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Inauguration and Black History Special Issue

February 2009 Vol. XIII No. 10 e-mail: informernews08@aol.com www.texasinformers.com

Barack Obama is 44th President of the United States of America



President Barack Obama, First Lady Michelle Obama and their two daughters Sasha and Malia. The president takes the oath of office.

Editorial

Is there a need for Black History Month?



Maxine Session

Carter G.

Woodson established Black History week in 1926. Soon it became BlackHistoryMonth. Since that time African Americans and people of many other races have learned much about Black History. Some who are not African American ask the question, "Is there really a need for black history month?" Not long ago I spoke to a group that was virtually all white. I asked simple questions that had to do with black history. Asking those who knew the answer to raise their hand, each time almost no hands went up. I think that answers the question and the answer is definitely yes.

To make a difference in this society the racial stereotypes used to keep black people enslaved for more than 300 years must be corrected. Generations of families still past those horrible stereotypes

down to their children. To correct this misinformation the truth must be told to everyone. Teaching black history in the home, church and school will eventually help bring about an understanding of the true history of America, if the real truth is taught. The theme for February 2009 black history month is "The Quest for Black Citizenship in the Americas". Other than the false stereotypes deeply planted into American society about black people, were: (1) the stripping of their right to vote, (2) the outlawing of the right to learn to read and to own books, (3) the Supreme Court turning its back upon the terrorism that was exercised against black people, during the time of hangings and the other terrible inhuman acts committed against black people. This country was founded upon the Constitution of the United States of America. The quest for true citizenship and all its rights should be within reach of all Americans.

There will be trouble and distress for every human being who does evil; but glory, honor and peace for everyone who does good.

Romans 2: 9-10

Black History Note

In 1827, Samuel Cornish and John B. Russwarm started the first African-American Newspaper, called Freedom's Journal. Frederick Douglass started The North Star. Soon the Chicago Defender, Detroit Tribune, the Pittsburgh Courier, and the (New York) Amsterdam News were founded. The idea of an African-American newspaper was to give African-Americans the news through the lens of their own eyes.



Rusk Chamber thanks ETMC Staff

~Bob Goldsberry

Rusk, Texas- The Rusk Chamber of Commerce would like to say "Thank You" to Jack Endres, DeLeigh Haley and the Staff of East Texas Medical Center Jacksonville for their patronage and support for the Rusk Chamber of Commerce by becoming our newest Silver Member.

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America celebrates Obama Inauguration

Cover Story

by Maxine Session



People cheer at the Washington Monument during the inauguration ceremony of U.S. President Barack Obama in Washington January 20, 2009. (Mark Blinch)



Keith Hart, center, a Vietnam Army veteran, cheers as he watches Barack Obama be inaugurated as president, on television with other patrons of the Oxford Bar in Missoula, Mt., one of the oldest bars in Montana, on Tuesday, Jan. 20, 2009. (Michael Albans)



January 20th, 2009, Barack H. Obama was sworn in as the 44th President of the United States of America - the first African-American ever to hold the office of U.S. Commander-in-Chief. The event was witnessed by well over one million attendees in chilly Washington D.C., and by many millions more through coverage on television and the Internet. Collected here are photographs of the event, the participants, and some of the witnesses around the world. U.S. President Barack Obama and first lady Michelle Obama walk in the inaugural parade following his inauguration as the 44th President of the United States of America on January 20, 2009 in Washington, D.C. (Doug Mills-Pool)

Steve Harvey introduces radio dating game segment

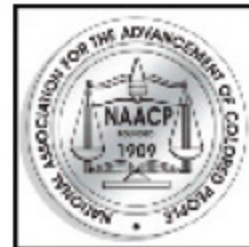
Hollywood, CA (BlackNews.com) - While most of the country suffers from record low temperatures, the radio airwaves are heating up with a new interactive dating game segment in Steve Harvey's top morning drive show. BlackPeopleMeet.com, the web's leading destination for black singles has teamed up with Premier Radio Network's syndicated The Steve Harvey Morning Show (www.steveharvey.com), to launch Radio Date(TM), an updated and fun take on dating game shows of the past, with an interactive twist.

Every other Wednesday morning, during the top rated Steve Harvey Morning Show, four (4) lucky BlackPeopleMeet.com members will appear live on the Steve Harvey Morning Show. One female listener will choose from three (3) eligible bachelors to go on an elegant night on the town, courtesy of BlackPeopleMeet.com and the Steve Harvey Morning Show. Each Radio Date(TM) will include transportation, dinner, flowers, security and other world-class extras. Each subsequent Wednesday segment will feature responses from the two lucky daters, along with results from listeners voting at the Radio Date(TM) webpage (www.blackpeoplemeet.com/steve-harvey). BlackPeopleMeet.com is currently seeking potential Ra

dio Date(TM) contestants from major metropolitan cities like New York, Washington D.C., and Chicago. To enter, interested daters need to visit www.blackpeoplemeet.com/steve-harvey and click "Participate". Candidates for Radio Date(TM) must have a profile on BlackPeopleMeet.com and will be selected based on the quality, completeness and popularity of their profiles, as well as their proximity to the city where the date will be held. There is no purchase necessary to be eligible.

"In such a tough economy, we wanted to give back to the community and provide the opportunity for a great time and potentially even more," says Ron Worthy, People Media, Inc.'s Vice President of Product and Business Development. Since the site's launch in 2002, BlackPeopleMeet.com has helped introduce tens of thousands of couples. BlackPeopleMeet.com is an inexpensive and effective way to meet a large group of attractive Black singles. With the help of Steve Harvey, BlackPeopleMeet.com can provide an amazing first date, free of charge.

Power, Justice, Freedom, Vote was the theme of the past weekend, and in many ways for the past 100 years.



On February 12, 2009, the NAACP will mark its 100th anniversary. The NAACP Headquarters, based in Baltimore, MD, along with its 1,700 units nationwide, will host celebrations and observances throughout the year ending on February 12, 2010, that highlight the significant role the organization has played in leading social change in America. The following is a list of upcoming events throughout Texas.

