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Texas Informer

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HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. birthday January 16th

Top L. to R. Erinn Walker, Suvella Walker, Cathy Walker, Cessily Walker. Bottom Row Kids: Bryce, Jayla & Dalton (See story page 3)

EDITORIAL

Farewell to President Obama and Michelle

~by Maxine Session

Happy New Year! Can you believe 2017 is here! Well, don't just stand there. It's time to get started on that long list of things you have to get done. Just kidding. Stop and smell the roses first.

If you have not seen a good movie lately, then go see "Fences" with Denzel Washington and Viola Davis. It came out Christmas day. Our family went to see it after church and our Christmas celebration. It provokes deep thought, so be ready if you decide to see it.

Dr. King's 88th birthday will be celebrated on the 16th. There have been so many changes since his April 4, 1968 assassination. We are about to watch the first African American President, President Barack Obama end his second term in the Whitehouse.

We have great-grand children

now and looking at the Texas History books used in the schools lets me know that we must continue to teach black history in our homes and churches, because nobody can tell our story like we can. Our little ones are very young, but we make children's books available to them and movies like "Selma", and the series on Dr. King and use them as teaching tools. The movie "Hidden Figures" will be released soon and is a great one to teach the children the importance of math.

As President Obama and Michelle welcome the new President Donald Trump on January 20th, and leave the Whitehouse, we can be proud that they have done a superb job in spite of working eight years with a Congress that vowed to work against him. It will be interesting to see what history records about President Obama, one of the greatest presidents to ever grace the Whitehouse.

It looks like we, the USA, will be in for a rough ride the next four years with this new president. He and First Lady Michelle will be missed.

Around Town



Walter Session, Councilman District II City of Rusk

Hello Neighbor,

I just want to review some of the things the city has done around town and bring you up to date on a few changes that were made the past two years.

In 2016 several streets received a fresh coat of asphalt, the swimming pool was renovated and a water play area was added, additions were made to the baseball/softball field, new generators were purchased for water wells, wastewater and sewage upgrades, walking trails added to baseball field area, railroad tracks extended across Highway 84 West for business access, demolition of dilapidated structures, grant for low income housing completed, and noticeable improvements to city infrastructure. The Singletary Memorial Library was given major renovations to bring it up to date for great citizen use.

During 2016 there was also changes to city administration. Longtime city manager Mike Murray resigned, Police Chief Jamie Cambell resigned, and City Attorney Larry Sinclair retired. I wish them all well in their new endeavors.

Jim Dunaway was hired as interim Rusk City Manager. and Joe Williams was recently hired as Chief of Police. Bret Brewer of the Norman Law Firm was hired as city attorney.

The city manager and the chief of police were both made aware that their is a desperate need for African Ameri

can police officers to be hired.

Several African American citizens have expressed their awareness to me that they pay a lot of city taxes but are not represented in this area.

Both promised when the next positions come open they will be hiring to meet this need.

Chief Joe Williams promised me there will be no racial profiling or unfair treatment of African American or any other Rusk Citizens while he is chief. I am hoping that you as citizens will continue to keep me and other councilmembers, as well as the major, informed as to any problems that might arise.

A new fire substation will be constructed this year and a new convenient store/ truckstop is being constructed on Highway 84 West.

Renovations to the I C Conley Park which include landscaping, signs and a volleyball court are to be completed by spring through a small grant from the Agriculture Department.

City officials up for re-election are Mayor Angela Raiborn, Ben Middlebrook District I and Walter Session District II.

*The first day to file for re-election is January 18, 2017

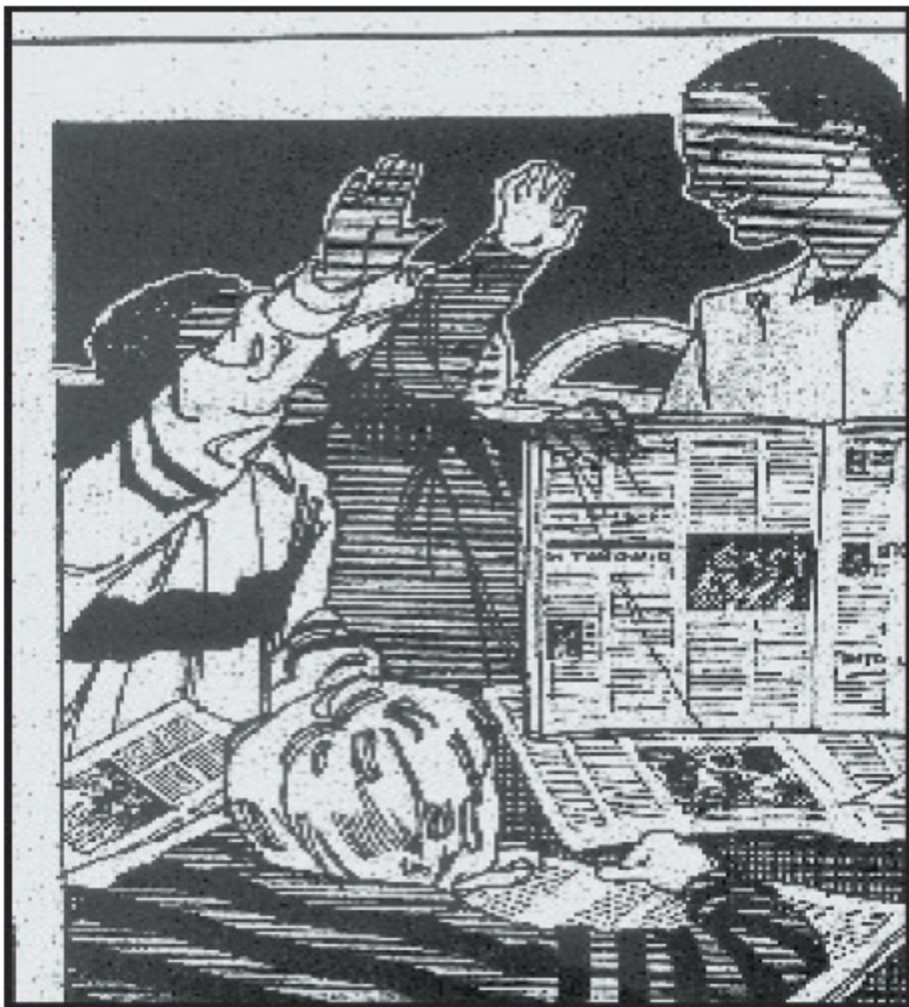
*The last day to file is February 17, 2017.

