

MISSING



EBONEE SPEARS

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

OUTside

Looking IN

OUR VOICE

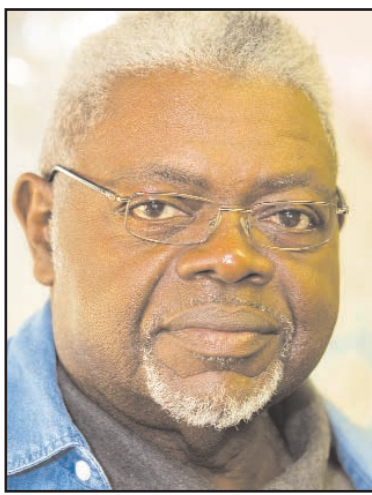


REV. JESSE JACKSON

"Our system is rigged so the minority can rule"

BY REV. JESSE JACKSON PAGE 4

BRUNSWICK COUNTY



BERNEST HEWETT

Bernest Hewett is undergoing surgery and expects to be back in roughly six weeks. He requests your prayers for both him and our country. Let's pray for his speedy recovery! To God be the glory!

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

THE BLACK PRESS USE IT OR LOSE IT!

THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

News from the African American perspective without fear or favor

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DAMEON SHEPARD



MONICA SHEPARD

Lawsuit filed in Pender mob raid on Black family

BY CASH MICHAELS OF THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

After eight long months, a Black Pender County woman and her teenage son will have their day in court soon to tell how an off-duty New Hanover County Sheriff's deputy - in uniform - and several armed accomplices, tried to force their way into the Black family's home, allegedly looking for a missing girl the group falsely believed was being held there.

A lawsuit was filed on behalf of Monica and Dameon Shepard of Rocky Point Tuesday in Pender County Superior Court, alleging that now former deputy Jordan Kita and "...a mob of known and unknown white residents...attempted to forcibly enter" the Shepards' home on the late evening of May 3, 2020.

Also named in the lawsuit, Timothy Kita, Jordon Kita's father who was also present during the raid; one of the other allegedly armed participants, Robert Austin Wood; and eleven "John and Jane Does," indicating the other unknown members of the "mob" that descended on the Shepards' home.

Their names are expected to be revealed during discovery prior to trial.

The Shepards "demand" a jury trial to determine the extent of their financial and punitive damages.

According to the lawsuit, "This case is a present-day example of the long and ugly history of white mobs acting with impunity and reckless disregard in the extrajudicial pursuit of Black Americans. Like the thousands of victims of KKK night rides or lynch mobs in the Jim Crow era, Plaintiff Monica Shepard and her teenage son Dameon, 19, were terrorized by Defendants' actions, which constitute trespass, assault, intentional infliction of emotional distress, negligent infliction of emotional distress, interference with civil rights, and violation of the right to fair housing.

The suit goes on to document how Kita, leading the mob in uniform and with his service revolver, "...attempted to forcibly enter the Rocky

Point home of the Shepards, but was at first denied entry by the teenage son, Dameon.

"The mob claimed to be looking for a Black teenager who lived at the Shepards' address because they believed he was with a relative of Kita's who had been missing for a few hours..." the lawsuit states.

"Although Plaintiff Dameon Shepard repeatedly explained that they had the wrong house and that he was not the person they were looking for, Defendants continued to harass and intimidate Dameon, and tried to force their way into his home."

The suit continued, "Plaintiff Monica Shepard also explained that they had the wrong house, but the Defendants continued their threatening presence and again tried to force their way inside. Monica refused to let them enter her home."

The Pender County Sheriff Dept. was called, but when deputies arrived, they made no arrests of the threatening mob, the lawsuit contends, and didn't even attempt to identify anyone.

"Coming just three months after the shooting death of Ahmaud Arbery, and two months after the shooting death of Breonna Taylor late at night by three White plain clothed police officers after forcibly entering Taylor's apartment (another wrong address), Defendants' actions terrified Plaintiffs Monica and Dameon Shepard. The racialized context of Defendants' attack on Plaintiffs' home, the historical legacy of white mob violence against African Americans, and the failure of Pender County Sheriff Deputies to properly respond inform the nature of this action," the lawsuit alleges.

It is also alleged that a captain with the Sheriff's Dept. tried to smooth over the terrifying incident twice with the Shepards both that night and the next day, though he was told that the mob was armed. "He told the Shepards that it was complicated to apprehend or arrest anyone who had been there the previous night." He later tried to talk Ms. Shepard out of pressing charges or pursuing the matter.

"The following day at approximately 3:00 p.m.,

Attorney Jim Lea delivered a letter to the District Attorney for Pender and New Hanover County, as well as to Pender County Sheriff Alan Cutler and New Hanover County Sheriff Ed McMahon, demanding a full investigation into the incident at the Shepard residence," the suit states.

"The next day, at approximately 4:00 p.m., New Hanover County Sheriff Ed McMahon, Pender County Sheriff Alan Cutler, and New Hanover/Pender County District Attorney Ben David held a press conference in which they announced charges had been brought against two of the Defendants."

"New Hanover County Sheriff's Department terminated Defendant Jordan Kita's employment and charged him with misdemeanor willful failure to discharge duties, misdemeanor forcible trespass (common law), and misdemeanor breaking and entering."

The lawsuit continued, "Defendant Wood was also charged with going armed to the terror of the people"

"No other arrests have been made since that time, although the New Hanover and Pender District Attorney's office and Pender County Attorney's office have suggested that some type of investigation into the incident is ongoing."

The lawsuit also notes that the Pender Sheriff's Department, which took part in helping to search for the missing girl that the Kitas were looking for, gave them "permission" to search in the neighborhood where the Shepards lived.

The suit notes North Carolina's "long history" of mob violence against Black people, including the 1898 race massacre.

The lawsuit was filed on behalf of the Shepard family by the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law of Washington, D. C. and the Lea/Schultz Law Firm, P. C. of Wilmington.

There was no response to the lawsuit from Jordan Kita, his family or attorneys representing them at press time Wednesday. Defendants in lawsuits usually have thirty days to respond from the date of the initial filing.

Biden declares war on coronavirus

BY BARRINGTON M. SALMON

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - On his second day in office, President Joe Biden said bringing COVID-19 under control will be a wartime

undertaking.

As such, he said, his administration is marshalling resources as part of a coordinated national plan aiming to confront and defeat COVID-19, which has so far taken the lives of

more than 410,000 Americans, more than half of which have been Black and other people of color.

Please see BIDEN/Page 2

The Wilmington Journal is still partially operating from a remote area. Our building has much damage and some of our equipment is still inoperable. Please continue to bear with us as we work to return to normalcy. The Staff and Management of The Wilmington Journal



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GOP continues voter suppression efforts for 2022 elections

BY CASH MICHAELS
 OF THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

If you were under any impression that the Republicans have ceased their voter suppression efforts after trying unsuccessfully to overturn the Nov. 2020 presidential election results, guess again.

If anything, the fact that Republican former Pres. Donald Trump decidedly lost to Democrat Joe Biden, in addition to the stunning victories by two Georgia Democrats earlier this month, has inspired Republican-led legislatures across the nation to ramp up efforts to establish tighter controls over voter mechanisms in Georgia, Pennsylvania, Arizona, and, of course, the "granddaddy" of them all, North Carolina.

The objective? Not to ferret out alleged "rampant" voter fraud, which Republicans maintain, without evidence, has corrupted the system, but to ensure more GOP electoral victories.

With the next critical national election just around the corner, namely the 2022 midterm elections, Democratic voting rights attorney, Marc Elias said it best recently on Twitter.

"If you don't think that voter suppression is the GOP's top priority for 2021-22, then you aren't paying attention."

Republican-led states are looking to eliminate no-

excuse mail-in voting and voting drop boxes, as well as establish voter I. D. laws and other restrictions that would make it harder, not easier for African-Americans and other communities of color to cast ballots.

In North Carolina, state Republicans, who still maintain control of both chambers of the General Assembly, are eagerly awaiting two court cases, one federal and one state, dealing with the future of North Carolina's 2018 voter ID law.

Per the federal case, the Fourth Circuit recently dumped a federal judge's temporary injunction against the 2018 voter ID law until an upcoming hearing. The state case hearing has yet to be scheduled.

Meanwhile, Republican leaders in the NC legislature are reportedly prepared to introduce new restrictive voting laws during the current session.

North Carolina's anti-Democratic conservatives have already started their disinformation campaign to boost Republican efforts by attempting to rewrite well documented recent history.

This week, Amy Cooke, the new CEO of the Raleigh-based rightwing think-tank the John Locke Foundation, issued the latest of her weekly video commentaries, claiming that "...reporters and left wing activists have misused

the words "almost surgical precision" regarding a U. S. Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals decision striking down the 2013 N. C. voter ID law regarding how African-American voters were targeted for suppression.

Cooke maintains that the phrase is used to "distort Republicans' record," adding there was no proof that GOP legislative leaders were racially targeting "anyone."

"With two Trump appointees and one Obama judge, the Fourth Circuit restored voter ID for North Carolina," Cooke says, "and, depending on a separate case in state court, the state could have voter ID for the next election (2022). With the 2021 legislative session just starting, I'm sure there will be more debate about voter ID and redistricting."

"Not so fast," says Attorney Irving Joyner, who actually led the NCNAACP legal team who got the 2013 voter ID law overturned.

"Based on the totality evaluation, which the 4th Circuit conducted, that three-judge [appellate] panel concluded the General Assembly's assaults on Early Voting, Out of Precinct Voting, same day registration and voting, pre-registration by 16 and 17 year-olds and the imposition of a stringent Photo Voter Identification Requirement were intentionally directed at blunting the increasing voting

political participation by African Americans in this State's political process. Based on this legally mandated totality assessment, the 4th Circuit concluded that the General Assembly had acted with surgical precision to curtail those voting procedures which had been heavily utilized by African American voters."

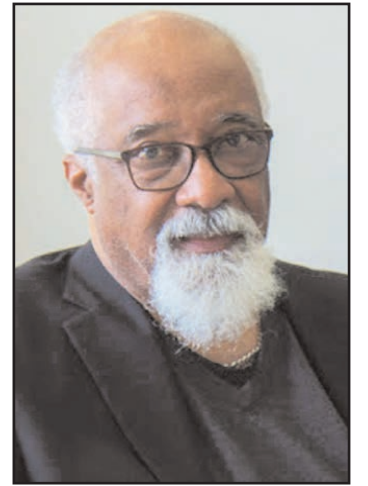
As evidence, Joyner reminds us that Republican lawmakers requested specific information on what kinds of photo identification Black voters were likely to have, and crafted the 2015 law to disallow those specific forms of ID.

Republicans took note of Black voters favoring early voting, then cut the number of days they could do it plus eliminated "Souls to the Polls" Sunday voting.

They also eliminated same-day registration/voting and other aspects of early voting favoring African-Americans.

"The John Locke analysis is distorted and is designed to mislead those persons who listen to it," Attorney Joyner continued. "I am sure that we will hear this ill informed analysis again as the General Assembly returns to efforts to curtail the constitutional right and opportunities of African Americans and racial minorities to vote."

"Presently, the NC NAACP is challenging the latest effort by the General Assembly to impose a photo ID requirement in federal



ATTY. IRVING JOYNER

court. Initially and in response to this challenge, an injunction was issued in favor of those Plaintiffs which prevented the use of these photo ID's during the past elections. That injunction was recently dissolved by the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals after the November elections, but that decision is presently being appealed. In a separate and independent challenge to the photo ID requirement which was filed in state court, another injunction has been issued and that decision remains in place while the appeal in the 4th Circuit continues."

Attorney Joyner concluded, "The suggestion that a restoration of a photo ID requirement is right around the corner is idle speculation. The NC NAACP is committed to fighting against this photo ID requirement 'until hell freezes over:'"

BIDEN

Continued from Page 1

The president said he's doing what his predecessor failed to do. The coordinated national plan is detailed in a 198-page document. In marked contrast to the prior administration, Biden said the plan he unveiled will be steeped in science. He invoked the Defense Production Act to ensure that there are adequate supplies, and he intends to increase production by working closely with

manufacturers. Included in the provisions are plans to develop 100 federal vaccination centers; open a number of mobile vaccination centers, particularly in rural areas; use pharmacies in diverse communities to vaccinate residents; implement a 100-day mask mandate; and vaccinate 100 million Americans in the first 100 days of his presidency.

