

TEXAS INFORMER



TEXAS PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION

October 2015
Volume XX Number 5

Web: www.texasinformer.com
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P.O. Box 332
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Bringing you positive news about local people since 1995!

Floyd Anthony Franklin presented ETMC WOW Award



Floyd Anthony Franklin, Registered Nurse, of Rusk receives the "WOW AWARD" from Dr. Elmer Ellis, Regional President ETMC

Former Rusk High School and NFL Football player, Cody Glenn will be presented and NFL Award at the Rusk High School Eagle Swink Football Stadium on Friday Night November 6, 2015

The Cherokee Brotherhood is selling tickets for raffle of flatscreen television. The ticket drawing will be held at the Rusk Eagle Swink Football Stadium on Friday night November 6, 2015

Dedication of Texas and United States Flags to fly at Rusk Memorial Cemetery will be held Sunday evening November 15th at 2 0'clock p.m. at the Cemetery Beale Street entrance.

On Saturday, November 1, 2015 The clocks fall back by an hour as America returns to Standard Time. This signals lighter mornings and an extra hour in bed.

Pope Francis Visits Whitehouse



Pope Francis and President Barack Obama

On Wednesday, September 23rd, 2015, Pope Francis arrived at the White House in Washington D.C. for a State Arrival Ceremony being the third pope to have ever visited the white house. The event was held on the South Lawn of the White House with President Barack Obama and numerous other government officials in attendance. As ex officio head of state of Vatican City, Pope Francis delivered a speech at the event (see full transcript below). A private meeting between President Barack Obama and Pope Francis also occurred at this time.

The Pope addressed the waiting crowd and a joint session of Congress. Some of what he said follows.

Economic Equality

Francis's opinions on economic equality are not a secret, and he again quoted his latest encyclical while talking about the importance of an even distribution of wealth: It goes without saying that part of this great effort is the creation and distribution of wealth. ... "Business is a noble vocation, directed to producing wealth and improving the world. It can be a fruitful source

of prosperity for the area in which it operates, especially if it sees the creation of jobs as an essential part of its service to the common good" "Pope Francis' vision of the economy is, like his vision of the natural world, delightfully ecological," says Bruenig. "Businesses need to serve their community niches by creating jobs, operating sustainably, and making sure that the whole community can benefit from their presence." He Challenged Politicians Not to be Slaves to Finance

His prepared remarks contained this passage: If politics must truly be at the service of the human person, it follows that it cannot be a slave to the economy and finance. Politics is, instead, an expression of our compelling need to live as one, in order to build as one the greatest common good: that of a community which sacrifices particular interests in order to share, in justice and peace, its goods, its interests, its social life. I do not underestimate the difficulty that this involves, but I encourage you in this effort

Letters to the Editor

Good afternoon Ms. Maxine, It was so wonderful to talk with you today! I absolutely loved visiting the Texas Informer website. Happy 20th Anniversary!!! You and Mr. Walter do an outstanding job! As a community, we are extremely fortunate to have the both of you! :-)

I have attached the information regarding the Fred Douglass efforts. I am including a great deal of information/photos, and I understand that space is limited, so please feel free to select and print information within you guidelines. Thank you so much for publishing the information. Blessings, Tracey Wallace

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Musician Appreciation Scheduled

Mt. Olive Baptist Church Musician Appreciation has been scheduled for Sunday evening, October 18, 2015 at 3:00pm. Rev. Lawrence Brown of Rising Star Baptist Church of Grapeland will be the speaker for the occasion. Musicians are: Ms. Poinsetta Robbins, Mr. Shardon Toliver and Mr. Dre' Session. Pastor, Jerry Leviston Choir President, Mary Foreman

The public is invited to attend

Then shalt thou call, and the Lord shall answer; thou shall cry, and He shall say, here I am. ~Isaiah 58:9



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Happy Birthday Shirley Clark
October 5th

LEGAL NOTICE

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

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1669	\$1 Lottery Ticket Overall Odds are 1 in 4.42	\$1	12/2/15	5/30/16
1675	Lucky 7's Overall Odds are 1 in 4.70	\$1	12/2/15	5/30/16
1664	10X The Cash Overall Odds are 1 in 4.51	\$2	12/2/15	5/30/16
1667	Tetris® Overall Odds are 1 in 4.55	\$2	12/2/15	5/30/16
1613	Bonus Cashword Overall Odds are 1 in 3.45	\$3	12/2/15	5/30/16
1665	20X The Cash Overall Odds are 1 in 3.83	\$5	12/2/15	5/30/16
1685	Golden 7's Overall Odds are 1 in 4.09	\$5	12/2/15	5/30/16
1703	Golden Ticket Overall Odds are 1 in 3.70	\$5	12/2/15	5/30/16

For detailed odds and game information, visit texaslottery.org or call 1-800-375-6666. Must be 18 or older to purchase a ticket. The Texas Lottery supports Texas education and veterans. © 2015 Texas Lottery Commission. All rights reserved.



