Southwest Digest





Community **Meetings**

- * Lubbock Area Client Council meets on the 2nd Saturday, 1:00 pm at the Patterson Branch Library, 1836 Parkway Drive.
- * Hub City Kiwanis meets 1st & 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7 p. m., Lyons Chapel Baptist Chuch, East 24th Street & MLK Blvd.
- * Dunbar Alumni Association meets 2nd Saturdays, 4:00 pm.
- * Booker T. W Washington American Legion, Post 808, meets every 2nd Tuesday at 7:30 pm, American Legion Building in Yellowhouse Canyon.
- Forgotten West Riders meets on the 1st & 3rd Mondays, 7:00 pm, Patterson Branch Library.
- * East Lubbock Chapter AARP meets every 1st Thursday at 1:00 pm, Great Saint Luke Missionary Baptist Church.
- * Lubbock Chapter of Black Alumni meets every 3rd Tuesday, 5:30 pm, TTU Market Alumni Center.
- * Dunbar Manhattan Heights Neighborhood Association meets every 1st Thursday at 7:00 pm and every 4th Thursday at 7:00 pm at the Dunbar Manhattan Heights Neighborhood Outreach Center, 1301 E. 24th Street.
- * West Texas Native American Association Pot Luck Supper meets on alternating months prior to meeting, meetings held on 2nd Saturdays of each month at

7:00 pm, Educational presentations and demonstrations. * The Unified Juneteenth

Commission of Lubbock meets every Tuesday evening at Bryon Martin Technology Center, 3401 Avenue Q, beginning at 5:30 p.m.

* West Texas Chapter of 100 Black Men of West Texas meets 3rd Monday evenings at 7:00 pm at The Bridge

1401 Redbud Avenue * The Parkway & Cherry-Point Neighborhood

Association meets the 3rd Tuesday evenings, 7:30 pm at 517 Zenith Avenue, Star Care Center * Chatman Hill Neighborhood

- Association meets 2nd Thursday of every month at 6:00 pm at 2301 Avenue A.
- * ROOTS meets every 2nd Saturday at 2:00 p. m. at 2301 Avenue A.
- * If you have an annoucement about your organization, please advise by calling (806) 762-3612

e-mail swdigest@sbcglobal.net.

If you have an announcement you want to appear in this paper, there are three ways to get information to us:

Southwest Digest Community Meetings 902 East 28th Street Lubbock, Texas 79404 (806) 76first to publicly release a vorkforce demographics report ear lier this year. They were commended for doing so, and so far, experts say they are the most aggressive at addressing the issue.

What's In This Week's

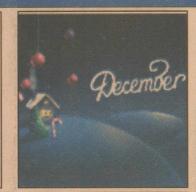
Fashion Fair Is Back In Cinque Thank God for Jesus Page 3 Page 4 Obsequies Page ! **Miracles Christmas Parade** Page (

NAACP Leader Sues Page 8

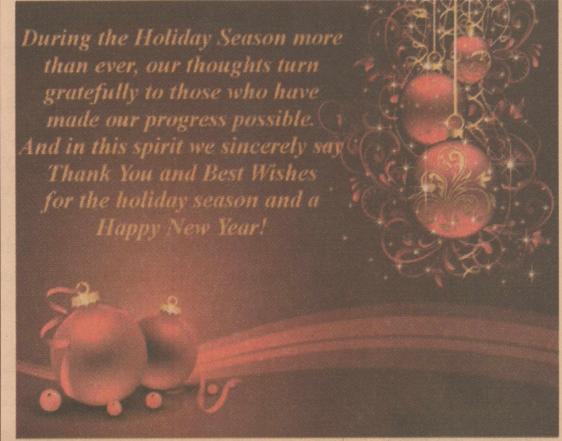
Thanks For Supporting Us! Subscribe Today! Only \$60.00 A Year! Call: (806) 762-3612 Read What's Happening In The **Black Community!** SUBSCRIBE TODAY!!!







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With joy in our hearts, as we ponder the Love of God our Father, who was sent from above; Jesus is the reason for this festive and joyous season. We are so grateful for all the Lord has done for us and for sending us loving and supportive people like you. *****EMMANUEL, GOD IS WITH US!!*****

From all of us at the Southwest Digest, we say "Thank You" and wish you all a Blessed Christmas and A Very Happy New Year!

State Official who Called Michelle Obama 'Ape in heels' Gets Job Back

The woman who called First Lady Michelle Obama an "ape in heels" on Facebook and subsequently lost her job will return to work later this month, the Charleston-Gazette Mail reported.

Pamela Taylor served as the director at the Clay County Development Corporation in Clay, a non-profit organization located in West Virginia that is funded by state and federal funds. After the election she posted on Facebook, "It will be so refreshing to have a classy, beautiful, dignified First Lady back in the White House. I'm tired of seeing a Ape in heels."

Taylor was removed from her job after the posting went viral, but the corporation announced that she will be returning to her position on December 23.

The Charleston-Gazette Mail reported that, according to a letter from Leslie McGlothin, the organization's acting director, to the West Virginia Bureau of Senior Services, Taylor is currently on suspension but will return to

In a letter dated November 14 - around when the post became widespread on social media — Robert Roswall, the state bureau's commissioner, cautioned the organization that "any discrimination of staff or the customers [they] serve" could cost it its funding.



Pamela Taylor (1) called the first lady an "ape in heels."

incident had become a "hate crime against me." She had been working on a lawsuit against the people who were slandering her. New reports have not indicated the status of the lawsuit. On the original Facebook post, which has since been deleted, Clay County Mayor Beverly Whaling commented and said, "Just made my day, Pam." Not long after the post became widespread, Whaling resigned as mayor.

Whaling initially reported to The Washington Post that her comment had been misconstrued.

"I was referring to my day being made for change in the White House! I am truly sorry for any hard feeling this may have caused!" she said.

As the Obamas prepare to exit the White House after eight years, the first lady and president At the time, Taylor said the cannot escape racism, particularly over social media. About a week after news of Taylor's post broke, a Tennessee deputy director resigned after posting disturbing racist and violent messages on his Facebook, including one calling for the deaths of President Barack Obama and the first lady.

David Barber, former deputy director of the Shelby County Corrections Center, wrote numerous hateful posts, including, "The KKK is more American than the illegal president!"

In another post Barber shared an article in which Obama talked about being discriminated against while serving in the White House. The Free Patriot wrote on the post, "Hit LIKE if you're ready to see this smug loser out of the White House!"

Barber wrote his own comment: "Arrest convict hang and confiscate all assets."

Touch From Heaven Sings At Mae Simmons Senior Citizens Christmas Party



The well known Touch From Heaven did an outstanding job singing at the Christmas Party for the Seniors who attended the Mae Simmons Senior Citizens on Friday evening, December 16, 2016. They are, from left to right: Lee Chavez, Billy Lawson, Bobby Taylor, and Harry Powell.





Thursday, December 22, 2016 Vol. 39 Years, No. 7

Louisville quarterback Lamar Jackson wins 2016 Heisman Trophy



Louisville quarterback Lamar Jackson holds the Heisman Trophy during the award ceremony on December 10, 2016 in New York City. (Pool / Getty Images)

Lamar Jackson leapt over a loaded field of Heisman Trophy contenders early in the season and by the time he slowed down nobody could catch him.

