

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

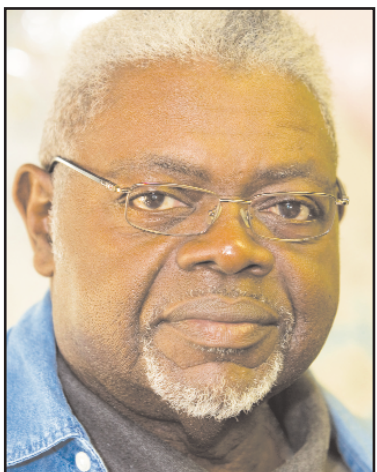
GUEST EDITORIAL

"George Floyd Justice in Policing Act would set smart national standards for police behavior"

BY

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BRUNSWICK COUNTY



BERNEST HEWETT

THE ABILITY TO COMMUNICATE IS IMPORTANT

BY BERNEST HEWETT CONTRIBUTING WRITER

I was taught in high school that I should know how to do certain paperwork so that life would be simple and easier for daily living and doing business. One should know how to fill out applications, write and express one's feelings so that what he or she is saying can be understood when it is read. We should be able to take instructions (verbal or written). These are a few of the basic things the average person should know. I find that this is not always true for people of all races, White, Black, Hispanic, etc. I also find for

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THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

News from the African American perspective without fear or favor

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Ronnie Long feels cheated by state after 44 years in prison



RONNIE LONG

BY CASH MICHAELS OF THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

After 44 long years in prison, serving time for a crime he didn't commit, Ronnie Long finally got his freedom and finally got his pardon of innocence!

What he didn't get, he now says, is anywhere near the money the State of North Carolina owes him for wrongly depriving him of his freedom for those 44 years, and he wants the world to know it.

"North Carolina intentionally put me in the penitentiary and you tell me \$750,000 is worth 44 years of my life?" Long, 65, opined to WCNC-TV recently.

It was 1976 when a then young Ronnie Long was convicted for allegedly raping a White woman in Concord and sentenced to 80 years in prison. It wasn't until August 2020 when local prosecutors determined that exculpatory evidence that proved Long was innocent had been covered up during his original trial, and he was finally released from prison.

Gov. Cooper gave Long a pardon of innocence in December 2020.

By law, North Carolina is obligated to compensate wrongly convicted people \$50,000 for every year that they are wrongly incarcerated.

However, that amount is capped at \$750,000.

That means either Long was compensated for only 15 of the 44 years he spent in prison, or North Carolina only compensated him just over \$17,000 per year for the 44 it kept him behind bars.

Either way, neither Long nor his attorney likes it.

"You took my 20's, my 30's, my 40's, and my 50's, and you still talking about this is worth that?" Long told USA TODAY.

Long's parents died while he was in prison, and he had no savings when he was convicted, his attorney, Jamie Lau says.

"He entered prison healthy and left broken," Lau said. "His ongoing financial security is the least he deserves after so much was taken over those 44 years."

However, that likely is not about to happen.

Readers will recall it is was 2012 when the surviving members of the Wilmington Ten were granted pardons of innocence by then Gov. Beverly Perdue after over 40 years of falsely being charged with felonies stemming from the 1971 firebombing of a White owned grocery store in Wilmington during racial unrest there.

The Ten were falsely convicted in 1972 and collectively sentenced to over 282 years in prison. Ultimately, none of them ever served their full sentences, but because North Carolina never legally cleared them until 2012, all ten

were still considered convicted felons for at least 40 years.

That meant that, while some were able to find small jobs, any hopes of meaningful careers were dashed because the felony convictions were still on their records for at least 40 years.

And when Gov. Perdue granted the pardons of innocence, the families of those Wilmington Ten members who were deceased were denied compensation for the many years that the State took from them.

Now, in the Ronnie Long case, the State's legally instituted unfairness rears its head again.

"His life was stolen from him," AshLeigh Long, Ronnie's wife, told the News and Observer. "His parents are dead. Who knows what we would have done if he had those 44 years back?"

Attorney Lau assures that he and his client are seeking to hold others responsible for Long's false conviction and imprisonment accountable. "Whatever remedies are available for holding those responsible for his wrongful incarceration accountable and to ensure that he is financially secure in the future."

To say that Ronnie Long is bitter about the situation is an understatement.

"I've got a dead mother and father in the ground," he said. "You tell me what's fair!"

Johnson gifts images to the Wilmington Journal

BY BEVERLY SMALLS CONTRIBUTING WRITER

In March Aundra Johnson gave more than twenty historical two-dimensional items from the estate of the late Kenneth Davis to the Wilmington Journal.

Davis, a local community historian with special interests in African American heritage, was active in studies and projects to create the Wilmington 1898 Monument, and other historic markers.

His close friend, Aundra said the local activist's mounted black and white newspaper prints and photographs needed a special site for safe keeping and display.

"There are images about Tuskegee, 1898, and many more," Johnson said.

She has special respect for her

roots in the lower Cape Fear region.

Johnson grew up in Rocky Point, and graduated from Pender High School.

She has lived in Philadelphia, Washington, D.C. and Brooklyn, New York.