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 must include name of the sender.

Floyd Anthony Franklin Receives ETMC WOW AWARD

by Maxine Session

Floyd Anthony Franklin of Rusk, Texas, is a Registered Nurse who works radiology prep and holding, and pre-post cath at the ETMC Tyler Cardiovascular Institute. He recently received the service hero award called the "WOW AWARD". This award is presented to dedicated professional nurses whose commitment to compassionate care and exceptional service to their patients can be seen by their efforts every shift of every day. Floyd, a 24 year nurse with a 17 year ETMC nurse and manager career, coordinates the Pre-post heart catheterization department, opening it daily and preparing patients for cardiac procedures. His patients have experienced chest pain, or abnormal stress test or open heart surgery. He had this to say, "Good customer service is why we are all here. We want to provide the best care possible. I treat my patients the way I would expect my family to be treated."

Throughout his 17 year career with ETMC, Floyd has worked PRN Pool, floating everywhere in the hospital, ICU Medical and Trauma. Five years ago he went into management in orthopedics.

Floyd is certified as an Orthopedic Nurse, Medical Surgical Nurse, ACLS Nurse and certified Translator who speaks very fluent Spanish.

Floyd graduated Jacksonville High School in 1984. After working for a short period he entered the United States Army where he was stationed in Panama. His job was Food Inspector. His Company was Med-X Co., but only the officers and medics worked in the medical field or could get the medic badge that he would like to have had. George H. Bush was president, and after everything that happened with him and Noreaga, everything in the Army changed. Combat was not what he wanted so when his enlistment time was up he did not re-enlist.

Upon his return home from the Army, Floyd worked at Tally Ho Plastics and Powell Plant Farm. But the work was hot and hard and paid only minimum wages.

He knew he had to have a career but didn't know what. He knew from his experience in the Army he could do anything he set his mind to do. He and Terri had dated since before he went into the Army, so now they got married and he went to work in housekeeping at Rusk State Hospital. The buildings were airconditioned and the wages were better, but he noticed that every job posting that paid a decent salary, required education or certification. His wife Terri had gone to R N School but found it wasn't for her and she changed to education.

After about a year at Rusk State the LVN position and salary looked pretty good. There was always a need for nurses, so in 1990 he went to Nan Travis Hospital, applied for the TJC LVN Program offered there, took the test and was accepted.

There were almost no men in nursing, especially not black men. So when Floyd told some of his co-workers what he planned, they discouraged him...saying "they won't let a black guy into nursing." He talked with Savannah Hightower who was his supervisor. She became his motivator, telling him "I know your mom, you're smart. Go to the superintendant's office and talk to him about changing from housekeeping to the ward." He got as far as an administrator's office. She told him, "good, quit the hospital and go to LVN School." Floyd didn't give up, but went to Ike Frazier, Assistant Superintendent. Ike had them setup MSU training for Floyd. He went through the training alone, no one else was scheduled at that time. At the end of training, he was given weekends only where he worked sixteen hours every Saturday and Sixteen hours every Sunday, which allowed him to go to LVN School Monday through Friday. Quitting was not an option.

Floyd said, "When I began clinicals I knew this was what I wanted to do. I loved it. Like the RSH setting, I learned about the



Front Row - L to R: Darren Franklin, son, Max Carter, grandson, Floyd Franklin, Marcus Carter, son-in-law, of Houston. Back Row- L to Right: Charnell Franklin, Houston, daughter, Terri Franklin, wife and Krystal Carter, daughter, Houston.

different kinds of nurses. "That year was hard. I was working the weekend doubles, going to school days and studying nights. Terri was teaching in New Summerfield and we were expecting our daughter Charnell. Quitting was not an option."

