



GUEST EDITORIAL
"How to keep our Black boys alive"
BY
MARIAN WRIGHT EDELMAN
PAGE 4



ATTENTION TIGERS!
All tee shirts ordered before the reunion weekend that were not picked up that weekend have been mailed.

Coming UP
in THE
COMMUNITY

Fundraiser for
Kidney Transplant
Patient
Jobina Brunson at
Macedonia FB
Holiness Church
1103 South 5th Street
Sunday, July 26
4:00 p.m.
For more info,
please contact
Harry L. Brunson at
910-297-2888
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BRUNSWICK
COUNTY UPDATE



BERNEST HEWETT

Double Standards

BY BERNEST HEWETT
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Again, I find myself at odds with my elected officials here in Brunswick County, I've heard the word "transparent" from them time and time again, but I have a hard time seeing this when Senator Rabon had a few drinks too many and hit another car. After hitting the car, he left the parking lot and drove thirty miles home without reporting the accident. When he was iden-

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THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

News from the African American perspective without fear or favor

VOLUME 88/No. 30

JULY 23-JULY 29, 2015

FIFTY CENTS

NC NAACP responds to NC House's passage of "Historical Artifact and Patriotism Act" Calls for governor's veto

SPECIAL TO
THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

RALEIGH, NC - This week, the North Carolina House of Representatives voted to pass the "Historical Artifact and Patriotism Act," which makes it virtually impossible for local communities to move Confederate monuments. The measure, which came out of the House Homeland Security Committee, was fast-tracked to Gov. McCrory's desk to be signed.

The NC NAACP and Forward Together Moral Movement call on Gov. McCrory to veto this bill. Rev. Dr. William J. Barber, II has issued the following statement on their behalf:
"Rushing to protect monuments of the Confederacy rather than readily



protecting the due to the General Assembly and wrongheaded. The urgency with which the majority of our state representatives raced to protect Confederate monuments is appalling and shameful, given that hundreds of thousands of North Carolinians live without health insurance

Governor's refusal to expand Medicaid; given that thousands of North Carolinians need a living wage, that teachers need job security, that public schools need adequate funding, that our environment needs adequate protections.
The extreme leadership of our General Assembly fast-tracked a bill to protect symbols of the past that embody division and secession from

Please see **MONUMENTS**
Page 2

WRONGFUL DEATH?



SANDRA BLAND

COURTESY PHOTO

What happened to Sandra Bland?

BY JEFFREY L. BONEY
OF THE HOUSTON FORWARD TIMES

NNPA-It is still unknown whether 28-year-old Sandra Bland was murdered by Waller County law enforcement officials or whether she committed suicide, but whatever the cause of death there is one thing for certain - it was a wrongful death.

Concerned citizens and community activists from all across the Greater Houston area have been up-arms and gravely concerned after receiving the news that Bland, an African-American female, was found hanging in a jail cell by a plastic bag on Monday, July 13th.

Authorities immediately released reports saying Bland hanged herself in her Waller County jail cell - which is about 60 miles northwest of Houston - three days after having her head slammed to the ground and being arrested for allegedly getting into a physical altercation with an officer during a routine traf-

fic stop - Bland supposedly failed to signal a lane change.

Bland had recently come back home to Texas to take a job at her alma mater, Prairie View A&M University, and was stopped on Friday, July 10, by a Waller County state trooper. Another driver recorded cell phone video of the incident is her telling the officers she is in pain and cannot hear after her head was slammed on the ground by the male arresting officer.

The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) has identified the law enforcement official who made the initial traffic stop of Bland as Brian Encinia. According to state records, Encinia, 30, has served at the department for one year and one month after earning his peace officer license in June 2014 and

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PHOTO BY ABDULSULAYMAN OF THE PHILADELPHIA TRIBUNE
ATTORNEY GENERAL LORETTA LYNCH SPEAKING AT NAACP CONVENTION IN PHILADELPHIA

Closing education gap would boost U.S. economy

BY FREDDIE ALLEN
NNPA SENIOR WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT

WASHINGTON (NNPA) - Men of color would earn \$170 billion more a year, if they reached the same education level as White men, according to a new White House report.

The report examined "opportunity gaps facing youth of color" and found stunning correlations between the educational and employment success of young men of color and how that success can directly impact the national economy.

Not only would closing the education attainment gap result in higher annual earnings for men of color 25-64 years-old, it would also increase the gross domestic product, the value of the production of goods and services, by 1.8 percent in the United States. The Bureau of Economic Analysis reported that GDP decreased by

Please see **ED GAP**/Page 2

Port City says no to offshore drilling

SPECIAL TO
THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

Tuesday night, the Wilmington City Council unanimously passed a resolution opposing seismic airgun blasting and offshore drilling off the state's coast. Wilmington, which is the largest port city in North Carolina, fears the federal government's plans for offshore oil and gas exploration and development threaten coastal communities, economies, fisheries and marine mammals.

The Obama administration is currently considering opening a large swath of the Atlantic Ocean, from Virginia to Georgia, to offshore drilling. Meanwhile, seismic airgun blasting, a process used to search for oil and gas deposits deep below the

ocean floor, is continuing to move forward in an area twice the size of California, stretching all the way from Delaware to Florida.

"We applaud the Wilmington City Council for taking a stand against Big Oil and saying NO to seismic airgun blasting and offshore drilling," said Randy Sturgill, campaign organizer at Oceana. "Opposition to East Coast drilling is growing every day and the federal government should be listening. Opening up the Atlantic to offshore drilling is a dirty and dangerous business-there are countless risks with little to no reward. Coastal communities like

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DRILLING/Page 3



Wilmington City Council passes resolution opposing seismic airgun blasting and offshore drilling off state's coast, citing threats to communities, economies, fisheries and marine mammals.



THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

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MONUMENTS

Continued from Page 1

the Union while they remain at an immoral standstill on the critical issues of our day that would help the poor and working poor as well as address the continuing reality of racial disparities and inequality.

In these perilous days, it would seem that the Homeland Security Committee might be protecting our lives instead of the Lost Cause.

While it cannot rank with public safety or public schools as a priority, communities should be able to discuss moving Confederate monuments off prominent public places like courthouse lawns. These conversations would do more to advance historical understanding than any number of monuments to the Confederacy. Museums, which are able to explain and contextualize exhibits, might well be the best place for Confederate statuary. Government-run

shrines to an army that sought to overthrow the United States of America by force do not make sense. Nor can they ever represent the North Carolinians whose ancestors suffered under the system of slavery that the Confederacy left America to defend.

If we are putting up Civil War-era monuments, it would be well to include a monument to the enslaved Africans who built the South and helped bring down the Confederacy -- almost 200,000 African Americans, many of whom escaped from slavery, fought for the Union. We could consider a monument to Abraham Galloway, for example, who escaped from slavery, served as a Southern spy for the Union, and after the war helped to write the North Carolina Constitution that we still use.

We might also consider a monument to the roughly ten thousand Heroes of America, better known as the 'Red Strings,' a secret society of white anti-Confederate guerillas across

the state. Hundreds of thousands of ordinary white North Carolinians believed that the Civil War was 'a rich man's war and a poor man's fight,' objected to the tyranny of the Confederacy, which they have never voted to support, and resented Confederate conscription laws that exempted wealthy white men and their sons. As the war raged on, Gov. Zebulon Vance -- who has a monument on the Capitol lawn -- acknowledged that 'the great popular heart is not now and never has been in this war. It was a revolution of the politicians and not the people.'

Likewise, there ought to be a monument to the Fusion Coalition of the 1890s, an interracial political force that swept every statewide election, captured the legislature, won both U.S. Senate seats, and elected a governor, too. This Fusion alliance between mostly black Republicans and mostly white Populists was imperfect, to be sure, but was also

an important experiment in interracial democracy. They could not be beaten at the polls, and their extreme opponents turned to violence, intimidation, and fraud. The leaders who overthrew the state government in the 1898 'white supremacy campaign' are represented by statues on the Capitol grounds; their Fusionist adversaries, who are a much better example for us today, are largely forgotten. Public memorials are important.

Rep. Marilyn Avila, a Raleigh Republican, states of this pro-Confederate bill: 'When you talk about memorials and remembrances, the point of time at which they were erected is extremely relevant. A lot of these things were done shortly after the War Between the States.' In fact, virtually none of the Confederate monuments were constructed until nearly fifty years after the war. If the state had tried to build Confederate monuments shortly after the Civil War -- 'War Between the

States' is the pro-Confederate term -- there likely would have been civil conflict.

The real heroes of North Carolina are the public school teachers for whom this legislature has shown contempt or indifference. The real heroes are those who keep struggling without living wages or health care. The General Assembly would do well to protect them before they start protecting their own "right" to tell communities what to do with their public monuments.'

The NAACP, formed in 1909, is the oldest and largest civil rights organization in the U.S. Its members are the consciences of their communities on civil rights. The NC Conference of NAACP Branches, formed 70 years ago, has grown to over 100 Adult, Youth and College branches. With the consistent support of 170 partners in the Historic Thousands on Jones Street (HKonJ) Coalition, it was the Moral Monday/Forward Together Moral Movement architect.

BLAND

Continued from Page 1

after receiving 1511 hours of training from the agency.

This past Monday, the Waller County Sheriff's Office released a three-hour surveillance video taken from outside of Bland's jail cell on the morning she was found dead in her cell.

Although the video released was three hours long, the video itself only covers 9 minutes and 26 seconds of actual footage because the camera is motion-activated.

At 7:17 a.m., the video shows an officer stop by Bland's cell for several seconds and according to investigators, Bland told the officer that she was fine. Less than an hour later, another officer -- a female officer -- checked on Bland and you see the officer bend down, stand up and then start running for help.

According to Captain Brian Cantrell of the Waller County Sheriff's Office, "the jailer looked through the window and observed Miss Bland hanging from her privacy partition in her cell."

Cantrell stated that Bland was then placed on the floor for jailers to perform CPR and then five minutes later, paramedics went in but she was already dead.

According to the Harris County Medical Examiner, her death was ruled a suicide.

So far, authorities said they see no sign of foul play, but Bland's family and supporters

don't believe she committed suicide and believe foul play may have been involved.

"The family of Sandra Bland is confident that she was killed and did not commit suicide," the family's law firm wrote in a statement. "The family has retained counsel to investigate Sandy's death."

Pastor Jamal Bryant, of the Empowerment Temple AME Church of Baltimore, has been in Hempstead at the Bland family's request and believes Bland was murdered.

"This was not a case of suicide, but homicide," said Bryant. "I stand in solidarity with the family, but we have to enlarge the narrative. This issue is bigger than Sandy. There is an attack on Black people in America and it must be acknowledged and dealt with immediately."

Waller County District Attorney Elton Mathis said the Texas Rangers, along with the FBI, are analyzing the video to make sure it has not been altered and are investigating the death of Bland.

"It is very much too early to make any kind of determination that this was a suicide or a murder because the investigations are not complete," said Mathis. "This investigation is still being treated just as it would be in a murder investigation. There are many questions being raised in Waller County, across the country and the world about this case. It needs a thorough review."

Mathis has asked the Texas

Rangers to do extensive scientific testing for fingerprints, touch DNA and use any other valid investigative techniques in an attempt to "figure out and say with certainty what happened in that cell."

Bland's sister, Shante Needham, said that Bland called her from jail the afternoon after her arrest, informing her that she had been arrested for unknown reasons and disclosed the details surrounding her accounts that an officer had placed his knee in her back and she thought her arm had been broken.

According to the Department of Public Safety, Bland "became argumentative and uncooperative" during the routine traffic stop; was arrested for assault on a public servant; and that paramedics were called to the scene to offer Bland a medical evaluation, but she refused.

Video footage captured by another driver who was passing by the incident was released, which shows Bland being forced on the ground and protesting her treatment and subsequent arrest.

The public had been awaiting the release of the dash cam footage from the police car of the officer who pulled Bland over, but according to Cannon Lambert, the attorney representing Bland's family, you can see Bland arguing with the officer and the officer pulling out his Taser. The dash cam video was released on Tuesday.

Lambert said the dash cam

video and the footage from the jail does not provide a full picture of what actually happened to Bland, during the traffic stop or what led to her death, but Lambert shared more details about the dash cam video that should lead to a more detailed investigation.

