

Coming **UP**
in OUR
COMMUNITY



On Sunday, March 6th, the New Hanover County NAACP joins with churches, mosques, synagogues and community organizations across the state for a Souls to the Polls early voting campaign. Hundreds of voters will go the polls on this first Sunday in March in honor of the 51st anniversary of Bloody Sunday when Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. led the march across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama, for the right to vote.

For the first time in twelve years the New Hanover County Board of Elections has approved early voting on a Sunday.

The only voting site open on March 6th is the New Hanover County Government Center, 230 Government Center Drive, Suite 180. Hours are noon to 8 pm. Call 910-264-3659 for rides.

OUTside
Looking IN

OUR VOICE



OUR
ENDORSEMENTS
BEGIN
PAGE 4

**BRUNSWICK
COUNTY
UPDATE**



**BERNEST HEWETT
NAACP
WINTER
CONFERENCE**

BY **BERNEST HEWETT**
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Brunswick County, I attended the NAACP Winter Conference. While there, I had a chance to view the school reports from all over America because they were just made available to the public to review. North Carolina has some of the lowest high school scores in the nation! The greatest disappointments were among the minority reports of the number of suspensions and placements into special schools as compared

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THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

News from the African American perspective without fear or favor

VOLUME 89/No. 9

MARCH 3 - MARCH 9, 2016

FIFTY CENTS

RALEIGH

COMMUNITY SEEKS ANSWERS IN FATAL POLICE SHOOTING

BY **CASH MICHAELS**
OF THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

Raleigh Police Chief Cassandra Deck-Brown's internal report to the city manager and City Council is due no later than Monday.

There is no word on when the State Bureau of Investigation will render the findings of its independent criminal investigation to Wake District Attorney Lorrin Freeman, or if those findings will be immediately made public.

And yet, the questions in the aftermath of the fatal Raleigh police

shooting Monday in Southeast Raleigh continue to grow, leaving a community shaken that compared to a Chicago, New York, or even Ferguson, Mo., such a thing could happen in Raleigh.

What is known is that shortly after 12 noon on Monday, Feb. 29th, Raleigh Senior Police Officer D. C. Twiddy, 29, shot and killed Akiel Rakim Lakeith Denkins, 24, during a foot chase at Bragg and East streets while attempting to serve a felony arrest warrant. Several witnesses say they saw the chase, saw Denkins run behind P.J.'s Grill and Groceries,

climb over a chain-linked fence and was attempting to climb another, when Officer Twiddy, who had fallen after climbing the first fence, drew his weapon and fired repeatedly, fatally striking Denkins.

Some eyewitnesses say they heard as many as six to seven shots, and that Denkins was struck in the back.

Several have alleged that Denkins was unarmed, even though Raleigh Police Chief Cassandra Deck-Brown



AKIEL DENKINS

Please see **SHOOTING**
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BRUNSWICK COUNTY

GOOD CITIZENS



Students and parents honored at the Good Neighbor Breakfast.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Students honored at Leland Middle School

SPECIAL TO THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

Leland Middle School was filled with good citizens and good neighbors in February as students were recognized during the Good Neighbor Breakfast hosted by Communities In Schools of Brunswick County in partnership with Brunswick County Schools.

Students were chosen by their teachers for representing good citizenship and being good students. LMS teachers spoke about each student and shared with the attendees why the student was honored as a good citizen or good neighbor. Each honoree

received a certificate and bag of goodies.

The Good Neighbor Breakfast is a collaborative effort of CIS and Brunswick County Schools. Brunswick County Schools Superintendent Les Tubb and LMS Principal Patricia Underwood spoke words of congratulations and encouragement to the students, parents, and teachers in attendance. The event was sponsored by CIS.

Students honored at the breakfast included: Leslie Barron, Kwesi Clarke, Michael Hill, Lara Kurt, Morgan Langley, Tristan Marks, Hector Ruiz, Connor Santos, Nicholas Stanley, and Sehrenia Toms.



**NCCU CHANCELLOR
DEBORAH SAUNDERS-WHITE**

**Admissions
program to affect
minorities most
NCCU chancellor
speaks out**

BY **RAY GRONBERG**
OF THE DURHAM HERALD SUN

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DURHAM - The "guaranteed admission" program that will actually force some students admitted to UNC system schools to go to a community college instead is likely to hit blacks and other minorities hard, N.C. Central University's chancellor said last Tuesday.

Please see **ADMISSIONS**
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Push for Obama to nominate Loretta Lynch to High Court

BY **CASH MICHAELS**
OF THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

When President Obama, Republican Majority Leader Sen. Mitch McConnell [Ky.] and others briefly met at the White House Tuesday to discuss the political log jam casting a shadow on the president nominating a replacement for the late US Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia, one thing was made very clear - Obama intends to carry out his constitutional duty to nominate a qualified candidate before he leaves office next January, whether McConnell and the Senate take up that nomination or not.

The Republicans present reaffirmed their vow not to even consider it before the next president takes office, hoping that it will be a Republican.

If the president nominated either a moderate or progressive to fill the ultra-conservative Scalia's shoes, it would tip the ideological balance of the SCOTUS to the left, thus breaking the cur-

rent four-four liberal to conservative tie, something that Republicans do not want. Justice Scalia's right-wing leanings assured conservatives that they had at least one solid champion on the court. In the wake of his death several weeks ago, they do not want to hand Obama any advantages.

Among black leadership, though, the growing consensus of who the president should nominate to the High Court is clear - US Attorney General Loretta Lynch.

"I would love to see him appoint Loretta Lynch," US Rep. Elijah Cummings [D-MD], senior member of the Congressional Black Caucus, told The Hill Newspaper. "She's already been vetted. She meets the criteria that he's laid out. She would certainly be my recommendation."

Even North Carolina's black leadership agrees. She would be a powerful nominee," says NC NAACP Pres. Rev. William Barber. "Her creden-



**US ATTORNEY GENERAL
LORETTA LYNCH**

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JOURNAL

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ADMISSIONS
 Continued from Page 1

Addressing NCCU's campus trustees, Chancellor Debra Saunders-White said the figures she's seen indicate that 86 percent of the students who fit the criteria for diversion will be minorities.
 "It has a disproportionate effect on African-American students and students of color," she said of the state budget

mandate that unless amended will affect admissions to every class that enrolls at a UNC system campus from the fall of 2017 forward.
 In citing a percentage, Saunders-White was apparently alluding to an upcoming report from the UNC system and the N.C. Community Colleges that's supposed to go to legislative staff, a General Assembly oversight committee and the governor's budget office this week.
 Legislators have told the sys-

tem to force prospective freshmen whose "academic credentials are not as competitive as other students" to prove their worthiness by earning a community college associate's degree first.
 The final version of the program, included in the state's fiscal 2015-16 budget, didn't set a numeric quota on diversions. But Saunders-White told trustees the program's shaping up to target "the bottom 2 1/2 percent of your admitted class."
 It's not clear, even necessari-

ly to NCCU administrators, how they'll ultimately decide who falls in that category. But it seems likely that one effect will be a de facto increase of minimum admission standards.
 Whereas a 2.5 high school grade-point average is now the system's minimum for admission, once the program takes effect, admitted students with up to a 2.7 might be at risk of diversion, Provost Johnson Akinleye said.
 One of the program's N.C. House supporters, state Rep.

Craig Horn, R-Union, told a system Board of Governors Committee last month the "bottom quartile" or "last quartile" of each admitted class would likely be better off being diverted to community college.
Ray Gronberg covers higher education for The Herald-Sun. He's been with the paper since 1992, and holds degrees from UNC Charlotte (1984) and UNC Chapel Hill (1994).
 Contact Ray Gronberg: rgronberg@heraldsun.com, 919-419-6648

Clinton, Trump win big, but voting problems undermine process

BY HAZEL TRICE EDNEY
 (TriceEdneyWire.com) -
 Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and billionaire businessman Donald Trump won sweeping majorities of the votes in the 12 Super Tuesday states this week. But, as the polls closed, the Election Protection program - designed to shield the integrity of the vote - had received more than 2,000 calls.

In the Democratic campaign, Clinton, once again bolstered by 83 percent of Black voters according to a CNN exit poll, won seven states - Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Massachusetts, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and the American Samoa territory. Her opponent, Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, with only 15 percent of Black voters, won four states - Colorado, Minnesota, Oklahoma and Vermont.

Republican Donald Trump won Alabama, Arkansas, Tennessee, Georgia, Massachusetts, Virginia and Vermont. His opponents, Texas Sen. Ted Cruz, won Alaska, Oklahoma and Texas; and Florida Sen. Marco Rubio won Minnesota. Medical Dr. Ben Carson and Ohio Gov. John Kasich won no states. Only Republicans competed in Alaska and only Democrats competed in the American Samoa.

The Clinton and Trump wins on Super Tuesday added to both of their momentums after the South Carolina primary Feb. 27 where they also won handily. Bolstered by a heavy Black voter turnout, Clinton won 73 percent of the vote over Sanders' 26.5 percent in South Carolina. Trump won 32.5 percent of the vote in a field that was then six candidates.

As much as the state wins are stressed, it's actually the numbers of delegates that each state carries that actually count. Democrats need 2,383

delegates to win the nomination. Clinton currently has 1,055 and Sanders has 418. Republicans need 1,237 to win the nomination. Trump currently has 315, Cruz has 205 and Rubio has 106. Other primaries and caucuses will take place through Tuesday, June 14.

Streams of voters turned out on Super Tuesday, the largest group primary and caucus day of the presidential election year. But, according to poll watchers, it may not have been all fair game. The national, nonpartisan Election Protection voter hotline reportedly received more than 2,000 phone calls from voters who encountered issues while voting.

"We received hundreds of calls across the country on our 866-OUR-VOTE hotline from voters who want to participate in our democracy," said Kristen Clarke, president and executive director of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, in a statement issued to the media. "I spoke with one voter for over 20 minutes in Cobb County, Georgia who was not given notice that his polling place was temporarily moved and when he got to the new site, he and many other voters found a dark, unmarked building with no signs of any activity."

The majority of calls reportedly came from Texas and Georgia, the statement said. "The hotline received a steady stream of calls throughout the day with voters seeking information as well as assistance on a range of issues resulting from poll worker misinformation, voter ID problems, overcrowded polls, long lines and ballot shortages."

Meanwhile, Clinton and Sanders are poised to face off in yet another debate, set for Sunday, March 6 in Flint, Mich., where a government water crisis has poisoned thousands of most Black people, including children, with lead. Democrats will also debate March 9 in Florida. Two more will be held in April and May, but details have not

been announced. The final Republican debates are March 3 in Detroit, March 10 in Miami and March 21 in Salt Lake City.

The nominees will be selected during the Democratic Convention in Philadelphia July 25-28 and during the Republican Convention in Cleveland July 18-21. But, as voters prepare to head for the polls Nov. 8, the apparent voter violations reported on Super Tuesday underscored the need for close oversight.

"Today, hundreds of thousands of voters from Virginia to Alabama to Texas headed to the polls and many called 866-OUR-VOTE to receive information and report problems," said Marcia Johnson Blanco, co-director of the Voting Rights Project. "As in years past, this election showed the continuing need for Election Protection to provide services year-round to help voters as they prepare to cast ballot."

The Election Protection program will continue providing support to voters during the 2016 presidential primary


season and through the Nov. 8 election.

Clarke concluded, "Our experience on Super Tuesday

shows that much work remains to be done to strengthen our voting process across the country."

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UNIVERSITY of NORTH CAROLINA WILMINGTON
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 Preliminary rendering for informational purposes only. Credit: Bruce Bowman/Bowman Murray Hemingway Architects, Wilmington, NC

BRUNSWICK
 Continued from Page 1

to White children. Brunswick County has one of the highest rates of minority Black suspensions and one among the lowest hiring rate of Black educators.

The Humanitarian Banquet was held at Abundant Life Christian Center, where the Honorable Mickey Michaux was given the Humanitarian Award. He was elected to the North Carolina House of Representatives and served 1972-1977. He was re-elected in 1984 and presently serves. His most notable achievement in the North Carolina legislature was to serve as Appropriations Committee Chairperson. He is the longest serving African American Democrat in the North Carolina General Assembly.