*The first Day for early voting is April 24, 2017

*The last day for early voting is May 2, 2017

*Election day is May 6, 2017

Citizens please help me, the mayor and the entire Rusk City Council make Rusk the best small town in Texas and make District II, Dickerson Ist Addition second to none.



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Walker and Walker A Grapeland Texas Family Owned Business

~Maxine Session

GRAPELAND, TEXAS is known as "Queen City of the Sand Flats." It is also known as the Gateway to Houston County Lake. Grapeland sits on East Texas Highways 287 and 19 and FM 227 eight miles South of Elkhart, nineteen miles South of Palestine, and twelve miles North of Crockett. The population is somewhere between the 2010 census count of 1,431 and today's estimate of 1,500. It is well known for its locally produced "Grapeland Watermelons and its annual Peanut Festival has put it on the map for citizens in cities all over Texas. The festival is held each October and provides a parade, food, carnival rides and music which draws crowds in excess of 10,000.

Walker & Walker Funeral Home is a family owned business that sits prominently on highway 287 in Grapeland.

Suvella Walker was seven years old when his dad passed away. He watched the local undertakers as they took care of the family and the service they provided his father. He was impressed by their professionalism and involvement with the community. Since that time he always dreamed of owning and operating his own funeral business.

Suvella worked as a truck driver for Nucor Steel in Grapeland, providing for his family and making their dreams come true. Daughter Cessily Walker graduated Grapeland High School in 1992. She graduated from Sam Houston State University in 1996, earning her Master's Degree from Stephen F. Austin in 1999. Errin Walker Demery graduated from Grapeland High in 1996. She graduated from Sam Houston in 2000 with a Bachelor in Business Administration and from Amberton University in Garland, Texas in 2002 with a Master's in Business Administration.

After forty-seven years with Nucor, Suvella retired in 2014. His dream of owning a funeral home had been kept alive within his children. On July 1, 2012 Cessily and Errin opened Walker and Walker Funeral Home. Cessily said, "Our dad has always afforded our dreams...sending us to college



Pictured above are Errin, Cathy, Suvella and Cessily Walker of Walker and Walker Funeral Home.

and providing well for us, so we thought it was time we gave back to such an awesome man." Suvella spends most of his time farming and working the day to day operations of Walker and Walker Funeral Home. "It is such a joy to see the love and compassion he has for the industry," Says Cessily.

They specialize in full traditional funeral services, memorial services, graveside services, cremation and body donations.

Walker & Walker is a family owned business that takes pride in what they do by offering compassionate care and affordable services. Cessily says, "We are the Home of the \$3,800 Funeral Service, which includes all expenses except cemetery plot, flowers, and death certificates as long as you're within our 50 mile radius. Our family is committed to serving your family. We are dedicated to providing exceptional service to all faiths, denominations, nationalities, and cultures."

Both Cessily and Errin are proud members of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Cessily is married to Dr. Xolani Mdluli, MD and Errin is married to Jason Demery.

Cessily also says their prices are affordable. They offer a \$900.00 cremation, which includes a direct cremation of 200 pounds or less within their 50 mile radius.

They invite the public to come by and visit with them to find out about pre-need services and prices or go to their website:

www.walkerandwalkerfh.com



Hollywood's Time

by Billy (Hollywood) Groves
GSN/CEO Groves Standard



It may be the time America to do the right thing and give reparation and give reparations to the decendants of Black slaves.

It's a fact that many of the companies and institutions who made their wealth off of the labor of slaves are still around today and still making money. President elect Trump has expressed is point of view on the condition of Black people in America. He basically says that Black Americans have nothin to lose. With this mindset and Trump's obvious popularity with republicans in both the Senate and the House of Representatives, it would be easy through modern day laws for the Trump administration to right the wrong that has devastated a race of people who truly helped build America.

Reparations in some form have been given to every race or group or group of Ameericans who hve been exploited by our Government throughout history. African Americans are the only Americans who have not received reparations or even an apology for the long-time devastation to them. President -elect Trump said he is going to "make America great again", in his campaign. I would suggest thst his first step in the process should be to help reparations become a reality for Africcan Americans.

God Bless Ameeeeirv

It is not what the dream is,
but what the dream does.

~John H. Johnson

USDA Rural Development Offers Relending

Kilgore, TX, December 29, 2016: USDA Rural Development Texas State Director Paco Valentin joined East Texas leaders to announce funding for the Intermediary Relending Program today for the East Texas Regional Development Company administered by ETCOG.

