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Black History Special Issue

February 2011 Vol. XV No. 10 e-mail: informernews08@aol.com www.texasinformers.com

Jacksonville Marching to keep the dream alive



On a cool wet January 17th morning, local ministers lead the march from Norman Activity Center parking lot, through downtown to Sweet Union Church for organized celebration. (See Page 20)

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Editorial



Maxine Session

We
Thank
you
Rusk!

Walter and I would like to thank the Rusk chamber of Commerce and all the wonderful people who voted to name us Citizen of the year at the January 70th year Chamber Banquet. So many deserving people received recognition for contributions to the town. We were just sitting back enjoying the whole evening, when I heard Bobby Tosh read the introduction for the last award of the evening. The longer he read the more familiar words sounded. When he said "They are members of Texas Publishers Association", I almost fell out of my chair". I knew then he was introducing me and Walter. Thank you again Rusk Chamber of Commerce, the City of Rusk for the part you played in this, especially Mayor Raibon and city manager Mike Murray and all of you who thought enough of us to vote for us. Thank you and may God Bless you all.

Letters To The Editor

Mrs. Session,

My name is Bruce Atkinson, I work for The Perry Daily Journal, Perry Okla. I am circulation manager. The reason for the E-mail, is that I read the December issue of Texas Informer. Beautifully done! Articles well written! I love any thing that spotlights the black community. My favorite article in your December issue is "Miss Yvonne's Soul Food" in Jacksonville Texas. Yvonne is a hometown Perry girl, and she does cook very well. The reason that I'm able to say this is that this is my oldest sister.

I would like to spotlight her in a Perry Daily Journal issue, and what I would like from you is your permission to use the photo on your cover pager.

Another thing that I would like to know, is your subscription rates, I would love to subscribe to the Texas infomer.

Sincerely,
Bruce Atkinson
Perry, Oklahoma

Tyler Junior College Vocational Nursing Education Program

Now Accepting Applications To TJC-Rusk Campus For Fall Semester,
2011

Application Period: January 23, 2011- March 23, 2011

Location: Rusk State Hospital Nursing Education Center

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Black History Note



Initiated through the efforts of Mary Alphin, the African American leader of the Negro Disciples of Christ in Texas, this college is a historically black institution affiliated with the Christian Church. Until 1937, Jarvis Christian Institute existed as the only accredited high school for African Americans in the Hawkins area. The school was incorporated as a college in 1928, and high school instruction was eliminated in 1938. Stained glass windows in the sanctuary of the campus' Christian Church tell the story of the founding of the college.

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John Henry Mallard still lives in Historical Central High Community On Bradford Mountain

Cover Story

by Maxine Session

A ride through Bradford Mountain up county road 1101 in twenty thousand eleven gives a much different view than the middle 1900s. The view from the road is mostly trees, some pasture land and a few houses sprinkled here and there. You would never imagine the family homes and farms that once existed there with a great number of children and a school.

John Henry Mallard grew up there. The land was owned and farmed by black people. He still lives there and maintains beautifully the family farm which his parents enjoyed. He does not have to imagine what the community was like, he can remember much of it.

The old G. W. Bradford homeplace still stands today. About one-half mile south of there was a school. It was used for Sunday School and singings. When the people there went to church they attended Pleasant Holly Cumberland Presbyterian Church which, located down the north side of the mountain in the Woodville Community. Most people went to the smokehouse and their fields to get food that was produced by the family and neighbors. Trips to the store in Rusk and Alto were rare and by wagon until the late forties.

His teacher in early years was Maxine Bradley who taught lessons in reading, spelling and arithmetic. After about fourth grade he and his brothers and

sisters Adam, Carl, Olevia, Lula and Lorine went to school at Rusk Colored school which was later renamed G. W. Bradford.

Some of his school mates were Charles Edward Bradford, Thomas Haden Bradford, John Bagley, Edith Bagley, Thomas Bagley, George (Snooby) Hamilton, Izola Thompson, and Robert Lee Thompson.

John's first public job was for The Grapett Soda Water Plant located in Rusk. The owner was a Mr. Westbrook. He and Wurbert Lee Ward worked in delivery. Once or twice a week they made deliveries as far as Trinity, Texas.

The first car he owned was a 50 Model Ford that was about seven years old when he first got it.

In the early fifties he went to work at the Golf Coast Feed Store in Rusk stocking, loading and delivering along with Carl Foreman, Junior Lacy and Alvin Sneed for a short period of time. John Henry worked at Gulf Coast for Twenty-seven years.

John remembers that during the fifties and sixties, Majors Cafe in Rusk was the place to go for the best home cooked meals ...hamburgers, fish chicken and chilli. It was also the place for recreation like dancing. Domino games were so good they went to the break of dawn many nights. Harvey Martin's Place was



John Henry Mallard enjoys his days taking care of cattle, mowing pasture and visiting with his brother Adam and friends in Rusk. He still attends Pleasant Holly Presbyterian Church.

open about the same time and Big Boy Williams was a hot item for food and dancing in the forties and fifties. He also remembers a Willie Fletcher's

Place and a Bradley's Cafe in Rusk. John Henry retired from Rusk Independent School District maintenance about twenty years.

