



TEXAS INFORMER

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**BLACK
HISTORY
MONTH**

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Friday February 14th

Carter's Dream Impacting East Texas Kids



Marcus Carter was born and raised in Rusk Texas. His dream to give back to the community to which his roots are tied are coming true.. See story page 3

EDITORIAL



Maxine Session

Be sure that you are registered to vote. Call the Elections office in your county and ask for information. In Texas March 3rd is the Texas Primary Election where Democrats will vote to choose a candidate to run against a republican candidate in the November 2020 Presidential election. March 3, 2020 Republicans will choose a presidential candidate to run against a democratic candidate in the November 2020 presidential election. Early voting for the Texas March Primary begins February 18, 2020. The voting poles will be open the week-end of Saturday, February 22nd and Sunday February 23rd. Sunday February 23rd most Black churches urge their congregations to go to the poles immediately after service. African Americans have labeled this day "Souls to the Poles Sunday. I encourage you to go to the poles and vote for your choice. The man who does not vote is a slave to the man who does.

Why Should You Vote?

Why should you vote? You should vote because it is your right to do so. The people elected to office are the ones who make policy and carry out activities that govern our lives from city officials, to school board, to sheriff to governor and so on to the president. Hopefully when you vote you get someone to represent you who thinks like you do and who makes policy that best suits your life.

For African Americans and women voting is a privilege that was not always there. In our history is a time when legal mechanisms like literacy tests, poll taxes and

lynching was used to limit African Americans access to the voting ballot. All kinds of illegal tactics were used to block voting. Often small crimes or conspiracies were concocted that were allegedly committed by Black people to justify mob lynchings.

In an event recently dramatized by the HBO series "The Watchmen," the Tulsa Massacre of 1921 came about after a white elevator operator accused an African American messenger—in the space of a three-floor elevator ride—of raping her. This alleged incident incited the single worst instance of lynching against an African American community in American history. Over the course of three days a predominantly wealthy and well-established African American community in Tulsa was razed to the ground. An estimated 300 African Americans were lynched, although the exact death toll is not precisely known. Voting is a right too important to lose. Use it don't lose it!

We're a special people. We are the best and the brightest our ancestors ever produced.

~James Weldon Johnson



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Fannie Lou Hamer

Voting rights activist



Fannie Lou Hamer Townsend; was born October 6, 1917 and passed away March 14, 1977. She was an American voting and women's rights activist, community organizer, and a leader in the civil rights movement. She was the co-founder and vice-chair of the Freedom Democratic Party, which she represented at the 1964 Democratic National Convention. Hamer also organized Mississippi's Freedom Summer along with the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). She was also a co-founder of the National Women's Political Caucus, an organization created to recruit, train, and support women of

all races who wish to seek election to government office. Hamer began civil rights activism in 1962, continuing until her health declined nine years later. She was known for her use of spiritual hymns and quotes and her resilience in leading the civil rights movement for black women in Mississippi. She was extorted, threatened, harassed, shot at, and assaulted by white supremacists and police while trying to register for and exercise her right to vote. She later helped and encouraged thousands of African-Americans in Mississippi to become registered voters, and helped hundreds of disenfranchised people in her area through her work in programs like the Freedom Farm Cooperative. She unsuccessfully ran for the U.S. Senate in 1964 and the Mississippi State Senate in 1971. In 1970 she led legal action against the government of Sunflower County, Mississippi, for continued illegal segregation. Hamer died on March 14, 1977, aged 59, in Mound Bayou, Mississippi. Her memorial service was widely attended and her eulogy was delivered by U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Andrew Young.[2] She was posthumously inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame in 1993.

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Marcus Carter giving back to the community

COVER STORY
by Maxine Session

Marcus Carter reflects often on his life growing up in Rusk. Dicken's A tale of Two Cities, the best of times and the worst of times could best describe it.

Many conversations were held with his friends Ryan, Rushing, Akeem Leviston and Joel McGowan on where life might lead them. When in college and fresh out of college, the conversation continued to turn to Rusk and what they could do to make home a better place for the kids coming behind them. Armed with degrees Akeem from East Central University Oklahoma and Joel and Marcus from Sam Houston, home returned to their minds.