USDA Rural Development strives to improve the overall quality of rural communities," said Paco Valentin, USDA Rural Development Texas State Director. "These funds will assist with the development of rural businesses, which provide needed goods and services to rural East Texas residents."

USDA Rural Development approved an Intermediary Relending Program (IRP) loan of \$500,000 to be used to provide low-interest loans to public and non-profit organizations to relend for small businesses and community development in parts of East Texas. This loan will create 10 jobs across fourteen counties.

"The IRP program provides another critically important tool which will enhance the East Texas Regional Development Company's efforts to spur job creation in our 14-County region", said East Texas Council of Governments Executive Director David Cleveland. "We are excited and honored to partner with USDA Rural Development o provide this additional resource for East Texas' small businesses."

President Obama's plan for rural America has brought about historic investment and resulted in stronger rural communities. Under the President's leadership, these investments in housing, community facilities, businesses and infrastructure have empowered rural America to continue leading the way - strengthening America's economy, small towns and rural communities. USDA's investments in rural communities support the rural way of life that stands as the backbone of our American values.

USDA, through its Rural Development mission area, administers and manages housing, business and community infrastructure and facility programs through a national network of state and local offices. These programs are designed to improve the economic stability of rural communities, businesses, residents, farmers and ranchers and improve the quality of life in rural America. For information on this and other USDA Rural Development programs in Texas, visit <http://www.rd.usda.gov/tx>.

About the East Texas Regional Development Company Since 1983, the East Texas Regional Development Company (ETRDC) has provided small businesses in Texas with the financing they needed to expand or even start their business. ETRDC is a private, non-profit, organization formed for the purpose of assisting small businesses. ETRDC is administrated by ETCOG.

Six East Texas Workforce Solutions

Offices Closed

New Mobile and Web Solutions to Launch for Expanded Customer Assistance

December 30, 2016, was set to be the closing date for six workforce solutions offices in the following communities: Carthage (Panola County); Emory (Rains County); Gilmer (Upshur County); Jefferson (Marion County); Pittsburg (Camp County); and Quitman (Wood County). WSET

will continue to maintain all of the services that are available in our existing offices; Athens (Henderson County); Canton (Van Zandt County); Henderson (Rusk County); Longview (Gregg County); Marshall (Harrison County); Palestine (Anderson

County); and, Tyler (Smith County).

This reduction in centers was passed unanimously on December 12th by the WSET Board and the Chief Elected Officials board which is comprised of 14 county judges in East Texas and the mayors of Longview and Tyler. Funding reduction led to the closure of the 6 centers as the \$31 Million budget fell almost \$730,000 this year. The closures were designated to the centers in the region with the lowest foot traffic, in which averaged 68 visits each in the last year.

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MLK's Legacy for Black America 2017

By Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr. (President/CEO, NNPA)

As the United States of America and the global community salutes, recognizes and commemorates the 88th birthday of The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., it is a providential time to reassess the meaning and challenges of Dr. King's legacy for Black America in this year of profound change, anxiety, and hope. As we witness the transfer of presidential power from President Barack H. Obama to President Donald J. Trump, it is quite appropriate to apply some of the long-lasting and enduring tenets of Martin Luther King's leadership, teachings, and perspectives. Dr. King and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) prophetically stood strong for freedom, justice, and equality for Black Americans and for all people who cried out for a better quality of life throughout the world.

Dr. King was more than one of the greatest orators and preachers of the 20th century. He was one of the most effective intellectual theologians whose moral genius and courage helped irreversibly to change the course of American history for civil and human rights. No man or woman is perfect. Yet Dr. King's leadership inspired and motivated millions of Black Americans and others to strive toward the perfection equal justice for all through nonviolent social change and transformation.

As a young teenage staff worker for SCLC in North Carolina in the early 1960s, I witnessed firsthand how Martin Luther King, Jr. would stir the consciousness of the masses. We overcame the fear of standing up for righteousness in the presence of evil powers and unjust systems of oppression and suppression.

Legacy is about establishing in one's life and work, that which will endure and last for generations to come. Dr. King's life and work exemplified intellectual honesty, activism, and courage. At a time when the misguided phenomena of so-called "fake news" is gaining momentum

in the body politic of the nation, we all should be reminded that Dr. King would always cautioned that only "The truth will set us free." This is the reason we are determined to maintain and to sustain the viability of the Black Press of America as the truthful, accurate, and trusted voice of Black America. This year marks the 190th year of the Black Press in the United States. During the height of the Civil Rights Movement led by Dr. King and other leaders, the mainstream press would often attempt to undermine the legitimacy and purpose of the movement for change. But the Black Press always chronicled the news of freedom movement with strategic visibility and editorial support. In Dr. King's last address in Memphis, Tennessee on the night before his assassination on April 4, 1968, he made statements that still apply and endure today in 2017. Dr. King emphasized that when society appears polarized and deeply divided, we must strive to overcome divisiveness and hopelessness. Dr. King in his final sermon stated, "Now that's a strange statement to make, because the world is all messed up. The nation is sick. Trouble is in the land; confusion all around. That's a strange statement. But I know, somehow, that only when it is dark enough can you see the stars. And I see God working in this period of the twentieth century in a way that men, in some strange way, are responding."

