

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



PAUL R. JERVAY

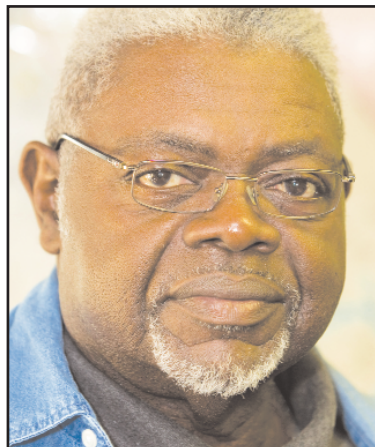
GUEST EDITORIAL

"Honor The Life's Work Of Mary Alice Jervay Thatch"

BY

PAUL R. JERVAY
SEE PAGE 4

BRUNSWICK COUNTY



BERNEST HEWETT

On Vacation

WILL

RETURN

SOON

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

THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

News from the African American perspective without fear or favor

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MARY ALICE JERVAY THATCH

NC Black Press loses leader, Mary A. Jervay Thatch

BY CASH MICHAELS
OF THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

The Black Press and African-American community have lost a legendary leader, fighter and advocate for human rights, civil rights, and justice. Indeed, one of her most successful efforts made worldwide news.

Mary Alice Jervay Thatch, the third generation editor and publisher of *The Wilmington Journal*, died December 28th at the age of 78.

Mrs. Thatch was the proud daughter of publisher Thomas C. Jervay, Sr., and granddaughter of founder R.S. Jervay, a Black printer who started *The Journal* originally as the *Cape Fear Journal* in 1927.

"T.C." Jervay, as her father was known as, made *The Journal* a centerpiece of the civil rights struggle in Wilmington "without fear or favor," so much so that in 1973, a white supremacist firebombed the paper because it supported ten falsely criminally accused activists known as the Wilmington Ten.

Thatch would proudly tell how even being firebombed could not "run Daddy out of town" or stop the next edition.

"That was the power of the Black Press," said the woman who grew up at the *Journal* from the time she was a baby.

Mrs. Thatch, who earned a bachelor's degree from Elizabeth City State University, and a Master's Degree from UNC-Greensboro before going into teaching, took over as *Journal* editor/publisher in 1996. Under her leadership, the paper continued its tradition of being a strong voice for Wilmington's African-American community with incisive reporting, and straight-forward editorials demanding justice for African-Americans, challenging the Wilmington/New Hanover County and North Carolina power structures, and maintaining, long, long before it was fashionable, that Black lives DO matter!

The first African American paper in the country was *Freedom's Journal*," Thatch one said. "The first line read something like 'we are here to plead our own cause.' That will always be the mission of the Black Press: to fulfill the needs of the community we serve."

She was tough on those who worked with her, because Mrs Thatch believed thoroughly in two things - the high standards set by her father in serving the community, and the belief that the African-American community always deserved the very best in effort and results. She was a visionary who saw *The Journal* doing greater and greater things to serve the community, all the while fighting growing economic pressures that threatened to close her doors.

That didn't stop her from using the paper to stand for voting rights, and demand that both the Democratic and Republican parties fairly patronize the Black Press with their advertising during election seasons. Thatch also led North Carolina Black Press in pushing voter registration, believing the Black voter empowerment was a key to freedom.

But it was in 2011 when Mrs. Thatch convinced the National Newspaper Publishers Association, of which she was a member and her father formerly led, to advocate for North Carolina to pardon the Wilmington Ten, the ten NC civil rights activists falsely convicted of firebombing a white-owned grocery store in 1971.

All ten, including leader Rev. Ben Chavis, were sentenced to over 200 years in prison and had spent the last forty years with the false convictions attached to their names.

In 2012, Mrs. Thatch led a team of black journalists, attorneys and activists in uncovering proof that the Ten were originally framed. She also led a campaign that garnered over 150,000 petition signatures asking then Gov. Beverly Perdue to grant pardons of innocence to the Ten.

On Dec. 31st, 2012, as the last thing before she left office, Gov. Perdue indeed issued ten pardons of

innocence to the Wilmington Ten, thus clearing their names.

The official act cleared their names, and made worldwide news.

But it all started with the unmatched determination of a single Black newspaper publisher.

Mary Alice Thatch was honored as Publisher of the Year by the NNPA the following year, in the finest tradition of Black Press advocacy.

Mrs. Thatch was serving as the president of the North Carolina Black Publishers Association at the time of her death. She was also a past board member of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA), and past board member and secretary of the National Newspaper Publishers Association Foundation.

"On behalf of the National Newspaper Publishers Association, we extend our heartfelt condolences to ...the family of our beloved NNPA publisher and leader, Mary Alice Jervay Thatch (RIP)," said Rev. Ben Chavis, now president of the NNPA in a statement. "We will always fervently uphold her legacy and contribution to the Black Press of America and especially her leadership of the North Carolina Black Press Association (NCBPA). God bless."

"She lived a gigantic meaningful life and was certainly a voice for Wilmington," said attorney and NCCU Law Professor Irving Joyner. "It is not an understatement to loudly proclaim that she spoke 'truth to power' and did it in an unflinching manner."

P.R. Jervay, Jr., NCBPA Media Services said, "Mary Alice's strength, commitment, and dedication to organization with a purpose was an inspiration to her fellow African-American publishers around the state."

Mary Alice Jervay Thatch leaves to cherish her memory, a devoted husband, Rev. John L. Thatch, three daughters, Robin Thatch Johnson, Shawn Thatch, and Johanna Thatch-Briggs, along with a host of family and friends.



THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

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Opinions expressed by columnists in this newspaper do not necessarily represent the policy of this paper.

The Wilmington Journal cannot accept yard sale and dinner sale announcements as briefs.

These are considered advertisements. Community and religious briefs are designated for public service announcements, which are free and open to the public.

