

OUTside
Looking **IN**

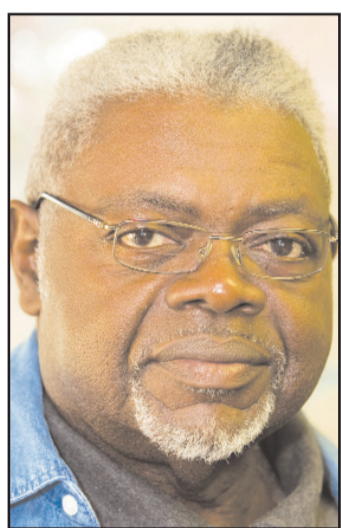
OUR VOICE



GEORGE CURRY

GUEST EDITORIAL
"Is Obama Trying to Kill Black Colleges?"
PART 2
BY
GEORGE CURRY
PAGE 4

BRUNSWICK COUNTY UPDATE



BERNEST HEWETT

GOING BACKWARD

BY BERNEST HEWETT
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

We have just celebrated Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday and the changes that were made in people's lives because of his days here on earth with us. He made the nation, as a whole, look at the injustices in the ways Blacks and poor people were being treated in what was supposed to be a free nation, a nation that was supposed to be built on freedom for all people, regardless of color or social standing. However, Brunswick County, I find that we are in the grip of County Government officials who are trying very hard to move the clock back on the poor, Blacks, and the elderly. I find that education is not a concern for big

Please see **BRUNSWICK/**Page 2

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FIFTY CENTS

BLADENBORO

LENNON LACY CASE MOVES FORWARD

BY CASH MICHAELS
OF THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

BLADENBORO

The FBI has now been investigating the open questions surrounding the mysterious hanging death of black teenager in the small eastern North Carolian town of Bladenboro for at least a month.

There is no question in the minds of those who believe that Lennon Lacy, 17, did not kill himself, as the Bladenboro police and county coroner have ruled, that someone knows what happened to the West Bladenboro High School student before his body was found hanging from a children's swing set in a predominately white trailer park he did not live at on the morning of August 29th last summer.

Local authorities were quick to rule suicide, saying, after interviewing Lacy's mother, that he was despondent of the recent death of a beloved uncle. But Claudia Lacy counters that while her son was indeed sad, as was the rest of the family, he was nowhere near suicidal.

Indeed, the start of the high school football season was beginning the same evening Lennon's body was found, and young man was on his school team, and had been eagerly preparing for the big

first game.

In effect, her son had every reason to live, Claudia Lacy says, which means his death was something she's certain was done to him.

"He didn't do this to himself," she told CNN.

The NC NAACP has joined with the Lacy family and attorney, demanding justice and a full investigation of the facts. With Rev. William Barber, president of the statewide civil rights group leading the way, more questions about both the circumstances surrounding Lennon's death, and the subsequent local investigation, have come to light.

"[The Lacy family is]... being asked to accept the fact that their son, brother, and cousin might have walked out of his home the night before his first big home football game that he had been preparing for all summer," Rev. Barber said at a November press conference with the family present. "That he would have hidden his brand new shoes that he had been wearing, so no one could find them. That he would have found a pair of



LENNON LACY

Please see **LACY/**Page 2



OFFICIAL WHITE HOUSE PHOTO BY PETE SOUZA
PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA DELIVERS THE STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS IN THE HOUSE CHAMBER AT THE U.S. CAPITOL IN WASHINGTON, D.C., JAN. 20, 2015.

WASHINGTON

With 'no more campaigns to run,' Obama refuses to back down

BY GEORGE E. CURRY
NNPA EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The strongest line in President Obama's State of the Union address Tuesday night was adlibbed. When he said toward the end of his one-hour speech, "I have no more campaigns to run," Republicans laughed. He quickly shot back, "I know because I won both of them."

That brief exchange tells us what we can expect in Obama's final two years in office and reflects two different realities. A confident and relaxed Obama, making it very clear that he is not going to

curl up in a corner and concede the next two years to Republicans, outlined his bold vision for the future, a vision that does not abandon his key policy positions.

Though Obama did indeed win both times his name was on the ballot, Democrats suffered major losses in the 2014 mid-term elections. Consequently, Republicans

NEWS ANALYSIS

Please see **OBAMA/**Page 3



DR. BENJAMIN CHAVIS

PEMBROKE

Chavis: Civil rights movement needed more now than five decades ago

SPECIAL TO THE NNPA
BY NATHAN HARDIN
OF THE FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER

PEMBROKE
Civil rights leader Benjamin Chavis kicked off a week-long Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. celebration in Pembroke on Friday by saying a civil rights movement is of greater need in the state now than it was nearly five decades ago.

"One of the last things that Dr. King said before his assassination was that we must strive toward economic justice as well as racial justice," Chavis

Please see **CHAVIS/**Page 2

HBCUs divided over free community college plan

BY FREDDIE ALLEN
NNPA SENIOR WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT

Black college educators and supporters are sharply split over whether President Obama's proposal to offer a free two-year community college education to students making progress toward earning an associate or bachelor's degree would hurt are harm Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).

Lezli Baskerville, president and CEO of the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education (NAFEO), a nonprofit network of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and

Predominantly Black Institutions (PBIs), including community colleges, said that for students who have a gap in funding or choose to go to a two-year institution and don't have adequate funding, America's College Promise would create another opportunity for them.

"We are trying to make sure that students that want to go and get a technical certification or some training to get their foot in the door, can do that," said Baskerville. "We also want to incentivize and facilitate students who want to get a four-year degree doing that,

Please see **HBCUs/**Page 2



DR. LEZLI BASKERVILLE



DR. LESTER C. NEWMAN

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BRUNSWICK

Continued from Page 1

industry. We are left with
unjust laws and unwise elect-
ed officials. These people
want to undermine the free-
dom process and start a
county and nation ruled by
the rich or well off regard-
less to whether it is just or
unjust. This county is not
caring about the future of
young people or farmers or
even people coming here
looking to find a job and
make a living. Minorities are
not given a chance at being
treated equally in the job,
market in Brunswick
County, and, with industry
being as scarce as it is, there
should be an effort to
improve work for everyone.
However, we spend millions
of dollars on parks but very
little on people. Do we all
rise together or do we all
fall apart? *Bernest L. Hewett is
President of the Brunswick
County Branch of NAACP.*

Today's
Black
News
Is
Tomorrow's
Black
History

LACY

Continued from Page 1

older low-top sneakers, taken
the strings out of them, and
jammed them on his feet,
although they were two sizes
too small. That he would have
walked alone to a trailer park
owned by a white man who is
in prison for dealing drugs.
That he would have picked up
two leashes/belts along the
way and fashioned a noose

out of them all by himself.
That when he got there, he
would have picked a swing
set with no swings hanging
from it, and taken the
leash/belt, tied it to the beam
and through the eyehook,
and then put the leash
around his neck, and swung
himself out to his self-inflict-
ed death."

"And he did all this with no
one around, and he remained
there until 7 a.m. or so in the
morning, after people were

leaving for work at the
Smithfield Plant or to
school," Barber added.

"And they are being asked
to accept this without know-
ing that all of the other fac-
tors and leads have been
exhausted."

One possible lead is the
confirmed fact that Lennon
Lacy was dating a 31-year-old
white divorcee'. The woman
says Lennon treated her
"good," but the couple tried to
be careful of being seen pub-

licly because of negative
reaction in the small town.

An expert pathologist
hired by the NCNAACP who
reviewed the autopsy find-
ings has raised several doubt
about how law enforcement
handled the body when
found. Those doubts, and fur-
ther questions, were brought
to the Bladen County district
attorney, who has agreed to
keep the case open.

Finally, based on growing
questions, the US Attorney

was convinced after meeting
with the family and NC
NAACP to call in the FBI for
a federal civil rights investi-
gation.

Rev. Barber says his office
has received calls from peo-
ple in Bladenboro who say
they have information, and
its his expectation that the
FBI will follow up with them.

Meanwhile, he and the
NCNAACP stand by the fami-
ly. "Let us pray for the Lacy
family," Rev. Barber says.

CHAVIS

Continued from Page 1

said. "That's certainly true.
There's too much poverty. Too
many people are still near
foreclosure. So we've got
some work to do. I would say
in 2015 we need a civil rights
movement today more than
we needed it years ago."

Chavis, a native of Oxford,
was an assistant to King, who
inspired him to work in the
civil rights movement in the
1960s.

Chavis was one of the
Wilmington 10, nine black
men and a white woman, who
were convicted of fire-bomb-
ing a grocery store in
Wilmington during racial
unrest in 1971. The convic-
tions were overturned based

on evidence of perjury and
prosecutorial misconduct.
The group was later granted
gubernatorial pardons.

During a VIP reception at
the University of North
Carolina at Pembroke, the 66-
year-old told students and
faculty the state was divided
into two North Carolinas.

"One progressive and one
reactionary," he said. "One
going forward and one going
backward."

He commended the Rev.
William Barber, who has led
Moral Monday protests since
spring 2013 in response to leg-
islation passed by the
Republican-led General
Assembly.

"I think that we're now cel-
ebrating the legacy and
dream of Dr. Martin Luther
King and certainly Dr. King's

legacy falls on the progres-
sive side," he said as he ming-
led with the crowd. "I'm hop-
ing people use the 2015 King
ceremonies to reaffirm the
importance of inclusivene-
ss."

As a young teacher in
Lumberton City Schools,
Frances Cummings remem-
bered following Chavis after
the Wilmington 10.

"He empowered me with
his ideas, his thoughts and
his action," she said. "As a
result of listening and follow-
ing him, it gave me strength
to be a change agent, a shaper
and mover - to make things
better for the total popula-
tion."

Cummings, 73, saw first-
hand school integration and
discrimination in the late
'60s, she said, and used

Chavis' experience for moti-
vation. She moved on from
teaching school to a success-
ful political career, serving in
the N.C. House of
Representatives.

"Fortunately or unfortu-
nately, I helped to integrate
the Lumberton City Schools,
and it was my experiences
there that caused me to be
more determined for
change," she said. "To work
with all people, to bring all
people together for the good
of the cause, which was what
he was doing."

Chavis also spoke directly
to a group of students who
were among the roughly 30
people in attendance Friday
night.

"To all of the young stu-
dents here, your college edu-
cations are probably the most

important years of your life,"
he said. "You're not only lay-
ing an academic foundation,
but you're laying the founda-
tion with how you're going to
interact with the larger
world."

Jamar Smith, a 21-year-old
senior, said Chavis is a Phi
Beta Sigma fraternity brother
and said he came out to
hear Chavis' remarks on com-
munity service and the civil
rights movement.

"Being able to listen to him
as a fraternity brother who
worked with Dr. Martin
Luther King and to see where
he's come from and all the
work he's done kind of gives
us a second wind to push for-
ward and to use what he's
done and to try to implement
it today in our work and our
service," Smith said.

HBCUs

Continued from Page 1

especially low-income students
for whom options are very,
very limited."

Baskerville said that the
jury is still out on whether a
student would opt to go to a
two-year college for free
instead of going to an HBCU.

