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Paula Lyons setting her own mold in health care administration. (See page 5)



Mertis Bartley, Jr., a James Madison High School senior, preached his first sermon at Mt. Olive Baptist Church Rusk. See page 11

TPA Launches Organ Donor
Outreach Campaign to Recruit
African American Organ Donors

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**First Annual Labor Day
Western Fashion Show**

set for Crockett, Texas

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Annual Mytis Dightman Rodeo
September 1st at Crockett Civic
Center



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Editorial



Maxine Session

Organ Donations Save Lives

August is Organ Donor month. Texas Publishers Association, the Black Press of Texas, launched an Organ Donor Outreach Campaign across the state of Texas to increase the number of minorities who donate their organs.

When you pick up copies of the publications in your area, please read the articles. Four have been published. *Give it up, your organs that is*, by Gordon Jackson; *Increasing the number of Black organ donors* by Marian Jefferson; *One family's battle with end stage renal disease* by Marian Jefferson; and *African Americans more likely to require transplant*, by Tuala Williams.

Four years ago our family lost a member whose circumstances could have had a different outcome had he been able to have a lung transplant. He didn't give up on the idea that he would be rescued from the lung disease, Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis by a lung transplant, yet after a year and a half and multiple doctors discussing the possibility, his name never made it to the waiting list. There were too many ahead of him in need of the same organ donation.

Ask your doctor about it next visit and read the information on the back of your driver's license.

Letters to the Editor

June Cover Story Enjoyed

Dear Maxine,

I read your cover story on Lorene Williams White with great interest.

Mrs. White is evidently a treasure trove of information on local history and I enjoyed the article very much. She evoked memories of familiar names from our past and traditions long since gone and of a time when the pace was much slower.

A great article. Keep up the good work!

Don Jones
Rusk, Texas

June letter to the editor disturbing

Dear Editor,

I read the June letter to the editor "The child abuse cycle has to stop for children's sake", written by a young lady who signed her name Crystal Miles Broussard. It was disturbing to think that the letter could be real. Please tell me it was not!

W. Smith
Palestine, Texas

Editors note: Addresses and telephone numbers were included with the letter that were used to verify the authenticity of it. The writer stated that she sent it to other newspapers in the surrounding area. After we verified it, it was turned over to the proper authorities for investigation.

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Increasing the Number of Black Organ Donors

By Marian Hubbard Jefferson

The power to heal and make well
What if you were told that you possessed the supernatural ability to give sight to the blind, breathe life into the heart of a dying child or strengthen someone who spends most of their days in listless agony, would you use that ability for the good of those people? Does the question seem far fetched or perhaps a little too mystical? It may not be as mystical or as far fetched as you might think. It's actually an ability that most Americans possess but don't always use.

According to Donate Life Texas, there are currently 96,000 people on the national donor waiting lists for organ and tissue donations. There are 1,500 awaiting donations in the state of Texas alone and of the total number of those awaiting donations, Blacks make up approximately 35 percent of those who are in need and only 12 percent of donors. While there has been a great increase in organ and tissue donations in the Black community, those donations don't match the emergent need as Blacks are over

represented on the list for those needing donations but not for donations which match those needs. According to Pam Sylvestri of The Southwest Transplant Alliance (an Organ Procurement Organization), the reasons for this are as complex as they are many but she points out the primary reasons for the lack of donations are that many Blacks simply do not trust the medical community and that America simply has not put a premium on preventative care.

Sylvestri says that the difference between the campaign for donor awareness now is very different from the campaigns of ten years ago because there is a greater effort to educate the public about the need for donor awareness, listen to the concerns of people who are distrustful of the care profession and work more closely with hospitals and care facilities to obtain family consent for donations.

"Organ donation is an end of life decision and if I am just told by my physician that my loved one is dead and there is nothing more that I can do, 'Oh and by the way we need you to consider organ donation,' I am probably going to be asking if they really did everything they could to save my loved one or do they just want the organs; my trust level is probably gonna be pretty low. For this reason we never want the hospital to approach the families about organ donation."

Sylvestri stresses that the organ donation community is separate from the medical community. They are present throughout the process from when the family is told that all had been done, to answering questions about the process of brain death to requesting of the family's

permission to harvest their loved ones organs for donations. But for some Blacks it is still difficult to move past the abiding mistrust of the medical establishment.

Enduring mistrust of the government and medical communities

In Exploring Lack of Trust in Care Providers and the Government as a Barrier to Health Service Use, a survey of Blacks is explored. The purpose of the survey was to examine the association between the trust that participants had in their care providers and government and health service outcomes. The results of the survey found a definite correlation between trust in care providers and increased outpatient clinic visits, fewer emergency room visits, increased use of antiretroviral medications and improved physical and mental health. But the report also revealed that more than one quarter of the respondents believed that the government created AIDS and half of the respondents believe that the government has withheld information about AIDS from the public. The report concluded that mistrust may hamper care effort by providers, especially in the case for minorities.

Working together

Stephen B. Thomas, PhD and Sandra Crouse Quinn MeD, writing in the American Journal of Public Health, Public Health Then and Now; The Tuskegee Syphilis Study, 1932 to 1972: *Implications for HIV Education and AIDS Risk Education Programs in the*
See Organ Donors page 17

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Hollywood's Time Crockett & East Texas News

Barry Bonds Baseball Record is Legitimate



With 756 home runs, Barry Bonds has set a new standard for home run hitters and is now Major League Baseball's new Home Run King! I'm hoping all the major slams the media

has given him with accusations of steroid use will no longer be front and center news. While I can kind of understand why most people will do anything to keep their jobs; I can't fully understand why some of these "talking head" sellouts in the media have to go out of their way to put other black people down. In a recent televised round table discussion about Bonds, it was the black commentator who suggested that he ought to quit before he breaks Babe Ruth or Hank Aaron's home run record. Unless you have been off the planet for awhile, you know that a lot of American have a problem with Bonds, a black baseball superstar who is supposed to be hitting homeruns because he is using performance enhancing drugs. While its a fact that steroids and other strength enhancing drugs may make a person bigger and stronger, at the time I am writing this article, there is no drug that you can buy that gives you talent,

If they had that kind of drug available rich people would dominate every sport, including goff, and poor people wouldn't have a chance.

The ironical and Hypocritical aspect of America's media hating of Barry Bonds is the fact that Barry Bonds's baseball records are more legitimate and valid than Babe Ruth or Hank Aaron's records. One just has to look at the era that Babe Ruth played. There were no black baseball players then and very few "others" than white ball players. So, in essence, Babe Ruth played against inferior talent in the then, segregated major league baseball of his time. I often wonder if many of America's early sports and political stars would have had an impact in their profession if they had competed against "All of the people of America". At the end of the day, if you want to question the validity of Barry Bonds records, then you have to question the legitimacy of all the white and black players who played major league baseball in America's "Jim Crow Era". God Bless American, Africa and black sports historians who bring out the real truth.

Kudos go out to former Crockett High School Texas A & M European basketball star, Claude "Crockett Rocket" Riley. Claude is a hard working outstanding member of the talented Riley family of Crockett. He is a man committed to giving back to the community. Recently he attended Texas Southern University Senior Night where his son, TSU forward, Chris

was honored by the TSU basketball team and head coach Rodney Courtney. Chris injured his knee in one of his team's last conference game. Before his injury he was a candidate for SWAC player of the year. Chris is also the son of former Crockett resident, Mary Moore and the nephew of the late Archie Wayne Spillman of Crockett.

High Fives go out to Ethel Pierre and her daughter Johnetha Pierre of Crockett, owners of Exquisites by "NeNe" in Crockett. The Pierres are great people with great attitudes who are making this part of East Texas a better place for African Americans. Johnetha calls former Crockett educator, Brenda Groves Atchison of Waco her role model and advises young people to "stay off drugs".

Tracy Kent of Crockett is a native of New Orleans and a successful businessman in East Texas. Tracy is the son of Rev. Walter Kent of Grapeland and Crockett. He gave this advice for young people. "A person has to have a made up mind to follow personal goals and believe there is more to life than doing negative things like sessling drugs and doing drugs. " Tracy says he is supplying the cities of Grapeland, Groveton, Crockett and Trinity with the latest fashions in clothes at a reasonable price. His role models are his parents Kent and Brenda Griffin and his brother.