I find myself wondering have we looked at this monster education bill that is supposed to be on the ballot. Is it for the good of all people or just White people and White colleges? From where I stand, and from what I have read, there is not much in this bond issue for our Historic Black Colleges and Universities. In fact, it looks as though it will close the doors of some of them. We must be careful because we find education is secondary to this administration that is in office today. We need a good and professional school system in order to move forward with the rest of the world.


We must educate our people, Blacks, Whites, Indians, Hispanics, etc. and not hinder the freedom process, if we want to be a free society, we must believe that what we do today can improve all our tomorrows. You create your

opportunities by asking for them. Don't let these problems stop you by asking for them. Don't let these problems stop you! Let's keep fighting for freedom, not defeat!

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



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EARLY VOTING BEGINS MARCH 3 - 12 FOR MARCH 15TH PRIMARIES [RALEIGH] For the next two weeks, early voting for the March 15th primaries are underway in North Carolina for all slated races except congressional, which have been postponed until June 7 pending federal court approval of NC's redrawn redistricting maps. Same-day registration is allowed during the early voting period. If you're not registered on Tuesday, March 15th, you will not be allowed to cast a ballot. To find where to early



STATE BRIEFS

vote, go to http://vt.ncsbe.gov/pollingplace_search/. Voter photo ID is required, but if you don't have any, you'll be required to fill out a form and then be allowed to cast a provisional ballot.

PROTESTERS GREET UNC SYSTEM PRES. SPELLINGS ON FIRST DAY

[CHAPEL HILL] If new UNC System Pres. Margaret Spellings thought her first day on the job March 1st was going to be uneventful, she was in for a rude awakening. Students and faculty members came together on the UNC - Chapel Hill campus Tuesday loudly protesting against Spellings, saying that she was wrong for the post. Spellings, who was

selected by the all-Republican UNC Board last year, previously served as US Secretary of Education under Pres. George Bush. Protesters say they are concerned, based on Spellings past history and how she was chosen, about what new restrictive policies she might impose on the 17-campus system.

FEDERAL JUDGE UPHOLDS NEW WAKE SCHOOL BOARD AND COUNTY COMMISSION MAPS

[RALEIGH] Saying that plaintiffs failed to prove that new redistricting maps governing Wake School Board and County Commission elections "failed" to prove a violation of the constitution-

ally protected "one-person, one vote requirement, US District Court Judge James C. Dever III dismissed a lawsuit seeking to throw the new maps out. The judge also ruled that the Republican-led NC General Assembly did not racially gerrymander the district lines for Southeast Raleigh. Plaintiffs say they may appeal the ruling.

AFTER 20 YEARS, NC STATE STUDENT CONVICTED OF SHAW STUDENT'S MURDER

[RALEIGH] In 1996, the remains of Shaw University student LaCoy McQueen were found in the woods near Kittrell after she was missing for several weeks. Police immediately suspected her

boyfriend, Edwin Christopher Lawing, an NC State student, for her murder, but couldn't prove it. But this week, a Wake County jury convicted Lawing of first-degree murder in the crime, and he was sentenced to life in prison. Prosecutors say Lawing strangled McQueen to death after she told him she was pregnant. He then dumped the body in the woods off US 1 in Vance County. Lawing couldn't be prosecuted because there was no way to prove that the murder took place in Wake. Finally, after many years, it was determined that small rocks found in his shoes matched ones found at the crime.

CHAPEL HILL REMOVES MARKER TO DECEASED SLAVES

[CHAPEL HILL] Workers for the town of Chapel Hill removed a recently installed granite marker that honored over 350 deceased, nameless slaves and "free people of color" that are buried in the Old Chapel Hill Cemetery. Mayor Pam Hemminger said while marker was a "fabulous idea," it did not go through the normal "community process" of approval, and as a result, the inscription offended some in the community. The marker will be stored until the inscription is changed.

COMPILED BY CASH MICHAELS

SHOOTING

Continued from Page 1

later told reporters that a gun was found near Denkins' body.

Assuming the events as described by some witnesses are true, it will only be until after an autopsy and forensic evidence are released that it will be known exactly how many times Denkins was struck, and exactly where.

Long before conclusive evidence is known, however, the community and its leaders have peacefully, but forcefully taken to the streets, demanding the truth, demanding justice, and claiming their right to the painful declaration that has been uttered in numerous other American cities since the police killing of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Mo. in August 2014.

"Black Lives Matter." Again, until a final public accounting is made by either the Raleigh Police Department or the Wake County District Attorney's Office based on the SBI independent criminal investigation, based on what little about the fatal shooting has been reported, there are mounting questions.

THE GUN - In her statement to the media Monday afternoon post incident,

Raleigh Police Chief Cassandra Deck-Brown said, "Initially it is known that a firearm was located in close proximity to the deceased suspect. That weapon, along with all other elements available at the scene will be processed."

Are Akiel Denkins' fingerprints on that gun? Who does the gun legally belong to? Was the gun fired on that day, and was it fired by Denkins? Is the officer alleging that Denkins brandished the weapon toward him during the pursuit? If the officer fired his weapon six - seven times, why do so toward someone running away from him, instead of toward him in a threatening manner? Why didn't any of the witnesses who spoke to the media say anything about seeing Denkins with a weapon, or pointing the weapon toward the officer?

Was Akiel Denkins known to have carried a firearm? If so, was he ever arrested and charged with a firearms violation before? If he was ever charged with carrying an illegal weapon, then was only one officer sent to find him to serve a felony drug warrant, and if so, why only one? If there were other officers, what were their actions before, during and after Denkins allegedly ran.

THE OFFICER - Senior Officer D.C. Twiddy has been

employed with the Raleigh Police Department since November 2009 and is assigned to the Field Operations Division. He is currently on administrative duty pending completion of the SBI criminal investigation.

What is his history while serving on the RPD? Has he ever had any prior incidents of citizen complaints, firing his weapon on the job, or have been accused of using undue force while on duty? Did Officer Twiddy come to the RPD from either service in the military or from another law enforcement agency?

How long has Officer Twiddy been patrolling that Southeast Raleigh neighborhood since he's been on the force? What was his reputation in that neighborhood? Did he and Akiel Denkins ever have contact before, and if so, what was the nature of that contact?

According to published reports, Akiel Denkins was well-known and liked in the Bragg Street community. He was the father of two young children, and even though he had a criminal record (arrested 16 times over the past five years reportedly) dealing mainly with illegal drugs, Denkins was studying to improve himself and become a carpenter.

"He was a father's son and a mother's son! I heard that his daughter was asking for him the night he was killed! He was a father who turned 24 on February 8th! I heard he was loved by people on Bragg Street and he did what he could to help them in any way! That was his home! He wanted to be a carpenter!" stated Southeast Raleigh activist Aaliyah Blaylock on her Facebook page tribute to Denkins.

Hundreds of people have held a vigil at the site of the shooting, marched through the streets of Raleigh blocking traffic downtown, and speaking out demanding justice. Ministers of churches in the

community have called for calm and patience for the truth to come out, but have also called for justice if the facts determine that the officer was in the wrong.

Raleigh Mayor Nancy McFarlane, along with Chief Deck-Brown and other city leaders, has expressed condolences to Denkins' family, and also asked for calm, hoping not to see a repeat of violent street clashes that have marred cities like Baltimore in the aftermath of previous alleged police abuse cases.

The Raleigh Police Protective Association has come out in full support of Officer Twiddy and his actions.

The NC NAACP has also urged community calm while demanding honest answers. NC NAACP Pres. Rev. William Barber, during a Tuesday press conference with Akiel Denkins' mother on hand, said the community "can handle the truth."

"Just be honest and forthright," Rev. Barber insisted.

Tonight during a community town hall meeting at Martin Street Baptist Church at 6:30 p.m. sponsored by State Sen. Dan Blue and House representatives Rosa Gill and Yvonne Holley, all three Southeast Raleigh leaders are expected to address the events of this week with the community.

HIGH COURT

Continued from Page 1

tials are phenomenal. She is from the South, a black woman, and someone who has already been confirmed."

The Greensboro native, 56, endured a prolonged five-month confirmation battle in 2015 before McConnell and his Republican US Senate majority finally confirmed her last April. Observers say in the likelihood that Senate Republicans stick to their promise to not even give Pres. Obama's nominee a hearing, they would run a tremendous political risk of not only besmirching Atty. Gen. Lynch two years in a row, but also angering the black Democratic voting base during a presidential election year.

Indeed black female Democrats, the party's most active base, would certainly be fired up about supporting one of their own to again make history.

Given how business tycoon Donald Trump is emerging as the likely GOP presidential nominee, observers say McConnell and Senate

Republicans would not only run the risk of a black voter backlash when they would least afford it, but could also cripple their goal of holding onto their Senate majority in November, putting vulnerable GOP senators at risk in states where Obama won in 2008.

Even veteran SCOTUS watchers, like Tom Goldstein, who writes the widely read SCOTUSB log.com, actually changed his earlier prediction of another likely Obama High Court candidate, and recently ruminated on the considerable political benefit a Loretta Lynch nomination would bring.

"The stakes could not be higher: the appointment could flip the Supreme Court's ideological balance for decades," Goldstein wrote recently. "Second, gain as much political benefit as possible and exact as heavy a political toll as possible on Republicans, particularly in the presidential election. Precisely because of the seat's importance, this is the rare time that a material number of voters may seriously think about the Court

in deciding whether to vote at all and who to vote for."

Other observers believe that while Lynch would certainly be the best known SCOTUS nominee Pres. Obama could forward to the US Senate, there are other black female judicial candidates whose stellar records of accomplishment would also produce an outstanding and history-making first African-American female associate justice of the US Supreme Court.

But given her exemplary record as US attorney general thus far, observers say Loretta Lynch would be the president's most powerful choice.

"The United States Supreme Court and our nation would be well served with a nomination of Attorney General Loretta Lynch to replace Justice Scalia on that court," says attorney Irving Joyner, law professor at the North Carolina Central University School of Law in Durham. "Her credentials are outstanding and she has been an outstanding attorney general during the time that she has been in that position."



Black Women Speak
A Documentary by Maurice M. Martinez

**Tuesday, March 15
6 p.m., Lumina Theater**

Join us for two premieres celebrating Women's History Month featuring films by acclaimed local filmmakers Maurice Martinez and Aeric Adams. Martinez, *Black Women Speak* director, and the women featured in the film will hold a panel discussion following the screening. This event is free and open to the public.

Four Women: A Tribute to Nina Simone (5 min.)
A film by Aeric Adams

Black Women Speak (25 min.)
A film by Maurice M. Martinez, Professor Emeritus, Watson College of Education



Sponsored by the UNCW Women's Studies and Resource Center, Upperman African American Cultural Center and Watson College of Education
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RECYCLE

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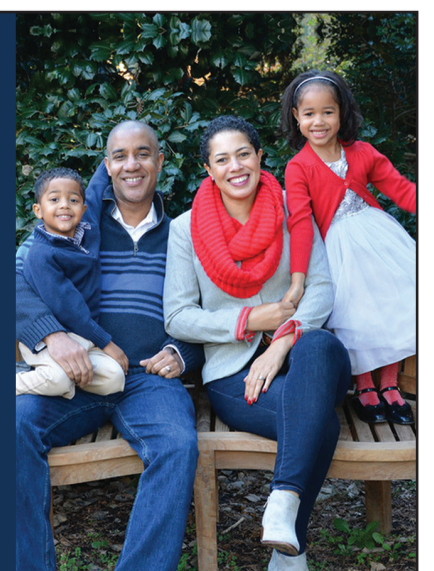
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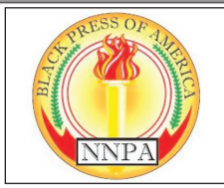
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- Maintain a commitment to commonsense fiscal management of our state
- Protect public employee's pension and benefits
- Ensure that the State Health plan is properly managed to protect affordable access
- Maintain our state's AAA bond rating

Early Voting Starts - March 3rd Primary Election Day - March 15th

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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 wilmjournal@aol.com or via fax at (910) 343-1334.

Our Voice

OUR ENDORSEMENTS BEGIN

Early voting is underway from now through Saturday, March 12 at 1 p.m. for the Tuesday, March 15th primaries. Hours of early voting are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Saturday, March 5 from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Sunday, March 6 from 12 noon to 8 p.m. and Saturday, March 12 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Government Center - 230 Government Center Drive, Suite 34. Please check www.elections.nhcgoc.com for additional locations and their hours, or call 910-798-7330.

