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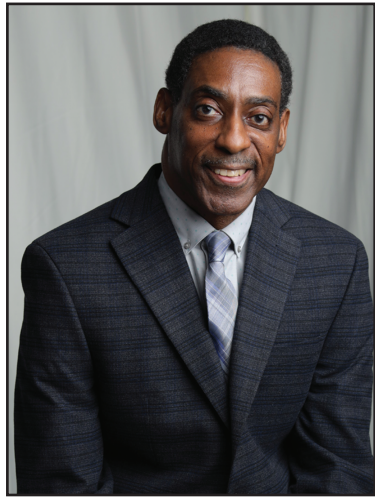
EBONEE SPEARS

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

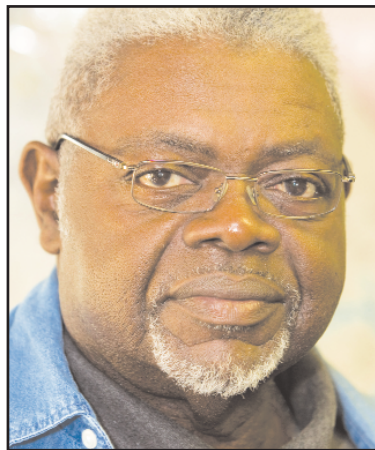
Looking IN

OUR VOICE



GUEST EDITORIAL "When it comes to the protection of voting rights, moral apathy is winning the fight" BY DAVID W. MARSHALL

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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FIRST DISTRICT CONGRESSMAN G.K. BUTTERFIELD

Did GOP Mapmakers Try To Eliminate Strength Of Black Vote

BY CASH MICHAELS OF THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

When First District Congressman G. K. Butterfield announced his unexpected retirement from Congress last week, he blamed it, in part, on a "racially gerrymandered" voting map that will "disadvantage African-American communities all across the First Congressional District." In short, instead of redrawing Butterfield's district according to the mandates of the 1965 Voting Rights Act to ensure that Black voters in so-called minority-majority districts are able to elect representatives who look like them, Republican lawmakers boasted how they did not use race as a factor at all in redrawing the voting districts, thus, in Rep. Butterfield's case, making his district more Republican than Democratic and, ultimately, more White than Black.

I am disappointed, terribly disappointed, with the Republican majority legislature for again gerrymandering our state's congressional districts and putting their party politics over the

best interests of North Carolinians," Butterfield, one of two African-American North Carolina representatives, continued.

If Democrats indeed can prove that Rep. Butterfield's First District was redrawn more in favor of yielding a Republican voting district, that would violate North Carolina law against partisan redistricting. If racial gerrymandering can be proven, that would also violate federal law.

North Carolina's other Black Democrat in Congress, Rep. Alma Adams (D-NC-12) called the new congressional map "illegal."

A quick analysis of the voting maps Republicans recently produced show that both congressionally and in the State legislature, several Black Democratic lawmakers will be eliminated like Butterfield if the maps are allowed to stand. According to WRAL-TV, for example, "of the 12 Black senators in the State Senate, all of whom are Democrats, four are likely, or certain, to lose their seats in the 2022 elections" to a Republican because of the new maps. "In the State House," the WRAL-TV report continued, "... five of the 24 Black members are at risk or

certain to lose their seats next year."

But Republicans, who are once again tasked with redistricting North Carolina's 14 Congressional seats, 120 legislative and 50 state Senate districts for the next ten years, claim that they're doing nothing wrong, and in fact, are following the dictates of the U.S. Supreme Court, which allows for partisan redistricting, and warned the GOP previously about misusing race to "stack and pack" black voters in several minority-majority districts purely to make it easier to defeat white Democrats.

The High Court never said race cannot be a factor in redistricting, just not the major, driving factor in redrawing voting lines.

So it's no surprise that Democratic analysts see the new Republican maps as lessening Democratic voting strength throughout the State, and, in lessening Democratic voting strength, they also dilute Black voting strength and representation, since the majority of African-American voters are Democrats.

Two lawsuits have already been filed against the Republican voting maps.

FSU Made A NC Promise School In New \$25-B Budget

BY CASH MICHAELS OF THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

For all of the headlines the new \$25.9 billion state budget is making, perhaps the most unnoticed is its impact on one of the UNC System HBCU's for the future.

In the new budget recently passed by the Republican-led NC General Assembly and signed by Democratic Gov. Roy Cooper is the designation of Fayetteville State University as a NC Promise school. The designation now reduces tuition at FSU to just \$500.00 per semester.

Previous NC Promise schools include Elizabeth City State University (ECSU), UNC-Pembroke (UNCP) and Western Carolina University (WCU).

According to its website, the NC Promise Tuition Plan, created by North Carolina lawmakers in 2016, has "...increased educational access, reduced student debt, and grown the State's econ-

omy."

Even though the plan now involves two of the UNC System's historically Black Colleges and Universities (Elizabeth City State University and Fayetteville State University), it reaches out to native American, Latino American and low income White students as well.

In March 2019, the James G. Martin Center for Academic Renewal published an article entitled, "NC Promise's Costs and Benefits: An Early Analysis." Beyond tuition savings, other benefits have come about from NC Promise. UNCP's enrollment increased by nearly 900 new students, and it also improved standardized testing scores, and freshman retention went up by five percent. Whether this increase in student academic quality can be sustained or repeated at other schools remains to be seen, but it should be noted by policymakers in evaluating NC Promise's success."

The article also noted that questions

remained regarding NC Promise's on-time graduation rate, which averages in-system at six-years for students who start at NC Promise schools.

"ECSU had an abysmal graduation rate of 43.4 percent in 2017, in addition to poor performance in a variety of other academic and student financial measures. UNCP, too, struggled with a 48.5 percent graduation rate. WCU fared better with a 64.4 percent graduation rate, still below the system average of 68.8 percent."

The article surmised, "Pushing students to underwhelming regional campuses is a risky move if the State's goal is to educate them for post graduate success."