A special East Texas thanks goes out to Sis. Earlie Groves, Dr. Ianthia Fisher, John Davis, the Karmin Kondas, John Jenkins, James Ashworth, James Spivey, the Dead End Barbershop of HUNTSVILLE, Chester Crawford, Cartier Martin, Melvin Wooten, Darrell and Brenda Smith, Debra Evans, Charles Evans, Charles (Moses Project) Jones, Clyde Black, Binky MONK, Rev. Harry Fred Scott, Carolyn Lane, B\David Baxter and Hubert Wooten.

Until next time~Billy "Hollywood" Groves

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Paula Lyons setting her own mold in health care administration

Cover Story

written by Maxine Session

The U.S. population is aging and the number of people reporting each type of disability rises dramatically with age. In the next ten years, the number of Americans over fifty will increase by forty percent. The Social Security administration reports that between the year two thousand and the year twenty-three, the number of Americans over the age of sixty-five will more than double, from thirty-four point eight percent to seventy point three million.

According to the Census Bureau, the Social Security Administration reports that about thirty percent of all Americans become disabled prior to retirement age. In fact, more than seventy percent will acquire a disability of some kind by the time age of seventy-five is reached.

What this indicates is in order for seniors to maintain their quality of life, alternative living arrangements are often made which range from upscale retirement communities to longterm nursing center facilities.

Paula Lyons, administrator for Twin Oaks Health and Rehabilitation Center, says she and the staff there work overtime to provide an atmosphere where residents are given the very best of care.

The staff of Certified Nurse Aids, housekeepers, nurses, social workers, physical therapists and other support staff excell at their jobs.

Paula says it is difficult to consider putting yourself or a loved one here, so the first question she asks is, "Did you look other places?"

Twin Oaks has a capacity of one hundred sixteen and maintains a steady population of one hundred or above.

Paula was born in Monroe, Louisiana and graduated Rayville High School. She attended University of Louisiana At Monroe then graduated North East Louisiana with a major in social work and a minor in psychology.

Arlon Viercant recruited her to come to work at Rusk State Hospital, so shortly after her December 1988 graduation, she packed her belongs and moved to Texas. Working as a supervisor on the substance abuse unit exposed her to the very difficult lives some people cope with on a daily basis. Many of the residents came from Harris County. Most had experienced things normally unthought of back then by those who lived, so-called, normal lives. Most would go to any length to get

the drug of their choice. It was a great feeling to work with them in getting issues settled, medication regulated and back home with their families. The sad feeling was often seeing them return to start the healing process all over again, Paula recalled.

Paula worked at RSH until their child, Lauryne, was born. After staying home with her, she went to work as a consultant for a home health consulting agency.

Paula has been at Twin Oaks since 2001. She began her career as an administrator after working a year as a social work consultant. She said, "I was very new to long-term care but the one thing I soon learned is that it is very demanding work. When I first started here the turnover rate for nurse aids was very high. They are staff that must be depended upon. Now we have a stable staff of Certified Nurse Aids. They receive their training at Tyler Junior College."

With the aging of the American population, the shortage of health care workers nationwide on all levels is rising.

Medicaid is the national health care assistance program for the poor. Financed by state governments with matching federal funds, Medicaid pays for 70 percent of elderly nursing home residents at a cost of more than \$50 billion per year—a figure that's expected to rise



substantially in the future.

Paula says she, Joyce Hopson Director of Nurses and Helen Goff Assistant Director of Nurses work as a team with the staff to meet the needs of the residents.

Paula and her husband Lawrence celebrated their eighteenth wedding anniversary July 22nd. They have a son Lawrence, Jr., daughters Lauryne and Leiyana.

The family belongs to Sweet Union Baptist Church. He is on the Deacon Board. She is a Deaconess and has worked with the youth praise dancers, "Angels of Praise", for the past five years. Jacksonville is their home.



Correction to Cover Story entitled "Lorene Williams White recalls Juneteenth of the past" page 5 end of column 2 should read:

Intergration of the late 1960s and early seventies caused the closing of many small minority businesses. The Palimino Cafe and others around the community closed one by one. Lorene's husband, Richard Williams passed away in 1975. She married Lavern White in 1980 and moved to Nebraska. They lived there until he passed away in 1980. Then she moved back to Rusk.

Little Miss Kadeja Jefferson enters Texas National Miss State Pageant



Rusk, TX. Little Miss Kadeja Jefferson, Rusk Junior High School sixth grade student, entered the state National American Miss State Pageant. The event was held July 28th and 29th in Dallas, Texas. One hundred fifty-five young ladies age ten to thirteen entered the pageant. The main criteria used by judges: The Interview, Personal Introduction

and Formal wear. The categories were Spokes Model, Talent, Casual Wear Modeling, and Advertising.

Kadeja performed a dance routine as her talent performance. According to her mother Julie, she will be entering again next year, this time with a little experience under her belt. She is a student at T's Tumbling and was selected because of her participation in performing arts. She is the daughter of Julie and Welton Jefferson.

Oprah Winfrey is a serious force of nature

Not only is she a symbol of empowerment for her loyal television audience but the billionaire media mogul is a force to be reckoned with in the consumer marketplace.

Ask the folks over at Hearst Publishing -- who partnered with her to bring forth her best-selling eponymous magazine, which was recognized as the biggest launch of a title. Or maybe the power wielders on The Great White Way -- who are experiencing a non-stop renaissance of blacks and the box-office with the Winfrey-blessed Broadway musical 'The Color Purple.' And her foray into satellite radio (with XM) has proven to be equally fruitful too. Fans of the talk show maven and audience members will get to purchase items featured currently in the Boutique section of her Web site, like apparel and DVDs, as



Now comes news that the Mississippi native and empowerment idol has designs to get into the retail game.

And I'm not referring to her doing a line of housewares, or bedding or throwing her name on anyone else's brand, either -- like everyone else seems to do. I'm referring to her plans to open a store that will sell Oprah-branded merchandise in Chicago near her Harpo Studios compound. Something in the fashion of The Oprah Store, or maybe Oprah Republic or simply Oprah will see the light of day, possibly as early as this fall -- as she embarks on her 22nd consecutive season on daily television. Although details are not finalized, a Winfrey spokesperson did confirm to news outlets that construction on the 4500 square feet space started earlier this week. Fans of the talk show maven and audience members will get to purchase items featured currently in the Boutique section of her Web site, like apparel and DVDs, as

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Want to enter the medical field as a doctor?
Need financial assistance? Read On

JAMP

By Krystal Ward Carter

Joint Admission Medical Program was created by the state of Texas to help qualified, economically disadvantaged students pursue a medical education. Students selected will receive undergraduate scholarships, stipends for the summer, internships, and special mentoring to prepare the students for medical school. JAMP helps provide admission for the students into medical school, if they meet the academic and non-academic requirements of Texas medical schools.

As a senior in high school the student must take the SAT/ACT and score at least the mean score for the state of Texas (SAT score of 1020 and ACT of 20.2), apply for FASFA and be eligible to receive a Pell Grant in the student's freshman year of college. After the student graduates from a high school or home school program, enroll into one of the participating colleges or universities they must maintain a 3.0 GPA in science courses and a 3.25 cumulative GPA; complete at least 27 hours of undergraduate credit (with only 3 hours of AP credit). Some of the participating colleges and universities consist of the University of Houston, Stephen F. Austin



State University, Sam Houston State, Tarleton State, all of the University of Texas campuses, Texas A&M, Lamar, Texas Tech, Texas Southern, Prairie View A&M. However, this list does not include all public schools and not any private schools, but for a complete listing refer to the JAMP website listed below. After acceptance into the program a stipend will be awarded to the student, as they attend summer internships following their sophomore and junior years of college at one of the participating schools. The student may begin the online application at <http://www.utsystem.edu/jamp> from March 1st, of the freshman year in college, until October 1st, of their sophomore year to complete it.

