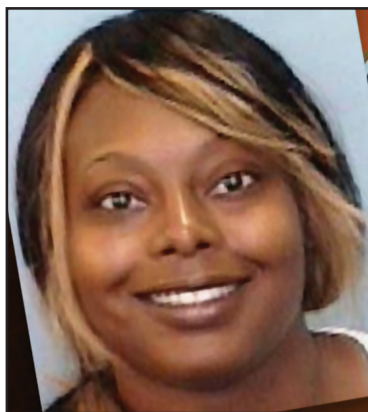


MISSING



Wilmington Police are continuing their search for 30 year old Ebonee Spears of Wilmington. The local Crimestoppers organization has joined with the Wilmington Police Department in offering a reward of up to \$5,000 for information on Ebonee's whereabouts. If you know where Spears may be, call Wilmington Police at (910) 343-3600 or use Text-a-Tip.

**OUTside
Looking IN**



GEORGE CURRY

OUR VOICE

GUEST
EDITORIAL
BY
GEORGE CURRY

"Dealing with disrespect
from Democrats and
Republicans"
PAGE 4

**BRUNSWICK
COUNTY
UPDATE**



BERNEST HEWETT

**POLITICAL
PROMISES
YIELD
NOTHING**

BY BERNEST HEWETT
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Brunswick County, we find ourselves in a bad way! Our elected officials have given us a lot of promises, but the reality is that we have nothing to show for them. Minorities, poor Whites, the elderly and the sick, have no place in the system that's being put into place, and

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BRUNSWICK/Page 2

THE WILMINGTON
JOURNAL

News from the African American perspective without fear or favor

VOLUME 89/No. 25

JUNE 23 - JUNE 29, 2016

FIFTY CENTS

**FEDERAL INVESTIGATION INTO
LENNON LACY HANGING CASE CLOSED**

COMPILED BY STAFFS OF
THE CAROLINIAN AND
THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

Federal investigators have closed their investigation of the hanging death of Lennon Lacy because they have been unable to find any evidence that would help them prove before a jury that a federal hate crime had been committed. Lacy was found hanging from a swing set in the middle of a Bladenboro, N. C. trailer park in 2014.

The case prompted concerns that the 17 year old African American high school football linebacker's death was a homicide by hanging. Additionally, the trailer park where Lacy's body was found was almost exclusively occupied by White residents.

The U.S. Justice Department has informed two

NC NAACP lawyers and Lennon Lacy's mother, Ms. Claudia Lacy, this week that the investigation has been closed. During the meeting the federal officials explained the steps their investigators had taken to ensure that they had done a thorough investigation. They shared with the Lacy family and their attorneys dozens of photographs of the death scene which showed physical evidence consistent with the North Carolina Medical Examiner's determination that the probable cause of death was suicide. Although the federal representatives were unable to answer all of the family's lingering questions about some evidence, Ms. Lacy and NC NAACP lawyers were satisfied that the federal authorities had tried to conduct a



LENNON LACY

Please see **LENNON**/Page 2

JAZZ ON THE BEACH



TEXAS BASED VOCALIST ASHLEIGH SMITH

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BY LARRY RENI THOMAS
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Seventh Annual Ocean City Beach (NC) Jazz Festival will be held on Saturday, July 2, 2016, and Sunday, July 3, 2016. from 5 pm until 8 pm, both days. Scheduled performers on Saturday are: Texas-based vocalist Ashleigh E. Smith, Detroit native flute player Althea Rene, and The John Brown Quintet with the veteran drummer, New Orleans based Herlin Riley. Sunday's lineup is just as super, smoking and top-notch. The Sunday show will feature the reed player par excellence, Tia Fuller, and the John Brown Quintet, the fine bassist Gerald Veasley, and South Carolina native, NCCU Jazz Studies Department graduate, hot, much-in-demand saxophonist Marcus Anderson and his band. Doors open at 4 pm.

The event will be held in the courtyard of the Ocean City Beach Community Center, 2649 Island Drive, North Topsail Beach, NC 28460 (behind the Wade Chestnut Memorial Chapel). Ocean City Beach, North Carolina is an historic beach located a stone's throw from the Atlantic Ocean that was founded and developed by African-Americans in the

1940s, and is one the oldest beaches on the North Carolina coast.

No picnics or coolers, please. Food, beverages and merchandise will be available for purchase on the premises. Bring lawn chairs. The 7th Annual Ocean City Jazz Festival is supported, in part, by the North Carolina Arts Council, a division of Department of Cultural Resources. For tickets and more information go to: <http://www.oceancityjazzfest.com>

**Join other Willistonians at
Ocean City's Jazz Festival**

Several Willistonians are involved in the Ocean City Jazz Festival at, what is informally called, the Black Topsail Beach. For seven years, there has been a two day festival that is top-notch. The cost is \$35 for either day or \$60 for both days.

Larry Reni Thomas, from Wilmington, is the emcee of the festival. Food & adult beverages will be available for purchase.

The Daniels Bus Company will be transporting folks from Wilmington to the Jazz Festival leaving from Walmart on Market Street at 3PM both days. The cost is \$20 round trip each day.

For more information, please call Kenneth Chestnut, Class of '64, at 910-547-2125.

**Federal
Appellate
Court
questions
2013
Voter ID law**

BY CASH MICHAELS
OF THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

While a federal judge in Winston-Salem last April decided that that there was nothing about North Carolina's 2013 voter ID law that should keep African-Americans or others from lawfully casting their ballots, a three-judge federal panel Tuesday wasn't so sure.

Based on remarks and questions coming from that panel of the US Fourth Circuit of Appeals, attorneys for the NCNAACP "...feel very good about our case and the evidence which we presented," attorney Irving Joyner, chairman of the NC NAACP's Legal Redress Committee says. "We clearly hope that the Fourth Circuit will reverse the District Court's [April 25th] decision.... From there, it is on to the [US] Supreme Court, no matter what the outcome is."

Attorneys for the state claim that the 2013 voting restrictions were necessary to stop voting fraud.

The NC NAACP and other plaintiffs appealed to the US Fourth Circuit to fast-track a stay of a federal judge's April 25th ruling dismissing their lawsuit against Gov. Pat McCrory and the Republican-led NC General Assembly for their passage of the 2013 voter ID law until all other appeals have been exhausted. The original suit charged that the 2013 law violated the constitutional rights of black voters. The appeal sought to "...keep in place this Court's prior injunction forbidding Defendants from eliminating same-day registration and refusing to count out-of-

Please see **VOTER ID**/Page 2

Diversity remains elusive in U.S. churches

BY ZENITHA PRINCE
OF THE AFRO AMERICAN

SPECIAL TO THE TRICE EDNEY
NEWS WIRE

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - Churches in the United States remain bastions of segregation decades after the Civil Rights Movement produced legal barriers to the practice.

In 1963, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said, "It is appalling that the most segregated hour of Christian America is 11 o'clock on Sunday morning" and, according to experts, that assertion remains true today. About eight-in-ten American congregants still attend services at a place where a single racial or ethnic group

comprises at least 80 percent of the congregation, according to findings from the most recent (2012) National Congregations Study, as cited by the Pew Research Center.

And a new study from Baylor University has found that churches that attempt to create more racially diverse congregations find themselves with scantier pews. Researchers based their findings on analysis of data from more than 11,000 congregations in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) from 1993-2012, as well as data from the U.S. Census Bureau.

They found that while diversity doubled in the two-decade period, membership declined by 22 percent. "Racial diversity itself is not a detriment to growth," said lead author



About eight-in-ten American congregants still attend services at a place where a single racial or ethnic group comprises at least 80 percent of the congregation.

Kevin Dougherty, associate professor of sociology in Baylor's College of Arts & Sciences, in a statement.

"It is the process of changing the

Please see **DIVERSITY**/Page 2



THE WILMINGTON
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New report says voter suppression threatens 2016 elections

BY BARRINGTON M.
SALMON

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - Since the US Supreme Court invalidated Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act, states that were once required to get permission from the US Department of Justice to enact voting laws have been free to implement limits to voting that activists say could have a negative impact on the 2016 presidential elections.

The high court ruling against the federal government in the Holder v Shelby case in 2013 was followed closely by several primarily southern states, enacting a series of draconian laws that have made it increasingly more difficult for African-Americans, Latinos, students and the elderly to cast their ballots. The Republican legislators supporting these bills claim that the measures are an effort to block voter fraud. Their critics contend that the laws are a way to disenfranchise voters who are more likely to vote Democratic.

But, a national coalition of voters, advocacy groups and voting rights activists as well as in the Department of Justice, have been fighting back in the courts, statehouses and city council chambers. These advocates

have now released a new report, showing the adverse impact of the Shelby case.

"This is really an important report. It is an effort to identify problems that have already arisen," said Wade Henderson, president and CEO of The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights and The Leadership Conference Education Fund. "We're witnessing a virtual renaissance of voter restrictions. If they persist, they could have a very serious effect on the upcoming elections. It is an insidious and sophisticated way to shave off a few points in key races. It is a particular problem to minorities...It is a concern of national importance, one that Congress should pay particular attention to."

The report, titled, "Warning Signs: The Potential Impact of Shelby County v. Holder on the 2016 General Election", was compiled with the collaboration of national civil rights organizations, including the Leadership Conference Education Fund, the ACLU, the Advancement Project, Asian Americans Advancing Justice, the Brennan Center for Justice, the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, and the



The day after the Shelby decision, the speaker of the North Carolina House introduced H.B. 589, one of the most restrictive pieces of election legislation in the country, which came to be known by local advocates as the "monster bill." The bill included a strict ID requirement as well as a range of additional voting restrictions, including significantly shortening the early voting period; eliminating same-day registration; prohibiting the counting of out-of-precinct provisional ballots; eliminating a pre-registration program for 16- and 17-year olds; and making challenging voters easier.

NALEO Educational Fund.

It finds that, since Shelby, the states of North Carolina, Arizona, Florida, Georgia, and Virginia - once under the Section 5 preclearance mandate - have engaged in deceptive and sophisticated practices to disenfranchise voters that will have an impact on the 2016 election.

These states are locations of competitive 2016 contests that will have 84 Electoral College votes, two Senate seats, and one governor's seat up for grabs.

"As we approach the first presidential election in 50 years without the full protections of the Voting Rights Act, we're seeing the perfect

storm of a diversifying electorate and a set of states and localities responding by implementing a broad array of voter discrimination tactics," said Scott Simpson, the report's co-author and director of Media and Campaigns

Please see **2016**/Page 3

DIVERSITY

Continued from Page 3

racial composition of a congregation that causes difficulties."

The study, "Congregational Diversity and Attendance in a Mainline Protestant Denomination" tests the belief that homogenous con-

gregations are more likely to grow, the researchers said. "That philosophy for a long time discouraged church leaders from striving for diversity," said study co-author Gerardo Marti, associate professor of sociology at Davidson College. "But in coming to terms with the historic racial segregation of

American congregations, white pastors in the 1990s aggressively committed to overcoming discrimination, urging members to bring in those from ancestral backgrounds and reaffirm the Gospel as rooted in relationships, unity and love. Racial diversity has become a central, and sometimes dominant,

ambition for many White churches."