"If they're going to a two-
year institution, they're going
to get a certificate or a two-year
degree, something to get them
market-ready or entrepreneur-
ship-ready," explained Basker-
ville. "If they're going to a four-
year HBCU they're going
because they appreciate the
ethos of historic Black colleges
that are built on the traditions
of the African American com-
munity of family, faith, fellow-
ship, service and social justice."

However, Lester C. Newman,
president of Jarvis Christian
College in Hawkins, Texas,
believes HBCUs will pay a
price.

"They are going to suffer," he
said. "Not too many schools can
operate with just the third and
fourth level, especially four-
year institutions that don't
have graduate programs. You
don't get the research dollars
that can help sustain you. You
rely on students being there
from their freshman to their
senior year. But if you are
going to lose a great portion of
those students for the first two
years, you really will have to
change your model, your busi-
ness plan."

Johnny Taylor, president
and CEO of the Thurgood
Marshall College Fund, an edu-
cation advocacy group that re-
presents about 300,000 students
and 47 member colleges and
universities, agrees.

"My fear is a real one and
that this is going to significant-
ly, negatively impact private
HBCUs and I think it's going to
have some negative impact on
public HBCUs," he said. "Mama
and Daddy are going to say, 'If
you can go to community col-
lege for free, that's where you
are going the first two years.'
So, what you have essentially

done is cut in half the revenue
for private HBCUs. Private
HBCUs are going to feel this in
a way you can't even imagine."

Taylor said he supports
President Obama's overall goal
of providing free college assis-
tance, but thinks it should be
done in a manner that would be
less harmful to HBCUs.

The United Negro College
Fund (UNCF), which repre-
sents private HBCUs, has not
issued a statement on the com-
munity college proposal.

As educators and HBCU
advocates debate whether the
program will have a disparate
impact on Black schools,
Toldson argued that enroll-
ment at HBCUs has already
taken a hit, because of state-
level policy choices.

Toldson used Southern
University in Baton Rouge, La.,
as an example. Toldson said
that when he taught at the
school in 2005, there were 10,000
students enrolled and over the
last decade that number has
dwindled to 6,000. Over the
same period, Toldson said that
community college attendance
increased to about 9,000 stu-
dents.

But Toldson said that the fall
in enrollment at Southern
University had more to do with
changes in admission require-
ments that affected all state
universities in Louisiana than
direct competition from com-
munity colleges in the region.
Toldson said that new guide-
lines barred Southern
University from admitting stu-
dents that scored less than 20
on their ACT exams.

"The average ACT score is 16
in Louisiana, so you could
imagine how many Black stu-
dents could not go to Southern
because of that change," said
Toldson. "So, they had to go to a
community college or whatev-
er college would accept them."

According to data collected
by the ACT program, Black
graduating high school seniors
scored an average of 17 on the
exam in 2014, compared to
White students who scored 22.3
on average.

"By 2020, an estimated 35 per-
cent of job openings will

require at least a bachelor's
degree and 30 percent will
require some college or an
associate's degree," White
House officials said. "Forty per-
cent of college students are
enrolled at one of America's
more than 1,100 community
colleges, which offer students
affordable tuition, open admis-
sion policies, and convenient
locations."

Seventy-five percent of the
funding for the proposal, called
"America's College Promise"
will come from the federal gov-
ernment with participating
states contributing the rest of
the money needed to cover
tuition costs. White House offi-
cials estimate that the program
will cost the federal govern-
ment \$60 billion over 10 years, if
all states participate.

Nearly all of the HBCUs are
in states where Republicans
control the legislature and the
governor's mansion. Getting
them - or the Republican major-
ity in the House and Senate - to
buy into President Obama's
vision will likely be an uphill
battle.

As President Newman
noted, spending on higher edu-
cation is already being cut by
most states.

"Of course, you support any
opportunity where people can
go to school for free," he said.
"The details are what I am con-
cerned about. I don't see them
adding any money to higher
education, just redirecting
funds. This program will take
away funds from private
schools. Any proposal that does
that is going to hurt us tremen-
dously."

Baskerville also noted that
going to a two-year institution
is not the most direct route for
anyone who wants to get a four-
year bachelor's degree.

According to federal statis-
tics, only 7.5 percent of Black
students who pursue a two-
year associate degree full-time
finish within three years and
about 40 percent of Black stu-
dents who earn bachelor's
degrees finish in six years.
Those rates plummet when a
student is only able to attend
part-time, often burdened by

work or family obligations.

Ivory Toldson, the deputy
director of the White House
Initiative on Historically Black
Colleges and Universities, said
that community colleges cur-
rently educate more Black stu-
dents than any other single sec-
tor, partly because of limited
financial resources.

"Having a program that
allows them to cut that finan-
cial barrier altogether to go
into an institution that can
help prepare them for an asso-
ciate's degree or to transfer to a
four-year college, I think is a
worthwhile program," said
Toldson.

*The Journal for Blacks in
Higher Education* reported
that, "Only 34 percent of Black
students who took the ACT test
were deemed ready for college-
level English courses. This is
less than half the rate for
White students who took the
ACT. Only 14 percent of Black
ACT test takers were deemed
college ready in mathematics
compared to 52 percent of
White ACT test takers."

Whether community college
students will be less likely to
enroll in an HBCU after the
first two years in another set-
ting is being hotly debated.
Regardless of the outcome,
Black colleges are looking at a
new reality.

Newman said that even
before President Obama's
announcement, Jarvis was
studying whether to award stu-
dents associate degrees upon
satisfactory completion of the
first two years. Now that exam-
ination will be accelerated.

"We're going to have to
change our model," he
explained. "I don't know if we

have to play the associate
degree game. We will have a
need for greater articulation
agreements with those commu-
nity colleges that get those stu-
dents."

Other approaches will also
be needed.

Baskerville said NAFEO is
already working with The
Links Inc., an international
professional women's group, to
pair HBCUs with two-year
community colleges in their
service area in an effort to pro-
vide students with the experi-
ence of attending a four-year
institution as they earn college
credits at the local community
college.

White House officials hope
that taking the costs of tuition
off the table for two-years will
help to ease some of those bur-
dens, possibly improving grad-
uation rates in the process.

If the president's plan
results in fewer students
attending HBCUs, that could
have a ripple effect. For exam-
ple, physicians, dentists and
other professionals who attend
HBCUs are much more likely
to return to Black communities
to practice than graduates of
non-Black colleges.

Referring to the Obama com-
munity college proposal,
Newman said, "It's going to
change how we operate in high-
er education. Whether that's
good or bad, we don't know
yet."



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Mt. Olive AME Church's 142nd anniversary in 2015.

"SLEEPY HOLLOW" TV SERIES TO LEAVE NORTH CAROLINA

[WILMINGTON] If it is renewed for a third season, the Fox television series "Sleepy Hollow" will cease production in Wilmington, and move to Georgia, according to published reports.



STATE BRIEFS

The Republican-led NC General Assembly ended a popular film incentives program that gave movie productions millions in incentives to film in the state. Production companies, in turn, hired local actors, actresses and technicians, and did business with local restaurants, car services and building material companies. The incentives program had strong economic impact in the

Wilmington area, according to Mayor Bill Saffo. But Gov. Pat McCrory and the Legislature felt that the state was giving away too much, ending the program and replacing it with a \$10 million grant program that simply wasn't enough. The result has been several movie and television productions moving from the state, taking their business elsewhere. "Sleepy Hollow," if it's renewed, will now move to Georgia, pro-

ducers say. **NC DEMOCRATIC PARTY HAS JUST UNDER \$43,000 IN THE BANK, REPORTS SAY** [RALEIGH] Thanks to a bruising 2014 election year season and weaker fundraising, the NC Democratic Party has less than \$43,000 in its coffers, published reports say. Outgoing State Party Chairman Randy Voller says when the NC General

Assembly ended the party donation checkoff on state tax returns last year, the party lost upwards of \$1.5 million. The party's State Executive Committee is scheduled to elect a new chairman from among four candidates on Feb. 7th. **STATE, FAMILY OF MAN MISTAKENLY DECLARED "DEAD" REACHED** The family of a Louisburg man hit on the side of a road,

but mistakenly declared dead by paramedics and taken to the morgue, only to be rushed to the hospital hours later, have settled with the state for \$425,000. Larry Donnell Green has lived paralyzed with severe brain damage since that fateful night in January 2005. The family reached a \$1 million settlement with Franklin County in 2009. **COMPILED BY CASH MICHAELS**

OBAMA

Continued from Page 1

hold a 247-188 edge in the House. In the Senate, there are 54 Republicans, 44 Democrats and two Independents who usually vote with Democrats.

On Tuesday night, President Obama seemed to be setting the stage for 2016 when in addition to the White House, there will be a major battle for control of the Senate, where 25 Republicans will be up re-election, compared to only 10 Democrats.

Though it will be difficult to get many of the proposals President Obama said will be in his budget when it is delivered to Capitol Hill in two weeks, he argued forcefully that his polices had worked, despite strident Republican opposition over the past six years.

"We are 15 years into this new century," he began in his address to a joint session of Congress. "Fifteen years that dawned with terror touching our shores; that unfolded with a new generation fighting two long and costly wars; that saw a vicious recession spread across our nation and the world. It has been, and still is, a hard time for many.

"But tonight, we turn the page. Tonight, after a breakthrough year for America, our economy is growing and creating jobs at the fastest pace since 1999. Our unemployment rate is now lower than it was before the financial crisis. More of our kids are graduating than ever before. More of our people are insured than ever before. And we are as free from the grip of foreign oil as we've been in almost 30 years.

"Tonight, for the first time since 9/11, our combat mission in Afghanistan is over. Six years ago, nearly 180,000 American troops served in Iraq and Afghanistan. Today, fewer than 15,000 remain. And we salute the courage and sacrifice of every man and woman in this 9/11 Generation who has served to keep us safe. We are humbled and grateful for your service.

"America, for all that we have endured; for all the grit and hard work required to come back; for all the tasks that lie ahead, know this: The shadow of crisis has passed, and the State of the Union is strong."

As has become customary

during State of the Union speeches, Democrats stood and applauded when Obama made a point that appealed to them while dour-faced Republicans remained seated. Unlike 2009 when Rep. Joe Wilson, a Republican from South Carolina, violated congressional decorum by shouting, "You, Lie," Republicans were mostly polite, while making it clear they were not endorsing Obama's vision for his final two years in office.

Noticeably absent from Tuesday's State of the Union were three of the most conservative members of the Supreme Court: Chief Justice John Roberts and Associate Justices Clarence Thomas and Antonin Scalia. Thomas has called the event so partisan that it makes him feel uncomfortable. Scalia has dismissed it as a "childish spectacle" and Roberts has likened it to "a political pep rally." In modern years, regardless of a court member's personal views, the robbed justices have attended the yearly event, most of the time displaying no emotions.

Reviewing his accomplishments over the past six years, Obama boasted, "We believed we could reverse the tide of outsourcing and draw new jobs to our shores. And over the past five years, our businesses have created more than 11 million new jobs.

"We believed we could reduce our dependence on foreign oil and protect our planet. And today, America is number one in oil and gas. America is number one in wind power. Every three weeks, we bring online as much solar power as we did in all of 2008. And thanks to lower gas prices and higher fuel standards, the typical family this year should save about \$750 at the pump."