If you are not registered to vote during this early voting period, you may do so the same day that you cast your ballot. Please bring an official document like your utility bill for proof of address for identification. You can only do same-day registration until March 12. You will not be allowed to register to vote on March 15th, Primary Day.

You must also show photo identification in order to vote, but if you don't have one, you will be required to fill out a form explaining why, and then be allowed to cast a provisional ballot.

There will be a second primary for just congressional candidates on Tuesday, June 7th because the prior 13-district congressional map was ruled unconstitutional, and the NC General Assembly redrew the map and pushed back the date pending approval of a federal court.

GOVERNOR--KEN SPAULDING

In the Democratic primary race on March 15th, this newspaper wholeheartedly endorses the candidacy of Durham attorney and former state lawmaker Kenneth Spaulding. To put it bluntly, we like Ken because he has a fire in his belly for serving not just the black community, but all communities regardless of color. Spaulding has an abhorrence for injustice, and has been traveling the length and breadth of this state for the past two years talking with, and listening to North Carolinians as they cry out for economic and social justice. For over 30 years, Spaulding has been an attorney, and has helped to bring hundreds of millions of dollars in business development and jobs to the state so that many can feed their families and build productive lives for themselves. As a state lawmaker, he was right there sponsoring laws to bring about a greater justice and equality for all.

After the unmitigated disaster that has been the Pat McCrory years, North Carolina needs a fighter for the common man who knows in his bones what real justice and fairness for all is all about.

In the March 15 Democratic primary, vote Ken Spaulding for governor.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR--LINDA COLEMAN

Four years ago, Linda Coleman fell just a handful of votes short of being elected lieutenant governor of North Carolina. Courageously, and facing even more primary challengers, Coleman is vying for the office again, promising to be that strong, forceful yet positive voice for North Carolina families when it comes to the critical issues that affect them the most.

Coleman is a former educator, county commissioner, state lawmaker and state personnel director, so she is uniquely experienced to represent everyday people on the issues of improving public education, economic development, greater access to affordable health care and expanding job opportunities. Coleman has raised and educated her own children here in North Carolina, so she knows firsthand the struggles of parents who only want the best for their children, and need that voice to fight for them.

Linda Coleman is the complete package, and would be the perfect team member to a Governor Ken Spaulding.

In the March 15 Democratic primary, vote Linda Coleman for lieutenant governor.

US SENATE--CHRIS REY

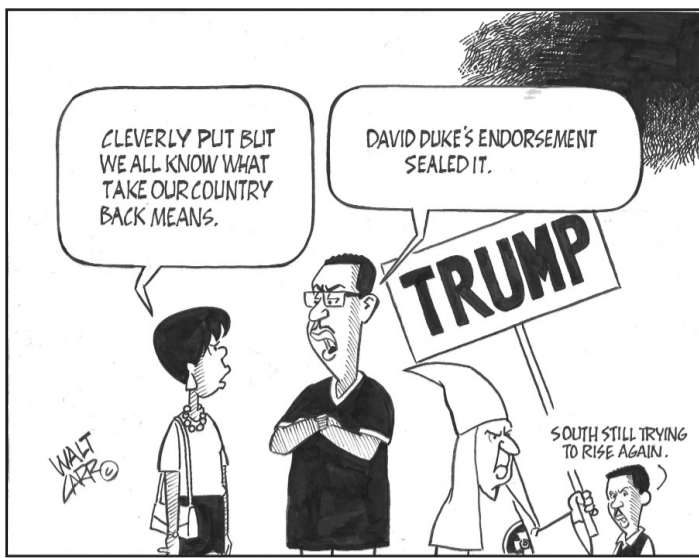
We must admit, we are quite impressed with the energy and vision of Spring Lake Mayor Chris Rey. This three-term public servant is about positive action for the people, and his record of accomplishments from getting body cameras for his police officers to having "ban the box" as an official city policy, are proof that this young man is both progressive and visionary. And that's why Mayor Rey wants to be elected as North Carolina's next US senator, replacing one-term Republican incumbent Richard Burr. Chris Rey believes the families of North Carolina deserve a voice that knows their struggles, hopes and dreams. He wants them to know that if no one else is listening in Washington, D.C., that he will be, and that they can count on Chris Rey to both sponsor, and support the kind of common sense legislation that speaks to improving their collective quality of life.

Mayor Rey has proudly served his country in the military, is a strong believer in national security, but is an even stronger believer family security - people being able to support their families by bringing home bigger paychecks, and he promises to fight to make that happen if elected.

In the March 15th Democratic primary, vote Chris Rey for US Senate.

(More Endorsements Next Week)

Visual Voice



Matters of Opinion

Why aren't we discussing voter suppression ?

There are many peculiar things about the 2016 election cycle, but one of them is what is not being discussed.



Bill Fletcher

There are two items that immediately jump to mind and, believe it or not they both have to do with elections. The first is, that in the state of Michigan, there have been a series of silent coups taking place in which Black-majority cities are losing control over their own affairs to a White, Republican Governor Snyder who intervenes supposedly in order to address various crises. This matter most recently became very public in the context of the travesty surrounding the revelation of water poisoning in Flint, Michigan. In the recent past, Flint was run by an

emergency manager appointed by the governor.

Despite the existence of these silent coups, very little attention has surfaced in the mainstream media. Certainly part of the reason is that these are Black-majority cities in question and, as a result, the problem of the deprival of democracy can seem to only affect Black people. I hate to put it that way, but that is the reality of the situation.

The fact that these silent coups have been taking place, and yet there has been little to no outrage in non-black communities, should alert us to a growing danger of declining democracy. That these cities can be deprived of local control and, in effect, disenfranchise the voters, means that such an approach can be taken in any city. This is not a problem limited to the situation facing African Americans. A precedent has been set and, as has been demonstrated time and again throughout the history of the

United States, if the ruling elite—or a segment—wants to push through a nefarious measure, they first implement it in communities of color. Once it is successfully implemented in communities of color, there are no longer any arguments about its legitimacy when used more broadly. The disenfranchisement of the Black vote in the South with Jim Crow at the turn of the 20th century, which ended up disenfranchising much of the poor White vote, is a case in point.

Yet here we are in an election year, and there has been near silence about this effort to suppress the black vote. These silent coups should be added to other mean-spirited efforts to restrict the ability of citizens to vote. Using the duplicitous suggestion of widespread voter fraud, the Republicans have whipped up a panic—largely among whites—about alleged illegitimate voters affecting election outcomes. While the chances

of voter fraud are less than the chance of being hit by lightning, the Republicans have met with success in moving various onerous steps to restrict voting times, days, as well as eligibility. These efforts gained renewed Republican vigor in the aftermath of the 2008 election of President Obama.

What a coincidence! Here we are in the 2016 and this suppression of democracy has received almost no attention from the candidates. While I would not expect the Republicans to highlight their own authoritarian moves, it is curious that this has not been a central theme for either Senator Sanders or former Secretary of State Clinton.

Apparently the conclusion is that we, the voters, will have to make this central to the 2016 election cycle.

Bill Fletcher, Jr. is a talk-show host, writer and activist. Follow him on Twitter at @BillFletcherJr; Facebook and at www.billfletcherjr.com.

CASH IN THE APPLE

Melissa Harris Perry

Last weekend, MSNBC commentator Melissa Harris Perry refused to do her weekend morning show on the network, protesting the fact that she felt her bosses had been disrespectful to her and her program. In effect, MHP drew a line in the sand and said "Enough."



Cash Michaels

Two days later, MSNBC, obviously stung by the public rebuke of one of its brightest, young stars, made it known that the relationship was irreparable, and that it was indeed parting ways with her.

There are several ways to look at this. Quite frankly, if MHP wasn't an informative television commentator whose show could always be counted on to deal honestly with black community issues I wouldn't be dealing with it all. First, here are some excerpts from MHP to her staff. Her show had been preempted for the two weeks prior because of the primaries, so MHP was not pleased with her on-air situation. Again, she was scheduled to go on, but was now refusing to.

Some unknown decision-maker, presumably [NBC News Pres.] Andy Lack or [MSNBC Pres.] Phil Griffin, has added my name to this spreadsheet, but nothing has changed in the posture of the MSNBC leadership team toward me or toward our show. Putting me on air seems to be a decision being made solely to save face because there is a growing chorus of questions from our viewers about my notable absence from MSNBC coverage... However, I am not willing to appear on air in order to quell concerns about the disappearance of our show and our voice.

Here is the reality: our show was taken-without comment or discussion or notice-in the midst of an election season. After four years of building an audience, developing a brand,

and developing trust with our viewers, we were effectively and utterly silenced. Now, MSNBC would like me to appear for four inconsequential hours to read news that they deem relevant without returning to our team any of the editorial control and authority that makes MHP Show distinctive.

The purpose of this decision seems to be to provide cover for MSNBC, not to provide voice for MHP Show. I will not be used as a tool for their purposes. I am not a token, mammy, or little brown bobble head. I am not owned by Lack, Griffin, or MSNBC. I love our show. I want it back. I have wept more tears than I can count and I find this deeply painful, but I don't want back on air at any cost. I am only willing to return when that return happens under certain terms.

Undoubtedly, television nurtures the egos of those of us who find ourselves in front of bright lights and big cameras. I am sure ego is informing my own pain in this moment, but there is a level of professional decency, respect, and communication that has been denied this show for years. And the utter insulting absurdity of the past few weeks exceeds anything I can countenance. I have stayed in the same hotels where MSNBC has been broadcasting in Iowa, in New Hampshire, and in South Carolina, yet I have been shut out from coverage. I have a PhD in political science and have taught American voting and elections at some of the nation's top universities for nearly two decades, yet I have been deemed less worthy to weigh in than relative novices and certified liars. I have hosted a weekly program on this network for four years and contributed to election coverage on this network for nearly eight years, but no one on the third floor has even returned an email, called me, or initiated or responded to any communication of any kind from me for nearly a month. It is profoundly hurtful to realize that I work for people who find my considerable expertise and editorial

judgment valueless to the coverage they are creating.

While MSNBC may believe that I am worthless, I know better: I know who I am. I know why MHP Show is unique and valuable. I will not sell short myself or this show. I am not hungry for empty airtime. I care only about substantive, meaningful, and autonomous work. When we can do that, I will return-not a moment earlier. I am deeply sorry for the ways that this decision makes life harder for all of you. You mean more to me than you can imagine.

My thoughts? First of all, this email clearly indicates that there has been a steady diet of either miscommunication, or no communication at all between MHP and the brass at MSNBC for some time, and the recent change of direction at the liberal-leaning cable network only made it worse.

Some facts you may not like - the MHP show on MSNBC was owned by MSNBC, not MHP. She did not produce it under a separate production company. It was produced under the auspices of MSNBC/NBC News, so while she hosted it and apparently had editorial control, MHP did not own it.

I don't present that to excuse MSNBC's behavior, but rather shed light on it. As far as they were concerned, MHP gave them four hours of programming on Saturday and Sunday mornings targeted specifically, but not exclusively, to its African-American audience. They were four hours they could spare, as far as MSNBC was concerned, until they needed them back for something they considered more important.

The presidential election was considered more important.

Now, beyond the tone of MHP's email, I have no idea what the true gist of her relationship with MSNBC brass was. I suspect it was not bad - bad, but wasn't all that healthy either. That tells me that when it came to important decisions, MHP was really not seen as part of the team. Her show,

beyond whatever cursory value it apparently had to the network given its weekend status, really wasn't seen as something MSNBC considered important.

That's not a message you want to send to someone like MHP. She is an extraordinarily gifted black intellectual. She is an accomplished professor of political science at Wake Forest University, a published author and in-demand lecturer. Indeed, she is considered part of black leadership, and respected as such.

So MHP isn't just another weekend TV personality. She IS somebody who used her weekend show to help inform and enlighten her audience, giving them important perspectives they really couldn't get elsewhere.

MHP is a professional, and expected to be treated as such. Television is a business of egos, so this should not have been anything new for the suits at MSNBC to deal with. But apparently, in their quest to improve ratings at any cost, the suits there saw MHP as a lower priority than some of their stars like Rachel Maddow, Chris Matthews or Chris Hayes.

Part of this is natural in the TV business, but it's also quite stupid. Recognizing your network's talent, and giving them opportunities to shine and contribute, should be basic common sense.

