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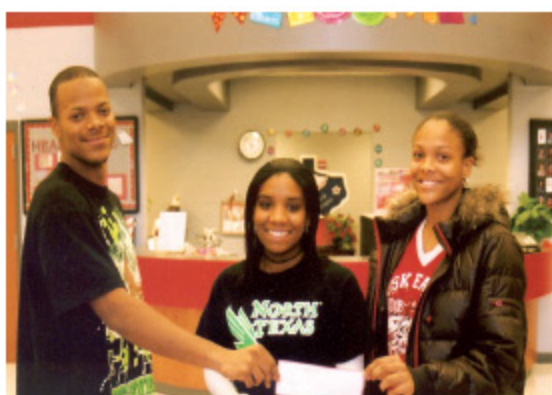
Vol. 11 Issue #7

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Johnson Maintains 134 year old Jasper family farm

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The theme for 2007, "From Slavery to Freedom: Africans in the Americas," takes its name from historian John Hope Franklin's 1947 book *From Slavery to Freedom*, ASALH President John Fleming said in a telephone interview.

Washington -- Each February, Black History Month tells of the struggles and triumphs of millions of American citizens over the most devastating obstacles -- slavery, prejudice, poverty -- and looks at their contributions to the nation's cultural and political life.

2007 marks the 81st annual celebration since Carter G. Woodson, a noted scholar and historian, instituted Negro History Week in 1926. He chose the second week of February to coincide with the birthdays of President Abraham Lincoln and the 19th century abolitionist Frederick Douglass. The first official Black History Month was announced in 1976 by President Gerald R. Ford, who urged Americans to "seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history."

Woodson, the son of former slaves in Virginia, realized that the struggles and achievements of Americans of African descent were being ignored or misrepresented. He founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASALH), which publishes a scholarly journal and sets the theme for Black History Month each year.

ASALH has its headquarters in Washington, where Woodson lived from 1915 until his death in 1950. His home is designated a national historic site.

The theme for 2007, "From Slavery to Freedom: Africans in the Americas," takes its name from historian John Hope Franklin's 1947 book *From Slavery to Freedom*, ASALH President John Fleming said in a telephone interview.

Certainly, struggle has been an ongoing theme in our history from the very beginning," said Fleming, who is vice president of museums for the Cincinnati Museum Center. He believes Black History Month should focus on both positive and negative aspects of the black experience. "We were not slaves prior to being captured in Africa," said Fleming, "and while slavery was part of our experience for 250 years, we have a hundred-and-some years in freedom that we also need to deal with. That's not to diminish the slavery period, but it's not just the most encompassing thing." Fleming said he has seen "substantial progress on many fronts," noting that about 10 percent of congressional representatives are black as well as hundreds of mayors across the United States, and more blacks are "moving into the middle class and various professions." (See related article.) "At the same time there are still major problems that have to be addressed, one being the permanent underclass in urban areas now -- we don't seem to be able to break that cycle of poverty. And there are still some major rural pockets of poverty" such as in the Mississippi Delta, he continued.

"I'm glad to see the National African American Museum being developed on the Mall, which will tell a much broader story," said Fleming. In 2003, President George W. Bush signed legislation to establish the new museum, which will be located on the National Mall near the Washington Monument.

To Make a brighter day in someone's life

By Earnest Mitchell

I will start by thanking Jehovah God for all His blessings. I am a member of the Alto Area Christian Brotherhood. We are committed to helping people in any small way we can and telling people about Jesus Christ our Savior.

In the month of December, we were having our monthly meeting when a discussion began about the general needs of some of the local elderly and children and the approaching Christmas season. One of the members said he knew of children in our schools who didn't have the proper shoes for whatever season.

Great concern was expressed, because we know no child can learn if he or she is cold, hungry or without proper shoes. We decided to pray about it knowing that if we tried, God would send a special blessing to those in need. At that point we were devoted to seeing that no child or elderly person that we were aware of would go without food or clothing for the Christmas holidays.

We decided to pray and walk the streets of Alto to let people know that God had sent us on a mission. Brother Willie Brown, James Green and Earl Hackney first went to the school and met with the appropriate personal who let us know who the children were. The next day we had a list of 35 children to be clothed with shirts, pants, socks, shoes and toys. Oh, was this turning into a job bigger than we anticipated? That list did not include the thirty plus families we were planning to provide with turkey, fruit and other food items.

God brought His people together with a christian message. We began receiving calls from people who wanted to help. Believe me, blessings started unfolding before our very eyes.

On December 12th the Alto Area Christian Brotherhood went to Alto ISD and presented to 35 children a full set of new shoes, clothing and toys. At 3:00PM that day we met at New Hope Fellowship Hall and assembled food baskets, then delivered them to people in the community. At the end of the day, we thanked God for the many blessings to serve Him and make a difference in someone's life.

In closing, a special thanks to you for your support and donations: Alto Area Christian Brotherhood, Alto Community Fellowship Church, Dr. Ray Despain, Cody Allen, Bob Pearman, Dupli-chain Construction, Kathleen Cornelison, Freddie and Sandy Wallace, Brookshire Brothers, Family Dollar, Dollar General, B & B, Shell Station, Alto Salvation Army, Preston Meador, Chris Davis, Calvin Pierce, Ron Rhodes, Wal-Mart(Crockett), and Shoe Cents(Crockett) and all the individuals who helped.

(Continued page

SERENA'S AUSTRALIAN GRANDIFICENT SLAM DUNK

James W. Breedlove

Comments or opinions may be sent to the writer at: www.truthclinic.com

A slam dunk is usually associated with a basketball player exhibiting exceptional athletic ability by leaping high above the outstretched arms of opponents and forcefully powering the ball through the basket with one or both hands providing exuberant fans with a spectacular display of "in your face dominance".

Last Saturday Serena Williams, the unseeded dynamo of women's tennis, usurped basketball's slam dunk as she repeatedly confused, confounded, and battered the world's number one ranked player to add a third Australian Open championship crown to her collection of eight grand slam titles.

Serena is only the second unseeded player to win the Australian title and it was one of the most lopsided and dominated championship matches in modern tennis, lasting only 63 minutes. It was simply an awesome and amazing display of tennis made even more so when considering the tortuous road Serena had to travel for the past two years.

Her last win was in 2005. In 2003 she had surgery to fix a lingering knee injury. Then, while she was at her Florida home recovering, her half-sister, Yetunde, was killed in a drive-by shooting in Los Angeles. After that, Serena's game when she did play was not quite the same—the dominance and intensity was gone, the spark seemed to be flaming out. She healed physically but the emotional scars seemed to remain. She played in only 19 matches in the last year.

During the preliminary rounds of the Australian Open the critics were unanimous in telling the tennis world and even Serena that she was not ready for a return to prime time. A new champion was to be anointed and Serena was not considered a viable candidate.

Throughout the two week tournament, commentators and critics alluded to her weight, pointed out how she seemed to lack stamina, and questioned how could she win in her physically unfit condition?

But the critics did not have a complete understanding of Serena's will power. She had never lost faith in her game, even when she was losing to neophytes that had never won a Women's Tour title.

Serena admitted there had been disquieting moments during her incredible advancement to the winner's circle at Melbourne. In the third round and again in the quarter final she lost the first set in both matches. But she found that something extra that is the hallmark of all champions and bounced back each time it appeared like she was about to be eliminated from the tournament.

While she may have appeared tenuous during the prelims she reserved her best for the final match and her opponent the reigning U.S. Open champion, Maria Sharapova.

Serena started the match aggressively and never relented. She held her serve to open the match, then won 12 straight points after Sharapova had an opportunity for a game point in the second game, and jumped to a 4-0 lead. Each time Sharapova tried to get back into the game Serena reached deep inside herself and found something extra to slam the door shut. The close up shots of the camera captured and revealed the cold, calculating, and focused intensity that launched and racket.



directed the powerful serves and laser like precision returns that completely bewildered Maria Sharapova.

The final points of the first set were nothing short of miraculous. Even with foot blisters, Serena detached herself from the crowd, physical pain, and her own emotions. She seemed to go robotic and mechanically unleashed serves, some of which were clocked at 122 m.p.h. The defenseless Sharapova was forced to use her racket as a protective shield rather than a tennis racket. Serving for the match, Williams fired two aces to earn triple match point, then finished off the hapless Sharapova with a slashing backhand winner. In the end, Serena's mobility and power won her a third straight Australian Open grand slam championship as she defeated Sharapova in straight sets 6-1, 6-2.

