

THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

News from the African American perspective without fear or favor

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SEPTEMBER 24-SEPTEMBER 30, 2015

FIFTY CENTS



St. Luke
AME Zion Church
Corner of 7th and
Church streets

TOWN HALL MEETING

The Local Organizing Committee (L.O.C.) for the 20th Anniversary of the Million Man March - Justice or Else!

10.10.15 will host a Town Hall Meeting on Thursday, October 1, at St. Luke A.M.E. Zion Church. A reception will be held at 6:00 p.m. Meeting begins promptly at 6:30. Come to your Town Hall Community meeting and engage in this important panel discussion regarding our community. Panelists include Pastor Jermaine Armour of St. Luke AME Church, Sister Sonya Amenrah of Black Lives Matter and NCBL, Pastor Henry Gregory of St. Andrew AME Church, Pastor Marie Griffin of Vision Center Baptist Church, Brother Kevin Spears of Peace 4 The Port, Brother Sharod who is a youth leader, Minister Tyrone Muhammad of the National of Islam, and Captain Donnie Williams of WPD

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BRUNSWICK COUNTY UPDATE



BERNEST HEWETT

FREEDOM UNDER FIRE!

BY BERNEST HEWETT
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Brunswick County, I find that the cause of freedom is still under fire! We think, or thought, that we were moving ahead with the movement of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and others and that our rights, equality, and justice for all were here. However, we had a rude awakening that came with the news of a certain police chief's sending out the kind of hate language and lies that he put on social media and the number of whites who came out to support him and his views. They even contacted the television stations and newspapers and stated their agreement with the hatred and racist views. This police chief

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NEW STATE BUDGET FURTHER PUNISHES THOSE IN POVERTY

BY TAZRA MITCHELL
OF THE NC BUDGET &
TAX CENTER

[Editor's note - this analysis, written by Tazra Mitchell, a policy analyst with the NC Budget & Tax Center in Raleigh, was released just as the NC General Assembly was in the process of ratifying its 2016 fiscal year state budget, and right before NC Gov. Pat McCrory signed it into law the following day.]

Nearly 1.7 million North Carolinians struggled to make ends meet in 2014, according to new data released today from the Census Bureau, highlighting the need for a state budget that builds a stronger

foundation of economic opportunity and addresses the uneven nature of recovery across the state.

Instead, it appears legislative leaders will pass and the Governor will sign a budget that pursues deep tax cuts, making it impossible to adequately invest in poverty-busting programs that would make it easier for people to build a secure future.

One in 5 North Carolinians struggled to afford basic necessities in 2014, living on less than \$24,000 a year for a family of four. One in 4 North Carolina kids are growing up

in families that can't give them a good start to life because they make so little. Although there were small improvements between 2013 and 2014, the number of people struggling to pay the bills remains too high, and is holding back our economy and hampering Tar Heel kids' futures.

The legislative leadership's proposal to further cut income taxes that primarily benefit the wealthy and profitable corporations, while also expanding the sales tax to new services, would close the doors of opportunity. The tax plan will cause taxes to slightly go up, on average, for many people living in poverty, while blocking pathways to greater economic success like public

schools-without boosting the economy or creating jobs.

Instead of making adequate targeted investments that will reduce poverty and build a stronger economy for all, policymakers are using the tax system and the state budget to bulldoze the infrastructure of opportunity.

The new Census data shows North Carolina's off-kilter economy and policymakers' decisions to cut back on vital supports for working families are keeping poverty high, wages stagnant, and income inequality widespread.

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POVERTY/Page 3



FREDDIE ALLEN/NNPA NEWS WIRE/FILE PHOTO
PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA DELIVERED THE KEYNOTE ADDRESS DURING THE 45TH ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE (ALC) PHOENIX AWARDS DINNER IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

Obama lauds Black women

BY FREDDIE ALLEN
NNPA SENIOR WASHINGTON
CORRESPONDENT

WASHINGTON (NNPA) - During his speech at the 45th Annual Legislative Conference (ALC) Phoenix Awards Dinner, President Barack Obama celebrated the critical role that Black women have played in "every great movement in American history" and pledged to address challenges they face in the workplace and in the criminal justice system.

The Annual Legislative Conference (ALC) of the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation focuses on issues affecting the Black community, domestically and abroad, and included policy forums on health, education, economic empowerment, Blacks in media and the criminal justice system.

In his speech, Obama touted national economic success following the Great Recession in the United States and the millions of people who gained access to health care through the Affordable Care Act. He also noted that

none of it would have been possible without, "CBC taking tough votes when it mattered most." Obama explained, "Whatever I've accomplished, the CBC has been there."

During this year's ALC Phoenix Awards Dinner, the foundation honored Fred Gray, the first civil rights attorney for Rosa Parks; Rev. William Barber, II, the president of the North Carolina State Conference of the NAACP; Juanita Abernathy, civil rights activist and wife of the late Ralph Abernathy and the late Amelia Boynton Robinson, who has been hailed as the "Rosa Parks" of the Selma, Ala. voting movement.

President Obama praised the leadership of Black women displayed during the Civil Rights Movement, even though their contributions were often marginalized.

"Women were the foot soldiers. Women strategized boycotts. Women organized marches. Even if they weren't allowed to run the civil rights organizations on paper, behind the scenes they were the thinkers and the

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CONGRESSWOMAN
MAXINE WATERS

Waters wants to get rid of mandatory minimums

BY LINDA POULSON
OF THE AFRO-AMERICAN
NEWSPAPER

Mandatory minimum sentencing is an out-of-touch, unfair mechanism in the criminal justice system that disproportionately affects people of color, U.S. Rep. Maxine Waters (D-Calif.) argued during a forum titled "Mandatory Minimums: New Opportunities for Criminal Justice Reform" at the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's 45th Annual Legislative Conference on Sept. 17. "Judges and others deserve the opportunity to look at each individual and their case, understand something about them, and make the decision based on the facts that have been presented to them," Waters said. "There should be no 'cookie cutter' in justice, ...when you have to look in the book and be 'OK, and this is what we're going to do.' If you can do that you don't need a judge."

Waters was assisted by attorney, author

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Hidden toxins contaminate Black homes

BY JAZELLE HUNT
NNPA WASHINGTON
CORRESPONDENT

(NNPA) - Consumers aren't looking for health problems when they shop at dollar stores or keep older furniture, but a cocktail of chemicals seeping from these items offer exactly that.

From lead and mercury to fire-resistant chemicals, these substances have been generously mixed into the manufacturing process for decades, contributing to a host of illnesses, disorders, and public health issues. And

according to small-sample studies from Duke University, University of California-Berkeley, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Black and Latino children are born with, and/or later absorb, twice the level of blood contamination as White children.

Scientists aren't sure why. "What we have seen is there's a higher incidence of learning disabilities with lead, and that's already been proven," said José Bravo, executive director of Just Transition Alliance, a labor and environmental activist

group. "African Americans and Latinos bear the brunt of the effects of lead. So when you hide it in products in the dollar store...we are concerned, because we know dollar stores target our communities."

Based in San Diego, Calif., Bravo also serves as the national coordinator for the Campaign for Healthy Solutions, an effort to encourage discount stores to adopt safe products and practices. This year, the group issued a

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ARTIFICIAL CHRISTMAS TREES ARE ONE OF MANY HOUSEHOLD ITEMS THAT CONTAIN TOXIC FLAME RETARDANT CHEMICALS.

THE WILMINGTON
JOURNAL

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BRUNSWICK

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views Black people who bring attention to unjust bills and laws and ill treatment of the elderly, poor, Blacks, Hispanics, etc. by elected officials and others with evil intentions, such as police officers who would rather commit a crime than prevent one, as terrorists. They call Rev. William Barber, Rev. Al Sharpton, and other leaders of the "Black Lives Matter" movement as ter-

TOXINS

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report on dollar store health hazards, in which they tested discount products purchased across California, Kentucky, Maine, New Mexico, Texas, and West Virginia, from the nation's four largest dollar store chains (Dollar General, Dollar Tree, Family Dollar, and 99 Cents Only).

Of the 164 items tested, 81 percent had at least one toxin at levels above the informal but widely accepted norm. These toxins - which include lead, polyvinyl chloride (also known as PVC plastic, or vinyl), and phthalates - are used to protect the product from wear-and-tear, or maintain its colors or textures over time. But these substances have been linked to immunity and hormonal disorders, infertility, cancer, learning disabilities in children, and more. Further, the toxins can pass from mother to infant via breast milk and the umbilical cord.

Furniture can also be a hazard.

In 1975, California became the first state to require flame retardant chemicals in all furniture sold there. Because the state is such a large market, manufacturers made their entire inventory compliant

with the standard. For decades, fire safety compliance included a flame retardant chemical bath for furniture foam, stuffing, and cushions.

The requirement was made optional in 2013. Furniture must now bear tags that say "TB117" - meaning, there are almost certainly flame retardants in the foam - or "TB117-2013" plus an explicit statement confirming or denying the agents.

These agents are known carcinogens and toxins. Today, they can be found in everything from carpets to clothing, cribs and Christmas decorations.

"The goal of the flame retardants is to give you a little bit of extra time [in a fire]," said Eve Gartner, a New York-based staff attorney for nonprofit environmental justice/advocacy organization, Earthjustice. "The California standard...required that the foam part of the furniture could withstand a small open flame for 10 seconds before your chair goes up in flames. But studies showed [the chemicals] don't really give you that extra time."

Ironically, flame retardants can make a fire more dangerous.

"We recognize that this is a non-fire issue, but when you do have the fire it becomes a much more risky environment," said Lloyd Ayers, executive director

of the International Association of Professional Black Firefighters. "The added [chemical and lead] content in smoke is dangerous to those firefighters, who have to crawl those long halls to make sure that they can put the fire out and save lives and save property. It's a double-whammy for us in the fire service."

Regulations and restrictions for these chemicals have been random and unsystematic. The national standard - the Toxic Substances Control Act - is incomplete in its chemical listing and lacks enforcement power: Some products (such as mattresses) have their own industry fire standards, and a few states have rules on which chemicals are allowed, in which products, and in what amounts. Often though, chemical companies and manufacturers dodge these regulations by substituting lesser-known, equally harmful substances.

During the spring, Earthjustice and a coalition of organizations sent a petition to the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) seeking a ban on all children's products, furniture, mattresses, and electronics that contain any flame retardant chemically classified as an organohalogen.

Garter explained, "The [Environmental Protection Agency] is charged with regu-

lating the chemicals themselves, but the CPSC has authority over the products. These chemicals migrate out of the product...the toxic gasses attach to house dust, to the air, into the body, they get into water and get washed out to rivers. They don't serve any real benefit."

Last winter Bravo's coalition sent a letter to Dollar General, Dollar Tree, Family Dollar, and 99 Cents Only corporate offices requesting a meeting to discuss these issues. They have not received a response.

"If I talk to people generally, in the street, and I ask them the question, 'Do you feel you are safe from chemicals?' a large response would be, yeah, that's what the government does," Bravo said. "But the reality's different. People have to start getting violently sick and dying, and then the government says, 'oh, we'll take this off the market, it's causing deaths.'"