According to Lambert, the dash cam video shows the following:

- Officer approaches Bland's vehicle and obtains her license and registration;
- Officer returns to his police car;
- Officer comes back and asks Bland to put out her cigarette, to which she refuses;
- Officer orders Bland to get out of her car and then opens her door;
- Bland protests and reaches for her cellphone to record the incident;
- Officer steps back and pulls out his Taser;
- Bland complies with officer by getting out of the car on her own;
- Officer tells Bland to put down her cellphone and tells Bland she is going to jail, to which she questions why
- Then the two move behind Bland's vehicle to the passenger side of the car, and are out of view for the rest of the footage
- Out of view, Bland can be heard protesting her arrest

Video footage reportedly captured by a passerby released last week appears to show Bland on the ground and protesting as she is being taken into custody.

State Senator Rodney Ellis sent a letter to the Texas Commission on Jail Standards -- which monitors county jails across the state -- asking for a thorough inspection of the jail.

"The family and the community deserve to know how this unfortunate loss of life occurred, whether there were any violations of procedures and protocols, and how this could have been prevented," said Ellis.

U.S. Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee stated that she was contacting the U.S. Department of Justice to ask officials to look further into the death of Bland.

"Hopefully we will be pursuing this to get an understanding how this young lady lost her life," said Jackson Lee.

Several community activists, ministers, students and concerned citizens have been holding protests, rallies and marches in the area and more are planned.

In the meantime, DPS has said the officer who stopped Bland violated traffic stop procedures and department policy and is on administrative leave pending the outcome of the investigation.

The family is awaiting the results of an independent autopsy and the results of the investigation surrounding the death of their loved one -- Sandra Bland.

The Houston Forward Times will continue to follow this story and provide updates as they arise.

BRUNSWICK

Continued from Page 1

tified, he said that he didn't remember what happened.

Phil Norris didn't run for Brunswick County Commissioner, but a company of which he said he was no longer a part got paid a great deal of money from Brunswick County for the development of a park, but when two Black men did the same thing with a parcel of land, Mr. Norris and the other County Commissioners at that time said that it looked too much like wrongdoing. What does it look when for Mr. Norris does it? Recently, the Brunswick County School Board fired the superintendent after he had already resigned, effective when his term ended at the end of the school year. Then they spent extra money for a temporary replacement. Then they hired a new superintendent and gave the County no reason. Where is the transparency?

Last week, we found that the attorney for Brunswick County was caught with marijuana and drug paraphernalia! Is this not the

person who helped with the County Code of Conduct and Ethics? He is still on the County's payroll. Is this County Code of Conduct and Ethics just for Black men? I must ask because it surely seems to me that they are the only ones who have been affected by it.

Brunswick County has built a five million dollar park where there was already a modern park only ten miles from this park while people don't have safe drinking water nor, in some cases, bath water. Something is wrong! Our elected officials don't always have the best interest of all Brunswick County citizens at heart! Their interest has more to do with getting elected than making the decisions that cover the issues that affect Brunswick County.

Special interest is taking over, and local issues are being put on the back burner. Transparency is very different from its dictionary definition. I wonder why!

Life's story is not told by one person but by each person who lives life!

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

ED GAP

Continued from Page 1

an annual rate of 0.2 percent in the first quarter of 2015.

The high school graduation rate for Black students is 17 percentage points lower than their White classmates and only "28 percent of Blacks have a college degree by their late 20s, compared to nearly half of White men," the report said.

The report said that youth of color encounter a number of barriers to opportunity at higher rates compared to their White peers.

"For example, while 20 percent of all children under age 18 live in poverty, 38 percent of Black children and 30 percent of Hispanic children live in poverty, compared to 11 percent of non-Hispanic White children," stated the report.

Poor students often don't have access to early childhood education, increasing the likelihood that they will start school at considerable disadvantage to their more affluent peers. When young students fall behind in their reading skills, it makes it harder for them to catch up to their peers in later grades and increases the chances that they will drop out.

When young Black men disconnect from school, they are more likely to connect to the criminal justice system at considerable expense to the rest of society.

"The cost of incarceration is far substantially higher than investing in education or other programs to increase opportunity, even before one takes the returns to the investments into account," the report said. "The cost of incarceration for a sin-

gle juvenile is over \$100,000 -- twice as high as tuition at the most expensive college in the country or a year of intensive mentoring."

And even though crime is down in recent years, spending on corrections at the federal, state and local level is \$80 billion, according to President Obama.

A history poverty, lack of access to early childhood education and early interaction with the criminal justice system can follow a young Black man deep into adulthood and contribute to an early death or a lifetime of missed employment opportunities and lower rates of employment compared to White men.

"Even when there is little difference in the likelihood of committing a crime, individuals of color are much more likely to be arrested," stated the report. "For example, a Black individual is nearly four times as likely as a white individual to be arrested for marijuana possession, even though black and white individuals reported using marijuana at similar rates in 2010."

The report continued: "In 1984, the majority of State and Federal prisoners were White. In 2011, the majority of the more than 1.5 million prisoners were minorities, including 930,000 prisoners who were Black or Hispanic (61 percent)."

"Among adults 16 and older, Black men are nearly 15 percentage points less likely to be employed than White men," stated the report.

And because the labor force participation rate only tracks people who are either employed or looking for work, more than 1 million Black men

languishing in American prisons remain unaccounted for in the labor market artificially narrowing the employment chasm between Blacks and Whites until they return home.

"The relationship between economic opportunity and crime is not wholly clear-cut. For instance, crime fell throughout the most recent recession. Nevertheless, experience of past decades suggests that improving economic opportunity can also help lower crime rates," the report said.

The report noted that the Chicago-based Becoming a Man (BAM) program has achieved success at steering disadvantaged young men away from the criminal justice system by taking a different approach

Rather than offering targeted job opportunities, the report said that BAM, which primarily serves young Black and Latino men, teaches their members how to make better decisions "in high-stress situations through in-school sessions focused on making participants more aware of their automatic responses and on thinking about the appropriate response to the situation at hand."

BAM not only reduced violent crime arrests among program participants from 2009-2010, the young men also got better grades. An evaluation of the program during the 2013-2014 school year showed a 31 percent decline in the likelihood of arrests for BAM members.

The White House report said that scholarships and one-on-one coaching can also help low-income students graduate from college.

The high costs of mass incarceration, coupled with the increased awareness about the militarization of local police forces and the controversial practices of the for-profit prison industry have driven lawmakers to reconsider tough on crime policies in favor of smarter sentencing guideline, restorative justice and community-based rehabilitation programs.

During her keynote address at the NAACP's annual convention in Philadelphia, United States Attorney General Loretta Lynch noted the launch of the Smart on Crime initiative and its impact on mandatory minimum sentencing and investments in rehabilitation and reentry programs.

"The early results of these efforts have been extremely promising," said Lynch. "I am not just hopeful, but excited about where these reforms will lead us in the years to come."

Making the criminal justice system more efficient, more effective and more fair on the federal level will require broader reform efforts bipartisan support in Congress, said Lynch, adding that those efforts have to involve repairing the relationship between young people and law enforcement.

"Ultimately, we need children to see possibilities for themselves beyond the cycle of criminality and incarceration that has too often become a tragic and familiar fact of life," said Lynch. "America is a land of second chances -- but it must also be a land where we give opportunities to young people who haven't gotten a chance at all."

RECYCLE

THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL
BY
SPREADING THE NEWS

STATE LAWMAKERS SET MARCH 15 AS PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY DATE



STATE BRIEFS

[RALEIGH] No more May primaries in North Carolina for presidential aspirants. State lawmakers have agreed to set March

15, 2016, as the new presidential primary date for the state, and they want it winner takes all for both parties. North Carolina will now match the same date as Florida, Missouri, Illinois and Ohio.

FAYETTEVILLE CITY LEADERS WANT IMPUT ON SLAVE JUNCTION SYMBOL
[FAYETTEVILLE] The

Market House, a place where slaves were auctioned off almost 200 years ago, has been part of the city logo for Fayetteville for many years. But now there's a growing cadre of citizens, including two Fayetteville city councilmen, who want that logo changed, saying that the Market House is a symbol of hatred and racism. The Fayetteville City Council is now asking residents for

their input, and have setup a webpage at the city's site to fill out a survey asking for feedback at www.fayetteville-outfront.com

REPUBLICANS KNEW VOTING RESTRICTIONS HURT BLACK VOTERS, SAYS PROFESSOR

[WINSTON-SALEM] Republican leaders in the NC General Assembly knew that the voting restrictions they

passed into law in 2013 would specifically encumber African-American and Latino voters, a history professor testified during the federal voting rights trial in Winston-Salem, which began last week. Prof. Allan Lichtman of American University in Washington, D.C., also testified that because blacks are less likely than white to driver's licenses, GOP lawmakers deliber-

ately restricted voter ID requirements to that, not allowing other government-issued ID like college identification or government employment IDs. The trial is expected to stretch into August.

COMPILED BY CASH MICHAELS

DRILLING

Continued from Page 1

Wilmington have the most to lose, and their voices must be heard. We encourage local residents and their elected officials to continue to speak out against the Obama's administration's proposed plan to open up the Atlantic to Big Oil."

As of today, more than 60 coastal communities have passed similar resolutions against seismic airguns and/or offshore drilling, including 16 in North Carolina such as

Carolina Beach and Wrightsville Beach. In addition, more than 85 members of Congress, roughly 500 local and state officials, over 160 conservation and animal welfare organizations, as well as the Billfish Foundation, the International Game Fish Association, the Southeastern Fisheries Association, the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council and the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, have all publically opposed offshore oil exploration and/or development. In March, Oceana and others delivered more than half a mil-

lion petitions opposing offshore development to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management.

Also in March, 75 leading marine scientists sent a letter to President Obama on the impacts of seismic airgun blasting in the Atlantic Ocean, stating that "the magnitude of the proposed seismic activity is likely to have significant, long-lasting, and widespread impacts on the reproduction and survival of fish and marine mammal populations in the region, including the critically endangered North Atlantic

right whale, of which approximately only 500 remain."

"These efforts could destroy our coastal economies and communities for decades to come," said Sturgill. "If allowed, this plan would open the East Coast to industrial offshore drilling for the first time in U.S. history. Offshore drilling in the Atlantic would lead to a coast scattered with oil and gas rigs, the industrialization of coastal communities and the looming threat of a Deepwater Horizon-like disaster. Port cities such as Wilmington, NC, Charleston, SC and Savannah, GA, which would be essential

to offshore drilling off the East Coast, are simply not willing to trade in their oceans or their way of life all for less than 4 percent of the nation's total oil and natural gas reserves."

Oceana's own analysis found that offshore wind would create twice the number of jobs and generate twice the amount of energy as offshore drilling in the Atlantic Ocean, without the risk of a catastrophic spill. For North Carolina specifically, offshore wind would produce more than twice as many jobs and nearly thirty percent more energy than offshore drilling in twenty years.

Oceana is the largest international advocacy group working solely to protect the world's oceans. Oceana wins policy victories for the oceans using science-based campaigns. Since 2001, we have protected over 1.2 million square miles of ocean and innumerable sea turtles, sharks, dolphins and other sea creatures. More than 600,000 supporters have already joined Oceana. Global in scope, Oceana has offices in North, South and Central America, Asia, and Europe. To learn more, please visit www.oceana.org.

Mother of Black man killed by K.C. cops seeks to clear his name

BY JAZELLE HUNT
NNPA WASHINGTON
CORRESPONDENT

WASHINGTON (NNPA) - These days, all Narene Stokes wants to do is clear her son's name and gain some closure. In the two years since Kansas City, Mo. Police Department officer William Thompson ended Ryan Stokes' life with four bullets, both media and police reports have described Ryan as a thief and an armed suspect.

"At first...we got asked a lot, 'Well, did he have a gun? You know, was he down there stealing?'" recalled Narene. "Ryan did nothing of the sort of what they put in their story. I could see he was going to be a great man, a father, an uncle, a true brother. Ryan was a good guy."

Ryan, 24, was enjoying the nightlife with friends at Kansas City's Power & Light entertainment district. As the bars began to close, people flowed into the streets. Police officers were already in place, attempting to disperse the crowd.