"Our national strategy will be driven by scientists and public health experts who will regularly speak directly to you, free from political interference as they make

decisions strictly on science and public health alone," the president said in a letter announcing the plan. "Above all, Vice President Harris and I, and our entire Administration, will always be honest and transparent with you about both the good news and the bad. The honest truth is we are still in a dark winter of this pandemic. It will get worse before it gets better."

He called on the community to help with efforts to end the pandemic: "Families and neighbors will need to continue looking out for one another. We will need health care providers, businesses, civic, religious and civil rights organizations, and unions all rallying together in common purpose and with urgency, purpose, and resolve. We will need to reassert America's leadership in the world in the fight against this and future public health threats."

Dr. Michael LeNoir, an Oakland California-based physician, said he heartened by what he's heard so far.

"This is probably the first national plan we're seeing," said Dr. LeNoir. "There are five major pieces including restoring credibility; clear messaging; winning back trust and governance. There is light at the end of the tunnel, but it depends on the length of that tunnel."

More than 4,100 Americans died on Thursday, January 21 and there were more than 190,000 new cases on this day, illustrating the reality that the United States is the

global epicenter of COVID-19 with more than 25 million recorded cases, overwhelming hospitals.

Dr. Rachel R. Hardemon, an assistant professor in the Division of Health Policy and Management at the University of Minnesota's School of Public Health, echoed Dr. LeNoir's deep concerns about the effects of COVID-19 on African-Americans, Latinos, Native Americans and other marginalized communities. African-Americans' ability to deal with the global pandemic is complicated by cultural factors and on communities suffering from state, local and national policies and decisions put in place for centuries, she said.

"Constant stress [and other factors are] what's harming Black lives, including a susceptibility to Covid-19," said Dr. Hardeman, a reproductive health equity researcher whose work also examines the potential mental health impacts on Black people who live in communities where unarmed Black people have been killed by police. "What we're seeing is that we still have a long way to go. I remain very concerned about the impact on Black and brown communities. They recently detected a new strain, a variant that is more infectious than the original coronavirus."

Dr. LeNoir told Trice Edney Newswire that he remains alarmed and saddened by the length, breadth and devastation of COVID-19 on Black and brown communities. African Americans are the silent workers, the ones on the frontlines who have borne the brunt of the

pandemic, he said.

"Americans seem very surprised that these communities are so much at-risk, but we know that anything major always attacks the African-American community," said Dr. LeNoir, who served as the 114th president of the National Medical Association and has been a physician for 53 years. "Unfortunately, African-Americans are the ones who work at the grocery store and out in public."

"There's nothing genetic about it. We do tend to be sicker and this country has never dealt with that. The bigger issue is that these people have had to work in the worse environments. Essential workers should be paid - bus drivers, those Black people cleaning, working in these nursing homes, in people's homes taking care of their children. Then you have Latinos who often have big families."

Both doctors said they are pleased in the priorities the Biden administration has focused on, such as expanding testing, contract tracing, and vaccine production. Meanwhile, Dr. LeNoir said as distribution of the vaccine is widened, he hopes members of the public will adhere to recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention such as wearing a mask, washing their hands, exercising social distancing and avoiding crowds.

SUBSCRIBE

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

-----AN AFRICAN PROVERB



STATE BRIEFS



NCDHHS SECRETARY APOLOGIZES FOR VACCINE MISHAP

[RALEIGH] State Health and Human Services Secretary Dr. Mandy Cohen apologized Monday during a

teleconference with hospitals and county health departments statewide for COVID-19 vaccine distribution delays and projected shortages. Facilities had been getting week-to-week deliveries of vaccine supply, but that practice made it difficult to plan ahead. As a result, they've had to cancel vaccine shot appointments. Dr. Cohen said the state will now assure a three-week

minimum supply for planning.

GREEN AND CONSTITUTION PARTIES NO LONGER RECOGNIZED IN NORTH CAROLINA

[RALEIGH] Because neither political party received at least two percent of the November 2020 vote, neither the Green nor the

Constitution parties will appear on North Carolina ballots in the future, because they're no longer recognized in the state. That also means North Carolinian voters can no longer affiliate with either party. On February 23rd, the State Board of Elections will meet to decide if those voters who currently are affiliated will transition to unaffiliated status. That change is constitution-

ally mandated to occur ninety days after the November election.

SEN. TILLIS OPPOSES SENATE TRIAL FOR TRUMP

[WASH.] Calling it a "dangerous precedent," Sen. Thom Tillis (R-NC) says he's opposed to holding a trial for former President Donald Trump for his part in allegedly inciting the Jan.

6th siege of the U.S. Capitol because Trump is no longer in office. U.S. House managers earlier this week delivered an article of impeachment to the Senate as constitutionally required for trial. Republican senators have made it clear that if the trial is held, a majority of them will vote to acquit Trump.

COMPILED BY CASH MICHAELS

NC police departments get \$44 million in military equipment

BY CASH MICHAELS OF THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

After the police killing last May of George Floyd, activists with Black Lives Matter and other coalition groups took to the streets of the nation demanding to "Defund the Police," seeking to reduce the ability of police departments to kill innocent African-Americans.

However, if a special investigation by a Durham television station is accurate, several NC police and sheriffs' departments have received upwards of \$44 million in surplus military equipment over the past year.

What's more interesting is that those local police agencies paid next to nothing for surplus weapons, machetes, rifles, riot shields, and even vehicles.

It's called the "1033 Program," which, according to the Duke University Center for Firearms Laws, is a federal program that "...allows the DOD (U.S. Dept. of Defense) to transfer its excess property to federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies at no cost other than what is required for transfer and maintenance. This property includes "vehicles, helicopters, weapons, ammunition and other property that is needed by law enforcement agencies."

The program is part of the National Defense Authorization Act for 1997, and it originally was supposed to be an aid in the War on Drugs, giving local police agencies comparable firepower to the automatic weapons and other armaments carried by street gangs guarding their drug territories.

In 2019, 92% of the military property given to local police agencies was considered "non-controlled,"

meaning things like computers, furniture, sleeping bags, etc.

Eight percent, however, was considered "controlled" property because it involved weapons, helicopters, and even night vision equipment. It should be no surprise that the percentage of controlled property to local law enforcement agencies has been rising, says the Duke Center.

According to the Duke Center, as of 2020, \$7.4 billion worth of federal armament has been transferred to 8,200 federal, state and local law enforcement agencies in 49 states, including North Carolina.

The national public first became aware of how widespread the program was when they saw the Ferguson, Mo. Police Dept. roll armored tanks down the street to deal with civil unrest there in the aftermath of the Michael Brown police shooting.

President Obama issued an Executive Order to reform the program and add more scrutiny shortly afterwards, but when Pres. Trump took office in 2017, he rescinded that order, allowing the program to continue unfettered.

Still, there are items that have been removed from the list of controlled property DOD is able to transfer to local police agencies, including "[A]ny aircraft, vessels or vehicles that inherently contain weaponry, (e. g. tanks, Bradley fighting vehicles, armed drones); crew served/large caliber (.50 caliber or greater) weapons and ammunition; military uniforms; body armor; Kevlar helmets; and explosives or pyrotechnics of any kind."

Still, according to Durham TV station WTVD-11, "while the bulk of items are relatively mundane (first aid kits, clothing,

computers, office supplies and even a popcorn maker), data obtained ... also shows armored vehicles, machetes, rifles and riot shields among tens of thousands of individual items transferred from the U. S.

military to North Carolina law enforcement agencies."

A quick look at the list of what North Carolina police and sheriffs' departments have been getting from the U. S. military includes rifles for the Brunswick County

Sheriff's Dept. since 2004; rifles and mine resistant vehicles (valued at \$658,000) for the Guilford County Sheriff's dept; two all-terrain vehicles for the New Hanover County Sheriff's Dept; and a metal detector

and freezer for the Pender County Sheriff's Dept.

Many of North Carolina's more remote and rural counties got weapons and vehicles.



Local police agencies paid next to nothing for surplus weapons, machetes, rifles, riot shields, and even vehicles.

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FOOD LION



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

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OUR VOICE

RAINBOW COALITION

Our system is rigged so the minority can rule

(Via TriceEdneyWire.com)

The majority does not rule in the United States. The foundation of any democracy — one person, one vote — is mocked by institutionalized impediments that allow the minority to win even when they lose at the ballot box. In this era, even when Democrats win, they lose. And the will of the majority of the people is frustrated by a system rigged to empower the minority.

Consider: Democratic candidates have won the popular vote in seven of the last eight presidential elections but have become president only five times. Trump became president four years ago despite losing the popular vote by nearly 3 million votes. Presidents who lost the majority of the votes have nominated five of the nine Supreme Court justices. The reason, of course, is the Electoral College, which tallies votes by state, not by voter.

This institution is a legacy of slavery, designed by the founders to ensure that the less populated slave states would be able to balance the free states that had nearly three times the population. In frustrating the popular vote, the Electoral College puts the democracy at risk. Because of the Electoral College, Trump's margin of defeat wasn't 7 million across the nation, but about 65,000 votes in three states and the 2nd District of Nebraska.

That helped empower him to mislead millions by claiming the election was stolen, despite Biden's landslide popular vote victory. In the Senate, Democrats and Republicans each have 50 senators (with Vice President Kamala Harris the tie-breaking vote). The 50 Democrats represent 41 million more voters than the 50 Republicans. Smaller, more rural states with few people, like Wyoming or Idaho, have as many senators as large populous states like California and New York.

To add insult to injury, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, which have more voters than several states, are denied statehood with no final vote on any legislation. That means, among other things, that three Supreme Court justices — Neil Gorsuch, Brett Kavanaugh, and Amy Coney Barrett — were all nominated by a president who lost the popular vote and confirmed by a bloc of senators who represent less than half the country.

In the House, Democrats have a small majority. But to win a majority, it is estimated that they must win 6 percent to 7 percent more votes than Republicans across the country, because Republican gerrymandering — drawing districts to pack Democratic voters in a few districts (usually disproportionately people of color) while giving Republicans an edge in many — has rigged the system against the party that represents the majority.

And worse, Supreme Court judges nominated by minority presidents have ruled that the federal courts will do nothing to protect against grotesquely distorted gerrymandering. The same distortions exist in state legislatures, where gerrymandered districts help the party with the minority of votes gain the majority. That majority then has the power to redraw the districts to rig the system even more. More than 59 million Americans live under minority rule in a state where the party with fewer votes controls a majority of the legislative seats. In Wisconsin, 44.7% of voters cast ballots for Republican Assembly candidates, but the GOP won 64.6% of the seats. With gerrymandering, voters aren't choosing their representatives; representatives are choosing their voters.

The right-wing Supreme Court majority has ruled that money is speech and that corporations are citizens, so their ability to throw money into elections cannot be limited. The result, not surprisingly, is that American elections get more costly and big money and entrenched interests grow more powerful. The fix is in — and the results are ruinous.

Today, Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell is refusing to agree to rules to govern the Senate unless Democrats agree to sustain the filibuster. The filibuster — the requirement that virtually any legislation receive not a majority of the vote but a supermajority of 60 votes — is the instrument McConnell used to obstruct virtually everything President Obama sought to do, with the stated purpose of making him a one-term president.

The result is a Senate that is frozen in the midst of cumulating crises. Even Joe Biden's pandemic emergency rescue package is stalled. America becomes more and more dysfunctional as it becomes less and less democratic. The Democratic majority in the House has passed legislation — HR 1 in the last session of Congress — that would remedy some of these inequities.

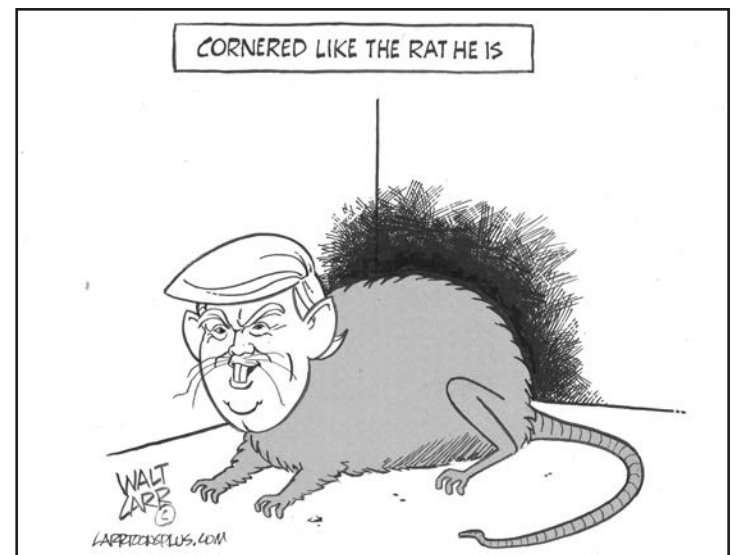
The 51-vote majority in the new Senate wants this to be its first act. But, of course, if the filibuster is sustained the minority will block even these common-sense reforms. The sacking of the Capitol sent a message around the world that America's democracy is literally under siege. The reality is worse: our system is rigged so that the minority can rule. The disconnect — the frustration of the will of the majority — is a clear and present danger.

