selfishness. This is the judgment. Life's most persistent and urgent question is: What are you doing for others?"

"Everybody can be great because anybody can serve. You don't have to make your subject and your verb agree to serve. You don't have to know about Plato and Aristotle to serve. You don't have to know Einstein's theory of relativity to serve. You don't have to know the Second Theory of Thermodynamics in physics to serve. You only need a heart full of grace, a soul generated by love.

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

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1976 AT PRESS CONFERENCE AT FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH IN RALEIGH, NC--(L TO R--SEATED) REV, DR. BENJAMIN CHAVIS JR., WILLIAM "JOE" WRIGHT, JR., CONNIE TINDALL, JERRY JACOBS, (L TO R--STANDING) WAYNE MOORE, ANNE SHEPPARD, WILLIE "EARL" VEREEN, JAMES MCKOY, MARVIN PATRICK, REGINALD EPPS.

As we look forward to the 50th Anniversary of the Wilmington Ten, its commemoration, and the celebration of Black History Month, the Wilmington Ten Foundation honors the memory of the fallen members of the Wilmington Ten. Long live the memory, and legacy of our fallen comrades, Dallas "Joe" Wright, Jerry Jacobs, Anne Shephard, Connie "Waterbed" Tindall, and Marvin "Chilly" Patrick who transitioned this past weekend.



Merry Christmas And Happy New Year



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STATE BRIEFS



BIDEN TAPS MICHAEL S. REGAN FOR EPA ADMINISTRATOR
[RALEIGH] President-

elect Joe Biden has selected Michael S. Regan, North Carolina's top air quality enforcer, to become head of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, thus making Regan the nation's top pollution cop. Regan will also become the first Black man in the agency's history to head up its efforts. Regan, 44,

must be confirmed by the U.S. Senate before he takes office.

THREE NC HBCUs GET BIG DONATIONS FROM BILLIONAIRE

[RALEIGH] Three North Carolina historically Black colleges got early Christmas presents in the form of huge

donations from billionaire Mackenzie Scott, the ex-wife of Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos. Winston-Salem State University received \$30 million from Scott, its largest single donation from one person ever. Elizabeth City State University received \$15 million and N.C. A&T University received \$45 million.

REPORTERS COVERING BLM HEARINGS IN ALAMANCE COUNTY WIN

[GRAHAM] Three top local district court judges have ruled that up to five reporters must be allowed to cover hearings in the local courthouse, provided that they ask permission of the presiding judge, and that

there is enough room. Judges had been barring reporters from covering hearings involving members of the Black Lives Matter movement.

COMPILED BY CASH MICHAELS

Rev. Barber's Poor People's Campaign pushes Biden/Harris on priorities

BY CASH MICHAELS OF THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

On Jan 20, 2021, when President Elect Joe Biden and Vice-President Elect Kamala Harris are sworn in as President and Vice-President of the United States respectively, the Poor People's Campaign: a National Call for a Moral Revival will undoubtedly find a more receptive federal administration to its progressive agenda.

That's what The Reverend Dr. William Barber, co-convenor of the Poor's People's Campaign certainly expected when they met with the domestic policy panel from the Biden-Harris Transition Team last week. However, the campaign also released a set of 14 policy and legislative priorities from its Poor People's Jubilee Platform, and "insists" that they are prioritized during the first 50-100 days of the new administration and 117th Congress. The 117th Congress convenes on January 3, 2021.

That Poor People's Campaign priority list includes:

1. Enacting comprehensive free and just COVID-19 relief that must prioritize the needs of essential workers, people of color and low income families, who have been hit the hardest in the pandemic
2. Guaranteeing quality

health care for all, regardless of any pre-existing conditions

3. Raising the federal minimum wage to \$15.00 per hour immediately

4. Updating the poverty measure to replace the current poverty line to accurately reflect current conditions of poverty and economic insecurity

5. Guaranteeing quality housing for all by expanding public and affordable housing and rental assistance.

6. Enacting a federal jobs program to build up investments, infrastructure, public institutions, climate resilience, energy efficiency and socially beneficial industries and jobs in poor and low income communities.

7. Protecting and expanding voting rights and civil rights

8. Guaranteeing safe, quality and equitable public education, with supports for protection against re-segregation, increasing public education at all levels, especially for poor and income communities

9. Implementing comprehensive and just immigration reform

10. Ensuring all of the rights of indigenous peoples

11. Enacting fair taxes on the wealthy, corporations, and Wall Street

12. Using the power of executive orders to meet these demands

13. Redirecting the bloated

Pentagon budget towards these priorities as matters of national security.

14. Working with the Poor People's Campaign to establish a permanent President's Council to advocate for this bold agenda

The Poor People's Campaign concluded, "The priorities above are constitutionally consistent, morally defensible, and economically sane. They come out of the

lives, struggles, agency and insights of the 140 million and their moral, economic, and legal allies. They embody a politics of love, justice, and truth that can defeat the politics of death, heal the nation and bring us down the path towards genuine democracy. Rather than the puny politics of right or left, we must be guided by a politics of what is right or wrong."



REV. WILLIAM BARBER



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NOMINATIONS

Continued from Page 1

Brown consumers. By 2019, only 40.6% of Blacks were homeowners, a record low. Even in 2020 and a Black homeownership rate of 44%, Black America lags behind other races and ethnicities. By comparison, White homeownership stands at 73.7%, according to the Census Bureau.

These low rates of homeownership are a significant part of why racial wealth gaps continue to grow. For the average person, a home is the largest, single investment of a lifetime, bringing not only stability for families but the opportunity to build wealth through equity and inter-generational transfers of wealth.

CRL's federal policy agenda for President-Elect Biden's first 100 days in office addresses both legislative and administrative remedies for housing. A new HUD Secretary could enact several of these items including but not limited to full enforcement of fair housing and lending laws, requiring financial institutions to fulfill their Community Reinvestment Act mission that targets low-and-moderate income consumers, and creating a home ownership program that provides down payment assistance grants for those now

underserved in the housing market - low-income, Black, Latino and other communities of color.

As Chair of the House Financial Services Committee, California's Rep. Maxine Waters explained the current housing challenges in specific dollars and cents.

"According to recent reports, \$70 billion in back rent will be due by the end of the year and 20 million renters could face eviction by January 2021, while 2.8 million homeowners are in forbearance and 3.8 million are estimated to be in some stage of delinquency," Waters said. "It is clear that in order to meet the scale and scope of this crisis, swift action must be taken."

"The last four years consisted of a Trump Administration intent on doing everything in its power to diminish, rather than promote, fair access to housing; rescind, rather than strengthen, bedrock rules that prevent discrimination in housing; and ignore, rather than address, the housing and homelessness crisis our country faces amid an unprecedented global pandemic", concluded Rep. Waters.

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

THE BLACK PRESS USE IT or LOSE IT!



Worship the Newborn King

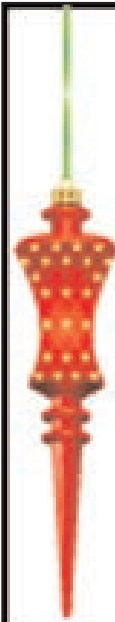


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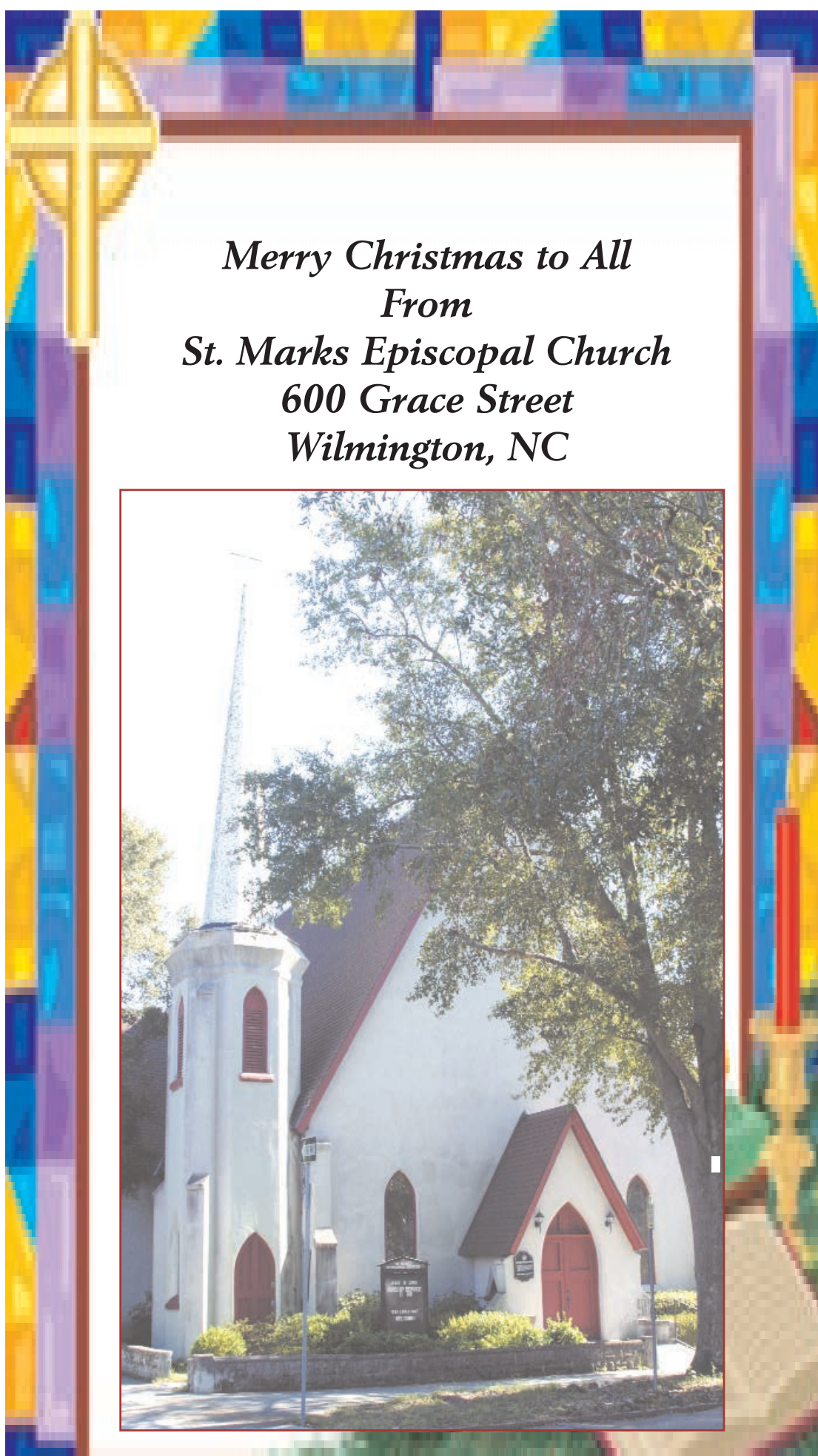
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The *Wilmington Journal* was founded on the principle of the Black Press Credo. The Black Press believes that America can best lead the world away from racial and national antagonism when it accords to every person, regardless of race, color or creed, 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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One Solitary Life