A group of young White men stepped into the crowd, and one discovered his phone was missing. He accused Ryan Stokes' childhood friend, standing nearby, of stealing it. A scuffle ensued, and a bystander captured part of it on video. In the video, Ryan seemed to be separating the men - until a tear gas canister was fired into the crowd.

People scattered, and the men pointed Ryan out to a police officer. Meanwhile, Ryan's designated driver had caught a faceful of the gas. He handed Ryan his car keys to get the car.

There are different accounts of what happened next.

According to police, Ryan and his childhood friend were chased to the parking lot. The friend was ordered to the ground and handcuffed; at the same time, Ryan pulled a gun on the officers and ignored commands to drop it, forcing Officer Thompson, who is Black, to shoot.

"I have read the police officer's statements about what happened," said Cyndy Short, the family's lawyer. "The investigation as recorded in the report about the shooting is very underwhelming, underdeveloped. Even the officers are inconsistent about whether or not commands were given."

Short and several witnesses said that police did not get Ryan's attention - if they did issue commands, he did not seem to hear them. Additionally, an off-duty officer from a nearby suburb saw Ryan walking to the car, and said he neither heard officer commands, nor saw a weapon. Everyone agrees that Ryan's childhood friend was arrested. According to Narene, he watched Ryan fall to the ground a few feet away, then spent at least a month in jail.

The medical examiner declared Ryan's death a homicide. Less than a week later, a

grand jury ruled it justifiable. A year later, Officer Thompson and his partner Tamara Jones were awarded a certificate of commendation for "ending the threat."

Ryan, who worked in his father's dry cleaners, had no criminal record. An autopsy revealed that Ryan was shot in the back and in his side near his back. There were no drugs or alcohol found in his system.

Ryan was unarmed, and judging from the path of the bullets through his body - likely unaware that he was being pursued.

Narene stated, "I didn't even know that it was over a cell phone at first. That's why they killed Ryan. To hear that the first initiation of this was because a man said somebody stole his cell phone...."

"Then, you pick out Ryan out of 300 or 400 people down there. Nobody else got shot, nobody else had any bullet fragments, nothing, nothing. And then you get an award for killing this young man."

Narene arrived on the scene around 4 a.m., when it was still roped off and under investigation. A friend had raced over to her home and informed her and her daughter that Ryan might be in trouble.

"[When] we got there, I believe he was there. I was pretty numb, pretty in shock but my daughter...her vision is better than mine, she kept telling me that she could see her brother," she said. "But she didn't want to say that was her brother, she just kept saying, 'Tell me that's not my brother laying there.'"

Narene said officers on the scene would not give her any information. Instead they asked her a lot of questions, gave her business cards, took her information, and sent her home.

At home she kept calling Ryan's phone. It rang and

rang. Someone had posted something on social media about Ryan being in danger, and calls from family and friends began to pour in.

After daybreak, the news reported that a 24-year-old Black male had been shot and killed by police at the Kansas City Power & Light District.

Around 5 or 6 p.m., the police called.

"They asked me could I meet them somewhere, instead of saying they would be here, or whatever. And I said no, you can come to my house," she said. "Finally, they came to my home and told me they had killed Ryan. They said that he wouldn't put down the gun, that they had to shoot him five times in the chest. Why would they want to make up a story like that? To this day I still don't get it."

It's been two years. That was the first and only communication she has had from the city government.

Narene and her family want justice and answers. In the meantime, they want Ryan to be spoken of and remembered for who he was.

This Friday, July 24, at 8:30 p.m. there will be a candlelight vigil and prayer service at City Hall, just a few blocks from where Ryan was killed. Saturday, July 25 at 11 a.m., the Mary L. Kelly Center will host a basketball tournament in Ryan's honor, and small fundraiser for his daughter's education. And on Sunday, July 26 at 3 p.m., Zion Grove Church - Ryan's lifelong spiritual home - will host a special memorial service.

"Over time I've learned from the family that one of the things that has been

destructive is the loss of Ryan's true legacy," said Short. "The fact that, in the police's effort to justify a shooting, they also like to muddy up the person they killed. So we began to think about how we can reclaim his name."

The Stokes family has until 2018 to file a wrongful death suit, if they choose. Narene said any compensation received would be used to raise Ryan's daughter, Neriah, now 3 years old.

"It's taken a real bad toll on his dad, more than he tries to admit. Him and his dad were like, [together] every day...they worked together, they watched sports together, they did a lot together. [Neriah's mother] is doing better, but she is really out of it some days. She misses him



RYAN STOKES WITH DAUGHTER
NNPA PHOTO

GOSPEL JOY - The LIGHT still Winning Wilmington In Love! WWIL1490

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- Applicant must submit his/her most recent report card.

Please contact Lynore Young at 910-471-5568 or Shawn Thatch at 910-620-9608 for an ASCEND packet.

Please return all application materials by August 10, 2015.



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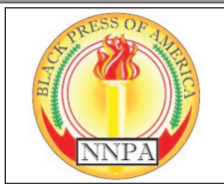
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THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

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

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

Our Voice

CHILDWATCH

How to keep our Black boys alive

The recent spotlight on systematic racial profiling and police brutality against Black boys and men has exposed a painful truth long known in the Black community: just about every Black youth and man seems to have a story about being stopped by the police, and all live daily with the understanding it can happen to any of them at any time.



Marian W. Edelman

Terrell Strayhorn is Director of the Center for Higher Education Enterprise at The Ohio State University and a Professor of Higher Education in the Department of Educational Studies in the College of Education and Human Ecology.

But none of these credentials mattered when Strayhorn was pulled over by a White police officer in June.

He'd just bought a beautiful new car. "So I'm driving my really nice car because that's what you can do in this country, right? You can work hard and you can make good money, and then you can use your money to buy a car...So I'm in my car, in my good hard-earned money car, and then comes a blue light in my rearview mirror."

"... And I watched an officer who does not know me come up to my window and say, 'Mister, I need to see your license and registration.' And I got ready to reach for it, and he reached for his gun - and I said, 'Oh, my God. I know how this ends...'

"I put my hands back and I said, 'Do I have permission to do what you just asked me to do?' And the cop said, 'Yes, you can now move.'" Only then did Strayhorn go ahead and pull out his registration and license, along with his university identification card, though the officer didn't seem to care.

"He said, 'Do you know why I stopped you?' I said, 'No.' He said, 'Because you don't look old enough to drive this car.' It sounded like a compliment, but then I had to remind him - in my head, not out loud - that in this country actually, [when] you get a driver's license, you're free to drive any car."

Recounting the story for the Children's Defense Fund training for college-age students preparing to teach at CDF Freedom Schools, Strayhorn said: "When you are mistreated, deemed guilty before you are innocent, and oppressed by that form of unbridled, misused power and authority, it is infuriating. It is offensive. It is enraging...The rage just started in my pinky toe and it climbed all up my body. But, thank God, I had what I'm going to say is the number-one thing: if you're going to teach [our children] anything-teach them literacy, teach them numeracy, teach them vocabulary, teach them history, teach them political science, but listen - teach them how to control their rage."

He continued, "...We've got to remember that while we're teaching them how to control their rage, giving them the language to have that conversation, they need words for that encounter with the police officer, that encounter with the neighbor. The reason why people fight is because words are not present for them to have the conversation. Give them the literacy tools so they can have the conversation. Teach them rage is natural; rage against this thing; rage against inequality-but control it in the face of authority that can take your life, because the end of the thing is we want them to live."

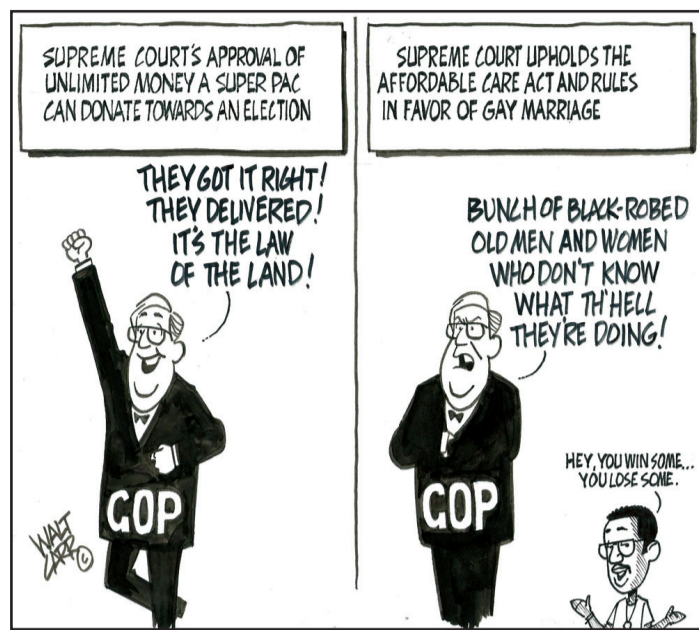
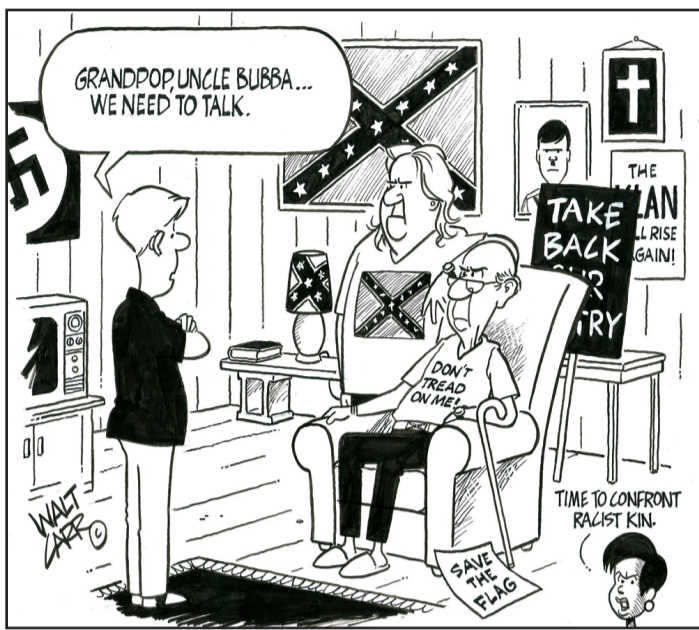
Self-control over rage at the right moment might help save a Black boy's life, though even that has certainly never been a guarantee. But no matter what, the critical next step still has to be channeling rage at deeply embedded structural racism and blatant injustice into "impassioned enthusiasm" for the larger fight. That larger fight can and must start with all of us by getting ourselves organized and providing our children positive alternatives to the miseducation in so many schools and the dangers on the street from law enforcement agents.

Strayhorn concluded, this all-hands-on-deck call to rage against injustice and fight for freedom is for everyone: "We've got to pursue freedom and justice not just for Black people, but pursue freedom and justice for Latino folks, pursue freedom and justice for Native American people, pursue freedom and justice for gay people, for LGBT, for poor people, for rich people, for tall people, for short people, for people who don't have anything at all, for first-generation people, for welfare mothers, for everybody. Freedom and justice for all."

That's the message every child of every color who is "different" must internalize to break the vicious cycle of deeply embedded cultural and structural racism that pervades so many American institutions including those too prevalent in the criminal justice system that too often takes rather than protects lives.

Marian Wright Edelman is president of the Children's Defense Fund whose *Leave No Child Behind*® mission is to ensure every child a Healthy Start, a Head Start, a Fair Start, a Safe Start and a Moral Start in life and successful passage to adulthood with the help of caring families and communities. For more information go to www.childrensdefense.org.

Visual Voice



Your Voice

A few words about love

I am honored that the editors of *The Wilmington Journal* have granted me an opportunity to express some opinions within this historic newspaper. Politically, I am a Libertarian. In years past, I have run for local and state office four times. I made a decent showing, but never won any of my races. In matters of faith, I am a Christian. I worship at Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, which is found on the corner of Queen and sixth streets.

I intend use this opportunity to express some useful thoughts in connection with the recent events in Charleston, SC. What lessons should we draw from acts of that hate-filled young man and the astonishing reaction of love by the Emanuel AME Church and the Charleston community at large? For some, the big story was the act of violence by that tragically misguided young man. I disagree. The shooter is nearly irrele-

vant, a pin prick upon the community of love. The important story is the quality of blood that flowed that day and continues to flow within the members of Emanuel AME Church and the 20,000 good people of Charleston, black and white, who marched together to express solidarity with the families of the martyrs.

