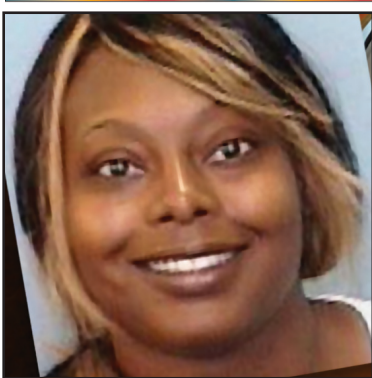




MISSING



EBONEE SPEARS

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

Coming UP

THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL



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BRUNSWICK COUNTY UPDATE



BERNEST HEWETT

Contact President Obama and request compensation for Black farmers

BY BERNEST HEWETT
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The *Pigford versus Glickman* Settlement dates 'way back to April 14, 1999. Though this has been many years ago, it has never

Please see **BRUNSWICK**/Page 2

THE WILMINGTON
JOURNAL

News from the African American perspective without fear or favor

VOLUME 89/No. 51

DECEMBER 22, 2016 - DECEMBER 28, 2016

FIFTY CENTS

NC NAACP to sue lawmakers over special session

BY CASH MICHAELS
OF THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

The NCNAACP says that it is "planning to sue" the Republican-led NC General Assembly once again, alleging that it committed "violations of the [1965] Voting Rights Act [and] the Equal Protection Clause" when it stripped incoming Democrat Governor-elect Roy Cooper of various appointment powers during what it believes was an "illegal" extra special session of the State Legislature last week.

Democrat Governor-elect Cooper has also vowed to go to court, if needed. [These] Republican extremists have

a special kind of law and a thirst for power to lie the way they do," The Reverend William Barber, President of the NCNAACP, charged on MSNBC Saturday. He maintained that the U. S. Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals, in a recent ruling, found that the 2016 NC Legislature was "unconstitutional" because its 2011 legislative maps were racially gerrymandered. The federal appellate court ordered that when the N. C. General Assembly officially goes back into session in January 2017, that it redraw the 2011 maps that, thus far, have been used for the 2012, 2014 and the recent 2016

general elections, by March 2017.

Once maps are approved by the federal court, special primaries are to be held in either late August or early

September 2017, followed by special elections for State lawmakers in November 2017.

This also means that lawmakers will have to run for reelection the following year, 2018.

The only reason the U. S. Fourth Circuit did not order the 2011 maps to be redrawn prior to the 2016 elections is that there wasn't enough time.

The Reverend Dr. Barber and others maintain that, despite the special session, originally called by Governor Pat

McCrorry, to deal with disaster relief in the wake of devastation caused by Hurricane Matthew and the forest fires in western North Carolina, it was not lawful for Republican legislative leaders to authorize an unannounced extra special session for the purpose of removing key appointment powers from Democrat Governor-elect Roy Cooper (House Bill 17). This involves the rerouting of appeals cases to the full 15-member State appellate court (which is now majority Republican) instead of the now Democrat-majority State Supreme Court.

"[Republicans removed] the right

Please see **LAWSUIT**/Page 2

Trailblazer in education gives 52 years of service



EMMA JACKSON



Mrs. Jackson (center), is flanked by her sorors of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., some of whom are retired educators, at her retirement party.

BY JOHANNA THATCH BRIGGS
OF THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

Reading, writing, learning, negotiating, and managing...these are the five scholar commandments by which "legendary" Emma Jackson forged her path during an amazing journey in teaching and educational leadership. As a young girl, growing up in Belize, Mrs. Jackson discovered reading as an engaging activity that kept her entertained. This fundamental skill fueled her thirst for knowledge and shaped her into the beloved educator that many in the community have grown to cherish.

Like many leaders in education, Mrs. Jackson's 52 year career began on the front line—in the classroom. After graduating from Fayetteville State University, Mrs. Jackson accepted her first teaching position at James B. Dudley Elementary School, which was once located on the Northside of Wilmington, during the era of segregation. After her first stint, she went on to teach at Peabody and Alderman schools, and, in 1975, she worked at Snipes Elementary School, where she became the first assistant principal. As the New Hanover County Schools began to integrate, Mrs. Jackson was charged with the challenge of serving as principal at Wrightsville

Beach Elementary School. Indeed, no challenge proved to be too great for Mrs. Jackson, as she became a trailblazer for African American women in education and administration in New Hanover County.

Ultimately, Mrs. Jackson served as principal at several other schools in the New Hanover County School System, including Bellamy, Pine Valley and Gregory School of Math and Science. As many in the community would have loved for her to remain at Gregory, greater opportunities were on the horizon for Mrs. Jackson. She took her career to the next level when she secured a position with the Board of Education in 2006 as Executive Director of Instructional Services and Title I. During her tenure at central office, she also served as Federal Programs Director and Director of Elementary Education.

After five decades of serving children, parents, faculty, staff and the community at-large, Mrs. Jackson will be embarking on her newest chapter in life—retirement. On Monday, December 12, her longtime commitment and service were recognized by colleagues, family and friends during a retirement celebration held at the Board of Education. Although Mrs. Jackson will truly be missed, one can safely assume that this is a simple "so long" and not a goodbye, for Mrs. Jackson still serves her community through the

membership of organizations such as Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated and Links, Incorporated. The wife, mother and grandmother is also an active member of St. Mark's Episcopal Church, where she has taught Sunday School and held many leadership positions. Without a doubt, Emma Jackson has enjoyed a rewarding career in a field that is still considered one of the most honorable professions in an ever evolving society. Of her many years of service in education, she humbly told *The Wilmington Journal*, "It has truly been a pleasure to serve the children."

Among the numerous enviable honors which she has received during her career, she was awarded by Governor Pat McCrory The Order of the Long Leaf Pine award. This is high among North Carolina's most prestigious awards and most distinguished honors bestowed upon any civilian in the State of North Carolina. Awardees must have given the State of North Carolina over 30 years of extraordinary service.

Mrs. Jackson is definitely deserving of our commendations and congratulations, and we join this community and the State of North Carolina in thanking her for unblemished service and wishing her the best retirement for which one could hope.

How the GOP's "power grab" hurts Blacks in Cooper administration

BY CASH MICHAELS
OF THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

During State Attorney General Roy Cooper's successful run for Governor, he vowed to govern in the interests of "all North Carolinians" and promised that he would lead a diverse cabinet and administration. Democrat Cooper said that he was "...mindful that there are so many communities out there who feel targeted, and they yearn to be heard, and they yearn for respect." He added that North Carolina needs a Governor who will work to "make sure that we have that mutual respect, and part of mutual respect is transparency."

"...[W]e should be about being inclusive." Cooper said last January. "The first thing we have to admit is that racism does exist."

Based on his posture as a moderate Democrat, Cooper attracted a lion's share of the Black vote in November, enough to help him unseat McCrory by just over 10,000 votes, to become North Carolina's 75th governor on January 7, 2017.

However, now, thanks to measures passed last week by the Republican-led General Assembly in an extra special session, and signed this week by McCrory before he leaves office, observers say Cooper's ability to indeed govern in the interest of all North Carolinians and make sure communities of color across the State are heard, respected, and reflected in his administration, has been severely compromised with the removal of many of his key appointment powers.

"The changes are intended to more consistently reflect the checks and balances called for in the [State] Constitution," Senate President Pro-tem, Senator Phil Berger [R-Rockingham] told reporters last week.

"This is the result of voters' picking a strong Republican legislature and a Democrat Governor by a fingernail," Dallas Woodhouse, Executive Director, NC Republican Party added.

Democrats were both angered and aghast.

"At the height of the Tea Party era, North Carolina lies supine, crushed under the heel of a shameless tyranny of radical Republicanism that stripped the Governor of constitutional authority by a blatant political power grab," said an outraged Michael Carmichael, Former Special Deputy Attorney General for Administrative Affairs under State Attorney General Rufus Edmisten during

Please see **"POWER GRAB"**
Page 2

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BRUNSWICK

Continued from Page 1

been completely paid out. There are billions of dollars in an account just sitting there in Washington D.C. from year to year. This was the settlement of a class action lawsuit filed against the United States Department of Agriculture. The lawsuit came as a direct result of allegations that the USDA had discriminated against Black farmers when it came to the availability of loans and assistance, primarily between the years of 1981 and 1986. These dollars need to be paid to the Black Farmers of America for the discriminatory practices leveled against African American farmers by the system in which we live. African American farmers have suffered many injustices under an unfair system. This is how Black farmers have been "rewarded" for just trying to make an honest living by the sweat of their backs. Yet they were denied the grants and equipment loans Whites have been able to take for granted. Historically, even when they did have a good year, they were often underpaid for their crops.

These allegations were investigated, and the Black farmers' settlement (Pigford Law Suit) came about in 1999. It was found that the U.S. Government would try and make this type of action up to Black farmers by beginning a fair system that would work for both Blacks and Whites. The monies were then put into an account that was supposed to help make the system better for Black farmers so that they may have equality with Whites as far as their liveli-

LAWSUIT

Continued from Page 1

to appeal directly to the State Supreme Court, requiring every case to be heard "en banc" (in bench), that is, by the full court, in the Court of Appeals first, seats now held by a majority of Republicans," said Attorney Anita Earls, Executive Director, Southern Coalition for Social Justice.

The legislature also created an eight-member State Board of Elections, and removed several key powers from the State Board of Education, transferring them to the new

"POWER GRAB"

Continued from Page 1

Governor Jim Hunt's 1970's term.

Governor-elect Cooper was clear that what the GOP did was far beyond just petty politics. "Most people might think this is a partisan power grab, but it's really more ominous," Cooper said, promising to fight in court.

Why is any governor's ability to hire and appoint what is essentially his Executive Branch team, so vital for governance? According to Tom Hendrickson, Former Chairman of the N. C. Democratic Party who has extensive experience in State government, "The Governor needs the historical appointment powers to boards and commissions, as well as cabinet level and exempt positions, in order to execute his vision for North Carolina, which was embraced by the people of North Carolina at the ballot box."

Hendrickson continued, "The legislative power grab is insider politics, which focuses on raw power and vendettas, rather than delivering on promises to our citizens, focusing on the future of our State."

That means any intention of Governor Cooper's to deliver a more inclusive State government to the people who voted him into office, is now checkmated at every turn by a Republican-led legislature that, at the very least, has demonstrated, according to the federal courts, a documented hostility towards African-Americans, especially when it comes to suppressing voting rights, the racial gerrymandering of voting districts, the denial of Medicaid expansion to the poor, and the slashing of the public education budget.

Courtney Crowder, who served as Legislative Director and Senior Advisor to Governor Beverly Perdue, North Carolina's last Democrat Governor in office, said putting the brakes on Cooper's vision of an inclusive, fairer State is exactly the reason the GOP moved so quickly and decisively to gut his power even before he took office.

"There is no doubt that what the legislature intended to do was to frustrate Cooper's ability to install diverse and representative perspectives in as many positions key throughout State government as possible," Crowder, who currently heads up his own governmental consulting firm, said.

For instance, the governor's Cabinet - non-elected State officials Cooper would hire to lead key State agencies, such as the massive Department of Transportation, Department of Health and Human Services and Department of Public Safety. Under House Bill 17, Governor Cooper can select anyone he chooses, but now the State Senate must provide "advice and consent" on those

hoods were concerned. All that was asked of the government was to not hold the Black farmers back. All they want is a fair "shot" and an equal chance. The Pigford lawsuit was settled years ago. The money is there, but politics has gotten in the way of the payoff. I ask that, before President Obama leaves office, every person email him at presi-dent@whitehouse.gov and ask him to sign the Pigford Settlement so that our government will move to pay off without anymore stalling or racial hatred that's holding it back. All we need, as a people, is a "hand up," not a "hand out." Why must a man be one color or another to be somebody? Send your email today to president@whitehouse.gov.

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

Republican Superintendent of Public Instruction. Civil rights activists were outraged.

"These are desperate losers, power mad White men, going beyond anything the Democrats ever did, willing to destroy any institution and the public's hope for rational government just to keep a political advantage," said Bob Hall, Executive Director, Democracy North Carolina, a nonpartisan public policy group.

"This is majority rule. We have elections. Elections have consequences," Representative Nelson Dollar [R-Wake] told members during Thursday's

choices. If the State Senate doesn't like Cooper's picks, they go nowhere.

True, that legislative prerogative was already in the State Constitution, but, throughout history, has been rarely enforced until now.

Cooper's ability to fill exempt protected positions in State government was cut from the present 1500 for McCrory to just 425 (Perdue had 500), meaning Governor Cooper's ability to specifically hire over 1,000 more fellow Democrats if he so chose, was decimated by over two-thirds. The State Board of

special session.

Outgoing Republican Governor Pat McCrory signed HB 17 into law Monday evening. This bill weakens Governor Cooper once he takes office. Angry Democrats called what the GOP did nothing short of a "power grab."

"This has been a year of ineffective and reckless governing," State Senate Minority Leader, Senator Dan Blue, Sr. [D-Wake] said on behalf of the Senate Democratic Caucus Monday. "We have wasted thousands of dollars on divisive legislation that has created a larger wedge between parties and between the people."