"It was an awesome win, because I had so many critics. So many people ... saying negative things," Serena said. "It's like, tell me no and I'll show you that I can do it. Like I said from the beginning, when I'm playing well, it's difficult for anyone to beat me on the women's tour. I get the greatest satisfaction just holding up the Grand Slam trophy and proving everyone wrong." Unseeded and ranked 81 at the start of the Melbourne tournament, Serena's own computer generated ranking zoomed up to 14 by the tournaments unbelievable finish. Maria Sharapova still retains her number one ranking according to the computer's unique programming parameters but Serena's performance on the center court of Rod Laver Stadium not only answers the critic's questions regarding her fitness but also renders its own verdict on who's number one.

What's Cook'in

Hot Percolator Punch

3 c. pineapple juice
1 1/2 c. water
3 c. cranberry juice

Pour into percolator.
Place in percolator basket:
1/2 c. brown sugar
1 or 2 sticks cinnamon
2 lemon slices
1 1/2 tsp. whole cloves
percolate and serve!

Billie Hopson

Given to her by her mother Lucille

STRAWBERRY SALAD

1 family-size pkg. strawberry jello
1 15 1/4 oz. can crushed pineapple w/juice
1 c. Cool Whip
1 3/4 c. boiling water
10 oz. frozen strawberries

Pour boiling water over jello and stir until smooth.
Chill until slightly gelled. Add fruit. Stir to
distribute evenly. Add Cool Whip. Combine well. Chill.

Billie Hopson

Forrest K. Phifer Attorney-At-Law

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Joyce presented plaque in memory of husband



Rusk, TX. - L. to R. are Travis Session, REv. Phal Carter, President Melvin Session, Irene Joyce, Jerry Hart, and Walter Session, members of the Cherokee Brotherhood Organization. Not pictured are Tommy Shedd, John Griffith and Oliver Sturns.

A plaque was presented to Ms. Irene Joyce in memory of her late husband, Billy Ray Joyce. Billy was a twenty-year dedicated member of the organization, serving as President the last four years. The presentation was made during Blount Chapel's 100 Men in Black celebration. Ms. Joyce was also presented a gift certificate.

NCNW presents Christian Celebraties



The annual affair packed the Norman Activity Center with an audience of well-wishers. Entertainment was provided by Benson CME Young Adults and The Ambassadors for Christ Church.

Officers are Lois Teague President, Callie Walker Vice President, Barbara Scott Secretary and Helen Scott Corresponding Secretary.

Jacksonville- The National Council of Negro Women presented 31 Christian Celebraties to an overflow crowd at its annual Holiday Christian Celebraties Celebration in December. Recognized were Edgar Miles, Maurice Anderson, Elbert Robinson, Mae Joyce Ross, Ethel Garner, Marie Johnson, Betty Davis, Margene Williams, Charles Meador, J. C. Thompson, Roger Boykin, Earnestine Rivers, Galey Nathaniel, Janice White, Eula White, Billy Red, Walter Session, Linda Wood, Penny Cary, Jessie Moore, Asree Ragsdale, Georgia Crockett, Marvin Mallard, Carolyn Wwhitaker, Delores Jones, Ethel Rollins, Ray Jean McDuff, Ovester Summer, Bertha Bowens and Callie Walker.

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INTERSECTION
IN THE ROAD
OF LIFE IS AN
OPPORTUNITY
TO MAKE A
DECISION
AND AT
SOME POINT
TO ONLY
LISTEN.

-Duke Ellington

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Johnson maintains ownership of 100 year plus Slocum, Texas Jasper family farm

written by Maxine Session

Gerald Johnson, a fieldman and licensed real estate broker, follows closely in the footsteps of his grandfather, Mathes Jasper. Gerald plays an important role in holding on to the one hundred thirty-four year old farmland that has been in the Jasper family since 1873.

William Jasper, Sr., Gerald's great-great grandfather, was born a slave in the state of Virginia. Coming to Texas about 1849, he was the one who purchased the first 100 acres of land from L. E. Sheridan and Mrs. H. E. Weidemeyer for \$1.00 an acre. His land holdings eventually reached four hundred acres.

William and Harriet raised nine children on the farm: Dora, Peter, Efford, Marriah, William "Babe", Jr. (Gerald's great grandfather) Willis, Jenny, Mattie, and Lucy.

After the death of his parents, in 1891 "Babe" Jasper inherited 95 acres of the land and bought 163 acres from his syblings and their heirs who wished to sell. He did this in order to keep his father's land in the family. He raised horses and cattle and sold them to market and community people. He operated a syrup mill and processed cane for himself and his neighbors. Each year he shared a portion of his harvest, meat and syrup with less fortunate community members. He and wife Mary Jane raised six children on the farm: Isabell, El-yard, William III, Rosetta, Jesse and Mathes.

Land ownership by black farmers was at an all-time high in 1910 with 16 to 19 million acres according to the census bureau. By the 1930's the U. S. Agriculture Department reported 86,000 black operated farms in Texas.

Cotton was the money making crop, but Mathes Jasper operated the farm at a time when investments in crops outweighed the income, so he worked construction in Houston for more than thirty-five years to maintain the farm while he and his wife Mary and their ten children lived both in Houston and on the farm. By the time he retired from construction and moved back to the farm fulltime, his children were all professionals.

He could very well understand why they were not interested in farming. He and Mary had income from social security, but they grew corn, peas, sweet potatoes, hay and cattle on the 258 acres he owned then.

In 1986 he received the century marker from Agriculture Department Commissioner Jim Hightower. By that time there was fewer than 3,300 farms in Texas run by black farmers.

Like his grandfather, Gerald Johnson has lived and worked in Houston. His parents Robert and Vernita raised him and his brothers Ronald, Michael, Patrick and his sisters Rhonda, Pamela, and Carmen there. He graduated M. B. Smiley High School in 1973 and

went to the University of Houston majoring in petroleum land management. After graduation he spent six years in the U. S. Army. He earned the Army Medal of accomendation. He served at Ft. Polk, Fort Ord, California, the Meda VacUnit at Fort Benning, Georgia, the missile unit at Pittsburg, the Republic of Korea, the NCO Academy and Fort Carson, Colorado. While there he went to Engineering school and learned to make maps and learned Cartography.

He also served at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, Fort Braggs North Carolina. He ended his career in the Army in 1979 and returned to Houston.

Gerald was married in 1979 and remained so for 27 years. He has three children: Gerald, Joseph and Michelle. He worked for Chevron and Gulf Oil Companies thirteen years as a draftsman in the drafting department, computer aided drafting and as a land technician.

Through all the years, travel, and interesting jobs, he never forgot the Jasper Family Farm in Slocum. Like his grandfather, he has returned to the farm and lives there now. Gerald works out of Houston, Cherokee and all the surrounding counties as a fieldman getting oil and gas leases for various oil companies. He is a CPO,



Gerald Johnson researches land ownership information from county clerk records for the purpose of negotiating oil leases.

Certified Petroleum Landman or as he jokingly calls his job, a Lease Hound.

At the center of his heart is a passion for the family farm. He remembers the family stories told down through the years. He remembers verbatim the name of each one and how their lives intertwined with each other and that land..... the land that great-great grandfather William Jasper and his wife Harriet purchased and raised their six children on. One of those stories centers around William Jasper and how he organized St. James Missionary Baptist Church on one-half acre of the land. He organized board members and laid the cornerstone. Then became the first preacher for the church. Harriet deeded the land to St. James Baptist church in 1897.

Not far from the church and the farm, the Jaspers have a family reunion each September. They return to meet up with family and friends and to hear the family stories. They hear the stories that tell of their roots, and Gerald does whatever it takes to hold on to the Jasper family land, preserving the roots.

I am only one, but I am one. I cannot do everything,
but I can do something; and what I can do, that I ought to do;
and what I ought to do, by the grace of God I shall do.

- Dale Carnegie

Tuition Alternatives



College can
be
affordable,
if you
plan

By Krystal Ward-Carter

Do you desire to attend an accredited college or university, but can't seem to afford the tuition rates? Parents and students, all hope is not lost. See our monthly article in the Texas Informer, where we offer helpful tips for tuition alternatives. Beginning this month through May we will partner with the Eddie D. Harris Scholarship Foundation to highlight universities and colleges who offer programs for tuition assistance, websites for college scholarships and grants. Don't miss this article each month to find out tips on where you or your child should be in their application process.