I am lead to this conclusion by the lessons of my youth. In the mid-1960's, my parents relocated to a rural area of upstate New York. We lived near the shore of Lake Oneida. It was a wonderful place to grow up. The land was mostly wooded and I often found healing for my teen-age wounds while wandering alone in the forests. One day my father brought me across the street to meet a neighbor, an old man who was in the death grip of emphysema. He gasped for each inward breath and spoke the most vile and toxic words of racial hate as he exhaled. I was shocked. Here he was in a virtual paradise of natural splendor. Soon, this man would meet his

maker. Still, he felt compelled to preach hate. As we walked home, my father told me that it was important to know that such people exist. He also commented that in some cases all that we do was wait for such people to die, taking their hate with them. At the time, this man expressed beliefs of millions of Americans.

A close friend of our family, Reverend Orelious Bounds and his wife Marie, contrasted profoundly with this experience. Reverend Bounds was retired from leadership of a black Baptist church in Rochester, NY. He had built a retirement home a few miles east of us and my father took great delight in their friendship. Orelious and Marie eventually became active in helping an entirely white church in nearby Jewell NY to grow and thrive. The Bounds family was profoundly loved by all who knew them.

Here in Wilmington, we must correctly interpret the world we live in so that we can move forward effectively. This is my point; by nature, haters

drive away life and tend to live and die in solitude. There may always be a few of them, but their influence has been waning for many years. In contrast, lovers such as Reverend Bounds and the members of Emanuel AME Church have sown good seed that has yielded an abundant crop of love. Come, harvest it.

Some voices counsel continued fear and caution because of the continuing presence of some hateful people. Yes, precautions must be taken, but we must not fail to advance through the door of opportunity as it opens before us. The vast majority of the white community wants to do the right thing. Encourage us, guide us and take the time to be our friends. Dare to trust in the power of love. Something beautiful might happen.

John Evans
Chair of the
New Hanover County
Libertarian Party
Author of
"A Second Look at Jesus"

Matters of Opinion

CURRY'S COMMENTS

How to reform the criminal justice system

There is no question that the criminal justice system is broken. President Obama made that clear recently in his address to the annual convention of the NAACP in Philadelphia.

"The United States is home to 5 percent of the world's population, but 25 percent of the world's prisoners," he said. "Think about that. Our incarceration rate is four times higher than China's. We keep more people behind bars than the top 35 European countries combined."

"And it hasn't always been the case - this huge explosion in incarceration rates. In 1980, there were 500,000 people behind bars in America - half a million people in 1980... Today there are 2.2 million. It has quadrupled since 1980. Our prison population has doubled in the last two decades alone."

On his visit to El Reno Federal Correctional Institution in Oklahoma, Obama said: "A primary driver of this mass incarceration phenomenon is our drug laws - our mandatory minimum sentencing around drug laws. And we have to consider whether this is the smartest way for us to both control crime and rehabilitate individuals."

He added, "...When we're looking at nonviolent offenders, most of them growing up in environments in which the drug traffic is common, where many of their family members may have been involved in the

drug trade, we have to reconsider whether 20-year, 30-year, life sentences for non-violent crimes is the best way for us to solve these problems."

Of the 2.2 million people behind bars in 2012, nearly 1.5 million were in state and federal prisons and 744,500 were in local jails. According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, 38 percent of federal and state prisoners were Black, 35 percent were White and 21 percent were Latino.

How do we reform the criminal justice system? The Sentencing Project, a Washington-based organization that works for sentencing reform, offering alternatives to incarceration and ending racial disparities, said a number of things can be done to end or reduce mass incarceration.

In its publication titled, "Ending Mass Incarceration: Social Interventions that Work," the Sentencing Project stated, "Preschool education for at-risk three and four year olds is also an effective prevention strategy...Head Start and other preschool programs produce both short-term and long-term benefits. This includes reduced engagement with the criminal justice system through the age of 27, along with positive school outcomes and reduced need for social services."

On juvenile justice, the report said, "Research shows that programs prioritizing family interactions are the most successful, probably because they focus on providing skills to the adults who are in the best position to impact the child's behavior."

organizational participation and informal social control mechanisms can address criminal violence at the neighborhood level," the report said. "Community participation can help in supervising and monitoring teenage peer groups through social networks that facilitate adult and youth interaction."

In a July 14 letter to Rep. Jason Chaffetz, chairman of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and Rep. Elijah E. Cummings, the ranking member of the committee, a coalition of 60 organizations - including the Sentencing Project, Blacks in Law Enforcement of America, Families Against Mandatory Minimums, the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, the National Council of Churches, the NAACP, and the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers - called for broad-based criminal justice reform.

"In its 2011 report to Congress, the U.S. Sentencing Commission found that mandatory minimum sentences disproportionately impact communities of color and that African Americans received relief from mandatory minimum sentences least often, compared with Whites and Hispanics," the letter noted.

The organizations urged Congress to support reform that:

- Changes current federal law that allows a person with two prior felony convictions to have a 10-year mandatory minimum sentence converted to a mandatory life sentence;
- Allows past criminal records to be sealed and

removes the lifetime ban on persons convicted of drug felonies to receive federal benefits such as welfare and food stamps;

- Makes sentencing reductions passed in 2010 retroactive;
- Expands the Bureau of Prisons' Compassionate Release Program and
- Expands time credited for good behavior.

"We note the importance of supporting initiatives that aim to assist in effective recidivism reduction and re-entry programming as well as provide opportunities for early release for individuals in federal prison," the groups said. "Ninety-five percent of incarcerated individuals will return to our communities, and in the interest of public safety, we must ensure that they are on a path for successful reintegration back into society while in prison and upon their release. It is a smart investment to implement expanded re-entry programming, given that evidence-based programs, job-training, and education can reduce recidivism and lead to better outcomes for individuals returning to their families and neighborhoods."

George E. Curry, former editor-in-chief of *Emergence* magazine, is editor-in-chief of the *National Newspaper Publishers Association News Service* (NNPA) and *BlackPressUSA.com*. 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 www.facebook.com/currygeorge. See previous columns at <http://www.georgecurry.com/columns>.

The BLACK PRESS

USE IT or
LOSE IT!

New Hanover County

Haso Ministries will sponsor Feed The Needy every 1st Saturday of each month at 5-Star Café, 604 Redcross Street at 11:00 a.m. For more information contact Ramona at 910-264-4530.

The Wilmington Police Department is proud to announce the expansion of the Police Athletic League (PAL) to include Olympic Wrestling and Soccer. Volunteers are currently being recruited to coach. Interested individuals should call 910-343-3608 or email pal@wilmingtonnc.gov for more information.

Community Briefs

Williston Senior High Class of '61 will hold its third quarter 2015 quarterly meeting on Sunday, July 26th at Mount Olive AME Church Fellowship Hall, 1001 South 7th Street. The meeting will begin at 4:00 p.m.

Brunswick County

The Ransom Activity Center, Inc., will sponsor 7th Annual "The Best in the East Car & Bike Show" on Saturday, July 25th. Registration begins at 9:00 a.m. The host will be Mr. Perry Dixon. All proceeds going to the Ransom Activity Center, Inc. For more information call Perry Dixon at 910-685-4017 or Sam Brown 910-508-3203.

Policies for briefs, news, & photos on page 2.
Compiled By Wilmington Journal Staff

HOMETOWN NEWS FROM BRUNSWICK COUNTY

African American churches burned beyond recognition

Visiting in Florida, we saw the Kingsley Plantation slave quarters. Arranged in a semi-circle, thirty-two cabins of tabby (a mixture of oyster shell, sand and water) and wood were the homes for the slaves who worked the plantation. Today, the ruins of twenty-three cabins and the little church remain. There are memories of 1870, including hard work in the rice and cotton fields. The food could have been enough for hard workers.

The slaves helped build America and make it what the

great nation it is today. Now hate groups are burning Black churches in the United States beyond recognition. At the last count, there were more than eight. Will the hate groups increase or decrease? We believe there are more hate groups in Brunswick County because of the population of families from out of state who live here. The Brunswick County School System is not getting good reports on hiring qualified Black teachers. What is the problem? It's time for us all to get a better understanding of each other and treat each other with justice. Our children are our future leaders in all walks of life. We need to stop the burning of Black churches. It will cause more trouble. Now is the time when we should be able to live

together peacefully.

Great changes are causing people to wonder about the hundreds of sharks in beaches near us. Recently, a man was bitten by a shark in waist deep water. This is a time all people should be concerned about safety on the beaches for the families and hate groups' families as well. The water is for all living creatures. It's summer time and the beaches are crowded. The children like to wade in shallow water under the guidance of their parents. Let's say that you are a White member of a hate group. Suppose your son and a Black kid were together on the beach. Suppose the Black kid found two large shells. If this child wanted to give one of these large shells to your son as a gesture of kindness, would you

allow it? No doubt, it's easy for them to be friendly toward each other. What about you?

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.



Verniece Stanley

2015 Ocean City Jazz Festival



MARK WHITFIELD



WILLIE BRADLEY



MARCUS ANDERSON



REGGIE AND RAY CODRINGTON



CYRUS CHESTNUT WITH JOHN BROWN QUINTET

BY LINDA UPPERMAN SMITH
 CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Ocean City Jazz Festival would like to thank all our attendees and sponsors for their support and helping to make this a 4th of July weekend of jazz not to forget!!! We especially thank *The Wilmington*

Journal for helping to get the word out as well as Daniels Tours for providing transportation to so many each night. Many sponsors on and off the island helped make the festival a huge success!

We can't forget our remarkable performers Willie Bradley, Lenora

Zenzalai Helm, Cyrus Chestnut, Reggie Codrington, Mark Whitfield, the John Brown Quintet and Marcus Anderson. Their incredible music and connection with the audience kept the crowd on their feet. Festival attendees who came from as far as Los Angeles and Oklahoma City

have promised to return in years to come.

Some of the highlights included Cyrus Chestnut unexpectedly staying around to play for the second night with the John Brown Quintet. Marcus Anderson serenaded ladies in the audience and gave them flowers. He had atten-

dees dancing under the tent to his vibrant sounds. Willie Bradley danced with audience members. All in all it was 2 nights of fabulous music and fun to

remember in the historic Ocean City community of North Topsail Beach.

Please be sure to continue to check out our website, www.oceancityjazzfest.com.

Red Cross seeks blood donations to offset seasonal decline

The American Red Cross urges eligible donors to help offset a seasonal decline in donations and prevent a shortage this summer by giving blood.

During June, July and August, there are about two fewer donors than needed at each Red Cross blood drive. This can add up to more than 100,000 fewer donations during the summer. Many schools that host blood drives are out of session, and vacation schedules can make regular donors less available - both contributing to the seasonal decline.

Donors of all blood types - especially those with types AB, O negative, A negative and B negative - are needed to help ensure blood products are available to hospital patients this summer. Type AB donors have the universal plasma type, which can be given to patients of all blood types. Plasma helps maintain blood pressure and supplies critical proteins for clotting immunity. It is often needed for burn, trauma and cancer patients.

To make an appointment to give blood, download the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

American Red Cross Blood Donation Center: Wilmington Blood Donation Center
 1102 S. 16th St., Wilmington Blood donation hours: Monday: 1 - 6 p.m. Wednesday: 11:30 a.m. - 4:30

p.m. Friday: 8 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Second Sunday of the month: noon - 4:30 p.m.

Upcoming blood donation opportunities:

Brunswick County Southport

July 28 from 1:30 to 6 p.m. at Walgreens, 5098 Southport Supply Road

New Hanover County Carolina Beach

July 27 from 2 to 6:30 p.m. at Masonic Lodge no. 753 Carolina Beach, 415 Harper Ave.

Kure Beach

July 30 from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Kure Beach Community Center, 118 N. 3rd St.

Wilmington

July 20 from 2 to 6:30 p.m. at Saint Mark Catholic Church, 1011 Eastwood Road

July 21 from noon to 4:30 p.m. at Country Club of Landfall, 800 Sun Runner Place

July 23 from 7 to 4 p.m. at New Hanover Regional Medical Center, 2131 S. 17th St.