Now MSNBC has egg on its face. MHP is gone and MSNBC is hard-pressed to explain it. It is a loss, and we so hope that MHP is able to find another weekly avenue to share her unique black perspective. Lord knows that she will be missed.

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.

BLACKONOMICS

Amateurish politics

(via George Curry Media)

The "Silly Season," as many call it, is well under way, and Black people are up to our necks in it. The usual suspects are jockeying for position with certain presidential candidates. They are vying for the Black spokesperson position, knocking one another down as they rush toward the microphones and cameras. They are acting real silly themselves when it comes to endorsements and support for candidates who use them as sycophants to feed us warmed-over political pabulum.

Of course, the Democrats are the heavy favorites among Black folks, so it's pretty easy for Black political mouthpieces to do their traditional thing on the Dems behalf and to our detriment, of course. The Republicans only have

two or three Blacks asking us to vote for them, despite their candidates never citing Black issues in their speeches. But that's par for the political course. Both parties are playing us, and the sad part is that some of our own brothers and sisters are helping them. But, that's our fault.

We vote for candidates simply because someone famous endorses them. That's why we see this constant coming out party among Black folks who like either Uncle Bernie or Mama Hillary. One Black commentator said Bernie needs to "tell old civil rights stories" to get more Black votes. Are we so child-like that all it takes is for some celebrity, news commentator, or politician to issue a statement of support for us to fall head-over-heels for a particular candidate? That's weak and intellectually lazy, y'all. Think for yourself; think independently.

What exactly have we gained from candidates we have supported, endorsed, and worked for in the past? Are we politically and economically empowered? Has their being elected leveraged any "Black-

specific" reciprocity, such as what was given to Hispanic, Filipino, Jewish, and LGBT groups? If you are intellectually honest, you know the correct answers to those questions. We give our votes and get virtually nothing in return. How silly is that in the "Silly Season"?

Historian Carter G. Woodson wrote, "It is unfortunate that such a large number of Negroes do not know any better than to stake their whole fortune on politics. History does not show that any race, especially a minority group, has ever solved an important problem by relying altogether on one thing, certainly not by parking its political strength on one side of the fence because of empty promises."

Black people must work on being economically and politically empowered - in that order, or at least concurrently. We will not win as long as we stay on our present path, which is seeking political empowerment from an economically weak position. Amos Wilson wrote, "Economic powerlessness

means political powerlessness. The idea that the African American community can exercise effective power, political or otherwise, without simultaneously exercising economic power, is a fantasy

There are several "Black specific" issues, but let's look at just two: Internal and external reparations. When asked about the "R" word, Hillary Clinton said we need "investments in our neighborhoods" instead of reparations. Investment is great, but the folks in the neighborhoods must have a say in who gets the development contracts and the jobs that come along with investment. Internally, Black folks must start and grow more businesses and support them with our dollars.

Bernie Sanders says Blacks "need jobs," not reparations. In an interview in Iowa, Bernie said, "Its [reparations] likelihood of getting through Congress is nil; second of all, I think it would be very divisive." Japanese, Filipino, and

CLINGMAN

Continued on this page

CURRY'S COMMENTS

Why Blacks are voting for Hillary

(Via George Curry Media)

Most racial, ethnic, religious, and political groups in the United States vote for people who appear to represent their best interests. Yet, when African Americans do the same thing, many people seem surprised - including some Blacks.

Blacks realize what is at stake in this election and have ignored the naysayers who thought just because Barack Obama's name is not on the ballot this year, Blacks would stay home. Not only are they not staying home, we're seeing in the Southern states - where more than half of all African Americans live - that Blacks are voting in record numbers.

African Americans in South Carolina got the Clinton juggernaut rolling.

As the New York Times observed, "She has won South Carolina in a rout, 73.5 percent to 26 percent, exceeding Mr. Obama's own 29-point victory in 2008. She did it the same way that Mr. Obama did: with overwhelming support from black voters, who favored Mrs. Clinton over Bernie Sanders by a stunning margin of 87 to 13, according to updated exit polls - a tally that would be larger than Mr. Obama's victory among black voters eight years earlier. Black voters represented 62 percent of the electorate, according to exit polls, even higher than in 2008."

No, they weren't "feeling the Bern" in South Carolina. Nor were they feeling it on Super Tuesday in the six states where Blacks have an above-average share of the Democratic vote - Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee, Virginia, Arkansas and Texas.

Sanders chose to campaign in five states with a higher proportion of White voters: Colorado, Minnesota, Massachusetts, Oklahoma and Vermont, his home state.

Clinton holds a commanding lead in delegates and after the voting on Super Tuesday, Louisiana on March 5 and March 15 contests in Florida, Missouri, North Carolina, and Ohio, she could amass so many delegates that Sanders will be left with no viable option except to end his long-shot candidacy.

Being for Hillary Clinton did not mean Blacks were against Sanders. As I have noted in this space, both Democratic candidates have A-ratings on civil rights. Each would appoint Supreme Court justices in the mold of Thurgood Marshall rather than Clarence Thomas. And each is attuned to the many issues facing Black Americans, including income inequality, unemployment, and a deeply flawed criminal justice system.

The difference is that Hillary Clinton has a long relationship with Blacks, doing civil rights work in the South and going to work for the Children's Defense Fund after graduating from law school. Bernie Sanders claim to fame is that he joined Dr. King and other civil rights leaders in the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom.

That was nearly 53 years ago. More than half of all African Americans were born after the March on Washington. To them, the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s is as remote as the Civil War of the 1860s.

Vermont is less than 2 percent Black. It hasn't helped that major Black leaders there say they have been invisible to Sanders.

Salon.com noted, "There are nearly 10 times more black people locked up in Vermont's jails and prisons on a given day than there are free in its streets. Black Vermonters make up just 1.2 percent of the state's general population, but 10.7 percent of its incarcerated population."

If Sanders was that concerned about the criminal justice system, he could have been more outspoken about the issue at home.

One of Hilary's problems is that she gets blamed for the actions of her husband when he was president. He and Vice President Al Gore were instrumental in moving the Democratic Party more to the right prior to his election and his policies on mandatory sentencing and so-called welfare reform were harmful to many African Americans. She gets the blame for his failures as well as the esteem in which many Blacks still hold Bill Clinton.

But this race is not about the past - it's primarily about the future. And there is no more important issue awaiting the new president than appointing at least two, possibly three, Supreme Court justices. But to do that, one must first get elected. Again, Black voters feel that former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has a better chance of getting elected than Sanders, a self-described democratic socialist.

On the other side of the aisle, Republicans are tripping over one another trying to derail Donald Trump. GOP candidates who have shown zero sensitivity toward people of color and pretending to be so offended that Trump did not immediately reject the support of former Klansman David Duke.

Every Republican presidential candidate has tried to Velcro his campaign to the legacy of Ronald Reagan, one of the most anti-civil rights presidents in modern history. Not one of them has said a word about the former president's decision to kick off his 1980 presidential campaign at the Neshoba County Fair, just a few miles from Philadelphia, Miss., where three civil rights workers - James Chaney, Andrew Goodman and Michael Schwerner - were murdered in 1964. That's not surprising because the remaining candidates are trying to appeal to the same crowd.

George E. Curry is President and CEO of George Curry Media, LLC. He is the former editor-in-chief of Emerge magazine and the National Newspaper Publishers Association News Service (NNPA). He is a keynote speaker, moderator, and media coach. Curry can be reached through his Web site, georgecurry.com. You can also follow him at twitter.com/currygeorge, George E. Curry Fan Page on Facebook, and Periscope. See previous columns at http://www.georgecurry.com/columns.

CLINGMAN

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Jewish reparations were not divisive. Feeling "Berned," y'all?

What we "need" is to be paid for the jobs Blacks used to have, as we talk about creating more jobs. After enslavement, Black people were laid off with no severance package, 401-K, or extended benefits. We "need" our well-deserved "back pay."

Reparatory justice is not a panacea, but it sure would give us a boost. Internally, Black people must circulate our own \$1.2 trillion aggregate income among ourselves, and stop exchanging it for everything someone else makes. We must produce more and consume less.

Have you ever been sent to someone else's job to pick up their check because that person was unable to do so? It's the same thing with reparations. Malcolm said, "If you are the son of a man who had a wealthy estate and you

inherit your father's estate, you have to pay off the debts that your father incurred before he died. The only reason that the present generation of white Americans are in a position of economic strength...is because their fathers worked our fathers

for over 400 years with no pay. Your father isn't here to pay. My father isn't here to collect. But I'm here to collect, and you're here to pay."

In this silly season, confront candidates with substantive issues rather than symbolic gestures.

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.

RAINBOW COALITION

Rebuild America's crumbling infrastructure

(Via George Curry Media)

In the presidential campaign, we've seen liberals on immigrants, fear mongering about Syrian refugees, arguments over Medicare for All and

Obamacare, concerns about big money corrupting our politics and more. But too little attention has been paid to the one thing on which there should be consensus

within and between the parties: the need to rebuild America now.

We didn't need the horrors of children at risk from fouled lead pipes in Flint, Mich., to know that our infrastructure is dangerously decrepit. The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) issues a report card every four years on our infrastructure, detailing the level of our investment deficit. According to the most recent report card, issued in 2013, simply to get the country's drinking water - drinking water - in safe shape would cost more than \$1 trillion over the

next 25 years.

The report card pegged the immediate cost of fixing at-risk bridges at \$76 billion. Add fixing unsafe schools, repairing mass transit, disposing of hazardous waste and maintaining other basics, and ASCE estimated an infrastructure price tag of \$3.6 trillion by 2020.

That is simply to repair what is. But we face a far larger investment deficit. If we are ever to enjoy widely shared prosperity, we will need a far more competitive real economy. That means 21st century broadband, fast trains, modernized airports, efficient mass transit and a modernized electric grid, just for starters.

And, as Flint demonstrated, we have communities in distress that need special, targeted investment. Community health clinics to replace hospitals that have closed. New schools with modern facilities and equipment. New water systems. New affordable mass transit that makes getting to jobs in the suburbs possible. Public parks that provide a place for children to play.

And now catastrophic climate change is causing hundreds of billions of dollars in damage. We need significant research and development to generate the next generation of

efficient appliances, cars, buildings and factories. We need public/private partnerships, and public investment, to help retrofit buildings and apartment houses for efficiency and alternative energy.

The need is clear: But the price tag should be seen as an opportunity, not a barrier. We still have not recovered from the financial collapse in 2008. Millions have dropped out of the work force. Some 17 million are still in need of full-time work. We pay to imprison too many and educate and employ too few.

In these circumstances, a bold plan to rebuild the country will put people to work, generate demand, and boost a flagging economy. Modernizing our infrastructure would help us compete in the global economy. With interest rates near zero, reputable economists argue that this will pay for itself in increased productivity, employment, wages and tax revenue. If not, we can easily afford it by requiring the wealthy and the corporations to pay their fair share of taxes.

This is not and should not be a partisan question. Republican Abraham Lincoln built the railroads and the land grant colleges even in the

midst of the Civil War. Republican Dwight Eisenhower built the interstate highway system in the 1950s.

The conservative Chamber of Commerce joins with the AFL-CIO to endorse a major infrastructure plan.

Yet, to date, the presidential candidates haven't stepped up. Republican talk about infrastructure is focused on Trump's promise to build a wall on the border and get the Mexicans to pay for it. Marco Rubio promises to spend \$1 trillion more - but on the military, not on rebuilding America. Hillary Clinton's proposal on infrastructure - \$275 billion over five years - is below what President Barack Obama has called for. Bernie Sanders' proposal - \$1 trillion over five years - is still far short of the ASCE accounting.

As Flint has shown, the human costs and risks of allowing our infrastructure to decline are immense. The economic costs are far greater in lost productivity than the price tag of making the investment.

Jesse L. Jackson, Sr. is founder and president of the Chicago-based Rainbow PUSH Coalition. You can keep up with his work at www.rainbow-push.org.

Trump, racism, and God's grace

(Via George Curry Media)

America, America, God shed his grace on thee!" Those are words from the song "America the Beautiful" that we all learned in elementary school.

Well, if America ever needed grace and salvation, it is now.

Donald Trump won the Nevada primary. He will most likely be the Republican nominee for president. Though my politically astute friends try to calm my fear that he will win the White

House, I am not so sure. America's racists are on a roll, and they are not about to stop.

