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TEXAS INFORMER

September 2012
Volume XV, Number 6

Web: www.texasinformer.com
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Rusk, Texas 75785

Texas College Homecoming Activities

Friday, October 26, 2012

10:00 A.M. - Homecoming
Convocation - Martin Hall
Auditorium

6:30 P.M. - Miss Texas College
Coronation - Martin Hall
Auditorium

Saturday, October 27, 2012

9:00 A.M. - Homecoming Parade
- MLK Blvd.

2:00 P.M. - Homecoming Football
Game - Rose Stadium

To participate or for more
information regarding these events,
please contact the Texas College
Events Hotline - 903-593-8311 ext.
2312

Musical Benefit Scheduled for Joyce Faye Dennis Session

The Elm Grove Community Rusk will host a Benefit Musical for Joyce Faye Dennis Session at Elm Grove Baptist Church on Saturday evening September 29th at 7:00PM. Local Choirs and Soloist are invited to participate. Rev. James (Dusty) Fuller is the coordinator. For additional information contact Rev. Fuller or e-mail responses to informernews08@aol.com Elm Grove Baptist Pastor is Rev. Timothy Bircher.

Democratic Convention Boasts Heavy Hitters



The Democratic Convention was held Sept 4- Sept 6 and featured speeches from former President Bill Clinton, First Lady Michelle Obama, State Representative Joaquin Castro of Texas, San Antonio Mayor Julian Castro, who was the first Latino keynote speaker at a Democratic National Convention, Vice President Joe Biden and President Barack Obama (See page 3)

West Nile Virus confirmed in East Texas

The Cherokee County Health Department confirms the presence of West Nile Virus. As of August 30, 2012 four cases were reported in the county with two leading to death. The name of the latest victim to die had other health problems which contributed to his demise.

Fifty-five cases of the virus have been confirmed in East Texas counties so far this year. According to the Department of State Health, the first fatality occurred in Gregg County.

County and city health officials are taking precautions to raise awareness about preventive measures to fight the spread of the virus. Jacksonville and Bullard have begun the process of spraying chemicals to treat the mosquito population in their area.

East Texas health officials encourage people to stay indoors at dusk and dawn when mosquitoes are most active, to wear bug sprays that contain Deet, to wear long sleeves and pants when outdoors, and to drain standing bodies of

water where mosquitoes could breed.

The virus has been reported in 82 Texas Counties, with infections in 1,013 people. The virus has been blamed for 40 fatalities statewide; according to the Texas Department of State Health Services.

And he lifted up his eyes on His disciples, and said. Blessed be ye poor: for your's is the kingdom of God. ~ Luke 6: 20

EDITORIAL PAGE**Seasons
of
our
lives**

Maxine Session



Summer has passed gently away and fall with all of its color and beauty is here. The seasons have changed. Just as the seasons of the year change, so do the seasons of our lives. There is the season when joy and happiness abound.The teen years when we enjoy high school and all the great times that come with it. The years of ups and downs with gaining our independence and college education. Marriage comes, the birth of children and all the blessings they bring. The

season when we spend time with our close friends and family enjoying the blessings of their lives. And then there is the season that brings struggles with life.....grief and heartache at the loss of cherished loved ones and when we experience failed health. We must live appropriately in the season in which we are in and make the changes necessary to move on to the next. We are able to change to the next season simply because God prepares us by giving us the resources we need. (Ecclesiastes 3) If you find yourself stuck in a season where you are not productive or unhappy, use God's great resource, prayer. Try turning off the cell phone, the t.v., the lights and get down on your knees. It works!

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.

Obama Election**awakens a sleeping giant** Caesar A. Roy

Four years ago I had tears in my eyes as I watched the final election returns showing that Barack Obama had won the election for President of the United States. I openly cried while watching the Inauguration ceremony in January of 2009 when Barak black President of this reached an advanced to see such an historic Although I have loved life, this was the first feel "Proud to be an this election actually America, were on the King's dream of equality Boy was I wrong.



Obama became the first great country. I have age and never expected event in my lifetime. this country all my time I could sincerely American". I assumed showed that we, in path of achieving Dr. and racial tolerance.