With Democrats applauding, Obama continued, "We believed we could prepare our kids for a more competitive world. And today, our younger students have earned the highest math and reading scores on record. Our high school graduation rate has hit an all-time high. More Americans finish college than ever before.

"We believed that sensible regulations could prevent another crisis, shield families from ruin, and encourage fair competition. Today, we have new tools to stop taxpayer-funded bailouts, and a new consumer watchdog to protect us



President Barack Obama greets 103-year-old civil rights legend Amelia Boynton Robinson with Rep. Terri Sewell, D-Ala., at the U.S. Capitol before delivering the State of the Union address in the House Chamber in Washington, D.C., Jan. 20, 2015.

OFFICIAL WHITE HOUSE PHOTO BY PETE SOUZA

from predatory lending and abusive credit card practices. And in the past year alone, about 10 million uninsured Americans finally gained the security of health coverage."

Like most politicians, Obama cherry-picked some numbers, according to FactCheck.org, a nonpartisan project of the Annenberg Policy Center at the University of Pennsylvania that describes itself as a nonpartisan, non-profit "consumer advocate" for voters that aims to reduce the level of deception and confusion in U.S. politics.

For example, it noted, "It's true that nearly 8.2 million private sector jobs have been added since February 2010, which was the low point of the great job slump that began a year before Obama took office and continued through his first year. But total employment has risen less - by 7.6 million - held back by layoffs of state and local government workers. Obama was technically correct, as he was careful to speak of jobs "our businesses have created."

either. But you know what, I know a lot of really good scien-

tists at NASA [National Aeronautics and Space Administration], and at NOAA [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration], and at our major universities. And the best scientists in the world are all telling us that our activities are changing the climate, and if we don't act forcefully, we'll continue to see rising oceans, longer, hotter heat waves, dangerous droughts and floods, and massive disruptions that can trigger greater migration and conflict and hunger around the globe. The Pentagon says that climate change poses immediate risks to our national security. We

should act like it." Before Obama delivered his State of the Union speech, new Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky) made it clear that it didn't matter what goals Obama articulates.

At a news conference before the speech, McConnell, who once said his goal was to make Obama a one-term president, said, "With all due respect to him, he doesn't set the agenda in the Senate"

In his speech, Obama said he realizes Democrats and Republicans have different ideas on major issues, but urged cooperation where possible.

"Imagine if we broke out of these tired old patterns. Imagine if we did something different," he said. "Understand, a better politics isn't one where Democrats abandon their agenda or Republicans simply embrace mine. A better politics is one where we appeal to each other's basic decency instead of our basest fears. A better politics is one where we debate without demonizing each other; where we talk issues and values, and principles and facts, rather than 'gotcha' moments, or trivial gaffes, or fake controversies that have nothing to do with people's daily lives."

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Our Voice

CURRY'S COMMENTS

Is Obama trying to kill black colleges? -Part II

Few things irk me more than hearing someone say or imply that now that we have a Black president, perhaps the time has come to abolish Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). I have zero tolerance for such ignorance.

HBCUs are being held to a different standard than other universities that target certain communities. Because Jews and Catholics were refused admission or subjected to quotas at major universities, they established their own institutions. That's why we have the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Ind., the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Mass. and the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. for Catholics.



George Curry

Brandeis University in Waltham, Mass. says on its website that it was "founded in 1948 by members of the American Jewish community." Like HBCUs, these schools did not restrict enrollment to Catholics or Jews. HBCUs have always welcomed White students and faculty members on campus.

The belief that we should pay our respect, have a proper funeral and send our Black colleges off to a graveyard for relics simply because Barack Obama is president is preposterous. In 1960, John F. Kennedy was elected president amid questions of whether America was ready to elect its first Catholic president.

JFK won but no one declared that it ushered in an era of post-religious bigotry. No one said, "Now that we have elected a Catholic as president, Notre Dame and Holy Cross have outlived their usefulness." If universities established because of religious bigotry have not outlived their usefulness, why should HBCUs be put out to pasture?

There are 106 accredited HBCUs, 47 of them public. According to the White House Initiative on HBCUs, Black colleges award more than 35,000 degrees each year. In Mississippi, HBCUs handed out 37 percent of the degrees awarded to African Americans in the state, followed by Louisiana (36 percent), North Carolina (34 percent), Arkansas (31 percent), Maryland (25 percent) Alabama and South Carolina (23 percent each), Tennessee (19 percent), Georgia (18 percent), Texas (13 percent) and Florida (9 percent).

As Secretary of Education Arne Duncan said in a speech last September, "Too many Americans are unfamiliar with the staggering accomplishments of HBCUs. Most of America's civil rights giants were educated at HBCUs - Dr. King, W.E.B. DuBois, Rosa Parks, Booker T. Washington, and Thurgood Marshall.

"In our time, Jesse Jackson, Andy Young, Barbara Jordan, Congressman John Lewis, Marian Wright Edelman, and Doug Wilder all earned their degrees at HBCUs. Legendary artists and authors came out of HBCUs - Ralph Ellison, Alice Walker, Zora Neale Hurston, Langston Hughes, and Toni Morrison.

"Yet what is most impressive about the HBCU record is not just our famous alumni. It is that HBCUs, working with meager resources, almost single-handedly created an African-American professional class in the face of decades of Jim Crow discrimination."

Duncan continued, "Even, more than a half-century after the demise of Jim Crow laws, HBCUs continue to have an outsized impact in educating Black professionals. We have over 7,000 institutions of higher education across the country, 106 of which are HBCUs. But in 2010, HBCUs still awarded a sixth of all bachelor degrees and professional degrees earned by African Americans in the U.S."

At a time, when its projected that we won't have enough college graduates to meet our future needs, it would be foolhardy to diminish a pool of institutions that have proven their value over the years.

While the Obama administration is saying the right things, HBCUs are approaching death by a thousand cuts.

Pell grants were reduced by Congress in 2011, making students eligible for 12 semesters instead of 18. That will hurt Black students who, on average, take longer to complete their undergraduate education.

Without consulting HBCUs, the Obama administration made changes in the Parent PLUS loans three years ago that made it more difficult for parents with less than stellar credit to obtain a loan. By some estimates, that change, which has since been modified, caused up to 20 percent drop in enrollment at HBCUs.

And now the proposal for the federal government to pay for the first two years of community college, a move that is certain to harm HBCUs. It would have been better to offer to pick up the tab for the first two years at any public university.

Some Black college presidents are reluctant to criticize the proposal publicly for fear of falling in disfavor with the White House. The head of some higher ed organization are carefully picking their words because they represent community colleges as well as HBCUs. And some people are hiding behind the time-worn excuse, "the devil is in the details." In this case, the community college proposal represents the devil for the continued existence of HBCUs. And because we have our first Black president or have other conflict of interests, not too many people have the temerity to say it.

As one educator told me privately, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. must be rolling over in his grave.

George E. Curry, former editor-in-chief of *Emerge* magazine, is editor-in-chief of the *National Newspaper Publishers Association News Service (NNAAP)*. He is a keynote speaker, moderator, and media coach. Curry can be reached through his Web site, www.georgecurry.com. You can also follow him at www.twitter.com/currygeorge and [George E. Curry Fan Page on Facebook](http://www.facebook.com/GeorgeE.Curry).

Visual Voice



Your Voice

INCOMPLETE GRADE (I)

The NC League of Municipalities—a state advocate for cities and towns—was criticized last month by our local legislator for providing inadequate information (bullet points) on local municipal concerns to the General Assembly. Basically, he was telling the League to do his job. Fortunately, the legislator took a different approach in addressing the problems of education by communicating with teachers and administrators in county schools. Although the Board of Education gave his recent presentation a passing grade, my grade is an "I" (incomplete). Yes, there were references to salary increases for NEW teachers that have been approved, but increases for ALL teachers seemed to have been added as an afterthought.

There were no plans to restore funding for many teacher assistant positions lost this year. Even more troubling was the failure to be an advocate for Common Core standards. The General Assembly should not spend over \$250,000 for their commission to replace these nation-wide standards created by educators and governors. NC schools have spent millions of dollars and many man-hours during the past four years implementing standards that require students to think and reason more. Despite the myths (see www.corestandards.org), schools and teachers can still come up with their own lessons to teach the skills to students.

The legislator and his peers can receive a passing grade by erasing some of the mistakes made during the past few years. Then, we will

know that his ideas are actual goals rather than simply talking points.

William Flythe
Southport, NC

BALLOTS VERSUS BILLIONS

The nation's first Republican president declared that government should be "of the people, by the people, and for the people." But Abraham Lincoln's vision will remain a distant mirage if a money-drenched elections system devalues our votes by auctioning off political offices to the highest bidder.

This is a perfect week to reflect on threats to our democratic republic's core principles. We celebrate a holiday honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., whose bold crusade with an army of determined citizens won the 1965 Voting Rights Act, as dramatized in the new film, *Selma*.

The vote is the great equalizer, a tool for self respect and community empowerment. "Give us the ballot," Dr. King said in 1957, "and we will no longer plead to the federal government for passage of an anti-lynching law; we will by the power of our vote write the law on the statute books of the South and bring an end to the dastardly acts of the hooded perpetrators of violence."

Unfortunately, gains achieved with the Voting Rights Act are now under attack by new "hooded perpetrators" of "dastardly acts." Billions of dollars spent on deceptive political ads, mostly from mystery donors, are poisoning our elections and fostering a new type of extremism and intolerance that benefits only the super

wealthy.

That brings us to another event this week, the fifth anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's January 21, 2010 ruling, *Citizens United v. FEC*. In a 5-to-4 decision, the court effectively said the super rich could use corporations and front groups to spend unlimited money on political ads. Purchased speech became free speech, corporations became people.

In another 5-to-4 decision, *Shelby County v. Holder*, the Supreme Court further strengthened the power of big money by eviscerating the Voting Rights Act and opening the door to new restrictions affecting low-income voters.

Because of these court decisions, we're in a new phase of the longstanding struggle between political participation for the many versus rule by the wealthy elite.

That struggle is playing out in North Carolina today. A new brand of extremists came to power here soon after the *Citizens United* decision, thanks largely to an avalanche of nasty political ads financed by a handful of wealthy, ultra-conservatives and their corporations.

In our view, the new majority in the NC legislature hijacked Lincoln's Republican Party and immediately began helping the greedy at the expense of the needy. They slashed unemployment benefits, killed the earned income-tax credit for working families, refused Medicaid coverage for hundreds of thousands, cut corporate taxes, gutted health and safety protections, cut per-pupil spending for education, and shifted public money to private academies.

They also redrew legislative district lines to isolate and minimize the power of black

voters. Then, in the weeks immediately following the Shelby decision, they jammed a host of voter restrictions into one bill that also cut restrictions on political donations. We call it the "Monster Law" because of its sweeping scope and because it is the reincarnation of the Jim Crow monster.

Opposing these reactionary shifts are tens of thousands of North Carolinians who have joined the Moral Monday movement, led by the NC NAACP with a broad coalition of supporters. We are in court challenging the Monster Law and race-based redistricting plan. We're organizing voter engagement projects across NC to promote public policies that serve "the good of the whole," as our state constitution mandates. We invite everyone to join us in Raleigh on Valentine's Day for the Moral March for Love and Justice.

