



TEXAS INFORMER

SPECIAL BLACK HISTORY ISSUE!



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Since 1995
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to
East Texas

Grapeland Principal Don Jackson a Life-changer

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Principal Don Jackson, Grapeland Elementary School principal, flanked by fifth grade students. He is a powerful, personable, professional who has initiated new extra curricular activities on campus to motivate his students. Read Story page 3.



EDITORIAL

**Patients
is
A
Virture**

from job experience, college, technical school, vocational school, preparation must come first in the list of priorities. It does not come instantly and most of the time, not with the first job.

Those of us who are set in our careers or who have completed the job and are now retired, have a story to tell about the struggles we faced in getting that degree, finding that just right job and earning, what we felt to be that great salary. But, every struggle was worth every benefit we are now reaping.

The natural order is to climb the ladder one step at a time beginning with step one. Starting at the top?.... Well, just think about it.

Congratulations to all of the 2014 high school and college graduates. You are about to embark upon a new season of your life. Make the most of it and enjoy! When the struggles come, be patient. You are destined to be great, but greatness takes time.!

Patients is a virture!

THE RESURRECTION

We hold so close to our hearts
The cross where Jesus died,
But so much more than the blood-stained cross
Is that Jesus came back to life

The stone's been rolled away;
The tomb lay open and bare —
They looked for Him, and then the angel said
That He is no longer here

Oh what joy they must have felt
To see Him just once more,
To eat with Him, to drink with Him,
To receive Him back as Lord

So much did He accomplish
Through His death upon the cross
And in His rising from the dead,
He reconciled us back to God

Nothing else could bridge the gap
That sin had wrenched apart —
Now we can freely go to God

And receive Christ in our hearts.

© By M.S.Lowndes

God is the Reason Why

In Pain - I Smile
In Confusion - I Understand
In Betrayal - I Trust
In Choas - I have Peace
In Scarcity _ I have Enough
In Weakness _ I Have Strength
In Agony -I Have Joy
In Fear - I Continue to Push
Forward

Happy Birthday Terri
Session Franklin
March 17th



Maxine Session, Editor

Students and teachers around Texas schools are preparing for the STAR Test. And spring fever has sprung. The students are excited because they feel that school is just about over. When high school ends in May, the doors will open to spill out many graduates seeking to find their fortune. It is sometimes difficult to convince young people to be patient when it comes to getting that dream job, earning that great salary, performing those extraordinary feats that are classed as great.

Those of us who have been there and done that know that

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DBA Texas Informer

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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 informernews08@aol.com. Letters smust include name of the sender.

Don Jackson Grapeland Principal nominated Life-changer of the year

Cover Story

Grapeland, TX.- Don Jackson, the principal teacher at Grapeland Elementary School in Grapeland, TX was recently named a 2016-2017 'LifeChanger of the Year' and presented an award in the amount of \$3,000. The presentation was made at a surprise ceremony during an in school assembly.

The school, Grapeland Elementary School is a PK-5th grade campus located in rural East Texas. Nearly 80% of the students struggle financially. Regardless, Mr. Jackson has come in and set high expectations for his campus.

The first thing Mr. Jackson instituted was a dress code that required the students to wear collared shirts to school with jeans and khaki pants or shorts. This initiative was matched by the teachers being asked to not wear jeans to school except on Fridays for spirit day. This initiative was created because of the importance of appearance and self-esteem.

Next, Mr. Jackson sought out to establish clubs on campus that would enrich student culture. The teachers were asked to nominate students who were leaders in their classrooms to become ambassadors for the campus and represent Grapeland Elementary in events around town. The ambassadors meet each Tuesday, go to local businesses, attend school board meetings and played an instrumental role in promoting a bond election for the school. The next club Mr. Jackson formed was called Young Businessmen. This group of young men meets each Thursday and must wear a tie and khaki pants to school. Local businessmen from town are brought in to meet with them and teach the importance of having great character and getting a great education. As a reward for their good behavior, Mr. Jackson stays after school with the students on Thursdays so they

can perform a community service task around the school and have recreational play. Mr. Jackson has also instituted a choir club, a book club and a club for GT students. The students at Grapeland Elementary are taught character along with the curriculum and start each day with a motivational message from Mr. Jackson. During announcements, he is known to either play a song or break out into a song on the PA system. Each Wednesday, students in 2nd-5th grade gather in the gym for a 15-minute motivational message from the principal. The students are taught life lessons that are aimed to inspire them to be great students to create aspirations for a lifetime. This program is called REACH (Relationships, Encouragement, Attitudes, Coaching and Help).

