



TEXAS INFORMER



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Colin Kaepernick explains why he sat during national anthem

Bringing you positive news about local people since 1995!

Al Gipson spearheads Urban Ministerial Alliance page 7



Colin Kaepernick explains why he sat during national anthem page 12



The Black Church and the Response to HIV/AIDS: Where Faith Meets Advocacy



County Democratic Headquarters and Field Office Opens in Greenhouse Mall

Jacksonville, TX.-The Cherokee County Democratic Party announces the official opening of its new 2016 Campaign Headquarters and Field Office in Jacksonville's Greenhouse Mall at 506 E. Rusk Street on Saturday, September 10, from 5:00-8:00pm. Bill Crowley, the new County Chair, invites everyone to come by and join in the effort to prepare for the upcoming election.

Last date to register to vote in the November 2016 general election is Tuesday, October 11th.

Early voting in Texas begins October 24th and ends November 4th. Election day is Tuesday, November 8, 2016.

A picture photo I. D. is no longer required. A voter registration card with one of the following pieces of identification can be used; certified birth certificate, utility bill, government check, pay stub, or bank statement with your name and address on it. For answers to your questions or to report suspected voter inconsistency call 1-800 252-8683.

Parents Who Owe Child Support Can't Renew Vehicle Registration

Tax Assessor-Collector Mike Sullivan will begin carrying out a new government mandate from the Texas Attorney General's Office, denying certain parent's vehicle registration if they are behind on child support payments. "I want to urge the public to be aware this law is taking effect, to be prepared and to get in touch with the Attorney General's office to take care of their obligations," said Harris County Tax

Opioids: The Prescription Drug & Heroin Overdose Epidemic

USDHHS - Opioids are natural or synthetic chemicals that bind to receptors in your brain or body. Common opioids include heroin and prescription drugs such as oxycodone, hydrocodone, codeine, morphine, and fentanyl. The United States is in the midst of a prescription opioid overdose epidemic among Americans age

Federal Courts Blunt Voter Suppression Efforts in Five States

By Barrington M. Salmon (NNPA Newswire Contributor)

In the span of thirty days, federal judges have scuttled voter suppression laws in North Carolina, Texas, Wisconsin, Kansas and North Dakota, giving voting rights advocates a few, much-needed victories for the blood and sweat wrought in their court battles and protests since the controversial United States Supreme Court decision in *Shelby v. Holder*.



Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton

EDITORIAL

Give Communities of Color a Voice in Reshaping Education

For the first time in our nation's history, the majority of students in public schools are students of color. But in most places, communities of color still have little meaningful say in how their states manage and resource education. As a result, too many students in this new majority are in overcrowded classes and inadequate facilities where teachers are overworked, underpaid and stuck with a curriculum that lacks rigor and relevance.

All students deserve the opportunity to learn and work hard in a healthy environment with excellent teachers, but even 62 years after *Brown v. Board of Education*, our nation is reeling from the unfulfilled promise of an equal education for all. Educational equity is vital to our nation; two-thirds of all future jobs will require some level of higher education, and research suggests that within the next 10 years, our economy will face a deficit of 11 million skilled workers. Continuing policies that fail to prepare all students for college and careers is an immoral and self-defeating choice that stunts our nation's economic potential — and mocks our democratic ideals.

But now there's an opportunity for states, districts and schools to make a better choice. The Every Student Succeeds Act, or ESSA, the federal education law Congress passed late last year, requires that parents and communities be meaningfully

By Wade Henderson (President and CEO, The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights)

engaged in determining how states equitably educate their children.

Under ESSA, every single state and school district is confronted with a question of enormous consequence: Will they work with new majority communities to develop plans and policies that ensure excellent schools for all children? Or will they continue to make their decisions in a bubble, avoid accountability and do a disservice to students in the process?

Progress is not guaranteed. For this new law to improve education for every student, states need to put communities in the driver's seat and focus on the interests of marginalized students. We have always had strong, clear and diverse voices demanding that our education system serve the interests of their children — but decision-makers rarely listen.

Recent research shows that Black and Latino parents understand what the problems exist in their children's schools — and they have clear ideas about what should change. They know that the schools their children attend don't get as much funding as schools White children attend; they know their children aren't getting as good an education as White children; and they know that race is at least one of the reasons why. But they also believe good teaching and high expectations are critical and they want both for their children.