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Hollywood's Time

Billy (Hollywood) Grooves- Crockett, TX.
Judge "Hang Em High Harry"

The Federal Judge, who struck down President Obama's Health Care law in a Richmond, Virginia court recently, has an unusual nickname for a judge, "Hang 'Em High Harry". U.S. District Judge Henry E. Hudson supposedly earned that nickname because of his tough stand against crime from the bench. As an African American male, I am highly offended by a U.S. Federal

judge in Virginia with that nickname. For starters, Virginia has a long history of abusing African Americans in their state. As one of the original break-away Confederate States of America, Virginia used lynching of black people as a way to control them. As a matter of fact the original Lynch Law, which allowed people to hang Black people without a trial, started in Virginia. It comes as no surprise that a Republican Judge with a nickname like "Hang 'Em High Harry" would have a problem with any law proposed by an African American president of the United States of America. God Bless America!

Wells Chaperl Baptist Church History Blurb

Wells Baptist Church had its beginning in the early 1900s when a few organizers named it First Colored Baptist Church of Wells. The first meetings were held in homes of the members. Candis Jackson conveyed land to the church by deed dated October 16, 1916. The church group held services in a yellow bungalow located on the deeded land which also served as a school for black children. In the early 1930's the yellow bungalow burned. A frame structure was built under the leadership of Rev. J. G. Upshaw.

Eventually the name was changed to Wells Chapel Baptist Church. On January 18, 1959 the members and pastor Rev. Upshaw voted to build a new church which was completed in July, 1961. The church has continued to grow and prosper under the leadership of the current pastor, Rev. Daryl Cranford.

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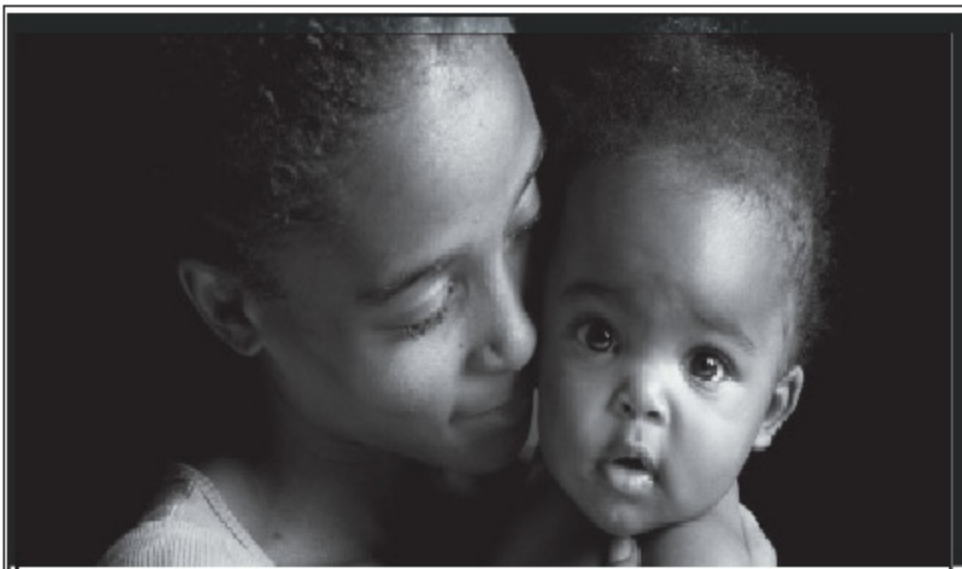
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City of Rusk Police Department

Opening for Patrolman - Now Accepting Applications

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Job type: Full-Time

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

Job category: Police

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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.

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African American History in Texas

Many Africans who arrived in Texas before 1860 were brought in as slaves; others came as free people, indentured servants, or escaped slaves. Whatever the case, their story is linked directly to Spanish and Anglo-American settlement which largely defined Texas. Most of the first Africans in the New World were brought by European entrepreneurs. Although the Spanish did enslave Indians in the service of agriculture, mining, and personal needs, as the natives died of overwork or disease or chose to move on, Europeans began kidnapping Africans to fill their places. Significant numbers of Africans were soon to be found in all reaches of the Spanish empire, including the frontier province of Texas. Many of these were of mixed heritage, and some individuals bought or were granted freedom. Spanish law, unlike later United States law, allowed freed people all legal rights except government office employment. At the time of the Mexican Revolution of 1821, the new government technically made slavery illegal. Anglo-Americans who chose this decade to enter Texas from the east brought in "indentured servants" around the edges of Mexican law. After the Anglo-American revolution of 1836, Texas became slave-holding territory for the next quarter century. The first known by name was a personal slave of Andrés Dorantes, a Moor called Estevan, who was one of four to survive the Narváez expedition's disaster in 1528. Estevan, Dorantes, Alonso del Castillo, and Alvar Núñez Cabeza de Vaca survived years in what is today Texas and finally found their way to Mexico to tell their stories. After the Civil War, black families proved durable enough to weather the restrictive civil laws that replaced literal slavery for the next three generations. The tradition of sharecropping provided a bridge for some African Americans to a future not imagined by earlier generations, black or white, while others had brought with them skills such as metalworking and pottery making or had learned a trade under slavery and could practice it with profit. After June 19, 1865, Emancipation Day in Texas and a day still celebrated, men could set themselves up as weavers, potters, blacksmiths, masons, and carpenters. Today, no field of modern human endeavor lacks the names of African Americans.



