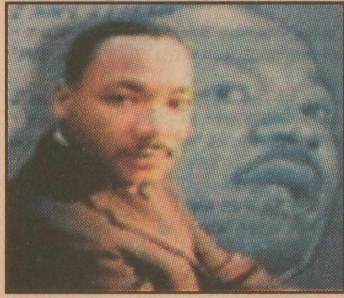




Southwest Digest



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., Mt. Vernon UMC, East 23rd & Cedar Avenue

* 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 Lanier Center, 2nd Floor, TTU Law Center.

* The Parkway & Cherry-Point Neighborhood Association meets the 3rd Tuesday evenings, 7:30 pm at Hunt Elementary School.

* 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 announcement about your organization, please advise by calling (806) 762-3612 or 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) 762-3612
first to publicly release a workforce demographics report earlier 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

Opportunities at The Bridge	Page 2
In Cinque	Page 3
Thank God for Jesus	Page 4
Obsequies	Page 5
BB King Not Poisoned	Page 6
Bland's Mother Speaks Out	Page 7
Minter & Reed Reunion	Page 8
Only Played On Black Radio	Page 9
Free At 29 Years Old	Page 10

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Thursday, August 6, 2015
Vol. 37 Years, No. 27

75 Cents

Gordon Harris Didn't Sign Up To Speak To Board Of Trustees

In the Thursday, July 16, 2015, of the Southwest Digest, Gordon Harris reported he was unhappy over the information made by the Lubbock Independent School District.

He said, "On Thursday, June 18, 2015, it was published there would be citizens comments on the demonishing or sale of the empty school buildings: Arnett, Parkway and Iles Elementary School buildings. But when myself, Gordon Harris, and a cou-

ple of pastors showed up, Nancy Sharp came to me and said it would not be."

The Southwest Digest contacted Ms. Sharp, Executive Director, Communications and Community Relations, and she gave the following statement:

"Mr. Harris did not sign up in advance. I advised him of the procedure and invited him to complete the form to speak at the July 16 meeting. As of today, he has not signed up to speak at

the meeting on Thursday. The form and information about speaking during the public comment portion of the meeting is on our Board of Trustees website."

"Persons who wish to participate in this portion of the meeting shall sign up in the Superintendent's office no later than 1:00 p. m. on the day prior to the meeting and shall indicate the topic about which they wish

Continue on Page 2

Getting kids outside while on summer vacation

By Rachel Spangenthal | rachels@kmc.tv

Nearly a dozen East Lubbock teenagers spending part of their summer on a farm.

"I thought it would be interesting to go outside and not just stay up in the house all summer," said camper, Keyon King.

The "Garden Initiative" is a pilot program designed by the East Lubbock Promise Neighborhood.

"It's very safe to say that most of these kids wouldn't be spend-

ing their summer time in a garden, in fact that's one of the reasons why we do it - because they don't always have a lot of things to do and we don't want them to be in trouble doing things that they shouldn't be doing," said Michele Cook, with the East Lubbock Promise Neighborhood.

The program allows them to work in the garden at Grub Farm and takes them on field trips to

different businesses and museums, including many that deal with agriculture. The program ends in November when the campers will decide what to do with the fruits and vegetables of their labor.

For more information on ELPN and their other programs, visit their website <http://www.elpngrant.org/>



East Lubbock Teenagers Working This Summer In Garden!

The Words Need To Be Corrected Now!



CHATMAN HILL IS BETTER THAN THIS! Surely something can be done about the spelling of two words on entrance to Chatman Hill Addition. Hopefully, the Chatman Hill Neighborhood Association will see that these words are corrected!

Let's be proud of the Chatman Hill Addition. All of us can help when we see something is needed to change a posture of something which needs to be changed. Surely we can make this happen right now. Who wants to help with this situation? The Southwest Digest wants to help with this correction.



Barbara Lafitti



The Late R.V. Harris & Wife, Mrs. Mary Harris

Former Lubbock Resident, Barbara Lafitti Releases CD

Not forgetting from where she came from, Barbara Lafitti wanted her mother, Mrs. Mary Harris, to know how much she appreciates the role her father, the late Rev. R.V. Harris, and her played in her life.

Lafitte, a native of Lubbock, is releasing her first CD. The vocalist, actress, model/background singer, is the daughter of the late Rev. R.V. and Mrs. Mary Harris, who started out singing in her father's church,

Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church in Lorenzo, Texas, as a child.

Throughout her career, she has appeared on movie sets, theatrical stages, and concert stages in the U.S. and Bitburg Germany.

Her debut gospel cd is entitled: "In the Midst of Your Storm" is attentively scheduled for release in September 2015 worldwide.

Continue on Page 8

Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church Sponsoring 100 Men Choir In Concert On August 22, 2015

The Sons of Allen of the Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, 2202 Southeast Drive, will host a 100 Men Choir in Concert on Saturday evening, August 22, 2015, beginning at 7:00 p.m. at the Bethel A.M.E. church.

The proud pastor of the Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church is Pastor Darrell Willie.

If you have ever sung, think you can't sing, or just want to use your hidden talent; this is the time to do so!

Psalm 133:1 says "Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity."

The theme for this event is "For as the body is one." I Corinthians 12:13.

Rehearsals are scheduled at Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, beginning at 6:30 p. m. on the following dates: August 4, August 11, and August 18, 2015.

All dates are on Tuesday evenings.

The Program Coordinator is Bobby Darty, and if there are any questions, call him at (806) 401-7523.

Hillary Hutchinson is President of the Sons of Allen, and he may be contacted at (806) 747-6591.

"We are looking forward to having a joyous time as we come together for this Concert," says Brother Darty. "If you want to participate, then come and join us," continued Brother Darty.

"The Brothers of Bethel are eager about this opportunity, and getting ready for special effort," said Brother Hutchinson.

"If you know of some Brothers who love to sing, then bring them with you when you attend the rehearsals," said Brother Hutchinson.

"Will you join us, Brothers?" Darty asked. "Come and bring someone with you!"

Schools With Higher Black, Minority Populations Call Cops, Not Docs

UNIVERSITY PARK, Pa. - Poor schools that have more black and minority students tend to punish students rather than seek medical or psychological interventions for them, according to a Penn State sociologist.