This is all information that states should be taking into account when determining their policies and programs under the new law. And to do that, states, districts, and schools have to engage new majority parents

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

Game #	Game Name / Odds	\$	Official Close of Game	End of Sales Date
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1746	#LuckyTicket Overall Odds are 1 in 4.68	\$1	10/26/16	4/24/17
1692	\$2 Set For Life Overall Odds are 1 in 4.36	\$2	10/26/16	4/24/17
1730	Solid Gold Overall Odds are 1 in 4.64	\$2	10/26/16	4/24/17
1625	Mega Slots Overall Odds are 1 in 4.09	\$5	10/26/16	4/24/17

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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 must include name of the sender.

Where are African Americans spending their \$1 trillion buying power?

PRNewswire-USNewswire - New report: Spending booms on dining out, home improvement, automobiles and financial services. The well-documented rapid growth of Hispanic, Asian and other multicultural segments of the U.S. population has at times overshadowed the noticeable economic growth and influence of African-Americans. Within the past five years, the buying power of African-Americans topped \$1 trillion.

In its new report African-Americans: Demographic and Consumer Spending Trends, 10th Edition, market research firm Packaged Facts found that between 2010 and 2015 African-American buying power grew from \$995 billion to \$1.3 trillion for cumulative growth of 27 percent. Looking ahead, Packaged Facts forecasts cumulative growth of 16 percent between 2015-2020.

The rise of affluent households has helped bolster African-American buying power. Between 2005 and 2014 the number of African-American households with an income of \$100,000 or more jumped 83 percent, from 1.1 million to around two million. Comparatively, the total number of American households in the \$100,000+ income bracket grew only 53 percent. Likewise, the number of black households with incomes ranging between \$75,000 and \$100,000 increased by 25 percent.

As the two-tier economy continues to reach into all demographic segments, it is likely that the buying power of affluent black households will continue to grow at a relatively rapid pace, finds Packaged Facts. For the U.S. economy overall, the trickle-down effect of this swelling prosperity has seen consumer



expenditures by the average African-American household grow faster than consumer spending by other households (26 percent vs. 23 percent).

Dining out is one area where African-Americans are spending more of their money. Packaged Facts estimates that the amount black households spent in 2015 on food away from home was 14 percent higher than in 2012, while expenditures on food at home increased only 5 percent. Similarly, purchases on apparel, personal care products (especially fragrances), home furnishings, appliances (both major and minor), and home improvement/remodeling also boomed. African-American consumers played a major role in the rush to auto dealers' showrooms that occurred between 2012 and 2015. During this time period, spending by American consumers on

automotive vehicles grew by \$126 billion, or 36 percent.

Higher-income African-Americans outspend the total population on "future-oriented" expenditures such as life, endowment, annuity, and other personal insurance, as well as contributions to pensions and Social Security.

Packaged Facts also found that higher-income black consumers present a major opportunity for financial firms. Over the past decade, the percent of higher-income African-American households holding any form of financial investment has trended upward from 36 percent to 44 percent.

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WHAT'S COOK'N

Easy Cheesy Mexican Casserole



Ingredients Nutrition

- Servings 6 Units US
 6 fajita-size flour tortillas
 1 (15 ounce) can refried beans
 1 lb ground beef
 1 cup onion, chopped
 1 teaspoon dried chipotle powder or 1 teaspoon dried ancho chile powder
 1/2 teaspoon ground cumin
 1 (15 ounce) can Ro-Tel tomatoes
 1 (4 ounce) can jalapeno peppers, diced
 1 (8 ounce) package mexican cheese, shredded
 1 (15 ounce) can chili beans or 1 (15 ounce) can kidney beans or 1 (15 ounce) can black beans, drained
 1 cup Bisquick

Directions
 Brown ground beef and onions; add chili powder, cumin, tomatoes and jalapenos. Heat through. Meanwhile line bottom and sides of a 13 x 9" pan with tortillas. Line bottom with refried beans. Add 1/2 of ground beef mixture. Cover with 1/2 of the cheese. Top with beans. Add the rest of the ground beef mixture. Top with the rest of the cheese.
 Mix Bisquick, milk and egg together; add chilies. Pour over casserole; top with crushed Doritos. Bake in 350° oven for 50 - 60 minutes until top is browned and toothpick inserted in crust comes out dry. Let stand for 10 minutes before cutting.