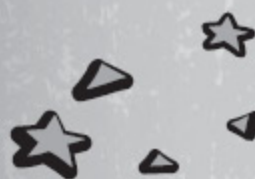
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REYFCA Awards Banquet Set

Rusk Eagles Youth Football & Cheer Association will be having our 1st Awards Banquet on February 19, 2011 at the Rusk Jr. High School Cafeteria. The banquet for the Flag and freshman teams along with their cheerleaders will be at 6:00 p.m. Early signups will be 1 hour before each banquet begins. The early bird prices will be Flag-\$55.00; Tackle-\$75.00 and Cheer-\$65.00. Our special guests will include Dr. James Largent, Supt. of Rusk Schools; Ted Patton, Athletic Director of Rusk ISD; Rusk City Council members for 2010; our team sponsors: Cody Gleen- Indianapolis Colts, Austin Young- State Farm and Larry Kinney-KINCO Drywall and numerous other sponsors. The tickets will be \$15.00 for ages 12-adults and \$8.00 for ages 5-11. All REYFCA participants will be free with 5 can goods. These can goods will be donated to our local shelter, Good Samaritan. Our guest speakers will be two Rusk graduates, Joel McGowan and Marcus Carter. We would like to thank our community for all their support in our endeavors to help our children in this community succeed. We had a fantastic year! We had over 200 kids. At the end of the regular season, we had 5 out of 6 teams going to the playoffs. The flag team ended the year in 3rd place. The freshman east team ended the year in 3rd place. The freshman west team ended the year in 4th place. The sophomore west team ended the year in 5th place. The sophomore east team ended the year Super Bowl Champions.

They had an undefeated season. They won against the Northern Division Champions Jefferson on November 20, 2010 by a score of 34-14. We would like to thank all of our coaching staff for their time and energy that they have so graciously volunteered to help, lead and guide our children in the right direction. We are here to be positive role models for our children. We want to thank every boy and every girl that suited up this past season and learned what it meant to be a part of a team with a winning attitude and the determination to not be a quitter. We would like to thank the Board members for helping us to make this a success! We would like to thank Dr. Largent and Coach Patton for caring about the children enough to give us the chance to start this organization. We would like to thank Joey Bowman for allowing us to use the concession facilities at the football field. I would like to thank my mother, Ora Relford, for helping in the concession stand every time we had a home game from open to close. She went out of her way to make sure we were successful. We would like to thank the Texas Informer and the Cherokeean for always willing to get our information out to the public. Most of all we thank God for giving us the mind, the vision and the desire to be helpers to the children. We thank God for all the people he has placed in our path to help us get to this point. We give all of the glory and honor to God for the success of these children.

-Mario and Yvonne McGowan
Founders of Rusk Eagles Youth & Cheer Association

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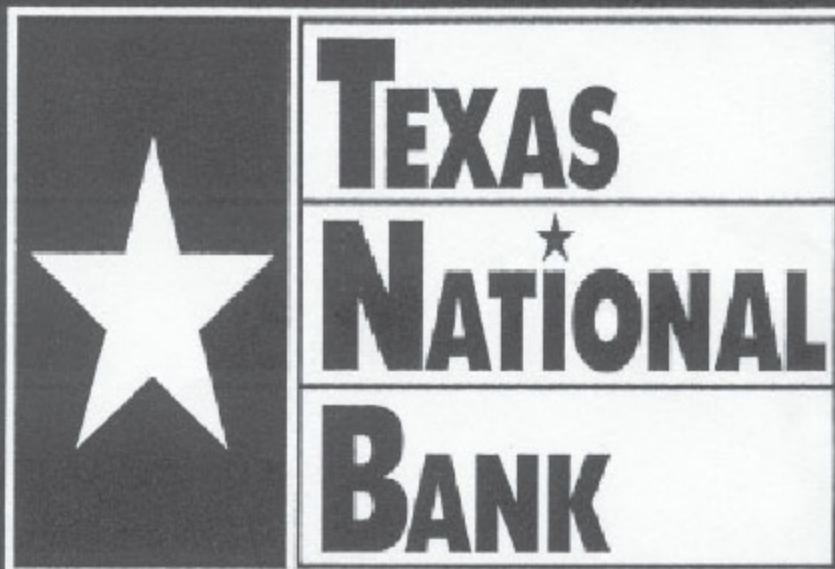
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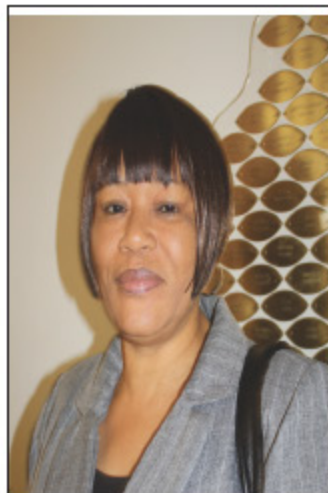
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Speak Out

January 17 Dr. Martin Luther King's Birthday was celebrated around the nation and East Texas. Celebrations were held in Tyler, Lufkin, Jacksonville, Palestine, and Crockett. The following people speak out on what this day means to them.



Carolyn Hamilton



Skip Ericson

Nobody is free until everybody is free. Nobody is equal until everybody is equal. This is my life and I have always tried to live it. That's what I'm demonstrating by being here today.

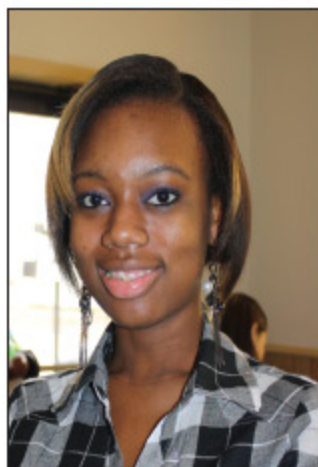
Le'Asha O'Neal Receives Associate of Arts Degree



Rusk, Tx.- Le'Asha Monte' O'Neal, daughter of Sam and Wyvonne O'Neal of Rusk, graduated from Wade College on January 28, 2011. Ms. O'Neal received an Associate of Arts degree in Mer-

and Design. She is a 2009 Rusk High School graduate. She plans to continue her education by earning a Bachelor of Science Degree. She is the granddaughter of Charles and Gennell Hicks of Rusk.