Floyd graduated LVN School in 1991. In 1994 he began RN School and graduated in 1996. Since becoming a nurse, Floyd has worked at Rusk State Hospital, and University of Texas at Tyler, at times both at the same time. In 1998 he began his career at ETMC and has been there since.

Floyd says, "Nursing is a great career. It pays great, but you don't go into it for the money. It has to be in your heart to care about people."

You have to have compassion, a certain level of knowledge and the intelligence to learn about diseases and medicine. People come into the hospital uncomfortable. It is my job to make them feel comfortable. I get paid to take the very best care of them. In the trauma unit we sometimes get young people with pelvic fractures. Young people who can't walk. You have to be able to put them on bedpans, sometimes insert

catheters, but you have to do this in a way that makes them keep their dignity. People are often scared when they come into the hospital. I listen to their problems and try to make them feel better, even bringing in family and explaining the problem to them in laymen's terms to help ease the situation."

Floyd seldom has leisure time, but when he does he likes to go deep sea fishing in Galveston. He raises cattle, horses, and produces his own hay. He and Terri travel weekends to Arkadelphia, Arkansas to watch their son Darren play football with the Henderson State University Reddies. His passion for nursing is never left behind. Much of his time is also spent caring for his father.

He is a member of Mt. Pleasant Methodist Church Rusk, Texas. Not pictured above is son Brent Shepherd of Dallas and daughter and son-in-law Amber and Josh Baulkman, of Lufkin, granddaughters, Jenia Baulkman, Gezell Baulkman and Josh Baulkman, Jr. and Madelyne Carter of Houston.

Floyd is the son of Lula Perry and Floyd Franklin of Jacksonville, Texas.

WHAT'S COOK'N

Sausage, Egg, Cheese Breakfast Casserole



Preparation

1. Grease the bottom of a 9"x13" pan. Tear up 4 slices of bread and place in the bottom of the pan. Sprinkle cooked crumbled bacon or sausage over bread pieces. Sprinkle cheddar cheese over the bacon or sausage.
2. Mix eggs, milk and mustard, together; pour over casserole.
3. Bake at 350° for 35 to 45 minutes.

Serves 4 to 6.

Ingredients

- 4 slices bread
- 12 to 16 ounces bacon or sausage, cooked and drained
- 2 cups shredded cheddar cheese
- 6 eggs, beaten
- 2 cups milk
- 1 teaspoon dry mustard
- * 1/4 chopped onion (optional)

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Disproportionality - Huh?

It's more than a big word - it's a big problem. So, how do we fix it? Look up the word disproportionality in the dictionary, and you won't find it. Why? Because it's a new word describing an old problem: the over-representation of a particular race or cultural group in a particular program or system.

In theory, of course, disproportionality could apply to any group. The problem grows even more dramatic with African-American children, who are removed from their homes at a rate more than twice their representation in the general population. In addition, a lower percentage of African-American children are successfully reunited with their families, and a higher percentage stay in foster care until they "age out" of care without finding an adoptive family or other permanent placement. And yet, there is no greater incidence of child abuse or neglect among African-Americans. Are you wondering what can I do to help eliminate disproportionality among African American children? You can contact your local Texas Department of Family and Protective Services Office and inquire about becoming a forever family. Open your home, open your heart, and make a lasting impression in just one child's life.

Shannon Ratcliff has opened her home and her heart. Read her story below:

Sean Maury and Gracie are getting a new sister. It was Friday, Jan. 23, 2009, when I received an email from my foster and adoptive home development worker, Brandi Smith, about a 2-year-old needing placement.

Brandi knew I was interested in adopting a little girl and her gut feeling told her this might be the one. I was also fostering a 4-year-old girl and they bonded instantly. They were like sisters and did everything together. Months passed and there was a strong possibility that Gracie could be placed up for adoption. I was renting a small house and began to seriously think about our future. We moved into a larger home on six acres Wednesday, Nov. 25, 2009, the day before Thanksgiving.

Around this time, I received a call from Gracie's caseworker telling me that Gracie's 2-month-old brother was in foster care and asking if I would foster him.