-Eddie D. Harris Scholarship Tip of the month: ACT and SAT tests should have been completed. If you or your child have not taken the ACT or SAT, register now at www.act.org or www.collegeboard.com or see your guidance counselor for more information. Complete and file the FAFSA form (www.fafsa.ed.gov) as soon as possible after January 1st. For one-on-one help completing your FAFSA application please call 903 683-8543. Parents please file your federal income taxes as early as possible. Schools will possibly ask for verification of income. Post scholarship and financial aid deadlines for prospective schools on the refrigerator, to help you and your child remember.** at the bottom of the article you can list my name and the eddieharrisscholarshipfoundation@hotmail.com or krystal_ward@hotmail.com and my home number 713 644-6983.

Letters of admission and financial aid offers will usually arrive by April, based on when the application or file was submitted. ** (Then we can list the UTSA and the UT Tyler program-Scholarships:

Research These websites and apply online.

Fastweb www.fastweb.com

SRN Express www.srnexpress.com

College Net www.collegenet.com

College Board Search search.collegeboard.com/home.jsp

Free Scholarship Search www.freschinfo.com

ScholarshipHunter www.scholarshiphunter.com/pages/1/index.htm

Fastaid www.fastaid.com Wired Scholar www.wiredscholar.com

USA Funds www.usafunds.org

Scholarships for Minorities:

Scholarships For Minorities

Gates Millenium Scholarship www.gmsp.org

Hispanic College Fund www.hispanicfund.org

Hispanic Scholarship Fund www.hsf.net

Ron Brown Scholarships www.ronbro.wn.org

United Negro College Fund www.uncf.org

Jackie Robinson Foundation www.jackierobinson.org

Minority Health Program www.ahcpr.gov

Thurgood Marshall Scholarship Fund www.thurgoodmarshallfund.org

GE and LuLac www.lulac.org

Schoarsihps for Texans:

Contact the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board At: www.collegefortexans.com

The site directs you to all of the grants that the State of Texas offers along with descriptions on how to apply.

Fill our your FAFSA Online! www.fafsa.ed.gov

For Women Only

Texas Conference for women www.TXConferenceforWomen.org

AAUW www.aauw.org

Zonta International www.zonta.org

The University of Texas San Antonio will pay full tuition and fees beginning next fall for incoming freshmen whose families make less than \$25,000 a year. The offer includes a work study job on campus for 10 - 12 hours per week to help cover living expenses. This program called UTS Access encourages students whose parents lack monies for college to at least have an opportunity for enrollment. Contact number for UTSA .800.669.0919 ask for financial aids and scholarships. Ask for information about the UTS Access Program.

Krystal Ward - Carter

is a 2001 graduate of Rusk High School.

She is a graduate of The University Of Houston where she earned a Bachelor of Science degree and one year on the Masters level.

ATTORNEY GENERAL ABBOTT WARNS TEXAS SENIORS TO JUST HANG UP ON CALLERS PITCHING FOREIGN LOTTERIES

Kicks off Consumer Protection Week with warning about President of Jamaica scam

AUSTIN - Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott today warned Texas seniors and other consumers to just hang up on callers posing as the "President of Jamaica" and promising large cash prizes. Attorney General Abbott issued the warning about international lottery scams as part of National Consumer Protection Week, which runs Feb. 4-10. International lottery scammers often target seniors by telephone, claiming to be an official with a foreign lottery. The perpetrators assure potential victims they are on the verge of tremendous wealth, but claim the "winner" must first pay substantial up-front "taxes" or "processing fees." After the victims wire their money to bank accounts in foreign countries, the callers disappear forever - and so does the victims' hard-earned money.

"Don't be fooled. Callers claiming to represent foreign lotteries are con artists who cannot be trusted," said Attorney General Abbott. "These kinds of promises are always fraudulent and aim to bilk consumers out of their hard-earned money. Texans who receive these calls should just hang up." Consumers can find more information by calling (800) 252-8011 or visiting the Attorney General's Web site at www.oag.state.tx.us. The Office of the Attorney General produces numerous resources, newsletters and news releases that contain common-sense tips about a variety of consumer issues, including emerging scams. Consumers also can subscribe to receive consumer alerts and other publications via e-mail.



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Mark Green



Check Yourself and be sure that you have:

- (1). Drivers License with you
- (2). Not been drinking Alcohol
- (3). Not taken illegal drugs
- (4). Not taken prescribed medications that can cause drowsiness
- (5). Had enough sleep to be alert

If you are diabetic, be sure that you have your Med Alert Card/Bracelet with you as proof.

If an officer puts red lights on you while you are driving, pull over and stop immediately. Here in East Texas most highways and roads have shoulders and the traffic is not so bad that you can't slow down, pull over and stop.

Keep both hands on the steering wheel and be very courteous and cooperative with the officer. Give him/her any information asked of you. DO NOT argue. Always look at the name and badge number on the badge that the officer is wearing to know who it is that has stopped you. If you must look in the glove box for insurance card, etc. ask the officers permission. You don't want him/her to think you are going for a weapon.

Signing a ticket does not mean you are guilty, it only means that you are acknowledging receipt of the ticket. You can always request a judge or jury hear your side. REMEMBER, any move you make toward an officer or away can result in you being charged with resisting arrest. REMEMBER, too, there is a camera pointed at you. The film can be a witness for or against you. You may call me at (936) 635-9411.

Eurliene Sturns to celebrate one year retirement



March 2006 Eurliene Sturns retired from Oak Park Care Center after 29 years of service to the patients there and never arriving to work late. Although she is retired, she is as busy as ever with her family and missionary work at Shady Grove Church of God In Christ.

Missionar Sturns, as she is called, was born to the late Mr. R. C. and Mrs. Darcus Samson on July 12, 1943. She received her education at Carver High School in Pampa Texas. On October 10, 1962 she married Oliver Raymond Sturns.

Continue page

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Dedication Scheduled for Anderson County African-American History Book



The above photo features the nine children of Elder Roy and Mrs. Dimple Davis, who married in 1945. The Davis Family is among the many families included in the book. Standing left to right: James, Roy Jr., Carl, Marvin, Samuel, Paul, and Charles; and seated are Cynthia and Gladys.

For more than three years, work has been in progress to compile data about things that connect us to Anderson County's African-American history, resulting in the book, "African-American Roots: Traveling the Boundaries of Anderson County." The dedication ceremony for the book will be held on Saturday, February 3, 2007 at 3:00 p.m. at A. M. Story Elementary School in Palestine. Project coordinators Theresa Smith Browne, Ruby Browne Melton, and Anita D. Smith led the effort to complete the 560-page hardback publication in 18 chapters that include 710 photographs. It chronicles the milestones and contributions of African-Americans who were born or have lived in Anderson County. Long-time Palestine resident, educator, and author, the late Dorothy Redus Robinson, wrote the book's foreword. Deborah Smith Pegues, who was the first valedictorian of Palestine High School following integration, wrote the afterword. Pegues is also a published author and currently resides in Los Angeles, California. "We have been able to capture the stories of many families who settled throughout the county and created strong foundations, and what they have shared will have significant value to the cultural heritage of the community. When we think about the enormous provision of continuity and cohesiveness of families who are featured in the book, we have an even greater appreciation for just how indispensable their documented history is to our county," says Browne. The coordinators worked with an area planning committee and an editorial staff to manage submitted material for various categories as it relates to the histories of families, churches, schools, organizations, businesses, community, government,

celebrations, significant landmarks, and other elements of Anderson County's great history. They have also been able to document an extensive military history of men and women from the represented areas who have served our country. While only information that was submitted or was available through research has been included in the book, a widespread effort was made to obtain historical data from all communities, organizations, and families. Pre-purchased books will be distributed prior to and following the dedication ceremony. A limited number of additional copies will be available of this one-time printing on a first-come, first-served basis. For information, interested persons should contact the coordinators at (903) 729-1917 or by e-mail at aaroots@hotmail.com.

Man must evolve
for all human
conflict a method
which rejects
revenge, aggression
and retaliation.
The foundation
of such a method
is love.