"There's been a real push toward school safety and there's been a real push for schools to show they are being accountable," said David Ramey, assistant professor of sociology and criminology. "But, any zero-tolerance policy or mandatory top-down solutions might be undermining what would be otherwise good efforts at discipline, and not establishing an environment based around all the options available."

According to the study, schools and school districts with a greater percentage of black student population had significantly higher rates of expulsions

and suspensions, as well as higher rates of referrals to law enforcement and arrests.

Schools and districts with greater black populations also have lower enrollment in government programs designed to stop discrimination against students who have a disability, such as Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act -- IDEA.

The way schools are governed may influence whether students are punished or referred to medical help.

"Schools in high disadvantaged districts tend to be centralized, so all the schools in that district tend to develop the same practices," Ramey said. "Schools that are in less disadvantaged districts tend to have more autonomy."

A disadvantaged district is

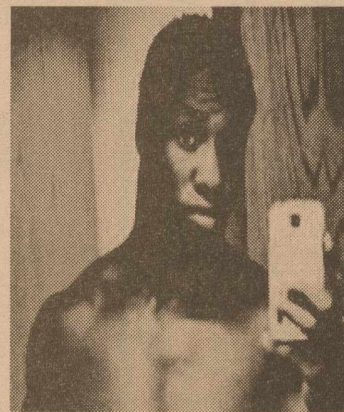
defined as one with low high-school graduation rates, high unemployment, more single mother-headed households, low median income and a high percentage of adults employed in low-paid sales and retail jobs.

School districts with higher populations of Hispanic students were less likely to seek criminal action against students, but were also less likely to consider medical treatments for behavioral problems, added Ramey, who released his findings in a recent issue of Sociology of Education.

Parental reaction to the increased media attention on school shootings and violence at inner city schools in the late 20th century is one reason that school officials adopted zero-tolerance policies, such as immediate suspensions and expulsions.

"In the late '90s crime declined massively, but, media coverage of crime did increase in scope," said Ramey. "We started seeing reports of school shootings and terrorism and that created a push to create the perception of safe schools, which included police in the schools and metal detectors at the doorway."

The study builds on prior research that looked at how educators assessed the behavior of individual students based on race. "The bulk of my earlier research looked at how, for the same minor levels of misbehaviors -- for example, classroom



Michael L. Johnson

Nationwide — 23-year old Michael L. Johnson has been sentenced to serve three decades in prison for intentionally infecting other men with the HIV virus. He reportedly concealed his HIV-positive status from several men that he had unprotected sex with back in 2013.

Johnson, who was a college wrestler at Linden University in Saint Charles, Missouri was headed for a very successful career, but that dream was shattered. Because of the allegations, he was expelled from the university and has remained in prison since his arrest in October 2013.

What hurt his case the most, however, was during the initial

Man Who Infected Other Men With HIV Gets 30 Years In Prison

trial, when the defense for Johnson claimed that he did not know he was HIV-positive. The prosecutor, however, presented solid evidence showing otherwise.

Judge Jon Cunningham, who proceeded over the case, told Johnson that he committed "very severe" crimes. "The main thing is the profound effect your actions have had on the victims and their families," he said.

One victim also spoke out saying, "He will infect people for his own sick purposes. He has lost the privilege to be free."

Johnson didn't say too much during the sentencing, but he did

offer some sympathy to the victims and commented, "I never want anyone to have to go through the pain" of having HIV."

"It was new to me, and I didn't know how to tell people," Johnson said in a taped interview that was played before the sentencing.

His attorney pleaded for a lesser sentence, arguing that getting HIV is not necessarily a death sentence, but the judge didn't buy it.

To make matters worse, Johnson has also been diagnosed with other sexually transmitted diseases such as gonorrhea.

Opportunities At The Bridge

South Plains College is offering Pharmacy Tech, Phlebotomy, and EKG Technician courses at the Bridge of Lubbock. Residents that live in zip codes 79403 and 79404 may qualify for financial aid. For more information call (806) 834-2848 or (806) 329-9051 Seating is limited.

Free Financial Literacy Classes at the Bridge of Lubbock, The North & East Lubbock Community Development Corporation is offering a Free HUD Certified Financial Literacy Course at the Bridge of Lubbock located at 1301 E. Redbud Ave. For more information and to sign up contact Reggie Dial at (806) 747-5937. Seating is limited.

Free GED Classes at the Bridge of Lubbock located at 1301 E. Redbud Ave. Classes are hosted weekly on Monday and Wednesday from 9 A.M. - 11 A.M. and Wednesday and Thursday from 6 P.M. - 8 P.M. For more information and to sign up contact Literacy Lubbock at 806-775-3636 or christopher.moore@ttu.edu.

For information, contact Christopher S. Moore, Family, Community, and Adult Education Manager, East Lubbock Promise Neighborhood Texas Tech University, MS 1071, Lubbock, Texas 79409-1071.

New Beginning Times Set At Faith First House of Hope

Pastor Justin B. Lawrence, Senior Pastor of Faith First House of Hope, is inviting the public to come and join the congregation in church services.

He also is announcing the new time for services. As of Sunday morning, August 16, 2015, the new beginning times are: Sunday School will begin at 8:30 a. m., and Morning Worship will begin at 9:30 a. m.

Faith First House of Hope is located at 1504 East 15th Street.

"Wee are looking forward to serving you in the House of the Lord," said Pastor Lawrence.

Register now for Tax Practitioner Meeting in Lubbock, Aug. 13

DALLAS, TEXAS - The Internal Revenue Service, in partnership with the Texas Society of Enrolled Agents and Lubbock Small Business Development, will offer informative sessions at its 2015 Regional Practitioner Meeting from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., on Thursday, August 13, at Lubbock Texas Tech University's Small Business Development Center, Science Spectrum Education Bldg., 2579 S. Loop 289. This seminar qualifies for Continuing Education (CE) Credits for Enrolled Agents and Annual Filing Season Program (AFSP) participants. Other tax professionals may qualify, depending on the requirements of their organizations. Registration is \$60. Your Preparer Tax Identification Number is required to get Continuing Education Credit. Register online at this link. For more information, call (806) 745-1637. Topics will include Reporting Foreign Assets and Tax-Related Identity Theft among many others.