Finally, Mr. Jackson has established a program that has students stretching and reaching their way to success. The program is called Triple A, which stands for Attendance, Attitudes and Academics. Students who have no absences, above a 90 in conduct and at least a 75 or higher in all classes are recognized as Triple A and get to go on a fun field trip every 6 weeks.

In conclusion, Mr. Jackson is committed to being a role model his students will look up to and be inspired by. His monthly callout to his students' parents, as well as the awards assemblies he holds each 6-week period, keep the halls filled with parental involvement. He even finds time to call students who are absent from school each day to let them know how they are missed. This connection with his community is further enhanced by working directly with the schools' PTO group which is 70 strong, become a collaborative force. It is apparent that Mr. Jackson looks, listens, learns, leads and loves his students, staff and parents. He is a powerful, personable, professional and positive difference-maker who is a communicator, collaborator, and connector while remaining calm,



Don and Darlene Jackson

Principal Jackson is approachable and accessible. His humble beginning as a child of a single mother has created a man with high energy, effort and enthusiasm.

Jackson was selected as a LifeChanger of the Year winner out of more than 720 teachers, administrators and school district employees nominated for the award from all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

The award was presented by representatives from National Life and Retirement Education Partners, an affiliate of National Life Group. Jackson's wife, Darlene, and students, Christy Boyd, Jo Beth Douglas, Bobby Bateman, and Rosa David nominated him for the award.

Don and Darlene have three children Kristen, Landon and Kara. He has been in Grapeland only two years but has already found what works for the students he has come to know and love. When asked how he discovered programs that work so well for the students he said, "Just based on chances to teach character. God has been good to me. To God be the glory."

I can do nothing of myself, but I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. He also said working with the children is truly a passion with him."

Darlene is retired.

Christianity



A Christian is one who believes in Christ Jesus and follows His teachings.

My Responsibility To The Church

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP - When an individual is saved and joins the church, he or she becomes a member of the body of Christ (1 Cor. 12:13) because he is united with Christ and the other members of the body. (1 Cor. 5:4; 14:23; and Heb. 10:25).

I am to:

1. receive instruction from God's Word (1 Tim. 4:13; 2 Tim. 4:2)
2. learn scripture (memorize and teach to my children).
3. proclaim the gospel to those who are lost (Matt. 28:18 - 20).
4. live my life as an example to others

MY RELATIONSHIP to the CHURCH is to SUPPORT the CHURCH:

1. with my presence
2. with gifts and tithes (Rom. 12: 3-8; 1 Cor. 12 : 4-31; 1 Pet. 4:10-11)
3. with my service (Rom. 12:3-8; 1 Cor. 12:4-31; 1 Pet. 4:10-11)
4. with prayers (for the church and my brothers and sisters in Christ) Acts 2:42).

What Must I Do To Be Saved?

Romans 10:9-10 (NIV)

(9) If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

(10) For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.



Singer Al Jarreau Dies at age 76

Al Jarreau, the legendary jazz singer who won seven Grammy awards, died Sunday, Feb. 12, 2017, according to multiple news sources. He was 76. His death came two days after an announcement was made on his website that he was retiring from touring because of exhaustion. The singer's death was announced in a statement by his manager, Joe Gordon. Gordon said that instead of flowers or gifts, Jarreau's family requested contributions be made to the Wisconsin Foundation for School Music. Jarreau was born March 12, 1940, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. His father was a minister, and he started singing in church as a young boy. Jarreau told the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel it was at Lincoln High School where "my love of music and singing really deepened. I began to have ideas of taking this as far as it could go. And I kept dreaming that dream and nourishing that dream."

Jarreau released 20 albums during his career and is the only Grammy-winning singer to win in the jazz, pop, and rhythm and blues categories. His marriage to Phyllis Hall ended in divorce.

Survivors include his wife of 39 years, Susan Player, and a son from his second marriage.

Never one to stay in one physical or musical place for long, Mr. Jarreau described his constantly evolving approach to music to the Chicago Tribune in 1989.

