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# TEXAS INFORMER

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## Adrian Peterson Missed by Fans

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### LEGAL NOTICE

These Texas Lottery Commission Scratch-Off games will be closing soon:

Game #	Game Name / Odds	\$	Official Close of Game	End Validations Date
1509	Lucky Numbers Overall Odds are 1 in 4.38	\$2	12/31/14	6/29/15
1522	Sizzlin' Cash Overall Odds are 1 in 4.44	\$2	12/31/14	6/29/15
1526	Wild Winnings Overall Odds are 1 in 4.38	\$2	12/31/14	6/29/15
1596	Triple Winning 777's Overall Odds are 1 in 4.45	\$2	12/31/14	6/29/15
1451	Bonus Word Crossword Overall Odds are 1 in 3.44	\$3	12/31/14	6/29/15
1534	Big Winning Numbers Overall Odds are 1 in 3.20	\$10	12/31/14	6/29/15

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Adrian Peterson, Palestine High School and Minnesota Vikings running back and his (then 1 year old son.) See Story page 3

**EDITORIAL PAGE**



Maxine Session

**To Spank or Not to Spank**

Parents are no longer allowed to discipline their own children without fear of intervention from the law.

Now we have a generation of children who tell their parents what to do and in many instances abuse their parents. The generation before mine, there was a saying, "If you don't raise (properly) your children, the law will. The number of children in jail is at an all-time high. In many instances they are handcuffed at school and carried to youth detention.

Through the juvenile courts and the adult criminal justice system, the United States incarcerates more of its youth than any other country in the world, a reflection of the larger trends in incarceration practices in the United States. In 2010, approximately 70,800 juveniles were incarcerated in youth detention facilities alone. Approximately 500,000 youth are brought to detention centers in a given year. This data does not reflect juveniles tried as adults. Around 40% are incarcerated in privatized, for-profit facilities.

The number who use guns to kill anybody who goes or appears to go against their wishes is frightening. Last Friday a high school freshman in Seattle, Washington took a gun to school and shot his friends leaving one dead and three seriously injured, then shot and killed himself.

We should raise children with love, with good examples to pattern their lives after, take them to church and teach them scripture, but there comes a time when they must be disciplined. Many parents are still trying to figure that out, so they don't do anything. This is where the real problems come in. Guidance must be given and boundaries must be set.

Is time out the answer for a six year old like it might be for a three year old? ? Does taking away a cell phone work on a 12 year old like it might on a 8 year old. Does taking away a television, a car or allowance do the trick?

*Should parents use spanking as part of discipline?*

*What is the answer?*

In recent weeks the stories of Adrian Peterson Palestine High School and Minnesota Vikings, running back using a switch to discipline his child has sparked many a conversation, some wondering why the media overplayed it saying he used a "tree branch" on the child, while others recall the switches and belts used on them by their parents that they believe gave them the conscience to live as law abiding citizens.

Psychologist say a child's personality is three - fourths of the way developed by the time he or she is four years old. This means that whoever is raising the child has more input into the setting of the character which includes knowing the difference between right and wrong, than anyone else.

Prior to and in the 1960s and the 1970s it took a village to raise a child. ....family helping family and neighbor helping neighbor to raise children which groomed generations of people who feared the consequences of challenging their parents, adults in general, the law and God.. Proverbs 22:6 says, "Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it."

Recently a fifteen year old girl, a sixteen year old girl and a seventeen year old girl stole money from their parents with the intention of flying to the Middle East to join ISIS, the terror group. They were caught in Russia and returned to their parents. Does it make you wonder what punishment they were given?.

**In 2010 approximately 70,800 juveniles were incarcerated in youth detention facilities alone**

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# Adrian Peterson missed from the Minnesota Vikings Football Team

Adrian Peterson was born in Palestine, Texas on March 21, 1985 to parents Bonita Brown and Nelson Peterson. He grew up in Palestine and attended Palestine High School where he was an exceptional athlete, like his father Nelson, who was a shooting guard for Idaho State and his mother who was a Westwood High school three times state champion and a University of Houston Lady Cougar sprinter. Adrian's uncle Ivory Lee Brown is a former NFL running back.

Adrian's father Nelson nicknamed him "AD" for All Day, because he seemed to have boundless energy.

Nelson Peterson spent countless hours coaching Adrian and his friends in Pop Warner Pee Wee Football. Marcus Carter had this to say, "I was one of the kids that played for Coach Nelson. That was an exciting time. I lived in Rusk, but we, A. D.'s friends and team players, spent nights at their home. Coach Nelson took care of all of us. If we needed pizza, jerseys or shoes, he provided whatever. He was a father figure to us all."

Now the Minnesota Vikings star running back is accused and charged with child abuse and suspended from his team until he appears in court.

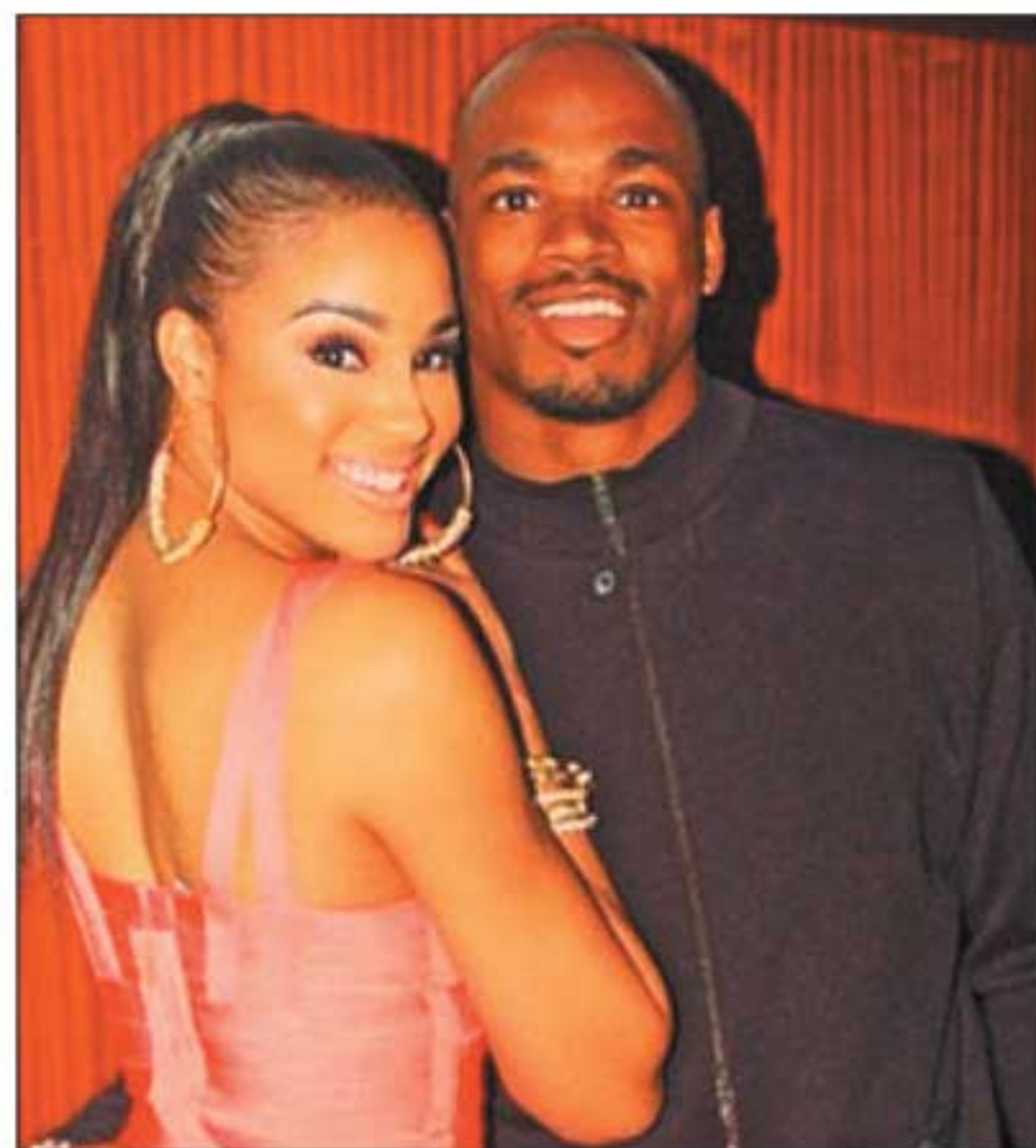
Many East Texans are not pleased that they can't see Adrian run the football for the Vikings.