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

There is no charge for submitting briefs, news and photos. All briefs will run for a maximum of two weeks. Please send news near the event date. Briefs/news cannot be taken over the phone. Photos and stories may also be emailed to us at wilmjournnews@aol.com.

News, but not photos, may be faxed to us at 910-343-1334. Photos may be picked up after appearing in the paper. The publisher is not responsible for the return of unsolicited news, pictures or advertising copy unless necessary postage accompanies the copy on a self-addressed envelope.

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U.S. Supreme Court To Decide Who Reps NC In Voter I.D. Case

BY CASH MICHAELS OF THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

We've been down this road before.

In 2013, the North Carolina General Assembly passed a massive omnibus bill that contained a variety of voter restrictions, including a voter photo ID law.

The NC NAACP challenged that measure all the way to the U.S. Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals, which in 2016, ruled that the Republican-led NC

General Assembly's voter ID restrictions were so discriminatory, they targeted Black voters "...with almost surgical precision."

Then -N.C. Gov. Pat McCrory, a Republican, appealed that less-than-laudatory decision to the U.S. Supreme Court, only to lose re-election, and have his successor, current Democratic Gov. Roy Cooper, join with NC Atty. Gen. Josh Stein in withdrawing the High Court GOP appeal.

Republican legislative lead-

ers were not pleased, so they petitioned the U.S. Supreme Court to allow them to represent the legislature in the voter ID case, instead of Atty Gen. Stein, who is technically the state's attorney.

But Chief Justice John Roberts, on behalf of the Supreme Court, declined, though he did add that the decision had nothing to do with the merits of the case.

Fast forward to last week, when the Supreme Court announced that it was delaying

a federal trial involving a NC NAACP lawsuit against a 2018 voter ID law scheduled to commence Jan. 24th in Winston-Salem, in order for the High Court to decide whether or not NC Republican lawmakers have standing to intervene and represent the state in defending it.

At issue is Democratic state Atty. Gen. Josh Stein. GOP legislative leaders House Speaker Tim Moore and Senate Pro tem President Phil Berger don't trust him to vigorously and

aggressively defend the 2018 voter ID law because he is a Democrat. The voter ID case itself will not be taken up.

Once again the federal appeals court had ruled against the Republican legislative leaders, forcing them to appeal to the now conservative-majority Supreme Court, where they stand a better chance of succeeding with the 6-3 right-leaning court.

The Supreme Court will hear arguments in June or July.

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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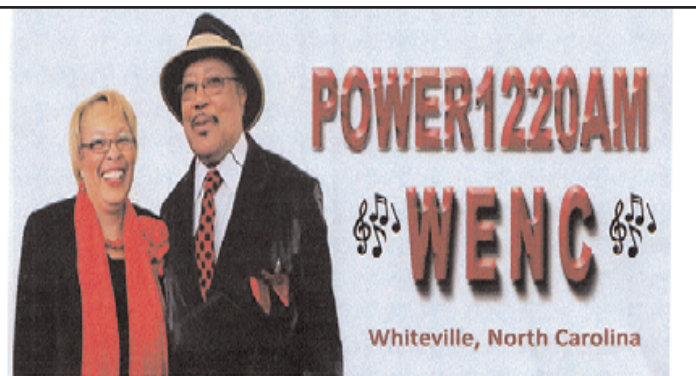
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I'm a mom first.

I may be Dr. Nina Ford-Johnson a pediatrician, but I'm a mom first. My babies are my top priority, always. With this Delta variant going around affecting Black kids at a higher rate, I'm telling any parent with children 5 and older to get the COVID vaccine.



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

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

Honor The Life's Work Of Mary Alice Jervay Thatch

(Paul R. Jervay, NCBPA Media Services)

Mary Alice Jervay Thatch, the Editor & Publisher of *The Wilmington Journal*, is among the notables who died in 2021 who contributed greatly to a better North Carolina and Nation.

A third generation editor and publisher, she carried on the righteous tradition established by her father, Thomas C. Jervay, Sr., who made *The Journal* a centerpiece of the civil rights struggle in Wilmington, North Carolina and surrounding counties. Her dedication to this community caused *The Wilmington Journal* to be firebombed in 1973 because of its steadfast support of the Wilmington Ten.

Mrs. Thatch continued the newspaper's legacy of community commitment with incisive reporting, and straight-forward editorials demanding justice for African-Americans challenging the Wilmington, New Hanover County, and North Carolina power structures. She promoted "Black Lives Matter" long before this phrase became a rallying cry.

The Wilmington Ten struggle was not the first challenge the Black Press faced in Wilmington. The 1898 Massacre, which started with a criminal arson attack on Wilmington's Black Newspaper of that day, and the murder and banishing of hundreds of African-Americans remain a blot on North Carolina history to this day.

For her part, Mrs. Thatch was able to lead a team of black journalists, attorneys and activists in uncovering irrefutable proof The Wilmington Ten were framed. She led an international campaign that garnered over 150,000 signatures asking North Carolina Gov. Beverly Perdue to grant full Pardons of Innocence to the Ten. This happened thanks to the dedicated determination of a one Black newspaper publisher.

Mary Alice Jervay Thatch has written her page in history. Now, what of future pages that must be written in *The Wilmington Journal*? Although sick and challenged in her final days, Mrs. Thatch was able to mount a community effort to Save the Wilmington Journal Building from being lost, because of funds due the State of North Carolina from her mother's death. Mary Alice wrote about the Save the WJ Building Campaign "This is not just my paper; it is the community's paper. The community is family." I can say, her words were absolutely the case, from the highly productive Telethon we put on that Saturday, literally raising enough to keep our building restoration plans moving forward.

The question before us today is as plain as Mary Alice's hard-hitting editorials. How can the Greater Wilmington Community honor her lifetime of sacrificing her health, her meager funds, and some fair-weather friends? How can we all pay off our debt to Thomas C. Jervay, Mary Alice Jervay Thatch, and to Wilmington's African-American community they loved and served?