A four year period of active duty in the United States Air Force also led to duty stations in Texas, Mississippi, and California.

Johnson enjoys traveling within the United States, and writing poetry.

Referring to herself as a spiritual person, she is associated with Mt. Moriah African Methodist Episcopal Church.

After the loss of a cousin, Johnson said she became more active in writing inspirational poems and allowing the spirit of the Lord to lead her:

"My constitution that I live by is

treat people like you want to be treated even if they don't treat you the same," she said.

"That's the Lord's battle."

Johnson has recently been hired as manager of a new small business franchise. "The Wash House," opened its twentieth North Carolina location in Wilmington and she is in charge.

Her upbringing as the middle child of five siblings has proved helpful in working with a diverse public in the inner city laundering business.

"I treat everyone right, White or Black, rich or poor," Johnson said.

Customers know her name and she knows theirs.

There is mutual respect.

"Without rules you have chaos."

Referring to the way some folk wear their pants, slacks and shorts, she quipped,



AUNDR A JOHNSON

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



THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

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BRUNSWICK Continued from Page 1

one reason or another, paperwork is not always done when it is needed, particularly in the writing and execution of wills, insurance policies, job applications, property management, etc. We really need to take on this process of paperwork. I find that many people have no idea of what to do when a family member dies or a storm comes and destroys their houses. We don't understand how to deal with the fine points of car wrecks, etc. Please get in touch with your community college. Personnel there can help you most of the time with these processes and the paperwork. We should talk with our local school board and, perhaps, make some suggestions on this subject. Our ability to communicate is the greatest thing in the world. People of color are hurt most by this basic drawback. We must be proficient in our reading and writing and understanding the basic fundamentals of literacy! Bernest Hewett is President Emeritus of the Brunswick County Chapter of the NAACP.



NEWS ANALYSIS It's worse than we ever thought

BY HAZEL TRICE EDNEY

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - Among the first evidence presented by prosecutors in the trial of former Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin in his killing of George Floyd is that it was not just 8 minutes and 46 seconds as originally thought, but rather, it was 9 minutes and 29 seconds that Chauvin knelt on Floyd's neck.

People in the courtroom and those keeping up with the trial by media would later learn that it was even worse than the 9 minutes and 29 seconds. Moreover, they learned that Chauvin's knee not only remained on George Floyd's neck for as long as there was breath in his body; but - according to a pulmonary expert, Chauvin's knee continued to press into Floyd's neck for three minutes after Floyd was already dead.

These travesties of justice remain unspeakable to those who cringe or cry every time they hear the suffering of George Floyd as he pled for his life. And as bad as that was, the blows of injustice to the Black community, its parents and children continue to get worse.

In yet another tragic death, Minneapolis has been on nightly curfew as protestors continue to cry out for justice. On Sunday, April 11, only 10 miles away from the location of the Derek Chauvin trial, yet another Minneapolis police officer took out her revolver and shot an unarmed 20-year-old Black man. The death of Daunte Wright was characterized by the then police chief as an accident.

Despite the resignation of and subsequent second degree manslaughter charge against now former Officer Kim Potter, who said she meant to shoot her taser at Wright and despite

the resignations of the police chief and city manager, there is no consolation to Americans - Black or White - who have experienced these non-stop back-to-back travesties against Black people.

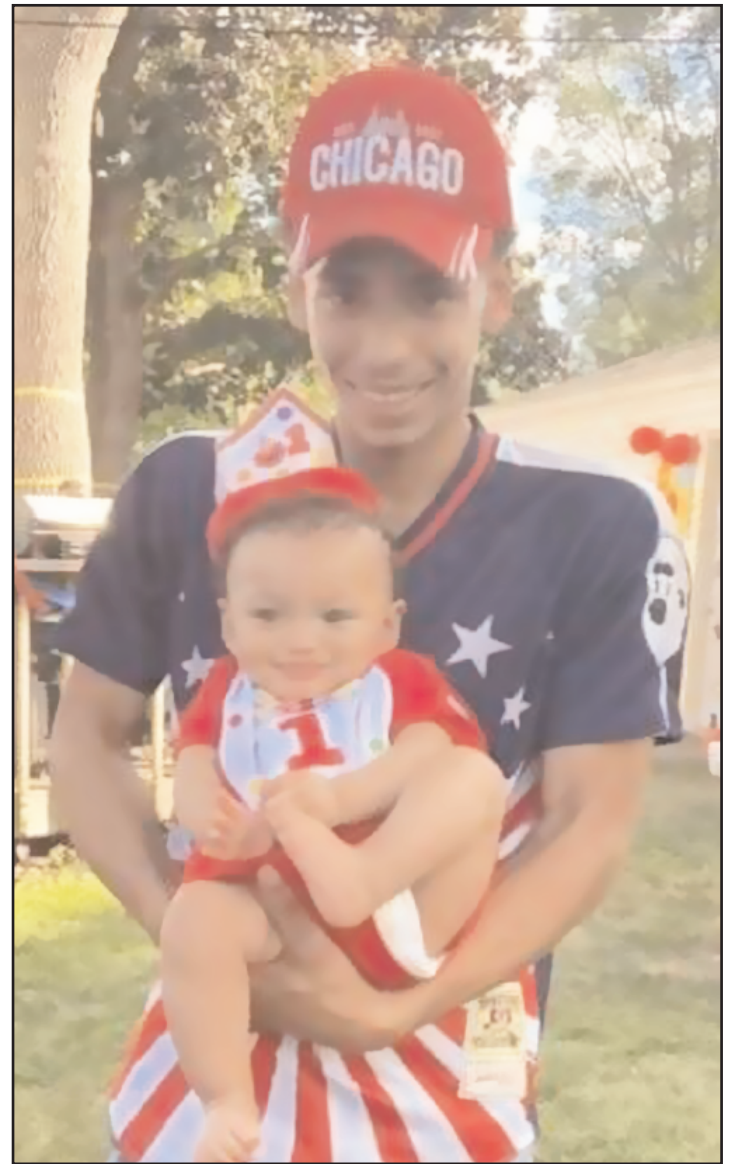
So far, indications are that there is seemingly no end in sight for the assaults on the Black community. Even the senseless Windsor, Va. traffic stop of U. S. Army Lt. Caron Nazario a Black and Hispanic man stopped and pepper sprayed by a rogue cop shouting misguided orders has baffled the nation. There is no solace that the cop, Joe Gutierrez, who then lied in his report about the details of the incident, was fired. It is no solace because these travesties of justice happen every day out of the sight of cameras where some of the stories are never even revealed much less believed.