Adrian had a tough childhood. His parents divorced when he was young. Then his older brother was killed by a drunk driver when Adrian was 7. It was around that time that Peterson began to deal with his pain through sports and became interested in football. He was the star of the Pee Wee football team coached by his father and played in the popular Pop Warner Football program when he was 12. When he was 13 his father was arrested and sent to jail. Fortunately his mother was strong and managed to give him a good home.

Growing up near Dallas, Adrian was a huge Cowboys fan and his favorite player was Emmitt Smith.

Adrian was a standout football player at a young age. He also was a star on his high school's track team. Because he had moved, he couldn't play football until his junior year, but he made up for lost time by rushing for more than 2,000 yards and scoring 22 touchdowns. His senior year he was one of the elite backs in the nation rushing for 2,960 yards and 32 touchdowns. Peterson continued his interest in athletics into high school, where he competed in track and field. He won several medals on the 100 meters, 200 meters, triple jump and long jump at Woodward. Adrian's coach has stated that he believes that, had he not chosen a career in football, Peterson could have become an Olympic sprinter instead. He posted a wind-assisted time of 10.33 seconds in the 100 meters (and has stated he has also posted a time of 10.19 seconds); 21.23 seconds in the 200 meters and 47.6 seconds in the 400 meters. He was also a member of the 4x100m (41.50 s) relay squad. He also played basketball and football at Palestine High School. It was during his junior year that he began to attract the attention of Division I recruiters and realized he would likely have his pick of colleges after his senior year. [14] As a senior in 2003-2004, he rushed for 2,960 yards on 252 attempts, an average of 11.7 yards per carry, and 32 touchdowns. After a game, players from the other team asked for his autograph. Following Maurice Clarett's unsuccessful attempt to sue the NFL over its age limit in 2004, there was considerable debate over whether any high school football player might be able to make the leap from the preps to the pro game. The player most frequently mentioned was Peterson.

After considering schools such as Texas, Texas A&M, UCLA, Arkansas, and Miami, he decided that he wanted to go to a school where he could be a difference-maker in a national championship run and narrowed his choices down to USC and Oklahoma. Concluding his high school football career at the annual U.S. Army All-American Bowl, he led the West squad with 95 yards on 9 carries and scored 2 touchdowns, and announced at the game that he would attend college at Oklahoma. Following his senior season, he



Adrian and wife Ashley

was awarded the Hall Trophy as the U.S. Army National Player of the Year. In addition, he was named the top high school player by College Football News and Rivals.com. Sunday, May 18: According to a police report, Peterson disciplined his son after the boy pushed another one of Peterson's sons off of a motorbike video game. The Vikings running back used a switch to discipline his child, resulting in bruises and lacerations on the boy's back, legs, arms and buttocks. After the boy returned home to his mother in Minnesota, the bruises were discovered during a routine doctor's visit. The doctor says the injuries are consistent with child abuse. Thursday, Aug. 21: Peterson testified in front of a grand jury in Montgomery County, Texas. Thursday, Sept. 4: The grand jury decides not to indict Peterson. Thursday, Sept. 11: Peterson misses Vikings practice for what coach Mike Zimmer calls a "veteran day" off. Friday, Sept. 12, 4:36 p.m. EST: Peterson is indicted for reckless or negligent injury to a child in Montgomery County. Friday, Sept. 12, 5:04 p.m.: Vikings deactivate Peterson

for their Week 2 game against the New England Patriots. Saturday, Sept. 13, 2:15 a.m.: Peterson turns himself in to Montgomery County authorities and is released on \$15,000 bond. Sunday, Sept. 14, 12:06 pm.: Vikings fan shows up to tailgate dressed like Adrian Peterson carrying a "switch." Monday, Sept. 15, 2:46 p.m.: Vikings reinstate Peterson, but later the team decided to put him on the exempt list until he sorts out his legal troubles. A. D. was disciplined with a switch and belt by his father as a child, as most of his friends and relatives were. Most African Americans in East Texans say they were disciplined by their parents using a switch and they feel that A. D. was only disciplining the child in the same manner in which he was disciplined.

Mrs. Jackson, Adrian's mother and of course the disciplined child's grandmother, came to Adrian's defense. She says that she and Adrian's father raised six children and in order to correct their behavior she used her hand, switches and belts to occasionally spank them all.

play football until his

Continued page 4

## Adrian Peterson

continued from page 3

Peterson is waiting on the sidelines, his lawyers trying to rush the court appearance, hoping he can get back to playing football for the Vikings.

Meanwhile his fans are hoping and praying this situation will soon be settled so they can once again cheer on their "Home Town Hero".

Many know the situation has been exaggerated by the news media beyond the real story and that the child and his family will be hurt more seriously by Adrian losing his NFL career, than a switching with a switch.



Happy Birthday to Walter Session  
November 24th!  
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it.  
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# Obituary

## Mr. Leon Hart

In High School he was an outstanding football player and like the other guys in his class, very popular with the other students. Leon was a strong, loving, generous person who loved his family and enjoyed spending quality time with them and his friends. Even though he lived in Houston, he traveled home to Rusk regularly to spend time with family during reunions and other events.

On Tuesday, October 7, 2014 he passed away from this life in Houston, Texas. He was preceded in death by his parents Calvin and Laura Ann Hart, brothers Freddie Hart and C. S. Hart and one stepson Andre "Skeet" Richard. Leon leaves to cherish his legacy and memory: Wife: McRay Hart, Son Rudy (Kelly) Hart, Stepson Darren (Shawn) Richard, Stepdaughter, Pertonya Richard, Goddaughter Sheila Lemon; Brother Jerry (Essie) Hart, Sisters: Esterlean Henderson, Mattie Mae Shepard, Georgia (Hardee) Johnson, and Helen (Harold) Shepard. A host of grandchildren, neices, nephews, great neices and great nephews and other relatives and friends.

Funeral services were held for Leon Hart Friday, October 17, 2014 at 11:00AM at Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church, Houston, Texas with the Rev. Edward V. Lightfoot officiating.

