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Rivers urges action in King address

ECSU grad: US still facing challenges to voting rights

BY REGGIE PONDER
Staff Writer

The youngest member of the North Carolina Martin Luther King Jr. Commission challenged local residents Monday to take action on issues such as health care, education and voting rights.

After telling a Martin Luther King Jr. Day assembly at her home church, Olive Branch Missionary Baptist, that "it feels good to be here," Kiana Rivers said "my purpose is for everyone here today to leave feeling the urgency to take true civil action."

Rivers, a 2017 graduate of

Elizabeth City State University slated to graduate in May from the N.C. Central University School of Law, was

the speaker at a service that capped a day of activities in Elizabeth City commemorating King's life and legacy.



ERCMY TILLMON/THE DAILY ADVANCE

Participants in the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day March cross the Charles Creek Bridge on Riverside Avenue on their way to Charles Creek Park, Monday. At the park, the crowd heard remarks by Fourth Ward City Councilman Johnnie Walton. Many march participants later attended an assembly at Olive Branch Missionary Baptist Church, where they heard remarks by N.C. Martin Luther King Jr. Commission member and city native, Kiana Rivers.

Rivers' mother noted in introducing her daughter at Monday's service that she had spoken at the Martin Luther King Day observance once before — 11 years ago.

"Martin Luther King Day in Elizabeth City, N.C., my

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Judge: Disadvantaged, underappreciated need 'drum majors,' **A3**

hometown, is not a day of remembrance," Rivers said. "It is not a day to just talk

about the issues."

Instead, she insisted, it is a day for action, and to commitment to action every single day.

"It is time for us to be a people of action," Rivers said.

After reviewing some

pivotal events in civil rights history in the 1950s and 60s, including the 1963 March on Washington and King's "I Have a Dream" speech delivered at that march, Rivers said the Unit-

See **RIVERS**, A5

Barnes: Unity can address injustice

King breakfast speaker recalls local collaboration

BY PAUL NIELSEN
Staff Writer

Elizabeth City native Harold Barnes knows first hand the benefits of people working together to correct social and political injustices.

Speaking during Monday's 18th annual Martin Luther King Jr. Community Breakfast at the K.E. White Center, Barnes recounted how blacks and whites have worked together to address injustice.

Barnes, an attorney, was instrumental in challenging voting injustices in the city, Pasquotank County and other counties across North Carolina that eventually resulted in more African Americans being elected to office.

"This is a great day in the Harbor of Hospitality," Barnes said at the breakfast sponsored by the local branch of the National Association of University Women. "As I look out over this crowd, I see the faces of those who fought long and hard to make sure we could see this day."

The current ward system that ended at-large voting in Elizabeth City elections for selecting members of City Council was a result of the work Barnes helped lead while head of the local chapter of the NAACP back in 1984. Barnes said a collaborate effort over two years led to the change.

"We brought suit against the city of

See **BARNES**, A3

Senior: America losing sight of King's message

70 take part in 1-mile King Unity March in Camden

BY CHRIS DAY
Multimedia Editor

CAMDEN — A senior at Camden Early College High School warned Monday that America seems to be losing sight of Martin Luther King Jr.'s message for peace.

Tre'Nace Chamblee, keynote speaker for Camden's 19th annual King Unity Celebration at Camden County High School, said she fears violence is becoming too prevalent in American society.

"Every time we turn on the news there is a report of violence happening somewhere in America," she said. "From school shootings to church bombings, from gang violence to gang

initiations, from suicides to homicides, and most of all, from love to hate."

Violence is everywhere, regardless if one is a witness to it or a victim of it, Chamblee said.

"Just read your local newspaper and watch your local news channels," she said.

Chamblee said King had fought for a different kind of America more than 50 years ago.

"Dr. King stood and fought for a lot of things throughout his life, such as non-violence, a unified America in which the color of your skin would not be an issue, and equal rights for all people," she said. "I feel most importantly that Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. stood for social justice and equality for everyone."

She said she feared America is losing sight of

King's message for peace.

"Dr. King's perception of nonviolence is deteriorating rapidly from society, churches, homes and families," she said. "There is a need for our communities to band together, to pray together and to stand up for what is right in order for change from violence to nonviolence to take place."

The picture isn't all gloomy, however. There are signs that some people are putting King's words to action, Chamblee said.

"Organizations and civic groups are still practicing Dr. King's method of nonviolence through social change, through symbolic protests, civil disobedience," she said, citing PETA and members of the LGBTQ groups as examples.

In closing, Chamblee listed three actions people can take to live up to King's



CHRIS DAY/THE DAILY ADVANCE

Tre'Nace Chamblee, a senior at Camden County Early College High School, gives the keynote speech at the county's 19th annual Martin Luther King Jr. Unity Celebration, in the cafeteria at Camden County High School, Monday.

dream for peace and equality.

"One, try to make a difference in the world; two, treat people the way you

want to be treated; and three, do things which are pleasing in God's sight,"

See **CAMDEN**, A3

One hundred-plus volunteer on King Day of Service

Residents donate their time to food bank, Habitat store

BY PAUL NIELSEN
Staff Writer

Food Bank of the Albemarle in Elizabeth City received some extra volunteer help on Monday.

Several dozen people joined the food bank's regular volunteers for Monday's Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service, organizing and packing food that will be distributed to the food bank's various hunger relief partners across a 15-county region.

The Day of Service is part of the Martin Luther King Jr. national holiday that features people celebrating and honoring the slain civil rights leader and his legacy by giving back to their communities.

"It is great that we have so many community groups and individuals that want to come out and help," said Brian Gray, the food bank's communications and volunteers manager. "Maybe they had the day off from work, or school, and they came out and gave back to the community. It greatly benefits us and we can share with them what the food bank does in

northeastern North Carolina."

Gray noted that for many of the volunteers, Monday was the first time they had ever been to the food bank. He said agency officials hope "some of them will volunteer for years to come."

Almost a dozen members of the Edenton-based Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority helped out at the food bank with volunteers from Elizabeth City, Edenton and Plymouth participating.

Jorice Webb-Manuel said volunteering is part of the sorority's mission of service to all mankind.

"We are doing this service

MORE INSIDE

For Day of Service volunteer, honoring King is personal, **A3**

project in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.," Webb-Manuel said. "The food bank serves all the communities that we serve as well, and hunger is an issue in northeastern North Carolina. This is a way we can give back and help our fellow man."

Across town, around 30 volunteers, including 20 Elizabeth City State University students, showed up for the

See **SERVICE**, A3



ERCMY TILLMON/THE DAILY ADVANCE

Tracy Dotse (left) and Jermonie Flemings, both students at Elizabeth City State University, volunteer at the Elizabeth City Habitat for Humanity Sale Store on the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service, Monday. More than 100 ECSU students participated in the event.

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WEATHER

Today: 40, partly cloudy
Tonight: 30, clear



Forecast on A2



Joslynn Young
Grandy Primary

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