President Obama's ascendancy to the White House that brought tears of joy to my eyes was the shock that awakened a slumbering Giant in much of America.

Like Rip Van Winkle, he suddenly opened his eyes and saw the country with a Black President. This Giant had slept thru many of the events of the recent years; had not really heard or understood the significance of the Voting rights act; had napped thru the election of Black governors, Congressmen, and Mayors; and other civil rights gains of the past decades. But the election of a Black President was an alarm he could not sleep thru.

This giant goes by many names: Racism, Intolerance, Bigotry, and Hatred are just a few. The election of President Obama showed us that he is still alive and well in the United States of America.

Initially he tried to undermine the legitimacy of President Obama to hold office – claiming that he was not born in this country: the giant also tried to discredit the President, alleging that he was a Muslim. (As if Muslims are not eligible to hold office in U.S.)

Then he decided to invite his friends and neighbors over to develop a strategy to right this wrong that had befallen the country. I believed he called this get-together a "Tea Party".

Using the mythical guise of patriotism, constitutional rights, government interference, taxation without representation etc, he instituted an effort to defeat this President. His so-called love of country was second nature to his hatred of Obama. He has managed to infiltrate a large segment of the Republican Party and force it to defer to his agenda.

Some in that party have openly stated that their primary goal during the past four years has been to defeat the President. Mind you, in our country which had just gone thru a devastating economic recession, unemployment at near record highs, increasing health care costs, the banking and auto industries in shambles. The Republican controlled House of Representatives was unwilling to address these issues, because their primary goal was to defeat President Obama.

Nevertheless, President Obama during the past four years, even in the face of this obstructionist giant and his allies, has managed to make significant strides in curing the ills which had befallen the country before his arrival. He has saved the jobs of several million autoworkers, teachers, policemen, and firemen; and has instituted programs causing the formation of over 4 million private sector jobs. He has managed to bring our military forces home from Iraq; the brain child of the 9/11 attacks is dead. President Obama has signed legislation to prevent the disparity in pay between the sexes. He has signed into law an Affordable Health Care act to benefit the millions of Americans who otherwise would not have access to medical treatment. The economy is now on the mend; companies have begun hiring again, the banks are lending again and Wall Street has rebounded to new highs.

See Sleeping Giant page 4

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Democratic National Convention

President Obama's speech at the Democratic Convention on Thursday night was a firm declaration of the principles of his party, one that began laced with humor (of TV campaign ads: "If you're sick of hearing me approve this message, believe me, so am I"), went on to become increasingly pointed and vehement ("I will never turn Medicare into a voucher"), and concluded with the cadences of a secular minister that left his audience cheering wildly. Plus, he must have gotten permission from Bruce Springsteen to use "We Take Care of Our Own."

Obama's most striking flourish was that, as he put it, "we also believe in something called citizenship... a word at the very essence of our democracy... Our destinies are bound together..." This was a way of countering Republican criticism that his policies are all about "big government"; Obama's goal was to flip this and cast his positions as mutual pacts made with his fellow Americans.

The President also emphasized humility, a good idea when your opponent is trying to make you out to be a celebrity-loving narcissist. Toward the end, his quotation from Abraham Lincoln was a particularly nice touch: "While I'm proud of what we've achieved together, I'm far more mindful

of my own failings, knowing exactly what Lincoln meant when he said, 'I have been driven to my knees many times by the overwhelming conviction that I had no place else to go.' The speech wasn't the barn-burner Bill Clinton gave — indeed, Obama even quoted from Clinton's Wednesday preachment ("What did Bill Clinton call it? You do the arithmetic — you do the math"). But it was a rouser for his faithful, with a lot of outreach to his doubters.

President Clinton
from page 1

"The first time I addressed this convention in 2004, I was a younger man; a senate candidate from Illinois who spoke about hope — not blind optimism or wishful thinking, but hope in the face of difficulty; hope in the face of uncertainty; that dogged faith in the future which has pushed this nation forward, even when the odds are great; even when the road is long."

During Clinton's speech he acknowledged, "I love our country — and I know we're coming back. For more than 200 years, through every crisis, we've always come out stronger than we went in. And we will again as long as we do it together. We champion the cause for which our founders pledged their lives, their fortunes, their sacred honor — to form a more perfect union," Clinton said.