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



Rev. Jesse Jackson, Sr.

VISUAL VOICE



MATTERS OF OPINION

Biden and Harris flex their muscles on their first day in office

(Via TriceEdneyWire.com)

Joe Biden and Kamala Harris aren't wasting any time.

When we all woke up on the morning of January 20, Donald Trump and Mike Pence were still president and vice president. By the time we went to bed, Vice President Harris had sworn in new senators Raphael Warnock, Jon Ossoff, and Alex Padilla. And President Biden had signed a dozen executive actions to reverse harmful Trump policies on the pandemic, the economy, immigration and climate change—and renew a national commitment to equality under the law.

No other administration has done so much so quickly. And the flurry of executive actions was just a jump-start to the new direction that we the people voted for.

Let's celebrate for a moment what a remarkable week this was.

I deeply appreciated the national pause that Biden and Harris gave us the night before the inauguration. They stood at the reflecting pool on the National Mall to remember the more than 400,000 Americans who have died from COVID-19 and honor our caregivers. We needed that simple, humane,

recognition of our collective grief.

The next morning, Trump got up early to take a cowardly flight out of town rather than attend the swearing-in of the team that beat him by 7 million votes. It was probably just as well because we didn't have to think about him during the ceremony.

We could focus instead on the history-making Vice President Kamala Harris. We could welcome the fact that she was escorted to the inaugural stage by the heroic Eugene Goodman, the U.S. Capitol Police officer who kept a violent mob away from the Senate chamber during the insurrection Trump had incited just two weeks earlier.

We could enjoy great musicians and the brilliant performance of Amanda Gorman, a radiant young Black woman whose poetry, like Biden's inaugural speech, was honest about the challenges we face and hopeful about our ability to take them on.

As the day wore on, we could deeply appreciate the

magnitude of what we accomplished when we replaced Trump, Pence and his team with Biden, Harris and their team.

Some changes Biden ordered in his first days in office are immediate. We have a new strategy in place for getting a handle on the pandemic. Harmful last-minute actions taken by Trump on his way out the door will be suspended and reversed. A temporary ban on evictions and foreclosures will be extended. So will a pause in student loan payments.

Federal contractors will have to stop discriminating if they want to work for the federal government. Deportations will be suspended, and the bigoted Muslim ban is no more. The integrity of the 2020 census will be restored. The U.S. will rejoin the World Health Organization and the Paris Climate Accords.

The Biden-Harris team also made it clear that they are willing to tackle big problems that stand in the way of making equality and opportunity real for millions of us: They have launched an effort to root out systemic racism and discrimination in federal agencies and policies.

The administration is

clearly committed to doing what it can on its own. Now we need Congress to show the same kind of urgency in passing economic relief and recovery legislation.

We also need Congress to pass the For the People Act, a priority for voting rights activists. It would strengthen our democracy by protecting the right to vote and limiting the role of big money in politics.

Sometimes, when we have a lot going on in our lives all at once, it can be hard to know where to begin. The Biden-Harris team is making a bold start. Let's push them to keep being bold when the going gets tough, and let's have their backs when they do.

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



Ben Jealous

TO BE EQUAL

Newly inaugurated, President Biden and Vice President Harris face confront historic challenges of pandemic, racial justice

(Via TriceEdneyWire.com)

"A cry for racial justice some 400 years in the making moves us. The dream of justice for all will be deferred no longer. A cry for survival comes from the planet itself. A cry that can't be any more desperate or any more clear. And now, a rise in political extremism, white supremacy, domestic terrorism that we must confront, and we will defeat. overcome these challenges — to restore the soul and to secure the future of America — requires more than words. It requires that most elusive of things in a democracy: Unity."
— President Joe Biden, Inaugural Address

I had the honor of attending the Inauguration of President Biden and Vice President Harris.

It was an inauguration unlike any in my lifetime, and perhaps unlike any in American history.

The twin pandemics that plague our nation — COVID-19 and racially-motivated violence — meant there were no cheering crowds of hundreds of thousands. Those of us who were invited to attend were tested for COVID and required to wear masks. 25,000 National

Guard members were on hand to prevent a repeat of the deadly riot of January 6.

But the inauguration was historic for other, more hopeful reasons, as well. Kamala

Harris became the first woman, the first African American, and the first person of South Asian descent to hold the office of Vice President. A 22-year-old

Black woman, the nation's first Youth Poet Laureate, captivated the nation with her vision of hope and healing.

It was a ceremony that was at once uplifting and weighty with the life-and-death challenges that face the new administration.

Among the very first actions he took upon assuming office — after mandating masks and social distancing on federal property — was directing every federal agency to review its state of racial equity and deliver an action plan within 200 days to address any disparities in policies and programs.

The Executive Order On

Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government reads, in part,

"The Federal Government's goal in advancing equity is to provide everyone with the opportunity to reach their full potential. Consistent with these aims, each agency must assess whether, and to what extent, its programs and policies perpetuate systemic barriers to opportunities and benefits for people of color and other underserved groups. Such assessments will better equip agencies to develop policies and programs that deliver resources and benefits equitably to all."

The order also rescinds the Trump administration's 1776 Commission, which "sought to erase America's history of racial injustice," as well as Trump's order preventing federal agencies and contractors from holding diversity and inclusion trainings, which the National Urban League sued to overturn.

It was an encouraging sign from a President who campaigned on a promise to bridge the nation's racial divide. He has assembled the most racially diverse presidential Cabinet in U.S. history, with people of color making

up half of the nominees for Cabinet positions and Cabinet-level positions.

In a memo issued Saturday, the President's chief of staff promised "significant early actions to advance equity and support communities of color and other underserved communities." He was not specific about these actions, but President Biden has promised he would create a national police oversight commission in his first 100 days.

The National Urban League stands ready to assist and support President Biden and Vice President Harris as they tackle what the memo called the "four overlapping and compounding crises: the COVID-19 crisis, the resulting economic crisis, the climate crisis, and a racial equity crisis."

We also stand prepared to hold the Administration accountable to its commitments.

In the words of our Youth Poet Laureate, Amanda Gorman, "We will not march back to what was but move to what shall be, a country that is bruised but whole, benevolent but bold, fierce, and free."

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



Marc Morial

VOICE YOUR OPINION! WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR TODAY

A welcomed departure

(Via TriceEdneyWire.com)

For the first time in over four years, I have awakened without the gnawing feeling of anticipated dread. I have moved through the day without concern about a new violation or elimination of a valued national tradition or governmental construct. Moreover, I have not been worried about the imposition of a law or practice that opposes my personal values or misrepresents my participation and support as a citizen of the United States. I feel a relief from personal threat that I can only liken, in some small measure, to the relief the ancestors must have felt when they learned they could come and go as they pleased. The obvious source of this relief and joy is the ignominious departure of Donald Trump. It is only matched by a single regret. (More on that later.)

His election as president has always been in conflict with the principle of the "will of the majority." Losing by millions of votes, his victory was predicated by the Electoral College, an archaic instrument of this nation's original sin, SLAVERY!

He used his ill-gotten position as the basis of his announced goal – a "deconstruction of the administrative state" – a goal that he almost accomplished.



Dr. E. Faye Williams

Four years of Trump and his administration did immeasurable damage to our democracy. Political scientists confirm that a party without a popular agenda will commonly resort to voter suppression. In addition to common misinformation, Trump and his minions engaged in gerrymandering, voter roll purging, and fear tactics to reduce the participation of citizens likely to vote against them. Before leaving on January 20th, Trump had whittled his cabinet down to, mostly, acting secretaries, assuring that his decisions would not be challenged. If challenged, he could easily "Fire!" the defiant offender without dispute – the recipe for a genuine despot.

While upholding the inter-

ests of the wealthy, Trumpers and Republicans systematically attacked democratic protections and practices, health care, and social safety nets.

I am confident that Trump will be considered the most virulent racist to occupy the White House since Woodrow Wilson. His litany of racist tropes include: calling Mexican refugees rapists and drug dealers; identifying the anti-Semites and white supremacists in Charlottesville among "Good people on both sides, identifying African and Caribbean countries as "S-t hole" countries.

His disrespect for people of color was matched only by the disrespect shown to the general public. When he departed on Air Force One, the Washington Post estimated that he had lied publicly over thirty-thousand times! I'm unsure if this count includes his lies about the severity and management of the COVID virus. The Federal management plan for COVID is a travesty beyond belief that deserves its own singular discussion.

His last and greatest infraction was his televised incitement to sedition. He invited the

masses to Washington to "Stop the Steal." The repeated lies and propaganda promulgated since the General Election convinced Trump loyalists that the will of voters in the states lost by Trump could be overturned with direct action. Trump, and others in his close circle, whipped those assembled into a frenzy causing them to assault, occupy and ravage our nation's Capitol. In addition to the loss of lives and innumerable official documents, countless artifacts and historical relics of our nation were damaged or destroyed.

I can only express a feeling of relief and anticipation of the return to some measure of normalcy.

Oh, BTW!! The singular regret I have about Trump leaving office is the amount of time, if ever, it will take to rectify the damage he has wrought on this nation and our evolving democracy. He definitely deserves all credit for the negative legacy he leaves in the wake of his destruction. Good riddance!

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

CRAZY FAITH MINISTRIES A sad revelation from a sad story

Eugene Goodman, the Black Capitol Police officer who distracted members of the angry white mob who stormed the United States Capitol on January 6, (https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/public-safety/goodman-capitol-police-video/2021/01/13/08ab3eb6-546b-11eb-a931-5b162d0d033d_story.html) shared a moment in the podcast "This American Life" where he realized just how bad the situation was.

He was alone, trying his best to push the crowd back, he said, yelling at them to go back, to get out. They ignored him. At one point someone asked him, "Did you vote for Biden?" He says he started not to say anything, but got angry and said, "Yeah, I voted for Biden. And what?" He continued to challenge them, saying that destroying the Capitol building, shooting guns, and beating innocent people, including police officers, was not the way to voice opposition to the results of the election.



Rev. Susan K. Smith

He was soundly booed, but at one point, he says that a couple of the rioters came up to him, and showed him their badges. They were police officers from somewhere. Goodman looked at the badges, horrified and then more angry than he had been before. He said, "We're with you, man. We know how it is." And those comments made him even more angry. He ended up telling them to get out of his face, and they did. They went back to their angry assault on the Capitol and any human who got in the way.

He says he watched people who he knew would have been people who would have said "blue lives matter" in opposition to the Black Lives Matter movement actually beat people - including members of the Capitol Police Force, with pipes, guns, and flags - American, Trump ...and even a flag that said "Blue Lives Matter."

It was affecting him, but he could not stop to process it. The people kept coming, he said, and he had to continue his job. He says they fought the mob for five hours, with little help. At some points, he says he remembers seeing some law enforcement officers standing by, watching, but not working to save and protect the Capitol Building.

When the situation was brought under control, he says he broke down. He says he "sobbed," the trauma having been such an assault on his spirit and on some of his core beliefs. Law enforcement was part of the problem, and it caused him deep pain.

That story resonates even as we listen to law enforcement talk now of maybe not arresting some of those who were involved in the insurrection. They say they don't want to overload the courts or - get this - the prisons. And while that sentiment is not a surprise, it is as painful in its own way to many as was the realization by Officer Goodman that law enforcement was involved in and was a part of the plot to overthrow the government. Had those mobs been Black, there would have been no concern about overloading the courts or the prisons; while some of the mob have been arrested, many have been released into the custody of their parents or others, but had they been Black, they would have stuffed those people into cells like they were sardines.