The sensational sophomore quarterback became the first Louisville player to win the Heisman Trophy on Saturday night, beating out preseason favorite Deshaun Watson of Clemson despite some late-sea-

son struggles. Baker Mayfield finished third and Oklahoma teammate and fellow finalist Dede Westbrook was fourth. Michigan's Jabrill Peppers was fifth.

Jackson, wearing a red velvet blazer with shiny black lapels, said he could feel his heart pounding in his chest right before his name was announced, and he barely held it together while giving his speech with the former Heisman winners standing behind him on stage.

"I almost cried," Jackson said. "I never get emotional, but to have my name called and see all those great players ..."

Watson, who finished third in Heisman voting last year, led a stacked group of contenders entering this season that included five of the top seven vote-getters in 2015.

Jackson outdid them all in his first season as Louisville's fulltime starter, accounting for 51 touchdowns and averaging 410 yards per game in total offense. He ultimately won going away, with 2,144 points to Watson's 1,524. By percentage of possible point's received, Jackson's victory was the seventh largest in Heisman history, and he became the youngest winner at 19 years, 352 days, a few days younger than 2013 winner Jameis Winston of Florida State.

Jackson is the first Heisman Trophy winner to play on a team that lost its last two games of the regular season since Tim Brown of Notre Dame in 1987. He's the first to enter the postseason

without a chance to win the national title since Johnny Manziel of Texas A&M in 2012.

No matter. Jackson did so much before November it was difficult to deny him the award because of a couple of missteps

He provided a signature moment against Syracuse, hurdling a defender on his way into the end zone, and then played his best against Louisville's toughest competition.

In a romp over Florida State and a close loss at Clemson, Jackson threw for 511 yards, ran for 308 and accounted for eight touchdowns. After ripping apart Florida State in September, he earned the stamp of approval from his idol, former Virginia Tech and NFL star Mike Vick.

"Each and every game should be a Heisman moment," Jackson

Jackson left that Oct. 1 game in Death Valley as a threat to run away with the Heisman, but losses to Houston and Kentucky, when he committed four turnovers, in late November provided an opportunity for others to sway voters.

Watson made the biggest surge, but ultimately fell short. Jackson continues a recent trend of breakout stars winning the Heisman. He is the sixth player to win the award as either a redshirt freshman or sophomore, all since 2007, joining Manziel (redshirt freshman), Jameis Winston (redshirt freshman), Mark Ingram (sophomore), Sam Bradford (sophomore) and Tim Tebow (sophomore).

Jackson came to Louisville as a three-star recruit from Boynton Beach High School in Florida. Some colleges were not sold on him as a quarterback, but Jackson was such a dynamic talented Louisville coach Bobby Petrino altered his offense to accommodate Jackson's speed and elusiveness.

Continue on Page 7

All Youth MLK Choir Rehearsals Will Be Held At George Woods Star Care

All Youth Martin Luther King, Jr. Choir will practice at the George Woods Star Care, 517 North Zenith Avenue. Youth who are elementary, middle school, and high school are

invited to participate. The rehearsals will be held on Fridays, December 23 and 30, 2016, beginning at 6:00 p. m.

Other practices will be: January 5th, Thursday and January 12, 2017, 6:00 p. m.; and Saturday, January 7, 2-17 at 11:00 a. m. Corey Godfrey

FASHION FUN

With Shirley Roberson The Sweater Dress

Sweater dresses for everbody's type. Sweater dresses are one of those pieces of clothing that's awesome in theory, but kind of intimidating to pull off. Let's explore a few hints on the right sweater dress for your body shape.

If you are petite, try a mini shift, too much fabric can overwhelm a small frame, so stick to shorter lengths, also the shorter sweater dresses looks great with tights. If you are tall, try a slimfit midi. Tall ladies can pull off a little longer dress. Opt for a slim fit midi that hugs your body without constricting it. If it's cold try pairing it with mid calf boots for a little more coverage. fit and flare. This style highlights your narrowest part (your waist), while slimming over your hips and thighs.

If you have an hour glass figure a wrap sweater dress is the right one for you, with your perfect proportions you can pull off almost anything, but for the



Shirley Roberson

most flattering effect, choose a wrap dress that let you show off your curves.

You don't need pin up like Pear shaped ladies should try a measurements to look amazing

SWEATER DRESSES ARE SO WARM, SO PRETTY! *****

> Fashion tip - always wear a smile! Fashion - just for the fun of it!

Co-Ed Pool Tournament Set For Mae Simmons Senior Center

The Mae Simmons Senior Citizens will sponsor a Co-Ed Pool Tournament on Friday afternoon, December 30, 2016, beginning at 1:00 p. m.

Participants in the tournament must register, which will begin at 12 noon. Registration fee is \$5.00 per person.

and have pool skills, then get you a partner and participate. Over the past months, women at the Mae Simmons Senior Citizens Center have been playing

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tell you they enjoy the game of

If you have any questions about the Co-Ed Tournament, then call Joe Martinez at Mae Simmons Senior Citizens Center at (806) 767-2708

If you want to play pool, then If you are age 55 and older, you have an opportunity on Friday, December 30, 2016.

pool. If you ask them, they will

Continued on Page 7

The Caviel's Museum Of **African American History** 1719 Avenue A Lubbock, Texas Open: Fridays 10 a. m. to 6 p. m. Sundays 2 p. m. to 5 p. m. Open by appointment contact: 806-928-4268 or 806-773-6046



Emmitt Teal Unsolved Civil Rights Crimes Reauthorization Act Passed By Congress

Washington, DC—During its final session of the 114th Congress, the Senate passed the Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crimes Reauthorization Act of 2016 (S.2854/H.R.5067). In the Senate, the bill was led by Sen. Richard Burr (R-NC), Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-VT), Sen. Claire McCaskill (D-MO), and Sen. Roy Blunt (R-MO). In the House, original sponsors were Rep. John Conyers, Jr. (D-MI), Rep. John Lewis (D-GA) and Rep. Jim Sensenbrenner (R-WI). The bill now heads to the President to be signed into law.

Background:

Before the passage of major civil rights legislation in the 1960s, hundreds of racially suspicious crimes were committed in this country, and few attempts to prosecute them were ever pursued. Tuskegee Institute once



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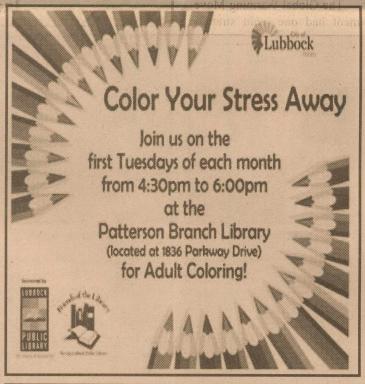
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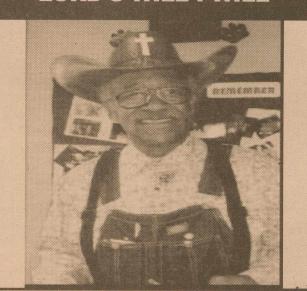
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Mae Simmons

Community and Senior Centers

What's Happening This Month!

BREAKFAST BINGO

Wed, December 28, 9 am, \$2, Ages 50+ Enjoy a light breakfast and a game of bingo afterward.



CO-ED POOLTOURNAMENT

Fri, December 30, 1 pm, \$5/person, Ages 50+ Test your pool skills with a partner. Sign up by noon on the day of the tournament. There will be refreshments, great conversation and fun!