Michelle Obama Speaks
Con't from page 12

With a mix of personal anecdotes and policy talk, Mrs. Obama's speech was by far her most political yet. Today, after so many struggles and triumphs and moments that have tested my husband in ways I never could have imagined, I have seen firsthand that being president doesn't change who you are — it reveals who you are," she said. To that end, the first lady painted a portrait of a leader who knows first-hand the struggles of everyday Americans, who listens to them as president, and who pushes an agenda with their interests in mind. "That's the man I see in those quiet moments late at night, hunched over his desk, poring over the letters people have sent him," she said. "I see the concern in his eyes ... and I hear the determination in his voice as he tells me, 'You won't believe what these folks are going through, Michelle . it's not right. We've got to keep working to fix this. We've got so much more to do.'" She added: "I see how that's what drives Barack Obama every single day." With such stories, the first lady sought to counter Republicans trying to paint Obama as something other than a typical American, and implied that it was Romney who couldn't relate to people trying to get by in tough economic times.

To be sure, neither Romney nor Obama fits the bill of the average, working-class American struggling with credit card debt and mortgage payments. Both are millionaires who live a privileged life few Americans will ever experience. But each candidate is trying to convince Americans that they're best-suited to run an economy hampered by sluggish growth and high unemployment. Polls show Romney leading on who voters say would best to manage the economy, but Obama with the advantage on who voters believe understands their economic challenges better.

As she stood in the center of the convention's blue-carpeted stage, Mrs. Obama's words went straight to the core of the contrast Democrats are trying to draw between Obama

Continued from page 1

and Romney. They say the president is pushing policies to boost the middle class, while Romney wants to protect the wealthy and hope their success trickles down. Once a reluctant political spouse, Mrs. Obama delved more deeply into the details of her husband's policies than she has in her previous speeches. She promoted his health care overhaul, push for tax cuts for middle income earners and the auto bailout. And she took on the economy, her husband's biggest political liability, arguing that he "brought our economy back from the brink of collapse to creating jobs again." "In the end, for Barack, these issues aren't political. They're personal," she said. The president watched Mrs. Obama's speech from the White House along with the couple's two young daughters.

"I'm going to try to not let them see their daddy cry because when Michelle starts talking, I start getting all misty," Obama said at rally earlier Tuesday in Norfolk, Va.

Mrs. Obama will likely have one more turn in the convention spotlight later this week. She is expected to introduce her husband Thursday night when he accepts the Democratic nomination before a crowd of up to 74,000 and a television audience of millions across the country.

The Obamas' daughters, Malia and Sasha, are also expected to join them on stage during the convention's closing night, leaving voters with fresh images of the photogenic family.

While at the three-day convention, Mrs. Obama will also focus on shoring up support for her husband among key constituencies. She plans to speak to the party's African-American, Hispanic and women's caucuses and address a gay and lesbian luncheon. Along with the vice president's wife, Jill Biden, the first lady will also participate in an armed services event Thursday and put together care packages for U.S. troops serving overseas.

The first lady took the stage Tuesday as the most popular figure in this year's presidential campaign, according to the latest Associated Press-GfK poll.

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OBITUARIES

Adam Mallard, Sr.



Services were held recently at Mt. Olive Community Church for Mr. Adam Mallard. Adam Mallaard, Sr.

was born October 28, 1928 to the late Abraham Mallard and Odell King Mallard in Cherokee County. Adam was the fourth child born to this union. He passed away August 15, 2012. He attended public school in Central Heights and Woodville. He joined Myrtle Spring Baptist Church and accepted Christ at an early age. He later attended Mt. Olive Baptist Church with his family.

Mr. Mallard joined the Army in 1953 and served for two years before being honorably discharged. He served eight years in Ready Reserve and received the National Defence Service Medal.

Mr. Mallard married the love of his life Lola Mallard on March 24, 1957. This union lasted 55 years. Of this union, seven children were born. He was employed with the city of Rusk 33 years.