February 6, 2009

Galveston: 7pm, First Union Baptist Church 1027 Ave. K

February 12, 2009

El Paso: 8AM-10AM, McCall Neighborhood Center 3231 Wyoming Ave. Contact Gregg Davis at (915) 471-1530

Houston: 6PM-9PM, Advantage - BMW Midtown 1305 Gray. RSVP by 2/6/08 by calling 713-526-3389

Dickinson Bay: 11:30 AM, Dickinson Community Center 2914 Hwy #3

February 13, 2009

Garland: 8:00 PM, Radisson Hotel - Richardson, Texas. For more information call 972.381.5044, Voice Box 5

February 15, 2009

Temple: 3PM, Missionary Baptist Church 321 South 10th Street

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Hollywood's Time

by Billy "Hollywood" Groves

Why judge many by the actions of a few?

This Black History month African Americans have President Barack Obama to celebrate as the first African American to be elected President of the United States of America. President Obama's victory represents a new era of American history where

African Americans have evolved from slavery to the Whitehouse. Obama's journey to the presidency was paved by a lot of brave Americans who came before him. One of those brave people was the late New York Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm, who in 1972 became the first African American and the first woman to seek a major party's nomination for the presidency. Chisholm lost the democratic nomination, but her efforts inspired Rev. Jessie Jackson and



Rev. Al Sharpton to run for President decades later. Chisholm, Rev. Jackson and Rev. Sharpton's bids for the Whitehouse contributed to Barack Obama's successful trip down the path to become President and to our celebration of him this Black History Month 2009.

T. C. the Great of Dallas is a businessman, rapper, promoter, entertainer and artist developer. T. C., whose real name is Tallie Cooper is on a personal mission to put Dallas on the top of the rap world. I've had the pleasure of listening to two of his songs "40 Thousand" and "Champion" and they are bonified hit rap songs. T. C. describes his must and business as "history in the making". He went on to say that this is the year president Obama made history and he wants to make history as well. 'Re-tallie-ate' is the name of his latest CD on Millenium Star Records in Dallas. T.C. can be contacted at (214)586-8438 or 214/6897

214/697-5669 and on the internet at myspace.com/millenniumstarrecords. Young Muhammad, Lil Boosie, Erica Badu, Tum Tum, UGK, C pone, Dirty Fox, Big Chief, Lil Ross, Lil Flip, Gator Main, Bun B, Dirty Red, Twisted Black, Phynix, Gutta Boi, Big Tuck, Fat "B", Slim and Rabbit, Lil Shine and Gangsta Rick are some of the rappers T.C. has worked with. I was introduced to T.C. by my good friend Rob T. Turner of Houston who managed hit rapper "Lil Flip" to the top of the rap music world a few years ago. Melvis "Shooting" Wooten of Crockett, Texas, a former Crockett High School All American basketball player told me he was extremely proud of his son Cartier Martin. Wooten said Cartier recently signed with the Charlotte Bobcats of the NBA and hit two long three pointers in his NBA debut against the Denver Nuggets. Cartier played high school ball at Houston's Nimitz High, college ball at Kansas State University and played pro basketball in the country of Turkey last year. Cartier was playing for the Iowa Energy of the NBA developmental league before he was called up to the Charlotte Bobcats.

This column is sponsored by Customers Choice in Crockett, Chris and Lynn Martinez managers.

Minority Internship Programs Seek Candidates For 2009

Columbus, OH - Several minority internship programs targeting African Americans, Hispanics, Asians, and Native Americans are now welcoming applications for 2009. The internships will take place in various cities across the country during the spring, summer, fall, and winter seasons.

The programs are being administered by a combination of major corporations, non-profit organizations, and government agencies. Many of the opportunities offer compensation for students, and some will even pay for a student's travel needs. Applicable majors include business, computer science, engineering, psychology, communications, marketing, advertising, and many more.

Students are encouraged to apply right away, as many of the programs have early deadlines.

For the complete list and for more details on how to apply for the opportunities, visit: www.FindInternships.com

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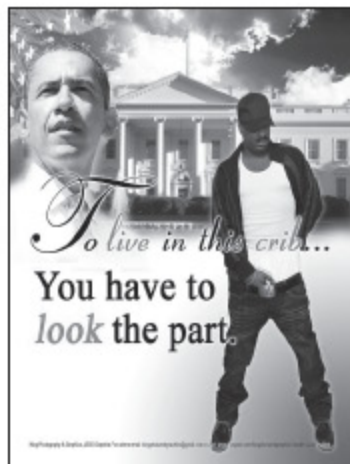
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No More Saggin' Campaign Launched

Atlanta, GA - (BlackNews.com) - President Barack Obama made an adverse national appeal for "brothers" to "pull up their pants" during a MTV program in November. In support of the President's plea, community, business, education, and faith based leaders have launched the 'No More Sagging' campaign led by bestselling author, activist and television talk show host JL King. The campaign encourages young men to dress with a positive purpose and relay favorable messaging through a classic public image.



group of 10 young men ranging in age from 17 to 25 years old. Based on the discussion and survey results, most of the young men wore their pants below the waist because it was popular, trendy and it made them feel cool. According to them, sagging is a style and fashion statement. As a result of this focus group, being a father to two sons, a uncle to nephews and a mentor, King created the 'No More Sagging' campaign to serve as a catalyst to change the fad.

"One interesting thing I learned was that many of the [heterosexual] young men didn't realize that there are gay men who love looking at them with their butts showing," says King. "They serve as eye candy to gay men even though they think they're being cool and hard core."

The mission of the 'No More Sagging' campaign is to promote progression rather than prison and individuality with integrity. The 'No More Sagging' posters are a must have for community outreach groups, schools, churches, detention centers, employment offices and associations. To place artwork reproduction orders (\$10.00 USD) and for additional information on the 'No More Sagging' workshop,

The 'No More Sagging' campaign mirrors the lifestyle and elegant portrayal of President Obama through a series of full color 18 x 24 artwork reproductions. The first phase of the series blends American imagery - President Obama, Air Force One and the White House - compared with graphics of men 'sagging.'

The second phase features an action oriented workshop facilitated by Alvin Ferguson, renowned clothing designer, buyer, model and celebrity stylist. The workshop teaches young men and registrants the fundamentals of fashion, trends of the Hip Hop era,

Question: Which state elected Representative Arthur W. Mitchell as the first black Democrat in Congress: Ohio, Illinois or Nebraska?