Thus, what may appear to some to be a "dark" hour is in fact a God-given time to reassert that justice and freedom are still possible and very probable if we unify, organize, mobilize, and speak truth to power. We cannot afford to engage in the cynicism that is now popular.

Martin Luther King, Jr.'s living legacy beacons us to not give in to hopelessness and self-defeatism. We have had difficult times before and each generation is called to stand up with the principles, values, and commitments that we have inherited from so many of our sisters and brothers who sacrificed for

us to be where we are today. King stated, "Now, what does all of this mean in this great period of history? It means that we've got to stay together. We've got to stay together and maintain unity." While race is still a defining factor in American society, we must not allow racial discrimination or racism in any form to divide us or to prevent us from moving forward as families and communities steadfast in our unified ac

tions to improve our quality of life. Still a defining factor in American society, we must not allow racial discrimination or racism in any form to divide us or to prevent us from moving forward as families and communities steadfast in our unified actions to improve our quality of life. Black America will overcome. We have come too far to stand still or go backwards.

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Obama, spending power drives consumer confidence among blacks

Stacy M. Brown, NNPA Newswire



Despite a plethora of economic and social challenges, African-Americans remain among the most optimistic consumer groups in the nation's economy.

A recent report by the market research firm, Packaged Facts, revealed that nearly half (47 percent) of African-Americans believe they will be better off financially 12 months from now.

The report, titled, "African-Americans: Demographic and Consumer Spending Trends, 10th Edition," found that just 37 percent of 'other Americans' are as optimistic.

Also, revealed in the report, affluent Black Americans hold especially strong convictions about how their financial future will unfold, although the abiding optimism of African-Americans transcends income levels.

"For African-Americans, optimism is not tied to their affluence or wealth, but to their faith," said Princess Jenkins, an entrepreneur and founder of the nonprofit "Women in the Black," an organization that assists female entrepreneurs. Jenkins also owns the Brownstone Lifestyle Boutique in New York. "We have survived yet another inescapable era and come out on the other side of it better, brighter, informed and with affordable health coverage for our families."

Jenkins continued: "I have benefited from the consumer optimism shared by those in the Packaged Facts report because, in the aftermath of the presidential election, Blacks feel that the economic growth engines put in place under the eight years of President Barack Obama have started to pay off."

Jenkins said that Black people have rode the economic downturn, the falloff of Wall Street, the threatened closure of the auto industry and the mortgage crisis and have finally emerged on the l

other side and the cloud has lifted.

The 2016 Nielsen Consumer Report showed that the spending power of African-Americans has exceeded \$1 trillion.

The spending power is just one reason for the optimism, Packaged Facts noted.

The reasons for the steadfast confidence of African-American consumers are many and complex, the report's authors said.

To begin, despite the growing chasm between the very rich and the rest of American society, there are strong empirical reasons for African-Americans to believe that upward mobility remains achievable for them.

Key social and economic indicators point to a significant increase in the number of middle- and higher-income African-Americans over the past decade.

During this period, the number of African-American households with an income of \$100,000 or more jumped 83 percent, while the number of African-Americans employed in management and professional occupations grew from 3.8 million to 4.8 million, an increase of 26 percent.

There are now nearly two million Blacks who earn at least \$75,000 annually.

The confidence of Black consumers may also stem from the "Obama effect," a phenomenon that among other things sparked renewed optimism among African-Americans based on their pride in the election of the country's first Black president. A Packaged Facts analysis of trends

See Obama spending power page 9

Houston County Elected Officials Sworn In



The elected officials who were sworn in on Sunday afternoon January 1s included (from L-R): Precinct One Constable Morris Luker; Precinct Three County Commissioner Pat Perry; Precinct Two Constable Kenneth "Red" Smith; County Attorney Daphne Session; County Tax

Assessor Danette Millican; District Attorney Donna Kaspar; Precinct One County Commissioner Gary Lovell; and Houston County Sheriff Darrell Bobbitt. Once the elected officials were sworn, Sheriff Bobbitt swore in the deputies with the Houston County Sheriff's Office.

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National Day of Racial Healing on January 17

Dr. Gail C. Christopher

W.K. Kellogg Foundation's Truth, Racial Healing & Transformation

WASHINGTON - Just five days before inauguration of Donald Trump as the country's 45th President, millions of Americans on January 15 will celebrate the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. For many, memories of the civil rights icon revolve around his momentous "I Have a Dream" speech from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, calling for an end to racism and to the expansion of economic opportunities.

Dr. King's brilliance - strategic leadership of the Civil Rights Movement to unparalleled courage and integrity - is often overshadowed by the speech that scholars hailed as the 20th century's top public address in the U.S. Unfortunately, Dr. King's dream of equality articulated in 1963 remains unfulfilled in many communities today - a reality affirming the continued structural inequities and bias spurring widespread disparities in social conditions and opportunities for people of color. Think about Dr. King's powerful vision. "I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character." That's the America many of us strive to create, but clearly, despite progress in some areas, we are still seeking to realize.

Furthermore, the vitriolic, divisive rhetoric and raw emotions raging throughout the past year pulled the scab off a persistent wound in the American psyche, bringing the issue of race front and center and exposing the divides in our society. What does the nation do about it? How do we move forward on a path toward racial equity that facilitates racial healing, dismantles structural racism and lifts vulnerable children on a path to success?