Elections will now be evenly split between four Republicans and four Democrats, with Republicans chairing on even numbered years when most major elections take place. All decisions will require a six-member majority. That's a big change from now, when the party of the Governor in power has the majority of members on both the State BOE and the local county BOE's.

Furthermore Cooper won't be able to make appointments to the trustee boards of UNC System schools. The GOP-led legislature already controls

On the State House side, Minority Leader Representative Larry Hall (D-Durham) called what happened a "disgrace."

"Let's be 100% clear. The N. C. GOP lost the Governor's race, and they lost the recount," Representative Hall said. "Now they want to steal the election after the fact. It's a disgrace."

State Representative Cecil Brockman [D-Guilford] also expressed outrage. "Last week, we saw the ridiculous new laws to which the Republicans at the General Assembly will stoop in order to cling to power. This surprise session, meant to

undermine the authority of Governor-elect Roy Cooper, was an assault on democracy and an insult to voters. I strongly oppose this partisan "power grab" and will continue to support the voice of the people," Representatives. Brockman said.

NC NAACP President, Dr. Barber reminds all that, since the GOP majority in the legislature came into power in 2011, they've had many of their laws overturned 13 times in court, and he expects no less once they're sued again.

"We're going to fight this with everything we have," promised Dr. Barber.

appointments to the UNC Board of Governors and will control the trustee picks as well.

"...[You] will see the General Assembly look to reassert its constitutional authority in areas that may have been previously delegated to the Executive Branch," declared Representative David Lewis (R-Cumberland) to reporters last week.

Former Advisor Courtney Crowder had to deal with a recalcitrant GOP legislature during Governor Beverly Perdue's last two years in office. He says that, while it's true the

next Democrat Governor has been wounded, Cooper can still work with what he has left in addition to using his statewide bully pulpit to push his vision for more employment, a better economy, more investments in public education and a fairer North Carolina. Moreover, with the 2017 special elections coming up, Governor-elect Cooper could excite voters, and especially African-Americans, to make a change in the legislature.

"This is a fight he's going to have to take on to achieve those goals that people are expecting of him," said Crowder.



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SPECIAL SESSION TO REPEAL HB 2 CALLED

[RALEIGH] At press-time Wednesday, yet another special session convened by Gov. Pat McCrory began for state lawmakers to consider repealing the controversial HB 2, more commonly known as the "bathroom bill." The measure prohibited transgender people from using bathroom facilities of a gender not indicated on their birth certificates. For



STATE BRIEFS

the past year, the state has lost hundreds of millions of dollars in event cancellations and sponsorships. The session to repeal was announced after the Charlotte City Council rescinded its initial ordinance protecting the rights of transgender citizens.

STATE HOUSE DEMOCRATS SELECT DARREN JACKSON AS NEW LEADER

[RALEIGH] As the state legislature prepares for the start of the long session in January, Democrats have chosen new leadership in

the House. Rep. Darren Jackson of Wake County was selected as the new House Minority Leader, succeeding Rep. Larry Hall of Durham, who stepped down after two years. Rep. Jackson was elected to the House in 2009. He says he'll seek to build bridges with the GOP majority in order to produce bipartisan legislation. In the state Senate, Minority Leader Sen. Dan Blue was re-elected to his post.

STATE EDUCATION BOARD MULLING LAW AFTER CHANGES

[RALEIGH] After the GOP-

led NC General Assembly passed House Bill 17 last week, shifting power from the state Board of Education to the newly elected Republican superintendent of Public Instruction, Mark Johnson, the board met behind closed doors this week with its attorneys to determine what legal actions it should take to overturn the law. Board Chairman Bill Cobey, also a Republican, said the measure attempts to "diminish the board's constitutional authority" and "raises significant legal concerns." Cobey said the board will meet

again before Johnson is sworn in.

PRINCEVILLE RESIDENTS CONCERNED ABOUT PROPERTY BUYOUTS

[PRINCEVILLE] A small Edgecombe County town incorporated by freed slaves over a century ago faces a critical decision about its future in the aftermath of devastating floods brought by Hurricane Matthew several months ago. The four-member Town Council has to decide whether to elevate their homes, repair damaged homes that can be pre-

pared, or demolish damaged homes, not allowing anything to be constructed on that flood plain ever again. Those are the three choices the Federal Emergency Management Agency has given the town, and the council will have to decide shortly. More than eighty-percent of Princeville was underwater after severe flooding ravaged the town. While some victims say they will leave after being wiped out, town leaders say they must rebuild if Princeville is to have a future.

COMPILED BY CASH MICHAELS

WILMINGTON

Rankin Place Terrace gets new look

BY BEVERLY SMALLS
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Friday, December 16 a ribbon cutting ceremony marked the completion and opening of the 6.7 million dollar renovated Rankin Place Terrace Apartment Complex.

It is located in a community that links to Black Historic Sites like Pine Forest Cemetery, James Walker Memorial Hospital Colored Ward, the residence and medical practice of the late Dr. Frank Avant, and many other African-American professionals and laborers' houses and businesses.

Rankin Place funding was provided through HUD/The Department of Housing Urban and Development, NC State Tax Credits, and First Citizens

Bank. The northeast Wilmington site now has improvements that can benefit residents, their neighborhood, and Wilmington city planners.

"We are very proud of Rankin Place Terrace," said Katrina Redmond, Executive Director of the Wilmington Housing Authority.

Emphasizing that the neighborhood as a whole gains from the renovation plan, the director also said fifteen years of economic life has been extended through this housing authority project.

Wilmington Mayor Bill Saffo, First Citizens Bank President Arlene Lawson, and representatives from Congressman David Rouzer's office, and the RBC attended the grand re-opening event and

tour. Because Rankin Place Terrace is full, no available empty model apartments could be viewed.

Two families allowed officials and special guests to have access for walk through tours of their apartments, and close-up viewing of layouts and special features. Redmond said.

A new gazebo, larger multi-purpose community room, residential laundry area, and cov-

erings for mailbox banks are some of the amenities that are designed to improve everyday living experiences for seventy-seven Rankin Place Terrace families.

Having no empty units should actually be viewed as a good thing, the executive director said. As an advocate for a variety of housing needs in the Cape Fear region she is also excited about the

next project that will be completed by the Wilmington Housing Authority.

Pearce House, named in honor of Elderhaus founding Executive Director Linda Pearce, will provide HUD

supportive housing for persons with disabilities. It is being completed off Dawson St. between 8th and 10th streets.

A grand opening is being planned.



JOHN DAVIS PHOTO
RANKIN PLACE TERRACE COMMUNITY CENTER

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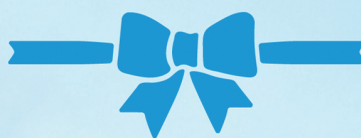
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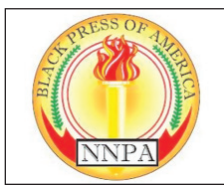


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Our Voice One Solitary Life



He was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman. He grew up in another obscure village, where He worked in a carpenter shop until He was thirty, then for three years He was an itinerant preacher. He never had a family or owned a home. He never set foot inside a big city. He never traveled two hundred miles from the place He was born. He never wrote a book, or held an office. He did none of the things that usually accompany greatness.

While He was still a young man, the tide of popular opinion turned against Him. His friends deserted Him. He was turned over to His enemies, and went through the mockery of a trial. He was nailed to a cross between two thieves. While He was dying, His executioners gambled for the only piece of property He had, His coat. When He was dead, He was taken down and laid in a borrowed grave.

Twenty centuries have come and gone, and today He is the central figure for much of the human race. All the armies that ever marched, and all the navies that ever sailed, and all the parliaments that ever sat, and all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of man upon this earth as powerfully as the "One Solitary Life." --Author Unknown--

We, at *The Wilmington Journal*, wish you the very best that life has to offer today and always.

THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL



—SALUTES—

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

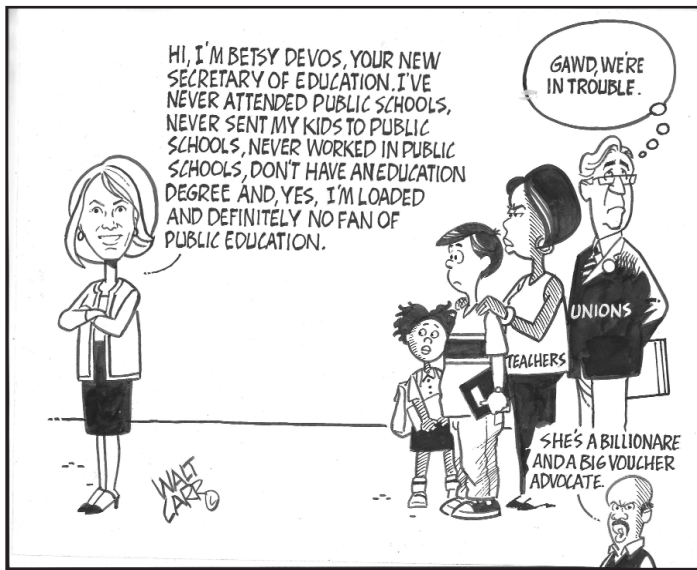
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Visual Voice



Your Voice

Bringing out the roller skates in Wilmington, NC was not just about skating, looking back, it was a social event as....

the Christmas holidays were in full effect. Kids from all over Wilmington could be seen skating on the sidewalks and a few in the streets skating to the skating zones that had been set up by the City where no motor vehicles were allowed. The main zone, at

that time, was located on North 6th Street between Brunswick and Bladen streets. It was where kids from the North and South sides of the City could show off or just stand on the sidelines and watch. School was out and some of the college students would be there telling anybody that would listen, many did, about the excitement of being a college student. Many of the youth, whether skating or not, knew the value of education in

a City where segregation existed. Going to college, getting a high school diploma or joining the Military were our options to leave for a better life.

Of course we had to have the browndog candy sold by the lady on the corner who didn't want us to wear our skates on her front porch because of the noise. Browndog candy was made of brown sugar, molasses and peanuts. What a treat. Good to the last peanut. Joining the "skating train"

was another delight as we got in a line, holding on to each other's waist and pumped together creating speed as we skated in union coming fast around the corners we would loop and skate to the dirt to stop our speeds. What fun we had and what a wonderful respite. Happy Holidays...

Respectfully yours,
Haywood Fennell
Veteran/Author/Activist
Boston, MA

Matters of Opinion

TO BE EQUAL

Foreign influence and the integrity of our democracy

(Via TriceEdneyWire.com)

"Against the insidious wiles of foreign influence (I conjure you to believe me, fellow-citizens) the jealousy of a free people ought to be constantly awake, since history and experience prove that foreign influence is one of the most baneful foes of republican government...The great rule of conduct for us in regard to foreign nations is...to have with them as little political connection as possible." — President George Washington, Farewell Address, September 17, 1796

Harrison, who easily won over the widely unpopular Van Buren, nicknamed, "Van Ruin," for presiding over the nation during an economic depression. The presidential campaign of 1840 was heavy on image, and light on substance, painting Van Buren as an elitist and Harrison as an everyday man. Harrison—accused of being helped by British bankers during his campaign—won the Electoral College vote and an extremely close popular vote. In 1888,



Marc Morial

Grover Cleveland was favored to win his presidential re-election campaign, but ultimately lost the presidency because he appeared partial and subservient to British interests. The voters turned against him and his perceived British sympathies. While he managed to win the popular vote, he lost the Electoral College vote, and, hence, the presidency.

If the past is prologue, history suggests that Americans resent the interference of foreign governments and interests in our presidential elections. As evidence of Russian tampering via cyber-attacks and hacking continues to mount, and President-elect Trump has tapped Rex Tillerson as his Secretary of State—who Trump described

as doing "massive deals in Russia" and was awarded the "Order of Friendship" by Vladimir Putin—it is the duty and obligation of our Congress to thoroughly investigate whether or not Russia has interfered with our election process to tip the scale for a Trump win and, in the process, undermine and sow distrust in our democracy and its institutions.

President Obama has ordered a full intelligence review of the alleged Russian hack into the Democratic and Republican National committees to be completed before inauguration day. In a break

MORIAL

Continued on page 5A

No, Americans are not exceptional, we're just average

(Via NNPA Newswire)

In the United States of America, we love to bask in the glory of our "exceptionalism." We are great; we are wonderful; we dominate the world. Scholars who study "us" say that our exceptionalism is rooted in the fact that we have offered leadership in international affairs. We have committed more resources than other countries to the United Nations, to NATO, and to other organizations committed to international peace. But we do this with a sense of paternal largesse, as if we are the greatest, the most wonderful, the benefactor.

But we have allowed our electoral system to be thrown into chaos, because Vladimir Putin has a grudge against former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and he used his minions to actualize his grudge. He's had a bromance with Donald Trump, who asked that Russia hack Hillary's emails, and obeying Trump's bidding, the Russians did. This whole electoral drama is a nightmare. Hillary Clinton got nearly three million more votes than Trump, but he has an Electoral College victory. Maybe. Is this American exceptionalism?