In an unrelated aspect of the new budget, it provides \$650,000 towards the construction of the North Carolina Freedom Park, the African-American sculpture park being planned for between the State Legislative Building and Governor's Mansion in Raleigh.

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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STATE BRIEFS



AUTHORITIES PROBE MOORE COUNTY SCHOOLS PHONE THREAT OVER MASK MANDATE

[CARTHAGE] Moore County authorities are investigating a telephone threat left on the voice mail of the Moore County public school

system in September after the school board there passed a COVID-19 mask mandate for students. The expletive-filled message said, in part, "...we are going to come for you." In July, one person was topped bringing a knife and a loaded gun to a school board meeting.

"VERY STRONG" NC OCTOBER JOBS REPORT

[RALEIGH] A renowned NC State economist says October's seasonally-adjust-

ed unemployment for North Carolina fell to a "very strong" 4.1 percent. Dr. Michael Walden says the latest jobless data shows that North Carolina's unemployment rate has fallen to its lowest level since March 2020. Walden adds that more people are joining the workforce, and hourly wages rose, all good signs that North Carolina is coming out of the pandemic.

BUTTERFIELD SAYS

WASHINGTON HAS LOST "RESPECTFUL" TONE

[WASHINGTON, D.C.] Washington, D.C. is no longer a place where Democrats and Republicans work together in respectful harmony, opines outgoing NC Congressman G. K. Butterfield. Instead, the partisan battles in Capitol Hill today are bitter and personal, which saddens Butterfield, who announce his retirement last week after serving in Congress since 2004. "The

days of civility have left us, and we now find ourselves in very toxic, divisive debate," he told WRAL-TV. "We cannot have toxic and divisive debate and survive the institution. The institution depends on civility, and we don't have civility today in Washington."

COMPILED BY CASH MICHAELS

Should Innocent Prisoners Be Given Automatic Compensation?

BY CASH MICHAELS OF THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

When former North Carolina inmate Dontae Sharpe was finally granted a gubernatorial pardon of innocence two weeks ago, the volume was immediately turned up on the argument about why did he have to wait over two years to receive the legal opportunity to petition the state for compensation? After all, Sharpe had already spent 26 years for a crime he didn't commit.

If prosecutors and a judge legally determined back in August 2019 that there was no evidence pertaining to Sharpe's previous conviction and life sentence for first-degree murder - a crime that later evidence shows he did not commit - why was it mandatory for Gov. Roy Cooper, the Office of Executive Clemency and Office of General Council, to reexamine the entire case, including the exculpatory evidence, and take over two years to do it?

The short answer is...because that's the law in North Carolina.

Under North Carolina law, only the governor has the constitutional power to grant one of three types of pardons - pardon of forgiveness meaning the convicted offender will still have a criminal record after meeting certain conditions; unconditional pardon, traditionally meaning that the individual has retained the right to own a firearm; and a pardon of innocence, which erases the criminal record of the crime the individual was falsely convicted of.

A pardon of innocence, granted after charges are subsequently dismissed after a conviction, is required before a falsely convicted individual is eligible for compensation from the state for a wrongful incarceration. They are responsible for making sure the court expunges their criminal record.

A person who receives a pardon of innocence is entitled to compensation from the State up to \$50,000 a year for every year of false incarceration, topping off at \$750,000. There is a time limit after an innocent person is released from prison for him/her to apply for and close, their com-

ensation.

In Dontae Sharpe's case, the state was petitioned for a pardon of innocence after his release in August 2019. Ordinarily after an application is made, the Office of Executive Clemency and Office of the General Counsel investigate the case, and the governor hears from all involved before making a decision. How long that should take is based on the case.

Activists want the compensation to be available upon dismissal of the charges, if anything to add certainty to when compensation would be available.

This is an issue Sharpe has vowed to work toward in order to improve the process for other innocent prisoners.

One man who knows that law better than most is North Carolina Central University School of Law Professor Irving Joyner.

Joyner was a defense attorney for the Wilmington Ten, a group of activists who were falsely convicted in 1972 of firebombing a white-owned grocery store, and sent to prison. It took over forty years before evidence

emerged that their prosecutions were phony, meaning that serving members had to live with a life-destroying felony on their records for over forty years.

In 2012, Joyner was one of two attorneys who worked to get the Wilmington Ten pardons of innocence, and the surviving members due compensation. In light of the Dante Sharpe episode, Joyner says the system does need to be changed.

"I would agree that where a person has been judicially determined to have been wrongfully convicted that the legal process should allow for immediate compensation for the harm that the individual was forced to endure," Atty. Joyner said in a statement. "This is different than when the validity of a conviction is left to the Governor to decide."

"It does not make sense to force a wrongfully convicted person to have to, once again, prove to the Governor that they were wrongfully convicted in order to be compensated for the time that they spent in confinement after there has already been a determination

by a Judge that a wrongful conviction occurred."

Joyner continued, "Another and bigger issue, however, is capping compensation at a specific amount or number of years irrespective of how long the person was wrongfully incarcerated. If \$50,000 per year is the designated amount, the wrongfully convicted person should be compensated for each year of their incarceration. The notion is how do we make the person "whole" and fully compensated for all of the harm that they were forced to endure."

"In too many instances, North Carolina law does not allow for full compensation when the State is responsible for the harm that a person endured," Atty. Joyner said, adding, "The Dontae Sharpe experience is just one example of that when he spent 26 years in prison, but compensation is capped at \$750,000. There is another 11 years of his wrongful confinement or harm for which he is not being compensated. That result is wrong and should be addressed by the General Assembly."

Despite Misinformation and Distractions, Biden-Harris Accomplishing Black Agenda

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

The \$4.2 billion received in 2021 by historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) represents the largest single-year federal government funding from any administration in U.S. history.

And it's not even close. "We see more and more misinformation. When you see reports that the Biden administration is cutting funding to HBCUs by \$30 billion, it is patently false," Cedric Richmond, the senior advisor to the President, told a group of publishers from the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA).