LIFTED DANCE COMPANY **MEET AND GREET**

Sat, January 7, 10:30 am, Free, Ages 6-18 -If your child is interested in learning different styles of dance, come and meet our new instructors.

Simmons Community Center is Closed for Renovations





Lubbock Parks and Recreation

Mae Simmons Community & Senior Centers 2004 Oak Avenue 767-2700 or 767-2708

In Cinque

By Renetta Howard



A MERRY CHRISTMAS!

It is the time of the year when our greatest fears are spending too much money to make our Christmas holidays the biggest and best that we have ever had. Try as we may, but there is still a cloud hanging over our heads concerning the past national election for a President and the conduct of that individual whom was elected.

It is unsettling enough that too many Americans are upset about the result of the election, to the point of boycotting the inauguration physically and on the media, but the President Elect is taking on too much of international affairs, usurping his authority by injecting unnecessary and inappropriate comments through the media about affairs international, NOW. President Obama has only a few more weeks in office, BUT, he still is the President and it appears that Mr. Trump's verbal tirades are definitely out of order. There is fear of what they may cause.

We may sing merrily about the birth of Christ during this season; the birth of the baby Jesus, the REASON FOR THE SEASON, but we really need to pray for the New Year after the formal inauguration of the new President of the United States of America. This will be the birth of a new era; a new era in which the millionaires and billionaires of this country are being placed in the cabinet of the billionaire President Elect to run this country in which the majority of the population is barely keeping its heads above the water financially. Before the new Congress convenes there is already talk of cutting or eliminating all of the programs which promote the general welfare of the country. What kind of merry Christmas can we really have with notions of deficits and ruin dancing in

our heads instead of sugarplums and the like?

Finally, the interest rate is inching up but from the looks of it, it will not help those of us who were hoping for an increase on the interest that banks pay, but it will hurt those of us who were hoping for lower interest rate in home and auto purchases. Most will likely increase though some of it is connected to Treasury bond interest rather than the federal quote. Regardless to which road our economy takes, it does not look rosy right now. We still need a miracle. With that said, we need to get 'in cinque,' come together, work and pray for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Beyond the Rhetoric
5468
By
Harry C. Alford
We fought the Good Fight
and Won!

December 1, 2016 was the 46th anniversary of the US Environmental Protection Agency. It started with a "whisper" by the embattled President Richard Nixon. He saw it as a tactical diversion from the uproar over the Vietnam War and the Civil Rights Movement. Prior to that it was a bureau within the Department of Interior. It was clear to most Americans that our air was not pristine and our water quality could use significant improvement. In reflection, a tremendous amount of improvement has been made. I can attest having grown up in the Los Angeles area which sits in a basin and receives poor quality air from Asia by way of the great westerly jet stream.

Our environment has come a long way and without little disruption to our industry sector. However, along the way a movement was started. A movement that exceeded President Nixon's imagination. Nixon's EPA started turning into a political monster during the 1980's. By the time, William Jefferson Clinton was elected President in 1992 the proponents of Environmental Justice and Global Warming were growing into an "army". The leading "general" was none other than Vice President Al Gore. The newly appointed Administrator of EPA was Carol Browner, a very close friend of the Vice President. Also, the Sierra Club was the leading advocate for cleaner air and fighting the effects of Global Warming. Not only were groups like Green Peace, Sierra Club and others becoming stronger through the funding by various billionaires. The Democratic Party joined in the mantra. Global Warming was put on the Democratic Platform and has never left.

The Global Warming Movement had one main strategy.

THIS N'THAT

by T. J. Patterson

FOR TWENTY-SEVEN YEARS, THIS N THAT AND MANY OTHERS HAVE VIS-ITED THE LUBBOCK COUNTY JAIL!!! If you ask THIS N THAT what will he be doing on CHRISTMAS DAY he will be glad to tell you that he along with MANY OTHERS OF THE LUB-**BOCK COMMUNITY** will be VISITING IN-MATES IN THE LUBBOCK COUNTY DENTENTION CENTER...... You see this begun on CHRISTMAS DAY on December 25, 1989 at approximately 2:00

p. m. in the old LUBBOCK COUNTY JAIL on Main Street Downtown Lubbock..... THIS N THAT has been asked many times as to why he does this each year..... He will tell you THESE MEN AND WOMEN ARE HUMAN BE-INGS AND THEY CAN DO MUCH BETTER WITH THEIR LIVES. BUT THE FIRST THING IS THEY MUST SERVE THEIR TIME. OVER THE YEARS HE AND THIS TEAM OF VOL-UNTEERS HAVE SEEN MANY YOUNG PEOPLE WHO NEED SOME POSI-

TIVE ENCOURAGEMENT. HOPEFULLY, THIS N THAT .. along with this team of Volunteers. There have been many stories from these visits...... One which stays with THIS N THAT when a young woman told THIS N THAT this was the last time she will be seen by THIS N THAT and that was in 2013..... She hasn't been since then.... All these young people need is SOME POSITIVE EN-COURAGEMENT and that's what we will present to each of them on SUNDAY, **CHRISTMAS DAY!**

Force environmental laws through regulation. They started putting American Industry up against the "Wall". Onerous regulations and rule changes started effectively hurting our free market system. Mining, auto manufacturing, and industry in general absorbed or passed on increasing costs to the American consumer. Business associations became the natural enemy to environmental groups. One tool was to claim racism - good old American racism (whites against Blacks). There were claims that corporate leaders had a strategy of guiding the pollutants they produced to Black neighborhoods. It was like evil business leaders would sit in board rooms plotting the "final solutions" to ending the Black race – a form of genocide. They were even recruiting Black activists to consider it the new civil rights struggle.

Now, Black conservatives had

enough of this fraud. We organized to fight this dogma. The National Black Chamber of Commerce became a leader in the fight against this propaganda. Through the years there were hearings after hearings; speeches by the thousands; routine congressional testimony to fight off this movement (filled with unintended consequences). Due to the onslaught of costly changes coming out of the halls of the Environmental Protection Agency, over the last four decades we have lost trillions of dollars and millions of jobs have been killed due to this cancerous movement.

Please don't get me wrong! There has been great improvement in our environment especially due to the Clean Air Act and the Clean Water Act. The problem is the fanaticism that grew along with it. We, free enterprise groups, were starting to check the whole army of fanatics

during the Bush Administrations. Then something appeared like an artillery attack on our legislative process. Barack Hussein Obama became President. He, himself, appeared to be an environmental fanatic.

During his two administrations, Executive Orders and Rule Changes etc. were being used to skirt around real legislation as Congress would have defeated these extreme proposals. I am talking changes by the thousands. The economic damage was historic. Announcing things like, "I am going to kill coal"; "I will make gasoline so expensive people will stop using it". It was scary because he was truly serious.