The best way for consumers to protect themselves is to discard and/or replace harmful items. But low-income consumers can rarely afford to do this, or purchase safer items at higher cost.

"We rarely look at the tags, just the aesthetics, and then purchase. But go to the side, or go to the rear, and look at that tag," Ayers emphasized. "You

can also ask the salesperson, where did this come from? Is my family safe? Does this have flame retardants? Be aware of what you purchase."

Bravo echoes that advice. "People have to be picky - not everything in the 99 cents store is healthy. Usually, your intuition will tell you," he said. "If it smells really bad, or plastic, you might not want to purchase that for your family. With jewelry... take a piece of white paper and rub [the jewelry] on the paper. If it leaves a mark, don't buy it - it probably contains lead."

He also recommended checking consumer protection agency websites for banned and recalled items, and notifying store managers about the things they stock.

Ayers added that people should contact local, state, and national elected officials to put this issue on their radars. The CPSC is also accepting public comments on the Earthjustice petition through October 19.

"If I could add one thing, it would be to encourage our citizens to become advocates for their safety as well," he stated. "We don't know how long it will take to get this out of the environment. It's here already. So right now, we're fighting a battle...to turn this around."

OBAMA

Continued from Page 1

doers making things happen each and every day doing the work that nobody else wanted to do," President Obama said. "They couldn't prophesize from the pulpits, but they led the charge from the pews. They were no strangers to violence. They were on the front lines.

"Because all of us are beneficiaries of a long line of strong Black women who helped carry this country forward. Their work to expand civil rights opened the doors of opportunity, not just for African Americans but for all women, for all of us - Black and White, Latino and Asian, LGBT and straight, for our First Americans and our newest Americans," Obama said. "And their contributions in every field - as scientists and entrepreneurs, educators, explorers - all made us stronger."

Obama added: "The good news is, despite structural barriers of race and gender, women and girls of color have made real progress in recent years. The number of Black women-owned businesses has skyrocketed. Teen pregnancy rates among girls of color are down, while high school and four-year college graduation rates are up."

According to a 2014 report on women of color and entrepreneurship by the Center for American Progress, a Washington, D.C.-based think tank, business ownership for Black women grew nearly 260 percent between 1997 and 2013.

Despite the success Black women have enjoyed in entrepreneurship and higher graduation rates in recent years, they still have a long way to go to achieve equity in the workplace.

rorists because they only ask for justice and equality for all people.

I wonder what their intentions are and what part they play in a free world! Maybe this ex-police chief and his supporters don't want to live in a free society, Maybe they need to move to a country where there is no freedom or justice for the people or by the people.

If a person's mind is controlled by hate, with no excuse why, he or she is a threat to society. There is a need for more NAACP

President Obama lamented the pay disparities between men and women and lack of management opportunities for Black women.

"It is an affront to the very idea of America when certain segments of our population don't have access to the same opportunities as everybody else. It makes a mockery of our economy when Black women make 30 fewer cents for every dollar a White man earns," said Obama. "That adds up to thousands of dollars in missed income that determines whether a family can pay for a home, or pay for college for their kids, or save for retirement, or give their kids a better life. And that's not just a woman's issue, that's everybody's issue."

President Obama also said that he would continue to push for a higher minimum wage, to expand paid leave for employees of federal contractors and increase tax credits that help working families.

"It's good for our economy. It's the right thing to do," said President Obama. "No family should have to choose between taking care of a sick child or losing their job."

The president urged the audience not to forget the impact that the criminal justice system has on women, especially Black women who are incarcerated at twice the rate of their White counterparts.

"Many women in prison, you come to discover, have been victims of homelessness and domestic violence, and in some cases human trafficking," Obama said. "And many have been sexually assaulted, both before they got to prison and then after they go to prison. And we don't often talk about how society treats Black women and girls before they end up in prison. They're suspended at higher rates than

work, more Black Caucus work. White people, Black people, Hispanics, join the NAACP and show your mindset against this unjust movement which is taking society backwards. We must move forward and not backward. Freedom has not been cheap, and blood has paved the way! We cannot turn around! Our foreparents' blood and pride were taken from them for freedom! Don't let it be in vain!

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

White boys and all other girls."

President Obama said that he was confident that lawmakers could move forward to reform the criminal justice system and he pledged to work with the CBC and the rest of Congress on legislation that addresses "unjust sentencing laws," encourages diversion and crime

prevention programs, and supports returning citizens.

"We've got good people on both sides of the aisle that are working with law enforcement and local communities to find a better way forward," President Obama said. "And as always, change will not happen overnight. It won't be easy."

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NCDOT TO HOLD PUBLIC MEETING SEPTEMBER 29 FOR THE PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS FOR THE U.S. 74 (EASTWOOD ROAD) / S.R. 1409 (MILITARY CUTOFF ROAD) INTERSECTION LOCATED IN WILMINGTON

The N. C. Department of Transportation will hold a public meeting in September regarding the proposed project to improve the U.S. 74 (Eastwood Road) / S.R. 1409 (Military Cutoff Road) intersection located in Wilmington, New Hanover County.

The meeting will take place on **Tuesday September 29 at St. Andrews Episcopal Church** located at **101 Airlie Rd** in Wilmington from **4 p.m. to 7 p.m.** Interested citizens may attend at any time during the meeting hours. NCDOT representatives will be available to answer questions and listen to comments regarding the project. Please note that no formal presentation will be made. Citizens will also have the opportunity to submit comments and questions in writing. Comments received will be taken into consideration as the project progresses.

The public can view maps displaying the location and possible design concepts for the project at the meeting and as they become available online at <http://www.ncdot.gov/projects/publicmeetings>.

Anyone desiring additional information may contact Kim Gillespie, PE NCDOT - Project Planning Engineer - Project Development and Environmental Analysis, 1548 Mail Service Center (MAIL) Raleigh, NC 27699-1548 by phone: (919) 707-6023 or email: kgillespie@ncdot.gov. All comments must be received no later than Monday, October 12, 2015.

NCDOT will provide auxiliary aids and services under the Americans with Disabilities Act for disabled persons who wish to participate in this meeting. Anyone requiring special services should contact Ms. Diane Wilson via e-mail at pdwilson1@ncdot.gov or by phone (919) 707-6073 as early as possible so that arrangements can be made.

Aquellas personas que hablan español y no hablan inglés, o tienen limitaciones para leer, hablar o entender inglés, podrían recibir servicios de interpretación si los solicitan antes de la reunión llamando al 1-800-481-6494.

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NC NAACP PRES. REV. BARBER HONORED AT CBC FOUNDATION AWARDS

[WASH., D.C.] Rev. William Barber, president of the North Carolina NAACP, was among the honorees Sept. 19th during the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, Inc.'s 45th Annual Legislative Conference Phoenix Awards. Dr. Barber was awarded the CBC's Chair's Award for his tireless work on behalf of defending voting rights in North Carolina, fighting for affordable health care, and his role in helping to secure pardons of innocence for the Wilmington Ten. He is recognized as the leader of the now multi-state Moral Monday Movement.



STATE BRIEFS

NC GENERAL ASSEMBLY APPROVES \$21.7 BILLION BUDGET

[RALEIGH] It was the early morning hours of Sept. 18th when the NC House took the last step in passing the two-month delayed \$21.7 billion budget for the current fiscal year. Amid protests from Democrats that the Republican-led process did not allow for much debate, and that education was particularly hit hard once again with cuts. Gov. McCrory, who had said earlier that he would not sign the budget because it further lowered taxes, in fact did sign it hours after it was passed.

DURHAM SHERIFF'S DEPUTY SAVES CHILDREN AFTER FATHER TRIES TO DROWN THEM

[DURHAM] A quick thinking off-duty Durham Sheriff's deputy jumped into an apartment complex pond late

Sunday night when he heard children wailing for help. Deputy David Earp says his flashlight reveal two children drowning in five feet of water. He rescued two girls, one five-years old, the other three-year-old. It was later determined that the children's father, Alan Lassiter, 29, allegedly tried to kill his three children by throwing them into the pond to drown. The oldest, a seven-year-old boy, escaped. Lassiter has been arrested and charged with three counts of attempted murder. The three-year-old passed on Wednesday.

FORMER NCDOT SECRETARY/WAKE SUPERINTENDENT ADMITS TO PHILANDERING ALLEGATIONS

[RALEIGH] When NC Dept. of Transportation Secretary Tony Tata abruptly resigned his office last July, he said that he

needed to spend more time with his family and pay greater attention to his writing career. But a new published expose in last Sunday's News and Observer newspaper revealed that during his military career, Tata was investigated by the Army at least twice for extramarital affairs, which is considered a criminal offense in the military. Tata reportedly admitted to the affairs, but was not formally punished. Tata, who was married to his first wife at the time, reportedly confirmed the details to the newspaper, but added that the alleged affairs happened early in his military career. Tata was fired as superintendent of Wake County schools in 2011 when he clashed with Democratic board members.

NC NAACP SAYS SAME-DAY REGISTRATION IS STILL ON

[DURHAM] Good news for

unregistered voters during this current municipal election from NCNAACP Pres. Rev. William Barber. "This may come as a surprise, but... due to ongoing legal wrangling, Same Day Registration during Early Voting and out-of-precinct voting on Election Day are in effect for the 2015 elections - at least until Federal District Court Judge Schroeder rules in the Monster Law case argued in Winston-Salem this summer. Same Day Registration is a critical, "fail safe" option for citizens who have moved across county lines, are new to the state of North Carolina, or have recently become eligible to vote - and who miss the 25-day registration deadline (Sept. 11th for the Oct. 6th election, and Oct. 9th for the Nov. 3rd election). To use Same Day Registration (only available during Early Voting), a voter must provide either a NC driver's license or other govern-

ment-issued ID, or a utility bill, bank statement or payroll stub to an election official at an Early Voting location. Until a court rules otherwise, same-day registration is still in effect for Early Voting.

COACH MORAND'S ASSISTANT TAKEOVER DURING HIS SUSPENSION

[RALEIGH] While St. Augustine's University Falcon Head Football Coach Michael Morand continues to serve out his two-week unpaid suspension for undisclosed reasons during an investigation, two of his assistants are leading the 0-3 Falcons in his stead. Assistant coaches Tim Chavous and Jonathan Kelly are trying to minimize further disruptions to the team. The team lost to Elizabeth City State University Sept. 19 by a score of 23-7.

COMPILED BY CASH MICHAELS

POVERTY

Continued from Page 1

- North Carolina's poverty rate is 1.7 percentage points higher than the U.S. rate, and has the 12th highest poverty rate in the nation.
- The state poverty rate (17.2 percent) declined by seven-tenths of a percentage.
- Child poverty did not improve over the last year, and children continue to have the highest poverty rate (24.3 percent) compared to other age groups. One in 4 children live in poverty compared to 1 in 10 older adults.
- People of color are much

more likely to struggle below the poverty line: 33.6 percent of Latinos, 27.9 of American Indians, and 26.5 percent of African Americans live in poverty while 11.6 percent of non-Hispanic whites live in poverty.

• Women face higher poverty rates than men, 18.6 percent compared to 15.7 percent, respectively.