July 28 from 1 to 5:30 p.m. at First Baptist Church, 1939 Independence Blvd.

July 28 from 2:30 to 7 p.m. at Pine Valley United Methodist Church, 3788 Shipyard Blvd.

How to donate blood

Simply download the American Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit [\[blood.org\]\(http://redcrossblood.org\) or call 1-800-RED CROSS \(1-800-733-2767\) to make an appointment or for more information. All blood types are needed to ensure a reliable supply for patients. A blood donor card or driver's license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age \(16 with parental consent in some states\), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also have to meet certain height and weight requirements.](http://redcross-</p>
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 - FASHION JEWELRY
 - CHURCH HATS
 HATS & CAPS
 - ACCESSORIES

In Loving Memory of
RETHA WILLIAMS JOHNSON
 August 15, 1924 - July 20, 2014

We thought of you with love today, but that is nothing new. We thought about you yesterday, and days before that, too. We think of you in silence. We often speak your name. All we have now are memories and your picture in a frame. Your memory is our keepsake, with which we'll never part. God has you in his keeping. We have you in our hearts.

We shed tears for what might have been. A thousand times we cried. If love alone could have saved you, you never would have died. In life we loved you dearly, in death we love you still. In our hearts you hold a place no one can ever fill. It broke our hearts to lose you, but you didn't go alone. For a part of us went with you, the day God took you home.
 ~Author Unknown

Your daughter, Delores Kaham and Family

Carolyn Jones

Carolyn Jones died Tuesday, July 14, 2015 at Lower Cape Fear Hospice. Funeral services were held on Saturday, July 18th at Willie L. Shaw Jr. Memorial Chapel. Burial followed in Pine Forest Cemetery.

Carolyn D. Jones was born July 30, 1950 in Wilmington, North Carolina where she was raised with her nine brothers and sisters. Upon adulthood, she moved to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania where she worked for the Philadelphia School System and later retired. Carolyn was very devoted to her work and her family and enjoyed shopping in her spare time.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Willie Jones; her son, Jamie Jacobs; her parents, Lukea, Sr. and Willie Mildred Jacobs and her brothers, William Jacobs and Jake Jacobs. Those who will miss and cherish her memory are her loving children, Tammy Jacobs of Wilmington, NC and Tyrone Jacobs (Lena) of Ruther Glen, VA; daughter-in-law, Toya Jacobs of Philadelphia, PA; siblings, Lukea Jacobs, Jr. (Shirley) of Charlotte, NC, Clarice Johnson (Harrison) of Wilmington, NC, John "Red" Jacobs of Philadelphia, PA, Lorenzo Jacobs (Bernice) of Castle Hayne, NC, Nathaniel Jacobs of Wilmington, NC and Debbie Slater (Doug) of Patterson, NJ; nine grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; a host of nieces and nephews. A Service of John H. Shaw's Son Funeral Home.

Mary Claiborne

Mary Claiborne died Saturday, July 11, 2015 at her residence. Funeral services were held on Saturday, July 18, 2015 at the ILA Hall.

Mary Frances Claiborne was born to Catherin Hill and Robert Caliborne, Sr. in Virginia on September 18, 1949. The family moved to New Jersey in 1954. She was a caring person who worked as a caregiver and a secretary. During her life she gave birth to five children, Catherine, Lettice, Lawrence, Penny and Leba. Mary Francis was a compassionate person who could bring a smile and light up a room she entered. She generously helped neighbors and always pitched in at family gatherings, most times with no request. Her door was always open for any and every one; whether it was

just to relax, share a laugh or enjoy a home cooked meal. Mary Frances was predeceased by her father, Robert Claiborne, Sr. and her brothers, Robert Caliborne, Jr.

She leaves her memory to be cherished by: her children, Catherine Hines, Lettice Soloman, Lawrence Claiborne, Penny Claiborne and Leba Love; seventeen grandchildren; twenty great-grandchildren; her mother, Catherine Smith; three sisters, Hilda Cotton, Lillian Rush and Doris Claiborne; thirteen nieces; six nephews; twelve great-nieces and eight great-nephews. A Service of John H. Shaw's Son Funeral Home.

Michael Deray Davis

Michael Deray Davis died Sunday, July 19, 2015 at Lower Cape Fear Hospice. Funeral arrangements are incomplete and will be announced later by John H. Shaw's Son Funeral Home. A Service of John H. Shaw's Son Funeral Home.

Susie Rogers

Susie Rogers died Sunday, July 19, 2015 at her residence. Funeral arrangements are incomplete and will be announced later by John H. Shaw's Son Funeral Home. A Service of John H. Shaw's Son Funeral Home.

The
BLACK
PRESS
USE IT
or
LOSE
IT

National Commission on Hunger faces uphill challenge

BY SHANTELLA Y. SHERMAN
OF THE AFRO-AMERICAN
NEWSPAPER

(NNPA)—Feeding the nation's increased numbers of hungry citizens has become an uphill challenge for local and national organizations alike. Despite efforts to address hunger within the households of underprivileged area families through federal programs like Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and local programs including free breakfast and lunch programs through the public school systems, shortages remain.

On July 14, the National Commission on Hunger heard testimonies from the public and several local organizations regarding how best to address the food insecurities they experience regularly.

Public testimony, gathered by the Commission in various cities, will collectively impact its recommendations to Congress and the U.S. Department of Agriculture

(USDA) on future policies. Nadine Upshaw, a Southeast resident, attended the public hearing held at Marbury Plaza to make the committee aware of the strain she manages in caring for three grandchildren as a senior citizen.

"There are no easy answers and I am a proud woman who readily took on the responsibility of caring for my grandchildren," said Upshaw, who gained custody of the children after her daughter was incarcerated. "The reality is that as expenses in the city go up, I am unable to stretch my little check but so far. We eat a lot of soups and stews, and coming from the South, I know how to make beans and potatoes work as meals."

Upshaw worries the children (ages five, 12, and 16) will not get the types of nourishment they need, or lean more toward fast foods because of the scarcity of her pantry at home. "What if they start gaining weight from junk food - you know obesity in kids is a sign of poverty, not privilege - it's all

of the empty calories in over-processed, cheap food," Upshaw said. "That's why I am here . . . to let the people who make decisions know that many of us are trying our best, but still need help."

Upshaw's sentiments have been echoed repeatedly since the Commission began its hearings earlier this year. In New York, for instance, David De Vaughn, Manager of Policy and Government Relations for City Harvest, a food rescue that annually feeds millions of poor and hungry New York residents, testified that those on fixed incomes are disproportionately impacted by hunger, even when working full-time jobs. "Households are juggling fixed costs like housing and childcare, but food is an elastic expense. Families skimp on meals and skip meals to save money," De Vaughn said. "The cost of living is outpacing wage growth: food costs have increased by 59 percent since 2000, while median earnings of working adults have

increased only 17 percent during the same period."

The 10-member National Commission on Hunger is a congressionally appointed bipartisan group made up of government and private sector hunger experts, who are charged with developing innovative reforms in both public and private food assistance programs to reduce or eliminate food insecurity.

George A. Jones, Bread for the City CEO, provided testimony before the Commission. Under Jones' leadership Bread for the City has grown from a having a budget of \$1.2 million to an \$8.4 million operation that includes an expansion of its center in Northwest D.C. and a new center in Southeast.

"Our goal is to help people living in poverty by not only trying to alleviate the suffering that poverty can cause, but also by trying to rectify the conditions that perpetuate poverty," said Jones, who manages a food pantry serving more than 5,000 households a month.

Garner family accepts settlement

SPECIAL TO THE NNPA
FROM OUR WEEKLY

(NNPA)—The city of New York last week reached a \$5.9 million settlement with the family of Eric Garner, whose death after he was placed in a banned chokehold by a police officer, sparked a public outcry nationwide.

Garner's family filed notice of a \$75 million lawsuit against New York City and the New York Police Department in October 2014, according to Comptroller Scott M. Stringer, who announced the settlement.

"Following a judicious review of the claim and facts of this case, my office was able to reach a settlement with the estate of Eric Garner that is in the best interests of all parties," Stringer said in a statement.

Garner, 46, died on Staten Island on July 17, 2014 during an arrest for allegedly selling untaxed, single cigarettes. The confrontation was caught on video as Garner, an asthmatic, was heard saying "I can't breathe" nearly a dozen times while he was placed in an apparent chokehold by NYPD Officer Daniel Pantaleo. His last words



ERIC AND ESAW GARNER

would become a rallying cry for anti-police-brutality protesters from New York to California.

"We are all familiar with the events that lead to the death of Eric Garner and the extraordinary impact his passing has had on our city

and our nation," Stringer stated. "It forced us to examine the state of race relations, and the relationship between our police force and the people they serve."

The settlement does not mean that New York City has accepted liability for Garner's

death; Stringer stated that the agreement "acknowledges the tragic nature of Mr. Garner's death while balancing my office's fiscal responsibility to the city."

A U.S. Department of Justice investigation into Garner's death is ongoing.

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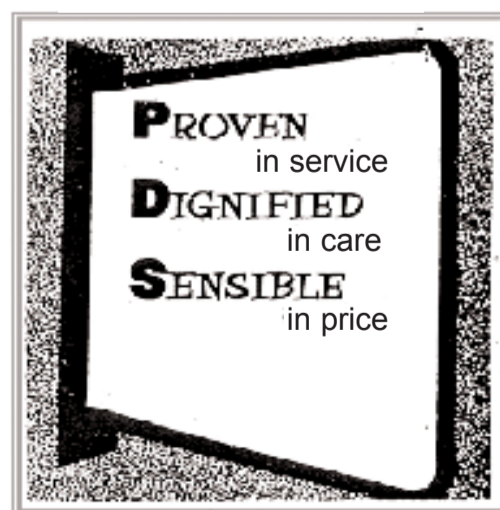
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New Hanover County

Central Missionary Baptist Church, 702 Red Cross Street, will hold a Musical Celebration on Saturday, August 1st at 5:00 p.m. Appearing on this program will be Recording Artist Myra Quince, choirs, soloists and groups from area churches.



Chords Across America, 1020 Rankin St., will hold have The Singing Aires of Jacksonville in concert on Saturday, July 25th at 3:00 p.m. There will be a television giveaway during the concert. All events are free to the public. For additional information call 910-623-4192.

Religious Briefs

Wilmington College of Theology is accepting applications for Fall Semester. Registration ends July 31st. Please call Dr. Lorraine Cooper at 910-431-7714.

Brunswick County

Crystal Spring Missionary Baptist Church, 4754 Blue Banks Loop Rd., will hold their annual Youth revival from Wednesday, August 5th- Friday, August 7th at 7:00 p.m. nightly. Prophet John Langley will be the evangelist.

Sampson County

Ecumenical Fellowship Worship and Praise Convention, Inc., will hold its next Community Worship Service on Sunday, August 2nd at 8:00 a.m. at Ward's Chapel MBC, Hwy. 421 Harrells, NC 28328. For more information contact Rev. Dr. Canty at 910-233-421, Rev. Lilly Hollingsworth at 910-523-2626 or Brother Charles Strickland at 910-590-4925.

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

Compiled By *Wilmington Journal Staff*

THE RELIGION CORNER

Mountain-moving faith

(NNPA)- 23. For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith. 24. Therefore I say unto you, what things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them. Mark 11:23-24.



Lyndia Grant

Have you tried a new idea, but because you were not successful at it, you quit? And others of you tried and failed several times, and then you quit. You're not alone. Every successful person, except those born with a silver spoon, has had to overcome failures.

In this column, let's focus on scripture and real-life, true stories of millionaires and billionaires who succeeded in a big way yet failed over and over again. As my mentor Les Brown always told The Les Brown Speakers, "Fail your way to success!"

According to the Online College website, a list of 50 successful people from various industries were first fired, told to forget about their dream, or told they should put that thing down and find something else. Had these persons not possessed mountain-moving faith, we never would have heard of them. Let's take a look at some of them.

Henry Ford, known for his American-made cars, he wasn't an instant success. Ford's early businesses failed, he was left broke five times before he founded the successful Ford Motor Co.

Oprah Winfrey, one of the most iconic faces on TV, one of the richest and most successful women in the world, Oprah had to endure a rough and often abusive childhood as well as numerous career setbacks. She was fired from her job as a television reporter back when she started in Baltimore because she was "unfit for TV."