Harris Didn't Sign Up

(Continued from Page 1)

to speak."

It is clearly an attempt to have East Lubbock notto have a saying in the process of what will be done with the buildings," said Harris.

Harris emphasized that destroying these buildings is not the answer. "There are more enough vacant lots and houses in East Lubbock, and we as a community need to make the school board aware that having a 7:00 a. m. meeting keeps the public out of giving their input," he concluded.

"We appreciate citizens appearing before the Board of Trustees, but they must sign up," said Ms. Vernita Holmes, School Board District Two.

TTU Early Head Start

TTU Early Head Start is now hiring Infant/Toddler Teachers and Assistant Teachers. Apply online at www.workattexastech.com; enter via STAFF portal and search for req#ID's 4557 & 4556 (Lead) and 4647, 4596, 4561, and 4297 (Assistant). Call 806-765-2737 for more information. TTU is an EEO/AA/Vet/Disability Employer.

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Worship Service: Sunday 10:45am

The Bridge of Lubbock ---
1301 Redbud, Lubbock, Tx. 79404

Bible Study: Every Tuesday
6:00pm



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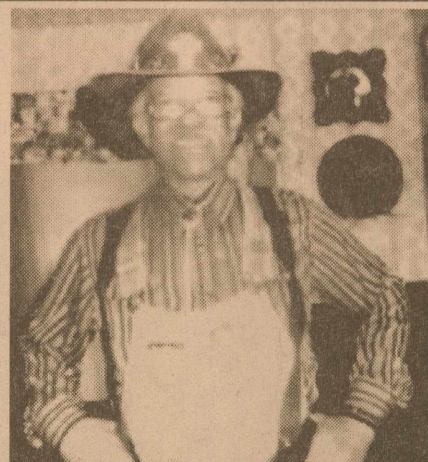
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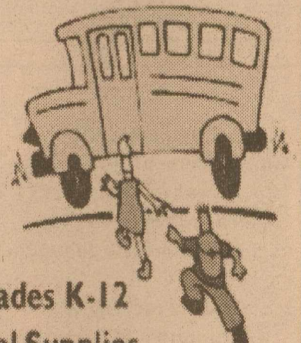
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for applications and booth rental fee.

Mae Simmons

Community and Senior Centers

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In Cinque

By Renetta Howard



If the daily news is not reflecting the senseless killings of ISIS (The Islamic State of Iraq and Syria), it is the senseless killings across the United States. In a word, most killings of all kinds are senseless. From the beginning of time, it has been brother against brother and senseless killings. Will we annihilate each other as individuals and nations before someone realizes that we are all brothers of the same blood? Every human being on this earth has the same physical characteristics, head, torso, arms with hands at the end of each and legs with feet at the end of each. The same biological makeup is found in each of us which is necessary for continuous life. We have digestive systems, circulatory systems, the same bone structure and the sex organs for the particular variety. Among humans there are two varieties and sometimes with a quirk in nature, there sometimes occurs a unique individual, one which can usually be corrected with some form of medical science. The blood of every human reflects the color of red when it is let from the body for any reason.

If we take a look at the flowers on this planet, we find that they come in a variety of colors and shapes and appearances. If we look at human beings, we can see a parallelism. We humans also come in a variety of colors. Somehow, color seems to make a great difference in how we perceive each other as we grow and mature in size and age. We have seen too many times how our children, regardless of their color, in early age, they love each other. They want to be with other children and play with them. All they see is another soul like them. If adults do not intervene, they usually get along just fine and can be observed hugging and kissing each

other. It is pure love for another human being.

Pure love is what we are born with, but when our parents begin to teach us what they know and feel, reflecting their prejudices and insecurities upon us, the pure love becomes contaminated and we grow into adulthood with that contamination which is too often reflected in our daily lives. Becoming a member of a certain religious group too often does not cleanse our souls, our minds or our hearts. We take literally, 'Do unto others as they do unto you' rather than "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." This kind of thinking makes room for grudges and unnecessary animosities.

If we just learn to think and act like we all deserve a little bit of 'love and toleration' this would be a wonderful world. If we can tolerate our own shortcomings and that of our brothers and put love in our foremost thoughts instead of challenging the every act of each other without taking into consideration what others may be struggling with it would be a godsend.

I saw an individual driving a truck on the highway the other day with a Confederate Flag hosted onto the back of his truck flying high after the state of South Carolina voted to remove the flag permanently. I thought to myself: "He's inviting trouble and I hope everyone will ignore him." That is my prayer. We all, every individual needs to get 'in cinque' and take inventory or our love quotient and find a way to improve upon it.

**Before destruction
a man's heart is haughty,
but humility comes
before honor.
Proverbs 18:12**

Beyond The Rherotic

by Harry C. Alford

Should the EX-IM Bank Die?

This seems like an odd question. Capital Access is the lifeblood of business growth and job creation. Thus, all vehicles that provide such should be welcomed. As the President/CEO of the National Black Chamber of Commerce, it is assumed that I would support all avenues of capital access. However, I am starting to have big doubts about one vehicle. The Export-Import Bank is a government owned organization that was started by President Franklin D. Roosevelt as an apparatus for American firms to have more opportunity to export business to the Soviet Union. Most modern nations have their own EX-IM bank and even developing nations like Ghana have just opened their own to help their businesses export to Europe, Asia and the United States.

Unlike most nations our EX-IM Bank has become controversial. It has just lost its charter as of June 30, 2015, and funding is frozen until or unless Congress reauthorizes funding through legislation. By now, you have seen television ads asking for your support in telling Congress to reauthorize the EX-IM Bank. Immediate action is required and if it does not happen within the next six months the doors of the EX-IM Bank will come permanently shut.

Most businesses are not familiar with the EX-IM Bank and that is a flaw in its marketing or outreach. It may also be an indicator that it is not inclusive. I don't know of one Black owned firm that has received financing from this entity. Many billions of dollars have been provided and not one Black owned firm has received a penny. I am still searching for proof that I may be wrong but no one, including the EX-IM Bank has corrected me.