A Black woman, talking about the double standard between whites and blacks in the practice of policing says she remembers taking part in a Black Lives Matter protest this summer in Wisconsin. It was peaceful; nobody had guns. The group chanted, yelling out their pain at the murder of George Floyd in particular; but also their frustration with the fact that police treat Black and white people differently, disparately, and have for decades.

For being a part of that protest, she was arrested. She says the police officer who arrested her threw her to the ground and held her there, his knee on her back.

Republicans are now trying to put a different spin on what happened in Washington, DC on January 6, 2021. They are trying to lessen the blot left by Right-Wing extremists, who do not respect this government - or; apparently police officers. They only voice concern for police officers when they have been accused of unjustly treating Black people, too often killing them.

The spin will be strong, like a mighty wind, working to keep alive the myth of the heroic police officer who is too often unjustly maligned. What would be great, however; is if police departments all over this country took a good look at their ranks, purging from their departments officers who have racist beliefs and who rejoice at being able to be in a profession which allows them to beat and kill Black people whenever they want.

It would be good if this horrific experience opened the eyes of the many who have kept their eyes squeezed shut, so as to not see the truth. It is a stretch to believe that that will happen; so many people believed that when the masses saw the beating of Rodney King by Los Angeles police officers, that the cry of Black people would finally be heard. It didn't happen; King's assailants were acquitted.

Oppressed people lean on God and look for God to do something when their oppression is so great and so debilitating. In Biblical times, Moses, talked to God about the state of the Israelites, who were being oppressed by the Egyptians. In Exodus 5:22 it says, "Then Moses turned again to the Lord and said, "O Lord, why did you ever send me? Since I first came to Pharaoh to speak in your name, he has mistreated this people, and you have done nothing at all to deliver your people."

As it was Moses' cry; it will be the cry of many, including those who, like Eugene Goodman, are still stunned in realizing once again that those charged with protecting people are only concerned with protecting some. In the present day, they are not concerned with protecting black and brown people, which is not new, but sadly, they are also not concerned with protecting even white people who had the gall to vote for someone other than the man they call "their" president.

What a sad revelation for some that truly is.
© Copyright Susan K Smith. Please consider purchasing my latest book, *With Liberty and Justice for Some: The Bible, the Constitution, and Racism in America.*

MCSURELY

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friends in North Tulsa for grace and an opportunity for us to show the state what reconciliation looks like in moments of disagreement. None of us get any compensation or reward for what we do for the Commission, but being a part of the effort to shine a light on North Tulsa is an honor and a responsibility for me. Whether I am your Senator, a Commissioner, or just a private citizen, this is my calling. It is my mission, and I will continue working to support you for many years to come.

In God We Trust,
James Lankford
United States Senator for Oklahoma

Wilmington Massacre in 1898 was Model for Tulsa Massacre, 33 years Later

Dr. John Hope Franklin,

who lived and worked in Durham for a long time, was from Tulsa Oklahoma, and his father and grandfather were leaders in the Greenwood middle class Black district where white KKK-type mobs killed up to 300 Black leaders. In 2006, Dr. Franklin helped Rev. Dr. William J. Barber, Mary Alice Jervay Thatch, and our Wilmington Branch organize a symposium on the 1898 Massacre here. Dr. Franklin, compared the two massacres, 33 years apart, and suggested a stronger Government response to the 1898 Massacre may have prevented or at least lessened the casualties suffered in his family's Greenwood neighborhood. He and the other Symposium Speakers all drove home that the NC Governor Aycock, was the main driver of the successful coup d'etat. Like Trump, Aycock brainwashed

MCSURELY

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What a difference a day makes

(Via TriceEdneyWire.com)

It took only one day, one inauguration, for the shift between pessimism and optimism. Just one day to anticipate new opportunities, new possibilities. The skies opened up on the day that President Joe Biden and Vice-President Kamala Harris of the inauguration, and the sun of truth and light shone in.

I had a mixtape running through my brain. The Fifth Dimension, Let The Sun Shine In; Nina Simone, Here Comes the Sun; Nina Simone, Young Gifted and Black; McFadden and Whitehead, Ain't No Stopping Us Now. You could not have wiped the grin off my face if you had a Brillo pad. The inauguration met my expectations. Biden spoke hope and reconciliation. Harris spoke history and healing. The highlight of the inauguration for me, though, was young Amanda Gorman, the Poet Laureate, at 22, the youngest poet laureate ever.

There have been many times in the last few years when I wished that Dr. Maya Angelou was alive. Sometimes it's personal – I'd like her advice, her words, her soothing. Sometimes it's political – I'd like to know what she thinks. But on Inauguration Day, I wanted her to see a brilliant young lady stand on her shoulders, to watch Amanda Gorman recite

her poem The Hill We Climb. It is a complex, hopeful, alliterative, and aspirational poem that declared that our country "is not broken but unfinished." What shone through her appearance was not only her bold words but also her shining presence. Nina Simone. To Be Young Gifted and Black.



Dr. Julianne Malveaux

While the substance of inauguration was most important, those of us who are fashionistas had plenty of eye candy. Jill Biden's light blue outfit. Kamala's purple (a combination of blue and red), Michelle Obama's bold maroon with a striking belt, and the monochromatic look that many of the women rocked. The presence of women, especially Black women, was also notable. Minnesota senator Amy Klobuchar was part of the Presidential Inauguration Committee (PIC) and opened the ceremony. Firefighter Andrea Hall spoke and signed the Pledge of Allegiance. Black girl magic was in the house. My mixtape is running through my head.

The symbolism was stunning, but it was far more critical that President Biden hit the ground running, and he did. He

signed 17 executive orders, reversing some of the most onerous declarations of his predecessor: He dissolved the 1776 Commission, an odious truth-erasing propaganda body charged with developing "patriotic education." Replete with lies, peppered with quotes by Dr. Martin Luther King and Abraham Lincoln, neither of whom would have cosigned the report, the previous administration had the utter audacity to release this madness on Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday holiday. One of the final slaps in the face from the deranged "leader."

Hours before Biden offered his stirring and hopeful speech, the previous president, who defied precedent and declined to attend his successor's inauguration, the former president slunk out of Washington, designing his departure with a 21 gun salute and an exit on Air Force One. It was a pitiful party, sparsely attended and suffused with gloomy moods. The former president's deputy press secretary, Hogan Gidley, described the departing ceremony as "a funeral" and said, "In many ways, the country died."

No, Hogan, the country was reborn with hope and joy, and a commitment to turn the hope and enjoyment of the inauguration into a reality.

What a difference a day makes. We have gone from a

history-denying administration into a history-affirming one. We have moved from an administration that attacked workers and the environment to an administration that fights for them. To be sure, the Biden-Harris administration is walking a legislatively narrow tightrope, with a narrow margin in the House of Representatives and just a one-vote margin in the Senate.

Suppose Biden can work the bipartisan magic he promised to attempt. In that case, there will be more vaccines into arms and more relief for those whose economic status has been impacted by the coronavirus pandemic.

These early days of the Biden-Harris administration are hopeful, inspirational days. They must also be workdays. There is much that must be done, many obstacles to clear. The previous administration did lots to cement their gains with last-minute executive orders and appointments. Many of these obstacles can be removed. The Biden-Harris team has, so far, been productive and resilient. They must continue that relentlessness moving forward. What a difference a day makes! Oh, happy day.

Dr. Julianne Malveaux is an economist and author. She is available for lectures and workshops. You may reach her at juliannealveaux.com.

Angry Old White Civil Rights Lawyer Not Tired Yet North Carolina Senators owe NC Black voters an apology. Here is a model--Senator James Lankford of Oklahoma

On January 6, 2021, Oklahoma Republican Senator James Lankford was reading a speech, implying the massive Black Voter Turnout had solen the election from Donald Trump. He had just proposed putting of Vice President Pence's ceremonial tallying of the electoral votes schedule for that afternoon, and instead setting up a Senate Two Week Study to try to magically change the numbers from the 50 states.

Suddenly, Lankford's BIG LIE Delay proposal was interrupted. A crowd of Trump Cultists, fueled by the same BIG LIE Trump had been telling since Biden had beaten him, had breached the Senate's massive doors. Only the courageous quick-thinking of a Capitol Police officer, leading the cultists assault on the Capitol away from the Senate Chamber saved Lankford and others in the Senate from bodily harm.

Federal courts had DENIED over 50 bogus lawsuits Trump's lawyers had filed based on his racist fantasy that he had won, and it was Biden's Black Voters who had stolen the election from him. He could count the numbers again and again, but the numbers did not change. The multi-racial anti-racism electorate was growing and motivated. The Fusion Electorate overcame the

Republican's massive voter suppression efforts in every southern state. Its votes fairly and firmly sending Trump packing in early November.

Lankford's Apology to his Black "Friends"

Eight days after Trump's cultists breached the Temple of Democracy, Baptist Minister and Senator James Lankford apologized to Oklahoma's Black Voters:



Al McSurely

To my friends in North Tulsa: I write to you at an important moment for our nation. We are less than 140 days until the 100th anniversary of the worst race massacre in our nation's history—a two-day period when thousands of Black mothers, fathers, sisters, and brothers in Tulsa were made homeless, hundreds were killed, and the most prosperous Black community in America was decimated. We are less than 140 days from when the world will look at Tulsa and ask the simple question, "How have things changed in the last 100 years?"

... [Referring to his interrupted speech on January 6, 2021]... my action of asking for more election information caused a firestorm of suspicion

among many of my friends, particularly in Black communities around the state. I was completely blindsided, but I also found a blind spot. What I did not realize was all of the national conversation about states like Georgia, Pennsylvania, and Michigan, was seen as casting doubt on the validity of votes coming out of predominantly Black communities like Atlanta, Philadelphia, and Detroit. After decades of fighting for voting rights, many Black friends in Oklahoma saw this as a direct attack on their right to vote, for their vote to matter; and even a belief that their votes made an election in our country illegitimate.

I can assure you, my intent to give a voice to Oklahomans who had questions was never also an intent to diminish the voice of any Black American. As a United States Senator representing almost four million Oklahomans, I am committed to hearing from all Oklahomans, answering questions, and addressing our challenges to strive toward a more perfect union. In this instance, I should have recognized how what I said and what I did could be interpreted by many of you. I deeply regret my blindness to that perception, and for that I am sorry.

... Six years ago, I discovered that Oklahoma law required students to learn

about the 1921 massacre, but there was no teaching material provided for educators to use. I started pushing for the writing of a curriculum that led to the development, for the first time, of a one-day and five-day school curriculum so students around the state will never forget what happened in North Tulsa in 1921. I am grateful that State Superintendent Joy Hofmeister and Tulsa Public Schools Superintendent Deborah Gist joined me and the Commission in Greenwood last year to announce that this curriculum would be taught in Tulsa and around the state. It was an honor to host Sen. Matthews and the Commission in Washington, D.C., to tour the National Museum of African American History & Culture so Tulsans could see the exhibit telling their story in our nation's Capital. As your Senator, it was humbling to tell Greenwood's story on the floor of the United States Senate multiple times and to be able to share that story in conversations with people all over the country. I have hosted several town hall meetings in North Tulsa, and have spoken out on the issue of race and equality in town hall meetings across the state.

Today, I am asking my

MCSURELY

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GET THAT DEED AND FLIP THOSE KEYS!

Quitting your job?

If your wish is to purchase your 1st home in the next few months, you might need to fully evaluate that decision. At the end of the day, I know no job is worth any mental or physical distress so I would never tell anyone what and what not to do in this case. However, I will tell you what the carnage will be if you do quit your job and in what manner, it might hinder you from buying if you quit without a clear plan of action of what's next.

So, let's look at 3 different hypothetical scenarios. (1) What if you had a job as a CNA and quit your job and immediately went to work as a cashier at Food Lion. The

1st thing the lender will want to know is why did you quit your job as a CNA and went into a job that required no extensive training, no testing, and no certifications. You will have to show that making this decision made reasonable sense for them to still lend you money.