Despite those ambitions, the researchers concluded that churches that start off as multiracial are more likely to be successful at increasing diversity in a denomination. "We conclude that new congregations started as multiracial represent the

best opportunity for diversifying a denomination," Dougherty said. "It may be that nondenominational congregations may be more adaptable, since they do not have a denominational heritage to sustain."

The report was published in the *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*.

VOTER ID

Continued from Page 1

precinct provisional ballots" in addition to keeping in place the portion of the law that reduced the early voting period by a week.

The voter photo identification requirement began in earnest during the March 15th primary. Unless the federal appellate court rules otherwise, the voter ID provision

will be in force for the Nov. 8th general election as well.

Based on the evidence presented, members of the three-judge panel openly questioned the timing of the 2013 voter ID law, with one judge, Henry F. Floyd, saying that the intent to suppress the votes of people of color "...Looks pretty bad to me."

Another Appellate Court judge, James A. Wynn, questioned why certain type of

government-issued photo identification, like public university or public assistance ID cards, was disallowed. Judge Wynn once served on the NC Court of Appeals.

There was no word on when the three-judge panel would issue its decision, even though it could, per the petition of the NC NAACP, the League of Women Voters and other plaintiffs, order that the voter photo ID require-

ment not be implemented for the November 8th general election.

"...Plaintiffs believe they have a likelihood of success on the merits on this claim and that voters will be irreparably harmed if the photo ID requirement is in effect in the November 2016 presidential election," the appeal reads. "Plaintiffs believe that if and when they prevail on the photo ID claim, implementation of the

Court's order will be straightforward and simple: the requirement will simply fall away and voters will no longer be asked to show photo ID at the polls in order to vote."

However, as atty. Joyner noted, there's little doubt that attorneys for Gov. McCrory and the Legislature would appeal such a ruling to the US Supreme Court, seeking an injunction to halt any disruption of the 2013 law.

BRUNSWICK

Continued from Page 1

this is called conservative government. As I think about this problem, I find that people with good intentions do bad things from which the whole community suffers. Here in Brunswick County and the surrounding counties, we've lost a great deal from bad management and racial biases. These have come directly from the actions of our elected officials. We need to go to the ballot boxes and vote. We need to be counted and hold on to the rights these people are trying to take from us. Our rights have been stepped on through bad judgment and racial tension.

I know of one lady and her children who have had to spend the last two months in

a mobile home with no air conditioning where the temperature in the house has been close to 90 degrees during the day. She complained to the landlord and was told time and time again that he was coming. She complained to the Brunswick County Department of Social Services. She was told that they were going to come out and check it, but that never happened. This lady has gone through hell and is still paying rent to a landlord who has refused to agree to her calling in an air conditioning man on her own. This Black lady who has endured this and kept the faith that the Lord will make a way somehow! She prays while the landlord hates.

Wake up Brunswick County and meet me at the ballot box. *Bernest L. Hewett is the President of the Brunswick County Branch of NAACP.*

LENNON

Continued from Page 1

thorough investigation.

There continues to be an outcry in social media from Lacy's family and friends, as well as Black activists, denouncing the federal investigation as yet another coverup. One such post by Durham resident, H. F. Watts, cited, "This is disgraceful! No investigation was conducted. It was physically and mathematically impossible for suicide to happen with a 200 pound man and a short dog leash."

The NC NAACP brought in an independent pathologist, who found discrepancies in the evidence that cast doubt on the official finding of suicide and identified physical reasons that suggested it would have been almost impossible for the

teenager to have hanged himself from the swing set. Those conclusions conflicted with the official autopsy report, which stated that Lacy had been depressed from the recent death of a beloved uncle and concluded that the 17 year old had died from "asphyxia secondary to hanging."

Also there remains concern by the Lacy family and local Bladenboro residents over a new pair of Jordan tennis shoes that Lacy had purchased that were missing from the death scene, while a pair of white sneakers which nobody recognized was found on his body.

Then there's the relationship with an older White woman, Michelle Brimhall, who has continuously stated that she is convinced Lacy did not take his own life. Ms. Brimhall, however, has retracted her opinion that there had been no hostility toward Lacy and her as a mixed-race couple. She has since indicated in news reports that she and Lacy had been targeted by White racists who told her they disapproved of interracial relationships.

The Bladen County District Attorney, Jon David, has stated, "Some have suggested that the quality of the initial law enforcement investigation was lackluster. In my analysis, this is simply untrue." Attorney David's office also has decided to close active investigation of the Lacy death.

The NC NAACP and Ms. Lacy have always said that we can take the truth and that it will set us free. Ms. Lacy and the NC NAACP will

take some time to digest the news before announcing their next steps in this case.

The statute of limitations on a homicide is open.

Federal officials would consider reopening the investigation if new evidence is discovered that would warrant additional investigation.

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DURHAM CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER ANN ATWATER, 80, DIES

[DURHAM] A black woman who befriended a KKK leader during the height of racial tension in Durham during the 1970s has died. Ann Atwater, 80, is best known for becoming friends with KKK leader C. P. Ellis during ten days of workshops designed to bring people together during Durham school desegregation. Ellis ripped up his KKK membership card on the last day of the meetings, saying he couldn't hate black people anymore. Ms. Atwater spoke at Ellis' funeral in 2005. A film



STATE BRIEFS

is reportedly scheduled to be made about the Atwater - Ellis relationship starring Taraji P. Henson.

ECSU PLACED ON WARNING BY ACCREDITING AGENCY
[ELIZABETH CITY] The accrediting agency of Elizabeth City State University has placed the historically black university on warning. The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges warned the school after a UNC internal audit revealed that ECSU erroneously awarded financial aid and admitted unqualified students to the school. ECSU officials say they are aware of the problems, and are on course to take corrective measures by December 15 of

this year.
CLINTON CAMPAIGNS AT NC FAIRGROUNDS
[RALEIGH] Democratic presumptive presidential nominee Hillary Clinton came to Raleigh on Wednesday in her bid to outdistance presumptive Republican nominee Donald Trump in their race for the White House. The former US Secretary of State is trailing Trump in North Carolina polls 43 to 41 percent. North Carolina is seen as a "purple" battleground state that can go either Democrat or Republican during this November's general election.

NC WATER QUALITY IN JEOPARDY WITH LIFTING OF REGULATIONS
[CHARLOTTE]- Agriculture is big business in North

Carolina, and while the farms across the state add to the economy and resources, the waste generated in the form of animal waste and fertilizer runoff has the potential to impact the state's water quality.
For the past 20 years, regulations have been put in place to stabilize the impact, but this month the state Senate passed a plan to eliminate many water quality protections currently in place.
Supporters say the rules should be removed because they haven't succeeded in solving the problem of excess nutrients.
But Tom Bean, a lobbyist for the North Carolina Wildlife Federation, says that's faulty logic.
"It's the opposite of what we need to be doing," he main-

tains. "That would be like a diabetic, after 15 or 20 years of controlling his diabetes with insulin, decided it hadn't cured him of diabetes so he's going to stop using them."
The current regulations were put in place following a massive fish kill in 1995 on the Neuse River, after an algae bloom reduced the oxygen in the water to dangerous levels.
The proposed elimination of rules was added to the Senate's budget and would eliminate vegetated buffers along rivers and water quality requirements on impaired waterways such as the Neuse, Tar-Pamlico River Basin, and Catawba River, among others.
Bean calls the current regulations common sense and adds they have been at least maintaining water quality

and preventing it from getting worse.
"To do something as irresponsible as to remove regulations that are working is just asking to create a problem, which ultimately will have to be addressed," he stresses.
"Cleanup is always more expensive. Get in contact with legislators and tell them that they oppose lifting the regulations that are in place."
The provision also would delay rules protecting Jordan and Falls lakes, which supply drinking water for more than 700,000 people in the Triangle and provide the opportunity for many thousands of hours of outdoor recreation for swimmers, boaters and fishermen.
COMPILED BY CASH MICHAELS

2016

Continued from Page 2

for The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights and The Leadership Conference Education Fund. "In 2016, it is entirely possible that the presidency, control of the Senate, and a number of governorships could be determined by the voter discrimination made possible by Shelby."

Simpson added, "Changes are happening in the dark of night. There's no public notice, no transparency... This report looks at the intersection of states in competitive races. In those five states they're using every tactic in the books. Those engaged in this tend to be Republicans. A lot of it is happening out of fear. Generally, it is happening with city councils, local elections, and school boards. They are afraid that Blacks will gain control and continue to exert influence in these five states. For everything we've found, this is just a fraction of what's actually happening."

When announcing the Shelby ruling, Chief Justice John Roberts left it to Congress to reauthorize the VRA. To date, that has not happened.

Meanwhile, states and locations once protected by the VRA, have remained rogue, according to the report.

For example, the day after the Shelby decision, the speaker of the North Carolina House introduced H.B. 589, one of the most restrictive pieces of election legislation in the country, which came to be known by local advocates as the "monster bill." The bill included a strict ID requirement as well as a range of additional voting restrictions, including significantly shortening the early voting period; eliminating same-day registration; prohibiting the counting of out-of-precinct provisional ballots; eliminating a pre-registration program for 16- and 17-year olds; and mak-

ing challenging voters easier.

"What we are seeing in North Carolina is that more people are being disenfranchised than the margin that decided our recent governor's election and other recent elections in our state," said Anita Earls, executive director of the Southern Coalition for Social Justice, which has played a key role in fighting voter suppression in North Carolina. "These voter suppression measures passed in the wake of Shelby - like ending same day registration, ending out-of-precinct voting, and others - are truly having an impact on our ability to vote. We hope that these measures will not be in place in November 2016."

The report, a collaborative effort between The Leadership Conference Education Fund, the ACLU, the Advancement Project, Asian Americans Advancing Justice, the Brennan Center for Justice, the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, and the NALEO Educational Fund, warn that the restrictions are spreading.
Marion Warren, Registrar of Voters for the City of Sparta in Hancock County, Ga., said since 2015, voter rolls were purged, removing registered voters prior to two mayoral elections that removed registered voters.

Voting officials mailed out ballots late and have "refused to make registration voter-friendly," Warren said. "They have moved polling stations into police departments, closed six of 10 polling stations, and some people have to travel 35 miles to get to the polls. There has been an outcry from the public and I got the Department of Justice to look into that particular situation...It seems it's harder for a minority to vote now in the state of Georgia than it was in 1965."

In the battleground state of Arizona, tens of thousands of voters are believed to be disenfranchised after elections officials closed

polling stations and scrubbed voter rolls.

Monica Cooper, and Juliana Huerena, are two Arizona voters who say they were disenfranchised during the 2016 primaries. They are plaintiffs in a voting rights lawsuit against Arizona and Maricopa County.

