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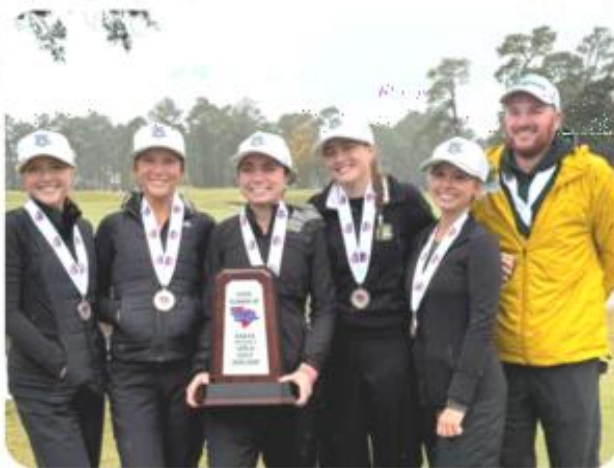
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CONWAY

HOME OF THE

TIGERS



Honoring Tradition. Embracing Progress.

The Environment and Your Health: What we Breathe, Drink, Eat and Live Around

By Christian Newman, *WC Magazine Health Editor*



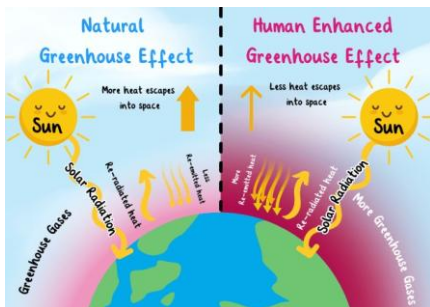
Christian Newman
*WC Magazine
Health Editor*

Environmental health is the branch of public health that examines how the places and conditions around us influence human health. The field considers the air we breathe, the water we drink, the land beneath our feet, the homes we live in, the workplaces where we spend our entire days, and the systems that shape our communities. Environmental health includes pollution and toxic exposures, but the field reaches much further. Energy production, transportation, sanitation, housing, land use, climate, and infrastructure can influence health across entire populations. Many of these factors operate quietly in the background of everyday



Above Info Courtesy of the CDC

life, yet the effects can become visible through patterns of disease, quality of life, and health disparities. My interest in environmental health began during a college course, where a visit to a solar farm gave me a firsthand look at the relationship between energy production and the environment. The experience made me more interested in how decisions surrounding environmental health eventually affect human health. Energy production provides a useful starting point because the way communities generate electricity can influence environmental conditions and long-term health. Burning fossil fuels releases greenhouse gases and air pollutants, while renewable energy sources such as solar and wind can reduce emissions associated with electricity generation. Energy development still involves decisions about land, infrastructure, resources, and surrounding communities. These choices demonstrate why environmental health requires a broader perspective than simply identifying individual pollutants. Global warming adds another important dimension to the discussion. Human activities have increased the concentration of greenhouse gases in the



Above Info Courtesy of Twinkl

atmosphere, contributing to a rise in Earth's average temperature. The health implications extend beyond warmer days. Rising temperatures can contribute to more intense heat waves, changing precipitation patterns, rising sea levels, worsening wildlife conditions, and shifts in ecosystems. Each change can create health consequences ranging from medical experiences to disruptions in housing, transportation, healthcare, and other essential services. Extreme heat represents one of the clearest health consequences of a warming climate. High temperatures place additional stress on the cardiovascular system and

can lead to dehydration, heat exhaustion, and heat stroke. Older adults, young children, outdoor workers, and people living with chronic health conditions face greater risks during prolonged heat. Housing conditions matter during these periods as well. Homes without reliable cooling, adequate insulation, shade, or ventilation can become dangerous environments when temperatures remain elevated for extended periods. Climate change can affect health through severe weather and disruptions to essential systems. Hurricanes, flooding, drought, and extreme storms can damage homes, roads, power systems, healthcare facilities, and water infrastructure. Flooding can contaminate drinking water and create conditions favorable for mold growth. A changing climate can influence infectious disease patterns as well. Therefore, public health departments must monitor these changes and prepare communities for emerging risks by connecting climate change with infectious disease prevention and emergency preparedness. Air quality remains a major environmental health concern. Traffic, industrial activity, construction, fires, and energy production can contribute pollutants to the air.

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WHITTEMORE RACEPATH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Whittemore Racepath Historic Society was established in 2021 for the purpose of addressing disparities that exist throughout Horry County and to create initiatives/programs to address these issues: education, economic development, housing, historic preservation, as well as youth and senior programs. Our mission is to preserve, revitalize, and maintain historical sites of meaning to African American communities throughout Horry County, South Carolina as well as to showcase African American cultural heritage and the contributions of Whittemore Alumni throughout the United States.



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The Environment and Your Health: What we Breathe, Drink, Eat and Live Around

By: Christian Newman, WC Magazine Health Editor

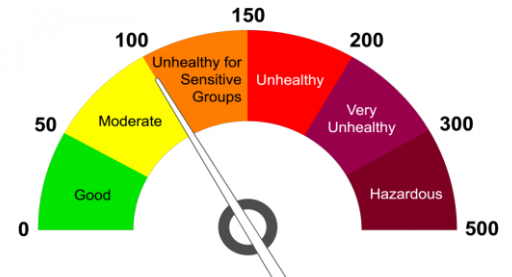
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Christian Newman
*WC Magazine
Health Editor*

Fine particulate matter, commonly called PM2.5, receives particular attention because these tiny particles can travel deep into the lungs. Air pollution can worsen heart and lung conditions, including asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. The Air Quality Index, or AQI, gives people a practical way to understand the air around them. The scale runs from 0-500.

An AQI of 0-50 is considered good, 51-100 is moderate, 101-150 is unhealthy for sensitive groups, 151-200 is unhealthy, 201-300 is very unhealthy, and readings above 300 are hazardous. Knowing these numbers can help



Above Info Courtesy of CEAMS

People make practical decisions about outdoor activities. Water represents another important connection between infrastructure and health. Access to clean water remains a foundation of public health, yet safe water depends on treatment facilities, distribution systems, pipes, storage, and monitoring. Aging infrastructure, industrial contamination, agricultural runoff, and problems with individual buildings can create potential concerns. The Flint, Michigan, water crisis showed how problems with water infrastructure can expose an entire community to lead, particularly when residents' concerns are not addressed quickly. Lead deserves specific regard because certain plumbing materials can allow lead to enter drinking water. Because lead cannot be detected through taste, smell, or appearance, testing becomes especially important when exposure is suspected. Private wells create different responsibilities because homeowners must monitor their own water quality. Bacteria, nitrates, pesticides, and other contaminants can enter groundwater



Above Info Courtesy of Alamy

depending on nearby agricultural activity, septic systems, flooding, and land use. Regular testing can provide useful information about water safety and identify problems before exposure becomes a larger concern. Housing represents another major environmental health issue. Older housing may contain lead-based materials or aging plumbing and may have problems with ventilation, moisture, or structural maintenance. Persistent leaks can contribute to mold growth, while poor insulation can make extreme temperatures more difficult to manage. For older adults, housing conditions are significant because heat, cold, poor air quality, and unsafe living conditions can

place additional stress on existing health problems. The neighborhood surrounding a home can influence health as well. Transportation systems determine how easily residents can access healthcare facilities, workplaces, grocery stores, and recreational areas. Major highways can increase exposure to traffic-related pollution for nearby residents. Industrial facilities, ports, warehouses, waste sites, and large operations can influence environmental conditions throughout surrounding communities. Access to parks, trees, and green spaces can provide opportunities for physical activity, recreation, social connections, and relief from extreme heat. These issues are monumental when considering Black communities. Environmental hazards have not been distributed equally across the United States. Black Americans have historically experienced greater exposure to certain environmental hazards, including higher levels of air pollution in many communities. The history behind these patterns matter. Housing segregation, discriminatory lending practices, transportation planning, industrial development, and land-use decisions have influenced where communities developed and where certain facilities were located.

Continued on Page 20

Whittemore High School Class of 1961

LION DONALD JOHNSON

Charter Member

Lion Donald Johnson is a Charter Member of the Brooklyn Bedford Stuyvesant Lions Club. He has held many positions and earned many awards. Many of his most prized awards are:

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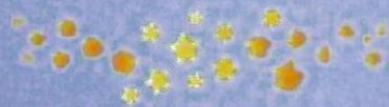
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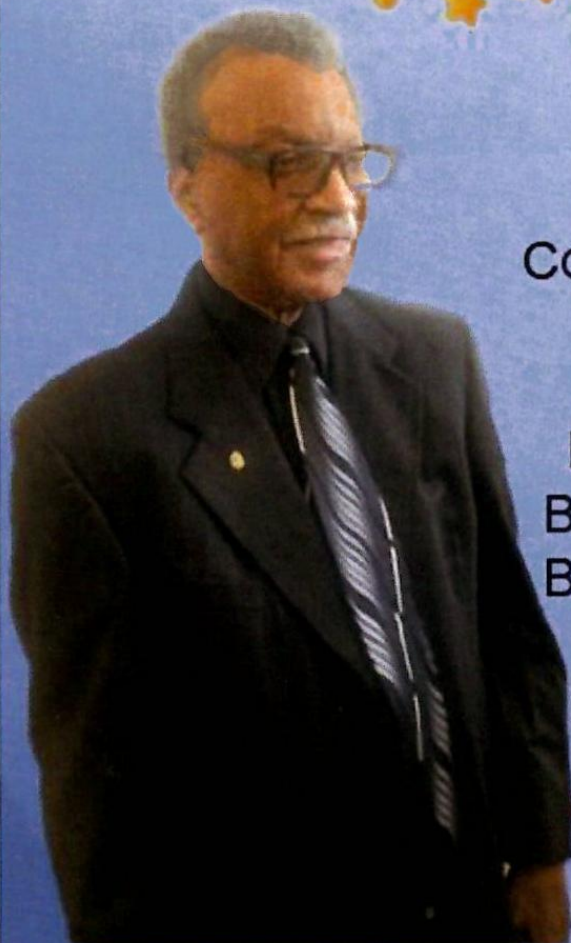
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education, news and events
coverage of happenings in the
surrounding communities in
Horry, Georgetown, and
surrounding counties.