Donald Trump says that he will "make America great again." That's merely a euphemism for restoring White supremacy. It's a euphemism for making it so that Black and Brown people are under the foot of the Empire, denied of justice in the courts, fair treatment in housing, education and employment. America's White people are afraid of losing power, plain and simple.

Some say they are angry because of the economy, but the biggest issue for them is that the numbers of Black and Brown people are steadily increasing. They are afraid that their base is getting smaller and smaller, and with that, their power, their capacity to

oppress "the least of these."

And Donald Trump says he will make it all better. He is giving them pabulum and they are eating it like starving children in underdeveloped countries eat when they are finally given substantive food.

I read a troubling article this morning, about Trump and the so-called "Central Park 5." Trump was on the case, calling for the five Black teens accused of raping a White woman, to be convicted and put to death. Actually, his statements seemed more to ask that they simply be killed. (http://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/feb/17/central-park-five-donald-trump-jogger-rape-case-new-york?CMP=share_btn_fb#...))

What Trump said and did in that case was appalling and troubling...but not for people who still believe in vigilante violence when it comes to Black people accused of doing something to a White woman. When it was proven that the teens did not rape the White woman, and the charges were dropped, Trump was furious, and was even more furious when the city of New York awarded the young men, collectively, \$41 million in damages.

This is not a man who believes in justice for all people. He is clearly racist, and openly so. He is unabashed in what he says and believes, and he knows he has a large group of Americans, mostly White but not completely so, who are with him.

They want the America of the past, where Black people

stayed in their place. They don't care much that America's "exceptionalism" came mostly from this country's boast that it was a democracy where everyone could come (pluralism) and make good on "the American dream," a/k/a capitalism. Racists never ascribed to that claim. They were clear that America was to be the land of opportunity for White, property-owning men. Colored people were not worthy of having full citizenship. They were merely the tools that White men would use to make this country the powerful country it became.

They were to be used, not respected.

Trump is singing their song. He is sounding like George Wallace and Ross Barnett and Sam Bowers and other racist demagogues. His being in the White House, his followers believe, will provide a calm to the rising tide of multiculturalism in this country. They believe he will bring things into normalcy in the White House.

They celebrate, it feels like, that he will be like President Woodrow Wilson, a member of the Ku Klux Klan who had screenings of The Clansman and Birth of a Nation in the White House.

So many White people are not disturbed at all at what Trump says because he is speaking to the pain they have felt as White oppression has been steadily addressed. They would not think it bad that not only was Woodrow Wilson a member of the Klan, but so were four other

presidents, including Warren G. Harding, who was actually sworn in a KKK ceremony that was held at the White House. Calvin Coolidge allowed cross burnings on the steps of the capital and also allowed KKK parades in the nation's capital in 1925 and 1926. Trump's followers are not disturbed at this history, nor, I would imagine, would they be disturbed if Trump said he was a member of the KKK, just as he father was supposed to have been a member (http://www.thetrentonline.com/revealed-5-us-presidents-members-racists-cult-ku-klux-klan-photos/)

They are just tired of "the coloreds."

White people of the ilk I am describing have been mortified that a Black man has been in the White House, his wife dancing on popular television shows, letting little Black children inside those hallowed walls. Many White people believe that America was created to be a "White man's country," and all these people of color are messing up what is "supposed" to be.

Rev. Susan K Smith is an award-winning author and essayist who writes much on the intersectionality of race, religion and politics. She is currently conducting research for a biography on civil rights icon Rev. C.T. Vivian. She frequently speaks and conducts workshops on the centrality of religion in the Civil Rights Movement. She can be reached at rev.suekim@sbcglobal.net.

New Hanover County

Downtown Wilmington St. Patrick's Day Festival & Parade will be held On Saturday, March 12th the Downtown Business Alliance presents "The Annual Guinness St Patrick's Day Festival & Parade". The Royal Hibernian's parade begins at 11:00 a.m. at N. Front St. & Red Cross and heading south, finishes at S. Front & Dock St.. The festival is located in the parking lot at Princess and N. Water St., and begins at 12:00pm. This is a FREE ALL AGES event. Food, beverages and crafts will be available for purchase during the festival. The featured entertainment will be provided by The Blarney Brogues, Walsh Kelly School of Irish Dancers and Striking Copper. For more information about the festival contact David Grace 910-274-1898 or by email dgrace22@gmail.com. For more information about the parade, contact Steve McEnanny 910-262-3213 or by email steveandconniemc@aol.com.

GE Retirees Association will meet at noon, Thursday, March 17, at the New Hanover County Senior Center, 2222 South College Rd. Open to GE retirees and spouses. Speakers will be Jay Wildeman from GE Hitachi Nuclear Energy and Jason Swinny from GE Aviation - Wilmington who will discuss the "State of the Business." For more information, 910-819-2776.

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.

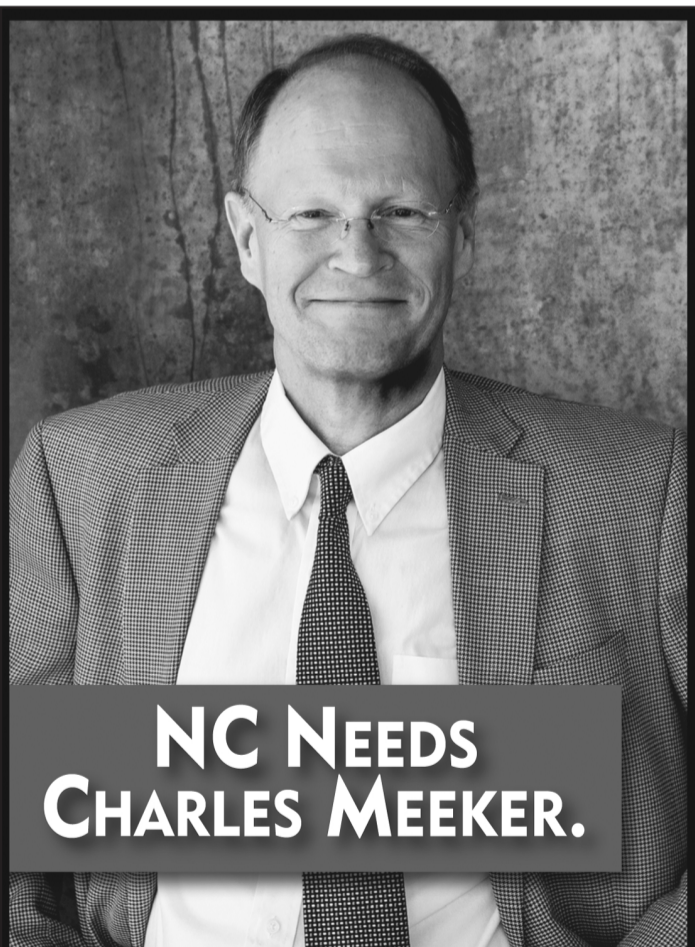
The Democratic Women of New Hanover County will meet at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 10th, at the Slainte Irish Pub, 5607 Carolina Beach Rd, Slainte's is near Staples and the Fuzzy Peach. The special meeting will be "Meet the Candidates" plus we anticipate a fun, informative meeting. Men and women are welcome. If any questions, please call 395-4502.

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

The 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.

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

Compiled By Wilmington Journal Staff



NC NEEDS CHARLES MEEKER.

The NC Department of Labor is broken. And just as he did as Mayor of Raleigh, Charles will bring much-needed effectiveness and accountability to the job. He will work to improve worker safety, to ensure accurate classification of workers, and make sure that workers are paid what they are owed.

VOTE MAR 15

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HOMETOWN NEWS FROM BRUNSWICK COUNTY

Mississippi

Mississippi is a southern state of the United States of Mexico and the Mississippi River. We want to know more about the voting rights of African Americans citizens there. Those African American houses, especially in the Delta, were usually of clapboard construction and were a little more than shacks. If residents were called upon by someone to give an interview, he or she might sit down on a wooden chair or a threadbare couch to do the interview. People are normally willing to give a candid interview in their houses. Interviewers usually carry a clipboard, and that makes it possible to interview anywhere. Once a man was interviewed on the back of a mule. This was a time when African Americans' voter registra-



Verniece Stanley

tion applications were rejected. It took great courage for African Americans to be public witnesses in voter registration court cases. Their jobs could be affected or their homes damaged with their families in them. Mississippi used to have a practice of racial discrimination that kept African Americans from registering to vote. before the enactment of the Voting Rights Acts, applicants for registration had to interpret a provision of the Mississippi State Constitution. With the passing and enactment of the Voting Right Act came the elimination of such literacy tests. They had to make sure that elections were run without discrimination. In Tallulah, La., a short distance west of Vicksburg, Mississippi, in April 1966, a line of 50 or more Blacks waited practically all day to vote at the courthouse. Voting day was considered a serious occasion, and it was always hoped that no one was standing by with a gun or some other such weapon in

order to harm or kill someone. There was always the possibility of problems' arising from those opposing the idea of large numbers of newly registered African American voters.

In Winston County, there were Klan posters, announcing a rally that would take place the following weekend. This was a time when voting rights were carried out with great success and a good sign of making progress among Black citizens. Bennie Thompson, a Mississippi Congressman, was a young 11th grade student at a segregated high school in Utica, Mississippi. Freedom Summer was a complete awakening for him. He saw White kids for the first time coming down here saying, "Mississippi you need to treat your Black citizens better!" Today, Thompson is the only African American in the United States Congress representing the state of Mississippi. Blacks must continue to exercise the right to vote, and the struggle for freedom and equality must

continue. Our children still die too young. Our boys and girls don't get the best education possible.

Together we will fight legislation and policies that threaten the education of our young generation. Vote for Hillary Clinton so that there will be changes we have never seen before in the United States.

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.

order to harm or kill someone. There was always the possibility of problems' arising from those opposing the idea of large numbers of newly registered African American voters.

order to harm or kill someone. There was always the possibility of problems' arising from those opposing the idea of large numbers of newly registered African American voters.

Support The Port Foundation Inc. "Queen For A Queen" project



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Queen Size Mattress for The Queen For A Queen Project.

BY CEDRIC HARRISON
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Support The Port Foundation, Inc. has teamed up with The Good Sleep Mattress Co. to provide a Queen size bed for a Queen that will be moving out of the Domestic Violence Shelter and moving into her new home and calling it the "Queen For A Queen" project.

"Here I get to sleep in my bed, instead of under it." These powerful words came from a five year old child who once received shelter through Domestic Violence Shelter and Services, Inc. Last year alone, DVSS served a total of 1,371 men women and children. Of these, 115 women, 3

men, and 84 children received emergency shelter, as they no longer felt safe in their homes. Domestic violence is a problem that touches many in our community, and we also know that the impact it has on families can be lasting. The North Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence defines domestic violence as, "a pattern of coercive behavior in which one person attempts to control another through threats or actual use of tactics, which may include any or all of the following: physical, sexual, verbal and psychological abuse. The behavior may occur during the relationship or after the relationship has ended." Victims face many barriers when leaving, including isolation, financial



L-R, Lauren Daley, Director of Development and Operations for Domestic Violence Shelter and Services, Inc.; Cedric Harrison, Founder of Support The Port Foundation, Inc. and Mandy Houvoras, Direct Services and Outreach Director Domestic Violence Shelter and Services, Inc.

control, intimidation and threats, and fear of escalating violence. Furthermore, victims must also face the expenses of rebuilding a new life, which can become staggering.

Jaron Goodson, a Wilmington native who is currently one of the owners of Good Sleep Mattress Co. saw the positive acts that Cedric Harrison and The Support The Foundation, Inc. were doing in his home town and wanted to join in on the random acts of kindness. So Cedric came up with a plan to partner with DVSS, Inc. Recognizing that victims of domestic violence face many

obstacles when leaving their homes and have likely faced many sleepless nights, Cedric and JaRon collaborated to donate a new bed set to a survivor of domestic violence. Through this generous donation, we were able to connect a family transitioning out of our shelter with a brand new bed. This amazing gesture not only eases some of the family's financial burden, but also serves a reminder that they are valued by our community. Being that women don't usually get a good-night's sleep while in a domestic violent relationship, it's good to know that now they will, courtesy of us.

Juneteenth Presents...

