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P.O. Box 332
Rusk, Texas 75785

Former South African President Nelson Mandela remembered

East Texas Council of Governments Grants

to Continue

ETCOG Grants \$100,004 to Continue CodeRED Emergency Notification System for a Fifth Year Kilgore, TX -This month, the ETCOG Executive Committee approved a fifth year of funding CodeRED, a reverse emergency notification system, for the East Texas region as a part of its public safety program. The CodeRED system, funded by a Homeland Security grant, is a telephone communication service that allows the county/city Emergency Management Coordinator to quickly notify citizens about emergency situations such as:

- Tornados and storm events;
- Drinking water contamination;
- Utility outage;
- Evacuation notice and route;
- Missing person;
- Fires or floods;
- Bomb threat;
- Hostage situation;
- Chemical spill or gas leak; and
- Other emergency incidents where rapid and accurate notification is essential.

The CodeRED system has been contracted through the Emergency Communications Network since 2009 for all of the counties served by ETCOG, with the exception of Henderson County, due to their 9-1-1 district already providing a reverse notification system.



We wish you a merry
Christmas and a Happy



EDITORIAL PAGE

Jesus Is the Reason For The Season

Each year it appears that the preparation for Christmas increases with the hustle and bustle of shopping for gifts for family and friends. Please be reminded that Jesus is the reason for the season. As your family gathers, please read the new testament account of His birth, especially if there are children, and repeat in clear explanation why we celebrate Christmas.

It's fun to shop for gifts for those we love and it's fun to receive gifts, but Jesus's birth is an everlasting gift to us all.

Please read the Christianity article in this issue on page 10. May God continue to bless you and Merry Christmas.

The Story of Jesus' Birth

The Conception of Jesus Foretold Mary, a virgin, was living in Galilee of Nazareth and was engaged to be married to Joseph, a Jewish carpenter. An angel visited her and explained to her that she would conceive a son by the power of the Holy Spirit. She would carry and give birth to this child and she would name him Jesus. At first Mary was afraid and troubled by the angel's words. Being a virgin, Mary questioned the angel, "How will this be?" The angel explained

that the child would be God's own Son and, therefore, "nothing is impossible with God." Humbled and in awe, Mary believed the angel of the Lord and rejoiced in God her Savior.

Surely Mary reflected with wonder on the words found in Isaiah 7:14 foretelling this event, "Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel." (NIV)

While Mary was still engaged to Joseph, she miraculously became pregnant through the Holy Spirit, as foretold to her by the angel. When Mary told Joseph she was pregnant, he had every right to feel disgraced. He knew the child was not his own, and Mary's apparent unfaithfulness carried a grave social stigma. Joseph not only had the right to divorce Mary, under Jewish law she could be put to death by stoning.

Although Joseph's initial reaction was to break the engagement, the appropriate thing for a righteous man to do, he treated Mary with extreme kindness. He did not want to cause her further shame, so he decided to act quietly. But God sent an angel to Joseph in a dream to verify Mary's

story and reassure him that his marriage to her was God's will. The angel explained that the child within Mary was conceived by the Holy Spirit, that his name would be Jesus and that he was the Messiah, God with us.

When Joseph woke from his dream, he willingly obeyed God and took Mary home to be his wife, in spite of the public humiliation he would face. Perhaps this noble quality is one of the reasons God chose him to be the Messiah's earthly father.

Joseph too must have wondered in awe as he remembered the words found in Isaiah 7:14, "Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel." (NIV)

At that time, Caesar Augustus decreed that a census be taken, and every person in the entire Roman world had to go to his own town to register. Joseph, being of the line of David, was required to go to Bethlehem to register with Mary. While in Bethlehem, Mary gave birth to Jesus. Probably due to the census, the inn was too crowded, and Mary gave birth in a crude

The story continued page 8



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Former South African President Nelson Mandela Remembered

Freedom fighter, prisoner, moral compass and South Africa's symbol of the struggle against racial oppression.

That was Nelson Mandela, who emerged from prison after 27 years to lead his country out of decades of apartheid.

He died in Johannesburg on Thursday, December 5, 2013, at age 95.

His message of reconciliation, not vengeance, inspired the world after he negotiated a peaceful end to segregation and urged forgiveness for the white government that imprisoned him.

