



African Americans continue to lead the state and nation in health disparities ...low birth weight, heart disease see facts page 12

Daphne Session, Attorney At Law files for Houston County Attorney. See page 20

Legislative Branch of Government spending out of control See Truth Clinic page 11.

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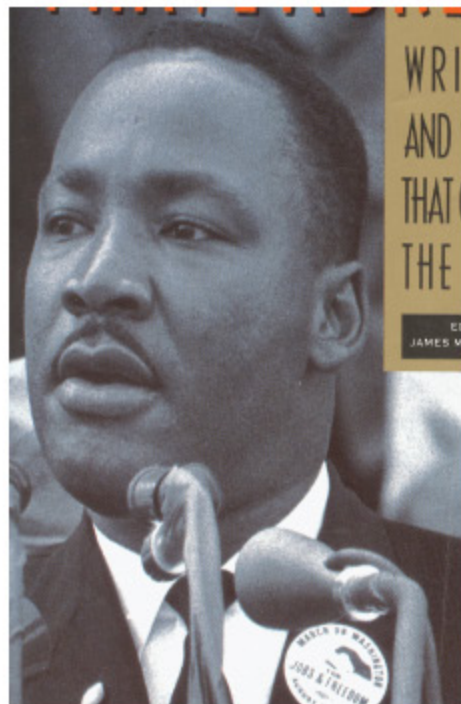
January 2008
Volume XII, Number 8

Web: www.texasinformer.com
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Denzel Washington & Oprah team to produce a box office winner in the Great Debaters...box office dollars exceeding \$25 million. see page 6.



Locals celebrate Dr. King's birthday, January 21st. See page 6



Classic Catfish and Thompson's Bar-B-Q take Crockett by storm with great food and style. See page 3

Editoria

Alto Christian Brotherhood doing christian duty

by Earnest Mitchell

Alto, TX.- Looking back over 2007 we would first thank God for another good year.

We are an organization of Christian individuals devoted to making a difference in the lives of people throughout Alto and Cherokee County.

One of our goals is to bring young men a way of life that offers alternative to the destruction that is present in our communities...illegal drugs, dropping out of school, being disrespectful to women and the elderly. We mentor them teaching self-respect and respect for others. It is our responsibility to remind them that education is the key to a bright future and that all things are possible through Christ.

In 2007 we gave two \$500.00 scholarships to deserving students, furnished transportation to the elderly to doctor appointments, Social Security Office and grocery shopping. We assisted families with emergency assistance by paying electric bills and water bills. We worked with the schools and identified children who were in need of warm clothing. With the support of ACBH Members and supporters, we able to: furnish 50 kids with coats, and 54 pairs of shoes and provide 38 food baskets

in and around Cherokee County.

Aspecial thank you goes out to those who spent countless hours to make this happen. ACBH Officers are: Cecil Verdell, President, Larry Jenkins Vice President, James Green Secretary, Lionell Whitaker Assistant to Secretary, Earnes Mitchell Treasurer, and Assistant to Treasurer Willie Brown. Donations to help support our cause can be mailed to ACBH in care of Earnest Mitchell or Willie Brown to P. O. Box 183 or P. O. Box 52, Alto, Texas 75759. For pickup of items call (36 858-3282. Committee members in addition to the officers are: Earl Hackney, Clyde Session, and Arthur Harris. We are comprized of 5 area churches New Hope, Union Hill, Weeping Mary Linwood and Chapel AME. working to bring people together in a Christian loving manner. Meetings are held the second Monday of each month. We extend an offer to anyone to come worship, and evangelize.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

This letter is to thank you for the wonderful article you published in the September Issue of the Texas Informer. I'm very grateful for the time and effort you spent by coming to the Crockett Labor Day Rodeo and also, the telephone interview you did.

Having the opportunity to share my past accomplishments as well as my present goals with you and your company, the *Texas Informer*, may have helped pave the way for youth that might be interested in the rodeo circuit.

Enclosed is a DVD copy of some of my accomplishments. You might want to share this in your Black History Issue. I have several engagements booked during Black History month for show and tell and motivational speaking. If I can be of help to your community, please contact me.

Mertis Dightman, Sr.
Crockett, Texas

Who wants to work for free?



The Theme for Black History Month, February 2008 is "*Carter G. Woodson and the origins of Multiculturalism*".

February is Black History Month in the US. Black Churches, newspapers, radios and families have done a great job with teaching the public about this fact, and teaching the history that goes along with it since the mid-nineteen seventies. Most anyone who tells the truth can tell you this. Did you know that Black History is celebrated in other countries, too? Jamaica and Canada celebrate it in February.