-Dr. Martin Luther King

Poetry

FAMILY author Unknown

I ran into a stranger as he passed by,
"Oh excuse me please" was my reply.

He said, "Please excuse me too;
I wasn't watching for you."

We were very polite, this stranger and I.
We went on our way and we said goodbye.

But at home a different story is told,
How we treat our loved ones, young and old.

Later that day, cooking the evening meal,
My son stood beside me very still.

When I turned, I nearly knocked him down.
"Move out of the way," I said with a frown.

He walked away, his little heart broken.
I didn't realize how harshly I'd spoken.

While I lay awake in bed,

God's still small voice came to me and said,

"While dealing with a stranger,
common courtesy you use,

but the family you love, you seem to abuse.

Go and look on the kitchen floor,

You'll find some flowers there by the door.

Those are the flowers he brought for you.

He picked them himself: pink, yellow and blue.

He stood very quietly not to spoil the surprise,
you never saw the tears that filled his little eyes."

By this time, I felt very small,

And now my tears began to fall.

I quietly went and knelt by his bed;

"Wake up, little one, wake up," I said.

"Are these the flowers you picked for me?"

He smiled, "I found 'em, out by the tree.

I picked 'em because they're pretty like you.

I knew you'd like 'em, especially the blue."

"I said, "Son, I'm very sorry for the way I acted
today;

I shouldn't have yelled at you that way."

He said, "Oh, Mom, that's okay.

I love you anyway."

I said, "Son, I love you too,

and I do like the flowers, especially the blue."

FAMILY

Are you aware that if we died tomorrow,
the company

that we are working for could easily replace us in
a matter of days.

But the family we left behind will feel the loss
for the rest of their lives.

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into work than into our own family,

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don't you think?

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The Sam O'Neal Family is "Family of the Month"



L. to R. - daughter Le'Asha, Mrs. Wyvonne O'Neal, and daughter Misty.

The Samuel and Wyvonne O'Neal Family has been chosen as "Family of the Month". Mr. and Mrs. O'Neal are both employed with Texas Department of Criminal Justice. Le'Asha is a tenth grader at Rusk High School and Misty is a

Eurliene Sturns from pg. 7

Mr. & Mrs. Sturns are the proud parents of 15 children, thirty-nine grandchildren, and twenty-six great grand children. She often thanks God for the late Mr. & Mrs. Henry T. Sturns for helping her keep the family together.

Missionary Sturns has been a faithful member of the church for many years starting with Fairview Baptist. In 1973 she visited a revival at Shady Grove COGIC. she was saved and filled with the holy spirit. During that revival she moved her membership to Shady Grove COGIC and has been



L. to R. - Jerry Levison, Sam O'Neal, and Rev. mertis Bertley.

second year nursing student at Tyler Junior College.

The family belongs to Mount Olive Baptist Church where Sam was recently ordained as a Deacon and is active in teaching Sunday School. Wyvonne is a member of the adult choir and the usher board.

there since. she has been a part of the church family for thirty-three years. In July 1994 she received her missionary license at the Smith Temple COGIC under Bishop David R. Houston. She has been teaching God's word and praying for the sick ever since.

Missionary Sturns says she misses her co-workers and the patients at Oak Park, but her life is so full with her church duties and family that she does not have time to work.

She is eagerly looking forward to celebrating her first year of retirement in March.

Health News

HEART ATTACK Symptoms

Women should know that not every heart attack symptom is going to be the left arm hurting. Be aware of intense pain in the jaw line...

You may never have the first chest pain during the course of a heart attack.

Nausea & intense sweating are also common symptoms.

60% of people who have a heart attack while they are asleep do not wake up...

The pain in the jaw happens to many & awakes them from a sound sleep.

Some may be a fortunate ones. Trust them since they tell you its pain unlike anything they've ever experienced before...

Given a choice between natural child birth & a heart attack, pain-wise ~ it's much easier to have a baby...!!

Let's be careful and be aware.

The more we know, the better chance we could survive...

A cardiologist says if everyone who gets this mail sends it to 10

others ~ you can be sure that we'll save at least one life. Read this...

It could save your life...!!

Let's say it's 6:15 PM and you're driving home (alone of course), after an unusually hard day on the job. You're tired, upset and frustrated. Suddenly you start experiencing severe pain in your chest that starts to radiate out into your arm and up into your jaw.

You are only about five miles from the hospital nearest your home. Unfortunately you don't know if you'll be able to make it that far.

You have been trained in CPR, but the guy that taught the course did not tell you how to perform it on yourself.

+++++
"HOW to SURVIVE a HEART ATTACK WHEN ALONE"...Since many people are alone when they suffer a heart attack, without help, the person whose heart is beating improperly and who begins to feel faint, has only about 10 seconds left before losing consciousness.

However, these victims can help themselves by coughing repeatedly and very vigorously. A deep breath should be taken before each cough, and the cough must be deep and prolonged, as when producing sputum from deep inside the chest...!!

A breath & a cough must be repeated about every two seconds without let-up until help arrives, or until the heart is felt to be beating normally again. eaths get oxygen into the lungs plus coughing movements squeeze the heart & keep the blood circulating. The squeezing pressure on the heart also helps it regain normal rhythm. In this way, heart attack victims can get to a hospital. Tell as many other people as possible about this. It could save their lives...!! "

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NEED OF GREAT PATTERNS

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CONFIDENCE IN THE
POWERS WE TOO, POSSESS
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Franklin -Lacy Wed



Houston, TX. -Jerline Tarver Franklin and James Henry Lacy were united in holy matrimony in a beautiful double ring ceremony on January sixth, two-thousand and six at St. Agness Church Dome of Restoration in Houston, Texas. Both are native Ruskites, but moved away in the early sixties. The newly weds will live in Dallas.

Brown - Jenkins Exchange Wedding Vows



Highlands, TX. -Varanise Battiste Brown and Phalandious Lavonn Jenkins were married in a beautiful candlelight ceremony on Saturday, November 11, 2006 at the San Jacinto Community Center in Highlands, Texas. After the exchange of vows, they jumped the broom in the tradition of their African Ancestors. The bride and groom will reside in Highlands.

Weddings Austin -Clay Vows Exchanged



Katina Renae Austin and Randy Vaughn Clay were united in holy matrimony on Saturday, November eighteenth, two-thousand six at four O'clock in the afternoon. The beautiful double-ring ceremony was held at First United Methodist Church in Port Lavaca, Texas. The newly weds will make their home in Tallahassee, Florida. Katina is the daughter of William A. Watson of Rusk, Texas.

UT Tyler Announces Free Tuition Program for Limited Income Families

The University of Texas at Tyler has introduced a free tuition program that will help make higher education more accessible to limited income families, President Rodney H. Mabry announced.

The Pathway to Success Program is UT Tyler's guarantee of free tuition to students whose families earn \$25,000 or less annually. The Pathway program will begin in fall 2007. "It is our objective to make higher education accessible to all students, and the Pathway program will help us to do that. Some extremely gifted students feel that a university degree is not an option for them because their families cannot afford to pay for it. We want to help them realize their educational dreams," President Mabry said. Students who will participate in the Pathway program must be first-time freshmen, Texas residents, meet UT Tyler admissions requirements, complete all required financial

Pathway participants must also complete at least 30 credit hours each consecutive academic year, with a cumulative grade point average of 2.00 or higher. Pathway provides a financial aid package that covers full tuition and mandatory aid documentation and enroll in a minimum of 12 credit hours at UT Tyler each fall and spring semester. "We also have other financial aid opportunities like the work-study program that will help cover other fees and charges for books, supplies, housing or meals not included in the Pathway program," Candice Lindsey, associate dean of enrollment management, said.

Pathway could benefit hundreds of students in East Texas, according to Dale Lunsford, vice president for student affairs and external relations.

"We know many high ability students don't even consider a high quality UT education because they don't understand the many sources of aid that are available. We hope this simple guarantee will open their eyes to the possibilities at UT Tyler," he said. Interested students should contact the UT Tyler Office of Financial Aid, 903.566.7180, or visit www.go2uttyler.com for more information. Fees for up to 15 credit hours per semester. Estimated tuition and fees for 15 semester credit hours at UT Tyler are \$2,472. "Education is the key that accesses so many opportunities in life. Many of tomorrow's problem solvers are a part of today's low-income families. By giving them this opportunity, we are creating solutions not just for them but also everyone they will help in the future," President Mabry added.