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UNESCO MIDDLE PASSAGE PORT MARKER SLATED FOR GEORGETOWN, SC

By Steve Williams, Formerly of The Georgetown Times



October 2026

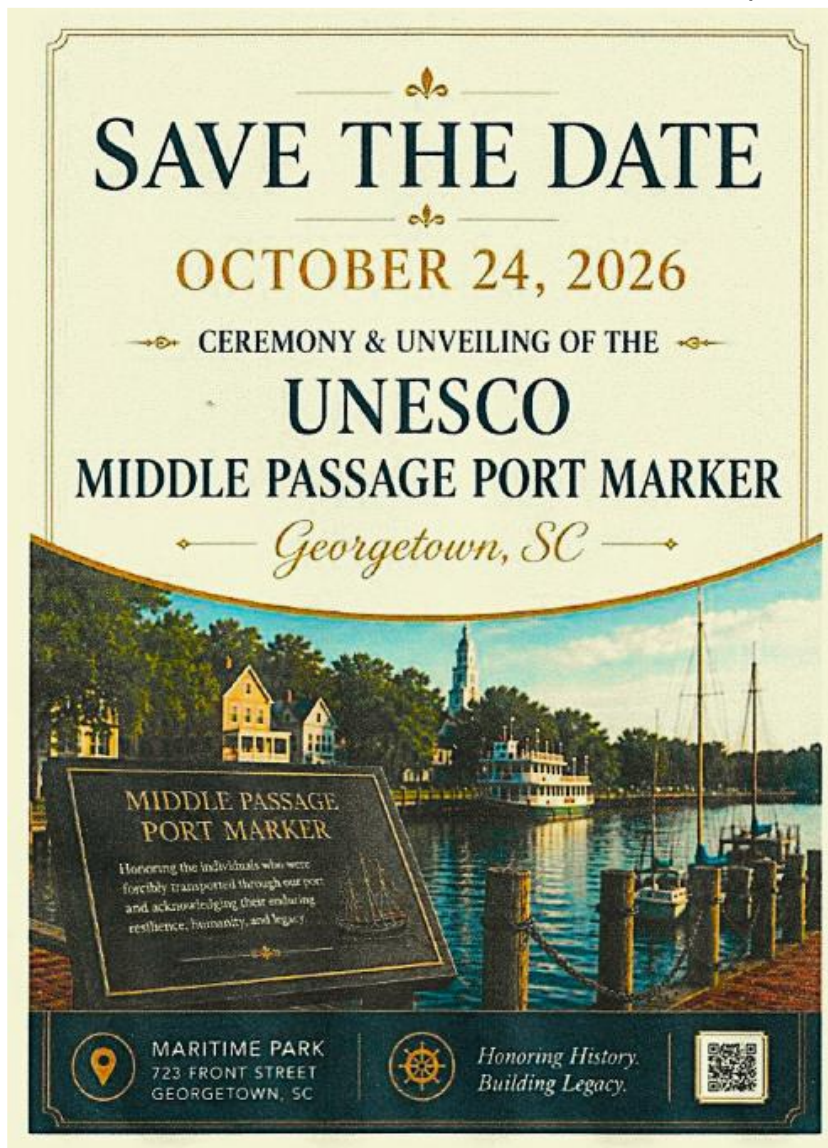
They don't call it the "Historic Waterfront" for nothing! In a month-long series of events and lectures entitled "Remembering and Honoring," Georgetown, South Carolina's Third-Oldest City, prepares to remember and honor the Arrival of the First Slave Ship in North America. October 2026 showcases 14 events "Remembering and Honoring" enslaved Ancestors and Middle Passage Commemoration.

Georgetown, SC, will become a designated site of UNESCO (the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) Routes of Enslaved People with the unveiling of a Middle Passage Port Marker in Georgetown County, SC, on October 24, 2026. The installation ceremony and related educational workshops, programs, and presentations will coincide with the 500-year anniversary of enslaved Africans arriving with Spanish explorers at Winyah Bay in 1526. Their arrival represents the first recorded arrival of enslaved Africans aboard a slave ship in what would become the United States.

The Georgetown Port Marker will join 22 other designated sites, including two in SC, two others in the United States, and sites in Africa, Canada, Haiti, Mexico, the Netherlands, and South America. UNESCO Routes of Enslaved Peoples project, begun in 1994, breaks the silence surrounding the transatlantic, Indian Ocean, and Mediterranean slave trades. It focuses on mapping memory sites, promoting the history of enslaved peoples' resistance, and examining the legacies of racism and cultural contributions of the African diaspora.

A Steering Committee of community members, led by co-chairs Ron Daise, cultural interpreter, author, and performer, and Beatrice Rodriguez, historian at the Gullah Museum, is coordinating Georgetown events. "In tandem with two recent United Nations resolutions that recognize the transatlantic slave trade as the 'gravest crime against humanity,'" said Daise, "this event will honor the lives of enslaved Africans whose lives were lost at sea and those who were brought to Georgetown and never recognized or acknowledged for their contributions to our state's and country's economic success and cultural heritage."

How important were Africans to the new colony? The answer depended on the colonists' approach to making a living. Unlike the Spanish in Mexico, the colonists found no gold. Instead, land and its potential for production became the foundation of wealth. After experimenting with various crops, they ultimately focused on those that could be exported rice and indigo. Growing these crops on a large scale required thousands of laborers. Enslaved Africans provided this essential labor. Thus, although not by choice, Africans played a pivotal role in making colonial South Carolina economically successful. In other words, Africans were instrumental in shaping its culture.



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Rodriguez added, “The marker will stand on sacred ground near the waterway on which Africans arrived. It will honor those who endured, remember those who did not, and memorialize the cultural legacy of Gullah.

The term Middle Passage refers to the middle leg of the triangular trade route where Europeans and American slave ships forcibly transported enslaved Africans across the Atlantic Ocean to the Americas between the 16th and 19th centuries. Even after the U.S. banned the trade of enslaved people by law in 1809, it continued across the Atlantic illegally right up to the Civil War.

The transatlantic journey, known as the Middle Passage, was the most harrowing and brutal aspect of the slave trade. Historians estimate that over 12 million Africans were forcibly transported across the Atlantic. Approximately half a million arrived in the British colonies in America, with about 40% entering through Charleston. Of those, roughly 75,000 remained in South Carolina.

This means nearly half of the nation's African Americans have some connection to South Carolina. Even after 1809, Georgetown port played a vital role in Africans' entrance into the New World. The new port marker will cite five documented vessels that arrived in Georgetown with a combined total of 214 captives: *Warwick*, 1737; *Endeavor*, 1738; *Susanna*, 1767; *Peggy*, 1770; and *Betsy*, 1784.

"Hundreds of thousands of enslaved Africans produced Carolina Gold Rice on the 45,000 acres of rice fields in Georgetown County. Their food ways, speech, crafts, music, and spiritual beliefs and practices forged Gullah Geechee culture and continue to impact American heritage." Said Rodriguez,

Africans had a great impact on day-to-day life in the colonies. They shaped the culture of the Southeast Coast, particularly the area from North Carolina to Florida, which is now known as the Gullah Geechee Corridor.

“Remembering and Honoring” Lecture Series & Event Schedule includes the following:

1. ***“To Distant Shores: The Transatlantic Slave Trade to South Carolina: 1680-1808”*** Middle Passage Exhibit opens October 1 st through October 30; Open during library operating hours; Georgetown County Library, 405 Cleland Street, Georgetown, SC 29440
2. ***“1526: African Arrivals – The Rice Heritage They Imparted”*** with the program ***“Spiderwort, Root Medicine, and Spiritual Healing”*** Ron Daise, historian and culture-keeper, Wednesdays, October 7th and 21st, 1:00 pm, Brookgreen Gardens, 1931 Brookgreen Drive Murrells Inlet, SC 29576. NOTE: Free with Brookgreen Gardens paid admission.
3. ***The “Anti-Slavery Resistance, 1526 – 1866” Exhibit*** by Brother Nizar (Kelvin Bluffton) opens October 13th through 31st; The Rice Museum, 633 Front Street, Georgetown, SC 29440
4. ***“1526: African Arrivals – Boats, Ships, Bateaux,”*** a workshop for middle schoolers with Zenobia Harper, artist, Thursday, October 15, 2026, 12noon –1:00pm; Rice Museum Studio 633, Front Street, Georgetown, SC 29440. NOTE: Free admission. Limited to 25 participants. RSVP at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1526-african-arrivals-boats-ships-bateaux-tickets-2002107101235?aff=oddtcreator>

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Whittemore / Conway

Class of 1971 kicks off Their 55th Reunion

By Priscilla Fuller, WCM Contributing Editor



The **Whittemore/Conway Class of 1971** kicked off their 55th reunion this past weekend with events occurring from Friday, September 25 through Sunday 27th. The events included a fish fry at the Smith Jones Recreation Center and a Saturday gala at the AKA Center in Conway. The weekend concluded with class members attending Sunday church services at the Mt. Pisgah Church in Marion, SC, which is pastored by Rev. John Nichols, also a classmate. The events were well attended by class members.

The class of 1971 is very active in supporting each other as well as the community with annual donations for the *Whittemore Alumni Scholarship Fund, sponsorship of a student in the job program sponsored by World Community Magazine, back-to-school supplies for students, as well as gifts to families in need.* The President of the class is **Cynthia Livingston; Vice President, Larry White; and Treasurer, Howard Brantley.**

The Joyce Graham Dewitt family, which included her husband, son and brother, was awarded a gift of love for her devoted service to the Class of 1971 and her community at the event. Joyce was instrumental in keeping the class together and promoted numerous acts of support for the community and her class.





Cont'd from Page 12

5. **“1526: African Arrivals – The Afrofuturism They Set in Motion”** with Sara Makeba Daise, author, public historian, and healer and energy worker; Thursday, October 22, 2026; 5:30pm, Georgetown County Library, 405 Cleland Street, Georgetown, SC 29440
6. **CREATE Marine Debris Cleanups** in partnership with the Middle Passage Historic Port Marker Steering Committee; Volunteers at East Bay Park and the Harborwalk will collect debris where the markers will be permanently installed; Saturday, October 17, 2026, 9:00-11:00am; Meet-up at The Gullah Museum, 123 King Street, Ste. 6 prior to debris collection
7. **“An Evening of Jazz & Dinner” with Nahi Gruv**; Friday, October 23, 2026, 6:30–8:30pm SC Maritime Park, 725 Front St, Georgetown, SC 29440; Ticket sales including dinner are \$35 for single; \$60 for couple tickets. <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/an-evening-of-jazz-dinner-with-nahi-gruv-tickets-2002769535594?aff=oddtcreator>
8. **“Unveiling of the UNESCO Middle Passage Historic Port Marker”** Saturday, October 24, 2026, 10:45am, SC Maritime Park, 725 Front St, Georgetown, SC 29440
9. **“Artist Talk: The “Anti-Slavery Resistance, 1526 – 1866”** Brother Nizar (Kelvin Bluffton) October 24, 2026, 3:00pm, The Rice Museum, 633 Front Street, Georgetown, SC 29440
10. **“1526: African Arrivals – The Communities They Populated”** Tour de Plantersville Saturday, October 31, 2026

“CAUGHT GREEN HANDED”



The Horry County Solid Waste Authority recently recognized Nichols area resident **Kurt Jones**, as the “Caught Green Handed” recipient for the month of **August, 2026**.