Leon was born November 21, 1945 in the Woodville Community of Cherokee County, to parents Calvin and Laura Ann Hart. He was raised in the Woodville Community. He was a member of the G. W. Bradford High School graduating class of 1965. After High School graduation, Leon joined the United States Air Force where he served his country from 1965 through 1968. He returned home as an honorably discharged decorated Airman.

Leon accepted Christ at an early age joining Woodville CME Church. He continued his faith and rededicated his life in 2014 at Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church, Houston, Texas under Pastor Edward Lightfoot until his passing.

In 1974 He met McRay Richard. Several years after meeting they shared in the birth of a baby boy, Rudy Hart. In 2014, Leon and McRay joined as one. He retired from MBCI of Houston in 2009.

Church Announcement  
Mt. Olive Baptist Church  
Church Aniversary  
Sunday, November 2nd  
300PM  
Rev. Kenneth Cain, Speaker  
Rev. Jerry Leviston, Pastor

Church Announcement  
Shady Grove Church of Christ  
Annual Brotherhood Program  
November 27th 7:00PM  
Rev. Donnie Timmons, Supt.

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## Freedom Sunday: The Role of the African American Faith Based Community by LaRoyce Jones

This summer of 2014, we've commemorated the historical movement known as Freedom Summer, or the Mississippi Summer Project. Although, Black men gained the right to vote in 1870, their right to utilize their voice was often stripped from them by the oppressor. Rarely, were they allowed the opportunity to fairly register to vote. They were made to endure obstacles of Poll Taxes and discriminatory Literacy Tests, in which their White counterparts were exempted from due to the grandfather clauses of many Southern States constitutions and laws that were upheld by the US Supreme Court from 1890 through 1910. Later, in 1915 the US Supreme Court decided to strike down the use of grandfather clauses. Then in January of 1964, the 24th Amendment was ratified, which forbade Poll Taxes in federal elections; and the decision of Harper vs. VA State Election Board, which forbade Poll Taxes in state elections. Later, in 1965 the Voting Rights Act was signed to enforce the amendment. The need for the Freedom Summer movement emerged due to the successful suppression and disfranchisement of the Black vote in Mississippi. Mississippi had the lowest percentage of eligible Black voters who were actually registered to vote. That percentage was less than 7.

So, a coalition was formed to remedy this wrong. Civil Rights organizations, such as CORE, SNCC, NAACP, and COFO, came together with nearly 1,000 predominately White college students and volunteers from the north to ignite a movement and register as many eligible Black citizens as possible. This movement led to the signing of the 1965 Voting Rights Act. Again, we commemorate this historical movement, as we should. However, as I ponder then, and now, I dare say there is a need for a movement. Suppression of our vote is still at the forefront of the oppressors' obstruction. It has been proven in the 2013 ruling of the US Supreme Court, which struck down the need for historically discriminatory states to get approval prior to making changes to Voting laws. Hence, here in Texas, we now are faced with the suppression of the Voter ID Law. As insane as it is, that 50 years later, as we commemorate Freedom Summer, the suppression of the oppressor is our biggest fight in the summer of 2014. Our fight is standing and utilizing our voice through our vote. I shared that Mississippi had less than 7% of its eligible Black citizens, registered to vote. Now, here in Texas, In Dallas County, we have less than 6% of registered Black voters, who actually stand with their vote. Only



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# Don't Sleep the Nov. 4 Elections

~By Bill Fletcher, Jr

The November 4 election is only a moment away. Believe it or not, as of about two weeks ago, two thirds of the people in the U.S.A did not know that there is to be an election on November 4, 2014. As far as some segments of our society are concerned, that is just fine. They would rather that we remain asleep.

The political Right is mobilizing forcefully. They are trying to make this election about Obama. With Obama hovering around 40% in the polls, the right-wing expects to use this to their advantage, both discouraging Democrats and mobilizing conservatives. The right-wing may be in for a surprise, but it is too tough to call.



This election is not about Obama. It really comes down to two things: fear and anger. Unless you are interested in trying to turn the clock back to about 1950, you will need to be at the polls on November 4th. Beginning after the 2008 elections, sections of the Republican Party went about moving legislation in various states to address allegations of voter fraud. The potential for voter fraud is less than the potential of being hit by lightning. Nevertheless,

playing to racist fears on the parts of many whites (of African Americans and immigrants), the right-wing was able to invent a problem where none existed. They convinced many people that there needed to be more stringent requirements to vote, steps that tend to disenfranchise people of color, youth and senior citizens. In the 2012 elections African the political Right is to beat us down.

Americans and Latinos revolted against this effort and turned out in force. But showing up in one election is not enough. The future is also at stake. The political Right fears the demographic changes in this country. But they also fear real discussions about economic inequality, the environmental crisis, the rights of women, and, actually, the role of government. Their most articulate spokespeople openly talk about shrinking government which will mean that many things that you and I take for granted will disappear, such as social security, food safety inspections, fair tax systems, and a reasonable discussion about what to do about climate change. The right-wing ends up reminding me of the child bully who seeks to intimidate others and will only stop when we stand up to them. At that moment we come to realize that they are nothing more than pathetic cowards. The future is also at stake. The political Right articulate spokespeople openly talk about shrinking government which will mean that many things

that you and I take for granted will disappear, such as social security, food safety inspections, fair tax systems, and a reasonable discussion about what to do about climate change. The right-wing ends up reminding me of the child bully who seeks to intimidate others and will only stop when we stand up to them. At that moment we come to realize that they are nothing more than pathetic cowards.

So, there you have it. We can sit home and pretend that the November 4th elections don't mean anything, or we can get to the polls and make it clear that we have no interest in giving up on the future or giving up on our right to make a statement. The choice really is our. So, there you have it. We can sit home and pretend that the November 4th elections don't mean anything, or we can get to the polls and make it clear that we have no interest in giving up on the future or giving up on our right to make a statement. The choice really is ours.

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# Christianity

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## Bible History

The Old Testament shows us ancient history as being linear-- that is, as having a beginning, center (Jesus Christ), and an end. The Bible explains that God is working to guide history according to His plan. It shows us that history is progressive with each stage building upon the preceding stage. God reveals more and more of His design for salvation as the stages of history unfold.

The historical literature of the Old Testament records and interprets the events of that particular era. As the authors wrote God worked through them to insure a true interpretation and an accurate record of the facts or events which they could not otherwise know (Genesis 1-3 was no doubt directly revealed.)

The Old Testament records a number of miracles, in which God's creative power becomes evident in shaping events. Miracles are scattered throughout the narrative but they especially appear in connection with

Moses, Joshua, Samuel, Elijah and elisha (1st Kings 17:17-24) These miraculous events are not presented as ordinary happenings in the lives of these people. They represent the special activity of God. The Bible depicts God as being in control of all history; but He seldom introduced miracles into the course of events.

Unlike other histories written in the ancient world, the Bible does not indulge in hero worship. It shows the leading characters of history exactly as they were, even when this might raise serious questions. For instance, how could David (the author of so many beautiful psalms) committ murder, adultry, and polygamy(2nd Samuel 11 -12)? Yet scripture frankly tells us that he did.

Old Testament history has many interesting traits. It describes events graphically, vividly and concisely, but does not always follow a strict chronological order (Genesis 2; the book of Judges). Because the Bible focuses on matters of theological importance, it is silent at some points and goes into great detail at others. It records only what is important to the theological theme. (Sources the Bible and Nelson's illustrated Enclyopedia of Bible Facts.)