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President Bush
Jim Baker
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\$ 25.00 ADMISSION

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Co-sponsor: Tauheed Islamic Center

The New Hanover County NAACP joins with churches, mosques, synagogues and community organizations across the state for a Souls to the Polls early voting campaign on Sunday, March 6th. Hundreds of voters will go the polls on this first Sunday in March in honor of the 51st anniversary of Bloody Sunday when Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. led the march across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama, for the right to vote. For the first time in twelve years the New Hanover County Board of Elections has approved early voting on a Sunday. The only voting site open on March 6th is the New Hanover County Government Center, 230 Government Center Drive, Suite 180. Hours are noon to 8:00 p.m. Call 910-264-3659 for rides.

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Dorothy Ann Wright

Dorothy Ann Wright, born February 20, 1941 to the late Johnny and Josephine Wright departed this life on February 23, 2016. In addition to her parents, preceding her in death were her siblings, Jeffery Ray Wright, Lucile Smith, Lonza Ray Wright, Frank Wright, Janie Bell Johnson and Johnny C. Wright. Funeral services were held for Ms. Wright at 11 AM on Monday, February 29, 2016, at Adkins-Drain Funeral Service. Burial followed in Calvary Cemetery.

Dorothy was a graduate of Williston High School. She furthered her education by attending Cape Fear Technical College in Wilmington, North Carolina. She was employed as a nurse assistant while living in Philadelphia. After returning to Wilmington she was employed with Siemens Corporation as a circuit breaker assembler. After many years of employment there, she decided to retire.

Dorothy has a passion for sewing, traveling, beautifying her home, speaking Spanish, and spending time with family and friends. She will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved her.

She leaves to cherish fond memories: her daughter, Doris James (Greg), grandson, Elderwin Reed (Tamaya), great grandchildren, Imani Newkirk, DeOndre Newkirk and Kayla Reed; siblings, Patricia Powers, Ruby Elaine Warren (Anthony), and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives and friends.

A service of Adkins-Drain Funeral Service, 515 So. 8th Street, Wilmington, N. C. 28401. Condolences may be shared at adkinsdrainfuneralservice.com.

Karl Garnes

Karl Garnes was born May 29, 1963, in Brooklyn, New York to Roger Garnes and Marcella Vasquez. He departed this life in January 2016. Karl received his GED in 1983. He attended Pace University in order to study photography and herpetology. Later, Karl returned to Cape Fear Community College to become a Certified Nursing Assistant. Karl was always spiritual, but did not have a church home. Karl and Therese Garnes were married in 2001. Karl was known to his friends as "The Professor", or the teacher because he loved fishing and loved to teach others about the sport. Karl also loved Southern style cooking, jazz music and playing the piano.

Karl leaves behind his wife, Therese Garnes, step son Scott Checki (Scott Check-Eye) and a host of family and friends.

A service of Adkins-Drain Funeral Service, 515 So. 8th Street, Wilmington, N. C. 28401. Condolences may be shared at adkinsdrainfuneralservice.com. Barbara Marie Smith.

Barbara Marie Smith

Barbara Marie Smith was born October 24, 1957 in Wilmington, North Carolina. She went to be with the Lord on February 15, 2016. She was preceded in death by her parents, Lynwood and Edith Best and her adopted grandson, Al'Quon Flowers. Funeral services were held at on Tuesday, February 23, 2016, at Faith Temple Church of God In Christ. Burial was in Calvary Memorial Cemetery.

She attended and graduated from New Hanover High School. After graduation, she continued her education by attending Cape Fear Community College in the Nursing Assistant Program. She sought employment at Cornelia Nixon Davis Nursing Home for six years. She then worked on the Neuro floor as a Nursing Assistant and PCT for 16 years at New Hanover Regional Medical Center. She attended New Kelly's Chapel Church until her health declined.

Barbara will always be remembered as being a very sociable person who truly enjoyed being with family and friends. She especially enjoyed the time she spent with her grandchildren and spending time with Robert, her significant other of 28 years, caring for each other until the very end. She will be truly missed but not forgotten.

Left to cherish special memories: her son Antonia Jermaine Smith (fiance' Katrina Carlisle) of Rocky Point, NC; significant other, Robert McCrae of Wilmington, NC; three grandchildren, Niffirea, Trinity and Destiny all of Rocky Point, NC; two sisters, Vivian Green and Mary David (Joseph) both of Wilmington NC; one uncle Forrest Walker (Ann) of Rocky Point, NC; nieces and nephews, Anthony Green, Marvin Green (Edwina) Falisha Green, Teresa Green, Terrence Smith and Nikki Smith, special cousins, Rena McKnight and Vercie Turner; an adopted son, James Wilson (Jessica), special friends, Sharon Jenkins, Laura Jenkins, Al Jenkins, Bobbi and Willie Troy and Harriet Rivers, and a host of great nieces, nephews and cousins.

A service of Adkins-Drain Funeral Service, 515 So. 8th Street, Wilmington, N. C. 28401. Condolences may be shared at adkinsdrainfuneralservice.com.

In Loving Memory Of



Robert Jackson Briggs
Sunrise: November 28, 1948
Sunset: March 4, 2011

Many times we think of you,
Think of the things we use to do,
Think of the things we use to say,
Of each olden golden yesterday,
Sometimes we smile, sometimes we weep,
But always your memory we will keep.

Love,
The family



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In Loving Memory Of



Lula Waddell Cleamons
"MaMa Lula"
April 5, 1913
March 1, 1998

Gone But Never Forgotten
No matter how old we are,
losing a mother
is one of the deepest sorrows
a heart can
know, but her goodness,
her caring and her
wisdom live on..... like a
legacy of love that
will always be with you.
You can only have one mother
Patient kind and true;
No other friend in all the
world,
Will be the same to you.
When other friends forsake
you,
To mother you will return,
For all her loving kindness,
She asks nothing in return.
As we look upon your picture,
Sweet memories we recall,
Of a face so full of sunshine,
And a smile for one and all.
My mother was a precious
gift
from our glorious Lord above,
but the Lord chose to take her,
eighteen years ago
and give her all His love.

Son, Richard Waddell, Jr.
Grandchildren: Patricia A. Waddell, Eleanor M. Waddell, Richard B. Waddell, III, Carolyn Waddell-Mack, Atty. Gwendolyn Waddell-Burrell (Gary)
Great-Grandchildren: Reggie, Rodney (Latasha), Richard IV, Samuel, Michelle, Jillian, Krystal, Jordan, and Gordan,
Great-Great-Grandchildren: Rodja, Ja'Mez, J'Quiron, Zoei, Ja'Tori and Kailynn



A record 149 individuals exonerated; the majority were Black.

75 convicted or confessed African-Americans exonerated in 2015 for crimes they didn't commit

BY FREDERICK H. LOWE
OF THE
NORTHSTARNEWSTODAY

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - The National Registry of Exonerations at the University of Michigan Law School reported that 71 black men and four black women were exonerated in 2015 for crimes they didn't commit.

Last year, a record 149 individuals from 29 states, the District of Columbia, the federal court and Guam were exonerated, reported the white paper "The National Registry of Exonerations: Exonerations in 2015."

Since 1989, 1,733 individuals have been exonerated as of January 27, 2016. The paper reported that 58 defendants were exonerated for homicide cases in 2015. The exonerates came from 25 states and the District of Columbia. More than two-thirds of the homicide exonerates were minorities, including half who were African-American.

The study reported 47 defendants were exonerated in 2015 for drug possession. A record 42 of those exonerated had pled guilty in Harris County, which

includes Houston. Twenty-seven exonerations last year were for convictions based on false confessions, also a record. More than 80 percent of these false confessions were in homicide cases, mostly by defendants who were under 18 or developmentally disabled or both.

Official misconduct played a role in 65 exonerations, another record number. Three-quarters of homicide exonerations in 2015 included known official misconduct. Some of the officers who commit official misconduct are African American, according to Samuel R. Gross, editor of the National Registry of Exonerations.

The story reported that 65 exonerations were convictions based on guilty pleas. The majority were for drug cases and eight were homicide convictions based on guilty pleas that turned out to be false convictions.

Finally, a record 75 exonerations in 2015 were based on confessions in which no crime had been committed. Gross noted the nation averages three exonerations per week, but most get little attention.

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A man makes a mistake in life and now can't get life insurance...
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A single parent with a new job and an elderly parent she's taking care of...**

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New Hanover County

Faith Temple C.O.G.I.C., 4th and Marstellar Sts., will hold their Annual Women's Day on Thursday, March 10th and Friday, March 11th. The guest speaker will be Apostle Delmarva Johnson of Warriors of Christ Church. On Sunday, March 13th the guest speaker at 11:00 a.m. will be pastor Barbara Powell of House of Prayer and Deliverance of Whiteville, NC.



Brunswick County

Moore's Chapel, 1490 Village Rd., Leland, NC will be having their Ushers Anniversary on March 13, 2016 at 3:30 p.m. Rev. Patricia Smith and the St. James AMEZ church family of Southport will be the guest and various usher boards. Also on March 20, 2016 Moore's Chapel will be having a musical program featuring various choirs and praise dancers at 3:00pm.

Religious Briefs

Walk Into Your Inheritance Outreach Ministries is accepting clothing donations are being accepted to help those less fortunate. Drop off location is 1757 Stanley Rd., Supply, NC 28462. (located near Cedar Grove Middle School) Contact Elder Utrillia Johnson at 910-294-0656 for more information.

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

Compiled By *Wilmington Journal Staff*

SENIOR MOMENTS

A giant step
in the right direction

My Fellow Seniors:

I have just finished reading "Celebrating Black History At Gregory," which appeared in The Wilmington Journal last week. I was delighted to see so many community leaders coming together for one purpose, "to serve our children." They were celebrating Black History Month with an African American reading, which was coordinated by St. Luke AMEZ Church. The pastor is The Reverend Jermaine B. Armour.



Ruth Johnson

I have never met The Reverend Armour, but I think we are on "the same page." I am grateful to The Wilmington Journal for bringing us together. Many times, we have suggested that the church should put something more "on the table," but St. Luke has taken the table to the people. This was a giant step in the right direction. All churches will invite the community to come in, but, for a church to leave the

building and go out into the community is fantastic. This is just the type of program I thought we should have in church on Community Sunday. To get young people involved, they need to see themselves in books.

I wish that thought had occurred to my teacher when I was in grade school. After reading, writing, and arithmetic, we concentrated on speaking correct English. Our books were handed down from White schools. Nothing was ever said about Black history. We never mentioned race at all. When riding on the back of the bus, we would speak softly and cover our mouths when laughing. Whenever approached, we would look down before speaking. No one told us to do that. I think it was an inborn trait.

Anyway, this is a new day. The church is the center of the community, and when the children don't come to church, we have to meet them where they are. We have to do all that we can to make this world a better place. To God be the glory!

Ruth Johnson is a First Baptist Church Ministry Worker.

SENIOR CITIZENS' FELLOWSHIP

Just Do It...VOTE

BY FANNIE ALLEN AND SHELLA ROSS
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

This is the day that the Lord has made! Good morning to all! On Tuesday morning, March 1, 2016, the Senior Citizens' Fellowship met for our regular weekly meeting. Our devotional part was opened with our wonderful choir and music director and musician, George Hill and Lamanuel Boykin. Our opening song was "Blessed Quietness." The prayer was offered by Minister Henrietta McGlenn. What a blessed and uplifting prayer! To God be the glory! Thank you, God, for your grace and mercy! Our choral response was "He Is Lord." The next song was "Lift Him Up." Yes, let's lift up His

holy name. Just trust Him and do not doubt. Thanks for such a beautiful and dedicated devotional service.

Emma Saunders spoke briefly on voting, which is very critical now. We must all understand the importance of our vote. Voting does matter. Representatives from the New Hanover County Board of Education were present. James Jamison, Jr. was our first speaker. His slogan is "Every child deserves an equal opportunity to succeed." Information was given out concerning Linda Coleman. She is running for Lt. Governor. Chris Mack is running for NHC School Board. Kevin Spears is also a candidate for the NHC School Board. Sandra Leigh has had 42 years in public education.

She spent 26 years as a classroom teacher and 16 years in building level administration as a principal. In all of those years, she has been an advocate for children, teachers, and families. Emma Saunders has had 30 years as a New Hanover County Schools teacher, administrator, and observer-evaluator. She is a foster grandparent volunteer trainer. Her slogan is "I will work to ensure that all students have the tools needed to compete in today's global economy". Thank you, Emma Saunders for such informative awareness. Just do it! VOTE! Minutes were read by our secretary, Mildred Ellerby. Thank you for such a great job. We had one visitor present with us today, Mr. Joseph Carpenter, Jr., who is a mem-

ber of First Baptist Missionary Church. We all sang "So Glad You Are Here."