For more information please check out the web site and contact the faculty directors at the appropriate schools for more insight. If you are a counselor, teacher, parent or a concerned citizen and would like more information for the youth in your community please email the names and addresses of high school seniors to jamp@utsystem.edu or mail them to: JAMP Coordinator, Texas Medical and Dental Schools 702 Colorado Street Austin, TX 78701. Submitted by Krystal Ward-Carter. Questions and concerns may be emailed to krystal_ward@hotmail.com



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African Americans more likely to require transplant

By TUALA WILLIAMS

According to the National Kidney Foundation, African Americans suffer from End Stage Renal Failure at higher percentages than any other race. Statistics suggest that kidney failure is twice as common among African Americans and they are more likely to develop the disease than other groups and they develop it at earlier ages than Whites. The foundation reports that the leading cause of kidney disease is diabetes. The number of cases of diabetes among African Americans has doubled over the past 35 years. And African Americans are more likely to develop the disease than Whites and developing the disease at younger ages. Approximately, 13.3 percent of all African Americans over the age of 20, 3.2 million people, have the disease. Also, Blacks who develop complications with the disease tend to suffer greater disability than Whites, the foundation reports. In fact, Kidney failure among Blacks with diabetes is about four to six times greater than Whites with the rate increasing steadily. Most people associate high blood pressure with heart failure.

But, a little known fact is that high blood pressure, a condition common among Blacks, is the second leading cause of kidney failure among African Americans. In most cases, prevention of kidney failure is possible with early detection and management of diseases that lead to it. However, according to statistics, at least 43 percent of African Americans currently receiving dialysis didn't know they had kidney failure until about a week before starting dialysis. One possible reason is that early kidney disease has no symptoms.

Currently, African Americans make up approximately 27 percent of people awaiting transplant. Yet, despite the increased likelihood that African Americans may one day have a loved one in need of a transplant, only 12 percent of all donors are Black. Time on the waiting list for transplant recipients has decreased dramatically over the years, but shortages still exist. According to Emory Health Sciences Center in Georgia, "Nationally, about 55,000 persons are on transplant waiting lists and about 4,000 of these persons die each year while awaiting a transplant. That means every day about 55 Americans will receive a needed transplant but 10 will die because of organ unavailability." According to the center, a major barrier to donation today is low rates of family consent.

Tuala Williams is the general manager of The Dallas Examiner.

THE MINORITY HOME BASED BUSINESS REPORT

New Website Offers Free Research And Information On Legitimate And Low Cost Home Based Businesses For The Minority Entrepreneur

New York, NY (BlackNews.com) - The Minority Home Based Business Report (<http://rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=dq6omdcab.0.txvif9bab.dinu5xbab.45664&ts=S0268&p=http%3A%2F%2Fthemminorityhomebasedbusinessreport.com>) is a new website that offers free research and analysis of the best home-based business opportunities for minority entrepreneurs with meager venture capital and high expectations.

"The purpose of the website is to assist people with little start-up capital in assessing various home based businesses," says J. E. White, the founder of the website. "We have done the critical research and have filtered through the 'get rich quick' schemes and scams that are designed to take people's money without the possibility

Home Based Business Reports are accessed according to the following criteria; the start-up costs must be low (under \$1,000); the business must be computer/internet based; the business must be something that the business owner would also utilize as well as the potential clientele; and the business must have a reliable support system and training that the minority entrepreneur can rely upon in order to ensure the business's success.

White warns that all of the businesses recommended by his website take consistent work and the minority entrepreneur must have patience and be diligent in his or her pursuit of business success. "There are no 'get rich quick' or promises of overnight success at this website. Everything takes work," says White. "The Minority Home Based Business Report has just done a little homework for you." To visit the website and see for yourself go to <http://rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=dq6omdcab.0.txvif9bab.dinu5xbab.45664&ts=S0268&p=http%3A%2F%2Fthemminorityhomebasedbusinessreport.com> for more information.

CONTACT:

James White

wjames3968@aol.com

<http://rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=dq6omdcab.0.txvif9bab.dinu5xbab.45664&ts=S0268&p=http%3A%2F%2Fthemminorityhomebasedbusinessreport.com>

Comptroller Susan Combs Distributes \$534 Million in Local Sales Tax Revenue

(AUSTIN) — Texas Comptroller Susan Combs today said the state collected \$1.6 billion in sales tax revenue in July, up 5.3 percent compared to July 2006.

"Growth in sales tax collections eased in July, but moved ahead at a steady pace," Combs said. "In particular, receipts from the mining, construction, manufacturing, and service sectors reflect a Texas economy resisting the cooling seen in the national economy."

Combs sent \$534.2 million in August sales tax allocations to local governments, up 5.1 percent compared to August 2006. So far this calendar year, sales tax allocations to local governments are up 6.6 percent compared to last year.

Combs sent sales tax payments of \$364 million to Texas cities, up 4.1 percent compared to last August. Calendar year to date, city sales tax revenues are surpassing 2006 by 6.9 percent. Sales tax payments of \$31 million went to Texas counties, 5.6 percent higher than last August. So far in calendar year 2007, county sales tax allocations are up 7.8 percent compared to last year.

In addition, \$17.6 million in sales tax revenue went to 121 special purpose taxing districts, 20.3 percent more than in August 2006. Ten local transit systems received \$121.5 million, up 5.9 percent compared to a year ago.

July state sales tax revenue and August allocations to local governments represent sales taxes collected in June by businesses that report sales taxes monthly, and sales taxes collected in April, May and June by quarterly filers. For details of August sales tax payments to individual cities, counties, transit systems and special purpose districts, locate the Monthly Sales and Use Tax Allocation Comparison Summary Reports on the Comptroller's Web site at www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/allocsum/compsum.html.

The Comptroller's next sales tax allocation will be made on Friday, Sept. 14.

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OBITUARIES

Rebecca Laseun Wickware Ford

September 16, 1980 -
July 28, 2007

Henderson, TX. - Funeral services for twenty-seven year old Rebecca Laseun Wickware Ford, were held at 1:00PM Thursday, August 2, 2007 at Woodville CME Church, Rusk, Texas with Rev. Joe Radford officiating.

Mrs. Ford was a graduate of Rusk High School. She attended Tyler Junior College and Kilgore Junior College and was a student working toward becoming a physical therapist. She was a member of Woodville CME Church. Her place of residence was Henderson, Texas. She passed away July 28, 2007 in Rusk County.

Preceding her in death were her father, Ravay Wickware, two neices, one nephew, two grandfathers and one grandmother.

She leaves to mourn her passing, her husband Markeith Ford of Henderson; Mother Cuba Hargraves and Step-father Reverend George Hargraves of Mt. Vernon; one Brother, Ravay Wickware, Jr. of Mt. Vernon; two Sisters, Rachael Anderson of Mt. Vernon and Patricia Deveraux of Tyler.

Pallbearers were: David Wickware, Larry Kenedy, Barrett Foreman, D. J. Foreman, Edrick Foreman and Terrick Foreman. Honorary Pallbearers were: Fredrick Wickware, William Fuller, Jr., Theo Williams and Darrell Williams. Interment was at Woodville Cemetery with Harmon Funeral Home of Daingerfield in charge of the service.

J. Neaul Haynes. He was appointed pastor of the McDonald COGIC in 1969, and served faithfully as their pastor until he retired in 2004, due to declining health. Elder Davis was a man of strong personal and spiritual convictions. He was compassionate and very committed to the work of the Lord. He was a man of great faith and constant prayer. His motto was "If you take care of God's business, He will take care of yours." May will remembered for his quick wit and humorous nature.

He leaves to cherish his memory and rich legacy: a faithful and dedicated wife of sixty-one years, Dimple Davis, Palestine; seven sons: Roy C. Davis, Jr., of Fort Worth; James A. Davis (Tessie) and Carl E. Davis (Patricia) all of Palestine; Marvin L. Davis (Linda) of San Antonio, Samuel A. Davis (Connie) of Tyler; Paul L. Davis of San Antonio, Charles H. Davis (Beatrice) of Arlington; two daughters: Cynthia M. Ridge (Michael) of Duncanville; Gladys Fay Bell (Jeffery) of Grand Prairie; two brothers, Lawrence Davis of Detroit, Michigan; and Vernon Davis of Chicago, Illinois; sixteen grandchildren, fifteen great-grandchildren; a host of neices, nephews and many other relatives.