On March 3, 1991, when Rodney King was viciously beaten by Los Angeles police officers, much of America was awakened by the video repeatedly shown on daily news. But across America, Black-owned newspapers have long recorded the trauma of violence against Black people, continuing from the unspeakable cruelties of American slavery. Beginning with Freedom's Journal in 1827 to journalist Ida B. Wells' 1895 Red Record documentation of American lynching to Black American newspapers' Double V campaign during World War II to JET magazine's 1955 photo of the tortured Emmett Till, regardless of how bad it got, the continued documentation of these evils well into the 21st Century now proves that it is yet worse than we ever thought.

But there must be an end to this centuries-long night-

mare. The blood of those who have recently become household names are crying out, underscoring the indescribable horrors heaped upon them and therefore upon Black people: Trayvon Martin, Stephon Clark, Freddie Gray, Eric Garner, Amadou Diallo, Philando Castile, Michael Brown, Breonna Taylor, Tamir Rice, Sandra Bland, George Floyd - and thousands of others.

And yet, we the people march and protest because we still believe. We still believe that our America, a nation built upon our backs and by the suffering of our ancestors, will someday respect us. We still believe that America, with a Declaration of Independence that promises equality of "life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness", will someday do right by us. And, even as we acknowledge that it is indeed worse than we ever thought, we still believe that the collective voices and unified courage of Black, White and others together will give rise to answered prayers that will finally end this modern-day civil war.



DAUNTE WRIGHT AND SON



U. S. ARMY LT. CARON NAZARIO WITH HANDS UP AS NOW FIRED VIRGINIA POLICE OFFICER JOE GUTIERREZ PREPARES TO PEPPER SPRAY HIM. (SCREENSHOT)

Advertisement for 'Praise' radio station (WWIL 104.9 FM 1490 AM). Text includes: 'THE MOST LOYAL LISTENERS ON THE PLANET', 'FACT: 68% OF AMERICANS LISTEN TO CHRISTIAN GOSPEL MUSIC IN THE PAST MONTH', 'FACT: 71% OF CONTEMPORARY CHRISTIAN GOSPEL MUSIC LISTENERS ARE BETWEEN THE AGES OF 25 - 54', 'FACT: CHRISTIAN MUSIC HAS GROWN 33% IN THE PAST 5 YEARS', 'FACT: MOST ADVERTISERS HAVE NO IDEAL WHO LISTENS TO CHRISTIAN BASED RADIO STATIONS', 'ADVERTISE WITH US', 'YOUR ARE NOT BUYING A COMMERCIAL YOU'RE BUYING AN AUDIENCE', 'CALL OR COME BY NOW FOR A FREE MEDIA KIT', '(910) 833-7118', '2392 Carolina Beach Rd. Suite 203', 'Wilmington, NC 28401'.

Advertisement for 'POWER 1220AM WENC' radio station in Whiteville, North Carolina. Text includes: 'Godwin Communication, LLC', 'Godwin Communications passion is to inspire people through good radio programming that uplift, motivate and empower people to achieve greatness.', 'Our local station WENC has served Columbus County and surrounding areas since 1974. We are committed to providing the highest quality of service.', 'Our goal is to introduce a wholesome format with positive connotations to assist the spiritual growth of our listeners. We feel this goal is attainable because of our coverage.', 'Our station broadcasts National News and Sports from the NBC and NC Network. The coverage of WENC is Southeastern North Carolina and Northeastern South Carolina, which includes Bladen, Horry, Roberson, and Columbus counties.', 'Interested in Career Opportunities at Godwin Communications, Give us a Call.', 'Godwin Communications, LLC 108 Radio Station Rd Whiteville, North Carolina 28472 Tel: (910) 642-2133 Website: www.power1220am.com Email: anesha@enbarqmail.com'.