"On Election Day, I depended on Dial-a-Ride [a paratransit service] to get to and from the polling place, and was not able to vote because the lines were so long it took over two hours to get inside the polling place," Cooper said. "I am very angry that I was not able to cast my ballot and that I was left out on Election Day."

Huerena said, "I've been voting in Maricopa County for nearly 10 years and I've never seen lines like this before. The line wrapped around the building," she said. "It was important to me to wait and cast my ballot, but I saw many people get frustrated after waiting for hours and eventually leave without voting. In the end, I waited four and a half hours to cast my ballot."

Henderson, Simpson and their colleagues said this electoral debacle can be avoided if Congress acts and acts quickly. The point to the Voting Rights Advancement Act is to blunt voter suppression. The Act, they say, would not only restore preclearance protections to voters in states with the worst histories of discrimination, it would have a national impact, requiring preclearance for any proposed electoral change historically associated with discrimination.
"A lot of the problem is that some members of Congress are refusing to see discrimination happening," Simpson said. "There are two bills with the House Judiciary Committee that have not moved. Republican leaders have shown no interest or inclination to move these bills. They're burying their heads in the sand and doing everything they can to ignore what's happening."

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July 2 & 3, 2016

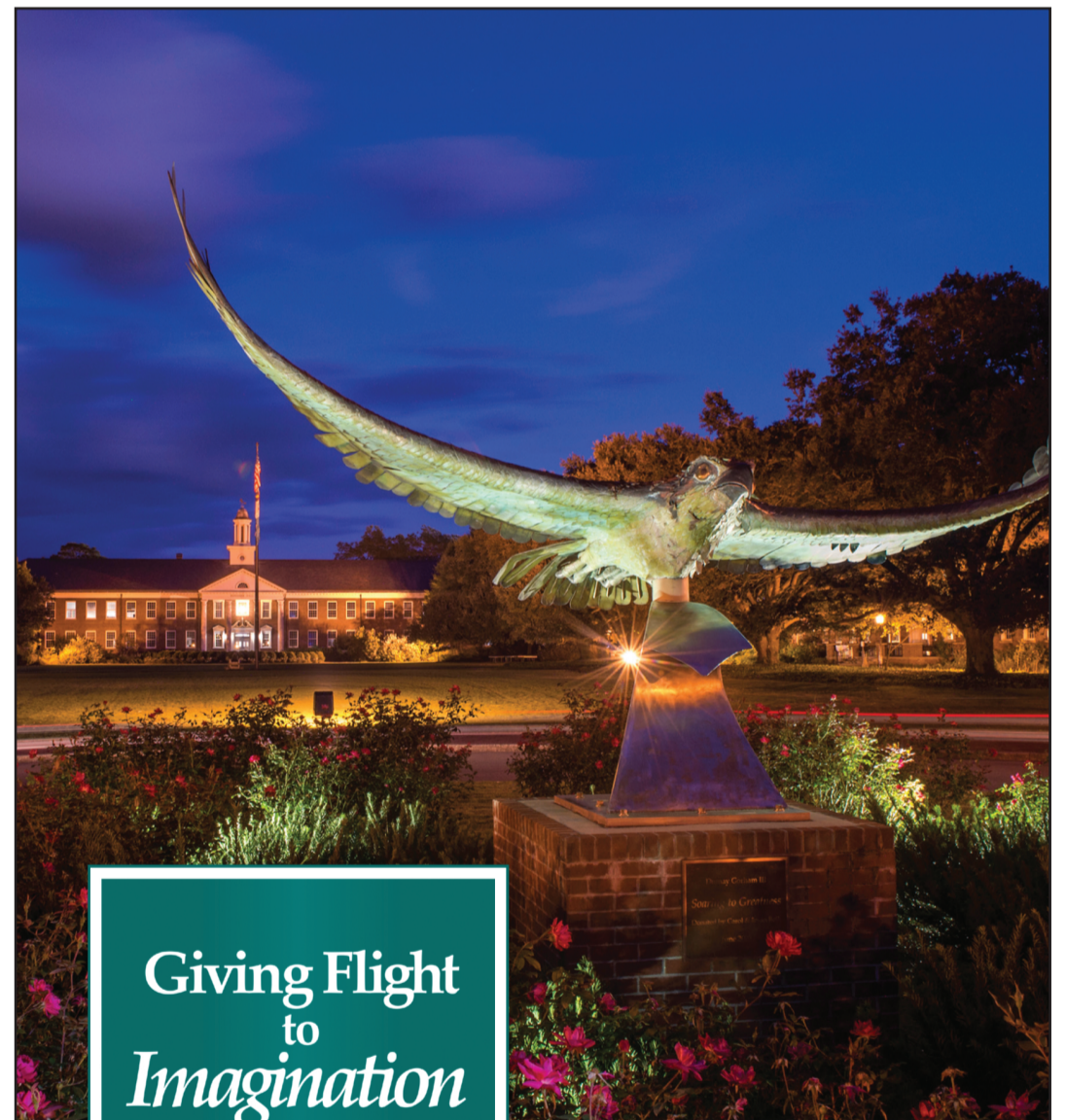
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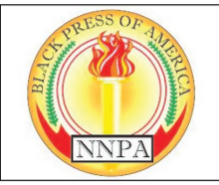
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Our Voice

GUEST EDITORIAL

CURRY'S COMMENTS

Dealing with disrespect from Democrats and Republicans

(Via George Curry Media)

After last week's column on how the major presidential candidates snubbed organizers of this year's National Black Political Convention in Gary, Ind., I received quite a few emails asking: What can we do about it?

For anyone who may have missed the column, I noted that in an ultimate show of disrespect, each major presidential candidate declined to appear before the National Black Political Convention in Gary, despite it being co-sponsored by the National Policy Alliance, a federation that includes 10 major Black organizations: Blacks in Government (BIG), the Congressional Black Caucus, the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, the Judicial Council of the National Bar Association, the National Association of Black County Officials, the National Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials, the National Black Council of School Board Members, the National Black Caucus of State Legislators, the National Organization of Black County Officials and the World Conference of Mayors.

BIG represents 3 million Black government employees and the CBC says its members represent approximately 43 million people.

I pointed out that most Republicans wouldn't dare insult conservatives by failing to appear before the annual Conservative Political Action Conference and that neither Democrats nor Republicans would decline to show up for the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC). Yet, they don't think twice before skipping a major gathering of African Americans.

And we continue to take it.

First, let's stipulate that standing on the sidelines is not the answer, regardless of how disappointed we may be at the behavior of Democrats and Republicans. Not voting is a vote - a vote against anything approaching a progressive agenda. With the direction of the U.S. Supreme Court hanging in the balance, that alone should motivate us to turn out this fall in record numbers.

Second, it's irresponsible to suggest that there is no difference between the behavior and voting records of Democrats and Republicans. I certainly can identify with the frustration of dealing with liberal condescension, but that shouldn't blind us to the outright hostility of Republican leaders. Picking the lesser of two evils still leaves us with evil, but not nearly as much evil were Republican policies adopted.

Exhibit A is the GOP record in Congress. When the NAACP graded members of Congress on issues important to African Americans, every Republican in the House and Senate received an "F." Not a D-minus. Not even a D-plus. Voting for them would be voting against our own self-interests.

It hasn't always been this way. Blacks voted Republican from the Reconstruction Era immediately after the Civil War until 1936 when Franklin D. Roosevelt received 71 percent of the African American vote in the most lopsided electoral victory in history. After Harry S. Truman desegregated the military and the federal workforce, he received 77 percent of the Black vote in 1948. Even as late as 1960, Richard Nixon got 32 percent of the Black vote against John F. Kennedy.

But the Republican Party grew increasingly anti-Black and no Republican president has received more than 15 percent of the Black vote since Lyndon B. Johnson signed the 1964 Civil Rights Act and the 1965 Voting Rights Act. In 2012, Mitt Romney received 6 percent of the African American vote, according to Roper, and Donald J. Trump appears on track to receive less than that.

More than a half-century after passage of the 1965 Voting Rights Act, Blacks are still underrepresented in public office.

As a Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies report found, "Based on the most recent data, African Americans are 12.5% of the citizen voting age population, but they make up a smaller share of the U.S. House (10%), state legislatures (8.5%), city councils (5.7%), and the U.S. Senate (2%)."

And some of that failure rests squarely on our shoulders.

As the report noted, "...In 2014, when there was great unrest over a police officer's killing of Michael Brown, African Americans made up 67% of residents of Ferguson, Missouri. In 2012, a solid 100% of Ferguson precincts went for President Obama, but during Ferguson's municipal off-cycle elections voters selected Ferguson's Republican mayor and six city council members, all of whom except one were white."

But the problem is larger than that. Essentially, we provide the margin of victory for Democrats year after year and often get little or nothing in return.

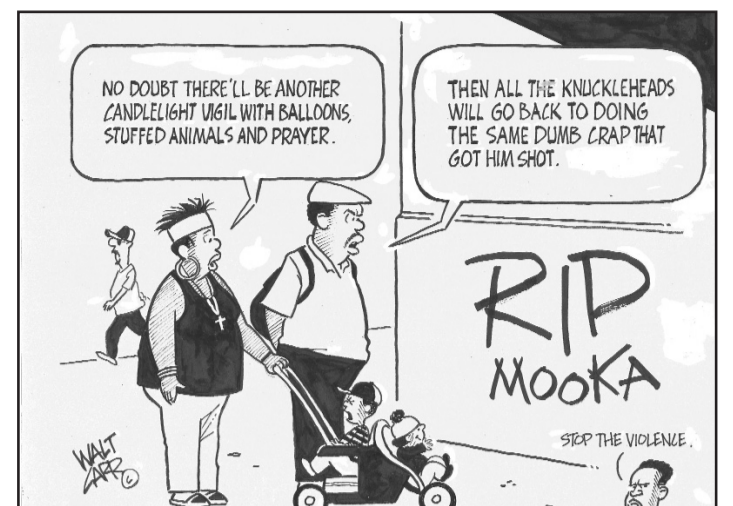
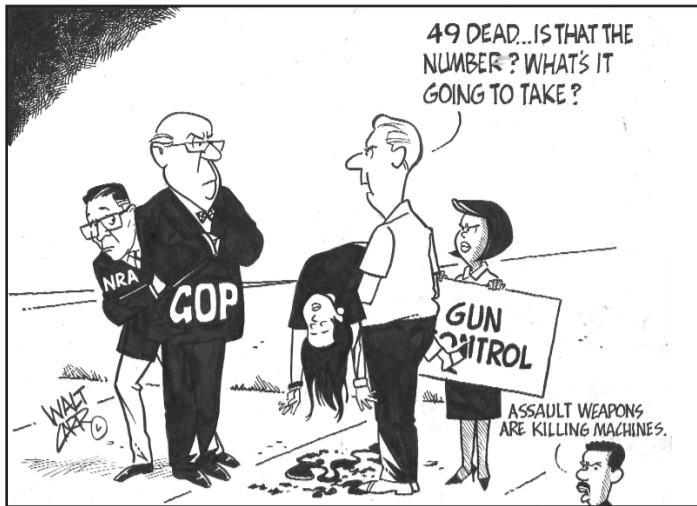
So back to the original question: What can we do about it?

