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# TEXAS INFORMER

April 2012  
Volume VXI Number 11

Web: [www.texasinformer.com](http://www.texasinformer.com)  
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P. O. Box 332  
Rusk, Texas 75785

## East Texans Join peaceful protest calling for arrest in the Trayvon Martin Murder



### Unique Beauty Shop Grand Opening in Jacksonville



Lue Ann Williams (1 of 3 operators)  
shown and client. See page 6

### Pre-K Head Start Enrollment Set



Rusk Primary School students. See  
information on page 7



Mertis Bartley, II (event speaker), Patricia McGowan (speaker), Brittany McGowan (Organizer), along with parents and children prepare to march from the corner of Lincoln and North Main to Sweet Union Baptist Church where the speakers and others convened to express their concerns about the Trayvon Martin murder and to give encouragement to young people who participated. (See story page 3)



## EDITORIAL

### The vanishing black middle class

by George E. Curry, NNPA

A chapter in the National Urban League's 2012 State of Black America report reached a sobering conclusion about the black middle class.

"Our analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau and of Labor Statistics will clearly establish that whether one looks at education, meaningful income or any other measure, almost all gains that blacks have made in the last 30 years have been lost in the Great Recession that started in December 2007 and in the anemic recovery that has followed since June 2009. The size of the black middle class is shrinking, from being in the middle to the fringes of the black middle class are disappearing."



George E. Curry, NNPA

That's pretty strong language from the four authors: Chanelle P. Hardy, Valerie R. Wilson, Madura Wijewardena and Garrick T. Davis. But they provide strong figures to buttress their case.

The black median household income in 2010 was \$32,106. That's 30 percent less than the comparable figure for whites. In today's dollars, that's where the white median household income stood in 1980. Even with the tremendous income gap, the black median household income increased by 32 percent between 1992 and 2000. White income increased by 14 percent over that same time period.

The latest economic downturn has eroded many of those gains. "The Great Recession and the recovery has led to a dramatic widening of the gap between white and black middle class income households," the report stated. "Although both blacks and whites suffered declining median household income during and since the recession, the decline for blacks has been considerably higher - between 2008 and 2010, white median household income fell by 2.9% while the black median household income fell by 7.7%."

A similar decline can be seen in home ownership. "Since the recovery, black home ownership has been falling at just under twice the rate of white home ownership - from 2009 to 2011, black home ownership declined by 1.4 percentage points while white home ownership declined by 0.9 percentage points. This means that almost all the gains in black home ownership have been lost, and now we are at a point where there are real reversals in black home ownership."

Education, the ladder to upward mobility, is also going in the wrong direction. "An especially troubling trend can be observed by looking at the fortunes of those with a four-year college degree," the report observed. "The most significant impact of this trend has been on black college graduates who saw their unemployment rates skyrocket to an average of 7.1% in 2011."

"This led to an unprecedented widening of the gap between black and white college graduates - in 1972, the gap between the unemployment rates of blacks and white college graduates was 1.4 percentage points and in 2011 it had increased to 3.2 percentage points."

Middle class can be defined generally as having income that places one in the middle of overall income distribution. And because white household income is more than 1.5 times black income, a white family must earn more than African-Americans in order to be considered middle class.

Even though blacks still trail whites in income, there was no significant black middle class before the modern Civil Rights Movement.

(See "Middle Class" page 11)

from the U.S. the U.S. Bureau clearly establish at education, meaningful the economic made in the last lost in the Great in December anemic recovery since June 2009. the size of the is shrinking, from being in the dwindling, and the for reaching the are disappearing."

## "Remembering Dr. King"

### Dr. King's Legacy and the Black Church

I was extremely disappointed with the ceremony honoring Dr. King's Legacy in my hometown on the King Birthday Holiday. Although I enjoyed the presentations by the and adults on the extremely displeased of the minister the key-note speech. subject "Marching not unlike any of on a regular basis in i.e. trust in Jesus will be ok. Not once any ideas or helpful which could cause out" for the better.



