



TEXAS INFORMER



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EDITORIAL/OPINION



Milestone Celebrated

Maxine Session

We just want to thank those who came out last month to help us celebrate an unbelievable milestone, that milestone being twenty years of publishing *the Texas Informer*.

Those of you who are old enough to remember, we started out as *the Cherokee County Informer*.

God, our family, Texas Publishers Association, and you, our readers and advertisers have been the team that has made the dream work. We are so thankful. We ask your prayers that we be blessed to continue printing a few more years.

Thurgood Marshall College Fund Launches Apple Scholars Program

By Freddie Allen
NNPA Senior Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON (NNPA) – On Tuesday [Aug. 25], the Thurgood Marshall College Fund (TMCFF) opened the application process for the Apple HBCU Scholars program to help the most valuable company in the world identify the next generation of high-performing leaders of color in technology.

The program, which targets students attending historically, Black colleges and universities (HBCUs), includes a scholarship for up to \$25,000 during the recipient's senior year, a summer internship at Apple headquarters in Cupertino, Calif., career-development opportunities, and the chance to serve as a TMCFF Diversity Initiative/Apple brand ambassador.

Students will also earn the opportunity to participate in the Apple HBCU immersion experience in Cupertino, Calif., during the spring of 2016 and access to an Apple employee for a unique mentoring experience.

In the press release about the launch of the program, Denise Young Smith, the vice president of Worldwide Human Resources at Apple Inc., and a graduate of Grambling State University in Louisiana, said that the program is about exposing gifted students from HBCUs to careers in technology.

The tech industry has recently come under increased scrutiny for its lack of diversity by civil rights leader Jesse Jackson and others after companies like Google, Apple and HP published data on the ethnic and gender diversity of their workforces.

"We're big believers that innovation will be strongest when talented people from diverse backgrounds are part of the creative process," said Smith.

"That's why we're so proud to be partnering with TMCFF to help us find the next generation of innovators."

The Apple Scholars program is just one element of the \$40 million partnership between TMCFF and Apple announced earlier this year that will include the development of a talent database for hiring managers, research grants for faculty members and investments in entrepreneurship programs.

"The call out to our community is that when an organization as big and as well-known as Apple says, 'I'm going to invest in you,' they have actually lobbed the ball into our court and, if we miss it, we're going to be hard-pressed to argue that HBCUs are relevant and worthy of future investments," said Johnny C. Taylor, Jr., the president and CEO of TMCFF.

Taylor added that the partnership will also involve serious discussions about how to make HBCUs sustainable in the future.

"[Apple] is absolutely convinced that if they want to solve their diversity challenge, they have to expand the schools that are producing the pipeline," said Taylor. "Majority schools are not enough because everyone's fighting for that same small pot of Black students."

Taylor said that the stakes are high for HBCUs and Apple to prove targeted investments like this can reap long-term rewards for industries pushing to diversify their ranks. Taylor added that it may be the last chance for Black colleges to make the case that they are not just historically relevant, but that they're also currently relevant, as well.

"This is Apple, one of the sexiest, most ubiquitous companies on the globe, so all eyes are watching and it's just not limited to the technology space," said Taylor. "I have meetings now with other companies in other sectors that say, 'I am dying to hear how

President Obama to Observe Katrina's 10th Anniversary in New Orleans

by Zenitha Prince

Special to the NNPA from the Afro American Newspaper

Almost 10 years ago, the world watched as the waters of the Gulf of Mexico—urged on by the pummeling winds of Hurricane Katrina—swallowed the city of New Orleans, and wreaked havoc all up and down the coast.

On Aug. 27, President Obama will travel to the Crescent City to commemorate the 10-year anniversary of this costliest and one of the deadliest natural disasters to hit the United States and to highlight the city's efforts to rebuild.

The president will be joined by Federal Emergency Management Agency Administrator Craig Fugate in meeting with Mayor Mitch Landrieu and residents of affected neighborhoods. Fugate and other FEMA officials will also attend commemoration events in Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas in the days leading up to the anniversary. Officials from several other agencies, including the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the U.S. Department of Education, the Small Business Administration and NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) will also tour the region as part of the observance.

Hurricane Katrina crashed into the Gulf Coast on Aug. 29, 2005. The punishing winds destroyed trees, buildings and other property, but most of the damage—especially in New Orleans, where its levees failed—came from the resulting floods. The disaster caused more than \$100 billion in damage and took about 2,000 lives. Most of us will never forget above the waterline; people stranded on rooftops begging for help; bodies lying in the streets of a great American city," Obama recalled during a speech storm's fifth anniversary in 2010.



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Letters to the Editor Policy

We welcome your letters to the editor. Please send to P. O. Box 332, Rusk, Texas or informersnews08@aol.com. Letters must include name of the sender.

A special thank you to the "Lauretta Colston Stewart Scholarship Board and Elmer Stewart". May God continue to bless you all!
It is people like you who inspire us to keep going.

BB King Remembered



B. B. King Legendary Blues Singer

Indianola, Miss. — Hundreds of people filled a church in the Mississippi Delta for the funeral Saturday of B.B. King, who rose Mr. King died in Las Vegas after several recent hospital stays, his attorney announced Thursday. The 89-year-old was a 15-time Grammy Award winner and was a member of the Rock and Roll and Blues Foundation halls of fame. VPCHe received nearly every accolade in his field: 15 Grammy Awards (not counting a Lifetime Achievement nod in 1987); inductions into the Rock and Roll and Blues Foundation halls of fame; a Kennedy Center Honor; Presidential Medal of the Arts; President Medal of Freedom; the international Polar Music Prize; and honorary doctorates from Yale and Brown.