He enjoyed trail riding, and piddling with motors on his old cars. More than anything, he enjoyed being a family man to his wife Lola and children Sharon, Senetta, Karen and sons Adam, Jr.: nephew Garrick Ward whom he helped raise.

Mr. Mallard was preceded in death by his parents, sisters Olivia Wickware, Lorine Brinkley and Lula Slaughter; daughters

Gwendolyn Mallard, Seyretta Mallard and Senetta Mallard.

He leaves to cherish his memories his beloved wife Lola B. Mallard; daughters Sharon E. Ward, Karen "Bolton" Edmon (Terry), Brenda Davis, all of Rusk; Adam Mallard Jr., grandchildren, Cangela Mallard Cook (Carl) Alisha, Ashley, Ashley, Jeremy and Diamond; great-grandchildren, Tootie, Tre, Jacey, Niya, Bre and Cordell; brothers John Henry Mallard and Charlie Carl Mallard; and a host of family and friends.

Glenda Bradley Session Freeney

Service were held recently at the Rusk Civic Center for Ms. Glenda Freeney, daughter of the late Mr. Louis Douglas Bradley and Ms. Daisy Mable Williams Hogg was born June 7, 1940 in Rusk, Texas. Wednesday, August 22, 2012 in Dallas Texas she departed this life. She was raised in Rusk and received her education from George W. Bradford High School. At an early age she accepted Christ and joined Mt. Olive Baptist Church. She was united in matrimony to Mr. Welfter Session. After his death in later years, she married Mr. Earnest D. Freeney. She was a loving mother and grandmother who was always concerned about the welfare of her family. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband daughter Kerretta Session, granddaughter Delbreccia Hayden, two grandsons El Dalbric Hayden; Aviance Foreman and one brother William Louis Bradley.

She leaves to cherish her memories six daughters

Debra Foreman, Cynthia Foreman, Gina Rohrman, Audry (El Dalbric) Hayden, and Ladaska Parson all of Dallas, Latonys (Ricky) Richardson of Navasota; three sons Welfter Session, Jr., Darron Session, Sr., and Tarrance Freeney of Dallas; five sisters Marilyn (George) Harris, Ella Faye Berry of Dallas; Gennell Hicks of Rusk, Toni Y. Bradley and Cheryl E. Bradley of Gilmer; one brother, Don Williams of Los Angeles California; twenty-four grandchildren, twenty-six great grandchildren, neices, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Joe Louis- Brown Bomber becomes symbol

Black History -1936

To millions of African Americans, Joe Louis was not only a great fighter, but a symbol of the

potential progress of the Negro people under democracy.

In 1936, after twenty-seven victories, a match was arranged between Joe Louis and German boxer Max Schmeling. More than just an opponent, Schmeling represented Hitler's Germany and all it stood for-the Aryan superiority theory and the denial of equal rights to darker people-while Louis was a symbol of Negro hope under American democracy.

On the night of June 19, 1936, at Yankee Stadium in New York, Max Schmeling knocked out Joe Louis in the twelfth round. A hush fell over the crowd. Hundreds of Black people wept openly in the streets of Harlem. But, in Chicago one year later, the Brown Bomber defeated James J. Braddock and became Heavyweight champion. And in a return match with Schmeling in 1938 he knocked out the German in the first Round.

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Federal Court Blocks Texas Voter ID Law

Washington - A federal court on Thursday blocked a Texas law that would have required voters to show photo identification, ruling that the legislation would impose "strict, unforgiving burdens" on poor minority voters. Describing the law as the most stringent in the country, the unanimous decision by a three-judge panel marks the first time that a federal court has blocked a voter-ID law. It will reverberate politically through the

November elections. Republicans and Democrats have been arguing over whether tough voter-ID laws in a number of states discriminate against African Americans and Hispanics. The panel at the U.S. District Court in Washington ruled that Texas had failed to show that the statute would not harm the voting rights of minorities in the state. In addition, the judges found that evidence indicated that the cost of obtaining a photo ID to vote would fall most

heavily on African American and Hispanic voters. Evidence submitted by Texas to prove that its law did not discriminate was "unpersuasive, invalid, or both," David S. Tatel, a judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, wrote in the panel's 56-page opinion. Voting Rights Act cases must be decided by a special panel of three federal judges.