Maybe doing the CNA work started affecting your own health, your back, your shoulders from lifting, rotating, and pulling on clients. You have young kids, and the

office changed your hours and said you had to work with clients overnight and had no one to watch your kids. The office said they lost some of their client accounts and your hours were about to be drastically cut. Would some of these things make sense to the lender? (2) What if you had what most people would consider a GOOD JOB at a place like GE, PPD, or Corning and you decided to quit, and you didn't have another job of any kind lined up to go into. What kind of explanation could you give whenever you did find another job within a lapsed period of time? What if that time to find another was over 2 months? What if the job you

did find paid way less, did not have any good benefits nor had many chances of advancing? What if you only been on this job for less than a year and you are doing something on this new job that was a totally new skill you had to learn. What if you haven't been there long enough to know if you like it or plan to stay. What if the Employer is not willing to say they plan on keeping you on because they don't know yet if they like your workflow? Would that make a lender take a pause in giving you over \$100,000 to buy a house? (3) What if you're ready to quit your job because you are doing the work of 3 people and getting

only paid for 1. You learned a valuable skill set at this job and feel you can go start a business of your own doing the same thing as doing at the job but could set your own hours and make way more money. What would the lender say about that? Would they feel as secure of you making that mortgage payment every month because there is no more weekly paycheck like clockwork and now you got to hustle and make a name for yourself to get some customers from your gig... Oh, family, I know by now you are getting the point.

If you must, then please do what you must do. Know that in time everything can be lev-

eled out again. Just know and be mindful that every action triggers a reaction, and you want to be smart and make sure it makes sense with that move. At the end of the day, before that lender will say LOAN APPROVED, it must make good sense to them, believe that.

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

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Brenda Dixon

Davis Funeral Home holds annual Remembrance Ceremony



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

JAVOKE S. TERRELL

SUBMITTED BY DAVIS FUNERAL HOME

In the spirit of remembrance, it has been an annual custom for Davis Funeral Home to host a Holiday Remembrance Ceremony for the community. Determined not to stray from this time of reflection, they decided to host a virtual service this

year.

A significant number of families joined them virtually to remember their loved ones and celebrate the lives of all those who have passed on.

"Beyond providing service at the time of need, our goal is to help families heal. We want

to support the community beyond the day of the funeral. As we move forward during this season, living in the midst of this pandemic, Davis Funeral Home is committed to continuously supporting our community," said Javoke S. Terrell, owner of Davis Funeral Home.



KEON HARRISON



REV. DR. CLIFFORD BARNETT, WARNER TEMPLE AME ZION CHURCH

IN MEMORIAM:

Baseball Icon Henry 'Hank' Aaron Dies at 86

BY STACY M. BROWN
NNPA NEWSWIRE SENIOR
NATIONAL
CORRESPONDENT

Baseball's recognized home run king and an African American hero, Henry "Hank" Aaron, has died at the age of 86.

Aaron, who broke Babe Ruth's all-time home run record on April 8, 1974, was not just a baseball legend but a hero to superstars.

"He's the one man that I idolize more than myself," the late boxing legend Muhammad Ali once said about Aaron.

While with the Atlanta Braves, Aaron tied Ruth's mark of 714 homers on April 7. A day later, he slugged No. 715 against the Los Angeles Dodgers' Al Downing.

Before and throughout his chase of Ruth's longstanding record, Aaron was subjected to racism and hate. Death threats were common, and even some teammates and those throughout baseball despised Aaron as he approached their white hero's record.

Despite beefed up security at Atlanta's Fulton County Stadium, some fans breached the outfield walls as Aaron trotted around the bases following his record-setting dinger.

Legendary footage shows at least two fans were able to physically greet Aaron as he rounded second base and fireworks exploded in the Atlanta night.

"A Black man is getting a standing ovation in the Deep South for breaking a record of an all-time baseball idol," Dodgers announcer Vin Scully, who called the game, proclaimed as Aaron's mother, family, and teammates greeted him at home plate.

Born Henry Louis Aaron on February 5, 1934, in a poor Black section of Mobile, Alabama, called "Down the Bay," Hank Aaron was the third of eight children born to Estella and Herbert Aaron. Aaron's father made his living as a tavern owner and a dry dock boilermaker's assistant.

According to



HANK AARON

biography.com, Aaron and his family moved to the middle-class Toulminville neighborhood when he was eight years old.

Aaron, who became known as "Hammering Hank," developed a strong affinity for baseball and football at a young age and focused more heavily on sports than his studies.

During his freshman and sophomore years, he attended Central High School, a segregated high school in Mobile, where he excelled at football and baseball.

Aaron first starred in the Negro Leagues in 1952 and again in 1953, batting .366, with five home runs and 33 RBIs in 26 official games. He began his Major League Baseball career in 1954 with the Milwaukee Braves and spent 23 seasons as an outfielder with Milwaukee – the franchise eventually moved to Atlanta.

Aaron finished his career with 755 home runs, a record topped by Barry Bonds of the San Francisco Giants in 2007. However, many baseball purists recognize Aaron as the true record holder, alleging that Bonds used performance enhancing drugs to bolster his power.

Bonds has denied those allegations.

Aaron's biography at the Baseball Hall of Fame, where he earned induction in 1982, noted that he was "a consistent producer both at the plate and in the field, reaching the .300 mark in batting 14 times, 30 home runs 15 times, 90 RBI 16 times and captured three Gold

Glove Awards enroute to 25 All-Star Game selections."

The Hall biography notes that 1957 was arguably Aaron's best season. He hit .322 that year with 44 home runs and 132 RBI, captured the National League MVP Award, and led the Braves to their first World Series Championship since 1914.

The U.S. Postal Service once honored Aaron for receiving nearly 1 million pieces of mail, more than any non-politician.

On the 25th anniversary of Aaron's 715th home run, Major League Baseball created the Hank Aaron Award, given annually to the players with the best overall offensive performances in each league.

Aaron received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian award, from President George W. Bush in 2002.

According to the New York Times, the Baseball Hall of Fame opened a permanent exhibit in 2009 chronicling Aaron's life. His childhood home was moved on a flatbed truck to the grounds of Hank Aaron Stadium, which was the home of the Mobile BayBears, a former minor league team, and opened as a museum in 2010.

"Through his long career, Hank Aaron has been a model of humility, dignity, and quiet competence," former Atlanta Mayor and U.S. Ambassador Andrew Young noted in a statement. "He did not seek the adoration that is accorded to other national athletic heroes, yet he has now earned it."

MOVIES FROM THE COMFORT OF YOUR CAR



FRIDAY NIGHTS AT KENAN AUDITORIUM

JAN. 22

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HEALTH

API outlines affordable and accessible energy in State of American Energy Report

BY STACY M. BROWN
NNPA NEWSWIRE SENIOR
NATIONAL
CORRESPONDENT

American Petroleum Institute (API) President and CEO Mike Sommers said there's growing confidence that America's future will be brighter and cleaner because of today's natural gas and oil abundance and an adapting, evolving industry.

"Today, I'm going to outline a path, a vision, for an affordable, secure, reliable cleaner energy future one marked by a shared commitment across many industries to innovation, action, and problem-solving," Sommers avowed.

The remarks kicked off API's annual State of American Energy address. Sommers outlined actions the natural gas and oil industry is taking to support the nation's economic recovery and a vision for an affordable, reliable, and cleaner energy future.

The virtual event drew more than 2,000 attendees.

It featured young professionals and energy leaders, including a New Mexico teacher, a Pennsylvania-based union trade leader, and the National Newspaper Publishers Association President and CEO, Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr.

"We've become conditioned to pitting using energy against making environmental progress, yet history has shown that this is a false choice," Sommers expressed.

"Both developing energy and reducing emissions are essential to advance our society and protect the environ-

ment without energy and environmental progress."

The State of American Energy report revealed that the natural gas and oil industry remains a reliable foundation for America's economic recovery.

The industry stands ready to help the country build - today, tomorrow, and in the future - through innovation and new technologies, to supply affordable, dependable energy while continuously improving environmental performance, Sommers outlined.

"Natural gas and oil are both supporting our nation's recovery, and eventually come back from the Covid-19 pandemic," Sommers maintained.

"Our products served as critical building blocks for millions of face masks, surgical gowns, and other PPE worn by frontline workers. Our crews worked long shifts to make those products and power hospitals and plants."

He noted that the industry had refrained from political battles and focused on the essential work the nation depends upon in producing and delivering American energy, which contributes to national security, answering the climate changes with action and ingenuity while keeping energy affordable.

"Thanks to American technology and innovation, the United States is now the world's leading producer of natural gas and oil," Sommers told the gathering.

"Securing America's energy future has long been a point of unity since the 1970s, and nine US presidents have focused on American energy security and advocated for reducing



API PRESIDENT AND CEO MIKE SOMMERS SPEAKS DURING STATE OF AMERICAN ENERGY/API

our nation's dependence on foreign oil."

He insisted that energy affordability is more important than ever as the country recovers from the pandemic.

"A government that's focused on recovery for all should reject policies that could drive up energy costs and hurt those who can least afford them," Sommers said.

"That is the case we're making, and we are working with President Joe Biden and his administration. Our country has a lot of economic ground to make up, millions of more jobs to recover, and when the business at hand is the economic revival, no industry can help more than this one. The pandemic offered reminders of just how crucial the natural gas and oil industry is to everyday life."

Dr. Chavis, a longtime envi-

ronmental justice advocate, said the more than 230-member NNPA, which represents the Black Press of America, has enjoyed a great partnership with API and expects to continue as both strive to ensure that all residents have access to affordable energy.

"There are energy poverty places in America where we don't get access to energy and natural gas that's affordable," Dr. Chavis declared. "We need to make sure that natural gas is accessible to all communities. We want to overcome these so-called energy poverty places in America."

Chavis continued:

"One of the things we've enjoyed over the years is the close working relationship between the American Petroleum Institute and NNPA. As we begin 2021, the outlook is how to make

progress, how to expand opportunities.

"I'm hopeful that 2021 would not only be a year of transition, but a year where we focus on diversity and inclusion not only in terms of words but with deeds, and I think there are so many opportunities in the oil and natural gas industry in America. And, of course, API is leading the [way]."

During the event, Sommers announced the launch of API Energy Excellence, which establishes benchmarks on safety, security, and environmental protection that every API member will be expected to pursue and reach.

API Energy Excellence defines superior and ever-improving performance that will unify the industry's future progress in critically important areas to the

nation, local communities, and ourselves, Sommers remarked.

Core elements range from safety culture and community engagement to employee training and equipment design and aim to accelerate safety and environmental progress by sharing best practices and new technologies and annual progress reporting.

"With this new program, we're creating a roadmap for accelerating performance across all segments of our industry," Sommers said.

"For nearly a century, API's standards have supported the safe and environmentally responsible development, production, and transportation of natural gas and oil operations. API Energy Excellence is the next big step."



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Mrs. Lillie Mae Zeigler Pollock Parrott

Lillie Mae Z. P. Parrott departed her earthly life during the early hours of the morning on January 15, 2021. God knew she was tired and her reservation was waiting for her, so He sent His angels to take her home. She was born on May 25, 1929 in Pender County, North Carolina to the late Dinah Marshall Zeigler of Canetuck, Currie, North Carolina and the late Joseph Zeigler of Council, North Carolina.

Mrs. Parrott was educated in the New Hanover County Schools. She was an active member at Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church since 1973 where she served as a "Doorkeeper" until her health failed.

Mrs. Parrott worked in several cleaners, pressing shirts, and did them with pride until she retired. She always said, "Whatever you do, do it well, for your work speaks for you." In her earlier years, Lillie also helped to raise two of her grandchildren, Demetris Zeigler and Claudette Barnhill. Loved ones that have preceded her in death are: both of her parents, two husbands, one sister; one daughter, one son, two grandsons, three step-daughters, six step-sons, three step-grandsons, one step-granddaughter, five aunts, four uncles and special cousins and friends. Lillie is survived by: daughters, Sandra Allen of the city, Alice B. Thomas (Ronnie) of Brooklyn, NY and Janie Robinson of the city; sons, Willie Pollock and George Zeigler (Jacqueline) of Florida and Leon Pollock (Jeanelle) of Georgia; twenty-four plus grandchildren; fifty-two plus great-grandchildren; twenty-six plus great-great-grandchildren; special friends, Mrs. Anne Carr; Mr. Ronald Aikman, and her loving church family and a host of other relatives and friends.

Graveside services were held Noon on Wednesday, January 20, 2021 at Greenlawn Memorial Park, Wilmington, North Carolina with Reverend Dr. Terry L. Henry, officiating and eulogist. A Service of John H. Shaw's Son Funeral Home.

Ernestine Simpson

Ernestine Simpson died January 8, 2021. Graveside service was held on Thursday, January 14, 2021 at John's Chapel Cemetery, Castle Hayne, NC.