One of his most deeply affecting honors came in 2005 when the Mississippi state Legislature honored him with B.B. King Day.

"In my early years, I was afraid to even go across the grounds of the state Capitol (in Jackson)," King said. "Being there did more for me than anything else, anywhere else. One of the reasons was it hadn't happened to any black person that I know about. To be this sharecropper from a plantation and to be there was a great honor for me. And I cried."

King became a man at age 9 when his mother died, the Rev. Herron Wilson said at the funeral for the blues legend on Saturday.

The words that King's mother said to him on her deathbed -- to be good, and to do good for others -- shaped the path that he followed during a career that lasted nearly 70 years. "He still maintained the common touch despite his fame," Wilson told the hundreds of mourners who attended the funeral service in Indianola, Mississippi. "He kept asking, what else can I give to my community."

It was King's wish to have his funeral held at the Bell Grove Baptist Church in Indianola, where King spent his teenage years working in cotton fields as a poverty-stricken youth in the Mississippi Delta.

King not only strummed his chords into the hearts of millions, but inspired generations of blues and rock musicians. King, often said he had just one woman in his life: his guitar, Lucille. But by his own estimate he had 15 children by 15 women, none of them his wives. He was also married twice, but neither marriage produced children. The musician's passion went much further, Wilson told the congregation in a recording career that began in the late 1940s and lasted to the

present day, B.B. King ---- produced more than 40 studio albums, 16 live albums and nearly 140 singles. His most influential songs have been assembled on more than a dozen compilations, of which the 1992 King of the Blues box set is the most definitive. King's early life personified the blues: He was born to dirt-poor sharecroppers in the cotton country of the Mississippi Delta and left alone by the deaths of his mother and grandmother when he was a child. But he never let those circumstances hold him back or define him, a minister said Saturday at the funeral of the blues legend.

"Hands that once picked cotton would someday pick guitar strings on a national and international stage. Amazing," the Rev. Herron Wilson said in a standing-room-only sanctuary at Bell Grove Missionary Baptist Church in King's hometown of Indianola, Mississippi.

King, whose distinctive guitar style influenced generations of entertainers, was 89 when he died May 14 in Las Vegas. At his request, his body was returned to his native Mississippi for a final homecoming.

"He will forever be the king of the blues," Stevie Wonder said in a spoken tribute that was played at the funeral, although he did not attend.

About 500 people filled the sanctuary of the church, a red brick structure that sits in a field off of B.B. King Road in Indianola. More than 200 people who couldn't get into the sanctuary watched a live broadcast of the funeral in the church's fellowship hall, many waving handheld fans with a black-and-white photo of a smiling King hugging his black electric guitar, Lucille.

Noting the thousands of people who came to Indianola for the public viewing Friday and funeral Saturday, Bryant said: "He would have loved to know that one more time he's helping the Mississippi Delta."

Silvan Zingg, a boogie-woogie pianist from Switzerland, played with King at the Montreux Jazz Festival in 2011 and described it as one of the best days of his life. "

At the beginning of the service, family members filed past King's open casket, which had an image of Lucille embroidered on the padded white cloth inside the lid. Later, the casket was closed and covered with a large arrangement of red roses. Christopher Clouser, a businessman and longtime friend of King, said King instructed him to deliver several messages during the funeral. He sent love to family and friends and thanked his bandmates and other entertainers. Clouser said King also wanted people to know how uncomfortable he was "riding in the back of the car that Eric was driving" — a reference B.B. King was one of the few classic blues artists to have songs on mainstream radio," noted Aerosmith guitarist Joe Perry. "Because I was able to hear his guitar playing on the *The Thrill is Gone*, it showed that given the right song you could sneak some great guitar sounds into top 40 radio." to "Riding With the King," an album that King and Eric Clapton released in 2000 with a cover photo of the two guitarists on a road trip. Country singer Marty Stuart said King created a musical legacy for the home state they share. "As a fellow Mississippian, I'm so proud to stand in his shadow as I walk across the world," Stuart said.

On the way into the church, Mississippi Gov. Phil Bryant recalled spending time with King in the bluesman's tour bus before a concert last year in Indianola. Bryant said King was proud of being from Mississippi. Almost as well-known as King's artistry and recordings was his prolific performing schedule. Director Jon Brewer's 2014 documentary *B.B. King: The Life of Riley*, which featured appearances by Carlos Santana, Bono, Eric Clapton and Ringo Starr, detailed his non-stop touring,

Debt Collection Report Captures Horror Stories



Stifler, a policy counsel at the Center for Responsible Lending and one of the authors of the analysis.

"Unfortunately, our analysis shows that consumers are often unfairly hurt by debt collectors making improper use of the court system to collect questionable debts. The burden of proof should be on debt collectors to document that a consumer owes a debt upfront before they initiate a lawsuit."

Debt buyers and collectors purchase debt from consumer creditors and then attempt to collect. Unscrupulous collectors often engage in illegal and predatory behavior to pressure or force consumers to pay up.

The abusive debt collector's business model often relies on pursuing quick court judgments against consumers. In many cases, consumers do not appear and the resulting default judgments result in wage garnishment. Consumers with similar names, John Smith, for example, have been sued and seen their wages garnished because of incorrect, inadequate or deliberately mistaken documentation. The full report by the Center for Responsible Lending provides information on recent state cases brought by attorney generals and regulators in Colorado, Maryland and Texas.