Marcus graduated Sam Houston State University in the spring of 2004, with a degree in Communication with a focus on Radio and Television with a minor in Marketing. Soon after he joined the Trotter Family YMCA as Adult Sports Director where he was able to align two of his passions, sports and marketing. After a short 3 years the YMCA disseminated the Young Adult Sports Program, which gave Marcus the push to step out on faith and begin his own Adult Sports Recreation Company part-time with a friend, called Sportso holic. The primary focus was adult recreational basketball. Marcus continued his career in adults sports full-time with the City of Houston as Parks and Recreation Director in Alief, Texas. In 2009 he began coaching football and basketball part-time at the Village School. In 2010

he resigned from the City of Houston and accepted a full-time coaching position at the Village School. During his time at the Village Coach he helped to develop the inaugural High School Varsity Football program. In 2014, Marcus once again stepped out on faith and pursued his company full-time, at this time he added adult soccer leagues the company's name then changed to Klutchtime Sports. In 2017 Marcus partnered with a former parent, that turned into a business relationship as an investor. They founded Xcelsior Sports Company began purchasing land in Missouri City, TX. The company began with adult soccer on Sundays. Last year the business relationship dissolved and the name of the company returned to Klutchtime sports. Marcus is passionate about giving back to others, especially in youth sports where character is built. In 2018 he used the non-profit organization owned by Maxine and Walter Session to begin a meal program for Rusk and other towns in the East Texas Area under the name of Cherokee County Team Outreach. From there, he has continued to grow the non-profit by taking the lead in coordinating Little Dribblers in Rusk, TX. When Marcus isn't growing his businesses, he's growing and developing his family. He is the husband of Krystal Carter, and the father of Cynara (CeCe) Carter, Max Carter, Madelyn Carter and Maverick Carter. Marcus was a standout quarterback for the Rusk Eagles graduating Rusk High in 1999. He had this to say. "Most Friday Nights find me at Eagle Stadium when football season is in. There is just something



Cory Crawford, Burns BBQ Owner, Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner, Marcus Carter, Darryl Carter, Counsel at Linebarger Groggan & Sampson, attending an event hosted by the mayor.

that causes me to find my way north of Houston on sixty-nine until I reach Rusk." I find myself talking to the kids by phone and text when I'm not in person with them, encouraging them to do their best in academics as well as athletics. Last year with organizing the first Little Dribble season, there was so much excitement with the kids and their parents. We brought in teams from Palestine, Elkart, Crockett, Alto, Jacksonville, Henderson and other surrounding communities to offer the kids a new challenge within themselves and others. The Parents were there when we needed them to coach and transport the kids when we went on the road and just whatever was needed. This year has been even better. I have teamed with principals at the Primary and Elementary Schools to help the Carlene Clayton Foundation purchase books for their near book vending machines where kids can put their money in the machines to purchase their choice of books. This is something new that one of the teachers came up with. I am concerned that in the off season

this year there is only nine kids preparing for football season and that's not good. There is a gap in the community that we adults need to come together to fix.....parents coaches, the community. Show them a better example. We have talented kids but they are not putting forth their best effort in neither athletics nor academics. When there is a problem we must identify it before we can and fix it.

Little Dribblers can become is an instrument to bring a closer bonding between kids, the whole school community and the community of Rusk as a whole. But that's what's needed now.

Like my friends Joel and Akeem, we want to be involved in helping make a difference in Rusk, Texas, because these kids are our future, too."

Marcus is the grandson of the late Billie and longtime coach J. W. Carter, Betty Jean and Ruby Christopher and son of LaDora & Kent Holmes and Bobby Christopher. Marcus is currently working with Houston mayor Sylvester Turner and other Houston area state representatives on future business ventures to better serve the community.

SPEAK OUT

Impeachment and Removal ?



Kelly Buckingham - No. I think he should be removed. If this was President Obama, he would have been removed a long time ago. I think Vice President Pence would be better as president than Trump. Some say he would not.



Josie Schoolcraft - The Impeachment, I think, it is the worse thing that could have happened to the Democrats. It's all political. I feel sorry for anyone that have so much hate. They would not have done that to President Obama

Why we celebrate Black History Month in February?



Mrs. J's 411

Ferlish July Arrington

Every February since 1976, the United States has celebrated the achievements of African-Americans during Black History Month. The month-long celebration puts those accomplishments and milestones into focus via the media and in classrooms. Black History Month began as "Negro History Week," a label applied by historian Carter G. Woodson in 1926. Woodson was bothered by the fact that many textbooks and other historical reviews minimized or ignored the contributions of black figures. Along with his association of the Study of Negro Life and History-later the Association of the study of African American Life and History-Woodson earmarked the second week in February

to raise awareness of these stories. Woodson chose that week specifically because it covered the birthdays of Fredrick Douglass(February 14) and Abraham Lincoln (February 12) The ensuing publicity led many mayors and college campuses to recognize the week; through the years, the ground swell of supporters allowed the occasion to stretch throughout the entire month. In 1976, President Gerald Ford made Black History Month official, saying that he was urging everyone to " seize the opportunity to honor the too - often neglected accomplishments of black Americans in every are of endeavor throughout our history." Until next time take care of yourself.

1962: African American psychologist Kenneth Clark helps establish Harlem Youth Opportunities Unlimited, which influence President Johnson's War on Poverty.