North Carolina's progress is hampered by fiscal policies that fail to build the foundation for North Carolina's future economic success. State lawmakers have yet to rebuild what was lost during the recession. Throughout the economic recovery, they

have either made deep cuts to or provided inadequate investments for early childhood development, public schools, the UNC System, and nonprofits promoting job and business development in the state's economically distressed areas. These are key

services that invest in people's future and build a strong economy that offers all families the opportunity to thrive.

Lawmakers have also dismantled services that help people get back on their feet when they are struggling, including unemployment

benefits, job training programs, and the Earned Income Tax Credit that lets parents keep more of what they earn so they can better avoid raising their children in poverty.

"North Carolina needs policies that create equal

opportunity, rebuild entryways to expand the ranks of the middle class, and ensure that prosperity is broadly shared so that all North Carolinians can reach their potential," said Alexandra Sirota, Director of the Budget & Tax Center.

WATERS

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and professor Charles Ogletree, of Harvard Law School; and the panel that included Nkechi Taifa, senior policy analyst for the Open Society Institute; Marc Maurer, of the Sentencing Project; David Keene, of The Washington Times; Sarah Godfrey, research director of the FAMM Foundation; and Kemba Smith, founder of the Kemba Smith Foundation.

Waters called Smith her "poster child" due to her personal story of going from a Hampton University student to a drug dealer's girlfriend, an association that landed her in federal prison. Smith was given a 24-plus-year sentence but served only six-and-a-half years due to worldwide advocacy on her behalf. Former President Bill Clinton reduced her sentence and she was released in December 2000.

Smith comes to Washington every year to lobby for the reversal of the disturbing trend in the rise of lengthy sentences for first-time nonviolent drug offenders.

"She's someone who has suffered unfairly and was incarcerated...but came out swinging, who came out fighting, and continues to fight," said Waters.

Also present was Gwen Carr, mother of Eric Garner, who was killed in a chokehold by

White New York policeman Daniel Pantaleo on July 17, 2014. Carr and her husband, of Staten Island, N.Y., received a standing ovation from the audience.

"I wanted to come because this all involves us," Carr told the AFRO. "We don't know when we will have a loved one or ourselves involved in minimum incarceration."

Waters said she has set up forums for mothers and families across the country whose relatives were killed by police. Her goal is to get real personal input rather than what has been said in the media.

"Police are using the power of the gun and the badge to kill Black males," Waters said. If you're Black, African-American, a minority, you stand to be arrested more than anybody else. There has to be a revolution in the criminal justice system."

The congresswoman said in addition to reforming the laws, more money is needed to hire lawyers for unfairly targeted and punished defendants. She urged attendees to continue advocating on behalf of those swept up in the system.

"Let's not give up on our people; let's not give up on our young people, in particular," Waters said. "We cannot afford to keep losing our folks and our young parents to this senselessness. We cannot continue to keep our families broken up and separated and have them locked up for long periods of time."

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Hot SALE 1.99 EA MVP
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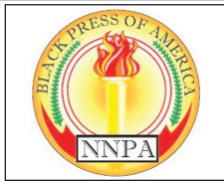
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THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

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

GUEST EDITORIAL CURRY'S COMMENTS

Trump refuses to withdraw false claim that Obama is a Muslim

On the heels of allowing a campaign follower in New Hampshire to assert unchallenged last week that President Obama is a Muslim, Republican presidential front-runner Donald J. Trump has strongly resisted opportunities to correct the public record. On ABC's *This Week*, George Stephanopolous repeatedly challenged Trump Sunday to take back his words and in true Trump fashion, he refused.



George Curry

STEPHANOPOULOS: ... So, for the record, was President Obama born in the United States?

TRUMP: Well you know I don't get into it, George. I talk about jobs, I'm talking about the military. I don't get into it. I mean, they ask that question and I just want to talk about the things, because frankly, it's of no longer interest to me [sic]. We're beyond that, and it's just something I don't talk about. I want to talk about the military, I want to talk about the vets and how badly they're treated, I want to talk about jobs. I don't get into that, George.

STEPHANOPOULOS: Well the way to get beyond that is to answer yes or no, do you—

TRUMP: Well that's possible, but I don't get into it and I just don't talk about it.

STEPHANOPOULOS: And, even though you've raised questions, and you've investigated this in the past, you're still—

TRUMP: Well, you know people thought I should have defended, some people thought I should have defended the president in terms of the question that was asked the other night, and my attitude is, would he have done that for me if somebody had said that about me? And you know, he's been—he's very capable of defending himself, believe me. So we'll see what happens, but I think the tweets really covered it very well and very accurately. Somebody said they were excellent, they covered the subject, and I actually, it was very interesting because I got in hot water over not saying anything. The first time it's ever happened to me. I didn't say anything, and everybody was going crazy over the weekend. And this is something where I didn't even say anything.

STEPHANOPOULOS: But, I take that point, but you've raised these questions so often in the past. Why can't you just say definitively, yes or no, President Obama was born in the United States, you've raised it many times, and he's not a Muslim.

TRUMP: George you have raised a question. I haven't raised a question. I don't talk about it, and I don't like talking about somebody else's faith. He talks about his faith, and he can do that. But I don't talk about other people's faith. It's not appropriate for me to talk about somebody else's faith.

STEPHANOPOULOS: The other big premise of that question is he says that Muslims are a problem in this country. Do you agree?

TRUMP: Well, in some cases George. We can say no, and you can be politically correct and you can say everything's wonderful, but I haven't seen people from Sweden going back and leaving after the bombing of the World Trade Center. So certainly it's a problem, and there is a problem—

One of Trump's many problems is that, aided and abetted by Fox News, he has been a leading proponent of the birther movement, even hiring private investigators to go to Hawaii in an effort to disprove that Obama was born there.

FactCheck.org dismissed the false conspiracy claims about Obama's birth certificate.

It reported, "FactCheck.org staffers have now seen, touched, examined and photographed the original birth certificate. We conclude that it meets all of the requirements from the State Department for proving U.S. citizenship. Claims that the document lacks a raised seal or a signature are false. We have posted high-resolution photographs of the document as 'supporting documents' to this article. Our conclusion: Obama was born in the U.S.A. just as he has always said."

That still did not quell the attacks.

Media Matters, the watchdog group, found that, "Fox continued to hype Trump's birtherism, promoting the birther myth in no fewer than 52 segments over a two month period."

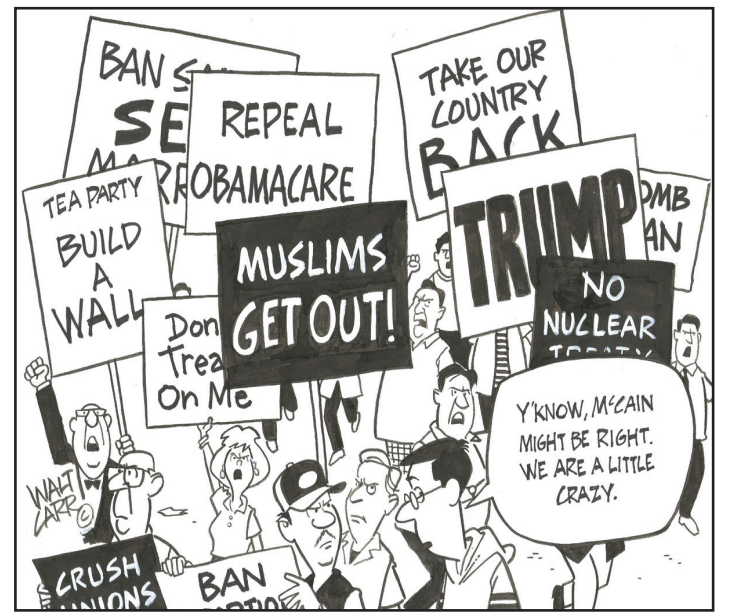
It explained, that "the vast majority of the time – 44 out of 52 total segments in which a false claim was made about Obama's birth certificate – Fox News hosts did not push back and correct these falsehoods."

General Colin Powell, the former Chairman of the Joints Chiefs of Staff and former Secretary of State, took the right tone when he said:

"I'm also troubled by ... what members of my own party say. And it is permitted to be said such things as, 'Well, you know that Mr. Obama is a Muslim.' Well, the correct answer is, he's not a Muslim, he's a Christian. He's always been a Christian. But the really right answer is, what if he is? Is there something wrong with being a Muslim in this country? The answer's no, that's not America."

George E. Curry, former editor-in-chief of *Emerge* magazine, is editor-in-chief of the *National Newspaper Publishers Association News Service (NPPA)* 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](https://twitter.com/currygeorge), *George E. Curry Fan Page on Facebook*, and *Periscope*. See previous columns at <http://www.georgecurry.com/columns>.

Visual Voice



Matters of Opinion The GOP debate and the cowardly Mr. Trump

Citizens of America: While you were distracted last week by, among other things, the Republican Party's marathon, second primary debate, the U.S. military, acting on orders from President Obama, completed its takeover of the American Southwest - suspending the Constitution and imposing martial law, taking residents' guns, and throwing those who resisted into secret detention centers.



Lee A. Daniels

Oh, wait: that's the bizarro-world version of the military's Jade Helm 15 "war games" exercise the conservative echo chamber hysterically claimed this spring was part of the president's plan to ultimately take over the country, dissolve Congress and declare himself president for Life.

In the real world the rest of us live in, the two-month exercise ended September 15th as quietly as it had begun. Military officials pronounced themselves satisfied that it had given members of the military's various special operations forces war-games training in an environment whose terrain approximated that of the world's Middle Eastern and African hotspots.

It's worth recalling the fierce controversy that engulfed the Jade Helm 15 exercise for months before it began for two

reasons. One is to understand how similar the tone of the lunatic claims made about it were to such other right-wing-generated Obama-era scares as: the supposed "death panels" of the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare); the claims last fall that the death of one individual in Dallas who had been infected with the Ebola virus while in Liberia was the harbinger of an Obama-created epidemic about to sweep over America; and, my personal favorite, that President Obama's September 2009 nationwide speech to be piped to public school students in their classrooms was really his attempt to indoctrinate them in the tenets of socialism, or communism, or Islam - or all three simultaneously.

Adding up the mix of right-wing extremism, pathological idiocy and cynical fear-mongering in those conspiracy theories provides an excellent framework for analyzing the GOP's behavior in Congress and on the campaign trail today - be it Congressional Republicans' plans to force another shutdown of the federal government or their staging purely symbolic votes against the Iran nuclear deal.

The "Gang of 16" Republican presidential primary candidates have left no doubt they're committed to this lunacy, too. Sampling the comments the contenders' made on such issues as immigration, foreign affairs and vaccinations for children during the debate at the Reagan presidential library, the *New York Times* editorial of September 17 described

them as "a collection of assertions so untrue, so bizarre that they form a vision as surreal as the Ronald Reagan jet looming behind the candidates' lecterns." The editorial's title: "Crazy Talk at the Republican Debate."