A hacked democracy vulnerable to the intrusion of foreign powers?

If the Russians are hacking now, imagine what they will do in the future. A recent study from the National Center for Educational Statistics (NCES) shows that 15 year olds in the United States lag behind others in an international context. We talk as if we are number one or number two in achievement, but the fact is that we are number 14 or 15 by many measures. We aren't exceptional—we're just average, ranking below a dozen countries, hitting the median mark.

When science literacy is measured, 24 countries rank higher than the United States. The OECD (Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development) average score on science literacy is 493, and the U.S. was close to the average at 496. Singapore, Japan, Finland, Canada, Vietnam, Australia, the United Kingdom, Germany, Switzerland, Ireland and Portugal were among those with higher scores. Really? These folks will be among those hacking us in a decade if we don't make better investments in education!

We're kind of average with reading literacy, as well. The OECD average is 493, and the U.S. average is 497. Singapore, Canada, Finland, Ireland, Japan, Norway, Germany, Poland and the Netherlands outscore us. We're in the band with France, the

United Kingdom, and Spain. What are Singapore, Canada and Ireland doing that we aren't? In a global economy, how do we compete with them?

Our math comparisons with other countries are especially alarming. The OECD average for math literacy is 490, but the US score is 470. At least 30 countries, including Singapore, Japan, Switzerland, Estonia, Canada, Denmark, Belgium, Germany, Poland, Iceland, Norway, Austria, Italy, Scotland, and the Russian Federation have higher scores than the U.S. Why?

The federal Department of Education should deal with the matter of standards. Common Core, while not popular among some educational leaders, is a way of ensuring that those who graduate from our nation's high schools have a common foundation of knowledge. Implementing Common Core may be challenging, especially when some high schools, especially inner city high schools, lack the resources to offer the broadest curriculum. While many schools offer advanced courses, including advanced placement (AP) and international baccalaureate (IB), some do not. Every student needs to have an opportunity to access advanced learning.

More importantly, those who do educational policy must look at the ways our students are lagging in the international environment. Are we content to be 14th, 22nd, 34th in international

measures, while, at the same time, preaching exceptionalism. We aren't especially exceptional when it comes to learning, we are merely average, and often below average when we review international measures.

There are those who will quibble with the ways that the Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) measures learning outcomes. I think, though, that when students from 73 educational systems tackle the same tests, objections can be pushed aside. Even with a flawed measure, even with adjustments, we must conclude that the United States is not exceptional, just average.

If we want to be exceptional, we need to do more than sell wolf tickets and crow over our competitors. Here's the bottom line—the Russians were smart enough to hack us and mess with our elections. Are we as smart as they are, or are we average? Mr. Trump says he will create jobs. He needs to make resources available to the Department of Education. If he wants to "Make America Great Again," he needs to make America smart again by investing in education.

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

MORIAL

Continued from page 4A

with Trump, the top two Republicans in Congress have lent their support to a bipartisan congressional effort to investigate the alleged Russian cyber-attacks. Calling any breach of American cyber-security measures “disturbing,” Senator Mitch McConnell added that, “the Russians do not wish us well...It defies belief that somehow Republicans in the Senate are reluctant to either review Russian hacking, or ignore them.” As of my writing, it has been reported that more than

50 Democratic voters in the Electoral College are asking for an intelligence briefing from the director of National Intelligence into possible foreign intervention in the presidential election before the college meets to cast its vote for our next president and vice president.

Trump and his associates have dismissed the allegations of Russian interference, painting them as “ridiculous,” and “another excuse.” Trump has—quite characteristically—explained away the legitimate concerns of our institutions, political leaders, the press and the people by blaming the Democrats for disseminating conspiracy theories because “they suffered one of the greatest defeats in the history of politics in this country,” to conceding that if there was any interference or hacking, “they have no idea if it’s Russia, or China, or somebody. It could be somebody sitting in a bed someplace,” he said in a televised interview.

Trump, and I’m sure many of his supporters, see the investigation into possible Russian meddling in the 2016 presidential election as an attempt to—yet again—delegitimize his recent win. But the president-elect would do better to understand that to not thoroughly investigate

these allegations would leave a permanent stain on his administration, his tenure and his motives. To not look into these allegations seriously would further erode public trust in the already embattled mechanics of our democracy. If domestic voter suppression sits on one side of the coin, the unwanted influence of a foreign power in American elections sits on the other. Rather than enrich us, and our system of representative government, both serve to undermine true democracy.

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

Put an asterisk on it!

(Via TriceEdneyWire.com)

By no stretch of the imagination am I a big baseball fan. Unlike many Americans, I’ll only watch a game under special circumstances. I rarely visit the ballpark. I am not glued in front of the television watching the endless stream of games broadcast during the summer. I am, however, a student of history. Milestone achievements capture my attention, especially when accomplished by Black Americans who are pre-eminent in their fields.

Such was the case when the great Hank Aaron surpassed Babe Ruth’s record of 714 homeruns in April of 1974. Remarkable in his feat was his focus on playing the game in the midst of numerous death threats designed to protect Ruth’s record and to thwart his ascendance to the title of Home Run King. He overcame and retired with 755 home runs.

In the summer of 2007, I was

also captured by the career achievement of Barry Bonds as he was poised to surpass the 755 homerun record set by Hank Aaron. Many remember that Bonds was enmeshed in a steroid-use scandal which threatened to taint any record-breaking achievement he might realize. In all of the excitement of his approaching milestone, I can remember one baseball announcer stating that “his (Bonds) record will always be marked with an asterisk.” That was the announcer’s way of saying that Bonds’ achievement would never be “clean.” His “asterisk” comment allowed for those so inclined to view Bonds’ record critically, in a negative light, and as illegitimate.

Nine years later, another milestone has been reached. This time it has far greater consequences than the number of balls hit out of the playing area of a baseball field. For millions of Americans, this milestone threatens their livelihoods, quality of life, and, maybe, signals their personal death-knell. This milestone threatens to tear the fabric of our nation, however dry-rotted it may already be.

For the first time in American history, a President has been elected

without having previously been elected to public office. The principle focus of this President-elect appears to be personal enrichment and self-aggrandizement. For a majority of Americans, he is unacceptable to hold this office and, for many, he never will be acceptable. As of this writing, his opponent, Hillary Clinton, has polled 2.8 million more popular votes than he did. His win is only attributable to an archaic, outdated element of the national founding - The Electoral College. If ever there was an illegitimate office-holder, Donald Trump is it!

Trump’s short-fall in popular votes is matched only by the international scandal attached to his campaign. Seventeen agencies responsible for America’s national security have reached consensus that a foreign government (Russia) hacked computer files generated in the US for the purpose of manipulating a Trump victory in this past election. Some will even remember Trump’s treasonous encouragement of Russia to intensify its illegal scrutiny of his opponent’s computer files.

In October, this Russian

hacking and its purpose were known, but dissemination of this information was reportedly suppressed by partisan machinations of Senate Majority Leader, Mitch McConnell. For those who have forgotten, this is the same McConnell who, rather than promoting national growth and progress, declared in 2009 that the greatest imperative of the Republican Party was to make President Obama a one-term President. McConnell and his House of Representative counterparts, Boehner and Ryan, enthusiastically worked to obstruct President Obama and subvert the national interest.

Most disappointing about the past month, is that Trump could inspire the basest spirits of our citizenry to advance his illegitimate agenda.

Today, like my predecessor of nine years ago, I say with full confidence that regarding the Trump Presidency, we may not immediately end it, but WE CAN PUT AN ASTERISK ON IT!!!

Dr. E. Faye Williams, Esq. is National President of the National Congress of Black Women. 202/678-6788. www.nationalcongressbw.org.

It’s winter in America – Democrats fail to defend Democracy

(Via TriceEdneyWire.com)

“Legislators represent people not trees or acres... As long as ours is a representative form of government, and our legislatures are those instruments of government elected directly by and directly representative of the people, the right to elect legislators in a free and unimpaired fashion is a bedrock of our political system... the weight of a citizen’s vote cannot be made to depend on where he lives... the Equal Protection Clause demands no less than substantially equal state legislative representation for all citizens, of all places as well as all races.” U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice Earl Warren - Reynolds v. Sims 1964

Thomas Jefferson, building upon the works of Enlightenment philosophers such as John Locke, Thomas Hobbs, Algernon Sidney and Jean-Jacques Rousseau, believed that all men possess certain “natural,” or fundamental rights; rights which all men are born with; rights that cannot be taken away. Each of the natural rights emphasized a facet of what makes humans human. “That to secure these natural rights, Governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed...”

The process that we in this country have instituted that enables the Government to exercise its power is the vote – suffrage, the political franchise.

The African-American community is very sensitive to the vote, the political franchise because of the torturous and bloody history that reflects the struggles and battles that have been fought in order to secure its right to

vote. One-person – one vote, the concept that was articulated by Chief Justice Earl Warren in Reynolds v. Sims is the cornerstone of Jeffersonian Democracy. Implicit in this ideal of one-person one vote is the assumption that if a person is registered to vote they will be allowed to do so and if they cast a vote – that vote will in fact be counted!

After all, what good is it – what sense does it make – why would a citizen take the time from their busy day to cast a vote if that vote is not going to be recognized and counted? Why would Mrs. Fannie Lou Hamer risk her lively hood, her life and the security of her family to secure the franchise if the vote that she risked her life to secure would not be counted? Mrs. Hamer did not risk her life so that she could vote. She put her life on the line so that America would live up to its fundamental precepts enabling all of its citizens to enjoy the freedoms found in the home of the free and land of the brave. It was Mrs. Hamer who said, “One night I went to the church. They had a mass meeting... and they talked about how it was our right that we could register and vote... That sounded interesting enough to me that I wanted to try it. I had never heard, until 1962, that black people could register and vote... When they asked for those to raise their hands who’d go down to the courthouse the next day, I raised mine...I guess if I’d had any sense I’d’ve been a little scared, but what was the point of being scared? The only thing they could do to me was kill me and it seemed like they’d been trying to do that a little bit at a time ever since I could remember.”

Why did Ms. Ruby Sales, Ms. Annie Pearl Avery, Mrs. Dorie Ladner, Willie Ricks and so many others in SNCC and other organizations risk their lives during those long hot days and dangerous dark lonely nights on those hate-filled treacherous back roads in Alabama, Mississippi and

other parts of the South, convincing sharecroppers and other oppressed African Americans that it was worth the risk to register to vote and then to show up at the polls to vote?

Why have White supremacists used lynching, the burning of homes and churches and other tactics of domestic terrorism to keep people of color from exercising their 15th Amendment right? As investigative journalist Greg Palast has written, they’ve changed their tactics from white sheets to spread sheets but the motivation and outcome is still the same.

One-person one vote is the ideal that America has used time and again as a philosophical weapon against its enemies and the rational for undermining if not overthrowing tyrants, dictators and “evil” heads of foreign governments.

So, with this premise being true and I challenge anyone to challenge the accuracy of this premise –I have just four questions:

First, in the context of this recent 2016 presidential election, with the irrefutable evidence that is presented by Greg Palast and others, why is the Republican Party the party of voter suppression and election fraud? Why have 30 Republican Secretaries of State used Kris Kobach’s Crosscheck program to remove legally registered voters from the rolls. According to Palast, “Starting in 2013 – just as the Supreme Court gutted the Voting Rights Act – a coterie of Trump operatives, under the direction of Kris Kobach, Kansas Secretary of State, created a system to purge 1.1 million Americans of color from the voter rolls of GOP-controlled states.”

Second, why is it that the Democratic Party is so conspicuously silent and so reluctant to use the irrefutable evidence that has been presented to challenge these crimes and pursue these criminals? They should be fighting to the death to protect voting rights and count the votes of every

citizen who cast or tried to cast a ballot.

Third, why has President Barack Obama and his Attorney General Loretta Lynch been conspicuously silent on this issue? It’s not that the election was stolen from Hilary Clinton; it was stolen from the American people and as president of “all Americans” he should be using his bully pulpit to call attention to this fraud. He swore an oath to protect this country from all enemies both foreign and domestic. If the CIA can track Russian hackers why can’t the Department of Justice track Republicans? You don’t have to go to the Kremlin, just go to Kansas!

President Obama has said that his pet project after he leaves office will be to restore the right to vote as a Constitutional right. Well, that’s great and quite noble. Close the door after the cows are out of the barn and in the fields trampling the crops. Once Trump gets hold of the Supreme Court Obama’s efforts will be moot.

Fourth, why has most of mainstream media failed to do half of the investigative reporting that Greg Palast has done on this issue? Why is the Fourth Estate allowing this fraud to be perpetrated upon the American people?

Ensuring that every eligible voter can vote and every cast vote is counted should be the fundamental focus of every Secretary of State in this country regardless of their party affiliation. Every vote that was cast in this 2016 election should be counted and the election should not be certified until they are.

Deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed...if every vote is not counted...due to the fact that subversive tactics were employed to ensure that they would not be, then the powers that a President Trump will derive and exercise will not be just because the consent of

LEON

Continued on this page

BLACKONOMICS

My interview with Black billionaire Bob Johnson

(Via TriceEdneyWire.com)

One of the post-election highlights for me was the meeting between Donald Trump and Bob Johnson. Billionaire to billionaire, Democrat to Republican, Black to White, businessman-to-businessman, capitalist-to-capitalist, meeting on a relatively even playing field to discuss some of the “what now” issues was intriguing to say the least. After the meeting, Mr. Johnson wrote a press release and did several interviews to disclose the particulars of that meeting.

While the press summed up Mr. Johnson’s comments in one sentence (“Let’s give Trump a shot.”) there was much more to the meeting than that. How do I know that? Because I interviewed Johnson after his meeting with Trump. During our nearly one-hour conversation, he spoke openly about his political position vis-à-vis the election of Donald Trump, and his thoughts, recommendations, and reflections on a Black strategy moving forward.

One of the main things Johnson discussed is our penchant to vote as a bloc for one party, in this case the Democrats, without reciprocity. His words brought to mind similar words by Carter G. Woodson and Malcolm X on that same point. Mr. Johnson recommended that Black folks should be independent and bloc-vote only for candidates who support our interests, locally and nationally, regardless of their party affiliation. Let the church say, “Amen!”

Bob Johnson, based upon what he called a “seismic shift” in our politics, said we must follow what former U.S. Representative William “Bill” Clay, Sr. told us: “Your political philosophy must be selfish and pragmatic. You must start with the premise that you have no permanent friends, no permanent enemies, just permanent interests.” My follow-up question was, “Then would you recommend that Black voters register as ‘Non Party Affiliated’ at their local Boards of Elections?” His answer: “Absolutely, yes.” Bingo!

Remember when Donald Trump was asking Black folks, “What do you have to lose?” My immediate answer to his question was another question: “What do we have to gain?” Without my leading Mr. Johnson in any way, during their conversation Johnson shared his message to Trump on that question by saying, “You should be telling Black people what they have to gain by voting for you.”

Mr. Johnson cited some very basic business principles, which he has put into

play via his conglomerate of ventures, for instance, an equity fund to assist mid-level businesses. I asked if he thought Blacks should form a similar collective fund for start-ups and micro businesses, and why we don’t have such a fund now. He agreed that we should have a fund, but on why we don’t have one, he simply said, “That’s a head, problem, Jim.” In other words, the only thing stopping us from doing that is our lack of consciousness and willingness to sacrifice for and support one another. Again, that’s much of what I have written and spoken about for 20 years: psychological enslavement.

By that time in our interview, I was on cloud nine because Robert L. Johnson, owner of numerous businesses and donor of millions of dollars to political campaigns, was confirming the work and philosophy of The One Million Conscious and Conscientious Black Contributors and Voters (OMCCBCV). I never mentioned our movement to him during our conversation, but his answers to my inquiries definitely substantiated the direction The One Million is taking to move Black people from our current status to our highest potential.

There was so much we discussed, and Mr. Johnson’s responses, insights, and directions are just what we need to do NOW. We cannot afford to wait, to analyze, to meet, to hold a convention, or continue to theorize the future and lament the past. We can shape our future; we can determine our destiny simply by doing what not only Bob Johnson said, but what many of our elders have said over the years. We simply need to act.

My entire Q and A with Mr. Johnson will be published soon, but I wanted to let my readers know about it now, so that we can start moving immediately to leverage our dollars and our votes against the two systems that run this nation and the world: economics and politics. The OMCCBCV has already planned to kick-off one part of that strategy in February 2017. Stay tuned.

Please watch for my entire interview with Mr. Johnson and start planning for major changes in the way we play politics and the way we use our economic clout to build a strong foundation for our children and grandchildren. What Mr. Johnson shared with me is not esoteric or proprietary, and it’s certainly not new. However, sometimes with our people, the same message can come from different sources and, depending on the messenger, our people will follow it. I am grateful that Mr. Johnson chose to speak out on these issues. More to come.

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, Blackonomics.com.

LEON

Continued from this page

the governed will not have been granted.

If one-person one vote is supposed to be the cornerstone of our democracy then those who engage in the acts of subverting that right are un-American.

VOICE YOUR OPINION!! WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR!

Ms. Lucille Rhooney Wade

Lucille was born November 2, 1943 to Lucy Mae Rhooney and the late Louis Harry McQuillen. On Friday, December 9, 2016 Lucille Rhooney Wade made her transition from earth to glory.

She was a loving and devoted mother, grandmother, sister and aunt. She was always ready and willing to help others. While her health permitted she was an active member of New Light ministries under the leadership of Rev. Dr. Mary L. Benjamin. She participated in any capacity she was able to. She had a passion for the prison ministry and usher board. She lived by the scripture "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might" (Ecclesiastes 9:10)

She leaves to cherish her memories: sons David McNeil (Sabrina) of Atlanta, GA; Emmett Wade (Tonya) of Burgaw, NC; grandchildren Shanique Pearson, Katiri Wade, Emmett Wade, Riannah Wade, Elijah Wade, Jade McNeil; brother Raymond Freeman (Elaine), Wilmington, NC; sister Joan Lonnice Graham and a host of nieces, nephews and other relatives and friends.

Services were held at Myrtle Grove First Born Church on Wednesday December 14, 2016. Internment at Oak Grove cemetery. Arrangements by Adkins-Drain Funeral Service. 515 South Eighth Street, Wilmington, North Carolina 28401. Condolences may be shared at www.adkinsdrainfuneralservice.com.

Mr. Luther "Crow" Sidberry

Luther "Crow" Sidberry was born on June 14, 1950 to the late Jeff and Naomi Sidbury. Luther transitioned from these earthly shores on December 19, 2016 at Lower Cape Fear Hospice in Wilmington, NC. He was preceded in death by his brother Charles L. Sidberry.

Luther was a very loving and supportive father, brother, grandfather, uncle, cousin and friend. He was educated in the New Hanover County School System, attending New Hanover High School. Luther was well know around the city and surrounding areas for selling local seafood as the "Shrimp Man". Luther loved his family and treasured spending time with his sister Geraldine talking about the family tree and elders.

Luther joined Old Scotts Hill A.M.E. Church at an early age and attended regularly until his health failed.

Luther leaves to cherish his precious memories, his daughter, LaTonya F. Gause of Fayetteville, NC; two sisters Geraldine S. Galloway and Johnnie Mae Nixon both of Wilmington, NC; two brothers Jeff Sidbury, Jr. (Helen) of Castle Hayne, NC and Odell Sidberry of Wilmington, NC;

two grandchildren, Aaliyah Foy and Tyquan Gause of Fayetteville, NC; a son-in-law, Antonio Gause of Wilmington, NC; a dedicated niece, Sharon Sidbury; a few very special friends, Glen Eubanks and family, Roxanna Nixon, Curtis Greene, Caesar Spicer and Thomas Nixon, Jr. all of Wilmington, NC; and a host of other relatives, nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. Services were held at Old Scotts Hill A.M.E. Church on Friday December 16, 2016 at 12 noon. Internment at Pollock Cemetery. Scotts Hill Community. Arrangements by Adkins-Drain Funeral Service. 515 South Eighth Street, Wilmington, North Carolina 28401. Condolences may be shared at www.adkinsdrainfuneralservice.com.

Brenda Mallette Rawls

Brenda Joyce Mallette Rawls was born to Earl (Deceased) and Emily Mallette on June 8, 1954 in Wilmington, NC. She transitioned on December 2, 2016. Funeral services were held on Saturday, December 17, 2016 at Davis Funeral Home. Burial followed in Calvary Memorial Cemetery.

Brenda attended school in Wilmington, NC at Mary Washington Howe Elementary School, Williston Junior High School and then graduated from John T. Hoggard High School in 1972. While she attended John T. Hoggard High School, she majored in Home Economics and became a Seamstress. It was during this time that she met and married Howard Lawrence, Jr. From this union came three children; Anthony I. Lawrence, Shamara L. Black, and Shameka D. Lawrence.

She later met and married Tilman Cooley Rawls and from this union came Tilman A. Rawls.

Brenda had several different

CARD OF THANKS



Mere words are inadequate to express the depths of our thanks and appreciation for all the kind acts of Christian charity. We are confident that the healing properties of prayer. Love and faith will have an abiding presence until the coming of our Savior.

The Family of Brenda Joyce Mallette Rawls

career fields, but the one she loved the most was being a full time mother to her four beautiful children. She devoted her life to raising her children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and neighborhood children as well.

Please see **OBITUARIES** / Page 7A

In Memory Of



Magnolia McLean Moss (Susie)
December 18, 1967-
March 13, 2013

Happy Birthday in Heaven
Every time we hear songs
We think of you but your
are gone
We miss you so very much
Especially when we go to
church
It's been three years since
you left us
We are going on doing our
best
We know God gave you nest
Sing on the Christmas
songs of love
I miss you on Mother's Day
I waited for you to say
I love you Mama

Family and friends

Memories of My Mother



Retha Barnhill

Christmas is the most beautiful and wonderful time of the year, for most of us. The meaning of Christmas will always be, the memories of you especially are immensely wonderful. Through deep within me, my grief remains, missing you, not only when our Savior was born, but every day of my life. There was no one like you, my dear Mom.

My love, my heart to you,
Your daughter, Brenda
Son, Arnold (Deceased)

In Memory Of



Ms. Ezmas Juanita Carmichael
05/13/1937-12/24/1998

When most families were out doing last minutes shopping, we were gathered around your bedside trying to see you take your final breath. Seeing the smile on your face let us know that you had heard the voice calling and you were at peace.

Because of our religious background, we were able to accept that your leaving us was another example of the promises of our Saviour, that if we live and serve God, that we will see you on the other side.

Julia, Wanda and now Kenneth have taken this same trip and the family has expanded and you have become a great grandmother several times and great great grandmother to one.

You will always be in our hearts and memories and we are still have to celebrate the reason for the season, the Birth of Jesus Christ.

Submitted by the family

In Loving Memory Of Tracy Lionel Simpson



Sunrise: September 15, 1964 Sunset: December 15, 2002

I'm Free

Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free
I'm following the path God laid for me.
I took His hand when I heard His call
I turned my back and left it all.

I could not stay another day
to laugh, to love, to work or play.
Tasks left undone must stay that way
I have found peace at the close of the day.

If my parting has left a void Then fill it with
remembered joy. A friendship shared,
a laugh, a kiss; Oh yes, these things
I too will miss.

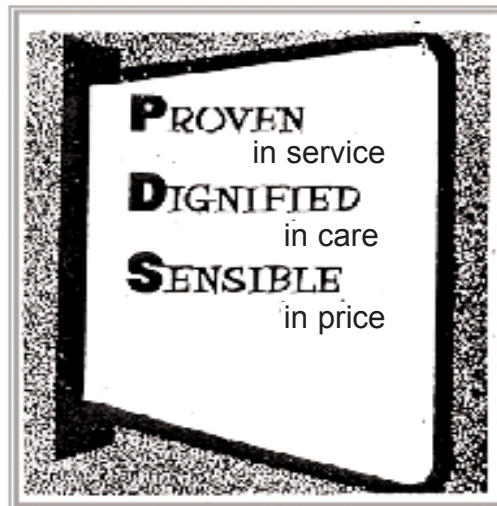
Be not burdened with times of sorrow
I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.
My life's been full, I savored much.
Good friends, good times, a loved one's touch.

Perhaps my time seemed all too brief
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.
Lift up your head and share with me, God wanted me now;
He set me free.

We miss you,
Mom, Sudie Powell; loving children, Brittany, Courtney and Sidney Bell; Sisters, Josie, Deborah and Donna; Brother, Gregory, family and friends

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- Arrangements that honor your personal desires
- Pre-Pay.
- Financial arrangements that meet your needs
- Prepare.
- Having personal affairs in order is a gift of love to loved ones.

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William and Samuel Debra, Jr.
In Memoriam



Dennis Debra Debra
In Memoriam

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MERRY
CHRISTMAS

from

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Pre-Plan.
Arrangements that honor your personal desires
Pre-Pay.
Financial arrangements that meet your needs
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New Hanover County

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.

Religious Briefs

The Better St. Phillip A.M.E. Zion Church, 2913 Acorn Branch Rd. (in the Wrightsboro community).

Will hold their annual New Year's Gospel Blowout Celebration on January 1st at 3:30 p.m. "First Stage Entertainment Max-A-Million Johnson Production" Featuring: Mr. Charles Montague formerly of the Alabama & Mississippi Blind Boys, pastor "officer" Jacob Wills, with his new cd release... "God's grace is amazing", solo artist Rosco Stanton and Johnny Stringfield & family. Featured guest: the new revivals, solo artist Tyaun Bryant, the sensational gospel travelers, solo artist Jerry Wayne, The M&R Gospel Singers and the Burgaw Male Choir just to name a few. The 2017 M. C's are Rev. Dr. Mary C. Nixon, Rev. Dr. Jermaine B. Armour, Elder Paula Moore and Bro. Albert "Al" Harrison. Doors open at 2:30p.m. For the sake of space, the 2017 New Year's Gospel Blowout will be held at their "mother church" The New St. Luke A.M.E. Zion church. The New St. Luke is located at 709 church St. For more details or any information, please call Rev. Dr. Mary C. Nixon at 910-540-4406 or sister Dentrall boykin at 910-200-4953.