"As I walked out the door toward the gate that would lead to my freedom, I knew if I didn't leave my bitterness and hatred behind, I'd still be in prison," Mandela said after he was freed in 1990.

Mandela, a former president, battled health issues in recent years, including a recurring lung infection that led to numerous hospitalizations.

Despite rare public appearances, he held a special place in the consciousness of the nation and the world.

"Our nation has lost its greatest son. Our people have lost a father," South African President Jacob Zuma said. "What made Nelson Mandela great was precisely what made him human. We saw in him what we seek in ourselves."

His U.S. counterpart, Barack Obama, echoed the same sentiment.

"We've lost one of the most influential, courageous and profoundly good human beings that any of us will share time with on this Earth," Obama said. "He no longer belongs to us -- he belongs to the ages."

A hero to blacks and whites Mandela became the nation's conscience as it healed from the

scars of apartheid.

His defiance of white minority rule and long incarceration for fighting against segregation focused the world's attention on apartheid, the legalized racial segregation enforced by the South African government until 1994.

In his lifetime, he was a man of complexities. He went from a militant freedom fighter, to a prisoner, to a unifying figure, to an elder statesman.

Years after his 1999 retirement from the presidency, Mandela was considered the ideal head of state. He became a yardstick for African leaders, who consistently fell short when measured against him.

Warm, lanky and charismatic in his silk, earth-toned dashikis, he was quick to admit to his shortcomings, endearing him further in a culture in which leaders rarely do.

On 18 July 1918, in the rural village of Mvezo in the Transkei, Rolihlahla Mandela was born into the Madiba clan. His mother was Nosekeni Fanny, the third wife of Gadla Hendry Mandela.

A year after Mandela's birth, the family moved to the nearby village of Qunu, where Mandela spent some of the happiest moments of his childhood.

When Rolihlahla Mandela began school, black children were given English names by their missionary teachers. He was named "Nelson" by his first teacher, Miss Mdingane. Mandela was a serious student who understood that a good education would help build his future career.

In 1927 Mandela's father died and Chief Jongintaba became Mandela's guardian. Jongintaba ensured that Mandela attended well-respected schools and Mandela continued his tertiary education when he moved to Johannesburg.

In 1952, after achieving his BA degree and a two-year diploma, Mandela was qualified to practice law.

for people who were being treated unjustly. He was a charismatic lawyer and he and Oliver made a very successful partnership. Over the years Mandela had gradually become more involved.

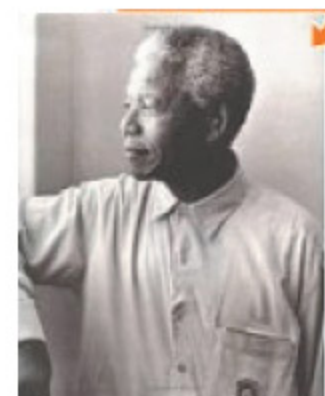
He and Oliver Tambo established South Africa's first black law firm, Mandela & Tambo. Mandela had wanted to become a lawyer in order to fight for equal rights and stand up

with the African National Congress and in 1944 he formed, along with Walter Sisulu, Oliver Tambo and a few other young men, the ANC Youth League. He was convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment on Robben Island,

From the beginning of the 1950s, the ANC began to seriously challenge the apartheid regime. The more that the ANC activists stood up to the regime, the more fearful the ruling government became. The result was harsher punishment and tighter policing. In a countrywide police swoop on 5 December 1955, 156 activists were arrested, including Nelson Mandela, which led to the 1956 Treason Trial. He was acquitted on 29 March 1961.

In June 1961, Mandela was asked to lead the armed struggle and establish the autonomous military wing, Umkhonto we Sizwe (Spear of the Nation). During this period, Mandela would be nicknamed the "Black Pimpernel" as he moved underground to co-ordinate sabotage campaigns.

On 11 January 1962 Mandela secretly left South Africa to gain international support for the struggle and receive military training. Upon his return to South Africa a few months later, he was arrested in a police roadblock outside Howick on 5 August.



Nelson Mandela

October 1963 Mandela joined nine others on trial for sabotage in what became known as the Rivonia Trial.

where he was to spend 27 years until his release on 11 February 1990.

On 10 May 1994 he was inaugurated as South Africa's first democratically elected president.

Nelson Mandela will always be remembered for his talks with the white government and the slow dissembling of the apartheid regime.