CHRISTIANITY



By James Washington (The Dallas Weekly, NNPA Member)

I have two words for you today; confidence and discipline. Both of which, when viewed spiritually, exude Godly principles. Put this on the Holy Spirit, but discipline is an amazing thing. When applied to faith, be it natural or supernatural, the result is spiritual confidence. Spiritual confidence and discipline, without ego or arrogance, gives you an attitude of awareness and knowledge and dare I say power? The example I'd like to use is of those saints in the Upper Room, when the Holy Spirit came upon them on the day of Pentecost and instilled everyone there with well, confidence and discipline. These people ultimately came to demonstrate a level of faith that was used via the power and grace of God to spread the Word of God all over the world. If you look at the before and after of this Pentecostal happening, you'll begin to see my point. Prior to this, the faithful were huddled in

secrecy, being faithful to the belief that what Jesus had told them, was indeed true. God would send another. That 'Other' turned out to be the Holy Spirit, who imbued them with more of what they already had. Now their confidence in the truth of Jesus, coupled with their discipline to spread that word, manifested itself in their ability to communicate the gospel to the world. The world has not been the same since.

The question then becomes, in what is your confidence and discipline based? Where do you get the necessary power to have your gifts fortified? Does your faith give you the strength to acquire the discipline necessary to know what you should be doing in the Lord's name and then do it? I believe the result is the power to know that you can do anything through Christ Jesus, provided you were called to do it. I also believe scripture illustrates to us that without spiritually based discipline, it is practically impossible to stand up to the trials and tribulations of life, but also impossible to withstand the temptations that seek to control our sometimes out of control behavior. The good news here is that wherever the Holy Spirit resides, change will occur, the right kind of change.

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Church Announcements

HEALTH

Mental Health from page 6

Linwood Baptist Church

Linwood Community
off highway 21 East of Alto

Family and Friends Day

3:00pm Sunday,
October 23rd

Rev. Vertis Thacker, Pastor
(The public is invited to attend)

Elm Grove Baptist Church

Highway 110 North
Rusk, Texas

Women's Day Celebration

11:00a.m.

Speaker
Minister Brenda Mallard Davis
Timothy Bircher, Pastor
(The public is invited to attend and
Dinner will be served)

New Community United Methodist Church

920 MLK
Jacksonville, Tx. 75766

Family and Friends Day

October 9, 2016
3:00pm

Speaker
Rev. Larry Smith Fellowship Baptist
Dallas, Texas

Pastor, Rev. Edward Smith

Mt. Olive Baptist Church

215 Collins Street
Rusk, Texas 75785

Musician & Choir Annual Appreciation

October 23, 2016
3:00pm

Speaker
Rev. J. R. Mumphrey
Greater Calvary Baptist Church
Dallas, Tx.
Rev. Jerry Leviston, Pastor
Sam O'Neal, Deacon
Mary Foreman, Choir President

neighborhoods. And it requires that we go beyond the traditional scope of care by addressing the socioeconomic needs that contribute to mental health, including access to affordable housing, food security and more. Going beyond the traditional scope also means that our nation must address the care of our military veterans. Current statistics reveal that 18 to 22 veterans die by suicide each day in America because of their unique mental and behavioral health needs. Some of these veterans are African-Americans; we must do more to help all vets. That's one reason for Ascension's participation in the federal Veterans Choice Program, which was formed to improve the quality and access of care to veterans nationwide. All of these programs and investments are important, but real gains in this fight will not come without the support and participation of the African-American community overall. We must stop viewing mental illness in America as if it were a personal failing rather than a serious health concern. And we must

help our loved ones and neighbors to stop neglecting the care they need because of stigmas that surround mental health. These stigmas must be addressed and overcome. While communities of color are having important conversations about mental health, we can do more. Breaking down these barriers will compel us not only to recognize the necessity of mental health care, but also to marshal our support for family, friends and neighbors who are seeking the help and treatment they need. Together, we can build a healthier, stronger community, where getting support for mental health problems is not a sign of weakness, but one of strength. Patricia A. Maryland, Dr.PH, is the President of Healthcare Operations and Chief Operating Officer for Ascension Health, the healthcare delivery subsidiary of Ascension, the nation's largest non-profit and largest Catholic health system.

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Jennifer Williams - Oct. 10
Shirley Davis - Oct. 10
Shirley Clark - Oct 5th
Wanda Adams Oct. 25
Sue Alexander - Oct. 26
Carolyn Reed - Oct. 8

Daphne Session - Sept. 10
Wendy Mclaughlin - Sept. 12
Triniti Small - Sept. 26
Marcus Carter - Sept 2
Maxine session - Sept. 16
Brenda Black Oct. 11
Glen Dennis - Oct 11
Charles Denman -Sept. 2
Jerome Reed - Oct. 8

Arringtons celebrate anniversary



Mr. & Mrs. Steve and Ferlich Arrington celebrated their 14th anniversary on Aug. 24th

Additional Reklaw water wells on the way



Reklaw, Tx. - The Reklaw test water well has been completed. The casing has been ordered and will be placed in the ground. Then the ariator will be added according to city secretary Judy Ritter. Right now there is no timeline for completion, but a grant has been received and Duplichain of Alto has the contract. Russell drilling of Nacogdoches will be doing the drilling. The end result plan is to make water available to the Fairview Community which currently has about thirteen families with no access to water lines.