October is Black History Month in the United Kingdom. Like in America, the origin of their celebrations came from Dr. Carter G. Woodson.

It's time that other cultures have learned enough of the great contributions made by African Americans to stop using skin color as a way to divide America and stop holding it against us that our ancestors wanted out of slavery. After all, who wants to work for free?

Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.

Hate multiplies hate, violence multiplies violence, and toughness multiplies toughness in a descending spiral of destruction....The chain reaction of evil—hate begetting hate, wars producing more wars—must be broken, or we shall be plunged into the dark abyss of annihilation.

*Martin Luther King, Jr.,
Strength To Love, 1963.*

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Crockett Texas' Classic Catfish and Thompson Bar-B-Q is open with unique style and great food!

Cover Story

~by Maxine Session

Crockett is a city in Houston County, Texas. As of the 2000 census, the city population was 7,141. It is the county seat of Houston County and 44.67% of the population is African American.

The town was named after Davy Crockett who reportedly had camped nearby on his way to the Alamo. The site was very near the Old San Antonio Road. It's history boasts of being the home of Mary Allen College which opened in 1886 as a School for girls and remained open until the 1970s.

For a town of its population, Crockett's economic development is something to be proud of. In 2007 the Chamber kept very busy with grand openings and ribbon cuttings for new businesses. One of those was a ribbon cutting and grand opening for Classic Catfish. The location is 1210 East Loop 304, across from Wal-mart.

Classic Catfish and Thompson's Bar-B-Q are both located in the same restaurant. Each has it's own kitchen and food preparation area, office and cash register checkout counter. Together they provide jobs for seventeen employees. Each has eight employees with one who works for both businesses.

They are making history in Crockett, Texas. On this very exciting day, Reverend Ernest Jackson, owner of Classic Catfish told the story of how the two popular Texas foods happen to share such great restaurant facilities in such a great location.

Mr. Jackson said, "My wife Imogene worked for a Crockett ISD school and I had recently retired from the Department of corrections. She has always loved to bake and her brother Reginald fries the best catfish in Texas. He began by frying fish for the high school teachers on Fridays.

One morning I was just lying in bed listening to the radio when I heard about the bakery downtown

being for sale. Imogene had always wanted us to own our own business. The Lord just told me, "Buy Becky's Bakery". I talked

with them". A short time later I saw Mr. Thompson getting into his truck. I mentioned to him it would be nice if we could move with them



L - R - Jim Kolessar, Barbara Kolessar, Syneva Williams, Trivia Martinez, Reko Mask, Imogene Jackson & Earnest Jackson owners, William Thompson, Darrell Grooves, Reginal Marshall, Robert Griffin and Jacobren Johnson. Crockett Chamber and Classic Catfish

with Becky Gandy, who was selling the bakery, and put down earnest money. The local bank gave me a hard time. Anyway we bought the bakery and kept what she had in tact. Imogene did the baking. Reginald added catfish to the menu and he fried it. Customers continued to buy what Becky's Bakery had always sold, but we struggled to get the income where it should be. Space and location were the problem. After about a year, we knew we would have to move or go out of business. We began to pray about moving to the loop.

Soon afterwards, I was talking with Robert Thompson at his place. He had operated Thompson's Barbeque downtown for about six years. He told me he had an opportunity to move to the loop, but the large building was almost more than he needed. I went back to the bakery and told Imogene. She said, "That's nice, I wish we could go

to the loop. He looked a little astonished. We talked, agreed and over the next weeks began to plan the organization, remodeling and structure of what we needed to do to get both businesses moved. Then things got rocky. It was rough! People who heard about our plans began to talk to him negatively about me. I told him we are both preachers and pastors of churches and that we could work with people and each other.

The Lord fixed everything. We remodeled the building so that we have everything we need for both businesses, including space.

August 2, 2007 we moved into this facility with no cash flow, using money from our pockets to buy products. God has made it all possible.

Every morning we gather in a circle and have prayer. I hold my value in the people that work here.

We share the overhead and together we employ seventeen people. That's what brings me joy! We employ people who did not have a job. People who have never been hired in the public arena. They take pride in themselves and their jobs and make the place shine. My goal in life is not to get rich, but to make a profit."

Reverend Jackson has been the pastor of New Salem Baptist Church of Grape-land for the past ten years. He and Imogene were born and raised in Crockett.

Linda Thompson says they have operated Thompson's Bar-B-Q since November 9, 2001, the first six years two blocks off the square in downtown Crockett. They cater in Crockett, Houston, Dallas and other surrounding cities. "We cater a lot of large company picnics and dinners. They smoke a large number of turkeys for their regular local customers.

The Thompsons began their bar-b-q business after he worked many years at Crockett State School where he barbecued on a regular basis for the staff there.