The ruling followed a decision Tuesday by another three-judge panel in Washington that found the Republican-controlled Texas legislature had intentionally discriminated against Hispanics in drawing new legislative districts. Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott (R) said the state will appeal Thursday's ruling to the U.S. Supreme Court, which is the next stop in a voting rights case.

Continued page 9



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Civic Center site of 1st Annual McDuff family reunion



The McDuff family 1st annual reunion was held August 18th at the Rusk Civic Center .for a day of games, fun and remembering family history.

Bennett Family gathers at old home place Shady Grove



A large group gathered at the old O. B. Bennett home place in Shady Grove August 18th for the Bennett Family reunion. Plans are to hold the 2013 reunion in the same place on the Saturday before the 3rd Sunday in August.

Labor Day back to school picnic draws children



Manning a voter registration table was Shanitta Foreman. While children enjoyed food and fun at the back to school picnic, parents were able to register for the upcoming November 6th election. WestUnion Faith Ministries held a voter registration day recently and sponsored this voter registration. The last day to register to vote in November is October 9,



Members of the Cherokee Brotherhood organization again held the annual back to school picnic for area children. More than a hundred children and adults participated in the years event held in the I. C. Conley Park . Prayer was conducted and motivational speaking to encourage children to take serious their education and to be on their very best behavior.

TEXAS PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION MEETS WITH PAUL SADLER IN AUSTIN

By T. L. Wyatt
THE VILLAGER (AUSTIN)

The Texas Publishers Association (TPA), the Black Press of Texas, invited Senatorial candidates Paul Sadler (D) and Ted Cruz (R) to come before the Executive committee of the organization on Saturday, September 8, in Austin.

The non partisan organization of publishers holds screenings during every political season. They have endorsed candidates in both parties over the years. In fact the group endorsed retiring Senator Kaye Bailey Hutchison on several occasions as well as Railroad Commissioner Michael Williams and others. Ted Cruz did not appear at the meeting, stating that he had a conflict of with another meeting. Sadler told the group that he was a seasoned legislator who served in the Texas Legislature for several terms. He said that he supports the Dream Act, Medicare, and a fair tax system designed to make sure that huge corporations and the super wealthy pay their fair share. We went on to say that he will be a vote to continue health care reform while making changes, improvements and corrections.

Paul Sadler is the Democratic nominee for the U. S. Senate from Texas. He has served in the Texas House of Representatives from 1991 – 2003 and has received numerous awards for his legislative work. Sadler and his wife Sherri live in Henderson, Texas and they have 5 children. Sadler says that he knows that he has an uphill fight to win this race. However, he pointed out that Cruz was also heavily outspent in the primaries but was able to defeat Lt. Governor Dewhurst and his millions. He said that he had \$300 thousand dollars for a statewide race. "The Democratic National Committee and the State Democratic Party is only spending money in a limited number of areas of the state." That money will be directed through the Coordinated

Campaigns in those areas. Sadler believes that this is the first time in many years that Democrats have had the opportunity to send someone to the senate from Texas. Our current Senators are Hutchinson and John Cornyn. Sadler said that he is making a special effort to reach out to the traditional voters of the Democratic party – African Americans, Hispanic and Liberal and Moderate Democrats.

This race will be decided on the turnout of these voters who have been neglected by the leaders of the party for many years. The TPA will make a decision on their endorsement by the end of the month, after consulting with its membership. The general election will be November 6.

The Texas Publishers Association represents twenty-eight African American owned and published newspaperws throughout the state of Texas. The organization meets monthly.



(1 to r) Hussien Ali, Waseem Ali (Secretary), Hattie Kelly (President) Candidate Paul Sadler, Mollie Belt (Vice Pres.) Maxine Sessions (Treasurer), T. L. Wyatt, (Parliamentarian), Walter Sessions, Thomas Wyatt. Informer photo.