The Wilmington Journal Building stands in disrepair today. It is ravaged by storm damage from two hurricanes. The avenues for relief are clogged by Governmental "red tape." The voices of North Carolina's 1898 past can still be heard across the port city, crying out for reparations that are owed to them as sure as we owe a debt to the great lady that died today, December 28, 2021.

We, "All of Us", are given the opportunity to repay a great debt by restoring the Wilmington Journal Building. It has survived the 1973 bombing. It survived numerous hurricanes, two monster hurricanes in the past few years. It survived the State Government's effort to grab it. It is a small price for two black North Carolina Newspaper editors and publishers, who gave freely to save their big family, the full Wilmington Community.

Contribute to the Legacies of T. C. Jervay, and Mary Alice Jervay Thatch. Please send contributions to: Thomas C. Jervay Foundation, P.O. Box 1020, Wilmington, NC 28402.

"Be a part of the solution; not part of the problem." Thank you. --

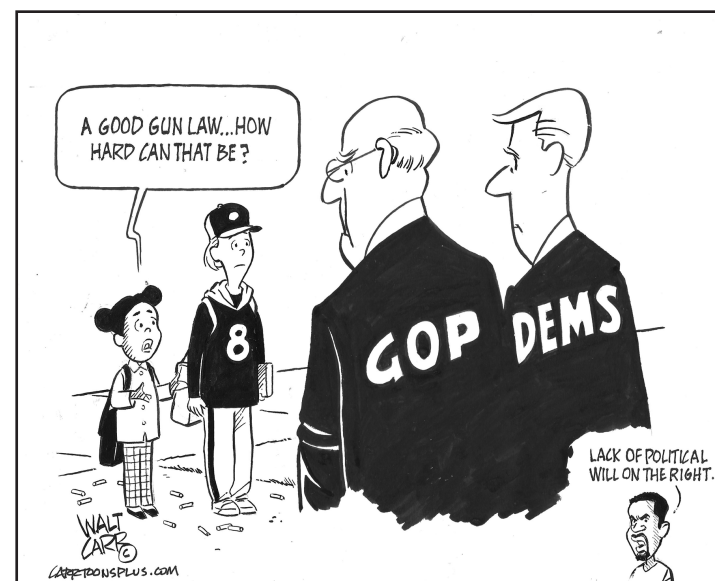
Paul R. Jervay Jr., NC Black Press Association Media Services.

VOICE YOUR OPINION!

WRITE

A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

VISUAL VOICE



MATTERS OF OPINION

The big truth: The big problem is the big lie

(TriceEdneyWire.com)

It's been a year since a mob of Trumpists violently attacked the U.S. Capitol. They wanted to stop Congress from affirming President Joe Biden's victory. Some of them were out for blood. All of them were motivated by the former president's Big Lie that he won the election but that his victory was stolen from him and his supporters.

That lie has been debunked by journalists and election officials—both Republicans and Democrats. It has been rejected by courts. But it has never been abandoned by Trump or his right-wing allies. And so one year after it fueled an attack on Congress and the Constitution, the Big Lie is still a big threat to our democracy.

The Big Lie causes big harms in lots of ways by fueling anger and mistrust about our elections among Trump's base.

Many if not most Republican officials know that Trump's Big Lie is not true. But they are cynical and corrupt enough to use it to justify new voter suppression laws and other schemes to overturn the will of the voters. Far-right activists have harassed and threatened election officials across the country. And they are trying to get elected to state and local positions that will give them the power to oversee future elections.

Donald Trump would love to

go into the 2024 elections knowing that he has loyal Trumpists in place to reject or "find" as many votes as he needs to declare victory. That's why Trump has endorsed the effort by Rep. Jody Hice to replace Georgia's Republican secretary of state Brad Raffensperger. Raffensperger refused to embrace the Big Lie, stood up to Trump's bullying, and respected the will of the voters. Hice has promoted the Big Lie. That's the kind of guy Trump wants deciding which votes to count—and not count—in 2024.

Ben Jealous

Trump has endorsed other secretary of state candidates, and his political henchman Steve Bannon in encouraging Trumpists to try to replace election officials at the local level.

Meanwhile, state legislators are making it easier for partisan Republicans in state legislatures to mess with vote counting by taking control from local officials—and even to simply override the will of the voters.

That is why we urgently need new federal voting rights legislation—and why we need senators and President Biden to work together to overcome "states' rights" Republicans and their use of filibuster rules to block the Freedom to Vote

Act and John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act. Both pieces of legislation take on both voter suppression and election subversion. The John Lewis Act would make it illegal for a public official to "willfully fail or refuse to certify" an election victory by the candidate who gets the most votes. The Freedom to Vote Act only allows local election administrators to be removed by the state if they have a legitimate cause to do so.

As Sen. Raphael Warnock said on Jan. 4, "Our democracy is in peril and time is running out."

"This is a moral moment," Sen. Warnock said. Indeed it is.

There's also another moral duty facing our elected leaders. And that's finding out the truth about the Capitol insurrection and those who incited it, planned it, facilitated it, and have since tried to downplay or cover-up that assault on our democracy. Criminals need to be held accountable for their crimes—and not just those who smashed windows and attacked Capitol police.

Republicans love to talk tough about the rule of law, but now many of them are resisting the rule of law by trying to undermine and obstruct the House committee investigating the insurrection. And they're trying to rewrite history, downplaying the violence and portraying its perpetrators as patriots.

The problem for them is

that the violent reality of that day has been well documented. The same is true for other casualties of the Big Lie, including harassment and threats against election officials.

The Big Lie and all those who have spread it have created a dangerous reality in which millions of Americans falsely believe that President Joe Biden's election was illegitimate and that Donald Trump should still be our president. And that makes them more willing to determine the outcome of elections through violence or the raw exercise of power.

