

OUTside
Looking IN

OUR VOICE



DR. BENJAMIN CHAVIS

GUEST EDITORIAL
BY
DR. BENJAMIN
CHAVIS

"New Year's resolutions
for Black America
in 2016"
PAGE 4

**BRUNSWICK
COUNTY
UPDATE**



BERNEST HEWETT

**HIGHWAY
MARKER,
PLEASE!**

BY BERNEST HEWETT
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

I have driven through towns and along highways and read signs that reminded me and others that famous athletes, actors, or other notable personalities were born, or lived, there. Such signs let people know that the citizens in these areas are proud to have persons of that caliber associated with

Please see
BRUNSWICK/Page 2

THE WILMINGTON
JOURNAL



—SALUTES—

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

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THE WILMINGTON
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News from the African American perspective without fear or favor

VOLUME 88/No. 53

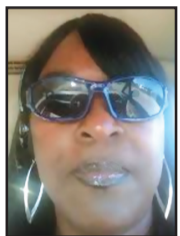
DECEMBER 31, 2015-JANUARY 6, 2016

FIFTY CENTS

**2015 ENDS WITH MORE
POLICE INJUSTICE**

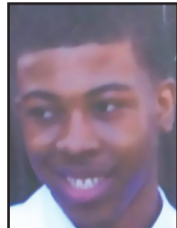
BY CASH MICHAELS
OF THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

The week began with the city of Chicago in mourning after police there "accidentally" shot and killed 55 year-old Bettie Jones Dec. 27th, an unarmed downstairs neighbor who had just opened the door to let officers responding to a domestic disturbance call. Chicago police also killed college student



JONES

Quintonio LeGrier at the same address, who was said to have had a mental illness. LeGrier's father called police for assistance when his son became angry and began hitting the door with a baseball bat. Ms. Jones was a devout church woman, neighbors and relatives said. They couldn't understand why Chicago police couldn't use tasers to subdue young LeGrier, instead of deadly force. Embattled Chicago Mayor Rahm



LEGRIER

Emmanuel rushed home from a 16-day vacation, amid growing cries for his resignation, and a federal investigation into a string of prior police killings in his city. On Monday in Cleveland, Ohio, after more than a year, Cuyahoga County Prosecutor Timothy McGinty announced that a grand jury did not indict two Cleveland police officers for the November 2014 fatal shooting of 12-year-old Tamir Rice, who had only a pellet gun on him in a park when the officers immediately shot the child within two seconds of pulling up on the scene. It became clear that McGinty never sought to indict the officers,

but rather cajole the grand jury not to hold them responsible, claiming that the officers feared for their lives.

Tamir Rice family and their attorneys blasted McGinty, charging that it was never his intention to hold the police officers accountable, and instead



RICE

Please see
INJUSTICE/Page 2



PHOTOS BY JUS PRAY PHOTOGRAPHY
BIKES COLLECTED DURING "BIKES FOR TYKES" PICTURED: L-R, SUNDAY BRIGGS, JR., KATHY WOMACK, TERRY VAUGHT, ERICA KEA, MR. BRYANT AND HOLLIS BRIGGS

**Local ILA #1426 and A. Philip Randolph
give back to their community**



A. PHILIP RANDOLPH SCHOLARSHIP 2015 RECIPIENTS ARE JORDAN WOMACK, WHO ATTENDS A&T STATE UNIVERSITY AND JESSICA WOMACK WHO ATTENDS EAST CAROLINA UNIVERSITY. PICTURED: L-R, KATHY WOMACK, JORDAN WOMACK AND ERICA KEA, ILA EXECUTIVE SECRETARY.



UNCW PHOTO
CRAIG PONDER

**UNCW Player
Craig Ponder
Nominated for
National Award**

COMPILED BY STAFF

The National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC), the Women's Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA) and Allstate Insurance Company recently announced an all-time high 257 total nominees for the 2016 Allstate NABC and WBCA Good Works Teams®. University of North Carolina at Wilmington guard Craig Ponder is one of the nominees. This award shines a spotlight on a select group of student-athletes who have shown dedication to service in their communities and is one of the most prestigious off-the-court honors in college basketball.

In its fourth year, the Allstate NABC and WBCA Good Works Teams® recognize players at all levels of college basketball who

Please see **PONDER**/Page 3

**Funeral services held for Wanda Coston,
NH County Development Planner**

COMPILED BY STAFF

A celebration of love for Wanda Brendette Coston was held on Monday, December 28, 2015 at 1:00 p.m. at Gregory Congregational United Church of Christ with standing room only. The eulogy was delivered by Reverend Leroy Dukes. "Wanda was the community development planner for New

Hanover County for over 30 years. During her career, she helped hundreds of families and individuals who were unable to afford housing or who needed assistance with difficult home repairs. Wanda brought federal community development grant funds to provide water and



COSTON

sewer infrastructure and replacement housing to help revitalize Old Wrightsboro and the Kirkland community among others. Wanda placed a high value on historic preservation and was recently recognized by the Historic Wilmington Foundation with a preservation award. Wanda worked

with numerous local and state agencies to promote fair housing opportunity for all people. Her work in New Hanover County has helped to shape a more resilient, equitable and livable county."--Chris O'Keefe.

THE OBITUARY

On the evening of Thursday, December 10, 2015, Wanda

Please see **COSTON**/Page 2

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THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

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Opinions expressed by columnists in this newspaper do not necessarily represent the policy of this paper. The Wilmington Journal cannot accept yard sale and dinner sale announcements as briefs. These are considered advertisements. Community and religious briefs are designated for public service announcements, which are free and open to the public. All news must be submitted two weeks in advance by Fridays at 5 p.m. There is no charge for submitting briefs, news and photos. All briefs will run for a maximum of two weeks. Please send news near the event date. Briefs/news cannot be taken over the phone. Photos and stories may also be emailed to us at wilmjournnews@aol.com. News, but not photos, may be faxed to us at 910-343-1334. Photos may be picked up after appearing in the paper. The publisher is not responsible for the return of unsolicited news, pictures or advertising copy unless necessary postage accompanies the copy on a self-addressed envelope.