Cecil A. Roy

Dr. King was most fearing man", but his show very clearly that wait for God to make things turn out all-right. It seems fitting to me that we should honor him by elaborating on those things that "we" can and should do to assure that his "dream" will ultimately become a reality. I am appalled when told that our only efforts should entail "trusting in God".

When we consider the myriad of problems facing our nation and our local communities - it ought to be the responsibility of those chosen as leaders to identify and enumerate specific actions needed to address these problems. The black church traditionally has been a source of inspiration for local black communities; it once served a leadership role to bring about changes necessary for the betterment of our people. However, it appears that this institution has now chosen to downplay "individual initiative" and replace it with "trust in God".

MLK spent much of his time fighting to assure that blacks in the south were allowed to vote. I think our modern day ministers should spend much of their time offering more than lip service to this aspect of Martin's dream. I am convinced that the low voter turn-out in my local community is due, in large part, to the failure our local ministers to take a pro-active role in this process. The weekly sermons "God will work it out" are simply not enough. Our ministers must re-orient their approach and begin to address voter apathy as a means of achieving Dr Kings dream

The anti-education theme inherent in many of the sermons - "you don't need a degree, just trust in Jesus" does much to dissuade our youth from pursuing an education. MLK'S legacy is dishonored by such pronouncements. Do they (our ministers) not understand that you can trust in Jesus and learn mathematics at the same time? The church must do a better job of promoting education as a concrete means of achieving Dr Kings dream.

I am also disappointed at the lack of involvement of the local black churches in charitable activities? What do we do to help the homeless and downtrodden? In order to truly honor Dr. King's legacy, the church should play an active role in organizing and developing institutions to help those in need. It seems that many of our churches are so intent on raising funds for its own benefit that funds for the poor and disadvantaged are shortchanged.

Dr. King and many of his followers went to prison in order to protest unfair treatment of blacks in the public accommodations and in the

young persons program, I was with the sermon selected to give His sermon to Jesus" was those we hear the black church. and everything did he mention suggestions things to "turn

certainly a "God accomplishments he did not simply

See Remembering Dr. King pg. 7

#### Letters to the Editor Policy

We welcome your letters to the editor. Please send to P. O. Box 332, Rusk, Texas or [informernews08@aol.com](mailto:informernews08@aol.com). Letters must include name of the sender.