Since my days as a reporter for the St. Louis Post-Dispatch in the 1970s, I have advocated a simple and yet powerful step: Pick one local office, say comptroller or city treasurer, and vote Republican and Democrat in alternate elections. Because Blacks vote overwhelmingly in favor of Democrats, I would vote first for the Republican candidate. It wouldn't be long before both Democrats and Republicans fall over themselves courting Black voters. And if that fails to capture their attention, then move to a second city office or a statewide contest.

If this happens at the local level, national party leaders would take note and do everything without their power to avoid a shift of loyalty at the national level. Until we show that we will make politicians pay on Election Day, we will continue to get disrespected by both major parties.

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

Visual Voice



Matters of Opinion

RAINBOW COALITION

After Orlando, drive out hate with light and love

(Via George Curry Media)

Orlando now will be added to the haunting list: Newtown, Conn., Virginia Tech, San Bernardino, Calif., Charleston, S.C., Aurora, Colo. and more. USA Today provides a graphic of 310 mass killings since 2006 (with four or more dead), the dots tracking across the nation. Mass killings still shock us. So m e h o w we've grown accustomed to the daily terror - in Chicago, nearly five times as many people have been shot and killed since the beginning of the year than the 49 that died in Orlando.

Orlando was, as President Obama said, "an act of terror and an act of hate." The grisly toll was also a product of the easy access to guns, particularly guns made for the military at war. The killer called 911 in the midst of his rampage to announce his allegiance to the Islamic State, but this came as a surprise to his friends and former wife. His father said that his son was outraged by the sight of gay

men kissing on the street, that he didn't think that religion "had anything to do with it." An act of terror and an act of hate.

The human reaction is to want to strike back. Escalate attacks on the Islamic State in Syria and Iraq. Redouble surveillance and crack down on Muslims at home. Donald Trump, the presumptive Republican nominee for president, went, characteristically, to the most extreme, calling on the president to resign and Hillary Clinton to withdraw because they didn't use the words "radical Islam," as if that were a magical chant that would set everything right. He raised alarms about "thousands" of radical Muslims in the United States, and reiterated his call for banning any Muslim immigration. Hillary Clinton was more tempered, while arguing that we had the capacity to eliminate lone wolf terrorists at home and the Islamic State abroad.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. taught us a different lesson. Faced with the violence and terror unleashed against African-Americans in this country, he called on us to reach out, to love and not to hate. "Darkness," he wrote, "cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate

cannot drive out hate; only love can do that. Hate multiplies hate, violence multiplies violence, and toughness multiplies toughness in a descending spiral of destruction."

This wisdom should not be forgotten now. We would do better to reach out to Muslims in this nation and respect their religion and their rights, rather than to hunt them, to isolate them or to denigrate them. Muslim organizations across the country have issued statements condemning this act of terror. We should embrace them as part of the American community, engage them in the effort to identify the violent extremists, not treat all Muslims like a threatening stranger.

We would do better to reassess our strategy in the Middle East rather than double down on violence. We have displaced the Taliban in Afghanistan and killed Bin Laden; we've overthrown Saddam Hussein in Iraq and Moammar Gadhafi in Libya; we've decimated al-Qaida; our allies have carpet bombed Yemen; our drones bomb in seven countries. Yet the terror spreads, the violence spreads, the chaos spreads. More violence generates more terrorists. Redoubling our efforts can wipe out the Islamic State,

but it will surely add to the terrorist ranks at the same time.

Most mass shootings are not political; the victims most often are relatives or friends. Most casualties do not come from "radical Islamic terrorists." More Americans have been killed by homegrown terrorists motivated by racial or anti-government or anti-gay hatreds than have been killed by those motivated by Islamic extremism.

Gun control cannot end terror, neither the mass shootings like Orlando nor the daily horror as in Chicago. Omar Mateen, the killer in Orlando, was a security guard, apparently with a record clean enough that he was able to buy guns legally. But surely it is inconceivable that military assault weapons like the AR-15 semiautomatic rifle that he used (and that was also used in Aurora and Newtown and San Bernardino) should be so easily purchased. Reviving the ban on assault weapons that lapsed under President Bush is not a full remedy, but it is simple common sense.

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.

CASH IN THE APPLE

BACK IN THE HOSPITAL

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, MOM! - Just a quick shout out to my mom, Lillian, whose birthday it is today. Though she died in 2009, there's no reason to ever forget her. Happy Birthday, Mom!

BACK IN THE HOSPITAL - I'm back in the hospital this week, but no need to worry, I'm scheduled to be until Sunday. As I reported at the beginning

of this month, I've been diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia (AML) since March, and have undergone chemotherapy since then. This week I'm undergoing my third round of chemo, which is necessary in order to ensure that there is no recurrence of the cancer cells that initially compromised my immune system. I'm currently in remission now, meaning there are no cancer cells detected in my body. I'm scheduled to go through this week, spend three weeks home under outpatient care, then return for my last schedule week of chemo in the hospital a month from now, and then check in once every three months to make sure that my body stays in remission.

Could I relapse over the coming years? Yes. I have at least a 50 percent of doing so over the next two years. But the longer I stay in remission, the least likely it is that I will relapse. So that is what I'm going with.

In the meantime I am feeling stronger and better. I am back at work, and am more conscious than ever about keeping my mind and body in better shape. For now, I try not to go out in public in order to limit my exposure to infection. I've had to miss a number of public events recently because of that medical restriction, which I regret. But if it means being able to get through this important period without major complications, then so be it.

I've also been impressed, and inspired, by notables like TNT Network sportscaster Craig Sager, and UNC - Chapel Hill Tar Heel Women's basketball Coach Sylvia Hatchell, who reportedly also suffer from AML like I do, and are still receiving treatment.

Sager was given the chance to work his very first NBA finals game last week on ABC-TV. Coach Hatchell has a best-selling book titled "Fight, Fight" about her personal struggles battling the disease. So it looks like I'm in excellent company.

My goal is to live my life normally come September. With GOD's help and blessing, I will.

CLEVELAND WINS - I must admit, even though I was

pulling for the Golden State Warriors to defeat the

Cleveland Cavaliers for the NBA Championship for a second year in a row, I did smile when I saw Cavalier Captain LeBron James relish the moment of winning championship for his hometown, and do so in dramatic fashion by coming back from a three games-to-one deficit - and LeBron and the boys worked hard for those victories to. So congratulations. Yes, I used to be sour grapes because I wanted LeBron to stay with Dwayne Wade in Miami. But, I guess I can settle for Kyrie Irving in Cleveland.

OJ: MADE IN AMERICA - if you have cable and get 'On Demand,' then go to the ESPN On Demand channel to see the five-part series "OJ: Made in America," an extraordinary documentary project traces the life of one of history's most tragic sports figures, O. J. Simpson. But more than that, the series also traces the racial history between Los Angeles' black community and the racist Los Angeles Police Dept. It was that well-known racism that played a role in helping to get Simpson acquitted when he was charged with the 1994 double murder of his ex-wife Nicole Brown Simpson and her friend, Ronald Goldman. The series brings it all back, and ironically shows how OJ actually enjoyed being a highly celebrated black athlete in a

white world, deliberately turning his back on the black community.

This series isn't just about OJ, but brilliantly gives us a prime slice of black history that is well documented and should not be missed. "OJ: Made in America" should not be missed. Check it out on ESPN On Demand.

JULY STARTUPS - In case you never knew it, most network TV series that premiere in late September, October or November or even in January are taped or filmed in July through August. Depending on when the show airs, it could be as much as two months to just a few weeks from when an episode is filmed to when it airs. For instance, the last episodes of CBS' "NCIS" were filmed literally the month before they aired last season. So it's always interesting to see how the new episodes reflect current events when they air.

Cash in the Apple - honored as the Best Column Writing of 2006 by the National Newspaper Publishers Association. 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.

The BLACK PRESS USE IT or LOSE IT!

TO BE EQUAL

Pray for peace and work for justice

(Via George Curry Media)

"Of all the rocks upon which we build our lives, we are reminded today that family is the most important. And we are called to recognize and honor how critical every father is to that foundation. They are teachers and coaches. They are mentors and role models. They are examples of success and the men who constantly push us toward it." - President Barack Obama

To become a parent, it is



Marc Morial

often said, is to allow your heart to go walking around outside your body.

In many ways, the essence of fatherhood is protection. As fathers, our most basic instinct is to protect our children. As children, our fathers are the ones we seek when we need protection. That responsibility weighs especially heavily for Black fathers in a time when divisive rhetoric seems out of control and the threat of violence looms heavily over our communities.

These fears are not unique to our generation, however. And because we cannot change the world to oblige our children, we must raise our children to navigate this world.

There are as many theories about raising strong, capable and well-adjusted children as

there are parents. "Tough love," "helicoptering," "free range" ... but one thing matters above all else - that children know they are loved. As the theme of a popular adoption campaign goes: You don't have to be perfect to be a perfect parent.

I was fortunate to have a father who is a hero and role model, not only for my brother and sisters and me, but for the city he served as mayor, judge, and civil rights trailblazer. It is his example I strive to follow as a civil rights leader and - more importantly - as a father. But make no mistake, as fathers, do as much to shape the future by reading a bedtime story or helping with homework as we do testifying before Congress or presiding over a courtroom.

For the second year in a row, we celebrate Father's Day in

the wake of senseless tragedy as we mourn the 50 souls who were lost in the hateful mass shooting in Orlando. Last year, Father's Day was marred by the racially-inspired murders at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, S.C.

It is our responsibility as fathers, as sons, and as brothers to rise up against the intolerance that fuels this violence, to quell the angry rhetoric that spurs it on, and to cut off the easy access to high-powered weaponry that enables it. As Pope Paul VI - II Papa, the Holy Father, said, "If you want peace, work for justice."

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

Senator John McCain foolishly blames President Obama for the massacre in Orlando

(Via NNPA)

The cretin who took an assault weapon into Pulse, an Orlando nightclub, on "salsa night" is beneath contempt. Was his target the LBGTQ community, Latinos, or simply human beings? After all, it is so m e h a t r e d u c t i v e t o s i m p l y describe Pulse as a "gay club." It catered to the LBGTQ communities and allies. Some of those who were massacred were not gay. They just wanted to dance.

In the wake of the massacre of 49 people, and the injury of another 53, the networks have offered sunup to sundown coverage. Analysis and opinions have been more than plentiful. Some of the most disgraceful comments came from Senator John McCain (R-Ariz.), who blames President Obama for the massacre in Orlando.

To be sure the Senator quickly retracted his words and said that he "misspoke." But he started out by saying that he held President Obama "directly responsible" for the massacre in Florida. He explained that, because President Obama pulled U.S. troops out of Iraq, he created the vacuum that ISIS came to fill.