One of the 15 campuses of the UT System, UT Tyler offers excellence in teaching, research, artistic performance and community service. More than 70 undergraduate and graduate degree programs are available at UT Tyler, which has an enrollment of nearly 6,000 high-ability students at its campuses in Tyler, Longview and Palestine.

Contact:
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ESSAY CONTEST

THE TEXAS PUBLISHER'S ASSOCIATION (TPA)

Is sponsoring an Essay contest for High School seniors

Who will be attending college this fall.

First Place - \$2,000

Second Place - \$1,000

Third Place - \$500

The contest is open to any student in Texas.

The Theme is "The Texas Black Press/Challenging the past, Creating the Future".

Presentation of Scholarship will be during the 2007 Annual Convention

March 24, 2007

Allen, Texas

Deadline for Submission is February 15, 2007
Submit Application to: TPA Essay Contest, c/o

The Villager,

1223 Rosewood, Austin, TX 78702

Joel McGowan graduates Sam Houston State University



Reginal Joel McGowan, a 2002 Rusk High School graduate, received his Bachelor of Science Degree from Sam Houston State University on Saturday, December 16, 2006, with a Major in Education and a Minor in Kineziology.

Mr. McGowan plans to teach and coach in the East Texas area and work toward a Masters Degree in Mid Management Administration.

Joel is the son of Reginal McGowan and Kathy Harris and the late Eddie Harris. He is the grandson of Maxine and Walter Session of Rusk and the late Noveline and Jessie McGowan.

Mychilette Carter Receives BS Degree from SMU

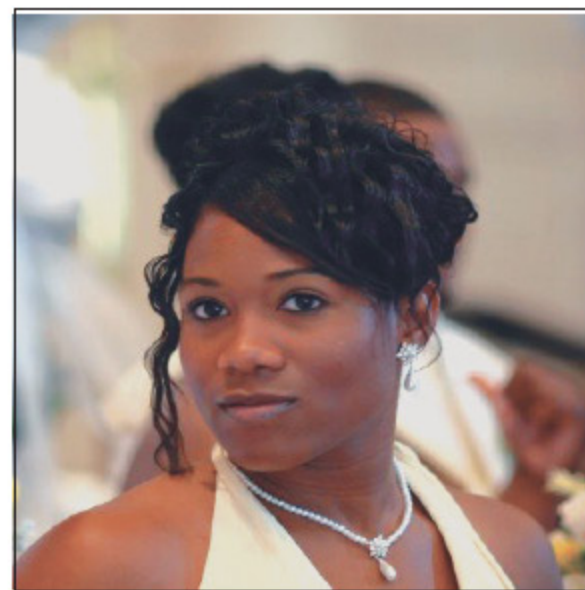


Mychilette Lynene Carter received her Bachelor of Science Degree from Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas on Saturday December 9, 2006, with a Major in Electrical Engineering and a Minor in Entrepreneurial Engineering. She is a 2002 Rusk High School graduate.

Miss Carter is the daughter of LaDora Carter and Gregory McCullough of Rusk. She is the granddaughter of the late Billie Carter and J. W. Carter and the late Doris Jean McCullough.

Youth

Raven Gipson Receives BA Degree from University of Texas at Austin



Raven N. Gipson, 2002 Rusk High School Graduate, received her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Applied Learning and Development with a Minor in Childhood Studies from The University of Texas at Austin on Saturday, December 9, 2006.

Miss Gipson is the daughter of Cathy and Lonnie Gipson of Rusk, Texas and the granddaughter of the late John D. Gipson and Bertha B. Gipson of Rusk, Texas, Guy Jerrerson of Reklaw, Texas and Louise Jefferson of Rusk, Texas.

Raven resides in Houston, Texas and began her career in education in Cypress Springs ISD in January 2007.

Eddie Harris Scholarship Board sponsors college prep workshop



Rusk, TX. - On December 30, 2006 the Eddie Harris Scholarship Fund Board held its first ever College Prep Workshop for college bound students. The three hour workshop was held at Rusk ISD Intermediate School. The workshop covered information on college entrance exam dates and registration, financial aid, scholarships and NCAA clearinghouse for students interested in being college athletes. Useful websites were provided to students and parents. A Computer demonstration was conducted on online registration so that students and parents would know how to complete applications online. Presenters for the college prep workshop were college students and or/



college graduates. They were Mychilette Carter, Kimberly Clark, Joel McGowan, Monique Carter, Crystal Henderson, Krystal Ward-Carter and Marcus Carter. During the workshop, the Eddie Harris 2006 Memorial Scholarship was presented to Crystal Henderson an accountant Major at North Texas University. In attendance were Alice Martin, Karen Lewis, Tanya Foreman, Jacqueline Griffin, Linda Henderson, Carolyn Johnson, Shenequa O'Neal, LaDora Carter, Eddie Harris, John Jackson, Frencheal Hooper, Lonnie Gipson, Amanda Session, Terri Franklin, Maxine Session,

(Continue on page 13)

East Texas Virtual Village Announces Advisory Board

Chairman, Members

Jacksonville, TX. - David Anderson has been elected chairman of the advisory board for East Texas Virtual Village, which provides technology for public education and training, communicates county and regional resources, and provides free web pages and links for schools, faith-based and community organizations, and qualified East Texas businesses. Anderson owns David Anderson Consulting, a technology company in Jacksonville.

Other board members are Tom King, (vice-chair), East Texas Transportation Alliance in Tyler; Shane Shepard, secretary, City of Winnsboro; Greg Clary, PhD, economist, Texas Center for Rural Entrepreneurship in Overton; Sherry Gasper, East Texas Rural Arts Council in Edom; Mickey Slimp, director, Northeast Texas Consortium in Tyler; Marquita Stottern, curriculum and distance learning director, Sky Ranch; Craig Turnage, SuperNet and Tyler Junior College; Glenn Williams, Rural Community Building Initiative in Van; and Kathy Holdway, president, A Circle of Ten, Inc.

ETVV, an initiative of A Circle of Ten, Inc., is a collaborative effort dedicated to empowering individuals and communities to improve quality of life in East Texas through human, education, and technology networks to support communications, education, the arts, community building, and economic development. In other words, ETVV is a sort of online community center where organizations can find and share resources to help create stronger communities.

ETVV's website, www.etvv.org, provides easy access to and for its partners, helps partners build relationships, provides training and support, and celebrates its partners' successes.

Partners in various initiatives include Anderson County Literacy Council, Champions for Children, College and Career Center Collaboration, College Bound Solutions, East Texas Heart Gallery, East Texas Just Transportation, East Texas Rural Arts, Educate Van Zandt, Gateway to American Opportunities, Greater East Texas Community Action Program, Henderson County HELP Center, Hispanic Cultural Resource Center, Lustig Regional Community Development Consultants, Newton County Economic Development Corporation, Northeast Texas Consortium for Education Technology, Rural Community Building Initiative, Rusk County Christian Women's Job Corps, Rusk County Library System, SUPERNet Consortium, Texas Center for Rural Entrepreneurship, Texas Citizen Fund, Van United Methodist Church, and Van Zandt Children's Home.

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State Representative Chuck Hopson Supports HB 6

HB 6 TO INCREASE STATE AND LOCAL PARK FUNDING



AUSTIN - In an effort to restore excellence to the Texas state park system, Rep. Chuck Hopson has signed his support to HB 6 authored by Rep. Harvey Hilderbran. This bill removes the cap on the sporting goods tax, which has been in place since 1993 to provide substantial funding to local parks. Though the sporting goods tax brings in about \$105 million each year, the most recent appropriations bill only allocates \$15.5 million for state parks and \$5 million for local parks. Additionally, HB 6 will enhance state parks' management and local park funding opportunities.

A study done by the State Parks Advisory Committee in August 2006 shows that Texas ranks 49th in the nation in state spending per capita for state park operations. More than 10 million people visit Texas State Parks annually, generating \$793 million in sales impact, \$456 million in Texans' personal income, and 11,928 jobs. Parks provide an astounding 8 to 1 profitability ratio for the investment. "This is a hugely important issue to me," Rep. Hopson said. "Texas parks are one of the key things that make our state great. Tourism is one of our biggest economic drivers and our parks play a big part role in that."