He leaves to cherish his memory, his Mother Ardie D. Thacker, a devoted wife Rosie Skinner, mother-in-law Rostene Green; sons Joshua, Stancy, and Jeremy Skinner; daughters Camille Green and G'Undra Skinner all of Alto, Texas; grandchildren Tyrus, Sharenda, Tyrus, Kim Joshua, Jr., Yoshira, Carenda, Jadarion, Jaydon, and Londyn; sisters and brothers-in-law Margie Skinner, Carolyn (Gabe) Frazier of Alto, Gloria Skinner of Houston, Brenda (Tommy) Griffin Longview, Crystal Sterling, Shreveport, Louisiana; brothers and sisters-in-law, George (Della) Skinner, Houston; Charles Skinner (Sara "Pig" and Elmo Thacker, all of Alto; sisters-in-law, Peggy Green, Pamela Black, Paula Pope, brothers-in-law, Vern and Willis Green; special niece who he raise as his own, Jalane Gree; special friends Greg (Betty) Duplichain and family, Ronesha Smith, Laquisha Foster, and tyrone Johnson; a host of aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, and other relatives and friends. Pallbearers were: Robert Jenkins, Howard Richardson, Earnest Mitchell, Jerry Morgan, Jason Duplichain, Jeffery Duplichain, George Skinner, Jr., and Jerry Moore. Honorary pallbearers: Weeping Mary Baptist church Deacons, Alto ISD School Board Members.

Interment was at St. Thomas AME Cemetery under the directions of O.T. Allen & Son Funeral Home.

L. C. Brooks

Sept. 21, 1927- June 21, 2007

Funeral Services were held June 25, 2007 for Mr. L. C. Brooks at Mt. Nevelton CME Church with Rev. Bruce Lyons officiating. He was born September 21, 1927 to Cecil (Norris) Brooks and Sammie L. Brooks in Troop, Texas. Mr. Brooks passed away Thursday June 21st in Jacksonville, Texas. He was a carpenter by trade. He was an active member of Mt. Nevelton serving as a Sunday School superintendent for more than twenty years, adult bible study teacher, and chairman of the deacon board.

He leaves to treasure his memory, a devoted spouse, Lessie Allen Brooks; one son Edward (Buck) Brooks, one daughter Arvella Brooks Franklin; four brothers Cecil (Norris) Brooks; Sammie L. Brooks, Bullard, Verlie C. (Lorain) Brooks, Jacksonville; James (Lucinda) Brooks of Bullard; one sister Clara Dewberry of Hawkins; seven grandchildren; twelve great grandchildren.

Pallbearers were: Preston Brooks, James McCuni, Karl Brooks, Harliam Brooks, Edron Brooks and Jerry Brooks.

Interment was at Mt. Nevelton Cemetery Bullard under the directions of Community Funeral Home.

A Home-Going Celebration for G. L. Skinner

August 3, 1949 - June 16, 2007

Funeral Service for G. L. Skinner was held Friday, June 22, 2007 at Weeping Mary Baptist Church, Alto, Texas with Ministers Isaac Wiley, Herman Martin, Declois Johnson, Lionel Whitaker and Chester Whitaker officiating.

He was born August 3, 1949 to the late G. W. Skinner and Ardie D. Thacker. He entered eternal rest Saturday, June 16, 2007 at his home in alto, Texas.

He attended Booker T. Washington, Fidelity Manor of Houston, Texas and Alto High School.

He united in Holy Matrimony with Rosie Skinner for thirty-four years. to this union, five children were born.

G.L. was employed many years at Rusk State Hospital until he joined the team at Duplichain Contractors where he remained employed until his health failed. He was a faithful member of Weeping Mary Baptist Church where he served as a deacon, assistant superintendent of Sunday School, Youth Sunday School Teacher, Bible Study Teacher, Choir President, WMBC Brotherhood, Committee Officer for the Area Christian Brotherhood, member of the Ministerial Alliance. He served on the Alto Independent School District School Board from 1999 to 2007.

The Life and Legacy of Elder Roy C. Davis, Sr.

Oct. 31, 1914 - July 12, 2007

Elder Roy C. Davis, Sr., was born on October 31, 1914 to Mr. Danile Webster Davis and Mrs. Maggie Shropshire Davis in Palestine, Texas. He was educated in Palestine Public Schools. Before entering full time ministry, he was employed by Rogers Chevrolet, Safeway and Brookshire Food Stores.

He served in the US Army for four years during World War II, where he received five Bronze Stars. After active duty he became a member of Grace Temple COGIC. November 6, 1945 he was united in Holy Matrimony with Dimple Proctor of Fairfield. To this union nine children were born.

He and his family remained faithful members of Grace Temple with him serving as Deacon Board President, Sunday School Superintendent, YPWW President, musician, treasurer, and Sunday School Teacher. He also served as financial secretary for the Palestine for the Palestine District for many years and was appointed assistant superintendent by Bishop

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Making the Marriage Milestone

The Bartleys Celebrating 21 years

During the middle 1980s, Mertis couldn't go to work without stopping by T & B's Restaurant. His excuse was "I can't go to work without having a cup of their great coffee". Stella was a student at El Centro College, but she worked in her mom and dad's restaurant



who is a senior in high school. (See article page 11.) The Bartleys celebrated their twenty-first anniversary in Rusk just riding around enjoying each other and preparing for a week long revival at the church. At one point looking for a little privacy, they teasingly evaded their son and daughter, who were following in a separate vehicle

part time. From the looks he gave her as she served "that great cup of coffee", she soon realized that he was interested in more than just a cup of coffee. Pretty soon the casual conversation over coffee turned to a date, then many dates. "I knew right away that she was the girl of my dreams," Mertis said.

On August 6, 1986 they were married. Twenty-one years later, they look back on their marriage as an incredible journey. He is now the Pastor of Mt. Olive Baptist Church in Rusk and she is the First Lady and assistant pastor. They have one daughter Alma who is in college and the most dedicated young musician a church could pray for and a son

The Bartleys believe that having a strong Christian foundation in both their marriage and home and accepting the call of Christ to work together in the ministry has brought added joy to their marriage. "She is my best friend, my girlfriend my wife and my strongest supporter", he stated, and Stella is a real asset to the church's ministerial staff."

The Bartley's live in Dallas but spend lots of time in Rusk, planning in the future to make Rusk their home. He has been in the ministry eighteen years and she since 2005. Stella is a natural at her role as First Lady. She is youth director, director of the youth choir, orders church literature,

Happy birthday Melissa Harris



Land
sakes
alive
Melissa
has made
thirty-
five!!

Happy
birthday
from
your
family

and does whatever it takes to bond with the church family and meet their spiritual needs. She attends workshops on Youth Ministry, Women's Ministry and the other special areas like praise dance and music that is needed to work with the youth. She is employed with Tremont Retirement Community as assistant office manager. He works for Dallas County Schools and Alma attends Stephen F. Austin University. Rev. Bartley in his role in the ministry, he sees that children have a great need for parental guidance.

Rev. Bartley quoted Genesis 1:27; 2:24: 2:18 - marriage was instituted by God and that is why after 21 years he and Stella still walk side beside and have peace, love and happiness in their marriage.

Brandon Deshawn Walker Graduates from Stephen F. Austin State University



Brandon Deshawn Walker, a 2003 Rusk High School Graduate, received his Bachelor of Art Degree in Art and Creative Writing from Stephen F. Austin State University on Saturday, August 11, 2007. The ceremony took place at the William R. Johnson Coliseum located on SFASU Campus. During the process of completing his studies, Mr. Walker participated in Art Clubs and helped produce literary

magazines. Some of his art works and literary pieces appeared in literary publications. He was also named to the National Dean's List two times during his four years of study.