Dr. Julianne Malveaux

McCain was harsh in his exhortation of President Obama, and his harshness was misplaced when it was issued, on the same day that President Obama visited Orlando to meet with the families of those murdered. If you look into a dictionary under "sore loser" you will find a photograph of Arizona Senator John McCain. He still has not recovered from the whipping he took when then-Senator Barack Obama beat him for the Presidency. While he can only blame himself, his poorly executed campaign, and his poor choices (Sarah Palin, anyone?), he is far more comfortable venting against President Obama than he is exploring his own failures.

Florida's Republican Governor Rick Scott is another politician who has made unfortunately inappropriate statements. Deflecting questions about assault weapons, he says he prefers to talk about eliminating ISIS. He behaves as if legislators have only a one-track mind. While it is appropriate to talk about managing ISIS, it is also appropriate to talk about the easy access that anybody has to assault weapons. If you are on the no-fly list, the adage goes, you ought to be on the no-buy list. Not that it helps as much as it should - there are too many ways to buy guns, ammunition, and body armor legally and under the table.

It does not erode anyone's second amendment rights to

restrict their right to assault weapons. One does not need an automatic weapon and thousands of rounds of ammunition to protect oneself or, for that matter, to "hunt." Whenever those NRA folks start talking about hunting, though, I really want to know what (who) it is they want to hunt. It is entirely appropriate to restrict access to assault weapons, but for some reason rabid Republicans resist.

President Barack Obama has had to take on the role of Empathizer-in-Chief several times during his presidency. In the last year, he has had to deal with the shootings at Emanuel AME Church (June 2015, 9 casualties), at the Chattanooga Recruiting Center (July 2015, 4 casualties), Roseburg Community College (October 2015, 10 casualties), the San Bernardino Community Center (December 2015, 14 casualties), and now the tragedy in Orlando. He has been consistent in calling for assault weapons bans, and his opponents have been consistent in opposing such bans. And they have been irresponsible in their rhetoric of opposition. Senator John McCain stands at the tip of the iceberg.

Donald Trump is worse than Senator McCain. He has said that our President is sympathetic to ISIS terrorists. Like McCain, he quickly suggested that President

Obama has some culpability in the Orlando massacre. What nonsense! Trump should be ashamed, if he is capable of such, for turning a tragedy into political manipulation. So should McCain.

McCain says he "misspoke," but what he really needs to do is apologize. He has no right to accuse President Obama of being "directly responsible" for the Orlando killings. He was wrong, simply wrong. His statement was not a slip of the lip, but a calculated attempt to disparage our President for partisan purposes. McCain has been a victim of Donald Trump's venom.

In the wake of a tragedy, our nation's leaders ought to follow our President's leadership in offering empathy. We ought also look at ways to prevent further tragedy. Banning assault weapons is one way to offer some solutions, and some Democrats have attempted to deal with that, despite resistance. Loose lips are inappropriate in the wake of this tragedy. Shame on you, Donald Trump and John McCain, for attempting to turn tragedy to your political advantage with your foolish words.

Julianne Malveaux is an author, economist and Founder of Economic Education. Her latest book "Are We Better Off? Race, Obama and Public Policy" is available to order at www.juliannealveaux.com.

CHILDWATCH

Inaction cannot be an option

(Via George Curry Media)

"This massacre is therefore a further reminder of how easy it is for someone to get their hands on a weapon that lets them shoot people in a school, or in a house of worship, or a movie theater, or in a nightclub. And we have to decide if that's the kind of country we want to be. And to actively do nothing is a decision as well." - President Barack Obama, June 12, 2016

"We have to face the fact that meaningful gun control has to be a part of homeland security . . . We need to do something to minimize the opportunity for terrorists to get a gun in this country." - U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security Jeh Johnson, June 14, 2016

"I am proud to announce that after 14+ hours on the floor, we will have a vote on closing the terror gap & universal background checks." - Tweet by Connecticut Senator Christopher Murphy, June 16, 2016



Marian W. Edelman

Inaction is not an option. In the wake of the worst mass shooting in American history, we can and must do everything in our power to end this scourge of terror, hate and bullets that fly across our land killing and maiming and breaking hearts and traumatizing communities with ever increasing frequency. How can inaction continue to be an option in the face of senselessness and intolerance fueled by guns? We must act to save our country's soul and the lives of our people - all of our people.

The June 12 attack at the Pulse nightclub in Orlando was both our nation's worst act of terrorism since 9/11 and a hate crime. In that it was all too common: lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people are too likely targets of hate crimes in America. A large number of victims were gay people of color who were celebrating Latin Night in what many said they trusted and believed was a desperately needed "safe space." But as we have seen over and over again, America is running out of safe spaces. Not Pulse. Not Bible study at Mother Emanuel A.M.E. Church in Charleston, S.C. Not an office holiday party in San Bernardino, Calif. Not a movie theater in Aurora, Colorado. Not a dorm or university hall at Virginia Tech. And not a first grade classroom in Newtown, Conn., in a country where hate, bigotry, terrorism, and mental illness collide with unfettered access to these weapons of war that leave us with no hiding spaces unless we do something now.

Connecticut Senator Christopher Murphy couldn't face the families of the children of Sandy Hook unless he did something. The Senate filibuster he led in the aftermath of the Orlando slaughter lasted for more than 14 hours before there was bipartisan agreement to allow a vote on two common sense amendments that would make all of us and our nation safer. Creating a "No Buy List" so that the more than 800,000 people on our terror watch lists cannot legally buy guns in America should be an easy decision for all of us. Closing the loopholes in existing background checks to reach sales at gun shows and through the Internet to keep more criminals, would-be terrorists, and others from buying guns should be another easy decision. The evidence is clear that expanded background checks work.

A recent study found that a Connecticut law that expanded background checks on all handgun purchases helped achieve a 40 percent reduction in gun homicides during the first 10 years following the law's enactment. These are measures the majority of Americans strongly support - and it's long past time that Congress followed the will of the people instead of the will of the National Rifle Association and gun manufacturers whose profits are soaked in the blood of our people.

The majority of Americans also support reinstating the ban on assault weapons and high capacity magazines that have been used time and time again. Why should it be perfectly legal to buy an AR-15 in a Five Guys parking lot in Vermont the day after the massacre at Pulse with no background check and no paperwork at all? Weapons designed for war are now as easy to buy as a loaf of bread.

Since 1963 more than 176,000 children have died from gun violence in America - over three times more than all the soldiers killed in action in the Vietnam War and every external conflict since. Our children have a right to grow up in a caring and decent society that protects their right to live and learn in safety. That right must take precedence over anyone's right to own assault weapons or high capacity magazines that have nothing to do with self-defense or hunting and have no place in the hands of non-military and non-law enforcement personnel. Without these weapons of war how many would be alive today? How many Newtown or Aurora or Orlando victims would have survived?

Our children are afraid for their friends, their families, and themselves. And this needs to change. We all need to stand up until we are heard and laws are changed. Contact your Senators right now to urge them to support these common sense safety solutions all of us so desperately need. Please act now.

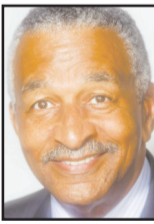
Marian Wright Edelman is president of the Children's Defense Fund whose Leave No Child Behind® mission is to ensure every child a Healthy Start, a Head Start, a Fair Start, a Safe Start and a Moral Start in life and successful passage to adulthood with the help of caring families and communities. For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

BLACKONOMICS

Can Blacks prompt an 'Orlando' reaction?

(Via George Curry Media)

In 1991, Latasha Harlins was shot in the back of her head and killed by Soon Ja Du, a Korean store owner in Los Angeles, who received a \$500 fine, sentenced to 400 hours of community service, and five years' probation by Judge Joyce Karlin, who ignored the penalty of 16 years in



James Clingman

whom were Black. So just who are we trying to convince that Black lives matter, other than politicians? And if Black lives matter, how much do they matter, how much are they worth?

We have recently seen millions of dollars being paid to victims' families, but it pales in comparison to the number of lives lost. Just the Black men and women killed by police, if divided into those millions of public dollars - tax dollars - the individual amounts would be embarrassing and insulting, just as in Latasha Harlins' case. But who cares? Right?

If members of any other group in this country were being killed at the same rate as Black folks are being killed, there would be a collective outrage and indignation such that the problem would be addressed, if not solved, almost immediately.

Moreover, on the economic side of things, just look at the Orlando shootings. Days after that tragedy \$4 million was raised for the victims - twice the previous GoFundMe crowd funding record of \$2 million - and all we hear in the news reports is advocacy for the "LGBT community."

When have we heard so much sympathy and advocacy for Black folks on those news shows? When have we raised significant amounts of money for Black victims? When have we seen LGBT news reporters take commercial breaks in order to shed tears for Black victims? If Tamir Rice didn't make that happen, nothing will.

Money is pouring into Orlando from private corporations, in part because LBGT's are willing to leverage their dollars in return for corporate support. (Don't be mad at them; that's what we should be doing) The Orlando Magic, Disney, the Florida baseball teams, and Mark Cuban, owner of the Dallas Mavericks, have given money and other support in the aftermath of the latest shootings. Even GoFundMe waived its \$100,000 transaction fee on the contributions made by more than 90,000 contributors.

Over the past three years, we have also seen corporations use their power to affect political change on behalf of LBGT's. Yet corporations, despite earning much of their profit from Black consumers, did virtually nothing for Eric Garner's family, Sandra Bland's family, John Crawford's family, or Ezell Ford's family. Why not?

Politically speaking, while 20 bullet-riddled bodies of children in Sandy Hook couldn't move them, politicians will surely act now on gun law legislation because many of those killed in Orlando were LBGT, the NRA notwithstanding. What if that had been a Black club?

going to do that for us, so we must do it for ourselves. Are we afraid? Ashamed? Apathetic?

Where does this leave Black people? Latasha Harlins, Tamir Rice, and all of those killed in between and since, are calling out from their graves for us to respond appropriately to what happened to them. Our charge is to make our lives matter to us, first and foremost, and then show a united front to this nation that we will not be relegated to a subordinate class and continue to be ignored, dismissed, and trampled upon by groups that continually parlay our misery into their benefit. Until other groups begin to support us the way we have supported them in this country throughout history, we must commit ourselves to a "Never Again" approach and take charge of our own destiny, our own causes, and our own security.

The only Black things that matter are dollars and votes, so why not leverage them to get what we want?

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.

"If the lions do not write their own history, then the hunters will get all the credit."

--AN AFRICAN PROVERB



New Hanover County

Community Services Block Grant Program at Eastern Carolina Human Services Agency, Inc. is now accepting applications for Onslow, Duplin and New Hanover Counties, Monday-Friday from 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Onslow County call 910-347-2151, Duplin County call 910-285-5331 and New Hanover County call 910-762-0010.



Community Briefs

at 910-815-3731.