He was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman. He grew up in another obscure village, where He worked in a carpenter shop until He was thirty, then for three years He was an itinerant preacher. He never had a family or owned a home. He never set foot inside a big city. He never traveled two hundred miles from the place He was born. He never wrote a book, or held an office. He did none of the things that usually accompany greatness.

While He was still a young man, the tide of popular opinion turned against Him. His friends deserted Him. He was turned over to His enemies, and went through the mockery of a trial. He was nailed to a cross between two thieves. While He was dying, His executioners gambled for the only piece of property He had, His coat. When He was dead, He was taken down and laid in a borrowed grave.

Twenty centuries have come and gone, and today He is the central figure for much of the human race. All the armies that ever marched, and all the navies that ever sailed, and all the parliaments that ever sat, and all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of man upon this earth as powerfully as the "One Solitary Life." --Author Unknown--

We, at *The Wilmington Journal*, wish you the very best that life has to offer today and always.

THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL



—SALUTES—

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

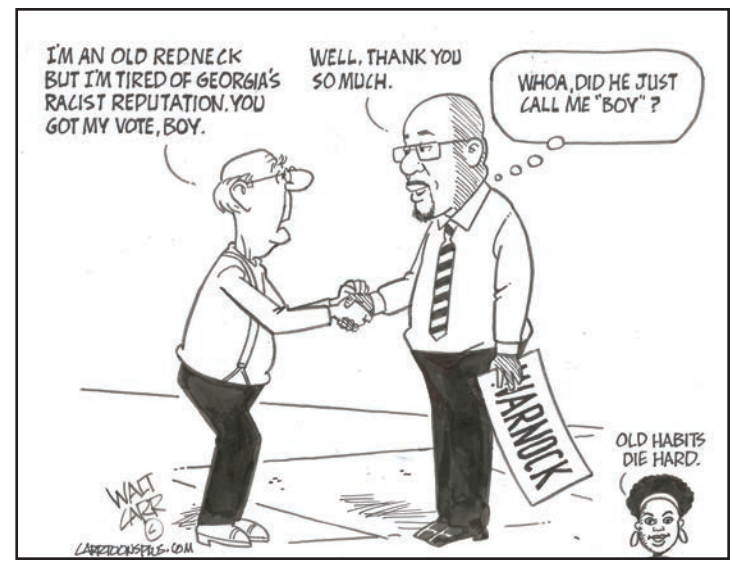
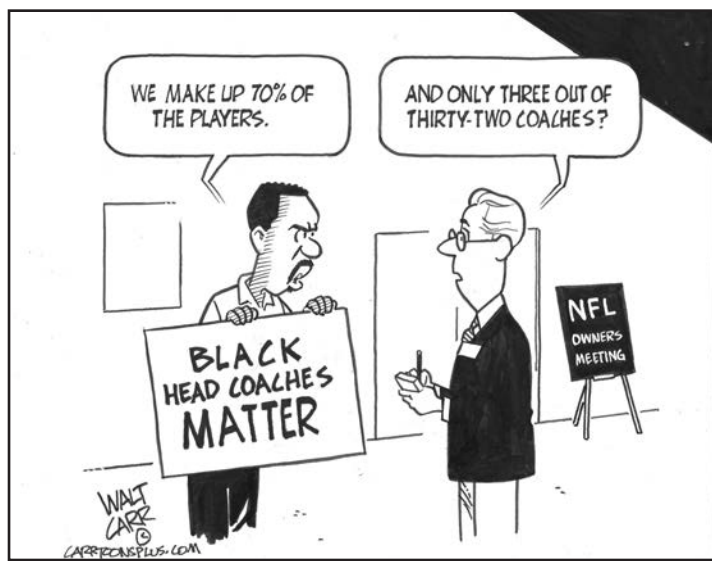
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VISUAL VOICE



MATTERS OF OPINION

REALITY CHECK

Black people should cease claiming people who want other identities

(Via TriceEdneyWire.com)

While recently watching a television program, "Tiger Woods: America's Son," I remembered a January 1992 column in which I listed my greatest wishes for that year: My first wish was that "We as a proud people would cease claiming people who don't want to be with us." We are not so lacking in positive, quality black people that we must claim people who desire other identities. It's way past time when we should identify such people however they desire.

Tiger Woods, who was described in the program as having "The blood of 4 races in his veins," has consistently described himself as a Cablasan. Which is exactly what I call him on those rare occasions he comes up in a conversation. He lives in the

same self-proclaimed racial no man's land as entertainer Whoopi Goldberg, Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas and academician Thomas Sowell, all of whom were quoted in the 1992 column. In her memoir, "Whoopi Goldberg-Book," the entertainer declared "Call me an asshole, call me a blowhard, but don't call me an African American. Please. It divides us as a nation and as a people and it kinda pisses me off. It diminishes everything I've accomplished."

Justice Thomas was quoted in the Thomas-loving Richmond-Times Dispatch as saying, before he was appointed to the Supreme Court, "If I

ever went to the EEOC (Equal Employment Opportunity Commission) or did anything directly connected with Blacks, my career would be irreparably ruined. The monkey would be on my back because I'm black. People meeting me for the first time would automatically dismiss my thinking as second rate." Please note that he had no critical words for those who would automatically make such an assumption. Academician Sowell was quoted as saying "Black students with SAT scores of 1,000 should not consider going to any black college because they will be educationally mismatched."

The above "persons of color" should be very glad that civil and human rights warriors such as Medgar Evers, Fannie Lou Hamer, Ella Baker, C. DeLores Tucker, Lerone Bennett, Jr., Martin Luther King, Jr.,

Kwame Toure, Brother Malcolm X and those black youngsters who put their lives on the line on Bloody Sunday in Selma, Alabama in 1965 didn't share their positions. If they had Woods wouldn't have had an opportunity to win all of those Masters Golf Tournaments, Goldberg wouldn't be appearing regularly in films and on television, Thomas wouldn't be a Supreme Court Justice and Sowell wouldn't be glorified in the white academic world.

As we move into what can possibly be a very contentious 2021, it's very important that serious black folks reject such people as role models for our children.

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



A. Peter Bailey

Are you taking the COVID-19 vaccine?

(Via TriceEdneyWire.com)

Now comes the moment of truth. The time has come when each of us will have to make a personal decision about whether to take the COVID-19 vaccine or not. Following months of the most unimageable experience of living in the midst of a global pandemic, the promise of the vaccine hoped for is finally at hand. Within days or weeks, people are going to start receiving the first of a two-dose vaccine. As opposed to influencing your decision or telling you what you should do; this column will contribute to making sure that your decision is an informed decision.

Making sure that you have asked the right questions, especially about the stuff you don't understand, is the important thing you can do to guarantee that the decision you make is one that you can live with.

Here are a few areas that look at some of the most common questions that folks have posed to me. I thought you might find them helpful:

What's different about this vaccine? The COVID-19 vaccines are different because they use a "new" technology called mRNA. The CDC describes how it works by saying, "To trigger an immune response, many vaccines put a weakened or inactivated germ into our bodies. Not mRNA vaccines. Instead, they teach our cells how to make a protein—or even just a piece of a protein—that triggers an immune response inside our bodies. That immune response, which produces antibodies, is what protects us from getting infected

if the real virus enters our bodies".

This vaccine works by providing a "genetic code" for our cells to produce viral proteins. Once the proteins (which don't cause disease) are produced, the body launches an immune response against the virus, enabling a person to develop immunity to that virus should it ever show up again. This is a new technology with vaccines in humans. Even though there has



Glenn Ellis

been research in the past, it has not been successful until now.