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- 1 1/2 cups cooked chicken
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- 2/3 cup evaporated milk
- 1/2 cup chopped celery
- 1/2 cup chopped onion
- 1/2 cup chopped pimento
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1/2 tsp. poultry seasoning
- 1/8 tsp. pepper
- 6 oz. noodles
- 2 T. flour
- 1/4 cup cold water

In large boiler, place chicken, broth and milk. Bring to a boil. Add chopped items, salt, poultry seasoning, and pepper. Boil uncovered for 10 to 15 minutes. Add uncooked noodles and simmer until noodles are tender. Combine flour and water and pour into soup. Stir until thick. Serves approximately six people..

Sweet Potato Casserole

- 3 cups cooked mashed sweet potatoes
- 2 eggs
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 1 cup chopped pecans
- 1/2 stick margarin or butter
- 1 1/2 tsp. vanilla flavoring
- 1/2 cup flower
- 1/2 stick margarinse melted

Combine sweet potatoes, eggs, salt, 1/2 stick margarine, milk and vanilla. Pour into 1 1/2 quart baking dish. Combine brown sugar, flour nuts, and 1/2 stick margarine. Spread over potatoes. Bake at 3:50 degrees for about 35 minutes.

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Federal Ruling on Redistricting case decision

Senator West says Court's ruling confirms that state's maps meant to limit minority voting power

DALLAS - Today's ruling by a federal three-judge panel adds yet another layer of proof to Democrats' contention all along that Texas went too far in redrawing Congressional, Senate and state House maps during last year's legislative session. The court ruled that the maps in fact violate the federal Voting Rights Act. The state in this regard had to prove that the maps as passed by the Legislature would not discriminate by limiting the ability of minority voters to elect a candidate of their choosing. They failed. So futile was their case that the state's lawyers attempted to shift the longstanding burden of proof from the state, to the Justice Department (DOJ) and the defendants. The court also said no to this argument.

Statement on federal rThis ruling comes with just over two months remaining before the November 6 elections where some have stated their willingness to do whatever it takes to make President Barack Obama "a one-term president." That willingness, in addition to redrawing state and congressional maps in a manner ruled discriminatory by the DOJ and now the courts, also extends to passing Voter ID laws across the country that will further suppress the will of those who disagree with their efforts to turn back the clock, from having their voices heard at the polls.

Today's ruling is also a victory for my North Texas colleague Senator Wendy Davis, Democratic Congressional District 33 nominee Marc Veasey, and friends from the Texas NAACP, MALDEF and LULAC who fought the Republican maps tooth and nail from Austin and San Antonio all the way to Washington.



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Please Cast your vote Nov 6th

for:

President – Barack Obama

Vice President – Joe Biden

U.S. Senate - Paul Sadler

Texas Supreme Court - Michelle Petty

Court of Criminal Appeals – Keith Hampton

U. S. Congress Dist 5 – Linda Mrosko

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Voter Registration Cards Available

Voter registration cards are available at local Rusk churches for those unable to get to the Cherokee County Tax Office before closing time. To vote in the November election, you must register by October 9, 2012. Early voting begins October 22, 2012.

Medicare's Annual Open Enrollment is from Oct 15 - Dec 7

People with Medicare get to explore their options every year and pick the health and drug plans that work best for them. The Open Enrollment period this year is starting earlier - on October 15 - and ending sooner - December 7. People with Medicare get a full seven weeks to compare plans and make decisions so that they will have new benefit information and membership cards in hand when their new coverage begins January 1, 2013.

There will be a wide range of health and drug plan options available. If they have a Medicare "Part D" plan to help them pay for prescription drugs or if they have chosen to enroll in a "Part C" Medicare Advantage plan for their basic health care services they will have options. They can stay in their current plan or choose a different plan. For those with Medicare Advantage plans they can choose to go back to the Original Medicare program. Not only do the Medicare plans sometimes change their benefits, people's needs can change from year to year, so these are important choices that should be made with care. For help with these important choices Medicare recipients can call their local State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) and consult with a Benefits Counselor. For this East Texas area the number for the SHIP is 1-800-442-8845.

Also, recipients can ask about information and enrollment events in their area.

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Editorial/Commentary

MOVING FORWARD

James L. McCullough, M.Ed. - Crockett, TX.