The Burnett-Eaton Museum Foundation and St. Stephen African Methodist Episcopal Church along with the community and friends of Wilmington, North Carolina will "Celebrate The Legacy and Preserve Our Community" through an outdoor event and tour. The Walk of the heritage trail will take place through the cobblestone streets of the city and we will learn of their indomitable spirit and triumph through those tough times of our history. It is free and open to all ages, youth are encouraged to bring an adult with them at 10:00am Saturday, June 25, 2016 at Burnett-Eaton Museum Foundation 410 North 7th Street. Then at 11:45am the tour will proceed at St. Stephen African Methodist Episcopal Church on 501 Red Cross Street. At 1:00pm there will be the intermission and refreshments back at the museum. After that we will be having the Meet of "Harriet Tubman" Violence Prevention Pledge at 2:00pm and the Heritage Trail will continue from there. For more information, or inclement weather call Isiah Speller 910-795-8597.

The New Hanover County Lupus Foundation Support Group meets on the third Thursday 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 New Hanover NAACP monthly meeting is Thursday, June 23rd at 7:00 p.m. at St. Stephen AME Church, 501 Red Cross Street, Wilmington. Voter registration training will be offered at the meeting. Members and friends are encouraged to attend. For more information, call 910-765-0102 or email nhnaacp@gmail.com.

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.

Williston Senior High Class of '61 will have its June monthly meeting on Sunday, June 26th (Fourth Sunday). SITE: Mount Olive AME Church Fellowship Hall (1001 S. 7th Street). TIME: 6:00pm - 7:00pm. THIS IS A ONE-TIME TIME CHANGE because of another event at Mt. Olive. The focus will be on the planning of the 2016 reunion to celebrate the 55th anniversary of graduation. All graduates to participate in the meeting, as well as others who were "on track" with us at Williston but graduated from somewhere else. Also, we extend a special invitation to out-of-town classmates who are in Wilmington on the 26th.

Brunswick County

The Navassa Parade Committee is accepting applications from anyone who would like to come help celebrate the 35th Annual Homecoming Parade on Saturday, July 9th at 10:00 a.m. Applications can be picked up at Navassa Town Hall, 334 Main St., Navassa between 9:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m. or www.townofnavassa.org. Vendor applications can also be retrieved from the website.

Pender County

Pender County Training School-South Pender High Alumni Association, Inc., will hold their 2016 School Reunion Cookout on Friday, July 1st from 11:00 a.m.- until at PCTS/SPH Museum and Community Resource Center, 1814 Shaw Highway, Rocky Point, NC and Saturday, July 2nd the banquet will be held at Hampton Inn, 2320 S. 17th St., Wilmington, NC.

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

WILLISTON HOLIDAY UPDATE

The Williston Alumni Association is NOT having any events this 4th of July because of costs associated with each event we have.

The Mix we normally have on that weekend requires that we purchase liability insurance and it is cost prohibitive.

It is our hope that you will, on your own, plan to see others who are travelling home.

NHCS announces the Class of 2016 Graduation Report

New Hanover County Schools is proud to announce that the Class of 2016, with 1,671 graduates, earned over \$20 million in scholarships. The graduates have been accepted into prestigious colleges and universities

around the country. Many chose to continue their education at two and four-year colleges, while others chose to serve our country in different branches of the military or by entering the workforce.

Cape Fear Community College to offer free professional development training for non-profits

Wilmington, NC – Cape Fear Community College will host its inaugural professional development training for non-profits on Wednesday, July 13 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. (EST). The event will be held in CFCC's Union Station building, located at 502 N. Front Street in Wilmington. The workshop, Management Training for Non-Profit Leaders, will focus on human resource management fundamentals, including effective communication, conflict resolution, providing feedback, and performance management.

"This training is specifically designed for non-profits and should be a great resource for our community partners," said Lynn Murphy, CFCC's Workforce Training Coordinator.

The event is free to executives and managers of non-profit organizations in New Hanover and Pender County. An optional networking lunch is available for \$10 after the session. To register, contact Lynn Murphy at 910-362-7881 or lmurphy@cfcc.edu. For more information about CFCC's Workforce Development program, visit <http://cfcc.edu/ce/workforce-training/>.

HOMETOWN NEWS FROM BRUNSWICK COUNTY

Today's farms

Living on a farm was hard work and there were times when we did not all day. Sometimes, it would be decided that the day was better for fishing than for farming. Farming was a year round job. Getting out of bed and making necessary



Verniece Stanley

preparations for a good breakfast and feeding the farm animals and pets was a task one was not likely to forget.

Then it was time to get a hoe for the tobacco and corn fields. The hoe is an implement with a thin flat blade on a long wooden handle. It is used for weeding or loosening the soil around plants.

Weeding plants was very

important because the weeds could grow tall and cover the vegetable plants. This could happen in cotton, peanut, corn fields, etc. Once the plants started growing in the rich earth, one was able to appreciate great growth.

On the farm today, technology and the application of science are especially useful in the industrial or commercial objectives of farming. This involves the entire body of methods and materials used to achieve such objectives.

On Mt. Pisgah Road in Supply, N. C., many acres of tobacco still grow. There are still cigarette factories in some states. They manufacture cigarettes from the growth of such tobacco. Cigarette smoking is still a habit performed by many people, even though smoking cigarettes can be harmful to our bodies. Many people in the United States will heed this

warning and stop smoking cigarettes forever. Tobacco is such a plentiful crop in North Carolina that a North Carolina town is named Cigarette City.

Young people graduating from high school are looking for a summer job because they want a better outlook on life. One may have specific goals in mind that will help him or her choose the job/career best suited for him or her: Whether one wants to be a doctor, nurse, cook, engineer, or worker in a fast food restaurant, he or she ought to start with positive goals laid out.

Young people must be prepared to work hard and ready to face difficult problems. The more education one acquires, the more likely he or she will be to reach his or her goals set for himself or herself. Parents should always encourage their youngsters to go all the way

up that ladder of success. Keep this in mind. You do not want a part in selling drugs because the next place for you may well be the penitentiary."

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.

(WRAAP)Wilmington's Residential Adolescent Achievement Place After School Enrichment Academy Program celebrates 2016 graduates



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

WRAAP PARTICIPANTS WITH SHERIFF ED MCMAHON

BY DARYL DOCKERY
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

On June 7th, 2016 program parents, community leaders, school officials, and others, came together to recognize and celebrate the achievements of participants enrolled in the WRAAP After-School Enrichment Academy Program. The keynote speak-

er for the program graduation ceremony was New Hanover County Sheriff, Mr. Ed McMahon. Program activities included specialty awards to students, parents, program sponsors, volunteers, as well as, and food and refreshments for guest.

On behalf of WRAAP we want to recognize the 2016 "Student of the Year" Erica

Pennloza, Most Improved Student "Shaiyan Bullock" and "Parent of the Year" Erica Sutton. Also, we want to thank all of the program sponsors and supporters for their willingness to donate their financial support, time, and resources to help benefit WRAAP.

WRAAP is an award winning non-profit "youth"

organization in Wilmington. The after school program operates out of Freedom's Way Ministries (1952 Dawson St. WILM.). The company's mission is to bridge the educational and social gaps that exist amongst youths, families, and communities. To learn more about WRAAP please visit the website at www.nc-wraap.com.

Brunswick County 4-H Youth succeed in District Project Record Book Event



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BRUNSWICK COUNTY 4-H MEMBER'S PROJECT RECORD BOOKS

Bolivia, NC - Project Record Books allow 4-H members to reflect on their experiences and what they learned from them throughout the 4-H year. Youth complete a 4-H plan, set goals, provide evidence of activities and learning, tell their 4-H story, and elaborate on leadership, citizenship, and community service activities each year. They submit Project Record Books representing the previous year's work to the county event in January and two from each age division and content category are selected to compete in the Southeast District Project Record Book event.

This year, twelve youth submitted thirteen books in Brunswick County and nine moved on to the district event. Volunteers and staff judge

project records in April. Each book receives a score on the 4-H scale of Excellent, Very Good, Good, Fair, or Poor, and each age division and content category names gold, silver, and bronze medal winners.

Brunswick County 4-H is proud to announce the following District Gold Medal winner: In Personal Development, ages 16-18, Alexis Apple, with an excellent in Leadership; and our District Bronze winner and FIRST time competitor: In Consumer and Family Science, ages 9-10, Ella Kirby also receiving Excellent at the County level.

Other youth receiving Excellent at the county level and moving on to the District level included: Amelia Apple, age 13-15, category Personal

Development and Leadership, and Science and Technology; Lena Devlin, age 13-15, category Animal Science; Jillian Bowling, age 13-15, category Citizenship & Civic Education; Kaitlin Jones, age 13-15, category Animal Science; Ella Kirby, age 9-10, category Animal Science; and Katlyn Toney, age 13-15, category Personal Development and Leadership.

All 4-H members are encouraged to complete project record books and the Brunswick County 4-H Office offers training for members and volunteers to help! Contact us at (910) 253-2610 to learn more about this, and other, great opportunities for youth!

To learn more about

Brunswick County 4-H and how you can participate in activities like these, contact Angie Lawrence, 4-H Program Assistant, at angie_lawrence@ncsu.edu. You can also call the Cooperative Extension office at 910-253-2610. Visit their website <http://brunswick-co4h.shutterstock.com/> or blog at <http://brunswick4h.wordpress.com/>

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

Eric W. Thomas

Eric W. Thomas, 40, of Wilmington, passed away Sunday, June 12, 2016. Services were held Saturday, June 18, 2016 at Davis Funeral Home.

Eric William Thomas departed this life unexpectedly on Sunday, June 12, 2016 at Pender Memorial Hospital in Burgaw, North Carolina. Eric was born on November 23, 1975 in Manhattan, New York, the youngest child of Gloria Delories Rolle and the late Walter Thomas.

Eric spent most of his life in New York and relocated to Wilmington, NC three years ago to join his mother and family. He was educated in the New York City Schools System and later obtained various certificates from John Jay Criminal Institute in Manhattan, New York. He was an avid lover of basketball and a master of horse shoes since childhood. Eric was known also for his cooking style and his delicious macaroni and cheese. During his leisure time, he loved being with his family and friends and listening to his favorite country musician, Darius Rucker.

Eric was known for his tenacious smile and his jovial disposition. He believed in telling things like they were and was known for his straight talk which led to straight understanding. Eric simply enjoyed the simplicity of life and making others laugh. He was a loving father, son, brother, uncle, nephew, cousin and a wonderful friend.

Eric will be greatly missed by his children; Eric Floyd, Jennell Thomas, Savion Thomas and Elijah Thomas all of New York; beloved mother, Gloria Delories Rolle, brothers, Dennis Earl Bryant, William Rolle III, Shamar Rolle, all of New York, and Derrick Rolle (Shatika) of Wilmington, Delaware; sister, Dorothy Jones of Aberdeen, North Carolina; special friend Vaquanna Anderson of Rocky Point, North Carolina; and a host of aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

From this day forth remember Eric's contagious smile and sweet spirit. Eric will be greatly missed by all who knew him. *Services entrusted to Davis Funeral Home, 901 S. 5th Ave, Wilmington, NC 28401. Please share memories and condolences with the family at www.davisfuneralhomenc.com.*

Addie Jane Boone

Addie Jane Boone, daughter of the late Clarence and Irene Webb Scott, was born on August 2, 1937.

