

Texas Informer

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Black Democrats Split Their Preference in Several Key Texas Races

(Austin, Texas) Candidates for state and national offices on the March 2nd Texas Democratic primary ballot met with the Texas Coalition of Black Democrats (TCBD) on February 6, 2010 to compete for votes in this year's TCBD Straw Poll.

The meeting, which took place in the historical St. James Baptist Church in Austin, Texas, was headlined by Houston Mayor Bill White and hair care mogul Farouk Shami who are both fighting for the Democratic nomination for governor. The meeting featured Senator Royce West (District 23, Dallas), who spoke in his capacity as the Democratic National Committee (DNC) member representing the

Democratic Party's Black Caucus. Texas Democratic Party Chair, Boyd Richie, State Representative Barbara Mallory Caraway of Dallas and District 26 Congressional candidate, Neil Durrance of Denton County were also in attendance. In all, 14 state-wide candidates spoke before the organization to discuss their platform and field questions regarding their vision for Texas. Dr. Karl Eschbach, the Texas State Demographer, addressed the changing demographics of Texas and factors influencing population change.

See Page 15

Youth Football and Cheer Association Sign Ups in Progress

Rusk, TX. - A Rusk Eagles Youth and Cheer Association has been organized in Rusk, Texas for area youth according to Mario McGowan, association president. Sign up for football and cheerleading began February 6th from 8:00AM to 3:00PM at the Rusk High School gym during the Little Dribbler games.

The association will promote education, physical fitness as well as athletic and cheer activities. It will also offer summer tutorials in all core areas for Pre-K through grade 6.

Registration fees for football are: Flag Football \$65.00, Tackle Football \$95.00, and Cheerleading \$75.00.

Rusk Eagles Youth Football and Cheer Association board members in addition to Mr. McGowan are Brian Joyner, Vice President; Yvonne McGowan, Secretary; David Westbrook, Treasurer; Oliver Sturns, Football Commissioner; Bruce Bradley, David Matlock, Ray Foreman, Jerry Hill, and Sam O'Neal.

Among other goals, the association will acquaint players and cheerleaders with the fundamentals of the game of football such as running, kicking, blocking, tackling and cheering.

For additional information or to register a child or to become a sponsor you may contact Mario at (903) 683-4411 or 903 391-8711. To correspond in writing the address is 350 Johnson Drive, Rusk, Texas 75785.

Hurbert Waggoner connects with history



Hurbert R. Waggoner left his home community of Holly Springs (Cherokee County) in the late 1950's. Above on the job he views data just prior to his retirement. See story page 3.

Editorial



Maxine Session

Black Women in History (Slavery)

This is the month designated as Black History Month in the United States of America. Other countries celebrate black history in different months.

Contrary to what some people believe, slaves were not paid anything for their labor. In addition to that they were seriously abused.

The definition for the word slave is a person held in servitude as the chattel of another. One who has no rights and no freedom. The slave trade slowly began in the 1600's. The idea of slavery began to take root with very little resistance in the US. In the early 1700's there were 28,000 slaves in the US. By the 1790's the population had grown to 700,000. In 1793, the cotton gin was invented. Cotton became king in the South. The slave population exploded. In 1860 there were 4 million slaves. Slaves greatly outnumbered free blacks -- By 1790 the census shows

60,000 free Blacks and by 1860 it shows 500,000 free Black people. Half lived in slave states and the other half lived in free states. Antislavery revolts and movements sprang up in the 1700's. That's how we learn about Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad. Tubman did not create the underground railroad, but was one of the legendary conductors of it.

As early as the 1780s, an informal network sprang up of both black and whites to aid runaway slaves making their way to freedom in the north. By 1830, it had spread through 14 northern states. The network derived its nickname from a Kentucky slave owner who pursued an escaped slave into Ohio. The slaveowner lost track of the slave and remarked that the man "must have gone off an underground road. Harriet Tubman would venture into slave states to lead runaways north. Tubman married a free man, named John Tubman in 1844. In 1849, fearing she would be sold, she told her husband that she was planning to escape. He threatened to turn her in. She escaped anyway. She made it to Philadelphia with the aid of a white woman and her husband. Harriet lived in Philadelphia 2 years before returning south. In 1851, she returned for the first time to help her brother escape. After that she made two trips a year, one in summer and one in fall.

By 1858, Tubman had delivered over 300 enslaved men, women, and children to freedom as conductor of Underground Railroad. She never lost one slave in passage. Her last trip was 1860. During the Civil War she served as a spy for the Union soldiers.

After the war, she cared for her parents in Auburn, New York. She also spent her time helping former slaves. She raised money to pay for the education of ex-slaves, for children's clothing, and for schools. In 1869, she married Nelson Davis, a former slave and Union Army soldier. Later in her life, she devoted her time to women's suffrage. She died in 1913. During this time, there was also Sojourner Truth who was involved in the abolitionist movement. Sojourner Truth was born into slavery in New York but gained her freedom when New York abolished slavery in 1827. In 1843, Truth was a powerful antislavery orator and advocate of women's rights.