Elvis Presley, was still a nobody in 1954, and Jimmy Denny, manager of the Grand Ole Opry, fired him after just one performance, telling him, "You ain't goin nowhere, son. You ought to go back to drivin' a truck."

Walt Disney started The Disney Company, which rakes in billions from merchandise, movies and theme parks around the world, but Disney himself had a bit of a rough start. He was fired by a newspaper editor because, "he lacked imagination and had no good ideas." He started and failed in businesses that became bankrupt. He kept plugging along, eventually finding a recipe for success.

Sidney Poitier was told by the casting director, "Why don't you stop wasting people's time and go out and become a dishwasher or something?" Poitier vowed to show him that he could make it, going on to win an Oscar and to become one of the best-regarded actors in the business.

Lucille Ball is seen around the world today in reruns, but before starring in "I Love Lucy", she was widely regarded as a failed actress. Her drama instructors advised her to try another profession.

Be encouraged when the going gets tough; this is when the tough will get going. Just reread this column and notice the pattern. When you fall down, just get back up again and find a way, but don't quit. Either way, what you decide is only an indication of your own faith. No one else can succeed for you. Your success depends on your ability to listen and hear the voice of the Lord. Ask the Lord to "order your steps."

Hang up this scripture: Proverbs 3:6 says in all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. After all, it is what you came to this Earth to do, and no one can do that thing better than you!

Lyndia Grant is an author, inspirational and motivational speaker, radio talk show host and columnist. She can be contacted at 202-263-4621 and via email at lyndiagrants@gmail.com. Visit her new website at www.lyndiagrants.com and hear previous radio shows on https://soundcloud.com/pro/purchased/pro. Listen Fridays at 6 p.m. to her talk show on WYCB (1340 AM), a Radio One station.

SENIOR MOMENTS

Sunday School lessons

My Fellow Seniors:

Because of the similarities, I have suggested that some of our small churches unite, but let me tell you about something very strange that happened when we went to visit my brother at his church in Raeford, NC.

Ruth Johnson

We got there just as Sunday school was closing. The teacher was standing at the altar, surrounded by a group of young children. They were receiving the Sunday School lesson. There was one White girl in

the group, and every time the teacher asked a question, her hand shot up. After she answered the first three questions, the teacher started looking around at the other children. However, none of them raised their hands. Finally, he called one child by name and asked him a question. The boy gave a very weak answer, and the review was ended.

I'm sure the whole church was wondering why the new girl was the only one who could answer the questions. You would think the little White girl was ten times smarter than the other children. I was hoping someone would stand up in church and explain the situation, but no one did.

The truth is, our children

were not interested in Bible Study. They only came to Sunday School to be with their friends or because their parents insisted. None of them gave their attention to the teacher, so they were not able to say what the lesson was about.

However, the new girl had no friends. No one whispered to her as the lesson was presented. She was not approached in any way. She gave the teacher her undivided attention, so she had perfect recall, but the other children did not.

However, if you were to ask those children what happened on "ET" the night before, each one of them could give you the entire story, but the Sunday School

lesson did not hold their attention.

If you want to know how those children felt, try this. Listen to someone speaking Spanish and then repeat what he said. You don't have to understand it, but if you heard it, you can repeat it, right? Right.

All I'm saying is that, if you want the children to get the message, bring it up to date. Make the story happen on the playground and show the characters following the Golden Rule. If the story is three thousand years old and the children have other distractions, they won't even listen. Have a good day!

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

TELL SOMEBODY

"Unity in the Church"

"There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling. One Lord, one faith, one baptism." Ephesians 4:4-5; I Cor. 1:13

Sylvia Hooper

Unity - Oneness of Mind
Division - Separation by difference of opinion of feeling

Many of the world's systems are crashing, failing, and falling apart! This is in part a result of the lack of unity, or shall we say...division. Matthew 12:25 says, "Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand."

Nations may crumble, and kingdoms may fall but the church of the Living God shall stand forever! Members of The Body of Christ (church) must realize the importance of unity in times like these. Laws in the

land are being changed to please men even when they are in direct disobedience to God. Many of these men pleasers do not fear the Lord, and will not depart from evil. Nevertheless, God who is Sovereign and All Wise has decreed unity in the Body through the power of his word, that will stand forever! Schisms, factions, and divisions in the world may be tolerated by worldly systems and governments, but in the church of the Living God, the Word of God is the final authority.

Jesus Christ said, "And upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." Matthew 16:18b

There is unity of The Body of Christ, regardless to what it looks like from the outside. Religion is divided, denominations are divided. Races are divided. Political parties are divided..... but Christ is not divided. The true church is united. Our mandate has not changed. Our leader is still sitting on the throne, where he shall reign forever! Our mission is to walk in love, go into all the world, preach the gospel of Jesus

Christ, win the lost at any cost, and to live holy while endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

"There is one body and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling." Ephesians 4th. Chapter. There is so much confusion on the subject of religion, it behooves every born again Believer to know beyond a shadow of a doubt, exactly what is the hope of his Christian calling. Coll. 1:27b says, "Christ in you, the hope of glory."

God's Word tells us that the church has one body and one Spirit. "But now are they many members, yet but one body." Romans 12:5, "So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another."

The church is one Spirit. (John 4:13) We have one Lord (Acts 2:36)

We have one faith (Galatians 2:20). We have one baptism (Ezekial 36:27, Matthew 3:11.

It is my conclusion, based on my faith in the Word of God, that no matter what is going on in the world and going wrong in the commu-

nity.....I believe there is Unity in the Church!

Prayer: Lord I believe your Word. If God said it, It is so! Lord, we thank you for keeping your church in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on you, because we trust you! In Jesus' Name. Amen.

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!"

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LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF NEW HANOVER

The undersigned, having qualified as Executrix of the estate of **Margaret Bellamy Alexius**, deceased, of the New Hanover County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the **2nd day of October, 2015**, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to said estate please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This the 2nd day of July, 2015

Margaret A. Phillips, Executrix of the Estate of Margaret Bellamy Alexius 1737 S. Live Oak Parkway
Wilmington, NC 28403
Murchison, Taylor & Gibson, PLLC
16 North Fifth Avenue
Wilmington, NC 28401

July 2, 9, 16, 23, 2015

NOTICE TO CREDITORS STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF NEW HANOVER

The undersigned, having qualified as Executrix of the estate of **George W. Jones, Jr.**, deceased, of the New Hanover County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the **2nd day of October, 2015**, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to said estate please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This the 2nd day of July, 2015

Elizabeth Jones Cole, Executrix of the Estate of George W. Jones, Jr. 320 Bristol Road
Wilmington, NC 28409
Murchison, Taylor & Gibson, PLLC
16 North Fifth Avenue
Wilmington, NC 28401

July 2, 9, 16, 23, 2015

NOTICE TO CREDITORS STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF NEW HANOVER

Having qualified as Executor of the Estate of **Esther H. Nixon**, deceased of New Hanover County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before **October 2, 2015** or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This 2nd day of July, 2015

Shimina K. Nixon, Executor
7100 W. Friendly Ave. Unit 303
Greensboro, NC 27410

July 2, 9, 16, 23, 2015

NOTICE TO CREDITORS STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF NEW HANOVER

Having qualified as Executor of the Estate of **Thetis J. Moore**, deceased of New Hanover County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before **October 2, 2015** or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This 2nd day of July, 2015

Daniel E. Moore, Executor
1703 Stones Edge Loop Road
Wilmington, NC 28405

July 2, 9, 16, 23, 2015

NOTICE TO CREDITORS STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF NEW HANOVER

Having qualified as Executor of the Estate of **Georgia J. Macris**, deceased of New Hanover County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before **October 2, 2015** or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This 2nd day of July, 2015

Spiro J. Macris, Executor of the Estate of Georgia J. Macris 914 South Lumina Avenue
Wrightsville Beach, NC 28480
Murchison, Taylor & Gibson, PLLC
16 North Fifth Avenue
Wilmington, NC 28401

July 2, 9, 16, 23, 2015

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF NEW HANOVER

The undersigned, having qualified as Executrix of the estate of **Helen Flowers Russo**, deceased, of New Hanover County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the **16th day of October, 2015**, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This 16th day of July, 2015.

Judy W. Russo, Executrix
3908 Sondey Road
Castle Hayne, NC 28429

July 16, 23, 30, August 6, 2015

NOTICE TO CREDITORS STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF NEW HANOVER

Having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of **Betty Ware Wentz (15-E-933)**, late of 515 Larchmont Drive, Wilmington, New Hanover County, North Carolina the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the Estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned at 701 Market Street, Wilmington, North Carolina, 28401 on or before **October 31, 2015** or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This the 20th day of July, 2015.

Charlotte Noel Fox, Administrator of the Estate of Betty Ware Wentz
Craig & Fox, PLLC
701 Market Street
Wilmington, NC 28401
910-815-0085

July 23, 30, August 6, 13, 2015

REBID INVITATION FOR BIDS SOLICITATION NO.: CFP13.05 HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON NORTH CAROLINA REPLACEMENT OF 838 WINDOW PANES AT HILLCREST DEVELOPMENT

The Housing Authority of the City of Wilmington North Carolina (WHA) Central Office located at 1524 S. 16th Street is soliciting sealed bids from interested window companies and/or contractors for the Replacement of 838 Window Panes at Hillcrest Development. General Contractor license is NOT required.

Project Manuals and specification will be available on our website beginning Friday, July 17, 2015. You can also download information at www.wha.net, click on business opportunities. Bid Opening will be held on July 27, 2015 at 9:30 a.m.

WHA reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any information in the proposal process.

Laurette Corbyons
Procurement Manager

July 16, 2015

REBID HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON NORTH CAROLINA (WHA) Solicitation No.: Rfy15.10 INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB) REPLACEMENT, REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE SERVICE FOR HVAC UNITS AND MINI-SPLIT @ SOLOMON TOWERS DEVELOPMENT

The Housing Authority of the City of Wilmington North Carolina (WHA) Central Office located at 1524 S. 16th Street is soliciting sealed bids from interested contractors to provide Replacement, Repair and Maintenance Service for HVAC and Mini-Splits Units at Solomon Towers Development

Project Manuals will be available on our website beginning Wednesday, July 22, 2015. You can download the project manual at www.wha.net, click on business opportunities.

WHA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any information in the proposal process.

Laurette Corbyons, Procurement Manager
Contracts/Purchasing

July 23, 2015

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF NEW HANOVER IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: LAURA ELLEN WATSON BELL

The undersigned having qualified as Executrix of the Estate of **Laura Ellen Watson Bell** deceased, late of New Hanover County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the estate to present such claims to the undersigned C/O Terry B. Richardson, Attorney at Law, 209 Princess Street, Wilmington, NC 28401 on or before the **9th day of October, 2015**, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of your recovery. All persons indebted to the estate will please make immediate payment.

This 29th day of June, 2015

Charlene Bell Richardson, Executrix
Terry B. Richardson
Attorney for the Estate
209 Princess Street
Wilmington, NC 28401

July 2, 9, 16, 23, 2015

NOTICE TO CREDITORS STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF NEW HANOVER In the Matter of the Estate of Rosanna W. Ewart, Deceased

The undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of **Rosanna W. Ewart**, deceased, late of New Hanover County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said estate to present them to the undersigned on or before **September 17, 2015**, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. All persons indebted to the said decedent or estate shall please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This the 16th day of July, 2015.

Henry C. Tapp, Jr.
Executor of the Estate of
Rosanna W. Ewart
c/o Anthony L. Register
Alley, Register & McEachern
701 North 4th Street
Wilmington, NC 28401

July 9, 16, 23, 30, 2015

NOTICE OF CREDITORS STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF NEW HANOVER IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF EVELENA WILLIAMS, DECEASED IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION BEFORE THE CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT FILE NO: 15 E 000807

The undersigned having qualified as the Personal Representative of the Estate of **Evelena Williams**, deceased, does hereby notify all persons, firms, or corporations having claims against said decedent exhibit the same to Michelle Nixon, Personal Representative, at the address set out below no later than ninety (90) days from the first publication date of this notice. This notice mat be pleaded as a bar of any payment or recovery of same which is not given prior to the **30th day of October, 2015**. All persons indebted to the decedent will please make payment to the undersigned at either address set out below.