My plan was to adopt one little girl, but this was Gracie's little brother, how could I say no? Sean Maury, aka "The Stinker Butt" was placed in my home on Dec. 14, 2009. I'm single and have never had kids of my own, so this was scary. The phone company made a fortune off my calls to "momma" for advice. I can remember one day at work complaining that the baby had a rash on his bottom that would not go away because he was pooping all the time (that's how he got the nickname). It turned out he had a reaction to an allergy medication. My supervisor at the time told me to buy a tube of Dr. Boudreaux's Butt Paste. I used it and it worked.

If there had been cameras in my house those first couple of months, I could have turned those tapes over to "American's Funniest Home Videos." It took both me and Gracie (3 years old) to give Sean Maury his bath in the kitchen sink. Needless to say, he got the best of both of us because she and I would be soaked from head to toe.

Long story short, I adopted them both on Apr. 5, 2010, which also happens to be my birthday. They are now four and seven. I am in the process of adopting my third child. She is three years old and her adoption should be final by the end of this year. We are one big happy family.

- Shannon Ratcliff, Director of Workers' Compensation and the Return to Work Coordinator for Rusk State Hospital (DSHS), Rusk

Tonya Fuller
FAD Faith Based Specialist IV
Texas Department of Family and Protective Services

Alto Area Christian Brotherhood to Celebrate

The Alto Area Christian Brotherhood will be celebrating their anniversary on October 24, at 6:00 PM. The guest speaker will be Pastor Terence Hicks of Nacogdoches. This program will be held at the St. Thomas Chapel AME church located off of HWY 21-West of Alto. Rev. Billy Burton is the pastor.

Minister Larry Jenkins-President
 Deacon Willie J. Brown- Vice- President
 Bro. George Martin- Secretary
 Bro. David Washington- Treasures

Contact: Minister Larry Jenkins for more information

History of Daylight Savings Time in the United States

On Saturday, November 1, 2015 The clocks fall back by an hour as America returns to Standard Time. This signals lighter mornings and an extra hour in bed.

In the U.S., Daylight Saving Time – or “fast time”, as it was called then – was first introduced in 1918 when President Woodrow Wilson signed it into law to support the war effort during World War I. The initiative was sparked by Robert Garland, a Pittsburgh industrialist who had encountered the idea in the United Kingdom. A passionate campaigner for the use of DST in the United States, he is often called the “father of Daylight Saving”.

The seasonal time change was repealed just seven months later. However, some cities – including Pittsburgh, Boston, and New York – continued to use it until President Franklin D. Roosevelt instituted year-round DST in the United States in 1942.

The crooked heart will not prosper.....
 A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a broken spirit saps a person's strength.

Proverbs 17: 20,22



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Cedar Hill Cemetery Historical Marker Dedication



The City of Rusk and Cherokee County Historical Commission dedicated a Texas Historical Marker to the Cedar Hill Cemetery here in Rusk. The dedication was held Saturday September 19, 2015. Present were members of the Historical Commission, City of Rusk Mayor, Council members, city staff and descendants of families buried in Cedar Hill as well as community people.

Assisting with the unveling of the Marker were decendents: Larry Long(Long and Holcomb families), Jim and Margaret Perkins (Perkins Family) Sue Vining Jared (Vining Family) Patsy Dawson (bonner Family) and Melinda Ray Liles(Cobble Family) .

The cemetery was established in 1847. African Americans were buried on the northwest end of the cemetery.

Pictured above standing near the Marker are members of the Cherokee County Historical Commission .

Class of 1969 enjoys reunion



The RHS class of 1969 enjoyed a reunion recently in Rusk. - Front row left to right are: Sarai Johnson, Rose Session King. Back Row left to right - Sandra (Honey) Jones Brown, Marynell Alexander King, Emma Lois Clark, Betty Colston Price, Rena Sturns Tucker, Gail Session Simmons, Judy Freeney Guptin, Marie Simmons Bennett Ealy, Charlise Foreman Session, Essie B. Jordon scott, also attending were Tom King , Ozell price and Nate Ealy. The luncheon was held at the Mount Pleasant Methodist Church Fellowship Hall on Saturday August 16, 2013 from 11:00a.m. to 2:00p.m.. The class of 1969 attended George W. Bradford High School through the eleventh grade. Bradford was closed in 1968 due to intergration. They completed their senior year and graduated from Rusk High School. Plans are being discussed for the next reunion. Contact a memeber of the class or Sarai or Essie.

Friends in state and local government enjoy special train ride



Anderson County Commissioner Rashod Mims of Palestine and his family above pose with Governor Gregg Abbot.t



Councilman Session visits with Governor Abbott and pose for a picture.