Through his perseverance for peace and calm leadership, Mandela was able to unify a nation that was fraught with distrust and bubbling with antagonism. Madiba will always be loved and respected for his wisdom, clarity of thought and foresight.

Mandela was not only a president of South Africa, he was a statesman.

Four years before he left the university, he helped form the youth league of the African National Congress, hoping to transform the organization into a more radical movement. He was dissatisfied with the ANC and its old-guard politics.

And so began Mandela's civil disobedience and lifelong commitment to breaking the

See Mandella

Continued page 5

KKK former leader indicted in Alabama for cross burning; mom indicated for perjury

Alabama- Justice department - Steven Joshua Dinkle, former Exalted Cyclops of a chapter of the Ku Klux Klan (KKK) in Ozark, Ala., was arrested on Wednesday, Nov. 27, in Mississippi for burning a cross at the entrance to a predominantly African-American neighborhood and for obstructing the investigation into the offense. Pamela Morris, Dinkle's mother and the former secretary of the KKK chapter, was arrested on Nov. 21, 2013, for committing perjury before the grand jury investigating the cross burning.

Dinkle, 28, was charged in a five-count indictment returned by a federal grand jury in the Middle District of Alabama that was unsealed on Nov. 27. The indictment charges him with one count of conspiracy to violate housing rights, one count of criminal interference with the right to fair housing, one count of using fire to commit a federal felony and two counts of obstruction of justice.

The indictment alleges that on May 8, 2009, Dinkle conspired with another person to burn a cross in an African-American neighborhood to threaten and intimidate residents of that neighborhood and thereby interfere with their federally protected housing rights. Dinkle allegedly constructed a six-foot cross, wrapping jeans and a towel around it. He and his co-conspirator drove the cross to an African-American community near Johntown Road in Ozark where Dinkle poured fuel on the cross, erected it in the ground and set it on fire. The indictment further contends that Dinkle obstructed justice by lying to local investigators in 2009, and federal investigators in 2012. Dinkle claimed he had withdrawn from the KKK months before the cross burning, provided a false alibi and denied knowing a person who was, in fact, his superior in the KKK.

The grand jury returned a separate indictment against Morris, 45, charging her with two counts of perjury. The indictment alleges that Morris made multiple false statements to the grand jury investigating the cross burning when she denied her own involvement in the KKK and knowing that Dinkle was also involved.

If convicted, Dinkle could face a maximum statutory sentence of 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine on the conspiracy and criminal-interference counts; sentence maximum of 10 years in prison for the use-of-fire; a maximum of 20 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine for obstructing justice by making false statements to local investigators; and a maximum of five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine for making false statements to the FBI.

If convicted, Morris could face a maximum statutory sentence of five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine on each count of perjury

WHAT's Cook "n

Holiday Meatloaf

2 lbs lean groundbeef
1 lb. ground pork sausage
18 saltine crackers, crushed
1/2 green bell pepper, diced 1/2
onion, finely chopped
2 large eggs, lightly beaten
1 tsp yellow mustard
1/2 cup firmly packed brown sugar
divided
1/2 cup ketchup

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Combine ingredients and 1/4 cup brown sugar in a medium bowl just until blended. Place mixture in a lightly greased 11 X 7 inch baking dish, and shape mixture into a 10 - X 5-inch loaf.

Bake at 350 degrees for 1 hour. Remove from oven, and drain. Stir together ketchup and remaining 1/4 cup brown sugar; pour over meatloaf. Bake fifteen more minutes. Remove from oven.

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Nelson Mandela

from page 3

Mandela last appeared in public during the 2010 World Cup hosted by South Africa. His absences from the limelight and frequent hospitalizations left the nation on edge, prompting Zuma to reassure citizens every time he fell sick.

"Mandela is woven into the fabric of the country and the world," said Ayo Johnson, director of Viewpoint Africa, which sells content about the continent to media outlets.

When he was around, South Africans had faith that their leaders would live up to the nation's ideals, according to Johnson.

"He was a father figure, elder statesman and global ambassador," Johnson said. "He was the guarantee, almost like an insurance policy, that South Africa's young democracy and its leaders will pursue the nation's best interests."

Despite chronic political violence before the vote that put him in office in 1994, South Africa avoided a full-fledged civil war in its transition from apartheid to multiparty democracy. The peace was due in large part to the leadership and vision of Mandela and de Klerk.