THE BLACK PRESS USE IT OR LOSE IT!

Advertisement featuring a lion and the text: 'If the lions do not write their own history, then the hunters will get all the credit.' ---AN AFRICAN PROVERB

STATE BRIEFS



KINSTON OFFICIALS PROBE POLICE BEATING OF BLACK MAN

[KINSTON] Kinston police and city officials are investigating a disturbing video of one of their officers punching a Black man on

the ground at least four times Monday evening in front of Little Caesar's restaurant. Local media report that employees inside called police when a man identified as David Bruton Jr., 36, began to make threats. Police caught Bruton as he tried to run outside, and held him down, while one officer is seen in a video punching him on the ground. Reportedly, Bruton suffers from mental illness and has had police encoun-

ters before. The local NAACP is demanding a full investigation.

CLINICS SWITCH TO PFIZER AND MODERNA VACCINES AFTER J&J WARNING

[DURHAM] Local health clinics across the state are switching to the Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines in the aftermath of reports that the Johnson & Johnson vaccine has caused some rare heart

problems in some of its recipients. Earlier this week, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention warned local clinics to stop administering the single-dose J&J vaccine "out of an abundance of caution" after reports of several women recipients experiencing serious blood-clot afterward, with one of the women dying. Officials caution that the problem has

happened very, very rarely, and should not dissuade anyone who hasn't gotten his/her shot from getting one, especially given that there have been no reported problems with the Pfizer or Moderna two-shot vaccines.

STATE LAWMAKERS WANT DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME TO BE PERMANENT

[RALEIGH] A bill making daylight saving permanent in North Carolina is

making its way through a House committee. If it makes it to the House floor and passes, it would bring North Carolina closer to joining fifteen other states in the nation that have passed laws or resolutions seeking to move clocks up one hour ahead permanently. Those laws can only go into effect if Congress approves.

COMPILED BY CASH MICHAELS

Rev. Barber warns: Get ready to fight for N. C. voting rights again

BY CASH MICHAELS OF THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

In 2013, when the Republican-led North Carolina General Assembly passed massive legislation restricting voting rights, then NC NAACP president, The Reverend William Barber, took to the streets in constant protest and the courts to expose the injustice and to warn the rest of the nation that one day it would face the same challenge.

Well, that day, arguably, is here. According to the Brennan Center for Justice, lawmakers in 47 out of 50 states in the nation have introduced 361 bills with restrictive voting provisions.

Count North Carolina, once again, as one of them, as restrictive bills have already been filed in the legislature to deal with mail-in absentee balloting, mandating that Election Day be the deadline for mail-in ballots and not allowing the state attorney general to enter into any legal agreements affecting the election process without the Republican House and Senate leadership approval.

Now add to that the trial that commenced this week

over the constitutionality of the 2018 voter ID law and the contention that the law was passed by the N. C. General Assembly to, once again, inhibit African-Americans' right to vote.

The Reverend Dr. Barber says that, in order to combat the ever growing threat to voting rights nationally and in North Carolina today, the same strategy as in 2013 should be employed, the exertion of pressure in the streets and in the courts.

"North Carolina was where much of this started in 2013, and we took them to task and created the formula for beating them," Rev. Barber says. "There must be protest. You can't comply with the laws and give in. You must build an inter-racial pushback. You must do serious legal work and prove intentional racism! You can't just say it is! You must prove that it is! Corporate boycotts alone are not going to stop voter suppression because voter suppression is not just about race! It's about control of the economic levers of our society. Dr King noted this at the end of the Selma to Montgomery March when he said, 'The threat of free exercise of the ballot by the Negro



REV. DR. WILLIAM BARBER

and White masses is what created a segregated society. This is what happened when the Negro and White masses of the South threatened to unite and build a great society, a society where greed and

poverty would be done away with. The battle to suppress the vote and the battle to suppress labor rights has been the tactic used by the Southern White aristocracy to hold on to their money."

The Reverend Dr. Barber continued, "I suspect the GOP will try again in North Carolina. They know the demographics are such that they can't win, especially statewide at large, in a fair

election. They know the victories they have in the legislature are primarily due to bad redistributing maps. So they have to try, and we have to fight back in protest at the ballot box and in the courts."



LET'S KEEP IT UP.

WE'RE NOT DONE YET.

Thank you for doing the work to slow the spread of COVID-19. Until enough of us are protected by the vaccine, we need to keep protecting each other.

covid19.ncdhhs.gov



NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES



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.

The Wilmington Journal welcomes letters from its readers. All letters are subject to editing. We will not publish pseudonymous letters. All correspondence must include a home address and a daytime phone number. All correspondence must be signed, unless it is e-mailed. Letters may be sent to our Physical Address: 412 S. 7th Street, 28401 or our Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1020, 28402. We also accept letters via e-mail at wilmjourn@aol.com or via fax at (910) 343-1334.