THIS N' THAT

by T. J. Patterson

VOTING RIGHTS ACT BECAME ACT OF 1965, AND ALL OF US SHOULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF IT!! THIS N THAT The **VOTING RIGHTS ACT OF 1965** is a landmark piece of federal legislation in the United States that **PROHIBITS RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN VOTING** It was signed into law by **PRESIDENT LYNDON B. JOHNSON** during the height of the **AMERICAN CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT** on **AUGUST 6, 1965** which was **50 YEARS AGO**

..... and it has been amended five times since then..... For those of us who do not go to the polls on election day we need to understand the importance of voting..... So as we get ready for election time it is most important that all of us understand the importance of voting..... Don't let anyone fool you when they tell you..... **PRECIOUS VOTE DOESN'T COUNT!** **THIS N THAT** wants you to know your **PRECIOUS VOTE** really counts..... Just think what would happen if those who are registered to vote would do so..... It would be outstanding

for this to become a reality... So keep in mind of all **UPCOMING ELECTIONS** and do take time and go to the polls..... Will you join **THIS N THAT** at the polls in **2016? HOPE SO!!!**

EAST LUBBOCK CAN MOVE FORWARD! THIS N THAT believes something good is in store for **EAST LUBBOCK** in the near future..... It can really happen if there are those who feel the same way..... All needed is for the **RESIDENTS OF EAST LUBBOCK** to just come together & **PRAY!!!**

The bank claims to have a small business program. Supposedly 20% of its financing goes to such firms. However, its definition of a small business is not consistent with the Small Business Administration size standards. They accept businesses with over \$21.5 million in sales and up to 1,500 workers as being small. This is hardly small. Still the same, none of them are Black owned.

Three years ago the bank sent a representative to give a presentation on their services and announce that they were having a new directed outreach initiative to recruit Black owned firms to take part in their services. That person, who was a vice president, was soon gone from the bank and we haven't heard a sound since. Some of our members voiced discontent at that meeting noting their negative experiences in trying to get financing from the EX-IM bank. Discontent is a conservative description.

The services of the EX-IM Bank are overwhelmingly enjoyed by the Fortune 100 corporations. Giants such as Boeing, Bechtel, General Electric, Cater-

pillar, etc. The big problem here is that they don't need government assisted financing. They can do well in the normal financial sectors. In essence, this is a kind of Corporate Welfare. That is the claim opponents of this entity allege and I can't argue against that.

Then there is another big issue with this entity. It seems to be filled with mismanagement, fraud and corruption. There is a vast amount of news articles about the history of such activity at the EX-IM Bank.

According to the Daily Signal newspaper: "An examination of EX-IM fraud cases reveals a disturbing pattern of carelessness in doling out taxpayer subsidies. For example, the bank approved 96 loan transactions in a two-year period for Gangland, USA, which purported to export electronics from Miami to South America. According to prosecutors, company owner Jose L. Quijano received more than \$3.6 million in fraudulent loans from the bank."

"Similarly, the bank approved 18 loans involving \$13.6 million to Leopoldo Parra, who pleaded guilty in 2012 to wire fraud and

conspiracy to commit money laundering. According to prosecutors, Parra and his co-conspirators fraudulently obtained the loan proceeds and used them for personal gain."

"These and dozens of other cases reflect the hazards inherent in government subsidies. That is, agencies such as EX-IM do not engage in meaningful due diligence when taxpayers are on the hook for any or all losses. The Inspector General noted in a 2012 report to Congress that the bank failed to collect adequate credit information and history from borrowers and lacked sufficient compliance personnel relative to the increasing size of the bank's finance portfolio, which is expected to exceed \$140 billion by September 30, 2014. It also concluded that EX-IM risk management framework and governance structure are not commensurate with the size, scope and strategic ambitions of the institution."

Yes, it never fails. Discrimination and Corruption are "first cousins". Where there is one you will most certainly find the other. It appears that the EX-IM

Continued on Page 8

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Obsequies

Ruby Faye Ross

Funeral services were held Saturday morning, July 25, 2015, for Ruby Faye Ross at the Greater St. James Baptist Church with Rev. J. L. Barnes, pastor, officiating.

Interment was under the direction of Griffin Mortuary & Funeral Home of Lubbock.

Ross, 73 of Lubbock, Texas, passed away on Sunday, July 19, 2015.

Ruby was born on October 3, 1941, to the parentage of Ernest Ross Sr. and Minnie Lee Ross Steen, in Accuff, Texas.

She attended Lubbock Public Schools.

Ruby was preceded in death by: her father, Ernest Ross; two brothers, one sister and a niece.

She leaves to cherish her memories: her mother, Minnie Lee Ross Steen; her daughter,



Vanessa Ross; son, Tony Duson; sisters, Pam King, Johnnie Ross, June Ross, Bertha Watts and Nita Robinson; brothers, Thomas Ross, David Ross and a host of grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Former Lubbock Educator, Letha Mae Fortson, Succumbs

Fort Worth, Texas -- Funeral services for a former Lubbock educator, Letha Mae Fortson were held Saturday morning, July 25, 2015, at the Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church with Dr. Bruce D. Datcher as Eulogist.

Interment was held in Cedar Hill Memorial Park under the direction of Gregory W. Spencer Funeral Directors of Fort Worth.

Letha Mae Fortson was born on July 16, 1927 to Frank and Alice Blewitt in Huff Creek of Jasper County, Texas. Letha Mae attended school in Huff Creek School District until graduating. She then moved to Lubbock, Texas in 1942.

She attended Texas Tech University where she received her Masters Degree in Education. She spent many years as a teacher in the Lubbock Independent School District.

Letha Mae married Thomas Fortson in 1950. They re-located to Fort Worth, Texas in 1971. She continued to teach in the Fort Worth Independent School District until she retired in 2005.

Having confessed a saving hope in Jesus Christ, Letha Mae was a member of Mt. Olive Baptist Church, along with her husband. She later united with Ebenezer Baptist Church where she remained a faithful member until her passing.

On Wednesday, July 15, 2015, Letha Mae Fortson passed away.