Taking a Closer Look at Black Mental Health

By Patricia Maryland, Dr.PH (NNPA News Wire Guest Columnist)



Dr. Patricia Maryland, PHD

Good physical and mental health help drive success and enjoyment in our lives. But when it comes to overcoming some of our society's biggest health challenges – from HIV/AIDS to cancer to diabetes to behavioral health issues – the African-American community unfortunately shoulders a disproportionate share of the burden. As our nation increasingly deals with violence, suicide and depression, it's important to take a close look at the state of Black mental health in America.

The National Institute of Mental Health estimates that one of every five adults in the U.S. — some 43 million people — will experience mental illness this year. African-Americans are far from immune. In fact, Blacks are more than 20 percent more likely than Whites to report having serious psychological distress. For people of color living in poverty-stricken neighborhoods, where rates of homelessness, incarceration, substance abuse and violent crime are higher, the risk of mental illness is compounded. One of the challenges African-Americans with mental health issues continue to face is an imbalance in health insurance coverage. While the Affordable Care Act has caused the uninsured rate among Blacks to decline by close to 10 percentage

points between 2013 and 2016, it remains almost twice as high as the uninsured rate for non-Hispanic Whites. There is also a lack of African-American mental health professionals who can deliver culturally competent care for illnesses that are often deeply personal and can be the subject of stigmatization. According to a 2014 survey, less than 2 percent of American Psychological Association members are African-American. These disparities are unacceptable. It is clear that we must make mental health equity a guiding principle and an utmost priority. As Ascension's President and CEO Anthony Tersigni recently stated: "Insurance coverage for the treatment of these disorders has long been discriminatory compared with coverage for physical diseases. In 2008, the federal

government essentially legislated that there be parity between mental health coverage and physical health coverage, but the intended changes have been problematic and slow in coming." On the part of healthcare providers, addressing this challenge means promoting and expanding access to affordable mental and behavioral healthcare — care that recognizes the stressors that African-Americans experience and provides solutions that are culturally competent. For our part, we have established behavioral/mental health as a dedicated priority service line across our national healthcare system. This work demands continued investment in community health centers, which are vital to serving high-need minority

Woodville CME Church receives Face Lift from Volunteers



Eddie Session and John Griffith are working hard to give Woodville Methodist Church a fresh look by painting the outside trim. Repairs to the inside ceiling, the lawn and parking area are also in progress. Huge dead trees were cut and removed and a new metal roof was added recently. Among others who volunteered were Pastor Gary Weaver, William Fuller, Pete and Melvin Session.

Lord please give my treasured friends and family love and blessings without end. Bring them contentment in their lives. Comfort them in times of strife. Let their path to you be sure. Lord I pray my friends and family will be close to you eternally. Amen

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Voter Registration Help Is On The Way



Rev. Jerry Leviston and Emerson Griffin recently held a voter registration drive to get those who are not registered ready to vote in the November 8, 2016 general election. Their voter registration drive also served as a reminder that the last date to register to vote in this election is Tuesday, October 11, 2016. A picture photo I. D. is no longer required. A voter registration card with one of the following pieces of identification can be used; utility bill, government check, pay stub, or bank statement with your name and address on it. For questions or to register call the Cherokee County Election Office at

Urban Ministers Alliance holds Town Hall Meeting



Billy Redd and Minister Gipson

Moderator was minister Al Gipson. Audience and panel participation led to discussion on employment, housing, economics, the criminal justice system, education, and black on black crime as they relate to the local minority communities.

Minister Gipson says, "The primary purpose of the Urban Ministries Alliance is to promote unity and solidarity among the collective church body coordinatong our efforts to build a better and safer community for ourselves and our children. We encourage and welcome all faiths and its membership to be a part of this noble effort of revival. We seek to end the old strong hold that the pews have on most members of the

Jacksonville, Tx. August 28th the Urban Ministers Alliance held a town hall meeting at the Norman Activity Center. Panels were Evelyn Guinn, Rev. Cedric Grandberry, Pres. Tyler NAACP, Maxine Session and Billy Redd.