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

Compiled By Wilmington Journal Staff

TELL SOMEBODY

"The gift"

"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

It all started with a gift! God manifested his great love for the world, by giving to the world a miraculous, and wonderful gift! This gift supercedes any other gift the world has ever known. This gift of love to a sinful and dying world, was given by God himself. He gave his only begotten Son, to save his people from their sins. This gift is so powerful, that whosoever believes in him, will not perish, but have everlasting life! This gift is the reason for the season. This gift is in the person of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

"Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the King, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him." Matthew 2:1,2

"And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when

they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, frankincense, and myrrh." Matthew 2:11

In the true spirit of Christmas, we should take note of how to celebrate the birth of our savior; by the way it was done in the beginning. First of all, note how the wise men searched for the Lord until they found him. Each of us have the same opportunity to launch a personal search for the savior. The good news is, he can be found! Jeremiah 29:13 says, "And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart."

The wise men told the king they were looking for the new born king, so they could worship him. "But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshipers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth." John 4:23-24. Psalm 95:6, "O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the Lord our maker."

After the wise men found Jesus, they fell down and worshipped him, opened their treasures, and gave gifts (presents) to him. They did not give presents to each other; they

gave presents to Jesus!

How far have we drifted from that first Christmas! The world has commercialized Christmas to the point that it has become the season for giving gifts to one another, and not wanting to give glory to God for his wonderful Son. The Body of Christ, some 2000 years later, must not condescend to the way of the world, but should seize each and every opportunity to tell the "story" and give God the glory! And, if the world does not give God glory, the church should, can, and will!

What gift can we give the Saviour to celebrate his birth? Do we present him gold, frankincense, or myrrh? What can we give him? What gift do we even have to offer a great King? What kind of present can we give to Jesus, that would give him glory, and honor? Romans 12:1 tells us exactly what to give him for his present. "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."

Prayer: Dear Father, we thank you for the greatest gift ever known to mankind. The gift of your Son Jesus. We give you glory and honor, by receiving your Great gift, as our Lord and Savior, and by praising him daily. Bless us to be a blessing, in Jesus' Name. Amen.

Your life is a "gift" from God, and what you do with it, is your "gift" to him!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

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!

OBITUARIES

Continued from page 6A

Brenda leaves to cherish her memory: her mother, Emily Watkins Mallette; her beloved children, Anthony I. Lawrence, Shamara L. Black (Jerome Martin), Shameka D. Lawrence and Tilman A. Rawls (Katusha); eleven grandchildren, Shanell T. Lawrence (Daniel), Samuel T. Mosley Jr., Shaneaya M. Lawrence, Earl T. Mallette, Kiara D. Black, Joshua I. Lawrence, Michael L. Lawrence, Tionna R. Black, Jordan A. Lawrence, Jasmine E. Lawrence and Adorian Rawls; one great grandchild, Athena Grace Oliver; siblings, Shirley Allsup, Gilbert Williams Mallette (Deceased), Betty McKoy, Earlene Harrison, Carolyn Penberton (Thomas), Emil Allen (Ricky), and Shelia Hankins. Special acknowledgements to Larry Jacobs, Patty Jo Mallette, Shekia Mallette, Tasha Henderson and all of the many nieces, nephews, cousins, and other family members and friends. *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 George Jarrett, Sr. was born on September 30, 1939 to the late James Rayford Jarrett and the late Ruth Carmen Fortson Jarrett in Charleston, West Virginia, and was the oldest of three children. He passed away on December 7, 2016 in Wilmington, North Carolina. He was preceded in death by his brother James "Wahoo" Jarrett. Funeral services were held Friday, December 16, 2016 at Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church. Burial followed in Greenlawn Memorial Park.

Larry attended Marshall University in Huntington, WV, where he received his Bachelor's degree in Social Studies (Geography) and Physical Education in 1961 and a Master's degree in Geography in 1965. He taught English and Social Studies in the Kanawha County School System in Charleston, West Virginia. In 1965, he accepted a position as a Geographic Analyst with the Department of the Army in Washington, DC. This assignment included a 22-month tour in Vietnam. From 1970 until 1991, Larry held a variety of Foreign Service positions with the U.S. Department of State, being stationed in Sweden (Stockholm), Belgium (Brussels), Washington, DC, the United

Nations in New York City, Germany, and many African countries including Zambia, Zaire, Nigeria, Chad, Guinea, and Burundi. He was responsible for monitoring, reporting, and analysis of geopolitics, economics, and security in Europe and Sub-Saharan Africa, and training and advising foreign officials. After retirement from the government, Larry returned to Marshall University in 1993 as a faculty member teaching Geography and later served as Chairman of the Geography Department for 10 years before his retirement in 2010.

Larry dedicated his life to Christ in 2012 and became a member of Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church in Wilmington, NC. He regularly attended Bible Study and was a member of the Band of Brothers Ministry.

Larry loved family, friends, food, football, and fine wine. His passion was cooking and he loved entertaining. He loved to travel and enjoyed music and sports. He was an avid reader of spy novels and a history buff. Larry had an exciting and storied career and always had an interesting story to tell.

Left to cherish his memory are his wife, Teresa Jarrett of Wilmington, NC; son, Larry "Elly" (Gayle) Jarrett, Jr. of Portsmouth, VA; daughters, Dr. Terry Jarrett (Samuel) Saunders of Washington, DC and Tonja (Leonard) Smith of Columbus, OH; sister, Murrial Ruth Jarrett of Atlanta, GA; grandson, Belize Jarrett Saunders of Washington, DC; granddaughters, Jtuane and Lauren Jackson of Columbus, OH and four great grandchildren. He also leaves behind three sisters-in-law, Phyllis Jarrett of Cincinnati, OH, Janice Littlejohn (Tony) Browder of Laurel, MD and Karen Thompson of Washington, DC; a brother-in-law, Edgar Thompson of Hyattsville, MD; two nephews, Brian Jarrett of Charleston, WV and Brandon Jarrett of Cincinnati, OH; niece, Adenike "Nikki" Littlejohn of Washington, DC and lots of loving cousins and many friends. Larry was well-loved and will always be irreplaceable in our hearts. *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.*

Doris M. Robbins

Doris M. Robbins, was born on February 28, 1931 to the late Viola and Earnest Parker, Sr. and Malisha B. Parker. She transitioned to her heavenly home on

Funeral services were held Saturday, December 17, 2016 at Warner Temple A.M.E. Zion Church. Burial followed in Greenlawn Memorial Park.

Doris was a loving and devoted mother, sister, grandmother, and aunt, who will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved her. She married the love of her life Paul Robbins, Sr. who preceded her in death.

She became a member of Warner Temple church after marrying her husband. Doris served as an Usher and a member of Warner Temple stewardship board before her health declined. She was in Class # 18, under Sister Ethel Hamilton.

Doris was a 1949 graduate of Williston Senior High School. She retired from Werthimer Bag Co., after 30 years. After that she worked as a caregiver by taking care of others.

Doris leaves to cherish her sweet memory five children; Annette Colclough (Harry) of Clinton, Maryland, Paul L. Robbins Jr. (Angela) of Oak Grove Va., Barbara Johnson (Hezekiah) of Wilmington, NC, Daryl T. Robbins (Julia) of Greenville, SC and Carolyn Simmons (Luther) of Wilmington, NC. One sister Barbara Everette of Wilmington, NC. One brother-in-law Earl H. Robbins (Mary) of Hampton, Va., One sister-in-law Dorothy Robbins of Wilmington, NC. One niece Hazel Morris of Catonsville, MD, and one nephew Bertram Morris of Buffalo, NY. She leaves twenty-four adoring grandchildren, twenty-nine great-grandchildren and one great-great granddaughter and a host of cousins and friends. Two very special friends Ms. Margaret Jacobs and Ms. Ethel Vann. Two very special cousins Evelyn Stevens and Lillie Haynes. *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.*

Retha M. Galloway

Retha M. Galloway, age 81, of Philadelphia, PA (formerly of Bolivia), passed away Sunday, December 11, 2016. A visitation will be from 6:00 - 8:00 PM on Friday, December 16, 2016 at Zion Hill Missionary Baptist Church. Funeral services will be 12:00 PM, Saturday, December 17, 2016 at Zion Hill Missionary Baptist Church. Burial will follow in Marsh Branch Cemetery.

Retha Mae Galloway, also known as "Beay O" was born the late Viola and Earnest Parker, Sr. and Malisha B. Parker. She transitioned to her heavenly home on

Sunday, December 11, 2016 at Chestnut Hill Hospital in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She was preceded in death by a son, Ernest Galloway on March 21, 2003. Funeral services were held on Saturday, December 17, 2016 at Zion Hill Missionary Baptist Church. Burial follow in Marsh Branch Cemetery.

Retha attended and graduated from Brunswick County Training School, Southport, NC.

Retha was united in holy matrimony to the love of her life, Kermit Galloway Jr., on May 10, 1954. This union was blessed with five children.

Being the devoted mother that she was, she delayed her employment until her youngest child graduated from high school. She then went to work for the Philadelphia School system as a lunch room supervisor.

At an early age, Retha accepted Christ as her personal savior and joined Kendall Chapel AME Church, Winnabow, North Carolina, and later joined Second Macedonia Baptist Church in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Mom loved the Lord God with all her heart and served him faithfully until her health failed. She served faithfully as president of the Senior Usher Board, member of the Mother's Ministry and member of the In Touch Ministry at Second Macedonia Baptist Church. Mom fought a good fight. She finished the course God set before her, and through all of life's storms, she kept the faith. We thank God that the life she lived prepared her to joyfully answer His call. Mom loved watching wrestling on television every Monday night, and knew all of their names. She also enjoyed Law & Order and old westerns. Some of her favorite hobbies were cooking, sewing and working with summer camp. Her legacy will live on in the lives of her family.

She leaves to cherish her precious memory: her loving husband of 62 years, Kermit Galloway, Jr.; daughters, Ann Galloway, Stephanie Williams (Fredrick) and Celeste Rook; son, Kevin Galloway; grandchildren, Ernest Galloway, Jr., Lakita Galloway, Ebony Galloway, Frank Galloway, Donte Rook and Alyse Galloway; great grandchildren, Shamia Galloway, Zafir Bradley, Desiree Watson, Sania Galloway, Janiya Galloway and Theriek Chapman; great-great grandchild, Braylon Galloway; brothers and sisters-in law, Bobby Odell, Chauncey Galloway, Seabrook Galloway, Sara Stevenson (Earl), Vernette Gravett (Leon), Debra Bryant (James) and Parthenia Johnson (John); special friends, Louise Lee,

Penny Schuck, Margaret Wiggins, Margie Davis, Margaret Seawright and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins other relatives and friends. *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.*

Alfonza G. Brunson

Alfonza "Al" Glenn Brunson of Southaven, MS was born to the late Moses and Mamie Conyers Brunson in Wilmington, NC on March 25, 1962. He was the youngest of four brothers. Al had several medical issues and challenges over the last few years, but on December 10, 2016 he went on to rest in the arms of his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Funeral services were held Sunday, December 18, 2016 at Macedonia FBH Church.

Al was a member of Macedonia FBH Church during his childhood and young adulthood. He graduated from E. A. Laney High School in 1981 and from Cape Fear Community College in 1983. He had a love for fine artwork and photography. In fact, he received awards for his skills in photography. He was also highly skilled in computer science.

Al married Dorsey Renee (Showers) Brunson in 1985 and from that ten year union came two children, Allyson Brunson-Ford and Alexander Brunson. He later married Nicole Cerna of Southaven, MS whom he shared five years with and he was stepfather to Corissa Cerna.

Al was a former Power Plant Combustion Turbine Technician at Congentrix and worked with the company for almost thirty years. He began his career in Southport, NC, relocated to Portsmouth, VA, to Richmond, VA and finally Memphis, Tennessee. He was passionate about his job and he loved it. By being so far away, he considered co-worker, Rich Orsico and wife, Kathi to be an adopted brother and sister to him.

Alfonza leaves to cherish his memory: daughter, Allyson Shant'e Brunson (Robert L.) Ford of Winston Salem, NC; son, Alexander Dale Brunson of Washington, DC; three grandchildren, Naki'a Devine Ford, King James Robert Ford, Majesty Susan Renee Ford; brothers, Moses (Geraldine) Brunson of Newport News, VA., Bernard (Deborah) Brunson, Harry (Brenda) Brunson both of Wilmington, NC; aunts, uncles, a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. Viviana Ramos of McAllen, TX was a special

caring friend. He was loved by many and his memory will be cherished deeply. *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.*

Maggie Lowe Bryant

Maggie Lowe Bryant, daughter of Empie and Evelyn Lowe, was born February 14, 1942 in Wilmington, NC. She was called home to be with the Lord on Tuesday, December 13, 2016. Funeral service was Saturday at the ILA Hall, Wilmington, NC. Burial followed in the Oak Grove Cemetery.