"We were expected by the world to self-destruct in the bloodiest civil war along racial grounds," Mandela said during a 2004 celebration to mark a decade of democracy in South Africa.

"Not only did we avert such racial conflagration, we created amongst ourselves one of the most exemplary and progressive nonracial and nonsexist democratic orders in the contemporary world."

Mandela represented a new breed of African liberation leaders, breaking from others of his era such as Robert Mugabe by serving one term.

In neighboring Zimbabwe, Mugabe has been president since 1987. A lot of African leaders overstayed their welcomes and remained in office for years, sometimes decades, making Mandela an anomaly.

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TEXAS LOTTERY

Seminary Heights Church of Christ and Fred Douglass Development Corporation donates Thanksgiving baskets



Pictured are: Jean Hinton, Kathy Wells Emerson Brown, George Thirkill, Justin boseman, Bruce Harris, Christin Dansby, Pastor, Kelvin Dansby and Lavoy Dansby.

Jacksonville, TX.- Saturday, November 23, 2013 members of the Seminary Heights Church of Christ and Fred Douglass Development Corporation prepared and delivered thirty Thanksgiving baskets to area citizens. The baskets included a smoked turkey, and fixings for mashed potatoes, Stuffing, Sweet potatoes and vegetables.

Pastor Dansby says, "The church insists on being an active part of the community by supporting families in whatever way we can."

Every fourth Saturday morning volunteers meet at the church to cook for the elderly and those who might need a good hot balanced meal. The food is purchased from the pockets of volunteers. Usually the men purchase and prepare the meat. The women purchase and prepare vegetables, drinks and desserts. the number of volunteers average about forty. An assembly line is formed, the plates are prepared, boxed and marked for delivery. Volunteers deliver about 250 plates per Saturday.

Seminary Heights is located at 1208 Arnold Street. Services are 9:45am Sunday School, 11:00am Worship, 6:00pm each Wednesday Bible Study. To volunteer call (903) 586-5033

Christian Brotherhood holds bake sale



L to R - Jerry Hart, Sam O'Neal, Rev. Phal Carter, Walter Session, Michael Session, Minister Jerry Leviston, John Griffith. Not pictured Floyd Franklin, Travis Session, Tracy Session and Frenchie Henderson, Oliver Stums and Melvin Session.

On November 16, 2013 the Cherokee Brotherhood members held a bake sale in front of Wallace Thompson True Value Hardware store in Rusk.

The sale was a fundraiser spearheaded by Wyvonne O'Neal, and coordinated by Sam O' Neal. The members wives and friends baked a variety of cakes, pies and cookies that were sold.

funds raised will go toward the many projects scheduled in 2014 which includes scholarships, assistance to families who have emergencies, the Labor Day Back to School Picnic and other community endeavors.

The organization meets each fourth Monday night of the month at 6:00pm.

For membership information contact President Oliver Stums or any other member. You may contact the president at 903 721-1241.



Josh Leadon recognized

Local Pastor Announces Bid for Cherokee County Commissioner, Precinct 4



Mount Enterprise, TX.- On Thursday, November 14, during a presentation at Mount Enterprise High School, Fairway Ford Henderson awarded Josh Leadon the "Built Ford Tough Texas High School Football Player of the Week" trophy for his achievements during Week 9 of the program. Josh was recognized for his outstanding performance both on and off the field.

Jacksonville, Tx. - The Reverend Kenneth Cain, Senior Pastor at Benson Memorial CME Church in Jacksonville, has announced his intention to run as the Democratic Candidate for County Commissioner in Precinct 4. Mr. Cain stated that he is well suited to represent his constituents in this precinct at a time when their voices need to be heard.

Mr. Cain is a native of Crowley, Louisiana, a product of the public school system of Fort Worth, Texas and a graduate of Texas College, Tyler, Texas.

He was an officer in the U. S. Army and has successfully served for many years as a senior pastor in the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church. Mr. Cain says that his work on the local, state and national level, will prove to be a vital asset. He believes his experience in managing budgets, interacting with a diverse population, and his knack for consensus building will bring a refreshing change to the Commissioners Court.

Reverend Cain has been very active in the community since his arrival some two years ago. He says that Cherokee County is the kind of community one would be proud to serve.