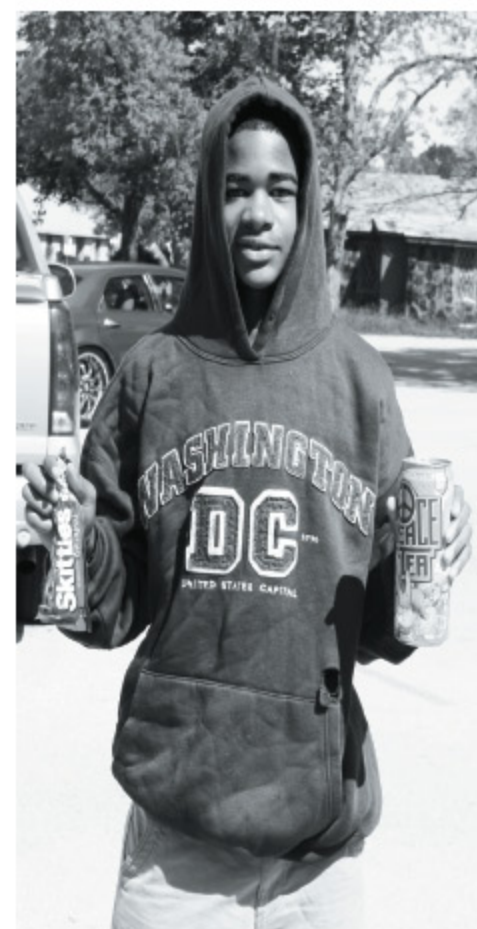


# Local Citizens express concern at Trayvon Martin March

As citizens around the states march and gather peacefully in support of the Trayvon Martin family who request an arrest in the murder of their son, local youth and adults join in support. "We are feeling the hurt and confusion over the murder of Trayvon Martin. My name is Trayvon, says 14 year old Jacksonville Trayvon Lolar, and it could have been me. I wear a hoodie. I want to change people being stereotyped. Me being a young black man and not doing anything and being shot for it or getting put in jail or getting accused of something you never did. I'm just thankful that it wasn't me it happened to," he says.

Sanford, Florida youth, seventeen year old Trayvon Martin was gunned down by self appointed neighborhood watchman George Zimmerman on the night of February 26, 2012 just some 70 feet from home as he returned from the store carrying a bag of Skittles and a can of Tea. Zimmerman has not been charged or arrested.

"This is not a black problem or a white problem," says Charles Denman. This is an American problem. I am here to help bring attention to it



Jacksonville youth, Trayvon Lolar holds bag of Skittles and can of Tea.

he stated.

Local youth came wearing hoodies that are a part of school athletic gear, and carrying signs. Many marched with their parents.

A brief gathering inside Sweet Union Church gave an opportunity to give encouragement and inspiration to the youth. Latricia McGowan spoke to the crowd and sang a song, What God Has for You It Is For You. Other speakers were Maxine Session, Keeno Howard, a Tyler Police Officer and Rev. Mertis Bartley.

Twenty-two year old Rev. Mertis Bartley, II says, "I am a man of God working on my bachelor degree, and I wear a hoodie. Is that right for white people to hate me just because I wear a hoodie? It's time that we

voice our opinion about this. As he hung from the cross dying for the sin of the world, Jesus asked, "My God, My God, why has thou forsaken me?" I ask today, America, America, why has thou forsaken me?"

Other present had this to say, "That is such a tragedy. I am here to give support because I have a son. It could have been my son

Trish Vester says, "I am here to show support for the Trayvon Martin family.

Others told of encounters with local law enforcement. One man owns a farm truck and each time he travels into the town of Rusk he is stopped without cause.



Local Jacksonville youth carry "I am Trayvon Martin signs.

Event organizer and MC, Brittany McGowan stated, "This thing has bothered me terribly. It has kept me from sleeping well at night for weeks now and I can't get it off my mind. Everybody has talked about this and how terrible it is, but talking about it behind closed doors lets nobody know how we feel and it could happen again right here at home. I felt I had to do something so I talked to many community people and organized this march. It's sad to say but racism is still here in 2012. It shouldn't be, but it is and if we don't stand as a people and fight for justice it's going to continue.

If you are black you know this well because you live with it every day. If you're white, you know it well because you are either a part of the group who cause it or a part of the group who witness it but keep quiet because you don't want to be involved."

We have to keep the faith and if Trayvon Martin's family keeps the faith in God, everything will be alright. I believe they will see the truth and arrest this man who took away Trayvon's life.

Britanny asked those carrying Skittles and Tea to eat and drink some in memory of Trayvon.







Center for the Elimination of Disproportionality and Disparities  
 TEXAS ★ Health and Human Services Commission

Did you know that as a result of tobacco use and exposure to second hand smoke, more African Americans in Texas die from tobacco related cancers compared to other races and ethnicities? Did you know that 3 out of 4 African American adults in Texas are either overweight or obese, which contribute to the onset of diabetes?

Are you or your organization working to make your community healthier? Want to learn about tools and resources that can help you develop successful tobacco and obesity prevention and intervention programs? Get the new "Community Resource Guide to Address Tobacco Related Health Disparities". The Texas Health and Human Services Commission Center for the Elimination of Disproportionality and Disparities (CEDD) developed the guide with funding from the Texas Department of State Health Services' Communities Putting Prevention to Work Initiative. The guide is free and will be available online. In addition, for obesity prevention information and to build a plan for action that will make a difference in your community, visit: [www.planhealthytexas.org](http://www.planhealthytexas.org) <<http://www.planhealthytexas.org>>.