Ernestine Simpson, known to most of her loves as "Luck" and to everyone else as "Brown Bummer", daughter of the late Helen Marie Batts and John Wrisborne was born on March 23, 1936. Her life work was growing and picking flowers. She loved planting any kind of seasonal flowers and on some occasions, she also planted vegetable gardens. Ernestine was a member of Fifth Avenue Baptist Church. "Luck" was an exceptional and extraordinary woman of God. A mother filled with so much love for everyone. To know her was to love her. She had a gentle touch and a set of mean hands to cook in the kitchen. Heaven has really gained an angel.

In addition to her parents Ernestine was also preceded in death by her son, Robert Simpson (Linda Flowers); her brothers, John Clayton Wrisbon (Marie) and Dallas Wrisbon; her sister, Wilhelmina "Boo" Price; aunts, Quessie Bell Simpson, Susie Simpson Allen; uncles, Hallie Simpson, George "Uncle Bo Bo" Simpson, Roscoe Simpson and Lacey Simpson; and her special friends, Mildred Gregory, Mazie Nelson and Rose Bell Richardson. She leaves to cherish fond memories: her loving children, Harry Simpson (Tameaka), Dentra Rhodes, Sandra Simpson, Brenda Henry (LeVern), Bernard

Simpson, Ronald Batts (Wendy), Rosazyn Miles (Rev. Shelton) and Doris Pierce; brother, Hugh Wrisbon (Cleopatra); sister, Barbara Gaines (Lawrence); special family caregivers, Martha Simpson and Jasmine Tillman; a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives and friends, including special friends, Dentra Howard, Harriet Thames, Lily Ann McKoy and Beatrice Hill. A Service of John H. Shaw's Son Funeral Home.

Ursula Peoples

Ursula Peoples died January 9, 2021. Graveside service was held on Saturday, January 16, 2021 at the Pollock Cemetery. God in His infinite wisdom, saw the load was too heavy so He called her home where there is no pain, no tears, no sorry; where she can rest peacefully in His arms.

Ursula was preceded in death by her father, John Nixon, Sr., her paternal grandparents, Gertrude and Phillip Johnson and her maternal grandparents, George and Lizzie Nixon. Ursula, the daughter of Kathleen Nixon and the late John Nixon, Sr. was born May 3, 1971. Ursula and her family relocated from Camden, New Jersey to the Scotts Hill Community when she was just a toddler. She graduated from E. A. Laney High School in 1989. Ursula spent her working career in the health care field after acquiring a Medical Assistant Degree from Miller Motte College. She was employed with New Hanover Medical Group for more than ten years. She loved her co-workers; most of them were like family to her. Dr. Peter Manolukas was one of her favorites. Ursula loved the Lord. She accepted Christ as her Lord and Savior at an early age and joined Old Scotts Hill AME Church where she served faithfully on the Usher Board, the Steward Board, the Kitchen Committee and in any other capacity where she was needed, always serving with a smile. She had a smile that was contagious. One could not help but feel her warm and loving spirit. To say that Ursula loved her family is an understatement. Jeremiah, Deontre and Desoria were without a doubt her heart, and oh how she loved her cousins. She was "the boss" when it came to the guys in the family. They would often say, "Ursula thinks she's our mama". They would grumble, and then laugh and respectfully with love, do what she told them to. She had the kind of "sweet bossy spirit" that you couldn't help but love. Ursula was well loved by all who knew her; she will be greatly missed.

She leaves to cherish her memories: her husband, Jeremiah; son, Deontre; granddaughter, Dasoria; mother, Kathleen Nixon; brother, John Nixon, Jr. (Beverly); sisters-in-law, April Peoples (Marcus) and Tammie Lofton (Harold); brothers-in-law, Gregory Blanks and Timothy Ragin (Ramona); nieces and nephews, Larry Burns, Jr., Allyah Tate, Jalon Nixon, Darius Peoples and Jacques Baldwin; great niece and nephew, Josiah Burns and Emily Burns; a very dear friend, LaTanya Williams; godchildren, Saniya Bonds and Zamar Brown; a host of aunts and uncles (Blanks, Mayfield, Mitchell, Nixon and Peoples Family), and a host of cousins and friends. A Service of John H. Shaw's Son Funeral Home.

Lillie Mae Dixon

Lillie Mae Dixon died January 13, 2021. Graveside services were held on Wednesday, January 20, 2021 at the Moore's Cemetery, Wrightsboro Community. Lillie, age 84, was born February 15, 1936 to the late Emma James. She was married to the late Herbert Thomas Dixon. Lillie was raised in the Wrightsboro Community. She was educated in New Hanover County Schools. She retired from the Board of Education in Brooklyn, NY where she resided for a number of years. Lillie Mae was a dedicated mother first and foremost. She treasured her sons, Herbert Adolph Dixon who preceded her in death and Alfonso Dixon, embracing every moment she shared with them. She especially loved her role as grandmother. She had a vivacious personality and always mase people around her laugh. Lillie Mae was a God fearing woman who loved the Lord. She attended Pilgrim AME

Church in Brooklyn, NY until her health failed. She received an appreciation certificate for her devoted and faithful service rendered.

She leaves to cherish her memories: son, Alfonso Dixon; grandchildren, Alfonza, Nichelle, Nisa, Lashelle and Herbert Dixon; great-grandchildren, Deonta, Desiree, Jordan, and Zhander Dixon and Aliyah, Michael, Brooklyn, Nisir Bradley and Arianna Dixon; special niece, Barbara Boney Aikens; daughters-in-law, Joetta Dixon and Gwen Dixon; a host of nieces, nephews, relatives and friends. A Service of John H. Shaw's Son Funeral Home.

Carolyn Green

Carolyn Green died Thursday, January 14, 2021. Carolyn, daughter of the late Matthew Green and Mary Green was born on February 20, 1959. On, Carolyn departed her life on earth, gained her wings and went to be with the Lord.

Carolyn was a sweet, loving person who was admired by everyone that she knew. Carolyn was educated in the New Hanover County School System. She graduated, got her degree in Dietary in the Job Corps. Carolyn loved to cook and being around family and friends. She loved and lived for her one and only son, Ozzie Genright Jr., whom we all call "Lil G". When she spoke of him, she always referred to him as "My boy". He was the love of her life. The best decision that Carolyn ever made was when she accepted Jesus as her Lord and Savior. She lived a life of peace and joy, with the last 2 years of her life, never complaining.

In addition to her parents, Carolyn was preceded in death by her brothers, Billy Green, Ronnie Green and Allen Johnson and her sisters, Julia Ann Green, Sharon Green and Margaret Boseman. She leaves to cherish her memories: one son, Ozzie Genright, Jr.; seven sisters, Patricia Green, Annette Green, Jackie Green, Janice Green, Veronica Green, Shirley Sidberry and Linda Johnson; two brothers, Wayne (Ruth) Johnson and Randy Johnson; sister-in-law, Barbara Greene; her aunts and uncles and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends. A Service of John H. Shaw's Son Funeral Home.

Robert Benjamin

Robert Benjamin died January 20, 2021. Funeral service was held on Sunday, January 24, 2021 at the Willie L. Shaw Jr. Chapel.

He was born on January 3, 1958 in Brooklyn, NY to Vincent Alphonso and Annie Lee Benjamin. He grew up in New York until the family moved to Wilmington, NC. Robert graduated from New Hanover High School in 1975. He was the baby of the family, therefore, his two older brothers and sister had to watch out for him. He loved to fix things and had a gift of making broken things work. He loved music and his favorite singer/actress was Diana Ross. Robert Lee joined the Army in 1978 where he served for six years as a mechanic, with two of those years in South Korea. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brothers, Alphonso and Donald Benjamin.

Left to cherish his memories: his only sister, Joyce Barnett; three nieces, Marie Benjamin, Khalilah Marshall (Rodney) of Wilmington, NC and Iola Benjamin of Chicago, IL; one nephew, Bernard Benjamin of Greensboro, NC and Auriola Benjamin of Chicago, IL; two great-nephews, Isaiah Kemp and Kaleb Benjamin of Wilmington, NC; other family members and friends. A Service of John H. Shaw's Son Funeral Home.

Freddie Dingle, Jr.,

Freddie Dingle, Jr., died January 21, 2021. Graveside services were held on Tuesday, January 26, 2021 at Calvary Memorial Cemetery.

Deacon Freddie Dingle, Jr., son of the late Freddie Dingle and Sarah Pershey, was born on December 17, 1947 in Wilmington, North Carolina. Freddie was educated in the New Hanover County Public Schools, Wilmington, North Carolina and went to Williston Senior High School. He

was a member of Chestnut Street Presbyterian Church where he sang on the senior and men's choir and served on the usher board. Freddie was a dedicated walker. He was employed at UNCW for ten years.

Deacon Freddie Dingle leaves to cherish his memories: his loving wife, Zella; sons, Gregory Dingle and Lamont Regging; three granddaughters; several great-grandchildren; three sisters, Carrie Lee, Loretta and Daphne all of Wilmington, NC; a special cousin, Helena Burkley; a loving godson, Jay; a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives and friends all of whom will miss him dearly. A Service of John H. Shaw's Son Funeral Home.

Janet Higgins

Janet Higgins died January 20, 2021. Graveside service will be held 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 28, 2021 at Pine Forest Cemetery. Visitation is 5:30-8 PM on Wednesday. A Service of John H. Shaw's Son Funeral Home.

Pamela Singleton

Pamela Singleton died January 22, 2021. Graveside service will be held 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, January 30, 2021 at St. Phillip AME Church. Visitation is 30 minutes prior to the service. A Service of John H. Shaw's Son Funeral Home

Virginia McDowell

Virginia McDowell died January 22, 2021. Funeral service will be 11:00 a.m. on Friday, January 29, 2021 at St. Phillip AME Church. Visitation is 30 minutes prior to the service. A Service of John H. Shaw's Son Funeral Home.

Steven Jackson

Steven Jackson died January 25, 2021. Arrangements are incomplete at this time. A Service of John H. Shaw's Son Funeral Home.

Charles Reese

Charles Reese died January 25, 2021. Arrangements are incomplete at this time. A Service of John H. Shaw's Son Funeral Home.

George Hill

George Hill died January 24, 2021. Service will be held 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, January 30, 2021 at Mt. Olive AME Church. A Service of John H. Shaw's Son Funeral Home.

Rev. Horace Allen, Jr.

Rev. Horace Allen, Jr., formerly of the Rock Hill Community died January 22, 2021. Funeral service will be held 11:00 a.m. Friday, January 29, 2021 at Nelms Funeral Home, Huntsville, AL. A Courtesy of John H. Shaw's Son Funeral Home.

Cornelius Earl Wallace

Cornelius Earl Wallace, son of the late Paul Starett Wallace, Sr. and Mary Ligon Wallace, was born in Wilmington, North Carolina on January 15, 1954. He departed this life on January 12, 2021 at New Hanover Regional Medical Center.

Cornelius attended Gregory Congregational Church. He was educated in the New Hanover County School system and graduated from John T. Hoggard High School in 1972. After graduation, he attended North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University in Greensboro, NC.

Cornelius began his work career at the Blockade Runner in Wrightsville Beach. He then moved to Greensboro and worked in the manufacturing industry. After his return to Wilmington, He was employed at Corning and DuPont.

Cornelius loved the kitchen and enjoyed using his mom's cookbook to see how to improve her famous chocolate chip cookies. Of course, we cannot leave out his delicious fried fish and shrimp with his homemade tartar sauce.

In 1972, Cornelius became the proud father of Terrence Eugene Galloway. Cornelius was married to Jennifer Fennell and this union was blessed with a daughter, Jenica Danae Wallace.

Cornelius was preceded in death by his parents, Paul S. Wallace, Sr. and Mary L. Wallace; his brother, Paul S. Wallace, Jr. and his brother-in-law, Jacob B. Terrell.

He leaves to cherish his memory; his son, Terrence E. Galloway; his devoted daughter, Jenica D. Wallace; granddaughter, Shemaque Dove of Wilmington, NC; a great-grandson; sister, Gwendolyn W. Terrell of Fort Washington, MD; a special cousin, Krystle Tinsley of Bowie, MD; sister-in-law, Priscilla H. Wallace of Washington, DC; niece, Shaunia W. Carlyle of Washington, DC; and a host of cousins and special friends including Beatrice Murphy, Leon Seth, Alfred Burnett, George DeChamp, Lynn and Rick Harris, Phyllis Goodson and Dave Eckels. Services entrusted to Adkins-Drain Funeral Service, 515 South 8th Street,

Wilmington, N C 28401. Condolences may be shared at www.adkinsdrainfuneralservice.com.