Waters Calls for Increased Transparency in HUD's Reverse Mortgage Program

Special to the NNPA from Our Weekly



Rep. Maxine Waters (D-CA), ranking member of the Committee on Financial Services, is calling on the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to provide meaningful relief and increased transparency for seniors participating in its reverse mortgage program, known as the Home Equity Conversion Mortgage program (HECM).

Waters expressed concern that many senior citizens are facing foreclosure, or will face foreclosure due to deceptive lending practices and previous HUD protocol for the HECM program. Until recently, HUD used the age of the youngest borrower in order to calculate the size of the reverse mortgage payout. In many cases, doing so led to the removal of the younger spouse from the home's title in order to obtain

a larger reverse mortgage payout. Many borrowers were outright deceived about the consequences of such a decision on their younger spouse. The result is that many non-borrowing spouses have been foreclosed upon soon after the death of their spouse. In a letter sent to HUD Secretary Julian Castro this week, the top Democrat wrote "on behalf of thousands of senior citizens," who continue to face the prospect of foreclosure due to HUD's flawed administration of the HECM and fraudulent lending practices in the housing market. She requested that the department reevaluate their response to the issue and provide additional insight into the fiscal limitations of delivering real relief to vulnerable seniors.

Finally, Waters wrote, "I urge you to reconsider the limited scope of relief that HUD has offered thus far in response to the concerns raised by senior borrowers and advocates working on their behalf. While I understand the tension created by the need to balance the fiscal condition of the MMIF, and to protect borrowers who have been victimized by unfair lending tactics, I hope that HUD will do everything in its power to provide much needed relief to these senior citizens."



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Martin Davis GM continued from page 15

from Ford, while still in middle school he set his mind to attending the College for Creative Studies (CCS) in downtown Detroit.

After he graduated from CCS, he applied to a number of companies. At one point he believed that he would follow in his father's footsteps at Ford, but despite earlier interest in the middle schooler's work, he never got an offer from the company.

But he did get an offer from GM.

"My time at GM has been amazing," said Davis. "I couldn't have imagined it being better."

Davis admitted his first day on the job was nerve-racking, and it took him awhile to find his way around the mammoth General Motors complex.

"I remembered sitting at my desk that first day looking around at all designers thinking, 'How am I going to compete with all of them?'" said Davis.

But the young designer did compete, gaining confidence with every completed sketch. Davis' work began to catch eyes of the design managers and they started selecting his sketches among dozens plastered on the 20-foot wall in his studio at GM.

"The early days were a lot of fun," said Davis. "There was a freeness. I remember doing sketches for the 2004 Oldsmobile show car, the last show car they did."

One of his sketches was selected as the theme sketch for the car. That Oldsmobile show car would be built at the world-famous, now defunct Gruppo Bertone design house in Italy. Even though Davis wasn't selected to join GM designers in Italy, he didn't sit on the sidelines for long.

A few months later, as the end of his first year with GM approached, the auto company gave him the opportunity to travel to Birmingham, England to work at an advanced design studio that primarily focused on Cadillacs. There he worked on the Cadillac Cien, a two-seater, mid-engine concept car.

The assignment, originally scheduled for two months stretched into two years.

"It was a really great experience to work on such a high-profile concept car," said Davis.

After the two-year stint in Birmingham, the Detroit area native worked on a number of production programs, including the GMC Acadia and the auto company's Cadillac group in China.

When Davis returned to the United States, company executives were having ongoing discussions about General Motors' exterior lighting designs compared to some of their competitors.

Davis said that as the conversations were happening about the direction of the new project wholly-focused on exterior lighting, he jumped at the opportunity and volunteered to do it.

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MArin Davis GM Continued from page 15

"It was almost like a huge experiment," said Davis. "We never had a dedicated, exterior lighting design studio, but we wanted better lights, so we said, 'Let's see how this work.'"

Davis and his team took on the exterior lighting responsibilities for three well-known "programs": the GMC Acadia Chevy Traverse and the Buick Enclave.

Management immediately recognized the how valuable having dedicated focus on lighting could be.

"Not long after that they made it an official studio and made me the first manager of that studio in 2012," said Davis. "That was really cool." Davis said that he still loves to draw, but in his current position he's more like the conductor of an orchestra than an individual musician.

"I don't have an instrument. My team has all of the instruments they need and I have to remember that," said Davis. "Now my job is to make sure that my team knows where each brand is going and understands how to use technology to create a design that is appropriately styled to the character of each vehicle."

At first some designers of General Motors other brands were apprehensive about giving up that much control of a central element in the cars overall style, now Davis said all of them want his team's designs.

Ed Welburn, General Motors' vice president of Global Design, praised Davis and his team for their creativity.

"Martin is doing a phenomenal job," said Welburn. "Lighting on that [Cadillac CTS] is so striking. It wasn't too many years ago that every headlight was either round or rectangular. Now lighting is so much a character of the car. It really is the eyes of the vehicle. Our organization is really dependent on Martin."

Davis said educators, parents and support groups first have to raise awareness among students of color about opportunities in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) careers and then help them to understand that they can also excel in those professions.

The GM design manager mentors children in the Detroit metro area and recommended that all students get focused at a young age and seek educational and career.

Guest enjoy Informer 20 year anniversary Dinner



COMMUNITY

Those Who Gave their Lives in Service Remembered



The Memorial Day 2015 service was held on the Cherokee County Courthouse lawn hosted by Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3406 and Ladies Auxiliary. Keynote speaker was Dick Shawver, VFW District 19 Commander Elect and special guest, Mayor Angela Raiborn.