After many years of knocking and kicking at the opportunity doors of America Inc., they finally opened wide enough for us to peep in. Some were allowed full entry, but the masses of African Americans still are stuck in the knocking and kicking mode. In a previously published article, I offered a limited overview of some of the unintended albeit, disastrous effects on black communities brought on by integration. One in particular was the loss of black businesses in black communities and the accompanying negative effects of such. Most obvious of these effects was a downward spiral from a large degree of economic independence based on black business ownership, to one of dependency on corporate entities whose sole purpose was the extraction of as much profit as possible from our communities, leaving in their wake an abundance of criminal and other negative elements attributable to the economic void. Equally devastating in this scenario was the destruction of business, entrepreneurial and philanthropic role models for our young people who have been left with little knowledge of such because we failed to inform them of this particular area of black accomplishments. Many have developed mind-sets where the only road left open to success lies in their becoming rich and famous rappers, basketball stars or other sports stars.

Many waste valuable time and energy in pursuit of such dreams which rarely evolve into reality. Very few aspire to become business giants such as John Johnson, founder of EBONY and Jet fame or, Earl Graves, founder of Black Enterprises or other business titans who are able to control their own economic destinies.

Fewer aspire to become the next President Barack Obama controlling the destiny of a whole nation and to a certain degree, the world. Our social institutions and we as individuals. They remain stuck in the muck and mire of a system which at times forces them outside the margins of successful and viable

lives. Becoming members of a caste system characterized by poverty, inflexibility, and dependency. Most ominous of all, many become fodder for the criminal justice system through which we are losing a generation of young and poor black brothers and sisters. Unfortunately, what has been offered us has been given under the guise of progress which in reality has been plans for regress. In economic matters, we were lead backwards.

Again, I continue to ask the same question as I have in the past, wheredo we go from here? It is a determination we must make and soon. We are in motion, but in what direction are we traveling? Are the doors of opportunity for our people fully opened or just cracked? These questions still loom large in my mind as of this writing. Some of us have "madeit", yet still the masses of us are being left behind. We are the ones of which writer Ralph Ellison speaks in his best seller "Invisible Man". We are the ones trampled over and roused about and then labeled guilty for getting in the way. Again, what has caused this quagmire and what do we do about it? How do we make improvements? Briefly, I shall attempt to answer my own question. First, we were an agricultural nation. Then we transitioned to an industrialized one.

From there we mor-phed into a high tech economy. Man-ufacturing has been out-sourced overseas to cheap labor markets so here we are stuck in an economy which is hi-tech in nature.

Jobs requir-ing high levels of technical knowledge and skills, place workers in America in competition with foreign workers, many of them possessing an abundance of technical knowledge. As a education of the Negro.

We obtained a certain degree of have, to a certain degree, failed to educate our children about black achievements throughout the history of the world; as a result, many remain alien to the concept of black enterprise. people, we are

losing ground with the rise of each morning sun. Most of us were educated for a world which is evaporating before our very eyes. This bleeds somewhat into what the father of black history, Dr. Carter G. Woodson, would label the mis-education as a people, but will it allow us to successfully compete in a world where many factors associated with it, reached states of antiquity long years ago? All this may appear pessimistic, but a spirit of hope still remains. Hundreds of years on these shores have proven that, in spite of the odds often arrayed against us, and no matter the obstacles placed in our paths, we have found the will and a way to sur-vive for still we are a proud, industri-ous and resilient people as docu-mented by the history of our people and the world. Finally, the key to our future survival as a people lies in the degree, quality, and quantity of our education. If we just continue the struggle and make the necessary course correc-tions, we will overcome!

With a Gun

continued from page 2

repeat the argument that the solution to preventing mass shootings is not better gun control laws – even control of assault weapons which have no place in nonmilitary hands – but getting even more Americans armed. The apparent fantasy result would be something straight out of Hollywood where every single time a bad person stands up with a gun a good person with their own gun would quickly rise up out of the crowd, shoot the bad person, and save the day.

But arguments like this ignore both common sense and scientific evidence about the connection between the ready availability of guns – including assault weapons and guns with large ammunition capacity – and the epidemic of gun violence in America. the bad person, and save the day.

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between the ready availability of guns – including assault weapons and guns with large ammunition capacity – and the epidemic of gun violence in America.