Post Civil War

The modern civil rights movement began in the South during the years after the Civil War, when newly emancipated African Americans fought for their rightful place in society. Ida B. Wells was a teacher and journalist. She attacked segregation through her publication, Memphis Free Speech. She became an antilynching campaign and helped to organize antilynching organizations in New York, Boston, Washington & other cities. The earliest civil rights demonstrations took place during the late 1860s and early 1870s, as African Americans forced an end to segregated public transport in cities such as Charleston, Richmond, New Orleans, and Savannah. These early victories were negated by the rising tide of Jim Crow laws in the South. Modern civil rights movement matured after WWII when African Americans that had served their country were no longer willing to accept racial discrimination and injustice in the country they just fought for. Membership in the NAACP flourished. After the Brown v. Board decision outlawing segregation in public schools, African American leaders became

determined to break down all the racial barriers. Events such as Montgomery Bus Boycott, Southern Christian Leadership Conference, Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, Freedom Rides, March on Washington, Freedom Summer, were milestones in the successful struggle to abolish Jim Crow. Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Voting Rights Act of 1965 passed.

During this time you had women such as Ella Jo Baker and Mary McLeod Bethune. Baker was a field secretary of NAACP in 1940 & traveled the country w/ the organization. In 1957, she helped organize sit-ins with the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. In 1964, along w/ Fannie Lou Hamer, helped to launch the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party that challenged the all-white delegation to the 1964 presidential convention. Mary McLeod Bethune founded school in 1904 which later became Bethune-Cookman College. Formed a close alliance with Eleanor Roosevelt. Counseled Franklin Roosevelt on African American issues & served as director of *Negro Division of the National Youth Administration*.

Letters To The Editor

Maxine,
Sorry I'm so late letting you know what an excellent job you did on the January edition depicting Dr. Joe Leonard's visit. We sincerely thank you for taking the time to come and cover the event. The photo on front was great, especially since it had me right in the middle BESIDE Dr. Leonard! (smile) Can I get a hard copy of the photo for myself, or is it possible to download from your website? It would make a great addition to my book of remembrances that I am compiling for the grandchildren to look at in days to come. Please continue with your coverage of African American news. We need you!
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~ by Maxine Session

Hurbert R. Waggoner connects to the

It was the middle 1940s and a typical day in rural East Texas. The day began like many others with the family up at sunrise taking care of chores. The farm animals had been fed. Breakfast of homemade biscuits, ribbon cane syrup and bacon had been prepared and eaten long ago. Papa and the boys loaded the wagon with sweet potatoes and went down the road to deliver them to neighbors with whom he wanted to share. Shortly after he left home, a white man appeared on the front porch, told Granny his name and asked to see the deed to the 56 acres on which the family lived and farmed. The family had worked very hard for a long time to pay for that land. She was hesitant, but afraid to say no. She went slowly to the bed where she knew papa kept important papers, raised the head of the mattress and took out the deed. She went back to the front door, unwrapped the deed from sackcloth and reached it to the white man. He looked it over carefully, placed it in his coat pocket, telling her as he walked away that he needed the deed. A few months later the family had to move. The man used the deed to falsify records that papa borrowed \$77.00 dollars from him that day using the land as collateral. His grounds for claiming the land was a falsified statement, saying that papa never repaid him.

Stories such as this one telling of the loss of family land have been passed down in black families for generations. With the law and few others to come to their defense, they were helpless in defending themselves.

There are some families who have been able to hold on to family land more than one hundred years and still enjoy it today. Such is the case of Herbert Waggoner and his syblings.

In the early 1930s Mr. Dee Waggoner and wife Velma were owners of the family land located west of Rusk, Texas in a then well populated farm community called Holly Springs. Their ancestors migrated to the area from the Forest Com

munity located southwest of Alto. Hurbert was born the youngest of six children, five boys and one girl. There was Charlie, Dee Waggoner, Jr., Chester, and sister Verline. His daddy was a farmer year round so the family was either planting, harvesting, or preparing to plant. Tomatoes were the main commercial crop. They grew tomatoes from early spring until fall. They also grew corn, peanuts, watermelons, and sugar cane.

Growing up on a farm taught Hubert and the other children how to survive life. He says it taught him that hard work and the development of personal skills would enable you to be successful at what ever goals you set out to accomplish.

About the time he began public school in the Delmar Community, the Supreme Court ruled that Black citizens are eligible to vote in all elections including primaries. The Smith vs Alwright decision ruled "white primaries" unconstitutional.

By the time Hurbert reached sixth grade all students at the Delmar School were transferred to George Washington Bradford School in Rusk. When he wasn't in school and involved with school activities, life centered around family activities..... farming, church, family get togethers, baseball games, and other activities. He says the Sneeds, Denmans and the Pete Carter family lived within walking distance. He and his brothers kind of hungout with them visiting back and forth in their free time. His older brother Charlie married Corine, one of the Carter daughters.