Kobe Bryant American Basketball Player and Father



Kobe Bryant, in full Kobe Bean Bryant, born August 23, 1978, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, died January 26, 2020, Calabasas, California, American professional basketball player, who helped lead the Los Angeles Lakers of the National Basketball Association (NBA) to five championships (2000-02 and 2009-10).

Kobe entered the NBA directly from high school, and he played for the Lakers his entire career. As a rookie, Bryant earned himself a reputation as a high-flyer and a fan favourite by winning the 1997 Slam Dunk Contest. He was named an All-Star in his second season. Bryant and Shaquille O'Neal led the Lakers to three consecutive championships from 2000 to

2002.

Kobe Bryant married Vanessa Laine in 2001. The couple had Children: Gianna Maria-Onore Bryant, Natalia Diamante Bryant, Bianka Bella Bryant, Capri Kobe Bryant.

On the morning of January 26, 2020, a Sikorsky S-76B helicopter crashed in Calabasas, California around 30 miles (48 kilometers) northwest of Los Angeles; it was carrying one pilot and eight passengers, including former professional basketball player Kobe Bryant and his daughter Gianna. All occupants were killed.

Kobe Bryant, 41, expressed pride in his post-basketball accomplishments, including winning an Oscar for an animated short film and publishing a series of children's fantasy books.

The short film called "Dear Basketball, is a 2017 American animated short film written and narrated by Kobe and based on a letter he wrote to the Players' Tribune on November 29, 2015 announcing his retirement from basketball.

OBITUARIES



Earnestine Blakemore

Funeral services were held Saturday, January 18, 2020 at 11 am at New Hope Baptist Church, Alto for Mrs. Earnestine Blakemore. She was born to parents Ola Mae Morrison, L. C. Morgan and Teal Hamilton. She was a member of St. Thomas AME Church until her health failed. She was employed at Rusk State Hospital for 17 years. Later she worked as a cook at Oak Park Care Center.

Earnestine leaves to cherish her memories her husband Lester of 44 years; children Shalonda and Adrian and special granddaughter Jade Morrison; sisters: Georgia Martin, Ann Morgan, Debra Sue (Jerry) Christopher, Kay Morgan, Vanessa Mae Morrison, Kendra Williams (Jeffery), Rebecca Dickson (Charlis), Donna Buckingham (Wayne), Donna Pope (Leroy); Brothers: Bill Morgan, Cecil (Patricia) Morgan, Michael Morrison, Kendrick (Damaris) Morrison, Ronnie (Pearlie) Morrison, and Thelonius Morrison; Sisters-in-law: Ruthie Blakemore, Peggy Morrison; Brothers-in-law: Fred (Darlene) Blakemore, Charlie (Donna) Blakemore, Kevin (Sherrie) Blakemore, and a host of aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews who dearly loved her.

She was preceded in death by her parents, sisters Jan Christopher, Sandra Jean Wade; Brothers Jessie Morgan Charles and Gladys Griffin,

and Terry Wayne Morrison; Brother-in-law William Henry Blakemore.



Vernon Jean (Buckwheat) Franklin

Vernon Jean (Buckwheat) Franklin was born on June 26, 1956 to the union of Nannie Bell Franklin and Allison Franklin, Jr. in Rusk, Texas.

Vernon Jean received her formal education at Rusk High School Rusk, Texas. She was employed as a health caretaker for thirty plus years. She accepted Christ as her Lord and Savior and was united with Bethany Baptist Church of Corsicana where she served as a faithful member. In her leisure time she enjoyed cooking, reading her Bible and spending time with family, especially her grandson.

Vernon Jean departed this life on December 31, 2019. She was preceded in death by her Mom, Nannie Bell Franklin; Sisters Linda Sue Freney, and Marcel Franklin.

She leaves to cherish her memory Son Allison Franklin; Daughter -in-law Carla Cashaw; Father Allison Franklin, Jr.; Sisters; Marie (Terry) Franklin; Donna (Gary) Carey; Brothers: Lee Edward Forward, Walter Franklin; grandsons: Aiden Franklin; Ahmad Franklin, a host of aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews.

*Love is the answer to all the world problems.
Jesus is the teacher and the example!*

2020 Legacy of Elijah Eugene Cummings

~Staff writer Texas Informer January 14, 2020

An American politician and civil rights advocate, Elijah Eugene Cummings who served in the United States House of Representatives for Maryland's 7th congressional district from 1996 until his death October 17, 2019 leaves a legacy.

The widow of Elijah Cummings is running for his House seat. Maya Rockey-moore Cummings, the widow of the recently-deceased Maryland congressman Elijah Cummings, announced Monday, November 9, 2019 that she plans to mount a campaign for her husband's seat in the House of Representatives.