Daniel W. Webster, professor and co-director of the Center for Gun Policy and Research at Johns Hopkins School of Public Health and a panelist at the Children's Defense Fund's recent conference, wrote after the Aurora shootings: "We should not brush aside discussions of gun policy as too politically difficult to expect meaningful change, or 'the price for our freedoms.' Instead, we should reflect on why the U.S. has a murder rate that is nearly seven times higher than the average murder rate in other high-income countries and a nearly 20 times higher murder rate with guns. And we should consider how flaws in current gun policies contribute to this disparity... Research indicates that so-called right-to-carry laws don't reduce violence, and may increase aggravated assaults.

"But studies I have conducted indicate that stricter regulations of gun sales, whether by retail dealers or by private sellers, are associated with fewer guns diverted to criminals. Moreover, national surveys show that a large majority of citizens favor these reforms to our gun laws, including most gun owners."

It is way past time for common-sense gun law reform in America. Many of the victims of mass shootings have been strangers – sometimes children – who were personally unknown to the shooters but were simply in "the wrong place at the wrong time," even if the "wrong place" turned out to be going to class, attending a worship service on a Sunday morning, or going to the local movie theater on a summer evening.

In other words, they could have been any one of us.

What will it take for us to do something about it?

Marian Wright Edelman is president of the Children's Defense Fund whose Leave No Child Behind® mission is to ensure every child a Healthy Start, a Head Start, a Fair Start, a Safe Start and a Moral Start in life and successful passage to adulthood with the help of caring families and communities. For more information go to www.childrensdefense.org.

First Lady Michelle Obama wows crowd at Democratic National Convention

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Michelle Obama's message: President Barack Obama is just like you.

Barack knows the American Dream because he's lived it," the first lady told the Democratic National Convention on Tuesday in an address intended to reassure voters that her husband share their values — hard work, perseverance and optimism — while also drawing a contrast between him and Mitt Romney.

Mrs. Obama never mentioned the president's Republican challenger, who grew up in a world of privilege and wealth.

But the point was clear as she weaved a tapestry of their early years together, when money was tight and times were tough, when they were "so in love, and so in debt." She reminisced about the man who now occupies the Oval Office pulling his favorite coffee table out of the trash and wearing dress shoes that were a size too small. And she told stories about a president who still takes time to eat dinner with his daughters nearly every night, answering their questions about the news and strategizing about middle-school friendships.



Harold Sheppard a winner in 3rd Annual Lake Charles Black Rodeo



Little Harold Sheppard participated in the 3rd annual Lake Charles Black Rodeo on September 8, 2012. The Real Cowboy Association hosted Rodeo since April of this year in Mt. Pleasant Texas. Little Harold has participated in all ten leading to the Lake Charles event. The top eight winners will qualify for the RCA National Black Rodeo to be held November 17th, 2012 at the CenturyLink Center in Bossier City, Louisiana. Harold roped his calf in 9.17 seconds in the Longgo. He came back number one in the Shortgo with an average 9.2 seconds. He was left with a current standing of number 3 which qualifies him for the national

finals in November and a chance to win another saddle.

Little Harold began riding and roping about age 6 and is a 2004 graduate of Laneville High School. He is a professional cowboy roping since then. He has won many titles, money and saddles following in the footsteps of his father Harold Sheppard who rodeoed more than thirty years and is now a member of the Old Timers Association. He continues to train rodeo horses. Harold is the son of Harold and Helen Sheppard.

The Sheppars would like to thank sponsors Elder Randall Dodge of Henderson, Lone Star Feed and Shep's Barbeque.

Martin-Smith family reunion held in Alto



One hundred and thirty-eight registered for the Martin-Smith family reunion held in Alto the weekend of August 25th. The family enjoyed stories about the family roots, dominos, Line dancing, and a special talent show. One hundred seven year old Emma Primas of Houston was in attendance.

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1390	Triple It Overall Odds are 1 in 4.58	\$1	10/24/12	04/22/13
1398	Cash Farmer Overall Odds are 1 in 3.94	\$5	10/24/12	04/22/13
1417	The Three Stooges* Overall Odds are 1 in 4.14	\$2	10/24/12	04/22/13

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