It was now time for the Callers. Gladys Taylor had 10 members present. Thanks to all callers and members who were present today. The sick report was given by Anna Haskins. Thanks again for your great service and dedication for the job that you do so well. We love you.

Announcements and remarks were made. "Smiles" were brought by Mary Martin. Thanks for the laughter! It is good for the soul. Our circle was formed. We sang "Bind Us Together." A prayer was given by Minister Thomas Duren.

Forty-three members were present. To God be the glory! Have a blessed week!

TELL SOMEBODY

"Fear Not !"

"For God has not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." II Timothy 1:7

Fear: Unpleasant, often strong emotion caused by expectation or awareness of danger; Anxious concern

Christian Believers live victorious lives when walking by faith. "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for; the evidence of things not seen." Hebrews 11:1 Faith is the assurance of things hoped for and the proving of things not seen. Hebrews 11:6 says, "Without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." Because we want to please God, we are willing to walk by faith and to live by faith, as he asks us to do in His word. Faith allows us to lay hold to the promises of God and to receive many blessings from above. This is why we should, Fear Not!



Sylvia Hooper

Fear is the opposite of faith. Fear cancels faith and causes one to make many mistakes in judgement. Fear promotes anxiety, which leads to a rush to judgement and rash decisions. I John 4:18 says, "There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear; because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love." Fear breeds anger, hatred, paranoia, and suspicion. Fear will not allow you to walk in love towards your brother or sister. Fear magnifies differences and minimizes commonalities. Fear separates and divides families, and communities racially, socially, and economically. On the other hand, Faith brings us together for the common good and with a common goal and purpose. This is why we should, Fear Not! God has not given us a spirit of fear for that very reason. God wants his children to get along and to live in peace and harmony. Fear will not allow people to dwell together in unity because fear is not of God. As a church, we cannot be fear based and faith based at the same time. We are either walking by faith or living in fear.

Fear based politics is very prevalent today. When candidates contend for office, by seeking to frighten people of their opponent, that campaign is fear based! The campaign run by fear seeks to separate and isolate voters with biased logic, that hurts more than it helps. Instead of focusing on the candidate's actual ability, experience, conduct, character or potential... They use dirt as a distraction to cloud the real issues, muddy the waters, and to confuse the voters as to who is the better candidate. Fear based voting can cause people to lose sight of God, and see the need to do God's will without waiting on the Lord. Fear based politics use extreme negativity to gain votes. Fear based politics is bad for the community, nation and the world. When people use fear to get in office, they will use fear to stay in office. Christian voters should vote their faith according to the facts and not their fears. This is why we should Fear Not!

Faith based politics can be used in a positive way to impact our communities. Faith in God and his word shows, a level of humility affecting conduct and character, that is needed for those who hold office in our local, state and federal government. Fact and faith can work together, and produce great results for the common good and to the glory of God. That is, if we, Fear Not!

Prayer: Father, teach us to walk in faith, and not give way to the spirit of fear. In Jesus's Name. Amen.

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 PWE. 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!

NBCI calls Donald Trump the biggest racist since Bull Connor

He will not even denounce the KKK

Washington, DC - The National Black Church Initiative (NBCI), a faith-based coalition of 34,000 churches comprised of 15 denominations and 15.7 million African Americans cannot sit by and allow GOP presidential candidate Donald Trump to verbal assault every ethnic group that make up the fabric of our country. He has assaulted Blacks, Mexicans, Latinos, Muslims and anyone he believed is not contributing to America or not American. For whatever reason, he has assaulted everyone except for poor whites. Donald Trump is clearly dividing us by giving one group of American a false sense of superiority, thus indicating the rest of us are un-American. He will not even denounce the KKK.

Scapegoating an entire group of people is the worst form of bigotry. Donald Trump is playing to our lowest common denominator as he has sought and continues to seek to divide us by income, race, religion and political ideology. What disturbs us the more is that there have not been majorities of people of goodwill who have stood up and denounce this dangerous rhetoric and hate-filled speech? Has our country become oblivious to this type of behavior that we forfeit the character of humanity, which binds us together in the greatest nation on Earth? Has our country become immune to this type of behavior that we are willing to have the principles of free speech compromised and redefined at the expense of the integrity of American citizenry?

Furthermore, Donald Trump calls himself a Christian, but his behavior toward fellow Americans has been un-Christian, uncharitable and, in some cases, downright evil. The Black Church will not stand for this type of derogatory behavior and remains unafraid of Donald Trump and his hate-filled rhetoric. Our history shows the

Black Church has collectively fought to overcome racism and racist ideology and people. Through the compelling use of moral goodness, prayers, and votes, we the Black Church have paralyzed and immobilized racist and immoral giants. We will do the same with regard to Donald Trump.

Thus, for the sake of the collective good of the American society, we believe Donald Trump should drop out of the race from the 2016 Republican Party Presidential Primaries. He is not good for America. While freedom of speech allows him some leverage in affording him some rights to be able to say anything he wants, we also have the right to oppose him. That is the essence of America and that is why we call for Donald Trump to remove himself from the Republican Party Presidential Primaries. The need to maintain the high integrity of our American society requires a different tone and a different kind of leader.

The Rev. Anthony Evans, president of the National Black Church Initiative said "we are not going to let Donald Trump or anyone else assault black people or any other groups. We will oppose him and others through our moral goodness. This is why he is the biggest racist since Bull Connor and we believe Donald Trump should drop out the race." As you might recall, Bull Connor was determined to kill or lock up every black person that spoke against his racist concept of America. Similarly, Donald Trump believes that he can rid America of everyone who does not agree with his fascist ideology.

Here is Donald Trump in his own words:

On illegal immigrants (June): "When Mexico sends its people, they're not sending the best. They're not sending you, they're sending people that have lots of problems and they're bringing those problems. They're bringing drugs,

they're bringing crime. They're rapists and some, I assume, are good people, but I speak to border guards and they're telling us what we're getting."

On illegal immigrants who are rapists (July): "Well, somebody's doing the raping, Don (Lemon, CNN news host)! I mean somebody's doing it! Who's doing the raping? Who's doing the raping?"

On John McCain's war record (July): "He's not a war hero...He's a war hero because he was captured. I like people who weren't captured."

On giving out Lindsey Graham's phone number (July): "He doesn't seem like a very bright guy. He actually probably seems to me not as bright as Rick Perry. I think Rick Perry probably is smarter than Lindsey Graham."

On refusing to pledge to support the eventual Republican nominee, during first debate (August): "I will not make the pledge at this time."

On Megan Kelly as a debate moderator (August): "You could see there was blood coming out of her eyes. Blood coming out of her wherever."

On Carly Fiorina, in a Rolling Stone interview (September): "Look at that face! Would anyone vote for that? Can you imagine that, the face of our next president?!"

On not challenging anti-Muslim questioner who said he needs to get rid of Muslims (September): "We're going to be looking at a lot of different things."

On blaming George W. Bush for 9-11 (October): "When you talk about George Bush, I mean, say what you want, the World Trade Center came down on his time."

On Ben Carson's faith (October): "I mean, Seventh-day Adventist, I don't know about, I just don't know about."

On comparing Ben Carson to a child molester (November): "It's in the book that he's got a pathological temper. That's a big problem because you don't

cure that ... as an example: child molesting. You don't cure these people. You don't cure a child molester. There's no cure for it. Pathological, there's no cure for that."

On questioning voters in the first caucus state who were supporting Ben Carson in the polls (November): "How stupid are the people of Iowa?"

On falsely recalling "thousands" of people celebrating on 9-11 (November): "I watched when the World Trade Center came tumbling down, and I watched in Jersey City, New Jersey where thousands and thousands of people were cheering as that building was coming down."

On disruptive protestor at Birmingham, Ala. event (November): "Maybe he should have been roughed up, because it was absolutely disgusting what he was doing. I have a lot of fans, and they were not happy about it. And this was a very obnoxious guy who was a trouble-maker who was looking to make trouble."

On not ruling out database of Muslims in America (November): "We're going to have to—we're going to have to look at a lot of things very closely. We're going to have to look at the mosques. We're going to have to look very, very carefully."

Donald Trump is a cancer on our democracy and the pervasiveness of this cancer must be cut out using the fervent tools of prayer, votes, and moral authority. The Black Church has to exercise its moral authority by speaking against this ugliness of the rhetoric expressed by Trump. We must be to not let him destroy this great American experiment for humanity. The Black Church prays for the responsiveness and attentiveness of congregants and to utilize the power of prayer. We can all disagree with everyone without undermining the humanity of anyone. Donald Trump does not meet the basic moral test.



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LEGAL NOTICES

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

Having qualified as Administratrix of the Estate of **Adam Stanley Adams, Jr.**, late of Wilmington, NC, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the **12th day of May, 2016**, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the said estate will please make immediate payment to undersigned.

This 11th of February, 2016

Savannah Leigh Boyd, Administratrix
5332 Woodbark Dr.
Garner, NC 27529

February 11, 18, 25, March 3, 2016

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

Having qualified as Executor of the Estate of **Jeffery Ward Kelly**, late of Wilmington, NC, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the **25th day of May, 2016**, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the said estate will please make immediate payment to undersigned.

This 25th of February, 2016

Craig Brooksby, Executor
2474 Walnut St. #256
Cary, NC 27518

February 25, March 3, 10, 17, 2016

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

Having qualified as Executor of the Estate of **Mable J. Everett**, late of Wilmington, NC, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the **12th day of May, 2016**, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the said estate will please make immediate payment to undersigned.

This 11th of February, 2016

Pamela S. Everett, Executor
1311 Stanley St.
Wilmington, NC 28401

February 11, 18, 25, March 3, 2016

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF NEW HANOVER
IN THE MATTER OF THE
ESTATE OF VIVIAN STERLING**

The undersigned having qualified as Administrator of the Estate **Vivian Sterling**, deceased, late of New Hanover County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the estate to present such claims to the undersigned C/O Terry B. Richardson, Attorney at Law, 209 Princess Street, Wilmington, NC 28401 on or before the **19th day of April, 2016**, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of your recovery. All persons indebted to the estate will please make immediate payment.

This 8th of January, 2016.

James E. Sterling, Administrator
Terry B. Richardson
Attorney for the Estate
209 Princess Street
Wilmington, NC 28401

January 14, 21, 28, February 4, 2016

**NOTICE OF EXECUTOR OF THE
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF NEW HANOVER
IN THE GENERAL
COURT OF JUSTICE
SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION
BEFORE THE CLERK
ESTATE OF WILLIAM WILSON,
JR.
14-E-1352**

The undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the ESTATE OF **WILLIAM WILSON, JR.** of New Hanover County, North Carolina, hereby notifies all persons, firms or corporations having claims against the said estate to present them to the undersigned at the address shown below on or before **June 3, 2016** or this Notice shall be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms or corporations indebted to said estate are requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned at the address shown below.

This the 3rd day of March, 2016.

WILLIAM J. WILSON
Executor of the Estate of
WILLIAM WILSON, JR.
SAFFO LAW FIRM, P.C.
5900-B Oleander Drive
Wilmington, NC 28403

March 3, 10, 17, 24, 2016

LEGAL NOTICES

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

The undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the estate of **Gretchen S. Mitchell**, 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 **18th day of May, 2016**, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to said estate please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This the 18th day of February, 2016

Richard Mitchell aka Richard L. Mitchell, Executor of the Estate of Gretchen S. Mitchell
8526 Reisling Avenue
Wilmington, NC 28411
Murchison, Taylor & Gibson, PLLC
16 North Fifth Avenue
Wilmington, NC 28403

February 18, 25, March 3, 10, 2016

**NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF NEW HANOVER
In Re Dissolution of:
Wilmington Hospital Supply
Company
Pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 55-14-7**

Having submitted Articles of Dissolution to the North Carolina Secretary of State for filing, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms, corporations and/or other legal entities having claims against Wilmington Hospital Supply Company to present sufficient information to identify the claimant, nature and amount of the indebtedness along with an affidavit in support of said claim to the undersigned at the address given below on or before **March 3, 2021** -- or same will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said Corporation please make immediate payment.

