

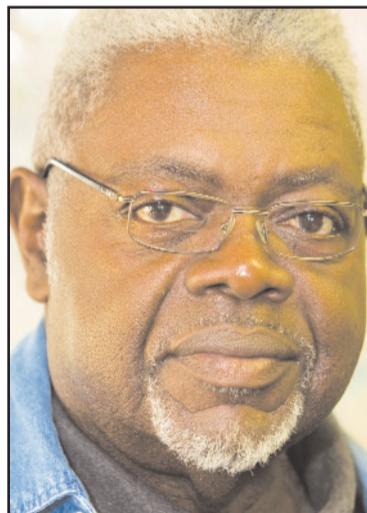
MISSING**EBONEY SPEARS**

Wilmington Police are continuing their search for 30 year old Eboney 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 Eboney's whereabouts. If you know where Spears may be, call Wilmington Police at (910) 343-3600 or use Text-a-Tip.

'TIS THE SEASON**The Spirit of the Christmas Season Has Arrived!**

It has been caught by the New Hanover County Democratic Party!

Precinct W29 has partnered with The Wilmington Journal to give away free turkeys for Christmas to help those in need. They will be given to the first 25 needy persons who sign up and may be picked up on December 22, 2016, at the office of The Wilmington Journal at 412 South Seventh Street. Sign up by calling The Wilmington Journal (910-762-5502).

**BRUNSWICK COUNTY UPDATE****BERNEST HEWETT****Honoring those who give**

BY BERNEST HEWETT
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

On Saturday, December 17, 2016, the Brunswick County Chapter of the NAACP will have a small dinner at St. John Missionary Baptist Church, Bolivia, North Carolina, at 4:00 p.m. It will be held as a way of giving thanks for another year. We will also recognize several ladies who, each year, give continued support to the Brunswick County Chapter of NAACP. These women regularly give time and support. Even though they can't get around as

Please see
BRUNSWICK/Page 2

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News from the African American perspective without fear or favor

VOLUME 89/No. 50

DECEMBER 15, 2016 - DECEMBER 21, 2016

FIFTY CENTS

Blue says independent redistricting commission is a must by 2020

BY CASH MICHAELS
OF THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

Saying that "people need relief from this... runaway government as soon as possible," State Senator Dan Blue [D-Wake], the Senate Minority Leader, says he's in favor of establishing an independent redistricting commission by 2020 so that the partisan advantage that the party in power always seeks in redrawing the voting districts is removed and that North Carolina begins to have more competitive elections for both the State Legislature and Congress.

"And it needs to be in such a way that the people representing all of us are elected in a constitutional manner," Senator Blue maintained.

Currently, because Republicans won a majority of seats in the State House and Senate in 2010, they were able to draw the redistricting maps for the State Legislature and Congress, which were supposed to govern elections for the balance of the decade until 2020.

However, earlier this year, the U.S. Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that the 2011 redistricting maps were unconstitutional because Republicans "staked and packed" African-Americans into just a few voting dis-

tricts, denying them their right to influence elections in other districts, otherwise known as racial gerrymandering.

"You have to believe that somewhere [the Republican legislative leadership] got in their minds that anything is fair as long as it keeps them in power," Senator Blue said. Earlier this week, Blue held a press conference at the start of the Special Session for disaster relief, warning the GOP not to even consider adding two more seats to

Please see **COMMISSION**

Page 3

**STATE SENATOR DAN BLUE**

With Trump threat looming Blacks encouraged to sign up for Affordable Care Act now

BY CASH MICHAELS
OF THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), which will remain under the Obama Administration until President-elect Donald Trump is sworn into office January 20th, wants to make one thing very clear to African-Americans and others. The Affordable Care Act (ACA) is still the law of the land, and will remain so through the end of 2017. Insurers have already contracted with the federal government to do so.

In fact, North Carolinians still needing comprehensive health care coverage at a reduced rate, starting January 1, 2017, are strongly urged to go to www.HealthCare.gov, Thursday, Dec. 15, 2016, to sign up. Otherwise, you have until January 31, 2017, the deadline for the current open enrollment period, to sign up, with your coverage commencing in February or March 2017.

Again, if you want your health insurance coverage under ACA to start January 1, 2017, you must sign up online no later than Thursday, December 15, 2016 at www.HealthCare.gov. For assistance, call Enroll America at (855)733-3711 or go to www.getcoveredamerica.org/connector.

To alleviate any confusion

**PHOTOS COURTESY OF NNPA**

(LEFT) Sonja Thompson, a brick and mortar business strategist and founder of SincerelySonja.com, said #BuyBlack is a trend for consumers of color to consciously spend their money within their own communities and particularly with Black-owned businesses. [Sonja Thompson/SincerelySonja.com] (RIGHT) Richelieu Dennis, the founder and CEO of Sundial Brands, the largest Black-owned beauty company in the country, sees the positive effects of the #BuyBlack movement. [Richelieu Dennis/Sundial Brands]

From banks to beauty products The #BuyBlack movement is real

BY STACY M. BROWN
NNPA NEWSPWIRE CONTRIBUTOR

It's a trend that many are hoping won't just turn into a passing fad.

Late last month, *Essence* magazine noted that after years of slow-burning idealism, #BuyBlack has seen a community-wide takeoff.

And, as the holiday season moves into full swing, the #BuyBlack campaign has led many to imagine what would happen if African-Americans - the largest consumer group of color in the United States with an estimated \$1.2 trillion in spending power - routinely demonstrated allegiance to the 2.6 million Black-owned businesses that exist in America.

"I think the #BuyBlack initiative is a good move for the Black community and not just because of dollars and cents," said Walt L. Jones III, principal of the SEQ Advisory

Group, a Bethesda, Maryland-based management consulting and advisory firm dedicated to helping businesses achieve the highest level of performance and efficiency."There's the deeper perspective of reinvesting in our own community and building up the local businesses, some that are owned by our friends, neighbors, and relatives."

Jones continued: "Similar to the #ECStrong initiative, a community can only heal, recover, and persevere if its residents are willing to make an investment in its infrastructure."

The idea of Black capitalism goes back many decades, according to an NPR report which cited the advocacy of civil rights activists Booker T. Washington and Marcus Garvey for African-Americans to create and do business

Please see **#BUYBLACK**/Page 2

Please see **ACA**/Page 3

CBC Chairman G. K. Butterfield calls for increased Congressional staff diversity

WASHINGTON, D.C. - This week, CBC Chairman G. K. Butterfield released the following statement in response to a recent report detailing the lack of diversity among staff in the U.S. Senate.

"Recent news reports highlighting a study conducted by the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies on the lack of diversity in senior U.S. Senate staff positions reflect a longstanding injustice that keeps the workforce of the United States Congress lacking the diversi-

ty of our country.

"The near complete absence of African American senior staff in personal and committee offices in the Senate is not reflective of the inclusiveness ideals of our government, and of our country. The CBC has long championed African American inclusion in all industries, and launched CBC TECH 2020 last year to promote diversity in the technology industry. But the fact that the United States Congress, an institution that was created to repre-

sent all people, still has not taken meaningful steps to increase diversity is disappointing and requires an immediate remedy.

"There are talented African Americans ready, willing, and able to take leadership roles in the United States Senate and in the House. There are plenty of offices hiring, on both sides of the aisle,

Please see **DIVERSITY**

Page 3

**CONGRESSMAN G. K. BUTTERFIELD**

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BRUNSWICK

Continued from Page 1

and support. Even though they can't get around as they would like to, they continue doing all they can in the community. They still visit the sick, work with the school system, attend freedom fund affairs, and call people regarding NAACP affairs.

We invite all to come out

#BUYBLACK

Continued from Page 1

with each other to build wealth within their own communities.

The #BuyBlack movement has helped Black-owned banks to realize substantial gains. In one month, this summer, Washington, D.C.-based Industrial Bank opened more than 1,500 new accounts with deposit balances of about \$2.7 million - or more than the number of accounts that are usually opened in a six-month period.

At Baltimore-based Harbor Bank, new accounts totaled about \$10 million in deposits, said Joseph Haskins Jr., the bank's president and chairman.

"Because of the [#BuyBlack] movement, we've received many telephone calls from individuals and organizations that have shown a lot of interest," Haskins said. "Once folks learned or discovered that we are Black-controlled, things took off." His idea of supporting the community is vital for all involved, said Shahara Wright, an attorney and business development strategist with The CEO Effect, LLC, a Stafford, Texas-based organization that provides small and mid-sized companies with legal and business strategies including entity formation, mergers and acquisitions, investor packages and contracts.

"I think it only works when it is local. Many people point to Jewish and Asian communities, which seem to have cohesive purchasing power to support their own," Wright said. "The #BuyBlack seeks to create that same idea...it ultimately has to be a community that you support consistently."

Sonja Thompkins, a brick & mortar business strategist and founder of Sincerely Sonja.com, said #BuyBlack is a trend for consumers of color to consciously spend their money within their own communities and particularly with Black-owned businesses, a welcome movement.

"I believe it gives people a sense of pride to see businesses like ours that offer an array of quality products in our own communities," Thompkins said. "And, because most people are going to spend the money anyway, the recent occurrences of injustice make people want to do something."

and share with us at St. John Missionary Baptist Church's Dinner Hall. We thank the pastor, deacons, and church family of St. John for their continued support of the NAACP and its cause of freedom and justice for all.

This year, the honorees are Mrs. Verniece Stanley, Mrs. Gloria Bryant, Mrs. Irene Hankins, Mrs. Lillian McMillian, Mrs. Goldie Mae Evans, and Mrs. Etherine Butler.

Come out and help us honor them. It's their time for us to show them our love for what they have done, and continue to do, for the causes the NAACP represents.

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

Everyone's not protesting in the street. They have chosen to make a statement economically."

Results from the most recent Nielsen study revealed that the Black buying power has continued to increase, rising from its current \$1 trillion level to a forecasted \$1.3 trillion by 2017.

Black buying power has seen an 86 percent increase since 2000 and accounts for 8.7 percent of the nation's total. The growth in black buying power stems in part from an increase in the number of Black-owned businesses as well as from an uptick in education among the African-American population, which leads to higher incomes, the report noted.

Also, despite historically high unemployment rates, African-Americans have shown resiliency in their ability to persevere as consumers.

"The #BuyBlack is important because so much of us do not buy Black, and subsequently we watch Black businesses get shut down because of this," said Gerra Harmon, founder of Affirmative-clapaction.com, a web retailer that Harmon said is all about the creation of something individuals can identify with and wear proudly.

ly. "In the past, African-Americans would overlook Black businesses and we do not want to do so anymore."

Business in the beauty industry presents a unique set of challenges that has encouraged retailers, said Richelle Dennis, the founder and CEO of Sundial Brands, the largest Black-owned beauty company in the country which manufactures Shea Moisture, Shea Girl, Nubian Heritage and Madam C.J. Walker beauty culture.

"So, I am especially encouraged to see the raised level of consciousness that many Black beauty bloggers are driving to bring attention to an issue that has long been a challenge for Black-owned beauty brands," Dennis said.

"Over the last 25 years, I've received questions and judgments about our products and our business that I'm pretty sure few, if any, White-owned businesses have ever had to answer like 'Since you're Black, your products are just for Black people, right?'"

The reality is that Black beauty is at the forefront of the beauty revolution - from the mass shift to demanding natural ingredients to the natural, textured hair that we now see

on runways, in advertisements and on the covers of international magazines and beyond, Dennis said.