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BRUNSWICK
 Continued from Page 1

their communities. I had a bright idea and wrote my legislators about one of Brunswick County's finest and best sons to see if I could get a sign near Southport in honor of this young man. Quinton McCracken grew up in Southport, N.C. and played baseball at South Brunswick High School. He was an all around athlete in high school. In football, he was a running back and free safety. In basketball, he was a point guard. He also ran track. In his senior year, he helped lead South Brunswick to a 29-0 record and the state championship. After graduating from South Brunswick, he attended Duke University and, upon graduation from Duke, he was selected by the Colorado Rockies, where he played until being drafted by Tampa Bay Devil Rays, where he received Most Valuable Player Award. He tore an ACL and was moved back to triple A Devil Rays. He played for two more professional teams before he retired. In 2010, he was called to take the position of

INJUSTICE
 Continued from Page 1

blamed the young boy for "looking older and bigger than his age." Back in Chicago on Tuesday, Chicago Police Officer Jerry Van Dyke pled not guilty to six counts of murder after being seen on an October 2014 police video allegedly shooting 17-year-old Laquan McDonald 16 times, most of the shots hitting the young black teen as he laid helpless in the middle of the street, surrounded by other police officers who never fired a shot. Thousands of demonstrators marched, rallied and blocked traffic in downtown

Chicago leading up to the Christmas holidays to protest the yearlong delay of the release of the McDonald video, demanding Mayor Emanuel's resignation in the aftermath of the firing of the police superintendent there. McDonald's family had a 1 r e a d y been paid a \$5 million settlement by the Chicago City Council long before the video's release. These cases, just this week, in addition to a grand jury in Texas last week refusing to indict any officers for the



MCDONALD

death of Sandra Bland, a 28-year-old black female motorist found dead in her jail cell after she was arrested for a minor traffic violation, have set the stage for a tension-filled 2016 between law enforcement and the communities of color which they serve. Thanks to the Black Lives Matter movement, young people across the nation have taken to the streets to peacefully, but forcefully, hold police departments accountable for their seemingly unbridled use of



BLAND

excessive force against African-Americans. In Minnesota, demonstrators blocked an airport terminal after causing chaos at the Mall of America right before Christmas, all to protest the police shooting death of Jamar Clark. Authorities have refused to release the video of the deadly encounter. Observers contrast these recent incidents with what did not happen just last Saturday night at a Louisville, Kentucky Mall St.



CLARK

Matthew, where 2,000 white teenagers reportedly engaged fights, disruptive behavior, harassment of customers and store employees and confrontations with police officers to the point where reinforcements from neighboring towns had to be called, and the mall closed an hour early. And yet, there were no arrests, and not one officer fired a shot, even though there were reports of gunshots heard prior to the police arriving. When asked why there were no arrests for what many who were there called "a riot," a police spokesperson said, "Our focus was on restoring order and dispersing the crowd."

COSTON
 Continued from Page 1

Brendette Coston quietly reached out and grasped the hands of God. Slowly relinquishing the grip of her love ones, in the stillness of the early morning on Tuesday December 22, 2015, God ushered Wanda into the fullness of His glory. Born November 29, 1953 in Wilmington, NC, Wanda would be the first of five children from the union of the late Bernard Emory Coston, Sr. and the late Margaret Herring Coston. She was preceded in death by her brother, Bernard Emory Coston, Jr. As a child, she attended Gregory Congregational Church, where she would return in her adult life. Quite the precocious child, Wanda was a high achiever, educated in the New Hanover County Public School system. Upon graduating from John T Hoggard HS in June of 1972, Wanda, a strong-willed teen, decided to forego college and join the workforce at DuPont Industries. After 5 years of service, Wanda left DuPont and entered Fayetteville State University (FSU). After graduating with honors from FSU, she attended Ohio State University on a full scholarship gaining a Masters of Urban Planning and a Masters of Social Work.

As stern as she sometimes projected, Wanda was a giver. She gave of her resources, her time and herself; often putting the needs of others before her own. Her love of family would be in the driving force for

Wanda's return to Wilmington. In 1985, while securing employment with New Hanover County, Wanda would gain guardianship of her young nephew, Matthew J. Coston. She would also be instrumental in the rearing of her niece, Tosha M. Coston and nephew, Samuel J. Criswell. Along the way, she and longtime family friend, Ronald McFadden would

develop a partnership that would lead to lifetime commitment. Too numerous to name, Wanda was a member of several community boards and committees. She was strongly committed to improving the community and advocating for those unable to do themselves. She will be deeply missed by those that knew her and loved her, including: Life-

time companion/husband, Ronald McFadden; nephew/son, Matthew Coston (Naikeya); special grandniece, Aniyah Coston; sisters, Margaret Denise, Sonja Ruth and Sheryl Aleta Coston; step-mother, Annie Coston; extended family, Audrey Burgess, Janice Larry, Terry and Gail Marshall, and Felona Skeeters; aunts, Karren

Rich, Joyce Johnson, Roberta Johnson (Hayward), Elemmia Hayes (Connie); uncle, Johnny McKnight; several grandnieces and nephews, other relatives and dear friends. Arrangements by Adkins-Drain Funeral Service, 515 South Eighth Street, Wilmington, North Carolina 28401. Condolences may be shared at www.adkins-drainfuneralservice.com.

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December 30 - January 05, 2016

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 59 Oz. - Select Varieties Tropicana Pure Premium Orange Juice
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 6 Big Rolls Bounty Paper Towels
 6 Mega or 12 Double Rolls Charmin Ultra Bath Tissue
 Without MVP Card Regular Retail Rest of Week: \$6.99 EA MVP

Assistant Director of Player Development for the Arizona Diamondbacks under Rica Brogna. In October of 2012, Mr. McCracken was hired as Director of Player Development for the Houston Astros. He still carries himself on a professional level and adheres to the principles he was taught while coming up through this system here in Southport and Brunswick County.

I am proud of this 45 year old man who made it in professional baseball and think it's time a sign be placed beside the roads going into Southport, N.C. and the town itself to let the many tourists that come to the town let them know that we are proud of our own, and that we can make it if we work as hard as Quinton McCracken did.

A request for this sign has been made to our state officials, Bill Rabon, Frank Idler, and Susi Hamilton. There will be a petition going around. Please let these people know how you feel by signing this petition. We must not fail our own, White or Black. We must stand together! It makes life easier to move forward! Bernest L. Hewett is President of the Brunswick County Branch of NAACP.