Unfortunately for the country, "crazy talk" has become a chief requirement of Republican Party politics - the result of the GOP having so debased the honor of the practice of politics and having so denigrated "Washington" all these decades, and especially once the nation's first Black president took office. The great irony is that, in part because of Obama's skill at out-manoeuvring Republican attempts to undermine him, those chickens have come home to roost most sharply within the GOP itself: None of its current leading contenders for the nomination - Donald Trump, Ben Carson and Carly Fiorina - have ever held elective or appointive office; while the GOP Base is ignoring or punishing those contenders who have.

This is what happens when you debate the honor of politics - which, after all, is the art of the possible, of compromise, of trying to work through opposing, or just complicated, points of view, of tolerating difference. When you debate "politics," you open wide the door of the cesspool of intolerance.

Fittingly, Donald Trump, whose callousness and racism have propelled him to the top of the Republican pile, has now shown in the most dramatic way the moral swamp that is

the demagogue's true character. For all his promises to, as president, stare down this and that world leader to get what he wants, the cowardly Mr. Trump couldn't even stand up to a two-bit bigot in New Hampshire who demeaned the Office of the Presidency and called for the ethnic cleansing of all Muslim Americans.

What made Trump's cowardice stand out even more was its coming just days after the shameful ordeal endured by 14-year-old Texas high schooler and technology whiz Ahmed Mohamed served to underscore the vast potential for "making American great again" that undoubtedly lies within America's newest immigrant groups - and a vast number of native-born children who now stand outside the gates of opportunity.

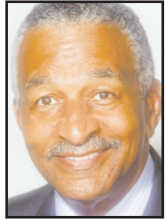
So, while we all calculate which of the Republican candidates won or lost from last week's debate, the broader question we should also be considering is how long will American society be living with the virus of right-wing extremism let loose by the moral collapse of the Republican Party.

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

BLACKONOMICS

Blacks missing from political circus

Here is something to think about as we watch the political circus that is currently dominating the news: Black people are nowhere to be found in the real action, nowhere to be found in determining the candidates from which we will eventually choose to compete for the presidency, and



James Clingman

nowhere to be found in the debate questions or answers. We are merely watching from the balcony, as we had to do back in the 1950s in segregated theaters and churches that relegated Black people to the rear of the building. We were also told to be quiet, especially in the churches, way back when.

All Black folks are doing right now is watching. Yeah, we talk a lot, from our vantage point in the peanut gallery, but we have absolutely zero skin in the political game at this point, which means we lack self-determination in the political process. Yes, we have the individual choice to vote, but that's about it, y'all, and even in that act, we will only be choosing between the decisions that others have made.

Have you ever wondered why two small states, Iowa and New Hampshire, have so much

impact on the national election? Is it simply because they are the first two states to conduct caucuses and primaries every presidential election year? Is it because they have such a large number of electoral votes? Even though some candidates who win those states do not always get their party's nomination, these two states are held up as the political "trend-makers" and benchmarks for a candidate's success. That's why they all flock to those two little states long before the election really begins.

For all of you critical thinkers out there, try these stats on for size: Iowa is 91 percent White and 2 percent Black; it has six electoral votes. New Hampshire is 93 percent White and 1 percent Black, with four electoral votes. There are 538 electoral votes among the states, 270 of which are needed to win the presidency of the United States. I ask again, why are Iowa and New Hampshire so important in the scheme of things?

And I reemphasize that Black folks, comprising a grand total of 3 percent of the total population of these two small states, have absolutely no influence, not to mention power; in what is taking place right now in the political arena. We are relegated to being spectators if we care to watch this current show; it is a rerun, so many of us are not interested anyway.

By the time you read this article the séance for Ronald Reagan, known as the Republican debate, will have taken place at the Presidential Library in Simi Valley, Calif. You remember that famous city, right? It's the place where the White cops beat Rodney King within inches of his life were declared not guilty. Of the 500 there, I saw just five Black people in the seats at the CNN debate. Another insult to Black voters, or another indication of political impotence?

We are just spectators, brothers and sisters, watching the Dems and Repubs race toward the finish line in November 2016. They will put on a great show for us though, as they invoke Rosa Parks' name and cite the sanctity of the Black vote. Each party will try to convince us that it can and will "take care of us" because God knows we can't take care of ourselves. Then, in January 2017, Black people will settle in, once again relegated to their plantation of "choice" for four more years, without having gotten one ounce of quo for our quid.

My article, "Black Political Dilemma" (2014), posed the possibility of Ben Carson running against Hillary Clinton for president. Some folks responded by saying, "That will never happen," "You're crazy, Jim," and "Carson will never be nominated." Some folks even laughed at the question, "What will Black people do if that hap-

pens?" Well, you may want to stay tuned.

Black people have dug ourselves a deep political hole, and now we must figure out how to get out of it. It really doesn't matter who wins the highest office in the land, Blacks will be in the same relative position as we have been under a Black President for the last seven years. In other words, we ain't got nothin' comin'. Only we can save us, not Hillary, Carson, Sanders, or Trump.

Because we have tried to play politics without having a strong economic base, we have become impotent and irrelevant. Reflect on the words of T. Thomas Fortune, journalist and co-founder of the National Negro Business League: "No people ever became great and prosperous by devoting their infant energies to politics. We were literally born into political responsibility before we had mastered the economic conditions which underlie these duties."

Jim Clingman, founder of the Greater Cincinnati African American Chamber of Commerce, is the nation's most prolific writer on economic empowerment for Black people. He can be reached through his website, blackonomics.com. He is the author of *Black Dollars Matter: Teach Your Dollars How to Make More Sense*, which is available through his website, professionalpublishinghouse.com and Amazon Kindle eBooks.

New Hanover County

Ashley High School Band will hold its 1st Annual Screaming Eagle Invitational on Saturday, September 26th at Veterans Park in the Ashley High School stadium, 555 Halyburton Memorial Parkway. The gates open at 3:00 p.m. For more information go to www.ashleybands.com.

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.



Lower Cape Fear Hospice will offer a free six-week grief program for those coping with the loss of a child. It will be from 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. Mondays, September 14th-October 19th, at the Dr. Robert M. Fales Hospice Pavilion, Conference Room, 1406 Physicians Drive, Wilmington.

Community Briefs

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.

Shred & Protect will hold a document shredding - Protect yourself from identity theft by bringing your personal documents and records to be safely shredded at no cost to you on Saturday, October 3rd from 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Wrightsville Beach Town.

The Democratic Women of New Hanover County will hold a special meeting on October 8th from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Indochine, Wayne Dr. and Market St. in the garden Buddha Room. Registered Democratic men and women are invited. For additional information call 910-395-4502.

The Wilmington Family YMCA will hold a season kickoff fundraising event for Girls on the Run & STRIDE on Sunday September 27th from 4:00pm until 6:00pm, (Doors Open at 3:30pm), at the Roland-Grise Middle School auditorium located at 4412 Lake Avenue.

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.

Brunswick County

Brunswick County Parks and Recreation will hold a free Pickleball Clinic for residents 50 and over on Wednesday, September 30th from 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. at the Fitness and Aquatics Center at Brunswick Community College. To register or for more information contact Khrystye Haselden at 910-253-2670.

Brunswick County will conduct a medicine dispensing exercise at South Brunswick High School on Monday, September 28th, from 9:00 a.m. - noon. The exercise will allow county officials to practice the steps they would take to quickly and efficiently distribute preventative medicine to a large number of residents, like might be done if there were an outbreak of a contagious disease.

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

Compiled By Wilmington Journal Staff

HOMETOWN NEWS FROM BRUNSWICK COUNTY

Brunswick County NAACP holds annual Freedom Fund

The Annual Freedom Fund of the Brunswick County Branch of the NAACP was held on Saturday, September 12, 2015 at the South Brunswick Island Center, 9400 HWY 17 West, Carolina Shores, North Carolina 28467. The theme centered around "We Will Redeem the Dream."



Verniece Stanley

"The dream" referred, for the most part, to the dream of which Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., renowned civil rights leader, spoke in his famous "I Have a Dream" speech. These words will remain alive in the hearts and minds of Black people.

The program began with a recitation of the "Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag." Then we sang "Lift Every Voice and Sing," often referred to as "The Negro National Anthem." It was written by our Black brother, James Weldon Johnson and set to music by his brother, J. Rosamond Johnson. The words of the hymn rang deep in the hearts of all who were

at the banquet. Lift ev'ry voice and sing 'til earth and heaven ring, Ring with the harmony of liberty. Let our rejoicing rise high as the listening skies! Let it resound loud as the rolling sea!

Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us! Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us! Facing the rising sun of our new day begun, Let us march on 'til victory is won!

Sometimes, singing in a group songs such as this can be helpful and can put smiles on our faces. It can encourage us and gives us the feeling that we can accomplish more in our membership. We can grow stronger in our membership when we pass on that which we have learned to generations to come.

The master of ceremony for the program was The Reverend Dr. Terry Henry Sr. Pastor, Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church, Wilmington, North Carolina. Music was provided by Neal Josey. Dr. Jerry Jackson, Chairperson, NAACP, Brunswick County Branch, introduced the keynote speaker for the occasion. The keynote speaker was Kristi

Jones, Chief of Staff, N. C. Department of Justice. She indicated that she has never forgotten the lessons learned from her small family and friends in Wilson County.

As the first Black female Chief of Staff at the N. C. Department of Justice, appointed by Attorney General Roy Cooper, she serves in a host of capacities. Her responsibilities include oversight of agency administration, including personnel, budget, and general operations.

She raised some key issues that are close to the hearts of Black people. In 1965, the Voting Rights was passed. Amidst threats of violence and efforts of local and state governments, the NAACP still manages to register more than 80,000 voters in the old South.

We now have important educational issues. Our colleges and universities face financial cutbacks. Many well qualified Black students face more and more problems. Still we're "fired up and ready to go!" We who believe in freedom and justice cannot stop now!

When the educational budget is cut, more harm is done than good to all stu-

dents, especially Blacks. I would ask a "powers that be!" "When the budget is cut, where do the millions of dollars cut from the budget go, in your pockets?"

In the NAACP, we continue the struggle. We greatest organizations in the world. We think of other people and their hardships. Our hearts go out to those who are struggling with one thing or another here in the United States and elsewhere in the world. We cannot stop trying to make this world a better place.

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.

"The Young at Heart Club"



YOUNG AT HEART CLUB MEMBERS IN HALYBURTON PARK AND SEA CAPTAIN'S OCEANFRONT RESTAURANT

BY EVELYN SMITH CONTRIBUTING WRITER

In June 2015, the members of the Young at Heart Club journeyed to Myrtle Beach to dine at the Sea Captain's Oceanfront Restaurant. Our beloved Robert Milner and Nancy Saunders, associate members, were our drivers. En route home we stopped

at the outlet mall for some shopping.

Returning from our summer break on Tuesday, September 8th, we started our club business and activities with our annual picnic at Halyburton Park. Under billowy clouds with sun peaking through and sometimes rain showers, some members and guest enhanced their physical strength walking through

the park while others played bingo and horse-shoes. We missed our chaplain, Estelle McLean, who transitioned from the earthly planet in August. However, her voice hushed in death still lingered in our remembrance as we feasted picnic style of fried chicken, fish, boiled shrimp, barbecue, bake beans, slaw, hush puppies, cake, ice cream, ice tea and water.