"Jazz, whatever we think its purest form is, is a dynamic and changing form," he said. "It will never be the jazz of the 1930s and '40s and '50s, because it's changing and responding to its environment. That environment includes the influences of Michael Jackson, Sting and hip-hop just as much as Charlie Parker or bebop."

Jarreau performed many concerts during the past year including one for President Barack Obama at the White House.

The legendary Apollo Theater tweeted, "IN HONOR OF A TRUE JAZZ LEGEND YOUR LEGACY WILL LAST FOREVER"



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Civil Rights Leaders Meet with Attorney General Jeff Sessions



PHOTO CAPTION: (From left-right) Marc Morial, the president and CEO of the National Urban League; Wade Henderson, the president and CEO of the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights and The Leadership Conference Education Fund; Sherrilyn Ifill, the president and director-counsel of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund; Kristen Clarke, the president and executive director of the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights under the Law; and Melanie Campbell, the president and CEO of the National

By Lauren Victoria Burke (NNPA
Newswire Contributor)

Earlier this month, leaders from six civil rights groups met with Attorney General Jeff Sessions at the Justice Department to discuss a range of issues that are critical to the Black community.

The meeting was attended by Kristen Clarke, the president and executive director of the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights under the Law; Sherrilyn Ifill, the president and director-counsel of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund; Marc Morial, the president and CEO of the National Urban League; Melanie Campbell, the president and CEO of the National Coalition on Black Civic Participation; Reverend Al Sharpton, the president of the National Action Network; and Wade Henderson, the president and CEO of the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights and The Leadership Conference Education Fund.

The leaders expressed their concerns about the future of the civil rights gains made under the Obama Administration. They also expressed concerns about the recent rash of hate crimes, the consent decree involving Baltimore's police department and the impact that any potential, "mythical" voting fraud investigation could have on voters' rights. During an interview with Fox News earlier this year, President Donald Trump announced that

Vice President Mike Pence would lead a commission to investigate allegations of voter fraud.

ThinkProgress.org reported that President Trump claimed that he would have won the popular vote if it were not for three to five million illegal votes. President Trump has never offered any evidence to support this claim.

"I asked [Attorney General Sessions] to counsel the president against the creation of such a task force and a commission, because that commission will be seen to intimidate our communities," said Ifill. "In the absence of any evidence of voter fraud, he should be counseling the president away from such a course. We don't need an investigation into something that doesn't exist."

Ifill continued: "We should not be crediting the fantasies of this president at the cost of African Americans and Latinos feeling secure that they're not being intimidated from voting and participating in the process." According to the Brennan Center for Justice at New York University School of Law, a non-partisan public policy and law institute, "claims of voter fraud are frequently used to justify policies that do not solve the alleged wrongs, but that could well disenfranchise legitimate voters. less than one hour, Henderson said that the attorney general did acknowledge his awareness of the importance of Civil Rights.

Delicious Chicken Broccoli Casserole



Ingredients:

- 4 skinless, boneless chicken breast halves
 - 1 pound broccoli florets, cooked
 - Broccoli
 - 1 (10.75 ounce) can condensed cream of mushroom soup
 - 1 tablespoon mayonnaise
 - Mayonnaise
 - 1 cup shredded Cheddar cheese
 - 1 cup dry stuffing mix
- Add all ingredients

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C).

Boil chicken until tender and shred or cut into bite size pieces. Meanwhile, steam broccoli until crisp but tender.

In a small bowl mix together the soup and mayonnaise. Set aside. In a 9x13 inch baking dish layer the chicken, broccoli, soup mixture, and cheese. Sprinkle dry stuffing mix over the top and bake in the preheated oven for 25-30 minutes.

Mt. Olive Baptist Church
Rusk Texas

Pastor & Wife Appreciation

May 21, 2017-Time: 3:00pm

Speaker -Rev. Jimmy Foreman

West Union Faith Ministry

Rusk, Texas

Pastor: Rev. Jerry

Leviston

& wife Ann Leviston

What's Cook'n?

Pan Roasted Salmon with green Beans and Baby Potatoes

Total time: 45 minutes
makes 4 servings

Some nights, you just want dinner to cook itself, right? Until someone figures that out, we present the next best thing: the One-Pan Dinner. All the goodies go into one pan: well-seasoned salmon, fresh green beans and baby potatoes. Roast them to golden perfection. Sure, there are fancier ways to serve salmon. You can definitely get more complicated. But for an easy meal your family will request time and again, this is the one.