REGISTER!
 THEN VOTE!
 A VOTELESS PEOPLE
 IS A HOPELESS
 PEOPLE!!



This message is brought to you by The Wilmington Journal.

HARLEM GLOBETROTTER MEADOWLARK LEMON, 83, DIES

[WILMINGTON] *The New York Times* called him an "ageless court magician." The world over, he was more commonly known as "the Clown Prince of Basketball" for his almost thirty years playing and performing with the legendary Harlem Globetrotters. Wilmington native Meadowlark Lemon died Sunday at the age of 83 in Scottsdale, Arizona. Lemon was an alumnus of historic Williston Senior High School in the Port City. He dreamed of playing for the Globetrotters as



STATE BRIEFS

a young boy, finally joining the team in 1954 after leaving the Army. It wasn't long before Lemon became a top showman, dazzling audiences the world over with tricks and comic routines that have lived on in the hearts of millions of fans. Lemon was inducted into the Basketball Hall of Fame in 2003 after playing over 16,000 games.

NC POPULATION HITS 10 MILLION

[CHARLOTTE] There can be no doubt that North Carolina has grown steadily in population since the 1970s, with much of that growth in both the Charlotte and Raleigh-Durham urban areas. As a result, according to the US Census, the state's population has now topped 10 million in the past year. The

Tar Heel state remained the ninth most populous in the nation. Experts say North Carolina's population has in fact doubled since the 1970s, thanks to increased and varied job opportunities, excellent weather and good quality of life.

NC TOBACCO FUNDS DIVERTED FROM PREVENTION PROGRAMS

[RALEIGH] Thousands of North Carolinians will make it their New Year's resolution to quit smoking for 2016, but a new report highlights just how little the state is spending to make it easier to kick the habit. Of the 412-million dollars the state collected off tobacco last year, it will spend just over one million on tobacco use prevention and education. According to

the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, 20 percent of adults and 15 percent of high school students in North Carolina smoke.

TORNADO HITS TOWN IN UNION COUNTY

[MONROE] Officials confirm that a tornado touched down Monday near Monroe in Union County causing some structural damage, but thankfully no reports of injuries. The twister touched down just after 5 p.m., causing some structural damage to rooftops and downed trees. Residents say the cleanup effort to clear roads and property is ongoing.

HOLIDAY RETAILERS STAFFED WITH NC TEACHERS

[RALEIGH] North Caro-

lina's teachers answered many of the "help wanted" signs that popped up at stores and businesses this holiday season. The reason, say many, is low teacher pay that doesn't enable them to pay their basic bills. One teacher reported that she has to moonlight at a retail job in order to make ends meet on her salary as a teacher, even with a Master's degree.

TWO SUSPECTS IN ONE-YEAR-OLD CHILD'S DEATH HELD WITHOUT BOND

[CHAPEL HILL] Two of the three suspects charged in the Christmas Day shooting death of a one-year-old Chapel Hill toddler were ordered by a judge to remain in jail without bond. Little Maleah Williams was fatally shot in the head while playing outside her

home on Christmas Day. Orange County authorities initially arrested and charged Shaquille Oneill Davis, 22, with attempted first-degree murder and assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill. Those charges are expected to be upgraded. He remains in the Orange County jail under a \$650,000 bond. The two other suspects subsequently arrested and charged with first-degree murder - Ramone Jamarr Alston, 22, and Pierre Je Bron Moore, 23 - were ordered by a judge this week held in jail without bond. They are expected back in court on Jan. 21st. Neighbors said the child was killed in the drive-by as the suspects were allegedly targeting someone else.

COMPILED BY CASH MICHAELS

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Harvey Williams Calvin Norton Mary Burreis Lillie McKwan

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PONDER
 Continued from Page 1

Colonial Athletic Association Blood Challenge.

"The 2016 Allstate NABC and WBCA Good Works Teams® nominees are truly inspirational and their stories of service are a great example of the impact young people can make by dedicating their time and energy to do good," said Thomas Clarkson, president of the west territory for Allstate Insurance Company and a member of the 2016 NABC and WBCA Good Works Teams® selection panels. "For the fourth year, Allstate is honored to join the NABC and WBCA to recognize these student-athletes for their leadership off the court to help make a difference."

Ponder stands out from his peers for his remarkable community service accomplishments, including reading to children at local elementary schools and assisting with the

The 154 NABC nominees and the 103 WBCA nominees were submitted by sports information directors and college basketball coaches across the country. From the nominations, special voting panels, headlined by former Duke University basketball athlete, two-time NCAA® champion and seven-time NBA All-Star Grant Hill, and former University of Tennessee basketball athlete, NCAA champion and WNBA legend Tamika Catchings, will select two 10-member teams comprised of five student-athletes from the NCAA Division I level and five student-athletes from Divisions II, III and the NAIA. The final roster of 20 award recipients will be unveiled in February.

GOSPEL JOY - The LIGHT
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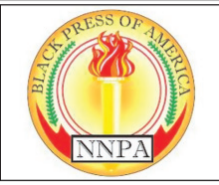
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THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

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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

New Year's resolutions for Black America in 2016

Whenever we begin a new calendar year, it can be useful to make New Year's Resolutions to prioritize and focus for the immediate future. Beyond the traditional litany of making very personal and oftentimes private resolutions at the beginning of a new year, Black America as a whole, I believe, should be vocal and public about our determination to keep pushing forward for freedom, justice, equality and economic empowerment.

What should be our collective goals and strategic objectives over the next 12 months? Recent academic studies by the Dominican University of California on the importance of "goal setting" to overcome individual and social procrastination revealed that writing down your resolutions and sharing your goals with others that you care about will help you work more diligently to achieve those goals.

Every time I pick up and read a Black-owned newspaper in America during this season of annual proclamation, it is always informative to see a written list of New Year Resolutions that challenge Black America to continue strive for excellence and achievement in all fields of endeavor. I am obviously proud of the trusted impact of the Black Press of America. Check us out at www.NNPA.org and www.BlackPressUSA.com.