He introduced the Cap and Trade Initiative. We defeated it through Congressional Testimony. Recently, he tried to deliver on his "Kill coal" promise. Supreme Court Justice Antonin

Continue on Page 6

Estacado Booster Club Membership Drive

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END-OF-YEAR SDECIAL

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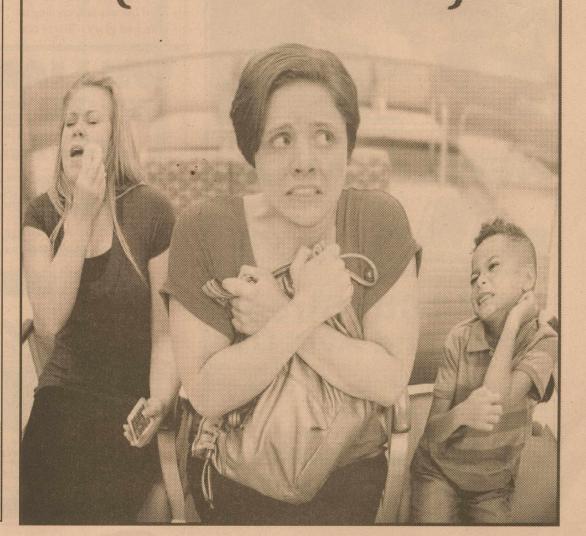


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We Thank God for Jesus

"Christmas For Christ Or Merchandise" Evangelist Billy "BJ" Morrison, III

Spirit speaks expressly, that I the last times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seduction spirits, and doctrine of dev-

Jesus told his DISCIPLES TO GO INTO THE WORLD, AND LET THEIR LIGHT SHINE. But They want to FOL-THE UNGODLY; BLIND LEADING THE BLIND!!!

Romans 1:|21-22 -- Because when they knew God (CHRISTIANS), they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful, but became vain in their imaginations (DREAM-ERS), and their foolish heart was darkened, professing themselves to be wise, they became fools (CHRISTIANS).

The celebration of CHRIST'BIRTHDAY; HAS LOST ITS INTENT. THERE IS NO MORE SPEAKING OF JESUS; ONLY OF GIFTS, AND WHERE AND HOW MUCH OF YOUR MONEY IS TO BE SPENT!!!

I Corinthians 12:1-2 --NOW concerning spiritual gifts, Brethren, I would not have you be ignorant. You know that you were Gentiles, carried away unto these dumb idols, even as you were led.

(CHRISTMAS STARTED OUT AS A CHRISTIAN FEAST, HELD ON DEC. 25TH WHICH WAS TO CEL-

I Timothy 4: 1 -- NOW the EBRATE THE BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST. THE WORD MASS WAS PART OF THE RELIGIOUS SERVICE, PRAYING, SINGING, AND TEACHING. MASS WAS ADDED TO CHRIST'S MAKING CHRISTMAS. SO DROP-PING ONE OF THE S'. SO WHEN I WRITE THE WORD CHRISTMAS, I'LL DROP THE CHRIST FROM MASS, MAKING IT X-**MAS!!!)**

The WORLD CELE-BRATES X-MAS, WITH LYING SAINTS, TREES, LIGHTS, PARTIES, AND **DRINKING. THIS IS MOCK-**ING THE BIRTH OF GOD'S-SON, AND THE CHURCHES **ARE NOT THINKING!!!**

Romans 11:25a -- For I would not, Brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you be wise in your own conceits.

The world wants in on it: FOR GIFTS, PARTYING, STEALING, AND GIVING OF THINGS. IT'S NOT THE REASON FOR THE SEA-SON; SHAME, SHAME, SHAME!!!

Galatians 6:7-8 -- Be not deceived; God is not mocked; for whatsoever a man sow, that shall he also reap. For he that sow to his flesh shall of the flesh corruption, but he that sow to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life

everlasting

(IN THE BOOK OF LUKE 1:26 TELLS US: GOD SENT GABRIEL UNTO MARY IN SIXTH MONTH; **TELLING US IT WAS JUNE:** NINE MONTHS FROM JUNE. JESUS WAS BORN, GIVING US TO KNOW IT WAS NOT IN THE WINTER. LUKE 2:8 TELLS US THE SHEPHERDS WERE IN THE FIELDS, WATCHING OVER THE FLOCK BY NIGHT. NOBODY SLEEPS IN THE FIELDS IN THE WINTER!!!)

I Corinthians 14:38 -- But if any man be ignorant (CHRIS-TIANS), let him be ignorant.

*** AND GOD DON'T WANT CHRISTIANS TO BE IGNORANT!!! ***

There is no JOY THIS TIME OF THE YEAR; HATE IS EVERYWHERE; THE DEVIL IS DOING HIS THING. LOOK CHRIS-TIANS, THE NAME HAS CHANGED; IT'S NOW THE **HOLIDAY:** SHAME, SHAME, SHAME!!!

JESUS MUST BE THE REASON FOR THE SEA-SON, BUT NOW IT'S SAN-REINDEERS, SHOPLIFTING, DOPING, KILLINGS, ROBBINGS, THINGS OF THE DEVIL. IT **MUST BE HIS SEASON!!!**

*** ANYTIME THE WORLD: WANTS IN THE Continue on Page 6

Minnesota players end boycott, resume practice for **Holiday Bowl**

Minnesota football players ended their boycott Saturday morning and will begin preparation for the Holiday Bowl on December 27, 2016.

The Gophers had been protesting the suspension of 10 players linked to a sexual assault allegation. The team was demanding the suspended players be reinstated immediately.

Senior wide receiver Drew Wolitarsky read a team statement Saturday morning:

"As a team, we understand that what has occurred these past few days, and playing football for the University of Minnesota, is larger than just us. ...

"We now ask that you, the members of the media, our fans, and the general public hold all of us accountable for ensuring that our teammates are treated fairly, along with any and all victims of sexual assault. We also ask that the public dialogue related to the apparent lack of due process in a university system is openly discussed and evaluated.

"As football players, we know that we represent this University and this state and that we are held to a higher standard. We want to express our deepest gratitude to our coaching staff and so many others for their support during this difficult time, and we hope that our fans and community understand why we took the actions that we did.

"Our thoughts and prayers are for the well-being of the woman involved in the original incident, and for our 10 teammates to ensure that they are treated fairly. We look forward to representing the University of Minnesota and the state of Minnesota in the Holiday Bowl in a way that makes all of you proud."

The 10 players were suspended by the school for their alleged roles in a reported gang rape that occurred on Sept. 2. A female Minnesota student told police several men sexually as-

saulted her at a football player's apartment. Five of the 10 accused players said they had consensual sex with the accuser.

No criminal charges were filed, but a school investigation determined the players had violated university policy. Following the suspensions, the Gophers said they would not participate in team activities until the suspended players were reinstated.

Minnesota is scheduled to face Washington State in the Holiday Bowl and the Gophers are scheduled to leave for the game on December 23.

"I'm thankful our football team came to a resolution and I'm happy we will be playing in Holiday Bowl vs. Washington State," athletic director Mark Coyle said.

Added university president Eric Kaler: "We will judge (the suspended players) very fairly. I'm grateful the student athletes ended the boycott."