Ingredients:

- 2 tablespoons olive oil, divided
 - 1 teaspoon dried dill, divided
 - 1 tablespoon butter, melted
 - 1 pound baby red or yellow potatoes, halved
 - 1 (12-ounce) bag fresh green beans
 - 4 frozen Simply Balanced Salmon Fillets, thawed according to package directions
 - 1 lemon, halved
 - 3 tablespoons finely chopped onion
- Directions:

Heat oven to 400 degrees F. Whisk 1 tablespoon olive oil, 1/2 teaspoon dill, 1/2 teaspoon salt and 1/4 teaspoon pepper in a large bowl. Add potatoes; toss to coat. Transfer potatoes to a large rimmed baking pan, at least 10 x 15 inches. Bake 20 minutes. In same bowl, toss green beans with remaining 1 tablespoon olive oil. Season with salt and pepper. Push potatoes to edge of pan and arrange salmon in center. Drizzle salmon with butter and juice of half a lemon. Season with 1/2 teaspoon salt, 1/2 teaspoon dill, dash pepper and onion. Arrange beans around and over potatoes and salmon. Bake 12 to 15 minutes until salmon is cooked through* and vegetables are tender. Serve with lemon wedges.

*Cook salmon to an internal temperature of 145 degrees F (62.8 degrees C).

nutrition information (per serving)
370 calories; 15g total fat; 4g total saturated fat; 115mg cholesterol; 95mg sodium; 25g carbohydrates;

First African American Family History Day Held



Saturday February 25, 2017, the Stella Hill Memorial Library in conjunction with the Cherokee county Historical Commission held its first African-American Family History Day. This event was planned to assist African-American family members in beginning to document their families past. The library provide binder and copy equipment to help each family began their journey into the past. There has been space for these binders in the resource room of the library for family to add information to there history as it becomes available.

"We had families as far away as Dallas that welcome this information and opportunity to discover more about their past", stated George Martin.

The Photo above pictures families who attended the Day. The Callie Williams Polk family members came from Dallas. They still own land in Alto. Also pictured are George Martin, Linda Skinner and Dr. Richard Hackney.

A Salute to Educators

Irene Colston Joyce

Pamela Joyce Townson



Irene Colston Joyce is a 1960 graduate of G. W. Bradford High School and a 1964 graduate of Texas College at Tyler, Texas. She began her teaching career in 1964 at Grapeland ISD where she taught 2nd grade.

Irene continued her career in the Alto Independent School District where she taught 1st grade and Remedial Reading 32 years.

Irene retired in 1997 and returned to work as a substitute teacher for the Rusk Independent School District. She enjoys attending church at Blount's Chapel Baptist Church where she is a part-time musician and dedicated member. She also enjoys traveling, gardening and spending time with her granddaughter, Ireana.

Irene lives in Rusk.



Pamela Joyce Townson is a 1991 graduate of Rusk High School. She has worked in the field of education approximately 20 years. She attended college at Tyler Junior College, and the University of Texas at Austin. She began her teaching career at Rusk Primary School teaching 1st grade. She later taught 7th grade English at Jacksonville Middle School and she worked three years as a counselor there. Currently Pamela is a graduate student at Stephen F. Austin State University and is completing an internship with Cherokee County Special Services Association.

Pamela will graduate in May with a Masters's Degree in Special Education with an Educational Diagnostician Certification. She is married to Tracy Townson and they have one daughter, Ireana.

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Rusk, TX. - Pictured above are Lapoleon Atkins and Vester Tilley. The Cherokee Brotherhood organization held a raffle recently. Vester Tilley won the 50 inch television which was presented to him by Lapolen, a member of the organization.

Pearline Doty Newsome celebrates 89th birthday

Church discovers remains of burned cross and vandalism



Pearline Doty Newsome enjoys opening gifts in celebration of her birthday.

Jacksonville, TX- Pearline Newsome recently celebrated her 89th birthday surrounded by family and friends. She was presented money and other gifts as she enjoyed good conversation and a chicken and spaghetti dinner. Some of those present were the hostess Sandra Newsome Thompson,

her sisters and brothers from Houston, Charles and Hazel Doty, Theresa Franklin, Ethel Newsome, Walter and Maxine Session, her neighbors and church family.

Her birthday was January 31st.