The Texas State Railroad, Texas State Railroad Authority and Iowa Pacific Holdings, LLC hosted the magic of steam travel experience on

Saturday, September 12, 2015. The boarding call was issued at 10:45a.m. and the train left the Palestine Depot at 11:00a.m.. headed to Rusk..

The train arrived in Rusk at 12:35pm and a barbeque lunch was served in an airconditioned tent. Guests and their families were

were treated to an ice cream stand, gift shop and children's activities. Texas Governor Gregg Abbot greeted them and posed for pictures.

City staff councilman Mayor attend 103rd TML Conference

House of Blues Donation

con't from page 8



L to R - Front Row: , Mayor Angela Raiborn, Back Row: Councilman Walter Session, City Manager Mike Murray, Economic Development Bob Goldsberry, Executive Director Rusk Economic Development .

Rusk City staff, Mayor and councilman attended the Texas Municipal League 103rd Annual Conference and exhibition September 22-25, 2015. in San Antonio, Texas.

The conference is held each year offering ideas, solutions and best practices from community leaders, subject experts and business professionals from across the state, all designed to help build and maintain strong and vibrant cities.

Workshop sessions were offered on Planning Resilient Cities - Growing safer and more sustainable Cities., Infrastructure Clarity on murky Groundwater Laws, Community Engagement, using libraries as Engines for Workforce development, Municipal Revenue Sources, Building Retail Business and many, many more.

The night was full of performances by students and tours of the building. There was an array of people in attendance from community youth leaders, to school officials, to members of the House of Blues Music Forward Foundation.

The young people that performed were outstanding. They are the exact reason why we wanted to put some dollars into this community," said Marjorie Gilberg, executive director of the House of Blues Music Forward Foundation. "This is an important part of who they are and who they want to be and we're grateful for the opportunity to support them."

The studio comes complete with a Casio keyboard, an electronic drum set, various microphones, a four string bass, an acoustic and electric guitar, audio box, effects mixer and production system.

Obituaries

Berda Mae Gipson Austin

Graveside services were held September 19, 2015 for Berda Gipson Austin at Rusk Memorial Cemetery, Rusk, Texas.

Berda Gipson Austin, daughter of the late John D. Gipson and Bertha B. Gipson was born on August 24, 1949 in Rusk, Texas. On Wednesday, September 9, 2015 Berda entered into "Eternal Rest".

Berda was raised in Rusk, Texas. She united with West Union Baptist Church at an early age and remained a member.

Berda graduated George Badford High School with the class of 1968 and she graduated nursing school in 1973. She began her nursing career at Nan Travis Hospital. In 1975 she was employed at Gardendale Nursing Center and remained there forty years, until her health failed. Training nurses was her passion.

Ms. Austin had a love for collecting dolls, painting her ceramics, and spoiling her grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents John D. and Bertha B. Gipson, brother John D. Gipson, Jr., and granddaughter Brenekia Gipson.

She leaves to cherish her memory two daughters: Casandra (Authur)

Chase, Pamela Gipson both of Jacksonville; three sons: Reginal(Debra) Gipson, San Antonio, Tx., Rodney Gipson and Brandon Gipson both of Jacksonville; brothers: Donzell (Sandra) Gipson, Garland, Tx., Lonnie Ray(Kathy) Gipson, Jacksonville, Michael Williams, Johnnie Williams, Stevie Williams, all of Rusk, Tx.; two sisters Patricia Williams of Rusk and Linda Williams of Tyler, Tx., A special Aunt Lula Montgomery of San Antonio, Tx., seventeen grandchildren and four great-grandchildren, ; God-daughters Kimberly Garrett Hill, LaShunda Casel-Neal, Amanda Jordon, Charwyn Mosley-Johnson, and Edra Johnson. A very special sister-in-law Kathy Gipson. Services were conducted by Community Funeral Home of Jacksonville, Texas and burrial was at Rusk Memorial Cemetery.

Rosie Lee Perry


Services were held October 3, 2015 for Rosie Lee Perry at the Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church Sardis, Mississippi. She was born November 11, 1934, the fifth child of the late Richmond and Dora Kearney Gipson. Rosie confessed her belief in Jesus Christ at an early age and joined Mt. Zion M. B. Church

of Sardis. Later she met and married Henry Earl Perry and was blessed with seven children. Two daughters preceeded her in death: Pamela Baker, Jo ann Perry, and a loving husband Henry Earl Perry.