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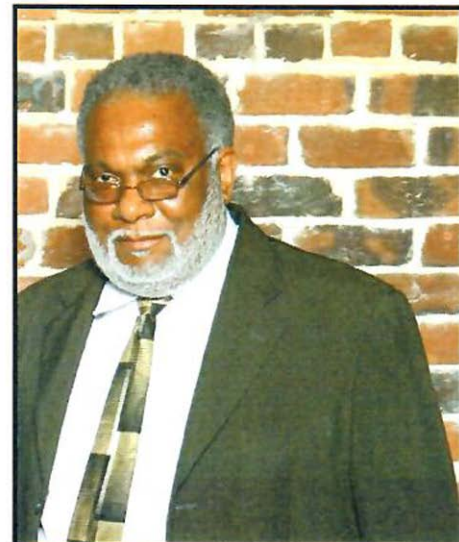
Katherine Jervay Tate Who departed this life January 27, 2015

Loving you always, The Family

Thank you



The family of our dear Wanda J Sloan Beloved daughter, sister, and auntie wish to convey our sincere thanks for your kind expressions of love, sympathy, prayers and encouragement in our recent loss



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TELL SOMEBODY

"This I recall to my mind, therefore have I hope. It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness." Lamentations 3:21-23

Hope - Desire with expectation of fulfillment
Compassion - Sympathetic feeling for human frailty and sorrows ; Strong feelings

To those who have been socially stigmatized as hopeless, God's Word is to them, "Don't lose hope. To those who have been medically diagnosed as hopeless, God's Word to them is, Don't lose hope. To those whom society and the penal

system has given up on and labeled as hopeless, God's Word to them is, Don't lose hope!

We all need to take the time and think about why we are still here when life has happened and all hope seems to be gone, yet we are still alive. We need to pause and ponder about the fact that we have survived in spite of the odds against us.

We must believe the report of the Lord instead of the report of the enemy. The world took a look at many of



Sylvia Hooper

us and simply stated, "No Hope!" They said there is no hope for that person to ever be saved, healed or ever delivered. Sometimes family members have given up on loved ones, and believed there was no hope for them. They believed loved ones were lost to drugs, immorality, to the streets. God's Word to these persons is, Don't lose hope.

Medically speaking, there are many who have been diagnosed by doctors as having no hope to live. The doctors have given up all hope for healing and recovery, because he prescribed medicine and the medicine has failed. The doctor has done all he can do. They sadly say to the patient, I am sorry, but there is no hope.

Society has given up on a lot

of individuals and labeled them as hopeless. The correction system has become like a revolving door to them because they have been deemed hopeless. God's Word to these individuals is, Don't lose hope.

We are alive and well today because of the love of God and the unfailing compassion of the Lord Jesus Christ. Even to those who have been disobedient, God's compassion has met them on the seat of mercy. Psalm 78:38 says, "But he, being full of compassion forgave their iniquity, and destroyed them not: yea, many a time turned he his anger away, and did not stir up all his wrath."

God's Word stands as an unfailing source of hope to

those considered to be hopeless! There are scriptural examples of Jesus Christ's compassion to those in need. He had compassion on the multitude, Matthew 9:36, Matthew 14:14, Matthew 15:32. He had compassion on the blind and the unfortunate, in Matthew 20:34. He also had compassion of the outcasts and lepers, in Mark 1:41. He even had compassion on the bereaved, who were mourning the lost of loved ones in Luke 7:13. The list goes on and on.

There are countless living testimonies for those who, against hope, hoped in God and had their faith rewarded when he saw their need and was moved with compassion. When he heard their sincere

prayer and cry for help.

Prayer: Father, touch my mind, and help me to hope again in your Word, because your compassion never fails. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Tell Somebody, "Don't Lose Hope!"

Mrs. Sylvia B. Hooper is a native Wilmingtonian, married to Pastor Johnson A. Hooper. Pastor of Faith Outreach COGIC, Jacksonville, N.C. She has a heart for women's ministry, starting with young women and girls ages 12 - 18, and also branching out to women of all ages. Her life's mission includes the desire to rescue the perishing, comfort the dying, and save the lost all in the name of Jesus to the glory of God the Father.

A WORD FROM THE LORD

Preparation to work for the Master Teacher is a challenge

It is definitely a challenge to work for an earthly master teacher: another human. Even among humans, however, if well versed in what he has been trained to do can expel worthwhile knowledge. Someone who is skilled and has experience, often increases in that knowledge that can be released. So, there are benefits in taking complete advantage of another man's learning.

We benefit, however, only if that knowledge is directly related to the source and truth of that knowledge. Knowledge is wisdom and wisdom comes only from the word of God. But with all your knowledge you must get understanding. They're two different things but go hand in hand.

Genuine knowledge is received when coming out of our comfort zone and stepping into an unknown. That unknown is found only in the the supernatural word of God that transcends any other path chosen independ-

ent of God.

Let's take a college freshman student for example or a kindergartener; it doesn't matter. To add to their knowledge, both would have to reach out of their comfort zones of the ordinary day to day things. Maturity and age along with some basic knowledge of listening and absorbing is needed. In other words, they've both hopefully, done whatever was necessary to be at this place in their lives. In their seeking, some strides have been made and that's why they're here. But this next step is in new territory and there's a little discomfort because it's new and the peers are new. Remain focused and remember you're being prepared for work. You're not there yet. Luke 14:28 "For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it?"

Let's also look at another example that is very similar in preparation for work. The farmer has to make prepara-

tion for a good and productive crop. There is work in it. He doesn't just look at another man's crop and long to have the same. Neither can he haphazardly come up with a plan. First, the farmer must decide what kind of crop he desires to plant. That is just the 'what' of planting. Then there is the when and the where and on to the next, the how? Then, now, let's do this.

I realize it is more work than I anticipated, but this is what I want and I'm willing to do what others do: apply myself. I begin by learning from others who have already done this successfully. I start to read and apply. Listen to others with knowledge of and apply. A good master teacher knows of your needs and in this instance already has packaged what you need. You just need to search for the information and start to work. Your reward is in seeing how the master teacher helps. He gave you a start and steps to complete the job. He was able to help you, how-

ever, only because you read instructions and carried them out. People say, God only helps those who help themselves. God asks only for your acceptance of the plan and he has obligated himself to help you reach preparedness for work. 2 Chronicles 16:9, NIV "For the eyes of the Lord range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him." God's looking to use someone who has prepared their soil or ground or has sharpened their readiness in the word to take you higher and grounded in him. He is willing to make you what you ought to be.

We've got to realize that it's not just about the master teacher. It's about us as well. The teacher and student must become a team: one with the knowledge and the other there to receive and act upon the knowledge given. It's a team effort. The student must be in a readiness stage: prepared to grow. God prepares your heart to desire to

seek his word for knowledge. God and he alone is able to do Acts 20:32, "make us what we ought to be". Yes, we can become one with God. 1 Timothy 4:13 is told by Paul to study the word and to devote himself to teaching it. Why? There is knowledge that we desperately need for our well being especially in these times and it comes only through reading his word.

People are bold enough to want to teach others without having been taught themselves. The bible speaks about the blind leading the blind which results into both falling in the ditch. Blind knowledge of any kind is dangerous.

"Psalms 18:20, As for God, his way is perfect: The Lord's word is flawless; he shields all who take refuge in him." NIV. "Psalms 18:30, God's way is perfect. All the Lord's promises prove true. He is a shield for all who look to him for protection." NLT

God is calling for students. All Christians are prepared by God to begin equipping

themselves to be serious workers and to enter the school of growth whether you are on the high school or professional level. How? None of us can exhaust the knowledge available to us as a born again child of God. With a mindset to increase more and more in him as you read his word, our minds begin to be renewed spiritually. Change your way of thinking to the thoughts of Jesus by renewing your mind to align with Christ. Only the word can do this. 2 Timothy 2:21 says, "If you keep yourself pure, you will be a special utensil for honorable use. Your life will be clean, and you will be ready for the Master to use you for every good work."

If you are searching for true knowledge, salvation is your first step: knowing God. Pray in earnest, this prayer. Lord forgive me of my sins and use my life to mean something great in you!

This week's column is written by Mrs. Thelma Chandler Fullwood.

MCSURELY

Continued from page 5

his poor white illiterate farmers, outfitted them with Red-Shirts. When Editor Alex Manly and his brother made it to DC to Petition Pres. McKinley for Federal Intervention, McKinley refused to see the "Ns." The Aycock-driven violence occurred right after the electoral victory of the Black-White Fusion Voters electoral victory in local elections.

NCCU Law Professor Irv Joyner helped lead the official NC State Commission on the 1898 Massacre. Although the official report was unable to attach a specific number to the Black Bodies dumped in the Cape Fear Harbor after dark on the day of infamy, it did create a powerful new interest in the new scholarship about the Truth of the Massacre. There are lessons in Lankford's apology which we should demand of our Senators, who still Back the BIG LIE. In 1927 Robert S. Jervay began publishing an

African American newspaper, which he called The Cape Fear Journal. His son, Thomas C. Jervay, renamed it the Wilmington Journal in the 1940's, and moved it a few blocks to its present location. Through natural disasters-hurricanes and floods, mainly-and white-man made assaults-Financial boycotts and fire-bombs, mainly-- the Wilmington Journal is still the flagship African American Newspaper in North Carolina and the South. It was fire-bombed in 1973 by a mob call-

ing itself 'The Rights Of White People' because the Journal persistently supported the Wilmington 10, finally winning full pardons from Gov. Beverly Perdue in 2013 for them.

But today, we should begin a message flood of Tillis and Burr's NC offices, demanding an Apology like Sen. Lankford gave. They need to rectify the racist history of 1898 taught in our schools, but first they need to Apologize for their racist voter suppression tactics against us. What about it NC NAACP? What About It, Poor

People's Campaign?

Stay safe. Stay Strong. Ain't Tired Yet. Support the restoration of the Wilmington Journal Historic Building. Get your vaccination. Enjoy the great changes that have already been made.

Att. McSurely worked in the Civil Rights Movement from 1960 to 1968, when his family's home was dynamited in Eastern Kentucky. Margaret Herring and he were charged with overthrowing the Government of Kentucky by building moral fusion alliances

with Appalachian coal miners and Black voters. He became a lawyer after 15 years of apprenticeship to Bill Kunstler, Arthur Kinoy, and Morton Stavis while they fought off charges of sedition and contempt. He earned his law degree from NCCU Law School and has been suing racist institutions ever since. He has worked closely with his friend, Bishop William J. Barber II. Five years ago, he married O'Linda Watkins, President of Moore County NAACP Branch.

Black Americans are being vaccinated at far lower rates

BY STACY M. BROWN
NNPA NEWSWIRE SENIOR
NATIONAL
CORRESPONDENT

When the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved two new vaccines to combat the coronavirus, the initial concern was whether African Americans would accept vaccination.

The rollout of the medicine from Pfizer and Moderna featured heavy promotion.

High-profile African Americans like former President Barack Obama, National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) Coronavirus Task Force Member Dr. Ebony Hilton, and the Rev. Jesse Jackson received their shots publicly.

An African American nurse in New York earned distinction as the first person in the country to receive a vaccination, and Meharry Medical College President Dr. James Hildreth, a Black man, sat on the FDA board that approved the vaccines.

Now, concern has shifted from whether African Americans will accept the vaccine.

Many now wonder whether

doses would be available to the Black community.

A new Kaiser Family Foundation report has revealed that African Americans are getting vaccinated at much lower rates than whites.

The report, released on Saturday, Jan. 16, shows that in 16 U.S. states where the vaccine is available, white residents are being vaccinated by as much as three times higher than African Americans.

One example is Pennsylvania, where 1.2 percent of white residents had been vaccinated, compared with just 0.3 percent of African Americans in the Keystone State.

Kaiser Family Foundation researchers noted that vaccine distribution is supposed to align with healthcare and frontline workers' demographics, presumably making the vaccine equally available to all races.

Some have hinted the lack of vaccine access is rooted in racism - not an unwillingness of minorities to get vaccinated.

Dr. Taison Bell, of the University of Virginia, told NBC News that he was "horrified to discover that mem-

bers of environmental services - the janitorial staff - did not have access to hospital email."