Obituaries

Mrs. Essie Mae (Watson) Hamilton

Mrs. Essie Mae (Watson) Hamilton was born April 13, 1918 to Willie Watson and Bertha Thompson in Cherokee County, Texas. She has 9 siblings, Hestella, Essie, Clifford, James(Buster), Brownie, George Ruby, Frank and 2 are survived by her, Willie Mae(Jacksonville, Texas) and Linnie (Dallas, Texas). Mrs. Essie married CoNeal Hamilton in 1932 at the age of 14 and spent her life as a homemaker. She birthed 11 children (listed in order) and one Stepdaughter*: *Alzata+, Teal+, Jessie Mae+, Arma Lee+, Goldie Mae (Alto, TX), Bertha Mae (Alto, TX), Roxie Ann+, Lonnie Ann (Alto, TX), Alberta (Alto, TX), Helen (Alto, TX), Katherleen (Alto, TX) and Verdie Jean (Nacogdoches, X). She is survived by 7 of her 11 children. 289 (and counting) people are apart of Mrs. Essie's bloodline: 11 children, 36 grandchildren, 101 great grandchildren, 124 great great grandchildren, and 17 great great great grandchildren.

Mrs. Essie has a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, etc that are survived by her. September 15, 2016, Mrs. Essie went on to glory joining her deceased husband and children, at ETMC in Jacksonville, Texas in the arms of her daughter, Alberta Pope. She will be missed and remembered by many people.

April 13, 1918– September 15, 2016 Tuesday, September 20, 2016 1 PM, St. Thomas AME, Alto, TX.



PHOTO CAPTION: Rev. Edwin C. Sanders II (left), founder of Metropolitan Interdenominational Church in Nashville, Tenn., is working to get more Black pastors involved in the fights against AIDS. (Freddie Allen/BAI/NNPA)

By Tamara Holmes (BAI Daily Contributing Writer)

It's no secret that HIV/AIDS advocates and the Black church have not always seen eye to eye. However, a new faith-based initiative could create more collaboration between those groups than ever before.

The United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and UNAIDS have aunched a \$4 million two-year initiative to strengthen the capacity of faith-based organizations to respond to HIV/AIDS. The effort lwill focus on five areas: collecting, analyzing and disseminating data; strengthening leadership nd advocacy; addressing stigma and discrimination; improving the provision of

aincreasing demand for HIV services and ensuring that people remain in care. "Faith has played a critical role in the trajectory of the HIV/AIDS pandemic," says Phill Wilson, president and CEO of the Black AIDS Institute. "This initiative helps us expand the engagement of faith-based organizations, including those in the U.S., in efforts that are aligned with the UNAIDS and various efforts to end the pandemic." Cultivating Better Relationships The faith-based initiative comes in response to 10 recommendations made by more than 50 faith leaders in April 2015. The United Nations General Assembly, UNAIDS, PEPFAR and Emory University in September 2015 released a report titled, "Building on Firm Foundations" (pdf) that is based on those recommendations.

the faith community's desire to step up its involvement in the fight against HIV/AIDS. An interfaith service held in June 2016 led to a call to action to end the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Following the service was a U.N. High Level Meeting on Ending AIDS, in which world leaders adopted a Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS. Their intention: to end the epidemic by 2030.

Religious leaders have also voiced support to PLWHA and members of the LGBT community, who have been disproportionately affected by the disease. For example, in June, Pope Francis said that Christians should apologize to the gay community for the way Christians had treated them in the past.

In February, Archbishop Thabo Makgoba, Anglican archbishop of Cape Town, South Africa, also adopted an accepting postu about the LGBT community. In a letter describing a resolution of the Anglican Synod of Bishops, an advisory body to the pope, Makgoba wrote, "We reaffirm our assurance to them that they are loved by God and that all baptised, believing and faithful persons, regardless of sexual orientation, are full members of the Body of Christ."

Faith communities across the world have the responsibility to represent those who are affected by HIV/AIDS, particularly those whose voices aren't being heard, says Manoj Kurian, M.D., coordinator of the World Council of Churches'

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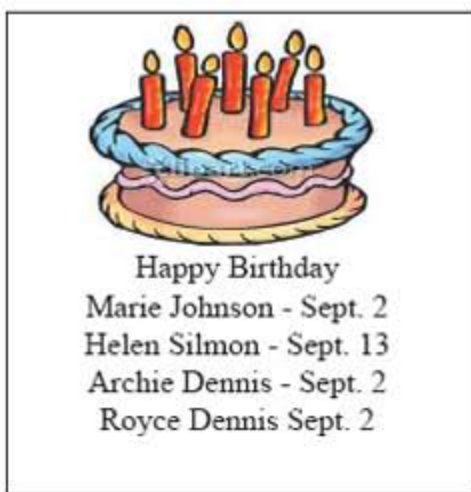

Opioids from page 1

12 and older. In 2014, more than 28,000 people died from opioid overdose, and at least half of those deaths involved a prescription opioid. Many more became addicted to prescription and illegal opioids. Heroin-related deaths have also increased sharply, more than tripling since 2010. In 2014, more than 10,500 people died from heroin.