SOUTHWESTEDICESTEZUTEPUBLICATIONEDATIES

From the desk of the Southwest Digest

PLEASE NOTE THE DATES BELOW THAT REFLECT THE PUBLICATION AND DISTRIBTION DATES OF THE 2017 SOUTHWEST DIGEST EDITORIALS. OUR ISSUES ARE PRINTED THE 1ST & 3RD THURSDAYS OF EACH MONTH. PLEASE ALSO NOTE THAT IN ORDER TO SECURE A SPACE FOR ADVERTISEMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS, IT IS BEST TO MAKE YOUR REQUEST KNOWN TWO WEEKS IN ADVANCE AND AT THE LEAST, ONE WEEK IN ADVANCE. NOTIFICATION WILL BE

PROVIDED SHOULD ANY OF THESE DATES CHANGE. January 5th & 19th February 2nd & 16th March 2nd & 16th

May 4th & 16th June 1st & 15th July 6th & 20th August 3rd & 17th

September 7th & 14th October 5th & 19th November 2nd & 16th December 7th & 21st

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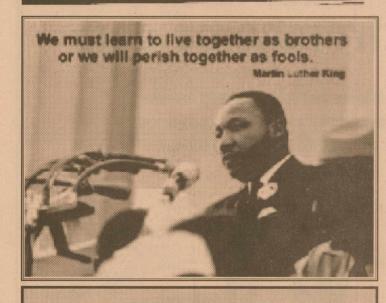
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New Light Baptist Church News

3013 Idalou Road Rev. Kenneth O. Jackson, Pastor

April 6th & 20th

On Sunday morning, December 4, 2016 service got started at New Light Baptist Church, 3013 Idalou Road, where Rev. Kenneth O. Jackson is the pastor.

Church School started at 10:00 a.m. with Sis. Ambra Jackson teaching the lesson.

Morning Worship started at 11:00 a.m. with the devoted Praise Team leading the way. Once again there was the testimony period which was done. The responsive reading came from 1 Corinthians 11:23-30.

Pastor Jackson led the altar call prayer with the congregation singing I NEED THEE.. Sis. Lacey Thompson read all of the morning announcements and told of all the up coming events that will be taking place. There was the offering that was taken up by an appointee.

The Choir sung two Christmas songs and the theme song of the Church, **AMAZING** GRACE was sung before the pastor got ready to preach.

Rev. Jackson preached the sermon title: EXPERINCING ABUNDANT OF LIFE.and its printed scripture came from JOHN 10: 10 & 11.

What is abundant Life? We are to be content with what God has given us. Our God will supply all of our needs according to his riches in glory. Silver and

Gold to our Lord and Savior When you sign up with the Lord you become heirs and Joint heirs of the Lord and he takes good If you want to experience the

abundant life in Christ We are to LIVE LIKE WE BELONG

you are to do. That love has to be real. Your love has to be real you can't fake and shake it. If you love one another like God has asked you to do you can experience the abundant life. God is not going to endorse a life style that doesn't please him.

Lubbock.

vember 5, 2016.

Graw in Lubbock, Texas.

When the Lord loves you he disciplines you. In a moment or twinkling of an eye he can fix things for you all you have to do is let go and let God. Do unto others as you would have them to do unto you. Do the right thing. When people are unkind to you be kind anyway, do good John13:34 & 35 tells what anyway, be happy any way.

After the sermon a song was song by the congregation and then COMMUNION was offered

HAVE A VERY BLESSED AND **ENCOURAGED** WEEK. GIVE GOD ALL THE GLORY AND PRAISE.

Funeral Services Held For Lubbock Man.

Cedric D. McGraw On November 18th

Maxine Fletcher's **Funeral Services** Held In Lubbock

Funeral services were held for Maxine Fletcher on Saturday afternoon, November 26, 2016, at the Griffin Mortuary Chapel with Rev. H. K. Thomas, Jr. as Eulogist.

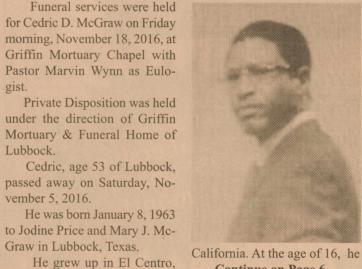
Private Disposition followed under the direction of Griffin Mortuary & Funeral Home of Lubbock.

Maxine, age 71 of Lubbock, Texas, passed away on Friday, November 18, 2016.

Maxine was born on April 30, 1945 to the late Curtis Mc-Daniel and Ada William Mc-Daniel in Dallas, Texas.

She moved to Sudan, Texas with her parents in 1947 where she grew up.

Maxine loved fishing and Continue on Page 6



Continue on Page 6

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Obsequies

La'Shakka Hooper

Funeral services were held for La'Shakka A. Hooper on Saturday morning, December 10, 2016, at the Lyons Chapel Baptist Church with Pastor Wendell Davis officiating.

Interment followed in the City of Lubbock Cemetery under the direction of Griffin Mortuary & Funeral Home of Lubbock.

LaShakka, age 38 of Ft. Worth, Texas and formerly of Lubbock, passed away on Wednesday, November 30, 2016.

She was born April 9, 1978 to Belinda Johnson and Glenn Hooper, Sr. She was raised by her late grandparents, Welford and Frankie Hooper.

LaShakka attended Lubbock Independent School District, and graduated from Estacado High School in 1996.

La'Shakka furthered her education graduating with her Medical Assistant certification in 2004 and LVN in 2008.

She was the supervisor for Octapharma Plasma for many years. La'Shakka was a member of Grace Tabernacle Missionary

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Baptist Church.

La'Shekka is preceded in death by her: grandparents, Welford and Frankie Hooper; maternal grandfather, Zach Johnson; great-grandparents, Frank and Alice Blewitt; three aunts: Leatha Fortson, Ruby Adams, and Hazier Harrison; and one uncle, David Blewitt.

La'Shekka leaves to cherish her memories: her parents, belinda Johnson and Glenn Hooper, Sr.; three children: Christopher Gonzales, Jr., Dominique Gonzales, and Aujaee Harris; three siblings: Glenn

Two Sisters of Dr. Charles Henry, Ruthye May Henry Jackson & Betty Jean Henry Cannon, Dies One Day Apart In Georgia & Texas



Betty Jean Henry-Cannon

Atlanta, Georgia -- Betty Jean Henry-Cannon, age 86, B.S. and R.N., of Atlanta, Georgia, passed away Thursday, November 17, 2016.

She was a retired Psychiatric Nurse of Atlanta.

She was the sister of Dr. Charles Henry of Lubbock,

Wilson Funeral Home in Lithonia, Georgia was in charge of her burial.

Hooper, Jr., Princess Ross (James), and Nadia Lewis; five grandchildren; one niece, three nephews; and a host of other relatives and friends.



Ruthye May Henry Jackson

Palestine, Texas -- Ruthye May Henry Jackson, age 90, B. S. M. Ed., was a retired Reading Specialist, passed away on Friday, November 18, 2016.

She, too, was the sister of Dr. Charles Henry of Lubbock,

McCoy Funeral Home of Palestine, Texas was responsible for her arrangements.

Of the ten siblings, Betty and Ruthye are survived by two sisters, Mattie of San Francisco, California and Annie of Palestine, Texas; and Dr. Charles Henry of Lubbock, Texas.

Michael Charles Rodgers, Sr. "Kojak"

Slaton, Texas -- Funeral services for Michael Charles ""Kosak"" Rodgers, Sr. were held on Saturday morning, November 26, 2016, at the Mt. Olive Baptist Church with Pastor C. C. Peoples officiating and giving the eulogy.

Interment followed in Englewood Cemetery in Slaton, Texas under the direction of Griffin Mortuary & Funeral Home of Lubbock.

Rodgers, age 56 of Slaton, passed away on Tuesday, November 21, 2016.

Rodgers was born on May 1960 to Fred and Shirley Rodgers in Slaton, Texas.

He grew up in Slaton and at tended Slaton Independent School District.

Later, he went to Job Corps. He moved to Fort Worth, Texas where he became a father of two sons and two step-sons.