It means a celebration of our freedom. It reminds us to give thanks for the fight Dr. King led for us to have this freedom and it's a time to give praises to our Father God for so many blessings.... Dr. King and his struggles being some of them.



Leandra Johnson

This is a day for us to come together in celebration of Dr. King's memory. We join together to do this as a community so that people can actually see the support.

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Cecil Frazier celebrates 102 Birthday



Cecil Juanita Price Frazier of the Elm Grove community will celebrate her 102nd birthday February 25th. Ms. Frazier is pictured center above and surrounded by family. She is a retired LVN who still lives at home. She enjoys reading, watching TV and spending time with family.

Blake- Stafford Wed



Mr. and Mrs. Harold LaMont Stafford

Chantrelle Latrise Blake and Harold LaMont Stafford announce their marriage. The happy couple were married in Palestine, Texas on January 17, 2011. Mr. and Mrs. Stafford makes Palestine their home. He is employed with Oncor Electric Delivery in Palestine and she is employed with Wal-Mart Warehouse in the fid-department in Tucker, Texas. He is the son of Carolyn Jefferson and she is the daughter of Betty Williams and James Faggett.

Carter-Holmes Wedding Vows Exchanged



Mr. and Mrs. Kent Holmes

Rusk, TX.- LaDora Carter Holmes and Kent Holmes announce their marriage. The newlyweds were married on November 20, 2010. A beautiful reception was held on Saturday, November, 20, 2010 at the Rose Garden in Tyler, Texas. LaDora is the daughter of the late Billy Jean and J.W Carter.



Joel & Vivian McGowan Celebrate Third Annivarsary

Tyler, TX.- Joel and Vivian McGowan will celebrate their third wedding anniversary on February 16th. She is from Alto and he is from Rusk. The happy couple has made Tyler their home. He coaches and teaches at Boulder Middle School and John Tyler High School Football staff. She is an LVN now taking time off to enjoy their newborn son, Reginal Joel McGowan, III, (Tre') who was born December 14, 2010.

They are members of the Rice Road Church of Christ.

*Happy 90th
Birthday*

*Ms. Lester
Baysinger
of
Jacksonville, Texas*

February 10th

*from your
Family*

Better Dads Make A Better Society

Better Dads Make a Better Society
If you want research data on social ills related to absent or bad fathers, Kenneth Thompson can talk your ear off about school dropouts, kids in jail, teen pregnancy and more. But as eloquently as he wields these facts, he's even more compelling when he tells one specific family story: his own.

"There's a scene indelibly planted in my memory," says the head of Texas Department of Family and Protective Services' Fatherhood Program. "It's me as a child, standing in my yard, throwing a ball straight up in the air and catching it. My dad wasn't present in my life, so that's what I did."

Thompson eventually had some long awaited guys-tossing-the-ball-around moments with his own son. But getting there wasn't easy. It took a lot of help from other family members and strong male role models in his East Austin neighborhood. These neighbors, Thompson says, deserve much of the credit for instilling the character and motivation that led to a successful career with companies such as IBM and Applied Materials.

Now, in his new career with DFPS, Thompson is paying forward his debt to those role models by helping absent or struggling fathers become positive forces in their kids' lives.

Dads as positive forces? Thompson admits this idea can be a tough sell in a cultural climate where "kids are raised on

TV and Homer Simpson is the longest-running father on television both the exaggerated perception

and the hard realities of Bad Dads.

Program, Thompson hopes to count the air." Through the Fatherhood The program and its allies make their case by helping families break self-destructive behavior patterns and replace them with positive, self-perpetuating ones. One of their key principles is that fathers have both rights and responsibilities within the family.

"In our protective services system, we're trying to make sure the voice and rights of fathers are well established — and ensure that the father's role is a healthy one," Thompson said.

Why strengthen ties between families and dads who've fled or failed in their parental roles? Thompson says that, although many single moms are first-rate parents, "it's very hard for even the best mother to teach her son about every aspect of becoming a man."

Daughters also benefit from a good father's presence. "When a girl is interacting with young men, she wants a male role model she can measure them against — an example of a man who's capable of treating a female as a partner in life, not an object."

These dad skills don't come magically appear when men become fathers. Role models create role models. So, when Thompson came to DFPS, he helped incorporate some of the informal methods that Father Advisory Councils, made up of fathers whose families have been in the state's Childhood Protective

Services system. These men share their experiences about barriers to fathers' involvement and benefitted him into a structured state program. One approach suggest ways to address them.

Others have had their intentions limited due to past domestic problems. Not all barriers are created equal. Some dads' access to their families is restricted by divorce decrees, work schedules or strained relationships with their children's mother violence or other potential threats to their families' well-being. In each case, DFPS works with families and fathers to find a safe, appropriate level of involvement.

Another family resource is Parental Collaboration Groups made up of once-separated families who've successfully reunited and now serve as "we've been there" resources for families still in the process.

Thompson says he treasures his role in giving young men the training and support they need to experience (and deserve) "the bright sunshine of new fatherhood." The greatest pleasure, he says, comes from assisting guys with the deck stacked highest against them.

"You have a sense that you're really helping when you work with a man who's struggling hard to meet his challenges and find a role in his children's lives. A better father is a better citizen — one whose kids will be assets, not detriments to society." *Texas Health Matters, a Texas Health and Human Services publication.*

Send Comments to: Russell Smith, (512) 424-6966. PDF files require Adobe Acrobat Reader software, a free download from Adobe's website.