In 2015 100 people died each day from drug overdose on prescription pain killers. Opioid abuse is a serious public health issue, but preventive actions, treatment for addiction, and proper response to overdoses can help. Southern states had the most prescriptions per person for painkillers, especially Alabama, Tennessee, and West Virginia. The Northeast, especially Maine and New Hampshire, had the most prescriptions per person for long-acting and high-dose painkillers. Nearly 22 times as many prescriptions were written for oxymorphone (a specific type of painkiller) in Tennessee as were written in Minnesota.

States can:

- Consider ways to increase use of prescription drug monitoring programs, which are state-run databases that track prescriptions for painkillers and can help find problems in overprescribing. Use of these programs is greater when they make data available in real-time, are universal (used by all prescribers for all controlled substances), and are actively managed (for example, send alerts to prescribers when problems are identified).
- Consider policy options (including laws and regulation) relating to pain clinics (facilities that specialize in pain treatment) to reduce prescribing practices that are risky to patients



Urban Ministers

church restricted to Sunday Service and occasional Wednesday prayers and study. Today circumstances and time are demanding a serious and sustained plan of action. It matters little how dark things may appear, God is ready and willing to assist us all the way until the victory is won.

The primary Objective is to bring together pastors, ministers and the members of lay community for the purpose of building an alliance

that is focused on the many problems of the urban areas all across the U S and the world. We believe that so long as the collective clergy remains divided, the local communities with many churches in their midst will continue to suffer, even to the point of death. It is the responsibility of the collective church body to address the ills of the community where it exists regardless as to what they are or the risks that might be involved. Please contact Minister Al Gipson for additional information (903) 722-4463

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Margarett Perkins, Laura Perkins, James I. Perkins and Dr. L. Michael Metke President of Tyler Junior College enter into agreement making possible the Rusk TJC Citizens Promise. The James I Perkins Family Foundation and Tyler Junior College established this scholarship program for Rusk High School graduates. The top fifty-percent/qualifying students have \$8000. scholarships to TJC which began with the class of 2014. Those TJC graduating students pictured above are the first to complete the requirements and be recognized this year.

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Ms. J's 411

With the back to school season upon us, many kids are about to experience their first day of school. It's an exciting time filled with happy emotions for some, as well as anxious feeling for others. Some kids feel nervous or a little scared on the first day of school because of all the new things: new teachers, new friends, and maybe even a new school. Luckily, these "new" worries only stick around for a little while. Here are a few tips to prepare for the first day of school.

1) Set Expectations- Creating expectations for your child's daily schedule is extremely helpful for all kids, especially those who have difficulty with change and transition.

2) Project Calm & Confidence- If you are calm and confident about your child going to school, your child will be calm and confident. Don't worry you aren't the first or last parent to feel un easy about the first day of school.

3) Classroom Visits & Slow Transitions- This is a fantastic opportunity to acquaint your child to the new setting and help kids know what to expect on the first day of school.

4) Logistics- Before and Sometimes the very first day of school, there will be paperwork to turn in, as well as specific item requested by the classroom teacher.

I highly recommend turning in any paperwork. It is a great help to Administration, and will also help you "project calm & confidence. This is licensing law dictated by your state.

5) Drop -Off- Acquaint yourself with your school's drop-off policies and procedures and follow them. On behalf of teaching in the school system for over 20 yrs., please follow your school's drop-off policies.

6) Lunch- I recommend meal planning for the week. If your child's school does not provide lunch, I definitely recommend your child helping you prepare lunch the night before. It also becomes a fun talking point for them to tell their teacher, and or classmates, as they explain how they prepared their meal. It also becomes a good time for you (parent) and child to communicate and talk about school.

7) Pick Up- I have to include this and please don't take offense, but I can't tell you the amount of time I have seen this When you are picking up your child from school, please DO NOT be on your cell phone. Your child is so excited to see you and when they realize they are sharing your attention with you on the cell phone, well, it's a massive disappointment to them. Kids really do miss their parents during the day even if they do not always show it in the way you want them to. Be present and enjoy the moment. They won't be little for much longer.