We have another critical election year coming up in 2016 and the Black American vote will have to be mobilized in every primary election and across the nation next November in elections in every precinct in every state, county by county. Get-Out-The-Vote (GOTV) efforts, therefore, will be a top priority and we must collectively resolve that in 2016 we will ensure the largest voter turnout of Black voters in the history of the United States.

Remember, we had a record voter turnout of Black voters both in 2008 and in 2012. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, "66.2 percent of Blacks who voted in the 2012 presidential election, higher than the 64.1 percent of non-Hispanic Whites who did so... This marks the first time that Blacks have voted at a higher rate than Whites since the Census Bureau started publishing statistics on voting by the eligible citizen population in 1996."

We cannot afford to let the Black vote be taken for granted in 2016.

Politics and economics are inseparable in the United States. Yet, even though Black Americans spend in excess of \$1.2 trillion annually in the nation's economy, that kind of spending volume has not translated into real economic power: increasing the ownership of global businesses and billion-dollar revenue-generating investments. We still have a long way to go to achieve economic equality and parity in America.

We should resolve, therefore, in 2016 to improve and expand the economic development of

Black American families and communities. Although the American economy continues to recover under the Obama Administration, for Black Americans we have not closed the wealth gap. White Americans today have 12 times the wealth of Black Americans. We must without hesitation and without apology be more determined to end poverty and to generate more wealth for Black America. Therefore, we join in complete solidarity with the resolve of the National Association of Real Estate Brokers (NAREB) in the goal of striving to increase Black homeownership in 2016.

We are very encouraged that the 2016 NAACP Image Awards will once again be broadcast on TV One. We all should support Radio One, TV One and Interactive One. We all also should support The Impact Network and other Black-owned media companies as well as the publishers of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA).

Ending mass incarceration, reforming the criminal justice system, and stopping police brutality are related urgent matters that demand the resolve and activist involvement of Black America. Yes, in 2016 our national outcry will continue to be "Black Lives Matter!"

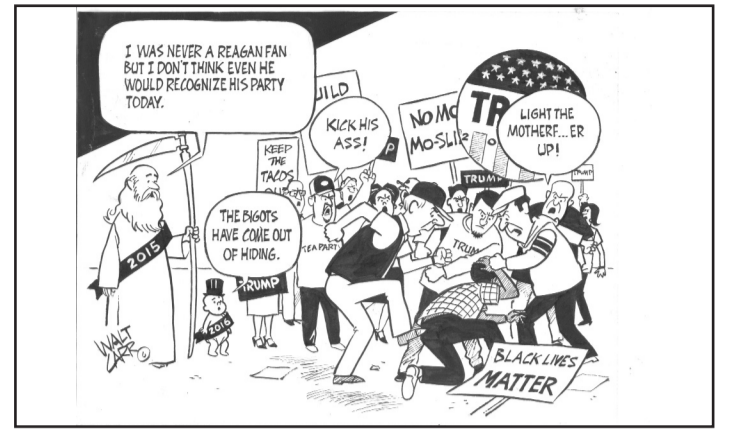
The highest quality education for our children and our young adults requires our vocal support and energetic involvement from pre-school to post graduate higher education. At every level of the educational process and journey we must be vigilant in our demands and commitments to attain the best education for our families.

Thus let's renew and strengthen our dedication to support the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education (NAFEO), the United Negro College Fund (UNCF), and the Thurgood Marshall College Fund (TMCFF) as well as work to sustain all of our Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and predominantly Black institutions (PBIs). Lastly, we are a spiritual people. All African people are spiritual. We resolve lastly to support and strengthen our religiously institutions: churches, temples, mosques and synagogues.

I asked the Chairman of the NNPA, Denise Rolark Barnes, who publishes the Washington Informer for her perspective about 2016 New Year Resolutions. She emphasized resolutely, "In 2016, our first priority should be to commit our lives and our dollars to those individuals and institutions that represent our best interests. Let's strive to be the ones that will make a difference in our own communities. Be mindful that 'If it is to be, it is up to me.'"

Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr. is the President and CEO of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) and can be reached for national advertisement sales and partnership proposals at: dr.bchavis@nnpa.org; and for lectures and other professional consultations at: <http://drbenjaminfchavisjr.com/dr/bfc>.

Visual Voice



Your Voice

I was at a pre-Christmas party last night and...

some folks were talking about plans for having a nice Christmas and going shopping with Christmas only a few hours away. Christmas has become a season for giving and getting gifts. There were those last night who were glad they had joined a Christmas club and talked about how those dollars came in handy to buy more gifts.

Then a woman talked about her not having been working for a while, but was able to get a job over the last three months. She wanted to be able to share in the conversation, but wouldn't. She had only a few dollars in the bank and no other help. She was a Mother of two girls ages six and eight. She would love to buy them the latest Black dolls, but couldn't. She remembered applying for a credit card and because of her credit rating, she was not able to open an account. The credit card system is computer

and information sensitive to the point that if you have what might be "bad credit," insuring your car with certain auto insurers might be denied, getting an apartment as well. The American economy now seems built on credit and not the dollar/gold standard.

As a community, we do not provide early education in our Public Schools as to what credit is and why we should not be so quick to sign for a credit card that may place your future in jeopardy, especially if you plan to attend or are

attending college. We have no business development agencies in our community that teaches our community about what bad credit is and how to avoid it.

The lady at the party received an approved credit card in the mail with a two thousand dollar credit line. She wants to see her children with smiles as they hold their dolls and she begins to think. What do you think?

Haywood Fennell
Boston, MA

Matters of Opinion

Open expressions of racism

The other day a friend of mine, after hearing the latest rants by Presidential candidate Donald Trump, asked whether we are better off with open expressions of racism than having such expressions silenced. I found the question quite interesting and provocative.

It spoke to the nature of race in the contemporary United States and the emergence from the swamp of what one might call reconstructed racism.

It was only in late 2008 - early 2009, that the mainstream media heralded the coming of an alleged post-racial U.S. Yet within a few months of President Obama's election, it was clear for all to see that this was far from the case. The rise of the Birther movement, questioning the citizenship of the President; the arrest of Harvard Professor

Henry Louis Gates; and the uptick in racial terror against those of us of color, all pointed to something very ugly on the scene. It, therefore, did not take very long for us to arrive at a situation where, Islamophobia has become the acceptable means through which Whites can be racists, where political candidates are making the most outrageous and inaccurate arguments about the current status of race in the U.S., and where a Supreme Court Justice seems to feel quite comfortable implying the inferiority of African Americans in academia.