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1234	Cool Cash Tripler - Overall Odds are 1 in 3.90	\$5	02/24/11	06/23/11
1289	Candy Cane Cash - Overall Odds are 1 in 4.20	\$3	02/24/11	06/23/11
1246	Gold Fever - Overall Odds are 1 in 3.98	\$5	02/25/11	06/24/11
1292	Season's Gold - Overall Odds are 1 in 3.82	\$5	02/28/11	06/27/11
1226	Totally Topaz 7s - Overall Odds are 1 in 3.56	\$7	04/06/11	10/03/11
1247	Flying Aces - Overall Odds are 1 in 4.49	\$2	04/06/11	10/03/11
1252	Cash Vault - Overall Odds are 1 in 3.88	\$5	04/06/11	10/03/11
1254	Houston Texans - Overall Odds are 1 in 3.82	\$5	04/06/11	10/03/11
1273	Match & Win - Overall Odds are 1 in 3.85	\$3	04/06/11	10/03/11
1261	Super 7s - Overall Odds are 1 in 4.38	\$1	04/06/11	10/03/11

For detailed odds and game information, visit tlottery.org or call 1-800-377-LOTTO. Must be 18 or older to purchase a ticket. The Texas Lottery supports Texas Education. © 2011 Texas Lottery Commission. All rights reserved.

Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.

~Proverbs 22:6

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Senator Royce West
District 23

The ink is all but dry on Texas Voter ID law

voter ID law was made easier when more than 20 Democrats were ousted on the way to Republicans gaining a 101-member super-majority in the Texas House. This means Republicans can convene and pass legislation without a single Democrat's 'yea' vote.

Others will also feel the repercussions. Republicans are pushing through a bill for which testimony provided no projections on actual implementation costs. Analysts say this unfunded mandate will pass along costs to county governments. And while we mull the reality of laying off thousands of teachers, our colleagues don't mind diverting resources to solve a problem that doesn't exist.

On the new session's second day, Senate Republicans passed a rule to bypass the longstanding tradition requiring 2/3 of members' approval for bills to come up for a vote. Less than a week later, Senate Bill 14 cleared committee in an evening-long hearing. The next evening, the bill passed the full senate on a party-line vote.

SB14 will require Texas voters to display a current government-issued photo ID to cast a ballot. Republi-

cans claim a new law is needed to prevent election day fraud by those who show up at polling sites bearing fake voter registration cards. No evidence exists that validates claims of massive voter fraud of this type. Democrats support laws that insure the integrity of the ballot. But SB14 does not address known improprieties surrounding mail-in ballots.

Evidence does exist that minorities, the elderly and disabled are more likely to be without a driver license or state-issued photo ID. And throughout debate, Senate Democrats foretold the hardships that SB14 could cause would-be voters.

In parts of Texas, citizens must drive more than 100 miles to a Department of Public Safety (DPS) location to obtain a state ID. There's no DPS office in 77 lows use of an expired state-issued driver license and any valid photo ID issued by the federal government, state agency, county or municipality. Indiana permits use of a photo ID issued by any state or federal agency or a photo ID issued by a state university. Michigan law says voters ID law they view as unfair. Any changes

to voting laws must pass federal pre-clearance due to Texas' history of voter suppression.

Call some Texans un-American and you may have a fight on your hands. But on the night of the State of the Union Address when the president sought to rally the nation around a theme of unity, Texas' leadership treaded down a path that would only further divide, without a state photo ID can use a current out-of-state license or ID, or a college or high school picture ID.

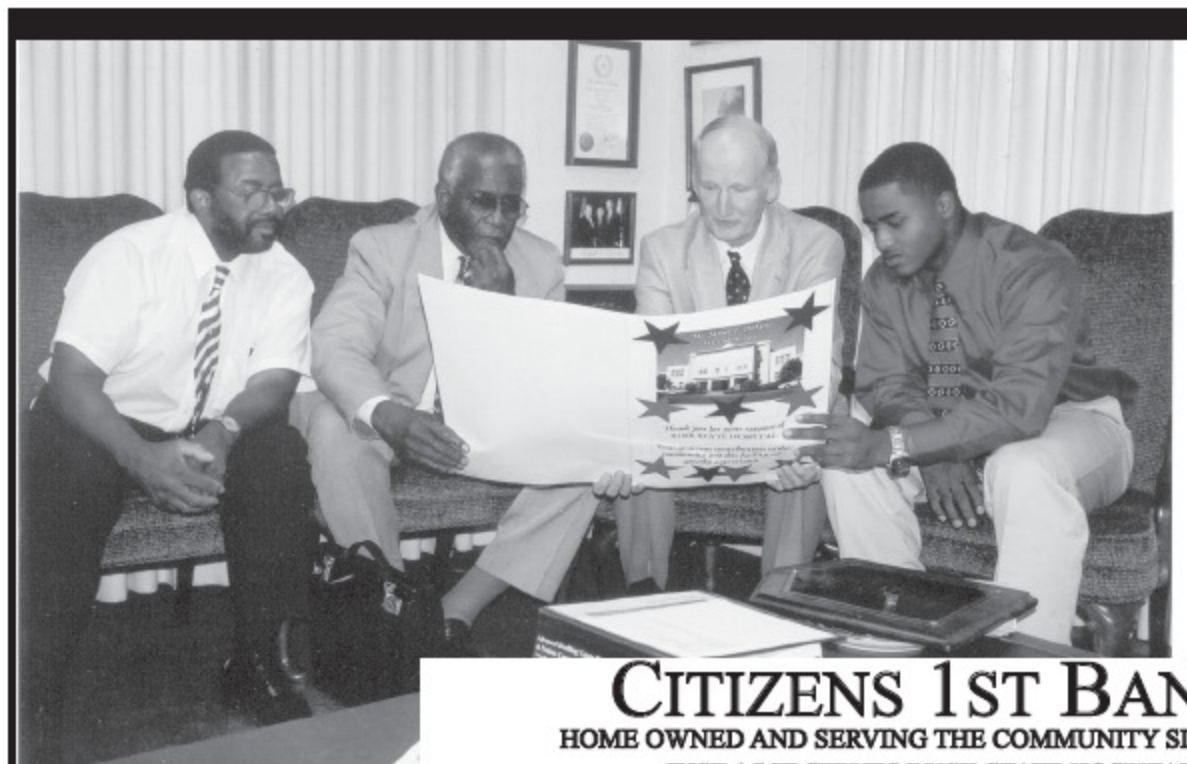
Democrats may have to depend on the U.S. Justice Department to reject a photo of Texas' 254 counties. Newly-married or recently-divorced women could have problems with names on voter registration cards that don't match those on state IDs. And missing accepted forms of identification can deny or delay the issuance of state-issued ID to applicants.