In 2016, Bernie Sanders, supporters shouted down the lauded civil rights leader during his speech about social justice and showed the racial divide between Sanders and Clinton voters existed. In his marathon primary fight against Hillary Clinton, it became pretty obvious that Sen. Bernie Sanders had a tough time

reaching out to black voters. Whether the Vermont



senator or his supporters are still interested in solving it, however, is another matter.

In the opening session of the 2016 Democratic National Convention, during a powerful speech by Rep. Elijah Cummings, civil rights champion, Congressional Black Caucus heavyweight and son of a sharecropper – which largely focused on the Democrats' fight for civil rights, Sanders supporters began chanting, "No TPP!" and holding up signs, essentially heckling Cummings loudly on national TV. Cummings was co-chair of the Democrats' platform committee, which inserted

language that did not specifically oppose the Trans-Pacific Partnership, a sweeping trade deal that President Barack Obama put high on his second-term wish list.

Sanders used Clinton's support for TPP as a cudgel against her in the primary debates. But his supporters publicly harassing Cummings, a widely respected lawmaker and African American leader, was not a good look for Sanders.

Cummings finished his speech, but the demonstration at the convention left a nasty aftertaste among some African American voters. And it underscores the notion that there's a void between black Democrats and white progressives – and lends credence to the claim of some Sanders backers that he didn't consider black voter outreach a high priority. In the 2020 upcoming election, Representative Cummings legacy could still prove a factor and force to Democrats.

March 10, 1966

Malcolm X is assassinated while speaking in New York City.

August 7, 1965 : Empowered by the new Voting Rights Act, the U. S. Justice Department files suit against the use of the pole tax in Mississippi.

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HEALTH

The Hidden Health Crisis: 2020 STD Report

Alarms.org Publishes National STD Report for 2020, Revealing States with Highest Rates of STDs

February 11, 2020 — Alarms.org announced its annual National STD Report, unveiling the states with the highest rate of STD cases per capita. While STDs have been the rise throughout the country, the report shows that many states have found a way to diminish their rate of incidences. This report was created to curtail this epidemic by increasing public awareness of how dire the situation is in particular states, especially now that Valentine's day is just around the corner. States with the Highest Rate of STDs:

1. Mississippi
2. Nevada
3. Louisiana
4. California
5. New Mexico

Millions of new STD cases are diagnosed every year. Diminishing news coverage might have one thinking otherwise, but sexually transmitted pathogens continue to pervasively infect the wellbeing of the population (especially in young adults). Serious health scares and complications can largely be avoided with the right information, open discussion, and appropriate testing.

The National STD report contains detailed information from the latest reports provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, along with the respective U.S. Census data to calculate rates on a per-capita basis. Rankings were calculated mainly as a result of the most common STD averages in each state.

About the National Council for Home Safety and Security
The National Council for Home Safety and Security (NCHSS) is a national trade association comprised of companies in the security sector, including licensed alarm installers, contractors, and other relevant trade groups across the United States. Through Alarms.org (the NCHSS's official site), consumers can find essential home safety and security guides, as well as related research, articles, and reports. Learn more at Alarms.org.

Contact

Lauren Johnson
Media & Community Outreach
Alarms.org

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Black America's Housing Crisis:

More Renters Than Homeowners

NNPA NEWSWIRE - By Charlene Crowell, NNPA Newswire Contributor
No matter who you are, or where you live, there's a central concern that links consumers all over the country: the ever-rising cost of living. For many consumers, the combined costs of housing, transportation, food, and utilities leave room for little else from take-home pay.

From Boston west to Seattle, and from Chicago to Miami and parts in between, the rising cost of living is particularly challenging in one area: housing. Both homeowners and renters alike today cope as best they can just to have a roof over their families' heads. The nation's median sales price of a new home last September in 2019 was \$299,400, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. Even for an existing home, the St. Louis Federal Reserve

noted its median price in December was \$274,500.

For renters, the cost of housing is also a serious challenge. Last June, the national average rent reached \$1,405, an all-time high. But if one lives in a high-cost market like Manhattan, Boston, Los Angeles, or San Francisco, a realistic rental price is easily north of \$3,000 each month.

Now a new report from Harvard's Joint Center for Housing Studies (JCHS) finds that the American Dream of homeownership is strained even among households with incomes most would think adequate to own a home. From 2010 to 2018, 3.2 million households with earnings higher than \$75,000 represented more than three-quarters of the growth in renters in its report entitled, America's Rental Housing 2020.

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EDUCATION**The Rusk TJC Promise Continues to Touch Lives****James I. Perkins**

In 2014, a partnership between Citizens 1st Bank, The James I. Perkins Family Foundation and Tyler Junior College established the Rusk TJC Citizens Promise. The first of its kind in the state of Texas, since that time, this scholarship program has improved the lives of countless Rusk students and families.

The Rusk TJC Citizens Promise is available exclusively to qualifying Rusk High School graduates who enroll at Tyler Junior College within three years of graduation.

