



Blacks and Hispanics are hit hardest as more Americans move out of the middle-class into poverty.

New Faces of Poverty

46 Million Considered Poor; Middle-Class, Too

By CALVIN S. SCRIBNER
Special to the Chronicle

LEESBURG, Va.—Billy Schlegel plunged from middle-class into poverty in the time it took his daughter to play a soccer season.

In January 2010, he was making \$50,000 a year as a surveyor, meeting the mortgage payments on his three-bedroom home in the nation's wealthiest county and paying for his children to play hockey and soccer.

Then came February, Mr. Schlegel, 45, was laid off. During the next 18 months, the divorced father of three almost lost his house, had to stop paying child support and turned to the local food bank for basic necessities.

"You've got to swallow your pride," Mr. Schlegel said. "Especially around here, people lose their status and feel they don't fit in."

This is the face of poverty after the Great Recession. Millions of Americans such as Mr. Schlegel now find themselves among the suddenly poor.

The recession that led to an explosion in poverty began in December 2007 and ended—officially, anyway—in June 2009.

It not only made the poor poorer, it snagged those who thought they had worked themselves out of poverty and blindsided those who never thought they would be caught in its net.

Today, 15 percent of the USA—one in six Americans—are considered poor, the highest rate of poverty since 1993. Now among the poor are the college-educated, the former middle-class worker, the suburbanite and the homeowner.

They've been hit by layoffs, cuts in work hours, health problems and other crises. They've gone through savings and 401(k)s. They live off food stamps or other government benefits and rely on help from family members and friends.

Numbers released this month by the Census Bureau show staggering trends:

- A record number of Americans are living in poverty—46 million. That's more than at any time since the Bureau of the Census began tracking poverty data in 1959.
- The number of families below the poverty line rose 18 percent,

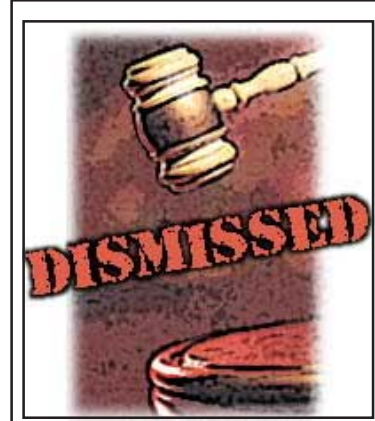
from 7.3 million in 2006 to 8.6 million in 2010.

The poverty line last year was a household income of \$22,314 or less for a family of four.

- Those who have not worked during the previous 12 months make up an increasing share of the poor.

The number of poor people 16 and older who had not worked during the previous year increased by 28 percent from 2006 to 2010.

- "It's all about joblessness," said Timothy Smeeding, director of the Institute for Research on Poverty at the University of Wisconsin at



Freedmen Lawsuit Is Tossed Tribe Is Not A Legitimate Defendant?

By JOHN W. SIMMS
Special to the Chronicle

WASHINGTON—A federal judge dismissed one of two lawsuits over whether Black slaves once owned by members of the Cherokee Nation have the right to tribal citizenship.

Federal District Judge Henry Kennedy in Washington ruled Friday that a lawsuit brought by the slave descendants alleging that about 2,800 freedmen were disenfranchised in violation of the

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Madison. "There's just not enough work."

The solution to poverty is simple, Smeeding said: It's a job.

Mr. Schlegel had always had a job.

He started after high school as a chainman, making \$4.25 an hour holding the chains that helped surveyors measure land distances. He worked his way up to lead a crew and earned enough that he and his wife could buy a \$125,000 duplex in 1991 in Leesburg, the county seat of Loudoun County in Northern Virginia.

The couple divorced in 2004 and now share custody of their three children.

"I had a good job, so everything was O.K.," Mr. Schlegel said.

In 2007, he was laid off for two months, but quickly found work. That was the job he lost in 2010, when the construction industry took a dive.

He sent resumes to construction companies across Northern Virginia, but none were hiring. He found himself with \$2,500 in monthly bills that included his mortgage, car payments, utilities and food. The only money coming in was \$378 a week he received in unemployment benefits.