“The ‘Caught Green Handed’ recognition is presented monthly to a Horry County resident caught in the act of recycling” stated **Esther Murphy**, Director of Recycling and Corporate Affairs for the Solid Waste Authority. “It’s the Solid Waste Authority’s way of recognizing and thanking citizens who have made the effort to recycle. Through their recycling efforts, natural resources are saved and the amount of waste being landfilled is reduced.” **Mr. Jones**, a regular recycler at the **Duford Recycling Center**, was surprised and honored to receive this recognition.

*Mr. Kurt Jones, August, 2026
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A New Beginning: Black Pearl Legacy Lives On

By Priscilla Fuller, WCM Contributing Editor

October 2026



Atlantic Beach has always been special to me, dating back to my childhood, when it was the only one-day vacation we knew. Recently, I had the opportunity to attend a political rally at an establishment on Atlantic Beach. I was pleasantly surprised at a new addition on Main Street named the **Black Pearl Celebrations**, a vacation home rental. It was beautifully constructed, and the affair, which was on a rooftop, had an amazing view.

In conducting some research, we found the establishment was owned by a young Black couple named **Michael and Michele Brown** from Charlotte, North Carolina.

In an interview with them, I learned that they heard about Atlantic Beach based on the famous Black Bikers weekend. The couple came down to Atlantic Beach one weekend at the urging of a friend, John David, and fell in love with it. The Beach was beautiful, and people were so warm and friendly. Shortly after their visit, some property became available, and the couple decided to bid on the property and won. They did not have a plan for it but knew they wanted to be a part of the rebirth of Atlantic Beach. After securing the property, they came down numerous times looking at the community, talking to the local people about the needs of the community.



Michele & Michael Brown



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They also found that on Main Street there had not been a structure built in 30 or 40 years. They decided that a vacation home rental would be something that people could enjoy as well as other people visiting the Beach. It was a two-year project with lots of support from the people in the community and the town government. Since a structure like that had not been built in a long time, new regulations and other laws posed delays in completing the project, ensuring all new regulations were in place. There were times they felt the task was too much. However, they felt they had invested too much time, money and other resources to quit. There were a lot of ups and downs but the couple, with the support of the community, pushed on. They saw this structure not only offering people the opportunity to stay, but also a conference room which could be used for meetings by people in the community etc., and space where weddings and other events could take place. *The couple decided to name the establishment "Black Pearl Celebrations."* The name Black Pearl meant so much to people and the couple wanted a place where people could feel they could be celebrated. **The Black Pearl Legacy continues!!**

The establishment opened in June of this year and has had several events there. It has 11 bedrooms, meeting rooms, event rooms, pool and a rooftop. **A MUST SEE ON THE WEBSITE !!**

The link to acquire more information is info@blackpearlcelebrations.com

The Black Pearl Legacy continues!!

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- Transportation to doctor's appointments

The Environment and Your Health: What we Breathe, Drink, Eat and Live Around

By: *Christian Newman, WC Magazine Health Editor*

Cont'd from Page 7



Christian Newman
*WC Magazine
Health Editor*

A highway constructed decades ago can continue affecting nearby neighborhoods today. An older building can still contain lead-based materials many years after construction. Environmental contamination can remain in soil or groundwater after an industrial facility closes. Decisions made by previous generations can therefore influence environmental conditions and health opportunities for generations that follow. Environmental justice brings these issues into sharper focus. Environmental justice asks whether people have a fair opportunity to live in safe and healthy environments and whether certain communities carry a disproportionate share of environmental burdens. Communities with fewer

financial or political resources may face greater difficulty addressing environmental problems or influencing local development. Recognizing environmental factors provides a more complete understanding of health disparities without reducing complex diseases to a single cause. The environmental conditions surrounding a patient can provide valuable information during a medical visit. Patients who ask about home environments, occupations, neighborhoods, and potential exposures can provide healthcare providers with information that

may not appear in standard medical history. A doctor may not immediately think to ask about every possible environmental exposure, so patients can help complete the picture by explaining where they live, where they work, and what they may be exposed to. Improving environmental health requires individual awareness as well as policy action. People can learn about their drinking water, understand potential housing concerns, monitor workplace exposures, and pay attention to local air-quality conditions. Communities can advocate for infrastructure improvements, safer housing, green spaces, reliable



Above Info Courtesy of Carro



*Above Info Courtesy of
Environmental Health Coalition*

public transportation, clean water, and responsible development. Policy-makers and public health professionals can use environmental data and community input to identify areas experiencing greater exposure and direct resources where they are most needed. Environmental health asks us to broaden the way we think about prevention. A person's health is shaped by more than genetics, personal habits, and medical care. The physical environment can influence exposure, safety, access to resources, and the ability to recover when environmental emergencies occur. For Black communities that have experienced generations of unequal environmental burdens, understanding these connections can strengthen conversations about health equity and prevention. Ultimately, decisions involving energy, housing, transportation, land, water, and infrastructure eventually truly do affect people. Health begins in homes, schools,

neighborhoods, workplaces, and the systems that support daily life. Creating healthier communities requires attention to those environments and recognition that public health extends beyond treating disease. Improving health begins by looking outward and asking whether the places we live in are giving us the conditions we need to thrive. For more information: World Health Organization Environmental Health Overview.



The Conway Community traveled to **Brookgreen Gardens** for its second year to participate in the **9th Annual Junkanoo Festival**, held on **Saturday, September 12, 2026**, from **10:00 AM – 3:00 PM**.

The festival featured African Drumming & Dancing, Children's Craft & Mask Decorating, presentations on the West African, Caribbean & Gullah Geechee Heritage & Culture, Exhibits & Artisan Market, and delicious Food Tastings & Desserts (Gullah & African-Inspired Dishes).

After a brief welcome in the **Leonard Pavilion**, a live performance was given by the wonderful **Plantation Singers** before and after the **Huntington Exemplary Service Awards** (L. Pavillion); Gullah Geechee Storytelling by **Frank Murry** (Courtyard); a live performance by the **Beach City Singers**; **Artistry of Benin, Africa** exhibit (**Giany Guedjo**), in the Lowcountry



The Plantation Singers

Gallery; Curator Talk by **Cookie Washington** (Ron Daise Auditorium); and a live performance by **WONA WOMALAN** African Drumming.

Live music and the Artisan Market was held throughout the event, as well as **Junkaroo Mask Making**, **Heritage Rock Painting**, **Maasai Necklaces**, **Musical Instruments**, tour of the **Gullah Geechee Gaardin**, and a **Flower Bar**. Other highlights for everyone were **tie dying** and **screen printing**. A visit to the **Artisans Market** included food items such as rice, benne wafers, gumbo, etc. and delicious **Gullah Cuisine** by **Chef BJ Dennis**; **Keepsakes Gullah Dolls** from **Charleston**; related books such as **Gullah Bibles**, and **McKenzie Beach Memories** and **Sandy Island Forever**. Visitors were also able to visit the “**Seen, Heard, Esteemed**” and “**Lowcountry Trail**” Exhibits.

The Huntington Exemplary Service Award was again awarded this year honoring individuals who have made outstanding contributions to improving race relations within our communities between June 19, 2025, and August 1, 2026.

The three honorees who were recognized for their leadership and commitment to advancing equity, unity, and cultural understanding were **Ebony Huel**, Georgetown County; Horry County, **Claudine Schofield**; and **Sherrie Snipes**, the state of South Carolina. The awards were presented by **Natalie Jones**.

Continued on Page 24

Male Breast Cancer

It's Rare, but Men get it Too !!

Breast cancer in men is a very real and serious cancer. Male breast cancer accounts for less than 1% of all breast cancer cases in the United States. Men have breast tissue that is the same as breast tissue found in women. Because males only make minimal amounts of breast-stimulating hormones, their breast tissue does not grow as large as females. The fact that women have more breast tissue and breast-stimulating hormones is the reason why breast cancer is more prevalent in women. There are many risk factors for male breast cancer. Age is one of the most important. It is usually seen in older men, over the age of 60. Men can also carry the breast cancer gene (BRCA) similar to women. Family history is important. High estrogen levels can also be a factor with many causes: obesity, liver disease, and high alcohol intake. Exposure to radiation in the chest area can increase one's risk.

The symptoms are the same for men as women: painless mass, enlarged lymph nodes in the armpit, bloody nipple discharge and inversion of the nipple. It is important to note that the mass will usually be on one side. There is a benign condition called gynecomastia which causes swelling in both breasts. This is due to high levels of estrogen as a result of medication or liver disease. The workup for men is the same also: mammogram, ultrasound and biopsy. The treatment for male breast cancer is similar to that for women: mastectomy or lumpectomy. Although men have less breast tissue, in many cases a lumpectomy (removal of the tumor) can be performed with great cosmetic outcomes. Seventy-five percent of male breast cancer cells express estrogen receptors which make men candidates for hormone therapies such as Tamoxifen and Arimidex. The prognosis and staging is similar to breast cancer for women. The earlier the stage, the better the prognosis. Early detection is as important for men as for women. The advantage that men have over women is less breast tissue. In men, a mass will be more obvious than in a woman with a large cup size. It is unfortunate that many men will not seek help before the cancer has grown large and spread to other areas of the body. Decreasing one's risk for male breast cancer requires maintaining a healthy weight and decreasing the intake of alcohol. The most important factor is early detection: if you have an abnormal swelling on one breast, get evaluated by your health care professional.



All babies are born with breast tissue that contains milk ducts. Though it develops differently over time, both men and women can get [breast cancer](#).



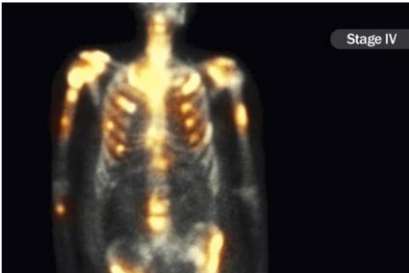
Your Age: As you get older, your chances of getting male breast cancer go up. The average age of men when they get a diagnosis is 72.



Drinking Alcohol: If you're a heavy drinker, it puts you at higher risk for male breast cancer. Alcohol can damage your liver, which could put your hormone levels out of whack.



Medical Issues That Raise Your Risk: If your chest has been treated with radiation for another type of cancer, you have a greater chance of getting male breast cancer. Your odds also go up if you took estrogen for prostate cancer.



Stages: Your doctor can check the stage of your cancer with bone, CT, or PET (positron emission tomography) scans. Breast cancer stages range from 0 to IV. Stage 0 means that the cancer hasn't left the milk ducts. Stage IV means it's spread to other parts of your body. This is also called metastatic cancer.