In the year ahead, we need to defend democracy by answering the Big Lie with the truth, and by acting to defend our democracy at the ballot box.

Ben Jealous serves as president of People For the American Way and Professor of Practice in the Africana Studies Department at the University of Pennsylvania where he teaches leadership. 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.

TO BE EQUAL

One year later, the January 6 Insurrection still rages on

(TriceEdneyWire.com)

"Our democracy was inches from ruin. Our system of government was stretched to the breaking point. Members and staff were terrorized. Police officers fought hand to hand for hours. People lost their lives ... Either you're on the side of helping us figure out why, or you're trying to stop us from getting those answers. You can parade out whatever argument you want, but really, that's all there is to it. In real life, there aren't a lot of bright-line moments. This is one of them." — U.S. Rep. Bennie G. Thompson, Chair of the Select Committee to Investigate the January 6th Attack on the United States Capitol

A year ago today, Americans watched in horror and revulsion as a savage mob stormed the U.S. Capitol, intent upon overturning a fair and free election through violence or even murder, if necessary.

The Select Committee to Investigate the January 6th Attack on the United States Capitol has interviewed more

than 300 witnesses and reviewed tens of thousands of documents. The Department of Justice has charged more than 700 defendants with alleged crimes ranging from entering restricted Capitol grounds to conspiracy against the United States.

Yet the attack on American democracy continues, unabated.

The ongoing assault relies less on brute violence — though the threat is ever-present — and more on subversion. But the motivation, the fuel, and the ultimate goal remain as stark and repugnant as they were revealed to be on that dark day one year ago.

The motivation is furious resentment of the historic Black and Brown voter turnout that contributed to the outcome of the 2020 presidential election. The fuel is the "Big Lie"—the ugly myth that the election was "stolen." And the goal is not only to disenfranchise Black and Brown

Americans with repressive voting laws, not only to dilute their influence with manipulative racial gerrymandering, but to ignore the results of elections entirely.

In the aftermath of the 2020 election, enemies of pressured election officials to "find" more votes for the losing candidate, to throw out votes for the winning candidate, and to publicize baseless claims of voter fraud. They filed lawsuit after lawsuit seeking to invalidate votes in counties with large Black and Brown populations.

And when those election officials resisted their pressure and judges dismissed their false claims, they launched a campaign to replace those officials and judges.

"For more than a year now, with tacit and explicit support from their party's national leaders, state Republican operatives have been building an apparatus of election theft," journalist Barton Gellman wrote in *The Atlantic*. "Elected officials in Arizona, Texas, Georgia, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Michigan, and other states have studied Donald Trump's crusade to overturn the 2020

election. They have noted the points of failure and have taken concrete steps to avoid failure next time. Some of them have rewritten statutes to seize partisan control of decisions about which ballots to count and which to discard, which results to certify and which to reject. They are driving out or stripping power from election officials who refused to go along with the plot last November, aiming to replace them with exponents of the Big Lie. They are fine-tuning a legal argument that purports to allow state legislators to override the choice of the voters."

The work of the Justice Department and the January 6 Committee is vital to uncovering the origins of the deadly insurrection and to holding the perpetrators accountable. But the most dangerous conspirators weren't the ones strutting the halls of Congress in horned fur hats and superhero costumes. They're the ones quietly dismantling democracy in state capitols across the country. And they must be held to account too.

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

Tell them you read it in THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

GET THAT DEED AND FLIP THOSE KEYS!

Student Loan Debt

Happy New Year Journal family. This is my 1st share with you for 2022, and this topic will be relatable to many. Student loan debt is very present in many households, and most times the thought of it does not give the warmth and fuzzies. Many have regrets about accumulating such debt, and not seeing the return on investments that they thought they would. Sadly, many are not even working in the fields they went to school for. Degrees and documentations of certain skillsets are no longer needed in these ever-changing

job markets. Also, with artificial intelligence piercing into what seems to be every type of job description, education needs are evolving. Then there is the other side of it, the hindrance it causes when you are trying to purchase a home. Just like any other debt you have; student loan payments are considered when the bank is deciding how much money to give you to purchase. If all your debt is so heavy in relation to your income, then the bank often will not issue approval at all. Next to credit, student loan debt ranks in the top 3 as the reason most cannot obtain a

home loan. Many have over \$70,000 in student loan debt, making less than \$16 per hour. That is causing the debt/ratio percentages to be out of reach for many for loan approvals. There is some good news though. In 2021, FHA came out with new guidelines that stated if, in certain student debt repayment structures, the lender does not have to count the student debt at all. That was a very wel-



Brenda Dixon

comed, and celebrated notification. I'm pleased to say that several families we helped last year jumped right on that and became 1st-time homeowners because of it. We are looking forward to more families using this new exception and getting their turn at ownership. Update on the latest by the Government on student loan repayments: Student loan payments are starting back up after the 1st of May this year. U.S. Department of Education had extended the payment pause. For eligible loans this is what you can expect: • a suspension of loan payment • a 0% inter-

est rate • stopped collections on defaulted loans. There are several topics that are addressed on the Department of Education website to help students prepare to repay their loans such as The Income-driven repayment plan, public service loan forgiveness, total, and Loan payments pause, and 0% interest....just to name a few. Additional information about financial aid and student loan forgiveness is provided on your loan servicer websites. Lastly, avoid scams. With this relief come the scams that you must be

aware of. There are offers of financial aid or help such as (pandemic grant or Biden loan forgiveness). Check with your servicer; check on the source to see if it is creditable, and ask questions about other local recourses that help with student loans. Until next time, share this article with at least 3 people, and tell them to reach out for a complimentary game-plan to own in the next 18 months or less. Brenda Dixon, Dixon Realty Since 1991, 30 yrs. F/T expertise. Www. getthatdeed.com. GET THAT DEED! 910-262-4836.