Commander Emerson Griffin welcomed the audience, Joycelyn Bradford, Alto High Student, sang the National Anthem and special music was presented by Virginia Goforth. Danny Stephen, VFW Sr. Vice Commander and Allison Stephens gave the Memorial Commemoration. Rusk High students played TAPS.



Pictured above is Ronny Turner of Dallas, formerly of Rusk. Ronny travels from Dallas to care for his property in Rusk. Today he is taking time out to voluntarily mow and trim abandoned property across the street from his home. His efforts are very much appreciated by his neighbors.



Congratulation to Estebiana J'Nae Arrington. She received the Math, Reading, Science and outstanding effort award as well as all year honot roll ribbon for this school year. J'Nae also plays piano. she is the daughter of Furlich and Steve Arrington of Jacksonville.

Citizens Address Commissioner's Court on Sheriff's Comments Palestine Herald Press "VIEWPOINTS"



Palestine, TX. - Versaline Logan, David Wynn, James Smith and Pastor Williams, addressed the Anderson County Commissioners Court concerning a column written by Anderson County Sheriff Greg Taylor in the Palestine Herald Press on May 15, 2015. Mrs. Logan had this to say, "I stand before you to express my displeasure and disappointment of the contents of the "Police and Racial Strife" aarticle written by Sheriff Greg L. Taylor in the Friday, May 15, 2015 article written in the Palestine Herald.

She continued, "I find it difficult (after reading this article) to believe that sheriff Taylor will act in an unbiased fashion with professionalism, honesty, integrity and compassion without embracing the historical practices of white supremacy, Jim Crowism, embedded racism, school to prison pipeline and other impediments to equal playing field for all the citizens he has been elected to serve."

James Smith addressed the Court and had this to say, "Because of Sheriff Taylor's disrespect for the President of the United States of American and the office of president, it reflects your (Taylor) personal envy or jealousy for his being elected twice. The President should be commended not accused of inciting hatred, violence or riots that fit your rhetoric."

Mr Smith went on to say, "It would be in the public's interest to review any and all cases investigated by you (Taylor) and your staff due to your blanket statement alleging Blacks incriminate

themselves for just being Black. This Kodact Moment also reveals the depts, and illiteracy of hate crime law and law of cultural sensitivity training as well as the lack of knowledge of the 2001 SB 1074 Racial Profiling Prohibition legislation training and inability to adhere to its governing."

Williams and others addressing the Commissioners Court called into question the statistics used by Taylor in his column as referred to Black Males.

In his column Sheriff Taylor had this to say, "I see many problems in our minority communities and the police is not one of them. One problem is the War On Poverty." He also said, "The narrative that Law Enforcement officers are hunting down and killing young black males is a ridiculous lie. It is a lie that more blacks are killed by the police than any other race. 90% of black males killed are killed by other black males"

Sheriff Taylor was not present at the meeting.

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The African-American roots and Civil War origins of Memorial Day

Library of Congress
Submitted by Donnie Mansel

country planter aristocracy's horse track (where they had displayed their wealth, leisure, and influence) was not lost on the freedpeople. A New York Tribune correspondent witnessed the event, describing "a procession of friends and mourners as South Carolina and the United States never seen before."

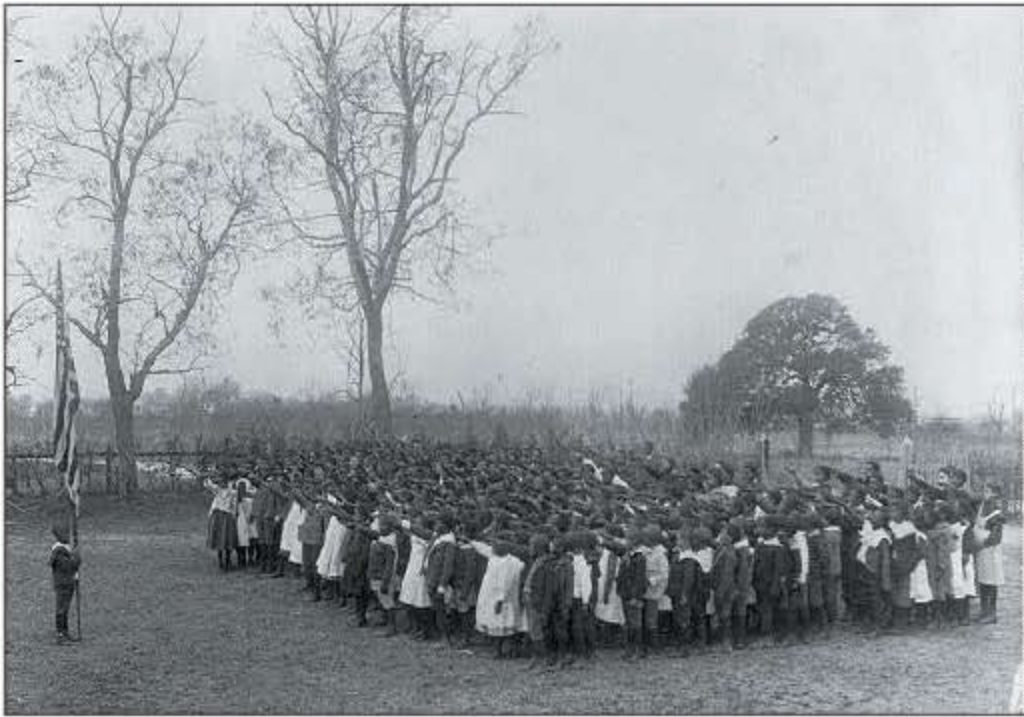
At 9 am on May 1, the procession stepped off led by three thousand black schoolchildren carrying arm loads of roses and singing "John Brown's Body." The children were followed by several hundred black women with baskets of flowers, wreaths and crosses. Then came black men marching in cadence, followed by contingents of Union infantry and other black and white citizens. As many as possible gathered in the cemetery enclosure; a childrens' choir sang "We'll Rally around the Flag," the "Star-Spangled Banner," and several spirituals before several black ministers read from scripture. No record survives of which biblical passages rung out in the warm spring air, but the spirit of Leviticus 25 was surely present at those burial rites: "for it is the jubilee; it shall be holy unto you... in the year of this jubilee he shall return every man unto his own possession."