Michael moved back to Slaton where was employed by Wilson Gin Corporation.

He met and married Rosetta McRay on October 14, 1999, and to this union two children were born. Alexis Rodgers and Alicia Rodgers preceded him in

Michael loved the Dallas Cowboys as it was his past time sport. He also loved to lift weights and hanging out with his cousins and one special cousin, Ricky Trotter.

Michael is preceded in death by his parents, Fred and Shirley Rodgers; grandparents, Andrew



and Ella Trotty and Sonnie and Hallie Rodgers; one daughter, Alicia Rodgers; and one brother, Fred Rodgers.

Michael leaves to cherish his Rodgers; one daughter, Alexis Rodgers; two sons, Tony Rodgers and Michael Rodgers, Jr.; four step-sons: Charlie Bell, Larry Bell, Reggie and Gregory; four sisters: Bennie Devroe (Charles), Bessie Rodgers, Demerise Nixon, and Shirley Rodgers; one step-sister, Freda Uboldi, all of Forth Worth, Texas; one brother, Donnie Ray Trotty of Slaton, Texas; one step-brother, Sean Brown; seven grandchildren; a special friend, Shirlene Crayton of Slaton, Texas; and a host of other relatives and friends.





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Margie Jackson Allen

Cedar Hill, Texas -- Funeral services were held for Margie Jackson Allen on Monday afternoon, December 5, 2016, at the C. H. Gerald Memorial Chapel with Pastor James Reed officiating.

Interment was held in the Dallas-Fort Worth National Cemetery under the direction of Sacred Funeral Home of Cedar Hill, Texas.

Margie, age 54, of DeSoto, Texas, passed away on Saturday, November 26, 2016, after a lengthy illness.

Margie was born to Mary Helen Jackson and Joe Henry Eddins in Lubbock, Texas on February 13, 1962. She accepted Christ at an early age at St. James Baptist Church in Lub-

Margie was united in Holy Matrimony to Homer L. Allen, Jr. on February 12, 2010.

Margie received her primary and secondary education in Lubbock Independent School District. She received her Associate Degree in Phlebotomy from El Centro College in Dallas, Texas. in May 2011. She was employed with Homeward Bound Rehabilitation Center until she retired due to disability in 2012.

Margie was preceded in death by her mother, Mary Helen Jackson; mother-in-law, Ruby Jewel Smith; and her stepson, Reginald Allen.

Margie will forever be remembered by her devoted husband and friend, Homer Lee Allen, Jr.; her step-daughter, Umeka Allen Miller (Sam) of Shreveport, Louisiana; her father, Joe Henry Eddins of Lubbock, Texas; and caring father-in-law, David Smith, Sr. of Shreveport, Louisiana; her siblings: Rochelle Jackson



(Ola), Randy Jackson (Maria), Cecil Jackson, Kevin Jackson (Tabatha), Eric Jackson, and Jerel Jackson, all of Lubbock, Texas; a loving sister-in-law, Betty Davidson and brother-inlaw, David Smith, Jr. (Deborah) of Little Rock, Arkansas, Willie Smith (Marcella) of Keller, Texas, Gary Smith of Shreveport, Louisiana, Jeffery Smith of San Antonio, Texas, and Marvin R. Smith (Korie) of El Paso, Texas; her step-grandchildren: Johnathon, Laroderick, Lakenya, and Jalisa; five step-grandchildren, all of Shreveport, Louisiana; special love to: Uncle Lee Willie Jackson of Lubbock, Texas, Aunt Dorothy Caruthers-Shaw of Winnsboro, Louisiana, Aunt Billie Thomas of California, Aunt Emily Turner of Lubbock, Texas, Cousin Linda Murphy of Dallas, Texas, and countless other nieces, nephews, cousins, family and friends whom were blessed to know her. Margie also leaves her beloved pet and companion, "Shelby."



LaKisha Hastings

Funeral services were held for LaKisha Hastings on Saturday morning, December 3, 2016, at the St. James Baptist Church.

Interment followed in the City of Lubbock Cemetery under the direction of Griffin Mortuary & Funeral Home of

LaKisha, age 27 of Lubbock, passed away on Friday, November 25, 2016.

It is said when life begins, it is like an open book with many blank pages. Each day as we live, our deeds are recorded page by page until we close our eyes in death and await that great getting up morning.

These pages of this book began for LaKisha Hastings on March 16, 198 to Gayle Hastings and Vernon Anderson.

LaKisha was a very dedicated mother and caring person. She graduated from Spring Board Academy and Vista College in nursing and worked at Garrison.

She was a proud mother, family member, and friend. She would help anyone.

LaKisha was a visitor to many churches.

LaKisha is preceded in death by her grandmother, Elvira; aunts, uncles, and other family members.

LaKisha is survived by: her husband, Leslie Ward Perry; her mothers, Gayle and Mert; her fathers, Vernon and Robert; three sons: Leslie, Rahiem, and Talaq; her very special sister, RayKeishia Cox; two special brothers, Danny Mackey "Lil

Sunday:



D", and Trey Johnson; a very special aunt, Shenuta Overstreet; a special mother-in-law, Irma Ward; and a host of other relatives and friends.

Pallbearers were Soma Green, Jasmine Simpson, Tacoiya Harris, Nicole Gocher, JaQuatta Manahan, and Shemia Overstreet.

Honorary Pallbearers were: Randy Green, William Lewis, Donny Mackey "Lil D", Robert Hastings, and Van Ray.



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Miracles Christmas Parade

The theme of the 2016 Miracles Christmas Parade was "Lights Fantastic" and that is exactly what the estimated 30,000 spectators enjoyed Saturday, December 10th down 34th Street in Lubbock. The lighted units were definitely fantastic!

Wranglers, parade officials who plan, produce, and promote the annual free event for families in the entire South Plains, are terming the 12th Annual parade as one of the most lighted in the history of the parade. It was a pleasure to again have Santa on the final parade unit waving to the spectators and wishing all a Merry Christmas!

The winner in the category of Best Use of Lights went to Wild West Harley-Davidson whose 20-foot float contained 28,000 LED lights synchronized to music by computer. The float featured a 2017 HD Motorcycle and 12 Christmas trees ranging from two to 11 feet tall. This float required more than 300 man-hours to construct. This is the company's second year to participate in this parade and company officials report they are already planning their float for next year.

A team of judges viewed the parade and announced the following winners in their various categories: Best of Show -Vogue College of Cosmetology; Most Creative - Baker Family; Best Use of Lights - Wild West Harley-Davidson;

Honorable Mention - U S Marines Color Guard.

Category winners were: Family Entries - Baker Family; Horse Groups - AMBUC's & ABC Pro Rodeo; Beauty Queens - National Americas Miss Lubbock; Bands - Lubbock High School Westerner Marching Band; Churches - Calvary Chapel' For Profit Floats - Wild West Harley-Davidson; Non-Profit Floats - Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals; Kid - Non-Band - West Texas

Beyond the Rhetoric Continued from Page 3

Scalia stopped this in its tracks (Clean Power Plan). One week later Justice Scalia suddenly

The best thing we did was to educate the American People on the tyranny that was taking place. Our message finally got through. So, when Hillary Clinton promised if she were elected the environmental aggression would remain the same, the people fought back. It was not surprising the coal producing states - Ohio, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Michigan, Wisconsin, etc. rebuked her at the voting polls.