Answer: Illinois (Mitchell was elected to the House of Representatives in 1934.)

Question: In 1957, Blanche Calloway joined radio station WMBM and became its executive director. Did she work in Memphis, Mobile or Miami?

Answer: Miami, Florida (Sister of Cab Calloway, she was the first black woman to lead an all-male band in the 1930s.)

Question: To what African people is the Golden Stool a symbol of unity and strength?

Answer: the Ashanti (In every family, a stool is part of the household furniture.)

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Rusk, TX. - Adam and Henry Mallard, Sr., brothers, enjoy a day together working in Adam's yard. Adam is retired from the city of Rusk Streets and Water Department and enjoys working in his yard, watching the daily Soaps and eating Lola's good cooking. Henry works on the Rusk ISD maintenance crew. These "Old Timers" spend time reminiscing about their military days and the fifties and sixties when they spent time playing dominoes with the guys at Ollie Major's Cafe.

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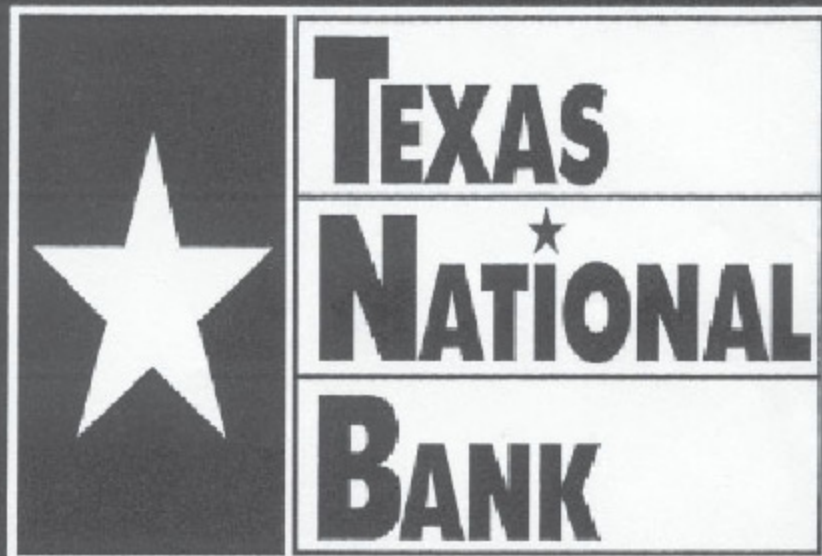
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What's Cooking?

Scrumptious Meatloaf

Ingredients:

1 egg
 1/2 cup catsup
 1 pound ground beef
 1/2 pound ground pork
 1 Cup fresh bread crumbs
 1 medium onion, finely chopped
 1 small green pepper, finely chopped
 1 1/2 teaspoons salt
 1/2 teaspoon pepper
 1 can (8 ounces) tomato sauce
 1 1/2 tablespoons firmly packed brown sugar
 1 1/2 tablespoons cider vinegar
 1 tablespoons cider vinegar
 1 tablespoon prepared mustard
 1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce

Cooking Instructions

Heat oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit

Beat egg and catsup in large bowl. Add beef, pork, crumbs, onion, green pepper, salt and pepper; mix well. Shape into oval loaf in 12x8-inch baking dish.

Stir tomato sauce, sugar, vinegar, mustard and Worcestershire in small bowl. Brush 1/2 of the sauce over meatloaf.

Bake 1 hour 15 minutes or until cooked through, bursing occasionally with remaining sauce. Discard any remaining sauce.

Makes 6 servings.

Barbeque Meatballs & Vegetables

Ingredients:

1/2 cup Kraft original barbecue sauce
 1/2 cup Miracle Whip salad dressing
 1/4 cup honey
 3 teaspoons chili powder, divided
 1 teaspoon each ground red
 1 pound group beef
 1 green pepper, cut into chunks
 1 onion, sliced
 1 cup sliced mushrooms
 1 cup sliced yellow squash
 1 cup sliced zucchini
 1 can (8 oz) pineapple chunks, drained
 2 tablespoons chopped fresh parsley
 Hot cooked pasta

Cooking Instructions:

Mix barbeque sauce, salad dressing, honey, 2 teaspoons of the chili powder and 1/2 teaspoon each of the ground red pepper, pepper and salt
 Set aside.

Mix meat, remaining 1 teaspoon chili powder and remaining 1/2 teaspoon each ground red pepper, pepper and salt. Shape into 12 meatballs.

Brown meatballs in large skillet on medium-high heat; drain on paper towels. Add green pepper, onion mushrooms, squash, zucchini and pineapple to skillet; cook and stir on medium heat 5 minutes or until tender. Stir in reserved barbeque sauce mixture and meatballs. Reduce heat to low; cover and simmer 15 minutes or until heated through. Stir in parsley. Serve over hot cooked pasta.

In what Southern state did Floyd B. McKissick develop a town called Soul City?

North Carolina, in the 1960s (to provide new business opportunities for African Americans)

What year did George Washington Bradford High School Rusk, Texas cease to be a black high school?

1968



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Ask A. J. ?

African American History



AJ Rhodes

This is Black History Month 2009. The following black history questions and answers will help bring you up on your knowledge of black history.

Question: Name the abolitionist early feminist whose "Ain't I a Woman" speech silenced hecklers at the National Women's Suffrage Convention.

Answer: Sojourner Truth(in Ohio, at the second such convention in 1852)

Question: In what state was the United Negro College Fund chartered in 1944?

Answer: New York(for the purpose of raising money to aid African American colleges.)

Question: What African country was conquered by Italy in 1935?
Answer: Ethiopia(The British battled to free the country during World War II, and by mid-1941 it was again independent.)

Question: Is John Hope Franklin the author of Up from Slavery or From Slavery to Freedom?
Answer: "From Slavery to Freedom" (Published in many editions since it first appeared in 1948)

Question: In 1848, were people who opposed the spread of slavery called Free-Soilers or Freedom Riders?

Answer:Free-Soilers(They were in favor of outlawing slavery in territory acquired from Mexico.)

Question:Crippled as a child, she became the first African American woman to win three gold medals in one Olympiad. Who was she?

Answer: Wilma Rudolph(She won the medals in track events at the 1960 Olympics in Rome.)