She leaves to cherish her memory four sons: Roderick Bernard Perry, Denio Cortez Perry of Sardis, Miss., Unial (Perry) Dedarrow Perry, Rusk, Texas, Henry Earl(Annie) Perry, Jr., New York; One daughter: Charlotte Denise Perry of Fayettevill, Tennessee, Seven sisters: Mary (Jessie) Simmons, Beatrice(Howard) Simmons, Dorothy (Rev. J. W.)Woods all of Los Angeles, Cal.; Marie Gipson, Sardis, Miss., Franxis Coleman, Mary Todd and Melissa Webb all of Memphis, Tenn. and a close friend caregiver Frank Ware Sardis, Miss., one brother-in-law James T. (Helen) Jackson of Romulus, Michigan; eleven grandchildren, twenty-one great-grandchildren and a host of neices, nephews, cousins and friends.

Services were conducted by Cooley's Mortuary of Batesville, Mississippi with burial at Rose Hill Cemetery Sardis, Miss.

Happy birthday
Cody Glenn
October 6th



House of Blues Donates Studio to Inglewood Students

Inglewood, Calif. - The House of Blues Music Forward Foundation donated a state-of-the-art studio to the Social Justice Learning Institute in Inglewood on Thursday, Sept. 24. The Social Justice Learning Institute (SJLI) is a program that works with students, both during school and after school through music. Founded in 2008, it has impacted over 12,500 residents by giving teens a place to express themselves. "SJLI has helped me a lot as far as giving a space to use my time to do something positive with my peers," said Beron Thompkins, 17.

The institute teaches creative team leadership, music theory, song writing, music production, mixing board basics, along with music and performance training. They also focus on health and wellness, teaching and encouraging students to plant in their empowerment garden. "When we began doing this work, we always knew that our young men wanted to be able to tell their stories and they've been able to in fun, dynamic ways, but the music studio opens another avenue for them to get out and transform hearts and mind," said SJLI Executive Director D'Artagnan Scorza.

Continued page 8

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NNPA and NAHP Join Forces to Create National Advertising Task Force

Represents Groundbreaking Media Alliance (WASHINGTON, DC) September 29, 2015 – Refuel Agency, a leader in youth, military and multicultural marketing and media placement, along with the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) and National Association of Hispanic Publishers (NAHP) today announced the formation of a National Advertising Task Force to educate marketers on the benefits and importance of the African American and Hispanic newspaper market. Both boards of directors unanimously agreed to this historic alliance. This is the first time the NNPA and NAHP have joined forces for such an effort. The NNPA, the leading trade association of the more than 200 African American-owned community newspapers from around the United States, along with the NAHP, a non-partisan trade advocacy organization representing the nation's leading Spanish language publications,

have a combined total reach of over 43M readers per week. Contrary to general market daily newspapers, African American and Hispanic newspapers are on the rise and thriving and, for the last 100 years, have been the trusted voice of their respective communities. The task force will be in charge of increasing awareness and advertising for member newspapers and will be meeting with major auto, financial and political advertisers in the coming months. "With close to 97 million African Americans and Hispanics in the U.S. today, representing 33% of the total population, this consumer segment demands attention," said Martha Montoya, VP of the NAHP. "The buying power of the African American and Hispanic communities, currently at over \$2.3 trillion combined, continues to outpace the national average." This historic media alliance is a gigantic step for our two organizations," said Dr. Benjamin Chavis, President and CEO. NNPA.

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Margarett Perkins, Laura Perkins, James I. Perkins and Dr. L. Michael Metke President of Tyler Junior College display 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 receive \$8000. scholarships to TJC which began with the class of 2014.

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Ford Motor Company Encourages HBCU Student Achievement



by Benjamin Chavis -NNPA

Each generation of African Americans has been challenged with both old and new hurdles to clear in the life-long marathon to achieve success and to fulfill career goals and objectives. The importance of attaining a quality education cannot be overstated in particular for the African American community.

I serve on the Board of Directors of the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education (NAFEO) that represents the interests of 126 Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). NAFEO is the only national membership association of its kind, representing the presidents and chancellors of the diverse black colleges and universities: public, private and land-grant, two-year, four-year, graduate and professional, historically and predominantly black colleges and universities.