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Summer Levert

Navy's first African-American, female Boatswains Mate (BM) chief warrant officer; Story by Petty Officer 2nd Class Brent Pyfrom



NORFOLK, Va. - There is always a first. In the Navy so many firsts are spoken about that they become test questions. Well here's one more first, the Navy's first African-American, female Boatswains Mate (BM) chief warrant officer; Chief Warrant Officer 2 Summer Levert.

Levert is assigned to the amphibious transport dock ship USS Mesa Verde (LPD 19) as the ship's Bos'n. The ship's Bos'n is an officer who is the subject matter expert on all major seamanship functions and the maintenance of topside gear.



Remains of log cross burned on the grounds of local church.

Alto, Tx. - On Saturday morning members of St. Thomas Chapel AME Church gathered at the Church for a prayer breakfast. The attendance was great and the service went well according to members.

The next morning when Larry Jenkins arrived to open the church for Sunday School and Sunday worship service he found what he describes as a "shock". There on the front lawn was a still smoking cross that someone had set on fire. A window in the front of the church was broken, the water hydrant to the eastside of the building had been broken and water was running down

the campus. The sheriff's department was called out to investigate. They later reported that it was found not to be a hate crime, but they still have not identified the suspect or suspects who caused the damage.

Church members and others who saw the cross and the damage identify the carefully placed logs, which were dragged from the nearby woods, as a burned cross and believe someone was trying to send a "hatefilled" message similar to those that African Americans have been harrassed with over the years. Ms. Dixon another one of the members said they Thank God the problem was discovered before it grew larger.



HAPPY MARCH BIRTHDAY!

- Preston Meador - 2nd
- Mary Bell -6th
- Tamarra Session Richards - 11th
- Tuina Dennis O'Connor- 20th
- Brenda Roberts - 23rd
- Benita Scott -13th
- Jearline Bell - 27th

- Terri Session Franklin - 17th
- Georgia Dennis - 27th
- Willie Ann Scott- 18th
- Quandasa Scott - 9th
- Immogene Cooper - 27th
- Evelyn Sims - 31st
- Sherman Johnson - 5th
- Shirley Jones - 8th

HEALTH

NATIONAL NUTRITION MONTH: TIPS TO IMPROVE HEALTH

Society for Public Health Education (SOPHE) encourages everyone to try new and healthy foods

WASHINGTON –Although March is officially National Nutrition Month, anytime is a good time to eat more nutritiously, points out the Society for Public Health Education (SOPHE). SOPHE offers 10 tips to help African-Americans eat more nutritiously.

“National Nutrition Month is an opportunity for everyone to learn more about nutrition and try new and healthy foods. Eating healthy foods can help weight management and lower risk for many chronic diseases like heart disease, type 2 diabetes, and cancer, which especially affects many African-Americans” said Elaine Auld, CEO of SOPHE.

Go fresh. Choose fresh seafood, lean poultry, and beans as your protein source. If using ground meats, choose 93 percent lean ground turkey or ground sirloin beef.

Measure portions. It is easy to overeat on snacks. Measure one serving so you can save room for the main course.

Favor whole grains. Brown rice is a

whole grain and has more nutrients than white rice. Buy or bake whole grain breads and baked goods.

Use the plate method. Fill half of your plate with non-starchy vegetables. Fill one quarter of your plate with a lean protein. Then fill one quarter of your plate with a starchy food, like a baked potato.

Use healthy cooking methods. Grill your chicken, fish, or vegetables. You can also try baking, steaming, or broiling. Small amounts of vegetable oil, olive oil, or cooking spray are better options.

Beans make a great protein source. Use dried beans when you can. They are lower in sodium than canned varieties. Always drain and rinse canned beans to remove excess sodium.

Go easy on the cheese and sour cream. Cheese is high in saturated fat and in sodium. Try reduced-fat cheeses. Non-fat Greek or plain yogurt and non-fat plain yogurt have a similar taste and texture like sour cream for much less calories and fat.

Cut your portion size when eating out. If you eat out, split the meal with someone else, eat half the meal and bring home leftovers, or order a

kid-sized meal.

Snack on fruits and vegetables. Keep a bowl of fruit out on a table or counter to encourage healthy snacking. Pre-cut veggies and make “grab and go” packets.

Pack your lunch. Skip eating out and bring your lunch.