President Elect Donald Trump will be sworn in on January 21. 2017. His transition leader for the EPA is Myron Ebell (whom the environmental extremists call a "climate criminal") will turn the EPA upside down. We have finally done it! The tyranny will start to subside and a vibrant, competitive, and strong America will start to re-

***** Mr. Alford is the President and Co-Founder of the National Black Chamber of Commerce®. Website: www.nationalbcc.org Email: halford@nationalbcc.org

Cyclones; Higher Education -Vogue College of Cosmetology; Public Service - United States Marines / Santa Claus; Vehicles - South Plains Antique Tractor Association.

The purpose of the annual parade is to provide a free family friendly, fun event for the entire South Plains. Resident of many area towns and cities were in attendance cooking out and hav-

A beneficiary of the parade for the past several years has been the U S Marines Toys for Tots campaign. The David Baker Family has collected toys from barrels in the many Dollar General Stores in this area for many years. This year, the Bakers collected 8,287 toys and batteries from Battery Joe's to donate to the Marines. Also, hundreds of additional unwrapped toys were handed to Marines during the parade itself.

Parade officials reported no problems whatsoever, with beautiful weather and a smiling, appreciative crowd of spectators down the entire two mile parade

Work, planning and preparation are already underway for the 2017 Miracles Christmas Parade. This event has become a growing Christmas tradition for thousands in our region. Parade information will be available throughout the year at www.miraclesparade.com

For any additional information or photos of the groups and floats, contact: Spike Wideman, Wrangler-Publicity 806-787email: spikewideman@gmail.com

Maxine Fletcher Continued from Page 4

spending quality time with her family and friends

Maxine is preceded in death by her parents, Curtis McDaniel and Ada William McDaniel; two sisters, Rebecca Ann Dixon and Beulah B. McDaniel; a set of twins; and a nephew, Tyrone McDaniel.

Maxine leaves to cherish her memories: her husband, Edward Williams; two daughters, Linda Harper (Willie) and Chrysla Fletcher; three sisters: Earnestine Johnson, Alice McDaniel, and Rita Adams; one brother, Curtis McDaniel; thirteen grandchildren; forty great-grandchil-



CHRISTMAS PRAYER

Child of Bethlehem .-house of bread; Man of Jerusalem-city of Peace; You have loved us without limit or condition; in our greatness and in our misery, in our folly and in our virtue; may Your hand be always upon us and may Your heart be within us, so that we too may become bread and peace for one another.



Thank God For Jesus

Continued from Page 4 THINGS OF GOD; IT MUST NOT BE OF GOD!!!

II Corinthians 2:11 -- Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his

Cedric D. McCraw **Continued from Page 4**

moved back to Lubbock. He worked at Attebury Grain.

On September 5, 2000, he married the love of his life, Donna Vaughn, who remained by his side until he was called

Cedric is preceded in death by his parents, Jodine Price and Mary McCraw-Hicks; grandmother, Doris D. Gibson; and Grandfather, John McGraw.

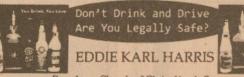
Cedric leaves to cherish his memories: his wife, Donna Mc-Graw; step-mother, Myrtle Johnson; one daughter, Lacresha Brown; two sons, Cedrick James Hawthorn and Levar Vaughn; four sisters: Erica Hicks, Michelle Shaw (Joe), Lisa Harris (Marcus), and Tina

Johnson; one brother, Irving E. Crick; five nieces; seven nephews; one great-niece; one great-nephew; and a host of other relatives and friends.

great-great-grandchildren; twelve nieces; ten nephews; and a host of other relatives and



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New Restrictions on Drug Coverage are a **Threat to Patients**

By Peter J. Pitts, President, Center for Medicine in the Public Interest Article submitted by Amalia Hailias, Keybridge Communications



Kareem Abdul-Jabbar's toughest fight wasn't on a basketball court.....

In his early 60s, the sixtime NBA champion was diagnosed with leukemia, the deadly blood cancer. Fortunately, Abdul-Jabbar had access to state-of-the-art medications, including the advanced drug Tasigna, which paralyzed his cancer cells and prevented further growth. Today, eight years after his initial diagnosis, Abdul-Jabbar is thriving and cancer-free.

Unfortunately, many of oday's leukemia patients won't be so lucky. CVS Health, the nation's second largest pharmacy benefit manager that oversees 65 million Americans' drug plans, recently rescinded coverage for Tasigna -- and 30 other specialty drugs.

As a result, millions of people could be denied access to drugs that could save their lives. Instead of prescribing the medicines bestsuited to patient needs, physicians will be forced to recommend lower-quality reatments. Pharmacy benefit managers, or "PBMs" for short, administer the prescription drug plans used by

health insurers and employers. In recent years, these organizations have gotten stingy about which drugs they cover.

Back in 2012, the nation's largest PBM, Express Scripts, excluded no medicines from its list of covered drugs, while CVS Health left off about 30. Today, they exclude over 200, including an array of popular treatments for arthritis, Hepatitis C, and various skin conditions.

PBMs have also stopped paying for cutting-edge cancer treatments. In addition to Tasigna, CVS won't cover the revolutionary prostate cancer treatment Xtandi. Meanwhile, Express Scripts just stopped covering Zyclara, a cream that can help prevent skin cancer.

PBMs are restricting drug access in other, more devious ways as well.

CVS is also steering patients away from ultracomplex "biologic" drugs, forcing them to switch to lower-cost treatments the company claims are medically equivalent. But in many cases these less expensive therapies, known as "biosimilars," aren't approved by the FDA to be interchangeable with their brand name alternatives.

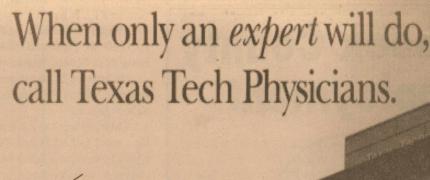
Consider one study that compared the effectiveness of a Crohn's disease treatment and its biosimilar. An alarming eight in ten patients who took the

biosimilar required a hospital readmission for additional treatment, compared to only one in twenty who took the original drug.

Despite these disturbing results, PBMs are comfortable forcing patients to use biosimilars and generic medications. That's because their only concern is bringing down short-term drug spending -- even if those savings come at a cost to patients' well-being.

Ironically, this strategy will end up raising healthcare costs in the long-run. If doctors can only prescribe less-effective treatments, folks will get sicker, be hospitalized more frequently, and require more expensive care. That demand will drive up overall healthcare costs and overwhelm doctors and hospitals with waves of new patients.

That doesn't matter to PBMs, though. A dollar saved by avoiding top-notch drugs is a dollar that goes into PBMs' pockets -- even if the patient becomes sicker on less effective treatments and racks up much larger hospital bills for insurers and patients to pay down the road. PBMs coverage denials are a deadly prescription for America's patients. By shrinking coverage for cutting-edge treatments, PBMs are forcing sick people to use substandard drugs. It's about time patients mount a full-court press against this callous behavior.



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What is a Community Health Worker/Promotor(a)?

A(n)

A Promotor(a)/Community Health Worker is a community member who helps others access needed health care services.