So, he stopped paying almost \$1,000 in child support. Thankfully, he said, his ex-wife was still working. He also didn't pay his \$1,000 mortgage for nine months. When the bank started to foreclose on the house, he filed for bankruptcy to keep from losing the property.

"It was the only thing I had left," he said. "I've been there 20 years. It's where the kids grew up."

He turned to his parents, who helped him pay bills. He applied for food stamps and went once or twice a month to Loudoun Interfaith Relief, the local food pantry that gave him and his children enough fruits, vegetables, bread and canned food to last at least a week.

"It was depressing," he said. "The kids would go in the house and there was no food in the cupboard. When I saw all the food in the cupboard. When I saw all the food and bread, I was so happy. It was like a gift from God."

Food Pantries

Relying on food pantries has

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Defendant in Rib Crib Killing Given Life, Plus Three Men Entered Restaurant Through A Back Door to Rob and to Kill a Cook in '10

By CHRISTOPHER V. PORTER
Chronicle Staff

TULSA—The defendant in the so-called Rib Crib killing was earlier this week given a life sentence, plus another 75 years behind bars.

A Tulsa County jury in August found Isaiah Peevy, 21, guilty of the first-degree murder of Howard "Bud" Stoddard, 50, a cook at the Rib Crib Restaurant, 1601 S. Harvard Ave.

Jurors recommended a life sentence with possible parole.

But, the jury also found Mr. Peevy guilty of seven other felonies: five counts of robbery with a firearm, one count of attempted armed robbery and one count of second-degree burglary.

On Monday, Tulsa County



Peevy



Stoddard

District Judge Bill Musseman sentenced Mr. Peevy to consecutive terms of 20, 20, 10 and 10 years for attempted robbery and five years for burglary.

Judge Musseman dismissed the fifth robbery count, which would have carried a 15-year term, having found that it provided the underlying basis for the felony murder charge and, therefore, merged with the murder count.

At the trial, witnesses testi-

fied that three masked robbers entered the restaurant through a back door after the restaurant closed on the night of May 20, 2010.

Mr. Stoddard was fatally shot during the robbery.

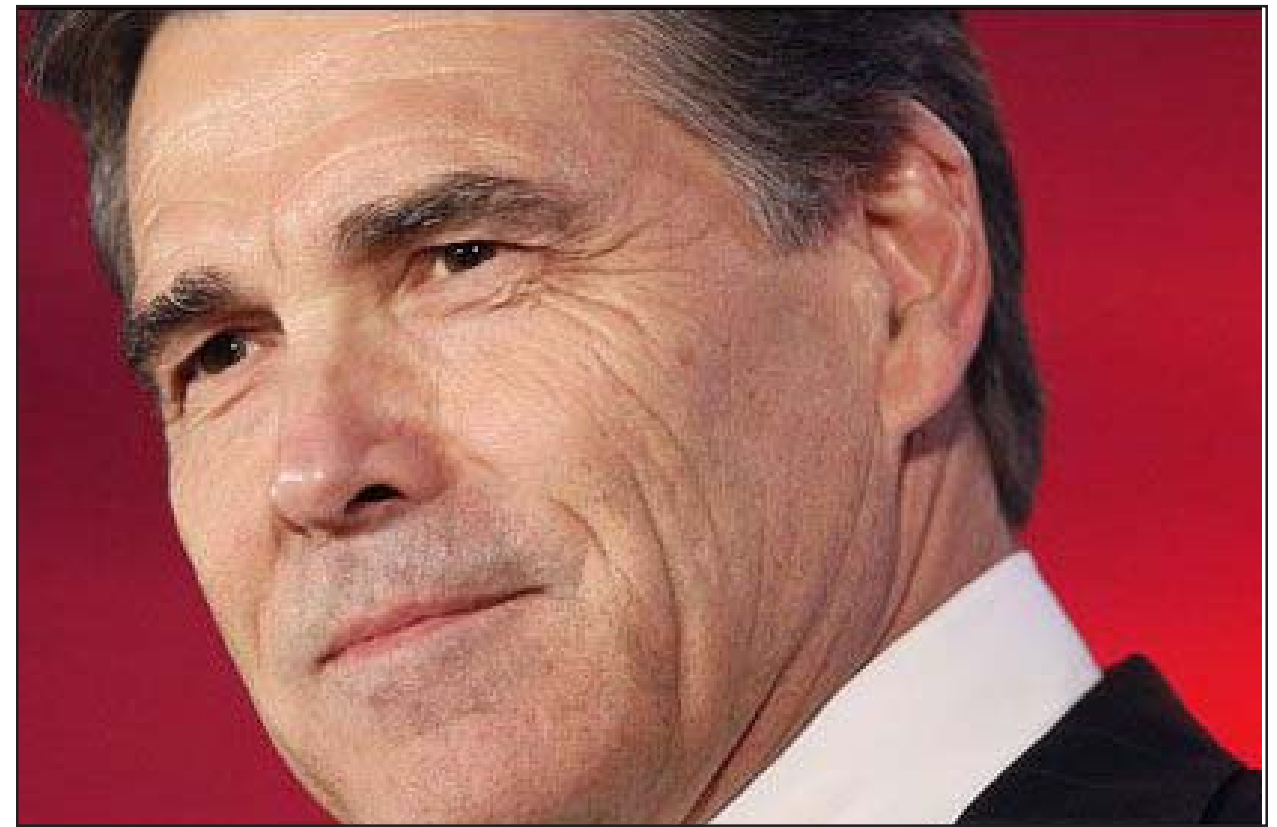
Two of Mr. Stoddard's family members gave impact statements in court before Monday's formal sentencing.