Eating healthy foods and changing habits can lead to positive results, notes Auld. Researchers report that nearly half of African-Americans are obese.[1] Auld is working with SOPHE members and other partners to decrease those numbers. “We want to help African-American communities, families and individuals overcome the barriers to good health,” said Auld. “We want to make healthy living easier where people live, learn, work, and play.”

The Society for Public Health Education is partnering in a three-year nationwide project called the National Implementation and Dissemination for Chronic Disease Prevention, funded by the Centers for Disease Control and

partnering4health.org.

Infographic available: Download “Eat well. Spend less” (if you need assistance downloading infographics, please email ami@steppingstonellc.com)

Photo available by request - contact ami@steppingstonellc.com for photos

Some tips adapted from the National Diabetes Association.

Follow #Partnering4Health

Media contact: Brigitte Johnson, APR, bjohnson@sophe.org or 202.408.9804

If we stand tall it is because we stand on the vbacks of those who came before us.
~Yoruba proverb.

You don't own the future you don't own the past, Today is all you have. Love your family...show it....tell it!

LEGAL NOTICE

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| Game # | Game Name / Odds | \$ | Official Close of Game | End Validities Date |
|--------|---|------|------------------------|---------------------|
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| 1769 | \$250,000 Extreme Green Overall Odds are 1 in 3.19 | \$10 | 3/26/17 | 9/22/17 |
| 1772 | Cash 2 Go Overall Odds are 1 in 4.08 | \$1 | 3/27/17 | 9/23/17 |
| 1816 | Veterans Cash Overall Odds are 1 in 4.14 | \$2 | 4/1/17 | 9/28/17 |
| 1819 | Hipster Holiday Overall Odds are 1 in 4.70 | \$1 | 5/3/17 | 10/30/17 |
| 1770 | Wild 7's Doubler Overall Odds are 1 in 4.09 | \$2 | 5/3/17 | 10/30/17 |
| 1782 | Crazy Cash Overall Odds are 1 in 4.09 | \$5 | 5/3/17 | 10/30/17 |
| 1796 | Super Loteria Overall Odds are 1 in 3.77 | \$5 | 5/3/17 | 10/30/17 |
| 1811 | \$100,000 Cash Overall Odds are 1 in 4.11 | \$5 | 5/3/17 | 10/30/17 |
| 1815 | Garland Riches Overall Odds are 1 in 3.89 | \$5 | 5/3/17 | 10/30/17 |
| 1818 | Holiday Countdown Super Ticket™ Overall Odds are 1 in 3.45 | \$10 | 5/3/17 | 10/30/17 |

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 ~Lynette Harris

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Texas Democratic Women set Meeting
 Texas Democratic Women of Cherokee County and the Cherokee County Democratic Club will meet on Thursday, March 23, at Don Felix's Restaurant in Jacksonville, TDW at 6:30 and CCDC at 7:00. Alison Hale of H. O. P. E. will be the speaker.

We had a huge turnout for the Feb. meeting. See you Thursday and bring a friend!

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Silence is Not an Option: Rev. Barber on Dr. King's Historic "Beyond Vietnam" Speech 50 Years Later

Rev. William Barber

April 4th marks the 50th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King's groundbreaking speech against the Vietnam War, delivered on April 4, 1967, a year to the day before he was murdered. From 1961 through 1966, King wrote an annual dispatch for *The Nation* from the front lines of the civil rights movement.

Writing for *The Nation* today, author and professor Eric Tang reflects on "A Society Gone Mad on War": The Enduring Importance of Martin Luther King's Riverside Speech." He writes:

"The Riverside speech was his declaration of no confidence in the nation's leading liberals, particularly the Johnson administration. On this spring evening in front of packed pews, exactly one year before his assassination, King explained how the US leaders who had championed civil rights protections were never truly invested in full equality for African Americans. The clearest evidence of this was their murderous foray into Vietnam. King correctly understood that so long as liberals sent armies abroad to perpetrate racial violence they could never plausibly achieve true racial equality at home." Rev. Dr. William Barber, civil rights correspondent for *The Nation* and president of the NAACP in North Carolina, discussed Dr. King's historic speech on *Democracy Now!* on Monday morning. *The Nation* was one of very, very few outlets to defend Dr. King in the

wake of the speech, Barber said:

"Dr. King was very clear that you can never separate isms, the truisms of racism, materialism, or classism, and militarism. And he was very clear about that. He knew that the prophetic role of the preacher or religious leader or moral leader is to challenge, if you will, the soul and the heart of the nation. If you listen to his voice and his words, he was very clear.... Some say that something like 150 newspapers wrote articles against him the next week. Even civil rights organizations passed resolutions against him. Unions did the same thing—not all, but some. I know that there was one place, *The Nation* magazine, stuck with him, but many pulled away—his own staff. But he understood, as a moral leader, that we had to challenge.