Brandon's future plans include attending graduate school and working in the field of art. He is the son of Djuana Denise Walker and the grandson of Betty and Larry Walker of Rusk, Texas.

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Mertis Bartley, Jr. on the career path to ministry



Mertis Bartley, Jr., a senior at James Madison High School Dallas, delivered his first sermon in July at Mount Olive Baptist Church, Rusk, Texas. "Little Man" as he is lovingly called by family and friends, has been the church drummer for the past five years. His sermon topic "I Can Get Crunk All By Myself", came from 1st Samuel Chapter 30: Verse 6.

Mertis plans to attend college after graduation majoring in Kinesiology and minoring in Theology. He is the son of Rev. Mertis Bartley, Sr. and Minister Stella Bartley, Pastor and Assistant Pastor at Mount Olive Baptist Church.

Sharaick Jackson makes National Dean's List



Sharaick Sherman Jackson, a 2005 Rusk High School Graduate, was named to the National Dean's List in the Spring of 2007. Miss Jackson is a second year student at Tyler Junior College with plans to attend University of Texas at Tyler upon obtaining her associate degree. Sharaick is a member of West Union Faith Ministry where she is active in the youth department. She is the daughter of Sheryl Foreman Jackson and the late Wesley Jackson.

He who wants milk should not sit on a stool in the middle of the pasture expecting the cow to back up to him.

author unknown

Second Grader Earns Academic Trophies



Harris, a Chandler Elementary student, received two academic trophies for the 2006 - 2007 school year. He received the Top A. R. Reader trophy and the trophy for having over 110 A.R. points in his class. T. J. also received the S.T.A.R. (Students Together Acting Responsibly) certificate, and the Principal's Award. He enjoys playing basketball, video games, computer games and playing outside with his friends. His mom says he is already talking about becoming a physician when he grows up. He is the son of proud parents Maurice and Melissa Harris and grandson of Roxie Richards. He has one brother, Demario Richards.

Russell Simmons Speaks on Black Entrepreneurship

Detroit, MI (BlackNews.com) - The Message of Black Entrepreneurship and its importance has begun to spread internationally. The New Book My Conversations with Black Millionaire Entrepreneurs a compilation of interviews of some of Black America's successful Black Entrepreneurs is spreading in Canada and the UK. "I Believe it is becoming crystal clear that the days of multi-national corporations providing jobs and taking care of your retirement are long gone" said Bro. Bedford, the book's author and founder of How To Be A Black Entrepreneur.com. "Black people are truly entrepreneurial by nature, I hope and pray this book rekindles the desire to do what we have done for centuries." After reviewing those who were included in the book, Russell Simmons, founder of Def Jam Records Phat Farm and many other businesses and one of Black America's most successful entrepreneurs stated, "Black Entrepreneurship is so important because it shows young people anything is possible. Most

successful Black Entrepreneurs are first generation, have pulled themselves out of struggle and proved the American Dream can come true. It's very important we raise these people up so their communities can see them, and show them it can be done."

The book is available for immediate download at: <http://rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=tjpj5ccab.0immntacab.dimu5xbab.45664&ts=S0268&p=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.conversationswithblackmillionaires.com>

Bro. Bedford has been providing information on Entrepreneurship and Investment/Finance in his free e-zine that goes out weekly to over 2,000

subscribers worldwide. To subscribe and have access to this vital information go to <http://rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=tjpj5ccab.0szfp6ybab.dimu5xbab.45664&ts=S0268&p=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.howtobeablackentrepreneur.com>



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State Representative Chuck Hopson, Dst. 11



**Hopson,
calls for special
session in open
letter to
governor**

July 31, 2007

The Honorable Rick Perry
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, Texas 78711-2428

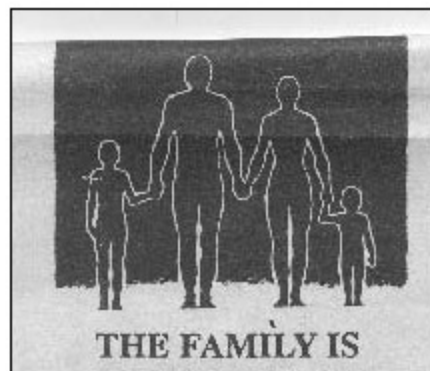
Dear Governor Perry:

I would respectfully request that a Special Session of the Texas Legislature be called in order to address the consequences caused by your line-item veto for FY 09 Higher Education Group Insurance (HEGI) Contributions for public community colleges in Texas. This veto will have an extremely negative impact on Panola and Kilgore Colleges in my district.

I have received many letters and calls from students, administrators and employees of these colleges who are very distressed about this veto. It is unjust to impede the efforts of our community colleges. In rural areas like District 11 these colleges are often the only resource for continued education and job training.

This veto will only ensure an increase in tuition rates by \$15 to \$21 per credit hour. This veto will also lead to an increase in ad valorem taxes and the cutting of important programs.

Therefore, on behalf of the citizens of District 11 and all of Texas, I am respectfully requesting that you call a Special Session immediately so that the Texas Legislature resolves this serious crisis. Respectfully,
Chuck Hopson
State Representative
District 11



Star Jones Reynolds I had Gastric Bypass Surgery

Reynolds, 45, says she was "intentionally evasive" when people asked how she'd dropped 160 pounds in three years. She had gastric bypass surgery in August 2003.

She writes about her weight loss in a first-person essay in the September issue of Glamour magazine, on newsstands Aug. 7.

Everything about me was already so public (mostly my own doing -- talk about dumb!), so of course everyone wanted to know what I had done," she writes. "I was also terrified someone would have a tragic result after emulating me without making an informed decision with her doctor."

"But the complete truth is, I was scared of what people might think of me," she continues. "I was afraid to be vulnerable, and ashamed at not being



Keeping her decision private made her a hypocrite, she says, because she had been so outspoken about her firing as co-host of ABC's "The View" last year.

Reynolds, who weighed 307 pounds at her heaviest, says her "out-of-control behavior" began around her 40th birthday in 2002. Feeling lonely, she turned to food for comfort and gained 75 pounds over the course of 17 months.

"I used to look in the mirror and take pride in my figure, but that was when I was legitimately a full-figured woman," she says. "I'd gradually gone from full-figured to morbidly obese."

Reynolds opted for surgery after a friend expressed concern about her weight. It was a success, she says, though she found she was "still consumed with the same anger, shame and insecurity as before."

Her husband, banker Al Reynolds, encouraged her to begin psychological therapy in the summer of 2005. She learned, among other things, that she "couldn't control what others thought," she says. She began to heal by talking openly about her weight loss to strangers.

Liz Battle Retires from Rusk State Hospital

Liz Battle decided to take a break from Team Treatment meetings and patient care and supervision when she took off her name tag and put down her pen last month. A Retirement Party was hosted by her co-workers on the Cypress Unit for thirty years service as a registered nurse. Her family and co-workers came to enjoy the party and wish her well.



RSH Superintendent Ted Debs and Liz Battle pictured above.

The Johnson Family Reunion
Starts 6:30 Friday, September 7th - 9th
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Sunday, August 19, 2007 - 3:00PM
August 20th - 24th - 7:30 PM Nightly

Rev. Joe Radford, Pastor

Mrs. J's 411



Sales Tax Holiday

August 17-19, 2007

Furtich R. July Arrington

Texas shoppers get a break from state and local sales taxes on August 17, 18, and 19th, the state's annual tax holiday. It was moved from the first weekend in August because school started later this year. The law exempts most clothing and footwear priced under \$100 from sales and use taxes, which could save shoppers about \$8 on every \$100 they spend. Backpacks under \$100 and used by elementary and secondary students are also exempt. A backpack is a pack with straps one wears on the back. The new exemption during the sales tax holiday includes backpacks with wheels, provided they can also be worn on the back like a traditional backpack, and messenger bags. The exemption does not include items that are reasonably defined as luggage, briefcases, athletic/duffle/gym bags, computer bags, purses or framed backpacks. Ten or fewer backpacks can be purchased tax-free at one time without providing an exemption certificate to the seller.