Enjoying the delectable meal with our senior citizen group were, Reverend and Anthony Watson, Dorothy DeShields, Katrina Virgil formerly from Marion, Georgia and Robert Paige of California.

Summer and September birthdays were celebrated with a reminder that this active group is not getting older but "Better."

Johnson Pre-K Center receives Smart Start Raising a Reader Award



DOROTHY B. JOHNSON PRE-K STUDENT

Dorothy B. Johnson Pre-K Center, site of the New Hanover County Schools Head Start Grant, recently received the 2015-16 Smart Start Raising a Reader (SSRAR) award from the New Hanover County Public Library. Raising a Reader is a national non-profit organization offering local agencies an evidence-based early literacy and parent engagement program that has demonstrated it can

improve the reading readiness skills of children birth to age eight. The highlights of the program are that books will be sent home to each family and strong connections will be established with local libraries.

For more information, contact Johnson Principal William Hatch at 910-251-6155 or Amy Read, Program Manager for NHC Public Library, at 910-798-6364.

Retirement ceremony in honor of Colonel Michael J. Rogers

CONTRIBUTED ARTICLE

A retirement ceremony was held for Colonel Michael J. Rogers on August 28, 2015 at the Myer Auditorium in Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland.

Col. Rogers was born in Detroit, Michigan. He earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a ROTC commission from Duke University in 1986. He earned a Master's Degree in Contract Management from Florida Institute of Technology in 1995. He is a graduate of the Army Medical Department Officers Basic and Advance Courses, the Combined Army Staff Service School, the Logistics Executive Development Course, the Command and General Staff College, and the Industrial College of the Armed Forces (ICAF).

In October of 1986, Col. Rogers entered active duty at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. His first duty assignment was as an Ambulance Platoon Leader with the 701st Main Support Battalion, 1st Infantry Division, Fort Riley, Kansas, from February 1987 to March 1988. From March 1988 to June 1989, he served as Medical Platoon Leader 2nd Battalion 16th Infantry. In October of 1989, he began

his first of two assignments in Korea. From October 1989 to June 1990, he served as Division Medical Supply Officer for 2nd Infantry Division at Camp Casey Korea. From July of 1990 through June 1991, he commanded 568th Medical Company (GA) at Camp Humphreys, Korea.

From 1992 to 1994, he was the Chief of Medical Material Branch and Chief of Logistics, Ireland Army Community Hospital, Fort Knox, Kentucky. While assigned to Ireland Army Community Hospital, he was PROFIS to the 42nd Field Hospital and deployed to Somalia as the Chief, Medical Supply Operations for Medical Task Force 42nd. In September 1995, he became the Hospital Executive Officer for the 47th Combat Support Hospital at Fort Lewis, Washington. From September 1996 to August 1997, he served as Battalion Executive Officer 18th Mobile Army Surgical Hospital until the unit's deactivation. From September 1997 to June 1998, he served as Logistics Operations Officer 1st Corps Surgeon's office at Fort Lewis, Washington. Between July 1998 and June 2000, COL Rogers completed the Procurement Internship at Eisenhower Army Medical

Center at Fort Gordon, Georgia. From June 2000 to September 2002, he served as Chief of Europe Regional Medical Command Contrasting Office located at Landstuhl, Germany. From September 2002 to June 2003, he served as the Deputy Chief of Staff for the Europe Regional Medical Command in Heidelberg, Germany. From June 2003 to July 2004, he served as Director of Contracting for the North Atlantic Regional Medical Command in Washington D.C. from July 2004 to July 2006, he served as Commander, Defense Contracting Management Agency-Saudi Arabia in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. From July 2007 to March 2008, he served as Executive Officer to the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (Policy and Procurement) in the Pentagon. From June 2008 to June 2010, he served as Chief of Staff, Pharmacy Operations Directorate, TRI-CARE Management Activity. From June 2010 to June 2012 he served as Brigade Commander, 408th Contracting Support Brigade supporting units throughout Southwest Asia.

His awards include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit,



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO COLONEL MICHAEL J. ROGERS

Bronze Star Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Army Meritorious Service Medal with six Oak Leaf Clusters, Army Commendation Medal with four Oak Leaf Clusters, Joint Service Achievement Medal, and the Army Achievement Medal with Oak Leaf Clusters. He is a member of the prestigious Order of Military Medical Merit. He is level III certified in both Contracting, and Life Cycle Logistics, and Level II certified in Program Management.

COL Rogers has two children Michelle age eighteen and Jared age fourteen.

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The BLACK PRESS USE IT or LOSE IT

Collecting \$200 Million from the debt collectors

BY CHARLENE CROWELL
NNPA COLUMNIST

(NNPA) - At one time or another, many consumers have fallen behind on paying their bills. For the working poor, unemployed and underemployed, the struggle to get out of debt can be a daily challenge. At the same time, there are businesses that exploit others' financial woes, reaping high profits on debt purchased for just a few cents on the dollar. In some scenarios, debt buyers become nagging collectors who hound consumers at all hours of the day and night.



Charlene Crowell

The irony is that the harassment is not always warranted or even accurate. Debt buyers have a documented history of suing the wrong person for the wrong amount. In the worst scenarios, some consumers first learn of alleged debts after a court judgment has been entered against them.

These are only a few of the concerns that recently led the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) to take enforcement actions against the nation's two top debt collectors. CFPB's actions also suggest that financial abuses may be inherent in debt buyers' business models. Together, the San Diego-based Encore Capital Group, Inc. and its subsidiaries comprise the nation's largest debt buyer and collector. The Norfolk-based Portfolio Recovery Associates, the second largest debt opera-

tion, will halt collections totaling \$128 million. The firms will also pay another \$61 million in consumer refunds and an additional \$18 million in penalties.

"Encore and Portfolio Recovery Associates threatened and deceived consumers to collect on debts they should have known were inaccurate or had other problems," said CFPB Director Richard Cordray. "Now, the two biggest debt buyers in the market must refund millions and overhaul their practices. We will continue to take action to protect consumers from illegal and obnoxious debt collection practices."

The litany of CFPB's charged offenses read like a primer of what not to do in consumer lending. Here are just a few of the illegal and deceptive actions the firms were charged with:

Illegally attempting to col-

lect debt they knew, or should have known, may have been inaccurate or unenforceable;

•Collecting debts through lawsuits and threats of legal action in unlawful ways;

•Falsely telling consumers the burden of proof was on them to disprove the debt;

•Suing or threatening to sue consumers past the statute of limitations; and

•Disregarding or failing to adequately investigate consumers' disputes.

"The Portfolio Recovery Associates and Encore Capital Group consent orders underscore the questionable tactics used by even the largest debt buyers attempting to collect old debts - deception, intimidation, and the mass-production of lawsuits against the wrong people for the wrong amount of money," said Lisa Stifler, a policy counsel at the Center for

Responsible Lending (CRL). "Consumers deserve to be protected from wrongful collection and legal action."

Further, abusive debt collection is annually among the top complaints to the Federal Trade Commission and the CFPB. In the aftermath of the Great Recession, CRL is working with lawmakers and regulators at both the state and federal levels to ensure that consumers are effectively protected from unscrupulous and predatory businesses.

Beyond CFPB's enforcement actions, state attorneys general in Arkansas, Colorado, Minnesota, Pennsylvania, New York, Texas and West Virginia have all taken state actions against debt buyers and their collection practices. In New York alone, more than 7,500 court judgments valued at more than \$34 million have

been vacated between 2014 and 2015.

Commenting on the New York actions, Attorney General Eric Schneiderman said, "My office will continue to hold debt collectors and lenders accountable so that New Yorkers can keep more of their hard-earned money where it belongs - in their pockets. It is absolutely urgent that the CFPB propose new rules that will stop all debt collectors from engaging in abusive behavior, prevent them from collecting debts based on inaccurate information and punish them when they do lie to courts and consumers."

Charlene Crowell is a communications manager with the Center for Responsible Lending. She can be reached at Charlene.crowell@responsiblelending.org.

Nielsen reports untold success stories in the Black community

BY FREDDIE ALLEN
SENIOR NNPA
WASHINGTON
CORRESPONDENT

(NNPA) - Acquannetta Pierce Glass, president and CEO of Advance Communications in Detroit, Mich., used last year's Nielsen report on Black consumers to convince one of her clients to run a 15-second trailer in movie theaters during the holiday season.

The Nielsen Company's credibility in the data and research space helped to convince her client to launch the campaign, which was a phenomenal success, Glass said.

The Nielsen Company partnered with the National Newspaper Publishers' Association (NNPA), a trade group that represents more than 200 Black newspapers in the United States, to help distribute the annual study on Black consumers.

According to the 2015 report, Black consumer spending on watching movies and playing video games entertainment topped the total population.

"The mean number of annu-

al African-American movie ticket purchases is about 19% higher at 3.7 versus 3.1 for non-Hispanic Whites. Video/PC game store purchases are 71% higher and amusement park purchases are 25% higher than non-Hispanic Whites as well," the 2015 report said. "As the number of higher-income Black consumers continue to grow, purchasing rates will follow suit."

Glass hopes to be able to pull those same nuggets of information from the 2015 report to gain an edge on her competitors and to keep her clients informed on the latest data.

"We're living in a cluttered society and with all of the communication that we have and if this report gives [your business] an advantage to break through that clutter," you have to take it, said Glass.

This year's report focuses on the untold success stories in the Black community that are often missed by mainstream media.

The report said that Black households experienced the largest increase in the number of households earning more

than \$200,000, almost doubling the increase experienced by the total population over that same time period.

In the years from 2005-2013, the income bracket with the largest increase for Black households occurred in the number of households earning over \$200,000, with an increase of 138%, compared to an increase of 74% for the total population, the report said.

Rev. Jacques DeGraff, a social justice activist, founder of the Eagle Academy for Young Men in Bronx, N.Y. and co-chair of Nielsen's African American Consumer Advisory Council, called the report required reading for anyone who calls themselves a leader or a voice in the Black community.

"We're not all teenagers throwing rocks at CVS," said DeGraff. "Some of us have careers and businesses mortgages and organizations that are built on success. We're part of the American landscape."

Denise Rolark Barnes, chairperson of the NNPA, said that the report shows the value of the Black dollar.

"This report definitely sets the record straight and we've got to use this like a drum and pound on this thing in every jurisdiction across the country in every city to make sure that people understand our value," said Barnes.

Cheryl Pearson-McNeil, senior vice president of U.S. Strategic Alliances and Community Engagement at Nielsen, said that the report tells a different story than the stereotypes regurgitated about the Black community in mainstream media, including hard luck, rising crime rates, mass incarceration and high unemployment.

"At every income level above \$60,000 per household, Black income growth outpaced that of non-Hispanic Whites," the report said. "In the years from 2005-2013, the income bracket with the largest increase for Black households occurred in the number of households earning over \$200,000, with an increase of 138%, compared to an increase of 74% for the total population."

Not only did the report highlight the income growth rate of

Black households earning \$50,000, \$75,000 and \$200,000, Nielsen also noted that more than 70 percent of Black high school graduates enrolled in college last year, a higher rate than Whites and Hispanics. The Black high school graduation rate also rose faster than the national average.