Maggie was educated in the New Hanover County School System. She held various jobs throughout her career, including Frances Neckwear, Siemens and MGB. After retiring, she dedicated her life to taking care of her husband, Alfred "Bubba" Bryant, with her daughters in Charlotte, NC. In 2015, Maggie returned to the home she loved, the church she loved, Hanks Chapel AME Church and the community she loved, "Seabreeze". She enjoyed spending her time as a church missionary and spending time with her sister, Evelyn Lofton and her cousin, Ellen Weston, baking her "infamous" sweet potato pies and growing beautiful flowers.

In addition to her parents and her husband, she was preceded in death by four children; Travis Lowe, Nathaniel Connell Lowe, Rodney Bryant and Alfred Bryant, Jr.; two brothers, Thurman Lowe and Ronald Lowe; two sisters, Dora Isabell Farrow and Carolyn Lowe Irving; two sisters-in-law, Mattie Lowe and Rosa Bryant; and six brothers-in-law, Joe Farrow, William Lofton, Emmitt Irving, Fredrick Lowe, Donald Earl Bryant and Clarence Broadus.

Surviving to cherish her memories are her children; Victoria, Wendy Patrick (Tonya), Jacqueline (Charles), Leon (Ebony) and Dadrrian Bryant; grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great grandchildren; brothers and sisters, Evelyn Lofton, James Lowe and Rev. David P. Lowe (Sandra); daughter-in-law, Kaye Bryant; sisters-in-law, Beverly Bryant, Edna Broadus, Willis Brown (Clyde) and Gloria Lowe; brother-in-law, Manning Bryant; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. *A Service of John H. Shaw's Son Funeral Home.*

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LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF NEW HANOVER

The undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the estate of **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 Abdulkadri (16-E-1559)**, late of New Hanover County, North Carolina the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned at 701 Market Street, Wilmington, North Carolina, 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 the 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
Craig & 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 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 NIC-HOLE 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, North Carolina, 28401.

This the 15th day of December, 2016.

Dean W. Hollandsworth
Staff Attorney - New Hanover Co.
Dept. of Social Services
1650 Greenfield Street
Wilmington, NC 28401
PO Drawer 1559
Wilmington, NC 28402-1559
(910) 798-3511
910) 798-3772 * fax

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 of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned at 701 Market Street, Wilmington, North Carolina, 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
Craig & 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, North Carolina, 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 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

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, North Carolina, 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 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 TO CREDITORS STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF NEW HANOVER

The undersigned, having qualified as Executrix of the estate of **Marguerite Anne DiFulvio**, 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 **15th 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 15th day of December, 2016

Courtney D. Newcomb, Executrix
2535 Tar River Road
Creedmoor, NC 27522

December 15, 22, 29, 2016, January 5, 2017

NOTICE TO CREDITORS STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF NEW HANOVER

The undersigned, having qualified as Executrix of the estate of **Katherine White**, 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 **15th 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 15th day of December, 2016

Joyce Irving Jones, Executrix
319 Bristol Road
Wilmington, NC 28409

December 15, 22, 29, January 5, 2016

NOTICE TO CREDITORS STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF NEW HANOVER

The undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the estate of **Peter L. Thorsen**, 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 **2nd 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 10th day of November, 2016

John C. Thorsen, Executor
1891 Crystal Hills Dr.
Athens, GA 30606

December 1, 8, 15, 22, 2016

NOTICE TO CREDITORS STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF NEW HANOVER

The undersigned, having qualified as Collector of the estate of **Barbara M. Smith**, 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 **2nd 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 10th day of November, 2016

Antonio J. Smith, Collector
254 Willows Bay Dr.
Rocky Point, NC 28457

December 1, 8, 15, 22, 2016

NOTICE TO CREDITORS STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF NEW HANOVER

The undersigned, having qualified as Administrator of the estate of **Andrea Jaffe**, 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 **22nd 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 15th day of December, 2016

Ira H. Jaffe, Administrator CTA of the Estate of Andrea Jaffe
1806 Odyssey Drive
Wilmington, NC 28405
Murchison, Taylor & Gibson, PLLC
16 North Fifth Avenue
Wilmington, NC 28403

December 22, 29, 2016, January 5, 12, 2017

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF NEW HANOVER

The undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the estate of **Lottie Mae Whitted**, 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 **2nd 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 23rd day of November, 2016

Luther Marvin Whitted, Executor
2601 Chair Rd.
Castle Hayne, NC 28429

December 1, 8, 15, 22, 2016

NOTICE TO CREDITORS STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF NEW HANOVER

The undersigned, having qualified as Executrix of the estate of **Mary Elizabeth Janicki Blanchard**, 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 **15th 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 15th day of December, 2016

Margaret Blanchard Jones, Executrix
6104 Sycamore Ave.
Castle Hayne, NC 28429

December 15, 22, 29, 2016, January 5, 2017

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 you 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, North Carolina, 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

LEGAL NOTICES

Notice of Sale

2004 HONDA
VIN: 1HGCM81654A024105
Owners: Carlos Tirrell Cobbs
Place: Kirby's Garage Inc.
1513 Castle Street
Wilmington, NC 28401
Date: 12-30-2016
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Telephone: 910-762-3159

December 8, 15, 22, 2016

Notice of Sale

2007 SUZUKI
VIN: 2S3DA417576118579
Owners: Troy Eugene Cashwell and Suellen Hall Cashwell
Place: Kirby's Garage Inc.
1513 Castle Street
Wilmington, NC 28401
Date: 12-30-2016
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Telephone: 910-762-3159

December 8, 15, 22, 2016

Notice of Sale

2008 DODGE
VIN: 1B3LC46K08N245675
Owners: Graham Patrick Hoard
Place: Kirby's Garage Inc.
1513 Castle Street
Wilmington, NC 28401
Date: 12-30-2016
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Telephone: 910-762-3159

December 8, 15, 22, 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 T O 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. Hollandsworth
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 Executor of the Estate of **Gladys Dickie (16-E-1371)**, late of New Hanover County, Wilmington, North Carolina the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned at 701 Market Street, Wilmington, North Carolina, 28401 on or before **March 22, 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 12th day of December, 2016

Richard Dickie, Executor of the Estate of Gladys Dickie
Craig & Fox, PLLC
701 Market Street
Wilmington, NC 28401
910-815-0085

December 22, 29, 2016, January 5, 12, 2017

NOTICE TO CREDITORS STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF NEW HANOVER

Having qualified as CTA administrator of the Estate of **Susan Peck (16-E-1523)**, late of New Hanover County, Wilmington, North Carolina the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned at 701 Market Street, Wilmington, North Carolina, 28401 on or before **March 25, 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 16th day of December, 2016

Charlotte Noel Fox, Administrator CTA of the Estate of Susan Peck
Craig & Fox, PLLC
701 Market Street
Wilmington, NC 28401
910-815-0085

December 22, 29, 2016, January 5, 12, 2017

NOTICE TO CREDITORS STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF NEW HANOVER

Having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of **Gene Francis Rackley (16-E-1225)**, late of New Hanover County, Wilmington, North Carolina the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned at 701 Market Street, Wilmington, North Carolina, 28401 on or before **March 25, 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 16th day of December, 2016

Charlotte Noel Fox, Administrator of the Estate of Gene Rackley
Craig & Fox, PLLC
701 Market Street
Wilmington, NC 28401
910-815-0085

December 22, 29, 2016, January 5, 12, 2017

Bid Request

RPC Contracting is requesting bids from any interested MBE, WBE & DBE certified firms for the Town of Southern Shores NC 12/East Dogwood Trail Drainage Project bidding on 1/12/17. There will be a pre-bid conference at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday 1/5/17 at the Town of Southern Shores Town Hall. Plans and specifications are available for review at the office of RPC Contracting, 934 W. Kitty Hawk Road, Kitty Hawk, NC. For more information, please call 252-261-3336, ask for Jay. RPC Contracting is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

December 22, 2016

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For Information Call Us At 910-762-5502

LEGAL

**INVITATION TO BID
NEW HANOVER COUNTY
LANDFILL PARTIAL CLOSURE OF THE SOUTH SLOPE
(Cells 5 & 6A) OF CELLS 2-6
BID NUMBER 16-0371**

New Hanover County will receive sealed proposals from qualified contractors for all labor and materials to complete the work in accordance with the "Specifications and Contract Documents" for New Hanover County Secure Landfill Partial Closure of the South Slope (Cells 5 & 6A) of Cells 2-6 for New Hanover County, North Carolina, for Contract #16-0371. Bid documents can be obtained at the County's website (<http://www.nhcgov.com/businest-nhc/bids>). A copy of the Specifications and Contract Documents may also be reviewed at the New Hanover County Environmental Management Office, 3002 Highway 421 North, Wilmington, North Carolina 28401, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Please call (910) 798-4400 for appointments.

The partial closure consists of approximately 8 acres that will include site preparation, placement of the liner system, placement of the soil cover systems, installation of a gas management system, construction of the stormwater management structures, erosion control structures, grading, seeding and sodding, and all incidentals necessary to complete the work as specified.

A MANDATORY pre-bid conference will be held on January 10, 2017 at 2:00 p.m. in the Environmental Management Administration Building, 3002 Highway 421 North, Wilmington, NC.

Proposals will be received until 2:00 p.m. on February 14, 2017, by New Hanover County, in the Conference room at the New Hanover County Department of Environmental Management Administration Building, 3002 HWY 421 North, Wilmington, North Carolina 28401. No bids will be accepted after that time.

Bidders must be licensed contractors in the State of North Carolina at the time proposals are submitted. Pursuant to N.C.G.S. S87 15, it will be necessary for contractors to show evidence of such license in the bid document.

All prime bidders on this project must be pre-qualified in accordance with New Hanover County's Pre-qualification Ordinance, in order to bid. Bids will not be opened unless the bidder is pre-qualified. Pre-qualification applications may be obtained at the County Legal Department, 230 Government Center Drive, Suite 155, Wilmington, N.C. 28403 or by visiting the County's website at www.nhcgov.com.

The bidder shall make good faith efforts, as defined in the bid specifications, to subcontract 10% of the dollar value of the single prime contract to businesses owned and controlled by minorities. Individuals who are rebuttably presumed to be minorities include women, Black Americans, Hispanic Americans, Native Americans, Asian-Pacific Americans, and Asian-Indian Americans. Bidders are required to submit, along with the bid, information concerning minority business enterprises which will participate in the contract. Contact Lena Butler at Lbutler@nhcgov.com concerning questions related to this issue.

This Invitation to Bid is being used to solicit responses from suitably qualified, experienced and licensed contractors to qualify for services related to the construction of a secure landfill closure project in New Hanover County, North Carolina.

New Hanover County reserves the right to reject any and all bids. Questions will only be accepted in writing by Mr. Ed Hilton (ehilton@scsengineers.com) through the end of business January 24, 2017. Response to the questions will be issued on February 2, 2017. For further information, contact Mr. Ed Hilton, P.E., SCS Engineers, PC, at 813.804.6719.

December 22, 2016

LEGAL

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

The undersigned, having qualified as Administrator of the estate of **Charmian Hand**, 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 **22nd 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 22nd day of December, 2016

Courtney B. Hand, Administrator
311 S. Lasalle St. Apt. 51D
Durham NC 27705

December 22, 29, 2016, January 5, 22, 2017

**NOTICE TO SUBCONTRACTOR
BIDDER
PRE-QUALIFICATION
REQUEST
For The**

**University of North Carolina
Wilmington
Graham, Hewlett, and Belk
Hall Bathroom Renovation
Project and the
Graham, Hewlett and Belk
Hall Mechanical Upgrades
Project**

Balfour Beatty is seeking to pre-qualify principal trade and specialty contractors to submit bids for the furnishing of labor, material, and equipment for the University of North Carolina Wilmington Graham, Hewlett, and Belk Hall Bathroom Renovations Project, in addition to, the University of North Carolina Wilmington Graham, Hewlett, and Belk Hall Mechanical Upgrades Project. Balfour Beatty has been selected as the Construction Manager at Risk for both projects and will receive bids from pre-qualified bidders only, and will contract with the principal and specialty contractors for the execution of the work.

The Graham, Hewlett, and Belk Hall Bathroom Renovation Project will require trade subcontractors for the following bid packages: General Trades/Demo, Epoxy Flooring, Plumbing, Electric, Doors/Hardware & Specialties, Casework, Paint, and Final Cleaning.

The Graham, Hewlett, and Belk Hall Mechanical Upgrades Project will require trade subcontractors for the following bid packages: General Trades, VCT Flooring, Electric, Mechanical, Doors/Hardware, Paint, and Final Cleaning.

Similar project experience will be considered during prequalification. Anticipated Bid Date is February 2017. Submittals for pre-qualification forms may be hand delivered, mailed, faxed, or submitted electronically. Pre-qualifications are due Friday, January 20th. Balfour Beatty reserves the right to accept additional prequalification applications up to 10 days prior to bid opening. The CM and Owner reserve the right to reject any and all Pre-qualifications. Contracting method will be through Competitive Public Bid in accordance with Chapter 143 of the NC General Statutes. For further information or questions, please contact Colby Willis at 919-842-2184, or by email at cwillis@balfourbeatty.com.