There is also a commitment to the taxpayer that has not been honored. "People pay the sports tax and the personalized license plate tax to support parks and wildlife. We need to make sure that taxpayer donations go to the cause it was meant for."

District 11 residents are encouraged to contact Rep. Hopson and his staff in his capitol office at 512-463-0592, or district office at 866-233-5100.

Rep. Hopson Files House Bill 725 to Invest in Children's Health Care

Texas can help keep children healthy by using existing state dollars

(Austin)--State Representative Rep. Hopson filed House Bill 725 to expand health coverage for needy children in Texas. In 2003, the Texas Legislature enacted policies for the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) that increased accountability for CHIP. Though Rep. Hopson supported increased accountability, one part of the law that was changed has increased paperwork for state agencies and has kicked many children off of the CHIP program who should qualify.

"We must protect health of our children, and this legislation will do that," Rep. Hopson said. "This bill will move forward with positive change for our children's health, ensuring that they are well enough to go to school and enjoy their childhood."

Currently, every family must go through a series of income accountability checks to determine if they are eligible for CHIP. Once enrolled, they must renew every six months. HB 725 changes the law so they would only have to renew every year.

"Checking the family's income once a year instead of every six months allows state agencies to match what they're already doing in other programs, thus saving considerable resources and tax dollars for the state," Rep. Hopson said. "This bill does two things we all value. It's fiscally responsible and helps our kids."

HB 725 would not require the increase in any tax dollars. According to data collected from the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC), during the 2006 budget year, the State of Texas never spent almost \$400 million in funds dedicated for children's health. Those unspent and wasted dollars would more than cover any costs of fixing the children's health program.

"This bill would not add a single penny to the state budget -- it just requires us to spend the money we've already said we would spend," Rep. Hopson said. "Plus CHIP has a much higher federal match than that of other similar programs. We as a state get a better bang for our local buck."

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Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. 29th Commemorative Program



L. to R. Rev. Earl Harris, Donna Gordon Kaspar, James Gentry, Dr. James Wilson, Rev. Jim T. Ainsworth, Roberta Mason, Della Newman, Daphne Session and Judge Sarah Clark.

Crockett, TX.- On January 14, 2007, the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. 29th Commemorative Program was held at Crockett Junior High School. The program is held each year in honor of civil rights leader, Dr. King, and is sponsored by the King Memorial Committee.

The crowd in attendance braved the freezing temperatures and icy rain to hear keynote speaker Dr. James Wilson. Dr. Wilson is a professor at the University of Texas, Austin. He has attended and obtained advanced degrees from universities in the United States and Europe. He holds several advanced degrees including a degree in African studies.

Special guests on the program were James Gentry, Master of Ceremony and Crockett School

Honorable Lonnie Hunt, Houston County Judge; Honorable Sarah Clark, Houston County Court-At-Law Judge; Daphne Session, local attorney; Donna Garden Kaspar, Houston County Attorney; Roberta Mason, Committee Chairwoman; Della Newman, Retired Crockett School Board member; and Rev. Jim T. Ainsworth, Retired Minister First Presbyterian Church.

Members of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Committee include Roberta Mason, Chairwoman; Cindy Marie Garner, Treasurer; James Gentry, Joe E. Griffith, Charles Hill, Della Newman, Henry Ford Reese, Lola Reece, Jim Turner and Willia Wooten.

Harris College prep workshop from pg. 12

Chamell Franklin, Jasmine Harris, Kaylan Thacker, Kashere Muhammad Harrace Lewis, Shanondra Martin, Courtney Foreman, and Le'Asha O'Neal.

The scholarship is presented each year in memory of the late Eddie Dewayne Harris who was an avid community volunteer who spent many hours coaching adult and youth sports activities. He was thirty-eight years old when he passed July 5, 2003.

Mr. Harris' children Jasmine and Eddie Harris presented the scholarship check to Crystal.

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

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DR. M. L. KING, Jr. THE SERVANT

"And The Lord said, Arise, anoint him for this is he." (1 Samuel 16:12) By James W. Breedlove

The nation, or at least most of it, paused last week to remember and honor the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Even though the third Monday in January is both a federal and a state holiday, there are still pockets of resistance each year, stirred up by hard core anti-King zealots, intent on having the King holiday rescinded. In their determined quest to tarnish King's dream they flood websites, blogs, and other information outlets with scurrilous, demeaning, and derogatory messages attacking both known and conjectured human shortcomings of King the man while overlooking the Christ like nonviolent commitment of King the servant.

They do not understand that Dr. King, like the young David who was selected early in life to be a leader and fighter in God's army of justice, had been destined for the role that he eventually undertook. From the time that he was anointed by the prophet Samuel the spirit of the Lord came upon David and he began to show signs of his future greatness. This did not come immediately for he had to be properly conditioned mentally, physically, and spiritually for the mission that lay ahead. These things he learned as he tended his father's sheep on the hillsides around Bethlehem while meditating, praying, and communing with God.

In Dr. King's case he also received his calling at a very young age. The preparation for pursuing this calling included training at Morehouse College in Atlanta, Crozer Theological Seminary in Pennsylvania, and Boston University where he deepened his understanding of the integral relationship between the Gospel and the strategy of nonviolence for social change.

David served as a musician and armor bearer in the service of King Saul as he became acquainted with the inner workings of the government. Dr. King gave sermons while in college developing his oratorical skills. He served as a minister in Montgomery where he experienced first hand the racial injustice that he would later have to fight against.

David's first opportunity to appear in the public arena as God's champion was his battle with the philistine giant Goliath. Dr. King's initiation into the public spotlight was as leader of the Montgomery Improvement Association a newly formed group that stood up to the corporate giant known as the Montgomery Transit Authority. The Montgomery Bus Boycott of 1956 that King would validate the power of nonviolent resistance tied to a Christian foundation as a tactical weapon against racial discrimination. King recalled during an interview, "Living through the actual experience of the protest, nonviolence became more than a method to which I gave intellectual assent; it became a commitment to a way of life. Many issues I had not cleared up intellectually concerning nonviolence were now solved in the sphere of practical action." Dr. King sought to forge the common ground on which people from all walks of life could join together to address important community issues. Working alongside individuals of all ages, races and backgrounds, Dr. King encouraged Americans to come together to strengthen communities, alleviate poverty, and with tolerance in one's heart to respect the dignity and equality of all human beings. As he had predicted, the perversion resulting from selfish greed has adversely distorted both our individual and national sense of morality resulting in criminal actions being rationalized as necessary, anti-social behavior accepted as the norm, and immoral acts justified as corporate or political expedients.

Since Dr. King was assassinated in 1968 many have tried to wear his leader's mantle but they have fallen short of the mark. The new pretenders have so coveted holding those titles, being adorned in royal regalia, exercising the mantle of power, and associating with the rich and powerful that they neglect to serve anyone's interests but their own. Their legacy, if there is one, is they have built walls that separate and divide people into conflicting racial, sexual, religious, political and economic classes that deny God's plan to uplift mankind.

Dr. King, today we are facing many of the same issues that you confronted. America is waging another unjust war for reasons so transparent they make the Vietnam War seem just. Yet those that would be our Drum Majors have tepid tongues that vacillate depending on the mood of the prevailing winds. They talk loudly and endlessly about the need to do something about homelessness, poverty, the environment, the justice system, and peace in the Middle East yet they pervert the "Drum Major for God" role that you championed into selfish exploitation of those they should be serving.

You said that God has a way of breaking the backbone of decadent powerful nations. And we see that happening to America because God didn't direct America to do the despicable deeds being done in His name.

Dr. King, we are in desperate need of a new Drum Major. One who is capable of tender compassion and mercy, a lover of truth and righteousness, and above all, one with unwavering trust and confidence in following the will of God and being a servant of the people.