Dennis continued: "So, we have to be positioned to serve all consumers as other groups evolve into embracing new, more inclusive beauty standards. It is critical that we capture the market we have created and that we don't leave it for

someone else to capitalize on which has historically been the case."

Harmon continued: "[The #BuyBlack movement] is about empowering our people and I think it is a great movement, because we are not only letting our communities know, but letting the world know we are worth more than what we have been given in the past."



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**AS DEMOCRATS PROTEST,
REPUBLICANS MOVE
QUICKLY TO EXTRA
SESSION**

[RALEIGH] Keeping their motives close to the vest, from both Democrats and the press, Republican leaders Wednesday took the state house and Senate into extra sessions, making clear that there were issues they wanted addressed before adjournment. Two bills were filed in the House Wednesday evening, one over 40 pages

**STATE
BRIEFS**

and Senate into extra sessions, making clear that there were issues they wanted addressed before adjournment. Two bills were filed in the House Wednesday evening, one over 40 pages

dealing with regulatory reform, and the second reportedly changing the way elections would be conducted in North Carolina. At press time, there was no sign of any measures designed to pad the state Supreme Court with two extra seats for Republican appointments. There was also word that lawmakers would attempt to cut many of incoming Gov. Roy Cooper's appointment powers.

**NC GENERAL
ASSEMBLY APPROVES
DISASTER RELIEF BILL**

[RALEIGH] Amid speculation that other issues would be considered during the state legislative Special

Session, which began Tuesday, the NC House and Senate jointly approved a \$200 million disaster relief package to offer short-term assistance to those victimized by Hurricane Matthew, and the recent wildfires in western North Carolina that destroyed hundreds of acres in property. The package sets aside funding for housing, rebuilding businesses and other human needs as a result of the twin catastrophes several weeks ago. Several House members balked that more money was needed, while others said this was just a first step until they reconvene in January. The bill immediate-

ly went to Gov. McCrory for his signature.

**WAKE FOREST FIRES
RADIO BROADCASTER
FOR LEAKING GAME
PREP INFO**

[WINSTON-SALEM] Tommy Elrod, a radio analyst for Wake Forest University and the Demon Deacons, was fired Tuesday after a campus probe revealed that he allegedly shared confidential game preparation information on numerous occasions since 2014. Elrod played on the Deac's football squad from 1993-97. He was hired for a number of positions for eleven seasons until 2014,

when football Coach Dave Clawson took over the football team. In a statement, Coach Clawson said, in part, "It is incomprehensible that a former Wake Forest student-athletefor the school would betray his alma mater."

**STATE BOARD OF ED
ASKS D.A. TO PROBE
DURHAM CHARTER
SCHOOL ALLEGED
GRADE FIXING**

[DURHAM] The State Board of Education has asked the Durham District Attorney's Office to launch a criminal investigation into how over 50 students of a local charter school were

awarded diplomas their grades did not merit. The board of Kestrel Heights Charter School is calling for a wider probe into the school's history and records, dating back to 2008. The school's new principal discovered the problem in July. After an internal investigation, it was determined that a school counselor could answer pertinent questions related to the internal probe. The unnamed counselor took medical leave in August, and resigned in September.

**COMPILED BY
CASH MICHAELS**

DIVERSITY

Continued from Page 1

and in both chambers, where Senators and Representatives can hire talented African American candidates. Yet,

from our records, with the start of the next Congress, the Senate is poised to have one African American Senate Chief of Staff and no African American staff directors if immediate action is not taken.

"We have made progress in the diversity of the officials we elect to Congress, but the lack of senior African American staff within these offices is alarming. The CBC does not accept the excuses of tech companies for their lack

of diversity, nor shall we accept excuses from others on an issue so critical.

The United States Congress must lead by example. We call on our colleagues to increase the diversity on their staff and stand ready to

citizens and address their legislative concerns. For more than 40 years, the CBC has consistently been the voice for people of color and vulnerable communities in Congress.

ACA

Continued from Page 1

about the fate of the ACA, HHS Secretary, Sylvia Maxwell Burwell, spoke exclusively with The Wilmington Journal and other Black newspapers across the nation last week, urging that our readers not be fearful about press reports the Trump Administration and Congress' plan to dismantle what is commonly known as "Obamacare" and what it may mean for those already enrolled or those planning to enroll for low-cost comprehensive health insurance coverage.

"For consumers who want, or need, coverage for 2017, my message is simple. Visit www.HealthCare.gov and check out your options, and don't let the current political debate keep you from getting covered," Secretary Burwell told reporters. "Insurers

have said that, when people sign up for 2017 coverage, [the insurance companies] consider that a contract."

"We've also heard members of Congress, issuers, and the President-elect say that they don't want to disrupt coverage next year. However, on the other hand, looking beyond 2017, some of the proposals out there do threaten to take away coverage from tens of millions of people," Burwell continued. "In particular, there's been discussion about acting immediately to repeal the law's coverage expansion but leaving the question of what would replace them for another day."

"Let's be clear: This so-called "repeal and delay" is effectively "repeal and collapse,'" Secretary Burwell declared.

"Health insurance companies start making decisions about 2018 just a few months into the new year. Uncertainty can lead them to dramatically raise

prices or drop out [of the ACA marketplace] entirely. That means some Americans will likely not be able to find coverage at all, and others won't be able to afford it."

Press reports from conservative media like The Weekly Standard say GOP House and Senate leaders, working with Vice President-elect Mike Pence, are planning to do away with the ACA in at least three stages – repeal most of the law when Congress starts its new session Jan. 3, 2017, delay the implementation of most of that repeal for at least two years, and, in the interim, determine with what to replace the ACA.

So no one's coverage should be affected in 2017," Secretary Burwell suggests, "until the Republican legislative scenario plays out."

As it stands now, over 20 million Americans are covered under the ACA.

For African-Americans, according to HHS, 3 million

more African-Americans who were uninsured before now have coverage, cutting the number of uninsured Black adults by more than 50% (from 22.6 to 10.6%).

And 509,000 African-American young people between the ages of 19 and 26 who would have been uninsured now have coverage under their parents' plan.

Given how maladies like diabetes, high blood pressure, and certain forms of cancer plague Blacks and other poor communities of color, ACA coverage is seen as giving African-Americans greater access to health services than ever before.

Secretary Burwell added these three points that ACA subscribers should know:

1. Financial assistance to lower the cost of premium payments is available for 85% of new applicants who qualify. The cost of most plans can be lowered to \$75.00 or less per month after government

tax credits are applied. Financial help is easy to sign up for.

2. Signing up between now and January 1, 2017, at www.HealthCare.gov is easier. You'll immediately see the type of health care coverage for which you qualify and how much financial help you can get, and using mobile devices is now easier.

3. There are help counselors available who speak multiple languages. Visit www.localhelp.healthcare.gov to find a location in your area with local help or speak with someone over the phone 24 hours a day, seven days a week in English or Spanish at 1-800-318-2596.

Here, in North Carolina, those enrolling in the ACA only have one insurance company, Blue Cross – Blue Shield, that provides service across the state. BCBSNC raised its ACA rates 32.5% this year and has announced a 24.3% hike for 2017. Thus,

premiums here are higher than in many other states, but, for those who qualify, the amount of tax credits and federal subsidies that help knock the premium costs down for individuals enrolled are also among the highest in the nation and will remain so, even with projections of the premium cost's going up next year.

Over 545,000 were enrolled in the ACA in North Carolina as of March of this year. Eighty-five percent of them are actually paying less than \$100 per month in premiums after subsidies, and 77% are paying less than \$50 per month.

Nationally, over 2.1 million people, both new consumers and renewing consumers, enrolled through HealthCare.gov for 2017 during the first four weeks of open enrollment, which began on November 1, 2016.

According to HHS, 134,049 North Carolinians are among that number.

COMMISSION

Continued from Page 1

the N.C. Supreme Court just to offset the election victory of Democrat Justice-elect Mike Morgan, which had been heavily rumored.

The federal appeals court allowed the gerrymandered legislative maps to be used for the 2016 general elections but just recently ordered that State lawmakers, when they return for the long session in January, must redraw the voting districts constitutionally by March 2017. Then, once they're approved by the appellate court, special election primaries must be held either at the end of August 2017 or at the beginning of September. Then special legislative elections must be held in November 2017.

Interestingly, whoever is elected then, will have to run for re-election, as they normally would in November 2018.

Republican leaders are appealing that special election

ruling to the U.S. Supreme Court. Attorneys for the NCGOP have already gone before the U.S. High Court recently appealing the appellate court's striking down of their 2011 congressional districts, which produced 10 Republican representatives and only three Democrats – two of them Black, from minority-majority districts.

It is because the Republicans are expected to still try to redraw the unconstitutional districts in a way that is most favorable to them, despite the federal court order, that Blue says ultimately that task, in the future should fall to a nonpartisan commission that, as in other states, routinely draw districts that are much more competitive electorally than in North Carolina.

"[The Republicans] know that this time a federal court is looking over their shoulders [when they try to redraw the districts in 2017]," says Senator Blue, adding that, with the State Supreme Court now having a Democratic majority, they

also know that it's least likely another unconstitutional map will be upheld by the State High Court either.

"The only way that you're going to eventually get a system that does not [employ] political gerrymandering or racial gerrymandering... the only way you're going to move away from that is by an independent redistricting commission," Blue said. "If these guys agreed to do it, I would join in with them immediately, but I don't have any belief that they would do it."

"So until we can get to that point, it's comforting to know that a federal court is looking over their shoulders so that if they try to cut too many corners, the court can reel them back in, or the court itself can draw the districts. All the court has to do is give them the chance to do it the right way."

Various nonpartisan groups, like Common Cause NC, have been calling for an independent redistricting commission for years, saying that voters should be choosing their elect-

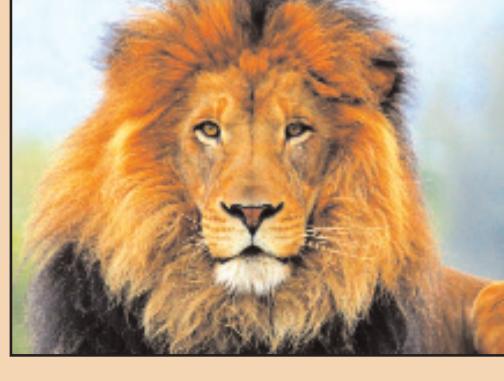
ed officials, instead of the current practice of elected officials choosing their voters by drawing districts that virtually eliminate the possibility of los-

ing an election.

In 2015, two pieces of legislation from a bipartisan group of State lawmakers seeking a new redistricting process had been

introduced in the N.C. General Assembly but ultimately went nowhere because Republicans did not schedule them for committees.

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VOICES

4

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

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GUEST EDITORIAL

Our Voice

Education Forecast 2017

The 2016 year is drawing to a close, but its accomplishments in K-12 education say much about what we can expect in the year ahead. This past year has ushered in landmark educational advancements in North Carolina, setting the stage for unprecedented innovation, choice, and opportunity in 2017. North Carolina families, including many in our African American communities who seek stronger schools and increased options, have reason to believe their voices are being heard.

Supporting our public schools tops the list of priorities, and will continue to do so. This summer the state legislature approved a transformational budget with a historic pay increase for our public school teachers, affirming the critical role they play in educating 1.5 million students across North Carolina.