This 9th day of July, 2015

The Law Office of Erma L. Johnson, P.C.
2803 Market Street
P.O. Box 696
Wilmington, North Carolina 28402

July 9, 16, 23, 30, 2015

Bid Request

RPC Contracting is requesting bids from any interested NCDOT Certified MBE & WBE firms for Contract DA00257 in Perquimans County bidding on 8/5/15. There will be pre-bid conference at 3:00 p.m. on Monday 7/27/15 at the office of RPC Contracting, 934 W. Kitty Hawk Road, Kitty Hawk, NC. Plans and specifications are available for review at the same location or may be downloaded from NCDOT's Project Letting website at https://connect.ncdot.gov/letting/Pages/Letting-List.aspx?let_type=1&let_satus=Advertised. For more information, please call 252-261-3336, ask for Jay. RPC Contracting is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

July 23, 2015

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NEW HANOVER COUNTY CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT ESTATE FILE NO. 2015 E. 485

Having qualified as Executrix of the Estate of **Benjamin Randall Pusey**, deceased, of New Hanover County, North Carolina, this is to notify that all persons having claims against said estate to present such claims to the undersigned on or before the **3rd day of October, 2015**, or this notice will be placed in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to the said estate please make immediate payment.

This 2nd day of July, 2015.

Elizabeth F. Pusey
515 Decatur Drive
Wilmington, NC 28403
Robert C. Kenan, Jr.
MOORE & KENAN Attorneys at Law
P. O. Box 957
Burgaw, NC 28425
(910) 259-9800

July 2, 9, 16, 23, 2015

NOTICE TO CREDITORS STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF NEW HANOVER FILE NO. 15 E 833

Sherry Ellen Stevens, having qualified as Administratrix of the Estate of **Robert Clifton Bean**, deceased, late of New Hanover County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned at 5725 Oleander Drive, STE C-3, Wilmington, NC 28403 on or before the **7th day of October, 2015** or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms or corporations indebted to the said estate please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This the 9th day of July, 2015.

Sherry Ellen Stevens,
Administratrix
C/o D. Robert Williams, Jr., Esq.
Price & Williams, P.A.
Attorneys at Law
5725 Oleander Drive, STE C-3
Wilmington, NC 28403
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July 9, 16, 23, 30, 2015

NOTICE OF SALE

2008 FORD LGT CONVTLN 'F'
VIN#1FTRW12W18FB80319
ACTION DATE:
AUGUST 25TH, 2015
10:00 AM
AT-ACE WRECKER SERVICE
INC
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WILMINGTON, NC 28401
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GENERAL MANAGER JAMES M.
HAIGHT

July 23, 30, 2015

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA, NEW HANOVER COUNTY IN THE SUPERIOR COURT 15 CVS 0790

**MARK A. JOHNSON,
PLAINTIFF
VS.
TYLER J. HENRY,
DEFENDANT**

TO: Tyler J. Henry

Take notice that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above entitled action. The nature of the relief being sought is as follows: damages arising from motor vehicular negligence. You are required to make defense to such pleading not later than forty (40) days from the first running of this notice, exclusive of such date, which was July 9, 2015, and upon your failure to do so, the party seeking service against you will apply to the court for the relief sought.

This the 1st day of July, 2015

DAVID AND ASSOCIATES, PLLC
DAVID F. TURLINGTON
Attorney for Plaintiff
1516 Dawson Street
Wilmington, NC 28401
Telephone: 910-251-8088
Facsimile: 910-251-8430
North Carolina Bar 20165
dturlington@davidandassociates.com

July 9, 16, 23, 2015

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF NEW HANOVER

The undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the estate of **George Diab**, deceased, of New Hanover County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the **9th day of October, 2015**, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This 9th day of July, 2015.

G. Stephen Diab, Executor of the Estate of George Diab 311 Bradley Creek Point Road
Wilmington, NC 28401
Murchison, Taylor & Gibson, PLLC
16 North Fifth Avenue
Wilmington, NC 28401

July 9, 16, 23, 30, 2015

NOTICE TO CREDITORS STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF NEW HANOVER

Having qualified as Executor of the Estate of **Millie Botesky**, late of 201 Victoria Drive, Wilmington, NC 28401 the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned at P.O. Box 641, Wilmington, NC 28402, on or before the **22nd day of October, 2015**, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the said estate will please make immediate payment to undersigned.

This the 23rd day of July, 2015.

John B. West, Jr.
Executor of the Estate of Millie Botesky
James D. Smith, Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 641
Wilmington, NC 28402

July 23, 30, August 6, 13, 2015

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY given that the City Council of the City of Wilmington will hold a public hearing on the 4th day of August, 2015, at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers in City Hall at 102 N. Third Street in order to consider the adoption of Ordinances for condemnation of property located at 515 Bladen Street, 206 Dixie Avenue, 407 Henry Street and directing the owner and the Housing Inspector to vacate and close and repair or demolish the dwelling/structure located thereon.

All supplementary materials related to this agenda item are available for public inspection at the office of the Department of Community Development at 305 Chestnut Street, 2nd floor during normal working hours between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

All interested persons are invited to attend. Please call the City of Wilmington Community Services Department at 910-341-7836 if you have any questions. The City of Wilmington hearing impaired TDD number is 341-7873.

Steve L. Harrell
Community Services Director

The City of Wilmington does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, color, national origin, religion or disability in its employment opportunities, programs or activities.

All requests for appropriate auxiliary aids and services, due to a disability or need for a non-English-speaking interpreter, must be submitted at least 48 hours in advance of the hearing or meeting.

July 16, 23, 2015

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LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE AND CITATION TO PARENT FOR APPEARANCE AT HEARING SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF FRESNO JUVENILE COURT Case No. 14-300243

In The Matter Of,
Baltazar Reynoso Jr.
DOB: 07-19-2014, Minor

To: **Jason Villareal AKA Jason Villarreal**, Father of the minor, and to any and all persons claiming to be the father of the minor.

This is to notify you that you are cited to appear at the hearing below, pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code Sections 366.23 and 366.26: Date: September 24, 2015 Time: 8:00 a.m. Place: Department 22 Juvenile Dependency Court 1100 Van Ness Fresno, CA 93724

Please take notice that this hearing, Fresno County through its Department of Social Services, will recommend to the court that the parental rights of Jason Villareal AKA Jason Villarreal, father of the minor, and to any persons claiming to be the father of the minor, be terminated and that the above minor be freed for adoption.

As the parents of the subject minor, you are cited to and may appear at court as indicated above in order to express your opinion as to whether your parental rights should be terminated so that the minor can be adopted.

This is also to advise you that you have certain legal rights and protections, including the right to oppose these proceedings. You have the right to hire an attorney of your choice to represent you. If you are unable to retain a lawyer, you may request that the judge appoint one for you, who shall be the Public Defender or a private attorney. If you cannot afford to pay the cost of legal counsel to represent you, the fee will be paid by Fresno County.

This notice and citation is dated 6/30/15
Sheran Morton
Clerk of the Court

Disobedience to this citation by failing to appear may subject the party served to arrest and punishment for contempt of court.

FRESNO COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
2135 Fresno Street, Suite 403
Fresno, CA 93721
(559)600-1975
PETITIONER COUNTY OF FRESNO

Acting by and through its Department of Social Services

July 23, 30, August 6, 13, 2015

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LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF RESALE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF NEW HANOVER IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION BEFORE THE CLERK 14 SP 606

In the Matter of the Foreclosure of the Real Estate Deed of Trust executed by Robert P. Binkley and wife, Deborah L. Grantors,

To: Elizabeth Wright Embrey, Substitute Trustee, dated July 14, 2011 and recorded in Book 5578, at Page 1804, New Hanover County Registry Substitution of Trustee recorded in Book 5827, at Page 763, New Hanover County Registry

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in the Real Estate Deed of Trust dated July 14, 2011 executed by Robert P. Binkley and wife, Deborah L. Binkley, as grantors, being recorded in Book 5578, at Page 1804, New Hanover County Registry (the "Deed of Trust"), and under and by virtue of an Order Authorizing Resale of Property by the Clerk of Superior Court of New Hanover County, North Carolina entered in this matter on June 10, 2015, the undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction to the highest bidder for cash at the usual and customary place for conducting public sales at the New Hanover County Courthouse, Wilmington, North Carolina, at 10:00 o'clock A.M. on the 5th day of August, 2015, all of the Property as conveyed, defined and described in the Deed of Trust including, but not limited to, the following:

(i) All that certain real property described in Exhibit A attached hereto; and

(ii) All other components of the Property, all as defined and described in the Deed of Trust.

This foreclosure includes personal property and fixtures as permitted by N.C.G.S. § 25-9-604.

This sale is made subject to all prior liens, current ad valorem taxes or unpaid ad valorem taxes, special assessments, easements, rights of way, deeds of release and any other prior encumbrances or exceptions of record, including, but not limited to, a first deed of trust recorded in Book 1617, at Page 478 in the New Hanover County Register of Deeds.

The record owner of the Property, as reflected on the records of the Register of Deeds as of July 10, 2015, is the heirs and/or the estate of Deborah Arlene Latham Binkley. Deborah Arlene Latham Binkley died on May 20, 2015. Charlotte Noel Fox has been appointed Public Administrator of the Estate of Deborah Arlene Latham Binkley, New Hanover County estate file number 15 E 908.

A foreclosure sale for the Property described and defined in the Deed of Trust was held on November 14, 2014. The record owner of the Property filed for relief under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code on November 21, 2014 (case number 14-06817-5, EDNC), which automatically stayed this foreclosure.

On April 21, 2015, U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Stephani W. Humrickhouse of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of North Carolina entered an Order granting relief from the automatic stay of 11 U.S.C. § 362.

The Property is being offered for sale, transfer and conveyance "AS IS, WHERE IS". Neither the Substitute Trustee, nor the holder of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust being foreclosed, nor the officers, directors, attorneys, employees, agents or authorized representatives of either the Substitute Trustee or the holder of the Note make any representation or warranty relating to the title, leasehold interests or any physical, environmental, health, or safety, conditions existing in, on, at or relating to the Property being offered for sale, and any and all responsibilities or liabilities arising out of or in any way relating to such conditions are expressly disclaimed.

The Substitute Trustee, after sale, shall require the highest bidder immediately to make a cash deposit of 5% of the amount of the bid or \$750.00, whichever is greater. Any successful bidder shall be required to tender the full balance of the bid amount in cash at the time the Substitute Trustee tenders a deed or attempts a tender of the deed for the Property, which shall be a date not more than thirty (30) days following the date the time for upset bids has expired; and should the successful bidder fail to pay at that time the full balance of the bid amount, he shall remain liable on the bid as provided in North Carolina General Statutes Section 45-21.30(d) and (e).

This sale shall be held open for upset bids filed in compliance with North Carolina General Statutes Section 45-21.27.

TIME: 10:00 o'clock A.M. on the 5th day of August, 2015. PLACE: New Hanover County Courthouse Wilmington, North Carolina TERMS: Cash

This the 13th day of July, 2015.

Elizabeth Wright Embrey, Substitute Trustee Wright, Worley, Pope, Ekster & Moss, PLLC 228 N. Front St. Wilmington, NC 28401 (910) 200-2677 (910) 202-2229 (fax)

EXHIBIT A

Being all of that certain parcel of land situated, lying and being in the City of Wilmington, New Hanover County, North Carolina, and more particularly described as follows:

BEING all of Lot 150, Section II of Lion's Gate Townhouses, as the same is shown on the map recorded in Condominium Plat Book 6 at Page 214 in the Office of the Register of Deeds of New Hanover County, to which said map reference is hereby made for a more particular description.

TOGETHER WITH AND SUBJECT TO all of the rights, easements, privileges and obligations made appurtenant thereto by the Declaration of Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions recorded in Book 1251 at Page 107 in the Office of the Register of Deeds of New Hanover County.