Comments or opinions may be sent to the writer at: granwww.truthclinic.com

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15th Annual Trumpet Awards in Las Vegas –

A Spectacular Event Honoring African American Achievement
Trumpet Awards Ceremony Telecast Scheduled on TV One

Atlanta, GA. -(January 07) John Carlos, one of the honorees at the recent 15th Annual Trumpet Awards, said it all when he accepted his award . . . "This is the 'Oscars' for Black America," he said. The 2007 TRUMPET AWARDS was held on January 22nd at the Award-Winning Bellagio Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada. The TRUMPET AWARDS ceremony was hosted this year by Hill Harper with special performances by Yolanda Adams, Vickie Winans, George Wallace, Tommy Davidson, and a surprise performance by Clint Eastwood and the Monterey Jazz Festival Alumni. The Trumpet Awards, taped live for broadcast on TV One in March (2007), honored African-American and minority achievers in varied fields such as the visual arts, law, entertainment, sports, community service, science and other such endeavors. Honorees for the 2007 TRUMPET AWARDS included:

Toni Braxton – Entertainment
Ed Dwight – The Arts
Michael Jordan – Goodwill Ambassador
Donnie McClurkin & CeCe Winans –
Gospel Giants
Justice Alan C. Page – Legal
Percy E. Sutton – Business ♦
The Pinnacle Award
Tommie Smith & John Carlos –
1968 Olympic Track Stars
Dionne Warwick – Living Legend Award
Special Awards
Nancy G. Brinker – President's Award
Dr. Denzil L. Douglas – Global Award
Prime Minister, St. Kitts and Nevis
(British West Indies)
Orok Duke – Young STAR
Clint Eastwood – Social Justice
Quincy Jones – Lifetime Achievement Award
Hill Harper – The Usher Raymond
Altruism Award
J. Terrence Lanni – Chairman's Award

Trumpet Award. Presenters for the Trumpet Awards included Jasmine Guy, Usher Raymond, Judge Mablean Ephriam, Ambassador Andrew Young, Pastor Paula White, Eric Benét, Reverend Jesse Jackson, Elder Bernice King, Linda Johnson Rice, Gladys Knight, Nancy Wilson, Kenny "Babyface" Edmonds, Terrence Howard, Bishop Eddie Long, Dr. Bobby Jones, Duane Miller, Ingrid Saunders Jones, and others.

The salute to a Historical Black College, sponsored by The Coca-Cola Company, was presented to Tennessee State University and accepted by Dr. Melvin N. Johnson, President of the University.

The Red Carpet, hosted by Jonathan Slocumb and Vickie Winans, was crowded with celebrities who participated in the Awards and other VIP's who came out to witness the event including the Honorable Oscar Goodman, Mayor of Las Vegas Xernona Clayton, the Creator and Executive Producer of the Trumpet Awards, as always was a gracious hostess as she spoke to the purpose of the Trumpet Awards, "We are proud to be able to give the world the facts about the tremendous achievements and contributions made by African Americans across the complete spectrum of life. We are pleased to be in our third year with TV One as they broadcast our stories and incorporate our commitment to tell positive stories about our people."

TV One, headed by CEO & President Johnathan Rodgers, serves more than 20 million subscribers offering a broad range of lifestyle and entertainment-oriented original programming, classic series, movies, fashion and music designed to entertain, inform and inspire a diverse audience of adult African American viewers

TV One, headed by CEO & President Johnathan Rodgers, serves more than 20 million subscribers offering a broad range of lifestyle and entertainment-oriented original programming, classic series, movies, fashion and music designed to entertain, inform and inspire a diverse audience of adult African American viewers.

ATTORNEY GENERAL ABBOTT OBTAINS RESTITUTION FOR CONSUMERS

Steve Warshak of Ohio also agrees to halt misleading product trial offers

DALLAS – Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott today stopped five Ohio companies from fraudulently marketing several unproven dietary supplements, often using bogus "free trial" offers. An agreement with Steve Warshak, owner of all five companies, provides refunds to Texas consumers deceived by the supplement manufacturers' misleading practices. The settlement covers 15 products, including Altovis, Mioplex, Numovil and Enzyte, the last of which was known for its "Smiling Bob" television commercials.

Texans will not tolerate falsely advertised, unproven healthcare supplements," said Attorney General Abbott. "We are committed to cracking down on sham companies that hawk bogus goods to ailing consumers seeking a cure for their illness. This judgment ensures that appropriate restitution is available to the good folks who were deceived by these defendants." Attorney General Abbott filed suit in June 2005 against Warshak and his five companies – Berkley Premium Nutraceuticals Inc.; Lifekey Inc.; Boland Naturals Inc.; Warner Health Care; and Warner Nutraceuticals.

The defendants agreed to end the bogus "free trial offers" that convinced consumers to order the supplements. Once consumers received the product, the companies began automatically billing consumers without their consent. Further, the defendants instructed consumers to take the supplements for 90 days or risk not achieving all the products' beneficial health affects. In fact, the 90-day period's true purpose was simply to exceed the trial period and thereby encourage consumers to purchase the defendants' goods. Many consumers found it difficult, if not impossible, to cancel shipments or obtain refunds.

Warshak and his companies enticed consumers by falsely claiming his products could cure diseases. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has not approved any of the products for use as drugs, and no scientific studies support Warshak's claims. Under the settlement, Warshak will pay \$350,000 in civil penalties and attorneys' fees to the State. Warshak also agreed to refrain from deceptively promoting his products. Additionally, the defendants are prohibited from offering "free" product trials unless the promotions clearly give consumers a way to cancel after the trial period ends.

Consumers seeking refunds may file a complaint with the Office of the Attorney General by calling (800) 252-8011 or accessing the Web site at www.oag.state.tx.us. Complaints should be filed within 90 days of the filing of the judgment.

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Hollywood's Time Crockett & East Texas News

by Billy "Hollywood" Grooves



Past Character Assination of Black People Still Hurts

The recent killing of a Houston police officer by an illegal alien has once again pushed the issue of illegal immigration in America to the nation's forefront. As a descendant of slaves who were brought to America against their will, I have always felt a connection and affection for people who immigrate to America. Although there are some people in my race who feel like illegal aliens are taking jobs from Black Americans (and it's true), most Black folk that I've talked to harbor no ill will toward illegal aliens and often go out of their way to help those who are struggling to survive like we are. Having said that, I still know immigration is a good thing for America, because it brings in new people, with new ideas, energy and more diversity. The down side of immigration for African Americans, start with the fact that American society has assassinated the images of Black people to the point where, newly arriving immigrants have no respect for us (Black folk). A prime example is the murder of comedian Bill Cosby's son, Ennis, a few years ago by a young man from the Ukraine, who had only been in the United States a short time. Bill Cosby's wife blasted the United States for the death of her son. She said that racism against Black people in America led to the

young man killing her son because he got the message that Black people's lives were not as valued as White folks lives. I guarantee you, "that illegal alien" who killed the Black policeman would not have shot a White police officer under the same conditions. I don't care how, drunk, mad, high or mentally disturbed he was suppose to be, something in the back of his cowardly mind would have told him "don't even try it". In my mind, American racism "set that African American police up for death" through decades of public disrespect for Black people. Thatto be, something in the back of his cowardly mind would have told him "don't even try it". In my mind, American racism "set that African American policeman up for death" through decades of public disrespect for Black people. That message has been spread past America's borders through mass media, so when foreigners come here they have a preconceived negative opinion of Black people. It's really a shame that a country as large and wealthy as America doesn't respect the people who helped create that status. The only way this madness is going to end, is by Black people standing up and dismantling racist propaganda by any means necessary. God Bless America, Africa and Black folks who are fighting for freedom and respect!

We are saddened to hear of the death of Mrs. Karminkonda, mother of Crockett businessman, David Karminkonda. The Karminkondas, David and Cynthia are great people who are giving back to the community. Our condolences go out to them in their time of sorrow.

East Texas thanks go out to: Mack Earl McCullough, John Jenkins, James Ashworth, Mike Harrell, Charles Brown, Clyde Black, Steve Ware, Melvis Wooten, Rev. Billy Chavers, Rev. Hosea Dolphus, Debra Lamb, Dr. Ianthia Fisher, Darrell and Brenda Smith, Roy "Pepper Jr" Evans, Sarah Clarke, Denna Jones, Rev. and Mrs. Henry Lovelady, Mrs. Love, Melvin Love, Cleotis Sherman and Tammy Sims.