The world out side Hurbert's world continued to change as he entered high school. Gwendolyn Brooks became the first African American to win the Putlizer Prize for her book of Poetry called "Annie Allen." Althea Gibson became the first Black tennis player to be accepted into competition for the national championship. In August 1954 The small community of Charlston, Arkansas, became the first in the south to end segregation in its schools in response to the 1954 court case Brown vs The Board of education. That year and the next were stand



The late Velma and Dee Waggoner, Sr. 1942



Hubert Waggoner and family pictured are front row: granddaughter Elizabeth, grandson Tao, granddaughter Amy, Hubert, daughter Dellarae, granddaughter Sarah; second row: daughter Deborah, son-in-law Johnny, daughter Dana, grandson Patrick, son-in-law Brian and grandson Simon.

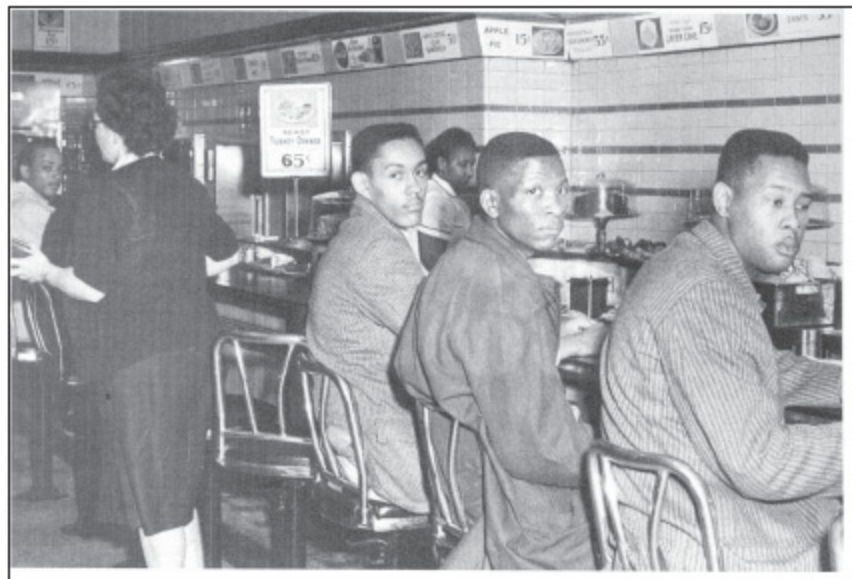
out years for Hubert and his school mates. In 54-55 the football team fell only one game short of state. The band was the best. He was a member of the band. The Jazz combo called The Flamingos was the only one of its kind in the area. Hubert still has in his possession his "Senior Memories" Book from 1956. He was the class president, Calvin Sneed, vice president, Jurline Tarver

treasurer. Along with them were Wonda Lou Franklin and Wilma Glenn student body officers.

After graduating from high school in May of 1956, Hubert went to Texas College. In the fall of 1957 he entered the US Army. Following basic training,

See Waggoner page 7

They Sat Down So That We Could Stand Up



Joseph McNeil, Ezell Blair, Jr., Franklin McCain, and David Richmond black college students seated at a Woolworth counter.



Harry Belafonte, singer and actor leads protest in front of Woolworth in Cambridge, Massachusetts, on April 21, 1960.

(Staff Writer) February 1, 1960 four black college students sat down at a Woolworth's lunch counter in downtown Greensboro, North Carolina. The four students Joseph McNeil, Ezell Blair, Jr., Franklin McCain, and David Richmond were in their first year at North Carolina A & T College. After purchasing several items, they sat at the lunch counter reserved for white customers. When the waitress asked them to leave, they explained politely that they had purchased items in the store and they should be allowed to take a seat rather than stand. They remained seated more than an hour with out incident until the store closed. The following day two dozen black and white students returned to the store and sat at the lunch counter. No problems occurred as a result, but the second

sit-in attracted local news media who in turn attracted the national news.

Five months later after bomb threats, loss of business revenue, clashes between protesters and the segregationists, local white officials agreed to negotiate changes in store policies if, demonstrations and boycotts were ended.

The Greensboro protesters eventually agreed to end their sit-ins, but black students in other communities launched lunch counter sit-ins of their own. By the end of February's second week, the sit-in movement had spread from North Carolina to Nashville Tennessee. February 13, 1960 124 students in Nashville occupied seats at several lunch counter in the city. By the end of the month, sit-ins had spread to more than thirty locations in seven states.

Before the sit-in movement subsided, youth in more than one hundred southern cities conducted sit-ins against segregated restaurants, parks, swimming pools, libraries and theaters. Many of these were places where public tax dollars were freely used to construct, staff and maintain them.

Within a year more than 70,000 people had participated in sit-ins and 3,600 had been arrested. In some states young protesters succeeded in integrating lunch counters quietly and easily. But in the deep south, they were beaten, kicked, sprayed with food, bitten by dogs and burned with cigarettes. Many were expelled from school.

This was the continued era of a clearly identified moral crisis in the United states. The best schools were closed

to black children and the better paying jobs in business and government were withheld from black men and women.

The first sit-in victory in the nation came in Mid March 1960 when four students were finally served at the Greyhound food counter in Nashville, Tennessee.

In retaliation, a month later the home of a local Nashville black city councilman was destroyed by dynamite.

Students staged a march on city hall and Nashville's first major protest of that kind.

The youth had caused a major shift in the civil rights movement from the older civil rights leaders who preferred to fight in the courtroom, and brought the cause to the places where the insults of segregation actually occurred.