He has been married to his lovely wife Barbara 32 years. They have three children and six grandchildren.



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We wish you a
merry Christmas and
a Happy New year!

Christianity

The following of Jesus Christ



Jesus Christ
Intercedes with
God for us

December 25th is the time set aside for Christians to celebrate the birth of Jesus, our Lord and Savior. Jesus Christ, the human-divine Son of God born over 2000 years ago, of the virgin Mary; the great High Priest who intercedes for His people at the right hand of God; founder of the Christian church and central figure of the human race.

To understand who Jesus was and what He accomplished, we must study the new testament: 1- His life, 2. His teachings, 3. His person, and 4. His work.

The present work of Christ that receives the main emphasis in the New Testament is His intercession. Paul, quoting what appears to be an early Christian confession of faith, spoke of "Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession" (Romans 8:34). So too the writer says, that "He ever lives to make intercession" for His people (Hebrews 7:25). Jesus' presence with God as His people's representative provides the assurance that their requests, our requests through prayer, for spiritual help are heard and granted. To know that He is there is a powerful incentive for us,

followers. No good thing that Jesus seeks for us is withheld by the Father.

The exaltation of Christ is repeatedly presented in the New Testament as the fulfillment of Psalm 110:1: "Sit at My right hand, till I make your enemies your footstool". This means that Christ reigns from His present place of exaltation and must do so until all His enemies are overthrown. Those enemies belong to the spiritual realm: "The last enemy that will be destroyed is death" (Corinthians 15:26). With the destruction of death, which occurred with the resurrection of Jesus, the present phase of Christ's work gives way to His future work.

:the raising of the dead and the passing of final judgement

During His earthly ministry, Jesus declared that He had even greater works to do in the future. He specified two of these greater works: the raising of the dead and the passing of final judgement. To raise the dead and to judge the world are prerogatives of God, but He delegated these works to His son. While the Son would discharge these two functions at the time of the end, they were not unrelated to the events of Jesus' present ministry. Those who were spiritually dead received new life

when they responded in faith to the Son of God. In effect, they accepted or rejected the life He offered.

The raising of the dead and the passing of judgement are associated with the second coming of Jesus Christ. When Paul dealt with this subject, he viewed Christ's appearing in glory as the occasion when His people would share His glory and be displayed to the universe as the sons and daughters of God, heirs of the new order. He added that all creation looks forward to that time, because then it "will be delivered from bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God" (Romans 8:21).

Both the present work of Christ and His future work are dependent on His "finished" work. That "finished" work was the beginning of God's "good work" in His people. This work will not be completed until "the day of Jesus Christ" (Phillipians 1:6) when the entire universe will be united "in Christ" (Ephesians 1:10).

Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration

Monday, January 20, 2014

11:00am the March begins at Jacksonville, Texas Norman Activity Center parking lot.

March ends at Sweet Union Baptist Church on North Main where program will begin immediately.

Democrats Announce Candidate Filings for upcoming election

Filings for positions on the Cherokee, County Democratic primary Ballot: Vera Foreman - Justice of the Peace - Pct 4, Kenneth D. Cain - Commissioner Pct - 4, and Craig D. Caldwell - Democratic County Chairman

The Story of Jesus' Birth continued from page 2

stable. She wrapped the baby in cloths and placed him in a manger. The Shepherd's Worship the Savior:

Out in the fields, an angel of the Lord appeared to the shepherds who were tending their flocks of sheep by night. The angel announced that the Savior had been born in the town of David. Suddenly a great host of heavenly beings appeared with the angels and began singing praises to God. As the angelic beings departed, the shepherds decided to travel to Bethlehem and see the Christ-child. There they found Mary, Joseph and the baby, in the stable. After their visit, they began to spread the word about this amazing child and everything the angel had said about him. They went on their way still praising and glorifying God. But Mary kept quiet, treasuring their words and pondering them in her heart. It must have been beyond her ability to grasp, that sleeping in her arms—the tender child she had just borne—was the Savior of the world.

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*~Booker T.
Washington*

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1401	Texas Lottery Black-Series IV Overall Odds are 1 in 3.29	\$10	1/1/14	6/30/14
1513	Money Match Overall Odds are 1 in 4.38	\$2	1/22/14	7/21/14

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Obituaries

Cashley Sha Rae Jackson

Cashley Sha' Rae Jackson was born May 20, 1993 to the parents of Sheryl Jackson and Donny Hogg in Nacogdoches, Texas.