She was preceded in death by her husband, Thomas Fortson; parents, Frank and Alice Blewitt; siblings: Ruby Adams, Frankie Hooper, Hazier Harrison, and David Blewitt; and granddaughter, Shanitta Jones.

Those left to cherish her precious memories: R'Leatha Jones (Virgil Oliver), George "Brent" Fortson, and Trineta Fortson; step-daughters: Diane Fortson and Glenda Fortson; grandchildren: Princess Johnson-Ross (James Ross), Chemin Oliver, Kristy Spencer, and Ruby Caruthers; and a host of other relatives and friends.

Bearers of the Bier were Chris Gonzales, Dominique Gonzales, James Ross, Marcus Chappell, Glenn Hooper, Jr., and Myron Baker.

Honorary Bearers of the Bier were Larry Simpson, George Fortson, Virgil Oliver, Glenn Hooper, and Joe Harrison, Jr.

Bobbi Kristina Brown dies at 22

By Lisa Respers France, CNN



Bobbi Kristina Brown & Whitney Houston

Atlanta (CNN)—Two days before she was found face-down in the bathtub at her home outside Atlanta in January, it seemed like Bobbi Kristina Brown's career might have been picking up.

"Let's start this career up&&moving OUT to TO YOU ALLLL quick shall we !!!!!!!!!!" she said in an enthusiastic tweet.

It's not clear what projects she may have been working on, and sadly, the world may never know.

Brown, the daughter of late superstar Whitney Houston and singer Bobby Brown, died Sunday at the age of 22, a representative of the Houston family said in a statement.

"Bobbi Kristina Brown passed away Sunday, July 26 2015, surrounded by her family," the statement said. "She is finally at peace in the arms of God. We want to again thank everyone for their tremendous amount of love and support during these last few months."

She was treated in a hospital and then a hospice facility in the nearly six months since she was found unresponsive and not breathing in the bathtub at her Roswell, Georgia, home on January 31 -- nearly three years to the day after her mother accidentally drowned in a bathtub in Beverly Hills, a victim of the vices she had fought for much of her career.

The family of Nick Gordon also issued a statement following Brown's death. Gordon was her boyfriend and possibly her fiancé.

"The passing of Bobbi Kristina is devastating to Nick and our family. Nick loved and cared for Krissi deeply, and he has suffered greatly each and every day they've been apart," said the statement signed by his mother, Michelle Gordon.

"Nick and our family are in mourning, and we ask that you respect our privacy. Our thoughts and prayers are with both the Houstons and the Browns during this difficult time."

Brown was placed in a medically induced coma, relatives have said. Rumors flew about her condition, with family members and loved ones taking sides in the drama.

In April, her maternal grandmother, Cissy Houston, said Bobbi Kristina had "global and irreversible brain damage."

"Meeting with the doctors and understanding that she can live in this condition for a lifetime truly saddens me," Houston said. "We can only trust in God for a miracle at this time."

The statement was released days after her father and Whitney Houston's former husband, R&B singer Bobby Brown, told

an audience in Dallas, "I can say today, Bobbi is awake. She's watching me."

On June 24, Bobbi Kristina's aunt, Pat Houston, announced that her niece had been moved to a hospice facility.

"Despite the great medical care at numerous facilities, Bobbi Kristina Brown's condition has continued to deteriorate," Houston's statement said. "As of today, she has been moved into hospice care. We thank everyone for their support and prayers. She is in God's hands now."

Many had worried the young woman was haunted by some of the same demons as her mother.

Whitney Houston and Bobby Brown married in 1992 and welcomed Bobbi Kristina in 1993. The little girl was doted upon by both her parents and Houston often brought the youngster on stage.

Houston told Rolling Stone magazine in 1993 that "having Bobbi Kristina ... I could never do anything that could top that. There's been nothing more incredible in my life than having her."

"God knows, I have been in front of millions and millions of people, and that has been incredible, to feel that give-take thing," Houston said. "But, man, when I gave birth to her and when they put her in my arms, I thought: 'This has got to be it. This is the ultimate.' I haven't experienced anything greater."

Mother and daughter grew even closer after Houston's divorce from Brown in 2007. Houston and Bobbi Kristina performed together on ABC's "Good Morning America" in 2009, singing "My Love Is Your Love" in Central Park.

After Houston's death on February 11, 2012 -- an accidental drowning in a bathtub, a coroner ruled, with heart disease and cocaine use named as contributing factors -- there was a great deal of concern for Brown, who was 18 at the time.

She opened up to Oprah Winfrey during an interview in March 2012 about how she was coping with the loss of her mother.

Her death cut short the dreams she had of following in her mother's footsteps by pursuing a career in music and acting. In 2012, she made her acting debut on Tyler Perry's TBS show "For Better or Worse." Perry is a close family friend who frequently visited Brown while she was hospitalized.

CNN's Alina Machado and Carolyn Sung contributed to this report.

Police Officer Indicted After Video Shows Him Killing Unarmed Black Man During Calm Exchange



Officer Ray Tensing (left) and victim Samuel Dubose (right)

Cincinnati, OH — Officer Ray Tensing of the University of Cincinnati Police Department has been indicted after recently released video from his body camera shows that he shot and killed Samuel DuBose, a 43-year-old unarmed black man during a calm exchange during a traffic stop.

In the video, Officer Tensing is repeatedly asking DuBose about why he doesn't have his license, and DuBose does not appear to be belligerent or aggressive toward Tensing at all. Suddenly, Officer Tensing fires a shot at DuBose striking him in the head, and then the vehicle starts to roll. Authorities say that is significant because Officer Tensing initially said that he was being dragged by the vehicle.

Tensing's lawyer, however,

says that Tensing was afraid for his life and fell down as the car was moving.

Hamilton County prosecutor Joe Deters called the fatal shooting "the most asinine act I've ever seen a police officer make."

He added, "He wasn't dealing with someone who was wanted for murder, OK? He was dealing with someone who didn't have a front license plate. I mean, this is, in the vernacular, a pretty chicken-crap stop, all right? And — I could use harsher words."

He then said that even if DuBose was starting to "roll away," the officer should have just let him go. "I mean, you don't have to shoot him in the head. And that's what happened."