Treatment: Surgery is the most common treatment for male breast cancer. It usually involves a mastectomy, which removes your breast tissue, nipple and areola, and any surrounding lymph nodes where the cancer may have spread.

Info above Courtesy of Melinda Ratini, DO, MS - WebMD

Breast Conservation Surgery

By Dr. Regina Hampton FACS – Board Certified Surgeon

The surgical treatment for breast cancer has changed greatly over the past 40 years. If you know of a woman who was diagnosed with breast cancer in the 1970's or early 1980's, she most likely had a full mastectomy (entire breast removed). Thanks to the many researchers, physicians and breast cancer patients, who agreed to undergo treatments for research purposes, women now have many options for surgery, radiation and chemotherapy.

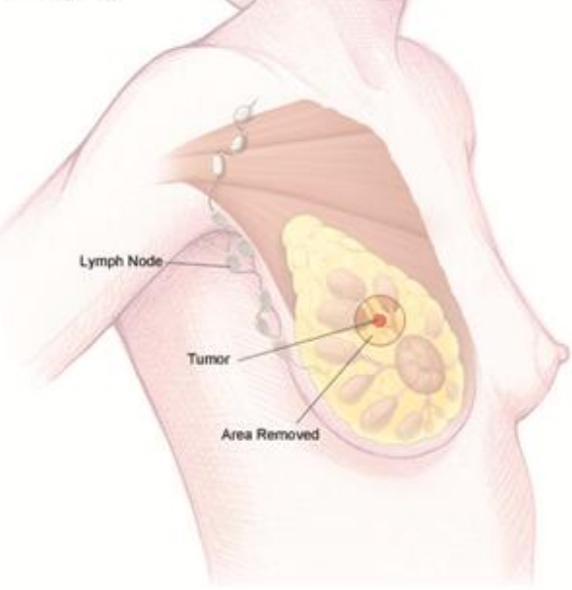


The evolution of breast surgery has been a 100-year process. A radical mastectomy (performed in the late 1800's and early 1900's) is where the entire breast, muscles on the chest wall and all the lymph nodes in the axilla (armpit) were removed. We then progressed to removing the entire breast (leaving the muscle) and removing only half of the lymph nodes in the axilla. In 1985, a landmark clinical trial found that a lumpectomy was equal to mastectomy. Today, most women receive a lumpectomy and removal of 1 or 2 lymph nodes.

A lumpectomy is removal of the breast cancer while leaving the remainder of the breast intact. This must be followed by radiation treatments to the breast. If a woman is not willing to receive radiation treatments, then she will need to get a mastectomy. The radiation is used to kill any remaining tumor cells not seen by the eye (microscopic disease).

If you have a single mass that is less than 4 cm, you will most likely be eligible for a lumpectomy. The determination is not only due to the size of the tumor, but the size of your breast. A larger breast size and a large tumor make it more likely that a lumpectomy can be performed without significant deformity to the breast. Some women can get their lumpectomy done as a breast reduction with a breast lift, which includes a lift on the non-cancer breast.

Breast-Conserving Surgery



For a tumor that is larger than 4 cm, you may receive chemotherapy upfront, in order to shrink the tumor, followed by surgery and then radiation. If your tumor does not respond (get smaller) then you may not have any option but a mastectomy. Determining your treatment options will require coordination of care by the surgeon, radiation oncologist and medical oncologist.

The most important part is the discussion between the physician and patient to determine the best option. This is the one that will cure the cancer and increase the chance for long term survival. One must realize that there are many options available, and the care is personalized for the individual and their tumor type. Although you may have friends and family members who have been diagnosed and treated for breast cancer, keep in mind that every woman and every diagnosis of breast cancer is different. Get the treatment that is tailor-made for you.

REPRINT

Along the Gullah Geechee Corridor Gullah Geechee Junkanoo Festival

By Marjorie C. McIver, WCM Contributor

Cont'd from Page 21

October 2026



Everyone, especially the Summer Literacy youth and their parents and grandparents, participated in non-stop activities throughout the day.

The Summer Literacy group gives thanks to **Chesterfield Missionary Baptist Church** for donating the bus; our financial supporters, **Dr. Taurean Hodges, DDS, Inlet Premier Implant & Cosmetic Surgery**, and **Dr. Winston McIver, Jr., Waccamaw Primary Care**; Program Coordinators **Zenobia Harper, Gwen Alston, Jo Ella McQueen, Edward McQueen**, and **Pam Jones** for assisting, and **Marjorie McIver** for coordinating the event. Special thanks go to the **Brookgreen** staff, **Anna Lovell, Assistant Director Private Events**, and **Natalie Jones, Vice-President Creative Education**, as well as **Coastal Carolina University** and the **Joyner Institute for Gullah and African Diaspora Studies (Zenobia Harper, Director)**.



Exemplary Service Awardees



By Hank Singleton, Dr. Harry H. Singleton III, International African American Museum's Lilly Director of Faith-Based Education and Engagement



The International African American Museum (IAAM) is more than a museum. It is more than a bricks and mortar edifice with curatorial objects in its 38,000 square foot hallowed space. This museum is committed to sharing the African diasporic experience with the local community and indeed the nation and world. We claim the totality of our work as a “first voices,” museum where we allow voices that were muted by the horrors of bondage and political disenfranchisement to speak decisively to the current situation.

To that end, we boast of a Learning and Engagement Division (L&E) that sees collaborating with community leaders and organizations to execute programs both at the museum and in community spaces as an indispensable part of the museum's reach to the community. L&E programs bring light to the museum's magnificent physical display such that historic memory and the quest for justice stand in organic harmony with each other.

In addition to the Curatorial Department, which is primarily responsible for the museum's physical arrangements, the L&E Division consists of four dynamic programming departments.

First, the Center for Family History (CFH) Department is a research auxiliary that traces Africans in America's ancestry back to her/his earliest possible roots. In conjunction with Ancestry.com, CFH, headed by Brian Sheffey, invites museum visitors to pursue their personal roots.

Second, the Education Department, headed by Felice Knight, focuses on African American historical pedagogy to K-12 students. Its increasingly popular summer camp focuses on social as well as intellectual formation regarding movements and figures of the black prophetic tradition. The team is not to be outdone by its own Sankofa Fellows Program. Consisting of college students, the program provides a fully paid internship to eight deserving college students. In addition to learning about black history, the students learn the operations of the museum from Visitors Services to L&E.

Third, the Public History Department, chaired by Brandon Reid, coordinates public events through departmental and collaborative efforts with historical societies in the Charleston area. Its Jazz in the Gardens on the West Side of the Museum's lower level, the Juneteenth on the Yard (J. O. Y.) extravaganza that brought in over 5,000 guests this past June, and informative author talks such as Vincent Brown from Harvard University in February, are but a microcosm of this department's historical and intellectual reach.

The fourth department, Faith Based Education and Engagement, is headed by me. It functions on two operational poles: 1) outreach; and 2) programming. First, the museum's initial invite for collaboration with the community came from this department as it rightly recognized the inescapable significance of the local faith community in establishing the museum's physical and spiritual presence in the Charleston area. More particularly, it is this department that from the museums' origins, has been the face of the museum. Establishing from those origins the interrelationship between spirituality and justice, the Faith Based Department's existence as a liaison to the African diasporic faith community had to be an indispensable component of the department and the museum's mission. Second, it is in the spirit to synchronize spirituality and justice as the most prominent aspect of African diasporic faiths that the department constructs its programs. Highlighted by our signature event of the year, Awakening of the Ancestors, in late February, the Fisk Jubilee Singers (2025) and Sounds of Blackness (2026), drew a multi-faith gathering that celebrates the richness and diversity of African diasporans relationship with God through song, prayer, and sacred gathering.

The Faith Based Department's other signature programs are Kwanzaa observed the day after Christmas and the Midday Watch Day Service held on New Year's Eve.



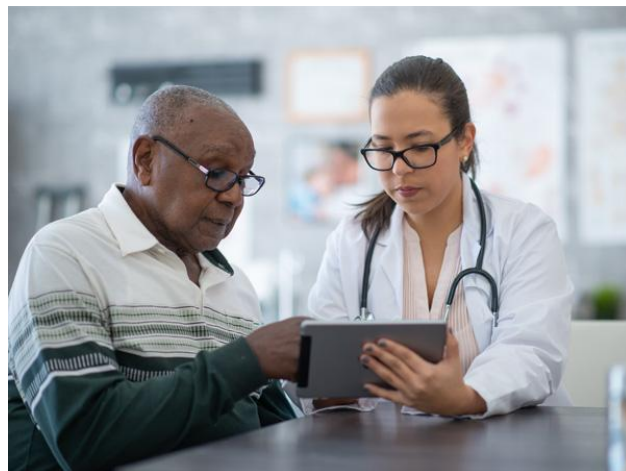
**The International African American Museum
14 Wharfside Street, Charleston, South Carolina**



Continued on Page 29

An Introduction to Type 2 Diabetes

At any given time, a certain amount of sugar (glucose) is circulating around your body in the bloodstream. In a properly functioning body, blood glucose levels go up and down over the course of the day. For example, blood glucose goes up while we eat, and it goes down when we are hungry. Exercise can cause blood glucose to drop, and eating a lot of sugar can cause it to spike upward.¹ Blood glucose is typically measured in milligrams (mg) per deciliters (dl)-in other words, blood glucose is measured in number of milligrams (mg) present in one deciliter of blood, which is about 3.3 ounces. A normal blood glucose level is around 100mg/dl.



What is diabetes? In a properly functioning body, when blood glucose levels increase (e.g., after a meal), the pancreas responds by secreting a hormone called insulin into the blood, which in turn triggers cells in the body to take the glucose from the blood and convert it to energy the body needs for survival. Insulin is also essential for the metabolism of protein and fat. In people with Type 2 diabetes, the pancreas is either unable to produce enough insulin or is unable to use the circulating insulin properly (known as "insulin resistance")-either of which will result in too much sugar remaining in the blood and not enough being converted into energy. This condition is called hyperglycemia and is the clinical indicator of diabetes.