Working with NAFEO has

help me to grasp and to understand the complex matrix of issues involving our nation's HBCUs. Completing a college education in America can determine one's quality of life quantitatively in terms of potential annual income as well as helping to become socially self-sustainable. As we all know, however, a college education is now more expensive than ever before; and, entry to good schools is highly competitive.

Recently, I was pleased to learn about a program that was specifically created to reach and to provide students scholarships at Historically Black Colleges and Universities. Ford Motor Company and Ford Motor Company Fund are reaching out to students attending Historically Black Colleges and Universities for their third edition of the Ford HBCU Community Challenge Competition.

Up to \$75,000 in scholarships, and university and community grants will be awarded for the first-place student team and its project. The Ford HBCU Community Challenge is an extension of one of the Ford Fund's signature educational programs — the Ford College Community Challenge.

The Ford HBCU Community Challenge is conducted in partnership with the Tom Joyner Morning Show and the Rickey Smiley Morning Show, and encourages HBCU students to design community projects that address pressing local needs. Salute to Tom Joyner and Rickey Smiley for their leadership in the effort. The program's theme is "Building

Open Enrollment in Texas Tuition Promise Fund® Begins Today

September 1, 2015 (AUSTIN) — Open enrollment in the Texas Tuition Promise Fund, the state's prepaid college tuition program, begins today, Sept. 1, and runs through Feb. 29, 2016. Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar reminds families that the Texas Tuition Promise Fund offers parents and loved ones the chance to prepay a child's education at Texas public colleges and universities at today's prices.

"Hard-working Texas families want the best for their kids, and securing their future educations is a big part of that — unfortunately, setting a family budget for that can be challenging," Hegar said. "The Texas Tuition Promise Fund lets participants lock in today's prices for their children's educations at Texas public colleges and universities, and it has flexible options that families can use to fit their budgets."

Participants in the Texas Tuition Promise Fund purchase prepaid "tuition units" that can later be used toward undergraduate tuition and school-wide required fees at schools ranging from Texas public community colleges to four-year, in-state universities. Prices are based on 2015-16 academic year costs for the state's public colleges. Type I units, priced for tuition and school-wide required fees for the most expensive public four-year school in Texas, cost \$132.54 per unit.

Type II units, based on the weighted average cost of tuition and school-wide required fees across all Texas public four-year schools, cost \$91.43 per unit.

Type III units, priced at the weighted average cost of tuition and school-wide required fees across all Texas public two-year schools, cost \$23.35 per unit.

Under the plan, 100 units equal roughly one academic year consisting of 30 semester hours of tuition and school-wide required fees at the Texas public school that most closely matches the pricing base. Participants can purchase up to 600 Type I units, approximately six years, or the dollar equivalent of Type II and III units.

The plan's payment options include lump sum payments, installment payments that include 8 percent interest or a pay-as-you-go plan that allows participants to gradually add more units when the family budget allows. Payments can be as low as \$15 after an account is established by paying a one-time fee of \$25 and purchasing at least one unit.

The Texas Tuition Promise Fund is entering its eighth year. For more information about enrolling in the prepaid college tuition program, including a calculator that can help determine the type and number of units to purchase, go to TuitionPromise.org or call 1-800-445-GRAD (4723), Option 5.

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Fred Douglass High School...Continuing the Legacy! Houston Club Meets

Fred Douglass High School alumni is Continuing the Legacy! Headquartered in Jacksonville, Texas, the Fred Douglass Community Development Corporation and the Fred Douglass Alumni Association are organizations committed to continuing the legacy of Fred Douglass High School, while shaping the future! The Fred Douglass Community Development Corporation's (FDCDC), a 501(c)(3) organization, mission is to advance the social and economic well-being of low and moderate income individuals and families in Jacksonville and surrounding

communities. More information can be found on their website, www.fdcdc.org, or Facebook (Fred Douglass Community Development Corporation). The Fred Douglass Alumni Association (FDAA), a 501(c)(7) social and recreational nonprofit organization, is committed to organizing gatherings that bring fellow alumni and friends together to reconnect. You can find information on Facebook (Fred Douglass Alumni Association). Fred Douglass alumni, their family and friends are located across the country, even the