Whereas in the past, vaccines worked by introducing small parts of either live or inactive viruses, in order to create a "memory" in the immune system against a future invader of the same type of virus; mRNA works in a whole different way. They actually introduced a protein in the injection, which causes the immune system to react and attack it as an invader. The protein then has a "plan" programmed (so to speak) inside to instruct the immune system to create antibodies for the COVID-19 virus, should it ever show up.

Clearly, this is a remarkable breakthrough in the world of vaccines! However, there are some concerns that worry some experts. mRNA's protein is a foreign invader, and there is the possibility, albeit it slight, that it could trigger an immune response separate from the one intend-

ed, and cause an inflammatory response from the immune system. This was at the heart of some of the unsuccessful attempts with mRNA as a vaccine.

There is also the question of the effectiveness and safety in those people with chronic medical conditions. Is there data on how it works in those populations and communities? Almost 60 percent of American adults have at least one chronic medical condition. 40 percent of U.S. adults are obese; one of the most common underlying conditions that increases one's risk for severe illness. The more underlying medical conditions people have, the higher their risk. What percentage of the study population reflected people with pre-existing chronic conditions?

And then there are our seniors and elderly. Elderly and older adults are at greatest risk of severe disease and death from COVID-19. People older than 65 years makeup 9% of the world's population, and yet they account for 30% to 40% of cases and more than 80% of deaths. A review of recent research literature shows that older adults were excluded from more than 50% of COVID-19 clinical drug trials and 100% of vaccine trials. Again, what percentage of the study population reflected people who were older?

According to the CDC, all but one of the COVID-19 vaccines that are currently in Phase 3 clinical trials in the United States use two shots. The first shot starts building protection. A second shot a few weeks later is needed to get the most protection the vaccine has to offer. What this means is that most of should-

n't expect to receive and see protection from the vaccine (assuming it works, and enough people take it) until late spring or early Summer 2021. This means that the best thing all of us can do, regardless of our decision on taking the vaccine, is to remain vigilant in keeping up the protective measures of sanitation, physical distancing, and wearing face masks.

Finally, keep in mind that what we know so far about the vaccines is based on preliminary data. To date, there have been no peer-reviewed published studies. If it walks like a duck, and quacks like a duck, it's a duck. This is still a clinical trial. Learn all you can; educate yourself and your family; make an informed decision. Don't forget that Information is the Best Medicine".

Remember, I'm not a doctor. I just sound like one. Take good care of yourself and live the best life possible!

The information included in this column is for educational purposes only. I do not dispense medical advice or prescribe the use of any technique as a replacement form of treatment for physical, mental or medical problems by your doctor either directly or indirectly. Glenn Ellis, MPH is a Visiting Scholar at The National Bioethics Center at Tuskegee University and a Harvard Medical School Fellow in Research Bioethics (2018) and Narrative Bioethics (2020). He is author of *Which Doctor? and Information is the Best Medicine*. Ellis is an active media contributor on Health Equity and Medical Ethics. For more good health information visit: www.glennellis.com.

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TO BE EQUAL

National Urban League helping to shape Biden-Harris Cabinet

(Via TriceEdneyWire.com)

"You shape the lives of millions of Americans, as well as American history, and all for the better. I really mean it when I say the country needs you more than any time in the past. The Urban League has stared down some tough, tough periods in American history, and the Urban League has never backed down. You stuck to your core mission: A fight for economic justice and social justice. You've and you've done it in good times and bad times. You have boosted millions of Americans out of poverty into the middle class. You've kept your mission." -- Joe Biden, 2019 National Urban League Conference, Indianapolis

group of civil rights leaders who met with the President-elect and Vice President-elect to discuss the critical issues of racial equity and diversity in their administration.

The meeting was positive and encouraging. The President-elect reaffirmed his commitment to racial justice. We underscored that our job as historical civil rights leaders is first, to help him and secondly, to hold him accountable for the commitments that were made.



Marc Morial

It is essential that the incoming administration assemble a cabinet and advisors that reflect the nation's diversity. The consent of the governed is conferred not only by an election, but by the people seeing themselves among those who govern.

Almost half of nominees for cabinet and cabinet-level positions announced so far are people of color, including African Americans General Lloyd Austin as secretary of Defense and Representative Marcia Fudge as Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

Among the selections for

cabinet-level positions and senior staff, President-elect Biden has nominated four prominent women of color: Neera Tanden to direct the Office of Management and Budget; Katherine Tai as U.S. trade representative, Linda Thomas - Greenfield as United Nations Ambassador and Cecilia Rouse to chair the Council of Economic Advisors.

This is a welcome and encouraging development following the least diverse administration since Ronald Reagan's first term. But during the meeting with the President-elect and Vice President-elect, we made it clear that appointing a diverse cabinet and advisors is not a substitute for a policy agenda that promotes racial justice and opportunity.

In the first 100 days of the Biden Harris administration, we would like to see action on voting rights, action on criminal justice reform and an equitable distribution plan for the COVID vaccine. We also would like to see an economic framework that makes a down payment toward reducing and eliminating the racial wealth gap.

Both Attorneys General under the current administration have refused to investigate misconduct among police departments, either individual

misconduct or patterns of conduct. That should be reversed on day one: put the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division back in business and allow them to do their job.

Both President-elect Biden and Vice President-elect Harris have been longtime allies of the National Urban League. We honored the Vice President-elect as one of the first recipients of our "Woman of Power" awards in 2004, just after she was elected District Attorney of San Francisco. In 2017, when she assumed office as California's third female U.S. Senator, and the first of Jamaican or Indian ancestry, we honored her with the Hiram Revels Award for Achievement, named for the first African American to serve in the U.S. Congress. Both she and President-elect Biden have been frequent speakers at the National Urban League Conference and our Legislative Policy Conference.

The National Urban League is prepared to work closely with the Biden-Harris Administration to make sure they follow through on their commitments and to help them achieve these goals.

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

CRAZY FAITH MINISTRIES
When Black people vote

One of the staples of American democracy is that whenever black people vote, white politicians get upset and do all they can to curtail their capacity to do so.

This wrangling that has been going on since President-elect Joe Biden won the November 3rd election has been frustrating and troubling, but it is not new. In times past, it has been an emerging voting black populace which has incited and inspired white mobs to attack black people, going so far at times to destroy entire black communities. (https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/the-fix/wp/2016/11/02/the-long-history-of-black-voter-suppression-in-american-politics/) In 1922, planes flew over Tulsa, Oklahoma - the city where white mobs had destroyed the black community of Greenwood - warning black people not to even try to vote.

Medgar Evers, who served this country in World War II, was confronted by a white mob when he attempted to vote upon returning home. (https://www.crf-usa.org/black-history-month/race-and-voting-in-the-segregated-south) Evers was murdered by angry whites who resented his activist work to get black people to register to vote in 1963, and the home of NAACP leader Vernon Dahmer was firebombed by angry whites in 1965, killing him.

In spite of the battle cry used by whites of wanting "law and order," these episodes of violence against black people for merely exercising - or trying to exercise - their right to vote have seldom resulted in the mobs being held to accountability.

One would think that in the 21st century, white opposition against black voters would have abated, but this year is pulling the coverlet off the latent resentment that white politicians have against black people voting - and is also revealing that they know that "the black vote" is extremely powerful.

The efforts of the current president to disenfranchise black ballots by targeting cities where large numbers of black people vote have indicated the width and the breadth of white resentment and fear of black voters, and the fact that so many of this president's followers are supporting him in his effort to overturn this election is troubling - but again, not surprising. The white mob mentality that has always been a part of American culture is revealing itself, and though the president's followers carry and wave American flags, their actions are as anti-American and anti-democracy as they come.

A recent story came out that said Republicans in Georgia are going to be "checking" for fraudulent votes in the upcoming run-off election between Republicans Kelly Loeffler and David Perdue and Democrats Rev. Raphael Warnock and Jon Ossoff, but the fact that a run-off election is being held is a reminder that the phenomenon of the run-off election was instituted in Georgia to try to suppress the black vote. (https://www.crf-usa.org/black-history-month/race-and-voting-in-the-segregated-south)

The rancid racism of America has been accentuated and spotlighted by the actions and words of the current president and his followers, pushing some of his most ardent supporters to institute martial law in order to force an election "do-over." (https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/us-election-2020/michael-flynn-suspend-constitution-martial-law-trump-re-election-b1765467.html) The fact that this action is being called by a retired military man, Michael Flynn, reveals the level of racial animus that exists in this country. How can one fight for "America" but yet support ignoring its Constitution and overturning a perfectly legal election?

The fact that over 70 million voted for the current president means that a huge swath of white people still do not think black people belong here - at least not as American citizens. The same inclination toward mob violence against black people who are merely exercising their right to vote exists now as it did when Medgar Evers and Vernon Dahmer were murdered.

The prayer is that black people do not retreat or stand down, but instead push forward and exercise the right to vote. We have been fighting for our rights as American citizens since we were brought here. Hopefully, the events that are going on now will not discourage us, but instead push us to continue to aggressively fight against the injustice and the violence that has always attended our participation in this democracy and this economy which we helped build.

Please consider purchasing my latest book, With Liberty and Justice for Some: The Bible, the Constitution and Racism in America.

Dr. Susan K Smith . To inquire about booking her, contact cassady2euca@icloud.com. Please consider purchasing my latest book, With Liberty and Justice for Some: The Bible, the Constitution and Racism in America.