Following the solemn dedication the crowd dispersed into the infield and did what many of us do on Memorial Day: they enjoyed picnics, listened to speeches, and watched soldiers drill.

Today the site is used as Hampton Park.

"Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much"

Luke 16:10



May 1, 1865 African Americans gathered in Charleston, South Carolina to commemorate the death of Union soldiers. It soon became known as Decoration Day, the first Memorial Day.

Memorial Day is meant to be the day the nation honors its war dead. For many Americans, it has also become a day to throw barbecues and beach parties, for blockbuster movies to open, and for students to prepare for graduation and prom season; all signaling the unofficial start of summer. But few Americans are aware of the holiday's roots in the Civil War's aftermath, and of the heavy influence of African-Americans in the early celebrations of what used to be called Decoration Day.

On May 1, 1865, freed slaves gathered in Charleston, South Carolina to commemorate the death of Union soldiers and the end of the American Civil War. Three years later, General John Logan issued a special order that May 30, 1868 be observed as Decoration Day, the first Memorial Day — a day set aside "for the purpose of strewing with flowers or otherwise decorating the graves...of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village, and hamlet church-yard in the land." At the time, the nation was reunited politically, but it remained culturally divided, and so did Memorial Day observations. In the North, the federal government created national

cemeteries for men who died in the war, while state governments from New York to Michigan gradually made Decoration Day an official holiday throughout the 1870s. In the South, from April to June, women dressed in white and knelt beneath statues of fallen Confederate leaders; they told stories about the men who appeared in portraits lining the walls of many Southern homes. By the early 20th century, as Americans faced enemies abroad, many of the surviving Civil War veterans recognized their shared wartime history and reconciled their differences — turning Memorial Day into a national holiday.

From Yale University historian David W. Blight: At the end of the Civil War the dead were everywhere, some in half buried coffins and some visible only as unidentified bones strewn on the killing fields of Virginia or Georgia. Americans, north and south, faced an enormous spiritual and logistical challenge of memorialization. The dead were visible by their massive absence. Approximately 620,000 soldiers died in the war. American deaths in all other wars combined through the Korean conflict totaled 606,000. If the same number of Americans per capita had died in Vietnam as died in the Civil War, 4 million names would

be on the Vietnam Memorial. The most immediate legacy of the Civil War was its slaughter and how remember it. War kills people and destroys human creation; but as though mocking war's devastation, flowers inevitably bloom through its ruins. After a long siege, a prolonged bombardment for months from all around the harbor, and numerous fires, the beautiful port city of Charleston, South Carolina, where the war had begun in April, 1861, lay in ruin by the spring of 1865. The city was largely abandoned by white residents by late February. Among the first troops to enter and march up Meeting Street singing

liberation songs was the Twenty First U. S. Colored Infantry; their commander accepted the formal surrender of the city.

Thousands of black Charlestonians, most former slaves, remained in the city and conducted a series of commemorations to declare their sense of the meaning of the war. The largest of these events, and unknown until some extraordinary luck in my recent research, took place on May 1, 1865. During the final year of the war, the Confederates had converted the planters' horse track, the Washington Race Course and Jockey Club, into an outdoor prison. Union soldiers were kept in horrible conditions in the interior of the track; at least 257 died of exposure and disease and were hastily buried in a mass grave behind the grandstand. Some twenty-eight black workmen went to the site, re-buried the Union dead properly, and built a high fence around the cemetery. They whitewashed the fence and built an archway over an entrance on which they inscribed the words, "Martyrs of the Race Course." Then, black Charlestonians in cooperation with white missionaries and teachers, staged an unforgettable parade of 10,000 people on the slaveholders' race course. The symbolic power of the low-

Obituaries



Coach Hopkins was a retired educator and coach, serving fifty-seven years. During this time he helped lead the Crockett Bulldogs and other championship teams. He was drafted by the Chicaco Bears to play football and the Pittsburg Pirates for baseball, served in the military in the 9th Air Cargo Supply Squadron and he was an All American Football Player who was inducted into the Prairie view Hall of Fame in 1989. He was presented the keys to the city of Crockett in 2012 and the Hopkins Activity Center/Safe room was completed and named for him in 2013.

Coach Hopkins was preceded in death by his wife Jimmy, sisters Irene Johnson, Lillian and Mildred Hopkins; brothers John A. Hopkins, Redeemer Hopkins, Alexander Hopkins and Dillard Hopkins.

Survivors; sons Andrew (Shay) Ann Hopkins, Jeffery (Dorian) Hopkins; daughters Iva Hopkins, Iwilda (Allen) Coats, Maria James, Mariang (Jason) Creag, and Anita Hopkins, 22 grandchildren, 26 great grandchildren, and a host of Neices Nephews and other relatives. Emmanuel Funeral Home was in charge of the services with burial in Jasper Cemetery.