Parental school choice will also grow. The state budget increases funding for the Opportunity Scholarship Program, which provides state-funded private school scholarships to low-income and working class families. The program's budget will increase by \$10 million annually for the next decade. More North Carolina parents than ever before will thus be empowered to choose the best school for their child. State funding will enable an additional 2,500 children each year to receive a scholarship through 2028-29. At that time, as many as 36,000 low-income students could attend private school using an Opportunity Scholarship.

Why is this important? Parental school choice is nothing new as families have utilized this for years - choosing a school (public or private) that works best for their children. The hard truth is that until now only wealthy families have been able to utilize parental school choice - whether it's easily moving to a home where the highest ranking schools exist or stroking a \$10,000 check or more to enroll their children in a private school. Simply put, rich families have always had choice. Today, and with the recent measures passed by the North Carolina General Assembly with the various scholarship programs and nearly 70% growth of public charter schools, working-class and middle-class families are now able to exercise the right to choose the school that works best for their children.

Moreover, the legislature's action is a powerful response to parental demand - demand that has grown steadily each year. Since the Opportunity Scholarship Program launched in 2014-15, families statewide have submitted nearly 24,000 applications; they submitted almost 9,400 applications for the 2016-17 school year alone.

This program's expansion surely comes as welcome news to many African American parents in our state, who tell us they overwhelmingly favor school choice. This summer, our organization Parents for Educational Freedom in North Carolina, released a poll of 800 African American voters statewide, revealing widespread support for choice: 64% said parents should be able "to choose the K-12 school their child attends through state-funded scholarships."

Not only do African American voters want choice-they also want change. Expect them to keep up the pressure on their elected representatives to provide it: Fully 82% of African American voters in our poll said state lawmakers must do more to expand K-12 options for students in North Carolina.

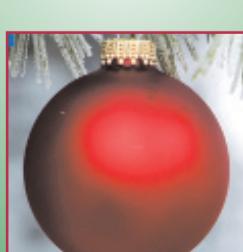
Many of these voters also told us they'd walk their school choice support out to the ballot box. Fully 65% of voters in our poll said they'd be more likely to support a candidate who favors giving parents more educational options. Not surprisingly, then, school choice champions-Democrat and Republican, white and black-were reelected to both the North Carolina Senate and House in last month's election cycle.

Such a development bodes well for the year ahead. School choice champions have played a critical role in ensuring the sustainability of the Opportunity Scholarship Program and the growing impact of the Children with Disabilities Scholarship Grant. They've worked hard to facilitate a 70% increase in public charter school growth over the last five years. Expect these lawmakers to keep at it.

Across the state, consensus is growing: Parents should be able to choose the best school for their child, regardless of their address or income. Our African American families know it. They clearly believe it. And in 2017, more will get to live it.

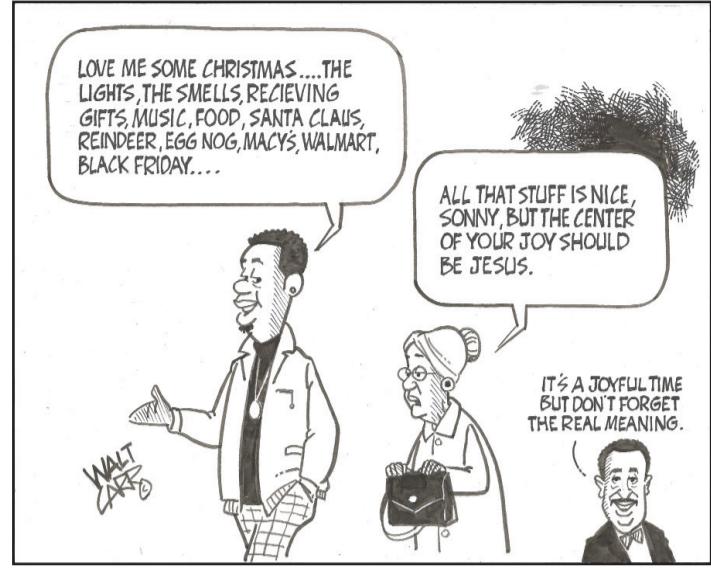
Darrell Allison is the founding president of Parents for Educational Freedom in North Carolina.

Join us in celebrating
"The Holiday Season" in
The
Wilmington Journal's
December 22nd edition!
For info, call us
at 910-762-5502!



Thursday, December 15, 2016

Visual Voice



Matters of Opinion

RAINBOW COALITION

What surely tainted our election? Voter suppression

(Via TriceEdneyWire.com)

The CIA conclusion that the Russians intervened in our elections in order to help elect Donald Trump has sent Washington into one of its fabled tizzies.

President Barack Obama has ordered an intelligence agency report before he leaves office.

Democrats and responsible Republicans are calling for congressional investigations. Pundits are arguing the Russians - combined with FBI Director James Comey's outrageous interventions - cost Hillary Clinton the election. In response, President-elect Trump is tweeting furiously about voter fraud, peddling lies about millions of illegal immigrants voting and many other things to distract from the escalating scandal.

Left out of this brouhaha is the systematic and purposeful voter suppression that certainly cost Clinton the election. The Russians didn't do it. It was done by right-wing partisan state officials eager to suppress the vote of people of color, the young and the working poor. These efforts were open, systematic and widespread. And this domestic hacking at our elections was

far more destructive than the hacking Russia is said to have done.

This was the first presidential election since the Supreme Court gutted the Voting Rights Act. According to the Brennan Center, 14 states passed voter suppression laws that were in effect for the first time in November, including swing states like Ohio and Wisconsin.

The steps taken to suppress the vote aren't secret: new requirements of voter ID that discriminate against the poor, the elderly and disproportionately people of color; restrictions on use of college ID to impede student voting; closing registration weeks before Election Day; limiting early voting days, closing on Sundays; holding Election Day on a workday with limited hours for voting, making it difficult for those with inflexible hours to get to the polls; shutting down or moving polling places to confuse voters and force them to wait in long lines; purging voters from the polling lists, leaving them to cast provisional ballots at best; prohibiting felons who have paid their debt to society from ever recovering the right to vote, disproportionately impacting African-American men.

There is little doubt that these measures worked, and cost Clinton the election. In Wisconsin, for example, Trump's margin of victory was 27,000. A record 300,000 registered voters lacked the

newly required ID, contributing to the lowest turnout in 20 years. Turnout was down by more than 50,000 in Milwaukee where 70 percent of the state's African-American population lives.

In North Carolina, black turnout was down 16 percent in the first week of early voting, in part because there were 158 fewer polling places in the 40 counties with large numbers of black voters. The targeting was intentional, with Republican officials celebrating the effects. The decision by the right-wing gang of five on the Supreme Court in the Shelby case effectively subverted the victory of the civil rights movement at Selma.

If Russians hacked the Democratic National Committee's and the Clinton campaign's emails to influence the election, it should be investigated. In an election decided by 80,000 votes in three states, it might have made a difference (as almost anything could in an election that close). But what is clear is that Russian hacking was not nearly as effective as the partisan systematic suppression of the vote. And that effort is continuing. Republicans in Missouri took control and moved to institute new voting ID restrictions for the next election. In Wisconsin, Republicans announced plans for new restrictions on early voting.

Why aren't Democrats railing about voter suppression

and demanding congressional investigation and action? Why haven't university presidents and civil rights lawyers joined in a national commission to detail the suppression and demand a strengthening of the Voting Rights Act? Why aren't pundits pounding on this, outing the state officials and legislators who did it and exposing the right-wing apparatus that orchestrated it? Is it because Russian interference is more exotic? Is it because neither party thinks suppression of the votes of people of color and the young is an unacceptable outrage?

I urge President Obama to launch an investigation and report on voter suppression to be released before he leaves office. President-elect Donald Trump says he wants to be the president of all Americans. If so, he should lead an effort to end voter suppression and to revive the Voting Rights Act. Democratic leaders say they want the party to build a broad majority coalition across lines of race. If so, they should be demanding an investigation of voter suppression and filibustering to force revival of the Voting Rights Act.

Inside the beltway, voter suppression isn't hot. Republicans peddle the myth of voter fraud. Democrats cry foul on Russian interference.

JACKSON

Continued on page 5

BLACKONOMICS

Stop drinking the Fool-Aid

(Via TriceEdneyWire.com)

"Negroes ... sometimes choose their own leaders but unfortunately they are too often the wrong kind. Negroes do not readily follow persons

with constructive programs. Almost any sort of exciting appeal or trivial matter presented to them may receive immediate attention ... and liberal support."

Carter G. Woodson

The term "Drinking the Kool-Aid" has been taken to a new level among many of our people. In many circles we have gotten so intellectually lazy that we will believe just about anything from anyone, that is, as long as we don't have to do anything except trumpet a utopian message, and if we never have to sacrifice for the collective benefit of one another. The Kool-Aid cliché, as far as I am concerned, has now become "Fool-Aid," and Black folks are gulping it down by the barrel.

There are so-called Black leaders who, despite their unseemly tactics, their por-

trays of themselves as "honest" brokers, and their shadowy deal-making and sellout prowess, seem to be exempt from exposure by our people. While Black folks have always had to deal with these scoundrels, we have been reluctant to call them out - to expose them for what they really are.

On the other hand, we have leaders among us who are totally dedicated to the collective economic advancement of African Americans. These are the ones who are usually sacrificed by Black people - thrown out because they are a threat to the establishment or because they are "too Black." That frightens some people and, sadly, we play into that fear by participating in the demise of the very people who would help pull us out of our economic problems.

We willingly drink the Fool-Aid of those who are only interested in themselves, only to end up in the same place or even further behind than we were before we took the first sip. That must change. But it won't change simply because it ought to change; it will only change when we change our behavior and our penchant for choosing the "wrong kind" of leader.

I have seen folks stroll through our communities and be held up as paragons of

Black liberation, all while filling their pockets with the filthy lucre from their sell-out deals with the powers that be. They have their hands in every deal, every program, every transaction, and every scenario that involves Black people, making certain that they will be the first in line to be paid. They rob the community and blame that same community for not moving forward. How can we move forward with crooks like these among us?

Many people, Black, White, and otherwise have drunk the Fool-Aid of folks like Jim Jones in Guyana, David Koresh in Waco, Texas, Marshall Applewhite in San Diego (Hale Bopp Comet), Warren Jeffs in Eldorado, Texas (Yearning for Zion Ranch), and many other cult figures. We have been mesmerized and captivated by individual preachers, politicians, and leaders who have absolutely no interest in anything other than their own selfish interests and advancement—usually economic.

So, while the "Drinking the Kool-Aid" cliché has become sort of comical and caricature-oriented in its connotation, "Drinking the Fool-Aid" gives a much more enlightened description of the dangers that lurk in actualizing the phrase.

I contend that Black folks are far too intelligent to be reduced

to a bunch of voluntary "Fool-Aid" drinkers, lapping up every word spoken by anyone, without doing our homework and making sure that what they say is true and illustrated by their subsequent actions. In other words, don't believe everything you hear or read on the internet. Don't be a sycophant for a shyster or a puppet for a prevaricator. Hold their feet to the fire after they speak, and use your own discernment to ascertain the wealth of their words—or the lack thereof.

As Woodson intimated, Black folks have authentic leaders who have "constructive programs" but who are seldom followed. Unfortunately, we have more folks drinking the Fool-Aid of hucksters than we have those who refuse it or at least read the label before they are willing to take a drink. But to borrow a verse from Matthew 7:13 "...For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it."