To the question that was posed, I responded that, yes, it is better that there are these open expressions. It is not "better" in the sense that this is the preferable climate. Certainly, we should all wish to exist in an anti-racist environment. But it is better that we know what the actual terrain is in which we are operating lest we fall prey to significant illusions.

What demagogues, such as Trump, have accomplished has been the facilitation of a discussion that was only slightly

beneath the surface. Trump, Cruz and other right-wing provocateurs did not create this situation. The illness was already in the system. It only needed an opportunistic element to unleash it. Trump and the others provided that element. They were willing to be outrageous in their rhetoric. They were willing to say what many (particularly older) White people thought. They have been able to dismiss critics by either bullying them or simply ignoring them.

The underlying illness of racism is integrally linked to the dramatic economic and demographic changes underway in the U.S.A. Trump and other right-wingers have seized on this and played to those fear born of ignorance. They have also played to the fact that too few political leaders are pointing to a positive direction out of this overall crisis.

Yet there is one other aspect to this situation. The fact of the matter is that when Trump and others like former Congresswoman Bachmann, began their rants, some years ago, those who knew better did

not take it seriously. They were allowed to get away with the most provocative language when it came to President Obama, language that was as inaccurate as it was racially incendiary. Yet, most of the mainstream media and mainstream political figures either sat silently or, in some cases, encouraged this dangerous rhetoric.

There is a scene in the famous comedy "Abbott & Costello Meet Frankenstein" where Count Dracula has recreated Frankenstein's monster, with the help of a corrupt scientist. At a certain point, the monster awakens and goes berserk. The corrupt scientist believes that she can stop the monster only to be thrown out a window by that creature.

To the mainstream media and the Republican Party leadership I have an announcement: the monster has been unleashed. Watch out for windows.

Bill Fletcher, Jr. is the host of *The Global African on Telescreen-English*. Follow him on Twitter, Facebook and at www.bill-fletcherjr.com.

TO BE EQUAL

(George Curry Media)

"Facing the rising sun of our new day begun, Let us march on till victory is won."
- James Weldon Johnson, "Lift Ev'ry Voice And Sing."

The 2016 presidential election still is more than 10 months off, but already it promises to serve as a referendum on social justice and racial reconciliation, in a year when national attitudes are changing faster than ever - and not always for the better.

Pending U.S. Supreme Court decisions and legislation before Congress, 2016 will profoundly impact racial consideration in college admissions, voting rights, collective bargaining and criminal justice reform.

The Court's decision on Fisher v. University of Texas, brought by a White woman who claimed she was denied admission to UT because of her race, could put an end to efforts by educational institutions to ensure diversity among their student bodies.

The Constitutional principle of "one person, one vote," established in 1964 in Reynolds v.

What will 2016 usher in?

Simms, could be undercut by the court's decision on Evenwel v. Abbot. In Reynolds, the court determined that legislative districts, both state and federal, must contain roughly equal numbers of people, guaranteeing fair representation.

The plaintiff in Evenwel claims that "one person, one vote" refers only to the total voting population. That would mean that urban districts, which contain more children, immigrants and other disenfranchised persons, would be dramatically underrepresented while suburban and rural populations would be grossly overrepresented.

The rights of public-sector unions are at risk in Friedrichs v. California Teachers Association. Under current law, unions may collect dues from non-members for collective bargaining but not political activity. Friedrichs argues that even collective bargaining activities, from which non-members benefit, are political so non-members shouldn't have to contribute. Public-sector unions have been a driving force in bringing African-American workers into the middle class; Friedrichs could turn back the clock on that progress.

Congress has an opportunity in 2016 to correct one of the most egregious blows to voting rights in the 20th century. The Supreme Court's 2013 decision in Shelby County v. Holder gut-

ted a key provision of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Jurisdictions with a history of discriminatory voting practices no longer would be required to seek preclearance with the U.S. Justice Department or a federal judge before making changes to voting laws. Immediately following the Shelby decisions, states rushed to enact voter suppression laws targeting people of color, students and senior citizens. The bipartisan Voting Rights Amendment Act would restore preclearance and safeguard the rights of vulnerable citizens whose voices are being silenced.

Heading into 2016, the national outcry against police brutality seems to be reaping results, with officers in Chicago, North Charleston, S.C., Baltimore and elsewhere at last facing criminal charges for apparently racially-motivated violence against people of color. This could be the year for a full turnaround if the National Urban League's 10-Point Justice Plan is adopted. Congress should enact a national comprehensive anti-racial profiling law, mandate uniform FBI reporting and audits of all lethal force incidents involving law enforcement, and create incentives for police departments to use body and dashboard cameras, review and revise deadly force policies and tighten hiring standards.

Perhaps most importantly, the economic recovery from the Great Recession has left many urban communities behind. The overall Black unemployment rate remains twice the rate for Whites, with rates as high as 25 percent for young Black men. Many people working even two or three jobs can't make ends meet because of dismally low wages. Several presidential candidates have promised, if elected, to pursue a national minimum wage hike, which would be a significant step toward reducing poverty.

Tired pledges to slash taxes on the wealthy, which we're hearing from many of the candidates, will do nothing to create jobs. Congress has an opportunity to create thousands of jobs and revitalize the national economy by enacting a surface transportation bill that guarantees employment for workers in low- and moderate-income communities and ensures access to contracts for minority businesses.

As our nation grows more diverse year by year, the social structures of the past are challenged. We in the National Urban League Movement will continue to be at the forefront of those challenges, and we pray for guidance as we rise to meet them in the coming year.

Marc H. Morial, former mayor of New Orleans, is president and CEO of the National Urban League.

New Hanover County

Narconon reminds families that abuse of addictive pharmaceutical drugs is on the rise. Learn to recognize the signs of drug abuse and get your loved ones help if they are at risk. Call Narconon for a free brochure on the signs of addiction for all types of drugs. Narconon also offers free screenings and referrals. 800-431-1754 or Prescription-abuse.org. Narconon can help you take steps to overcome addiction in your family. Call today for free screenings or referrals. 800-431-1754.