For more information about accessing the guide and addressing disproportionality and health disparities, please contact CEDD at: [http://www.hhsc.state.tx.us/hhsc\\_projects/cedd/](http://www.hhsc.state.tx.us/hhsc_projects/cedd/).

## Religion



### Christians Celebrate Easter

As we seek to understand Christ we should examine His position before the law. He humbled Himself before it; as a result, god exalted Him over it. This is an interesting irony.

The son laid aside His divine majesty and assumed human nature. He submitted himself to all the sufferings of His earthly life, including death itself. He did this to accomplish God's plan to redeem mankind from sin.

When Christ became flesh He did not cease to be what He was before. By the same token, the incarnation as such, that is, the Word's bodily existence continues as He sits at the right hand of God.

Christ was surrounded by sin. The devil repeatedly attacked Him. His own people hated Him and refused to believe He was the Savior. His enemies persecuted Him. Finally, at the end of His earthly life, He endured all the wrath of God against sin. No other person has suffered as intensely as Jesus did. God the Father exalted Christ by raising Him from the dead, taking Him away to heaven and seating Him at His own right hand. Christ will return from that place to judge the living and the dead.

Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away. But of that day and that hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Take heed, watch and pray; for you do not know when the time is.  
 ~ St. Mark 13: 31-33

### LEGAL NOTICE

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



Game #	Game Name/Odds	\$	Official Close of Game	End Validations Date
1367	Black Onyx 7's Overall odds are 1 in 3.84	\$5	03/18/12	09/14/12
1341	Loteria® Texas Overall odds are 1 in 3.99	\$3	05/02/12	10/29/12
1342	Bonus Break The Bank Overall odds are 1 in 3.81	\$5	05/02/12	10/29/12
1356	Texas Lottery® Black III Overall odds are 1 in 3.32	\$10	05/02/12	10/29/12
1366	Quick 6's Overall odds are 1 in 4.56	\$1	05/02/12	10/29/12
1371	Holiday Gold Overall odds are 1 in 4.23	\$2	05/02/12	10/29/12
1373	Season's Greetings Overall odds are 1 in 3.35	\$10	05/02/12	10/29/12
1374	Armadillo Cash Overall odds are 1 in 4.69	\$1	05/02/12	10/29/12

For detailed odds and game information, visit [txlottery.org](http://txlottery.org) or call 1-800-37LOTTO. Must be 18 or older to purchase a ticket. The Texas Lottery supports Texas Education. © 2012 Texas Lottery Commission. All rights reserved.

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# G. W. Bradford All-School Reunion

Scheduled for June 16th & 17th

Theme: "Cruising Back To The Fifties"

LATE REGISTRATION/PACKET PICKUP

6:00-8:00pm JUNE 16TH -BRADFORD GYM

For additional information contact any committee member or Marie Simmons Ealy Dallas Chapter, Lawanda Waggoner Rasberry Houston or Helen Colston Boston Rusk Alumni/Reunion Committee or Mail Registration to: Bradford Reunion 2012

P. O. Box 942

Rusk, Texas 75785

Registration: \$40.00 per person

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ St.: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_ No. People: \_\_\_\_\_

Ph. No. \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

## RUSK HIGH SCHOOL

### CLASS OF 1970

WHAT: Class Reunion

WHEN: Saturday, May 5, 2012, 10:00 a.m. Till 4:00 p.m.