Think for yourself, and be willing to accept the consequences thereof. Fool-Aid may taste good, but it will make you very sick.

James Clingman is the nation's most prolific writer on economic empowerment for Black people. His latest book, "Black Dollars Matter! Teach Your Dollars How to Make More Sense," is available on his website, BlackEconomics.com.

JACKSON

Continued from page 4

Neither party will focus on the biggest scandal of all: the fact that partisans in states

across the country acted purposefully to suppress the right to vote of targeted groups of citizens. We didn't win the right to vote from politicians. Citizens had to march and protest, bleed and

die to win that right. We can't count on politicians to defend the right to vote - they, after all, are elected under the distorted rules we have. Citizens of conscience must move to end voter suppression and

clean up our elections.

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

US economic foundation built on the enslavement of African people

(Via TriceEdneyWire.com)

I have spent some 14 hours in the recently opened National Museum of African American Culture and History (NMAAHC) and still have only seen one-half of its historical content.

My plan is to spend a few more hours checking things out before writing a column focusing on it.

However, it is not too early for saluting the museum for doing something that I have never seen done in an American public institution. That is to state in two different narratives the real truth about the economic foundation of the continent of North American (aka USA). The first narrative states without qualification, "The Atlantic slave trade was the largest forced migration of people in world history. Profits from the sale of enslaved

In a chapter entitled, "Cotton

human beings and their labor laid the foundation for Western Europe, the Caribbean and the Americas..."

Personally, I would have said "enslaved Africans," but the point is clear.

A second narrative emphasized "Slavery's success built the economic foundation of American in two generations. Cotton produced by enslaved people transformed the fledgling nation into a world power and leader in global trade..."

Again, I would have said "enslaved Africans," but again this is a harsh truth about this country's economic wealth that is not taught in American history courses throughout the country. My position is reinforced by comments made by Professor Craig Steven Wilder in his must-read book, "Ebony and Ivy: Race, Slavery, and the Troubled History of America's Universities," which provides comprehensive details on how many of this country's major colleges and universities were launch and financed by wealth obtained from enslaving African people.

The great families distanced themselves rhetorically from the planters of the West Indies and the South—despite numerous shared surnames—by claiming histories as merchants, investors, and insurers, and then elevating underwriting, finance, and trade to high arts. Slave traders became Atlantic merchants, and the biggest firms received the

greatest praise. It was an age of euphemism, populated with fragile lies, half-truths, and deflections.

If most white northerners found it difficult to tolerate antislavery zealots pointing fingers at the South, they also dreaded the abolitionists' critique of the social order of New England and the Mid-Atlantic. The shipping, finance, and manufacturing economies of New England and the Mid-Atlantic remained firmly tied to human slavery long after the retreat of slaveholding in the northern states."

I would have called them "powerful" families rather than great ones. But Professor Wilder's comment and the narratives from the museum shows clearly how the history of the United States has been falsified and deceitful. We owe NMAAHC and Professor Wilder for the proper documentation of that history.

*A. Peter Bailey, whose latest book is *Witnessing Brother Malcolm X, the Master Teacher*, can be reached at apeterb@verizon.net.*

A. Peter

Bailey

CASH IN THE APPLE**Can we survive Trump?**

Let me ask the question again - can the African-American community survive the four-year presidency of Donald J. Trump? When I called a state lawmaker the other day to talk about the aftermath of the 2016 election, and asked him how he was doing, he replied, "I'm surviving Trump!" and we both laughed.

We also agreed that if blacks could survive the likes of Richard M. Nixon (who at one time considered gathering up black militants from across the nation and jailing them in a football stadium), Ronald Reagan (who coddled white supremacists, was close friends with Sen. Jesse Helms, and once gave a speech where he alluded to "welfare queens"), George H.W. Bush (who nominated negro conservative Clarence Thomas to the US Supreme Court, thus helping to rollback civil rights gains for black people ever



Cash

Michaels

since), and George W. Bush, (who delayed assistance to the victims of Hurricane Katrina after it devastated New Orleans in 2005), then we can certainly survive Trump.

After all, what more can a Republican president do to black people hasn't been done, or at least attempted, before? And yet, a President Trump could, and would rewrite the book on that.

After all, what other elected official has garnered the support, let alone the endorsement of the Ku Klux Klan, the alt-right, and many others in the white supremacist movement? What other president in US history have we known to actually have a white supremacist, Stephen Bannon, formerly of Breitbart, as a White House special advisor?

Ever watch old video of Trump talk about "the blacks" as if we're an alien race or something? And don't forget, both Trump and his father were sued by the federal government for housing discrimination back in the 1970s because they refused to rent apartments to blacks in New York City.

Today, the only black people taken with Donald Trump are Amarosa Manigault from "The Apprentice" (I've always wondered about those two), that black preacher from Detroit, and anybody else who thinks they can also be rich and famous one day.

Anyone else black and poor, according to Trump, will "get shot" as soon as they walk out of their home. Their kids are destined for a life of crime and poverty, and their schools are the worst in the world.

Yes, during the campaign that he really never expected to win, Trump did promise to singlehandedly make things better for "the blacks" ("What do you have to lose?" he rhetorically asked), but let's use our heads for a moment. Trump also promised white working class folks who feel supremely left out of any progress made in this country that he would do the same thing for them.

In fact, Trump promised them that he would get rid of Obamacare (which many blacks and Hispanics count on for health care coverage), stand on the side of police in

shooting cases, and certainly cause problems for all Muslims, just because they are Muslim.

In case you didn't know, many African-Americans follow the Islamic religion. That doesn't instantly make them terrorists, though President-elect Donald Trump would beg to differ.

Yes, we can survive President Trump for the next four years. But while we're in survival mode, I also hope we're in constant preparation to elect someone better in 2020.

We'll have no choice. *Cash in the Apple - honored as the Best Column Writing of 2006 by the National Newspaper Publishers Association. Columnist Cash Michaels was also honored by the NNPA for Best Feature Story Journalist of 2009, and was the recipient of the Raleigh-Apex NAACP's President's Award for Media Excellence in Sept. 2011.*

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

Will workers swallow a bitter pill?

(Via TriceEdneyWire.com)

When Donald Trump was running for President, he specifically targeted the "white working class", telling them that he'd prevent their jobs from leaving the country, that he'd bring back manufacturing jobs, and that he'd revive the oil and steel industries. He hasn't taken office

yet, but he has already celebrated the fact that Carrier, a furnace manufacturer in Indianapolis, Indiana, has agreed to keep jobs in the United States, even though they had earlier announced that they would have moved jobs to Mexico. Now, Mr. Trump has indicated that Andrew F. Puzder is his choice for Secretary of Labor. Puzder, the CEO of CKE Restaurant Holdings, a company that franchises Hardee and Carl's Jr. fast food outlets, has opposed minimum wage increases, worker protections, paid sick leave, and the Affordable Care Act. He has said that he welcomes automation in the restaurant industry because machines are "always polite... never take a vacation, never show up late, there's never a slip and fall or an age, sex, or race discrimination case." While the Department of Labor has been the advocate for workers, Mr. Puzder seems to be

an advocate for worker exploitation.

Okay, y'all working class white folks, those of you who voted for Mr. Trump, are you ready to swallow a bitter pill? Because Mr. Trump has shown you, yet again, what he thinks of you. The historian Doris Kearns Goodwin wrote about President Abraham Lincoln's Team of Rivals. What Mr. Trump seems to have assembled is a team of war-mongering generals and bombastic billionaires. The Puzder appointment, then, is consistent with Mr. Trump's philosophy, but it is inconsistent with the notion that the Labor Department should be an advocate for workers, and should regulate labor markets and enforce labor legislation.

The minimum wage was stuck at \$5.15 an hour for ten years before it was increased in 2007. Then, Congress approved a three-step increase, raising the wage to \$5.85 an hour in July 2007, then \$6.55 an hour in 2008, finally increasing to \$7.25 an hour in 2009. It has been stuck there ever since. President Obama has recommended an increase of the minimum wage to \$10.10 an hour, less than the \$15 an hour that many activists are advocating through the Fight for Fifteen.

Puzder does not think the minimum wage should be more than \$9 an hour. He also opposes Obama Administration efforts to give overtime pay to more workers.

It would be crass to say that Puzder purchased his position, but it is important to note that he contributed more than \$300,000 to the Trump campaign. His nomination is consistent with that of Oklahoma attorney general Scott Pruitt, a climate change denier, to head the Environmental Protection Agency. Just as Pruitt has no intention of protecting the environment, prioritizing energy production over environmental protection, Puzder has no intention of advocating for or protecting workers.

Lots of people who voted for Mr. Trump swear they aren't racists and say they simply voted for "change". If Mr. Trump and Mr. Puzder have their way, they'll get chump change for hourly pay. Is that the change they want to believe in?

Julianne Malveaux is an author and economist. Her latest book "Are We Better Off? Race, Obama and Public Policy" is available via www.amazon.com for booking, wholesale inquiries or for more info visit www.juliannealveaux.com.

CHILDWATCH**Love trumps hate**

This is usually a season of familiar scenes in schools across the country, with holiday programs featuring messages of peace and goodwill to all. But this year many teachers and students have been seeing another story.

Marian W. Edelman

In the week since the election I have personally had to deal with the following issues: 1) Boys inappropriately grabbing and touching girls, even after they said no (this never happened until after the election); 2) White students telling their friends who are Hispanic or of color that their parents are going to be deported and that they would be thrown out of school; 3) White students going up to students of color who are total strangers and hurling racial remarks at them, such as, "Trump is going [to] throw you back over the wall, you know?" or "We can't wait until you and the other brownies are gone". . .

Middle school teacher, Indiana

We have had many students fighting, especially between the Latino and African-American population, as well as many more boys feeling superior to girls. I have had one male student grab a female student's crotch and tell her that it's legal for him to do that to her now . . . One of my students from last year who is Muslim has not worn her hijab since the election. - Elementary school teacher, Minnesota

In over 15 years of teaching high school this is the first year that swastikas are appearing all over school furniture. - High school teacher, Washington state

We have worked really hard over the last 10 years to change our climate. The last year has nearly undone all of that work. It is disheartening. - High school teacher, Maryland

These were just a few of the responses to the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC)'s Teaching Tolerance Project's online survey of more than 10,000 educators in the new report, After Election Day: The Trump Effect: The Impact of the 2016 Presidential Election on Our Nation's Schools. SPLC says: "Ninety percent reported that their school's climate has been negatively affected, and 80 percent described heightened anxiety and concern among minority students worried about the impact of the election on their families . . . More than 2,500 said they knew of fights, threats, assaults and other incidents that could be traced directly to election rhetoric." The report echoed the findings of another SPLC survey taken earlier in the campaign season, and reinforced the sense many educators and parents have had for months of a rise in bullying and hate speech from children influenced by behavior they've been seeing in adults.