Figure 1 illustrates specific clinical criteria for diagnosing prediabetes and diabetes. Type 2 diabetes is the most common form of diabetes, accounting for about 90 percent of diabetes cases worldwide. Similar to Type 1 diabetes, Type 2 diabetes is thought to be caused by genetic predisposition paired with environmental triggers. Overweight and obesity, older age, and family history have all been linked to Type 2 diabetes. Type 2 diabetes can contribute to or cause metabolic changes in our bodies. For many people, Type 2 diabetes is accompanied by being overweight or obesity and high cholesterol. *Having Type 2 diabetes also increases the risk for heart disease, stroke, kidney disease, nerve damage, foot problems, and vision problem.*

What happens if you don't treat your diabetes? If left untreated, diabetes can damage many of the body's organs, leading to disabling and life-threatening health complications, such as cardiovascular disease, nerve damage, kidney damage, and eye disease (leading to retinopathy, visual loss, and even blindness). Diabetic ketoacidosis (DKA) is a rare, but life-threatening health condition that can affect people with undiagnosed, untreated, or poorly managed diabetes. DKA occurs when ketones, a form of acid, build up in the blood stream, causing organ failure and death. Ketones are released by the liver and used to break down fat for energy. This is the body's back-up plan for energy, when insulin or blood glucose is low. Even normally functioning bodies will, from time to time, need to fall back on this method of generating fuel. However, if it continues for too long, the build-up of ketones will cause chemical imbalances throughout the body, disrupting organ functioning which can eventually lead to coma and death. With proper treatment, however, people with diabetes can maintain good glycemic control-that is, if they are able to keep their blood sugar at healthy levels, which can delay or altogether prevent onset of these diabetes-related complications.



How is Type 2 diabetes managed? Management of Type 2 diabetes depends heavily upon modifying and maintaining a healthy lifestyle, which includes a proper diet, regular physical activity, smoking cessation, and weight loss, if needed, followed by long-term maintenance of a healthy

Continued on Page 27

An Introduction to Type 2 Diabetes

Cont'd from Page 26

body weight. For some people, lifestyle changes alone, without the need for medication, are sufficient in controlling blood glucose levels; however, for many people, oral medications, such as metformin, in addition to lifestyle modifications, are required. If lifestyle changes and oral medication aren't enough, insulin injections may be necessary to control Type 2 diabetes in some individuals.⁴

In people with Type 2 diabetes, it is important to monitor and manage blood pressure and blood lipid levels as a means to assess overall metabolic health and better avoid the complications associated with Type 2 diabetes.⁴

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ESSENTIAL TERMS

Type 1 diabetes: A chronic disease in which the body cannot produce insulin, resulting in the inability of cells to convert glucose to energy

Type 2 diabetes: A chronic condition in which the body produces insulin but either doesn't produce enough of it or the body doesn't use it properly, resulting in a build-up of glucose in the blood

Hemoglobin A1c (HbA1c): A test to determine the average level of blood glucose in the body over 2 to 3 months; also referred to as glycated hemoglobin

Fasting plasma glucose: A measurement of blood glucose concentration after fasting for at least eight hours

Impaired fasting glucose (IFG): Higher than normal blood glucose level during a fasting state that isn't high enough to be classified as diabetes

Impaired glucose tolerance (IGT): Higher than normal blood glucose level after ingesting a standard amount of glucose during an oral glucose tolerance test that isn't high enough to be classified as diabetes.

Insulin: A hormone produced in the pancreas in response to the ingestion of glucose (i.e., sugar) that triggers cells in the body to take glucose from the blood stream and to convert it to energy

Insulin resistance: Insufficient response of cells to insulin to take glucose from the blood stream and convert it to energy

Pre-diabetes: A condition in which blood glucose levels are higher than normal, which if left untreated, may develop into Type 2 diabetes.

SOURCE: International Diabetes Federation. IDF Diabetes Atlas. <https://www.diabetesatlas.org>. Published 2019. Accessed Dec 17, 2019.

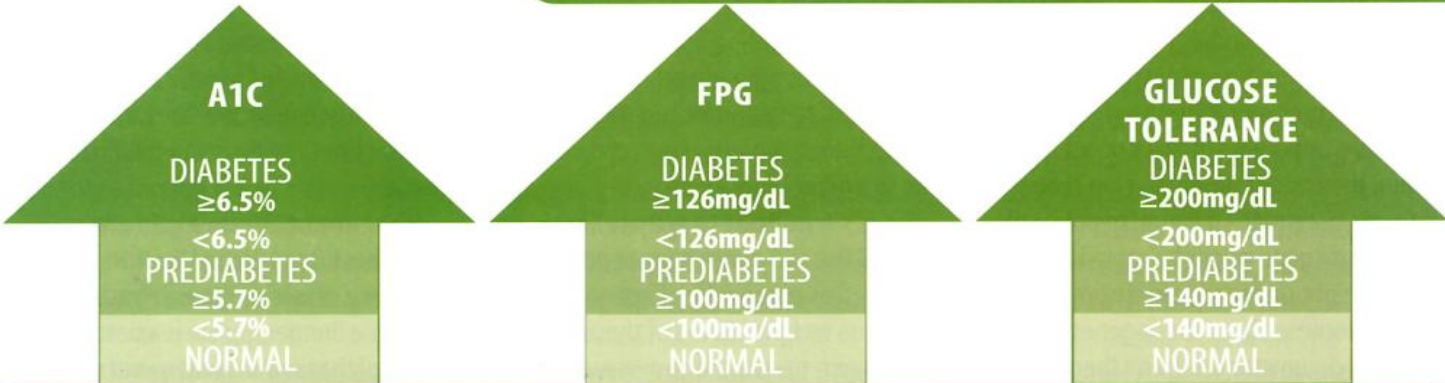


FIGURE 1. Diagnostic criteria for diabetes and prediabetes;
SOURCE: American Diabetes Association. <https://www.diabetes.org/a1c/diagnosis> mg/dL: milligrams per deciliter; FPG: fasting plasma glucose



Samya A. Muhammad
Youth Research Editor

LIVING HISTORY:

The Remarkable Life of Ms. Naomi Whitehead

Today I would like to talk to us about a beautiful woman whom I would consider “living history.” Her name is Ms. Naomi Whitehead.

By the time **Ms. Whitehead celebrated her 116th birthday on September 26, 2026,**

she had lived through more than a century of history. ***Think about that for a***

moment... 116 years!

In Georgia on the day of Ms. Whitehead’s birth in 1910, the world looked very different from the world we live in today.

Auntie Harriet Tubman, the courageous woman who helped lead enslaved people to freedom, was still alive. Women had not yet won the right to vote. World War I had not yet begun. Television, computers, the internet and smart phones were not even part of the world in which she was born.

Yet Ms. Whitehead would live long enough to witness the development of many of these things and so much more. ***Her birth name was Naomi Washington,*** and she was born on a farm in Georgia. Like many children growing up in rural America during that time, she learned the meaning of hard work at a very young age. She picked cotton, tobacco and grew up around horses; a memory that stayed with her throughout her life. ***Even at 113 years of age, she remembered being afraid that one of those horses may kick her.***

Ms. Whitehead's life was not simply about the work she did. It was also about the family she built.

In 1930, Ms. Washington married Mr. Sylvester Whitehead. Together they raised three sons: Parrish L., Elbert and Sylvester Jr. She lived what many of us would consider an ordinary life; marriage, children, work, family and responsibility. But when you look at the years in which she lived, there was absolutely nothing ordinary about them.

Ms. Whitehead was born before women had the constitutional right to vote. She lived through two World Wars, the 1918 influenza pandemic, the Great Depression, the Civil Rights Movement, the technological revolution and the transformation of America from an agricultural society into a technological driven society.

When Ms. Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat in 1955, Ms. Whitehead was 45 years of age. When Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was leading a movement that would change the course of history, Ms. Whitehead was already a grown woman who had raised a family.

Continued on Page 34

The Evolution





The purpose of Kwanzaa is to celebrate black survival and elevation at the end of the year with an optimistic view toward the incoming year. It is held at the museum and is usually a large community draw with interactive stations that explain the seven principles of Kwanzaa for both adults and children alike.

Finally, the museum's leadership and staff are committed to bringing African American history to full life on a wharf originally used to import kidnapped Africans for bondage. That historic transformation is a testament to the spirituality/liberation fusion possessed by African diasporans and makes the IAAM a sacred treasure. As the museum hovers over Gadsden's Wharf, it beckons ancestral spirits that cry out for human recognition not as chattel but as wise creations of a God that covets freedom and is uncompromising in the demand for human liberation.

The future of black America depends on your commitment to preserving ancestral memory, especially in the current context where black celebrations of liberating figures and victories over structural injustice are under attack. Why not begin with support of institutions already situated in the community committed to that preservation. In this sense, a reciprocal relationship between the museum and the community will begin to take root. A relationship that, in its most effective presence, will outlive us in perpetuity and will maintain a safe space in the recesses of African American conscience.

To learn more about the museum, membership, donations, and programs, please visit www.iaamuseum.org.

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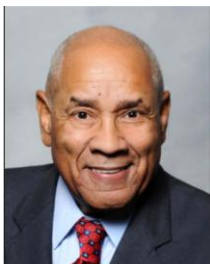
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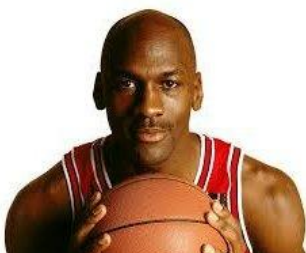
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- ❖ Nutrition
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- ❖ Youth Employment Training Services (YETS)
- ❖ Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP)
- ❖ Summer Foods (Horry County Only)

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For assistance in your county, go to website at: <http://weoc.org/agency/contacts.html>

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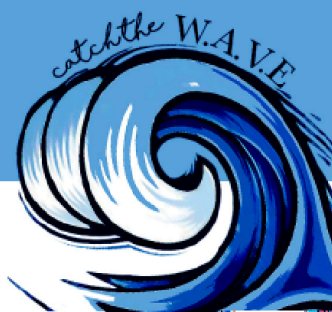
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Are We Better Now Than Before?

By Priscilla Fuller, WCM Contributing Editor



In a time when a conversation can be transmitted from one country to another in a matter of seconds, we live in a world of high technology. But is communication truly better than before? As most of us have been to events or something has happened that impacted our community, only to find out many people were not aware of the events. In what some would call ancient times, which were only 30 or 40 years ago, we relied on churches, barbershops, and other means to transmit or communicate what was happening in our community. On Sunday morning, ministers would relay items of importance to their congregation, who would then go and pass important to family and friends. Now, we have social media platforms, numerous newspapers, magazines, and many more organizations within our community, and we still experience major gaps in communication in our community. I don't have the solution to the problem, but I do know the community loses out on many things by this lack of communication.

Every so often, federal census takers come around to gather information regarding the population. Many people in our community are reluctant to give information to them. However, a lot of funding for various programs, which are responses to the needs of the community are reduced to lack of identified needs.

Every month, there are city council meetings where people can express their concerns or needs. There are often very few people who even come to the meeting. Recently, the City of Conway sent out a survey to get input from the community regarding how the city was carrying out its responsibilities. While distributing and collecting some of the surveys, I found many people were unaware of the exercise which would inform planning for programs and infrastructure in the town. There is no doubt that our community is concerned, but sometimes we must make the effort to let our voices be heard. I would offer a challenge to our organizations, churches etc. to come together to talk about the best way to communicate items of importance in our community. There are greater minds with valuable skills that can offer more meaningful solutions. If you would like to participate, please email your contact information to: The World Community Magazine (WCMagazine2@gmail.com)

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LIVING HISTORY:**The Remarkable Life of Ms. Naomi Whitehead***Cont'd from Page 28***Samya A. Muhammad**

And when President Barack Obama became the first Black president of the United States in 2008, Ms. Whitehead was 98 years of age. Imagine having lived long enough to see all of that. She didn't read about these moments in a history book. She lived through them.