Religion

CLEANING HOUSE FOR 2007



— Author Unknown

Last Week I threw out Worrying,
it was getting old and in the way
It kept me from being me;
I couldn't do things God's way.
I threw out a book on MY PAST.
Didn't have time to read it anyway.
Replaced it with NEW GOALS,
started reading it today. I threw out hate and bad
memories,
(Remember how I treasured them so)?
Got me a NEW PHILOSOPHY too,
threw out the one from long ago.
Brought in some new books too,
called I CAN, I WILL, AND I MUST.
Threw out I might, I think and I ought.
WOW, you should've seen the dust. I ran across an
OLD FRIEND,
I hadn't talked to in a while.
His name is GOD the Father, and I really like His
style. He helped me to do some cleaning and added
some things Himself.
Like PRAYER, HOPE, FAITH and LOVE,
Yes I placed them right on the shelf.
I picked up this special thing and placed it at the front
door.



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To make a difference - from page 3.

Alto Christian Brotherhood meets on the second Monday of each month at 6:30PM. The meetings rotate among the following churches: New Hope, Weeping Mary, St. Thomas, Union Hill, and Linwood. *For more information contact the following members:* Earnest Mitchell 903 858-3282, Willie Brown 936 858-3361, James Green 936 972-2505 and Cecil Verdell 936 858-2336.

Coritha Goree Smith receives community service award

Dallas, TX. - Caritha Goree Smith formerly of Rusk, was presented with the "2006 A. Maceo Smith Community Service Award. The award was presented at the 29th Annual A. Maceo Community Service Award Brunch at the Adolphus Hotel. The Award is an Arts and Culture award

Caritha has been a longtime volunteer for New Arts Six and the African American Museum. Her consistent contributions to these organizations are legendary. The Alpha Phi Alpha and the African American Museum will be joining to present this award.

Mrs. Smith grew up in Rusk, graduating from Bradford High with the class of 1960. She is currently a member of the Dallas Chapter Bradford Alumni Association. She is the niece of the late Lois and James Johnson of Rusk.

Senator West discusses Governor's higher ed proposal

AUSTIN - State Senator Royce West (D-Dallas) applauded today's announcement by Governor Rick Perry regarding his Higher Education Budget Proposal. Governor Perry has articulated that the proposal's goal is to provide funding to fuel the state's "Closing the Gap Initiative" as outlined by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

"I applaud Governor Perry for his creativity in crafting a proposal to address the funding needs of Texas' higher education institutions and the financial aid needs of Texas students," said Senator West. "However, I'm troubled by several components of the proposal. The first being the reallocation of more than \$614 million requested by the institutions for 'University Special Items.' This funding has historically been used for numerous worthwhile programs and initiatives at the campus level.

"In addition, as we attempt to create a seamless pre-kindergarten through college pipeline, wherein our goal is to graduate more students and have them apply and be admitted to college, I'm concerned with how the proposal will impact the availability of financial aid," Senator West added. "While I have yet to see the actual language, plans include an increased GPA requirement to be eligible for financial aid, accompanied by a repayment clause as opposed to traditional grant assistance strategies.



"And lastly, I have extreme trepidation concerning the elimination of the funding of the Office of Civil Rights Priority Plan. The priority plan addresses matters that have been before the Department of Education since 1973 when the Office of Civil Rights was first ordered to investigate six states, including Texas, regarding the efforts to desegregate their educational systems and vestiges of de jure segregation that still exists at Prairie View A&M University and Texas Southern University," said Senator West. "Obviously, injecting new monies into higher education requires a shifting of budgetary priorities, but we must be careful that objectives are reached in ways that are equitable to the interests of all Texans.

"I look forward to future discussions with Governor Perry about the proposal this session and the lively debate that will no doubt ensue," Senator West said.

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

HORTICULTURAL HINTS REASONS TO PLANT ONIONS NOW

Rusk, TX.- If you talk gardening, and walk around an East Texas Courthouse Square you will hear a different onion planting date for every side of the Square. There will likely be a fun story and best wishes for your gardening efforts with each recommendation but some will be less than accurate. Here is the science behind late January - early February planting.

Onion plants can freeze in the field. Prolonged temperatures below 20 degrees Fahrenheit kill onions. Onions don't grow bulbs when temperatures are below a 50 to 60 degree range. Bulbing is favored by temperatures between 70 and 80. Best onion growing days are when the high is no more than 85.

Onions are day length sensitive regarding bulbing. In the Southern U.S. it is most important that we choose short day varieties that will be triggered to bulb when temperatures are favorable. Recommended yellow varieties include TX 1015, Colossals, Mercedes, Diamante and Sweet Sunrise. Recommended white onions include the varieties TX Early White, Contessa, Cirrus, and Monsoon. Recommended red onions are Rio, Sulsula Red and Santiago.

Bolting, premature flowering is another reason for

a carefully choosing a planting date. Flowering is dependent on temperature not day-length. If the onion plants are pencil size and exposed to temperatures in the low or mid 40's for prolonged period the likelihood of bolting increases. Onions are classed as biennials; this means it takes two years to go from seed to seed. Alternating warm cool warm conditions mimic the change of seasons and onions of pencil size flower.

The right variety planted at the correct time is a great first step to large sweet onions. Other factors that play a part are: keeping the soil pH above 6, having adequate fertilizer 2-3 inches directly below the onion plants and providing the equivalent of 2 inches of water a week during the bulbing period. If this is done, yes, the onions in your back yard will be as good as any Vidalia, Noon Day or Walla Walla.

Extension programs serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, disability, or national origin.

The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating.

Delma Yancey
Secretary

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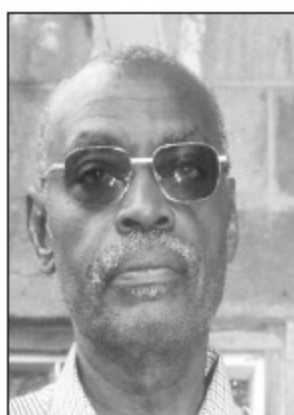
Speak Out!

East Texas seriously question why U. S. involvement in Iraq

On Friday, Gen. Peter Pace, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, acknowledged that insurgent ground fire in Iraq "has been more effective against our helicopters in the last couple of weeks." According to the website Iraq Body Count, between 21,000 and 24,000 Iraqi civilians have been killed as a result of fighting since the start of the war. In a sober and urgent warning, the Secretary-General said in his latest report on Iraq that the country stands on the brink of civil war and chaos. The Secretary-General's December 5, 2006 report states that the prospects of an all-out civil war and even a regional conflict have become much more real in the past three months. Since the war began March 19, 2003, more than 3,097 American Soldiers have been killed with between 23 and 24 thousand wounded and more than 1,000 evacuated to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany for psychiatric or behavioral health issues. The Congressional Budget Office estimates the cost to American taxpayers to be \$363,741,563,704, and growing by the day. President George W. Bush has ordered the deployment of another 20,000 plus US Soldiers to Iraq. **What is the solution to ending America's involvement in Iraq? The following citizens speakout!**



Rusk - Derrick McDuff - I'll be the first to admit, I don't understand why we are involved. Colin Powell got out as soon as he learned the truth. I am young enough to be affected if the draft is reinstated and I would defend my country if asked to, but personally we need to define why we are there.



Rusk, TX-Joe Nelson - There was no clear purpose for getting involved. Ben Laden was the culprit to go after. The only clear solution is to get all of our soldiers out of there now before any more lives are lost. The whole thing is madness. Why put more lives in danger?



New Summerfield, TX. Rev. James Fuller - The question is why are we losing countless lives and bankrupting our country to engage in Iraq's civil war? This whole thing was a very grave mistake. By the grace of God we need out.

The State of Texas Public Schools will administer the TAKS Test on the following dates:

Feb. 21st - Math
Feb. 22 - Science
April 18 - Math
April 19- Science
July 11 - Math
July 12 - Science

Call your school counselor for more information.

Fredrick Parson elected to Baptist District Association position

By Furlich July Arrington

Jacksonville, TX. - Fredrick Parson, known in the community as "Tan", moved to Jacksonville in November 2005, following Hurricane Katrina. He became active in Ibneiah Missionary Baptist Church as devotional leader as well as a member of the adult choir and usher board.

Recently he was elected as recording secretary of the



Deep East Texas Baptist District Association for the Layman's auxiliary. The Association consists of a group of churches that have come together to make up a federation of religion and fellowship. They focus on evangelism ministries and communal efforts to bring the community back into the presence and knowledge of God.

The district is broken into auxiliary work, i. e., Minister's Conference, laity for men and women, and the congress of Christian Education, which focuses on children and the community. "I am looking forward to serving the entire district communities", stated Mr. Parson.

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