# The Rev. Al Sharpton's National Action Network hosted Education Summit 2014 at New York

Al Sharpton (Cyril Josh Barker/New York Amsterdam) The Rev. Al Sharpton's National Action Network hosted its Education Summit 2014 at New York University this week, sparking the conversation on the education gap in America. Sponsored by Education for a Better American, the two-day summit, which took place on Wednesday and Thursday, brought out several high-profile figures in civil rights, education and the faith community. Starting Wednesday morning, topics of the day included standardized testing, diversity in learning and inequalities in education. Panelists included Randi Weingarten, president of the America Federation of Teachers; Dr. Lenora Fulani; and Dr. Pedro Noguera. Thursday's topics included preparing young learners before they enroll in school, the school-to-prison pipeline and pathways to higher education. Speakers included Dr. Michael Eric Dyson; Donna Lieberman, executive director of the New York Civil Liberties Union; and Dr. Marcus Bright.

"Rev. Sharpton, more than anything else, is committed to substance," said Michael Hardy, general counsel to NAN. "On some level, our work over the last 10 years has been to ensure that education is the civil rights issue of the 21st century--the equality and achievement of closing the gaps for children, particularly Black and Brown children, who are being deprived in terms of the resources that are available to them in the public schools."

NAN Executive Director Janaye Ingram said the purpose of the summit was to also bring together the community and leaders in education to discuss solutions about disparities in education. "Part of why this forum was designed [is] because we know a lot of times the conversations are being had and there's no opportunity for the community, for parents, for concerned individuals to have these types of conversations," Ingram said. "We wanted to create this forum so that we do have an opportunity to ask questions and dialogue and engage with the thought leaders in education."

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# Shirley McKellar, Congressional Candidate District 1, special guest Brotherhood



L to R- John Griffith, Tracy Session, Rev. Jerry Leviston, Shirley McKellar, Jerry Hart, Oliver Sturns, Sam O'Neal, Walter Session

The Cherokee Brotherhood Association held its monthly meeting Monday, October 27th with Dr. Shirley McKellar as special guest. Dr. McKellar is the democratic candidate for Texas First Congressional District. Her apponent is Louie Gohmert, current district 1 Representative..

With over 40 years experience, She is a professional nurse and retired military veteran.

Shirley McKellar, PhD., grew up around the family owned and operated Mitchell Erwin Roses of East Texas, which, at that time, provided a large portion of the roses for the annual Rose Festival of Tyler. This combination of environment and success established a great regard for hard work with Shirley and prepared her for a life of accomplishment and service. Firmly believing in preparing herself educationally, she has obtained numerous degrees (with honors). She is currently pursuing another degree in Political Science Dr. Shirley J. McKellar, Retired American Soldier, United States Army, is the Founder and Chief

McKellar-Ntaka and Associates, Inc., a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization.

Under McKellar's leadership the grass-roots non-profit 501c (3) organization has launched many successful projects in East Texas. The corporation has held many state contracts from working with sexually and physically abused women/children in twelve (12) counties in Texas, a Legal Mediation Consultant, to serving as Site Manager for the African American Breast Cancer Outreach Project (AABCO).

She began her political career after she was wounded on deployment in Iraq. She spent 4 1/2 years in a wheel chair. due to injuries. At that time seeking help from VA she was told their was an 18 month backlog. She wrote a letter to Senator Kay Baile Hutchinson's office and with in two weeks she was getting health care from VA. She has continued her fight to gain better health care treatment for Veterans in the East Texas area. It is an honor to serve my country where the rights of all qualified citizens may be enjoyed. As a

woman of color, I am proud that our Constitution gives us an opportunity to serve in elected office, regardless of gender, race, creed or color. Our country provides us this freedom and I feel qualified to represent you. With a deep belief and trust in a Higher Power, whom I call God, I know VICTORY is at hand. I am guided to govern and enforce the "will of the people of Texas. I will not engage in the politics of abuse, name-calling and quarreling to benefit my campaign. I believe that Americans are fed up with a political agenda using old, worn-out agendas and politics as usual. Elections must be determined by the issues, not money or an attempt to degrade the character of others. Winning is about what's best for the people. She stated, "I strongly believe in core Texas values - encouraging personal responsibility, compassion for others, and supporting family values. Strong families are the foundation for a prosperous and civilized community"

## Health

### Male Breast Cancer Survival

by Windy City Word

CHICAGO (NNPA) – When you hear the name Twone Gabz, many of us are not familiar with the name unless we are true fans of Hip Hop and have followed the history of the Chicago Rap music scene. Known to family and friends as Antwone Muhammad, he's been in the music business for almost 15 years, featured on projects produced by Grammy award producer, No I.D., Kanye West, Terry Hunter, DJ Jazzy Jeff, Erick Sermon and collaborations with Chicago artists; Mikkey Halsted, GLC, Keith Murray and Rhymefest among others.

One day when a trip to the emergency room suddenly changed the entire scope of his world when several tests revealed, he had been diagnosed with breast cancer. Taking a break from the music business to work in healthcare management for the past five years, Antwone had been experiencing some fluid leakage from his left nipple. The leakage had occurred off and on for a couple of years until his visit to the emergency room and the comfort of finally having health insurance. Antwone explains his first ordeal, "My doctor wasn't due to check on me for awhile and heard my voice in the hallway. She asked to check on my blood level. When she did, she noticed my hemoglobin had dropped to a six when it was supposed to be a 14. She couldn't believe I hadn't passed out or even died standing there, so they issued an emergency blood transfusion."

According to breastcancer.org, a study concluded that African American men were less likely than white men to be referred to an oncologist or get chemotherapy for breast cancer, which is highly due to many not having healthcare.

Male breast cancer is a rare condition, accounting for only about 1% of all breast cancers (www

Continue page 11



## Kimberly Clark presents Internet Safety program to Rusk Intermediate students



Pictured are Kimberly Clark, Anderson County Assistant District Attorney, and Carlene Clayton, principal of Rusk Intermediate school. Kimberly recently made a presentation to the students on "Internet Safety." She is a 2001 RISD graduate. Mrs Clayton was delighted to have a RISD graduate present to her students..

## Third Annual Hiring Red, White & You! Veterans Hiring Fair to Take Place Nov. 13

Job fairs for veterans and spouses hosted by 28 local workforce development board areas across Texas



Longview and Tyler, TX - The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC), in partnership with 28 local workforce development boards and the Texas Veterans Commission, will host statewide veterans hiring fairs on Nov. 13. TWC's third annual Hiring Red, White & You! Statewide Hiring Fair is a joint initiative supported by the Office of the Governor, the Texas Medical Center and the Texas Veterans Commission to connect veterans in Texas with employers who are hiring. Events will be hosted locally in Tyler and Longview by the Workforce Solutions East Texas Board.

"Texas wants to do everything it can to thank our heroes for their service, and the Hiring Red, White & You! Statewide Hiring Fair is one way we can," said Gov. Rick Perry. "This campaign helps veterans take their skills and forge new careers in Texas, while helping employers meet the experienced workers they need to fill open positions in their companies. This is a win-win-win for veterans, employers and Texas."

The Hiring Red, White & You! Statewide Hiring Fair is designed to assist veterans, service members and their spouses find their next career opportunity. Employers may participate at no made that resulted in interviews and post-event job offers.