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President Obama Makes First State Of The



President Obama delivered his first State of the Union Address before a joint session of Congress in January. It was a game changing message, capable of convincing Americans that his policies will create jobs, curb spending and restore prosperity, fixing an economy that has sapped the nation's spirits and eroded his standing, with calls for tax cuts for small businesses, and more restraint from a government that keeps piling up debt.

An update on escalating war in Afghanistan and emphasis matters looming in the year ahead, including the end of the U.S. combat mission in Iraq and a nuclear security summit in Washington.

The President will seek a freeze on most domestic spending for three years, yet, propose a 6.2 percent increase in spending on education, an investment in a popular arena that he sees vital to an economic recovery.

An education that gives kids a chance in life; new clean energy economy that generates the good jobs of the future; meaningful financial reform that protects consumers; and health reform that prohibits the worst practices of the insurance industry and restores some stability and peace of mind for middle class families.



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Haiti's Duplicitous Relationship With The Devil

The Truth Clinic by James Breedlove

As the headlines on Haiti's monstrous earthquake and subsequent recovery efforts begin to fade controversy still remains over the validity of the curse that, according to Pat Robertson, resulted from the Haitian slaves making a pact with the devil in 1791 to obtain their freedom from their French overseers.



James Breedlove

While the main stream media has covered the emotional comments of both supporters and detractors of Pat Robertson's curse theory very little factual information has been provided regarding the negative impact on Haiti over the years by America's duplicitous foreign policy. Tim Matthewson's "A Pro-Slavery Foreign Policy", Henry Louis Gates "The Curse on Haiti", and Noam Chomsky's "Year 501" provide excellent background information.

In the emotional debate there is an ambivalence of public attitudes. There are some that believe that the very poor in Haiti, like Katrina victims, are not worth assisting and that these culturally dysfunctional misfits should be sent elsewhere. New York Times columnist David Brooks wrote in a recent op-ed that, "Haiti, like most of the world's poorest nations, suffers from a complex web of progress-resistant cultural influences." Brooks, however, fails to mention the role of U.S. trade policy in destroying Haiti's former thriving economy.

The Republic of Haiti was established on January 1, 1804 following a slave uprising against the French colonial rulers. Hans Schmidt wrote that, "Saint Domingue was the

wealthiest European colonial possession in the Americas", producing three-quarters of the world's sugar by 1789 and also leading the world in production of coffee, cotton, indigo, and rum. The slave masters provided France with enormous wealth from the labor of their 450,000 slaves. The white population, including poor overseers

and artisans, numbered 40,000.

Despite American support, in principle, for independence movements there was little enthusiasm for the efforts of Haiti's slaves to end their enslavement and establish the New World's second republican government.

Between 1791 and 1804, the slave population of the French colony of Haiti revolted against the white minority. The revolt appalled Europe as well as the newly independent United States of America. The United States because of its commercial interests with the French colony, sent the French \$750,000 in military aid as well as some troops to help quell the revolt.

The Treaty of Alliance of 1778 signed by France and the United States required that the United States protect French colonies in the New World. American merchants also hoped to exploit the loss of French control over the colony and extend the commercial interests of the United States into the West Indian market. The ongoing French Revolution,

ected American policy decisionThe French commander in Haiti wrote Napoleon that it would be necessary to wipe out virtually the entire black population to impose French rule. However, his campaign failed and Haiti became the only case in history of an enslaved people breaking its own chains and using military might to beat back a powerful ruler.

The Haitian victory came at tremendous cost. Much of the agricultural wealth of the country was destroyed, along with perhaps a third of the population. The victory horrified Haiti's slave-holding neighbors, who backed France's claims for huge reparations, which Haiti finally accepted in 1825 as a precondition for participation in the global marketplace.

The result was decades of French domination of Haiti's financial well being. Assisted by an American embargo, trade fell from \$6.7 million in 1806 to \$1.5 million in 1808. The United States did not recognize Haiti as a nation until 1862. While Presidents Washington, Adams and Jefferson made policy decisions detrimental to Haiti it was during Jefferson's tenure that the revolt's critical mass developed.

There has always been a contradiction between Jefferson's ownership of slaves and his expressed belief in the rights of all to enjoy liberty. One aspect of Jefferson's beliefs was both Blacks and Whites would always view each other in racial terms and when slavery no longer existed blacks would rebel due to the long years of intense and cruel oppression.

This view of slavery led Jefferson to support the concept of colonization in a new country as the ultimate solution to the slavery problem.

Jefferson had initially expressed to the French in 1801 that the "United States opposed Haiti's independence under Black rule and wanted to see French authority restored. The French emissary reported to Paris that it was Jefferson's "dread of the blacks, not devotion to French interests" that motivated his offer of assistance to the French.

Jefferson reconsidered his offer to aid the French against the Haitian rebels when he learned in August 1802 about Napoleon Bonaparte's plan to use Haiti as the first step towards building a colonial empire in the western hemisphere. His policy change at the time when Napoleon was in desperate need of money to support his army resulted in Jefferson making the largest land acquisition in American history, the Louisiana Purchase.