OUR VOICE

GUEST EDITORIAL RAINBOW COALITION

George Floyd Justice in Policing Act would set smart national standards for police behavior

(TriceEdneyWire.com)

Even as Derek Chauvin is on trial for the murder of George Floyd, police 10 miles away fatally shot an African American man, Duante Wright, after pulling him over for an alleged traffic violation. That triggered protests that led to confrontations with police, despite Wright's family pleading for non-violence.

The Washington Post reports that 985 people have been shot and killed by police in the past year, with blacks more than two times as likely to be shot and killed than whites. Fundamental reform is long overdue. Now the House of Representatives has passed the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act for the second time.

The act, drawn up by Rep. Karen Bass and Judiciary Committee Chair Rep. Jerry Hudson, has been endorsed by leading civil rights and criminal justice groups, pushed by the Congressional Black Caucus, and hailed by George Floyd's family and attorneys. The act would set national standards for police behavior. It bans the use of chokeholds of various sorts, like that used to kill George Floyd. It bans no-knock warrants that led to the shooting of Breonna Taylor in Louisville. It restricts the transfer of military weaponry to police forces. Federal assistance would be conditioned on local police forces requiring the use of body and car cameras, as well as anti-discrimination policies and training. It restricts the qualified immunity doctrine that shields police from civil liability.

President Joe Biden has called on the Senate to pass the measure and promised to sign it into law. These commonsense reforms should have bipartisan support, but sadly the bill received only one vote from Republicans when it passed the House in February. The reforms are far from complete. The Movement for Black Lives, the collection of 150 civil rights groups that helped organize the unprecedented protest movement across the country after George Floyd's death, praises the creation of federal standards, a ban on chokeholds and restriction of the immunity doctrine but says that the bill goes "nowhere near far enough."

It calls for investments upfront in communities and people, addressing mass incarceration and systemic racism, and making police accountable to communities. The leaders worry that passage of the George Floyd Act would exhaust reform efforts, not simply be the first step toward reform. Surely the M4BL is right: sensible police reforms are necessary but not sufficient. Renewed investment in communities and greater community control over the police are essential. The plague of mass incarceration must be ended.

The George Floyd Act, however, need not be in conflict with broader reforms. Conservative Democrats fret that the M4BL slogan — Defund the police — alienates voters. Certainly, most African Americans want protection from crime and violence. They don't want to get rid of the police, they want to turn them from a threat to an ally. Many police officers agree that we've loaded police with too many responsibilities — from dealing with domestic disputes to handling the mentally unstable — because social services have been starved in poor communities. Police reforms will never work unless accompanied by and embedded in rebuilding and empowering communities.

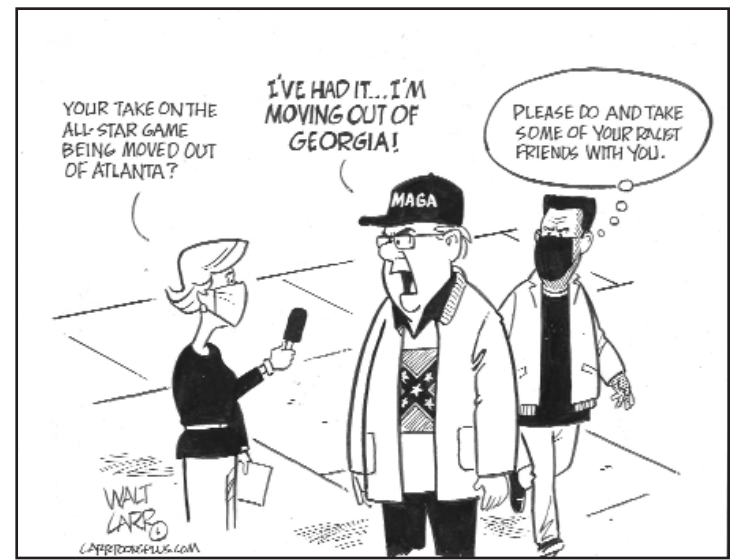
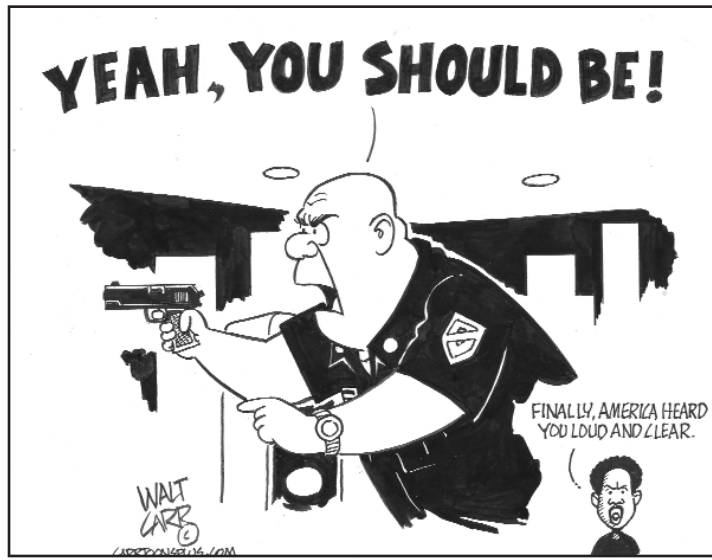
The movement that mobilized after the horrific killing of George Floyd has begun to spark reforms across the country. I urge the civil rights and criminal justice community to unite to push the Senate to pass the George Floyd Act as a first step, to be accompanied by state and local efforts to transform police and federal resources to invest in communities and create new lines of accountability. The vibrant movement for justice that the M4BL has helped to trigger will not stop there.