Funeral Services were held for Coach Andrew J. Hopkins recently at the Andrew J. Hopkins Activity Center in Crockett, Texas with the Rev. Lance Mann officiating.

Andrew J. Hopkins was born December 15, 1919 to the late Peter and Roxie Hopkins and passed away June 1, 2015. His parents passed away while he was an infant. He was raised by his aunt Lula Jones Cary and was the youngest of eight children.

Coach Hopkins graduated from Crockett Colored High School. He earned his Bachelor and Master Degree from Prairie View A & M University.

Andrew married Jimmie Smith Hopkins and to this union seven children were born.

Ms. J's 411



Furlich July Arrington

Don't let that negativity disease spread on you!!!

if it doesn't apply to them. Yes, in some cases it doesn't apply to some people. There are some people in this world who try to have positive outlook on life, and that's definitely a good thing. Many times past experiences or upbringing has a lot to do with some being negative. Some just like to degrade just to be negative. The truth is that negativity is like a cancer. Any type of disease that can spread and consume you, can be a good example of NEGATIVITY!!!! Until next time take care of yourself and be a blessing unto others!

There's so much more (than usual) negativity going on in today's society. Whether it's at school, on the job, at church, or around others Remember to think daily positive thoughts to try helping you throughout the day. Many times we often hear people using the phrase, "stop being so negative." Most of the time many people just brush this statement off as

Happy June Birthday
Charles VanZandth
and
Burnis Session



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Game #	Game Name / Odds	\$	Official Close of Game	End Validations Date
1620	Big Money Overall Odds are 1 in 3.16	\$10	6/26/15	12/23/15
1603	\$3,000 Spot Overall Odds are 1 in 4.42	\$1	7/29/15	1/25/16
1611	Money Spectacular Overall Odds are 1 in 3.55	\$5	7/29/15	1/25/16
1641	20X The Cash Overall Odds are 1 in 3.48	\$5	7/29/15	1/25/16
1659	Extreme 8s Overall Odds are 1 in 3.86	\$5	7/29/15	1/25/16

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Prayer is Yet The Answer

By James Washington
Special to the NNPA from the
Dallas Weekly



Have you succumbed to the notion yet that prayer will get you through it? The 'it' I'm referring to is everything. If you're like me then the truth is at times you're not very enthusiastic about your faith. That fire that initially burned in me when I finally met Christ leaves me more cold than hot and I cannot and do not remain constant or consistent in my journey towards eternal salvation. Have you ever been there? Even my prayer life is more often weak than strong. I've finally figured out at times like these that if I only do one thing, I have to continue to pray. However casual or cavalier I might think it is, if I do nothing else, I've learned that I've got to pray my way through it.

If you've ever been lost on a nameless highway and know that you're lost, you probably understand what I'm talking about. No exit, no gas stations, no people or other cars around, no one to ask for directions. You just keep driving and you just keep looking. It's just you and the needle on the fuel gauge. Given yours and my circumstances, prayer is probably very appropriate when one is spiritually lost; especially when you are forced to acknowledge that you are lost. My word to you is to just keep praying.

At this stage of my spiritual development, I can't think of an alternative. I just so happened to look up prayer in my bible's Concordance and found out that I'm correct in my assumption that prayer(s), pray(ed), praying, all hold a special place in spiritual history and in the eyes of God. For every quote I could give you right now, there are many of you who could quote at least three more appropriate ones for this message. James 5:15-16 "And prayer offered in

faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you might be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective."

I will not sit here and profess to you to be a righteous man. What I will do is to profess to you and anyone who will listen is that I am a sinner seeking God's forgiveness. I am also on record as praying for you, my fellow man that you too, will understand God's faithfulness. Mark 11:24-25 "Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it and it will be yours. And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins." I'm not making this up. This is what the text says. Hopefully, what I'm trying to convey to you is once I was lost. I'm sure I'll get lost again and when it happens, prayer will continue to lead me home. It is an irrefutable spiritual fact. Try it. Speak to God from your heart. Let Him know that you know He knows you are lost. He will then step up and act out on your behalf proclaiming for all to see that you are never really lost. He has known where you were from the beginning of time.

A fool gives full
vent to his anger, but a
wise man keeps himself
under control.

Proverbs 29:11

Debt Collection con't from page 4

New York, Arkansas, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Minnesota

The cases showed debt collectors sued over debt that was too old, engaged in harassing behavior, used illegal collection tactics, charged exorbitant interest and falsified or presented fake documents in court. The abuses of debt collectors found in federal cases include what the federal Consumer Financial Protection Bureau called a collector with a team of only eight lawyers a "lawsuit factory" after it used "robo-signed" documents (documents mass signed with little t

o no review) to file 350,000 suits against consumers since 2009. The Federal Trade Commission shuttered one debt collector for engaging in abusive behavior and fined several others.

The center urged lawmakers to combat these abuses. Lawmakers have the power to require debt collectors to verify that a consumer owes a debt before initiating a collection attempt, or a court case. They also could bar collectors from suing over debts beyond the statute of limitations, could stop collectors from selling debts they know have been paid off, or debts that lack adequate documentation to verify the debt

Minimum Wage

The minimum wage rate is the lowest hourly amount that can be paid to employees. In some states, the minimum wage varies from one location to another. For instance, San Francisco's minimum wage is higher than the state's hourly rate.

As well, some cities and states have scheduled increases in the minimum wage throughout the year. In Maryland, for example, the minimum wage for 2015 was initially \$8.00 but rose to \$8.25 as of July 1 of 2015.