WHERE: KOA Camp Ground 745FM 343E, Rusk, Texas

It has been a few years since we had our last class reunion. Several of the 1970 class members thought it would be a GREAT time to get back together once again. Please join us for our 42nd class reunion for a time of visiting and sharing with one another. Bring pictures of your children, grandchildren, and even great grandchildren. We will eat lunch around noon and then we can sit and visit with each other and catch up on the past. Lunch will be catered at the cost of \$30.00 per plate (Children 8 years and younger / ½ price) We would also accept any additional donations for expenses incurred for the building rental and postage. This will be a family-type atmosphere, so please no alcohol. We will need you to RSVP no later than April 1, 2012 so we can make sure that the catering service will know how many to plan for. So, if you will, complete the form attached and send it back to the address listed along with your check so we will be sure to have the funds to rent the building and pay for the meal. A limited number of cabins will be available on a first come basis. You may visit ruskkoa.com to see the campground. It is a very nice clean campground. You may contact the KOA Campground at:

(800) 652-4143 for Reservations

(903) 683-6641 for questions

Rusk KOA Campground

P. O. Box 691

745 FM 343 E (Atoy Highway)

Rusk, Texas 75785

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

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EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER ATTENDING: \_\_\_\_\_

(Make Checks Payable to Rusk High School Class of 1970)

Return to: Rhonda (Quinn) Morrow

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Rusk, Tx. 75785

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## Unique & More Hair Salon grand opening

## Local Artis offers art lessons

Local artist and author Lurlene Bowden offers art lessons to all ages, from 4 to 6 p.m. every Tuesday at the Ross Activity Center, inside the Rusk Civic Center, 555 Euclid St., Rusk. Bowden will teach drawing, composition and water and acrylic painting in a no-pressure environment. Call Bowden, 903-743-5300, or email [lurlenebowden1943@eastex.net](mailto:lurlenebowden1943@eastex.net) for more information. Classes are sponsored by the Activity Center and the Friends of Singletary Memorial Library.

## Beginner Canning/Preserving Your Garden Produce/Fruit, a free seminar

The Ross Activity Center presents Beginner Canning/Preserving Your Garden Produce/Fruit, a free seminar for those interested in learning to can or preserve homegrown fruits and vegetables. Longtime canner and local author Lurlene Bowden will demonstrate the canning process with step by step instructions with a question and answer segment following each demo. Seminars will be held from 10 to 11 a.m. and from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 25, at the Rusk Civic Center, 555 Euclid St., Rusk. Call the Civic Center, 903-683-2850 to sign up for a class. Bowden's books, "You 'Can' Do It!," "You 'Can' Do This Two!," and "You 'Can' Relish a Pickle... Two And Three!" will be on sale at each seminar.

The belief that God will do everything for man is as untenable as the belief that man can do everything for himself. It, too, is based on a lack of faith. We must learn that to expect God to do everything while we do nothing is not faith but superstition.

~Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



Above are Natalie Boseman, Lue Ann Williams and Valerie Jones owners and operators of Unique and More Hair Salon.

Jacksonville, TX.- The grand opening for Unique & More Hair Salon was held recently at 1028 Benson Street in Jacksonville, Texas, the long time location for Tinsley's Beauty Salon. The proud new owners are Natalie Boseman, Valerie Jones and Lue Ann Williams. The stylists offer the latest in hair care

with plans to expand to nail care which includes manicures and pedicures. Clients kept the trio busy on Saturday with high demand. Hotdogs, soft drinks and other snacks were served to the public. For appoints and walk-ins call: Lue Ann at (903) 284-7650, Natalie at (903) 810-0524 and Valarie at (903) 330-6422.

## Remembering Dr. King from page 2

workplace. Although much has been accomplished in these areas on a national level, there is still much to be done. Does the church offer any programs etc to assist in realizing this aspect of Martins dream. I think not. Dr King was not unwilling to discuss and even criticize some of the nation's political decisions

. Although our churches are not and should not be political institutions - they certainly should have some means to assure that their parishioners are well informed about national and world affairs.

Is the black church really willing to honor Dr. King's Legacy?