To-be-sure, America has made progress over the decades. Government and the courts enacted statutes and rulings ranging from *Brown v. Board of Education* to the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to the Fair Housing Act of 1968 that outlawed pub-

lic discrimination, while purportedly providing equal opportunities. Yet, these actions only addressed the effects of racism, not its core foundation. Time has demonstrated that government and courts can enact and uphold laws, but they don't change hearts, minds and souls or address the root cause of racism.

Racism is rooted in the false belief in a human hierarchy, an antiquated taxonomy of the human family, which has fueled structural racism and conscious and unconscious bias throughout U.S. culture with a perception of inferiority or superiority based on race, physical characteristics or place of origin. Whites are placed at the top and all other racial groups in descending order. This absurd notion, which science has soundly discredited, was used to justify colonization and enslavement for centuries. And the false ideology fuels white supremacist movements and other overt expressions of racial and ethnic hatred and bigotry.

The United States has witnessed how the belief manifests in many ways. From coast to coast, communities experience disparities for people of color in health, education, employment and housing.

Furthermore, high profile police shootings involving people of color have fueled the perception that the criminal justice system is unfair and bias. In fact, a study by University of California, Davis anthropologist Cody Ross found "evidence of a significant bias in the killing of unarmed black Americans relative to unarmed white Americans, in that the probability of being black, unarmed, and shot by police is about 3.49 times the probability of being white, unarmed, and shot by police on average."

It appears Dylann Roof, the convicted murderer of nine worshippers at the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, SC, was motivated by a belief that he was somehow superior to blacks and others. Friends said Roof complained that

"blacks were taking over the world" and he vowed to start a race war

Dr. King understood that the belief in racial hierarchy created barriers to our country's capacity to fulfill the promise of our democratic ideals. It is time for us to fully eliminate this hierarchy of human value and jettison the antiquated concept. Only then can all of our children be embraced not because of the color of their skin or other physical characteristics, but by their innate essence, their humanity.

Our country needs racial healing and a sustained effort to avert the racism that influences public and private systems, practices and policies. The racial healing can move us toward one another in a spirit of wholeness and love. A transformative, positive change can come from this shift in our individual and collective consciousness and the resulting actions we take on behalf of ourselves, our children and future generations of our human family.

After decades of funding diverse communities to help improve the lives of vulnerable children, the W.K. Kellogg Foundation (WKKF) leadership recognizes the need for racial healing and eliminating racism, and replacing it with the affirmation of our equal and shared humanity. The hierarchy of human value is deeply embedded consciously, systematically, structurally and unconsciously by the people and systems adhering to it.

Removing it from our society will require a concerted effort over time. The Truth, Racial Healing, and Transformation (TRHT) enterprise created by WKKF and a broad coalition of organizations from all sectors of society is working to end the belief and facilitate racial healing. TRHT is a community-driven vehicle for transformative change. The TRHT approach examines how the belief system became embedded in our society, both its culture, and structures, and then works with communities to design and implement

individual, local, public and private resources to dismantle systemic, structurally-based patterns of discrimination at the municipal, county, state, Tribal and federal levels.

At a recent summit, 570 people representing the 130 TRHT partner organizations issued a call to action to designate January 17, 2017 as the inaugural National Day of Racial Healing in America. Communities, organizations and individuals will acknowledge that deep, racial divides still exist and must be overcome and healed. They will commit to engaging representatives from all racial, ethnic, religious, gender, and identity groups in genuine efforts to increase understanding, improve communications, caring and respect for one another and the perceived other.

These actions will help create a new narrative that refutes the belief in a hierarchy of human value and replaces it with the scientifically proven assertion that we're all descendants of one human ancestry and guided by an inalienable right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Our country's make-up has changed significantly since its founding, and the demographic changes are continual. Immigration and birth rates, among other contributing factors, are altering the face of communities. Already, children of color represent the majority of children in the country, and far too many are in poverty.

For these new challenges, America needs a new reality, grounded in racial healing so that the work of ending racial disparities can boldly move forward and all children have opportunities to succeed. It is time to focus our energy, resources and discourse on eliminating the false ideology of a hierarchy of human value so we can cultivate and grow what must be valued most: our common humanity. (Dr. Gail C. Christopher is a WKKF senior advisor and vice president for TRHT. To schedule print or broadcast interviews with Dr. Christopher, please contact Michael K. Frisby at mike@frisbyassociates.com or 202-625-4328.

OBITUARIES

Sonja Renee Garland Hogg

John Garland, Sr., brother William Earl Garner, grandson Eric Garland, Jr. and grandfather Buster Newman.

On Sunday, December 4, 2016, Sonja passed from this life leaving to cherish her memories, husband of nine years Adell Hogg; three loving children: Elmesha(Markell) Washington, Patricia Bateman, and Eric (Robin) Garland; grandchildren ; Maleya, Madysyn, Dorriana, Miracle, Jonathan, Markell, Jr., and Jadarion; a loving mother Devonne Gasrland, grandmother Elnora (Lee) Tutt; father-in-law R. T. Hogg; mother-in-law Ola Mae; sister Pantra (Tracy) Jones; four brothers John Garland, Jr., Marcus (Saugonda) Garland, Kenneth (Daphane) Garland and Darrell (Kimberly) Garland, eight step children: Frederick, Tyrone, Derrick, Cadell, Taska, Quiana, Tona and Tyara and many uncles, aunts, other relatives and friends. Garmon Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Services were held Saturday, December 10, 2016 for Sonja Renee Garland Hogg at Mt. Hebron Missionary Baptist Church, Henderson, Texas.