Addie, age 78, passed away peacefully on Friday, June 10, 2016, surrounded by her family. She grew up in Clarendon, North Carolina and later moved to Wilmington, North Carolina, where she attended Williston High School. Later, she moved to California and worked for San Diego City Schools, from which she

retired. "Addie Jane" as she was affectionately called, was a meek woman that was admired by her children. Her impact on others was known to many, because of their own personal experiences with her.

Addie Jane enjoyed spending time with her children and listening to music. Often times they would have a night of dancing, offering a lot of love and just enjoy each other. She also had a love for wrestling and would travel to Savannah, Georgia to see it live. Addie Jane was united in holy matrimony to James Boone, Sr. on October 23, 1966, who also preceded her in death. She was afforded the opportunity to live in multiple states due to his being in the United States Marine Corps.

In addition to her parents and husband, Addie Jane was preceded in death by her daughter, Sheila Dozier; and her sister, Gladys Cogdell. She leaves to cherish fond memories: three daughters, Sandra Singleton (Herman), Selena Johnson and Sabrina Timberlake (William); one son, James Boone, Jr.; eleven grandchildren; twenty-four great-grandchildren; a host of aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives and friends, including two loving friends, Carolyn Davis and Edna McNeil. *A Service of John H. Shaw's Son Funeral Home.*

Lenora Jean Drummond

Lenora Jean Drummond, daughter of the late Oscar and Margaret McKoy of Wilmington, North Carolina, was born on June 22, 1950.

Lenora surrounded by her loving family departed this earthly life on Friday, June 10, 2016. "Jean" as she was so affectionately known was employed with General Electric in Castle Hayne, North Carolina from which she retired after thirty-seven years of dedicated service. Jean loved people. She was a wonderful wife, mother, grandmother, sister and friend, always willing to help everyone in times of need. She took great pleasure in her small business "D*Fragrances," which allowed her to use her natural gift to influence and inspire.

In addition to her parents, Jean was also preceded in death by her siblings: Wydell McKoy, Roy Lee McKoy, and Robert McKoy. She leaves to cherish very fond memories: Her Husband: Edward Reginald Drummond; Her Children: LaSonya Downing (Kerwin, Sr.), Stephen McKoy (Cassandra), Kimberly Drummond and Tiffany Drummond; Grandchildren: Alysia McLaurin, Olivia Holman (Cpl Idarius), Briana McKoy, Nia Atkinson and Kerwin Downing, Jr.; siblings: McKinley Sidberry (Yvonne), Oscar Lee McKoy (Gladys), Monroe McKoy (Joyce), Idell McKoy, and Doris Farrior (Tony); Sisters-in-law: Patricia McKoy, Joyce Davis; Aunts: Frances Cromartie, Willie Mae Green, and Lenora Dixon; A host of

cousins, nieces, nephews, other relatives and beloved friends. *A Service of John H. Shaw's Son Funeral Home.*

Johnnie Mae Saxton

Johnnie Mae Saxton, daughter of the late John and Margaret Johnson Davis was born March 7, 1935 in Wilmington, North Carolina. She departed this earthly life on Sunday, June 12, 2016.

Johnnie Mae was educated in the New Hanover County School System. She attended Williston Industrial School, graduating in the Class of 1952. She later attended school in Portsmouth, Virginia. Early in life Johnnie Mae was employed with Singers Corporation. She was a substitute teacher and worked with the Senior Aide Program assisting with Sickle Cell until her health failed. For 40 years she worked with the New Hanover County Board of Elections and served as Chief Judge for one of the precincts for many years. She was instrumental in getting others to join her on the Board of Elections. She was married to Thomas Addison who preceded her in death. She later married Vester Saxton, who also preceded her in death. A mother of six, Johnnie Mae was an excellent cook and was fun to be around. She enjoyed family and took great pride being the President of the Davis Family Reunion. Even during her last days, she could be found checking details to make sure this year's reunion would be a success. Known to everyone as "Muh", she was an avid lover of BINGO and would not be disturbed during a game. She also loved WORD SEARCH. Johnnie Mae attended First Baptist Missionary Church early in life and later White's Creek Missionary Baptist Church in the Lisbon Community, where she faithfully attended until her health failed.

In addition to her parents and husband, she was also preceded in death by two children, Elizabeth Dakota Addison and Glenn Addison; three sisters and four brothers. A wonderful mother, grandmother, sister and friend, she leaves to cherish fond memories: Her Children: D e n t r a l (Lonnie) Howard, and Thomas Tyrone Addison of Wilmington, NC, Beverly Addison, Florence, SC and Toney (Cynthia) Addison, Leland, NC; Grandchildren: L a T a s h a (Fiancé Raymond Mott) Howard, Akima Howard, Kameka Addison, Janine Addison, KaMel Addison, Danielle Addison and Brandon Addison; Great-Grandchildren: Darius Howard, U'Neqa McCrimmon, Cameron Howard, Dereka Addison, Brian Addison, Jimaya Burgess, Makima Chambers and Ava Addison; One Sister: Madeline Crumdy; Three Step-Sisters: Barbara Jacobs, Mageline Williams and Dorothy Lucille Graham; Special Cousins: Johnny "Buddy" McKoy, Deloris Nixon, Carrie Davis,

Jessie Blue, Hazeline Sutton, Earline Blue, Jay-Lynn McKoy, Vivian Davis, Mable Davis & Family, Eddie Lee Davis & Family, Mychal Robinson; Goddaughter: Felicia Davis; Special Friends: Pauline Keith, Eleanor Pearce, Betty Lou Robinson, Ann Ballard, Kathy Melvin, Deacon Curtis Harvey; a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and many friends. *A Service of John H. Shaw's Son Funeral Home.*

Lou Lethia Myers

Lou Lethia Myers was surrounded by her loving family on Monday, June 13, 2016 when she made the transition from her earthly body to her heavenly home.

She was the first child born to Joseph and Lillie Mae Stukes on January 31, 1931. While very young, her family left their South Carolina roots to pursue a life of greater opportunity and settled at 701 Woods Avenue, Wilmington, NC. Lethia was educated in the public school system of Wilmington, NC and she worked for several years as cook for the New Hanover Board of Education. Cooking was not just her job, it was her passion. Although she was sweet to the core, she was also a tough, straight forward and no-nonsense lady. If you needed it, she would surely correct you and tell you the truth with no sugar coating on top. Just as the Proverbs says, "The Lord corrects the one he loves, just as a father or mother corrects a child he/she cares about. She had nine children that she loved tremendously. Marvin, Wilbur, Joyce, Linda, Joan, Alton, Vita, Michael and Darrell, all got the same love and lessons from their mother; to work hard, love family and love the Lord. Lou Lethia was a woman of great stamina, strength and indomitable faith. She gave her life to God at Interdenominational

Apostolic Church in Washington, DC as her daughter, Bishop Linda Pitt, preached "Come Out of the Valley of Dry Bones". She continued her Christian journey under the teachings of Dr. Robert Rich and First Lady Allidease Rich at Apostolic Community Temple.

Lethia was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, Willie James Myers; two sons, Marvin Stukes and Alton Clinton; a beloved daughter, Joyce Hankins; a brother, James Lee and two sisters, Mary Franklin and Joyce Mae Stukes. Left to cherish her memory and continue her legacy: her sons, Wilbur Clinton of Wilmington, NC and Vita Stukes (Cynthia) of Stafford, VA, Michael Clinton (Kimberly) of Smyrna, TN and Darrell Clinton (Carol) of Leland, NC; her beloved daughters, Bishop Linda Pitt (Jesse) of Stafford, VA and Joan Lemon (Matthew) of Wilmington, NC; brothers, Edward Stukes of Burlington, NJ, Cyrus Syukes of Florida and Donnie Stukes of Wilmington, NC; sister, Artis Stukes-Harvey of Wilmington, NC; a special friend, Denise Clinton; spiritual daughter, Evangelist Bertha Moses; lifelong friend, Vera McLaurin; two close friends, Ernestine Adams and Virginia Cowart; 32 grandchildren, 57 great-grandchildren, 11 great-great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. *A Service of John H. Shaw's Son Funeral Home.*

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To the friends of Rufus Johnson

After several weeks of uncertainty, I think he knew his troubles were over because he left here with a smile on his face, as if he was already in the presence of God. If he had known how happy he would look, he would not have asked for a closed casket but since he we had to go along. We would like to thank all of our friends and neighbors for their cards, their visits and their many acts of kindness. A special thank you goes to First Baptist Church for their wonderful service and their hearty repass when all was said and done.

And last but not least we would like to thank John H. Shaw's Son Funeral Home for being our guide and companion when we didn't know which way to turn. May God bless all of you.

The family of Rufus Johnson



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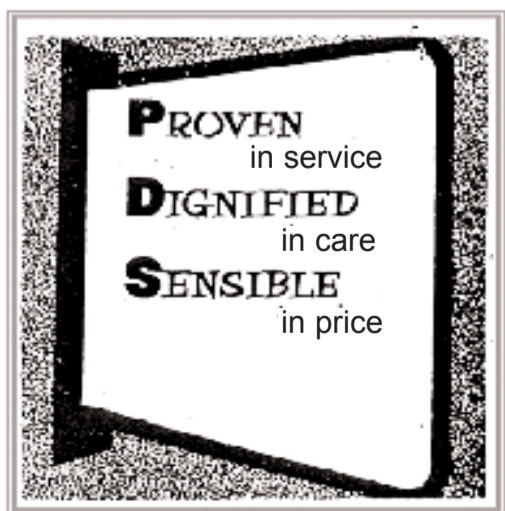
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(L-R), Robert "Butch" Brunson, Karen Davis Brunson, Sadie Davis Graham, Jennifer A. Terrell and Javoke S. Terrell

New Hanover County

Central Missionary Baptist Church, 702 Red Cross St., Usher Board will celebrate their anniversary on Sunday, June 26th at 4:00 p.m. The guest speaker will be Rev. Timothy Davis, pastor of New Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church along with his choir, ushers and congregation.



Religious Briefs

First Baptist Missionary Church, 520 North Fifth Avenue will have their Annual Vacation Bible School, Monday, June 20th - Friday, June 24th from 5:30 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. Vacation Bible School is a fun and exciting time as we learn to apply biblical teachings to our lives.

Come out and have a great time fellowshiping, singing, creating crafts, playing games and more! If transportation is needed please call the office, 910-763-2647, and leave your name, address and telephone number by 1:00 pm on the dates you plan to attend or leave your information with Christina Sellars at 910-617-3235.

Myrtle Grove First Born Holiness Church, 6601 Carolina Beach Rd., will hold their 62nd Church Anniversary Celebration on Friday, June 24th at 7:00 p.m., Saturday, June 25th at 6:00 p.m. and Sunday, June 26th at 4:00 p.m.