Parents raise the alarm about violence in schools, say their votes depends on Improvement

BY STACY M. BROWN NNPA NEWSWIRE SENIOR N A T I O N A L CORRESPONDENT

A new poll revealed that parents continue to express "legitimate concerns" about violence in schools, increased bullying, and a lack of mental health resources. Alarmingly, the poll released by the National Parents Union found that 59 percent of parents are very or extremely concerned about how schools are teaching race and diversity. "Many Black parents are worried that schools are being harsher on students of color compared to white students," researchers noted in the poll. The National Parents Union counts as a network of parent organizations and grassroots activists committed to improving the quality of life for children and families in the United States. Conducted from November 19 to November 23, the survey included 1,233 parents who also count as registered voters. Researchers found that 84

percent of parents are concerned about how schools address the threat of violence, and 59 percent identified increased bullying or violence in school as a significant issue. About 52 percent said student mental health after coping with the pandemic is a significant issue, as well. "Parents have very legitimate concerns about violence in schools, increased bullying, and a lack of mental health resources," Keri Rodrigues, co-founder, and President of the National Parents Union, said in a statement. "Now, it is incumbent on schools to do something about these issues, especially given the federal funds available. It's not rocket science. Rather than repaint a football field, first, make sure that there are enough counselors to help students cope with mental health issues," Rodrigues asserted. The poll also asked the parents who responded that they were concerned about the threat of violence, which worries them the most. The top three most pressing concerns remain:

- 44 percent: schools not having enough counselors, psychologists, or social workers to work with students
- 42 percent: schools not having resources to keep weapons out of schools
- 39 percent: schools not having school resource officers or police accessible on campus
- 59 percent of parents are extremely or very concerned about how schools are teaching about race and diversity; Among Black parents, 69 percent share this sentiment, which drops slightly to 67 percent among Hispanic parents.
- Of the overall number of parents who are at least somewhat concerned (79 percent):
 - 48 percent say what concerns them the most is schools are not teaching accurate information about the issue of race.
 - 42 percent are most concerned about schools pushing a progressive agenda onto students
 - 56 percent of GOP parents who are concerned say this is their top concern
 - 32 percent are most concerned that schools aren't



About 52 percent said student mental health after coping with the pandemic is a significant issue, as well.

focused on the issue enough 46 percent of Black parents who are concerned say this is their top concern 78 percent of parents are concerned about how schools are handling disciplinary issues Nearly half (46 percent) of Black parents who said they are concerned about how schools are handling disciplinary issues are worried that

schools are harsher on students of color compared to white students 38 percent of parents trust Democrats to do a better job of handling education; 31 percent trust Republicans; 14 percent trust both equally; 11 percent trust neither Among parents who identify as Independents, 28 percent trust Republicans and 20 percent trust Democrats.

"These findings underscore the importance of the very thing we have been imploring school leaders across the country to do - listen to the parents in your community," Rodrigues stated. "It also reinforces the need for those running for office to take the concerns of parents very seriously or risk losing elections."

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Mom - Don't forget to get both vaccines!

I already did! ✓

Medicare.gov PAID FOR BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Desiree R. Joseph

Desiree "Desi" R. Joseph, age 83, of Bolivia, passed away Friday, December 10, 2021.

A memorial service was held on Monday, January 3, 2022 at Davis Funeral Home - Bolivia.

Desi is survived by loving family and friends, a close-knit Buddhist community and a host of longtime neighbors. *Services entrusted to Davis Funeral Home, 901 S. 5th Ave, Wilmington, NC 28401. Please share memories and condolences with the family at www.davisfuneralhomenc.com.*

James L. Bennett

James L. Bennett, Jr., age 86, of Wilmington, passed away Friday, December 17, 2021.

A celebration of Mr. Bennett's life was held on Wednesday, December 22, 2021 at Shiloh Missionary Baptist at Masonboro Sound.

His love and memories will remain in the heart of his wife, Geraldine Bennett of the home; his children, Rev. Michael Weatherly (Belinda) of Wilmington, Dr. Lolita B. Bryant of Wilmington, Rev. Audrey B. Daniel of Bowie, MD, James L. Bennett III (Anita) of Raleigh, Rita B. Summers (Allan) of Knightdale and Corey J. Bennett, Sr. (Cheri) of Raleigh; sisters, Ezradale B. DeForest of Hopkinton, MA and Estella B. Carr of Charlotte; brother, John E. Bennett (Ernestine) of Atkinson, 10 grandchildren, 18 great-grandchildren and a host of other relatives and friends. *Services entrusted to Davis Funeral Home, 901 S. 5th Ave, Wilmington, NC 28401. Please share memories and condolences with the family at www.davisfuneralhomenc.com.*

Helen A. Worthy

Helen Athalia Shaw Worthy, age 85, passed away on Tuesday, December 21, 2021 in Mesa, AZ.

Helen Worthy was born on September 20, 1936, in Wilmington, NC to James Henry Shaw and Celia Bell (Holmes) Shaw. She was a proud member of the Williston High School class of 1954, and at the age of just 17 became a Navy wife, embarking on a 20-year adventure faithfully facing the challenges of regular moves, new jobs, and raising her four children. Throughout her life she was known as consummate administrative professional who always made time for community service and to sing in her church and local choirs.

In 1971, Helen settled into post-Navy life in Northern Virginia, working as an administrative assistant for several companies and her own business with Mary Kay Cosmetics where she rose to the role of Senior Sales Director. She was an active member of Women In Community Action (WICA) and St. Margaret's Episcopal Church. When she re-entered government service in the 1990s, she served on the National Partnership for Reinventing Government directly under Vice President Al Gore. In 2000, she retired from U.S. Customs and moved

back to her hometown of Wilmington.