Richmond, who also serves as the White House Office of Public Engagement director, remarked that the deliberate misinformation published by news outlets and posted on social media is meant to undermine the President and Democrats.

Notably, the dubious accounts aim to suppress the Black vote further, Richmond declared.

"It's being pushed around so young African Americans and people who went to HBCUs would get discouraged and say that there's no difference from President Biden and President Trump, or that Trump did more for HBCUs," Richmond asserted.

"Funding for HBCUs is usually less than \$1 billion per year," he noted.

"Just this year alone, we've given HBCUs \$4.2 billion, and because of that, some HBCUs are financially capable of forgiving student debt right now. A lot of them are making investments in their campuses.

"We still want to double or triple funding over the next ten years to invest in their facilities. We're going to do that, but there's been no administration ever to invest in HBCUs more than us."

The former Congressional Black Caucus Chair spent the bulk of the day on Wednesday, October 13, with

the Black Press of America.

He appeared at 7:30 a.m. on the NNPA's live breaking news program, "Let It Be Known," before sitting for an 11:30 a.m. livestream interview with NNPA Chair Karen Carter Richards and NNPA President and CEO Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr.

Dr. Chavis later conducted a one-on-one interview with Richmond inside the White House for his PBS-TV and PBS-World show, "The Chavis Chronicles."

The Louisiana-native spelled out several of the many initiatives and programs that the Biden-Harris administration has implemented that benefit the Black community.

He also noted the various strategies the administration has engaged in protecting voting rights and advancing homeownership in the Black community.

He said the President's Build Back Better plan includes creating jobs and opportunities that have previously escaped the Black community.

Richmond also noted the various executive orders that have aided the cause of leveling the playing field, including the order on advancing racial equity and support for underserved communities through the federal government.

And while Republican-led states have implemented voter oppression laws and lawmakers have failed to enact federal statutes to protect voting rights, the Democratic National Committee has pledged to invest \$25 million in voter outreach and litigation.

"The President has called for reforming the filibuster, and we're not letting obstruction slow us down," Richmond declared.

"We don't know where we are on the [latest] Senate bill until they have a vote, but we will continue to fight on a three-prong approach. We have doubled the size of the Voting Rights Division in the Department of Justice, we are continuing to file lawsuits over the unconstitutional laws that have passed around

the country, and we are fighting them in the courts.

"So, we keep pushing, and we keep doing the things needed to get it done. We're not going to wait and put all of our eggs in one basket."

The administration has also put in place programs and mechanisms to ensure that individuals remain in their homes during the pandemic, Richmond relayed.

"We signed an executive order tasking HUD Secretary Marcia Fudge to review and analyze all barriers to homeownership and systemic racism in housing in the federal government," Richmond continued.

"Secretary Fudge has embarked on an extensive review of appraisals and other things that determines the worth of a house.

"The President's goal is to provide federal down payment assistance to first-time homebuyers, which will specifically help people of color. It's the best way to attain generational wealth."

Richmond added that the administration also changed federal rules that punished most Black homeowners who didn't have a clean title to their property because of slavery and systemic racism.

"We don't have all day to tout all of the things we've been able to accomplish over the first [10 months], but we have to show the Black community what we've done for them," Richmond insisted.

"Whether it's promoting Black maternal health, the equity we put in the pandemic response, banning private prisons, telling U.S. Attorneys to stop with the harshest sentencing recommendations."

He concluded that "we are investing in community violence and intervention programs using trusted interrupters to resolve disputes for the first time.

"We are investing in re-entry so that those individuals can have a path to success, and when they do, people in the community will see it. All of this is done with being intentional about investing in the African American community."

Excerpt:

During and exclusive interview with the National Newspaper Publishers Association, Senior Advisor to the President and Director of the White House Office of Public Engagement, Cedric Richmond, says that the deliberate misinformation published by news outlets and posted on social media is meant to undermine the President and Democrats. Notably, the dubious accounts aim to suppress the Black vote further, Richmond declared.

Photo Caption:

Senior Advisor to the President and Director of the White House Office of Public Engagement, Cedric Richmond, said that the administration also changed federal rules that punished most Black homeowners who didn't have a clean title to their property because of slavery and systemic racism.

Website Tags and Keywords:

Stacy M. Brown, NNPA Newswire, \$4.2 billion, historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs), largest single-year federal government funding, U.S. history, Misinformation, Biden administration, cutting funding to HBCUs, \$30 billion, Cedric Richmond, senior advisor to the President, group of publishers, National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA), White House Office of Public Engagement, deliberate misinformation, news outlets, social media, undermine the President, Democrats, dubious accounts, suppress the Black vote, young African Americans, people who went to HBCUs, no difference from President Biden and President Trump, Trump did more for HBCUs, Funding for HBCUs, less than \$1 billion per year, given HBCUs \$4.2 billion, and because of that, capable of forgiving student debt, investments in their campuses, double or triple funding, invest in their facilities, Congressional Black Caucus Chair, Black Press of America, Let It Be Known, livestream interview, NNPA Chair Karen Carter Richards,

NNPA, Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr., Dr. Chavis, one-on-one interview, White House, PBS-TV, PBS-World show, "The Chavis Chronicles", Louisiana-native, many initiatives and programs, Biden-Harris administration, benefit the Black community, various strategies, protecting voting rights, advancing homeownership, Black community, President's Build Back Better plan, creating jobs and opportunities, escaped the Black community, various executive orders, leveling the playing field, advancing racial equity, support for underserved communities, federal government, Republican-led states, implemented voter oppression laws, lawmakers, failed to enact federal statutes, protect voting rights, Democratic National Committee, pledged to invest \$25 million, voter outreach and litigation, reforming the filibuster, not letting obstruction, Senate bill, three-prong approach, doubled the size of the Voting Rights Division, Department of Justice, file lawsuits, unconstitutional laws, fighting them in the courts, pandemic, executive order, HUD Secretary Marcia Fudge, review and analyze all barriers, homeownership, systemic racism in housing, federal government, Secretary Fudge, extensive review of appraisals, provide federal down payment assistance, first-time homebuyers, specifically help people of color, attain generational wealth, changed federal rules, punished most Black homeowners, clean title to their property, slavery, systemic racism, promoting Black maternal health, pandemic response, banning private prisons, U.S. Attorneys, harshest sentencing recommendations, investing in community violence, intervention programs, trusted interrupters, resolve disputes, path to success