Eight states require voters to present photo identification. None are as restrictive as SB14 looks to be. Neither Indiana nor Georgia laws, both high-profile cases, repel voters like SB14 will. Georgia al-

For more information, please contact Kelvin Bass at 512-463-0123.

A routine by comic Bill Cosby weaves the tale of a daily walk to school in telling kids how hard he had it growing up. It was five miles each way, Cosby said, "uphill, both ways." Such is the task facing Texas Democrats' attempt to block potentially harmful revisions to Texas' election laws that are so important to Republicans, that Gov. Rick Perry declared it an "emergency" item, putting it on a fast-track through legislative timelines.

Former President Bill Clinton once said that elections have consequences and Democrats will soon pay the price for staying home for the midterm elections. Passing what will be the country's toughest



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. Perkin, Indianapolis Colt 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 approximately 936 jobs to East Texas.

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I don't understand it.

~Arthor unknown

A little boy was selling newspapers on the corner, the people were in and out of the cold.

The little boy was so cold that he wasn't trying to sell many papers.

He walked up to a policeman and said,

"Mister,

you wouldn't happen to know where a poor boy could

find a warm place to sleep tonight would you?

You see, I sleep in a box up around the corner there and down the alley and its awful cold in there for tonight.

"Sure would be nice to have a warm place to stay."

The policeman looked down at the little boy and said, "You go down the street to that big white house and you knock

on the door. When they come out the door you just say

John 3:16 and they will let you in."

So he did. He walked up the steps and knocked on the

door, and a lady answered. He looked up and said,

"John 3:16." The lady said, "Come on in, Son."

She took him in and she sat him down in a split bottom

rocker in front of a great big old fireplace, and she went

off. The boy sat there for a while and thought to himself:

John 3:16... I don't understand it, but it sure makes

a cold boy warm.

Later she came back and asked him "Are you hungry?"

He said, "Well, just a little. I haven't eaten in a couple of

days, and I guess I could stand a little bit of food,"

The lady took him in the kitchen and sat him down to a table full of wonderful food. He ate and ate until he couldn't eat any more.

Then he thought to himself: John 3:16... Boy, I sure don't understand

it but it sure

makes a hungry boy full.

She took him upstairs to a bathroom to a huge bathtub filled with warm water, and he sat there and soaked for a while. As he soaked, he thought to himself: John 3:16 ...

I sure don't understand it, but it sure makes a dirty boy clean. You know, I've not had a bath, a real bath, in my whole life. The only bath I ever had was when I stood in front of that big old fire hydrant as they flushed it out.

The lady came in and got him. She took him to a room,

tucked him into a big old feather bed, pulled the covers up around his neck, kissed him good-night and turned out

the lights. As he lay in the darkness and looked out the

window at the snow coming down on that cold night,

he thought to himself: John 3:16 ... I don't understand it but

it sure makes a tired boy rest. The next morning the lady came back

up and took him down again to that same big table full

of food. After he ate, she took him back to that same big old split bottom

rocker in front of the fireplace and picked up a big old Bible.

She sat down in front of him and looked into his young face.

"Do you understand John 3:16?" she asked gently. He

replied, "No, Ma'am, I don't. The first time I ever heard it

was last night when the policeman told me to use it,"

She opened the Bible to John 3:16 and began to explain

to him about Jesus. Right there, in front of that big old fireplace,

he gave his heart and life to Jesus. He sat there and thought: John 3:16 ...

don't understand it, but it sure makes a lost boy feel safe.

You know, I have to confess I don't understand it either,

how God was willing to send His Son to die for me, and how

Jesus would agree to do such a thing. I don't understand the agony of the Father and every angel in heaven as they

watched Jesus suffer and die. I don't understand the intense

love for ME that kept Jesus on the cross till the end. I don't understand it, but it

sure does make life worth living. John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that

he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not

perish, but have everlasting life.