Ms. Whitehead outlived her husband, and all three of their sons. Her last surviving son died in 2011, when she was 100 years old. And yet, despite those losses, the family she and her husband created continued to grow. Ms. Whitehead became the matriarch of generations upon generations of descendants.

Her family includes 12 grandchildren, 28 great-grandchildren, 49 great-great-grandchildren and three great-great-great-grandchildren. That is an amazing legacy.

At her 116th birthday celebration, approximately 80 to 90 relatives gathered from across the country. The celebration was not simply a birthday party; it was also a family reunion. Several of her great-great-grandchildren were there to celebrate with her.

Think about what that means. One woman. Five generations. More than a century of life. And an entire family that exists because of the life she lived.

Ms. Whitehead is currently recognized as the oldest living person in the United States.

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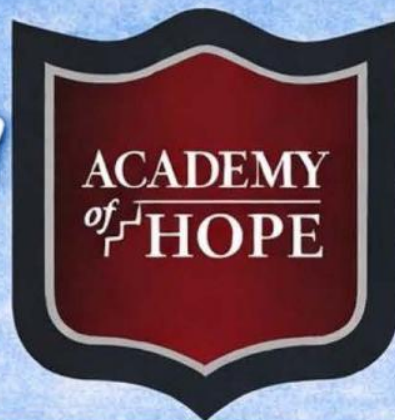
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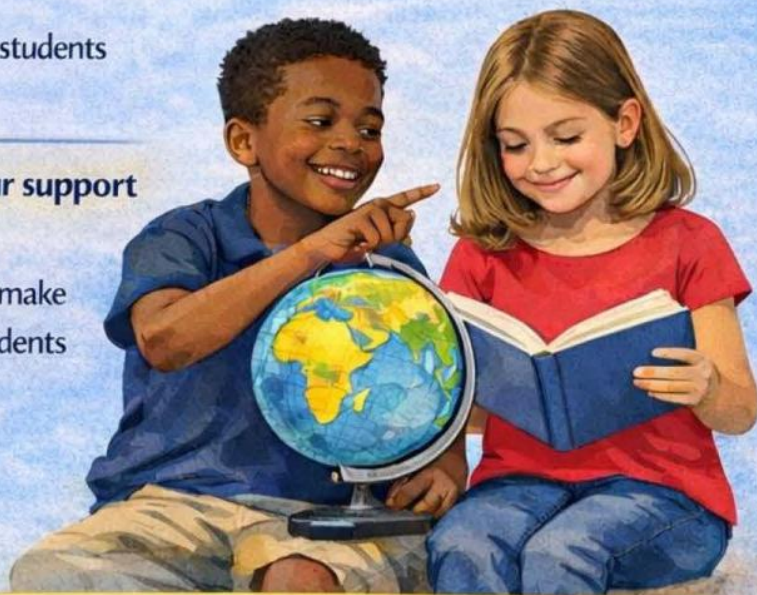
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Paula Bellamy

Paula Melinda Bellamy was born on **January 27, 1960**, in Longs, South Carolina, to Clara Mae Williams and the late Mr. Liston Patrick of Longs, South Carolina. Paula attended the public schools of Horry County. She loved to dance and be surrounded by her family. She joined Freemont Missionary Baptist Church during her middle age. She departed this life on **September 18, 2026**. Paula was preceded in death by her father, Liston Patrick; her stepfather, Lenford Williams; her grandmother, Mary Bellamy; and her cousins, Tonya Ford and Tyrona Bellamy. *Paula leaves to cherish her loving memories, her mother, Clara Mae Williams; her children, Contessa (Bernard) Bellamy and Linda Bellamy all of Longs, South Carolina; her grandchildren, Kendricka Bellamy of Orlando Florida, Santenia Bellamy, Frank Vereen, Jaylen Bellamy, Justin Bellamy all of Longs, South Carolina, and Myia Bellamy of Tabor City, North Carolina; three great grandchildren, Michael Hopkins, Kareem Vereen and Ny'saih Edge; her sister, Clara (Prince) Watson of Longs, South Carolina; her brothers, Levon (Charlotte) Bellamy of Dayton, Florida, and Lenford Jr. (LaTosha) Williams of Longs, South Carolina; two uncles, Oree (Mamie) Bellamy of Longs, South Carolina and Robert (Vonnice) Bellamy of Lillington, North Carolina; a host of nieces, nephews, and other loving relatives.*



1960 - 2026



Thomas Frederick Davis

Thomas Fredrick Davis (Sonny, Dave, or most often Tom), a beloved husband, father, grandfather, brother, and friend, passed away at the wonderful age of 88 years young on **September 2, 2026**.

Tom was born in Darlington, SC, on **February 4, 1938**, and later moved to Boston, Massachusetts, in his youth. He served the United States of America as a military member and Federal Government Employee for over forty years. Tom married Adell Miller on February 4, 1957, and they remained together for over sixty-nine years. They had four children, five grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren. After his retirement from government service, the Davises decided to embark on the entrepreneurial opportunity to design, market, and sell hair care products under the names Preferred Plus and later Helen & Paula after their two daughters. In 2018, after sunsetting the company and fully retiring, they moved to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. Upon transitioning to the beach, Tom spent his last years enjoying meals at local restaurants, listening to live music, and watching game shows with his wife, family, and friends.



1938 - 2026



Willie Crawford

Mr. Willie Joe Crawford, Sr., also known as "Dub", was born on **June 18, 1952**, in Aynor, South Carolina, to the late Willie Crawford and the late Rosa Grissett Crawford. He passed away on **Thursday, September 17, 2026**, in Conway, South Carolina. He attended Chestnut Consolidated High School until his mother's passing in 1967. He then moved to Columbia, South Carolina, where his devoted older sister, Priscilla Booth Portee, lovingly cared for and guided him. He graduated from C.A. Johnson High School in 1971, a milestone that marked the beginning of his journey into adulthood. He was deeply loved by his family and friends, and his memory will remain in their hearts forever. He will be deeply missed. *Precious memories of Willie's life will always be remembered by his loving children, Rickey (Sylvia) Brown, Sabrina (David, Jr.) Hare, Gary Crawford, Lewis Jerome (Sabrina) Alston, Willie J. Crawford II, Whitney Earle, and Kenneth Earle (Lathan); his siblings, Rosa Crawford Dozier, Levi (Nina) Crawford, and Jake (Audrey) Booth, Sr.; 15 grandchildren; his in-laws, Cindy Booth, Evon Booth, Jenny Mae Booth, and Willie Mae Crawford; along with a host of other relatives.*



1952 - 2026



Alfaster Grice

Alfaster Grice, affectionately known by family and friends as Al, Al Patterson, Fever, Bobby Ray, International, Strong Oak, Prince Ali, and One Punch, was born on **July 7, 1955**, to the late Herbert Small Sr. and Christina Johnson Grice. Alfaster was raised in Plantersville, South Carolina, where he attended Choppee High School. In 1972, he moved from Plantersville to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, where he built a life, established lasting relationships, and became well known and loved throughout the community. He departed this life on **September 20, 2026**. *Al leaves to cherish his memory his loving and caring wife, Racquel Grice; his daughter, Sandra Ross; his grandson, Manti; and Kereen Johnson, whom he loved and regarded as a daughter. He also leaves to cherish his memory his brothers, Kirby (Barbara) Small, Herman (Sybena) Small, Lavern (Pauline) Grice, Vernard Grice, and Alex Grice Sr.; his sisters, Georgia (Gerald) Watts, Doreitha Bromell, Linda Grice, Cora Grice, Winnie Grice, Edith Grice, and Menia Grice-Lockhart; his sister-in-law, Cynthia Small; along with a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives, loved ones, and friends. Al was also dearly loved by Jack Patterson and family and Dean Morris and family.*



1955 - 2026



Charles D. Williams

Charles was born on **November 24, 1969**, in Conway, South Carolina, to Vangeline Williams and the late Charles Edward Williams Sr. He was a proud graduate of Loris High School. Charles Edward Williams Jr., affectionately known as "Dog,"

who departed this earthly life on **September 13, 2026**. Charles was a loving son, devoted father, brother, uncle, nephew, and cherished friend. His presence brought a special kind of joy and laughter to the people around him. Although our hearts are broken by his absence, we are grateful for every memory, every laugh, every conversation, and every moment shared with him. *Charles leaves to cherish his precious memory: his beloved mother, Vangeline Williams; his daughter, Carmyn Elexis Williams; his brothers, Kevin Williams, of Florence SC, preceded in death; Lee Otis Williams, and Jerome Williams; two nieces, Chastity Williams of Charleston, South Carolina, and Yanna Sharr of King Street, South Carolina; three nephews, Rico Bellamy of Loris, South Carolina; Kwmae Vereen "Cody" of Longs, South Carolina; and Makarious Brunson of Loris, South Carolina; sister-in-law, Lou Wanda Vereen Jenanette of Longs, South Carolina; and close friends; Ren, Dunk, and Allen Dale. He also leaves behind a host of loving aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins, and countless friends whose lives were touched by his presence.*



1969 - 2026



Deacon Michael Dixon

Deacon Michael Dixon was born on **June 11, 1948**, in Conway, South Carolina, to Lottie Hemingway and Willie Dixon. He passed away on **Thursday, September 10, 2026**. He attended Whittemore High School, where he fell in love with basketball, graduating in 1967. He continued his education at Norfolk State University in Norfolk, Virginia. He enlisted in the United States Army and served from 1968 to 1972. Michael was preceded in death by his parents, Lottie Hemingway and Willie Dixon; three brothers, Buddy (Lillie) Dixon of Norfolk, Virginia, Bobby (Betty) Dixon of Bunnlevel, North Carolina, and Harry Dixon of Conway, South Carolina; three sisters, Theresa (Johnny) Bowens of Spring Lake, North Carolina, Willie Mae Benford of Conway, South Carolina, and Martha Dean Copeland of Conway, South Carolina; one son, Joseph Jay Williams of Conway, South Carolina; and two dear and close friends, Willie "Bill" Gagum of Conway, South Carolina, and Isaac Wade of Longs, South Carolina. *He leaves to cherish his memories his beloved daughter, Tai Dixon of Conway, South Carolina; his son, Sean Bromell of Atlanta, Georgia; one brother, James Verdell "Dell" Dixon of Hampton, Virginia; along with a host of loved nieces, nephews, special road partners, Rev. Charles Busby, Sylvester Avant, Danthan Chestnut, Bobby Moore, Mike Fairwell, other relatives and friends.*