Community Briefs

The New Hanover County Lupus Foundation Support Group meets on the third Tuesday of each month from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00pm in Classroom D, Service Level, NHRMC. There is no charge to attend the meeting, and drop-ins are welcome. Contact the LFANC at info@lupusnc.org or at 877-849-8271, ext. 1. For more information, visit www.lupusnc.org. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 19, 2016.

The Wilmington Prostate Cancer Support Group meets at 6:00 p.m. the first Thursday monthly in the SEAHEC Auditorium at New Hanover Regional Medical Center, 17th Street, Wilmington, NC. Invited are men--and their partners--who are newly diagnosed and researching treatments, those previously treated, those who are experiencing a recurrence, and those who are undergoing advanced treatment for prostate cancer. Support is available from those previously treated and formal programs and literature supply information about all stages of prostate cancer and recovery.

The Wilmington Symphony Orchestra will hold auditions for new members on Monday, January 11, 2016 at the UNCW Cultural Arts Building. Times by appointment. Interested musicians must schedule an audition time by emailing the WSO Orchestra Manager, Shirley Lebo at orchestramgr@wilmingtonsymphony.org. Applications and required audition music are available at www.wilmingtonsymphony.org, or by calling the symphony office at 910-791-9262.

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

Compiled By Wilmington Journal Staff



Act 1

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HOMETOWN NEWS FROM BRUNSWICK COUNTY

I will always help you

The New Year is again upon us, and we are in the midst of another winter season. Even though this has been an usually warm winter so far, there is still the chance of



Verniece Stanley

some very cold weather. Often I see homeless people pushing shopping carts loaded with dirty clothes and other such items. This happens, not only in Brunswick County, but in several other counties also. I live in Brunswick County, but there is no reason why I cannot help those in other counties. Some of the homeless are senior citizens, some who may have helped found the communities in which they live.

I have read a collection of up-to-date materials on the homeless and shelters provided for them in the cold winter season. Because this has, up to now, been the warmest

winter for a great many years, there has been a drop in the sale of winter apparel. Another reason for this may be that people's incomes have not been what they hoped would be.

When we take a look at the National Museum of African American History, we soon see that many of our African American contributions have been practically forgotten. Much of our history that dates back to slavery has been forgotten. For instance, we've all but forgotten the first Black astronaut to venture into outer space or the first African American to win the Nobel Prize. We don't remember the first African American to be elected to Congress. How about the first African American major feature film director? How soon will future generations forget even the first African American President of the United States?

We are active and useful citizens of the United States, and this is known all over this Nation. Yet, despite the central role we have played in

shaping this Nation's history from its earliest beginnings, there are those people who would, if they could, take Blacks back to slavery.

Crisis magazine, back in January 1916, published an account of a Black teacher's receiving a racially charged note. "Mr. Bell, a colored teacher in one of the city schools in New Orleans recently received the following note: 'Say, Nigger you must move at once or we will burn you out. Tired having niggers acting like white people, living in fine homes and singing and playing the piano. Last warning. Give you one month to move out. Move across the street in those small houses suited for niggers.'

"Com. of White Men"

Afterward, Mr. Bell's house 'caught fire.'"

We must continue our strong relationship with the NAACP. We can identify needs in areas of economic development, and progress in ridding our system of political and social injustice. We can help care for low income

families. We can push for better healthcare services for the aged and the poor. While the wealthy are spending great amounts of money, running for specific political offices, I hope we won't forget the less fortunate.

No, the winter is not yet over. We still have a long way to go in helping others. We can help them! Let's not harm them!

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.

SOC holds "Emancipation Day"



Lenda Hankins (L) and Beatrice Flythe direct the SOC Youth Choir while Corbett Hankins provides the music.

BY WILLIAM FLYTHE
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Save Our Community (SOC) Organization of Southport held its twenty fourth annual Emancipation Day Program at Brown's Chapel AMEZ Church on December 26th. Norman Jones, master of ceremonies, opened the program by asking the audience to sing "Lift Every Voice and Sing". Bishop Brown (First Baptist) read the Scripture (Exodus 3:7-12). Tyana Swain (Friendship Baptist) prayed, and Josh White, Jr. (Brown's Chapel) gave the welcome. Alexandria Moore (St. James)

reviewed the five original objectives of the organization. She noted that SOC has concentrated in recent years on three objectives by sponsoring the Emancipation Proclamation Program in January, the Student Recognition Program in June, and a Bible Quiz Bowl in September.

Youth representatives from five local churches--Joshua Carter, Deanna Simpson, Bryan Hankins, Alexandria Moore, and Aljean Cromartie--presented information on such prominent African Americans as Jackie Robinson (baseball pioneer), Martin Luther King, Jr. (civil rights activist), Jenny Lee (religious activist), Booker T. Washington (educator), and members of the Underground Railway.

The inspirational speaker was Kenneth White, Jr., a 2011 honor graduate of South Brunswick High School and a 2015 honor graduate (Magna



Former SOC Students-of-the-Year and cousins Gary, DeShondra, Yasmine, and Yolandapose with Kenneth White, Jr.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS
Reverend Avery McAllister, Kenneth White, Jr. and Kenneth White, Sr.

Cum Laude in Biology) of Livingstone College. It was noted in the introduction by Regina Alexander that he was Mr. Livingstone in 2014-15 as well as a Division II All-American in football. Kenneth mentioned three important factors in becoming successful in life: Faith, Drive, and Education. He quoted New Testament scripture, encouraged students to fight for their principles and also advised them to get a col-

lege education.

Musical selections were presented throughout the program by the SOC Youth Choir under the direction of Mrs. Lenda Hankins and Corbett Hankins. Deacon William Flythe, SOC President, appealed to middle and high school students to join ROCAME and other STEM groups. Rev. Avery McAllister, host Pastor, closed the program with remarks and the benediction.

"Faithful Families Eating Smart and Moving More" classes offered in Southport

Do you wish your family ate more home cooked meals together at the dinner table? Come join us for "Faithful Families" - a free nine-week series where you will learn how to cook and eat healthy and enjoy more meals with the whole family.