LEGAL NOTICE

This Texas Lottery Commission Scratch-Off game will close on February 16, 2009. You have until August 15, 2009, to redeem any tickets for this game:

Game #1128 Holiday Treasures (\$5) Overall Odds are 1 in 3.88

These Texas Lottery Commission Scratch-Off games will close on February 23, 2009. You have until August 22, 2009, to redeem any tickets for these games:

Game #823 \$130 Million Spectacular (\$50) Overall Odds are 1 in 2.67

Game #833 \$130 Million Payout Bonanza (\$50) Overall Odds are 1 in 2.77

Game #836 Millions and Millions (\$30) Overall Odds are 1 in 2.43

Game #1041 Magnificent Millions (\$20) Overall Odds are 1 in 3.08

This Texas Lottery Commission Scratch-Off game will close on March 2, 2009. You have until August 29, 2009, to redeem any tickets for this game:

Game #1122 Jingle Jumbo Bucks (\$10) Overall Odds are 1 in 3.75

These Texas Lottery Commission Scratch-Off games will close on March 9, 2009. You have until September 5, 2009, to redeem any tickets for these games:

Game #828 Set for Life (\$10) Overall Odds are 1 in 3.47

Game #1120 Merry Money (\$5) Overall Odds are 1 in 3.91

Game #1121 Silver Bells (\$2) Overall Odds are 1 in 3.93

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President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama celebrate Inauguration



President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama attend the Neighborhood Inaugural Ball at the Washington Convention Center on January 20, 2009 in Washington, DC. (Photo by Chip Somodevilla/Getty Images)

Elizabeth A. Ross to be honored

Alto, TX. - Elizabeth Burton Ross will be honored Sunday, March 8, 2009 at 2:30 P.M. at St. Thomas Chapel A.M.E. Church located five miles west of, Alto, Texas on hwy 21.

She began singing at the age of six. In the Murray Farm Community where she grew up, neighbors would often ask her to sing them a song. She was very small, so they would stand her up on a keg, and everybody would gather around to hear her sing.

As the years moved on, she and her family moved from the Murray Farm to the Hope Well Community east of Crockett, Texas and later to Alto, Texas.

From a small child up, her dreams were that one day she would play the piano, and in the Hope Well School, she saw her first piano. Mrs. Lucille King was the music teacher. However, Elizabeth couldn't take music lessons because her family was not able to pay for them, so every day during lunch hour while the other children were outside eating their lunch and playing, she was inside trying to learn to play the piano. She had a very good ear for music, so she would take note by note to form a chord, and from there she went higher and higher.

She would walk two miles sometimes in cold and rainy weather to play on her friend's piano. After finishing the tenth grade in Hope Well, she went to the Crockett Colored High School, where she finished the 12th grade. While there she continued her singing and playing. Some of the groups that Sis. Ross sang with during her career were as follows:

- Elizabeth Ross and The Gospel Harmonettes of Lufkin, TX
- The Voluntary Music Club of Crockett, TX, Bro. Herman Moore, President.
- The Towering Five of Alto, TX, Bro. Emerson Hamilton, Manager-
- The True Gospel Harmonettes of Tyler, TX,

Sis. Velma Freney, Manager The Lord blessed Sis. Ross to work with the following churches us-



ing her God given talent to sing and play: St. Thomas Chapel (this is also the first group Sis. Ross played for).

A.M.E. Church, which is also her home church, under the pastoral leadership of: Rev. Parks, Rev. Vaughn, Sr., Rev. Burton, Rev. Walker, Rev. Dickey, Rev. Emanuel, Rev. Malone, Rev. Molden, Rev. Grant, Rev. Peterson - All of Alto, TX

- Rev. Dolphus Pastor, Lufkin, Texas
- St. Matthews #2, Nacogdoches, TX
- Elm Grove Baptist Church, Rusk, TX
- Ebenezer A.M.E. Church, Rev. T.J. Sheppard, Tyler, TX
- Bethel Baptist Church, Crockett, TX

Elizabeth gives SPECIAL for her career to God, her family, and the many many people she was able to touch in some special way with her soulful renditions of "Walk With Me Lord", "You Been Good To Me", "Redeemed", "Nobody But You Lord" and many many more.

She is an established Playwright and has written many Black Religious Plays: To order call 832-882-4469.

Written by Viajo Nelson

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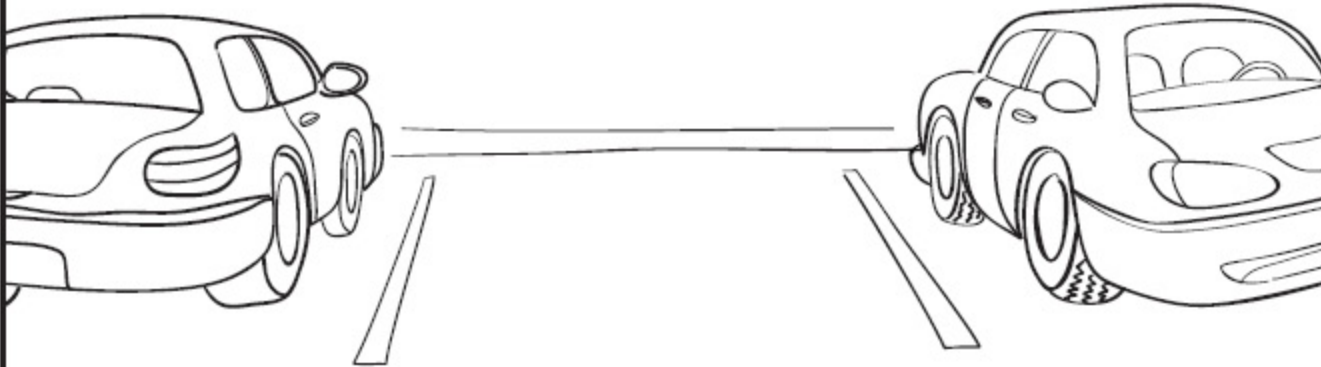
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Three Steps to Better Health

Continued from page 14

2) Drink pure water. Essential to human health, drinking pure water helps with digestion, keeps the skin healthy, wards off fatigue and removes impurities from the body quickly to optimize good health. You must use a pure water source or you will be doing more harm than good. Using an inexpensive water filter in your home to bottle your water is ideal. It is best to sip on water throughout the day to hydrate the cells rather than gulping down huge quantities all at once. Drinking half your total body weight in ounces is recommended to be properly and thoroughly hydrated.