Balfour Beatty has an affirmative policy of fostering, promoting and conducting business with Historically Underutilized Businesses. HUB contractors are highly encouraged to participate in the bid process. All Bidders are strongly encouraged to include opportunities for HUB participation wherever possible in their respective bid submission. Historically Underutilized Businesses is a part of this contract and must comply with the State of North Carolina General Statutes.

December 22, 2016

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

ENTERTAINMENT

*Cash in
the Apple*

By
Cash
Michaels



MERRY CHRISTMAS, EVERYONE! – May you and your family enjoy a very blessed and meaningful Christmas holiday this weekend. Lord knows this has been an eventful year, one that many of us breathing aren't going to soon forget. A lot of bad happened, but also a lot of good too. Let's all come together, somehow, to make the good flourish for our children and their children. They deserve to have it better than we do.

But don't get me wrong...I'm not saying to not also teach them to overcome, because as long as they're human, an still have to work for a living, they'll have to compete for resources in order to survive. And they better know and understand that as a fact of life. At the same time, that doesn't mean they should be cutthroat about it. All of us can compete and struggle, and still exhibit decency and honest towards one another.

Many of us would call that the Christian way. Others would refer to it as the way of Allah. People of most faiths believe in a common path towards brotherhood that doesn't require us to riddle each other with rhetorical bullets. If only all of us, regardless of color, gender, sexuality, faith or creed could see that common bond.

Yes Christmas is named in honor of our Christian icon, but truly the warm spirit and good will we're supposed to experience is something that can be shared by all. But we're supposed to work for it, consciously create a world that reflects the values we all want to live by. Things like hate, greed, lust, and envy all lead to pain sooner or later. Things in your world may seem perfectly fine now, but allow yourself to wallow in any of those, and you'll soon realize how unworthy the time spent really was.

Oh yes, yes, yes, I'm talking to you Republican members of the NC legislature. In this season of giving, when you were called forward to help the victims

of Hurricane Matthew and the ravaging forest fires, you proved that the heart of man will always prove original intent when given the chance.

Sure, Gov. McCrory finally called his brood into special session, allegedly under the guise of appropriating disaster relief funding to help those hardest hit. But then McCrory turned a blind eye to the true objective of his fellow Republicans in charge – avenging his shameful and shame-filled reelection loss to Democrat Roy Cooper.

And when GOP lawmakers took away most of Cooper's appointment powers, made state High Court decisions muddier, altered the elections process and took power away from the state Board of Education, McCrory, truly a weasel's weasel, was more than happy to sign it all into law. Mind you, these were folks who were more than happy to use the Republican governor's authority for a doormat during his short tenure. One could even say McCrory lost reelection because of their HB2 shenanigans.

But ultimately, like a good little puppy dog, McCrory was right there, showing his new boss. Donald Trump, just how obedient he can be.

At least Scrooge realized just how reprehensible he was by the end of the story. But Pat McCrory and the NC Republicans...not a chance, not a prayer.

And yet, take it from me, if you still have life, love and good health, you have much to work with to at least attempt to make this a better world, in spite of the Trumps, McCrorys and GOP leaders of the world.

So Merry Christmas to all...and to all who seek to use their power to harm and divide....good riddance!

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.

**ASK
ALMA
with
ALMA
GILL**



How do I comfort a friend that's been cheated on?

Dear Alma,

I would like to know how to comfort a close friend who has a cheating spouse. My friend, who has been faithful, has distanced herself from the relationship because of the cheating, but doesn't want to rip the family apart due to her spouse's infidelity. I would like to know how to comfort my faithful friend, although she knows the relationship includes another woman.

**Signed,
A Loyal Friend**

Dear Loyal Friend,

What a great friend you are, and here's how to be an even better one: Just listen and keep it to yourself. Evidently, that's what you've been doing since your friend is comfortable enough to confide in you thus far. Cause we don't and won't to just anybody, I'm just sayin, you two must have history. It's hard to pull back the veil and reveal your heart-break, your embarrassment or your dirty laundry. It's one thing to put it in the dryer, but when you're left with your business hanging on the clothesline, good googolly moogooly, you just want to run and hide.

I know you've asked how to comfort her, but unfortunately no matter how hard you try, that won't happen. She doesn't need a comforter; she needs a confidant. To comfort means to "ease" to "relieve, cheer" and unless you're the cheating, philandering, good for nothing...oh wait I'm sorry, I digress. Unless you're the spouse, that isn't your position or place to fill. I know you mean well, but you, an outsider, can't heal this kinda hurt for her. It is totally and wholeheartedly between her and her husband. What works for or against one couple may not for another. It's wrong, there's no doubt about it and a legitimate reason for divorce. But that's not always the answer one or both participants in the relationship are seeking.

When you're on the receiving end of infidelity, you feel depleted, worthless and downright not "good" enough. Your confidence takes a leave of absence and you just can't find it anywhere. Deciding to deal with the deceit and pretending it doesn't bother you is foolish. It's an internal war you cannot win. I hope she's able to fuel her soul during this most difficult time. A trusted friend provides an advantage against the enemy, and that's exactly what you are. Without comment or judgement towards her, remain a shoulder soldier, strong and upright, ready for your friend to lean on.

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

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PHOTO COURTESY OF PAULETTE SINGLETON/TRICE EDNEY NEWSWIRE

President Barack Obama, alongside First Lady Michelle Obama and their youngest daughter, Sasha, greets the crowd of thousands at the National Christmas Tree Lighting.

PHOTO ESSAY

The Obamas' last Christmas in the White House brings joy to thousands



PHOTO COURTESY OF PAULETTE SINGLETON/TRICE EDNEY NEWSWIRE

First Lady Michelle Obama and Olympic swimmer Simone Manuel read stories to children after the lighting of the National Christmas Tree.



PHOTO COURTESY OF PAULETTE SINGLETON/TRICE EDNEY NEWSWIRE

Chance the Rapper and singers perform at the National Christmas Tree Lighting.



PHOTO COURTESY OF PAULETTE SINGLETON/TRICE EDNEY NEWSWIRE

Audience enjoys Christmas music and festivities at the final National Christmas Tree Lighting by the Obamas.

New Hanover County

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.

Policies for briefs, news and photos on page 2
Compiled by Wilmington Journal Staff

HOMETOWN NEWS FROM BRUNSWICK COUNTY

Increase your human rights!

In order to secure suitable jobs, one needs to be educated to the point of meeting the requirements for such jobs. many of our youngsters are handicapped by being incarcerated. It is recorded that over half of this Nation's prisoners are persons of color, and many of these are incarcerated for nonviolent offenses. This brings about limited opportunities for employment or support. When many are released from prison, they end up being convicted for committing either same crimes again or new crimes. This causes them to be cycled back into prison. America spends \$70 billion a



Verniece Stanley

year on its prisons, while we fall short in monies to fund prevention, treatment, education and services. Serious and violent criminals comprise only a small part of the prison population and, therefore, are not the primary cause of the exorbitant amount of money spent on maintaining prisons and jails. Juveniles are considered a suspect class, in that juveniles are given limited rights by federal and individual state laws, restricting persons under the age of 18 from such acts as voting, driving, buying liquor or tobacco products. Juveniles are not considered to have the maturity to handle such matters as responsibly as adults. We must not give up the fight, as we are still confronted by various battles face in the form of all kinds of inequality. All of us have cer-

tain inalienable human and civil rights to live our lives in dignity as American citizens. We must insist on our freedom of speech and all other rights guaranteed to us by the United states Constitution and the Bill of Rights. We are in the midst of the Christmas Season, and I only wish I had the words adequate to express how much I wish all a merry Christmas and a happy New Year! During the Christmas Holidays and all through the coming year, I hope for all prosperity and happiness. As we go through this season and at all other times, let me challenge us to learn to live together and work together and respect each other each day. Let us hold compassion in our hearts for each other and use care for our fellowman to help achieve better relationships in the community. This needs to

reach across all lines of religion, race, creed, color, age, and gender! May the blessings and peace of this Christmas Season be with all!

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.



Remember the reason for the season!



ILA 1426 spreads Christmas cheer



PHOTO BY JOHN STUKES, JR. OF JUS PRAY PHOTOGRAPHY

GIVING BACK--Erica "Goldie" Kea, Executive Secretary at International Longshoremen's Association, #1426, with bikes collected during "Bikes For Tykes." Every year ILA#1426 donates bicycles that bring cheer and smiling faces to many boys and girls in the city.



May the gifts of peace, love, and joy be yours to cherish this holiday season. Thank you for your kind patronage and the gift of your friendship.

We enjoy serving you.

From the management and staff of THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

In loving memory of
Thomas C. Jervay, Sr., November 30, 1914 - December 28, 1993
Willie E. Jervay, June 27, 1921 - June 16, 2012
Katherine Jervay Tate, March 27, 1949 - January 27, 2015
Thomas C. Jervay, Jr., May 11, 1946 - September 10, 1982
Jonathan Q. Allen, June 26, 1989 - June 2, 2014



**13th Annual
Martin Luther King Jr. Breakfast**

Sponsored by the New Hanover County NAACP
Date: Saturday, January 14, 2017
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Speaker: Rev. Dr. Conrad Pridgen
Place: Union Station, Cape Fear Community College
Wilmington, NC
Donation: \$25.00
Tickets available at Davis Funeral Home and The Wilmington Journal

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM NEW HANOVER COUNTY NAACP

Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year!!!

Wilmington Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

910-759-6123

Davis Funeral Home
 would like to honor the families we've served this year.

Hassan Abdulkadri	Thelma Hill	George Pompey
Patricia Auld	Katie Hollis	LaRenda Purdy
Leona Bellamy	Rachel Irving	Ahkim Pyatt
Rashon Blyden	Larry Jarrett, Sr.	Macarthur Randolph
Joseph Boyer, Sr.	Cleveland Jarrett	Brenda Rawls
Doris Brewington	Alex Vargas	Levar Riley II
Regina Brewington	Frederick Johnson	Doris Robbins
Lucy Brown	Katherine Johnson	Rosa Russell
Marian Brown	John Junious, Jr.	Andrade Samuel
Terry Brown	George Junious	Patricia Schwartz
Alfonza Brunson	Marguerite Kirby	Odessa Scott
James Bryant II	Julia Kyle	S. Shabazz-Allah
Harvey Bryant	Barbara Lee	Hattie Shepard
Jennette Butts	Paul Lefkowitz	Lester Shuford
Joe Canty	Richard Lennon	Cynthia Simmons
Liveran Chambers	John Leonard II	Geneva Simmons
Gwendolyn Clay	Bernice Lewis	Mildred Simmons
William Clemmons	Catherine Lewis	George Simpson
Richard Cliette	Joseph Lewis	Willie Skinner, Jr.
Lloyd Dobkin	Levon Little	Lottie Small
Henry Donaldson	Michael Lucas	Anne Smith
Walter Ellis	Mary Malloy	Elmer Smith
Abbie Fogle	Alice McKnight	Frances Smith
Helen Fredlaw	Lester McKoy	Grace Smith
Lee Ethel Freeman	Richard McKoy	Sadie Spearman
Retha Galloway	Robert McMillian	Charles Stith
Christopher George	Clortha Miller	Ferrol Thomas, Jr.
Messiah Pearce	Kimberly Miller	Donal Thomas
Major Grady, Jr.	Lena Miller	Eric Thomas
Frankie Grady	Bessie Monroe	Syn'Cyr Tucker
Mable Grady	Gloria Murray	Willie Mae Wade
Josie Grant	Willie Nelson, Jr.	Kyeatha Walker
Bernice Greene	Mercedes Newsome	Carlton Washington
Otis Hames, Jr.	Evelyn Nixon	Thomas White
Lilla Hankins	Willie Owens, Jr.	Evelyn Willis
Willa Hansley	Joseph Page, Jr.	Laura Willia
Mary Hill	Olivia Pelham	Mary Wilson

901 S. 5th Ave., Wilmington, NC 28401 ~ (910)762-6181
 www.davisfuneralhomenc.com
 Family Owned & Operated~ Javoke & Jennifer Terrell

Season's Greetings and Happy New Year

Precinct W-29

Looking forward to a prosperous and productive New Year

E.B. Davis

SEASON'S GREETINGS AND MAY GOD RICHLY BLESS EACH & EVERYONE OF YOU.

LINDA PEARCE THOMAS

International Longshoremen's Association
AFL-CIO, Local #1426

Would like to wish everyone Christmas Blessings and Peace in the New Year!

OFFICERS
 Gregory L. Washington, *President*
 James A. Keaton, *Vice-President*
 Reginald D. Atwood, *Secretary-Treasurer*
 Lewis A.Hines, Jr. *Business Agent*
 Eric C. Atwood, *Recording Secretary*
 Erica Y. Kea, *Executive Secretary*

EXECUTIVE BOARD
 Daisel Sidberry, Jr. *Chairman*
 Alford Brown, Nathaniel Josey, Samuel J. Spicer and Terry Vaught

Merry Christmas And Happy New Year

Wishing you the Gift of Faith The Blessing of Hope and the Peace of God's Love.