Now, the question is—and the reason we're at the Press Club today is because Repairers of the Breach and the Kairos Center from Union, we are convening and launching "The Souls of Poor Folk: Auditing America 50 Years After the Poor People's Campaign Challenged Racism, Materialism, Poverty and Our National Morality," because, you know, after that speech, he went into the Poor People's Campaign. Where are we on these same issues today? Where are we, really, on racism, when we see 22 states in this country are passing systemic race-based voter suppression laws and we

have less voting rights protection today than we had in 1965 with the gutting of the Civil Rights—of the Voting Rights Act? Where are we, when we have the second-highest level of child poverty, when we have exorbitant and extreme inequalities when it comes to wages? Where are we, when we don't even hardly use the word "poor" in our public and political conversation? Where are we, when we just a few weeks ago saw an out-of-control military strike kill 200 innocent citizens, and some 400,000 citizens were killed during the Iraq War, that we should have never gone into? Where are we, when we're talking about expanding an already bloated military budget and spending money, some \$54 billion, that if we war against poverty and a modern call for healthcare and education, we use that same money in a modern-day could do so much more? Where are we, when we just saw our Congress debate on a fundamental

human rights issue, healthcare, and argue that it was wrong to provide people healthcare, and wanting to engage in the worst attacks on the poor that we've seen since the war on poverty? So, we need a very serious audit, but also we need an action. And many of us are saying we can't just remember Dr. King's speech or his actions. So, together, we've also called for the national Moral Revival Poor People/Poor Children Campaign to start in 2018, beginning with this audit, but the audit then leading to action. And we're bringing economists and theologians and political scientists and poor people around the table to say not just how we remember, but how do we re-engage and reinstitute the Poor People's Campaign with all of its trimmings, including civil disobedience, from the state up and even in the capital of this country, Washington, D.C.

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Minority Business Development Agency Seeking Nominations for 2017

National MED Week Awards Agency Marks 35th Anniversary of MED Week Celebration

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Department of Commerce, Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) is seeking nominations for the 2017 National Minority Enterprise Development (MED) Week Awards. This year marks the 35th anniversary of the annual awards designed to honor organizations, businesses and individuals that have demonstrated leadership and commitment in advancing the minority business community and our Nation's economy. "This is an excellent opportunity to recognize the many champions within the minority business community on a national stage," said Acting MBDA National Director Edith J. McCloud. "These awards are part of MBDA's legacy and we're extremely proud to host them each year. We encourage everyone to submit their nominations as soon as possible."

There are three main award categories: Minority-Owned Firms, Champions of Minority Business Development, and Individual Recognition (a complete list of categories is available online at <https://medweek.mbda.gov>).

MBDA encourages nominations from chambers of commerce, business and trade associations, prime

contractors, federal, state and local government agencies, and individual business owners (self-nominations allowed). All nominations must be submitted online at <https://medweek.mbda.gov> no later than May 1, 2017. The 2017 MED Week award winners are scheduled to be announced in July and the winners will receive their awards during National MED Week October 22-28, 2017, in Detroit. For questions, please contact the MBDA National MED Week Program Coordinator Antavia Grimsley at 202-482-7458 or agrimsley@mbda.gov. About the Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA)

MBDA, www.mbda.gov, is the only Federal agency dedicated to the growth and global competitiveness of U.S. minority-owned businesses. Our programs and services better equip minority-owned firms to create jobs, build scale and capacity, increase revenues and expand regionally, nationally and internationally. Services are provided through a network of MBDA Business Centers. After 47 years of service, MBDA continues to be a dedicated strategic partner to all U.S. minority-owned businesses, committed to providing programs and services that build size, scale and capacity through access to capital, contracts and markets. Follow us on Twitter @usmbda.