In addition to graduating in the top half of their class with a minimum 2.5 GPA, qualifying students must also reside in Rusk ISD and must have attended Rusk High School for grades 11 and 12.

Rusk TJC Citizens Promise Scholars may receive up to \$8,000 for two years to be used toward tuition, fees, books and housing the 2019-2020 school year. Fifty nine (59) Rusk seniors were eligible for the Rusk Promise scholarship at the beginning of the 2019-2020 school year.

James I Perkins is a banker, attorney, Civic Leader, and fourth generation East Texan. The James Perkins family has been residents of the state of Texas years. His father served as a county judge, his Grandfather served as state senator, state representative and District Judge. His great grandfather, James Perkins served and fought in the Battle of San Jacinto of San Antonio.

After graduating from Rusk High School in 1955 where he was an honor student, class president, and an athlete in four sports, he attended the University of Texas and received his Bachelor's of Business Administration in 1959 and his law degree in 1963. He was selected as an outstanding student and vice president

of the student body. He served as Lieutenant in the United States Navy, serving in the Pacific and Atlantic. Contact a RISD Counselor, TJC or Scholarship Recruitment and Retention:

Megan Cumbee Burns,
Manager, Scholarship &
Rusk TJC Citizens Promise
Program

Phone: 903-510-2192

Email: mcum@tjc.edu

James I Perkins is married to Margaret Perkins and they have two children Laura and James Perkins, who are both attorneys.

We recognize him for his "Profile In History".

**December 2000:
President Elect
George Bush names
General Colin Powell
as his Secretary
of State and Stanford
Provost Condoleezza
Rice as his National
Advisor.**

Mary Allen College 3rd Annual Founder's Day

Est. 1886

Sharing the Past Shaping the Future

The Mary Allen African American Museum of Art and History, Inc, cordially invites the public to celebrate with the Crockett, Texas and Houston County community as we recognize Mary Allen College 3rd Annual Founders Day. We will hear the prolific and profound words of Mr. Truman Lamb (Agriculturist), a former Mary Allen College student Mr. Polk Colter (Entrepreneur) and Ms. Roberta Mason

(Educator) as the Mistress of Ceremonies. The list of guests includes our own Mayor Dr. Ianthia Fisher, the Honorable Daphne Session, World Renown Artist Viktor Le, Pastor Oleksy, Pastor Ainsworth, Pastor David Beau-lieu, Community Liaison Mr. Hilliard McKnight, Mary Allen Museum President Dr. Thelma J. Douglass, Chair of Program Dr. Loria Givens Miles, and others.

When: February 15, 2020

Where: First Presbyterian Church

715 E. Goliad

Crockett, Texas 75835

Time: 11:00 a.m.

Refreshments provided by Chuck Wagon (Regina Tillis) and MooseHead, (Joni Clonts)

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*"March 6, 1961 President John F. Kennedy
establishes the President's Committee on Equal
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Dr. Michael Tidwell UT Tyler President Host Gala



Walter and Maxine Session were among the more than 200 guests of Dr. Michael and Karen Tidwell for a Holiday Reception at the University of Texas, Tyler. The reception was held at the UT Tyler Alumni House in December 2019. Dr. Tidwell is the university President.

Madelyn Carter Performs in Houston's Urban Nutcracker



Six year old Madelyn Carter made the cast call for the second year, performing in Houston's Urban Nutcracker. The theater performance was produced by the Lab Performing Arts Initiative and was held at the Stafford Performing Arts Theater Centre in Stafford, Texas on December 20, 2019. Madelyn attends 1st grade at Mark Twin Elementary School. She also plays piano and violin and is the daughter of Marcus and Krystal Carter, the granddaughter of Terri and Floyd Franklin and Garrick Ward.

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Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebrations around East Texas



Crockett Martin Luther King, Jr. 42nd Annual Commemorable program participants shown. The Honorable Daphne Session, Houston County Attorney with Miss Roberta Mason and The Honorable Joe Morris Berry, speaker.



Crockett, TX. - Above are participants in the 42nd Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Program was held January 19, 2020 at the Crockett ISD Administrative Building Auditorium.

The event was sponsored by Miss Roberta Mason founder and Chair of the Memorial Committee, members Dr. Nelson Daniels, James Avery, Viola Jackson Harvey, Credilla Brown Lambert, Della Newman, Jean Shepherd, and the Honorable Jim Turner, former United States Representative - Fifth Senatorial District and Dr. Della Wooten. County and City officials and local citizens took part in the program. James J Gentry Executive Director of the Crockett Economic and Industrial Development Corporation was MC. Officials present were Dr. Ianthia Fisher, Mayor, The Honorable Jim Lovell, county Judge, the Honorable Sarah Tunnel Clark, the Honorable , the Honorable Donna Casper and the Honorable Daphne Session. Also participating were Toreyan Jones, Mrs. Verna Harris, Rev. Earl Harris and Rev. Jim Ainsworth. The Honorable Joe Morris Berry, speaker, is from Lovelady , Texas and currently Co-Director of the Plainview Community and Area Combined Choir and Orchestra, Plainview, Texas.