Cashley graduated in 2011 from Rusk High School in Rusk, Texas. She united with West Union Faith Ministry at an early age. Cashley enjoyed serving the Lord. She served as youth director and sung in the youth choir. In addition, she spent her pass time playing in the Rusk High School Band and was a member of the Krunk Krew. She participated in Tee's Tumbling, T-ball and twirling. Cashley was also the coordinator for some of the events.

She did not unite in holy matrimony, however, she devoted her time to serving the Lord.

She leaves to cherish her memories, mother Sherly Jackson, sister Sharaick Jackson, father Donny (Mary) Hogg, brothers Donny Hogg, Jr., Kendrick Hogg; sister Shalonda Hogg; grandparents Ollie Lee and Evelyn Foreman of Rusk, Texas and Lester Baysinger of Jacksonville, a host of aunts, uncles, cousins; special friend Derrick Sanders and others who will miss her dearly.

Services were held Sunday December 8, 2013 at 2:00pm at West Union Faith Ministry with the Rev. Herman Martin, Rev. Jerry Leviston, Rev. Edraick Foreman and Rev. Jimmy Foreman officiating.

Interment was at Rusk Memorial Cemetery.

Woman Sentenced to 20 years for firing warning shot in air



Jacksonville, Fl. - An appalling injustice took place today in Jacksonville, Florida when Judge James Daniel failed to grant Marissa Alexander's request to be released on bond until a verdict is reached in her new trial that begins March 31, 2014. Another status hearing on the case was set for January 15. At the end of September, a Florida Appeals Court threw out the guilty verdict against Ms. Alexander and ordered a new trial due to severe problems in the instructions to the jury. With the overturn of the original verdict, Marissa Alexander is no longer guilty in the eyes of the law, but she is still in prison.

Marissa Alexander, an African American mother and daughter, was sentenced to 20 years for firing a warning shot to stop an attack by her abusive ex-husband — an act of self-defense that injured no one. She was denied a Stand Your Ground defense. She has already been separated from her young

children and family for nearly three years. The youngest was only 9 days old when the domestic violence incident occurred.

Release on personal recognizance or bond is supposed to be allowed to defendants who present no risk of flight or danger to the community. This mother of three is firmly rooted in the Jacksonville community by her connections to family, children and friends. She poses no danger to the public. Or has the state of Florida decided that she is a danger for the sole reason that she is a black woman?

It is well documented that black women and other marginalized people are likely to be criminalized, prosecuted, and incarcerated while trying to navigate and survive the conditions of violence in their lives. This is especially true for black women who are subjected to racist stereotypes that paint them as overly aggressive and unworthy.

The Free Marissa Now Mobilization Campaign is undaunted in our passion to win Marissa Alexander's release. We have launched the Marissa Alexander Freedom Fund campaign to raise \$10,000 by the end of the year to help pay for legal costs of the new trial. Donors can give at tiny.cc/freedomfundraiser.

Our movement is thousands strong and we will keep going.

We have a trial to help win and we will continue to organize for Marissa's freedom and the end of domestic violence and mass incarceration. The world is watching and we will not rest until justice is won.

Free Marissa Now Mobilization Campaign is a grassroots campaign led by a core of organizers representing the African American/Black Women's Cultural Alliance, New Jim Crow Movement – Jacksonville, Radical Women, INCITE!, Southern Freedom Movement, and the Pacific Northwest Alliance to Free Marissa

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NNPA Chairman Blasts NFL for Almost a Slave Mentality



By Hazel Trice Edney (TriceEdneyWire.com) – The chairman of the National Newspaper Publishers Association, a federation of more than 200 Black-owned newspapers, says the Washington Redskins' team – under fire from a Richmond, Va. publisher – is in sync with the entire National Football League in its apparent oppressive treatment of Black businesses and consumers.

"It's almost a slave mentality. They put us on the field and we entertain the master but we're not reaping any benefits from the business side of it," Campbell says. "It's not just the Redskins. If you look around the country, the NFL as a whole pretty much neglects Black businesses and the Black community," said Campbell, publisher of the Arizona Informant Newspaper. He continued, "Here in Arizona, our Arizona Cardinals does zero with the Black community. Every

now and then they might show up for a token Black event. But, I don't see our African-American newspaper here in Phoenix or in Arizona being supported by the Arizona Cardinals. I believe if you called other newspapers that have [teams] in their markets, I don't believe they're doing much for them either. I believe the NFL as a whole takes the Black community for granted although we are their major product on the field."