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President Obama Bans Distribution of Military Equipment to Local Police

by Zenitha Prince

Special to the NNPA from the Houston Forward Times

President Obama this week announced steps to demilitarize local police, limiting and outright banning access to certain weapons. The President made the announcement in Camden, N.J., May 18 during remarks about the administration's broader efforts on law enforcement reform.

"We've seen how militarized gear can sometimes give people a feeling like there's an occupying force, as opposed to a force that's part of the community that's protecting them and serving them. It can alienate and intimidate local residents, and send the wrong message. So we're going to prohibit some equipment made for the battlefield that is not appropriate for local police departments," he said. As part of its Program 1033, the Department of Defense was authorized to transfer defense material to federal and state agencies for use in law enforcement, particularly those associated with counter-drug and counterterrorism

activities. Under the new rules, law enforcement departments are prohibited from acquiring tracked armored vehicles, bayonets, grenade launchers and large-caliber weapons and ammunition. Access to explosives, riot equipment and wheeled armored or tactical vehicles will also be limited. And, if departments seek access to any of this controlled equipment, they would need to provide detailed justification and officers would have to be properly trained in their use.

Problems plaguing policing in the United States were highlighted in stark relief last fall when demonstrators in Ferguson, Mo., took to the streets after 18-year-old African-American teen Michael Brown was gunned down by a police officer. Protestors were met by officers clad in bulletproof vests and armed with military-grade rifles and armored vehicles, some of whom launched tear gas and rubber bullets into the shocking truth about local law enforcement reliance on this type of equipment," said Sherrilyn Ifill, president and director-counsel of the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund, in a statement.

by Zenith Prince -NNPA

Rep. Donna Edwards, D-Md., who co-sponsored the Stop Militarizing Law Enforcement Act, also hailed the president's announcement.

"Last June, I was only one of 62 House members (43 Democrats) to support an amendment that would have prevented the Department of Defense from distributing heavy weapons and vehicles to local police forces. While I applaud the efforts and outrage our police departments continue to show each and every day, I feel that militarizing them will not solve the unrest that continues among our communities," Edwards said. "I thank the President for leading on this ongoing issue of building strong relationships between law enforcement officers and those who they serve and protect."

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What's Cook'n

Quick Blackberry Cobbler

Instructions

Ingredients

Recipe makes 8 Servings

- 1 cup(s) flour
- 1 1/2 cup(s) sugar
- 1 Tsp baking powder
- 1/2 Tsp salt
- 1/2 cup(s) unsalted butter
- 3/4 cup(s) 2% milk
- 2 Pt blackberries

1
Preheat oven to 350°F..

2
Sift together flour, 1 cup sugar, baking powder and salt in small bowl..

3
Melt butter in oven in 9 x 13-inch pan. When melted, pour in dry ingredients and milk to make batter..

4
Distribute blackberries evenly on top. Do not stir..

5
Distribute 1/2 cup sugar and sprinkle cinnamon on top..

6
Bake about 20 to 30 minutes or until a toothpick punctured in the crust comes out clean.



Jay-Z and Beyonce are Following a Rich

By Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr. NNPA Columnist
Hip-hop culture is about transformation. It is more than a global genre of music. Hip-hop is a transcendent cultural phenomena that speaks to the soul, mind, body and spirit of what it means to dare to change the world into a better place. Hip-hop is not just about acquiring funds or "stacking paper." It is also about giving back. I have personally been a long term advocate for the unbridled intellectual genius and social consciousness of hip-hop. So when I heard that recently Jay-Z and Beyoncé travelled together to Baltimore, Md. in the wake of the massive "Black Lives Matter" protests, I was not surprised. In fact, I give them both a big thumbs-up salute in gratitude for their leadership example. The

police killing of Freddie Gray was profound not only in Baltimore, but also across the nation. They did not wait for a "cooling off" period before going to the scene of the protests. Jay and Bey also spent some quality time consoling Freddie Gray's family. Giving back sometimes involves more than financial contributions. Taking sincere acts of solidarity and empathy with those who cry out for equal justice is also a meaningful expression of caring and lending one's public brand to support the demand for justice. One of the reasons why I believe that the combined creative talent of this gifted couple will continue to soar with career success is that they both believing in giving back. They give back substantively to their communities in New York, in Texas and throughout the world.



Getting wisdom is the most important thing you can do! And whatever else you do, get good judgement.

Proverbs 4:7

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Black Designer Lights Up GM

By Freddie Allen

WASHINGTON (NNPA) – If you're driving down a highway, street or tunnel anywhere in North America and you see the shimmering new headlights on the latest Cadillac, Chevrolet, GMC or Buick approaching you, there's a good chance you're seeing the work of Martin Davis, a talented, young African American designer who works for General Motors.

Since 2012, Davis has led the exterior lighting and design studio for the automaker's North American division, the team responsible for the exterior lighting for every brand under the General Motors' umbrella.

Davis traces his love for design and innovation back to elementary school. He didn't like Hot Wheels and the Lego sets that he owned weren't intricate enough to hold his attention even at 5 years old. He found that he didn't like any of the toys sold in the stores, so he started making his own. The Detroit-area native started collecting empty cardboard boxes that were used for transporting fruits and vegetables



Martin Davis, General Motors designer

grocery store, bring them home and just start cutting. He molded shapes with glue, tape and construction paper. There was a small closet in the entryway of his parents' house, just big enough for a chair and his creations: interior designs for a car including a dashboard and center console. Then he invited all of his friends over to "test drive" the car. He rolled out a new model about once a month. His father, then an employee at Ford

Motor Company's stamping plant in Dearborn, Mich., shut down young Martin's burgeoning auto operation fearing that letting the neighborhood kids play with cardboard in their closet presented a safety hazard. That didn't stop him from sharing his talent for design with others, including his father's employer.