What can schools and teachers do right now to fight back against hate? Dr. Linda Darling-Hammond is president of the Learning Policy Institute and Professor of Education Emeritus and Faculty Director of the Stanford Center for Opportunity Policy in Education at Stanford University. In a recent keynote speech at the National Association for Multicultural Education conference she shared her expert recommendations, starting with a key first step:

"First, and most obviously, this is a moment both for explicit anti-racist teaching and anti-racist action in all public spaces. The 'good news' is that the explicitness and

widespread public eruption of racist, sexist, and hate speech of all kinds gives us a direct opportunity to bring anti-racist teaching out of the closet to motivate schools and systems to adopt anti-racist curriculum, to pay attention to the tacit bigotry that is often under the surface in schools:

• to proactively ensure that the images and messages on the walls and in textbooks are multicultural and anti-racist

• to get every teacher and administrator reading and using Teaching for Tolerance, Facing History, and other resources for equitable, anti-racist teaching

• to ensure that the allocation of time, attention, and resources in schools attends equitably to all children - and that the divisions and segregation created by tracking and similar practices are challenged

• to mobilize the resources of foundations and people of good will to tackle the festering issues that America has been dealing with since its inception - when slavery was legalized, African Americans were defined as 3/5s of a person, Native Americans were massacred and driven at gunpoint across the country in the Trail of Tears, and students of color were segregated by law - and later by redlining and other racist customs. It is time for Teach-Ins at every school."

Professor Darling-Hammond went on to explain that there is much more we also need to do to confront and change every strand of institutionalized racism and intolerance that are embedded in our schools in order to really create a more equitable and just education system and society. But explicitly teaching tolerance must be a building block right now. All children must know that adults expect them to understand the difference between right and wrong.

Children who feel afraid at school must know that adults will help keep them safe. Children who are doing the bullying must know that adults will not allow the next generation to grow up steeped in more hate.

In his last Christmas sermon, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said, "The Christmas hope for peace and goodwill toward all men can no longer be dismissed as a kind of pious dream of some utopia. If we don't have good will toward men in this world, we will destroy ourselves by the misuse of our own instruments and our own power . . ."

"Love is understanding, creative, redemptive good will toward all men. And I think this is where we are, as a people, in our struggle for racial justice . . . We must never let up in our determination to remove every vestige of segregation and discrimination from our nation, but we shall not in the process relinquish our privilege to love. I've seen too much hate to want to hate, myself , and I've seen hate on the faces of too many sheriffs, too many white citizens' councilors, and too many Klansmen of the South to want to hate, myself; and every time I see it, I say to myself, hate is too great a burden to bear" Hate is a burden our children cannot and should never have to carry. And it is a deep blemish on what it means to be an American. Love must always trump hate.

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.

**The
BLACK PRESS
USE IT or
LOSE IT!**

New Hanover County

SAU Coastal Alumni Chapter will hold their December 17th meeting at K&W Cafeteria at 2:00 p.m. All graduates, attendees and friends of St. Augustine's are invited.

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

Community Briefs

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.

Bladen County

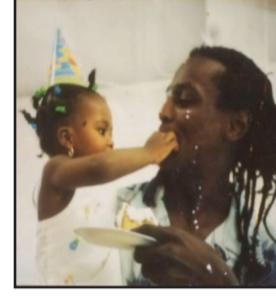
The Baldwin Branch Missionary Baptist Church, 4047 NC 242 Highway South, Elizabethtown. Clothes Closet will be open Saturday, December 17th from 8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. The food pantry, "From His Table to Yours" will also be open from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Personal id and transportation are required. No fee is involved in either ministry.

WBLA AM Radio Station in conjunction with the US Marines and Lu Mil Vineyard is supporting Toys-for-Tots, everyone deserves Christmas. Please bring new unwrapped toys as Christmas gifts for the less fortunate children in the community. The station located at 512 Peanut Road; Elizabethtown NC is a drop off location. Office hours are 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

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

Compiled By Wilmington Journal Staff

In Loving Memory Of



Roncin Jemel Sanders
Sunrise: January 23, 1976
Sunset: December 17, 2002

A Peace of Us Will Always Be Missing

It's been three long years
Ever since you went away
It seems like we miss you more
With every passing day

A peace of us is missing
A peace of us is gone
A peace of us is not the same
Since God carried you home

Through you're not here in flesh
You're always in our hearts
The memories and good time we had
Could never tear us apart

Your time here was oh so brief
But your memory will never die
We will carry on your legacy
Remembering, you're with the MOST HIGH

So when we look to the
heavens

We know you're smiling down
There's always comfort in knowing
That you will always be around

And though our family circle is broken
Your living was not in vain
And though it's been three long years
Our lives will never be the same

WE MISS YOU RONCIN

Love always,
Your family and friends-

HOMETOWN NEWS FROM BRUNSWICK COUNTY

Walking outside

Walking outside is a good exercise in the morning, especially when the weather is pleasant and suitable, school age Black children in Bolivia who are assigned to schools within walking distance of their residences would perhaps enjoy walking even to school. They should be assigned to schools in Bolivia, instead of being assigned to other schools a long distance from their homes. Assignment to such long distances can be very expensive. This is money which could be put to good use in the classrooms in the purchase of much needed supplies.

There are several issues in the educational system that ought to be of great concern to us all. For instance, there is a great need for more qualified teacher aides in our schools. Then we ought to be hiring more qualified Black male teachers in the

Brunswick County Schools, and there ought to be an open classroom policy that encourages parents and other concerned community persons to visit classrooms. Classes ought to be kept that each child will have a better chance to accomplish greater skills proficiency. We ought not be satisfied as a community until every child is guaranteed the individual attention needed to make the most progress of which he or she is capable. Segregation is still a prominent problem in many schools North Carolina. We are still far from the level where we ought to be in terms of teacher pay. This has caused many of our best teachers to leave our State

and work in other states.

The Confederate flag continues to be displayed around Brunswick County, but there are other great things to do and think about. There are still great opportunities to help people in need and still folks doing that. In times of destruction we come together, as would be the case in the event of wildfires, such as we have seen in various places lately. There are times when the color of one's skin is not the big issue, such a time would be when people's property is being destroyed.

It's amazing to walk and see nature and all of its beauty. I like to watch the birds at a distance from the main highway. They come together in such a peaceful manner. They seem to be getting together and making the necessary arrangements to travel in flocks to a warmer climate. They fly away so gracefully and seem to bring a feeling of

freedom. They seem to live in such a wonderful world of freedom. We must have the better things in life for all children and offer them the same feelings of freedom. They are our future generation.

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.

Twenty-ninety Annual MLK Parade- Elizabethtown

Elizabethtown-Preparations have begun for the twenty-nine (29th) annual parade honoring the birthday of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to be held in Elizabethtown, North Carolina on Monday, January 16, 2017 at 11:00 am.

Martin Luther King Day celebrates the life and accom-

plishment of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. MLK promoted Civil Rights through nonviolent civil disobedience. He is perhaps best known for his "I have a dream..." speech in 1963. He was assassinated in 1968. Martin Luther King, Jr. day became a federally recog-

nized holiday in 1983. The first year this holiday was observed was 1986, and not by all states. In 2000 it became a nationally observed holiday in all states. Martin Luther King Jr. Day takes place on the third Monday of January each year.

Community, civic and

school organizations, band, step-teams, drill team, queens and/or kings etc. are invited to participate. Call (910) 645-4995 for float and other information.

The line-up starts 9:00 AM at 805 West Broad Street; Elizabethtown, North Carolina.

Pine Valley United Methodist Church prepared to feed over 3,300 on Christmas Eve

WILMINGTON - Pine Valley United Methodist Church will provide a free, traditional Christmas meal and holiday celebration to individuals and families in need on December 24th. The 2016 Pine Valley UMC Christmas Eve Community Outreach brings more than 100 volunteers together to feed over 3,300 people and celebrate the holiday. We will be preparing and delivering meals to different shelters

and charity organizations throughout the community as well as hosting a dinner at 6:00 p.m. at Pine Valley United Methodist Church, Fellowship Hall, 3788 Shipyard Blvd.

Guests will enjoy a free holiday celebration that includes freshly cooked turkey, ham, mashed potatoes and all the trimmings.

This outreach ministry started with parents wanting to show their children that

the Christmas season is so much more than the "gimmies." We believe Mission is a lifestyle of reaching out to extend the love of Christ. Mission is the heart of outreach at Pine Valley. The Christmas Eve Community Outreach is an extension of our largest ministry outreach. Pine Valley UMC was able to feed nearly 7000 people during the past two years of this event.

Pine Valley United

Methodist Church is part of the United Methodist Church whose mission is to make disciple of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Our vision at PVUMC is to accomplish that mission by connecting hearts to Christ and one another. PVUMC is within the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference, the North Carolina Conference, and the Harbor District. For more information, visit pvumc.net.

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Join us in celebrating "The Holiday Season" in The Wilmington Journal's December 22nd edition! For info, call us at 910-762-5502!



ABUNDANT FREE FOOD GIVING GIVEAWAY

Food Ministry

**Saturday December 17th, 2016
10:00am - while supplies last
"Before Christmas Food Give Away"**

Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Giveaway

2- Locations

Union Missionary Baptist Church
2711 Princess Place Wilmington, NC
LaSonia Melvin
910-685-4866



St Paul A.M.E. Zion Church
507 Money Hole Road Bolton, NC
Pastor Thomas Williams
910-622-7684

A community Event

To continue with their goal of providing healthy foods to people and families in our communities, the "Union Missionary Baptist Church" of Wilmington & "St. Paul A.M.E. Zion Church" of Bolton, along with the "Wilmington Branch of the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina", will be giving away over 40,000 lbs of food FREE to the general public.

Volunteers are welcome:

Abundant Giving Food Distribution Program
Jerome Belton (910)228-0499

www.foodbankcenc.org

Thank You!

www.abundantgiving.org



Lacy Simpson, Jr.

God saw you getting weary and said son, "Come on home." You fought a good fight and now you are resting in the arms of Jehovah.

Lacy Simpson, Jr "Bug" was born in Wilmington, North Carolina on March 17, 1953 to the late Lacy Simpson, Sr and Janie Simpson. Siblings that preceded him in death were sisters: Teresa and Doris Simpson.

Lacy was a graduate of John T. Hoggard High School, Class of 1972. He left Wilmington to work for the CSX Railroad in Richmond, VA. After 21 years with the railroad he returned to Wilmington to help care for his Parents. Lacy worked for the City of Wilmington Parks and Recreation for 17 years. Lacy and his grand-daughter Aaysha enjoyed seeing the Hammerhead Game where he would work from time to time.

Lacy attended the Kingdom Hall in Leland, had bible studies in his apartment on Tuesday's and cooked for the fellows as they watched the game. Upon returning to VA in 2012 he continued his work with Kingdom Hall and Bible study. He served diligently and faithfully, going out into the field doing ministry work on Tuesday and Thursday's until his illness. He was to be baptized in January, 2017.

Lacy is survived by his loving wife, Paulette Simpson of the home; sons: Anthony Chadwick (Keysha) of NC; Ocea Starke (Charity) of the home; daughters: Teresa and Lakeessha Simpson of the home; sisters: Bernice, Ethel and Tammy Simpson of NC; nine grand-children: Tyus, Ismael, Aaysha, Princess, Emana, Jyane, Arion, Savion ad Bakari; one great-grand. Lacy was affectionally called, "Daddy Bug" by Regina Sellers and his grand-daughter Aaysha Chadwick. Several dear friends: Walter Bordeaux; Michael Davis, Omega Blue, Paul Rogers, Lacy Pigford, Chester DeVane, Celeste Chadwick, and his City of Wilmington crew. A host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Memorial services were held in Richmond, VA on Monday, November 28th at the Kingdom Hall.