Campbell was responding to questions pertaining to a conflict between NNPA member Ray Boone, editor/publisher of the award-winning Richmond Free Press, and the Richmond-based Washington Redskins Training Camp, which is partially owned by Bon Secours Health System. In a letter to NAACP Chairman Roslyn Brock and CC'd to Campbell, Boone states that the team contracted no business with Black-owned or locally owned businesses at its first Richmond training camp between July 25 and August 16. That includes the failure to advertise in the Black-owned Richmond Free Press while advertising with the White-owned conservative daily, the Richmond Times Dispatch which has a history of pro-segregation leadership. The conflict is steeped in an age-old battle constantly waged by Black newspapers, which are

historic targets for advertising discrimination.

While Bon Secours placed paid advertisements for the training camp in the Times Dispatch, the Free Press was sent press releases, Boone said in an interview.

Brock, who has served as NAACP chair since 2010, is vice president for advocacy and government relations for the Bon Secours Health System, Inc., in Marriottsville, Md. Boone believes her corporate position has caused her to compromise her stance for economic justice in the Richmond case.

"Bon Secours, along with Mayor Dwight C. Jones and the Washington team, blatantly denied, contrary to the Mayor's pledge, black businesses and other local businesses the opportunity to receive vendor contracts inside the training camp," Boone wrote in a Sept. 27 letter to Brock. "Characteristic of Richmond government and big businesses, this Bon Secours decision disgracefully enhanced Richmond's shameful reputation as 'The Capital of Poverty,' with 25 percent of Richmond's population suffering in poverty."

When Brock had not responded to his letter for more than a month, Boone followed up with a Nov. 1 email pointing out, "This raises the unavoidable question of whether Bon Secours is restricting you from living up to your responsibility to honor the NAACP mission?"

He continued, "In the interest of fairness and the image of the NAACP, I respectfully suggest that you break your silence."

Brock responded to Boone by email that same day, stating, "The matter you reference in your letter is local in nature and should be handled directly by the Richmond Branch NAACP and Salim Khalfani at the Virginia State Conference NAACP. I have forwarded your correspondence to them and shared the information with the leadership of Bon Secours Health System in Richmond." In an email, responding to a question from the Trice Edney News Wire this week, Brock said that she had not publically commented on Boone's complaint because it is a local issue.

Brock's email said she had "also discussed the matter in detail with" Campbell, who is serving his second term as NNPA chairman. At a Sept. 17 reception in D.C., Campbell, Boone and other NNPA publishers praised Brock for her leadership and gave her an award for social justice.

While Campbell verbally blistered the NFL, including the Redskins, he balanced his response by saying he agrees with Brock that the issue in Boone's case is local since the economic decisions appear to have been made by the mayor and Bon Secours' Richmond entities.

"At the end of the day, I think [the criticism of her] is unfair just because she works for Bon Secours. That's her day job. We all volunteer at some time with the NAACP," Campbell says, referring to Brock's volunteer chairmanship. "While we want to see Mr. Boone and his publication get what it deserves and more so; that is definitely a local issue."

Boone, who recently announced he has stopped using the term "Redskins" in the Richmond Free Press because it is "racist", argues that the Redskins' and Bon Secours' exclusion of Black businesses underscores and illustrates the team's mentality under the controversial name, which is receiving growing national pressure for change.

In her email to the Trice Edney News Wire, Brock also clarified that the NAACP has long stood against the Redskins name because of its roots in racism. "The NAACP passed a resolution more than ten years ago against racial slurs being used as mascots. In the last few months the NAACP signed on letters with the Oneida Tribe, based in Washington and the National Coalition on American Tribes especially in support of their efforts to change the Redskins name," she wrote. Neither Mayor Dwight C. Jones; nor Virginia NAACP President King Salim Khalfani could be reached for comment by deadline. Bon Secours representatives did not return repeated phone calls. Meanwhile, Boone, a recipient of the State NAACP's Oliver W. Hill Freedom Fighter Award, remains focused on his quest for economic justice.

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