She was born June 19, 1963 in Henderson, Texas to John Garland, Sr. and Devonne Newman Garland. She attended Henderson public schools and furthered her education at Kilgore College where she received her Cosmetology license.

Later, Sonja was employed by Kroger Company and maintained her position as Bakery/Deli Manager for many years. She was a faithful member of Anadarko Church of Christ in Laneville, Texas where she served as President of the Ursher Board along with many other duties.

Sonja was preceded in death by her father,

La'Tarrence Cumbie

Funeral services were held Saturday, December 24, 2016 at Benson Memorial CME Church Jacksonville with Pastor Kenneth Cain and Bishop James Berry Eulogist for La 'Terrence Tremane Cumbie .

La'Terrance was born December 23, 1986 to Hazel Cumbie Adams and Vincent Session in Jacksonville, Texas.

He attended Jacksonville schools and graduated Jacksonville High School. He confessed his faith in Christ at an early age at New Birth Church of the Living God.

He met the love of his life Tiffany Copeland in 2006 and to this relationship two sons were born.

He was a loving person that enjoyed life especially with his family and friends. His greatest joy was spending time with his sons playing games, listening to music and assisting with coaching football.

La'Terrance was preceded in death by his two grandmothers and a grandfather.

He leaves to cherish his memories his wife Tiffany Copeland Cumbie of Tyler, Texas, two sons; LaBoutae Cumbie and La'Tayvion Cumbie both of Tyler, Texas, mother Hazel Cumbie Adams (Roy Dewberry) of Tyler, Texas; father Vincent (Angie) Session of Henderson, Texas, two sisters Audrelia Adams, Tyler, Texas and Jasmine Session of Henderson, Texas. A brother Jeremy Cumbie of Tyler, Texas, nephew Jamarius Cumbie of Jacksonville, Texas and grandfathers Alver Dee Session and Archie Adams both of Jacksonville, Texas; aunts, uncles, cousins, relatives and other friends; a special friend R. L. Whitaker of Jacksonville, Texas.

Community Funeral Home was in charge of the services and burial was at Rest Haven Cemetery, Jacksonville, Texas.

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- 1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/2 tsp. baking soda
- 1 tbsp. ground ginger, or to taste
- 1 tsp. cinnamon
- 1/2 tsp. cloves
- 1/2 tsp. allspice
- 2 tsp. vanilla extract or brandy
- 1/2 cup buttermilk (or milk with a little yogurt stirred in)

Cream butter and brown sugar. Beat until fluffy and add molasses. Beat in eggs. Add dry ingredients, then vanilla and buttermilk. Turn into a buttered cake pan and bake in a preheated 350°F oven for between 20 and 30 minutes. (Check after 20 minutes).

CREAM CHEESE GINGER ICING:

- 1/4 cup unsalted butter, at room temp.
- 1/4 pound cream cheese, at room temp.
- 1 1/2 cups confectioners' sugar, sifted
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract
- 1/4 cup finely chopped candied ginger

Beat together butter and cream cheese until smooth. Add sugar and beat until smooth. Mix in vanilla and candied ginger. Chill briefly before frosting the gingerbread. Variation: Add some raisins to the gingerbread.

Yield: 1 (9-inch) cake.



OLD FASHIONED BUTTER ROLL

Make your favorite biscuit dough recipe and refrigerate, covered overnight (should be about 4 cups of dough). Next morning or after refrigeration, roll out dough. Spread 1/2 pound softened butter over dough, then sprinkle 1 1/2 cups sugar over butter. Sprinkle cinnamon to taste, over sugar. Start at edge of dough and roll into a big roll. Cut into 1 inch pieces and place cut side down in a greased 3 inch glass baking dish. Pour 1 cup of milk over the rolls. Bake at 350 degrees until brown and serve hot.

Obama spending power

from page 6

in the consumer confidence index of Simmons National Consumer Study data has found a factual basis for this hypothesis.

In 2007, Blacks were less likely than other Americans to be ranked as "highly confident" consumers (20 percent vs. 25 percent).

By 2009, the year after the election of President Obama, the positions of each segment had reversed, as 26 percent of Blacks and just 17 percent of other Americans were classified as "highly confident" consumers.

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Rev. Barber Files Civil Rights Lawsuit Against American Airline

WASHINGTON—Statement by American Federation of Teachers President Randi Weingarten on the Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II's federal civil rights lawsuit against American Airlines:

"It is horrifying that an African-American man on one of America's great airlines was subject to the same racist, discriminatory and humiliating treatment as African-Americans were decades ago. The fact that he happens to be one of the nation's most prominent civil rights leaders gives him the agency to shine a light on this. That American Airlines would treat a major civil rights leader like this is disgraceful and should shock the conscience of all Americans.

"During the boarding process on an American Airlines flight, Barber calmly and politely requested that two white passengers seated behind him keep their voices down. The passengers proceeded to hurl insults about the reverend's disability and

race. His complaints to the flight attendant were dismissed, and eventually police officers boarded the plane. After getting only the two white passengers' side of the story, Barber was ordered off the plane. This is racism, plain and simple, and a clear violation of Barber's federally protected civil rights. Sadly, in the last several months, we have seen hundreds of despicable incidents of racism, bigotry, bullying and intimidation that must be called out and stopped. Whether it's American Airlines or an individual, it is morally and legally wrong and must not be tolerated.