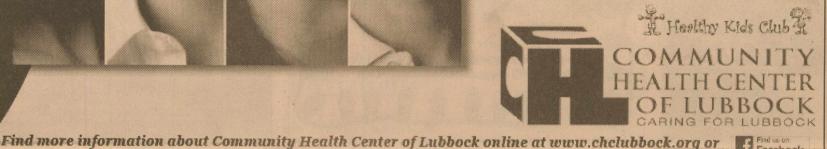
Become A Certified Community Health Worker/Promotor(a)

The Community Health Center of Lubbock is now offering a Promotor(a)/Community Health Worker Certification Program. Registration for the certification course is open to everyone in the community. The course begins January 3, 2017 and will end June 8, 2017.

For questions or to register, contact Samantha Dominguez (806) 765-2611 ext. 1303 sdominguez@chcl.tachc.org



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someone like you

Emmett Bill

Continued from Page 2

kept a record of verified lynchings in the United States from 1877 to 1950. The institute documented that nearly 4000 mainly unprosecuted civil rights crimes occurred during that period. Many American families continue to pass down stories of loss and disappearance even today without knowing the truth about what actually happened to their loved ones.

Primary Goals of the Bill:
The Emmett Till Unsolved
Civil Rights Crimes Reauthorization Act represents a critical
opportunity to right these
wrongs committed, primarily
against African Americans, but
also against people of diverse
backgrounds. In some cases, individuals still remain who were
witnesses to these crimes or who
can help provide evidence regarding these incidents. This
bill reauthorizes and updates the
original legislation that was



signed into law in 2008. It seeks to respond to the concerns of victims' family members and strengthen collaboration between the Justice Department, the FBI, State and local law enforcement, and advocates to pursue these cold cases. There is a collective goal to seek the truth about this long-standing tragedies and hold the perpetrators and orchestrators of these atrocities accountable. This reauthorization also seeks to respond to the concerns of advoregarding implementation of the original legislation.



Lamar Jackson Wins 2016 Heisman Trophy Continued from Page 1

Jackson flashed brilliance as a freshman and showed what was to come in the Music City Bowl against Texas A&M. He had 453 total yards and led Louisville to a victory.

Still, with so many well-established stars from Watson and Mayfield to running backs Christian McCaffrey of Stanford, Dalvin Cook of Florida State and Leonard Fournette of LSU, Jackson entered the season without much for force

without much fanfare.

Just the way he likes it.

Just the way he likes it.

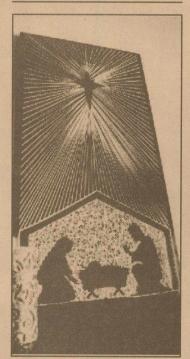
Jackson spent this season adjusting to newfound fame, growing into the role of face of the team and trying to stay out of the spotlight. He said he cut down on trips to the mall to avoid the

inevitable crowds he drew.

He is about to become even more popular. Especially back in Louisville, where he has another year before he can even consider

Jackson flashed brilliance as his next big jump — to the NFL.

Associated Press



Christmas Manger Prayer

O God, where nighty Son was been in these days long son.

Lead us to that some year slace,

where Mary look her very Child.

And as we look on in wonder of praise,

make no welcome Him in sell new life,

ree Him in the soon,

and cove for His handownk the earth,

O God, there as again in your great love.

We pray for this through Christ on Lord.

Amen.



N. Carolina NAACP leader sues over being removed from flight

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (AP) — The leader of North Carolina's NAACP has filed a lawsuit against American Airlines, saying he was removed from a flight earlier this year because he is black.

The Rev. William Barber alleges in the lawsuit filed Wednesday, December 14, 2016, in U.S. District Court in Alexandria, Virginia, that he was unfairly removed from an American flight from Reagan National Airport to Raleigh-Durham International Airport in April

Barber said he asked a flight attendant to ask two white passengers who were talking loudly in the row behind him to quiet down. The white passenger responded that he had a problem with "those people" and made fun of Barber for purchasing two seats, according to the lawsuit.

Barber alleges in the lawsuit that the confrontation had dissipated when police officers boarded the plane and had him removed at American's request. The white passenger was allowed to remain on board.

According to the lawsuit, a black American employee who rebooked Barber on a flight the next day told Barber that "this tends to happen a lot" and expressed frustration with the airline

The lawsuit seeks unspecified monetary damages and changes





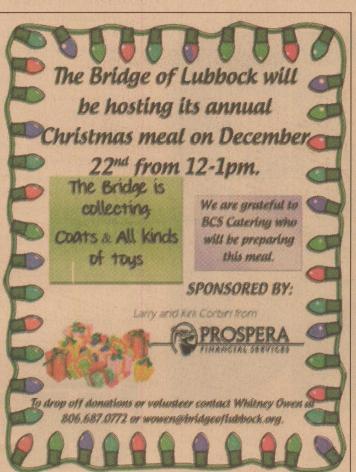
at the airline.

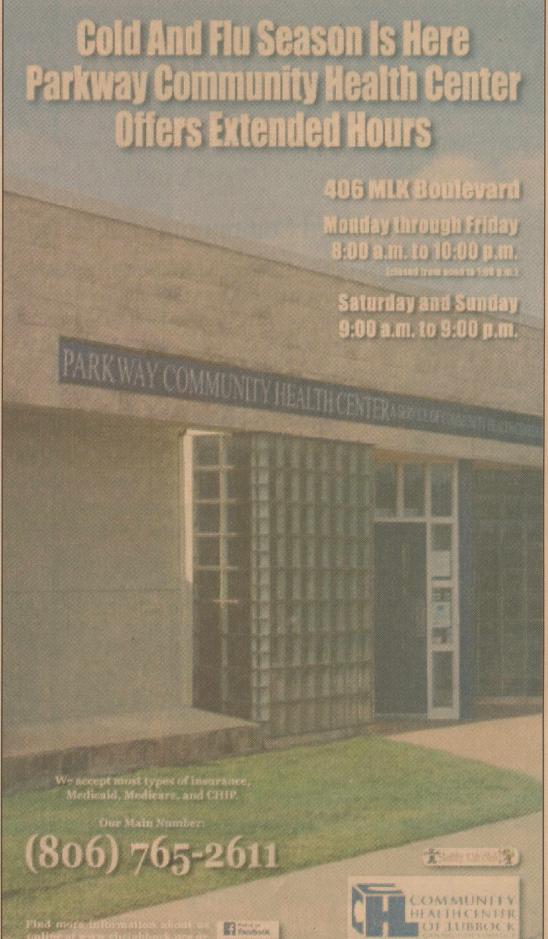
Barber, a pastor in Goldsboro, North Carolina, brought the crowd to its feet when he spoke at the 2016 Democratic National Convention. He is also the organizer of a progressive protest movement in North Carolina known as "Moral Mondays."

The airline declined comment

Thursday, citing the ongoing litigation, but said it does not tolerate discrimination.

When the incident was first reported in April, an American spokesman did not identify Barber by name but said a passenger who didn't follow crew instructions and grabbed a flight attendant was removed from a flight.







Inc. Magazine ranks the Reagor-Dykes Auto Group 1,426 among top 5000 fastest growing privately held companies in America. The RDAG also ranks No. 1 among auto retailers with 291% growth from 2011 to 2014. "I am really excited about this recognition from Inc. Magazine. The day we opened in 2003 we wanted to be the best place to do business and the best place to work in the car business. Our goal today is the same but we have more people on the team now than we did in 2003. I feel if we treat people better than everyone else growth is inevitable. This recognition is affirmation that we have no limits if we continue doing things the right way and working hard every day!" — Bart Reagor