Thus, the ultimate change in Jefferson's policy that contributed to France's defeat in Haiti was due to geopolitical and commercial implications impacting the balance of power in the Caribbean and not a moral imperative to support the emancipation of an oppressed people.

James W. Breedlove

Comments or opinions may be sent to the writer at: jaydubub@swbell.

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Waggoner

Continued from page 3

he went to communications school in Augusta, Georgia, where he learned Cryptography. He was sent to Germany. There he worked in the NATO communications center enciphering and deciphering highly classified information. He held the highest security clearance one could have within NATO Alliance. While in Europe he used the opportunity to travel to England, France and Brussels. After an honorable discharge in 1960 Hubert entered the Coast Guard. After discharge from the Coast Guard in 1964 he settled in Portland, Oregon, was married in 1965 and was blessed with a family of three daughters and one son. He continued his education at Portland Community College majoring in business administration. In 1968 he went to work at a local data .



H. R. Waggoner and school mates during their teen years. Hubert Waggoner is front row forth from the left.

processing firm. Hubert started his career in an entry level room of the mail room. His career with the firm lasted thirty-two years. He retired in 2002 as the Operations Manager of the Data Center.


In October of 2002 he moved

back home to East Texas. He is enjoying retirement by helping maintain the Waggoner property, fishing, spending time with family, traveling and local volunteering.

H. R. Waggoner and many others of his generation survived societal

changes with little or no difficulty. The high self-esteem instilled in him by his parents and other adults in his life enabled him to attain the goals that he set for himself and enjoy life.

Don't overlook life's small joy's while looking for the big ones.



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Happy Birthday

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101 Blessed years

Feb. 27th

Francis Hall, School Principal, motivates students to meet their goals



tion committed in the district. Education dominates the news with headlines about schools closing due to budget cuts to headlines about tragedy. Rising unemployment in Vegas with the downturn of the economy has contributed to the rise in Jeffery student population. These factors place Ms. Hall in a unique situation which allows her to evaluate African American and Hispanic male student problems and develop strategies to solve them. A large majority of student's referred to Ms. Hall's campus are those who are lacking the feeling of connectivity. They have a desire to belong.

Halls' formula is to redirect their negative behavior and involve them in self-esteem building activities. They are encouraged to become involved in a purpose in their community. The community is also brought into the school with positive support from community professionals and their parents.

When the students see this, their demeanor changes, says Ms. Hall. "A new enthusiasm for education sets in."

Sixth graders through 12th grade can be required to remain at Jeffery up to 12 months before being allowed to return to their mainstream Clark County classroom.

Ms. Hall said she gave her students an anonymous survey recently to get feedback on how they felt about this school. Responses were overwhelming. Holding true to that old saying, "They don't care how much you know, but how much you care."

Bill Burton Runs for Texas Land Commissioner

Athens, TX.- Former Henderson county Justice of the peace Judge Bill Burton has announced a run for the Democratic nomination for Texas Land Commissioner. He is an Athens, Texas native and he and his family currently live there. Some may ask the question, why is he running for this office? Judge Bill Burton's answer is, "I am qualified, committed, I love the state of Texas and it's my duty to serve the people of this great state. The General Land Office (GLO) was

originally responsible for managing the public domain by collecting and keeping records, providing maps and surveys and issuing land titles. However, today the GLO's duties have evolved; its core mission is still the management of state lands and mineral-rights, properties totaling 20.3 million acres.

Included in that portfolio are the beaches, bays, estuaries and other "submerged" lands out to 10.3 miles in the Gulf of Mexico, institutional acreage, grazing lands in West Texas, timberlands in East Texas, and commercial sites in urban areas throughout the state. Judge Burton said when elected, his goal would be to make the GLO a household word. This means to give every Texan including public schools and colleges knowledge of the duties of the General Land Office.

Judge Burton states that his main focus will be assisting Texas Veterans: finding possible sites for nursing home facilities; continuing the promotion and education of Home and Land Loans programs;



Bill Burton

continue the ongoing efforts of the state's Coastal Divisions with plans to partner with local municipalities to improve clean beach initiatives; and identify ways to improve the Oil and Gas Lease Programs in an effort to strengthen the Permanent School Fund. Judge

Burton plans to hit the ground running, first, by evaluating each Division and conducting a trend analysis to establish the weaknesses and strengths of each Division. Judge Burton stressed that after receiving recommendations from each division, he would carefully conduct a feasibility study to include Alternative Fuel Initiatives.

Judge Burton has a Bachelor's Degree in General Studies and teaches Real Estate Law and Brokerage. He served in the U. S. Army and is married to Helen Burton. They have one son, Billy Burton, Jr.. He is currently the pastor of St. Thomas Chapel AME Church of Alto, Texas.

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"There is little hope for us until we become tough-minded enough to break loose from the shackles of prejudice, half-truths, and downright ignorance."

-Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



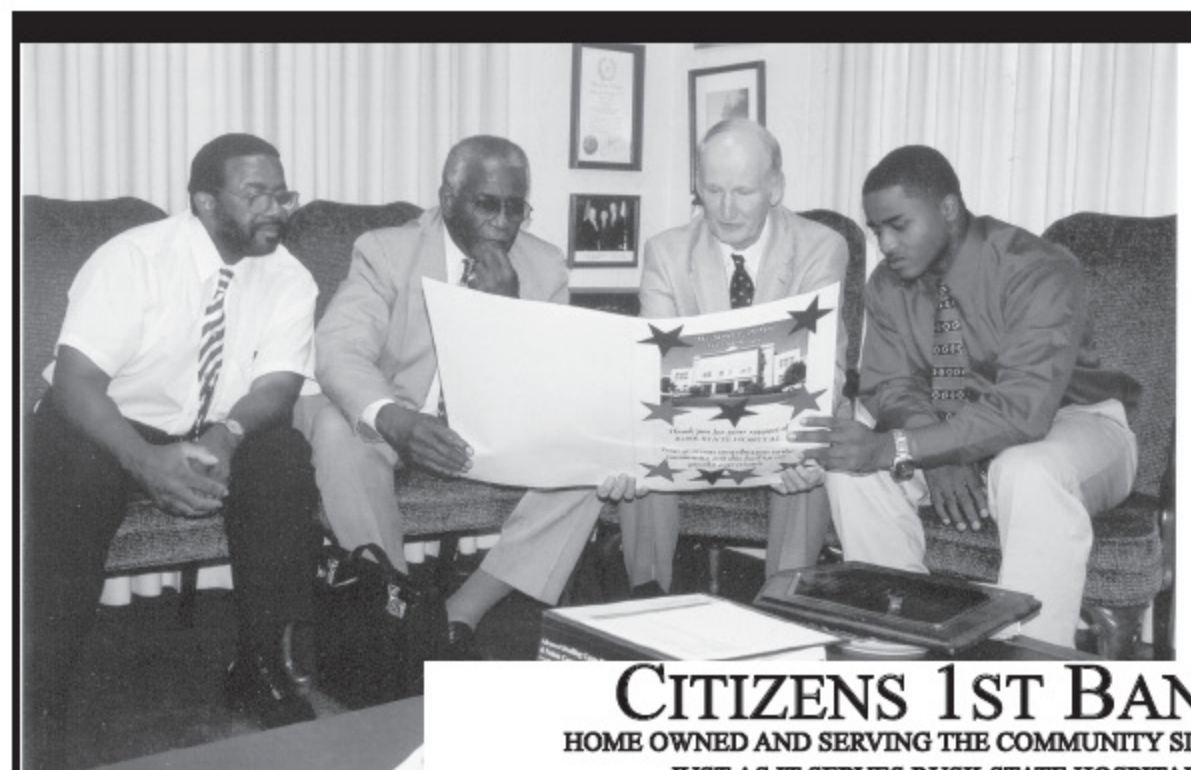
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Mr. James I. Perkins, Citizens 1st Bank President, was inducted into the Rusk High School *Wall of Honor* Friday night September 8, 2007. He is pictured here with Nabaska Running Back, Cody Glenn, also former Citizens 1st Bank employee; Andrew Melontree 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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MARLENE JOWELL ANNOUNCES FOR CHEROKEE COUNTY JUDGE

Jowell running to cut fat in county

January 4, 2010 Marlene Jowell has filed with the Democratic Party as a candidate for Cherokee County Judge. A fiscal conservative, her goals include lowering county taxes, improving county services, creating jobs, auditing expenses, and providing total transparency to county operations. She has the ability and experience to work effectively with staff, agencies, governing bodies and citizens representing a wide range of personalities and agendas.



"I'm running to make sure Cherokee County continues to be a great place to live and raise a family," Jowell said. "By tightening the county's belt and keeping a close check on spending, we can cut county taxes while keeping county services strong."

Active in community affairs, Jowell is on the Board of Directors of Kiwanis, HOPE, and the Cherokee County Democratic Club. She was appointed by the mayor to serve on the Jacksonville Economic Development Corporation Advisory Board and the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee. She has also served as a board member for the Klein

Jacksonville Association. "Community and civic work provide opportunities to bring people together to accomplish difficult tasks," Jowell said. "We must

come together to accomplish our goals for the county."

A graduate of Texas State University, Jowell has held executive positions with high-tech companies including Compaq, In-Focus, Gateway, and Texas Instruments.

In addition, she has worked in publishing, public relations, and

commercial real estate. Her experience in administration, budgeting and personnel management will be critical to the county judge role. Jowell began her career as an educator, and taught public school demographics. I would appreciate your vote and look forward to serving Cherokee County citizens as County Judge".

Marlene, married to Phil Jowell for 28 years, resides in Cherokee County and has two children and four grandsons.

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HEALTH**Heart Disease in Women More Common Than Most Think**

Paul and his wife, Claudia, were in their 70s, active and enjoying every day of their small-town retirement in West Texas. They were counting on a decade more of the same, and their overall good health made that a pretty solid-looking bet.

With no warning, on a pleasant weekend day in spring, that dream ended. Paul called to Claudia, who'd told him she needed to get something from a shelf in their "junk room." When she didn't answer, he went to check on her and found her motionless on the floor.

He called emergency personnel, but a heart attack had already claimed her life.