1948 - 2026



Ella Mae Chestnut Moore

Ella Mae Chestnut Moore made her transition to the heavens on Monday night, **September 14, 2026**, at the young age of 71. Ella Mae was born in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina on **July 16, 1955**, to the late Emanuel and Mae Chestnut Sr. Ella Mae attended and graduated from Myrtle Beach High School. Ella Mae was preceded in death by her parents, Emanuel and Mae Chestnut Sr.; her oldest son, Dewon "Hadam-Bey" Chestnut; two sisters, Sara Lee Chestnut and Emily (George) Washington; two brothers, Samuel "Slice" Chestnut and Ervin "Earl" Chestnut; three brothers-in-law, George (Emily) Washington, Rickie (Bertha) Sherman, and Elmer (Mary) Pettis; and one granddaughter, Ashanti Ellerbe. *To cherish her memory, Ella Mae leaves her siblings, Marie Dentson of Florida, Mary (Elmer) Pettis of Georgia, Emanuel (Deborah) Jr. of Virginia, and Bertha (Rickie) Sherman, Sr. of South Carolina; her cousin, Dorothy Butler; her children, Lucas (Kashay) Chestnut of Ohio, and Tonya (Dakota) Harris of South Carolina; her 11 grandchildren, Tyre (Carrie) Chestnut of South Carolina, Kamau and Kaleb Hadam-Bey of Virginia, Kimora Chestnut of Kentucky, MacKenzie Wilson of South Carolina, Amea (Jaimson) Newkirk of South Carolina, Jasmine Wright of Ohio, J'Vean Johnson of South Carolina, Dakota, and Amir Harris of South Carolina; 6 great grandchildren, and a host of loving nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.*



1955 - 2026



Tamara Turner Gibson

Tamara Michelle Turner-Gibson, affectionately known as "Tammy", was born on **October 21, 1967**, in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, to Barbara Ann Frink and George Turner. On **Monday, September 7, 2026**, she passed away in Calabash, North Carolina, at the tender age of 59. He was raised in Washington, D.C. and lived in Little River, South Carolina, and Calabash, North Carolina. Tamara attended Georgetown University's College of Arts and Sciences in Washington, D.C. Her favorite saying was, "Share my life, take me for what I am, cause I'll never change my colors for you." Tamara was preceded in death by her parents, Barbara Ann Frink and George Turner; a brother, George William Turner; a cousin, Jimmie Frink; and her uncles, Boogie Frink and Roger Frink. *Until she meets them again, precious memories will be forever cherished by her longtime spouse, Donald Mearl Jasper; her only daughter, Zakyra Turner; her brothers, George Turner, II and Connell Atkinson; her older sister, Gloria Frink-Daniels; four nephews, Antwan Frink, Delanta Frink, Michael Taylor, and George Turner, III; one niece, Lashai Turner; her best friend, Cindy Parker; a special cousin, Donna Stanley; along with a host of other loving family members and friends.*



1967 - 2026



Thomas James "TINO" Baldassari

Thomas J. "Tino" Baldassari of Little River, South Carolina, died peacefully on **September 2, 2026**, at age 74, hand in hand with his wife, Kathy Baldassari. Born in Boston to Fernando and Lucy Baldassari, Tino was the eighth of nine children. He was born on **May 20, 1952**. Tino was the dearly loved husband of Kathleen Baldassari and loving stepfather to Christopher Hardy and his wife Lisa, Erin Hardy, and the late Michael Hardy of Melrose. He was the cherished grandfather to Leah and Michael Hardy of Marlborough. He was the father of Thomas James Baldassari Jr. of Everett. He was the brother to Michael & Donna Baldassari, Paul Baldassari & Janice Parisi, Mark & Michelle Baldassari, David Baldassari, Linda and Ira Birdsong, the late Freddy Baldassari and his wife Joyce, the late Lorraine Carrapellucci and the late Victor Baldassari. He was a beloved brother-in-law to Edward Laskey of Beverly and Tim Laskey of Peabody. *He is also survived by countless loving nieces and nephews, and a multitude of friends and neighbors who all have their own "Tino" story to tell.*



1952 - 2026



Nathaniel Long

Nathaniel Long, affectionately known as "Joe," was born on **September 6, 1955**, in Tabor City, North Carolina, to the late Bertha Long and the late Walter Long. He passed away on **September 3, 2026**, just days before what would have been his 71st birthday. Joe was preceded in death by two sons, Carlos Bellamy and Ja'rule Ford, and two siblings, Barbara Long and Walter Long Jr. *Joe leaves behind a legacy of love that will live on through his longtime companion, Bessie Mae Davis; daughters Nekisha Long Bailey (Faran) of Tampa, Florida, and Marchie and Demika Bellamy, both of Longs, South Carolina; and sons Nathaniel Long II of Tampa, Florida, Raymond Bellamy of Longs, South Carolina, and Lee and Justin Fails of Tampa, Florida. Grandchildren: Jamisha Moore (Daquan), Jayla Haynes, and Javionna Haynes, all of Tampa, Florida; Jasmin Frink of Austin, Texas; Lekeisha Robinson of Charlotte, North Carolina; Jazmin Bellamy of Florence, South Carolina; Jakayla Smith of Myrtle Beach, South Carolina; and Raymond Bellamy Jr., Anthony Bellamy, Cierra Bellamy, Jaylissa Bellamy, Jeremez Williams, Brittany Bellamy, and Layla Vereen, all of Longs, South Carolina. Great-grandchildren: Ja'Mier, Nova, Tristian, Taelynn, Tajay, Ezra, Malaya, Marley, Kylian, and Kingsley. Sister Sarah Waddell and brother Windell Long, both of Longs, South Carolina. Aunt, Pastor Dr. AF Nelson-Vickers, and uncles, Herbert Washington and Joe Washington, all of Tampa, Florida; nieces, Maryann Long (Lamont) and Kimberly Long, and nephews, William Long and Kareem Long, all of Longs, South Carolina. Joe is also survived by cousins, great-nieces and nephews.*



1955 - 2026



Jimmie Caldwell

Jimmie Lee Caldwell Sr. was born on **June 26, 1943**, in Saint Matthews, SC, to the late Pearlline Bonaparte Caldwell and James W. Caldwell. He passed from this life and joined the LORD on **August 31, 2026**, leaving behind a legacy of love and lifelong memories that will be cherished by all who knew and loved him. Jimmie grew up in the Bronx, New York, where he attended P.S. 40 Junior High School. Jimmie was preceded in death by his parents, Pearlline Bonaparte Caldwell and James W. Caldwell; his first wife, Bessie M. Dodson-Caldwell; his son, Jody Daniel Caldwell; his stepdaughter, Sara Brown; his brothers, Milton Caldwell and James Caldwell; his sisters, Johnnie Louise Caldwell and Sadie Mae Caldwell-Crenshaw; his maternal and paternal grandparents; and several beloved aunts and uncles. *He leaves an abundance of loved ones to cherish his memory, including his wife, Lorraine Thomas-Caldwell; son, Jimmie Lee Caldwell Jr. (Rebecca); his brothers, Dean Caldwell (late Orie May); Ernest Caldwell (Crystal); and David Caldwell (Karen); and his sister, Gloria Caldwell-Ott (Horace). Jimmie will also be lovingly remembered by a host of grandchildren, stepchildren, nieces, nephews, cousins, extended family members, and dear friends.*



1943 - 2026



Bishop Carmin Leach

Bishop Carmin C. Leach departed this life peacefully on **Sunday, Sept. 13th, 2026**, in Middletown, Ct. at Middlesex Hospital. Bishop Leach served in many capacities. Bishop was a proud graduate of West Brunswick High School, Shallotte NC. Bishop Leach was born in Loris, SC on **May 27th, 1980**, the second and youngest daughter of Mr. James Earl and the late Judy Bellamy Leach. She is preceded in death by her mother, Judy B. Leach, her paternal grandparents, Arthur and Clara Leach, as well as her maternal grandparents, Ralph and Rhodell Bellamy. *Along with Cameron, Bishop Leach leaves to cherish her memories, her parents James and Teresa Leach of Sunset Beach, NC. Her sister Dr. D'Adrian Leach Barnes (Shelton) of Wilson, NC, her brothers Lee Arthur Stanley of Calabash, NC and Michael D. Leach of Columbia, SC. Stepsisters Shernika Sheffield (Maurice) of Conway, SC, and Walquette Sinkler of Longs, SC. Her aunts, Margia M Leach of Sunset Beach, NC and Diane Bellamy of Little River, SC. Her uncles, Ralph A. Bellamy of Little River, SC, George D. Leach (Ethel) of Wilson, NC and Woodroe Leach (Evelyn) of Fort Washington, MD. Her nieces and nephews, Julian, Michael Jr., Mikel, T'Azia, Syleigha, Saniah and Christen. Her spiritual/surrogate mothers, Bishop Mamie Gallaher, Middletown, Ct. and Mother Vertie Mason of Myrtle Beach, SC., along with a host of cousins, other relatives, friends and the Life Ministries Church family.*



1980 - 2026



James Calvin Washington

James Calvin Washington was born on **October 1, 1939**. He departed this life on Sunday, **September 26, 2026** in Bucksport, SC.



1939-2026

London Vereen

London Vereen was born on **August 27, 1947**. He departed this life on **September 22, 2026**.