Eating dinner at home with your family is good for the body and the soul. Studies have shown that eating dinner at home has been linked to higher achievement in school-aged students, less anxiety and depression, lower rates of violence and drug abuse, and increased self-esteem. Kids feel more connected to parents and have an easier time talking with them about issues or challenges they may be facing. When we cook and eat

dinner at home we also tend to eat a more balanced meal and consume fewer fried, fatty foods and soft drinks, leading to a lower risk of overweight and obesity.

According to Purdue University, about eighty percent of families value mealtime together but only about thirty-three percent successfully achieve daily family meals. Cooking at home can be simple and inexpensive. This series will help you learn basic techniques related to planning, shopping, saving, cooking, and enjoying dinnertime with your family.

The whole family is invited to attend the classes every Wednesday from 6:30pm-7:30pm starting on January 27, 2016 and ending on March 23, 2016 at Shoreline Baptist

Church in Southport. For more information or to pre-register for this free class call Morgan McKnight at 910-253-2610. In addition to the topics covered, each week will include a free cookbook and a cooking demonstration using recipes from the cookbook. Make one of your New Year's Resolutions to bring your family to the dinner table starting this January.

North Carolina State University and North Carolina A&T State University commit themselves to positive action to secure equal opportunity regardless of race, color, creed, national origin, religion, sex, age, or disability. In addition, the two Universities welcome all persons without regard to sexual orientation.

2016 HBCU EXPERIENCE

HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY COLLEGE FAIR AND BATTLE OF THE BANDS

SUNDAY JANUARY 17TH, 2016

FEATURING: WINSTON SALEM STATE UNIVERSITY "RED SEA OF SOUND" VS. ELIZABETH CITY STATE UNIVERSITY "SOUND OF CLASS"

HEAD TO HEAD DRUMLINE BATTLE: NORTH CAROLINA CENTRAL UNIVERSITY VS NORTH CAROLINA A&T STATE UNIVERSITY DRUMLINES

COLLEGE FAIR AND VENDORS: 1:00-3:00

BATTLE OF THE BANDS BEGINS AT 4:00 PM






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Mr. Howard E. Poole, Jr.

Howard Ernest Poole Jr. was born in Detroit, Michigan on July 28, 1950 to the late Howard and Queen Esther Poole. He departed this life on Friday, December 11, 2015. Howard E. Poole Jr. funeral was held Saturday, December 19, 2015 at 11:00 am at a graveside service at Calvary Memorial Cemetery in Wilmington, NC.

He graduated from David Mackenzie High School in Detroit and Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte, North Carolina. While employed at General Electric he continued educational training as a machinist at Cape Fear Community College.

Howard served his country with honor and valor as a corpsman in the U.S. Navy.

His love for humanity was outstanding. His ability to communicate and serve his fellowman in the community was always with compassion and the utmost concern. During the Christmas season he looked forward to working as a bell ringer for the Salvation Army.

Howard was a proud member of Groove Phi Groove Social Fellowship.

In addition to his parents, Howard was preceded in death by his brothers Howard McFarlin and Kenneth Poole.

He is survived by his son Aaron Poole of Wilmington, NC; two daughters Monica Stribling of Whiteville, NC and Tamiaka Johnson (Johnny) of Wilmington, NC; one brother Sheldon Poole (Aletha) of Laurinburg, NC; two sisters Debra Meriweather of Detroit, MI and Karen Garner of Wilmington, NC; seven grandchildren and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and many loving and devoted friends. Arrangements by Adkins-Drain Funeral Service, 515 South Eighth Street, Wilmington, North Carolina 28401. Condolences may be shared at www.adkinsdrainfuneralservice.com.

Mrs. Hattie Graham Brown

Hattie Graham Brown was born September 7, 1921 in East Arcadia, North Carolina to the late Mary Lizzie and Isaac Graham. God ended her agony and carried her to a heavenly home on Thursday, December 10, 2015. Hattie G. Brown funeral was held Thursday, December 17, 2015 at 1:00 pm at Pleasant Union Missionary Baptist Church in East Arcadia Community, Riegelwood, NC.

She attended school in the Bladen County school system. She joined Pleasant Union Missionary Baptist Church at an early age and remarried a lifelong member. She was kind, loving and very family oriented. Before her health declined,

she enjoyed fishing, making quilts and listening to gospel music.

Hattie was united in holy matrimony to Isaih Brown and was blessed with six children. Hattie was preceded in death by three of them; Ethel, Lena Bell and Odell. She leaves to mourn her loss, but always to cherish her memory, one son, Zettie Brown (Janet) of East Arcadia, NC; two daughters, Ruby Glover (William) of Philadelphia, PA and Gwendolyn Ellerbe (Martin) of Virginia; one daughter-in-law, Cynthia Brown of East Arcadia, NC; two special grandchildren she reared, Fredrick (Frosty) (Ree) Brown and Queenyonia Monk of Wilmington, NC; one brother, James A. Graham of East Arcadia, NC; three sisters, Adele Smith, Minnie Lacewell and Estella Graham; numerous grandchildren, great grandchildren, great-great grandchildren, nieces, nephews, a special friend, Kit Miller, other relatives and friends.

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

Acknowledgements

The Beryl Constance O'Dell family gratefully acknowledges all acts of love, kindness, compassion and sympathy during this time of bereavement. It is the caring and sharing by each one that will keep us sustained and give us comfort.

Lucienne O'Dell Cables, Daughter
Leslie W. O'Dell, Son

In Loving Memory Of



Carrie M. Evans "Muh"
Sunrise: October 14, 1925
Sunset: December 30, 2008

And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes and there shall be no more death, neither shall there be any more pain: For the former things are passed away. Seven years you have been with your heavenly father, continue to Rest In Heaven (RIH).

Love you,
Your children,
grandchildren, great
grands, great great
grands, sister, brothers, nieces,
nephew, etc.

CASH IN APPLE

In some ways, I truly wish 2015 was just one great big commode that we could just push the lever, and watch all of the bad stuff get flushed down where it belongs. But unfortunately,



Cash Michaels

a lot of the stuff that made us just darn disgusted in 2015 is going to follow us into 2016. Which means we have to display the patience of Job in how we live our lives going forward, because a lot of crazy stuff is going to test us, over and over and over again.