July 23, 30, 2015

ADVICE

ASK ALMA with ALMA GILL



Trying to help mom

Dear Alma,

My dad left my mom for another woman. My mother is so sad and I think it's affecting her health. She was recently on leave from work because she is too sick to go. She told me and my sister it wasn't serious and we shouldn't worry. I am worried and I am so mad at my dad. My mom is taking care of us now and she is doing it all by herself. Although I have a part-time job, I was thinking maybe I should graduate from high school early and start college so I can hurry up and help my mom and my sister. My mom works at a college, so I can take classes for free. What advice would you give me Alma, should I hurry up and start college so I can graduate and help my family?

Worried Son

Awwwe my darling, I applaud your efforts to step up to the plate and fill the role your father has left vacant, but you can't. You aren't the father, you're the son. It's human nature for you to desire to make everything alright, but that's too much of a load for you to take on. What I want you to do is concentrate and continue on your path of being an exceptional student.

What's happening now won't last forever. Your parents will resolve their issues. Don't overanalyze, try to compensate, correct, or take ownership of what's happening between your mom and dad. They're grown folks handling grown folks business. You can step back and take a breather. I know you know most of what's going on, but trust me, you don't know all. Promise me you won't take sides, but you'll respect them both and continue to do you. I'm sorry to hear of your mother's health complications. But in the midst of all this turmoil, I'm sure that your mother sees a few silver linings and you, for sure, are one of them. You can help her in many ways. This isn't your only option.

Now, as to your question about graduating from high school early.... Wow! That does sound exciting and as with everything in life comes the pros and the cons, so let's examine a few.

Pros: You're done with high school, ready to start college and looking forward to starting your young adult life.

Cons: You'll miss your prom, graduating with your friends and the senior year experience.

Honestly, you're the only one who knows which choice would be best. Have a long, hard conversation with your guidance counselor; that's a good place to start. They'll have an enormous amount of information for you to navigate while making your decision. My two cents worth is, if you're enjoying your life right now, hanging out and socializing with your friends, don't rush it. If you're fully active in your high school extracurricular activities, don't push yourself to leave early, just stay focused. Talk to your mom and let her know of your concerns about her health and your future opportunity to attend college for free. She will share with you what's best for your family.

Indulge me, as I take a moment to applaud you, young man. In the words of J. Anthony Brown - "Watchoutdehnow!" Go on with your bad self! Your question fills my heart. Not only are you a super bright and talented young student, you're compassionate and concerned about your family. Lawd have mercy, can every mother join me with a shout of "amen!" Don't stop believing in yourself. Whatever you decide, I celebrate you sweet-heart and pray that all your dreams come true!

Alma

Alma Gill's newsroom experience spans more than 25 years, including various roles at USA Today, Newsday and the Washington Post. Email questions to: alwaysaskalma@gmail.com. Follow her on Facebook at "Ask Alma" and twitter @almaaskalma.

Reel-ality TV Talk By Marquesa LaDawn



Reality TV can save your life

Autumn Veatch, the 16-year-old young lady who survived extreme odds when her grandparents' small plane crashed last week en route from Montana to Washington state, credits reality TV with saving her life. Unfortunately, her grandparents didn't make it. Autumn thanked her dad for forcing her to watch survivor shows with him because they taught her she would find civilization if she followed water - a tip that led to her survival - according to Kings.

"She's just an amazing kid," David Veatch, her father, told reporters outside a hospital in Brewster, Wash. "There's more to her than she knows. 'Survivorman' should be very proud of her," he said, referring to the Discovery Channel show that chronicles Les Stroud as he travels alone through the wilderness.

Why does this excite me so much? I've heard time and time again, reality TV is fake, stupid, shameful and several other less than flattering adjectives. I will agree, some reality shows have no boundaries, but not all. Kinda like people. There are good men out there and bad ones.

I, too, have learned lessons from Reality TV. Heck, I realized I got frustrated easily after seeing a reality TV person with a similar vibe.

In my professional speaking circles, folks are impressed when they learn that I'm a syndicated columnist. But when I tell them I write about reality TV, they grow silent.

This reminds me of The Real Housewives of NY. In one episode, I learn about friendship, communication skills (good and bad) and dealing with the loss of big love.

Heck in this week's episode, the real personalities were front and center. Ramona, needs attention, even when it makes no sense. Dorinda, the newest housewife, is loony with liquor and extremely emotional.

Then all hell breaks loose, one group of ladies hangout all night, the others, turn in.

Next morning, there's a naked man in the bed, in the adjoining room near Heather. She freaks out, loses it and rips the partying girls into pieces for being so immature.

This argument takes on a life of its own! Luanne, normally the diplomatic one, lost it.

Her words: If I want to bring a man home I can! Yep, you can, but put him near you or better yet, with you.

Okay, so a question for you? Do you think you were spoiled as a kid? I was and loved every minute. However, I can see how that can mess you up. This exact situation played out on The Real Housewives of the OC; Vicki's mother is very ill, so I will give her break, this time.

Now, I do not feel the same way about Lisa, on Married To Medicine, who loses control when it comes to her husband. Clearly, he has a cheating past that would make any woman crazy. Heck, a stripper shared unwanted information that her husband is a regular visitor to the strip club and Lisa did not take the news well. She's haunted by her husbands, you know.

One more life lesson that proves reality TV can be good for you comes from the Braxton's reality show. It's no secret that the sisters are struggling to get along. The tension is so thick, you could cut it. But, they were smart enough to bring in Bishop TD Jakes to help with their family issues. Boy, did he live up to his reputation; he gave the sisters a reality check and called them spoiled. Let's face it. Only he could get away with that one. But I was true and that was the lesson.

Bottom line: Stop dissing reality TV because it may save your life. Just ask crash survivor Autumn Veatch.

Marquesa LaDawn is a professional businesswoman who escapes the pressures of living in New York City by retreating into the real world of reality TV. Follow me on twitter @realityshowgirl and subscribe to her podcast at www.RealityTVGirl.com.

ENTERTAINMENT

Cash in the Apple



By Cash Michaels

BLACK EMMY NOMINATIONS - Well the Emmy nominations are out for the best in television, cable and Netflix, and while a couple of notable programs were omitted from possible honors, a large number of black actors and actresses made the cut. It's not a bad list, but it could have been better:

OUTSTANDING LEAD ACTOR IN A COMEDY SERIES - Anthony Anderson for "Black-ish".

OUTSTANDING LEAD ACTRESS IN A DRAMATIC SERIES - Taraji P. Henson for "Empire" and Viola Davis for "How to Get Away With Murder."

OUTSTANDING SUPPORTING ACTRESS IN A DRAMATIC SERIES - Uzo Aduba for "Orange is the New Black."

OUTSTANDING SUPPORTING ACTRESS IN A COMEDY SERIES - Niecy Nash for "Getting On."

OUTSTANDING SUPPORTING ACTOR IN A COMEDY SERIES - Andre Braugher for "Brooklyn Nine-Nine"; Keegan Michael-Key for "Key and Peele"; and Tituss Burgess for "Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt."

OUTSTANDING GUEST ACTRESS IN A DRAMA SERIES - Cicely Tyson for "How to Get Away With Murder" and Khandi Alexander for "Scandal."

OUTSTANDING GUEST ACTOR IN A DRAMA SERIES - Reg. E. Cathey for "House of Cards."

OUTSTANDING LEAD ACTOR IN A LIMITED SERIES OR MOVIE - David Oyelowo for "Nightingale."

OUTSTANDING LEAD ACTRESS IN A LIMITED SERIES OR MOVIE - Queen Latifah in "Bessie."

So who and what's missing in my opinion? Two shows on CBS, "Madam Secretary" starring Tea Leoni and, of course, "The Good Wife" with Julianna Margulies are significantly absent from consideration, and that's a shame. The same must be said for USA Network's "Suits" starring Gabriel Macht, Patrick J. Adams and the powerful Gina Torres.

Torres has been, and continues to be magnificent as the managing partner of major New York law firm, and should have gotten major consideration for at least a nomination.

How the academy could overlook the fine work of these shows and their led actors is unforgivable. All have had exceptional years. That doesn't mean the folks and shows that were nominated were unworthy. Just that there were obvious others that should have gotten consideration.

The 67th Emmy Awards telecast will air Sept. 20th on Fox Television.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ESPN? - There is no question that ESPN is the leader in sports television, and when it's good, it's very good. Their hosts, analysts and reporters break down sports stories to every detail possible, helping you to understand all you could possibly know.

So it's no surprise that such an operation would have some very opinionated commentators on the payroll to spice topics up and give needed perspective when the big stories break. And let's face, just within the past year alone - whether it be LeBron James' jump back from Miami to Cleveland; NFL'er Ray Rice hitting his wife in a casino elevator; or the New Patriots deflating footballs before playoff games - there has been plenty of controversy to get worked up over on the sports side.

And yet, it appears that ESPN wants next to none of it, by evidence of the sports giant essentially firing three high profile talkers known for their strong opinions and colorful personalities.

Commentators Bill Sammons, Colin Cowherd, and the one and only Keith Olbermann have all been given their walking papers by ESPN.

In the case of Sammons, it's for calling Roger Goodell, the commissioner of the NFL, a "liar," something on-air personalities should try to stay away from doing. Don't get me

wrong, the NFL commissioner is a public figure and should be able to take it, but because the National Football League is a huge business partner with ESPN, allowing that kind of thing apparently gets old quick there, so Sammons had to go.

Colin Cowherd, who does a daily national radio show on ESPN which is simulcast on ESPN television, apparently is also too opinionated for the network. He has been with the sports giant since 2003, so apparently the suits have decide that enough is enough. Word is that Cowherd is taking his game over to Fox Sports, but let's face it, who really watches Fox Sports when ESPN is in the neighborhood?

And then there is my man, Keith Olbermann, commentator and troublemaker extraordinaire. A lot of us had hoped that after a tumultuous five-year-run at MSNBC where is his top-rated "Countdown" show fried crispy the political class with his "Worst Person in the World"; and then his even more disasterous short stint at Current TV which ended with him suing the owners and the channel being sold to Al Jazeera, that when Keith finally came back home to where it all started for him back in the 1990's, ESPN, that he would be able to settle down, and just be his best.

And let's be clear, when Keith Olbermann is on his game, absolutely no one can touch him on the air.

Lo and behold, Keith was making big noise with his ESPN show - first at 11 p.m. weeknights, then during his second year, moved to 5 p.m. weekdays. Keith always started his show with sizzling commentaries, followed by "Worst Persons in the Sports World"; then interviews with top sports figures, and finally "Keith Lights," highlights of whatever games that happened that day.

And it wasn't too unusual to have a newspaper pick up on one of Olbermann's thoughtful, insightful commentaries. When it came to institutional memory, especially about baseball, few people on the planet could match Olbermann in knowledge or enthusiasm. When the big sports story broke, no one could pull it apart, and put it back together again like Keith.

So what went wrong? Why is Olbermann being canned for arguably being one of the most talented broadcasters in the business? Apparently ESPN, during contract negotiations, wanted to eliminate Keith's commentaries, effectively silencing him. Like Bill Sammons, Keith has been outspoken about the problems of the National Football League, even calling for NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell to be fired because Olbermann believed, as Sammons said, the commissioner to be a "liar."

Apparently Keith told ESPN that he would not stuff it if he remained on the air, so in two weeks, Keith won't be on the air as his contract will not be renewed.

There's talk of Keith going back to MSNBC, given that their ratings are so bad they need his spark to get a boost, but don't count on it. The bad blood is really bad between the two.

So the question now is will these high-profile firings hurt the ESPN brand. The plain answer is no because the brand is that big. ESPN will do just fine, thank you. But what message do these firings of three prominent sports commentators send? When there's big bucks on the line, what you say can hurt you.

Make sure you tune in every Thursday afternoon at 4 p.m. for my talk radio show, "Make It Happen" on Power 750 WAUG-AM, or online at www.uaug-network.com. And read more about my thoughts and opinions exclusively at my blog, "The Cash Roc" (<http://thecashroc.blogspot.com/2011/01/cash-roc-begins.html>).

Cash in the Apple - honored as the Best Column Writing of 2006 by the National Newspaper Publishers Association. Columnist Cash Michaels was also honored by the NNPA for Best Feature Story Journalist of 2009, and was the recipient of the Raleigh-Apex NAACP's President's Award for Media Excellence in Sept. 2011.

Until next week, keep a smile on your face, GOD in your heart, and The Wilmington Journal in your life. Bye, bye.

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