3) Engage in physical activity. 20-30 minutes a day will help keep the doctor away. If it's doing laundry, put extra effort into it. Walk the dog, go out dancing, and just go at it vigorously. This helps with good cardiovascular function, good mood, increased energy and more. Start out with doing some kind of physical activity for at least 20 minutes a day and gradually increase the time as you get into a routine. If you miss a day, don't scratch the whole week, just pick it up the next day and do 30 minutes on that day.

Once you have implemented these 3 easy steps into your everyday life, you will feel more confident about adding another 3, and another, until finally you are living the life we all were meant to live. For more secrets and tips about health, buy Makeisha Lee's new book "Why Black People Can't Lose Weight" available at www.WhyBlackPeopleCantLoseWeight.com. Also, join her online movement at www.BlackHealth.org

POVERTY BUS TOUR OF THE MISSISSIPPI DELTA..."THOSE LEFT BEHIND"

21st Century Poverty Slaves of the Mississippi Delta

Kentwood, LA (BlackNews.com) - As we witness the inauguration of America's first African-American President, we are still haunted by darkness because this great country was built by the free labor of millions of enslaved African people. In 1863, President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation, freeing those slaves. Millions of newly freed African-Americans cried with great joy in that moment they had longed for, a moment they called Freedom.



In February of 1968, U.S. Senator Robert F. Kennedy toured the Mississippi Delta. Other poverty tours have been conducted by such luminaries as President Bill Clinton; Senators Paul Wellstone, Ted Kennedy and John Edwards; and Jesse Jackson. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., certainly knew that the shackles of poverty had a tight grip on the children of those held as slaves.

Does the election of President Barack Obama mean that the shackles of poverty have fallen from the ankles and arms of those who have lived as the slaves of poverty? If America is to become a truly great nation

of which we can be proud, we must bring to the forefront the hidden secrets of our deep rural areas.

On February 20-22, Antoinette Harrell will conduct a bus tour through the Mississippi Delta. She will be joined by U.S. Congressional Representative Bennie G. Thompson (D-MS); Dr. Ron Walters, Director of the African-American Leadership Institute; Dr. Bryon Clay, President of the SCLC-National; Gathering of Hearts Co-Founder Ines Soto-Palmarin; sociologist Rebecca Hensley of Southeastern Louisiana University; students from both Phillip Brook House Association and Southeastern Louisiana University; and others.

The peonage research of Antoinette Harrell, however, tells us that for many thousands of African-Americans, the freedom bell never rang. In fact, the freedom bell didn't ring in sixteen states and twenty-seven counties in Mississippi -- even into the 1970's. Slavery had given birth to a new form of involuntary servitude: peonage. And this new form of slavery trapped not only thousands of African-Americans, but poor Native Americans, poor Latinos, and poor Whites, as well.

Over time, letters were written to five different U.S. Presidents, beseeching them to investigate the practice of peonage. Now, we are calling on President Barack Obama to free those who yet remain behind. Every night, millions in this country still go to bed cold, sick, hungry, and seemingly overlooked by many church leaders and elected officials, whose hearts appear as cold as those of the slave masters in the past.

Ms. Cecil Price Frazier to Celebrate 100th Birthday



Ms. Cecil Price Frazier & family will celebrate her 100th birthday on Satur-

day, February 21st at 12:00 Noon at the VFW in Rusk, Texas. Family and friends are invited to join them in celebrating her landmark birthday.

City of Rusk Police Department

Opening for Patrolman - Now Accepting Applications

Job title: Patrolman

Job location: Rusk, Tx. 75785 U.S.

Job type: Full-Time

Compensation: start \$31, 825 a year; after six months probation \$33,500 a year

Job category: Police

Job description: The Rusk Police Department has an opening for the position of patrolman. We are a Community oriented Police Department that is looking for dependable applicants.

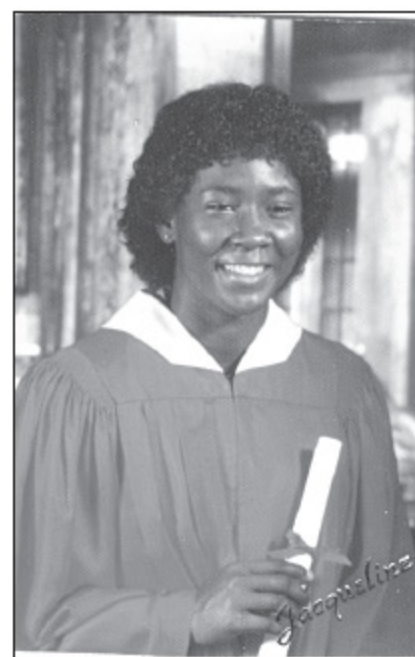
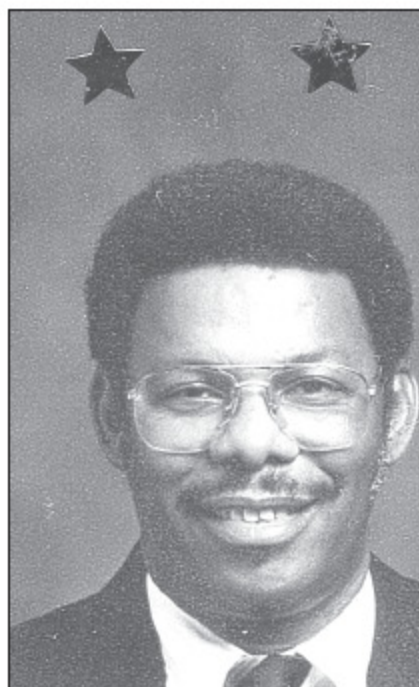
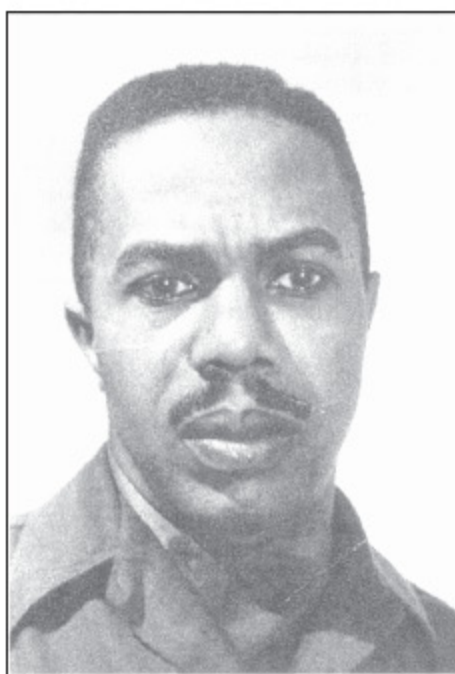
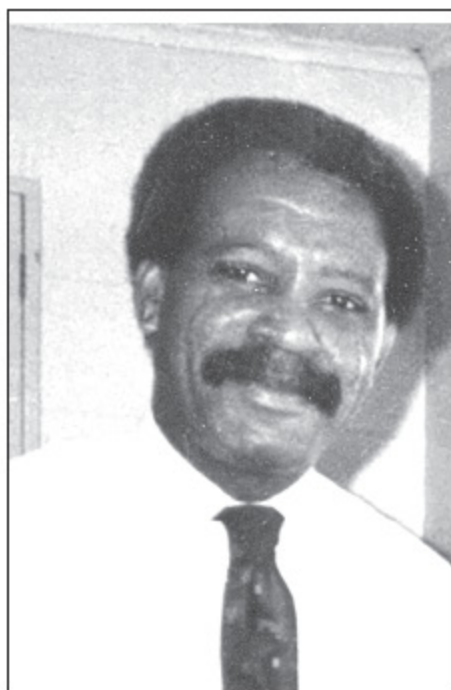
Applicants must be TCLEOSE certified, and are subject to pre-employment screening/testing. The Police Department is looking for highly motivated people who believe in a proactive approach to law enforcement. After probation an employee with full time experience with other agencies will receive step pay for years of service. Officers primarily work 12 hour shifts with some eight hour shifts.