Dubose, who was initially pulled over for having a missing

Continue on Page 8

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Back to School

Coroner Says, "B.B. King Was Not Poisoned to Death" — Plus, Family Still Denied to His Estate



Nationwide — Medical examiners say that they have found no evidence to prove that blues legend B.B. King was poisoned before he died of natural causes back in May 2015. Various tests conducted consistently showed that his causes of death were Alzheimer's disease, coronary disease, heart failure and the effects of Type 2 diabetes.

Two of his children, Karen Williams and Patty King, had accused his business manager and partner of poisoning him to hasten his death. They then contested their father's will, and went on to unsuccessfully take over King's estate, which was left to one of King's long-time business manager, LaVerne Tone.

Brent Bryson, a lawyer for King's estate, says the claims were defamatory and libelous. He commented, "Ms. Toney and Mr. Johnson are very happy that these false and fictional allegations that were made against them by certain of Mr. King's children have been dispelled. Hopefully we can now focus on the body of musical work that B.B. King left the world, and he can finally rest in peace."

Another of his daughters, Rita

Washington, commented, "I'm glad it's natural causes. We just didn't know what was going on and what had happened with our father."

B.B. King died in hospice care at home in Las Vegas at the age 89. More than 1,000 fans and mourners attended his public viewing in Las Vegas, and the next day more than 350 people attended a memorial in a downtown Las Vegas funeral chapel. A Beale Street procession and memorial also took place in Memphis, Tennessee, followed by burial in King's hometown of

Indianola, Mississippi.

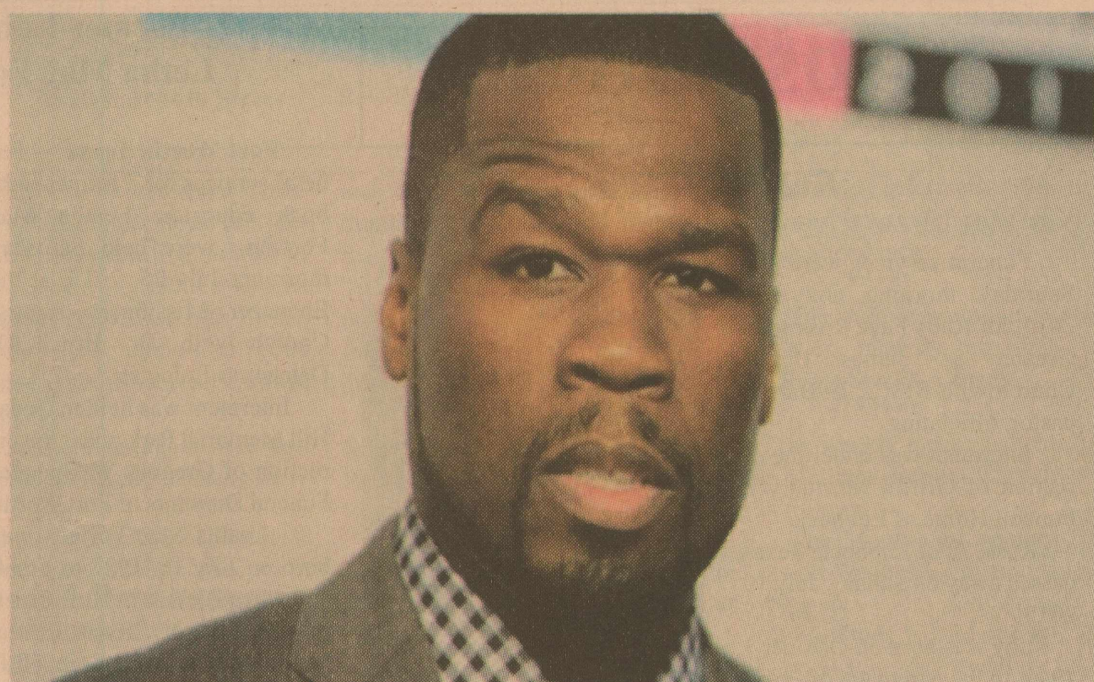
About his career

During his career which started in 1949, B.B. King released more than 50 albums and performed at 200 to 300 concerts per year even into his 70's. In 1987, he was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1987 and is considered one of the most influential blues musicians of all time, earning the nickname "The King of the Blues". He also appeared in several television commercials for OneTouch Ultra and Toyota.

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50 Cent: "Yes, I Filed For Bankruptcy... But So Did Donald Trump and Walt Disney"

Nationwide — Rapper, actor and entrepreneur 50 Cent recently set social media on fire when he confirmed that he did indeed file for Chapter 11 bankruptcy. But the outspoken New York-born mogul is not afraid to talk about it.

He told the press, "I'm taking the precautions that any other good businessperson would take in this situation. You know when you're successful and stuff, you become a target. I don't wanna be a bullseye. I don't want anybody to pick me as the guy that they just come to with astronomical claims and go through all that."

He adds, "Walt Disney has filed bankruptcy. Donald Trump has filed bankruptcy. It means you're reorganizing your finances, but it does stop things from moving forward that you don't want moving forward. I gotta descent (sic) legal team. You don't have to worry."

Just earlier this year, Forbes listed 50 Cent AKA Curtis Jackson as the fourth wealthiest rapper with an estimated worth of more than \$150 million dollars. In his bankruptcy filing, however, Jackson listed both his assets and debts in the \$10 million

to \$50 million range.

According to rumors, he decided to file bankruptcy after a recent lost in a lawsuit where he was ordered to pay \$5 million to a woman whose sex tape he allegedly obtained and leaked on the internet.

The bankruptcy filing is supposed to be a way to financially protect himself.

About his career

50 Cent was signed by Eminem and Dr. Dre back in 2002, and was the first rapper ever to receive a \$1 million record deal. Since then, he has sold over 30 million albums worldwide, and has won one Grammy Award, thirteen Billboard Music

Awards, six World Music Awards, three American Music Awards and four BET Awards. In 2003, he launched his own record label, G-Unit Records and helped launch the careers of Lloyd Banks, Tony Yayo, Young Buck, and The Game. He reportedly still owns a mansion in Farmington, Connecticut that was formerly owned by ex-boxer Mike Tyson.