1947-2026

Bishop Carmin C. Leach

Bishop Carmin C. Leach departed this life peacefully on Sunday, Sept. 13th, 2026, in Middletown, Ct. at Middlesex Hospital. She also was a proud member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc., Kappa Zeta Zeta Chapter. Bishop Leach was born in Loris, SC on **May 27th, 1980**, the second and youngest daughter of Mr. James Earl and the late Judy Bellamy Leach. She is preceded in death by her mother, Judy B. Leach, her paternal grandparents, Arthur and Clara Leach, as well as her maternal grandparents, Ralph and Rhodell Bellamy. Out of all the many wonderful accomplishments, her greatest moment and shining light is her son Cameron Semaj Leach. Along with Cameron, **Bishop Leach leaves to cherish her memories, her parents James and Teresa Leach of Sunset Beach, NC. Her sister Dr. D'Adrian Leach Barnes (Shelton) of Wilson, NC, her brothers Lee Arthur Stanley of Calabash, NC and Michael D. Leach of Columbia, SC. Stepsisters Shernika Sheffield (Maurice) of Conway, SC, and Walquette Sinkler of Longs, SC. Her aunts, Margia M Leach of Sunset Beach, NC and Diane Bellamy of Little River, SC. Her uncles, Ralph A. Bellamy of Little River, SC, George D. Leach (Ethel) of Wilson, NC and Woodroe Leach (Evelyn) of Fort Washington, MD. Her nieces and nephews, Julian, Michael Jr., Mikel, T'Azia, Syleigha, Saniah and Christen. Her spiritual/surrogate mothers, Bishop Mamie Gallaher, Middletown, Ct. and Mother Vertie Mason of Myrtle Beach, SC., along with a host of cousins, other relatives, friends and the Life Ministries Church family.**



1980-2026

Prince Zion Jereh Gore

Prince Zion Jereh Gore was called home to be with the Lord on **September 13, 2026**, at Grand Strand Hospital. He was born on **November 21, 2025**, to his loving parents, Nadine Allison of Conway, South Carolina, and Khalif Wheeler Jr. of Loris, South Carolina. Prince Zion was preceded in death by his Great-Grandmother, Ms. Silvey Wallingford; Sonya Booth, great-aunts, Latosha Lucas, and Kenya Hemingway; great-uncle, Terodeo Wheeler; and aunt, Khamille Wheeler. **Prince Zion leaves to cherish his precious memories his mother, Nadine Allison, and father, Khalif Wheeler Jr; two brothers of the home, Yashiah Gore and Knowledge Gore; grandparents, Kayla Bell of Loris, SC, Khalif (Jaisha Booth of Conway, SC, and Wendell Gore of Aynor, SC) Wheeler of Loris, SC, A; special grandfather, Spencer Johnson, and special grandmother, Claudia Johnson. He is also lovingly remembered by his, aunts, Layla Greene of Loris, SC, and Latajai Gore of Conway, SC, Khalis, Kharleigh, Kha'Asia, Khelani, Brynlee, Kha'Ryia, Khyllie, Khalikya Wheeler, & Iyonna Bellamy of Loris, SC; uncles, Rakeem Gore, Alex Robinson of Conway, SC, and Jayden Willard, Khazir Wheeler of Loris, SC; great-grandparents, Anthony and Barbara Campbell of Loris, SC, and Kenny (Wanda) Robinson; great-aunts, Tamela "Deedee" Morgan of Longs, SC, Kamora Platt of Mullins, SC, Lakenya Dozier, Ivory Wallingford, Lashenda Lucas, Loretta Cochran, and Gina Booth. Zion had two favorite cousins, Ma'kari and Sahair, who loved him dearly and cherished each moment with him, along with a host of aunts, uncles, and cousins.**



2025-2026

Jonathan "Jay" Gray

Jonathan "Jay", was the youngest of six children born on **June 14, 1972** to Norman R. Gray, Sr., and Carolyn (Loescher) Gray. He grew up in Southampton, MA. and attended its local schools. He departed this life on **September 7, 2026**.

Jay is survived by his siblings, Debra LaBombard of Southampton, MA., Norman Gray, Jr., of Southampton, MA., Christopher (Diane) Gray of Conway, South Carolina, Jennifer Forreth of Westfield, MA., and Leslie (James) Moes, of Southampton, MA., his uncle and aunt, Kenneth and Karen Loescher of Connecticut, as well as many nieces, nephews, cousins, and life-long friends. Jay was predeceased by his partner, Sandra Goss and his, parents, Norman (Sr.) and Carolyn Gray, niece Jessica Gray, brother-in-law, Clifford Forreth, and nephew Derek Brown.



1972-2026



Rodelle Earl Scheel

Rodelle "Whitey" Earl Scheel, age 86, passed away on **September 2, 2026**. He was Born on **February 18, 1940**, to Gerhardt Scheel and Ora (Stowe) Scheel. He was preceded in death by his parents, Gerhardt and Ora; his father-in-law and mother-in-law, Stanley and Iva Stevens; his brother-in-law, Jim Stevens; and his sister-in-law, Ella Stevens. **He is survived by his beloved wife, Snooks; his daughters, Rochelle (Joe) Guastella of Sun Prairie, WI, and Jennifer (Jeff) Levenhagen of Woodbury, MN; his grandchildren, Chad (Elena) Guastella, Jaclyn Guastella, Brett Levenhagen, Norah Levenhagen, and Iris Levenhagen; and his great-grandchildren, Giada and Enzo Guastella. He is further survived by his nieces and nephews, Kai (Len) Hemenway, James Stevens (Lynn Anderson), Eric (Cynthia) Stevens, and Scott Shella-Stevens (Belinda Manolis), as well as a tight-knit group of lifelong friends from his graduating class and communities across Wisconsin and many close friends in Conway and Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.**



1940-2026



Elouise G. Williams

Elouise G. Williams, the daughter of the Late Thomas and Vernice Gaghum, Sr. was born on **October 6, 1954**. She departed this life on **September 28, 2026**. **She is survived by two sisters, Stephanie Williams and Carolyn Williams.**



1954-2026



Joan D. Sumpter

Joan D. Sumpter was born **February 12th, 1951**, to the late Bennie & Mary Lee Dukes in Lane, South Carolina. She departed this life on **August 31, 2026**. Joan was a graduate of C.E. Murray High School, Class of 1968. Joan was preceded in death by: her parents; one son, Derrick Sumpter; five brothers, Jacob Dukes, Kenneth Dukes, Nathaniel Dukes, Bennie Dukes Jr, and Ricky Dukes; and one sister, Geraldine White. **She leaves to cherish her memories forever: her loving husband, Leander Sumpter of Greeleyville, SC; her children, Tondrick (Gwen) Sumpter of Georgetown, SC, Shaundrell Sumpter of Lane, SC, and Shatavia Sumpter of Columbia, SC; one sister, Tracie (Nolton) Green of Orangeburg, SC; eight sisters-in-law, Martha (Juan) Lynn, Leatha (Olester) Clemmons, Johnny Sheppard, Marquetta (Carlos) Rich, Tanjal (Timothy) Fitzgerald, Jannie Dukes, Edith Dukes and Shirley Parson; three brothers-in-law, Billy (Deborah) Patterson, Roy (Wanda) Kely, and Victor (Corrine) Kely; one aunt, Millie Riggins; one uncle, Elroy Riggins; six grandchildren; one great grandchild; a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and dear friends.**



1951-2026

Jean Marie Hamill

Jean Marie Hamill was born on **March 18, 1960**, in Brooklyn, New York, to Gabriel Hamill and Una Hamill (Devlin). She grew up in Brentwood, New York, alongside her sisters, Marie, Eileen, and Pat, her brother, Gabriel, and the Koenigsberg



1960 - 2026

Family, who were second parents and siblings. She graduated from Brentwood High School in 1977. She departed this life on September 23, 2026. She first married Tom, with whom she shared a life on the East End of Long Island. She later married Dennis and welcomed her first daughter, Gabrielle. Jean later married Steve and welcomed her second daughter, Stephanie. She became a New York State The warmer weather called Jean to South Carolina, where she spent her last years in her Conway home with her beloved dogs Daisy, George, and Cujo. Jean's life cannot be summed up simply by the jobs she held or the places she lived. She will be remembered for the children she taught, the Girl Scouts she led on adventures, the neighbors she fed, the plants she shared, the music she played, and the many people she welcomed into her home and her life. She leaves behind a lifetime of stories and memories in the family, friends, neighbors, students, Girl Scouts, and countless others whose lives crossed hers. *She joins her parents and sisters Mary Agnes and Pat, who preceded her in death. Those who knew and loved Jean hope that she is finally at peace—with a good Sudoku book nearby, a fresh cup of coffee, and an endless jar of jelly beans.*



Mack Smith, Jr.

Mack Smith, Jr. was born on **March 19, 1959**. Mr. Mack Smith, Jr., age 67, of 703 New Jamie Road, Conway, S.C., died **September 5, 2026**, at home.



1959 - 2026



Okena T. Bellamy

Okena T. Bellamy of Conway, SC departed this life on **September 2, 2026** at the home. She was born on **April 8, 1981**.



1981 - 2026



Chizelle Thomas

Chizelle Thomas was born on **February 9, 1988**. She departed this life on **September 23, 2026**.



1988 - 2026



Norman Samson

Norman Sampson departed this life on **September 8, 2026**.

Date of birth is not reported.



19 - 2026



Marie M. Rogers

Marie M. Rogers of Conway, SC, was born on **December 23, 1969**. She departed this life on **September 3, 2026**.



1969 - 2026



Andrea Heywood Walker

Andrea Heywood Walker of Longs, SC, was born on **March 2, 1966**. She departed this life on **September 2, 2026**.



1966 - 2026



Edna Gore Eagles

Edna Gore Eagles was born on **April 16, 1951**. She was a Beloved mother and grandmother. Son, Leon Gore and grandson Caleb Maisonet and precious Goddaughter, Hope Washington of the home. She departed this life on **September 3, 2026**.



1951 - 2026



Valshue Marie Alston

Ms. Valshue Marie Allston, age 72, of 1875 Westridge Boulevard, Conway, S.C., died **September 6, 2026**. She was born on **May 20, 1954**.



1954 - 2026



Patrick Gause

Patrick Gause was born on **March 1, 1977**. He departed this life on **September 28, 2026**.



1977 - 2026



Thresla DeWitt

Thresla DeWitt was born on **February 1, 1955**. Departed this life on **September 27, 2026**.



1955 - 2026



Shirley Willard Bellamy

Shirley Willard Bellamy of Little River, SC, was born on **February 13, 1941**. She departed this life on **September 26, 2026**. Ms. Bellamy was the mother of Mr. Norwood Lee Willard, Sr.



1941 - 2026



Jesus Gutierrez

Jesus Gutierrez was born on **October 2, 2003**. He was the youngest of six siblings, son of Gabino Gutierrez and Juana Campos. His brothers Saul, Gabino Jr., Oscar Ezequiel, and Ausencio emigrated from the state of Michoacan in 2005. Jesus departed this life on **September 21, 2026**. *Being the youngest, he was only two years old. He was a hardworking and honest young man until his last days... Little brother, we will never forget you.*



2003 - 2026





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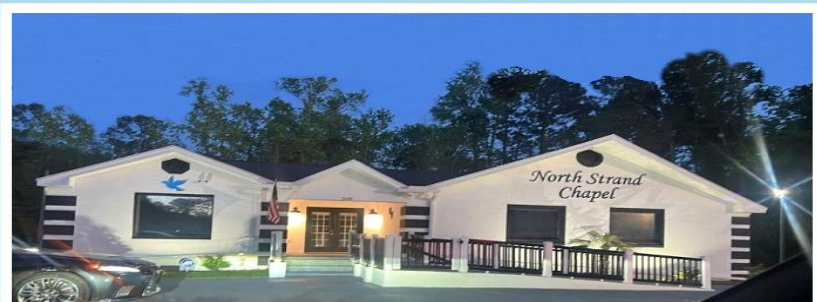
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