Rather than the politics of big money, we seek policies anchored in the moral and constitutional authority of our best traditions. Like President Lincoln and Dr. King, we believe government must serve all the people, not just the rich and powerful.

Selling political office to the highest bidder is the road to absolute corruption. Together, we must fight such obscenity and promote real democracy of, by and for the people.

Forward together, not one step back!

Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II
Bob Hall

Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II is president of the North Carolina NAACP and architect of the Moral Monday Movement. Bob Hall is executive director of Democracy North Carolina.

Matters of Opinion

A million reasons to change

Exactly what is there in 1 million Black folks united in their will and purpose? What is in a million brothers and sisters who are tired of the same old rhetoric, the same old leaders, and the same old ways of dealing with political and economic empowerment? What's in a group of 1 million Blacks who are unapologetic about their identity? What's in such a group that, collectively and cooperatively, is willing to sacrifice some of its members' time, talent, and treasure for the uplift of Black people in this country?



James Clingman

Considering our relative position within the political system, is it rational to believe that 1 million like-minded Black voters could affect positive change by leveraging their votes to obtain concessions from candidates prior to and after an election? What would be the result of 1 million Black

independent-thinking voters deciding to register as "No Party Affiliation" rather than as Dems, Repubs, or any other formal political party? What if we followed through on Theodore Johnson's article on *The Root.com* titled, "Black America Needs Its Own President?"

Is it reasonable to think that 1 million conscious Black consumers would have the power to affect the bottom line of corporations to the point of getting those companies to take public positions in support of justice for Black people? Could those 1 million consumers ultimately obtain reciprocity in the marketplace by leveraging and redirecting a greater portion of their dollars to their own businesses?

Many questions to answer, yes, but those questions point to choices; they will suggest to some of us, first, that Black people would never declare themselves independent of the Democrat Party and that Black people will never cooperate in support of one another economically. But to others of us those questions raise attractive alternatives to what we are doing now; they suggest very

strongly that we can be more self-determined via simple but powerful tactics that impact the two systems that run this nation and the world.

Recognizing that everyone will not want to walk the road toward economic and political transition (After all, everyone did not want to go with Harriet Tubman), there are no "marching orders" being trumpeted by the group that is shouldering the responsibility of bringing together 1 million conscious Black voters and consumers. This is a "Whosoever will, let him come" movement.

The movement is simply called, "One Million Conscious Black Voters and Contributors." To the skeptics out there who think Black folks are too individualistic to come together in such a large number, that 1 million Black folks will not cooperate, that we have too many schisms among us, and we will not trust one another, we say, "Not so."

The key word in the name of the group is "Conscious." Even further, there is no need to pressure anyone to join. I know there are 1 million conscious Blacks in America

(about 2 percent) who will join this movement without being prodded, which eliminates our need to cajole, persuade, or spend a lot of time trying to convince them of why they should. If we can't find two in every hundred among us, the result would be analogous to Abraham failing to find a few righteous men in Sodom and Gomorrah.

The Million Man March proved that Blacks will come together across religious, ideological, and economic lines for a righteous and necessary cause. Those who attended nearly 20 years ago will remember the cooperative and accommodating spirit among the men, the supportive attitudes of the women who stayed home and encouraged their men to participate, and the subsequent follow through by many of the men upon returning home. Much good work was done by individuals who were committed and determined to keep the promise they made that day.

As Amefika Geuka always quotes Marcus Garvey,

CLINGMAN

continued on Page 5

World is indifferent to missing Nigerian girls

One could not help but be impressed by the millions that turned out in Paris to stand against the Islamist terrorists who killed workers at the French satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo and four others at a kosher grocery store. Two law enforcement officers were also killed, bringing the



Dr. Julianne Malveaux

total to 17. About 40 heads of state and more than a million others crowded into Republique Square; even more rallied around France. In total, it is estimated that 3.7 rallied for freedom. They wore shirts and carried signs that said, "I am Charlie." Some said, "I am Muslim and Charlie" or "I am Jewish and Charlie." Those crowds transcended race, religious and political lines.

President Obama got mixed reaction to his not attending the solidarity rally. Ambassador to France Jane Hartley, someone with much less status, represented the United States. Critics said the president could at least have sent Vice President Joe Biden; Attorney General Eric H. Holder was in Paris and could

have attended. The president may be doing something much more substantive by convening a summit on world terrorism at the White House in February.

I wonder if these gatherings will address terror in Nigeria, where the Islamic terrorist group Boko Haram abducted 276 girls, and still holds 219. A hashtag campaign, #BringBackOurGirls was joined by First Lady Michelle Obama, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, British Prime Minister David Cameron and others. Few of the 40 who rallied in Paris have ever mentioned the abducted girls and those terrorists who took them. Indeed, the abducted girls have all but disappeared from the headlines and from the public consciousness.

The girls were abducted on April 14, 2014. Since then, our attention has been riveted by other news from the African continent, as the Ebola virus killed thousands (we in the U.S. were mostly focused on our handful of casualties), and as ISIS has escalated its activity around the globe. While some have forgotten about the Nigerian girls, many have not. Obiageli Ezekwesili, a former Nigerian government official who is now vice president of the World Bank's Africa Division, has been among those continuing to focus attention on the girls.

People fear that Boko Haram

may have sold the schoolgirls into slavery, forced some into marriage, or killed others. Given the fact that Amnesty International, the International Committee of the Red Cross, and the UN Security Council have decried the Islamist militant terrorist group, it is alarming that the world community has been so indifferent to the plight of the abducted young girls. Some of the indifference does not start with the world, but in Nigeria. Will Goodluck Jonathan, the Nigerian president who is running for reelection, mention the girls at all before February, when voting takes place? Or, has the fate of 219 kidnapped girls been forgotten?

Demonstrations have taken place daily in Abuja, Nigeria's capital, despite the fact that the police have ordered these demonstrations to stop. Meanwhile, Boko Haram continues its terrorist plundering in Nigeria, destroying villages and towns in the northeast part of the country and killing thousands. It is estimated that they have destroyed more than 3,700 structures - homes, churches, and public spaces. Tens of thousands of Nigerians have fled to bordering Chad because they fear for their lives.

I don't know if it would be effective for world leaders to rally in Abuja to pressure Boko Haram to return the girls. I don't know if T-shirts or signs

saying, "We Are the Nigerian Girls" would do much more than direct attention back to these young students whose hopes and dreams have been stomped on by irrational terrorists. I don't know if it would make a difference if Nigerians all over the world came together to demand return of the girls. I don't know the efforts of feminists around the world would make a difference.

I do know that about 219 Nigerian girls are gone, and a terrorist group is responsible for taking them. I know that they are reputed to be affiliated with Al-Qaeda and with ISIS. I know that while the world has rallied to show solidarity in the fight against terrorism in France, there has been no such gathering to show solidarity in the fight against terrorism in Nigeria. I don't know (and I might be misinformed) if offers to help contain or eliminate Boko Haram have been made by the world community.

The war against terrorism has been embraced in Paris, with millions there, and thousands in the rest of the world, taking it to the streets to express their outrage. Where is the outrage for the more than 200 Nigerian girls? Nine months after they have been snatched from their school, who remembers? Who cares?

Julianne Malveaux is an author and economist in Washington, DC.

Selma and the folks at the 'back of the line'

I wasn't surprised that Ava DuVernay's "Selma" was nearly completely snubbed for the Oscar nominations last week, as were several "White" films and White actors and directors. I never thought that, after last year's breakthrough for "12 Years a Slave," the Oscar voting academy was going to make another powerful drama that put Black Americans at the center of American history the focus of this year's Oscar ceremonies.



Lee A. Daniels

Yes, some of the Oscar voters may have used the controversy over DuVernay's portrait of President Lyndon B. Johnson as fig-leaf protection to vote against it. That's more despicable than the snub itself in my book. Although DuVernay's depiction of Johnson is wrong, I never expect any film about a historical moment or person to be completely accurate - precisely because every film, no matter how deeply fact-based, is a fictional interpretation of the real story.

"Selma" still stands out as superior story-telling. It poignantly recounts one of the great moments - a triumph, laced through and through with tragedy - of 20th century American history. The film especially recalled for me one of the questions I obsessed over growing up in Boston in the 1960s. That was: who were the folks at the back of the line?

I was fortunate in growing up in Boston, where the Black and the liberal White communities had very active ties to the Southern Movement. In the early 1960s, my brother and I joined an Episcopal church-based "freedom choir." Later, we attended the Baptist church where Martin Luther King, Jr. had been a co-junior pastor while at theology school at Boston University.

I was "wired" into the movement in a way few Northern teenagers were. But I didn't kid myself. I knew I was many steps removed from the danger faced daily by the real civil rights activists and the Black Southern teens who involved themselves in the movement there. That was why, as much as I was inspired by the movement's local and national leaders, whose names appeared in the news dispatches from the civil rights' fronts, I always wondered about those who were there but out of the media spotlight.

Nothing dramatized my obsession with that question more than the movement's stand at the Edmund Pettus Bridge. In the film, and in the real-life television films of that moment, we see the marchers as they stand, facing the storm troopers of the state. We know they know they were facing men who had no compunction about killing Black people and their White allies, be they men, women or children.

When I saw the television news reports of "Bloody Sunday," that long-ago night in March, 1965, it made everything plain: Not just the movement's commitment to nonviolence even in the face of imminent danger. It also made plain what those in "the line" at Selma and elsewhere on the civil rights trail had done and were doing. They were protecting me - transforming the blows meant for me into a force that would expand the boundaries of opportunity for me all my life.

Thankfully, I was also able to realize it wasn't only all about me. I understood the movement's other meanings, too: That intellectual keenness and "smarts" weren't limited to the formally educated and the socially prominent. That rough-hewn speech could be just as powerful, if not more so, than polished oratory. That the ability to inspire and lead people existed in and was exercised by all sorts of people, and that participation in communal affairs and collaboration with others was vitally important if the community and individuals within it were to advance.

I'm glad for the controversy about Ana DuVernay's "Selma." For it may provide another reason for some viewers of all ages to read some of the considerable number of significant nonfiction books that provide a more complete factual account of the movement in Selma and across the South and North, and of America in the 1950s and 1960s.

That will not only give them a fuller understanding of the racist fury the freedom struggle in the South faced; it will also make even clearer the values that fortified the civil rights activists in the struggle, and why those values proved more powerful than the willingness of the region's racist power structure and its henchmen to do evil.

Embedded in that understanding is another powerful lesson that's always worth re-affirming. It's not only the leaders; it's those at the back of the line, too, who make movements for social justice work.

Lee A. Daniels is a longtime journalist based in New York City. His essay, "Martin Luther King, Jr.: The Great Provocateur," appears in *Africa's Peacemakers: Nobel Peace Laureates of African Descent* (2014), published by Zed Books. His new collection of columns, *Race Forward: Facing America's Racial Divide in 2014*, is available at www.amazon.com.