Twitter Tags/Handles: @StacyBrownMedia @NNPA_BlackPress @CedricRichmond @DrBenChavis @mlfudge @JoeBiden @KarenCarterRich

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OUR VOICE

GUEST EDITORIAL

When it comes to the protection of voting rights, moral apathy is winning the fight

(TriceEdneyWire.com)

When speaking before an audience in 1963, James Baldwin could not have stated it any better by saying, "I'm terrified at the moral apathy, the death of the heart, which is happening in my country". His words expresses the feelings and emotions many of us of all races have today as we watch our fellow Americans show little concern or motivation to do what is morally right in regards to protecting the voting rights of people of color. There is no heart, no conscience or shame in passing laws intended to give Republicans the ability to outright reject election results not in their favor. A recent warning written by a United Nations expert highlights the human rights consequences to our changing nation. He describes the United States as being near "tyranny" against the voting rights of minorities nationwide. To have the United States, leader of the free world, evolving into a nation under cruel and oppressive rule is a fairly strong but precise assessment.

Fernand de Varennes was appointed United Nations Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues by the Human Rights Council. He based his remarks on the current state of U.S. society and democracy by traveling the country to "assess the human rights situation of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities." As a representative of the United Nations, he met with over 100 officials at the federal, state and territorial levels.

In his initial assessment, de Varennes stated, "My final report will provide more details and analysis in this regard, but what is already eminently clear is that there seems to be growing feeling that the United States is becoming a darker, nastier, and more divided society — and that the patchwork of constitutional and civil rights in the country are not sufficiently protecting those most in need of protection such as minorities and Indigenous peoples, amongst others." When sharing another U. N. expert's observations from 2017, de Varennes noted that "four years later, the pace of what my colleague described as the undermining of democracy has expanded explosively." Fernand de Varennes and his colleague are not members of the "liberal press" or "fake news". They are the equivalent to being unbiased referees in a basketball game. They are rightfully blowing the whistle while calling the fouls they see. As international watchdogs, they are calling fouls against the oppression and moral apathy they are witnessing in America. But the United Nations is not alone.

The Stockholm-based International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance recently added the United States to an annual list of "backsliding" democracies for the very first time. The think tank's secretary general Kevin Casas-Zamora, said "the visible deterioration of democracy in the United States, as seen in the increasing tendency to contest credible election results, the efforts to suppress participation and the runaway polarization...is one of the most concerning developments." The international community is sounding the alarm because they still care about democracy the way we as a nation did in the past. Citizens in California see the urgency.

A coalition of sixty-nine progressive grassroots groups sent a letter to Sen. Dianne Feinstein urging her to support the Freedom to Vote Act and the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act in addition to expressing her willingness to "abolish or create an exception to the filibuster" in order to have the bills pass through the Senate. The groups went as far as to demand the senator's resignation if she is unwilling to take the steps necessary toward protecting our democracy. While it is not expected for conservative groups to make the same type of demand to their Republican senators, it should be a different story for white evangelicals despite being a major part of the Republican political base. The international community views the subject of voter suppression within the United States not through a political lens but through a moral lens. Both progressives and conservatives voters should be able to do the same.

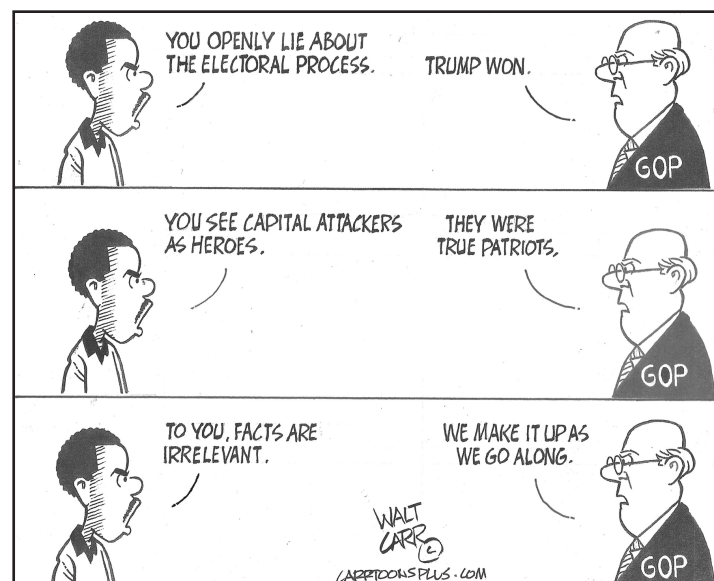
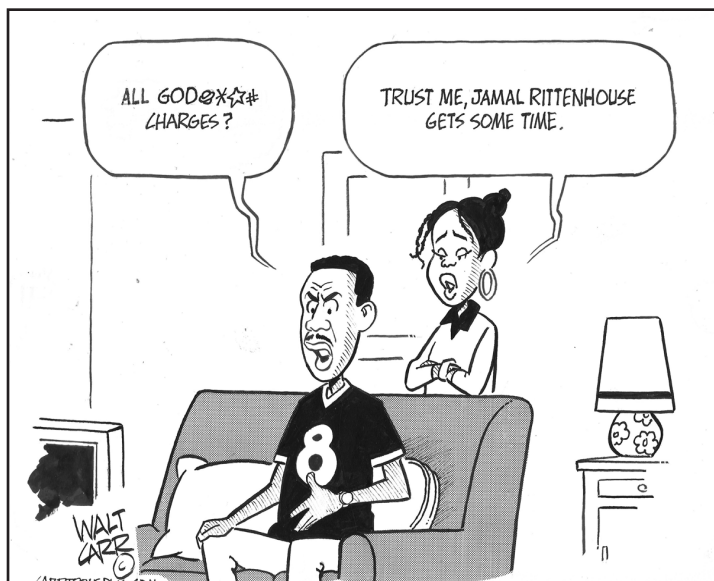
These international organizations are seeing people being oppressed and they are speaking out as we all should. As Christians, I see white evangelicals as being the moral compass and the conscience of the nation. Because of their Biblical commands, I see them finding the cruelty behind voter suppression as unacceptable. I see them contacting their elected representatives and expressing an urgency in preserving democracy at all costs. All of this is not reality. Unfortunately, there is a widening gap between the way things should be and reality. Reality is disappointing. Even at the expense of saving American democracy, a large number of white evangelicals forsake their Biblical teachings for political gains.