Applications will be accepted until position is filled.
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Black History



The late Billy Joyce
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The late Irvin C. Conley
Teacher - Actively sought equal rights for Rusk African Americans as early as 1954 following Brown VS Topeka, Kansas Board of Ed.

Jerry C. Hart
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Happy Birthday
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PARTNERING WITH SENIORS TO CREATE HEALTH CAMPAIGNS

San Francisco, CA (BlackNews.com) - According to national statistics, baby boomers are turning 50 at an amazing rate. During the next decade, there will be over 4 million baby boomers entering their 50s. According to partnering agency, American Association of Retired Persons (AARP), baby boomers and seniors are more than 100 million strong and the largest consumer group in the United States. It was also noted that they are also the wealthiest, best educated and most sophisticated of all purchasers.

Promotions West, a leading ethnic grass roots communications firm based in San Francisco has expanded its services to Los Angeles and Washington this year designing social marketing campaigns and trainings to educate seniors on ways to avoid fraud, identity theft, and scams that are on the rise against them. According to Mikael Wagner, Managing Director of Promotions West, "Our experience and expertise in the field of marketing to baby boomers provide us with a road map that hits the target every single time with effective and strategic promotions."

In collaboration with the San Francisco Regional office of AARP, Promotions West has partnered to educate seniors to recognize fraud and telemarketing scams designed to separate consumers from their money. Each year, more than 5 million elderly people are victimized. Criminals believe that elderly citizens are vulnerable and absent minded. "Not the seniors of today," says Wagner. He continues, "Baby boomers today are much wiser than their parents and ready to fight to protect themselves." Promotions West and its partners provide workshops to senior communities, churches and organizations on identity theft, foreclosure prevention, real estate cons, home care fraud, contractor fraud, and typical credit issues.

Wagner volunteers with AARP to promote its Divided We Fail campaign efforts to advance the idea that everyone deserves healthcare in this country. Will our medical system be ready for the millions of Baby Boomers preparing to enter the health care system? For more information about AARP or to sign the Divided We Fail pledge, please visit their website at www.aarp.com

Help With harmless looking but deadly Poisons

So many of them are things children love — enticing colors, intriguing containers, inviting contents that look and smell like a favorite food or a familiar beverage. To a small child, that decongestant on the nightstand looks just like red cinnamon candies, and the laxative in the bathroom cabinet is almost identical to a square of chocolate. That yellow lamp oil in the see-through bottle on the kitchen counter smells a lot like lemonade. And the cleanser in the round green can under the sink? It bears a close resemblance to a container of sprinkle-on grated Parmesan cheese.

Poison control centers know all too well about "look-alikes" — those perfectly good products that become dangerous when mistaken for something yummy by a curious crawler or climber.

According to Carolyn Insall, a public educator for the Central Texas Poison Control Center in Temple Among our 180,416 incoming calls about exposures and possible exposures to poisons, 96,256 [53.4

HEALTH

"Nationally, about 1 million poison-exposure incidents each year involve preschool-age children.