world. In an effort to keep people connected, City Clubs have been established to bring alumni in their local areas together to discuss fundraising ideas to build a community center in Jacksonville, Texas. City Clubs have been established in Dallas, Houston, and California, with hopes of establishing more in Kansas and other states. The Houston City Club hosted its first meeting on Saturday, September 26, 2015, in Houston. The City Club will meet four times a year. The meeting was hosted by Anita Newsome Starling and Lucy Lacy, Fred Douglass alumni. The agenda included a presentation by Willie Howard, President of Fred Douglass Community Development Corporation. Mr. Howard discussed the operations, collaboration, and benefits of the FDCDC and the FDAA. Willie also presented a status on the FDCDC's building project. The plans are to place a building at the site of the former Fred Douglass

he High School, in Jacksonville, Texas. It will serve as the headquarters for the FDCDC, with a goal of providing services and programs to the local community. Anita Newsome Starling presented the fundraising portion of the meeting. She discussed keys to successful fundraising. The group reviewed fundraising options and ideas. Individuals present decided to host a raffle fundraiser for this quarter. Leo Bagley volunteered to chair the Houston City Club Fundraising Committee. The group will have at least four fundraisers per year. Two families donated \$1,000 each to the FDCDC project! Lymell and Betty Carter and James and Regina Newsome were recognized for their \$1,000 contributions. The oldest alumni attendee, Ms. Ozell Welch, is 94 years old was recognized as well! A meal was provided for all in attendance. Everyone enjoyed a great time and the group plans to meet again on December 12, 2015



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Rev. Vertis Thacker New Linwood Pastor

Black History



Vertis Thacker, new Pastor of Linwood Baptist Church, and wife, Lufkin, Texas native, Jennifer Norman Thacker.

Mack Page, Pastor, of the Mt. Calery Baptist church, Lufkin, Texas. There he served as the Associate Pastor and as God would have it, returned home to Weeping Mary in 2011. He served as Associate Pastor to Rev. Ike Wiley at Weeping Mary.

Vertis graduated Alto High School with the calss of 1992 then entered the U. S. Army until 1995 when he was granted an Honorable dscharge.

He became employed with the Transportation Industry as a truck driver in 1995 until 2013 when he became a Safety Trainer for JBS Carriers. He continues to be employed there.

On July 10, 2013 and Jennifer Norman Thacker of Lufkin, Texas. is the daughter of Mr. John Norman and the late Mrs. Eula Norman. She was a faithful member of the Church of the Living God, most recently, under the leadership of Pastor Earl Whitaker until she She has been employed with The Texas Department of Public Safety since 1995 and currently serves as Driver License Supervisor for the Lufkin, Nacogdoches, Hemphill, Center, Livingston and Crockett offices.

Vertis and Jennifer are team members of the North East Texas Tres Dias Community, actively serving Christ while serving others.

"Linwood church family is delighted to have Rev. Vertis Thacker and wife Jennifer as our new Pastor and wife," stated Mildred Brown, church musician. "The church immediately began to show growth by taking in new members and old members being revived."

October 2, 1967 - Thurgood Marshall became the first African American Supreme Court Justice when he was sworn into office. He served in office from 1967 to 1991.

October 3, 1956- Legendary singer Nat King Cole became the first African American performer to host his own TV show "The Nat King Cole Show".

October 4, 1969- Howard Nathaniel Lee became the first African American mayor of Chapel Hill, N.C. He served as mayor for the city from 1969 to 1975.

October 6, 1917- Civil rights activist Fannie Lou Hamer was born in Montgomery County, Mississippi. Hamer was known for organizing Mississippi's Freedom Summer for the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee

October 1, 1960- West African country Nigeria was proclaimed independent from Great Britain's rule.

October 5, 1932- Congresswoman Yvonne Brathwaite Burke was born in Los Angeles, California. She was the first African American woman to represent the West Coast in Congress.

environment. He was baptized at an early age and is an active member of Weeping Mary Baptist Church of Alto, Tx.

Vertis was born January 20, 1974 and was called into the ministry in 1995; however, the answer to that call came later on February 15, 2009, under the leadership of Rev.

Rev. Vertis Thacker, a native of Alto, Texas, was recently elected pastor of Linwood Baptist Church of the Linwood Community, near Alto. Rev. Thacker is the oldest son of Billy Ray Thacker and Sylvia Thacker. The late Cynthia Thacker Ross his grandmother, was instrumental in raising him in a Christian

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