So what do you think? Is he broke? Or is he money smart?

The seasons do not push one another; neither do clouds race the wind across the sky. All things happen in their own good time.

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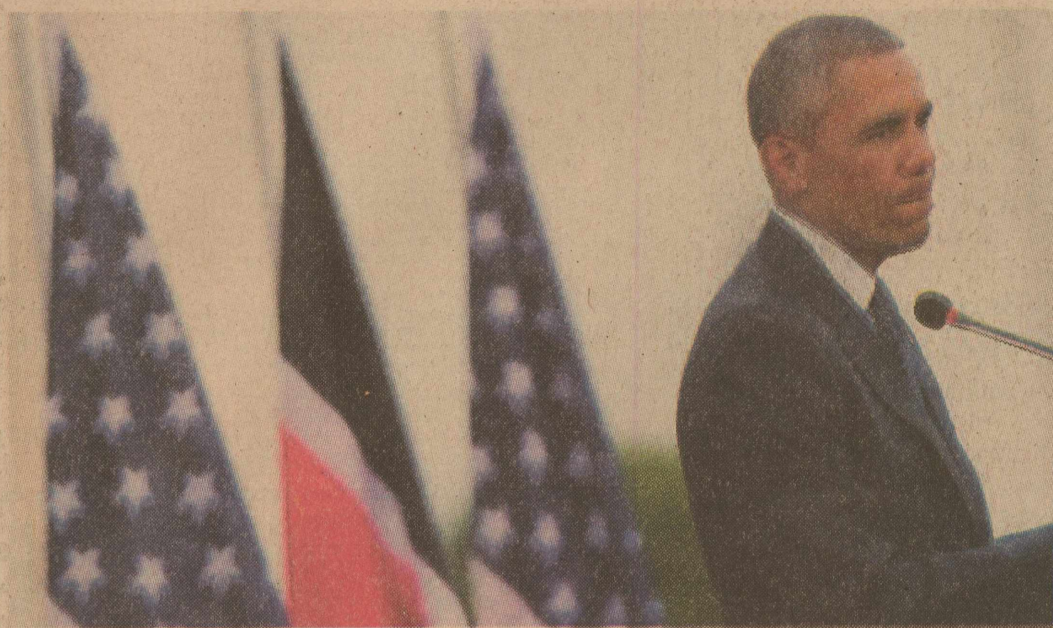
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Despite Threats, President Obama Raises Gay Rights During Kenya Visit



Despite threats of a naked protest and demonstrators throwing rotten eggs, President Obama raised the issue of gay rights while visiting Kenya today.

"With respect to the rights of gays and lesbians, I have been consistent all across Africa on this. I believe in the principle of treating people equally under the law," Obama said during a joint press conference with Kenyan president Uhuru Kenyatta.

"They are deserving of equal protection under the law, and the state should not discriminate against people based on their sexual orientation."

The president declared that the state has no requirement to weigh in on religious doctrine. "The state just has to say, 'we're going to treat everyone the same under the law.'"

During his remarks, Obama drew a comparison between oppressive anti-LGBT laws in Africa to institutional racism in the U.S.

If you look at the history of

countries around the world, when you start treating people differently, not because of any harm they are doing, but because they are different, that's the path whereby freedoms begin to erode, and bad things happen.

And when the government gets in the habit of treating people differently, those habits can spread. And as an African American on the United States, I am painfully aware of what happens when people are treated differently. And there were all sorts of rationalizations by the power structure that were provided for decades in the United States for segregation and Jim Crow and slavery, and they were wrong.

So, I'm not equivocal on this; if somebody is a law abiding citizen, is going about their business and working at a job, obeying the traffic signs and doing all the other things good citizens are supposed to do and not harming anybody, the idea that they are going to be treated differently or abused because of who they love, is wrong. Full

stop.

During a Q&A, Kenyan President Kenyatta said there were some values the U.S. and Kenya do not share. "It is very difficult for us to impose upon people what they themselves do not accept."

He added that in Kenya, "the issue of gay rights is really a non-issue. We want to focus on other issues that are day-to-day living for our people."



Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta

We're pretty sure being beaten, imprisoned or even killed is a day-to-day issue for LGBT people in Kenya.

After Obama's visit was announced, the head of a council of elders threatened to pelt him with eggs if he brought up gay rights.

Vincent Kidaha, leader of the Republican Liberty Party, also announced he would lead 5,000 people in a naked demonstration against the president and the LGBT community. (Kidaha has since canceled the nude-in.)

Politicians have threatened to walk out—or even have Obama forcibly removed—if he raises LGBT rights when he visits the Kenyan Parliament

Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might. Ecclesiastes 9:10



Sandra Bland

Sandra Bland's Mother Speaks Out During Her Funeral: 'I Still Don't Know What Happened to My Baby'

Sandra Bland was laid to rest on Saturday morning, July 25, 2015, in Lisle, Illinois, nearly two weeks after she was found dead in a Texas jail cell.

The funeral services were held at the DuPage African Methodist Episcopal Church in the Chicago suburb. Hundreds of mourners gathered in the 400-

seat church, with others overflowing into the chapel's basement and lobby.

Funeral attendees donned blue shirts with messages like "#SandySpeaks" and "Unite Not Incite," while others adorned their clothing with photo badges of Bland.

Flowers were spread throughout the church and covered Bland's white casket, which was taken to Mt. Glenwood Memorial Gardens West in Willow Springs, Illinois, in a white

hearse to be buried. Bland's family also wore white.

"I am the mom and I'm telling you that baby did not take herself out," Bland's mother, Geneva Reed-Veal, said during her eulogy. "I still don't know what happened to my baby."

Bland was arrested on July 10 after she made an improper lane change in Waller County, Texas. Three days later, on July 13 Bland was found dead in her jail cell. Authorities maintain

Continue on Page 9



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Tyrese: "I'm Only Played on Black Radio... But If White Artists Sing R&B, They Get Played on Mainstream Radio"

Nationwide — Tyrese Gibson, who has the No. 1 album on the Billboard 200 chart, has a lot to say about what seems to be racism and double standards in the music industry. His latest album, *Black Rose*, has sold more copies than any other album this week, but yet it's mostly being played on radio stations listened to by African Americans.