"The military is one of the nation's most important sources of well-educated and highly-trained individuals who have a variety of technical and professional skills," said TWC Chairman Andres Alcantar. "The Hiring Red,

White & You! Statewide Hiring Fair is a wonderful opportunity for Texas employers to hire these highly skilled veterans."

The Texas Veterans Commission is preparing veterans for these hiring fairs by assisting them with applications and résumés, interviewing techniques, as well as one-on-one counseling services.

Through military training, veterans have acquired advanced skills in high stakes environments, something employers are looking for because it is good business," said Texas Veterans Commission Executive Director Thomas Palladino. "This hiring fair represents a great example of Texas employers working together to help those who have served our nation as they begin the next chapter of their lives."

The national unemployment rate for all veterans is 6.6 percent<sup>1</sup>. In contrast, for those veterans who served in the military since September 2001, the unemployment rate is higher at 9.0 percent<sup>2</sup>. The Hiring Red, White & You! Statewide Hiring Fair will help provide opportunities for employment to the estimated 1.6 million<sup>3</sup> veterans in Texas.

Many highly-qualified service members are transferring back to civilian life every day," said TWC Commissioner Representing Labor Ronny Congleton. "I encourage all veterans looking for employment to seek out the Hiring Red, White & You! hiring fair taking place in their area. This is a great way to network with employers looking to hire a skilled workforce. I would also urge

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# Texas Publishers Association's statewide elections

## endorsement

By NICOLE JAMES SCOTT

It is an irrefutable fact those who seek to disenfranchise and abrogate our liberties and attainments, our political victories and strides are well-organized and steadfast. Bearing this in mind, it is our duty to be not only just as coordinated in our efforts but to also be proactive. When candidates come campaigning for our votes we musim Shelton, the deputy secretary for the Education Department and executive director of the My Brother's Keeper task force said that a review of the credit criteria ring all children regardless of their economic status or ZIP code in the state of Texas receive a quality education and the funding and resources are available to realize this. As lieutenant governor she pledges to:

- Restore funding for full-day learning for pre-K students as opposed to 3 hours a day.
- Limit the class size for children grades K-4.
- Invest the necessary funding in Texas' public schools, restoring the 2011 Legislature cuts.
- Remove the standardized testing pay based on performance system allowing teachers to utilize their creativity and skills to teach.
- Allow for more involvement of parents and community members in control of their neighborhood schools. Sen. Patrick's record has already proven he is not concerned with educating children in our public education school system. In 2011 he was among those who voted to

cut \$5.4 billion in public education funds and even opposed the use of the state's Rainy Day Fund to offset cuts. In 2013 when he had the opportunity to restore the cuts not only did he vote against it but composed legislation to limit state appropriations and require any future state surplus funds to go toward property tax relief instead of education. In addition he proposed exempting certain residences from property taxes, reducing public education revenue and filed "mandate relief" legislation making it easier to lay off employees, reduce teachers' salaries and higher fewer teachers by increasing class sizes. For the state comptroller's office TPA endorses Mike Collier who if elected will be the first CPA in history to hold the state's top accountant position. At the top of his agenda is to make property taxes fair for all homeowners. Since 1997 the property tax appraisal law has unfairly allowed for large companies to drive down the market value of their properties causing homeowners to foot the bill. In 2013 SB 1342 was presented to correct this flaw, however Collier's opponent Sen. Glen Hegar along with his powerful campaign contributing group of lawyers and tax consultants stalled the legislation killing it upon arrival to the Senate. TPA endorses Steve Brown for Texas railroad commissioner who is the only African American running for statewide office. Until now the

railroad commissioner has always come from the ranks of the oil and gas industry, including Brown's opponent Ryan Sitton who boasts of his fifteen years of experience in the oil and gas and petrochemical industry. But what to him seems like a selling point is in fact to us concern for pause. As someone so intricately involved with the oil and gas industry it is foreseeable the Railroad Commission will be nothing more than an extension of the oil and gas lobby. As an outsider of the industry Brown represents a breath of fresh air, someone who can bring forth a new and unbiased commission that will put the needs of the citizens before the industry. He has already pledged to protect the interests of all Texans as well as the environment. For attorney general TPA endorses Sam Houston, a Houston-based attorney that has been practicing civil law at the state and federal level for 26 years. When elected to attorney general he has vowed to immediately overturn the AG ruling that currently prevents Texans from learning if hazardous chemicals are stored near them. Up until June of this year Texans had the right to know if hazardous materials were being stored near them. But Republican Attorney General Greg Abbott ruled that to release such information jeopardized homeland-security laws. Houston has shown himself to be

a gentleman with integrity and an evenhanded temperament, unlike his contender Sen. Ken Paxton who has a swirl of ethical issues surrounding him including being fined by the State Securities Board. Paxton alleges to be in favor of transparency. "My goal will be to have a transparent government and to follow the law," Paxton claimed. However, his actions and previous record contradict him. Dating back to 2006 Paxton has on more than one occasion neglected to disclose his involvement in or partnering with businesses as required. In one of the instances he claimed ignorance of the law, a reason in our eyes is no excuse. But rather Paxton's actions were deliberate or unintentional is not only reason for concern. Someone who is aspiring to the position of the state's top attorney should at the very least be knowledgeable of the law.

Happy Birthday  
Darren Franklin  
November 29th

Happy Birthday  
Mae Francis McLaughlin  
November 14th

## Department of Education Fixes PLUS Loan Program

by Freddie Allen

WASHINGTON (NNPA) After an arduous debate that stretched over three years, higher education advocates overwhelmingly supported the updated guidelines for the Federal Direct PLUS Loan Program recently issued by the Department of Education (DOE). The changes will impact nearly 400,000 students nationwide and provide much needed relief for Black students who disproportionately depend on the PLUS loan program to make it through college. In a press release on the final rule

change, United States Secretary of Education Arne Duncan said that the updated borrowing standards for the PLUS loan program demonstrated the department's "commitment to ensuring families have access to the financing they need to reach their goal, while being good stewards of taxpayer money." According to the updated borrowing standards, the Education Department set the threshold debt amount to \$2,085. The department considers a potential borrower that crosses that threshold to have an adverse

credit history for purposes of the PLUS loan program. Education Department officials also said that the new standards reduce the number of years that "charge offs" will affect a borrower's credit history from five years to the last two years. A charge off is "debt that a creditor has written off as a loss, but that is still subject to collection action," according to DOE officials. The revised guidelines ease the onerous credit requirements for the PLUS loan program that took effect in 2011, a move by the Education Department

that sidelined thousands of Black college students and cost historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) millions of dollars, forcing the cash-strapped schools to slash budgets and furlough faculty and staff. Tim Shelton, the deputy secretary for the Education Department and executive director of the My Brother's Keeper task force said that a review of the credit criteria or the PLUS loan program prompted the 2011 changes. Continue page 15

# Wendy Davis: The best choice for Texas

By NICOLE JAMES SCOTT

Texas Publishers Association

On Nov. 4 Texans will cast their votes for the next governor of the state. With only one week remaining to decide, the two leading candidates Wendy Davis and Greg Abbott are stomping the campaign trail to garner as much support as possible. We at the North Dallas Gazette are here to join in that support with our endorsement of Davis who we feel is not only the right choice for our state but the only candidate who if elected will use the full weight of the governor's office to fight for all Texans and roll back the assaults on our educational system, women's rights and voter's rights that we have endured the past 14 years under Gov. Rick Perry.