The Staff and Management of
 John H. Shaw's Son Funeral Home

The test of the years is your proof of our dependability.
Serving the community since 1895.

William O. Boykin, Manager

Tyrone Archie, Eunice Boone-Bowen, William R. Boykin, Michelle Brooks, Edward "Bubba" Crumdy, Robert Garrison, Beverly Hedgebeth, Rev. Terry L. Jones, Demetrius Jordan, Michael Lawson, Wanda Poole, Mychal Robinson, Bernard "LP" Stevens, Richal Stevens, James Stevenson, LaShonda Sidbury-Teague, Carolyn Waddell-Mack, Jillian Waddell and Thaddeus Williams

Worship the Newborn King



Merry Christmas to All
From
Rev. Anthony Watson, Pastor
and
The Mt. Olive
A.M.E. Church Family
1001 S. 7th Street
Wilmington, NC

May the light of His love shine upon you and make this Christmas a season of joy.


Jesus is the reason for the season!!

St. Andrews AME Zion Church
1201 S. 9th Street
Wilmington, NC 28401

Reverend H.A. Gregory, Pastor



"Receive the Greatest gift of all-
JESUS CHRIST!
"




St. James African Methodist Episcopal Church
3425 Castle Hayne Road
Castle Hayne, NC 28429
910-675-9755
Rev. Dr. Theresa M. Holmes, Pastor



*Remember
the reason
for the season!*

Merry Christmas!
From Our Family to Yours




Pastor & Mrs. Johnson A. Hooper
Faith Outreach COGIC Family
Jacksonville, NC
Email: FOMCOGIC@ymail.com
www.facebook.com/fomcogicjacksonvillnc

Matthew 1:23 "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us).

Merry Christmas to all as we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ. We pray God's blessings upon you as you embrace this season of hope that brings much joy and cheer to the world! Blessings to you.


Rev. Maria Lacewell and the Price Cathedral A.M.E. Zion Church



Price Cathedral A.M.E. Zion Church
1201 Orange Street
Wilmington, NC 28401

As Pastor of The Better St. Phillip AME Zion Church and on the behalf of my officers and members, we would like to extend Season's Greetings filled with great health and much wealth filled with peace, love and joy.
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.
For He is the reason for the season.

For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him- John 3:17 (NIV)

"St. Phillip is working in the vision, as the vision goes forth. in the name of Jesus "

Church Service will be held at 9:00 a.m. on Christmas Sunday Morning
Breakfast will be served

Reverend Dr. Mary C. Nixon, Pastor
2913 Acorn Branch Rd.
Wilmington, NC 28405
910-251-9892

And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.


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

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.----LUKE 2: 9 - 14



Good Hope Missionary Baptist Church
4209 South Smithfield Road
Knightdale, North Carolina 27545
John L. Thatch, Pastor



Wishing you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!

Still Waters Salon Suites
Professional service in a private atmosphere





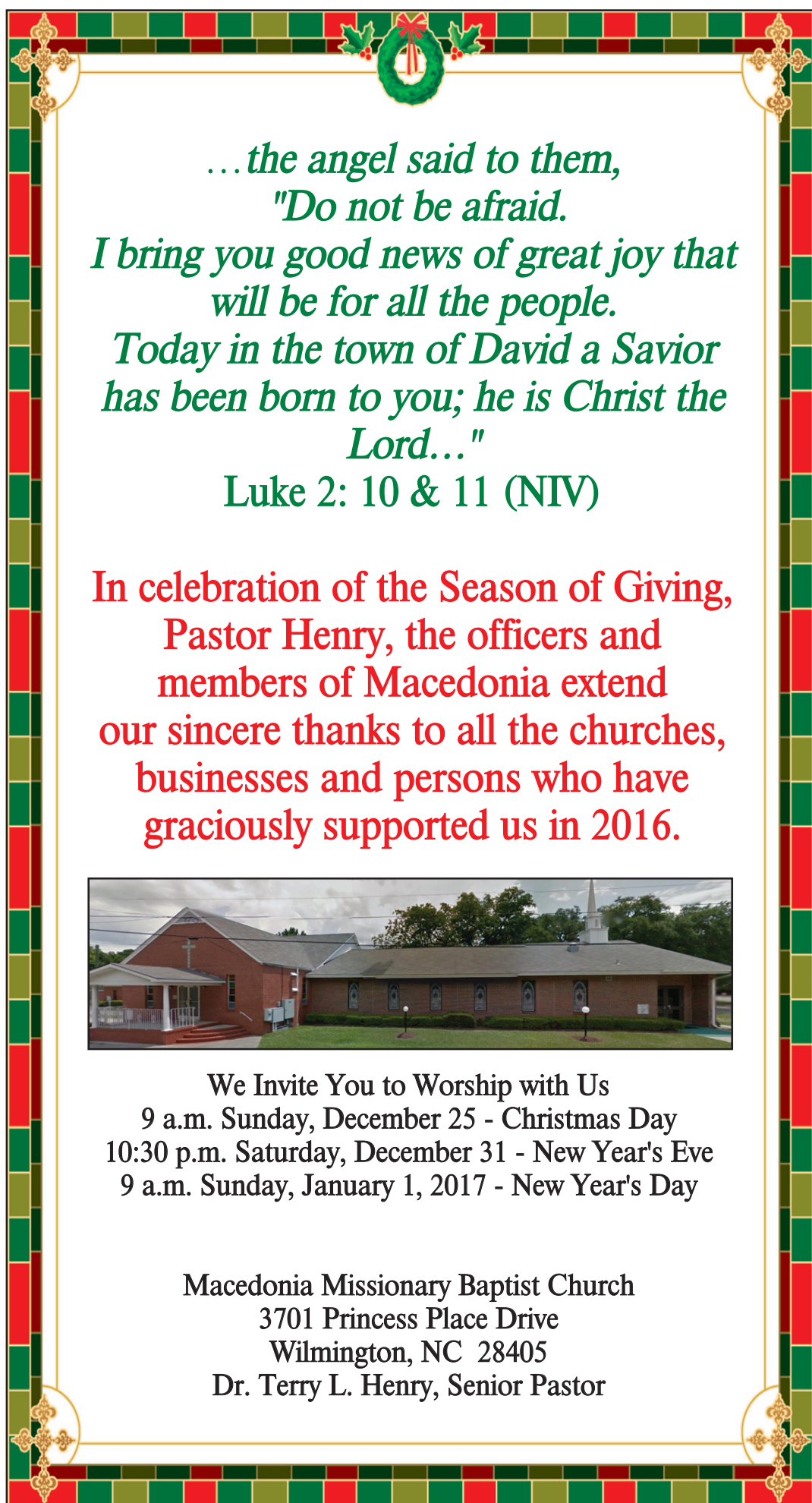
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OWNER/STYLIST AKENA HOWARD

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During entire month of December

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*On behalf of
Alpha Kappa Alpha
Sorority, Inc.,
Alpha Psi Omega
Chapter,
Congratulations on
90 years of service
to our community.
May God Continue to
bless you as you bless
us with excellent
service.
Merry Christmas and
a very
Happy New Year.*



*...the angel said to them,
"Do not be afraid.
I bring you good news of great joy that
will be for all the people.
Today in the town of David a Savior
has been born to you; he is Christ the
Lord..."*

Luke 2: 10 & 11 (NIV)

**In celebration of the Season of Giving,
Pastor Henry, the officers and
members of Macedonia extend
our sincere thanks to all the churches,
businesses and persons who have
graciously supported us in 2016.**



We Invite You to Worship with Us
9 a.m. Sunday, December 25 - Christmas Day
10:30 p.m. Saturday, December 31 - New Year's Eve
9 a.m. Sunday, January 1, 2017 - New Year's Day

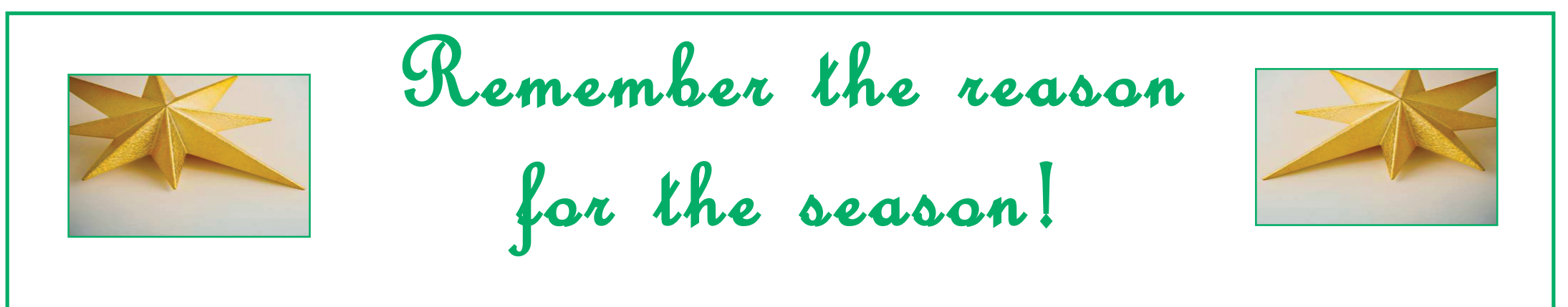
Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church
3701 Princess Place Drive
Wilmington, NC 28405
Dr. Terry L. Henry, Senior Pastor





*Wishing peace, hope
and love to all and a
Blessed New Year!*



**Ebenezer Missionary Baptist
Church**
2929 Princess Place Drive
Wilmington, NC
910-762-0580
Rev. Dr. A.L. Gee, Pastor



*Remember the reason
for the season!*

Turn holiday gatherings into a family-history research project



The holiday season represents the perfect opportunity for anyone who's been thinking of taking a deep dive into their family history.

BY CEIL LUCAS
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The holiday season represents the perfect opportunity for anyone who's been thinking of taking a deep dive into their family history.

All those grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins gathering to feast on turkey or exchange gifts possess a treasure trove of genealogical information and family stories.

All you need to do is ask - and perhaps turn on a recording device - and soon you may be learning about great-great grandfather's treacherous journey across the Atlantic or Uncle Phil's courageous actions during World War II.

"Interviewing family members is one of the best places to start when you want to learn about or write about your family's story," says Ceil Lucas, a sociolinguist, amateur genealogist and author of *How I Got Here: A Memoir*.

"Older relatives especially may have wonderful tales from decades ago involving people you never heard about. If you're lucky, you may even learn that they have stashed away somewhere letters, diaries or photographs that belonged to those long dead ancestors."

But be warned, Lucas says. While people dream about learning they descended from royalty or happen to be distantly related to Benjamin Franklin, genealogical research is just as likely to turn up horse thieves, drifters and scandals of every sort.

"You're going to find stuff you might not want to know," Lucas says. "But who knows, those might be your most fascinating finds."

Lucas began working on her family history three decades ago, about the same time she began making notes on what would become a memoir of her childhood in Guatemala City and Rome, Italy. This upbringing left her with a sense of "I'm not from here" - "here" being the U.S., where she was born.

But her genealogical research, which revealed her first ancestors coming to the U.S. from Scotland in 1654 and England in 1679, showed her just how "from here" she is. Lucas realized that the stories of her ancestors needed to be included in her memoir and

the result was a genealogical memoir.

"The thing is, once the genealogical story is learned, it simply can't be unlearned," she says.

Interviewing relatives between sips of eggnog is just the beginning. Lucas has other suggestions for those who want to explore their family histories:

•Check census records. Every 10 years since 1790 the census has taken a snapshot of who's living in the United States. Valuable information can be found in census records, and you might even discover relatives you never heard about.

•Sign up for a genealogy class. Many community colleges offer non-credit courses in genealogy that will help you understand how to research your family and interpret what you find.

•Consider DNA testing. People often think they know their ethnic lineage, but discover surprises when they

have a DNA test. Lucas' DNA test revealed that she is descended not only from people who hailed from England and Scotland, but also the Iberian Peninsula.

"It also probably doesn't hurt if you are a nerd about these things like me," Lucas says. "I found an ancestor who was involved in the Oklahoma Land Rush, so I researched that and found newspaper articles about the land rush. I think it's important to put your family story in the historical context, especially if you plan to write a memoir."

About Ceil Lucas
Ceil Lucas, author of How I Got Here: A Memoir, is a sociolinguist. She holds a bachelor's degree in French and Art History, a master's degree in French and Italian, and a doctorate in Linguistics. She spent 40 years as a university professor and researcher. She began teaching Italian in 1973 and continues to do so. She is the editor and co-author of 22 books.



Family is why we do it all.

Cedric Dickerson, Agent
5919 Oleander Dr. Suite 104
Wilmington, NC 28403
Bus: 910-395-4064
cedric@cedricdickerson.com

We all feel the same commitment to care for our families. Helping you meet your insurance needs is part of my commitment to you. Like a good neighbor, State Farm is there.®
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