JACKSON

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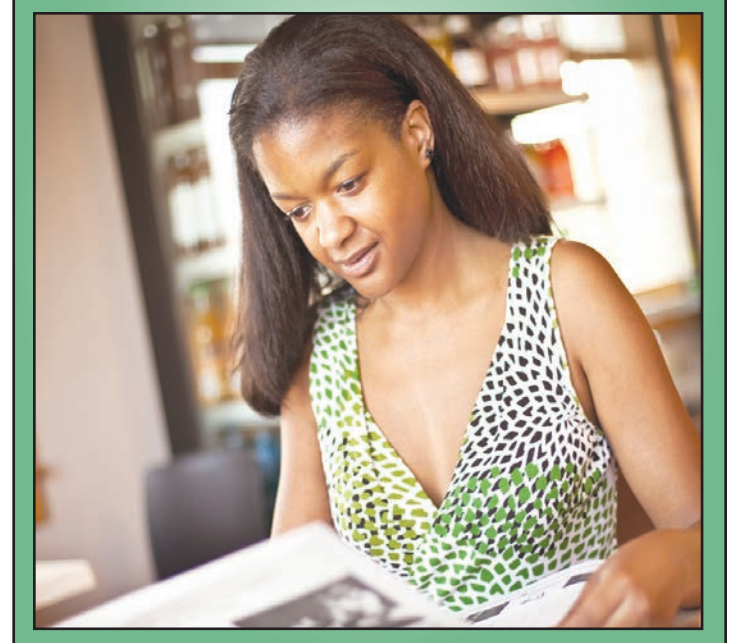
let us remember the message of Christmas.

Jesus demonstrated the astonishing power of faith, hope and charity, the importance of love. He showed that people of conscience can make a difference, even

against the most powerful oppressor. He demonstrated the strength of summoning our better angels, rather than rousing our fears or feeding our divisions. This Christmas, this surely is a message to remember Merry Christmas, everybody

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

THE BLACK PRESS:
USE It or LOSE It!



JACKSON

Continued on this page

President-Elect Biden nominates first Black Secretary of Defense

(Via NNPAnewsWire.com)

President-elect Joe Biden has nominated retired Army Gen. Lloyd Austin, the former U.S. Central Command commander, as secretary of defense.

If confirmed by the Senate, Gen. Austin would be the first Black man to lead the Department of Defense.

The selection also would make Gen. Austin one of the most prominent members of the incoming Biden-Kamala Harris Cabinet.

The secretary of defense controls the country's largest government agency, commanding troops worldwide and the Pentagon's internal workings.

It also keeps with Biden's promise to have a staff and cabinet that reflects America's diversity.

"I know firsthand from our time together on the [United Technologies] board that General Austin will be a wonderful choice for Secretary of Defense," former New Jersey Gov. Christine Todd Whitman tweeted.

The decorated 67-year-old has accumulated many awards and decorations, including five Defense Distinguished Service Medals, the country's highest noncombat-related military honor,

and three Distinguished Service Medals; the Silver Star, the nation's third-highest award for valor in combat; and two Legions of Merit.

According to his biography, Gen. Austin began his career in the U.S. Army in 1975 as second lieutenant in the infantry and rose through the ranks to command troops in combat at the 1-, 2-, 3-, and 4-star levels.



Stacy M. Brown

Gen. Austin served in numerous command and staff positions in the U.S. and around the world.

These include Operation Safe Haven in Panama with the 82nd Airborne Division; Operation Iraqi Freedom, spearheading the 2003 invasion of Iraq as the assistant division commander for the 3rd Infantry Division; and Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan as the commander of the 10th Mountain Division (Light).

In 2008 Gen. Austin returned to Iraq as the commanding general of the Multi-National Corps-Iraq during the period when the surge forces were drawing down under Operation Iraqi

Freedom.

In 2009 Gen. Austin was named director of the Joint Staff at the Pentagon.

Following that assignment, Gen. Austin served another tour in Iraq as the commanding general of United States Forces-Iraq, responsible for the transition of all U.S. and Coalition military forces and equipment out of the country by the December 2011 deadline.

In 2012 General Austin served as the 33rd vice chief of staff of the Army, culminating his military career as the 12th commander of U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) from 2013 to 2016.

As CENTCOM commander, he was responsible for military strategy and joint operations throughout the Middle East and Central and South Asia. He was also the architect and oversaw the military campaign's execution to defeat the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria. He retired from the military on May 1, 2016 and is now the founder and president of The Austin Strategy Group.

Gen. Austin also worked with the President-Elect as vice chief of staff of the Army when Biden served as Vice President under Barack Obama.

Gen. Austin would require a congressional waiver for confirmation to the civilian



LOYD AUSTIN

post because he retired from active-duty service only four years ago.

Federal law requires seven years of retirement from active duty before taking on the role.

Retired Marine Gen. James Mattis received a waiver from Congress in 2017 to serve as President Donald Trump's defense secretary.

"Very good news for national security," Retired Four-Star Gen. Barry McCaffrey stated. "Ret Gen. Lloyd Austin is a towering figure in Armed Forces. Enormous global experience. Joint Staff and Army staff Pentagon. Very easy to deal with. Loved by the military. Silver Star Valor. West Point. M.A. Auburn. MBA."

Stacy M. Brown, NNPA Newswire Senior National Correspondent.

RAINBOW COALITION

The True meaning of Christmas is of vital importance in these divisive times

(Via TriceEdneyWire.com)

On Friday, millions of people across the world will celebrate Christmas. Here and abroad, safety — staying home, social distancing, wearing masks, being sensible — requires limits on the gatherings and parties. Yet the bells still ring, music is in the air, lights on homes and lampposts shine, blessings are shared. For so many, this holiday is a difficult time: the cold and hungry, those separated from families, those alone or imprisoned or sick.

With the pandemic raging and millions unemployed and on the verge of eviction, this Christmas will witness tears among the smiles. Each year at this time, I use this column to remind us of the true meaning of Christmas. Christmas is literally the mass for Christ, marking the birth of Jesus. He was born under occupation. Joseph and Mary were ordered to go far from home to register with authorities.

The innkeeper told Joseph there was no room at the inn. Jesus was born on a cold night in a stable, lying in a manger, an "at risk baby." His earthly father was a carpenter,

not a prince or a banker. Jesus was born at a time of great misery and turmoil, with his country under Roman occupation.

Prophets predicted that a new Messiah was coming — a King of Kings — who would rout the occupiers and free the people. Many expected a mighty warrior, like the superheroes of today's movies, who would mobilize an army to defeat Rome's legions.



Rev. Jesse Jackson, Sr.

Fearing the prophecy, the Roman King Herod ordered the "massacre of the innocents," the slaughter of all boys two and under in Bethlehem and the nearby region.

Jesus confounded both Herod's fears and the peoples' fantasies. He was a man of peace, not of war. He gathered disciples, not soldiers. He began his ministry by quoting Isaiah 62:1: "The Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor."

We will be judged, he taught us, by how we treat

"the least of these," by how we treat the stranger on the Jericho Road. He called us on to feed the hungry, to clothe the naked, to care for the sick, to offer aid to the refugee.

Jesus was the great liberator, but by his words and example, not by his sword. He converted rather than conquered. He accumulated no worldly wealth. He threw the moneylenders from the temple. He owned no home, no land, and had no regular paycheck. His time with us was too brief, and he was crucified for his ministry. And yet, Jesus succeeded beyond all expectation to transform the world.

The Prince of Peace, he taught us that peace is not the absence of violence; it is the presence of justice and righteousness. These days, Christmas too often becomes a stressful holiday rather than a prayerful holy day. It is a time of sales, shopping and Santa. Yet Jesus taught us to focus on the most vulnerable among us. This is even more vital today. Poverty is rising, not falling. Food kitchens are overwhelmed.

Millions of hard-working people have lost their jobs through no fault of their

Costin receives Retired Teachers of the Cape Area Award Scholarship

BY LAURA MCINTYRE
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Retired Teachers of the Cape Area was founded in 1964.

We are thankful to the founders Bertha Berry, Nada Cotton, Katherine Crowley, Lula Davis, Margaret Lofton, and Ada McKoy for the foundation they laid. Its membership is made up of retirees from Brunswick, New Hanover, and Pender Counties.

We are retired teachers, teacher assistants, counselors, administrators, and other school personnel whose main focus is the wel-

fare of students. The organization continues the legacy of its founders as it promotes and supports the profession and the education of the boys and girls of the Cape Fear Area.

Retired Teachers give a scholarship annually to a graduating high school student from one of the three counties on a rotating basis. The first scholarship was awarded in 1966.

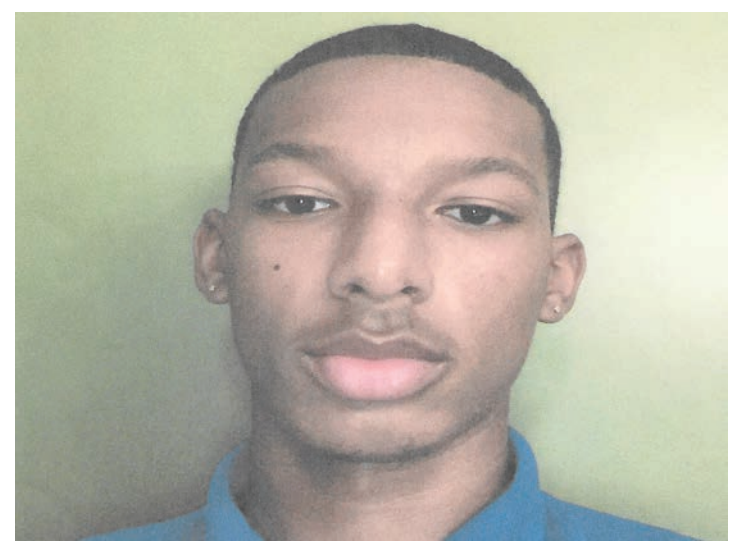
The 2020 \$1000 Scholarship recipient is from Pender County. He is La' Darius Raheim Costin, a graduate of Heidi Trask High School. Mr. Costin graduated with a 3.81 GPA. He was a member of

the National Honor Society, Olympiad, and the Principal Council. La' Darius also played basketball and football. He is enrolled at North Carolina State University where he plans to major in computer engineering. La' Darius is the son of Mrs. Jessica Lofton of Maple Hill, NC.