Look at the kind of stories we've had to report about this year. Internationally, the growing war with ISIS; the Paris terrorist attack, the nuclear agreement with Iran. Nationally, domestic terrorism in San Bernardino and Charleston; police shootings of civilians and shootings of police officers; the evolution of the Black Lives Matters movement, and obviously the presidential elections and the historic visit by the Pope (which was a good thing).

Here in North Carolina, the disrespectful way Republican lawmakers treated Gov. Pat McCrory; new leadership at the state Democratic and Republican parties, growing scandal in the McCrory administration, 42 murders in Durham; and of course, the 2016 gubernatorial and legislative elections gearing up.

Of course there's so much more that happened on all fronts, but bottomline is like it or not, we can all only go forward, and look back only to learn from the lessons of the past. Lord knows that if 2015 proves to only be the setup, then 2016 will be the big punch. In a way I hope not. Our nation is divided seemingly beyond repair. Citizens are distrustful of leadership. Racism seems to have proudly taken its place on the throne of being as American as apple pie. Religious bigotry is at an all time high. Our children are not pleased with the world that we built for them, and have little to no optimism about their future.

And let's not forget that deceptive, weak-minded, non-principled and just plain sick people still walk this earth causing havoc in everyone's life.

These are just some of the many, many things that we have to devote ourselves to turning around if there is to be a promising future for all of us. Obviously, none of this is possible without a strong and committed belief in GOD, for without Him, there can be no hope of anything good.

So that is our challenge in the coming new year, to turn

GOODBYE, 2015

this nation around before it is too late for ourselves and our children.

Because if we don't, or we can't, we have no one to blame but ourselves.

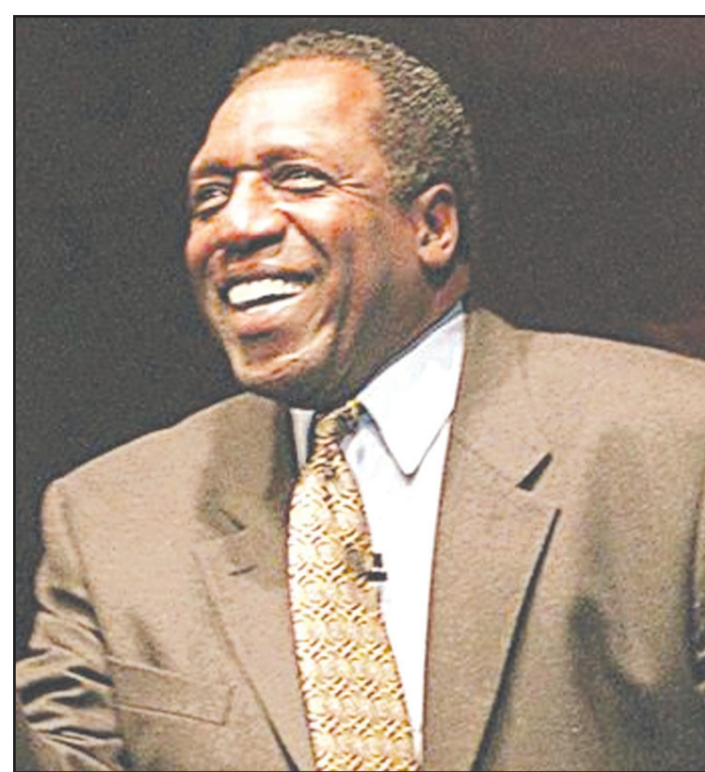
GOODBYE, MEADOWLARK

He was one of the talented graduates of the old Williston Senior High School in Wilmington, and grew up to be one of the most beloved entertainers in the world. Meadowlark Lemon of the Harlem Globetrotters, the "clown prince of basketball," died earlier this week at age 83.

Lemon was enshrined in the Basketball Hall of Fame after his fabled career with the Globetrotters. He had a light and playfulness about him that made everyone laugh - young and old - the world over. Whether folks knew how to speak English or not, they understand Meadowlark's boundless humor, and incredible skill with the basketball as he performed impossible tricks with ease, including his dead-eye hook shot that never missed.

The great Wilt Chamberlain, who once played with the Globetrotters, said that Meadowlark was the greatest basketball player he'd ever seen. Without a doubt, in the history of the game, his name will always put a smile on the faces of folks who hear it. Goodbye, Meadowlark, and thank you for the good times.

"THE FORCE AWAKENS" THE BOX OFFICE - The last time I wrote anything about the new J.J. Abrams film, "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" it was just before it opened to tremendous reviews and box office. Without a doubt it is one of the best films of 2015 (yes, I took the family to see it two days after it opened), and certainly sets the stage for the sequel, which actually goes



MEADOWLARK LEMON

before cameras in just a few weeks in January.

"The Force Awakens" has already made the history books, earning over \$1 billion worldwide in just twelve days, outpacing "Jurassic World" which pulled that trick in more timer back in the spring. The second in the three-part trilogy will debut in May 2017, so hang on. Hopefully the folks at Disney won't screw it up after such a great start.

HAPPY NEW YEAR, 2016 - We hope that you and your family have a safe, joyous and prosperous new year. Lord knows the one thing it won't be is boring, especially with the presidential elections going strong. Hopefully our nation will make the proper electoral choices, putting what's best for all Americans first.

But just in case we pick up that that might not indeed be the case, please be ready get all of your properly regis-

tered friends and relatives and vote strong. We have got to turn this nation around from the perilous direction that it is going.

"Make It Happen" on Power 750 WAUG-AM, or online at www.waug-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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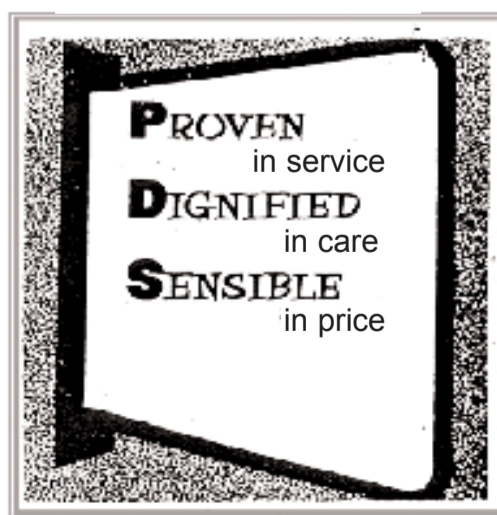
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