Helen remained extremely active in retirement, singing in the Williston Alumni choir and St. Paul's Episcopal Church choirs, volunteering with the U.S. Census, registering voters, coaching youth as a lifetime member of the NAACP organizing candidate forums while serving as Chairperson of the New Hanover Chapter of National Black Leadership Caucus and becoming the first Democratic Chairperson. She was even a voting delegate at the 2008 Democratic National Convention in Denver, CO. Even with all her achievements, her door remained open to help friends and neighbors with any administrative issue, government issue, filing a tax return, planting flowers or even sewing a wedding dress. She lived believing that you 'can do' with God's help and that God wants us to help others.

Facing increasing health challenges, Helen showed her trademark flexibility and courage in 2014 by making the choice to move to Mesa, Arizona to be close to her youngest daughter's family. There she sang in her community choir, went her grandchildren's events, attended Church of the Redeemer, and enjoyed the occasional margarita with a friend. She was proud to tell everyone that she was from North Carolina. Her faith in Jesus was true and devout; there is no doubt that she is now healthy and at peace.

Helen was preceded in death by her parents James and Celia Shaw, and sisters Eva Mae Mitchell and Annette Shaw. Helen is survived by her children Wanda (LaVon) Scott, Charlene (Gary) Carper, Charles (Linda) Worthy, Tanya (Wayne) Mihailov, her grandchildren Tiffany Williams, Chris (Comfort) Benton, Amanda (Eric) Deibel, Emily (Chris) Lamb, Gabrielle Carper, Aleksandra Mihailov, and Stefan Mihailov; and seven great-grandchildren. Her memory will also be cherished by her sister Marilyn Shaw, Janette Shaw, life-long friends Stephanie Moore and Mildred Everette, a litany of nieces, cousins, nephews, co-workers, co-volunteers, and countless friends.

Hers was a revolutionary life that will be remembered for generations. *Services entrusted to Davis Funeral Home, 901 S. 5th Ave, Wilmington, NC 28401. Please share memories and condolences with the family at www.davisfuneralhomenc.com.*

Tyrone C. Warren

Tyrone C. Warren, age 61, of Wilmington, passed away December 22, 2021.

Ida Catherine Moore Canty, age 99, of New York, NY (formerly of Wilmington), passed away Friday, December 24, 2021.

A graveside service was held on Saturday, January 15, 2022 at Moore Family Cemetery,

Her love and memories will remain in the heart of her brother, Horace Moore of Teaneck, New Jersey and sisters, Alcenia Holmes of Wilmington and Shirley Harris of New York City.

Services entrusted to Davis Funeral Home, 901 S. 5th Ave, Wilmington, NC 28401. *Please share memories and condolences with the family at www.davisfuneralhomenc.com.*

Michelle L. Gilbert

Michelle Loren Gilbert, age 52, of Winnabow, passed away Saturday, December 25, 2021.

A graveside service was held on Friday, December 31 at St. Mary Missionary Baptist Church Cemetery, 5701 Ocean Hwy E, Winnabow, NC 28479.

She was preceded in death by her father, Andrew Jackson Jones.

She leaves to cherish her memories: husband, Ben Alvin Gilbert Sr.; children, Orlando Jones (McKenzie), Ben Gilbert Jr., Cardarius Gilbert (Brittany) and Leonard Joyner; grandchildren, Cali, Maliah and Alivia Jones; mother, Mary Ellen Jones; grandmother, Carrie Mae Pugh; siblings, Ann Taylor (Leonard), Shelia Briggs, Andrew Jones, Marvin Dudley, Annette Williams (Joe), Patricia Briggs, William Jones (LaShay), Christine Smith (Eric) and Lakisha Jones; aunts, Ollie Stackhouse and Doretha Boykins; great-aunt, Elizabeth Sharpless; special friends and caregivers, Tracy Bowen, Geraldine Gregory, Marlene Randolph and Rhonda Randolph and a host of nieces, nephews, family, and friends. *Services entrusted to Davis Funeral Home, 901 S. 5th Ave, Wilmington, NC 28401. Please share memories and condolences with the family at www.davisfuneralhomenc.com.*

Ernestine Dickey

Ernestine Dickey, age 78, of Wilmington, passed away Saturday, December 25, 2021.

A celebration of Ms. Dickey's life was held on Sunday, January 2, 2022 at Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church.

Interment followed at Greenlawn Memorial Park.

Her love and memories will remain in the hearts of her children, Todd Dickey of Newark, NJ, Thaddeus Jones of Knightdale, and Chinita Scarboro (Sheldon) of Raleigh; siblings, George Whitmore of Wilmington, Gwendolyn Witherspoon of Raleigh, Glenn Hart (Lorraine) and Anthony Hart both of Wilmington and Pansie Flood (Merrill) of Winterville; granddaughters, Amber Scarboro and Ashley Scarboro both of Raleigh and a host of other relatives and friends. *Services entrusted to Davis Funeral Home, 901 S. 5th Ave, Wilmington, NC 28401. Please share memories and condolences with the family at www.davisfuneralhomenc.com.*

William T. Gause, Jr.

William T. Gause, Jr., age 60, of Shallotte, passed away Monday, December 27, 2021.

A celebration of Mr. Gause's life was held on Monday, January 3, 2022 on the grounds of Cedar Grove Missionary Baptist Church.

Interment followed at Mulberry Cemetery in

Shallotte, NC.

His love and memories will remain in the heart of his daughter, Crystal R. Berry of New York City; father, William T. Gause, Sr. of Shallotte; siblings, Calvin Gause, Terry Gause and Robert Hill all of Shallotte; special loving friend, Prophetess Edna J. Lewis of Supply, 2 grandchildren and a host of other relatives and friends. *Services entrusted to Davis Funeral Home, 901 S. 5th Ave, Wilmington, NC 28401. Please share memories and condolences with the family at www.davisfuneralhomenc.com.*

Alonza Bryant

Alonza Bryant, age 24, of Seattle, Washington, passed away Tuesday, December 28, 2021. *Services entrusted to Davis Funeral Home, 901 S. 5th Ave, Wilmington, NC 28401. Please share memories and condolences with the family at www.davisfuneralhomenc.com.*

Linbert P. Shaw

Linbert P. Shaw, age 84, of Wilmington, passed away Tuesday, December 28, 2021.