In addition to giving an annual scholarship, the Retired Teachers of the Cape Fear Area give a donation to an elementary or middle school each year to use where it is needed. The 2019-2020 recipient was Cape Fear Middle School, Rocky Point, NC. Its most recent charity

presentations went to Community Boys and Girls Club of Wilmington, Elderhaus, and Jade Dance Group.

The organization meets the second Wednesday in the months of October through May. The 2020-2022 Officers are: President- Rev. Jimmy Faison, Vice President-Florence Warren, Secretary-Gracie McLarty, Asst. Secretary-Michael Brown, Financial Secretary-Gail Bryan, Corresponding Secretary-Carolyn Blanding, Treasurer-Sonia Jordan Noble, Chaplain-Verda Darryl, Reporter- Emelie Todd.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

LA'DARIUS RAHEIM COSTIN

GET THAT DEED AND FLIP THOSE KEYS!

It's the gift that keeps on giving

It is Christmas Eve, a time to be together with the ones you love and cherish and provide for. It is during these times that we can reflect on how much we want everything possible that we can provide for them.

Today, as you are reflecting, I encourage you to consider how much more special today would have been if you were celebrating in your own home. I want you to consider how that tree, those gifts, that meal, how it all would have been a bit more joyful, tastier, sweeter if you were in your own. I want you to consider how you

might have done a little more decorating, a little more inside and outside if it was your own yard, your own bushes, your own fence. Oh, so maybe you went all out anyway despite it's not yours, but I'm willing to guess, you would have done a little something more if it had been.

Today as you prepare to celebrate the Holidays with the family, I encourage you to give

thought to giving them the gift that keeps on giving. That gift is homeownership. I have said many times that that 1st deed can lead to so many other deeds for our families. It is a fact that when Daddy and Mama owns, the kids are more likely to become homeowners as they come of age. It also starts the beginning of financial stability for families. The moment you stop paying rent and start paying a mortgage instead, it all begins from there.

Every month you pay your mortgage, and every year you hold onto that home, you are

winning. You are decreasing the amount of the debt, and the home is growing in value (Equity) year after year. Do you know how many families have been able to pull out of their home equity to start businesses? How they paid for college educations vs. getting loans. How they take the equity from the 1st home to go buy the 2nd home and put a tenant in the 1st home to pay it off for them. Don't you know you are doing that same thing for your landlord now? Paying off that home for them, building more equity in that home for their kids, and not your own family?

I saw a few headlines over the last few days of: "Mom surprises son with his own barber-shop set up in their back yard" and "Black Couple that started from nothing, purchases 53-acres ranch to pass down to their kids." "Single Mother purchases 1st home for her 2 young daughters." All these headlines had a commonality, they did it for the kids. They all realized that it all starts with them, the parent to set things in motion, set things going in the right direction for the next generations to come. So, let me end here by saying, I know you love them, I know

you will continue to do everything to protect, provide, and care for them. I want you to know that you deserve this, the kids deserve it, and your born or unborn grandkids deserve it. "Give the Gift that keeps on giving."

Until next time, please share this article with at least 3 people and do me a favor; "Tell them they deserve it too." Reach out for a free game plan to own in the next 18 months or less. MERRY CHRISTMAS.

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

COVID-19: A real different holiday season

(TriceEdneyWire.com)

As if losing the ability to gather for each of our traditional forms and places of worship, as well as mourning and burying our dead according to our customs wasn't all we thought we could bear, COVID-19 continues to take its toll in unexpected ways. For most, this is the first time that we have to make a deci-

sion to forgo the annual holiday trip or skip the family gathering. No seeing the joyful faces of families and friends, as we have all come to expect and enjoy.

Glenn Ellis

For some of us, this is the time to make

amends for yearlong petty disputes; for others it's a season to introduce new babies or significant others to the family; and then there are those for whom it is the therapeutic intervention we need to return us to our "roots", and be infused with the familial and ancestral spirit that enables us to cope with the challenges of our daily lives.

It's time for us to start to pay attention to the emotion-

al and mental toll that the pandemic is causing in all of our lives; and whether we like it or not, we're going to have to cope not just with our own emotions, but our family's emotions, too.

Let me acknowledge that I am under no illusion that everyone doesn't share this degree of caution or concern. We've seen a wide range of reactions to the pandemic, from those who take it very seriously to those who treat it like it's not such a big deal. We have seen every day for the past six or seven months, that there are millions of people in this country who could care less about allowing this virus to interfere with their lives, especially during this holiday season. Even though the TSA screen over 2 million people at airports over a 48 hour period last week, I'd like to believe that most of us are like me, being cautious and following all of the CDC's guidelines for preventive measures...like not traveling for the holidays. However, like me, many of you also have family and friends who are dismissive of the danger; and if so, you need to deal with the conflict if you have decided to skip the festivities. If your family and friends don't think like you about the threat that this virus brings, then they absolutely won't understand your decision not to celebrate your holiday season in a totally distant, but safe, way.

A couple of facts pointed out in research from the Kaiser Family Foundation makes clear why this concern is of particular importance for Black folks. We are "at an increased risk for serious illness if they contract COVID-19 due to higher rates of

underlying health conditions, such as diabetes, asthma, hypertension, and obesity compared to whites; more likely to work in the service industries such as restaurants, retail, and hospitality that are particularly at risk for loss of income during the pandemic; more likely to live in housing situations, such as multigenerational families or low-income and public housing that make it difficult to social distance or self-isolate; and often working in jobs that are not amenable to teleworking and use public transportation that puts them at risk for exposure to COVID-19.

I don't know about you, but every Black person I know either fits this profile or have a friend or relative who is a part of their normal holiday celebrations that they would contact if things go on as they have in holidays past. If you've made a decision to do things differently this year, remember that these people won't understand, and you could find yourself in the throes of some deep resentment. Are you ready for that from the people you love and care about the most? How are you planning to approach these conversations? You might want to put some thought into it so that you will be prepared for the inevitable. The last thing any of us want is to cause damage in our most meaningful relationships.

Always remember your responsibility to your friends and family, always make the goal to set a boundary and stick up for yourself and your family. Of course, food is a meaningful part of our cultural and history for our holiday experiences. If you live in close proximity to your family, consider a socially-dis-

tanced food exchange. So if you are not comfortable going to a family member's house for a long sit-down meal, you can cook various dishes and drop them off.

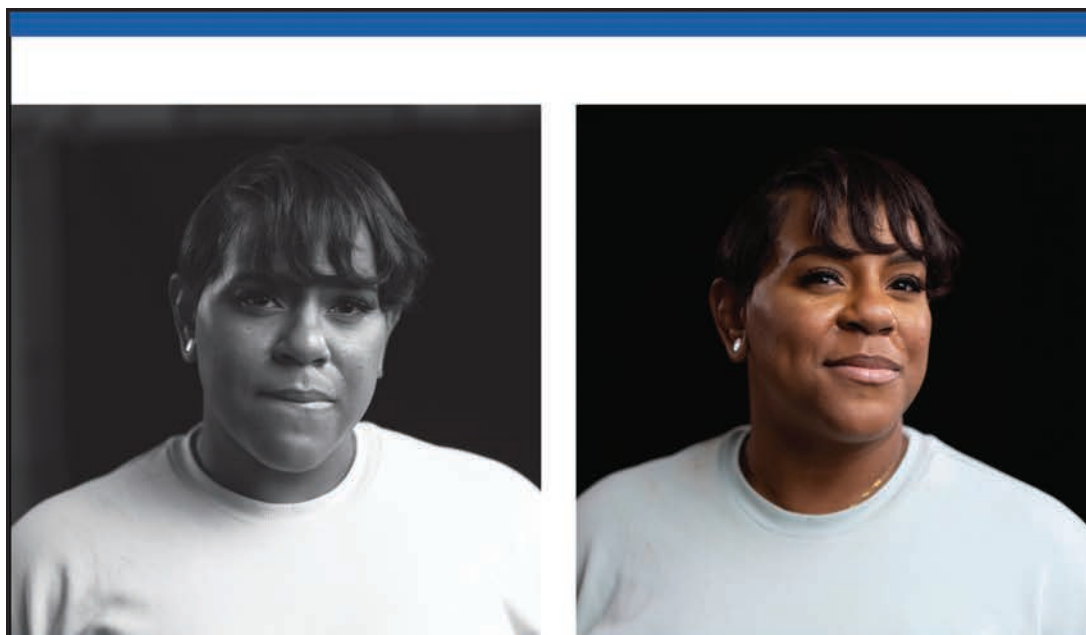
It's okay to admit that you're sad and disappointed and that you'll miss these events. But, it's entirely possible to still turn the holidays into a positive experience with alternative plans, even if they're not the plans you'd hoped for.