8) Talking About The Day- Instead of asking Yes or No questions, ask questions that have specific answers. This is a way to hear about their day and also get kids to communicate about their day and their feelings. My hope is that these tips help you feel prepared for your child's first day of school.

Also whether our children are just starting a new school year, a new beginning, kindergarten, entering high school, or leaving the nest for college, our hearts and hopes go with them. Bless your child with a beautiful prayer as he or she goes out to face the world. Until next time take care of yourself and others to.

Voter Suppression Efforts

from page 1

The day after the Supreme Court gutted the Voting Rights Act in Shelby v. Holder, Republicans in North Carolina, led by the Speaker of the House, introduced H.B. 589, one of the most restrictive pieces of election legislation in the country, which local advocates called the "monster bill. The measure included a strict ID requirement, a shorter early voting period; the elimination same-day registration; the prohibition of the counting of out-of-precinct provisional ballots; elimination of a pre-registration program for 16- and 17-year olds; and making challenging voters easier.

"The court ruled on the most sweeping, retrogressive voter suppression bill that we have seen since the 19th century and since Jim Crow, and the worst in the nation since the 'Shelby' decision," said Barber, during a lunch break at the Repairers of the Breach Moral Political Organizing Leadership Institute and Summit. "The [voter law] in North Carolina was intentional discrimination of the highest order. They were retrogressing racially through redistricting."

Barber, the pastor of Greenleaf Christian Church for the past 25 years, said there is too much racism, materialism and militarism across the country, adding that the socio-political process has been hijacked with too much of the national political discourse and activity poisoned by the dominance of regressive, immoral and hateful policy directed to communities of color, the poor, the sick, children, immigrants, voting rights, LGBTQ, the environment and religious minorities. Officials at the Center describe these laws as part of a broader movement to curtail voting rights,

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ASK A. J.

What did he just say?



A. J. Rhodes

To run for president of the United States, a person must have been born in the US, must be at least thirty-five years old, and must have been a resident of the U S for the past fourteen years. If you have been watching the current presidential campaign, you might agree with me that another requirement should be added.....must be mentally competent. The world is watching this campaign for president play out on the cable news channels like a bad reality show. Donald Trump has lowered the standards for this position to an all time low in morals, intelligence, honesty, good character and just plain common sense. That's why the requirement to prove mental competence should be added.

Investigation found hundreds of people – carpenters, dishwashers, painters, even his own lawyers – who say he didn't pay them for their work. Some people were bused into this country by the 100's by him with only a Green Card, to work for him in his hotels and were paid only pennies on a dollar.

His products such as ties, shirts caps, and many others are being manufactured in other countries right this minute.

The things that come out of his mouth should not be voiced on a public platform anywhere, yet he says or tweets these things on national television and radio.

According to the New York Times, dozens of complaints about Trump University rolled into the offices of attorneys general in Florida, Texas, New York and Illinois, officials said, prompting multiple investigations and, eventually, the lawsuit from former students in California. In an apparent attempt to discredit the judge in the case, Gonzalo P. Curiel, Mr. Trump called him biased and a "hater of Donald Trump," and he sought to draw attention to the judge's ethnic background — "we believe Mexican," Mr. Trump said. But, the fact is Mr. Curiel was born in Indiana; he is of Mexican descent. He used Trump Foundation donations, money he did not donate but from others, to purchase a \$10,000. painting of himself.

Eighty-five percent of Americans call themselves Christians, followers of Jesus Christ. Donald Trump is one of these Americans. Can you see Jesus Christ anywhere in Trump and his actions?

The bad thing about his whole fiasco is, there are so many sane American citizens who have jeopardized their own integrity and common sense to support this man. Did you hear what he just said? WAKE UP PEOPLE! THIS IS NOT A DREAM. THIS IS NOT A GAME. IT'S REAL!

Texas Attorney General Enacting New Mandate Next Month

Continued from page 1

Assessor-Collector Mike Sullivan. Beginning in September, parents who are 180 days behind on child support payments will be denied the ability to register their automobiles.

"This is an administrative office. We are now being directed to act as enforcement for the Texas Attorney General and the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles and that concerns me," said Sullivan.

The Texas Attorney General will notify parents 90 days prior to their registration renewal date, warning them their registration will not be processed unless they contact the OAG to setup a payment plan. They must make a satisfactory payment toward the plan to qualify.