Blacks also experienced higher rates of homeownership in the South (47.4 percent), where most African Americans live, compared to other regions.

"We call this report the untold story for a reason," said Pearson-McNeil.

Black households at the \$100,000 income level spend more per trip than Whites at department stores, convenience stores, toy stores, bookstores and automotive stores, according to the report.

DeGraff said that it's up to the Black community to decide what to do with the "stereotype-shattering" data compiled in the Nielsen report.

"What this report says is that our position in America has changed. We're not just supplicants asking for justice

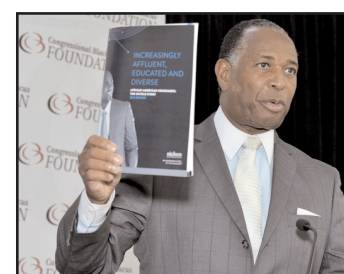


PHOTO: FREDDIE ALLEN/NNPA
NEWS WIRE

Rev. Jacques DeGraff, a social justice activist and co-chair of Nielsen's African American Consumer Advisory Council, called the report required reading for anyone who calls themselves a leader or a voice in the Black community.

and participation," said DeGraff. "We are participants at the table as equals and as contributors."

DeGraff continued: "There are companies whose fortunes rise and fall on how we spend our money. The question should be: What are we getting in return for giving you our business?"



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Mr. DeAndrez Divine Bethea

DeAndrez Divine Bethea was born August 19, 1990 to Cheryl B. Mitchell and Calvin Pompey. He attended East Columbus High School. He always wanted to work and to school but his health wouldn't allow this to happen. He had a heart of gold, loved everyone and always would tell you "I love you." His cell phone, car racing, Grand-Da Sherwood, Me-Me and her kids were most dear to his heart. We loved him but his clock stopped, therefore, it was time for him to clock out for the last time. DeAndrez Divine Bethea funeral was held at 2 p.m. Saturday, September 19, 2015 at Adkins-Drain Funeral Home Chapel, Wilmington, NC.

What "DRE" would say to my family and friends: "When I left home, I didn't have a place of my own, you took me in. I've been a lot of places, seen a lot of faces but you guys made my stay here worth living. If, I could talk today (Man that's a big lost, I can't talk anymore), I would say Thanks, I love you all "DRE"

DeAndrez Divine Bethea leaves to cherish his memories his mother: Cheryl B. Mitchell. His father: Calvin Pompey. Parents: Sherwood and Ella Brown. Sisters: Charlene green, Akiera Bethea, Sherilyn (Larry) Young, Sharon (Garrett) Beasley, Shannon (Joshua) Mott. Charlene, Charles, and Cerean-Loving mother. Ms. Carolyn Green. Aunts: Mary Bowen, Audrey (Michael) McCree. Uncles: William, Archie, James, Terry, Brian, Wayne, Warren, Clifton. Niece: Amarri Green. Nephews: Isaiah Green, Aramanni Green, Ny'Urie Atkinson. Grandfather: Raymond A. Bowen. Special cousins: Tevin Daniell and Raven. As well, many, many other families and dear friends. Special thanks: New Hanover Regional Medical Center-Dr. Mary Forhand. Duke Medical Center-Dr. Mary Susan Ver-Miller. Arrangements by Adkins-Drain Funeral Service, 515 South Eighth Street, Wilmington, North Carolina 28401. Condolences may be shared at www.adkinsdrainfuneralservice.com.

In Loving Memory Of Rosa L. Brown

Who departed September 22, 2009 Sleep, sleep and take your rest. We will forever Love you but God loved you best. The family

In Loving of Memory Of



Robert T. Lee Vaughn, Sr.
Sunrise: December 18, 1940
Sunset: September 22, 2014

I can't believe it's been a year since you went to go be with the Lord. He is gone but not forgotten. Never will his memory fade. Loving thoughts will forever linger.

Your loving wife Theresa and The Vaughn Family

In Appreciation



The family of Jobina Danice Brunson expresses our deepest gratitude for your numerous expressions of friendship and love shown during the illness and subsequent passing of our love one. Your prayers, visits, floral tributes, messages and other tangible kind deeds has sustained us during our time of bereavement and helped us to accept and understand the Will of God. May God continue to envelop you in his love.

The family

FAMU settles wrongful death suit with drum major's family

SPECIAL TO THE NNPA FROM THE FLORIDA COURIER

(NNPA)- Florida A&M University (FAMU) has settled a lawsuit with the family of Robert Champion over the hazing death of the drum major in 2011. Announced Friday (Sept. 18) by FAMU spokeswoman Lisa Brock, the settlement includes \$1.1 million and an apology.

According to the settlement, an insurance company is to pay \$800,000 to Champion's estate and the university will pay \$300,000 through the Florida Department of Financial Services. That's the maximum allowed without the Florida Legislature's approval.

In November 2011, the 26-year-old Champion died after being hazed in a band ritual on a bus at the Rosen Plaza hotel in Orlando. The band had stayed at the hotel during the Florida Classic weekend, the annual HBCU in-state rival event against Bethune-Cookman University. Champion died after band members beat him with fists and boards after the Florida Classic football game on Nov. 19.

FAMU also is to add a commemorative plaque in Champion's memory at a location on campus - the university's band room, at the band practice field called "The Patch," or another site to be chosen by Champion's family. A portion of the apology

issued by FAMU states, "On behalf of the FAMU Board of Trustees, please accept our sincere condolences and sympathies for the loss of your son, Robert Champion Jr., and please know that we are deeply sorry for your family's and the world's loss of such a fine and outstanding son, brother, musician and individual."

"We greatly appreciate the opportunity to honor Robert's memory and spirit to help inspire and motivate people everywhere to forever eradicate hazing from our society once and for all."

Champion's death led to criminal charges against 15 former members of the band, which included his fellow drum majors. Most of those charged received probation



ROBERT CHAMPION

and community service. The harshest sentence went to Dante Martin, considered the band ritual organizer, who has been sentenced to more than six years in prison for manslaughter and felony hazing.

Sanders campaign still lagging in Black America

The emergence of the presidential campaign of Senator Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) has reached the scale of "phenomenal." What many mainstream pundits originally believed to have been a marginal effort, exploded around the U.S. as enthusiastic crowds responded to Sanders's challenges to contemporary capitalism.



Bill Fletcher

Yet in Black America, the campaign has yet to ignite a mass spirit. Sanders certainly has support within Black America, but it largely pales in comparison to the sentiment in favor of Hillary Clinton. The former Secretary of State has been quite shrewd and timely in responding to issues that are of concern to Black America. Even when, as in the case of

her meeting with several activists from the movement for Black Lives Matter, she has handled matters in a way that has brought forward criticism, she still seems to be given the benefit of the doubt.

The Sanders campaign, which still holds the potential to shake up U.S. politics in very fundamental ways, has only a limited amount of time to reposition itself if it wishes to win the support of Black America and, I would add, much of Latino America. This repositioning goes much farther than who is hired to work on the campaign, as important as that happens to be, and more than anything else revolves around the extent to which the campaign is understood to be embedded within our movements.

When John Edwards kicked off his ill-fated presidential campaign for the 2008 nomination, he did so in New Orleans. This was of tremen-

dous significance. He aimed to talk about poverty and he did so by going to the city where race and class comingled in a demonstrable fashion in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Sanders, on the other hand, has done nothing similar. While he has spoken out on some matters of race, he needs to be discussing the massive financial crisis in Puerto Rico which, along the lines of what transpired in Greece, is destroying the island and driving thousands to migrate to mainland U.S.A.

Sanders needs to sit down with key African American leaders in the cities of Michigan that, in many cases, have been disempowered by a racist, Republican state legislature. Sanders needs to visit Native American reservations to discuss land and environmental issues, not to mention, matters of economic development that go beyond the construction of more

gambling casinos. And Sanders needs to add surrogates to his campaign to advance his message and to show the scope and breath of the campaign.

For the Sanders campaign to realize its amazing potential, it must rethink its role in U.S. society. This will necessitate tapping the sentiment for change in communities of color - including but not limited to Black America - and listening carefully to the concerns and advice from the leaders of these communities. The campaign must guard against the tendency to become overwhelmed by enthusiastic crowds, for such crowds can also be a siren's song that leads the campaign to crash into the rocks. Crowds are great but depth of support is definitive.

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

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New Hanover County

Barry Smith & Company will present in concert Minister Chris Johnson & Freedom of Fayetteville, N along with Elder Myra Graham Quince, Minister Tyree Hines, Blessed Nation and others on Saturday, September 26th at 6:00 p.m. at The United House of Prayer For All People, 1220 Dawson St. on the corner of 13th and Dawson St. For more information please call Barry Smith at 910-550-7475 or Elder Cedric Tindall at 910-367-3601.



Religious Briefs

Mt. Calvary Missionary Baptist Church in conjunction with the Wilmington Police Department and the Sheriff's Department and area churches will host its annual "Beyond the Walls-Community Taking Care of Community" Street Festival on Saturday, September 26th. The festival will be held adjacent to Mt. Calvary, 812 Harnett St. from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. There will be singing, games, drama, free food and free clothing available to those in need. For additional information contact Sherry McZeek at 910-231-2243 or David Brown at 910-200-1955.

Myrtle Grove First Born Church, 6601 Caroline Beach Rd., will host their North-Northwestern Diocese Assembly, October 6th- October 9th. The assembly will be presided by Bishop Alton A. Fain from Port Washington, Florida. There will be different speakers each night along with local praise teams. Call 910-395-4250 for more information.

New Hope Missionary Baptist Church, 701 S.12th St., will hold their Annual Prayer Night on Friday, October 2nd from 7:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. Also the Fall Revival from Monday, October 5th - Friday, October 9th.

The G.W. Billip's Club of Mt. Nebo Missionary Baptist Church, 801 South 10th St., will celebrate their 62nd anniversary on Sunday, September 27th at 3:00 p.m. with a gospel extravaganza featuring various choirs and praise dancers.

Brunswick County

Hoopers' Chapel Missionary Baptist Church will be celebrating it's Homecoming Service on Sunday, September 27th at 3:00 p.m. Reverend Jeremy Buie and MT. Zion Riegelwood will be the guest. Also on Sunday, October 4th at 3:30 p.m. the church will hold their Youth Day Program.

Johnson Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church, Homecoming 2015 will be held on September 27th. The theme is "Honoring Our Past as We Embrace Our Future." The guest speaker will be the Rev. Dr. Vergel Lattimore, President of Hood Theological Seminary.

Summersville AME Zion Church, 2991 Dogwood Rd., Leland, NC will hold a Service of Celebration on Sunday, September 27th at 3:00 p.m. The guest preacher will be Minister Tyquan Alston of St. Stephens Metropolitan AME Zion Church, High Point, NC.

Pender County

The Merant Family will hold their anniversary on Sunday, September 27th at 2:00 p.m. at Kendall Chapel Church Hwy. 133. Everyone is invited.

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

Compiled By Wilmington Journal Staff

Trust don't come round here anymore

BY JAMES WASHINGTON
OF THE DALLAS WEEKLY

Sometimes words alone cannot convey meaning and feelings the way we'd like them to. Trust for example. The reference point for my meaning is "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all things acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight." Proverbs 3:5-6.