When you're thinking about holiday rituals and adapting to new or different circumstances, ask yourself, again, if it's something meaningful to you or something that feels like an obligation.

If it's meaningful, think about how you can do the things to be safe, so that you can still recreate the experiences in the holidays to come.

Remember I'm not a doctor. I just sound like one! Take good care of yourself and live the best life possible!

The information included in this column is for educational purposes only. I do not dispense medical advice or prescribe the use of any technique as a replacement form of treatment for physical, mental or medical problems by your doctor either directly or indirectly. Glenn Ellis, MPH is a Visiting Scholar at The National Bioethics Center at Tuskegee University and a Harvard Medical School Fellow in Research Bioethics and Writing. He is author of Which Doctor? and Information is the Best Medicine. Ellis is an active media contributor on Health Equity and Medical Ethics. For more good health information visit: www.glennellis.com.



Sexual assault can happen to anyone. It's not your fault.

Coastal Horizons' Rape Crisis Center (RCC) is here to help. We provide a completely free and confidential range of services, including 24-hour crisis response, individual counseling, law enforcement/court advocacy, and referrals. **No one asks to be sexually assaulted, and all survivors deserve support.**

No matter when it happened, even years ago, our services are free to survivors, family and friends. Share only what you're comfortable with, and our staff will assist you. There's never any judging, we believe you, and we know that asking for support is a sign of strength.

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LORETTA FAYE HIGHSMITH

THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

HAS A MESSAGE FOR YOU

TO COME PICK UP

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ICONIC MEETS
INNOVATIVE
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RESULT
IS ELECTRIC!



The All-Electric Mustang Mach-E*

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*Preproduction computer generated image shown. Available late 2020.

Alton R. Horne

On Wednesday, December 9th 2020, Alton Ray Horne bid farewell to his earthly home and said hello to his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Graveside services were held on Friday, December 18, 2020 at Oleander Memorial Gardens.

Alton was born on October 24, 1937 in Fountain, North Carolina to the late John and Bertha Horne.

Alton was an active member at Bethel Holiness Church, where he served as a Trustee, Usher, Sunday School teacher and Superintendent. He later became an ordained Deacon.

Alton was a loving and devoted husband of 55 years to his wife, Tarrin, and a dotting father to his only son, Craig. Alton's pride and joy were his grandsons, Myles and Mason. He was employed for over 33 years at Pfizer Pharmaceuticals in Southport, NC. He also served in the US Army from for 6 years. Alton's gentle and giving heart compelled him to always extend a helping hand to those that needed assistance. He will be greatly missed by so many!

He was preceded in death by his parents and sister, Grace L. Horne.

His love and memories will remain in the heart of his wife, Tarrin L. Horne of the home; son, Craig Horne (Ellen) of Raleigh, NC; grandsons, Myles and Mason Horne of Raleigh, NC; siblings, William Horne (Helen) and Larry Horne (Ernestine) both of Greenville, NC, Bobby Horne (Mildred) of Yorktown, VA and Regina Reid (Marvin) of Providence Forge, VA; aunt, Olivia Tyson of Capital Heights, MD; sister-in-law, Dorothy Richardson of Columbus, NJ; brother-in-law, Calvin Lewis (Cynthia) of Windsor, GA, Bernice Harrell of Englewood, NJ, and a host of other relatives and friends. Services entrusted to Davis Funeral Home, 901 S. 5th Ave, Wilmington, NC 28401. Please share memories and condolences with the family at www.davisfuneralhome-nc.com.

Conway Williams, Jr.

Conway Williams, Jr., age 77, of Castle Hayne, passed away Sunday, December 13, 2020 at his home. A celebration of Mr. Williams' life was held on Friday, December 18, 2020 at Davis Funeral Home.

Conway met the love of his life, Barbara Williams in Jersey City, NJ; they were married for 44 years. Conway and Barbara relocated to Wilmington, NC where he started his career as a truck driver. Conway was a member of The Rock of Wilmington where he served for 20 years as a greeter and van driver. He always had a smile on his face and a positive attitude up until his untimely passing. If you asked him how he was doing, his reply was always, "I'm doing real good."

Conway was a devoted husband, loving father and grandfather. He loved planting vegetables in his garden and he absolutely loved kids!!

His love and memories will remain in the heart of his wife, Minister Barbara Williams of the home; children, Lavola R. Applewhite of Woodbridge, VA, Raymond Davis, Jr. and Kim Shannon both of Atlanta, GA; siblings, Benny Lee Williams of Dawson, GA, John Thomas Williams of Boston, MA and Lucy Mae Williams of Cambridge, MA, 9 grandchildren, 10 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.davisfuneralhome-nc.com.

Abraham Pellom

On Sunday, December 13, 2020, God dispatched an angel and called our dear one home to rest. A graveside service was held on Sunday, December 20, 2020 at Pellom Cemetery in Leland.

Abraham was born July 28, 1958 to the late Harry Hulon Pellom, Sr. and Alma J. Clay Pellom.

Abraham accepted Christ at an early age and joined Christian Hope Christian Church. He was a 1976 graduate of North Brunswick High School in Leland,

North Carolina and attended Methodist College in Fayetteville, North Carolina. Abraham served his country in the United States Coast Guard.

Abraham was preceded in death by his brothers, Audwin L. Pellom, Harry H. Pellom, Jr. and Alex Leon Pellom; and a sister, Helen E. McCain.

He leaves to cherish his memories a devoted wife of 12 years, whom he loved and cherished, Mrs. Ida Jaither Pellom; a loving son, who was his heart, Marcus Pellom (Halima Q. Pellom); three sisters, Della A. Sloan of Hampstead, NC, Mary A. Sloan (Willie) of Leland, NC, and Shelia Pellom-Spaulding (Greg) of Wilmington, NC; a devoted brother; Jonathan Pellom (Beverly) of Leland, NC; an aunt, Mrs. Lorraine Clay of Hampton, VA; a very special brother-in-law, Thomas Fish Jaither of Atlanta, GA, and brothers-in-law, William Jaither of Ellenwood, GA and Booker T. McCain of Montgomery, AL; four sisters-in-law, Earnestine Pellum of Pensacola, FL, Rita Jaither Dent of Indianapolis, IN and Gloria Jan Jaither of Atlanta, GA; a special sister-in-law, Thomasena Pellom of Leland, NC; three special cousins, Anita "Nitachelle" Blackwell, Richard "Pete" Pellom, and Richard "Ricky" Bryant; a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives, and friends. Services entrusted to Davis Funeral Home, 901 S. 5th Ave, Wilmington, NC 28401. Please share memories and condolences with the family at www.davisfuneralhome-nc.com.

Odessa M. Hill

Odessa M. Hill, age 86, of Wilmington, passed away, Friday, December 18, 2020.

Funeral services will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 24, 2020 at Davis Funeral Home, 901 S 5th Ave., Wilmington, NC 28401. A viewing will be held one (1) hour prior to the service. Services entrusted to Davis Funeral Home, 901 S. 5th Ave, Wilmington, NC 28401. Please share memories and condolences with the family at www.davisfuneralhome-nc.com

In Loving Memory Of



Ezmas Juanita Carmichael
Sunrise 5-22-1937
Sunset 12 -24-1998

In loving memory of my beautiful mother God so you getting tired and a cure was not to be. So he put his arms around you and he whispered Come To Me" with tearful eye we watched you. We watched you fade away. Although we love you dearly, we could not make you stay. A golden heart stopped beating. Hard working hands at rest. God broke our hearts to prove to us, he chose the best. It's lonesome here without you, we miss you more each .Life doesn't seem the same since you have gone away. When days are sad and lonely and everything goes wrong, we seem to hear you whisper "Cheer Up and Carry on" each time we see your picture you seem to smile and say don't, Don't cry I'm in God's hands, we meet again someday

Loving and miss you your family



Honor Your Loved One With A Memoriam

In

THE

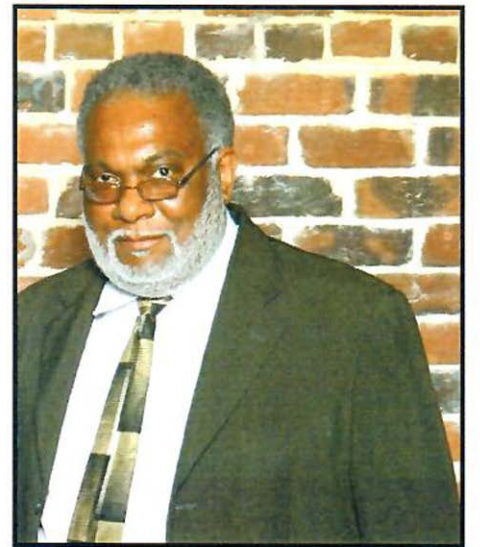
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Samuel Drain, Jr. and Allene Drain
In Memoriam



Connie Drain Green
Funeral Director

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Merry Christmas

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TELL SOMEBODY

St. Matthew 1:18 - 25 ,St. Luke 2: 1 - 14

“Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost. The Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a public example, was minded to put her away privily.

But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the

Holy Ghost.

And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name



Sylvia Hooper

prophet, saying,

Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us. Then Joseph being raised

from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife: And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS." Matthew 1: 18 - 25

"And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, everyone into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David. To be

taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

And so it was that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her first born son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I

bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there were 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." Tell Somebody! Merry Christmas Everybody.