CLINGMAN

Continued from Page 4

"There is nothing common to man that man cannot do." We have already shown through many collective efforts that all we need are a relative few conscious, committed, dedicated, and intentional men and women to accomplish the tasks at hand.

With that in mind, rather than ask "what's" in a million, we must see "who's" in a million? If you have not added your name to the list, one thing is for sure: You are not in the million. Names are being added every day; just go to www.amefika.com to be informed, and send an email to iamoneofthemillion@gmail.com to sign up.

We can do more to help our

organizations, our businesses, and our schools by leveraging our votes and by "contributing" our resources to this movement, thereby, getting more political quid and reciprocity in the marketplace. Be "One of the Million" and let's finally let our people and everyone else know that we are very serious about being economically

and politically empowered. Whosoever will...

Jim Clingman, founder of The Greater Cincinnati African American Chamber of Commerce, is the nation's most prolific writer on economic empowerment for Black people. He is an adjunct professor at the University of Cincinnati and can be reached through his Web site, blackonomics.com.

France's history of violence

In the aftermath of the killings of staff at the Charlie Hebdo magazine in Paris, there has been near universal outrage, and correctly so. The murders were brutal and indefensible, and whether coordinated or not with any terrorist organizations, were acts of terror. Yet, there is something very disturbing about what seems to have been forgotten in this moment. While France would like to present itself as a freedom loving country, its overseas policies are much more complicated and have led to a situation of simmering hostility within



Bill Fletcher

large chunks of the planet. France had an overseas empire that it achieved through indisputable acts of violence. It retained its colonial possessions - until it could no longer do so - through open repression. In 1947, in the face of an anti-colonial uprising, France conducted a legendary and ignominious assault on the people of Madagascar, killing upwards of 100,000 people, as well as engaging in other brutal acts, such as rape. In the 1954-1962 Algerian War of Independence, at least 2 million Algerians were killed in their quest for freedom. In both cases France faced no consequences. The lives of the colonial people simply did not amount to much, and outside of the French-speaking world, little attention was focused on either of these massive atrocities.

Understanding history in no

way excuses acts of terror: What it does do, however, is to put it in a much larger context. The demand for a cessation of terror must involve a recognition that terror did not start with the Parisian killings. Whether it was historic cases, such as the Madagascar massacres or the repression of the Algerians, or more recently the French involvement in the overthrow of Libyan President Qaddafi, violence has been used as an instrument of intimidation by the land of the tri-color flag.

While in no uncertain terms condemning the murders of the Charlie Hebdo staff, people of conscience in France - and around the world - must also examine carefully the policies of their own nations. The extent of hypocrisy, whether regarding freedom of the press, freedom

of movement, or freedom from terror; that we have seen displayed in the days since the Parisian killings is more than unsettling. Parisians were killed; the French government declared its own war against terror, yet remains silent about terror and repression committed by its allies and by its own forces, thereby reinforcing the cynical view that might makes right. Such a view does not terminate terror. Rather, it gives a potent excuse for even more deadly terror in order to take on the mighty. That is not the 21st century for which we should be fighting.

Bill Fletcher, Jr. is the host of *The Global African*. He is a racial justice, labor and global justice activist and writer. Follow him on Twitter, Facebook and at www.billfletcherjr.com.

NAFEO supports "America's college promise" initiative

The National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education (NAFEO), applauds President Obama's proposal to make community college tuition free, and views it as the commencement of an important



Lezli Baskerville

dialogue with the states, college and university stakeholders that could help move as many as 9 million "would be" students from the margins to the mainstream of American education and commerce.

The proposal would provide additional federal dollars to states that make key reforms that include strengthening the community college experience to move more students to completion, continuing to invest in community colleges, and making tuition at community colleges free. The federal dollars to the states would cover three quarters of the tuition, and the states would pay one quarter. Students who attend at least half-time, maintain a 2.5 GPA while in college, and demonstrate steady progress toward

completing on time, would have the cost of their tuition covered.

Forty percent of American college students are enrolled in community colleges. Fifty-one percent of African Americans in college are in a two-year institution. Students who are eligible for and receiving the maximum Pell Grant award may already be receiving "free community college tuition/fees" because the maximum Pell Award is currently \$5,730.

The major costs associated with attending a community college are cost of living expenses: housing, transportation, food, books, extra-learning opportunities, child care, healthcare, etc. If enacted, the plan would move the nation closer to realizing its 2020 goal of 60 percent of Americans having a 2- or 4-year certificate or degree.

This initiative would benefit our nation's 14 HBCU two-year institutions, many of which are exemplars of retaining and moving students, members of the workforce, entrepreneurs, servicemen and women, including our veterans, to completion of certificate and degree programs in growth, critical-and high-need disciplines.

The initiative also will be a boon to our nation's nearly 80

Predominantly Black Institutions (PBIs) and their service communities. Roughly 75 percent of PBIs are two-year institutions. PBI student bodies are 40 percent or more African American and 50 percent or more Pell Grant eligible.

The four-year, richly diverse Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) could benefit by America's College Promise as well. HBCUs are great at expanding student access and increasing success in innovative ways, including offering an increasing variety of degree and certificate programs, transfer, online, GED, high school partnership, 2+2, and continuing education options. They are exploring competency-based education options as well.

For the last decade, many HBCUs have been developing and piloting models of 2-4 year collaborations that can be replicated or taken to scale. NAFEO has worked with various partners to position its members as leaders in the new higher education landscape.

In recent years, working with the Links Incorporated, 4 HBCUs and 4 community colleges, NAFEO and its partners have developed promising practices of 2-4 year linkages that should prove useful as the

debate advances about how best to shape America's College Promise.

America's College Promise has an added benefit for 4-year HBCUs: For more than a decade, NAFEO has urged and encouraged the administration to use the power of the federal purse to prod the states that maintain public HBCUs and public HWCUs to comply with a Supreme Court mandate to invest in HBCUs so that they are quantifiably "comparable to and competitive with" the public HWCUs (Historically White Colleges and Universities).

Despite years of education, legislation, litigation and administrative fiat, the states have not done this. America's College Promise evidences this administration's understanding of how to leverage the federal purse to prevent states from disengaging in higher education and to strengthen their public higher education systems.

I am confident that when the debate regarding America's College Promise is completed, we will not only have a new option for college affordability

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in which states will have a "free community college" system, but that we will also have a new option for college excellence in which more public HBCUs are funded by the states so that they are "comparable to and competitive with" their HWCU counterparts.

For those concerned that the America's College Promise Initiative will result in a loss of students to HBCUs, particularly the smaller independent 4-year HBCUs that struggle to provide an excellent, competitive education in smaller, rigorous environments while containing costs, I argue that we must be vigilant and weigh in the federal and state deliberative processes to ensure that is not the case.

The students who attend 21st Century HBCUs do so for many reasons, including their excellent education and disproportionate affirmative results in graduating diverse students in growth and high need disciplines, in mostly smaller environments. Most students who attend an HBCU go also for what has become known as the "HBCU experience" in which the campus culture is grounded in the best of African American traditions of family, fortitude and faith, independence and interdependence.

They want to attend a college in which the values and mores of their parents or guardians are undergirded and where, as in Cheers, "everybody knows your name, and they're always glad you came."

A limited pilot initiative in targeted states with public and private HBCUs could test for a loss of students attending HBCUs and other four-year institutions concomitant with increased enrollment of America's College Promise students in community colleges and their unintended adverse impacts before the initiative is fully rolled out.

America's College Promise Initiative is a welcome affirmative step toward making a 2- or 4-year college certificate or degree within the grasp of more who are prepared and desirous of attaining one. It must not, however, be viewed as a substitute for the national efforts to increase the Pell Grant maximum award to cover the average costs of a public 4-year education. The devil, of course, is in the details. NAFEO will be at the table assisting in hammering out the details.

Lezli Baskerville is President and CEO of the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education (NAFEO).

New Hanover County

Mercer Insurance Group is now enrolling for the Affordable Care Act until February 15, 2014. First consultation and subsidy estimate calculation is free. Call David Mercer at 910-264-5365 or email at alex@mercerinsurance.com.

OBAMACARE Health Plans Unlocked will be held on Tuesdays at 11:00 am and 6:00 pm, January, 6, 13, 20, 27 and February 3, 10, 2015. For directions and to reserve your seat, call Pauline Mountainbird at 910-262-4454. Walk ins on a space available basis only.



Community Briefs

Individual Consultations by appointment. One hour presentations Q and A at the end of each session. Space is limited so please make your reservation now. Gifts for all attendees. NO cost or obligation to attend these educational meetings. **NEW LOCATION:** Mountainbird Services, 925 South Kerr Ave, Plum Tree Plaza, Suite D-4 near Wilshire and Kerr in Wilmington, NC.

The New Hanover County Democratic Party will meet at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, January 26th. The meeting will be held on the UNCW campus at Morton Hall, Room 100. The County Party is now seeking nominations for 2015-16 party officers. Holding office is an opportunity to participate in the political process and work for local, state, and national candidates. Please visit www.newhanoverdems.org for information on nominating and applying to run for party office.

Williston Senior High Class of 1961 will hold its First Quarter 2015 meeting on Sunday, January 25th at Mount Olive AME Church Fellowship Hall, 1001 S. 7th St. at 4:00 p.m. Topics to be addressed at the meeting will include: 1. Planning 2015 activities 2. Williston Alumni Association's 2015 Annual scholarship program. 3. Report on WAA planned activities in 2015 and 4. Initial planning for the 55th class reunion in 2016. All graduates and others who were "on track" are asked to participate as well as out of town classmates who will be in Wilmington on January 25th.

Policies for briefs, news, & photos on page 2.

Compiled By *Wilmington Journal Staff*

HOMETOWN NEWS FROM BRUNSWICK COUNTY

There are good things happening every day

Take the time out to enjoy the good things around you. My number one priority is to be happy and satisfied with the blessings of being a senior citizen, and I know there are others with the same feeling. It is important for those who should have their hearing tested. There are times we may not be aware of it and how important it is being a senior citizen of pride.



Verniece Stanley

We find that many people are reliable as sunrise; you can see it in their smiles; you can feel it in their handshakes. It's easy to tell their lives are fulfilling and that they have rewarding thoughts of what's achievable. We must give credit to hard working Black Americans on whom you can rely to give their best work in every way possible.

You Republicans should never think African Americans do not belong as citizens in this country. Our forefathers did not want to leave their native land. They were brought to this country in shackles and treated like animals.

We also think of senior citi-



MRS. VERNIECE STANLEY (PINK HAT) AND MRS. GOLDIA SPARROW EVANS GRANDCHILDREN AND GREAT GRANDCHILDREN

zens and the remarkable things they have done for this community. One such senior citizen is Mrs. Goldia M. Evans, of Bolivia, N. C. She is ninety-eight years old. She was born on January 6, 1917, in Rutland Chapel, Bolivia, NC. There were times when she had to support the family alone working at the bag factory in Wilmington, NC. She had to stand on the side of Old Highway 17 and wait for a ride to the factory.

The children would walk to Piney Grove School every day, wearing good shoes and clean clothes. The older children were taught how to be good farmers to produce plenty of food to last the cold winter months.