A celebration of Mr. Shaw's life was held on Saturday, January 8, 2022 at Union Missionary Baptist Church, 2711 Princess Place Dr., Wilmington, NC 28405.

Interment followed at Greenlawn Memorial Park, 1311 Shippard Blvd., Wilmington, NC 28412.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Livianna Findlater Shaw and daughter, Joan Holden.

His love and memories will remain in the hearts of his children, Sandra Brown (step-daughter) of Dacula, GA, Mauline Shaw of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Donna Shaw of Buford, GA, Debbie Miles (Jerome) of Wilmington, NC and Sydney Shaw (Melody) of Overland Park, Kansas; brothers, Reverend Ishmael Shaw (Kathy, PhD) of Spotsylvania, Virginia and Perceival "Percy" Shaw of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 21 grandchildren, 32 great-grandchildren and a host of other relatives and friends. *Services entrusted to Davis Funeral Home, 901 S. 5th Ave, Wilmington, NC 28401. Please share memories and condolences with the family at www.davisfuneralhomenc.com.*

Ruby M. Bryant

Ruby Mae Bryant, age 91, of Shallotte, passed away Tuesday, December 28, 2021.

A celebration of Ms. Bryant's life was held on Tuesday, January 4, 2022 at Pleasant Hill Missionary Baptist Church

Interment followed at Angela Faye Cemetery in Shallotte.

Her love and memories will remain in the hearts of her children, William H. Bryant, Jr. (Lois) of Shallotte, Hattie Bryant of Seattle, WA, Fred Stanley (Irene) of Goldsboro, Hardy Bryant (Tracie) of Leland, Anna Saunders (Reginald) of Hope Hills, Mark Bryant (Melodie) of Shallotte, Lionell Bryant of Seattle, WA, Carmel Wheaton (Wellington) of Bahama, Mickey Bryant of Seattle, WA, Scott Bryant (Miranda) of Supply, Steve

Hardy of Shallotte, DeDriana Ruby Bryant of Shallotte and Cajuan Bryant of Atlanta, GA; siblings, David Bryant (Gloria) of Fayetteville, Doretha Henry (Clairmont) of Jamaica, NY, Helen Whitfield (Leland) of High Point and a host of grandchildren, great-grandchildren and other relatives and friends. *Services entrusted to Davis Funeral Home, 901 S. 5th Ave, Wilmington, NC 28401. Please share memories and condolences with the family at www.davisfuneralhomenc.com.*

Melondy Y. Jones

Melondy Y. Jones, age 63, of Wilmington, passed away Saturday, January 1, 2022.

A memorial service was held on Friday, January 14, 2022 at Davis Funeral Home.

Her love and memories will remain in the heart of her husband, Robert C. Jones of the home; children, Money Moore (Raymond) and Janel Jones both of Wilmington; siblings, Alvia Burton (Dennis) of New York and Alvin Zimmerman of North Carolina; special friends, Janis Sidberry (Anthony) of Wilmington, 4 grandchildren and a host of other relatives and friends. *Services entrusted to Davis Funeral Home, 901 S. 5th Ave, Wilmington, NC 28401. Please share memories and condolences with the family at www.davisfuneralhomenc.com.*

William Lester Evans

William Lester Evans died January 1, 2022. Funeral service will be on held 1:00 p.m. on Friday, January 7, 2022, at the Willie L. Shaw Jr. Memorial Chapel.

William, son of the late Carrie and William Evans, known to many as "50" was born on February 10, 1937. Lester attended school at Hamer Conner South of the Border. He later moved to Queens, New York and went on to receive his Master Barber License in 1982. He cut hair in Alexandria, Virginia until he retired in 2016 and moved back to Wilmington, North Carolina with his daughter.

Lester leaves to cherish his memories: his son, Jerome Evans of Dillon, SC; his daughters, Sandra Simpson of Wilmington, NC, Jacqueline Carmichael of Dillon, SC and Shanon Evans Sullivan of Prince William County, VA; stepchildren, Harry, Dentra, Brenda, Bernard, Ronald, Rozlyn and Doris, all of Wilmington, NC; nine grandchildren, Miguel, Malik, Kyle, Vincent II, Jacqueline, Kizzy, Onika, Zone and Ty; two special great-grandchildren, Jayden and Kieyon; a host of nephews, cousins, and friends, including his special pool buddy and son-in-law, Michael Bethea. *A Service of John H. Shaw's Son Funeral Home.*

Reverend Richard Smith

Reverend Richard Smith, Jr. died January 1, 2022. Funeral service will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, January 8, 2022, at the Willie L. Shaw Jr. Memorial Chapel.

Rev. Smith was born on September 21, 1940 in Wilmington, NC. He was pre-

ceded in death by his birth parents, the late Richard Sr. and Suzzie Smith; his son, Richard Kennedy Smith; granddaughter, Antoinette Martin and Will Sr. and Christine Forden.

He attended Williston High School and later moved on to pastoral school I Kittrell, NC. This led to 50 plus years of ministering tirelessly under the African American Episcopal Zion Church. He retired in September 2016 from Mack's Chapel AME in Red Springs, NC.

Mr. Smith was a loving and resolute father to his children and there was nothing he would not do for them. He was married to Ruby Thompson for 25 years and they remained good friends until the end. In his leisure time he enjoyed viewing old western movies and taking his restful afternoon naps. He enjoyed working in the yard and keeping his landscapes beautiful for his clients. Richard loved to go on occasional outings to a good buffet with soul food served ad spending time with his family.