David W. Marshall is founder of the faith based organization, TRB: The Reconciled Body, and author of the book "God Bless Our Divided America". He can be reached at www.davidwmarshallauthor.com.



David W. Marshall

VISUAL VOICE



MATTERS OF OPINION

How many pastors can we have?

(TriceEdneyWire.com)

Rev. Jesse Jackson and Rev. Al Sharpton were doing the right thing when attending the Amaud Arbery trial. They demonstrated the solidarity that the Black community has with each other when one of us appears to be lynched. Lynching has reverberations. Each of us, every Black person, is repulsed and dismayed when we learn that armed white men, using the pretense of "citizen's arrest," can kill any of us. What is a citizen's arrest, anyway? Is it simply a license to kill?

Kevin Gough, the attorney "defending" William "Roddie" Bryant, the man who both took the video of the massacre and participated in it, asked the judge, each day, to bar Rev. Jesse Jackson from the courtroom. How absurd! He says Rev. Jackson's presence might influence the nearly all-white jury, and I suspect his objections might lay the groundwork for an appeal now that the devilish white men have been found guilty of murder.

Gough's racism and ignorance have been a constant presence in this trial. He said he didn't want more Black pastors in the courtroom after Rev. Sharpton sat with the Arbery family. He asked the stupid question, "How many pastors

does the Arbery family have." He had the nerve, though out of the jury's hearing, to ask if Georgia Senator Raphael Warnock, also a pastor, will be next in the courtroom. What if he was?

What Gough does not understand are the many ways that racism connects Black people. In the book *Lynching and Spectacle* (University of North Carolina Press, 2009), Amy Louise Wood writes, "The news of lynching shook (the author Richard) Wright to his core. Despite, or even because of, its relative rarity, lynching held a singular psychological force, generating a level of fear and horror that overwhelmed all other forms of violence. Even one lynching reverberated, traveling with sinister force, down city streets, and through rural farms, across roads and rivers." Any of us could be followed and shot on any given day.

We have no shield. We can be unarmed and running. In bed and sleeping (ask Breonna Taylor), or simply walking down the street. And white folks see a threat because

racism is baked in the cake we call America. When we watch the massacre of Amaud Arbery, we see ourselves, our sons, our daughters, our mothers. That connects us. That's why more than one hundred pastors rallied with Rev. Sharpton outside the Brunswick courthouse in solidarity. I want Revs. Jackson, Sharpton, William Barber, Freddy Haynes, and so many others rally at every massacre. Cause it's personal. How dare this high-handed man, the offense attorney, question anybody's religion, pastoral relationships, community connections, or anything else?

Gough will go down in the racist's hall of fame, but he is not the only one. All these "stand your ground" laws are an absurd attempt to allow white people to shoot Black people with impunity. Southern state legislatures empower white people to embrace their racism with firearms, whether they are police officers or ordinary citizens. It is frightening to think that we live in a world where white fear, real or imagined, justifies a Black massacre.

On the witness stand, one of the murderers admitted that Arnaud did not say a word to him, did not do a darn thing but try to get away from him. He shot him anyway! So some random white person follows a

Black man and attacks him because he is "scared." He should have kept his scared self in his house and called the police. But no, he was a white man with privilege, power, and a weapon. Why should he call law enforcement when he could enforce the law himself?

So how many pastors does the Arbery family have? As many as they want. Black folks around the nation and the world prayed for a just result in this trial. We also prayed for a judicial ruling that the massacre of Black people is unacceptable. We are continuing to pray for an examination of this nonsense called "citizen's arrest." And we are praying for our leaders, our pastors, our brothers to keep the faith and keep representing.

Kevin Gough does not "get" the Black community, and he doesn't have to. But what he needs to know, when he thundered about Black pastors, is that all of us, Black people, are connected. How many pastors do I have? As many as will claim me. Hundreds of Black pastors claimed the Arbery family because they relate to their pain. Whether you are a pastor or not, you should claim them, too.

Dr. Julianne Malveaux is an economist, author, and dean of the College of Ethnic Studies at Cal State LA.

JulianneMalveaux.com

Our criminal justice system needs dramatic reform

(TriceEdneyWire.com)

In the civil rights movement we were constantly reminded to keep our eyes on the prize. What's the prize? Equality of opportunity and results, which requires equity in every facet of our lives — education, housing, home ownership, job training, employment, political access and especially in the criminal justice system.

Our criminal justice system still needs dramatic reform. Blacks make up more than 40 percent of the prison population, but only 13 percent of the nation's population.

The geographic numerator changes — north or south — but the denominator remains the same — an unjust criminal justice system nationwide. Three current incidents illustrate: Jelani Day in Peru, Illinois; Jacob Blake in Kenosha, Wisconsin; and Ahmaud Arbery in Brunswick, Georgia. Jelani Day, a 25-year-old Black medical student at Illinois State University, was a "bright light" in his family; he and his sister were competing to become doctors. He disappeared on Aug. 24. The family and a professor reported him missing on Aug. 25.

His car was found two days later in a wooded area near where his body was later discovered in Peru, Illinois, miles from where he was last seen. LaSalle County law enforcement officials discovered his body on Sept. 4 "floating near the south bank of the Illinois River approximately a quarter-of-a-mile east of the Illinois Route 251 Bridge." The parents

continue to be critical of the investigation because little focus was initially put on his disappearance. It occurred in the context of the vanished and subsequent death of Gabby Petito, which was receiving national coverage.