Losing Claudia was doubly painful for Paul because both were under the impression that surgery had fixed problems that led to an earlier cardiac arrest. That near-fatal attack had itself been a shock; neither Claudia nor Paul had realized that heart disease is the No. 1 killer of American women.

Like most other Texans, they also didn't know that heart disease kills 450,000 women each year — roughly one per minute. And, although breast cancer is rightly viewed as a serious health threat for women, death from heart disease is 10 times more common.

These are some of the key points being stressed by the Ameri-

Heart Association:

Wear a red dress, T-shirt or lipstick Feb. 5 to help raise awareness of heart disease among women, and to show your support for research, public education and prevention. Talk to your friends. Let them know it's not just men who are at risk. In fact, 90 percent of women have one or more risk factors for developing heart disease.

Spread the word that up to 80 percent of cardiac problems in women could be prevented if women avoid (or quit) smoking and make smart decisions in their diet and exercise.

Don't forget to share these messages with younger women. Lifestyle patterns established in one's childhood or adolescence are hard to change decades down the line. Guys also can step up and help on Red Dress Day. Although counseling one's wife or girlfriend to lose weight is a poor tactical move in most cases, there still are plenty of other ways of encouraging her to take care of her heart.

If she does the cooking, tell her you're trying to get in better shape and would appreciate lower-fat, higher-fiber meals in smaller portions. If you're the household chef, introduce those changes yourself.

Ask her to walk, swim, jog or go dancing with you. Get your cholesterol checked together. If you're both a bit high, challenge her to a cholesterol-lowering contest.

Tell her she's looking great, and that you're looking forward to a long, healthy life together.

Above all, the Heart Association urges every Texan,

include the agency's Cardiovascular Health and Wellness program. Nothing's certain in life, but you can help make it as long, rich and rewarding as possible by looking out for your heart health — and that of the people you love.

A rich information source is the Texas Department of State Health Services (www.dshs.state.tx.us). Click on the Prevention and Preparedness link to find resources that

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Religion



Contentment is Great Gain

But Godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we carry nothing out. 1 Timothy 6:6-7.

The secret of contentment is the understanding that life is a gift and not a right. We are often stressed from too much of something or the lack of something. Often we forget to count our blessings for the gift of life and every thing beautiful that goes with it.

Contentment is freedom from anxiety or worry. The idea of contentment comes from a Greek word which means "independence" or self sufficiency. But the Apostle Paul used the word in a christian sense to show that real satisfaction or sufficiency comes from God: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" Phillipians 4:13. Daily life presents us with blessings that come in many ways.

When challenges come, don't let them stand in the way of your contentment, and you can't seem to find an easy solution, remember this scripture and believe what it says. Take comfort in what it says.

History of the Howard L. Wooten Family of Houston County

Written by H. L. Wooten and Submitted Marty Cash

My grandparents on my Mother's side came from Alabama as slaves of Jim Terry to Houston County via boat to Galveston, Texas, walking from there to Crockett, Texas, where they were sold from a block in Crockett to the highest bidder. My great-grandmother sat on a stump near by and saw her children sold like cattle. They were not allowed to recognize her. This, I know, was heart-breaking experience for her.

A man by the name of Rogers in 1865, before the slaves knew they were free, worked them for a long time before telling them of their freedom, yet would not let them leave until they completed the harvest. After they completed harvest, they found a few small potatoes in the patch. They were not allowed to keep them. When told of their freedom, they mourned and sang "Free at Last". Rogers thought by taking all they had, they would be forced to return to him for labor and food for their families. They left and traveled to the area known as Holly. My Father's folk came from Virginia through Arkansas to Fodice. My father was a slave, but his desires and ambitions to become a self-supporting citizen and a useful person to the community finally brought him to the point where he received a three-week' school term--no more. He learned to write fair and to read well; he continued to read the newspapers until he

was able to read and write very well. After the Master took all they had, even to tiny sweet potato strings, they knew hunger, but took on new courage and sang together again "The Lord will make a way." My mother and father were married and located their little home in Fodice. He worked at a saw mill for a meager salary; yet they kept striving and moved into the Thankful Community, where they remained until they passed away. Their original home was burned a few years ago; his grandson now owns the place, coming to him through descent and distribution. Some of the fruit trees are still there and are more than 70 years old. There were seven children in my father's family: 7 boys are all gone except two of us. We have always maintained a home in Houston County. Even with much travel in our younger years.

As I recall, my father's best advice to us, was to stay out of debt--"Debts are the first steps to slavery"; we have remembered that. As I sit and reminisce, I realize we have come many weary years with toil and sacrifice. We have been eternally grateful to our God for bringing us this far.