The big day is almost here. For those of you will soon occupy a seat in the classroom, here is a little something for you. Each day you will do your best and you won't do any less. Always do your homework and try on

Tracey Wallace
Receives Teacher
Award

Jacksonville, TX. - Tracey Wallace, former Jacksonville ISD Teacher and Administrator recently received a plaque and special recognition made as an East Side Elementary classroom teacher. Each year, Baylor University's graduating class of teachers, submits an essay about their most memorable teacher. One essay is chosen from the elementary level and one for secondary level. Ashley Minton's essay was chosen for the elementary level. Ashley is a former Jacksonville ISD student who was taught by Ms. Wallace as a third grade student.

A special reception was held to honor the Baylor student submitting the essay and the teacher written about in the essay. Ms. Wallace, her children, mother, sisters, and neices went to Baylor for the evening. She was awarded a plaque and asked to share some thoughts with the future teachers. It was a very special evening.

Ashley is the daughter of Gary Minton of Jacksonville. She will remain at Baylor one more year to earn her Masters Degree in Education. "I feel blessed to have had the skills, the abilities and spirit to be the kind of teacher who touched student's lives in such a great way," Ms. Wallace said. Read Ashley's essay below.

Most Memorable Teacher

If you could travel back in time about 15 years, and peek inside the door of Mrs. Wallace's third

grade classroom at East Side Elementary, you would find me sitting in a classroom full of anxious students having the most exciting learning experiences. You would hear laughter and eagerness in the students' voices. You would see excitement on their faces, and something about that classroom would feel different. Mrs. Wallace might be in the front of the room singing the weekly spelling words, or who knows, she might be showing off her toe touch to get us excited for the TAAS test. Whatever is happening, you can be assured that it is fun and that the students are learning. This is just the kind of classroom it was.

Mrs. Wallace was by far my favorite and best teacher. She had a way of engaging us in learning and teaching us how to make learning fun. There was never a dull moment in her class! Every student at the school knew Mrs. Wallace, and they all envied those of us who were lucky enough to have her as our teacher. I remember so many details about her class. We did meaningful projects such as writing and "publishing" our own books. We made them into hardcover children's books that we placed in offices and waiting rooms all over the community. We did numerous dramas and plays that we presented to the other students. We did learning centers and games, and every activity we did seemed fun.

I absolutely loved third grade, and you could tell Mrs. Wallace loved teaching it. She had a wonderful way of keeping our attention! She did whatever it took. On Fridays for our spelling tests, she would sing the words and the sentences instead of just saying them. We couldn't wait each week to hear if she would use our name in the sentence she sang!

When we learned our multiplication facts, we learned them by songs. The tens were very special. We had to wait a long time to get to them, but when we did it was so fun. We learned how to square dance, and we danced while we chanted our tens facts. She also loved to challenge us, and I specifically remember learning long division before anyone else in the school was introduced to it. We were so excited that we could do it, and she was excited to teach us! She was such a special teacher to me in third grade, but looking back over the past few years, I realized just how special she was.

I have known for as long as I can remember that I wanted to become a teacher one day, and when I think about the kind of teacher I want to become, I automatically think of Mrs. Wallace. She is the kind of person who cared enough about us to create lessons that were fun and engaging. She wanted us to learn, and she did whatever it took to do that.



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LAWSUIT CHARGES JACKSON HEWITT AND SANTA BARBARA BANK & TRUST WITH FRAUDULENT AND ILLEGAL

Ventura, CA (BlackNews.com) - In a consumer rights case of national significance, Hood v. Santa Barbara Bank & Trust, et al., a California Court of Appeal recently issued a strongly worded opinion rejecting the claims of national banks that they are immune from state prosecution for their practices of seizing consumers' tax refunds to pay debts allegedly owed to other banks. The ruling clears the way for the Hood case to proceed with its claims that Jackson Hewitt and Santa Barbara Bank & Trust (SBBT) engage in misrepresentation, unlawful debt collection and unfair business practices.

The lawsuit arises from SBBT's practice of offering Refund Anticipation Loans (RAL) to consumers who get their taxes prepared at Jackson Hewitt offices. Consumers apply for RALs as a way of getting a quick tax refund, but some consumers end up having all or part of their tax refunds seized by SBBT when another bank claims the consumer owes money for a preexisting RAL.

SBBT is one of a number of banks nationwide that make RALs through tax preparers such as Jackson Hewitt. RALs are high cost loans secured by a consumer's anticipated tax refund. Typical fees for a RAL range from about \$30 to \$100, with effective annualized interest rates ranging anywhere from about 60% to over 700%. National consumer advocates have reported that high numbers of Black and Latino tax filers purchase RALs. RALs are also targeted at the working poor, many of whom receive the Earned Income Tax Credit. Consumer groups have found that RALs cost taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars per year.

The Court of Appeal's decision "is an enormous victory for consumers nationwide who have been subjected to the illegal seizure of their tax refunds by national banks like Santa Barbara Bank & Trust and Household Bank," said plaintiffs' counsel Jim Sturdevant of The Sturdevant Law Firm in San Francisco. "We look forward to exposing the banks' unlawful debt collection scheme and obtaining justice for consumers nationwide," Sturdevant stated. The Court's ruling clears the way for this proposed class action to go forward. The Sturdevant Law Firm in San Francisco (<http://rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=cse5cdcab.0.kjm5fdcab.dinu5xbab.45664&ts=S0269&p=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.sturdevantlaw.com>), along with the National Consumer Law Center (<http://rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=cse5cdcab.0.kjm5fdcab.dinu5xbab.45664&ts=S0269&p=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.nclc.org>), is asking the court to represent the proposed class. If any consumers have had their tax refunds seized after going to a Jackson Hewitt office, the Sturdevant Law Firm is interested in hearing about it. To receive more information about consumers' legal rights regarding RALs, please contact The Sturdevant Law Firm at (415) 477-2410.

About The National Consumer Law Center The National Consumer Law Center, with offices in Boston and Washington, D.C., is a national research and advocacy organization focusing on the legal needs of consumers, especially low income and elderly consumers. For over 30 years the National Consumer Law Center has been the consumer law resource center to which legal services and private lawyers, state and federal consumer protection officials,



Charmell Franklin - August 15th
Happy "Sweet Sixteenth" Birthday
Love, Moma, Daddy, Darren Krissy & Marcus

Cherokee Civic Theater of Rusk, Texas presents

Seussical, The Musical
by Lynn Aherns & Stephen Flaherty

Performances: October 12, 13, 19, & 20 at 7:30 pm
October 14 & 21 at 2:00pm



Pictured left to right Rusk City Councilman

Walter session, Andrew Melontree, Tyler Citizens 1st Bank, James I perkins, Citizens 1st Bank President and Cody Glenn, former Rusk High School Running Back, former Rusk Citizens 1st Bank Employee and current University of Nebraska Running Back. They are viewing a thank you note to Mr Perkins from Rusk State Hospital for all he and Citizens 1st Bank does for Rusk State Hospital. The Thank you note is signed by each member of the RSH Staff and Superintendent Ted Debs.

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THE TRUTH CLINIC

AMERICA'S CRISIS
OF CONSCIENCE

By: James W. Breedlove

While the Bush administration is marking time trying to defend its current Iraq surge policy the human tidal wave of refugees is pouring across the neighboring borders seeking solace, respite, and relief from the oppressive misery.

They number approximately four million and the flood of refugees is growing at an astronomical rate. The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) estimates that 50,000 per month are fleeing Iraq with the majority crossing into Syria and Jordan.

Recently this crisis worsened when Syria and Jordan tightened residency rules for Iraqi refugees raising fears that mass deportations will begin. Both countries have indicated they cannot sustain supporting the legions of human debris.

While the Iraq refugee crisis is in the current spotlight the world refugee problem is not new. Throughout history, people have fled their homes to escape persecution. There are an estimated 10 million refugees in the world; an increase of 14 percent in one year. If the number of internally displaced persons (those that have not crossed an international border) is included the worldwide refugee population is 23 million.

In the aftermath of World War II, the international community responded to their collective failure to provide safe haven to refugees fleeing genocide at the hands of the Nazi regime with an agreement containing non-refoulement.