There are inconsistencies, a high degree of incompetence and a lack of collaboration between various law enforcement agencies surrounding the case. There is still no closure about what happened to Jelani Day. Racial dimensions in trials Rusten Sheskey, accompanied by two other white police officers responding to a domestic complaint by the fiancée of Jacob Blake — a Black man — shot Blake seven times in the back, with his children looking on in the back seat. Blake, they say, refused to obey the officers, so they opened his car door and reached inside.

Blake was left partially paralyzed by the incident. Racial violence followed in Kenosha. Officer Sheskey was not charged with a crime. As disturbances continued, a white 17-year-old Kyle Rittenhouse decided to take the law into his own hands. He left home in Antioch, Illinois, with his mother driving him to Kenosha with a loaded military-style semiautomatic rifle (illegal for a person his age) "to assist the police in protecting businesses." He killed two

protesters and wounded another, but walked freely past police officers and military vehicles even as onlookers shouted that he had just shot several people.

The next day, Rittenhouse was arrested and has now been found not guilty on five felonies and a misdemeanor. A white judge, Bruce Schroeder, who has a history of controversial behavior from the bench, seemed unfair as he told the prosecution they could not refer to the victims of the shooting as victims, but that the defense could refer to them as rioters and looters, if they had such evidence. One juror was removed for making a racial joke about Jacob Blake.

The judge also attacked the press in court as unfair in its coverage, and the trial has seemed unfair from the start. Ahmaud Aubery, an unarmed Black jogger, was shot and killed by three white vigilantes who were not even arrested until more than a month later after a video of the shooting went viral. Ultimately, the jury had 11 white jurors and only one Black juror in a city that's 25 percent Black. Defense attorneys used preemptive challenges to remove multiple potential Black jurors, who were asked questions like what they thought of Black Lives Matter and whether there were racial problems between the Black community and the police.

Their answers were then used to remove them from the jury. Additionally, the defense seemed to be trying to put Mr. Aubery on trial by showing

pictures of him looking around in buildings under construction, claiming there had been recent robberies in the community, and the defendants were only trying to make a citizen's arrest and hold him until the police came — like they were protecting the community.

Fortunately, the predominantly white jury did not fall for the defense's argument. All three white vigilantes — Travis McMichael; his father, Gregory McMichael, and a neighbor, William "Roddie" Bryan, were found guilty of multiple charges of felony murder.

But, the simplest way to demonstrate the racial dimension of all three incidents — and one could add the events of January 6 at the U.S. Capitol — is to reverse the racial roles of everyone. Imagine the actual victims as white and the alleged perpetrators as Black.

What these cases show is a pattern — a lineage of Trayvon Martin, Eric Garner, George Floyd, Michael Brown, the Charleston nine — that we cannot accept as normal. Would we see these incidents in the same way if they were reversed? Obviously not. Even in the murder of Aubery — despite the guilty verdicts — the delayed arrests, the jury selection, among other aspects of the case remain questionable.

The only solution is to engage in mass action and mass voting that will allow the truth to come out that will lead to dramatic reform in our criminal justice system.

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

GET THAT DEED AND FLIP THOSE KEYS!

It's whatever you call it...

This week I'm taking a pass on dropping home-buying nuggets, instead I want to send well wishes to you and your family on this day of relaxation, good eating, and fellowship. I've heard many refer to this day as Friendsgiving,

Thanksgiving, a day off, Thankful Day, Official starter gun to holiday shopping day,

Fried Turkey Day, and more. No matter what you call it, today is the day several people are gathering to enjoy loved ones. Some are celebrating in their own homes for the 1st time, and that is extra special. To date this year, we have helped 33 families in 2021 to become new homeowners, and all of them have a reason to be extra thankful. Several came

from renting at an apartment, where having large gatherings was not allowed due to noise rules, and lack of parking for guest. Nothing's better than having your own yard to pile everyone's cars up in, cranking that Holiday

Brenda Dixon

music, frying those turkeys in the backyard, while the grill is smoking ribs and more. There is no way anyone could not enjoy having their 1st Holidays in their own. To all that are blessed today to be enjoying those greens, beans, ham, yams, you name it, (lol) within those walls that you now own, I know that foods is tasting extra good, because you

earned it. For all the ones that are still in those rental units, I can tell you that 2022 can be your year of turn-around, and you can be in your own this time next year. Keep the dream alive for it, and plan for it. Your family deserves it just as much as anyone else. To ALL, no matter what you call you.... Have a safe, blessed HAPPY.....

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

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President Biden sounds warning on Omicron Variant

BY STACY M. BROWN THE WASHINGTON INFORMER

President Joe Biden cautioned Americans not to panic as omicron, the latest COVID-19 variant, threatens to further stall recovery from the nearly two-year-old pandemic

The President called the variant a cause for concern but not panic.

"We have the best vaccine in the world. The best medicines, the best scientists, and we're learning more every single day," President Biden asserted. "And we'll fight this variant with scientific and knowledgeable actions and speed. Not chaos and confusion."

President Biden continued: "Look, we're going to fight and beat this new variant as well."

The White House earlier announced that the U.S. would restrict travel from South Africa, Zimbabwe, Namibia, Botswana, Lesotho, Eswatini, Malawi, and Mozambique. New York Gov. Kathy Hochul has already declared a state of emergency, announcing that while the omicron variant hadn't arrived, she expects it would soon.

"We continue to see warning signs of spikes this upcoming winter, and while the new omi-

cron variant has yet to be detected in New York State, it's coming," Hochul insisted.

Officials at the World Health Organization (WHO) said the Omicron coronavirus variant on Monday carried a "very high risk of infection surges."

The WHO reportedly advised its 194 member nations that any infection surge could have severe consequences but said no deaths had yet been linked to the new variant.

"Omicron has an unprecedented number of spike mutations, some of which are concerning for their potential impact on the trajectory of the pandemic," the organization noted in a news release.