"It doesn't have to be this way. American Airlines can follow Delta Airlines' lead. In a similar incident recently, Delta Airlines failed to remove a passenger for berating other passengers who supported Hillary Clinton. A few days later, the Delta CEO apologized publicly and issued a lifetime ban for the offender to fly on Delta."

Happy January Birthday!

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Spiritually Speaking: Prayer Is My Daily Weapon of Choice

By James Washington (The Dallas Weekly/NNPA Member)



James Washington

direction. So for me, tomorrow I'm arming myself for the battles of the day and the days after with a good dose of prayer and will happily share a few bullets for you. The victory is ours and Jesus has already won this thing. He provided all the prayer cover we need. All He has ever asked you to do is take that knowledge with you and share it with the world.

May God bless and keep you always.

James Washington is a father, husband, Christian and writer. James is also the owner and publisher of the multimedia company The Dallas Weekly. You can follow James on Twitter at @JAWS_215.

Recently, I've had reason to refocus on that sometimes habitual thing that I do known as prayer. Be it morning prayer, evening at church or, on behalf of a friend or seeking guidance in and out of a difficult situation, I have come to realize my prayer life could and should be much better. I am reading an old fashioned good vs. evil novel where the good is actually all about angels and the bad about demons. Their battle is all about controlling us for the victory where their allegiances lay, ultimately God or Satan. The revelation about my prayer life comes with an enlightenment of where our focus should be.

prayer revolve around folks calling upon the name of Jesus. You see everything changes, the tide gets turned, and the odds get stacked up for the pro-Christ gang. Now, I know for a fact that many a friend, family member, church acquaintance and others have provided me with plenty of prayer cover. I also know it was and has been my intent to provide cover for those closest to me. You just pray for people you love and all they are going through.

We hear the phrase "our thoughts and prayers go out to..." too many times these days for people caught up in nonsensical violence, terror, war and my favorite, man's inhumanity to man. And it doesn't appear to be slowing down at all. Now back to my prayer point. If I look at prayer as a weapon in the eternal life and death struggle, then I am arming myself and others who are caught up in the eternal challenges of the day. I am providing cover. It's a military term. Scripture says it's not always about flesh and blood, but things some of us don't pay too much attention to. Principalities, local, state, national and world leaders might need some prayer cover. Others just need prayer. The way I'm thinking now is that prayer just might be my daily weapon of choice.

It's kind of a new perspective to think your prayers are ammunition or the work God wants done by you. Prayer makes you stronger and the enemy weaker as a result. The inter

"For we are not contending against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the world rulers of this present darkness..." (Ephesians 6:12.) Now this is not a doom and gloom column making a statement about today's politics. It is merely a commentary about the things I pray about.

I usually don't pray about governments, world leaders, the coming of a new age and so forth. My prayer life tends to be a little more close to home and more about the people I love. To make my point, let me use the term "prayer cover." In the book that I'm reading, the angels are constantly asking each other can they win the next battle and the answer is always not unless they get more prayer cover. They need more people praying in order to achieve victory. And the specifics of the needed

festing thing about the book is that it forces you to look at the enemy in a different way. The enemy is doubt, fear, apprehension, crimes against your person, complacency, fear of success, spiritual poverty, and apprehension about the world and its

Black History Month Theme February 2017

Each year beginning on February 1, an entire month of events are planned nationwide honoring the history and contributions of African Americans.

The theme for Black History Month in 2017 is "The Crisis in Black Education" addressing especially the needs of black urban youth in pub

lic schools who lack resources and endure overcrowding that results in a stark racial achievement gap. oday, the black education gap is endemic to the wider crisis happening within most of the American public school system. Nationwide, education budgets are being slashed

See Black History page 11

LEGAL NOTICE

These Texas Lottery Commission scratch ticket games will be closing soon:

Game #	Game Name / Odds	\$	Official Close of Game	End Withdrawals Date
1797	Cashword Multiplier - Overall Odds are 1 in 3.65	\$10	1/15/17	7/14/17
1758	\$27 Million Payout - Overall Odds are 1 in 4.02	\$5	1/20/17	7/19/17
1757	\$7 Million Payout - Overall Odds are 1 in 4.54	\$1	2/22/17	8/21/17
1735	Hit \$60,000 - Overall Odds are 1 in 4.69	\$2	2/22/17	8/21/17
1597	Lucky Numbers - Overall Odds are 1 in 4.00	\$5	2/22/17	8/21/17
1784	Bonus Break The Bank - Overall Odds are 1 in 4.29	\$5	2/22/17	8/21/17
1803	Hit \$200,000 - Overall Odds are 1 in 4.13	\$5	2/22/17	8/21/17
1644	\$200,000,000 Cash Blowout - Overall Odds are 1 in 2.82	\$10	2/22/17	8/21/17

For detailed odds and game information, visit txlottery.com or call 800-375-6886. Must be 18 or older to purchase a ticket. The Texas Lottery supports Texas education and welfare. PLAY RESPONSIBLY. For help with a gambling problem, nspgaming.org. © 2017 Texas Lottery Commission. All rights reserved.



Always strive to be more than that which you are, if you wish to obtain that which you are not.
~S. B. Fuller

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Black Families Can Bridge The Wealth Gap by owning a Home

By Edward Gaston (Florida Star/NNPA Member)

From predatory lending and foreclosures to wealth stripping and income inequality, the national wealth gap is relevant and ongoing. The wealth gap continues to expand based on one of the greatest heists of all time: the shifting of generational wealth from one cultural group to another.