The graves of brave children



MRS. GOLDIA M. SPARROW EVANS

she loved are in her front yard today. Ellen Evans, her daughter that lives with her, takes very special care of her every day. She has worked in a facto-

ry near Southport for many years. She is a most outstanding person to know and love.

Verniece E. Stanley is a native of Brunswick County. She grew up on a farm but wanted more excitement in life. She graduated from high school in Brunswick County in 1948 and graduated from Fayetteville State Teachers' College in 1952. She taught school in Brunswick County for nine years. She moved to Baltimore, Maryland, married, and taught school for twenty-five more years. She received her master's degree from Morgan State College in Baltimore City. She retired and moved back to Bolivia, N. C. where she enjoys writing articles for The Wilmington Journal and is an active member of the NAACP Board.

Teams from Williston Middle School win first and second place in county-wide Stock Market Game

Middle schools in New Hanover County recently competed in a virtual simulation competition called the Stock Market Game. The competition was set up by the New Hanover County Public Library through stockmarketgame.org. One hundred and three teams across New Hanover County competed over a span of three months to see which team could invest their money and have the most financial gains at the end of the competition. Eighth grade Social Studies Teacher Brita Clarkson's three person team from Williston Middle School won first place in the competition. Also from Williston, eighth grade Social Studies and Language Arts Teacher Leyna Varnum's team took second place.

"I am so proud of my team," said Mrs. Clarkson. "They truly applied themselves throughout the competition and I have watched them reap the benefits in all of their classes. When these students set their minds on



First place winners in the Stock Market Game. Pictured from left to right: Teacher Brita Clarkson, Janiqua McKinney, Dami'yon Fletcher, A'dyn Linney and Williston Assistant Principal Kristi Swain.

something and focus, they can achieve anything!"

The Stock Market Game (SMG) asks students: "What would you do if you were given \$100,000?" Through SMG, students gain a fundamental understanding of

investing and how to get their money to work for them. The game also helps students do better in school. When students participate in SMG, they are in real-world situations where they practice the content and skills

taught in math, English/Language Arts, economics, social studies, and other school subjects. Most importantly, SMG helps them develop positive money habits to prepare them for their futures.



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"Forever In Our Heart" memorial to be held for Clara L. Everett



CLARA L. EVERETT

The family of Clara L. Everett will host a "Forever In Our Heart" memorial reunion celebration in her memory of family, close friends & former

daycare families the weekend of Februar 6th-8th. Please contact Twalla Clemmons as soon as possible for more info at 910-617-1299.

Evans receives promotion



VONDRA WRIGHT EVANS

Ms. Vondra Wright Evans, daughter of Archie and Patricia Lofton of Wilmington, NC, was recently promoted to Assistant Director of Financial Aid at Western Piedmont Community College (WPCC) in Morganton, NC. Ms.

Evans has been employed at WPCC for 17 years and is an alumna of John T. Hoggard and Fayetteville State University having earned academic degrees in Psychology and Office Systems Technology.

Hamilton named Principal of the Year



DR. ROBIN HAMILTON

Dr. Robin Hamilton of Parsley Elementary School has been named 2015 Southeast Regional Principal of the Year by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI). The news was delivered to Dr. Hamilton at a surprise ceremony and reception this morning, Friday, January 9, 2015. In attendance were New Hanover County Board of Education members, NCDPI officials, New Hanover County Schools (NHCS) Senior Staff, Parsley Elementary School staff and students, and Dr. Hamilton's family. Dr. Sandra Sheridan, retired assistant superinten-

dent of Human Resources, was the keynote speaker for the event.

"I love being a principal. I am humbled and so surprised by this honor," Dr. Hamilton said.

This past June, Dr. Hamilton was named New Hanover County's Principal of the Year, and was then chosen out of other top principals from 13 counties in Southeastern North Carolina to be named 2015 Regional Principal of the Year. She will now go on to compete against seven other principals for the honor of State Principal of the Year in May of 2015.

TELL THEM YOU READ IT IN THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL!!

Ms. Billie Ann Burnett

Billie Ann Burnett was born on July 9, 1942 in Wilmington, North Carolina to the late Anna Gardner Burnett and the late Elijah William Burnett. The graveside service was on Wednesday, January 21, 2015 at Greenlawn Memorial Park.

Billie Ann Burnett attended and graduated from Williston High School. Billie, as she liked to be called, attended Knoxville College in Knoxville, Tennessee where she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Sociology. After completing her undergraduate degree, Billie completed her formal education at Howard University earning a Master of Social Work degree in 1968.

Following her graduation from Howard University, Billie Ann started her career as a Medical Social Worker with D.C. General Hospital in Washington, D.C. in 1968. She continued to work in the public sector for more than 20 years. As a specialist in Equal Employment Opportunity and Personnel Management, Billie worked for the U. S. Small Business Administration in Atlanta, Georgia before moving back home to Wilmington, in 1989. In Wilmington, N.C. she worked for the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers in the area of Equal Employment Opportunity. In 2001, she earned the recognition in the Wilmington District's Gallery of Distinguished Citizens. She later retired from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

In the community, Billie continued her parents' support of the Good Shepherd House. She was a life member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated and served as president in 1977. Additionally, she supported the chapter's Brainstorming AKA by assisting the chapter in writing grants to secure funds to support the program. After moving back to Wilmington, Billie was active with Alpha Psi Omega Chapter working on various committees until 2006. After retirement, Billie supported many community organizations both political and humanitarian.

Billie Ann Burnett leaves to cherish her memory many friends and distant relatives. *Arrangements by Adkins-Drain Funeral Service, 515 South Eighth Street, Wilmington, North Carolina 28401. Condolences may be shared at www.adkinsdrainfuneralservice.com.*

Mr. Lamont Leon Junious

Lamont (Monte) Leon Junious was born on December 28, 1979 in Wilmington, North Carolina to Teresa Junious and Billy Slappy. The funeral service was on Saturday, January 17, 2015 at Mt. Calvary Baptist Church. Burial was in Pine Forest Cemetery.

He attended New Hanover County Schools and was currently enrolled at Park West Barber School in Charlotte, North Carolina. Monte was a loving and compassionate young man who always cared and enjoyed being around his family.

He leaves to cherish his memory, mother, Teresa (Frederick) Davidson of Charlotte, NC; father, Billy Slappy (Lisa) of Odenton, MD; two sisters: Sharcara Miller, Charlotte, NC; and Temecia Wallace, Wilmington, NC; four brothers: Carnell Miller, Charlotte, NC; Robert Slappy, Anthony Slappy of Chesterfield, VA and Adrian Slappy, Odenton, MD; grandparents: Richard (Macie) Junious of Wilmington, NC; the late Nannerine Grattison-Slappy, Wilmington, NC; five aunts: Linda (Sam) Palmer, Simpsonville, SC; Cynthia (Reggie) Lovan of Charlotte, NC; Elivera Slappy, Wilmington, NC and Brenda (Bernard) Rogers of Wilmington, NC; Sammy (Joanne) Slappy, Wilmington, NC; Calvin (Joann) Slappy; Albert Slappy, Wilmington, NC and Meneke Slappy, Wilmington, NC and a host of family and friends. *Arrangements by Adkins-Drain Funeral Service, 515 South Eighth Street, Wilmington, North Carolina 28401. Condolences may be shared at www.adkinsdrainfuneralservice.com.*

Mr. Johnnie Lee Brisbon

Brother Johnnie Lee Brisbon, son of the late Otis Brisbon and Hattie (Wells) Brisbon, was born on October 26, 1946 in Wilmington, North Carolina. He was called home to his eternal rest on January 11, 2015. He was preceded in death by two sisters and two brothers. The memorial service was on Friday, January 16, 2015 at St. Phillip AME Church.

He was a member of St. Phillip African Methodist Episcopal Church and was a member of Class No. 1. Johnnie was a member of the Male Choir, the Fellowship Club, the Gospel Choir and a dedicated member of the 2013-2014 Trustee Board. He served faithfully until his health failed him.

Johnnie was a loving husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, brother, uncle and friend. He loved God, his family, his church family and friends.

Johnnie attended New Hanover County schools and Cape Fear Community College. He was a welder journeyman and metal sculptor. Bro. Johnnie was also a member of the Artists roundtable in Columbia, South Carolina. Johnnie played on the Williston Senior High School football team. He loved to play tennis and all forms of sports.

He leaves to cherish his memory his wife of forty-eight years, Patricia Ann (Melvin); three children: Towanda T. Thompson (Alfonzo) of Columbia, SC; Lee A. Brisbon of Forest City, NC, and Cheryl L. Cranford of the home; eleven grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren; one sister, Mattie Brailsford; one brother, Robert Brisbon; six sisters-in-law; one devoted cousin, John F. Melvin, and lifelong friend, Robert Murphy, who was there for him and his family at a moment's notice; and a host of nieces, nephews and other relatives and

friends. *Arrangements by Adkins-Drain Funeral Service, 515 South Eighth Street, Wilmington, North Carolina 28401. Condolences may be shared at www.adkinsdrainfuneralservice.com.*

Alene Hill Price

Alene Hill Price died Saturday, January 10, 2015 at home. Funeral services were held on Thursday, January 15, 2015 at Mt. Zion MB Church, Longwood Community. Burial followed in the Grissett Cemetery.

Alene, daughter of Oscar Hill and Lena Miller Hill was born on November 19, 1924. She was preceded in death by her husband, Willie Anthony Price; daughter, Pearlene Moley and brothers, Alton, Oscar, Jr. and Lenwood. "Doochie" as many called her excpected the Lord as her personal Savior at an early age. She grew up in Shallotte where she made a career as a domestic housekeeper. She worked for many in the community and they became her extended families. She later became a house sitter for the elderly where she continued to assist others in need. She had a wonderful spirit, was always giving and never met a stranger. She enjoyed cooking and baking cakes and pies for family and friends.

Those left to cherish her memories are: her daughters, Jeraline Hill and Suzie Rogers (King), all of Shallotte, NC; grandchildren she raised as her own, Wanda Price of Greensboro, NC and Rayburn Price (Laura) of Reidsville, NC; great-grandchildren, Miara and Alacia Price; sister, Mary Elizabeth Stanley; brothers, Lem Hill and Charles Hill, all of Shallotte, NC; a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends. *A Service of John H. Shaw's Son Funeral Home*

Mary Bishop

Mary Bishop died Monday, January 12, 2015 at Lower Cape Fear Hospice and Life Care Center. Funeral services were held on Friday, January 16, 2015 at St. Stephen AME Church. Burial followed in Calvary Cemetery.

Mary Alice Bishop was born January 12, 1925, in Wilmington, North Carolina to Lucille Bishop, who preceded her in death. On Monday, January 12, 2015, she quietly departed this life to receive a well-earned rest. Mary Alice was raised in Wilmington, NC. She was a faithful member of St. Stephens AME Church. Mary Alice wore a beautiful smile and will be greatly missed. In addition to her mother, Mary Alice was preceded in death by her sister, Catherine Johnson and her brother, Thomas Bishop. We are very sad this day has come, but we promise we are not saying good-bye, just we love you and we will meet again.