"The overall global risk related to the new variant of concern Omicron is assessed as very high," WHO officials stated.

South African officials reportedly first detected the new variant a week ago in Botswana, with cases confirmed in Germany, Japan, Canada, and Belgium.

The Biden administration remains hopeful while still embracing the likelihood of omicron in the United States.

"While we have said that travel restrictions can slow



The Biden administration remains hopeful while still embracing the likelihood of omicron in the United States. (Photo: iStockphoto / NNPA)

the speed of omicron, it cannot prevent it," President Biden stated. "Here's what it does: it gives us time. It gives us time to take more action. To move quicker, to make

sure people understand, you have to get the vaccine. You have to get the shot. You have to get the booster."

Excerpt: The White House earlier

announced that the U.S. would restrict travel from South Africa, Zimbabwe, Namibia, Botswana, Lesotho, Eswatini, Malawi, and Mozambique. New York Gov.

Kathy Hochul has already declared a state of emergency, announcing that while the omicron variant hadn't arrived, she expects it would soon.

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Those are just some of the ways we're working together so you can expect more.



Expect Remarkable

Learn more at NovantHealth.org/NHRMC.

TELL SOMEBODY

"A Thanksgiving Praise"

"I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth." Psalm 34:1

As we come together with family and friends to celebrate the time honored holiday of Thanksgiving, before we carve the turkey, toss the salad, eat the greens, and serve the cobbler...let us remember to offer unto the Lord our God, a Thanksgiving Praise! Praise never takes a holiday, because everyday is a day of thanksgiving!

Psalm 33:1 says, "Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous: for praise is comely for the upright." "It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, and to sing praises unto thy name, O most High." Psalm 92:1 It is always good and proper to give praise unto the

Lord. As a matter of fact, Saints of God understand the purpose and power of praise.

The purpose of praise is to exalt the name of the Lord.

Psalm 34:3, says "O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together." P r a i s e brings us into the presence of the Lord. "Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name." Psalm 11:4 "But thou art holy, O thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel." Psalm 22:3

Praise reminds us of God's greatness. "Great is the Lord,

and greatly to be praised; and his greatness is unsearchable." Psalm 145:3 "Thy way, O God, is in the sanctuary: who is so great a God as our God?"

The power of praise can edify the Believer. The more we bless the Lord, the more he blesses us. This is important to know because, there will be times when we do not feel like giving God praise. Our praise should not be predicated on a feeling, because feelings change. Hebrews 13:8 states, "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever."

The economy is down, unemployment is up, and sickness has no respect of person. Nevertheless, when we assume an attitude of gratitude, praise will pick us up every time! Praise is what we do, even when we are going through. The power of praise can lift us up out of

despair, despondency, and depression. When we stop and give God praise, we focus on Truth, rather than facts. Facts say you may be broke, but Truth says, "Our God shall supply all our need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus." Facts, may say you have a bad report from the doctor, but whose report are you going to believe? Facts say you are sick, but Truth, says, "with his stripes you are healed!" The facts may determine that you need a miracle. Truth reminds you that, "With God all things are possible."

David the psalmist said in Psalm 34:1, "I will bless the Lord at all times; HIS PRAISE SHALL CONTINUALLY BE IN MY MOUTH."

This praise warrior had a made up mind, and a double determination to give God praise in whatever state he

found himself in. When he declared that he would bless the Lord at all times, it was because he trusted the Lord at all times. The words of his testimony showed great confidence in the Lord's ability to deliver him out of any and every situation. He even said, "Yea, thou I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me..." Psalm 23. He had so much faith in God's ability to deliver him, he offered God praise in advance. On at least one occasion, he gave God an undignified praise. He praised God in the dance until he felt better! He didn't care who saw him praising the Lord. He was so full of thanksgiving!

Like our brother, David, let's keep the high praises of God in our mouth, before, during, and after this holiday season. "Let the people

praise thee, O God; let all the people praise thee." Psalm 67:5

Prayer: Dear Lord, touch my heart, so that I can give you praise every day of my life, because everyday is a day of thanksgiving! And you are so worthy! In Jesus'Name Amen. Happy Thanksgiving!

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



Sylvia Hooper

A WORD FROM THE LORD

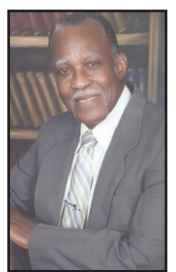
Who is this?

What manner of man is this? Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.

Over 2000 years has passed since these statements were made and it has gone unanswered or rejected in the minds of the world. Let's turn now to the teaching of the infallible Word of God which is the fountain head of all spiritual truth and the revelation of the complete will of God about man and for man.

The very first thing we need to settle in our mind and heart is the Bible a reliable or trustworthy source for us to consider. The answer to this question is resounding yes. Why? The Bible is the only one of its kind, it has no equal or likeness; unparalleled, The Bible originated in the mind God eons ago in the dateless past, before He created the heavens and the earth Genesis 1:1, In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.2 And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon

the face of the waters. And God begin His creation and nine we the words v.2 and God said, v.6 and God said, 9 and God said, 11 and God said, 14 and God said, 20 and God said,



Rev. Naconiel Fullwood

24 and God said, 26 and God said, and 29 and God said. And everything He said became a reality; the word of God was the material He used to created the universe. John 1:1-2, In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.2 The same was in the beginning with God.3 All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made. 1John 1-3, That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our

hands have handled, of the Word of life;2 (For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father; and was manifested unto us);3 That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ. Hebrews 1:2-3, KJV2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;3 Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high:

The Bible which is the Word God is alive and full power: Hebrews 4:12, KJV For the word of God is quick (alive) and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing

asunder of soul and spirit, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart (AMPC) For the Word that God speaks is alive and full of power [making it active, operative, energizing, and effective]; it is sharper than any two-edged sword, penetrating to the dividing line of the [a]breath of life (soul) and [the immortal] spirit, and of joints and marrow [of the deepest parts of our nature], exposing and sifting and analyzing and judging the very thoughts and purposes of the heart.