Non-refoulement is a principle in international law that addresses protecting refugees from being returned to places where their lives or freedoms could be threatened. Non-refoulement forbids the expulsion of refugees into an area where they might be again subjected to persecution. This was codified within the 1951 Geneva Convention and 1967 Protocol. The binding agreement was ratified by 140 countries.

However, in the years since ratification, many of the wealthy industrialized member nations have either reneged or significantly hedged on their commit-

ment to protect refugees. Some have even adopted hostile and restrictive policies that subject refugees to arbitrary arrest, detention, and the denial of social and economic rights. In the worst cases, non-refoulement has been violated and refugees are forcibly returned to their home countries to face the very persecution they fled.

The United States of America is a prime violator of refugee human rights principles. Having engaged in a pre-emptive war of choice that directly or indirectly exacerbated this massive displacement, the U.S. has a clear and compelling duty to take the lead in addressing the crisis its actions have precipitated.

In the four years since the war in Iraq was initiated the U.S. has taken in a total of 701 refugees all of which had applied for refugee status prior to the fall of Saddam Hussein. Last month only one Iraq refugee was cleared to enter the country.

Recently the State Department announced a program to resettle 7,000 Iraqi refugees in the U.S. by the end of 2007. However, administrative problems with the program will reduce that number to an estimated 2,500. One of the excuses given by the government is the unanticipated 4-6 months that it takes for a refugee to clear security. In the meantime Syria, Jordan, Egypt, Sweden, and Australia have collectively taken in millions of refugees with no significant security complications. Yet America has done little to help or relieve the human and financial burden borne by refugee benefactors in the past four years. Not only has the U.S. underfunded its own refugee program, but it cut its support to UNHCR from \$19.9 million in 2005 to \$7.9 million in 2006. Yet America justifies spending five hundred billions dollars supporting devastation and destruction of Iraq and making refugees of its people. America has a moral obligation to assist in alleviating the Iraqi refugee problem since its sanctions, invasion, and occupation wiped out the Iraq economy and drove the vast majority of the population into dire poverty. Add the civil conflict that resulted from pitting the three major ethnic and religious groups against each other and the seeds were sown for the great Iraq refugee crisis. Americans once were numbed by the riveting video footage that showed the punishing, cruel, and devastating horror that befell the refugees not only from Iraq but also from other countries. Now the starvation, deprivation, and mutilation has become so accepted in our psyche that we barely wince when we see the hollowed, hopeless eyes of the traumatized

and terrified refugees huddling in their own filth while waiting for the peace of death to ease their pain. Just two weeks ago Americans witnessed the inexorable and excruciating struggle for life of innocent little children hidden away in the dark and desolate wasteland of an abandoned Iraqi orphanage. Yet we do not challenge our leaders who speak noble but hypocritical words about peace, democracy, and brotherhood and do little to stop the continuing human suffering. In the midst of this desperation and chaos it seems that America has lost all sense of who we were and forgotten the humanity that once symbolized America's moral leadership to the rest of the world. America is mired in a crisis of conscience.

We need to rediscover our moral conscience even as we insulate our political conscience to justify a senseless quest for world domination.

James W. Breedlove

Comments or opinions may be sent to the writer at:
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Sports



Rusk girls participate in Summer league basketball

Rusk, Tx. - Rusk high school age girls, pictured left, participated in summer league basketball during June and July, ending their season with a record of 5 wins and 5 losses. The team was coached by Elmer Stewart, longtime community volunteer.

The team participated in the Central League, playing each Tuesday and Thursday in July against Hudson (below left), Central, Diboll and Wells. They also played against Jacksonville (pictured below), Kennard, Mt. Enterprise and Centerville.

Players who made up the team were: Charnell Franklin, Courtney Foreman, Jasmine Harris, Grace Castillo, Kashera Mahummad,



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Organ Donors *Can't from Page 3*

Black Community stress that the medical community must better understand that the fear and mistrust that Blacks face are indeed legitimate and must be faced head on. They encourage health care providers not to be dismissive, but to listen and be ready not to give excuses for what happened in the past. Health care providers must be ready to explain the measures put in place as a result of the past to protect patients. The same approach has been taken in the campaign to increase organ donations in the Black community.

Joanne Cox is an organ recipient and advocate for increased organ donation among Blacks. Cox, Administrative Assistant to Pastor Tony Evans of Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship says that increased donation is so important for Blacks because the need for us is so much greater. Though Cox's organ transplant was over twelve years ago, both her husband and daughter are now in need of organ donation because of failing kidneys from unrelated illnesses. Her daughter Tiffany has been dealing with Lupus since she was five years old and her body now can no longer function without a transplant. Cox said the family has been in the fight of their lives because of the financial strains and the fact that both her husband and daughter still await transplants because of the donor shortage. Cox speaks publicly about the need to increase donors in the Black community. She goes to schools and churches and says the response is good but that it needs to be even greater. Perhaps few people understand this better than she does.

Cox said the campaign to increase awareness includes a push for live donors as well as advance consent from potential donors. They are encouraging potential donors to log onto the official donor registry for Texas, donatelifetexas.org to become a potential donor. The campaign also stresses the importance of Black donations because of the likelihood for many to be in need. Of the potential for barriers because of trust, Cox also recognized the importance of acknowledging the past but stresses that the system of care in this process is very different from those of the past. She says this system can be trusted. She said it is a difficult decision, but she asks people to put themselves in the position of being the one who might need an organ donation. Then she asks them to think about the prospect of that organ not being available because someone did not make the decision give the gift of life.

So, maybe one does not possess the natural ability to walk on water or raise the dead. But most people do have the ability to save a life through organ donation. There is an old African proverb that says; when the heart overflows it comes out through the mouth. People who have made the decision to donate their organs after they die must talk about their decision with their loved ones, because the gift of life is too precious to be left to chance.

Marian Hubbard Jefferson is an investigative reporter for the Dallas Examiner

Tire Recall *from page 20*

Consumers should immediately check the sidewalls of their tires for the brand name, size, model, and U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) number. Tires subject to today's recall bear the DOT number "FTS" as part of the number.

Consumers who own any of these tires should immediately contact FTS toll-free at (888) 899-9293 or online at www.foreigntire.com. FTS may require consumers to complete a questionnaire and present it to a local dealer to obtain replacement tires. Consumers who own these tires should avoid driving for long distances on hot roads. Contact FTS to locate the closest tire shop or mechanic participating in the recall.

In most cases, consumers should not be charged to replace the defective tires. Check the FTS Web site or hotline for additional information. Specific tire sizes and models affected: • LT235/75R-15 CR861, CR857 (Partial D.O.T. Number: 7DT5FTS)

• LT235/85R-16 CR860, CR861, CR857 (Partial D.O.T. Number: 7DT2FTS)

• LT245/75R-16 CR860, CR861, CR857 (Partial D.O.T. Number: CR857)

• LT265/75R-16 CR860, CR861, CR857 (Partial D.O.T. Number: 7DT4FTS)

• LT31X10.5R-15 CR861, CR857 (Partial D.O.T. Number: 7DT6FTS)

As part of general tire safety, consumers should keep the following tips in mind:

• Inspect tires at least once a month and before every long trip for patterns of uneven wear.

*Check tire inflation pressure in accordance with manufacturer recommendations. For additional suggestions. Please send any concerns or comments you may have to: webmaster@oag.state.tx.us

Jacksons "Family Of The Month"



L to R - Dorothy, Shamika and John Jackson.

Palestine, TX. - The Jacksons have been chosen as "Family of The Month". Dorothy has been employed with Palestine ISD fifteen years as AM Story school nurse. John has been employed with Oncor for thirty-two years in Palestine. He is currently working on the AMR Project which causes him to travel. Shamika is a tenth grader at Palestine High School. Dorothy and John are very active in the community and church. They are members of New Fellowship Christian Church of Palestine where Rev. Obie Bowser is the Pastor.