LaRenda F. Purdy

LaRenda F. Purdy, born August 12, 1984, in Little Rock,

Arkansas, was the eldest of three children born to the late Ms. Brenda Purdy. She traded time for eternity on November 25, 2016. Funeral services were held on Thursday, December 1, 2016 at Davis Funeral Home. Burial was at Mulberry Cemetery.

LaRenda was a fun loving child with a smile that could light up any room. She was educated in the Brunswick County Public Schools and was a graduate of West Brunswick High School class of 2002. LaRenda continued her education completing two years of Job Corps in Potomac Mills, V.A.

Both dedicated and loyal, LaRenda was employed at Burger King for 10 years. She loved to cook. Gifted with a keen eye for shapes and lines, LaRenda had an affinity for drawing. She found drawing to be relaxing and therapeutic.

LaRenda was always helpful toward her family and friends. She shared a special bond with her grandmother Mary Jane. Their relationship was unique. They genuinely valued each other's time and enjoyed their companionship. LaRenda was known for being extremely loyal, dependable and was a confidant to many. LaRenda loved hard.

LaRenda was preceded in death by her mother, Brenda Purdy and her grandfather, Nathaniel J. Purdy.

She leaves to cherish her memory and honor her legacy: her grandmother, Mary Jane Purdy, of the home; one sister, Lolita Purdy of Lexington Park, MD; one brother Matthew Purdy, of the city; two aunts: Dolores Jones (Robert) of Lexington Park, MD., and Cathy Dwyer (Victor) and one uncle, Brian Purdy, both of the city; four nieces: Zakiyah Purdy of Lexington Park, MD.; Anyilah Faulk, A'Journee' Faulk, and A'zuri Faulk, of the city; three great-uncles William Robinson, Sr. (Norris) of Bolivia, N.C., Joseph Robinson (Carolyn) and Howard Robinson both of Shallotte, N.C., and a host of cousins and friends that loved her dearly, including her special friend, Sam Skinner. Services entrusted to Davis Funeral Home, 901 S. 5th Ave, Wilmington, NC 28401. Please share memories and condolences with the family at www.davisfuneralhome.com.

MacArthur Randolph

MacArthur Randolph, born in Bolivia, North Carolina on January 19, 1944 to both the late Richard LaSalle and Letsie Ann Randolph, the second oldest of 14 children. He transitioned from earth to his heavenly home on Wednesday, November 30, 2016 at the SECU Hospice House in Supply, North Carolina. Funeral services were held on Tuesday, December 6, 2016 at Piney Grove Freewill Baptist Church.

Burial was at the Piney Grove Community Cemetery.

MacArthur received his education and graduated in 1961 from Brunswick County Training School. On September 13, 1967, he was joined in Holy Matrimony to Emma Lou Hankins of Supply, whom preceded him in death and from this union a daughter was born. He was a loving husband, father and great provider for his family. At a young age, MacArthur accepted the Lord and was baptized, joining Piney Grove Freewill Baptist Church; and as a member later in his life, he took advantage of an opportunity to serve on the Usher Board.

One early morning on January 6, 1960, while attending livestock on his family's farm, MacArthur was the first to encounter the aftermath from the explosion of National Airlines Flight 2511 as it was in route to Miami, Florida, claiming the lives of 34 passengers, including the crew. This traumatic occasion was nationally televised, denoting him, the family farm, and Bolivia as a part of America's history. In 2005 to the present, MacArthur's warmth and care had gained honorable respect from a daughter whom at the time was 5 years old, had lost her parents as passengers when this devastation occurred.

MacArthur's history of employment started with various jobs. One of his primary places of employment began at Babcock & Wilcox until 1983; and thereafter, in 1984, he began working with Brunswick County Public Schools in the Maintenance Department until retirement in June, 2006. Through his years of working, he gained many acquaintances and friends.

He leaves to celebrate his warm memories; a loving daughter, Tara Eliska Randolph; three grandsons, Christopher D'Ante and Brandon Keon Lewis and Dujuan Christyan Thompson, all of the homestead. He also leaves to cherish his memories five brothers, Wallace, Glen (Rosa) and Richard Leon (Diane) of Bolivia, NC, Norwood (LaRue) of Laurinburg, NC and Darius Randolph of Ispalanti, Michigan; six sisters, Nora (Albert) Crawford, Adna (James) Swinford and Lola Miller of Cincinnati, Ohio; Naomi Randolph of Supply, NC; Phoebe (Jackson) Jordan of Castle Hayne, NC, EuShama (Darrell) Golidy of Oxon Hill, Maryland; and an adopted niece, LaTanya Randolph also of Cincinnati, Ohio; a mother-in-law, Mami Hankins of Supply, NC; three brother-in-laws, John (Alice) and Robin Hankins of Supply, NC and George Hankins of Roosevelt, NY; three sister-in-laws, Ester (Advance) Sidberry and Dale (Gregory) Williams of Bolivia,

NC; and Marlene Marshburn of Wilmington, NC. He also leaves to cherish memories a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, two very special friends, Willie Bryant and Neal Clarke; and other friends. His fatherly love had surpassed beyond his immediate family to Corietta Randolph Bloodworth and Trimecie Bellamy of Bolivia, NC; and Minerva Ray-Davis of Southport, North Carolina. 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.

Brenda Mallette Rawls

Brenda Mallette Rawls, 62, of Wilmington, passed away, Friday, December 2, 2016. Funeral services will be 1:00 p.m., Saturday, December 17, 2016 at Davis Funeral Home with a visitation 1 hour prior to service. Burial will follow in Calvary Memorial Cemetery. 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.

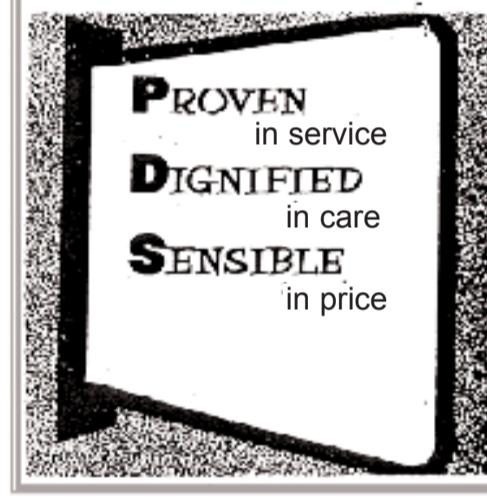
Larry G. Jarrett, Sr.

Larry G. Jarrett, Sr., age 77, of Wilmington, passed away, Wednesday, December 7, 2016. A visitation will from 6:00-8:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 15, 2016. Funeral services will be 1:00 p.m., Friday, December 16, 2016 at Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church. Burial will follow in Greenlawn Memorial Park. Services entrusted to

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Alton and Samuel Drain, Jr.
In Memoriam

Retha M. Galloway

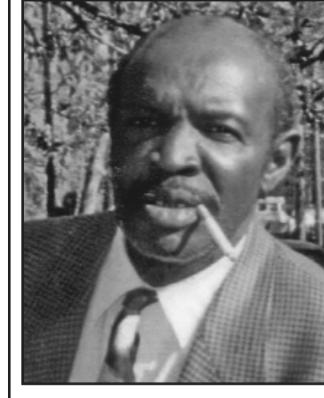
Retha M. Galloway, age 81, of Philadelphia, PA (formerly of Bolivia), passed away Sunday,

Doris M. Robbins

Doris M. Robbins, age 85, of Wilmington, passed away, Friday, December 9, 2016. A visitation will be from 6:00-8:00 p.m. on Friday, December 16, 2016 at Warner Temple A.M.E. Zion Church. Funeral services will be 11:00 a.m., Saturday, December 17, 2016 at Warner Temple A.M.E. Zion Church. Burial will follow in Greenlawn Memorial Park. 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.

Please see
OBITUARIES / Page 8

In Loving Memory Of



David Age
Sunrise: April 3, 1937
Sunset: November 26, 2011

A Precious One!

A precious one from us is gone, a voice we loved is stilled. A place is vacant in our home which can never be filled. You never said "I'm leaving," you never said "good-bye," you were gone before we knew it, and only God knew why.

After a lonely heartache and many a silent tear, but always a lovely memory of the one we love so dear.

Your lovely wife Geneva; six children, Cedric, Dale, Anthony, Wayne, Evelyn and Jeannett, grandchildren and great grands

New Hanover County

Religious
Briefs

Bowens Chapel, corner of 2nd and Meares St., will hold revival from December 12th- December 23rd at 7:30 p.m. nightly. There will be different speakers each night.

Mt. Nebo Missionary Baptist Church, 801 S. 10th St., Christmas service will be held on December 25th from 8:00 a.m.- 9:00 a.m. For additional information contact Barbara S. Lewis at 910-604-0271.

Pilgrim House of Worship, 4321 Wrightsville Ave. (next to Hanger's Cleaners) will have guest preacher Minister Calvin Robinson, Doctor of Theology at the 11:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. services on December 18.

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

Compiled By Wilmington Journal Staff

TELL SOMEBODY

Good News/ Joy To The World !

"And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people." Luke 2:10

Glad Tidings - Good News Joy: A feeling of happiness that comes from success or a sense of wellbeing

The world could sure use to hear some good news in a day like today and at a time like this. We have heard more than enough of bad news. Tragedies are common place. Too many reports of floods, droughts, famine, tsunamis, fires out of control, earthquakes, freak accidents, crime on the increase. Then, there are wars and rumors of wars, skirmishes, clashes, coupe. Economic instability, racial unrest, school shooting, employee rage, road rage, plane crashes, car accidents, global warming.

Where can we find good news? You may have to seek for it, and search for it. Occasionally you may stumble upon it, but there is always some good news to hear. Bad news travels, so we should make special effort to share good news whenever we can, to bring some measure of balance to our society.

As Believers, we are living epistles, seen and read of men. If we, the people of God would do more to spread the good news of what God is doing in our lives and on our behalves, it would bring joy to the world! If we would take the time to tell an unbelieving world, just how great our God is, and how real Jesus is that would give them something to hope for. If we would make known his deeds and testify of the things we know, we have seen, and heard, we would spark more enthusiasm and respect for the Name of the Lord. It would indeed bring Joy to the World!

The church of the Living God has a responsibility to teach and preach the Gospel (Good News) of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Our news is so good, we can not keep it to ourselves! Every chance we get, we need to "Tell Somebody" just how good God has been to you, you, and you! God won't get the glory, until somebody "tells their story" of what the Lord has done for you!!! We have Good News to tell! Our God is the True and Living God! He is still moving by His Spirit. The good news is.....God is still saving souls by the power of His Word. God is still healing, setting free, and God is still a Deliverer. We cannot get caught up in the gossip syndrome and tabloid sensationalism which thrive economically from the misfortunes and calamities of others. This type of news is negative and gives no glory to God. We very rarely see any mention in the media of the Grace, Goodness, and Mercy of God.

We cannot expect the world to tell of His good works. It is our job! God has every right to expect the Redeemed of the Lord to, "say so"! Whom he has redeemed from the hand of the enemy...because "we" are his witness, that he is God! If we would lift up the name of



Sylvia Hooper

I used to be depressed, now I can say that, The JOY of the Lord is my strength!!! "I once was lost, now I am found!" Now, that's good news!!!!