Trust is such a complex thing. Have you ever been betrayed by someone in whom you had total trust? Have you been able to totally trust another person since? See how easy misplaced trust puts you in a terribly vulnerable place. It's uncomfortable. It's abnormal. It ain't fun. Yet, in this passage we are instructed to put our trust in the Lord. The question is can you do it? Are you able to put trust in your heart after you experience devastating betrayal? And we've all been betrayed in one way or another; either by having our beliefs proven false or maybe your heart has been broken.

Every one knows someone who has been crippled by a lover or spouse gone crazy, or watched someone stumble up on the truth about a situation that everybody but them knew the real deal. In the real world that kind of stuff hurts. In a real sense, once destroyed, trust 'don't' come round here anymore. But now, wait a minute. Go out and trust in the Lord implicitly. You get my meaning? Extreme caution usually follows crippling betrayal. New relationships are founded largely on mistrust and 'prove it to me,' not, blind faith and unconditional trust.

Life teaches us that only a fool would allow themselves to be misused again. Therein lies my question about trust and what it means to you. Can you deal with this concept

everyday? How much of a struggle are you having trying to trust people who have taught you not to give them the time of day? Do you treat all people this way or just the one(s) who betrayed you? Can you forgive? Can you ever forget? Do you really want to? And what does all of this have to do with God? How are you treating Him in the trust area? "Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful." 1 Corinthians 4:2.

Now exactly, who's proving what to whom? Are you requiring God to prove something to you before you trust Him? Are you demanding from God those same things you demand from someone, anyone before you would even consider giving him or her your love? You see it is so easy to put our trust in a lifestyle which requires proof before love is given. It's so easy to demand the impossible from people who are incapable of giving it to you. But how can you base your relationship with God on worldly principles grounded in betrayal and disappointment? Are you requiring God to prove His love to you before you give yours to Him?

The key to this trust thing lies deep within each and every one of us. We first have to confront those demons which have plagued us for years. And yes, that means all the pain that goes with them. Then and only then can we begin to even accept the concept of trust and loyalty, total and without equivocation. Because then trust means knowing. Trust means truth. Trust means no matter what, I know that regardless of conditions and circumstances, I am God's child, made in His image and the recipient of His love.

May God bless and keep you always,
James,
jaws@dallasweekly.com

SENIOR CITIZENS' FELLOWSHIP

Senior Citizens' birthday celebration

BY FANNIE ALLEN
AND SHELIA ROSS
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

On Tuesday, September 22, 2015, the Senior Citizens' Fellowship opened with prayer and a song. The prayer

was given by Minister Doris McQuillan. The opening song was, "So Glad I'm Here." The Senior Citizens' Fellowship met to celebrate our members' birthdays for July, August, and September. For the birthday celebrations, we had

lunch and fellowship together, which was very good.

Our shoppers really had a hard time selecting such good gifts for us. The shoppers, Shelia Ross, Mildred Ellerby, Cheryl Pearson, Wilhemina Love, and Mary Green, really

knew what we needed and what we couldn't do without. There were 15 people to celebrate this month.

We had great fun and fellowship. We were dismissed by our president, Mrs. Eloise Purdie.

SENIOR MOMENTS

Music is therapeutic

My Fellow Seniors:

Did you ever stop to think about how therapeutic music can be? When you hear a good song, filled with the Spirit, you never get tired of hearing it. When the whole church joins in with uplifted voice, a song like "We've Come This Far by Faith" makes you feel like moving on. Of course, new



Ruth Johnson

songs are always good, but they do not engage the congregation like those old Negro spirituals.

I still say we need to combine some of our small churches, but, if we are not ready for that, we could still have an interdenominational choir. A mass choir, singing at various events, would bring joy to many hearts. This would be like a chain, linking many churches together and forming a strong fellowship throughout the community.

It would also be good to hear from the many groups that already exist in our communi-

ty. We would like to hear from the retired teachers, the Masons, the MLK Center, and other groups that are doing things to uplift the community.

The Good Shepherd's House is a good example of what can happen when several churches work together. A few years ago, a group of people from various churches joined together to create a shelter for the homeless on the Southside of Wilmington. They must have many success stories that they could share with the community.

In the same manner, a group of churches could come

together to form a group home for at risk seniors. This would keep many of our members from being placed in nursing homes permanently.

If you know of a group home for at risk seniors, tell us about it. We need to know about all of the good things that are happening in the community. If your group is doing something good, tell us about it. The Wilmington Journal is the chain that links our community together. We must use it or lose it. Tell somebody!

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

TELL SOMEBODY

"How I choose to worship"

"But the hour cometh, and now is, when true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him."



Sylvia Hooper

There are many ways to worship God! I personally do not feel anyone should dictate to another the right or wrong way to worship their God, because worship is a choice. Each of us should choose our own day and our own way. God is too great and too awesome to limit worship to only one way or only one day! God is worthy of our worship!

True Worship should never be empty or methodical, but passionate and on purpose! It should be given from a heart full of love and appreciation for all that God has done for them. True

Worship stems from an ongoing relationship with God our Father, through his Son and our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Position and posture during private worship has its advantages. Privacy and convenience truly take the limits off how we choose to worship. When we worship corporately, we seek to get on one accord and flow in the bond of faith and in the unity of the spirit. How I choose to worship is between me and my God. Here are a few options for worship positions / postures.

Kneeling Before God
Kneeling is an expression of worship.

"Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name. That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;" Philippians 2:9,10 Kneeling is a sign of sincerity and humility. Kneeling also symbolizes submission to authority, while appealing to the Lord for mercy and forgive-

ness.

Lying Prostrate Before the Lord

Lying prostrate before the Lord is a form of worship. Abraham, fell on his face before God, and God talked to Abraham. Genesis 17:3, 17. When we need to hear from the Lord and desperately need a word from the Lord, it would be a suggestion to lie prostrate before the Lord, until GOD SPEAKS TO US about our situation or about ourselves.

Bowing Before the Lord

Bowing before the Lord is an expression of worship. "Psalm 95:6 says, "O, Come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the Lord our maker." Bowing before the Lord symbolizes meekness, reverence, and respect, in addition to faith in God. Bowing acknowledges the awesome presence of the Lord.

Looking Up To Heaven

"I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord which made heaven and earth."

Psalm 121:1. Looking up to heaven acknowledges the fact that we realize the source of all our help! There are yet other great choices we can use to worship God.. The fact remains... It is my choice, how I choose to worship! 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!"

Emanuel District dedication and blessing held outside Mother church

The Bishops of the African American Episcopal Church joined hands with Charleston city officials and members of Emanuel A.M.E. Church on Wednesday to officially name a portion of Calhoun Street the "Mother Emanuel Way Memorial District."

The dedication and blessing of the "Mother Emanuel Way Memorial District" along Calhoun Street was held at 11:30 a.m. outside the church. An sign over Calhoun Street has been installed near the church. Smaller signs have been added over existing streets between Meeting and Concord streets.

The designation of the district installation was prompted by a recent resolution introduced by Charleston City Councilman William Dudley Gregorie.

In introducing the resolution to City Council, which approved it unanimously, Gregorie said creating the "Mother Emanuel Way Memorial District" honors the memories of the Emanuel Nine "whose lives give us a lasting and living legacy of forgiveness that will guide not only the

Mother Emanuel AME Church but also the citizens of the City, the State of South Carolina and the nation."

The resolution will also remember "the lives of five church members who survived the tragedy so they will not be forgotten as we pay tribute to the fallen," he added.

The Right Rev. Richard Franklin Norris, presiding prelate of the 7th Episcopal District, and other AME bishops are in Charleston for the denomination's 152nd Session of the South Carolina Annual Conference. The conference, which began Sunday at Emanuel, ends Saturday.

Nine members of Mother Emanuel were slain June 17. The tragedy claimed the lives of the church's pastor and State Sen. Clementa Pinckney, Cynthia Graham Hurd, Susie Jackson, Tywanza Sanders, Ethel Lance, Rev. DePayne Middleton-Doctor, Rev. Daniel L. Simmons Sr., Rev. Sharonda Singleton and Rev. Myra Thompson. They were killed during Bible study.

Twenty-one-year-old Dylann Roof has been charged with their deaths.



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LEGAL NOTICES

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF NEW HANOVER**

The undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the estate of **Maria L. Lambertson**, 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 **3rd day of December, 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 3rd day of September, 2015
Rolland II. Lambertson, Executor
Of the Estate of Maria L. Lambertson
616 N. Colony Circle
Wilmington, NC 28409
Murchison, Taylor & Gibson, PLLC
16 North Fifth Avenue
Wilmington, NC 28401

September 3, 10, 17, 24, 2015

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF NEW HANOVER**

The undersigned, having qualified as Administrator of the estate of **Reginald Wayne Hawes**, 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 **3rd day of December, 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 3rd day of September, 2015
Zina Hawes, Administrator
905 Glenarthur Drive
Wilmington, NC 28412

September 3, 10, 17, 24, 2015

**NOTICE TO DEBTORS
AND CREDITORS
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF NEW HANOVER
IN THE GENERAL COURT OF
JUSTICE
SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION
BEFORE THE CLERK
15 E 1062**

The undersigned having duly qualified as Executor of the Estate of **JACQUELINE DIANE RANNENBERG**, late of Wilmington, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned at Post Office Box 4, Wilmington, North Carolina, 28402, on or before the **7th day of December, 2015**, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to said Estate are requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This the 2nd day of September, 2015.

Kent A. Jenks, Executor
Estate of Jacqueline Diane Rannenberg
Susan K. Hill
Block, Crouch, Keeter, Behm & Sayed, L.L.P.
P.O. Box 4
Wilmington, NC 28402

September 3, 10, 17, 24, 2015

MEETING NOTICE

A meeting of the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) of the Wilmington Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) will be held on Wednesday, September 30, 2015 at 3:00pm in the Lord Spencer Compton Conference Room (1st Floor), City Hall, 102 N. 3rd Street, Wilmington, NC.

The TAC is comprised of elected officials from local governments in the Wilmington area and the North Carolina Board of Transportation. The TAC sets the priorities for regional transportation planning and State and Federal transportation infrastructure investments in the Wilmington area.

A 15-minute public comment period will be available at the beginning of the meeting. Please contact Penny Bray at 341-3258, in advance if possible, if you plan to speak during the public comment period.

Mike Kozlosky
Executive Director
Wilmington Urban Area
Metropolitan Planning
Organization

September 24, 2015

LEGAL NOTICES

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF NEW HANOVER**

The undersigned, having qualified as Collector of the estate of **Roy Floyd**, 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 **3rd day of December, 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 3rd day of September, 2015

Stewart A. Floyd, Collector
P.O. Box 1065
Roanoke, VA 24005

September 3, 10, 17, 24, 2015

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF NEW HANOVER**

Having qualified as executrix of the estate of **Maxine B. Howard**, late of New Hanover County, North Carolina, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned at PO Box 4538, Rocky Mount, NC 27803 on or before **December 30, 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 17th day of September, 2015.