Jacksonville, TX. - Shown above the Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration inside Sweet Union Baptist Church following the march from the Tomato Bowl to the church. The crowd was entertained with poems, quotes, songs and speaker Rev. Sedric Moore, St Paul BC. Rev. Jason Peoples performed a heart warming rendition of Dr. King's "I Have a Dream" speech. Ty'Leecia Patterson was Mistress of Ceremony. Benson Memorial CME Youth, The Youth Community Choir and the Christian Band under the direction of Phyllis Johnson performed selections. The Unity Committee led by A. J. Rhodes and Helen Scott sponsored the annual event.



Tyler Martin Luther King, Jr. Day 34th Annual Interfaith Community March and Program began downtown on January 20, 2020 and ended at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. The program was sponsored by Tyler Together Race Relations Relations.



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2019 In Retrospect



Texas College Alumni Letha Colston Northcutt of Jefferson, Texas, Jefferson ISD retired educator and Georgia Colston TDHHS Social Worker of Terrell, Texas enjoy Texas College Homecoming activities. Both are formerly of Rusk and are Texas College graduates.



Mr. and Mrs. Dianne and Horace Lewis renewed their wedding vows October 11, 2019 celebrating fifty years of marriage. Their vows were exchanged at Blount Chapel Baptist Church with the reception held at the Fairview Community Event Center. The Lewis's live in the Shady Grove community of Rusk.



United Women Of Strength once again brought together area communities around Cherokee County as they presented "Holiday Christian Celebrities" in December at the Norman Activity Center, Jacksonville, Texas.

More than twenty churches were represented by a dedicated member who serves well it's church and community.



Fred Douglass Class Reunion - Celebrating being together again.

2019 IN RESTROSPECT

Fuller and Johnson Vows Exchanged



Jessica Fuller and Michael Johnson, now Mr. & Mrs., tied the knot in 2019 when they exchanged wedding vows in a beautiful outdoor western themed ceremony at the Fairview Community Event Center. The reception hosted more than seventy-five family members and other guests. She is from Rusk and is the daughter of Sandra Carter and Jessie Fuller.



Volunteers Destyne Harris, Triniti Small, Max Carter, Daphne Session and Krystal Carter help package food for families at the Tyler East Texas Food Bank in December 2019.

Rusk State Hospital Ground Breaking



In November the Texas Health and Human Services Commission hosted a ground breaking for new patient facilities at Rusk State Hospital. The state legislature designated \$745 million dollars for a number of Texas state hospitals \$196 million of that designated to improvements at Rusk State.

The hospital was established in 1919 and provides psychiatric services to more than 300 in patients covering 36 counties and providing more than 900 jobs.

Senator Robert Nichols and State Representative Travis Clardy who have worked tirelessly to get funding for the hospital, were both on hand along with Deputy executive commissioner, Mike Maples and Dr. Courtney Phillips, Health and Human Services Executive Commissioner and Mayor Angela Raiborn.



Jacksonville, TX. - This is an historical picture taken in 2003 "Summer Fund Day" in Lincoln Park. Food fun and games were the schedule of the day. Concerned Citizens, who felt the children of Jacksonville needed positive, organized activities. Sheila Johnson and Lue Ann Williams were organizers.

What's Cook'in

Spaghetti Salad

- 1 lb. spaghetti
- 1 8 Oz. bottle Italian dressing
- 1 T. Italian seasoning
- 1 bunch green onions
- 1 cucumber, chopped
- 2 tomatoes, chopped
- 1 (2-oz) can chopped black olives

In a large pot of salted water, cook pasta until soft. Drain and cool under cold water. Combine cooked pasta with Italian dressing, Italian salad seasoning, green onions, cucumber, tomatoes and black olives. Toss to coat and refrigerate overnight before serving.

THE PROBLEM OF GUN VIOLENCE

Hollywood's Time

by Billy "Hollywood" Groves
GNS/CEO

*Hollywood, a figure in
Black History*



Billy "Hollywood" Groves of Crockett, is a well known figure in local Black History, touching many lives as the outspoken voice for equality.

A journalist, he has been a writer for African American News and Issues Houston, The Grapeland Messenger, About Time Magazine, Rochester, New York, Black Market Chicago, Illinois, Gibbs Magazine Oakland, California, Houston County Life, The Texas Informer Rusk, Texas and his own newspaper, Groves Standard Crockett, Texas.

He is a Groves Foundation Board Member. A political Activist, he spoke at the Million Man March of Washington D.C., the Jonason, Louisiana protest at the death of an innocent Black man, and the Prairie View A.