## Rusk Primary currently enrolling for 2012-2013 Head Start/Pre-k 4



### ENROLL NOW...DON'T WAIT!!

Rusk Primary currently enrolling for 2012-2013 Head Start/Pre-k 4 classes. Pre-Registration for Rusk Pre-Kindergarten/Head Start is set for Friday, May 4th from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm. If a minimum of eighty children are registered on May 4th classes will be full day and offer bus transportation to and from school. If we do not have 80 PK 4 children pre-enroll on May 4th, PK 4 will remain a half day program. In an effort to meet the 80, Rusk Primary will allow early pre-registration beginning immediately for children that will be four years old on or before September 1, 2012. To register a child, parents will need to bring their current check stub and 2011 income tax return, W-2, and/or TANIF verification as proof of income. All applicants need to bring a certified copy of the child's birth certificate, complete immunization record, social security card and proof of residency. Parents may call the school at 903-683-6106 to make an appointment or visit the school at 440 Collins St. to register their child. Parents must register now in order for Rusk ISD to determine the need to return to a full day pre-K 4 program. Rusk Pre-K 3 enrollment is also on May 4th. The Pre-K 3 program will remain a half day program for 2012-13.

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## Rusk Spring Cleaup Scheduled

The city of Rusk will hold its annual spring clean up days for Rusk water customers from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, April 21 and Saturday, April 28. Dumpsters will be located at the City Barn on U.S. Hwy. 69 S. and at Conley Park on Reeder Street. All Rusk water customers may make use of these dumpsters free of charge on these days. Keeping watching this newspaper for more details on what items will be accepted and what items won't be accepted or call City Hall, 903-683-2213, for more information.

## Singletary Memorial Library Rusk is offering free computer and internet classes

Singletary Memorial Library in Rusk is offering free computer and internet classes at the library, 207 E. Sixth St. Basic Internet classes will meet from 9 to 10 a.m. and Beginning Computer Skills will meet from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. every Thursday through the month of April. Admission is free. Bring your laptop if you have one, since space is limited. For more information call 903-683-5916.

## TJC School of Nursing now taking applications for the Fall Semester

According to the Texas Center for Nursing Workforce Studies, there is projected to be a need for 71,000 nurses by 2020.

Tyler Junior College School of nursing is helping to supply nurses to meet the growing need. Applications are now being taken for classes at the Lindale, Tyler, Jacksonville and Rusk campus locations. For information, please call (903) 510-2662

## Free low impact aerobics classes offered

Rusk, TX.-Beyond Fitness and the Ross Activity Center offers free low impact aerobics classes at 9 a.m. every Thursday at the Rusk Civic Center. Classes will focus on physical fitness routines designed to help keep senior citizens fit and active. Other free exercise sessions are also held at 9 a.m. Mondays and Tuesdays at the Civic Center. For information call 903-683-2850.



## OBITUARIES



## Verline Waggoner Adams Johnson

## Services Held for Felicia Williams July



She retired as a classroom teacher after 35 years. Felicia was selected Who's Who among American Teachers by some of the students she inspired. This was a great honor to her. She loved teaching and also taught private music lessons from her home. She leaves a legacy of affirmation, love and encouragement and set an example for her family and the community by leading an exemplary life. Her passion, the love for Christ, a special touch with children and a love for people and music.

She united with Travis July in Holy Matrimony December 20, 1964 and remained a devoted wife until his demise. To this union two children were born, Ferlich July Arrington and Trevon July. She leaves to cherish her memory one daughter Ferlich July Arrington (Steve), one son Trevon July and one granddaughter, Estebiana J'Nae Arrington all of Jacksonville, Texas; one sister Eunice Faye Wright of Hayward California; one brother Azell Williams (Mary) Overland Park, Kansas. Her siblings children, 3 nieces Jeanette Teel (Dan) Dallas, Texas, Melba Wright of Oakland, California and Amelia Hard (Cardell) Minnesota; three nephews Roger Cox (Zelma) Mesquite, Texas, Carroll Cox (nick) Jacksonville, Texas and Darrell Williams Overland Park, Kansas.