"'Bud' was the head of our family, our rock and an example to the young people in our extended family," said his mother, Margaret Stoddard.

"I miss him in thousands of ways," she said. "[Although he is gone forever], he is still loved the same."

Tasha Smothers said Mr.

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Gov. Rick Perry of Texas and his campaign for the Republican presidential nomination have hit a snag over a racial epithet used in the name of a hunting camp he has used.

The 'N-Word'

Snag for GOP Candidate: Offensive Name at a Camp

By PATRICIA A. HOLI
Special to the Chronicle

WASHINGTON—The campaign of Gov. Rick Perry of Texas found itself on the defensive on Sunday over a report that he had hunted at and taken guests to a West Texas camp with a racially charged name that his father, and later Mr. Perry, had leased.

The *Washington Post* reported on Sunday that at least seven people interviewed said the name for a portion of the property, Niggerhead, was visible on the rock at the entrance "at different points in the 1980's and 1990's," and that a former worker said he believed he had seen it as recently as three years ago.

The hunting camp is near the small town where Gov. Perry grew up.

The Perry campaign did not dispute that the racial slur was used as a name for the property. But it issued a statement saying that the name was changed soon after Mr. Perry's father, Ray Perry, joined a lease that gave him hunting rights there almost 30 years ago.

The revelation was one more



The hunting camp used by Gov. Rick Perry had the "N-word" as part of its name, it has been reported.

challenge confronting the Perry campaign just as it was left reeling from his comments during a recent debate in support of granting the children of some illegal immigrants in-state tuition at Texas state universities; remarks from which he later retreated.

Some recent polls have suggested a softening of support among Gov. Perry's conservative base as he has faced more scrutiny of his record

and the rest of the Republican field has been more aggressively turning its fire on him.

The latest flare-up also injected the issue of race into the Republican nominating fight, with one of Mr. Perry's opponents, Herman Cain, seizing on the issue Sunday, saying there "isn't a more vile, negative word than the N-word."

"For him to leave it there as long as he did, until before, I hear, they finally painted over it, is just plain insensitive to a lot of Black people in this country," Mr. Cain, who is Black, said on "Fox News Sunday."

David Axelrod, the chief strategist for the reelection campaign of President Barack Obama, declined to comment on the specifics of the Texas matter. But he said it was an example of the challenges that candidates like Mr. Perry face.

"Campaigns are like an MRI for the soul—whoever you are, eventu-

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