Kay H. Swindell
Executrix
1514 Clifton Road
Jacksonville, NC 28540
Fields & Cooper, PLLC
Attorneys at Law
PO Box 4538
Rocky Mount, NC 27803

September 17, 24, October 1, 8, 2015

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF NEW HANOVER**

The undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the estate of **Barbara Napier**, 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 **3rd day of December, 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 3rd day of September, 2015

James Napier, Executor
16783 NE 86th Ct.
Redmond, WA 98052

September 3, 10, 17, 24, 2015

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF NEW HANOVER
In the Matter of the Estate of
Richard C. Otto, Deceased**

The undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of **Richard C. Otto**, 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 **December 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 10th day of September, 2015.

Janice V. Otto
Executor of the Estate
of Richard C. Otto
c/o Anthony L. Register
Alley, Register & McEachern
701 North 4th Street
Wilmington, NC 28401

September 17, 24, October 1, 8, 2015

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF NEW HANOVER**

The undersigned, Annie R. Hendrix, having qualified on the 16th day of September, 2015, as Executrix of the Estate of **Allie Weston, Jr.**, deceased, late of Administrator CTA of the estate of Kevin J. O'Donovan, deceased, late of the New Hanover County, this is to notify all persons having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the **23rd day of December, 2015**, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This 24th day of September, 2015
Annie R. Hendrix, Executrix of the Estate of Allie Weston, Jr., deceased
C/O Otto K. Pridgen, II
Attorney at Law
Post Office Box 15467
Wilmington, NC 28408-5467

September 24, October 1, 8, 15, 2015

LEGAL NOTICES

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF NEW HANOVER
FILE NO. 15 E 1198**

Robert Lee Howard, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of **Elouise Hickman Howard**, 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, Suite C-3, Wilmington, NC 28403 on or before the **16th day of December, 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 17th day of September, 2015.

Robert Lee Howard, Executor
c/o D. Robert Williams, Jr., Esq.
Price & Williams, P.A.
Attorneys at Law
5725 Oleander Drive, Suite C-3
Wilmington, NC 28403
(910) 791-9422 phone
(910) 791-0432 fax

September 17, 24, October 1, 8, 2015

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF NEW HANOVER**

THE UNDERSIGNED, Nancy S. Garner, having qualified on the 3rd day of September, 2015, as Administrator of the Estate of **Thomas J. Garner, Jr.**, deceased this is to notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against said Estate that they must present them to the undersigned at GRAVES MAY PLLC, c/o Attorney David Anderson, 5700 Oleander Dr., Wilmington, North Carolina, 28403, on or before the **15th day of December, 2015**, or the claims will be forever barred thereafter, and this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned at the above address.

This 9th day of September, 2015

Nancy S. Garner, Administrator
ESTATE OF THOMAS J. GARNER, JR.
David Anderson, Esq.
GRAVES MAY, PLLC
5700 Oleander Dr.
Wilmington, NC 28403

September 10, 17, 24, October 1, 2015

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF NEW HANOVER**

THE UNDERSIGNED, Richard M. Graves, having qualified on the 14th day of May, 2015, as Administrator of the Estate of **Andrea M. Graves**, deceased this is to notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against said Estate that they must present them to the undersigned at GRAVES MAY PLLC, c/o Attorney David Anderson, 5700 Oleander Dr., Wilmington, North Carolina, 28403, on or before the **15th day of December, 2015**, or the claims will be forever barred thereafter, and this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned at the above address.

This 9th day of September, 2015

RICHARD M. GRAVES,
Administrator
ESTATE OF WILLIAM BERNARD HUMPHREY, JR.
David Anderson, Esq.
GRAVES MAY, PLLC
5700 Oleander Dr.
Wilmington, NC 28403

September 10, 17, 24, October 1, 2015

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF NEW HANOVER**

The undersigned, having qualified as Administrator CTA of the estate of **Kevin J. O'Donovan**, deceased, late 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 **24th day of December, 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 24th day of September, 2015

Neil Conor O'Donovan,
Administrator CTA
1044 Bedford Rd.
Grosse Pointe Park, MI 48230
Mark A. Rutledge, Jr., Attorney
Po Box 1692
Wilmington, NC 28402

September 24, October 1, 8, 15

LEGAL NOTICES

**PUBLIC NOTICE OF 2016
ANNUAL PLAN**

The HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA (WHA) is updating our Agency Annual plan for FY 2016. The Plan is a comprehensive guide to public housing agency (PHA) policies, programs, operations, and strategies for meeting local housing needs and goals.

This is a 45 day notice with an opportunity to present public comments regarding 2016 updates to the Annual Plan.

The draft of the proposed 2016 Annual Plan is available for review beginning Monday, September 28, 2015, 12 noon, at the WHA website at www.wha.net and at the WHA Central Office, 1524 S. 16th Street, Wilmington, NC 28401.

Comments must be made in writing and presented to the main office located at 1524 S. 16th Street, Wilmington, NC 28401, Attn. Paul E. D'Angelo or via email to pdangelo@wha.net no later than 4:30 pm on Thursday, November 12, 2015.

A public hearing will be conducted on Thursday, November 12, 2015 at 5:00 pm in the Executive Conference Room of the WHA's Central Office, 1524 S. 16th Street, Wilmington, NC. Anyone interested in commenting on the proposed revisions is invited to attend.

September 24, 2015

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ADVICE

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Can't stand my niece

Dear Alma,

I can't stand my niece and it's my sister's fault. She made her daughter this way. Since the day her daughter was born, my sister has kissed the ground she walks on. My sister has given my niece everything she has ever wanted - or even thought she wanted. This girl has never had a "not about you" experience. She grew up having fits to get her way and her mother obliged. If you tried to discipline her or intervene, my sister wouldn't have it. My niece has traveled the world and her mother has footed the bill. She finished college, but doesn't work. She has a home; my sister pays the mortgage. My sister works two jobs and sends her daughter a monthly check. It's not a huge amount but that's not the point. My niece makes every situation and family event about her. I've seen her take over family weddings, graduations and funerals, no kidding. I'm telling you, she has to have all the attention at all times. When she was a child, all I could do was sit by and watch, but now that's she's a 23-year-old woman, I just can't take it anymore. Oh, and did I mention, she's a super b*tch to her mother! Recently, I've stopped hanging out with my sister because I just cannot stand to be around her one and only daughter acting all ugly and ungrateful. I know at some point my sister will notice that I'm not hanging out as much. How do I tell her that I can't stand her daughter and its time she changed her ways?
Name withheld, Atlanta, Ga.

Who are you saying should change her ways, your sister or her daughter? Either way girl, you've got to let it go, this ain't your plant to water. You're grown and your niece is grown, this is a matter between two grown women. When speaking about conversations, there's no need to have a sit-down with her mother. That would be a waste of time anyway. In the words of Mz. Diana Ross, your sister's got a "Love Hangover" for her daughter, "she ain't tryin' to get over."

Uncomfortably for you, your conversation, if you decide to have it, should take place between you and your niece. Nope, you know what? I take that back. Your niece obviously loves herself very much and doesn't see a need to change.....right now. Life on the other hand will deliver her a dose of reality at some point that will stop her in her tracks. Trust me, cuzzin - Karma will visit in due season and there won't be a dang thing your sister can do about it. I shudder to think how ill-prepared her darling daughter will be. Keep her in your prayers.

On this sunny day, I were sitting in my right mind rocker, I'd try to talk you into working it out with your niece, but I won't. Control what you can Auntie, and that would be your level of cooperation. How about you show up for everything you're invited to that consists of four or more attendees. That way, you're never stuck standing, sitting or texting alongside your niece. If invited to any threesomes, don't go, you're unavailable. Not all life lessons remain the same. If at any time you notice a change in your niece, hallelujah, there'll be room to bloom and grow. But if not, no worries, God requires you to love her; but you ain't gotta like her!
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.

ENTERTAINMENT

Cash in the Apple



**By
Cash
Michaels**

BRAVO, VIOLA DAVIS - Let there be no doubt that Viola Davis is one of the most gifted, talented and versatile actresses of any color in the world today. So it was indeed fitting Sunday when she made history by becoming the first black actress in history to win an Emmy Award as Outstanding Lead Actress in a Drama Series for her starring role in ABC's "How to Get Away With Murder."

Now, to be clear, I've said before in this space that I stopped watching the series when it started showing what I considered explicit same-sex scenes. Nor something I'm comfortable with, and since it was clear that it would only get worse, I just stopped watching the show altogether.

But I never had a critical thing to say about Viola Davis or her performance. It was good to see a black actress in a multi-layered role where she could be tough as nails and intellectually sharp one moment, and be extraordinarily vulnerable the next.

Ms. Davis has always brought power to her many performances, as in "The Help" where she was nominated for an Oscar; "Get On Up" where she portrayed singer James Brown's mother; and even many years ago on the old "Law and Order" TV show, where she would guest star as a defense attorney.

And Davis has always brought dignity and vitality to her roles. So to have one of the best in the business finally recognized for her skill, is a proud accomplishment indeed.

The fact that she took the time to thank other contemporary black actresses like Kerry Washington of "Scandal"; Taraji P. Henson of "Empire"; Nicole Beharie of "Sleepy Hollow"; and Academy Award winner Halle Berry, shows class and awareness. In her acceptance, Davis said what separated her from white actresses was opportunity. She didn't have a lot to choose from when it came to roles, and when she did, the roles were limited to mostly stereotypical portrayals she had to make the best of in order to put food on the table.

So Viola Davis, I don't watch your show because it's a little too raw for me, but I always have, and always will enjoy your tremendous work. Thank you, and we all look forward to more in the future.

JEALOUSY - You know jealousy is a pretty destructive thing. Jealousy, quite simply, can have you do stupid things. Ask actress Nancy Lee Graham, who works on the ABC daytime soap opera "General Hospital."

Apparently Graham, who is white, didn't appreciate Viola Davis' moving Emmy acceptance speech that lack of opportunity was the only thing separating most black actresses from their white counterparts. Graham got on Twitter, and started blasting the black actress something fierce.

"I'm a f---g actress for 40 years," she wrote. "None of us get respect or opportunity we deserve. Emmys not venue 4 racial opportunity ALL women belittled."

Graham went on to write some other choice tweets, saying that Davis has "made millions," and "...has never been discriminated against."

Well, it didn't take long for Viola Davis fans to respond to Graham's rants, calling her a "racist" to start, and working in some other choice cuss words. This happened from Sunday to all day and into the evening Monday. Finally Graham tweeted her apologies, denying that she was a racist and maintaining that she was just a strong advocate for women's rights and felt all hard working women deserve respect and praise. She just didn't express that properly, Graham maintained.

"I've been schooled," she wrote finally.

Yes you have, my dear, yes you have.

PRAYERS FOR QUINCY - The man I consider to be THE master of music, composer/producer Quincy Jones, was taken to the hospital late last week after complaining of shortness of breath. Jones' publicist says the 82-year-old maestro is now fine (probably out by the time you read this).

Quincy is unique to music because he just doesn't hear music by notes, but actually "sees" music as artistic colors and shades of. Thus he produced some of the greatest music of all time, like Michael Jackson's "Thriller" album in 1981 that took the world by storm.

So let's all say a prayer for the quick recovery of legend Quincy Jones.

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.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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