Mary leaves to cherish fond memories; her god-son, Simuel Bunting (Delores); god-daughter, Beverly Jordan; Alfred Robinson (Juanita) who she loved as a son and daughter and their children, Marquet

Genwright, Cindy, Tracy and James Genwright; her lifelong friends, Marie Barnhill, Evelyn Bunting, Annie Coston, Carrie Nixon, Mychal Robinson and Marie B. Shaw; her faithful caregiver who faithfully stood by her side, Mary Whitehead; other relatives and friends. *A Service of John H. Shaw's Son Funeral Home.*

Vera Cobbs

Vera Cobbs died Monday, January 12, 2015 at home. Funeral services were held on Saturday, January 17, 2015 at the Willie L. Shaw, Jr. Memorial Chapel. Burial followed in Pine Forest Cemetery.

Vera "Mae" Cobbs, daughter of Joseph and Nettie Cobbs was born on April 14, 1951. Vera was educated in the New Hanover County School System. She loved to cook and spend quality time with her family. Vera was previously employed with Head Start as a Teacher's Assistant and she also worked for Bowden's Nursing Home. Vera was a person who people would seek for advice and she was a keeper of all secrets. She will be missed by all who knew and loved her.

Vera was preceded in death by her father, Joseph Lee Cobbs, Sr. and her life-long partner, James Roland Parker. She leaves to cherish her memory: two wonderful sons, Eric Antonio Cobbs and Roland Autuann Cobbs; two grandchildren, Tiyonna and Cedric Cobbs; her loving mother, Nettie Cobbs; four sisters, Joan Coco, Marva Bloodworth, Sylvia Cobbs and Teresa Cobbs; three brothers, Joseph Cobbs, Jr. (Linda), Marvin Cobbs and Frederick Cobbs (Francis); other relatives and friends. *A Service of John H. Shaw's Son Funeral Home.*

Charles Hansley

Charles Hansley died January 13, 2015 in Charlotte, NC. Funeral services were held on Saturday, January 17, 2015 at Myrtle Grove First Born Holiness Church. Burial followed in Greenlawn Memorial Park.

Charles Earl Hansley was born on September 5, 1940 to the union of the late Coel Lee Hansley, Sr. and Iris Williams Hansley. "Tank" as he was affectionately known by family and friends was educated in the New Hanover County School System, attending Williston High School. "Tank" was a loving and devoted father and grandfather; his grandchildren were the apple of his eye. He always tried to give encouraging words and in his latter days, continued to speak the name of God. "Tank" was a very good auto mechanic. He loved laughter and promoted discipline in his kids and grands. He wanted them to do what was right. In his early adult years he worked as a mechanic in Boston, Massachusetts. After returning to Wilmington, North Carolina, he worked for the City of Wilmington for many

years. He also worked for Borden Bricks and as custodian for many years at Myrtle Grove Presbyterian Church, from which he retired in 1996.

"Tank" is survived by: five children, Shynetta Hansley, Judith "Chi Chi" Hansley, Talma Hansley, Andre Hansley and Earl Powell, all of Wilmington, NC; nineteen grandchildren; thirty-two great-grandchildren; one sister, Joan Marjorie Hansley Webb of Charlotte, NC; one niece, Janet Webb-Barnett of Charlotte, NC; five nephews, Carlos Webb and Leon Webb of Charlotte, NC, Terry Webb, Coel Lee Hansley, Jr. and Ricky Hansley all of Wilmington, NC; other relatives and friends including Dorothy Tann Hansley. *A Service of John H. Shaw's Son Funeral Home.*

Mary Lee Jones

Mary Lee Jones died Saturday, January 18, 2015. Funeral services will be held 1:00 p.m. Saturday, January 24, 2015 at New Covenant Holiness Church. Burial will follow in Christian Chapel Church Cemetery. *A Service of John H. Shaw's Son Funeral Home.*

Willie Sidbury

Willie Sidbury died Monday, January 19, 2015. Funeral services will be 1:00 p.m. Friday, January 23, 2015 at Bethel Holiness Church. Burial will follow in the church cemetery. *A Service of John H. Shaw's Son Funeral Home.*

Lillian P. Knox

Lillian P. Knox, 92, of Leland, died Monday, January 12, 2015. Funeral services were held Saturday, January 17, 2015 at Christian Hope Christian Church, Leland. Burial followed in The Pellom Family Cemetery, Leland. Online condolences may be made at www.frenchidavisfuneralhome.net.

Precious memories are left to: her children, Lorraine West (Melvin) of Hampton, Virginia, Eunice Arlene Bryant of Jacksonville, Florida, Albert L. Knox and Marvin E. Knox, both of Leland, North Carolina; daughters-in-law, Blanche Knox of Leland, North Carolina and Vivian Knox of Newport News, Virginia; one sister-in-law, Marion Brown of Leland, North Carolina; twenty three grandchildren, thirty one great grandchildren and six great-great grandchildren, and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. *A Davis Funeral Home service.*

James A. Johnson

James A. Johnson, 82, of Castle Hayne, died Mon. January 19, 2015. Funeral services will be held Thursday, January 22, 2015 at Davis Funeral Home. Burial will follow in Pine Forest Cemetery. Online condolences may be made at www.frenchidavisfuneralhome.net. *A Davis Funeral Home service.*

Willie Wortham

Willie Wortham, 78, of Bolivia, died Sunday, January 18, 2015. Funeral will be held 2:00 p.m. Saturday, January 24, 2015 at Davis Funeral Home. Burial will follow in Piney Grove Cemetery, Bolivia. Visitation will be held 6-8 pm Friday at Davis Funeral Home. www.frenchidavisfuneralhome.net. Online condolences may be made at www.frenchidavisfuneralhome.net.

He leaves to cherish his legacy: a loving wife of 47 years, Lunetta Wortham of the home; two sons, Lorenzo Wortham (Elizabeth) of Raleigh, N.C. and Lyncurtis Wortham of Washington, D.C.; one daughter, Loretta Wortham of Winnabow, N.C.; one brother, Garland Wortham (Betty) of Oxford, N.C.; one sister, Sophie Obie of Jersey City, N.J.; three brothers-in-law, Pasco Street of Durham, N.C., Gary Freeman and Arnold Newkirk of Bolivia, N.C.; two sisters-in-law, Catherine Harris of Raleigh, N.C. and June Newkirk of Bolivia, N.C.; four grand-children, Michael Gregory of Bolivia, N.C., PFC Brandon Wortham of Fayetteville, N.C., Bria Wortham of Greenville, N.C. and Brian Wortham of Raleigh, N.C.; one great-grandchild, Iyaunna Gregory; a host of nephews, nieces and other relatives. Special friends of the family, Geraldine Gregory and Franklin Randolph, Sr. *A Davis Funeral Home service.*

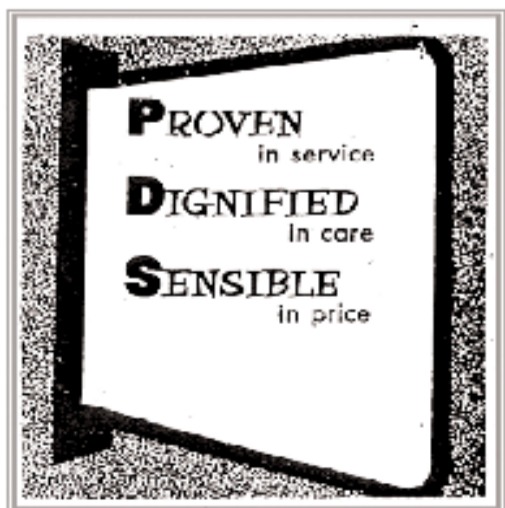
Levy Grady

Levy Grady, 61, of Wilmington died Monday, January 19, 2015. Funeral services will be held 11:00 am, Saturday, January 24, 2015 at Warner Temple AMEZ Church, Wilmington. Burial will follow in Calvary Memorial Cemetery. Visitation will be held 6-8 pm Friday at Davis Funeral Home. Online condolences may be made at www.frenchidavisfuneralhome.net. *A Davis Funeral Home service.*



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Samuel Drain
Funeral Director



Connie Drain Greene
Funeral Director

New Hanover County

Gospel Ministries Church, 1020 Rankin St. will hold evening services on Sunday, January 25th at 4:00 p.m. The service will be conducted by Elder Cedric Tindall of Union Missionary Baptist Church along with church praise team and family.



Religious Briefs

Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church, 3701 Princess Place Drive will hold their Winter Revival 2015, "Standing on the Word" on Sunday, January 25th at 4:00 p.m. The guest will be Reverend Eric Puryear and Christian Chapel #2 of Wilmington. Monday, January 26th - Thursday, January 29th, praise and worship service will begin at 7:00 p.m.- 7:30 p.m. each night with various choirs from the area. The revival program will begin at 7:30 p.m. The guest revivalist will be Dr. Cecil Brommell pastor of Macedonia Baptist Church, Darlington, SC.

Ministry of Deliverance, 2162 Wrightsville Ave. will hold fellowship services on Friday, January 30th and Saturday, January 31st at 7:00 p.m. and on their Pastorial Sunday will be held Sunday, February 1st at 4:00 p.m. The speaker will be Apostle Jesse T. Stacks of Gathering Place Church, Atlanta, Ga. For more information please call Pastor Ruth Graham at 910-289-3976 or Evangelist Washington at 910-274-7067.

Saint Luke A.M.E. Zion Church Girl Scouts Troop 4196 will meet on Saturday, January 24th at 9:30 a.m. at Saint Luke A.M.E. Zion Church, 709 Church St. Registration for girls in grades K-12 will be held. Troop meetings will be held on Saturdays from 9:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m.

St. Phillip A.M.E. Church Music Department, 815 N. 8th St. will hold a musical celebration on Saturday, January 25th at 5:30 p.m. The celebration will include, The Love Factory Church Choir and various local gospel choirs and praise team. For more information call 910-762-3573.

Brunswick County

By **His Grace Ministries** will present "Battlefield of the Mind" Tag Team Program on Saturday, January 24th at 4:00 p.m. at Waccamaw Community Building, 5585 Waccamaw School Rd., Ash, NC. The guest speakers will be Pastor Robert Frink and Minister Michael Frink. Minister of Music will be Torey Bessent.

Policies for briefs, news, & photos on page 2.

Compiled By *Wilmington Journal Staff*

2015 Black History Month film series presented by New Beginning Christian Church

New Beginning Christian Church, 3120 Alex Trask Dr., Castle Hayne, NC. with present the following films during Black History Month. Deacon Harry L. Davis will be the moderator.

•Tuesday, February 3rd at 7:00 p.m.: "Slavery by Another Name" 90 min. Documentary that challenges one of America's most cherished assumptions: that slavery in this century ended with the emancipation Proclamation. The film tells how even as chattel slavery came to an end in the South after the Civil War, new systems of involuntary servitude took its place with shocking force and brutality.