Hospital staff receives its vaccination information via email, Dr. Bell stated.

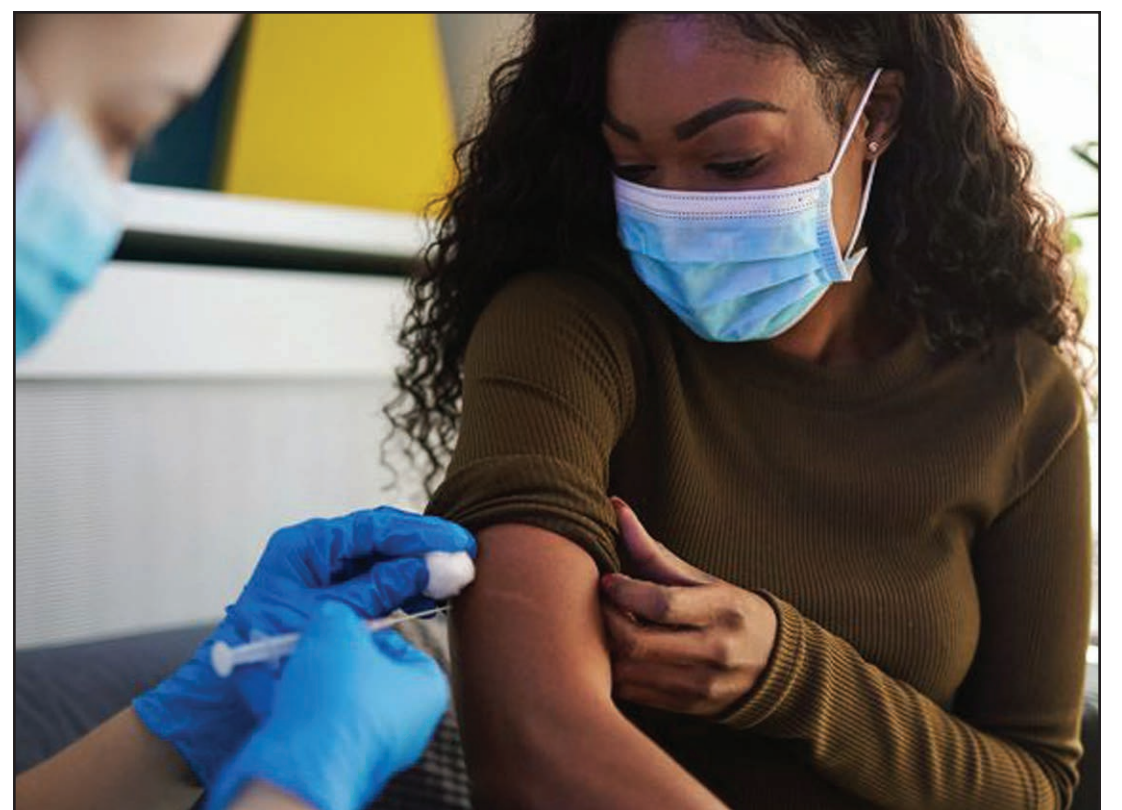
"That's what structural racism looks like," Dr. Georges Benjamin, executive director of the American Public Health Association, told NBC.

"Those groups were seen and not heard - nobody thought about it."

As of Jan. 16, the U.S. had surpassed more than 23.3 million total cases and 388,700 deaths due to the pandemic, the Kaiser Family Foundation reported.

According to a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention analysis, African Americans, Latinos, and Native Americans are dying from COVID-19 nearly three times the rate of white people.

"With the country's coronavirus pandemic continuing unabated as cases and deaths increase, and a more contagious variant of the virus spreads, there is a greater focus on vaccine distribution troubles," Kaiser Family Foundation President and CEO Drew Altman wrote.



As of Jan. 16, the U.S. had surpassed more than 23.3 million total cases and 388,700 deaths due to the pandemic, the Kaiser Family Foundation reported.

The covid-19 vaccine distribution effort is in trouble, Altman demurred.

According to federal data, only about a third of the more than 25 million doses distributed nationwide have been given to people.

"Hundreds of different dis-

tribution programs are being organized across states and counties for frontline health workers, residents of long-term care facilities, the elderly and others that states are prioritizing in different sequences," Altman continued.

"The country needs a distribution strategy that our fragmented, multilayered healthcare system can effectively implement. This will require more federal direction, a simpler priority structure, and a different role for the states."

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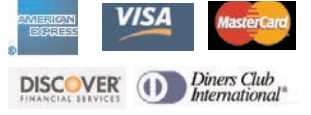
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LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF NEW HANOVER

The undersigned, having qualified as Administrator of the estate of **Herbert Randolph Shepard**, 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 **21st day of April, 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 21st day of January, 2021

Angela T. Ballard, Administrator
2408 Acorn Branch Rd.
Wilmington, NC 28405

January 21, 28, February 4, 11, 2021

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA NEW HANOVER COUNTY In the Superior Court 20 CVS 3226

CRM Investments, Inc. v. Paul M. Sylvia, Esq. To Paul M. Sylvia:

Take notice that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action. The nature of the relief being sought is as follows: Action for money owed based on prior judgment.

You are required to make defense to such pleading not later than 2/23/21 and upon your failure to do so the party seeking service against you will apply to the court for the relief sought.

This, the 14th day of January, 2021

Don T. Evans, Jr., 509 Princess Street, Wilmington, NC 28401
Attorney for CRM Investments, Inc.

January 14, 21, 28, 2021

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF NEW HANOVER IN THE DISTRICT COURT JUVENILE SESSION FILE NO. 19 JT 178, 179

IN THE MATTER OF: J.M.W. (dob: 20 September 2008) C.A.M. (dob: 13 March 2003)

TO: ANY UNKNOWN FATHER of J.M.W. and ANY UNKNOWN FATHER of C.A.M.

Take notice that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action. The nature of the relief being sought is as follows:

Termination of all parental rights you have to J.M.W. and C.A.M.

You are required to make defense to such pleading within forty (40) days following Thursday, January 21, 2021, which date is the date of first publication of this Notice. Upon your failure to do so, the party seeking service against you will apply to the Court for the relief sought. You have the right to attend this hearing and you have the right to be represented by counsel.

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT A HEARING ON THE PETITION TO TERMINATE YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS IS SCHEDULED FOR MONDAY, MARCH 8, 2021, AT 9:30 A.M., or upon a date and time set thereafter via Webex or 216 N. 2nd Street, Wilmington, North Carolina, 28401.

This the 21st day of January, 2021.

Regina Floyd-Davis
Senior Attorney
New Hanover Co. Dept. of Social Services
1650 Greenfield Street
Wilmington, NC 28401
(910) 798-3615
(910) 798-7833 * fax

January 21, 28, February 4, 2021

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF NEW HANOVER

The undersigned, having qualified as Administrator of the estate of **Virlyn McGrew**, 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 **21st day of April, 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 21st day of January, 2021

Stephanie McGrew, Administrator
309 Westchester Rd.
Wilmington, NC 28409

January 21, 28, February 4, 11, 2021

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA NEW HANOVER COUNTY

THE UNDERSIGNED, Nello A. Fillippini, Jr., having qualified on the 6th day of January, 2021, as Personal Representative of the Estate of **Patricia C. Fillippini (2021-E-19)**, 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 Kevin May, 5700 Oleander Dr., Wilmington, North Carolina, 28403, on or before the **14th day of April, 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 January, 2021.

Nello A. Fillippini, Jr., Personal Representative
Estate of Patricia C. Fillippini
Kevin May
GRAVES MAY, PLLC
5700 Oleander Dr.
Wilmington, NC 28403

January 14, 21, 28, February 4, 2021

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Having qualified on the 13th day of January, 2021, as Co-Executors of the Estate of **DANIEL A. MACK**, Deceased, late of New Hanover County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the decedent to exhibit the same to the Co-Executors, Michael J. Mack and Mark A. Mack, at 1151 Mallard Bay Road - Hampstead, NC 28443, on or before the **21st day of April, 2021**, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the estate should make immediate payment.

This 15th day of January, 2021.

Michael J. Mack, Co-Executor and Mark A. Mack, Co-Executor
Attorney for the Estate:
J. Wesley Casteen, Esq., CPA
Carolina Legal Counsel
P.O. Box 12028
Wilmington, North Carolina 28405
Telephone (910) 256-3364

January 21, 28, February 4, and 11, 2021.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Having qualified on the 11th day of January, 2021, as Co-Executors of the Estate of **ROBERT LEE BROWN, SR.**, Deceased, late of New Hanover County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the decedent to exhibit the same to the Co-Executors, Wm. Douglas Brown and Robert L. Brown, Jr., at 2053 Van Buren Street - Wilmington, NC 28401, on or before the **21st day of April, 2021**, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the estate should make immediate payment.

This 13th day of January, 2021.

Wm. Douglas Brown, Co-Executor and Robert L. Brown, Jr., Co-Executor
Attorney for the Estate:
J. Wesley Casteen, Esq., CPA
Carolina Legal Counsel
P.O. Box 12028
Wilmington, North Carolina 28405
Telephone (910) 256-3364

January 21, 28, February 4, and 11, 2021.

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF NEW HANOVER

The undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the estate of **Lizzie Brown Nixon**, 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 **8th day of April, 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 7th day of January, 2021

Mamie Nixon Carlos, Administrator
120 Foy's Trail
Wilmington, NC 28411

January 7, 14, 21, 28, 2021

NOTICE TO CREDITORS STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF NEW HANOVER

Having qualified as Executrix of the Estate of **Ellen J. Solomon (20-E-1475)**, late of New Hanover County, Wilmington, North Carolina the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned at 701 Market Street, Wilmington, North Carolina, 28401 on or before **April 8, 2021** or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This the 7th day of January, 2021.

Laura J. Solomon, Executrix
c/o Craige & Fox, PLLC
701 Market Street
Wilmington, NC 28401

January 7, 14, 21, 28, 2021

NOTICE TO CREDITORS STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF NEW HANOVER

The undersigned, having qualified as Administrator of the estate of **Mamie Ruth Sellars Polk**, 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 **28th day of April, 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 28th day of January, 2021

Dainya J. Polk, Administrator
5207 Mulberry Ave. Apt. B
Wilmington, NC 28403

January 28, February 4, 11, 18, 2021

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Having qualified as Co-Executors of the Estate of **Susan R. Harrington**, late of Wilmington, New Hanover County, North Carolina, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them in care of the undersigned at 517 Bedford Forest Drive, Wilmington, NC 28412, on or before **April 28, 2021** or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This the 28th day of January, 2021.

Douglas A. Fox, Attorney
YOW, FOX & MANNEN, LLP
102 N. 5TH Ave.
Wilmington, NC 28401
Pamela Gregory Spears and Timothy Wayne Gregory, Co-Executors of the Estate of Susan R. Harrington

January 28, February 4, 11, 18, 2021

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of **Frederick William Lewis, Jr.**, late of Wilmington, New Hanover County, North Carolina, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them in care of Frederick William Lewis, III, Administrator, at 1737 Signature Place, Wilmington, North Carolina, 28405 on or before **April 28, 2021** or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This the 28th day of January, 2021.

Jerry A. Mannen, Jr.
YOW, FOX & MANNEN, LLP
102 N. 5TH Ave.
Wilmington, NC 28401
William Frederick Lewis, III,
Administrator Of the Estate of William Frederick Lewis, Jr.

January 28, February 4, 11, 18, 2021

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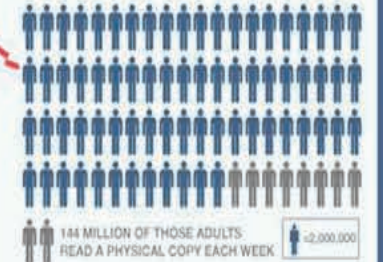
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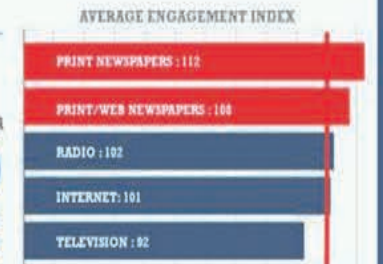
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Across Platforms, 7 in 10 Adults Access Content from Newspaper Media Each Week (NAA.org, March 25, 2013)
The American Newspaper Media Industry Revenue Profile 2012 (NAA.org, April 8, 2013)
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