"Texas children deserve financial assistance. I understand and support the intent of the law. On the other hand, I am concerned this will extend our waittimes, create longer lines and lead to more vehicles on the road without valid registrations," said Sullivan.

The Harris County Tax Assessor-Collector's Office Automobile Division performs more than 4.5 million automobile transactions each year. It serves as an agent for the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles, assisting in motor vehicle

registration, registration and title fee collections and distribution to proper entities. Learn more about the Automobile Services Division by visiting www.hctax.net



September Happy Birthday to:

- Rowan Dennis - Sept. 9
- Katie Stewart - Sept. 5
- Debbie Denman Rushing-Sept. 5
- DeSandra Porter - Sept. 9
- Craig Jones - Sept. 9
- Tommy Lee Boyd - Sept. 27
- Trena Boyd Sept. 1

October Happy Birthday to:

- Brenda Mosley - Oct. 2
- Bridget Riden - Oct. 19
- Virginia Dennis - Oct. 27
- Tina Mosley- Oct. 29
- Taydra O'Conner - Oct. 25
- Sheila Johnson - Oct. 25
- Lee Autry Atkins - Oct. 25
- Collecia Bush - Oct. 27
- Annie McClelland Oct. 21
- O'Neal W. Oct. 23

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Colin Kaepernick expresses his feelings against US racial and police violence



Colin Kaepernick refuses to stand during national anthem

National News - By refusing to stand during the national anthem, San Francisco 49ers' quarterback Colin Kaepernick is making an important, bold rebuke of police violence against Black people. Kaepernick joins a long history of Black athletes using their platforms to advance racial and gender justice issues - like Tommie Smith and John Carlos giving the Black Power

salute during the national anthem at the 1968 Olympics, Jackie Robinson writing that he could not salute the flag as "a Black man in a white world," the women of the WNBA wearing black in protest of police brutality, or LeBron James leading the Miami Heat to pose in an evocative photo, all wearing hoodies to express grief and outrage at the murder of Trayvon Martin.

All of these Black athletes demand that America live up to its own ideals - and that takes a courage we should all strive for. We need to continue working to ensure that such brave stands aren't remembered as gestures, but as catalysts for positive change.

Since the Kaepernick protest began other athletic teams have taken a knee and refused to stand. Corner Jeremy Lane with the Seattle Seahawks remained seated on the bench as his teammates stood for the anthem.

At least 15 black people have died during encounters with the police since San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick began protesting police violence. The most recent being killings in Tulsa, Oklahoma and South, Carolina.

The head of the Santa Clara police union wrote a letter Friday threatening to stop working San Francisco 49ers home games unless the team takes action against controversial quarterback Colin Kaepernick.

Colin Kaepernick explained why he will not stand, "I am not going to

stand up to show pride in a flag for a country that oppresses black people and people of color," Kaepernick told NFL Media in an exclusive interview after the game. "To me, this is bigger than football and it would be selfish on my part to look the other way. There are bodies in the street and people getting paid leave and getting away with murder.

"The 49ers issued a statement about Kaepernick's decision: "The national anthem is and always will be a special part of the pre-game ceremony. It is an opportunity to honor our country and reflect on the great liberties we are afforded as its citizens. In respecting such American principles as freedom of religion and freedom of expression, we recognize the right of an individual to choose and participate, or not, in our celebration of the national anthem."

By taking a stand for civil rights, Kaepernick, 28, joins other athletes, like the NBA's Dwyane Wade, Chris Paul, LeBron James and Carmelo Anthony and several WNBA players in using their platform and status to raise awareness to issues

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- CERTIFIED BIRTH CERTIFICATE (MUST BE AN ORIGINAL)
- ORIGINAL OR COPY OF CURRENT UTILITY BILL
- ORIGINAL OR COPY OF BANK STATEMENT
- ORIGINAL OR COPY OF GOVERNMENT CHECK
- ORIGINAL OR COPY OF PAYCHECK
- ORIGINAL OR COPY OF GOVERNMENT DOCUMENT WITH YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS (ORIGINAL REQUIRED IF IT CONTAINS A PHOTOGRAPH)

Election Day: November 8th



Early Voting: Oct. 24th - Nov. 4th

PLAN YOUR TRIP TO THE POLLS @ VOTETEXAS.GOV 1 (800) 252-VOTE /TXSECRETARY

Voters with a disability may apply with the county voter registrar for a permanent exemption to showing photo ID at the polls. The application must contain written documentation from either the U.S. Social Security Administration evidencing he or she has been determined to have a disability or from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs evidencing a disability rating of at least 50 percent.