When our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ was born, he brought Good News into the world. He brought Joy into the world! He brought Peace into the world! He brought Hope into the world! "Joy to the world, the Lord is come, let earth receive her king! Let every heart, prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing." These words to this popular Christmas carol reflect the True meaning of Christmas, and why the world needs to receive him.

"And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people."

"Now, at the birth of Jesus Christ, the angels did their job. They heralded the birth of the newborn king and the Savior of the world. If we have been born again, (John 3:3-7) we need to do our job, and witness the tidings of great joy which shall be to all people....to the world!

"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." John 3:16 Now that's Good News, I tell you. That's Good News! 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!

Tell them you read it

in

THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

SENIOR CITIZENS' FELLOWSHIP

"Write the vision and make it plain"

BY SHEILA ROSS AND
FANNIE ALLEN
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

The Senior Citizens' Fellowship opened this session with the melodious voices of the group as they sang "Joy to the World." Ms. Sharon Pollack prayed a fervent prayer, and it was fol-

lowed by our singing of "Hark the Herald Angels Sing." Our meditation was given by Mrs. Shirley Drye. She drew her Scripture from the Book of Habakkuk. She began with the fact that the holiday season is a time for suicidal attempts more than ever. We were asked to stop worrying, wait in patience,

and serve the Lord, for, in time, situations change. She challenged us to wait on God and serve our eternal God, to trust and wait on our Holy Father. Mr. Sidberry asked us to go further into that scripture, "Write the vision and make it plain". Just wait and pray.

Mrs. Evelena Jennings

wrote, and read, a very uplifting Christmas poem.

We had one visitor, Ms. Carey Anderson. The Callers Report ended in a three-way tie, with Ms. Gordon, Mrs. Martin and Mrs. Burney Matthews. After remarks were given, we joined hands and sang "Bind Us Together."

We had 45 present.

SENIOR MOMENTS

My Fellow Seniors:

This is about the last days of Rufus Johnson, my husband. It is to give you a "heads up" in case you ever find yourself in a similar situation.

Rufus was diagnosed with colon cancer about ten years ago. His bowels and other tissues below his stomach had to be removed. So he had to use a colostomy bag. He wore those bags for about ten years with no problems. At church he served as chief usher. He traveled with the family and went fishing with his friends.

During these years, his back bone was gradually moving down into the empty space below his stomach, as if it was

going to exit the body. Sitting had become very painful. He has to sit sideways to relieve the pressure.

Eventually his doctor decided to remove the tip of his back bone. When they sewed it up, it was the size of a match stem with a string wrapped around it. After a few days the stitches came out, leaving a whole the size of a golf ball.

A few days later, they found that he had some problems in his chest. Particles of food were getting into his lungs,

instead of his stomach. So they wanted to put a feeding tube into his stomach. At first he said, "No way," but, several days later, he agreed to accept the feeding tube.

I was hoping they could fix the problem with his lungs so that he would be able to eat with his mouth again. His doctor told us there was nothing more she could do. She asked me how long should we let him suffer. I just turned and looked away. Since they were not doing anything more, they sent him to a nursing home with a feeding tube in his stomach, needles in both arms, and his hands tied down. He asked me to ignore the doctors and free his hands. I wanted to do what

Class of 1992. Following high school, Sonya studied accounting at Miller Motte Business College and furthered her education at Everest University and Strayer University with online courses, receiving a Bachelor Degree in Accounting. Sonya, a mother of three, dedicated her life to her kids and everyone else's kids. She was a hard worker and was always smiling. A very spiritual person, Sonya loved music, television and Facebook. She was preceded in death by her grandparents, Elouise J. Davis and Wesley D. Davis.

She leaves to cherish fond memories: three children, Jada Davis, Rondell Thomas and Antonio Thomas; her mother, Felita D. Lee (Robert); sisters, Nyoka Kea (David) and Natasha Randolph; special brother-in-law, David Walker; aunts, Barbara Jean (Kelvin) and Lavern (Douglas); uncles, Bill (Mattie), Bay Bay and Uncle Bo; nephew, Qu'ron Kea; special nieces, Takia Thomas and Troinisha Givens and Porche Givens; special friend/sister, Rachel Moore (Israel), other relatives and friends.

Alfonza G. Brunson

Alfonza G. Brunson, age 54, of South Haven, Mississippi (formerly of Wilmington), passed away Saturday, December 10, 2016. Services will be announced by Davis Funeral Home. 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.

Shawn Terrell Graham

Shawn Terrell Graham died Wednesday, November 30, 2016. He was born March 27, 1977 in Clinton, NC to William Darnell Graham and Retha Townsend Graham. Funeral services were Thursday, December 8, 2016 Burial followed in the Fennell Family Cemetery, Tomahawk, NC.

Shawn attended Bladen County Public Schools and graduated from East Bladen High School in 1996. He was employed at Renew Crew, where he faithfully worked as a professional power washer. Shawn was a sweet, loving person with a smile that brightened up any room.

He leaves to cherish his memory: his mother, Retha Townsend Graham of Garland, NC; his father, William Darnell Graham (Vanessa) of Leland, NC; one brother, William Darnell Graham, Jr. of Garland, NC; maternal grandmother, Geneva Townsend; paternal grandmother, Ethel Salter; two aunts, Glenda Artis (Tyrone) and Regina Eden; one uncle, Richard Salter (Pete); two special cousins, Tyrone Smith and Jerome Townsend; and a special friend, Valerie Carr. Shawn's memory will also be cherished by a host of great aunts, great uncles, cousins, and friends. A Service of John H. Shaw's Son Funeral Home.

Sonya Deloria Davis

Sonya Deloria Davis, daughter of Felita D. Lee and Ronald Kea was born June 22, 1974 in Pender County, North Carolina. She departed this life on December 3, 2016. Funeral service was held Friday, December 9, 2016 at Warner Temple AME Zion Church.

She attended E. A. Laney High School, graduating in the

Navigating the swirling tides

going to exit the body. Sitting had become very painful. He has to sit sideways to relieve the pressure.

Eventually his doctor decided to remove the tip of his back bone. When they sewed it up, it was the size of a match stem with a string wrapped around it. After a few days the stitches came out, leaving a whole the size of a golf ball.

A few days later, they found that he had some problems in his chest. Particles of food were getting into his lungs,

instead of his stomach. So they wanted to put a feeding tube into his stomach. At first he said, "No way," but, several days later, he agreed to accept the feeding tube.

I was hoping they could fix the problem with his lungs so that he would be able to eat with his mouth again. His doctor told us there was nothing more she could do. She asked me how long should we let him suffer. I just turned and looked away. Since they were not doing anything more, they sent him to a nursing home with a feeding tube in his stomach, needles in both arms, and his hands tied down. He asked me to ignore the doctors and free his hands. I wanted to do what

was best for him, but I had no idea.

On the next visit, his brother, Floyd and our son, Daryl, were with me. After a minute, he asked the guys to leave the room. When we were alone, we embraced each other and cried together.

Soon after we got home, the hospital called to say he was gone. I hope you never have to face such a problem, but, at least, you will have had time to think about it, and maybe you will learn how to navigate the swirling tides. You might want to share this with your family and a few close friends.

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

Carolyn Cargile

Carolyn Cargile, 72, passed away December 5, 2016 at New Hanover Regional Medical Center, Wilmington, NC.

She was born in Fitzgerald, GA, October 5, 1944 to the late Arizona Wilson and Curry Wilson. Her funeral service Saturday, December 10, 2016 at the Willie L. Shaw, Jr. Memorial Chapel. Carolyn accepted Christ at an early age. She attended Monitor High School, Class of 1962, where she played on her basketball team. She relocated from Georgia to New Jersey in the early 1970's. She was employed at Schering-Plough in Kenilworth, New Jersey for many years, then opened her own business, Val-U Shop in Linden, NJ.

She was preceded in death by her loving parents, her sisters Ella Mae White and Elizabeth Knight; husbands, Valentino Guidetta and James Cargile. Left behind to mourn her passing are her beloved children; Nicol Cargine-Johnson (Sean), Demetra Washington-Wilson (Anthony) and Angela Guidetta and Jerome Guidetta (Nicole); her uncle, Clifford Chester (Pauline); nine grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives and friends. A Service of John H. Shaw's Son Funeral Home.

Major Robert D. Robbins, USA, Retired

Preston Bethea, Jr., son of the late Mary Ann Bethea and Preston Bellamy was born October 6, 1972 in Brooklyn, NY. On November 30, 2016, he entered into eternal rest at New Hanover Regional Medical Center. His funeral service was held Saturday, December 10, 2016 at Little Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church, Supply, NC.

His funeral service was held Saturday, December 10, 2016 at Little Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church, Supply, NC. Burial followed in the Galloway Cemetery, Supply, NC.

At the age of 2, he came to live in Supply, NC where he was raised by his beloved grandmother, the late Louise Bellamy, who he loved dearly. Preston grew up in Brunswick County and attended West Brunswick High School. He was employed as a custodian at Coastal Enterprises, Sunny Point Military Terminal. Preston never met a stranger. He was known for his love of hunting, dogs, and people.

He leaves to cherish his memories: his father, Preston Bellamy, Sr. (Judith); sisters, Angela Bethea, Beatrice Bethea, Victoria Owens and Jasmine Owens; brothers, Jaquin Bethea, Rudolph Bethea and Derrail Owens; aunts, Brenda Bradford, Joann Bradford, Rebecca Bradford, Jerlyne Lawton (Ike), Mary Stevenson (James Burnell) and Connie Moore (Marcus); uncles, Edward Bradford (Ann), Herbert Bradford, James Bradford, Elijah Bey (Kim), Frederick Bradford, Rudolph Bellamy (Lillian), Elmore Bellamy (Rhondalee) and Samuel Bellamy (Evelena); special cousins, Chantell Stephens, Christian Faision and Michael Price; a host of other relatives and many friends. A Service of John H. Shaw's Son Funeral Home.

Major Robert D. Robbins, USA, Retired transitioned home Friday, December 2, 2016 at Memorial University Medical Center.

Robert was a native of Wilmington, North Carolina, who had lived in Liberty County for the past 39 years. He was born on February 25, 1941 in Wilmington, North Carolina. His sons, Robert D. Robbins, Jr. and Joseph H. Fullwood, his father, Robert Thomas Davis, his mother, Margaret Mosley Boykin, and his sister, Hazel Davis McCants preceded him in death.

The memorial service was held at 12:00 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 8, 2016, at Baconton Missionary Baptist Church in Allenhurst, Georgia. Visitation was one hour prior to the service. Burial was at Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Glennville, Georgia.

The memorial service was held at 12:00 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 8, 2016, at Baconton Missionary Baptist Church in Allenhurst, Georgia.

Dorchester Funeral Home was in charge of the arrangements.



Major Robert D. Robbins, USA, Retired transitioned home Friday, December 2, 2016 at Memorial University Medical Center.

Robert was a native of Wilmington, North Carolina, who had lived in Liberty County for the past 39 years. He was born on February 25, 1941 in Wilmington, North Carolina. One aunt, Georgia Hazel Davis Jackson, Wilmington, North Carolina. One sister-in-law Florence Warren (Richard), Wilmington, North Carolina. Two brothers-in-law, Kenneth Johnson, Washington, DC, and Lucious Johnson (Marjorie), Newport News, Virginia and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

The memorial service was held at 12:00 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 8, 2016, at Baconton Missionary Baptist Church in Allenhurst, Georgia. Visitation was one hour prior to the service. Burial was at Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Glennville, Georgia.