This is Something to think about at this time when schools and churches are taking precautions with fences, security and safety training to keep children and congregations safe.

& M. University Voting Rights Protest when the rights of college students to vote there was being threatened. He also ran for mayor of the city of Crockett Hollywood's Opinion:

Unless you are living on the moon, you are witnessing gun violence on a daily basis in the United States. When you look at our national news on television or read our national newspapers online, you get information about somebody who got shot, or killed.

I've written many articles over the years about gun problems and gun groups, like the (NRA) National Rifle Association who are putting guns all over America. I am not suggesting that Americans cannot have or own guns. What I am writing about is the fact that we must change our gun laws if we expect to see fewer shootings and murders. A lot of the people who are committing these shooting crimes have been diagnosed as mentally unstable individuals. Other gun shooters have been classified as racist

who are motivated by their hatred of people of different races and religions. So why are these dangerous people able to get guns without opposition from the gun sellers or people of law authority? I think it's all about money and the power that groups, like the NRA, have in America. President Donald Trump has openly shown his support for the NRA and other Trump supporters in our government have also been on the NRA team.

There's an old saying that goes, "A wise man will change, but a fool won't." I truly know that we have millions of proud God fearing Americans who know that we must change our nation's gun laws. That is why we must vote in the up coming 2020 elections for the people who understand that we must change our nation's gun laws.

Bulletproof equipment is being sold across our nation while shooters target schools, churches and other places where large numbers of people attend. We are not a nation of crazy, dangerous, racist people. We should not have this current gun violence, because America is a nation of God, not a nation of evil fools. God bless America.

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Profiles In History

It's everybody's job to help improve the future. What legacy will you leave?



Helen Scott

Unity Committee- Martin Luther King, Jr. March and Celebration, Juneteenth, United Women of Strength



Charlie Esco

Past Jacksonville Volunteer Fire Fighter, United Women of strength, Citizens Police Academy, Past Member Access Board



Lois Teague

United Women of Strength- Pres. - two decades, Volunteer Pink Lady 14 years, UT East Texas Hospital, Past Super Moms Basketball team manager



Tracy Session

RISD School Board Trustee, V. Pres., Rusk Housing Authority Board Pres., First Baptist Church Cherokee Brotherhood Par.



Joe Teague

Tyler Big Band North Side Community Association, Pres., Educators with an Attitude, Event Speaker



Walter Session

Rusk City Counsel, Mayor Pro Tem, Cherokee Brotherhood, Sec. and founding member, Texas Informer News Publisher



Arthur J. Rhodes

Unity Committee - Founder Martin Luther King March and Celebration more than three decades



Dr. Richard Hackney

Cherokee County Historical Society Board, Journalist, Civic Leader, Author, Pharmacist



Dr. Ianthia Fisher

First African American Female elected Mayor, Crockett, Tx., Educator, Community Leader, Minister



Preston Meador

Past JISD School Board Member, Journalist, author of "The Long Journey", Civic Leader, Past North Side Assoc. Board



Charlvin & Loretta Doty
Ministers

Established Kingdom Christian Center in Jacksonville, recently adding facility area Children's Church

You Know I've Been Doing Some Thinking....."If you could pray for only one thing, let it be an idea".

~Percy Sutton

The United Negro College Fund theme is "a mind is a terrible thing to waste." Hold on to that thought. It's the first step on the road to success, freedom and prosperity. Mind is cause, and experience is effect. Harmonious living tells of harmonious thinking. Positive settled people can easily be identified by looking at the condition of their home, car, health, relationships and the results they leave in the positive footprints of their lives..

~Maxine

The short notes on the people recognized in "Profiles In History" is just the tip of the iceberg for each of them. Their deep commitment to God, family and church is too numerous to record.

Achievement Award

By Stacy M. Brown, NNPA Newswire Senior Correspondent

NNPA NEWSWIRE — “It is with great pleasure that the NNPA Executive Committee has selected Mollie Belt for the honor of the Publishers Lifetime Achievement Award for her contributions to the NNPA for so many years,” stated NNPA National Chair and Houston Forward Times Publisher Karen Carter Richards.

It’s imperative that we publish the news and remember at all times that we are the voice of the black community,” said Mollie Belt, Publisher of the Dallas Examiner and recipient of the 2020 NNPA Lifetime Achievement Award.

“It’s imperative that we publish the news and remember at all times that we are the voice of the black community,” said Mollie Belt, Publisher of the Dallas Examiner and recipient of the 2020 NNPA Lifetime Achievement Award.

A tragedy initially brought Mollie Belt into the world of newspaper publishing.