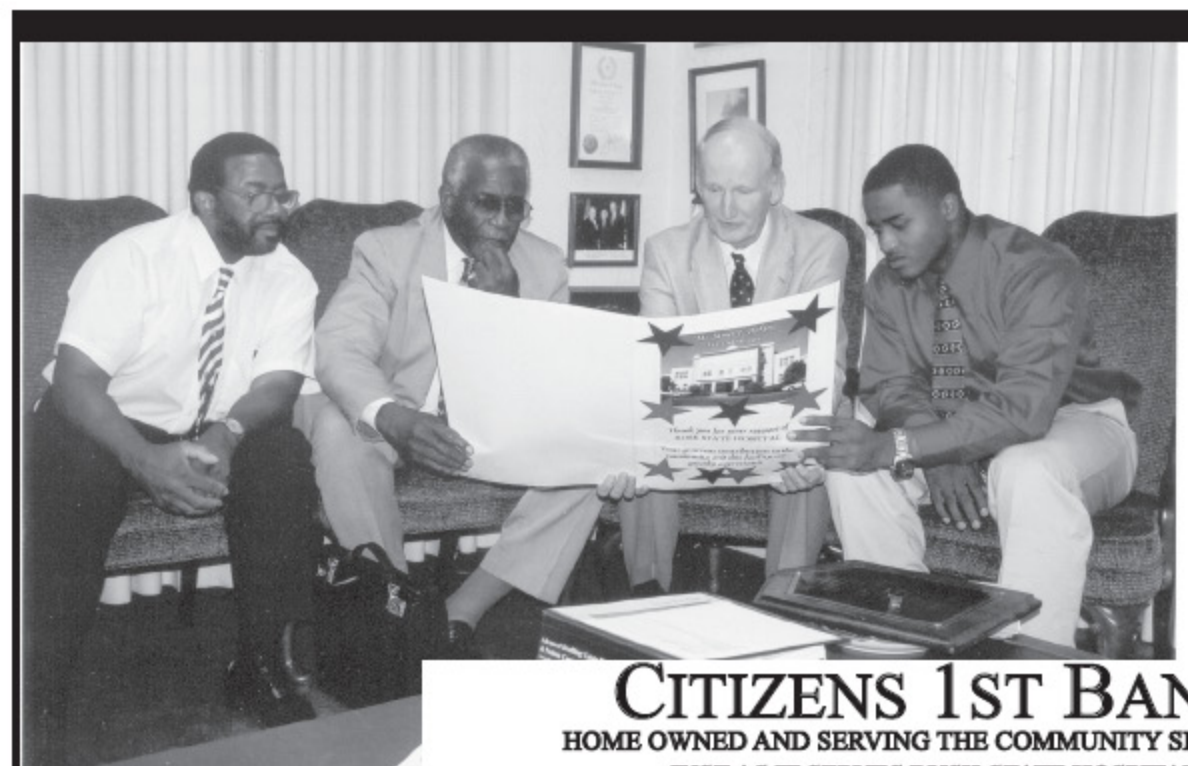
It's so important to use products with child-resistant packaging and keep medicines and chemicals locked up and out of sight. Callers who don't speak English.

When you call the toll-free number, you're connected to the nearest poison control center and its staff of registered nurses and pharmacists, as well as available paramedics and physicians. They're on duty 24 hours a day, and all have extensive experience and credential in dealing with poison-related emergencies, Insall noted.

Call 800-222-1222 first, unless you're in a life-threatening situation. Don't go straight to the hospital. And don't induce vomiting unless the expert tells you to.

Have the label ready, if possible. It will provide information concerning the product's contents and advice on what immediate first aid to perform.

Texas Poison Center Network's website at www.poisoncontrol.org.



Mr. James I. Perkins, Citizens 1st Bank President, received the greatest honor that can be bestowed upon an individual. January 29, 2008 the Stephen F. Austin College of Education was named the James I. Perkins College of Education in his honor. Seated here, Mr. Perkins and Nebraska Running Back, Cody Glenn, also former Citizens 1st Bank employee; Andrew Melontree of the Tyler Bank and Walter Session, Rusk city Councilman. They are viewing a thank you card to Mr. Perkins from Rusk State Hospital Employees and Superintendent Ted Debs for support given to RSH. The card is signed by each employee and has been framed and placed on display in the bank. RSH provides 936 jobs to East Texas.

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Black History



The late Fred Turner



The late Annie B. Jones Turner



The late Billie Jean Bennett Carter



Sammie Waggoner Attaway

1st Blacks Employed with Rusk State Hospital following letter to Justice Department

Rusk, TX.- In 1961 Virgie Gupton Williams applied for employment at Rusk State Hospital. No black people were employed at the facility at that time, although it was opened in 1919 by the conversion of the Rusk Penitentiary buildings into a hospital for the care of the "Negro insane". She was told indirectly that blacks could not be hired at that facility. After many attempts with no success, she wrote the Department of Justice Washington D. C..

Soon after, the racial barriers were weakened with the hiring of Eddie Artis Colston and Billy Bennett Carter as direct patient care staff. Fred Turner and Annie B. Turner were hired about 1962. The very determined Virgie Williams was finally hired about 1963. Sammie Attaway was hired in 1964. According to state records, the average daily patient count in 1964 was 1,942.

Early in its history the institution included a general hospital for the care of the acutely sick, an infirmary for aged and decrepit cases, a tubercular hospital for the care of white men and women, and a tubercular hospital for black men and women. A chapel and recreational hall were later added.

Linda Brown Roberson was the first Black Rusk State Hospital Unit Director 1983.

Walter Session was the first black administrative technician in 1980.

Earnest Mitchell Black head of security.

Rusk State Hospital is now an equal opportunity employer under the umbrella of DSHS. In September 2006, the hospital was funded for a new, 35-bed forensic unit which added 167 employees making a total of 1000 job positions and ranked the hospital as the largest

employer in Cherokee County. The hospital has the funding, staff and capacity to serve 337 patients daily.

Ted Debbs is RSH Superintendent.

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Disaster Relief Funding Available for Areas Affected by Hurricanes Ike & Dolly

Kilgore, TX - The Office of Rural Community Affairs (ORCA) will release \$9,224,823.25 in federal funding for the East Texas Council of Governments (ETCOG) to distribute disaster relief funds to cities and counties affected by hurricanes Ike and Dolly. Counties eligible for these grant funds include Anderson, Cherokee, Gregg, Harrison, Marion, Panola, Rusk, Smith, and Upshur. ETCOG will host a series of public hearings to obtain comments on the proposed distribution of funding for necessary expenses related to disaster relief, long-term recovery, and restoration of infrastructure, housing and economic revitalization in areas affected by the hurricanes.

To determine the grant distribution process, ETCOG will also host two Public Hearings to receive public comments. The hearings will be held Monday, February 16, at 10:00 AM and Wednesday, February 18, at 2:00 PM at ETCOG offices.

For more information, contact Community & Economic De

velopment Manager, Julie Burnfield at (903) 984.8641 x237 or julie.burnfield@etcog.org.

About ETCOG

The East Texas Council of Governments (ETCOG) is a voluntary association of counties, cities, school districts and special districts within the fourteen-county East Texas region. ETCOG assists local governments in planning for common needs, cooperating for mutual benefit and coordinating for sound regional development. Established 1970, ETCOG, either directly, or through its contractors, provides programs and services for East Texas seniors, employers, and job seekers. ETCOG and its contractors also builds the 9-1-1 emergency call delivery system, provides peace officer training and homeland security planning services; and delivers rural transportation services, business finance programs, and environmental grant funding for its region.