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The Eddie D. Harris Annual Memorial Scholarship Tournament

By Krystal Ward Carter

This year's 4th annual Eddie D. Harris Memorial Scholarship Tournament was held August 3-4th at the Rusk High School and Junior High gyms. The tournament consisted of two high school boys teams: Jacksonville High School and Rusk High School; three high school girl teams: Rusk, Jacksonville, and Mt. Enterprise. The men's bracket consisted of Jacksonville, Slab Riders, Drillers, ICE, Rusk, and TNT. The first place teams were awarded a championship trophy and t-shirts and the runner-ups were awarded t-shirts. Jacksonville swept the tournament with first place in each division. Jacksonville won the men's division, with the Slab Riders of Tyler as the runner-up team. Jacksonville High School boys won the boys division, with Rusk High runner-ups. The East Texas All-Stars of Jacksonville won the High School girls division and Mt. Enterprise was the first place runner-ups.

Since, 2004 the tournament has been held to commemorate Eddie D. Harris. He was born and raised in Jacksonville, Texas. He graduated Jacksonville High School in 1982 and attended Jacksonville Baptist College. He met and married Kathy Session from Rusk, Texas. Eddie and Kathy lived in Rusk with their children. Eddie volunteered much of his time with the youth of Rusk, Jacksonville, and the East Texas area for 12 plus years as a basketball and baseball coach and mentor.

He was a member of the Cherokee County Brotherhood Club. and Mt. Pleasant Church. He worked diligently at Rusk State Hospital for 11 years before illness left him unable to work. In 2002, he was diagnosed with Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis, a progressive scarring of the lung disease in which there is no cure. On July 5, 2003, Eddie lost the battle with the disease and he died at the age of 39.

The proceeds from the tournament have been used to award college scholarships to deserving high school students that are active in their church, participated in high school sports, and maintained a 3.0 GPA in high school.

Mt. Pleasant CME Church Youth Department and the Eddie Harris Scholarship Board are pleased to announce this year's scholarship recipients: (Top right) Eddie W. Harris, Shonundra Martin, Jon Michael Jackson all of Rusk. Eddie is the son of the late Eddie Harris and Kathy Harris and will attend Angelina Junior College. Shonundra Martin is the daughter of Alice Martin, and she will attend Tyler Junior College. Jon Michael Jackson is the son of Jackie and James Griffin and will attend Tyler Junior College. The past recipients include Cody Glenn (University of

Nebraska-Sociology), Armistia Sanders (Tyler Junior College-Nursing), Sharaick Jackson (Tyler, Junior College), and Crystal Henderson (University of North Texas-Accounting) all of Rusk. Scholarship recipients are encouraged to give back to the community by volunteering.

In January 2006, the scholarship board held a college preparatory workshop in the computer lab at Rusk Intermediate School. The workshop will be continued to provide students and parents information about scholarships, applications, admission exams, and general information about college.

This year's workshop is tentatively schedule for October. Continue reading the Texas Informer for updates.

This year's tournament would not have been possible without our sponsors and supporters: Mt. Pleasant CME Church, Texas National Bank, Daphne Session Attorney At Law, Austin Young State Farm Insurance, Jerry Ocker, DDS; The BLAZE Radio Station, Southern Cherokee Federal Credit Union, Citizens First Bank, Community Funeral Home, The Colston Family, Elmer Stewart, Brookshire Brothers, L & P paint and Body Shop - Palestine, Texas, Ed Bruce, Flowers 'N Things, Tosh Insurance Agency, Texas Informer, O. T. Allen & Son Funeral Home Terri's Cakes, Austin Bank.

Special thanks to our referees and volunteers: The teams and coaches that participated, Oliver Stuns, Marcus Carter (tournament coordinator), Krystal Carter (coordinator) Kingsley Idemudia, X. X, Kimberly Clark, Terri Franklin, Kathy Harris, Daphne Session, Shunnon Ratcliff, Joel McGowan, Maxine Session, Raven Gipson, Matthew Davis, Sharaick Foreman, Armistia Sanders, Sam O'Neal, Coach James Holcomb, Elmer Stewart, Cody Glenn, Darren Franklin, and Garrett Floyd.



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Bible Study - Wednesday 6:00PM

County Line Baptist Church

Douglass, Texas

Annual Homecoming and Revival Service

August 12 - 17, 2007
Sunday 3:00PM
Nightly 7:45PM

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Pastor: Rev. Julius Session

Mt. Pleasant CME Church

Annual Revival
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3:00PM

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Pastor, Rev. Greenie Phillips

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Wednesday Night Bible Study/Prayer Meeting:
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**Faith Holy Tabernacle Church
moves to new home**

Rusk, TX -Faith Holy Tabernacle Church opened its doors downtown Rusk in a temporary building about two years ago. On Sunday, July 29th Pastor Samuel Willis and the church congregation moved to their permanent home, a church building located at 1107 North Main Street Rusk, Texas. The grand opening will be held Sunday, August 12, 2007 at 3:00PM. Speaker will be Elder Chester Whitaker, pastor of Bowens Temple, Jacksonville, Texas. In a joint venture with Tyler and Jacksonville Wal-Mart and The Church On The Rock also in Rusk, Faith Holy Tabernacle hosted an annual "Back To School Blessing" event where they gave school supplies and clothing to community families.

The church has a food pantry and clothes closet setup and ready to go for those who might have need of them. The pastor's wife, Antonett Willis is currently taking counseling classes at River of Life School of Ministry. Another member, Mattie Willis is also taking classes there in "Intercessory Prayer".

Worship services are held each Sunday with Sunday School beginning at 9:45 and Morning worship beginning at 11:00AM. The Intercessory Prayer Line number is (903) 683-5720. The public is invited to attend.

The New Hope Missionary Baptist Church Family of Alto, Texas cordially invites you to attend the 3rd Anniversary honoring our pianist Virginia Gail Wade.

Saturday, August 25th -7:00PM
Sunday, August 26th 3:00PM

Pastor, Rev. Tracy Clater

Choirs and soloist are invited to participate in the program.

Contact: Betty Session
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First Annual Labor Day Western Fashion Show



Crockett, TX. - Members of the First Annual Labor Day Western Fashion Show planning committee met July 31st and again August seventh to make plans for the event which will be held at the Crockett Civic Center on Thursday night August 30, 2007. The event will begin at 7:00PM. Recruitment is now open for Crockett area citizens to model western wear. The categories are: Infants - ages one month to eighteen months; Toddlers - ages 2 years; Pre-schoolers ages 3,4, and 5; Elementary - grades 1 to 8; High School - grades 9 to 12; Couples and Adults. Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd, and third place in each

category. Models will be judged on poise, personality, originality, and best coordinated. Winners will be announced Saturday night, September 1st at the Myrtis Dightman Rodeo. Lonnie Hunt will be M. C. and there will be live entertainment by local talent. Door prizes will be given away. Applications to participate as a model can be gotten from any member of the planning committee or the Baskins department store in Crockett. The contact person at Baskins is Shirley McKenzic. Admission for the event is \$5.00 per adult and \$3.00 under 18. Members of the planning committee are: Donna Kasper, Shirley Murray, Liz Cochrane, Maxine Session, J.T. Thompson, Lesa Thompson, Dr. Ianthia Fisher, Diann, and Shirley McKenzic.

Texas Attorney General Consumer Alert: FTS Tire Recall

Texans urged to check for potentially dangerous tires distributed by Foreign Tire Sales, Inc.

AUSTIN—Foreign Tire Sales, Inc. (FTS), in accordance with the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act, today issued a recall of tires that could be in danger of tread separation. The Office of the Attorney General is urging Texas drivers to check their vehicles for these potentially dangerous tires and contact FTS to learn more about replacing the recalled products.

The recalled tires were made by Hangzhou Zhongce Rubber Co. Ltd. ("HZ") in China and distributed in the United States under several names, including Westlake, YKS and Compass. The tires were sold from 2004 to 2006 for light trucks, sports utility vehicles, and According to FTS, the U.S. distributor, at least 270,000 tires may have insufficient or missing "gum strips," an important safety feature on certain tires that helps prevent tread separation. More than 50,000 of the potentially unsafe tires are believed to have been sold in Texas.

See Tire Recall page 17

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