On education

In 2011 the 82nd Legislative Session under the leadership of the Republican Party cut funding for public education by \$5.4 billion, something that had not been done in over 60 years and something that will not be done under the leadership of Davis. Not only was Davis the only senator to oppose those massive cuts but she has also continued to be one of the very few lone voices fighting for the restoration of those cuts, unlike her opponent Abbott. She knows that it's not just good parenting, "family values" or strong communities that contribute to a child's success. Funding and policy has to be in place to back those efforts.

Davis knows that a one size fits all approach to our public education system is not effective. It hinders teachers' ability to teach, as do standardized tests. Most important, she values teachers, the ones standing in the trenches every day, on the frontline trying to make a difference. Davis recognizes you do not get the necessary results by cutting teachers' salaries and over crowding their classrooms. Meanwhile Texas leads the nation in uninsured people with close to 1.5 million Texans unprotected and less likely to receive needed medical treatment. This Republican method of cutting off your nose to spite your face because they still haven't gotten over the election of President

Obama, is hurting millions of Texans. Millions who are already paying into a federal program but not benefiting from it. Davis supports the Affordable Healthcare Act and will utilize those federal funds to insure Texans are receiving the care they need and that is including women who have been the target of a vicious assault by Republicans since 2011. Texas needs a governor who understands a woman's right to choose is a personal decision and one that should not involve government. Abbott claims he believes in smaller government but that's only when it benefits his cronies. On voting rights

Although poll taxes were ruled unconstitutional in 1964, Abbott along with his Republican comrades would like to take Texas back to the "good ole days" by implementing voter identification laws. The state law, enacted in 2011 and overturned by Judge Nelva Gonzales Ramos because of its strict mandates requires voters to show a state-issued driver's license, personal ID card or concealed handgun license, or a U.S. citizenship certificate, military ID card or passport. According to Ramos more than half a million registered voters, mostly Black and/or Hispanic would be impacted. disenfranchised. We need someone who understands that multinational, multi-billion-dollar companies who can afford to pay their CEOs seven figure salaries should at the very least be required to pay their lowest paid workers an hourly wage of \$10. This is all the more reason why we need Davis at the helm. Republicans are bent on taking the state back to the 19th century and creating two distinctive classes, the overlords and the serfs. There is only one candidate that offers solutions to our problems and gets it right on all of the issues. That candidate is Davis not Abbott. Recently, thanks to a Supreme Court decision, Texas will be able to use its voter identification law in this upcoming election. Texas is in dire need of real leadership. We need someone with vision and the tenacity to fight for the di

## Open Letter to families who have relatives burried at Mt. Mariah Cemetary

The Forgotten Cemetary

Rusk, Texas-

Dear Family,

Mt. Mariah Cemetary, located on County Road 1304 off Bagley Road or County Road 1309, lacks attention. There is regular mowing, weed eating and cleaning of fence rows that needs to be done on a regular basis.

There is a yearly dues of \$50.00 per family asked for the upkeep. Frenchie Henderson was the voluntary care taker until he became ill about two years ago. He needed help and I volunteered to help him.

Clearance Watts and Leon Christopher have voluntarily mowed the cemetary. Other than those two, to my knowledge, no one else has volunteered and no dues have been received from families who have loved ones burried there. To my knowledge, only two families have paid the \$200. fee for a burial plot.

Folks, I have been mowing Mt. Mariah Cemetary and paying someone to help me, spending my personal income.

I have a list of those who are burried there. Letters have been sent to their loved ones. No one has responded with a donation, or volunteered to come out and mow.

Families, I know you don't want your loved ones resting in an unkept cemetary! I know you have more love and respect for their memory than to allow this cemetary to remain forgotten and just plain unkept.

You may e-mail me at [informernews08@aol.com](mailto:informernews08@aol.com) or send dues/donations to: Mt. Mariah Cemetary Upkeep at P. O. Box 332, Rusk, Texas 75785.

Sincerely,

Walter Session

## Male Brest Cancer Survival

Continued from page 8

The Windy City Word  
([www.medicinenet.com](http://www.medicinenet.com))

Antwone challenges this statistic, "They say it affects 1% of men, but those numbers are skewed because they are being updated based on census surveys. So, who's really inviting a stranger into their house? Does the stranger ask you, "Does anybody in this household have cancer? My oncologist believes it to be like 7%-10% of men now." Although, a history of breast cancer in his family with his Aunt passing from leukemia and recently his grandmother being diagnosed within the same month as himself, it has made him more conscious of the illness. A husband and father of two children; a two-year old daughter and 13-year old son, the ordeal has turned his fight for survival into a mission of awareness. "Maybe, we could have tried this or that treatment but now they're gone...it's too late. So, I felt like if there's anyone who can help me or give me any advice, I'm going to take to everybody because you never know where your angels are. Antwone neither realized that worrying about his illness brought on stress and depression and it wasn't"

healthy nor healing so he flipped his experience around by sharing it openly on social media." Some people really confide and open up. A young lady was sharing with us during a Q & A I conducted online and she was six months pregnant; going through chemo and asking for advice on what type of dietary practices should she have? I couldn't give her that kind of advice because every person is different. But it's been great just to see people and how they've taken to it." Through the power of social media and online engagement, his open discussion has led to people whose sending him messages, admitting that they too are getting mammograms and going for doctor check-ups. In addition to talking with people on facebook and twitter, he has been documenting the process by filming his doctor visits in addition to ending his 5-year hiatus from the business was ended through penning new lyrics for the music CD "The Tumor".

continue pg.. 16

# Housing Segregation Played Role in Ferguson, Mo. Tragedy

~By Freddie Allen NNPA Senior Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON (NNPA) – The shooting death of Michael Brown, an unarmed Black teenager, in Ferguson, Mo. Darren Wilson, a White police officer, was as much as the product a century of housing segregation spurred by federal, state and local policies as longstanding tension between Blacks and police, according to a new report by the Economic Policy Institute (EPI).

Richard Rothstein, a research associate at the nonpartisan think tank and author of the report, said that the long pattern of housing segregation was not an accident.

“It wasn’t because of people’s choices, it wasn’t because African Americans were too poor to live in middle class neighborhoods. It’s because they were purposefully locked into segregated neighborhoods because of federal, state and local policies,” he said.

The report said that “In St. Louis these governmental policies included zoning rules that classified White neighborhoods as residential and Black neighborhoods as commercial or industrial; segregated public housing projects that replaced integrated low-income areas; federal subsidies for suburban development conditioned on African American exclusion,” and restrictive covenants that made it illegal for Whites to sell property or even rent to Black families in certain neighborhoods, despite their relative incomes. St. Louis ordinances that deemed Black neighborhoods suitable for commercial development that was barred in the White suburbs contributed to the slum-like conditions found in the inner city.

“Not only were these neighborhoods zoned to permit industry, even polluting industry, but taverns, liquor stores, nightclubs, and houses of prostitution were permitted to locate in African American neighborhoods but prohibited as violations of the zoning ordinance in residential districts

The report noted that the Federal Housing Administration (FHA), established during the New Deal and crafted to support White homeownership, denied those same opportunities to Blacks.

The EPI paper included analysis of the FHA’s impact on Black homeownership released by the United States Commission on Civil Rights’ (CCR) in 1959.