Howard Wooten's father was Adolphus Wooten who married Willie Terry. They have seven boys, two of whom died young. The others are: Lee, Nolie, John, Howard, and Earl. Howard went to Wiley College in Marshall and graduated from

in World War I, where he taught the soldiers in the spring of 1919. When he returned to Lovelady, he was principal of the Negro school from 1920 to 1942 when he retired to continue his farming as he had done during these years. He had 13 children: Verlette, Howard Adolphus, Hayes, Octavius, Morris, A.G., Robbie, Trincella, Mae Dee, Lawrence (a girl), Burtis Cecil, Holloway, and Fische (a girl). Eight of these received a college education and, as Howard said, the others are doing as well in the world for themselves. By: H.L. Wooten

Fannie Lou Hamer

Born in Montgomery County Mississippi, the grand daughter of a slave, Fannie Lou was a share cropper most of her life and endured many hardships - among them, involuntary sterilization by a local doctor after she had birne two children. Like most black people in the south, Hamer had a strong sense of self worth, but no idea how to fight for her rights. Hamer registered to vote and was ordered off the plantation where she sharecropped. Hamer was a star witness at the televised Credentials Committee hearings at the Democratic National Convention in August 1964.

Describing how black people in Mississippi were prevented from the most basic forms of democracy, Her testimony was said to be one of the most searing of the convention.

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Hollywood's Time

By Billy "Hollywood" Groves

Are you among those who choose status quo over "the truth"?

Former President Jimmy Carter recently said that some Americans could not accept the fact that our current President is a Black man. Former President Carter, who is 85 years old, also said that the people involved with most of the town hall "tea party protests" were racist Americans. He went on to say that racist Americans felt like African Americans didn't have the intelligence to run the government of the United State.

In my mind, President Carter is one of the most courageous, patriotic, brave and intelligent Presidents this nation ever produced. Everyone and his daddy knows that there's a more than "obvious" element of racism to these town hall "Tea bag" protests.

The problem is, not many people in positions of power have the courage to tell the truth about the situation. I heard a "talking head" on a news program say that the nation is being split along racial lines, because Barack Obama is president. I will say this to anyone, the Tea Party protestors, with their racist overtones and "racist posters" are dividing the entire American nation. Those protestors represent a "minority position" against our President, they (Tea baggers) may be entitled to their own racist opinions, but they are not entitled to create their own facts. The facts in this situation are, President Obama has done a superb job of straightening out the debacle that his administration inherited from his predecessor, President



Bush. The facts also show that if the presidential elections were held again in November of this year, President Obama would soundly defeat any Republican opponent.

What these Tax "Tea bag" protestors fell to realize is that we are living in a new era and a new America. The

America that the "Tea baggers" want and dream of, where African Americans have no power, will never come back again. President Carter is a very wise man, in the way that General Sam Houston was when he tried to tell the Southern States that they couldn't win the Civil War against the Northern States of America. The Southern Confederate States didn't listen to General Sam Houston and went on to lose the war.

I am almost certain those tax protestors don't care what President Carter says and will remain "hell bent" on attacking President Obama and his policies. After the Presidential elections, last year, I heard a Radio Commentator say "it would take about six or eight months", for the reality of Barack Obama's Presidency to sink in and for racist Americans to realize that a Black man is President of the United States.

That news reporter was right. Reality has hit "those racist" months later and these recent town hall tax protests represent their hate and disdain for our nation's first Black President. Nuff said!

Texas Black Democrats

Continued from page 1

Dr. Eschbach also provided a statistical snapshot of the African American population and answered questions regarding the relationship between the 2010 Census and the upcoming redistricting proceedings, which will affect political district boundaries on the state and national level.

"The TCBD was proud to offer an opportunity for African-Americans to voice their concerns, needs and expectations on issues like the economy, job creation, healthcare and education to the candidates who seek to lead the Democratic Party into the future," stated Daniel Davis Clayton, State President of the TCBD. "It's time to hold our state's political leaders accountable for their commitments to the black community through the power of our vote," Clayton said.

The straw poll, which gauges voter political preference, revealed fierce competition for the black vote in each of the contested races. The results of the straw poll are listed below.

Governor

Bill White - 41%

Farouk Shami - 35%

Clement Glenn - 24%

Lieutenant Governor

Linda Chavez-Thompson - 56%

Ronnie Earle - 44%

Land Commissioner

Bill Burton - 62%

Hector Uribe - 38%

Candidates receiving 100% of the Straw Poll Vote

John Sharp for U.S. Senate

Barbara Ann Radnosky for Attorney General

Jeff Weems for Railroad Commissioner

Hank Gilbert for Agriculture Commissioner

Keith Hampton for Court of Criminal Appeals-Place 6

Jim Sharp for Supreme Court Justice-Place 3

Bill Moody for Supreme Court Justice-Place 5

Blake Bailey for Supreme Court Justice-Place 9

The Coalition of Black Democrats was founded in January 1979 by a small group from Arlington, Dallas, Fort Worth, and Grand Prairie who first met at the home of Mrs. Sallye Moore of Grand Prairie, Texas. They gathered to discuss the possibility of establishing a political network between African Americans in the DFW Metroplex. The group met for about six months and later decided to call a meeting of African American grassroots leaders from across the state to share their ideas.

Subsequently, the first state conference was held in Austin on February 22-24, 1980 with an impressive three-hundred fifty-six registered delegates in attendance.

Today, the TCBD consists of 13 chapters across the state of Texas and serves as the state's only African American state wide political organization. For 30 years, the TCBD has been focusing on issues surrounding family, education, multigenerational health care, civil justice and the development of African American economic power through political involvement.

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