Dorchester Funeral Home was in charge of the arrangements.

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LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF NEW HANOVER IN THE DISTRICT COURT JUVENILE SESSION FILE NO. 14 JT 154

IN THE MATTER OF: J.M.H. (DOB: 05/02/2014)

TO: RESPONDENT-FATHER: JONATHAN HOOD

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

Termination of all parental rights you have to the above-captioned minor male child.

You are required to make defense to such pleading no later than **DECEMBER 10, 2016**, said date being forty (40) days following the first date of publication of this Notice. Upon your failure to do so, the party seeking service against you will apply for the relief sought. You have the right to attend the hearing, and you have the right to be represented by counsel.

You have been assigned Attorney Emily Jones. Counsel may be contacted at 910-762-7771, 110 N 5th Avenue, Wilmington, NC 28401.

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT A HEARING ON THE PETITION TO TERMINATE YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS is scheduled for **MONDAY, JANUARY 30, 2017**, at 9:30 A.M., at the Office of Juvenile Justice, 138 N 4th Street, Wilmington, North Carolina 28401, or upon a date and time set thereafter.

This the 1st day of December, 2016.

Regina Floyd-Davis Staff Attorney - New Hanover Co. Dept. of Social Services 1650 Greenfield Street Wilmington, NC 28401 (910) 798-3615 (phone) (910) 798-3772 (fax)

December 1, 8, 15, 2016

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF NEW HANOVER IN THE DISTRICT COURT JUVENILE SESSION FILE NO. 14 JT 154

IN THE MATTER OF: J.M.H. (DOB: 05/02/2014)

TO: RESPONDENT: ANY UNKNOWN BIOLOGICAL FATHER OF THE ABOVE-CAPTIONED MALE CHILD

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

Termination of all parental rights you have to the above-captioned minor male child.

You are required to make defense to such pleading no later than **DECEMBER 10, 2016**, said date being forty (40) days following the first date of publication of this Notice. Upon your failure to do so, the party seeking service against you will apply for the relief sought.

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT A HEARING ON THE PETITION TO TERMINATE YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS is scheduled for **MONDAY, JANUARY 30, 2017**, at 9:30 A.M., at the Office of Juvenile Justice, 138 N 4th Street, Wilmington, North Carolina 28401, or upon a date and time set thereafter. You have the right to attend this hearing and you have the right to be represented by counsel.

This the 1st day of December, 2016.

Regina Floyd-Davis Staff Attorney - New Hanover Co. Dept. of Social Services 1650 Greenfield Street Wilmington, NC 28401 (910) 798-3615 (phone) (910) 798-3772 (fax)

December 1, 8, 15, 2016

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF NEW HANOVER

The undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the estate of **Merle P. Murray**, deceased, of the New Hanover County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the **1st day of March, 2017**, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to said estate please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This the 1st day of December, 2016
E. Bradford Murray, III Executor of the Estate of Merle P. Murray
2620 Mayfair Drive
Wilmington, NC 28403
Murchison, Taylor & Gibson, PLLC
16 North Fifth Avenue
Wilmington, NC 28403

December 1, 8, 15, 22, 2016

NOTICE TO CREDITORS STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF NEW HANOVER

Having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of **Hassan Abdulkadir (16-E-1559)**, late of New Hanover County, North Carolina the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned at 701 Market Street, Wilmington, NC 28401 on or before **March 10, 2017** or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This the 5th day of December, 2016
Charlotte Noel Fox, Administrator of the Estate of Debra Ward
Craige & Fox, PLLC
701 Market Street
Wilmington, NC 28401
910-815-0085

December 8, 15, 22, 29, 2016

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF NEW HANOVER IN THE DISTRICT COURT JUVENILE SESSION FILE NO. 15 JT 70

IN THE MATTER OF: C.B.R. (January 26, 2015)

TO: RESPONDENT: ROWDY BROWNSON, LEGAL FATHER OF THE ABOVE CAPTIONED MALE, CHILD BORN IN WILMINGTON, NEW HANOVER COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA TO ASHLEY ROSS BROWNSON

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

Termination of all parental rights you have to the above-captioned minor child.

You are required to make defense to such pleading within forty (40) days following December 15, 2016, which date is the date of first publication of this Notice. Upon your failure to do so, the party seeking service against you will apply to the Court for the relief sought.

Attorney Brian Moore has been appointed to represent you in this matter and he can be reached at 705 N. 4th Street, Wilmington, NC 28401, 910-362-1100 or at bjm@lawyermoore.com.

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT A HEARING ON THE PETITION TO TERMINATE YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS IS SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 27, 2017, AT 9:30 A.M., or as soon thereafter at the Office of Juvenile Justice, 138 N 4th Street, Wilmington, North Carolina, 28401.

This the 15th day of December, 2016.

Dean W. Hollingsworth Staff Attorney - New Hanover Co. Dept. of Social Services 1650 Greenfield Street Wilmington, NC 28401 PO Drawer 1559 Wilmington, NC 28402-1559 (910) 798-3509 (910) 798-3772 * fax

December 15, 22, 29, 2016

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF NEW HANOVER

Having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of **Richard Hicks (16-E-1492)**, late of 2618 Confederate Drive, New Hanover County, Wilmington, North Carolina the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate to exhibit them to the undersigned at 701 Market Street, Wilmington, NC 28401 on or before **March 3, 2017** or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This the 23rd day of November, 2016
Linda Lewis, Administrator of the Estate of Richard Hicks
Craige & Fox, PLLC
701 Market Street
Wilmington, NC 28401
910-815-0085

December 1, 8, 15, 22, 2016

NOTICE TO CREDITORS STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF NEW HANOVER

THE UNDERSIGNED, Tiana M. Bahr, having qualified on the 21st day of October, 2016, as Executrix of the Estate of **John L. Bahr, II (16-E-1409)**, deceased, this is to notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against said Estate that they must present them to the undersigned at GRAVES MAY PLLC, c/o Attorney David Anderson, 5700 Oleander Dr, Wilmington, NC 28403, on or before the **2nd day of March, 2017**, or the claims will be forever barred thereafter, and this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. All persons, firms, and corporations indebted to said Estate will please make prompt payment to the undersigned at the above address.

This the 22nd day of November, 2016
Tiana M. Bahr, Executrix
ESTATE OF JOHN L. BAHR, II
David Anderson
GRAVES MAY, PLLC
5700 Oleander Dr.
Wilmington NC 28403

December 1, 8, 15, 22, 2016

NOTICE TO CREDITORS STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF NEW HANOVER IN THE DISTRICT COURT JUVENILE SESSION FILE NO. 15 JT 70

IN THE MATTER OF: C.B.R. (January 26, 2015)

TO: RESPONDENT: ROWDY BROWNSON, LEGAL FATHER OF THE ABOVE CAPTIONED MALE, CHILD BORN IN MYRTLE BEACH, Horry County, South Carolina TO NICOLE MARIE PRIVITERA

THE UNDERSIGNED, Tiffany B. Earle, having qualified on the 21st day of October, 2016, as Personal Representative of the Estate of **Charlene W. Brown (16-E-1566)**, deceased, this is to notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against said Estate that they must present them to the undersigned at GRAVES MAY PLLC, c/o Attorney David Anderson, 5700 Oleander Dr, Wilmington, NC 28403, on or before the **9th day of March, 2017**, or the claims will be forever barred thereafter, and this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. All persons, firms, and corporations indebted to said Estate will please make prompt payment to the undersigned at the above address.

This the 1st day of November, 2016.
Tiffany B. Earle, Personal Representative
ESTATE OF Charlene W. Brown
David Anderson
GRAVES MAY, PLLC
5700 Oleander Dr.
Wilmington NC 28403

December 8, 15, 22, 29, 2016

NOTICE TO CREDITORS STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF NEW HANOVER In the Matter of the Estate of Elsie Mae Benton Sikes, Deceased

The undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of **Elsie Mae Benton Sikes**, deceased, late of New Hanover County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said estate to present them to the undersigned on or before **March 20, 2017**, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. All persons indebted to the said decedent or estate shall please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This the 15th day of December, 2016.
Amanda L. Sikes
Executor of the Estate of Elsie Mae Benton Sikes
c/o Anthony L. Register
Alley, Register & McEachern
701 North 4th Street
Wilmington, NC 28401

December 8, 15, 22, 29, 2016

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF NEW HANOVER IN THE DISTRICT COURT JUVENILE SESSION FILE NO. 15 JT 300

IN THE MATTER OF: T.S.J. (dob: 20 December 2010)

TO: ROBERT GRAHAM AND ANY UNKNOWN FATHER

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

Termination of all parental rights you have to T.S.J.

You are required to make defense to such pleading within forty (40) days following Thursday, December 15, 2016, which date is the date of first publication of this Notice. Upon your failure to do so, the party seeking service against you will apply to the Court for the relief sought. You have the right to attend this hearing and you have the right to be represented by counsel. Mr. Graham are assigned Attorney Dawn Oxendine. Counsel may be contacted at (910)397-7979, 4932 Oleander Drive, Wilmington, NC.

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT A HEARING ON THE PETITION TO TERMINATE YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS IS SCHEDULED FOR MONDAY, JANUARY 30, 2017, AT 9:30 A.M., or upon a date and time set thereafter, at the Office of Juvenile Justice, 138 N 4th Street, Wilmington, NC 28401.

This the 15th day of December, 2016.

Jennifer G. Cooke
Attorney - New Hanover Co. Dept. of Social Services
1650 Greenfield Street
Wilmington, NC 28401
PO Drawer 1559
Wilmington, NC 28402-1559
(910) 798-3612
(910) 798-3772 * fax

December 15, 22, 29, 2016

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF NEW HANOVER IN THE DISTRICT COURT JUVENILE SESSION FILE NO. 15 JT 127

IN THE MATTER OF: N.R.R. (January 9, 2012)

TO: RESPONDENT LEGAL FATHER, MICHAEL WALKER AND ANY UNKNOWN BIOLOGICAL FATHER OF THE ABOVE CAPTIONED MALE, CHILD BORN IN MYRTLE BEACH, Horry County, South Carolina To Nichole Marie Privitera

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

Termination of all parental rights you have to the above-captioned minor child.

You are required to make defense to such pleading within forty (40) days following December 15, 2016, which date is the date of first publication of this Notice. Upon your failure to do so, the party seeking service against you will apply to the Court for the relief sought.

Christine Farrell, has been appointed to represent Michael Walker, legal father to the above named Juvenile and she can be reached at 2802 Market Street, Wilmington, NC 28403, or at CFarrell@MulliganEpstein.com, 910-763-1100.

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT A HEARING ON THE PETITION TO TERMINATE YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS IS SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 6, 2017, AT 9:30 A.M., or as soon thereafter, at the Office of Juvenile Justice, 138 N 4th Street, Wilmington, NC 28401.

This the 15th day of December, 2016.

Dean W. Hollingsworth
Staff Attorney - New Hanover Co. Dept. of Social Services
1650 Greenfield Street
Wilmington, NC 28401
PO Drawer 1559
Wilmington, NC 28402-1559
(910) 798-3511
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December 8, 15, 22, 29, 2016

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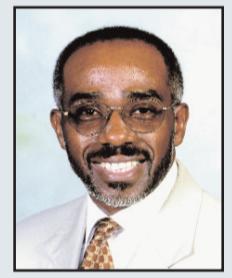
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