Now, 34 years after the tragic murder of her parents — Dallas Examiner Publisher and Civil Rights leader Fred Finch, Jr., and Mildred Finch — Belt’s foray into the news business is nothing short of a triumph. A former long-time government employee, Belt is set to receive the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) 2020 Publisher Lifetime Achievement Award during the trade organization’s Annual Mid-Winter Training Conference in Fort Lauderdale, Florida on Friday, January 24th.

The NNPA’s Executive Committee unanimously selected Belt for the honor. With the theme, “Publishing Industry: Innovation & Sustainability of the Black Press

of America,” the three-day conference which begins on Jan. 23 includes training workshops, panel discussions, and presentations.

“It is with great pleasure that the NNPA Executive Committee has selected Mollie Belt for the honor of the Publishers Lifetime Achievement Award for her contributions to the NNPA for so many years,” stated NNPA National Chair and Houston Forward Times Publisher Karen Carter Richards. “Mollie has demonstrated great leadership and guidance to uplift the publishers and the entire organization,” Richards stated. NNPA President and CEO, Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr., stated that the NNPA “resolutely congratulates Mollie Finch Belt for being selected to receive the 2020 NNPA Lifetime Achievement Award.” “Mollie’s local, statewide, regional, and national leadership as the distinguished publisher of the Dallas Examiner exemplifies the best of the Black Press of America,” Chavis stated.

For Belt, the conference isn’t just about accepting such distinguished honor from her peers, but it’s a reminder of how important the Black Press remains to its readers, sponsors, and advertisers. “It’s imperative that we publish the news and remember at all times that we are the voice of the black community,” Belt stated.

We have to remember that we are here to print the news. I always think of what someone told me years ago, which was to not worry about getting more advertising, to just print the news, and if your editorial content is good, the advertising dollars will come,” she added.

“In Dallas, Belt observed that when The Dallas Examiner was founded it was the only Black-owned newspaper in which the community could receive hard news.

“Black newspapers are the only real voice of the community that I know of in Dallas. We don’t have a black-owned television station or a black-owned radio station,” Belt stated.

Born in 1943 in Dallas, Belt’s mother was a mathematics instructor while her father was an attorney and civil rights leader who, in 1986, founded the Dallas Examiner.

Tragically, after publishing just four issues of the newspaper, Belt’s parents were murdered in their home. Belt attended Spelman college for one year then transferred to the University of Denver where she graduated with a major in sociology and psychology, she was forced to take over the paper.

She did so without any experience.

Belt spent her career working as an employment counselor for the Texas Employment Commission, and she also held several positions for the city of Dallas and the federal government.

I was the only child, I inherited the newspaper,” Belt stated.

“I did not know the newspaper industry, and it was something that I had to learn on the job. My father wasn’t a newspaperman either and when I look back, there are a lot of things that we do differently today,” she noted. “We have a niche market, and we have to continuously stress that,” Belt added.



“Even though we know that we now live in a digital world — and we have to have a digital presence — we also have to remember the print edition and that our community still enjoys reading the print edition and our community loves pictures.”

After taking over the paper, Belt decided to pour much of her resources into making the Examiner a success, in part, to carry out her parents’ legacy. In a 2013 HistoryMakers interview, Belt noted that she successfully applied for a grant from AT&T to start, “Future Speak,” a publication aimed at developing young minority journalists. She also used the Dallas Examiner to increase HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention by publishing numerous articles and special supplements, including her award-winning pieces titled, “PROBE,” “Battling AIDS in Our Community” and “Innocence Lost.”

Under Belt’s guidance, the Dallas Examiner has won a host of local, state, and national awards. In 2002, the newspaper earned honors as “Best Weekly Newspaper” by the Texas Publisher’s Association.

The Dallas Examiner also has captured at least twelve awards from the regional

sociation of Black Journalists, including “Best Newspaper” and “Best Practices.”

For Belt, the NNPA Publishers Lifetime Achievement Award will forever stand out as most special.

“When you receive an honor from your peers, it’s all the more meaningful,” Belt stated.

“I get a lot of awards and honors from various organizations, some of which are related to the community. But, this one is very special, and I’m really touched,” she stated.

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Profiles in History

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Hubert Robinson

**City Councilman, 1st
Black Mayor
Jacksonville, Tx.**



Jerry Leviston

**Ministerial Alliance Member,
Cherokee Brotherhood
Past NAACP President
Minister**



Oliver Sturns

**Minister, Cherokee Brother-
hood Pres., Tree of Promise
board, Tyler Basketball As-
sociation, Election Judge**



Maxine Session

**Texas Publishers Assoc, Treas-
urer, Rusk Economic Dev.
Board, Texas Informer Pub-
lisher, Past Pres. Rusk Cham-
ber, Chamber current Board
Member, Rusk Industrial Foun-
dation Board, United Women**



Daphne Session

**Deep East Texas Council of Gov-
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tive Board, Kalin's Center Chil-
dren's Advocacy Center Board,
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mary School Teacher ,
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