Mercy McGowan Funeral Home was in charge of the services with interment at Ragsdale Cemetery Jacksonville, Texas

Services were held at Greater Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church Lufkin, Texas for Verline Waggoner Adams Johnson. She was born June 3, 1930 in Cherokee County to the late Dee and Velma (Martin) Waggoner. She was the only girl of six siblings. She attended public school in Rusk, Texas. After graduation she attended Texas College in Tyler, Texas. She received a Bachelors degree in home economics in 1953. In 1979 she received a Masters Degree in Education from SFA University.

She was employed at the Women's State School in Crockett, Texas until its closing in August of 1974. Verline then transferred to Lufkin State School in 1990 with more than 30 years of state service and considered the staff and residents of the Lufkin State School as her second family.

Mrs. Johnson joined the Holly Springs CME church at a young age and remained a devoted supporter of the Holly Springs church and cemetery association until her demise. She united with Greater Shiloh Baptist Church in Lufkin, Texas under the pastorage of the late Reverend Hosea Dolphus Sr. She was an active member of the mission society and the Deaconess and Trustee Wives Board, serving as president for many years.

As a member of the community, Mrs. Johnson served

as an accountant for the Top Ladies of Distinction Sepia Fashion review and was a member of the Ladies Garden Club.

She is preceded in death by her husband of 39 years, Wade D. Johnson. Verline was the mother of two sons that preceded her in death, Kenith Arnold Adams and Arthur (Archie) Waynes Adams; offspring of her union with Carnell Adams, Tyler, Texas. Also preceding her in death are her parents Dee and Velma Waggoner; her brothers Charlie Woggoner, Sr., Dee Waggoner, Jr., and Chester Waggoner.

She is survived by her uncle S. M. Martin of Clarksville, TN; brothers John Westley Waggoner (Arlene) and H.R. Waggoner of Rusk, TX; Sister in laws Corine Waggoner of Los Angeles, CA and Bonnie Waggoner of Lancaster, TX; her daughter in laws Catherine Godwin Adams and Winifred Ferguson Adams of Lufkin, TX; step sons Myrick Johnson (Patricia) and Kevin Johnson (Joyce) of San Francisco, CA; grandchildren Arron Adams, Christopher Adams and Ariel Adams of Lufkin, TX; Veronica Adams and Courtney Adams of Houston, TX; Bridgette Johnson, Tanisha Johnson, Marcus Johnson, Lydia Johnson, Monique Johnson and Kristal Johnson of San Francisco, CA. Special niece Sharondee Waggoner of Dallas, TX and special nephew Charlie "Butch" Waggoner of Rusk, TX; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and other relatives and friends. Interment was held at the Delmar Hollis Springs Cemetery in Rusk, Texas.

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# LEGAL NOTICE

This Texas Lottery Commission Scratch-Off game will close on April 9, 2012. You have until October 6, 2012, to redeem any tickets for this game:

Game #1343 Monthly Bonus (\$5) Overall Odds are 1 in 4.94

This Texas Lottery Commission Scratch-Off game will close on April 30, 2012. You have until October 27, 2012, to redeem any tickets for this game:

Game #1360 Triple Tripler (\$3) Overall Odds are 1 in 4.85

These Texas Lottery Commission Scratch-Off games will close on May 30, 2012. You have until November 26, 2012, to redeem any tickets for these games:

Game #1293 Double Blackjack (\$2) Overall Odds are 1 in 4.85

Game #1370 Silver Bells (\$5) Overall Odds are 1 in 3.86

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# Hollywood's Time

## The killing of Trayvon Martin

Unless you've been off the planet lately, you have heard about the tragic death of Trayvon Martin. Trayvon Martin was a 17 year old black man who was killed in early 2012 by a 28 year old man in a controversial shooting near Martin's home.