Jesus did not begin His existence when He was born to Mary. He is eternal whether you believe it or not. The Phrase in the beginning carries us back to the first verse of Genesis. Jesus was there in that beginning, and if there were any beginnings before that, He was there also.

Jesus was with God in the beginning. Before taking a message from one person to another, a messenger must be in a position to receive the message. Jesus was and is in

such a position. Whatever message God had to send, Jesus was there to receive it. You got to get this! Jesus was God. He not only was in God's presence, but also share God's nature. Many messages have been changed or lost because messengers have failed to understand just what was in the mind and heart of the one giving the message. But there was no chance that Jesus would fail to understand the mind of God, because He was One with God the Father.

Jesus Christ, the Son of the Living God, came into the earth realm to redeem man from the curse of sin that had contaminated the human race, that's what the Christmas celebration suppose to be all about, God manifested in the flesh to destroy the works of the Devil. The Christmas celebration should be about God manifested in the flesh to condemn sin in the flesh, so that we could be redeemed from the curse of the law. He who knew no sin became sin for us that we might be made the righteous-

ness of God through Him. So as you and I looking forward for the celebration of the Christmas Holiday, let's bring Christ as the center or the foundation of everything we do that others may Christ in us and through us. Jesus said that we were the light of the world a city that sits on a Hill that cannot be hidden, again He said that were the salt of the earth, but if the salt lose its saltness it is good for nothing, but to be throw out and tramp under the foot of men (you become like dirt). Father, thank you for sending your that we may be healed and delivered from all our destruction, we except your word in our hearts to meditate day and night, that we may become the persons that you design us to become through your Word (Jesus). Amen.

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

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LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Having qualified as Executrix of the Estate of **Sara S. Griffin (21-E-1573)**, late of New Hanover County, North Carolina the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned at 701 Market Street, Wilmington, North Carolina, 28401 on or before **February 4, 2022** or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This the 4th day of November, 2021.

Myra G. Wallace
c/o Craige & Fox, PLLC
701 Market Street
Wilmington, NC 28401

November 4, 11, 18, 25, 2021

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Having qualified as Executrix of the Estate of **George J. Jernigan, Jr. (21-E-1568)**, late of New Hanover County, North Carolina the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned at 701 Market Street, Wilmington, North Carolina, 28401 on or before **February 4, 2022** or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This the 4th day of November, 2021.

Terri Jernigan Minnis
c/o Craige & Fox, PLLC
701 Market Street
Wilmington, NC 28401

November 4, 11, 18, 25, 2021

NOTICE TO CREDITORS STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF NEW HANOVER

The undersigned, having qualified as Administratrix of the estate of **Diane Marie Son**, 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 **4th day of February 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 4th day of November, 2021

Megan Alicia Gower, Administratrix
136 Graystone Rd.
Wilmington, NC 28411

November 4, 11, 18, 25, 2021

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 25th day of November, 2021.

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

November 25, December 4, 11 2021

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF NEW HANOVER IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: ROBERTA KNIGHT FANNING

Having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of **Roberta Knight Fanning deceased, late of New Hanover County**, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate to present such claims to the undersigned C/O Terry B. Richardson, Attorney at Law, 209 Princess Street, Wilmington, NC 28401 on or before the **15th day of February, 2022**, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of your recovery. All persons indebted to the estate will please make immediate payment.

This the 5th day of November, 2021.

Loretta Fanning, Administrator
Terry B. Richardson
Attorney for the Estate
209 Princess Street
Wilmington, NC 28401
TelephoneNo. 910-763-7420
Fax No. 910-762-4176

November 11, 18, 25, December 2, 2021

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of **Bobby Wayne Albea (21-E-1688)**, late of New Hanover County, North Carolina the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned at 701 Market Street, Wilmington, North Carolina, 28401 on or before **February 25, 2022** or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This the 4th day of November, 2021.

Judy G. Albea
c/o Craige & Fox, PLLC
701 Market Street
Wilmington, NC 28401

November 25, December 2, 9, 16, 2021

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of **Sandra Rochelle Howell (21-E-1658)**, late of New Hanover County, North Carolina the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned at 701 Market Street, Wilmington, North Carolina, 28401 on or before **February 25, 2022** or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This the 4th day of November, 2021.

James Colin Horrell, Jr.
c/o Craige & Fox, PLLC
701 Market Street
Wilmington, NC 28401

November 25, December 2, 9, 16, 2021

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of **Ryan G. Khan (21-E-1602)**, late of New Hanover County, North Carolina the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned at 701 Market Street, Wilmington, North Carolina, 28401 on or before **February 25, 2022** or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This the 4th day of November, 2021.

Charlotte Noel Fox
c/o Craige & Fox, PLLC
701 Market Street
Wilmington, NC 28401

November 25, December 2, 9, 16, 2021

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of **William Thomas Robins (21-E-1693)**, late of New Hanover County, North Carolina the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned at 701 Market Street, Wilmington, North Carolina, 28401 on or before **February 25, 2022** or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This the 4th day of November, 2021.

Linda Henry Robins
c/o Craige & Fox, PLLC
701 Market Street
Wilmington, NC 28401

November 25, December 2, 9, 16, 2021

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF NEW HANOVER

The undersigned, having qualified as Executrix of the estate of **Edwin LaRue Trowbridge**, 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 **4th day of February, 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 4th day of November, 2021

Naomi Trowbridge, Executrix
1841 Olive Pine Way
Leland, NC 28451

November 4, 11, 18, 25, 2021

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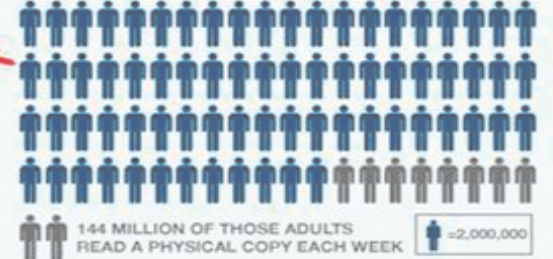
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Sources:

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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