The unprecedented outpouring of support must continue to mobilize, to demand accountability, to protest police violence, and to keep the pressure on for broader reform. The movement can't let the perfect be enemy of the good, nor allow partial reforms to slake the need for more action, more experimentation, and greater community control.

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

THE
BLACK PRESS:
USE It or
LOSE It!

VISUAL VOICE



MATTERS OF OPINION

Angry Old White Civil Rights Lawyer Not Tired Yet Protecting whistle-blowers who report racist rogue cops

The trial of Derek Chauvin for kneeling George Floyd to death for almost ten minutes will go to the jury soon. Floyd was born and raised in the Cape Fear River Valley, and we are part of his NC family. We have a special interest in the Big Jury of Public Opinion that has had all the evidence it needed to create a historic new Reckoning in 2020. The Minnesota Attorney General supervising the prosecution of the Crime of our Generation has won the Big Jury already, in my legal and organizer opinion.

Chauvin was fired as soon as the World and his Chief watched the 10-minute film that should win the Academy Award this year. The Chief, of course, also knew Chauvin's extensive disciplinary record when he watched the film. According to Chauvin's personnel records, he had shot two other people before he decided to use his knee as his weapon of choice.

Chauvin had 18 misconduct complaints filed against him, in about the same number or years on the force. Police conduct experts say that a cop who averages a complaint a year is not really trying to change his behavior. Police Chiefs, Mayors, City Councils and other elected officials who oversee Police Chiefs, should demand to see records of Bad Apples, who have become Rotten, or who started out with Klan attitudes. Police attitudes toward the natives and tourists of a region like Wilmington, more than any other municipal employee, represents the City's welcoming spirit to its residents and tourists.

Wilmington's new Police Chief, backed by the City Council and the NAACP, immediately fired the three Rotten Apples, but not before their ugly feelings were broadcast on national television, reminding everyone of Wilmington's 1898 massacre of African Americans and the Moral Fusion Movement which had achieved a real multi-racial governing power in the region. Add this the Frame up and Wrongful imprisonment of Rev. Ben Chavis and his nine fellow peacemakers in the 1970's.

In short, Wilmington has 120 years of experience of dealing with a racist white element that was bound and determined to set it "back for four or five generations." We should set the example of a large metropolitan area that knows how to Identify, Isolate, and Jettison the Rotten Apple Racist elements.

One Breakdown in Identifying bad apples such as Chauvin and the Three Rotten Apples who surfaced last June on the Wilmington PD, is to protect civilians and other cops when they report on rogue racist cops. On the day Chauvin murdered our Fayetteville Brother, there were a couple of rookie cops who Chauvin was training. They were caught between a rock and a hard place. It's likely there were younger cops on the Wilmington force who had heard the racist language and true feelings of the Three "F" and "N" cops. Their career would not last long of they reported the officers obvious KKK attitudes. Did any other cops blow the whistle on their colleagues?

North Carolina has a highly effective Whistleblower Protection Act for its state employees— G.S. 126-83-85. It covers state employees, but it could easily be revised to protect whistle blowers who reported in good faith racist cops acts that constitute a

racist work environment who work for municipal and local governments. Truth before Reconciliation was Mandela's rule. But we don't have to wait until everything is perfect before we protect our local whistleblowers for reporting racist wrongdoing and corruptness in our Region's Public Services Departments. It would let everyone know we want cops who respect and protect all visitors and residents of our area. Ambassadors for Wilmington.

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.

Al McSurely

Solving The Race Issue In America Will there ever come a time a Black man can ride and not die?

Will there ever come a time when unarmed black men and women can drive safely on the streets of America?

When will those Americans who carry Bibles in their hands, the constitution in their pockets, and hatred in their hearts finally open this holy book and read the words: do unto others as you would have them do unto you?

Will they ever read the second paragraph to the Declaration of Independence, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

Will there ever come a time when the good people of this nation - the moral majority - finally read that passage in the Bible that says: when you do it to the least of them, you do it to me. You do it to my son. You do it to my daughter

Black and white Americans read the same Bible. They quote the same scriptures. Yet, many bible readers stand silent as black men and women die at the hands of those sworn to protect and serve.

Certain ministers tell us that Jesus loves us - invite us to pray. Yet these same ministers stand silent as the cancerous sin of racism devours the heart and soul of America.

Some Americans blame dead black men and women for not being obedient - for not being compliant. They seek explanations for that which cannot be explained. There are no explanations or excuses for killing an unarmed, handcuffed black man by kneeling on his neck for over 9 minutes. There is no justification for killing Daunte Wright at a traffic stop; or Philando Castile, or Michael Brown; or a bloodstained list of others who were killed unjustly. It reminds us of the lynching of black men in the past, on Sunday afternoons - after church - where the congregation could watch in silent acquiescence.