"One day I decided to send my sketches into Ford. I was still in

middle school. I found an address to Ford in some magazine and put a few of my drawings in an envelope and put it in the mail," Davis explained. "I didn't tell my parents anything." A few months went by, and the young designer began to lose hope and figured that nothing would come of his letter. Then one day after school when he got home, his brother was waving a piece of paper at him.

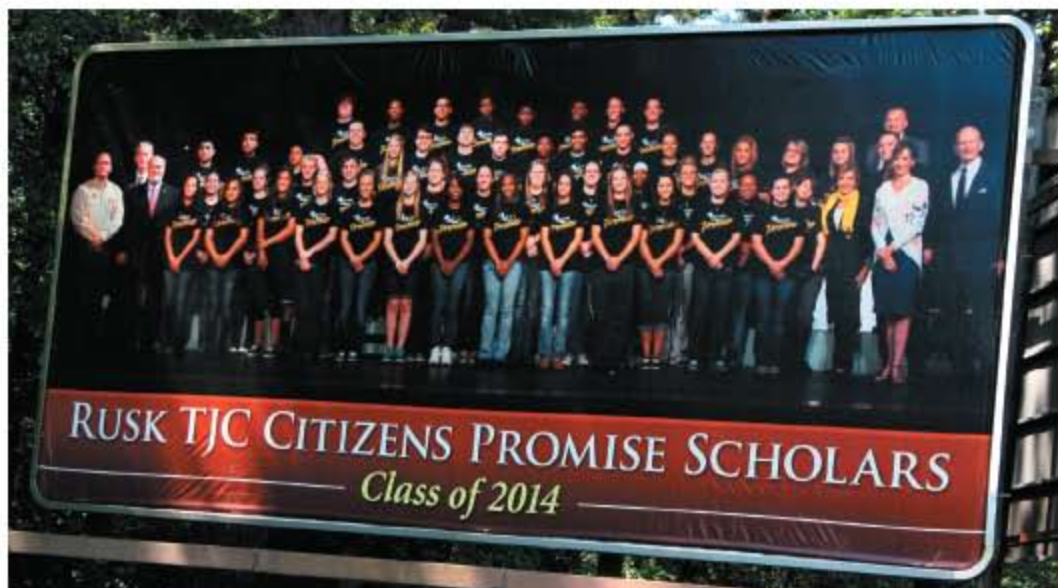
"This guy from Ford called you here's his number and he wants to call you back," Davis recalled his older brother saying.

So Davis anxiously dialed the number and the Ford employee who answered, thanked him for his interests and told him that he sent the drawings over to the design department, and that someone would get in contact with him.

He received a follow-up letter from the design department with some career advice and a list of schools.

The list of schools included his eventual choice. Following the advice that he receive

Continue page 5



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Census Data: Black Women, Children Struggle With Poverty

By Freddie Allen
Senior NNPA Washington
Correspondent

WASHINGTON (NNPA) – Despite relative improvement in job growth from 2013 to 2014, Black women continue to struggle in the economy, according to the latest statistics from the United States Census Bureau.

Valerie Wilson, an economist at the Economic Policy Institute (EPI) and the director of the Program on Race, Ethnicity, and the Economy, said that earnings for Black women have declined every year since 2011.

Wilson added that declining earnings for Black women also affects the poverty rates for Black children. "For most groups of children, poverty rates were down or unchanged, however for African American children, we saw an increase of about 3.4 percentage

poverty rate of White children.

Wilson continued: "When we look at what's happening with African American women earnings and the fact they've been down over the last three years and we continue to see increases in African American child poverty that tells a big part of the story given that large number of AA children live in single parent households headed by women." African Americans had the highest poverty rate at 26.2 percent while Whites had the lowest poverty rate at roughly 10 percent. Wage growth stalled in 2014 and from 2013 to 2014 median household incomes were essentially unchanged for all households.

"Given the fact that these incomes have not changed over the last year that leaves racial income

gaps largely unchanged as well," said Wilson.

Black households have just 59 cents for every dollar of White median household income, Wilson said.

Comparing the 2014 full-time, full-year earnings to the 2009 earnings numbers, Wilson found that while the earnings for non-Hispanic White men are down, earnings for Black men have improved slightly. Despite the improvements, large disparities still exist, however, Wilson said and Black men's earnings are still 70 cents on the dollar compared to White men. Elise Gould, a senior economist for the Economic Policy Institute (EPI), said that real median hourly wages fell between 2013 and 2014 and there was no improvement in median earnings of working-age households or any reductions in poverty.

"If anybody was ever wondering why the people of this country are feeling so ornery and expressing that in their political choices you

should look no further than this report," said Lawrence Mishel, the president of EPI.

Mishel also noted that the income of non-elderly households, those most dependent on the labor market, fell by 12.3 percent or \$8,500 dollars since 2000. Most of that decline occurred between 2007-2014 from the start of the Great Recession up through the current recovery.

"There's nothing normal about this economy for the typical American household or even for most households as reflected in these income poverty and earnings numbers," said Mishel. Gould agreed. "The economy is simply not working for the vast majority of Americans, said Gould. "Unfortunately, what we know about the labor market so far this year doesn't provide an optimistic picture of what things will look like next year at this time."

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Philippians 2:14-15

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