He leaves loving memories to cherish with: his children, Shelia Hankins (Larry), Michael Smith (Jessie) and Emily Lowery (Mark); grandchildren, Joey Smith, Lakesa Beatty (Myland), Larry Hankins, Jr, Travis Smith (Naomi), Desmond Monte' Smith, Stedman Smith, Amari Smith, Mark Lowery, III and Tara Simpson-McKinnon (Gerald); 22 great-grandchildren; 1 great-great-grandchild; two brothers, Will Forden and Elo Forden (Vevelyn); sister-in-law, Catherine Forden; a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and special friends. *A Service of John H. Shaw's Son Funeral Home.*

Keith Kinston

Keith Kinston died on January 5, 2022. Graveside service will be held 12:00 noon on Wednesday, January 12, 2022, at the Mears Cemetery, 574 Davis Creek Drive; Leland, NC.

Brian was born on March 24, 1965 in Wilmington, North Carolina to the late Joseph Kinston, Jr. and Beatrice Willis Kinston. Brian was educated in the Brunswick County School System, graduating from North Brunswick in 1983. He earned his Machinist Certification at Cape Fear Community College and recently earned his CDL License at the same institution.

In addition to his mother, he leaves to cherish his memories: three daughters, Beyonce' Kinston and Hailey Kinston with his former spouse Patty Kinston and Destiny Gagum of Wilmington, NC; one grandson, Kaiden Gagum; five sisters, Gilda Waddell (Charles) of Leland, NC, Deborah Kinston-Chappell and Sheila Kinston both of Charlotte, NC, Dorothy Monroe of Wilmington, NC and Jenether Bryant of Newark, NJ; four aunts, Ruth Kinston of Bridgeport, CT; Armour Douthit and, Louise Willis both of Leland, NC and Essie Willis of Maryland; seven nieces; three nephews, many cousins and friends. *A Service of John H. Shaw's Son Funeral Home.*

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LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF NEW HANOVER

The undersigned, having qualified as Co-Administrator of the estate of **Charles Nixon, Jr.**, 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 **6th day of April, 2022**, 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 6th day of January, 2022

Chanetta Carmichael-Bailey, Co-Administrator
302 Tara Beach Lane
Jonesboro, GA 30238

Charles Nixon, III
2 Pearl Court
Castle Hayne, NC 28429

January 6, 13, 20, 27, 2022

NOTICE TO CREDITORS STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF NEW HANOVER

The undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the estate of **Mary Lambert Crawley**, 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 **6th day of April, 2022**, 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 6th day of January, 2022

Wilbur T. Crawley, Sr., Executor
4311 Tillson Rd.
Wilmington, NC 28503

January 6, 13, 20, 27, 2022

NOTICE TO CREDITORS STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF NEW HANOVER

The undersigned, having qualified as Executrix of the estate of **Addie Susan Ellington Goodwin**, 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 **6th day of April, 2022**, 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 6th day of January, 2022

Donna Hartlaub, Executrix
3301 Red Berry Dr.
Wilmington, NC 28409

January 6, 13, 20, 27, 2022

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA PENDER COUNTY In the Superior Court File # 21 CVS 742

**Shadi Hamam, Plaintiff,
V.
Cortney Houston Brisson
and James Lee Brisson,
Defendants**

To: **CORTNEY HOUSTON BRISSON**

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: damages in excess of \$10,000 for motor vehicular negligence.

You are required to make defense to such pleading not later than forty (40) days from the first running of this notice, exclusive of such date, which was November 25, 2021. and upon your failure to do so the party seeking service against you will apply to the court for the relief sought.

This, the 6th day of January, 2022.

Elizaveta Korotkova
RODZICK LAW GROUP, PLLC
Attorney for the Plaintiff
2309 S. 17th Street
Wilmington, NC 28401

January 6, 13, 20, 2022

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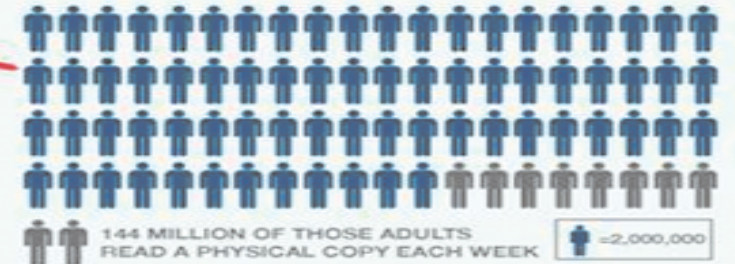
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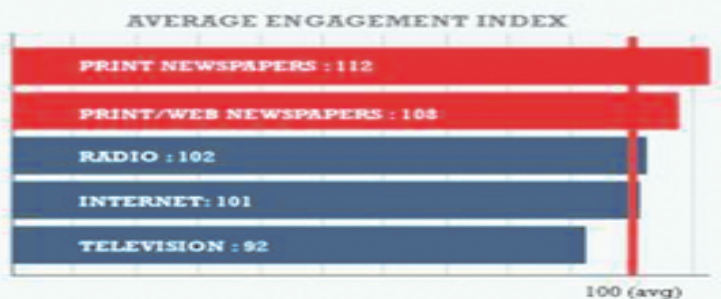
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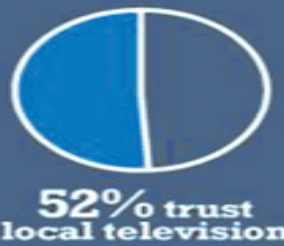


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Sources:
Across Platforms, 7 in 10 Adults Access Content from Newspaper Media Each Week (NAA.org, March 25, 2013)
The American Newspaper Media Industry Revenue Profile 2012 (NAA.org, April 8, 2013)
2013 Nielsen National Cross-Media Engagement Study (NAA.org, April 16, 2013)

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