On this day, March 3, 2016.

Richard T. "Chip" Rodgers, Jr., Attorney for Wilmington Hospital Supply Company
Sherman & Rodgers, PLLC
8120 River Road
Wilmington, NC 28412

March 3, 2016

**NOTICE OF SERVICE OF
PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF NEW HANOVER
IN THE DISTRICT COURT
JUVENILE SESSION
File No. 16 JT 28**

**IN THE MATTER OF:
J.P.R. (DOB: 12-04-2015)**

TO: ANY UNKNOWN BIOLOGICAL FATHER OF THE ABOVE CAPTIONED MALE CHILD BORN IN BOLIVIA, NORTH CAROLINA

Take notice that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action. The nature of the relief being sought is as follows:

Termination of all parental rights you have to the above-captioned minor child. You are required to make defense to such pleading within thirty (30) days following February 25, 2016 which date is the date of first publication of this Notice. Upon your failure to do so, the party seeking service against you will apply to the Court for the relief sought.

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT A HEARING ON THE PETITION TO TERMINATE YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS IS SCHEDULED FOR March 28, 2016, AT 9:30 A.M. or as soon thereafter as it may be heard, at the Office of Juvenile Justice, 138 N 4th Street, Wilmington, North Carolina, 28401.

This the 25th day of February, 2016.

LeeAnne Quattrucci
Attorney for the Petitioner
401 Chestnut Street, Suite J
Wilmington, NC 28401
Tel.#: 910-795-0230
Fax #: 910-401-1485

February 25, March 3, 10, 2016

LEGAL NOTICES

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

The undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the estate of **Wayne Victor Venters II**, 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 **25th day of May, 2016**, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to said estate please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This the 25th day of February, 2016

George Cole Venters, Executor of the Estate of Wayne Victor Venter, II
905 Williamson Drive
Raleigh, NC 27608
Murchison, Taylor & Gibson, PLLC
16 North Fifth Avenue
Wilmington, NC 28403

February 25, March 3, 10, 17, 2016

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF NEW HANOVER
PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE'S
In Re The Estate of Robert
Williams, Deceased**

Having qualified as Personal Representative of the Estate of **Robert Williams**, Deceased, late of New Hanover County, North Carolina, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms, corporations and/or other legal entities having claims against the estate to present them to the undersigned at the address given below on or before **06/10/2016** -- or same will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate please make immediate payment.

On this day, March 3, 2016.

Nikki M. Robinson-Williams, Personal Representative
c/o Sherman & Rodgers, PLLC
by Richard T. "Chip" Rodgers, Jr., Attorney for the Personal Representative
8120 River Road
Wilmington, NC 28412

March 3, 10, 17, 24, 2016

**NOTICE OF SERVICE OF
PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF NEW HANOVER
IN THE DISTRICT COURT
JUVENILE SESSION
FILE NO. 14 JT 262**

**IN THE MATTER OF:
K.R.F. (dob: 9/25/2012)**

TO: RESPONDENT: AND ANY UNKNOWN BIOLOGICAL FATHER OF THE ABOVE CAPTIONED FEMALE, CHILD BORN IN THE COUNTY OF MINNEHAHA, SOUTH DAKOTA, TO SARA ELIZABETH FORD

Take notice that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action. The nature of the relief being sought is as follows:

Termination of all parental rights you have to the above-captioned minor children. You are required to make defense to such pleading within thirty (30) days following February 25, 2016, which date is the date of first publication of this Notice. Upon your failure to do so, the party seeking service against you will apply to the Court for the relief sought. You have the right to attend this hearing and you have the right to be represented by counsel and can apply for court appointed counsel.

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT A HEARING ON THE PETITION TO TERMINATE YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS IS SCHEDULED FOR April 11, 2016, AT 9:30 A.M. or as soon thereafter as it may be heard, at the Office of Juvenile Justice, 138 N 4th Street, P.O. Box 2560, Wilmington, North Carolina, 28401.

This the 25th day of February, 2016.

Dean W. Hollandsworth
Senior Staff Attorney - New Hanover Co. Dept. of Social Services

1650 Greenfield Street
Wilmington, NC 28401
PO Drawer 1559
Wilmington, NC 28402-1559
(910) 798-3511
(910) 798-3772 * fax

February 25, March 3, 10, 2016

LEGAL NOTICES

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF NEW HANOVER
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE
OF DOROTHY MAE ROUSE
SIDBURY**

The undersigned having qualified as Administrator of the Estate **Dorothy Mae Rouse Sidbury**, deceased, late of New Hanover County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the estate to present such claims to the undersigned C/O Terry B. Richardson, Attorney at Law, 209 Princess Street, Wilmington, NC 28401 on or before the **22nd day of March, 2016**, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of your recovery. All persons indebted to the estate will please make immediate payment.

This 9th of December, 2015.

Freddie W. Sidbury, Jr, Administrator
Terry B. Richardson
Attorney for the Estate
209 Princess Street
Wilmington, NC 28401

December 17, 24, 31, 2015, January 7, 2016

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

The undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the estate of **Marilyn Giedemann Rogers**, 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 **18th day of May, 2016**, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to said estate please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This the 18th day of February, 2016

Theodore Martin Giedemann, Executor of the Estate of Marilyn Giedemann Rogers
160 Beawood Road
Wilmington, NC 28411
Murchison, Taylor & Gibson, PLLC
16 North Fifth Avenue
Wilmington, NC 28403

February 18, 25, March 3, 10, 2016

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

Having qualified as the Administrator of the Estate of **Helena R. Ward**, late of 8532 Bald Eagle Lane, Wilmington, 28411, New Hanover County, North Carolina, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to serve them on the undersigned at 509 Princess Street, Wilmington, NC 28401, on or before the **3rd day of June, 2016**, 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 1st. day of March, 2016.

Annette Whited
Administer of the Estate of Helena R. Ward
CLARK, NEWTON & EVANS PA
509 Princess Street
Wilmington, NC 28401

March 3, 10, 17, 24, 2016

**Notice of Sale to Enforce
Lien for Unpaid Storage
Charges**

The name and address of the lienor:
Smith Creek Boatyard, Inc.
805 Cornelius Harnett Dr.
Wilmington, N.C. 28402

The name of the person having legal title to the property:
Dennis Koch
805 Cornelius Harnett Dr.
Wilmington, NC 28402

Description of the property:
1963 Whitton/Walton Sailing Vessel, her tackle and appurtenances

Amount due for which the lien is claimed:
As of 8 February, \$2,450.00

Place of the sale:
Courthouse Steps, Princess Street side
New Hanover County Court House
316 Princess St
Wilmington, NC 28401

Date and hour when the sale is to be held:
10:00 AM
8 March 2016

February 25, March 3, 2016

LEGAL NOTICES

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

The undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of **McKinley Gore, Jr.**, deceased, of New Hanover County, North Carolina hereby notifies all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the **May 12, 2016**, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the said estate will please make immediate payment to undersigned.

This 11th of February, 2016

Angela Faison, Executor of the Estate of McKinley Gore, Jr.
c/o Ms. Lisa T. McDow, Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 2541
Wilmington, NC 28402

February 11, 18, 25, March 3, 2016

**EXECUTRIX'S NOTICE
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF NEW HANOVER
IN THE MATTER OF THE
ESTATE OF LARRY SWANN
COLVIN
FILE NO. 16E 000104**

Having qualified as Executrix of the Estate of **Larry Swann Colvin**, of New Hanover County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons having claims against the estate of said Larry Swann Colvin to present them to the undersigned on or before the **May 11, 2016**, that being three months from the first date of publication of this Notice or same shall be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment.

This 11th of February, 2016

Sherri D. Colvin, Executrix of the Estate of Larry Swann Colvin
CULBRETH LAW FIRM
P.O. Box 446
Wilmington, NC 28402

February 11, 18, 25, March 3, 2016

**NOTICE OF SERVICE OF
PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF NEW HANOVER
IN THE DISTRICT COURT
JUVENILE SESSION
File No. 16 JT 39**

**IN THE MATTER OF:
J.C.D.W. (DOB: 12-03-2015)**

TO: ANY UNKNOWN BIOLOGICAL FATHER OF THE ABOVE CAPTIONED FEMALE CHILD BORN IN WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA

Take notice that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action. The nature of the relief being sought is as follows:

Termination of all parental rights you have to the above-captioned minor child. You are required to make defense to such pleading within thirty (30) days following February 25, 2016 which date is the date of first publication of this Notice. Upon your failure to do so, the party seeking service against you will apply to the Court for the relief sought.

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT A HEARING ON THE PETITION TO TERMINATE YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS IS SCHEDULED FOR March 28, 2016, AT 9:30 A.M. or as soon thereafter as it may be heard, at the Office of Juvenile Justice, 138 N 4th Street, Wilmington, North Carolina, 28401.

This the 25th day of February, 2016.

LeeAnne Quattrucci
Attorney for the Petitioner
401 Chestnut Street, Suite J
Wilmington, NC 28401
Tel.#: 910-795-0230
Fax #: 910-401-1485

February 25, March 3, 10, 2016

ENTERTAINMENT

ASK

ALMA
with
ALMA
GILMORE



Dear Alma,

I hate my husband's best friend. They are total opposites and I just don't get it. I understand they grew up together and went to the same high school, but really, it's time for this relationship to end. My husband graduated and went on to college. His friend didn't and has been in and out of jail. He does drugs and my husband doesn't do drugs. This guy is a total loser. As long as I've known him, he has been a terrible friend to my husband. For example, we had a dinner party and had invited a few friends and our neighbors. During the dinner, the neighbors were robbed. Although he has never admitted it, I know my husband's friend did it. He left the party right away, never came back and when our neighbors went home they had been robbed.

I'll give you another one. We were at another mutual friend's birthday party; everybody was jamming, having a great time. Later on, we found out someone had gone through the ladies purses and stolen the cash. It was him! A family member who doesn't even know his history saw him upstairs around the coats and bags. Whenever he's around you better bet something gets stolen. He is awful towards women, he uses them and takes them for everything they have and then breaks up with them. At what point will my husband wake up and let go of this guy? It's just not funny anymore. We're almost 30 and it's time for things to change. We're about to start a family and I don't want him around my children. How can I tell my husband he has to pick between me or his friend? I'm at the end. I just can't take it anymore.
Signed,
Choose Me or Lose Me

Hold on Honey Lamb, you're about to get your feelings hurt. Your predicament reminds me of the artwork hanging on Chris' desk. Chris is a guy I work with. His son drew it and it says, "I love mommy & daddy and my buddies!" LOL! Lawd, that cracks me up every time, because even a four-year old recognizes the importance of your buddies. I know, slow your roll, we aren't talking about a four year old, and I get that. But the loyalty and dedication to your buddy never fades. I'm sure your Boo and his BFF have some stores to tell, some stories to keep, some stories they'll never forget or repeat. I can't help but wonder: why are you now ridding him of someone he's held dear: long before you met him? I think if we check the Handbook of Marriage 101, you can't regulate a friendship that existed before your marriage. Unless that said friend is an ex-girlfriend or ex-boyfriend. That's just like asking him to stop eating PB&J's because they're not your favorite.

The evidence shows, this is his dude and dudes aren't easily replaceable. Men aren't like women, they don't have multiple, BFF's designated by rank and associations. Bromances are built and broadened over years. They see each other through up and downs, health issues and handcuffs. Your husband most likely uses this friendship as an anchor, it's unconditional, a reminder that we all walk by faith. I'm sorry to break the news, but their ride or die Kawasaki doesn't have a seat for you. And that's okay.

Be wise, Sunshine, and reverse your anger: I know you wanna glass of Novocain to ease the pain every time you see him coming, but you may have to let this one run its course. You said he and your husband are opposites and that may be true. But there's some common ground, deep down in there somewhere you aren't recognizing. Don't offer him an ultimatum, because you know as well as I do, you ain't leaving. And stop giving your husband's friend the power to dictate the path of your family. Until you have proof your husband has become someone you don't recognize, don't hold him accountable for a crime he hasn't committed. It's your responsibility to have faith in your husband. If a situation ever arises, he surely will choose his family; there should be no question about that. Allow your husband to handle it compadre. Sometimes, the best thing you can do is not ponder or obsess over it, and instead, just believe that it will work out for your best.

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

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