“Nonwhite home buyers and renters have not, however enjoyed the benefits of FHA mortgage insurance to the same extent as whites. According to testimony given before this Commission, less than 2 percent of the total number of new homes insured by FHA since 1946 have been available to minorities. Most of this housing has been all-Negro developments in the South... Although the relatively low participation [of] nonwhites has in part been due to their lower incomes, FHA bears some responsibility,” stated the CCR report. “Of great significance in this respect are FHA’s policies with regard to the discriminatory practices toward Negroes of real estate boards, homebuilders and lending institutions. For the first 16 years of its life, FHA itself actually encouraged the use of racially restrictive covenants. It not only acquiesced in their use but in fact contributed to perfecting them.”

The 1959 CCR annual report continued: “The 1938 FHA Underwriting Manual, which contained the criteria used in determining eligibility for receipt of FHA benefits, warned against insuring property that would be used by ‘inharmonious racial groups,’ and declared that for stability of a neighborhood, ‘properties shall continue to be occupied by the same social and racial classes.’ The Manual contained a model restrictive covenant which

FHA strongly recommended for inclusion in all sales contracts.”

The EPI report said that although many of the laws that encouraged housing segregation were prohibited in the late 20th century their effects still linger today.

Fifty years after the landmark *Brown v. Board of Education* Supreme Court decision “several elementary schools in Ferguson today are 90 percent African American and no elementary school is less than 75 percent African American; educational performance in such racially isolated settings is inadequate.”

Rothstein said that that there’s no way to raise the achievement of low-income African American students as long as they’re locked into segregated, high-poverty schools. Rothstein said that because the segregation of metropolitan areas nationwide and “the creation of virtually all-Black low-income communities like Ferguson was not a result of ‘White Flight,’ and instead caused by specific governmental policies, the remedies will also require government intervention.

Rothstein recommended that all suburbs be required to accept subsidized and low-income housing and multi-unit buildings. The EPI researcher also suggested forbidding landlords from refusing subsidized renters.

“It’s a mistake to think that the problems being protested in Ferguson are simply about the interactions between police and Black men and boys in the community,” said Rothstein.

Rothstein continued: “Unless we understand how Ferguson went from being a all-White suburb to a virtually all-Black suburb we’re never going to be able to get to the root of the police problems or any other problems that the community faces.”

## What’s Cook ‘n

### Buttercream Pound Cake



#### Cake

1lb. (2cups) butter, s

oftened

(do not use margarine)

2 1/2 cups powdered sugar

6 eggs

2 teaspoons grated lemon peel

3 tablespoons lemon juice

4 cups all-purpose flour

1 tablespoon baking powder

1 (12 1/2-oz.) can poppy seed filling

#### Glaze

1 cup powdered sugar

1 to 2 tablespoons lemon juice or milk

Heat oven to 350degrees F. In large bowl, beat butter until light and fluffy, gradually add powdered sugar; Gradually add powdered sugar and mix well. At medium speed, add eggs 1 at a time, beating well after each addition. Beat in lemon juice. At low speed, gradually beat in flour and baking powder; blend well.

In medium bowl, combine 3 cups batter with poppy seed filling; blend well. Spread half of plain batter over bottom of ungreased 10-inch tube pan. Alternately add teaspoonfuls of poppy seed batter and remaining plain batter.

Bake at 350 degrees F. for 1 hour and 15 minutes or until tooth pick inserted in middle comes out clean. Cool completely.

In small bowl, combine glaze ingredients, adding enough lemon juice for desired drizzling consistency; blend until smooth. Drizzle over cake.

# News from around Town

~Walter Session



in October. Wander Session, the recipient has moved into her new home in District II

Special guest Shirley Mckellar, met with the Cherokee Brotherhood at their October meeting. She is a democratic candidate for Congress for Texas First Congressional District. She is running against Republican Louie Gohmert, current U. U. Representative.

The Texas Informer was accepted as a member of the National Newspaper Publishers Association.

To all citizens, early voting began October 20, 2014 and will end October 31, 2014. Please voice your opinion by voting for the candidate of your choice. Remember, "The man who does not vote is a slave to the man who does."

Walter and Maxine Session attended a candidate screening at Houston Tillotson University, Austin Texas. The screening was hosted by Texas Publishers Association. Candidates who attended were Leticia VanDe Putte, candidate for Lt. Governor and Mike Collier, candidate for Comptroller of Public Accounts. They also met with Wendy Davis, candidate for Governor of Texas, and a group of publishers at the Dallas Examiner Office in Dallas, Texas on October 22, 2014.

General Electio Day is Tuesday, November 4, 2014. 7:00AM - 7:00PM.

Veterans Day is Tuesday, November 11th. Please say thank you to any veteran and current military person you meet for the service they give to this country to help keep us safe.

## POETRY

### The Blackest Child

by Michael Guinn

Weeping softly they wonder why,  
 their mothers cry,  
 and Fathers deny.  
 why are they only allowed to make  
 small steps, or take little sips from  
 the cup of life that overflows with  
 denial,  
 never quenching the smile  
 of the loneliest child.  
 Walking slowly, little girls and  
 boys, sapped of love, devoid of joy  
 Hardened to the touch, missing so  
 much, hugs, kisses  
 making desperate wishes,  
 for a home that for a while shelterd  
 the heart of a battered child.  
 wading slightly in ponds of  
 tears,  
 naked emotions swim in lakes of  
 fears,  
 because hope's ocean never appears  
 So they sail seas of misery,  
 searching as far as sad eyes can see  
 But with no oar to row,  
 no place to go no land in sight day  
 or night,  
 rare tides of smiles elude for  
 awhile  
 the salty lips of an abandoned child  
 Wanting silence from the pain  
 seeking shelter from life's hard rain,  
 as it beats there brow,  
 Lord help them now to see their  
 way  
 by the light of your day  
 Hoping soon that your bright moon  
 still shines,  
 please Lets help find the mythical  
 smiles  
 of the Blackest child

### The Forgotten

by Michael Guinn

Forsaking the elderly is the  
 greatest sin,  
 How did Dumping Granny  
 become the latest trend  
 sitting solatary with no loved ones  
 who care  
 their facial expressions show only  
 despair  
 They live the remainders of their  
 lives in constant fear  
 Lost in the gloaming of theeeir  
 twilight years  
 Wheeled into hospitals, left to die  
 in the streets  
 Literally kicked to the curve  
 week after week  
 Their only reward for generations  
 of love  
 Abandonment, neglect, hate and  
 shoves  
 Bilked of every possession  
 then left to die  
 Not even one tear is left to cry  
 They didn't ask to be placed in  
 this ackward position  
 To have their youth stolen without  
 permission  
 their sentence, neglect; Their  
 crime, age old  
 their wisdom disrespected by the  
 young and bold  
 forgot that we are all young  
 grandparents to be  
 Great uncles and aunts, in the  
 family  
 Would you want your children to  
 do that to you?  
 Remember, one day you'll grow  
 older too.

The City of Rusk is the recipient of a \$151,203.50 grant for the construction of a recreational trail that will be located adjacent to the swimming pool, Rusk Civic Center and baseball complex. The trail is scheduled to be one mile long and six feet wide. Citizens can use the trail for walking, jogging or bike riding.