There are no explanations to make right the killings of black men and women - human beings created by the same God that gives life to all beings.

Who can cure the cancerous sin that devours America?

Must God make the rocks cry out? Who will confront the hatred, racism, and white supremacy that grows each day in this land of the free and home of the brave? What treatment is there for the cancer of American racism that seems to be growing throughout the world as hatred of Blacks, Jews, and Asians.

The lawmakers and politicians cannot cure the sin because many of them perpetrate racism, lies, and hatred by omission, commission, or resounding silence.

The courts cannot cure the cancer because they have been or continue to be used to justify and perpetuate racism, lies and hatred.

Religious leaders - black and white - have the power to make a choice! They can speak out for truth and justice for the least of them. Or they can continue to deny, avoid, or dispute the reality that black Americans experience every day in this country.

If our religious leaders - black and white - cannot come together to speak out and take action for justice, equity, and truth, then America is doomed.

Let us consider how America practices its religion. Excerpt from Page 53 of Solving The Race Issue In

America (www.solvingtheraceissue.com):

"How does America practice its religion?"

If America is truly "One nation under God," let us look at how America practices its religion and worships its God. The separation and segregation that exists in America today starts in the Churches of America. From 11:00am to 12 noon on Sunday morning is the most segregated and separated hour in America. This is the hour that most American Christians worship their God."

The scripture is clear: to whom much is given, much is expected. God will not be mocked. The Bible we claim to cherish and the prayers we offer up to God must not only be in our lips, but in our hearts, our minds, our spirits, and in our feet.

We must put on the whole armor of God - righteousness, truth, and justice - and say together:

Enough is Enough. © Copyright 2021 LifeSkill Institute, Inc., P.O. Box 302, Wilmington, NC 28402

Learn more about "Solving The Race Issue In America" and contact Dr. Herbert (H J) Harris at: www.solvingtheraceissue.com. Email: info@solvingtheraceissue.com Phone: 800-570-4009.

GET THAT DEED AND FLIP THOSE KEYS!

10 steps to losing that lease!

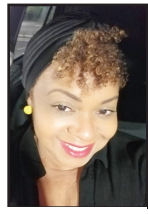
If homeownership is the goal for your family, then preparation will be the only way to achieve that.

This week I want to share 10 things you need to do and consider at this point.

1. Start with looking at your credit report: Every loan program has its own criteria, but one thing is universal across the board, that credit score will dictate if you can even start the mortgage process at all.

2. Then, get your credit in order: To open yourself up to the majority of the grants, down-payment assistance programs, make 640+ a goal for your 3 credit scores. Dispute any inaccuracies with the 3 bureaus, this should help your scores to go up if successful in getting those accounts updated

to your favor: If notice any accounts and addresses that aren't yours, you may be a victim of identity theft and need to start an investigation asap



Brenda Dixon

on those. If your debt/ratio is a bit high, look at what bills you can dramatically pay down, or off. The more bills you have, the less home you will be able to purchase.
3. Do your homework: Research loan types, rates, lenders, Realtors, home inspectors, Attorneys. All of these professionals will be a part of your journey. (4)Be realistic about what you can afford: The

biggest mistake most 1st-time buyers make is getting stuck on an idea of the type of home they want when their current financials will not afford it. Must keep in mind that owning something will beat owning nothing every day. Monthly throwing away money on rent, vs. investing monthly into a home that is gaining value when paying your mortgage, which one sounds better to you? (5)Understand how lenders operate: These companies do not know anything about you, and you want them to give you over \$200,000. So, know that they will ask you for paperwork, after paperwork, and then more paperwork. They will ask you until they feel at ease that you are worth taking

the chance on. Don't take it personally, because oh yes, they are about to get all up into your business.

6. Decide how you'll finance it: Some of you will be given choices on the different loan programs you qualify for. Depending on if you want to buy in the City limits, or on the outskirts, or if you are a Veteran, or in a certain income bracket, your choices could be several.

7. Will you put down a down-payment or do you want No money down options: Just like anything else, the more skin in the game you have, the better the terms will be overall. I know most 1st-time buyers do not have a lot of savings, so no and low down-payment

options usually the way they go.

8. Check on pre-payment penalties: Most loans do not have a pre-payment penalty, but some do. Some down-payment assistant programs don't have a penalty but if you refinance or sell a home before a period of time, you may have to pay some of the money back.

9. Shop for your mortgage: You can have multiple mortgage companies pull your credit within 10 days to see which one gives you the best terms. Some say you have up to 14 days to do that, but I tell my clients to keep it safe, do it within 10. The 1st mortgage pull will be a hard inquiry which will drop scores some, but the other

pulls will not affect your score if do it within that 10 days.

10. Delayed is not denied, it just "Not Now": If the mortgage company does not approve you, find out why. Get a plan of action to fix whatever needs to be corrected to get the approval.

Lastly, get dedicated to doing whatever that is, and go GET THAT DEED.

Until next week, share this information with at least 3 people, and tell them to reach out for their no-cost personalized game plan to own in the next 18 months or less.