"I'm not a racist, I'm not using the race card and I'm not trying to create any type of negative energy toward (radio hosts) Ryan Seacrest or Elvis Duran specifically," he says. "I'm simply asking the question: If Justin Timberlake, Robin Thicke and Sam Smith are singing R&B/soul music, how is it possible that they're being played by Top 40, rhythmic and urban AC stations? Yet when we sing R&B/soul, it's only being played on black radio?"

"I don't have a problem with any of these artists, or the fact that they're white and singing R&B/soul," Gibson continues. But "are you telling me that if Robin Thicke sang *Shame* featuring Jennifer Hudson, they would be playing it? We can't play that game. If I would've sung Sam Smith's version of (*Stay With Me*) that has a full choir on the chorus, my song would've been played on urban AC radio and that's it. It wouldn't have went any further than that."

He adds, "It's not fair, it's not right and I'm not having it."

Meanwhile, at least one station director from KIIS, which airs *On Air with Ryan Seacrest*, fired back saying: "Pop radio pulls from all genres... You can hear hip-hop and R&B artists like Wiz Khalifa, Omarion, The Weeknd, Fetty Wap and Silento, in addition to Nicki Minaj, John Legend and many more, on KIIS currently. We will continue to consider all artists for airplay."

But Tyrese does seem to have

Sandra Bland's Mother Speaks Out

Continued from Page 7

she hung herself with a white trash bag, tied with a slip knot, claiming she suffered from depression and allegedly talked of a previous suicide attempt.

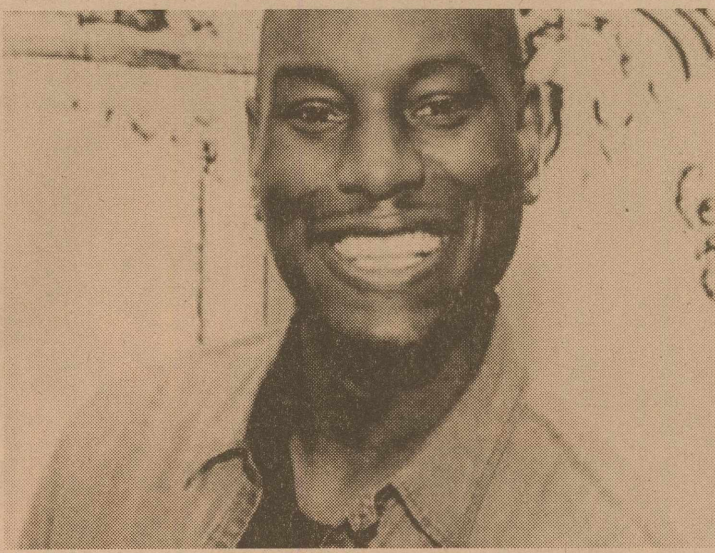
While Bland's family maintains that she was not emotionally unstable, Reed-Veal still urged funeral attendees not to protest at the home of State Trooper Brian Encinia, who arrested Bland.

"That's private property, and he has a family," she said.

Bland's autopsy report, released on Friday, ruled her death a suicide. The report also found evidence of about 25-30 linear superficial wounds on her left forearm, ranging in lengths up to 1 inch. The wounds were faint and scabbed, which prosecutors claim shows that they were self-inflicted.

Bland's family attorney Cannon Lambert said they believe the autopsy was "defective."

"The family's confidence is shaken by the continued discrepancies that are surfacing," Lambert said.



Tyrese Gibson

a point. It doesn't seem fair that he has the number one selling album in the country, and is not getting airplay on mainstream radio.

Tyrese, who started out doing commercials for Coca-Cola, has had several hit songs, but is mostly known for his chart top-

pers "Sweet Lady" in 1999 and "How You Gonna Act Like That?" in 2003. He has also starred in several films including *Baby Boy* and the *Fast and Furious* franchise. *Black Rose* is his sixth studio album, and he says it is also his last solo album. Next year, he will host a rela-

St. Matthew
Baptist Church News
Continued from Page 4

new Baptist Church, 2020 East 14th Street, to come and visit with the congregation. If you are, then contact Rev. Edward Canady at (806) 744-2445.

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Thought For The Week:
"The darkness of sin only makes the light of God's grace shine brighter."

May God Bless You!

tionship talk show on OWN with Rev Run called "Manology", and will also star in another another *Fast and Furious* film to be released in 2017.

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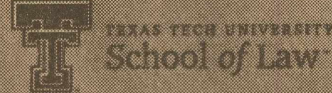
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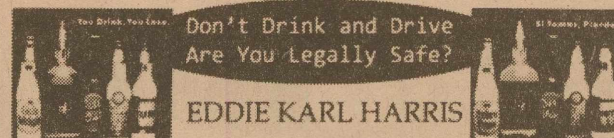
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- Grace Medical Center, 4515 Marsha Sharp Freeway

12-Year Old Boy Jailed For Murder Now Free at 29-Years Old

Melbourne, FL — Curtis Fairchild Jones went to prison sixteen years ago as 12-year old boy, but has now been released as a 29-year old man. Back in 1999, Jones and his sister reportedly killed their father's girlfriend with their father's gun, reportedly hitting her four times out of nine bullets fired.

They also attempted to kill their father and another male relative because they say they were sexually abusing them.

The case made headlines in 1999 because the kids were the youngest ever charged as adults with first-degree murder. There was no trial or testimony, and probably worst of all, there was no opportunity to present evidence showing that welfare investigators found multiple signs of possible abuse going on.

In the end, Jones and his sister plead guilty to second-degree murder and were sentenced to



Curtis Fairchild Jones in 2015 and 1999

18 years in prison with probation for life.

Ironically, the male relative they said was abusing them had already been convicted of sexually assaulting his girlfriend's daughter in 1993.

Now a free man and also an ordained minister, Jones still holds a record for being a convicted murderer. Upon released, he refused all media interview requests and his attorney said

there will be no statement made to the media.

His sister, Catherin Jones, who was just 13-years old at the time, is also scheduled to be released from prison this week. She is now 30 years old.

Wisdom is knowing what to do next, Virtue is doing it. Unknown

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