Bob Goldsberry, Chamber Director, reported to the Rusk City Council that the work at Texas State Railroad is near completion. They are just waiting for Iowa Pacific Railroad to sign off on a punch list. Bob stated he does not have an initial shipment arrival date at this time. A Henderson, Texas company indicated they will be shipping gravel and other road materials.

Dallas, Texas has indicated that they are willing to buy some of the smaller cities interest in the Angelina & Lake Columbia Neches River Authority.

The Singletary Library extension renovation is making progress toward completion.

The last home built from this rounf of homes grant was completed

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- Supports Pre-K for all



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**Early Voting: Oct. 20-31**

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**Election Day: Nov. 4**

## Loan Plus Program

continued from page

Not only were the credit requirements different from almost all the other loan programs, but “a weird loophole” also made it easier for applicants with bad credit to get approved for loans while others with better credit histories were being denied.

Shelton said that level of technical assistance that was given to schools to help them understand how the 2011 changes would impact how they needed to craft financial aid packages for students that had been receiving PLUS loans, didn’t reach the level of visibility that the department would have liked.

“Colleges didn’t really pick up on it until they started seeing students get denied,” said Shelton.

2013, Secretary Duncan apologized for how the DOE handled the 2011 update to the PLUS loan program. In a joint press release, higher education advocates and lawmakers applauded the final rule change.

Aimed at repairing the damage to schools and students that was done after the 2011 changes, Michael L. Lomax, president and CEO of the United Negro College Fund said that HBCUs and the students they serve have endured three years of hardships caused by denied access to PLUS Loans. This has been a distraction from the real work that needs to be done – preparing students with the skills needed in a competitive, global economy,” said Lomax. “UNCF and our member presidents have rolled up their sleeves and worked hard to find a solution to this crisis, and we are pleased that this final regulation embraces that work.”

Lezli Baskerville, president and CEO of National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education (NAFEO), a non-profit group focused on the needs of HBCUs and predominantly Black institutions (PBIs), said that the most recent PLUS loan regulations were a hard won victory for HBCUs and their stakeholder communities including the students, their families. Baskerville added: “While the regulations do not restore the pool of “creditworthy” applicants to the pre-2011 level as NAFEO and its colleagues fought indefatigably to achieve, it is a step in the

right direction. The regulations will make 370,000 PLUS loan applicants who failed to pass the new “adverse credit history” criteria, now eligible borrowers for the PLUS Loan gap funding; expand higher education access, and increase the likelihood of success for 691,900 additional students.”

Rep. Marcia Fudge (D-Ohio), said that she was encouraged by the news of the revised guidelines for the PLUS loan program and praised the Department of Education for “for finally taking this step to

begin leveling the playing field for so many students and families of color and modest means — those who most benefit from the Parent PLUS Loan Program.”

Fudge continued: “Access to higher education has long been the key to achieving upward socioeconomic mobility in this country. It is my sincere hope that we will reinforce our commitment to these students and families by implementing these new rules students will be able to access the PLUS loan program under the new rules in March 2015, four months

that earlier than previously reported.

Johnny Taylor, the president and CEO of the Thurgood Marshall College Fund, a group that works with schools in its network to increase access, retention and graduation rates of students said that if the department can move the start date from July 2015 to March 2015 they should be able to move it from March 2015 to November 2014 so that students preparing to enroll for the spring semester can benefit. Taylor said that he’s frustrated . Continue page 16



## Medicare Open Enrollment

### *What Will You Find During Medicare Open Enrollment? October 15 - December 7*

Your health needs change from year to year. And, your health plan may change the benefits and costs each year too. That’s why it’s important to review your Medicare choices each fall. Compare your current plan to new options and see if you can lower some costs or to find a plan that better suit your needs. Open Enrollment is the one time of year when ALL people with Medicare can see what new benefits Medicare has to offer and make changes to their coverage.

Whether you have Original Medicare or a Medicare Advantage plan, you’ll still have the same benefits and security you have now:

- Certain preventive benefits – including cancer screenings – are available at no cost to you when provided by qualified and participating health professionals. The annual wellness visit lets you sit down with your doctor and discuss your health care needs and the best ways to stay healthy.
- Medicare will notify you about plan performance and use its online Plan Finder to encourage enrollment in quality plans.
- In 2015, if you reach the “donut hole” in Medicare’s prescription drug benefit, you’ll get a 55% discount on covered brand name drugs and see increased savings on generic drugs.

It’s worth it to take the time to review and compare, but you don’t have to do it alone. Medicare is available to help.

- Visit [Medicare.gov/find-a-plan](http://Medicare.gov/find-a-plan) to compare your current coverage with all of the options that are available in your area, and enroll in a new plan if you decide to make a change.
- Call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) 24-hours a day/7 days a week to find out more about your coverage options. TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.
- Review the *Medicare & You 2015* handbook. It’s mailed to people with Medicare in September.
- If you have limited income and resources, you may be able to get Extra Help paying your prescription drug coverage costs. For more information, visit [socialsecurity.gov/i1020](http://socialsecurity.gov/i1020) or call Social Security at 1-800-772-1213. TTY users should call 1-800-325-0778.
- Get one-on-one help from your State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP). Visit [Medicare.gov/contacts](http://Medicare.gov/contacts) or call 1-800-MEDICARE to get the phone number.

*This message is brought to you by the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services.*

# Atlanta's Spelman College Claims Top Ranking Among HBCUs

by Zenitha Prince

Special to the NNPA from the Afro-American Newspaper Spelman College, the liberal arts college for women in Atlanta, was named the nation's top historically Black college or university for the second year in a row by U.S. News and World Report.

The publication's 30th annual ranking of tertiary education institutions in the United States was released this week and included nearly 50 different types of numerical rankings and lists to "help students narrow their college search." In addition to its ratings of the best national universities and liberal arts colleges, the magazine also ranked regional colleges

In the ranking of HBCUs the schools were compared only with one another. Howard University in Washington, D.C., and Morehouse College in Atlanta, ranked second and third best, respectively. The institutions switched spots from last year's rankings when Morehouse was second and Howard third.

Following closely behind was Virginia's Hampton University and Tuskegee University in Alabama, which held the fifth spot as it did a year ago.

Rounding out the top 10 positions in descending order were: Xavier University, of New Orleans; Fisk University, of Nashville; Florida A&M University, of Tallahassee, Fla.; Claflin University, of

Orangeburg, S.C.; and North Carolina A&T State University, of Greensboro, N.C.

Morgan State University in Baltimore tied for the 15th spot with Winston-Salem State University in North Carolina. The University of Maryland-Eastern Shore came in 23rd; Bowie State University came in 25th and Coppin State's ranking was not published. The ranking of historically Black schools comprised only those institutions currently designated by the U.S. Department of Education as HBCUs. To qualify for the U.S. News ranking, HBCUs also needed to be an undergraduate baccalaureate-granting institution that enrolls primarily first-year, first-time students.

Loan Plus Program continued from page

quickly and without further delay.

If I thought people didn't know, maybe I'd be less bothered, but if 28,000 students have been negatively impacted, then you should have 28,000 people raising hell," said Taylor. "It's not because they don't know. The kids that are sitting at home right now, that were in school, they know exactly why they're at home."

The Office of Federal Student Aid will also provide loan counseling for every family so that they can understand what their options are and what their repayment plan is going to look like on the backside.

"[It was] a very painful process to get here," said Shelton. "It's been a rough road to get to this place, but I'm extremely gratified to be here."

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