The Evolution of Holly Springs Cemetery

~by H. R. Waggoner

Through some research and individual testimony I have compiled some of the history of Holly Springs Cemetery. In early 1800 Holly Springs Cemetery started allowing blacks to use this cemetery for their final place of resting. Early 1900 three local blacks purchased the cemetery from Summers A. Norman for \$50.00. The three men that purchased the property were, O P Lenzey, Douglass Polk, and D. Waggoner Sr. At that that time they informed Holly Springs Cemetery Association. This association built the foundatin and legacy that were committed to today. Our current Cemetery Committee is compromised of four officers. Their titles are President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Program Coordinator. As in the past these positions were filled with volunteers. The only rewards the committee receive are through gaining community support towards its efforts. Through out the years many caring people have worked hard to support our community cemetery and we are grateful for that. Time has changed but the mission still

stays the same. The committee mission is to continue the legacy of maintaining our community cemetery in a manner to honor our ancestors, take pride in the present and preserve for the future. The current committee is trying to evolve along with the changes that are taking place in our society. As of November 6, 2009 Holly Springs Cemetery became Holly Springs/Delmar Cemetery. We successfully filed with the Internal Revenue to operate as a non profit organization. We are operating under the name "HOLLY SPRINGS/DELMAR MANAGEMENT GROUP". All donations can be used for qualifying deduction with the IRS. All donors receive an official receipt with the organization tax ID imprinted. Hopefully the committee will continue to gain more trust and support from families and loved ones through out the community at large.

Community Pride Day Set At Delmar/Holly Springs

Rusk, TX. - Holly Springs/Delmar Cemetery Committee has scheduled it's second annual COMMUNITY PRIDE DAY. Families, friends and loved ones connected in any way to the Holly Springs/Delmar Cemetery or the communities and churches in the past, are invited to come out and join us on Saturday April 23, 2011 starting at 9:00AM.

Volunteers are needed to reset headstones, identify grave markers, cut brush, pickup debris and enjoy the great company of old and new friends. This is a great opportunity to

share in decorating head stones and grave sites with flowers, etc..

We also ask you to bring your own tools.

Water and softdrinks will be provided.

Please contact any committee member for additional information.

Committee Members

H.R. Waggoner (903) 795-3274
Sarai Johnson (903) 683-4747
Sandra Carter (903) 283-8433
Alice Matthews (903) 795-3866

Cuney, Texas History

On March 13, 1919, Javance Cuney Boykin was the first baby born in Cuney, Texas. Cuney is one of the few black towns in Texas. After the Civil War, around 1865, freed slaves began to settle the area. In 1914 H. L. Price, who at the time was a cashier at the Palestine, Texas Farmers and Citizens Savings Bank, got together with other black investors. They formed a development company and platted a townsite. It was named for Price's son Cuney Price who in turn, was named for Norris Wright Cuney, a prominent black politician and head of the Republican Party.

Javance said his father, Dr. Henry Cleveland Boykin, was one of the investors that H. L. Price talked into moving to Cuney.

A sawmill was setup in the area to help build the town. The Cuney Post Office was authorized by the government in 1917 and located to the south of highway 140 by the early 1920s.

(Taken from live interview with Javance and recorded in the January 2004 issue of the Cherokee County Informer.)

What's Cook'n

Easy Butter Pound Cake

1 pound butter
1 (16-ounce) box powdered sugar
6 whole eggs
1 teaspoon of vanilla, lemon, or brandy
2 ¾ cups all-purpose flour
shortening, for greasing tube cake pan

Preparation:

Prepare all ingredients at room temperature. Cream butter at medium speed for about 5 minutes or until shiny. Add the sugar gradually and mix well. Add eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition; add vanilla, lemon, or brandy. Add flour at low speed and mix until smooth. Grease a tube cake pan with shortening and dust with flour. Bake at 350 degrees F for 1 hour and 15 minutes. After 50 minutes, check at 10-minute intervals until done (when it either cracks on the top or is slightly browned). Cool at least 10 minutes before removing from pan. The cake may be dusted with powdered sugar.

Poetry

I Want To Go Where Jesus Lives

I want to go where Jesus lives,
to see that sunshine smile light
up His face,
to sip with Him in His eternal
home in that heavenly place!

I want to go where Jesus lives,
where there are no more bro-
ken hearts and strifes,
to live in peace and harmony
with

The One who is The way
and The Truth and The Life.
I want to go where Jesus lives,
to thank Him personally for
dying on the cross,
his great redeeming love for
me.

-Vera Craig

The Fallen Leaf

Walking to the mailbox one
day,
I saw a mustard colored leaf,
flip-flopped on the ground,
the green sap drained from its
veins;
a still life classic work of art.

I, in my autumn years,
felt a surge of melancholy;
the rivers of blood flowing
through my vessels
would one day become
dry riverbeds.

I felt a smidge of envy that the
fallen leaf had made its exit
from the clutches of the storms
of life.

I scribbled a eulogy on a note-
pad in my head for the departed
one, paying my last respect.

I went on my way, my footsteps
walking to the beats of Tick-
Tick

-Vera Craig

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Obituaries

Ardis Leon Hinton

Funeral Services for Mr. Ardis Leon Hinton were held on Saturday, January 15, 2010 at 1:30 P.M. Mr. Ardis Leon Hinton (Puddin') was born April 19, 1948 in Jacksonville, Texas. He was a faithful member of the Sweet Union Baptist Church. He served as a trustee, usher, member of the inspirational choir, and was the caretaker of the church grounds. He graduated from Fred Douglass High School in Jacksonville, Texas in 1966. He attended Bishop college, Dallas, Jacksonville Baptist college and graduated from Tyler Junior college with an associates of business administration. He was enlisted in the US Army from 1969-1972 at Ft. Bliss Texas as a Spec. 4.

He was employed with Ingersol Rand (Trane) for 39 years. He was united in holy matrimony to Miss LaFrancis Hollis and to this union three (3) sons were born. He was later united in holy matrimony to Miss Coylene Newsome on July 24, 2004. To this union no children were born; however he gained two daughters. He was preceded in death by his parents, Audrey Peoples and Adell Grimes Hinton, two brothers, and one sister.