The facts surrounding Trayvon Martin's death have sparked demonstrations and large protest marches from New York to California. For starters, Martin was an unarmed teenager who had walked from his father's house to the store to buy some candy and was confronted by his killer on his way back home. The man who confronted Martin was supposed to have been part of a neighborhood crime watch group during the time that he shot Trayvon Martin.

This is no new situation for America. America has been dealing with this type of situation, since the 1950's, when another innocence young black man,

by the name of Emmitt Teal, was also shot and killed in Mississippi.

There were a lot of unanswered questions surrounding this incident. In my mind, the investigation into Trayvon's murder was mishandled from the "get go". Mainly because Trayvon Martin's killer was never arrested despite the evidence against him and the recommendation, from one of the police investigators, that he be arrested for manslaughter. Trayvon's killer also disobeyed the orders of a police dispatcher who told him not to confront Martin but to wait for "real" police officers to handle the situation. Even under Florida's infamous "stand your ground law" a relatively new controversial gun ruling, also known as "the make my day law," Trayvon's killer should have been charged with something.

Rev. Jesse Jackson, Rev. Al Sharpton and the parents of Trayvon Martin along with countless others have passionately and earnestly pleaded with Florida and U.S. authorities to get justice for Trayvon



Martin. I heard one supporter of Martin's killer say that Martin was wearing an outfit with a hood and that he felt threatened by the teenager. Well, further examination showed that George Zimmerman, the man who shot Trayvon Martin was never threatened. In fact, it was Zimmerman who threatened Martin, started the confrontation, continued the confrontation after he was advised to stop, and eventually killed Martin. Everything was in Zimmerman's favor, he was in a vehicle, he was far more experienced in life than Trayvon, he had all of the options on his side and most of all he had a loaded gun in his possession.

It truly believe that Zimmerman acted irrational and showed reckless regard for Trayvon Martin's life. I also believe that Zimmerman actions were based on the fact that Trayvon was a Black man, thus racially

motivated. Many Americans of all colors, races and ethnic backgrounds have expressed their outrage over this murder and they too believe Martin was killed because he was Black. I will end this conversation by saying that Trayvon Martin's life and death were not in vain. He is a modern day martyr, a symbol for all Americans to join together and rally to change the way Americans view each other and the way they treat each other another.

On conclusion that can be drawn from this incident is that if Trayvon Martin's murder is allowed to go unresolved, then no one in America is safe from people like George Zimmerman who take the law in their own hands, and determine one's destiny based on the color of their skin. God Bless America, Africa and the rest of the world!

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## Middle Class from page 2

The civil rights movement of the last 50 years forced open the door of full-fledged American prosperity to all those who had been barred from its many comforts in decades past, either through economic, legislative, a racial apartheid, or some institutionalized combination of all of the above," the report said.

After the Civil Rights Movement and affirmative action opened the doors of opportunity, they are now being slammed in our face. The National Urban League chapter on the black middle class did not address the issue of black net worth, which has also been pummeled. The Economic Policy Institute, analyzing data collected by the Federal Reserve, found that in 2004, the median net worth of white households was \$134,280, compared with \$13,450 for black households. By 2009, the medium net worth for white households had declined by 24 percent to \$97,860. Over that same period, the medium net worth for African-American households had fallen 83 percent to \$2,170.

Despite the Republican crusade for smaller government, the National Urban League report argues that the federal government must be an active partner if these blows to the black middle class are to be reversed such as targeted job training, Pell grants, small business lending, pre-and post-purchase housing counseling, and Medicare and Medicaid provide the foundation which makes middle class life possible," the report stated. "These programs should not, and must not be sacrificed in the hyper-partisan debate designed to produce political winners and losers." though blacks still trail whites in income, there was no significant black middle class before the modern Civil Rights Movement.

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