Black Press Honors Donna Brazil



WASHINGTON/March NNPA Newswire/—The National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) will honor veteran Democratic strategist Donna Brazile with the 2017 Torch Award for Outstanding Leadership and Achievement in Political Empowerment during Black Press Week 2017 (March 22-March 24) in the nation's capital. Brazile, who is also an author, syndicated columnist and television political commentator, will receive the award at the 2017 NNPA Torch Awards Dinner on Thursday, March 23 at The Dupont Circle Hotel. The NNPA will also honor Wade Henderson, the president and CEO of the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights and the Leadership Conference Education Fund, and Roy Lewis, an award-winning photographer for The Washington Informer. NNPA members, partners and

sponsors from across the country travel to the nation's capital for the annual celebration of the Black Press. This year, the trade group will commemorate the 190th anniversary of the launch of the Black Press. On March 16, 1827, John Russwurm and Reverend Samuel Cornish, published the first edition of the "Freedom's Journal." Black Press Week 2017 will feature a joint welcome reception hosted by the NNPA and the National Association of Hispanic Publications (NAHP), an enshrinement ceremony honoring the memory of Lenora "Doll" Carter, meetings with members of Congress on Capitol Hill, and a public education workshop on the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The public education workshop will take place on Friday, March 24 from 8am-10am at The Dupont Circle Hotel; the event will also be livestreamed. The NNPA recently received a media grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to create a public awareness campaign about ESSA, the education law signed by President Barack Obama in December 2015. Black Press Week attendees will also participate in panel discussions on advertising, brand development, and ethnic media and politics in the age of President Trump.

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4 Generations of family service

United Methodist Men Tribute and Memorial Honor to the Legacy of NNPA Publisher and Attorney James C. Belt, Jr.



Attorney James C. Belt, Jr.

A tribute, memorial and to honor the legacy of Attorney James C. Belt, Jr. was held Saturday, February 27th at Paul Quin College, Dallas, Texas by the United Methodist Men of Dallas.

The JAMES C. BELT LIFE TIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD was presented to Ambassador Ron Kirk, former United States Trade Representative.

The 2017 HONORS BRUNCH was sponsored by St. Luke "Community" United Methodist Church where Dr. Michael Bowie, Jr. is the Senior Pastor.

Attorney Belt was Co-publisher of the Dallas Examiner Newspaper along with his wife Mollie F. Belt for almost thirty years.

Belt held strong spiritual beliefs and was dedicated to serving the Lord. For close to 40 years, he was a dedicated member of St. Luke Community United Methodist Church, where he was an active member of the Good News Sunday School Class. Each year, the class would offer scholarships to college

students and automobiles for those in need of transportation. He was a founder and tri-chairman of the St. Luke Community Leadership Luncheon. He also served as a trustee board chairman at St. Luke.

For close to 40 years, he served the community as a civil and criminal lawyer. He received his Bachelor of Business Administration Degree from Pan American University, Edinburg, in 1968. And went on to earn a Juris Doctorate from Thurgood Marshall School of Law at Texas Southern University in Houston in 1977. He opened his private practice in the heart of South Dallas, where he served those who needed him most.

Belt sat on the board of the National Newspaper Publisher Association, the official Black Press of America, the NNPA Foundation Board and the Texas Publishers Association Board.

As co-publisher of the Dallas Examiner he served as more of a silent partner and advisor, but it was his support that helped The Dallas

Examiner continue to serve the community for almost 30 years.

He was the founder of the Dallas Black Criminal Bar Association – an organization of Black lawyers in the private practice of law in Dallas County. He was a member of the National Bar Association, Texas Bar Association, J.L. Turner Legal Association and the Inns of Court.

In September, he received the Living Legends award from J.L. Turner Legal Association. As a well-respected leader in the community and activist, he also served the community by offering his words of wisdom and years of knowledge and experience. During the early 2000s, he co-hosted Dallas Examiner Live on KNON Radio. He previously sat on the Texas Southern University Board of Regents in Houston, Dallas Area Rapid Transit Board and the Texas Rural Foundation Board.

He was also a lifetime member of the NAACP.

Ms J's 411



Furlich July

Family and friends are hidden treasures. No matter what family we are a part of, it's the one the Lord gave us. Therefore celebrate family. We should thank the Lord for them, and ask Him to help us cherish them. Remember that they are not perfect, neither are we. We should support them and love all family well and wisely. Life isn't promised to any of us so forgive, make amends, have peace of mind and remember family first. The family that prays together, stays together. Until next time take care of yourself.

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