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Brunswick County Health Services offers limited number of vaccine appointments this Saturday, addresses latest guidance on pausing of J&J vaccine

BOLIVIA, N.C.— All adults aged 16 and older can still schedule an appointment for a COVID-19 vaccine this week with Brunswick County Health

Services, including a limited number of appointments this Saturday, April 17 from 9 a.m. to noon at the County's vaccination clinic in Shallotte.

Individuals interested in scheduling an appointment at the Shallotte clinic this week, including Saturday, must call the Brunswick County Public

Health Call Line at 910.253.2339 (select option 2) to schedule. The call line is open Mondays through Fridays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., excluding county-

observed holidays.

Health Services is adding the special three-hour block of appointments this Saturday to add vaccination opportunities for individuals who are unable to visit a clinic during the work week. Individuals are encouraged to call ahead early if they would like a Saturday appointment as the health department cannot guarantee it will offer Saturday appointments each week.

Individuals can also search for appointments available at the clinic in Bolivia using Novant Health's online scheduling site here. This website will show appointment openings on Mondays through Fridays only.

Appointments are still required at all county clinics. Select county clinics are organized through a partnership between Novant Health, Brunswick County Health Services and Doshier Memorial Hospital. -

Brunswick County Health Services cannot schedule appointments in person at the Brunswick County Government Complex.

Addressing recent recommendations about the J&J Vaccine

In light of recent recommendations issued April 13 from the CDC and FDA, Brunswick County Health Services will pause use of the Johnson & Johnson (J&J) vaccine until further notice. Health Services still has enough local reserves of the Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines and does not anticipate rescheduling any appointments this week (April 13-17) should individuals accept either of these versions of the vaccine.

As of April 12, more than 6.8 million doses of the Johnson & Johnson (Janssen) vaccine have been administered in the U.S. The CDC and FDA are reviewing data involving six reported U.S. cases of a rare and severe type of blood clot in individuals after receiving the J&J vaccine. In these cases, a type of blood clot called cerebral venous sinus thrombosis (CVST) was seen in combination with low levels of blood platelets (thrombocytopenia). All six cases occurred among women between the ages of 18 and 48, and symptoms occurred 6 to 13 days after vaccination. Until the review process is complete, the federal agencies are recommending a pause in the use of this vaccine out of an abundance of caution.

Right now, these adverse events appear to be extremely rare. People who have received the J&J vaccine who develop severe headache, abdominal pain, leg pain, or shortness of

breath within three weeks after vaccination should contact their health care provider. Health care providers are asked to report adverse events to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System at <https://vaers.hhs.gov/reportevent.html> external icon.

The Pfizer vaccine is approved for adults over the age of 16, while the Moderna vaccine is approved for adults 18 and older. Both vaccines are highly effective in preventing hospitalization and death caused by COVID-19.

If you need to cancel your appointment, call or email the Public Health Call Line as soon as possible to cancel your appointment. Promptly contacting us allows us to better schedule another patient for the spot, depending on available supplies that week.

Those scheduling appointments may have the option to schedule what type of vaccine they receive based on what is sent from the NCDHHS. Vaccine providers are not guaranteed to receive all three types of vaccines each week. You may have to wait for an appointment or find another clinic if you are looking for a particular vaccine type.

More information about additional opportunities to schedule vaccine appointments and answers to frequently asked questions are at brunswickcountync.gov/vaccines

Brunswick County's Public Health Call Line is available for those who do not have internet or computer access to schedule an appointment or for COVID-19 questions.

Public Health Call Line: 910.253.2339 (Open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., excluding observed holidays)

Email: coronavirus@brunswickcountync.gov

Key Statistics
County Alert System: Brunswick County remains on the Yellow/Significant Impact Tier

Case Counts: As of April 13, 8,809 total county residents have received a positive test result for COVID-19. Of these, 233 are considered active, 8,428 are considered recovered, and 148 have died

Vaccinations: As of April 12, 51,047 (35.7%) residents are now partially vaccinated and 42,176 (29.5%) are fully vaccinated

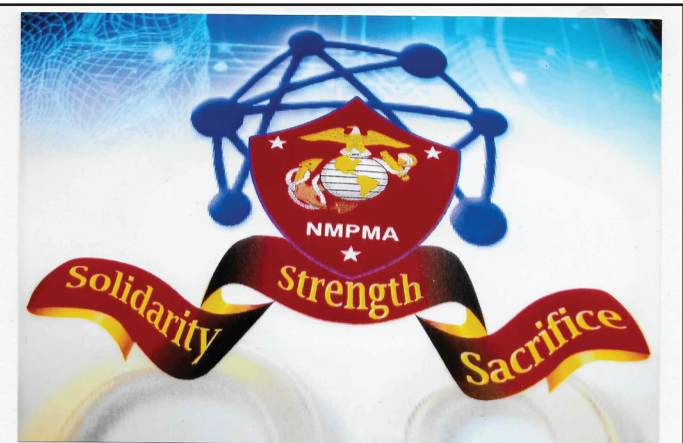
Testing: As of April 13, about 6.4% of tests conducted in Brunswick County are yielding positive results

More information about COVID-19, testing, local case counts and vaccines is on the Health Services COVID-19 webpage.

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