St. Andrew AME Zion Church Family & Friends Committee will hold Friday Night Live Musical on June 24th at 7:00 p.m. Featuring Pastor Gregory, Barry Smith & Co., Hoopers Chapel, Ian Davis, M & R Gospel Singers and many more.

St. Phillip A.M.E. Zion Church located at 2913 Acorn Branch Rd. in the Wrightsboro Community will hold Vacation Bible School from Monday, June 20th-Friday, June 24th from 6:00p.m. to 8:00p.m. nightly. There will be classes for the children and adults. Dinner will be served nightly. Also the church will hold their General Claims Rally on Saturday, June 25th at 4:00 p.m. Rev. Richard Joyner from Hooper Chapel will be the guest speaker along with his choir and congregation. And on Sunday, June 26th at 11:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. St. Phillip will hold their Annual Men's and Women's Day. Rev. Dr. Carl Byrd will be the 11:00 a.m. guest speaker and Elder Dan Smith, Jr., will be the 3:30 p.m. speaker. For additional information, you may contact Sis. Ashley Hall at 910-540-4250, Sis. Aimee Brown at 910-368-3605, Sis. Dentrail N. Boykin at 910-200-4953, Dr. Nixon at 910-540-4406 or the church at 910-251-9892

The L.O. Saunders Club of Mount Olive AME Church, 1001 S. 7th St., will be holding a mini concert and Hat Parade Show on June 26th at 3:30 p.m. Refreshments will be served. For more information call 910-762-4506.

Bladen County

The Baldwin Branch Missionary Baptist Church clothes closet will be open Saturday, June 25 from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. The food pantry, "From His Table to Yours" will be open as well 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Personal identifications and transportation are required. No fees are involved in either ministry. Baldwin Branch is located at 4047 NC 242 Highway South, Elizabethtown NC.

Brunswick County

Brown's Chapel AME Zion Church, 725 Jabbertown Rd., Southport, NC will celebrate Men's Day on Sunday, June 26th

Church Builders of Brunswick County & Walk into Your Inheritance Outreach Ministries will hold a free food and clothing giveaway on Saturday, June 25th from 10:00 a.m.- 2:00 p.m. at 2072 Longwood Rd. NW Ash, NC.

Crystal Spring Missionary Baptist Church, 4754 Blue Banks Rd., Leland, NC, will hold their Annual Revival from Wednesday, June 29th - Friday, July 1st. Devotion starts at 7:00 p.m. The minister will be Rev. Richard Joyner pastor of Hooper's MB Church, Leland, NC.

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

TELL SOMEBODY

"Declare your independence!"

"Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage." Galatians 5:1 "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." John 8:32

The Declaration of Independence was adopted on July 4, 1776. Independence Day, which is commonly known as the Fourth of July, is a federal holiday, which is annually observed by our nation who declared its independence from the Kingdom of Great Britain.

Every Christian Believer, who has been "born again", also has a right to decree and declare an "Independence Day" of their very own to celebrate an official and eternal release and redemption of their soul from walking in darkness! "Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world; he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life." John 8:12

There is an excerpt from the Declaration of Independence, in which Thomas Jefferson stated, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, and that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness."

Faith in God sets men free to enjoy their liberty in Christ

Jesus! Our liberty is not a license to do our own thing, but to do the will of God from the renewed heart and the restored soul. Yes, it's good to know our "rights!"

When we come into the knowledge of exactly what our rights are, we should decree and declare, what God our Creator says in His Word about us. Life and death are in the power of the tongue. Each time we say what God says about us, we are declaring our own

Sylvia Hooper

independence! We have many Rights! Glory to God! Thank you Jesus!

A Right To be Born Again
The bible tells us that all have sinned and come short of the glory of God. We were all born in sin! We have all made bad choices and wrong decisions at some time in our lives. We have all made mistakes and messes. Therefore we all qualify for another chance to be born again. When Nicodemus came to Jesus by night, with the profound question, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?" Jesus answered.. Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again." John 3:4-7
"Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God" John 1:13

A Right To Be Saved
"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved." John 3:16-17

A Right to be Set Free
"If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed." John 8:36

A Right to Enter the Kingdom of Heaven

"Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 5:3

A Right To Be Healed and Delivered

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised." Luke 4:18

A Right To Abundant Life
Jesus said in John 10:10, "The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."

A Right to the Tree of Life
"Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city." Revelation 21:14

As we join in the celebration for our nation's freedom, let us never forget the right to be spiritually free! Some of you may remember the day and remember the hour that you were saved, set free, and delivered by God's Almighty power! If so, why not take a moment and Declare Your own Independence Day?

Prayer: Lord I thank you for setting me Free. Praise the Lord, Hallelujah I'm free! Tell Somebody!!!

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

"Terrorism" moves Congress more than dead children

BY REV. SUSAN K. SMITH
GEORGE CURRY MEDIA COLUMNIST

The shooting at the Pulse Club in Orlando was horrific. Nobody would argue that.

But the fact that the shooter dubbed himself a sympathizer with ISIS, fitting the description of "terrorist," has created movement in the Congress that no other mass shooting up until now has been able to inspire.

There is something wrong with that.

I thought that surely, when the children at Sandy Hook Elementary School were blown to bits by 20-year-old Adam Lanza, that the Congress, many of whom purport to be "pro-life," would act. I thought the lawmakers would unite and create some type of gun-control legislation that would make it harder for some people to get guns.

At the least, I thought they would reinstate the ban on assault weapons. But Congress did nothing. Not even the brutally maimed bodies of little children could move the Congress to act. The National Rifle Association (NRA) had a hold, it seemed, that took precedence with the specious

assertion that the president was trying to take away the Second Amendment rights of Americans. The argument is so full of holes, so weightless, that it defies any attempt to challenge it.

Nothing, it seemed, would shake even the Democrats in the House and Senate. All of the lawmakers, or nearly all of them, dug their heels in, dead, mangled children notwithstanding.

But with the word "terrorism" invoked, the mood has shifted a bit. As soon as it became apparent that this man who had connections with ISIS, albeit distant, the media ate it up. This...was against America. This...was something different, worthy of greater attention and involvement from lawmakers.

So, deaths wrought by White Christians wielding guns, are not worthy of serious consideration for some kind of gun control? The rights of people to buy guns - not just guns, but assault weapons - should be protect-

ed even if that means they shoot up innocent people, except in the case of the shooter being a Muslim? The massacre of innocent people is "okay" until the shooter sympathizes with ISIS?

Senators and Representatives who have heretofore been silent about or in opposition to any form of gun control are now speaking out.

What the media is completely ignoring, as it continues to vilify Islam, is that there are a lot of Christians, White and Black, who are "radicalized" as well as there are Muslims. While the media is saying that Islam hates homosexuality, plenty of Christians hate it, too. Some Christians have even said that the murder of the 49 people at Pulse got what they deserved.

Radical Muslims and radical Christians are not that much different when it comes to this subject.

What the media is not concentrating on as hard as it is concentrating on the terrorist aspect of this tragedy is the fact that it seems like it was at least as much a hate crime as it was a terrorist attack. And it may be that the shooter was in conflict because he was struggling

with identifying and accepting his own sexuality. What better way to kill that which you don't like in yourself than to kill someone outside yourself who represents what you are trying to deny?

Those who want to prove that "radical Islamic terrorism" is on the rise, are almost gleeful. This attack proves their premise that terrorism is the major issue of our time, and adds fuel to their argument that President Barack Obama is the cause of it all.

Meanwhile, assault weapons are still on the market, the media is still feeding the fear about Muslims, and people continue to be mutilated by weapons of war. This is in a so-called civilized society.

It is disheartening and disturbing, but it is the America that we live in today.

Rev. Susan K Smith is an ordained minister who lives in Columbus, Ohio. She is the author of several books, including "Crazy Faith: Ordinary People; Extraordinary Lives" and "The Book of Jeremiah: The Life and Ministry of Jeremiah A. Wright, Jr. She is available to preach or do keynote addresses. Reach her by emailing reusuekim@sbcglobal.net.

One year after Charleston massacre: Root causes of extremist violence remain unaddressed

SPECIAL TO THE TRICE EDNEY NEWS WIRE FROM THE SOUTHERN POVERTY LAW CENTER

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - A year ago on June 17, a young White supremacist gunned down nine Black parishioners at a historic church in Charleston, S.C., marking the violent start to a lethal year of extremist violence in the United States.

•In San Bernardino, Calif., in the coming months, Islamist radicals would kill 14 people.

•In Colorado Springs, Colo., an anti-abortion extremist would shoot three people to death at a Planned Parenthood clinic.

•In Oregon, anti-government militants would take over a wildlife refuge, sparking a standoff that ended with one of the militants being shot and killed by authorities.

•And in Orlando, Fla., a gunman would slaughter 49 people at a gay nightclub, one of the worst mass shootings in U.S. history.

The roll call of communities devastated by extremist violence in the year since the Charleston massacre is evidence that national and local leaders have not addressed the root causes of this violence, such as online radicalization and the mainstreaming of radical right ideas by politicians and other public figures. The country's changing demographics as well as changes in the cultural and legal landscape - such as the acceptance of same-sex marriage - have attracted some segments of the population to these ideas.

"There was some progress in addressing symbols of hate after the Charleston shooting," said Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) President Richard Cohen. "It was encouraging to see the Confederate battle flag removed from the Capitol grounds in both South Carolina and Alabama. We have, however, failed as a nation to recognize and

address the underlying causes of extremist violence. And we won't truly learn the lessons of Charleston until we address these causes."

The suspected gunman, Dylann Roof, was indoctrinated into the world of White nationalism online before the shooting at Emanuel AME Church, although he apparently had no personal contact with hate groups or activists. During the attack, he told his victims that African-Americans "are raping our women and taking over the country." Similarly, the murderer in Orlando may have been radicalized online, according to federal authorities.

The SPLC has documented how the internet has been effective in radicalizing so-called "lone wolves" like Roof and, apparently, Orlando killer Omar Mateen. It has also found that rhetoric once confined to the radical right is now being parroted by many

mainstream politicians and other public figures. Most recently, Donald Trump has called for a ban on Middle Eastern immigrants, suggested that a judge was unable to impartially preside over a case because of his Mexican ancestry, and hinted that President Obama is actually on the side of Islamist terrorists like Mateen.

This environment has allowed extremism to flourish. The SPLC has documented a 14 percent rise in the number of hate groups in 2015, from 784 groups in 2014 to 892. Antigovernment "Patriot" groups - armed militias and others animated by conspiracy theories - also grew 14 percent during the same period, expanding from 874 groups to 998. That compares to a mere 149 such groups in 2008, before Obama was elected.

"When you look at the carnage in the year since Charleston - as well as the growth of extremist groups - it's clear that there's a com-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

NINE VICTIMS OF CHARLESTON MASSACRE

bustible atmosphere in our country right now," said SPLC Senior Fellow Mark Potok. "It is beyond reckless to exploit the anger and polarization that's out there.

Unfortunately, that's not stopping some people. The attack in Charleston should have been a wake-up call. We've paid the price as a nation for ignoring it."

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