•Tuesday, February 10th at 7 p.m.: "Pride and Erseverance: The Story of the Negro Leagues" 50 min. This film sheds light on this period of baseball history and shows how it laid the groundwork for today's African American players in Major League Baseball. The film highlights rarely seen footage from the 1920s through the 1950s. These extraordinary stories illustrate both the struggles and the milestones achieved by the players. Narrated by Dave Winfield

•Tuesday, February 17th at 7:00 p.m. "A Fighting Force: African-Americans in the Military" 60 min. Throughout American history, from the Revolution to San Juan Hill, Black soldiers have fought under the Stars and Strips. Through period accounts, first-person recollections, and rare

photos and footage, the difficult journey of the African-American men and women who fought to secure their rightful place in the U.S. military is followed. "A Fighting Force" pays tribute to the valor and sacrifices of African-American soldiers while shedding light on the discrimination and disregard that at times proved more threatening than the rigors of battle.

•Tuesday, February 24th at 7:00 p.m.: "A White Man's Journey Into Black History" 123 min. Dr. Joel A. Freeman grew up in Alberta, Canada. He is an accomplished author of 5 bestsellers in 28 languages, and a behavioral analyst, professional counselor and success coach to executives. Dr. Freeman is a motivational consultant to professional athletes and is internationally sought after as a speaker and trainer. He served for 19 years as veteran mentor/chaplain of the NBA Washington Wizards (1979-1998). Using recent scientific evidence from DNA mapping and applications from biblical and historical texts, Freeman also shares some fascinating, easy-to-understand insights regarding the Hebrew/Black connection. Whether one agrees or disagrees, Dr. Freeman passionately presents all of the potentially explosive subject matter about his on-going journey into Black History in a most reasonable, logical manner, using some powerful images and word pictures.

SENIOR MOMENTS

Police performance in NYC

My Fellow Seniors,

I'm stepping out of my comfort zone one more time. Even as I pick up my pin, a little voice is telling me, "You don't have all the facts."

This is about the slowdown of police performance in NYC since the killing of Eric Garner. The police turned their backs as the Mayor DeBlasio was speaking, and during the following weeks, they made ninety percent fewer arrests.

Does that mean crime went down ninety percent? Of course not, it's more likely that the police went on strike unofficially. They put on their uniforms and went to work,

but they made very few arrests. This did not happen without a plan.



Ruth Johnson

The police had been severely criticized after the death of Eric Garner. We know most officers are good men, but they fail to weed out the bad ones. They allowed a fellow officer to get away with murder. So the people protested. That officer should have been forced to turn in his badge, to say the least.

I must admit I don't have all

the facts. I have not followed the case closely, but I do know this much. Every police force in the country should monitor its own officers and take the appropriate action when a crime is committed.

The question is what can the public do if the police fail to get rid of the bad apples? If we speak out, or march in protest, they just might slow down. They might fail to make arrests when they know they should, and that would be bad for the neighborhood. So what should we do?

It good to know that there are hidden cameras everywhere, but that's not enough. The first step is to come together and talk things over,

just as they do in upscale communities.

We should have a neighborhood watch team to work along with the police, but, more important, we need to watch over the neighborhood children through our schools, churches, and neighborhood centers.

We need to lead them in the right direction by practicing the "Golden Rule" in a group setting. We don't raise our children alone anymore. We have to be interested in all children if we want to make a difference because, truly it takes a village.

Mrs. Ruth Johnson is a First Baptist Church Ministry Worker.

SENIOR CITIZENS' FELLOWSHIP

Celebrate growing older

BY FANNIE ALLEN AND SHEILA H. ROSS
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

What a bright and sunny day it was, and we were all in our places at our Senior Citizens' Fellowship, to which we look forward with excitement. Our meeting was called to order by President Eloise Purdie. She asked if everyone were feeling pretty good today. She then asked Mr. George Hill and the choir to come. Mr. Hill said, "It is a great sunny day!" Our opening song was "I Am Thine, O Lord." A fervent prayer was offered by Deacon John Green. Our next song was "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms." There were nineteen in the choir today. Mr. George Hill played the piano. Minister Doris McQuillian said "This is the day that the Lord has made," and she said

she was glad to be in it. Our speaker for today was Mrs. Gladys Taylor. She said that God knows we love Him, and He loves us. She said that life is too short to complain but that we should stay in touch with God. She said that we do not have to win every argument. She said, "It's okay to get mad with God. Just don't stay mad. Do you have your first dollar? Not any of us do. Make peace with your past so you don't spoil your future. Just to wake up each morning is a blessing. Don't compare your life with others. Be bold and be happy. Everything can change in the blink of an eye. Get rid of things that aren't beautiful and joyous. Over prepare! Go with the flow. Don't wait! Wear purple now. Always choose life and forgive. What other people think of you is none of their business, give

everything time. God loves you because of who He is. All that matters is knowing that you are loved. Envy is a waste of time. The best is yet to come. Get up! Dress up, and show up!" Mrs. Taylor was given a round of applause and thanked for a great message.

Minister McQuillian asked for expressions, and the expressions were encouraging. Mrs. Frances Green thanked everyone for his or her support when her father passed.

The meeting was then turned over to Mrs. Purdie, who said she was glad to be there, and she complimented the group. She said we should continue to pray and help the sick when and where we can. The meeting was turned over to Mrs. Gladys Taylor, our vice president. Speakers for our meetings were selected

for the months of January to May 2015.

Minutes of our last meeting were read and approved by Mrs. Mildred Ellerby. Mrs. Sheila Ross was thanked very much for her acts of kindness shown with a token of her love.

The "Callers" report was given, and the winner was Mrs. Gladys Taylor, with eleven. Mrs. Annie Haskins gave her sick report and asked us to continue to pray for them and visit when we can. We had announcements and were told to support them where we can. Laughter was brought by Mrs. Mary Martin.

We formed our circle and sang our closing song "Bind Us Together." Prayer was given by Minister Doris McQuillian. There were fifty-one present.

TELL SOMEBODY

"Be Encouraged"

"And David was greatly distressed; for the people spoke of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and for his daughters: but David encouraged himself in the Lord his God." I Samuel 30:6

David, though he was chosen and anointed by God to be a great leader of God's people, had to endure a time of testing and great tribulation before he became king. In I Samuel 30th chapter, David himself came face to face with the enemy of discouragement. Some of his own men, who faithfully followed him into many battles and looked to him as their fearless leader and friend, turned on him as they grieved the captivity of their wives and children. In great despair and depression over the loss of their families, David's own men spoke of stoning him! The bible says David was greatly distressed! These were the same men that he had led from battle to battle, and from victory to victory. The same men who once revered him, now reviled him! He had to encourage himself, if he was to Be Encouraged!

David was a great leader, but he was still a man. Leadership may seem glam-

orous to some. Yes, there are peaks, and there are also valleys. There is a "down" side to leadership. It is what we do in the "down" time that determines whether or not we fail or succeed.

There are times, when God allows the bottom to fall out, to see how we are going to handle catastrophe and calamity. He already knows, but sometimes we need to see we are not as great as we think we are. We cannot afford to believe our own press, but walk in humility and the fear of the Lord. In preparing us for leadership, we must face discouragement head on. We must, Be Encouraged.

Leaders sometimes need to be reminded that they are flesh and blood and need to depend on the Lord just like the people you lead. Godly leaders are not perfect, just forgiven. A good leader does not depend on the people who follow him, he depends on the Lord who called and anointed him!

Leaders are used to telling the followers, "You can do it!

You are going to make it! God is able!" But, a leader can be hit so hard by discouragement, he may find himself wondering, "Can I do it? Am I going to make it through this? God is able, but is he going to do it for me?" A Godly leader must somehow muster the strength to believe God against all odds, just because He is God! He must walk the walk, not just talk the talk. "The just shall live by Faith." Habakkuk 2:4. He/She Must Be Encouraged.

What made David so great was not his great number of followers, or even the many battles he won. He was great, because he knew the source of his HELP! He knew how to humble himself under the mighty hand of God! Psalm 121:1, "I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help." When David's men turned against him, he humbled himself before the Lord, found him a priest, and inquired of the Lord. He prayed until he got an answer from the God that called him, and anointed him to lead his people. He got an answer, because he knew exactly what to do, in the time of trouble.

When we go through our time of trouble, that's the time to trust in the Lord with all

our hearts, and not to lean to our own understanding. He said in all our ways to acknowledge him, and he would direct our paths. Proverbs 3:5,6 In other words, learn how to Be Encouraged!

Father, help me to encourage myself in the Lord my God, for it is you that causeth me to triumph in battle. Forgive me for not totally trusting you in my time of testing. I am Encouraged! In Jesus'Name. Amen. If you agree... Tell Somebody!!!

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

THE RELIGION CORNER

Pain of failure is temporary

BY LYNDIA GRANT
OF THE WASHINGTON
INFORMER

(NNPA) - How many times have you heard the saying - and I'm quoting Joan Collins - "Show me a person who has never made a mistake and I'll show you someone who has never achieved much!"

"Lance Armstrong said it this way, "Pain is temporary. It may last a minute, or an hour, or a day, or a year, but eventually it will subside and something else will take its place. If I quit, however, it lasts forever. That surrender, even the smallest act of giving up, stays with me. So when I feel like quitting, I ask myself, which would I rather live with?"

Lance Armstrong simply

calls it pain, but for the sake of this column, let me just say it this way: the pain of failure is temporary.

When you make plans to obtain the goals and objectives God has given you, obstacles are guaranteed to come your way, just know that quitting is not an option when you expect to win. If achieving goals were easy, everyone would be winners. You can work day and night, doing things your way, and get nowhere. Listen to the voice of the Lord, and follow his lead, as he orders your steps.

Focus on a single desire; it will mow down all opposition. Opportunity often slips in by the back door, and appears to be defeat; many don't recognize opportunity, because they

are so focused on the failure.

Have you heard the true story "Three feet from gold, by Napoleon Hill?" Well, an uncle of R. U. Darby worked for weeks, built machinery to work the mines, struck gold; they had one of the richest mines in Colorado. Yet, after mining a couple loads, drills kept running, but the gold seemed to have disappeared. They kept drilling, until finally one day they quit. They sold the machinery to a junk man. The junk man contacted a mining engineer who told him about the fault line. The engineer calculated they amazingly, they were only three feet from gold!

Let's take a look at the men who fished all night long and caught absolutely nothing:

Luke 5:4-7 says... "When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch."



Lyndia Grant

When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled

both boats so full that they began to sink.

Though these men were tired, frustrated, disappointed, and weren't sure what would happen, they said to the Lord "Because you say so, I will let down the nets" ... And look what happened! You too must hear the voice of the Lord, and because he says so, follow that lead!

This separates winners from losers. Robert Schuller once said "Quitters Never win and winners never quit." Some of you have lost jobs, homes, cars, spouses, loved ones, don't quit!

Rogers & Hammerstein wrote in a song my McKinley High School Choir sang so many times, "Walk on through the wind, Walk on through the rain, Tho' your

dreams be tossed and blown. Walk on, walk on with hope in your heart; and you'll never walk alone. You'll never walk alone.

In my own life, I've walked on through many storms, and kept going forward with hope in my heart. Philippians 4:19 King James Version (KJV) says 19 But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."

Lyndia Grant is an author, inspirational and motivational speaker, radio talk show host and columnist; visit her new website at www.lyndia-grant.com and, call 202-518-3192. Tune in Fridays at 6 p.m., to the radio talk show, 1340 AM, WYCB, a Radio One Station.

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