St. Luke 2: 1-14

"Mrs. Sylvia B. Hooper is a native Wilmingtonian, married to Pastor Johnson A. Hooper, First Lady of Faith

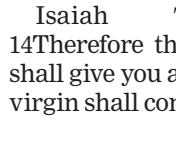
Outreach COGIC, Jacksonville, N.C. She is a mother of three wonderful children and a proud grandmother! She is a Licensed Evangelist with COGIC, International. She is the President of P.W.E. Pastors Wives Empowerment Conference, an annual event held in honor of Pastors and ministers Wives. This support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

A WORD FROM THE LORD

The two Christmas Stores- Part 2

The two Christmas stores continue: Notice I haven't given the big Lie but just a few lines (Santa Claus and the Easter Bunny) is billions of dollars every year. The celebrations of Christmas and Easter began over 2000, a year ago one in Bethlehem of Judaea and the other on the Cross of Calvary in Jerusalem. Let's turn again to the teaching of the infallible word of God which is the fountainhead of all spiritual truth and the revelation of the complete will for mankind. The store began eons ago in the dateless pass in the mind of God, before the foundation of the World. John 8:31-32 (KJV) 32And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

God. The believer shall be adopted, made just like Christ, and conformed to His very likeness and image. Nothing can stop God's purpose for the believer. It is predestinated, set, and marked off." (POSB-C)



Rev. Naconiel Fullwood

manuel, meaning God with us. (POSB-C)

Isaiah 9:5-7 (KJV) 6For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. 7Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this. These prophecies were given over seven hundred years before the birth of Christ.

Luke 2:7-18 (KJV) 7And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. 8And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. 10And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. 11For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. 12And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. 13And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, 14Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men. 15And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. 16And they came with haste and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. 17And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. 18And all they that heard it won-

dered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.

Notice where the first Christmas celebration began: there was the spectacular appearance of the heavenly host. The word "host" (stratias PWS: 2017) means an army of angels, "ten thousand times ten thousand" (Daniel 7:10; cp. Psalm 68:17). God either gave the shepherds a special sight into the spiritual world and dimension or caused the spiritual dimension to appear to physical sight. Note: the angels did two things. 1.They cried out for glory to be lifted up to God, who is the highest possible Being, who dwells in the highest realm of being possible, in heaven itself. 2.They cried out for peace, for goodwill toward men. By peace is meant the peace of reconciliation, the goodwill between God and man. The alienation and separation, struggle and divisiveness, restlessness, and fear caused by sin needed to be solved. The heavenly host was praising God that the alienation and separation were now being solved in the birth of the "Savior, which is Christ the Lord. (POSB-C). The second celebration was done by the shepherds: They immediately decided to visit. "They said one to another, let us now go..."2. They rushed to see for themselves. There is a sense of extreme urgency in these words. They acted with haste, rushed, hurried. They felt an urgency to act

and to act now. They wasted no time. Note: they found the babe just as the angel had said. 3.They shared the message. They first experienced seeing the child themselves, then they shared their experience wherever they went. They were the first to bear witness to the Savior of the world. (POSB-C). The third celebrations were three wise men from the east: Matt. 2:1-12 (KJV) 1"Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, 2Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him. 3When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. 4And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born. 5And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet, 6And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel. 7Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, enquired of them diligently what time the star appeared. 8And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye

have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also. 9When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. 10When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. 11And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh. 12And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way.

The conclusion of this lesson will be next week. Matt. 24:4 (KJV) 4And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. Ephes. 5:5-7 (KJV) 6Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience. 7Be not ye therefore partakers with them. Father, we thank you for your Word that give us Light in our path. Amen.

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

SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING

Walking is so much more than just exercise

If I haven't before, let me ask you now. Can somebody explain a "faith walk" to me? I frequently refer to my own spiritual transformation that way and I've had others describe this "thing" that I'm on ...'as you go down this road'...'as you complete this walk.' I've even used the faith walk phrase when trying to explain a new and different view of the world as now seen by someone who believes being saved is more than just some trite saying.

ney, while going from one place to another at God's direction and even during the subconscious



James Washington

and can learn from?

One of the most memorable experiences I've ever had was to walk with my children when they were toddlers. There was something about them exploring and discovering the world around them without fear, because they

knew Daddy was right there.

Have you ever witnessed this? Have you ever been a part of the experience of walking and talking with someone you were totally in sync with? That must be one of the reasons people refer to discovering God as faith walking.

The effort to get closer to God requires movement. I believe the walk reference is probably an attempt (an excellent one), to describe the experience of following, or trying to follow, the path laid down by Jesus Christ.

The best example we have is Enoch. "Enoch walked with God: then he was no more, because God took him away." Genesis 5:24. The bible talks about walking humbly, walking in the light, walking with

the wise, walking together and yes, walking on water. The point seems to be that life is a journey and if the truth be told, the journey is infinitely better if God goes along for the ride.

We want and at times need to talk to God along the way. Maybe, if we're truly blessed, He'll talk back. Searching for Him here on earth is fundamentally a spiritual experience. To walk with the Lord can only be described as "stepping out on faith." Once taken, life changes. You change. You have to. I know I did.

So, I guess I've kind of cleared up my own dilemma. This faith walk is merely an acknowledgement that you are letting God order your

steps, lead you through, guide you in this world. When you do this, God will direct you straight to Him.

When Jesus spoke again to the people, He said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness; but will have the light of life." John 8:12. So this walk thing suggests by doing so, you can directly connect with God. You can do what Enoch did. You can hope and pray like Enoch that God will take you to Him also. That's the point isn't it?

So, when you get up tomorrow, think about this and let God order your steps consciously for one day. Make a concerted effort to listen and hopefully hear what He is telling you on that day. The

bible says faith comes by hearing. What better way to hear than by taking a deliberate stroll with the Lord? Try it. You might find God showing up in the strangest places and in the strangest faces. But you've got to look.

I guarantee, if you go deliberately looking for God just one day, you won't be alone for long. You see He has this marvelous way of showing up right on time when He knows somebody is indeed seeking Him out. Remember, however, the first step is up to you.

May God bless and keep you always.

James A. Washington Jr., Co-Publisher of the Dallas Weekly News, NNPA Newswire Contributor.

Attend the religious institution of your choice this week

Biden taps Ohio Rep. Marcia Fudge for HUD Secretary Post

BY STACY M. BROWN
NNPA NEWSWIRE SENIOR
NATIONAL
CORRESPONDENT

Marcia Fudge, the Democratic Representative from Ohio and former Congressional Black Caucus Chair, will serve as the Department of Housing and Urban Development secretary under the incoming Joe Biden-Kamala Harris administration.

If confirmed, Fudge, 68, would count as only the second Black woman to lead HUD. Patricia Harris served in that role under President Jimmy Carter.

"We are relieved knowing that the same determination Rep. Fudge brought to defending hungry families from cuts to the Supplemental

Nutrition Assistance Program will be brought to tackle one of the biggest looming threats facing Americans during this economic crisis: evictions and housing insecurity," The CBC offered in a statement.

Fudge, who currently serves on the House Committee on Agriculture, has a long history of championing civil and human rights. Her selection again shows that President-Elect Biden is keeping his campaign promise of a diverse cabinet and staff.

"It will be the most diverse in American history," Biden said earlier this year. The President-Elect this week also named retired Army Gen. Lloyd Austin as Secretary of Defense. If confirmed, Lloyd would become

the first African American to serve in that role.

Biden also picked Xavier Becerra, who is Hispanic, as Secretary of Health and Human Services, and Alejandro Mayorkas, whose parents immigrated from Cuba to the U.S., for Secretary of Homeland Security.

Linda Thomas-Greenfield, a Black woman, was tapped as Ambassador to the United Nations.

"If I were to be named, certainly it's an honor and a privilege to be asked to be in a President's cabinet. It is something that probably in my wildest dreams I never would have thought about," Fudge told CNN.

"So, if I can help this President in any way possible, I'm more than happy."



REPRESENTATIVE MARCIA FUDGE

President-Elect Biden selects Fmr. Ambassador Susan Rice for Top White House Post

BY STACY M. BROWN
NNPA NEWSWIRE SENIOR
NATIONAL
CORRESPONDENT

President-Elect Joe Biden has continued to maintain a campaign promise, even exceeding his pledge for a diverse staff and cabinet. Shortly after naming a Black man to lead the Department of Defense and a Black woman to serve as head of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, Biden said he's appointing former U.S. Ambassador Susan Rice, a Black woman, to serve as Director of the White House Domestic Policy Council.

"With years of experience working at senior levels in the executive branch, Ambassador Rice knows government inside and out and will carry through the

President-elect's vision of a newly empowered Domestic Policy Council and turbocharge the effort to build back better," the Biden transition team wrote in a news release.

The team noted that Rice is among the nation's most senior and experienced government leaders with the skills to harness the power of the federal government to serve the American people.

As a former member of the Cabinet, they said she also understands the challenges and opportunities of running an agency and has extensive experience working with other key members of the Biden-Harris White House team, including the heads of NSC and NEC.

Ambassador Rice's appointment comes as Biden announced key members of his administration, including

Tom Vilsack as Secretary of Agriculture; Congresswoman Marcia Fudge for Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, Denis McDonough as Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and Katherine Tai, as United States Trade Representative.

The diverse and accomplished team will work around the clock to deliver immediate relief to the American people — including working families, veterans, farmers and producers, and everyone fighting for their place in the middle class, the transition team promised in the release.