THANK YOU!

The Family of Hazel Denman Sessions wishes to thank you for the kindness and generosity shown to us during our time of grief.

The cards, flowers, food, telephone calls and the visits gave us much needed comfort.

May God Bless each of you.

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Obituaries

Mrs. Hazel H. Denman Sessions

Funeral services for Mrs. Hazel H. Denman Sessions were held Saturday, January 24, 2009 at 11:00 A M at Mount Pleasant CME Church, Rusk, Texas. She

was born November 19, 1927 to Frank and Luella Denman. She was raised by her mother B. Denman, passed away at Hospice of East Texas after an extended illness. She worked as a cook and later in housekeeping. She also operated her own cafe for many years.



was born November 19, 1927 to Frank Harison Abraham Harrison. She was raised from the age of two by her mother and stepfather Oscar B. Denman Sr. Mrs. Session passed away January 18, 2009 at East Texas after an extended illness. She retired from Rusk State Hospital where she worked as a cook and later in housekeeping. She also operated her own cafe for many years.

Preceding her in death were her parents, Thurman Sessions, four sisters Vergie Williams, Lovie Cook, Irene Ross and Lucille Foreman; brothers Willie B. Harrison, Delbert Harrison, Earnest Denman, and Oscar B. Denman, Jr.

Mrs. Hazel Sessions leaves to cherish her memories two daughters: Shirley Clark, Maxine (Walter)

Session both of Rusk; one sister Elizabeth Rivers of Rusk; one brother Charles Denman of Jacksonville, Tx. one sister-in-law Jean Denman of Tyler, TX. two uncles Aurthur Harrison Alto, Tx. and Willie Wilmore of Corsicana, TX; four grandchildren, Kimberly Clark of Arkansas, Daphne Session of Crockett, Tx, Terri Franklin (Floyd), Kathy Harris, God Grandchild Shunnon Ratcliff of Rusk; eight great-grandchildren, Krystal Ward-Carter (Marcus), Houston, Tx, Reginal McGowan, II (Vivian), Lufkin, Tx., Charnell Franklin, Darren Franklin, Tiffani McGowan, Jasmine Harris, Eddie Harris of Rusk, and God Great-Grandson, Cody Glenn of Nebraska; four great-great-grandchildren, Triniti Smalls, Destyne Harris, Eddie D'Wayne Harris, and Makayla Glenn, and a host of neices, nephews, relatives, and friends.

Religion

How to become a True Believer

The way you become a true believer in God is through FAITH. The way you know you have FAITH is



if your life reflects Jesus Christ. If your life does not reflect Jesus Christ, and on a daily basis you are doing things that you know the word talks against, you don't have FAITH. It's that simple. No matter what you say or what you think, you don't have FAITH and you are not a true believer of Jesus Christ until your life starts reflecting His life. Take a look at your life. Are you doing some things, are you in some places, are you with some people, that Jesus Christ wouldn't be with if he wasn't sharing the word with? We have to get some real FAITH people. Then God can start refining your life. Until then nothing will change. You can say all the prayers you want but God will not acknowledge non believers (those without FAITH in Him as our Father). FAITH is the key. ps....If you ever catch your self worrying, that is a sign of no FAITH. FYI

Reference-Malachi: 3-3
Reggie Joel McGowan

3 Steps To Better Health For African Americans In 2009

There must be some good earthly explanation of why in this free society that we live in today, we find clear, sharp, pronounced dismal facts about the health of the Black population. The life expectancy of Blacks has significantly decreased as compared to our white counterparts since the year 2005.

This is compelling enough evidence to warrant a full-blown investigation, mass proclamation, institution, resolution and solution to the issue that we face as a race. We can not go silently into the night and allow this to be our legacy for which our ancestors have endured a torturous existence, just so that we could, "be". How can we move forward and reverse this downward spiral into physical bankruptcy?

Here's a 3 point guide - simple, but yet extremely effective stepping stones to support longevity and optimal, quality living:

1) Never skip a meal. Instead, snack on any of the foods. Apple halves, dried fruit combinations, brown rice cakes, raw almonds or, dry whole-grain cereal packed in little baggies can provide a practical, inexpensive, yet healthy alternative to junk food when you are in a hurry.

Continue Page 12

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Rev. Joe Radford, pastor

MOUNT PLEASANT CME Church

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 Rusk, Texas



Rev. Greenie Phillips, Pastor
 Sunday School 9:45AM

Sunday Worship Service
 11:00 AM

2nd & 4th Sunday Service
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 Rt. 2, Box 417A - Rusk, Texas 75785

Mt. Olive Baptist Church

911 Egbert Street
 Rusk, TX. 75785



Rev. Mertis Bartley, Pastor
 & wife
 Evangelist Stella Bartley
 Assistant Pastor

Contact: Sis. Sandra Carter

Ph: (903) 683-2100

Sunday School 9:00AM - Worship: 10:00AM
 Bible Study - Wednesday 6:00PM

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Sunday, March 22, 2009

3:00pm

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 Rev. Greenie Phillips, Pastor

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Speaker: Rev. Gerald Johnson, Pastor
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Rev. Bill Burton, Pastor

Sis. Pat Morgan, Coordinator

Sis. Ellie Skinner, Assistant Coordinator

Sis. Viajo Nelson, Assistant Coordinator

Shady Grove CME

Black History Celebration

Sunday, February 22, 2009

3:00PM

Located: Hwy 84 E. Rusk

Call (903)-683-6624

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Fiscal 2008 HUB Outreach and Education report, PDF, 2.4MB) Administering the certification and compliance functions for the Statewide HUB Program, Assisting state agencies and institutions of higher education with training, planning, and implementing HUB education and outreach efforts, Developing and administering HUB rules and statute to ensure full and equal access to state procurement opportunities for minority and woman-owned businesses, and Compiling and reporting, to the Legislature, the State's HUB expenditures and contract awards semi-annually. Receive Bid Opportunities Now Register for the state vendor database, the Centralized Master Bidders List, and automatically have bids related to your product/service offering mailed to you from over 200 state agencies and institutes.

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