The wealth gap has been validated and maintained over generations. Minorities have been denied access to capital to build businesses and grow farms. They have been forced to pay higher interest rates for mortgages and disproportionately — and intentionally — impacted during the nation's foreclosure crisis. Women continue to be paid less to do the same work as men in Corporate America, and underserved communities pay high interest rates for emergency loans.

Sadly, no solutions have proven to be sustainable across these communities in order to lessen the gap. With the foreclosure crisis, Americans watched minority and low

to moderate income homeowners lose equity and generational wealth with no plan for recovery. It is highly unlikely for the wealth that has been denied or stripped from underserved communities to suddenly reappear. However, there are some solutions to bridge the gap, one of which is home ownership.

Although the financial crisis negatively impacted homeownership for many communities, it remains a proven weapon for increasing wealth, particularly through home equity and tax benefits. Homeownership is very different from purchasing clothes or buying a car, which loses value. Having your own four walls is still part of the American Dream.

Homeownership done right, can put Black families on the path to growing equity, which is a necessary step toward securing generational wealth. Put simply, buying the right home, the right way is a big step to

ward filling the wealth gap to combat generational poverty. Second to saving money, purchasing a home is considered as a common sense investment strategy for building wealth. To assist with homeownership, it is imperative to connect with a HUD certified counseling agency, which is available in most communities to walk you through the process to prepare for and purchase a home. These organizations have ind

ustry experts on staff, who are empowered to create individual resolutions and solutions and train buyers on building wealth through homeownership. To find an agency, visit HUD's website at <https://www.hud.gov/offices/hsg/sfh/hcc/hcs.cfm>. The housing market is rebounding and although underserved and low to moderate income homebuyers still face hurdles that others do not, it is necessary to work toward homeownership and bridge the wealth gap.

Black History from page 10

while privatization threatens a corporate takeover of schools -- all within a culture that dictates that teachers be paid a fraction of a professional athlete. Tragically, the socio-economic factors that continue to divide the nation often result in poorly performing schools "that serve as pipelines to prison for youths," say organizers. Therefore, education "should e privatization threatens a corporate takeover of schools -- all within a culture that dictates that teachers be paid a fraction of a professional athlete. Tragically, the socio-economic

factors that continue to divide the nation often result in poorly performing schools" that serve pipeliners to prison for youth," say some educual organizers.

Therefore, education should be considered one of the most important goals past, present and future.



Margarett Perkins, Laura Perkins, James I. Perkins and Dr. L. Michael Metke President of Tyler Junior College enter into agreement making possible the Rusk TJC Citizens Promise. The James I Perkins Family Foundation and Tyler Junior College established this scholarship program for Rusk High School graduates. The top fifty-percent/qualifying students will have \$8000. scholarships to TJC beginning with the class of 2014.

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Group plans Black History Display for Historical Commission

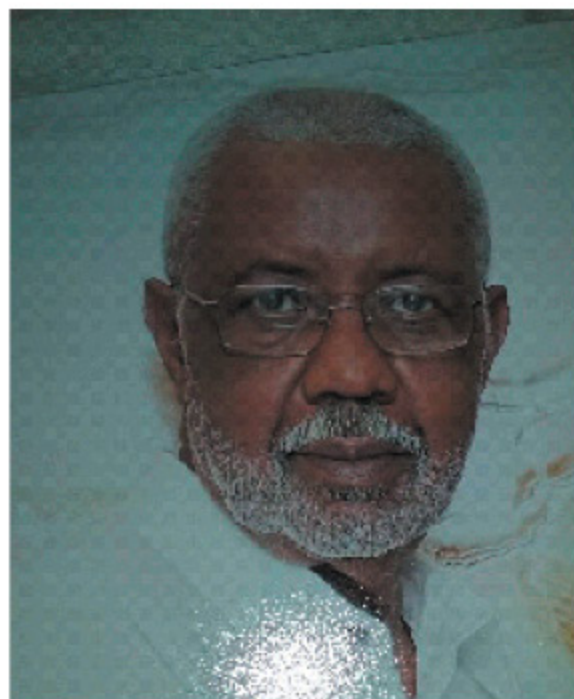


Left to right: Maxine Session, George Martin, Linda Skinner, Dr. Richard Hackney and Charlie Esco.

Rusk, TX.- The group above recently met in Rusk at the Texas Informer office to plan Black history displays for the Museum and Historical Commission Office. Some of the categories which will be covered are community, education, religion, war heroes and athletes. The public is asked to

visit the museum to view the displays during the month of February. Maxine will provide Rusk history, George and Linda will provide Alto history, Charlie will provide Jacksonville history. Dr. Hackney and George are current members of the Commission and Charlie and Maxine are former members.

TUESDAY, 23rd February 2017, 2pm



James McCullough

Houston County Historical Commission & Mary Allen Museum of African American Art & History

A BLACK HISTORY MONTH EVENT

“Reflections on Black History in 2017”

Guest Speaker, Mr. James McCullough (Native of Crockett)

“Local Historian”

Founder and Organizer of the Ralph J. Bunche High School Alumni Association

Time: 2:00pm

Location: Mary Allen Heritage House
Eliza Bishop Reception Hall
Crockett, Texas 75835

For additional information contact the HCHC at 936-544-3255 or the Mary Allen Museum at 936-293-8542



Happy, Happy New Year from the Texas Informer Family! Our prayer is that God will continue to bestow many blessings upon you, your family your city and state and this great country of ours!
The family that prays together stays together!