As the nation emerges from the COVID-19 crisis and its aftermath, Biden and Vice President-Elect Kamala Harris expressed that the team will "bring the highest level of expertise and the bold vision necessary to help



SUSAN RICE

all Americans seize new opportunities and build back better."

"This dedicated and distinguished group of public servants will bring the highest level of experience, compassion, and integrity to bear, solving problems and expanding possibilities for the American people in the face of steep challenges," Biden stated.

"The roles they will take on are where the rubber meets the road — where competent and crisis-tested governance can make a meaningful difference in people's

lives, enhancing the dignity, equity, security, and prosperity of the day-to-day lives of Americans.

"This is the right team for this moment in history, and I know that each of these leaders will hit the ground running on day one to take on the interconnected crises families are facing today."

Added Harris: "Over the past few weeks, President-elect Biden and I have announced members of our administration who will help contain this pandemic, responsibly open our economy, and keep our nation safe

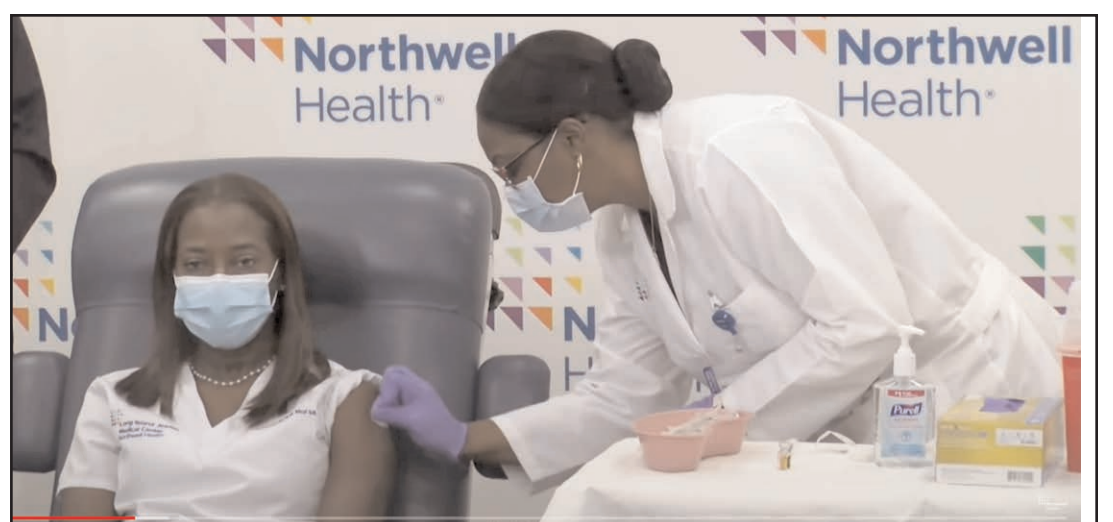
and secure.

"The administration members we are announcing today will help us meet a range of other challenges — from helping make sure no American goes hungry to putting affordable housing within reach for all to caring for veterans and their families and advancing our ideals of opportunity and equality. These deeply experienced public servants reflect the best of our nation and will be ready to hit the ground running on day one to rebuild our country in a way that lifts up all Americans."

You are worth more than red flags and broken mirrors. Love does not equal violence.

There is help and there is hope.

African American nurse first to receive COVID Vaccine



Critical care nurse Sandra Lindsay received the first dose of the two-shot vaccine at about 9:20 a.m. EST on Monday, December 14.

BY STACY M. BROWN
NNPA NEWSWIRE SENIOR
NATIONAL
CORRESPONDENT

Meet the first American recipient of Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine.

Queens, New York — Critical care nurse Sandra Lindsay received the first dose of the two-shot vaccine at about 9:20 a.m. EST on Monday, December 14.

Medical officials administered the dose on camera as New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo and others watched on a livestream.

"The person who is going to take the first vaccine in the state of New York, maybe the first vaccine shot in the United States," Cuomo said of Lindsay as she sat in a chair ahead of receiving the historic jab.

"This vaccine is exciting because I believe this is the weapon that will end the war," the governor said. "It is the beginning of the last chapter of the book, but now we just have to do it. The vaccine doesn't work if it's in the vial. We're here to watch you take the first shot."

Lindsay, who works at Long Island Jewish Medical Center, proclaimed, "I feel great," after receiving the injection from Dr. Michelle Chester, the director of employee health services at Northwell Health.

Cuomo remarked to Lindsay, "You didn't flinch."

Lindsay said she hopes to instill public confidence that the vaccine is safe.

"I feel hopeful today, relieved. I feel like healing is coming," Lindsay exclaimed.

Pfizer's vaccine was

expected to arrive via Federal Express and UPS freight and ground transportation at 145 locations across all 50 states in the U.S. Monday morning.

The vaccine was authorized for emergency use in the U.S. by the Food and Drug Administration. It's estimated that about 2.9 million doses of the coronavirus vaccine will be distributed this week in the first vaccine roll-out phase.

High-risk populations like healthcare workers and nursing home staff and residents in the U.S. will be prioritized to receive the landmark vaccine.

"I hope this marks the beginning of the end of a very painful time in our history. We're in a pandemic, so we all need to do our part to put an end to the pandemic," Lindsay said.



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LEGAL NOTICES

**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

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

THE UNDERSIGNED, Mandy Welch, having qualified on the 24th day of November, 2020, as Administrator of the Estate of **Michael W. Welch (20-E-1434)**, deceased, this is to notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against said Estate that they must present them to the undersigned at **GRAVES MAY PLLC, C/O Attorney Rick Graves, 5700 Oleander Dr., Wilmington, North Carolina, 28403**, on or before the **16th day of March, 2021**, or the claims will be forever barred thereafter, and this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. All persons, firms, and corporations indebted to said Estate will please make prompt payment to the undersigned at the above address.

This 11th day of December, 2020.

Mandy Welch, Administrator
Estate of Michael W. Welch
Rick Graves
GRAVES MAY, PLLC
5700 Oleander Dr.
Wilmington, NC 28403

December 17, 24, 31, 2020, January 7, 2021

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

The undersigned, having qualified as Administrator of the estate of **Zacky Carl Sessions**, 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 **17th 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 17th day of December, 2020

Sue-Anna S. Patrick, Administrator
104 Bavarian Dr.
Castle Hayne, NC 28429

December 17, 24, 31, 2020, January 7, 2021

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

The undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the estate of **Allene Williams Brown**, 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 **17th 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 17th day of December, 2020

Scott R. Brown, Executor
6061 Martins Point Rd.
Kitty Hawk, NC 27949

December 17, 24, 31, 2020, January 7, 2021

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

The undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the estate of **Emily V. Mack**, 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 **24th 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 24th day of December, 2020

Jerome Mack, Executor
432 S. Kerr Ave.
Wilmington, NC 28403

December 24, 31, 2020, January 7, 14, 2021

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 court-house 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:
Imaria-montero@legalaid.org
ealexieva@le.galaid.org
Secondary eservice:
iean@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, 31, 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 TO CREDITORS
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF NEW HANOVER
IN THE GENERAL COURT OF
JUSTICE
SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE
OF CATHERINE W. EDENS
20-E-1538**

The undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of **Catherine W. Edens**, 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 **26th day of March, 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 24th day of December, 2020.

Daniel D. Edens, Executor
of the Estate of Catherine W. Edens
c/o H. Kenneth Stephens, II
STEPHENS LAW FIRM, P.C.
Post Office Box 2237
Wilmington, NC 28402

December 24, 31, 2020, January 7, 14, 2021

BID REQUEST

RPC Contracting is requesting bids from any interested NCDOT Certified MBE & WBE firms for the Currituck Co. Regional Airport North Aircraft Apron Pavement Rehabilitation project bidding on 1/13/21. There will be a pre-bid conference at 3:00 PM on Monday 1/4/21 at the office of RPC Contracting, 934 W. Kitty Hawk Rd., Kitty Hawk, NC 27949. Plans and specifications are available for review at the same location or may be obtained from Talbert & Bright, Inc., 4810 Shelley Drive, Wilmington, NC 28405. For more information please call 252-261-3336, ask for Jay. RPC Contracting is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

December 24, 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:

"Being 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

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

The undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the estate of **James Timothy Chadwick**, 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 **17th 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 17th day of December, 2020

Teresa Chadwick Stanley, Executor
1604 Oakley Rd.
Castle Hayne, NC 28429

December 17, 24, 31, 2020, January 7, 2021

**NOTICE OF SERVICE OF
PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF NEW HANOVER
IN THE GENERAL COURT OF
JUSTICE
DISTRICT COURT DIVISION
N.C. GEN. STAT.
§ 1A-1, RULE 4(J)(1)
20 CVD 2633**

**MOHAMMED YOUSSEF,
Plaintiff,
vs.
REBECCA MARTINEZ LYNN,
Defendant.**

**To: Rebecca Martinez
Lynn**

TAKE NOTICE that a Pleading seeking relief against you has been filed on 24 August 2020 in the above-entitled action. The nature of the relief being sought is as follows: Absolute Divorce.

You are required to make defense to such pleadings no later than 27 January 2021, and upon your failure to do so the party seeking service against you will apply to the Court for the relief sought.

This the 9th day of December, 2020.

RICE LAW, PLLC
105 N. 6th Street
Wilmington, NC 28401
Telephone: (910) 762-3854
Telefax: (910) 251-6346
(Counsel for Plaintiff)
By: /s/ Richard Forrest Kern
Richard Forrest Kern
NC Bar #: 39146

December 17, 24, 31, 2020

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