He leaves to cherish his memory his wife, Coylene Hinton on Jacksonville, Texas; three sons, Ardis Andre Hinton (Sheila) Colorado Springs, CO, Ronald Charles Hinton and Leonard Shaun Hinton (Shorunda) of Jacksonville, Texas; two stepdaughters Shynonda Newsome, Arlington, Texas and Cangela Newsome of Lufkin, Texas; fifteen grandchildren, eight great grandchildren; two brothers, Adolphus Hinton (Berry) Texarkana, Texas, Odell Hinton (Jean) of Jacksonville, Texas; two sisters Lula Hinton and Bobbie Johnson of Jacksonville, Texas; a very special mother-in-law Ethel Battle (Isaac) Jacksonville, Texas; two sisters-in-law Brookie Larson (Daniel) of Canyon Lake, Texas and Eddwayna Newsome of Houston, Texas and one brother-in-law James Cannon (Verna) of Jacksonville, Texas; a special cousin Jean Ann Washington (Therelee) Tyler, Texas; and a special brother-in-law Dewayne Hollis Jacksonville, Texas, a host of nieces, nephews, relatives and friends to forever cherish his memory.

"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.

McGowan and Carter Rusk Eagle Youth Football and Cheer Association banquet speakers



The Rusk Eagle Youth Football and Cheer Association will hold its first Awards Banquet on Saturday, February 19th at Rusk Junior High School Cafeteria.

The first banquet is scheduled to begin at 3:00PM and the second will begin at 6:00PM. Speakers for the banquets are two Rusk High



School graduates, Reginal Joel McGowan, II and Marcus Donnell Carter. Both are graduates of Sam Houston State University. Mr. McGowan teaches and coaches

at Boulder Middle School Tyler and Mr. Carter is Manager of Recreation for the city of Houston.



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St. Paul

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558 N. Main Street
Jacksonville, TX. 75766

Phone: (903) 586-6006
Contact: Sharon Sims
Sunday School 10:00AM
Morning Ser. 11:00AM
Wednes. Bible Study 7PM



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Woodville CME

FM 343
Rusk, Texas

Ph:(903) 683-6214
Sunday School 9:45
Sunday Worship 11:00

Pastor: Betty Smith Rogers

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Rusk, Texas 75785



Rev. Greenie Phillips, Pastor
Sunday School 9:45AM
Sunday Worship Service
11:00 AM

2nd & 4th Sunday Service
Contact: (903) 683-3441 or Fax:
903-683-1041

P. O. Box 942 - Rusk, Texas 75785

Mt. Olive Community Church

911 Egbert Street
Rusk, TX. 75785

Rev. Mertis Bartley, Pastor
& wife

Evangelist Stella Bartley
Co-Pastor

Contact: Sis. Sandra Carter

Ph: (903) 683-2100

Sunday School 9:45AM - Worship: 11:00AM
Bible Study - Wednesday 6:00PM



Wells Chapel Missionary Baptist Church

Wells, Texas
Pastor:
Daryl Cranford
& Wife
(936) 867-4522



County Line Baptist Church

CR #3
Douglass, Texas

Sunday School 10:00AM
Sunday Worship 11:00AM

Rev. Julius Session, Pastor
Sis. Gladys McCloud, Sec.

Cherokee Brotherhood Association

Meeting time: 4th Monday night in each month. 6:00 PM

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302 North Main Street
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903-586-4578

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MorningWorship: 11:00AM

Wednesday Night Bible Study/Prayer Meeting:
6:00pm

Pastor, Rev. Willams "Come Worship with us at Sweet Union"



Woodville CME Church

FM 343E
Rusk, TX. 75785

10:00AM Sunday School

11:00AM Sunday Worship

Pastor: Minister Betty Smith Rogers

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East Texans joined the nation in celebrating the eighty-second birthday of Civil Rights leader, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on January 17, 2011.



L. -R: Miss Roberta Mason, Chairwoman of the Memorial Committee; Speaker Christel Phillips, News Anchor, KTRETV-Channel 9, Lufkin and Daphne Session, Houston County Attorney attend 33rd Commemorative Program at the Crockett Administrative Offices Auditorium on January 16th.

Crockett, Tx.- James Gentry was master of ceremony for the event with a welcome from Lonnie Hunt County Judge. Greetings were given from other Houston County elected officials; Sarah Clark, County Court At Law; Daphne Session, County Attorney; Bridget Lamg, County Clerk; Donna Casper District Attorney. Darius Kitchen introduced speaker Christel Phillips.



Dr. Ianthia Fisher and 2010-2011 reigning Juneteenth queens for Crockett sit on the front row with attendees who braved several inches of water from the days heavy rain and the floods of the past rainy days to participate in the celebration.

Financial contributions to support the program were made by Bethel Baptist Church, Saint Luke Baptist Church, Mrs. Della Newman, New Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, Union Prairie Baptist Church, Greater Saint Paul Baptist Church, Progressive Baptist Church, William Chapel Church of the Living God and Dr. Willia Wooten.



Youth from Sweet Union, Kids 'R Us, Bible Way M. B. C. , and Church Hill CME participated in the program. Guest Speaker was Rev. Tracy Clater of New Hope Baptist Church Alto. James Lacy did a rendition of Dr. Kings "I Have A Dream" speech.



Parade participants wait for start time on the Norman Activity Center Parking lot. No one seemed to notice the drizzle of rain as they visited with each other and discussed the planned day's events.