In Texas, bar-b-q and Catfish have been two very popular foods since the days the west was being settled and cowboys cooked meat outside on open pits. Classic Catfish and Thompson's Bar-B-Q offers one-stop restaurant shopping for both with all the trimmings including the best home tasting fried pies in Texas. They offer take-out or dine-in.

Ernest Jackson says he doesn't know where the Lord will take the business from here, but whatever happens, he is the steward of it all.

Both owners pastor churches, so they are closed on Sundays.

Sweet Union Baptist Church Unveils Historical Marker



Mo Raissi, Jacksonville City Manager, Robert Haberly, Billy Williams, Lincoln Brown, Chief of Police, George Horn, Pastor Horace Williams, Councilman Hubert Robinson, Ardis Hinton, Odell Hinton, Billy Redd and Tony Guinn.

Sweet Union Baptist Church members, city officials and Cherokee County Historical Commission unveiled the historical marker for the church celebrating 120 years of the existence of the church. Following morning service a parade began on the church parking lot, went north on Main, Weston Lincoln, south on Ragsdale street and back to the church. Lunch was served.

The dedication program followed with Mizella Scott, Maeavis Anderson, Artie Mallard, and Deacon Clynell Anderson, unveiling the Marker. Terry

Guinn, Cherokee County Historical Commission conducting the marker dedication.

Emancipated slaves organized Sweet Union Baptist Church on March 10, 1887. In 1900 the church moved to its present location, 302 North Main. The church served as a place of worship, education for the people to learn to read and write.

For many years it was the only social institution controlled entirely by Black residents of the city.

Sweet Union Baptist Church membership has not fluctuated, but remained strong through the years.

Edna Bradford Retires from RSH



Edna Bradford, LVN, pictured with Ed Bruce, recently retired from Rusk State Hospital. A retirement celebration was given for her by co-workers.

A kingdom at war with itself will collapse. A home divided against itself is doomed.

Jesus - Mark 3:24 - 25

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State Representative Hopson Highlights Tax Break Opportunity Jacksonville, TX

— As tax season quickly approaches, State Representative Chuck Hopson wants to remind East Texans that the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) could put extra dollars into the pockets of families across the region.

"If your total family income was less than \$39,000 in 2007, the federal government may owe you a refund," Hopson said. "In 2006, over 2 million Texans claimed almost \$4.7 billion in refunds. That is an average of \$2,151 per household. EITC refunds are based on family income and the number of children in the family.

To receive the credit, the IRS requires families to meet specific requirements and to have valid social security numbers for all members of the family.

"This is a program for hard working taxpayers," Hopson continued. "The EITC gives families extra spending dollars and helps keep our local economy strong."

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Hollywood's Time

How can we look the other way?

~ by Billy Hollywood Grooves

If I had to describe myself, I would have to say that I am a Freedom Fighter first and a journalist second. I would also include "Peace Activist" on my resume as well as "common sense thinker". Having said that, I can't help but shake my head with disgust and indignation at the present U.S. administrations penchant for starting wars around the globe and locking up millions of poor Blacks, Mexican Americans and poor Whites in America. As a "common sense thinker" I have to clarify the term "poor Blacks", because we have so many "so called upper class blacks" who are detached from their poor Black brothers and sisters to the point where they feel the same way racists feel about "poor Blacks". They don't identify with their poor brotheren, which contributes to the abuses and atrocities that occur to "those people", everyday somewhere in the United States. While understanding the saying "If you are not part of the solution, you are probably part of the problem.", in my mind, many so called "elite blacks" unrealistic view of themselves and

others like them, makes it almost impossible for them to stand up for the right things", which makes them part of the problem. I know most of the things that I stand up for --the Black media, freedom fighting, peace activism, common sense thinking, are the traits that enemies of oppressed people hate. Common sense will tell you that if you build more prisons than institutions of educations, then we all know that American's plan is to put more people in prison, industrial complexes, than in colleges. Common sense will also tell you that wars and killings are not tools for peace and stability. "Violence only begets more violence!" Right here, in the world's richest nation, inner city black and minority schools are deplorable and horribly underfunded. Common sense says that the money we are wasting fighting wars in Iraq and Afghanistan could be used to build up poor schools and neighborhoods in places like Texas, California, New York, Washington D.C. and other decaying areas. Man is a mortal and he will make mistakes. History has

proven that time and time again, some of the things of the past that we (society) thought were absolute truths turned out to be absolute lies. I urge everyone who reads this article to use "common sense" in their everyday lives and don't believe everything mainstream media tells you, especially about Black people.



God Bless America, Africa, black media, freedom-fighters, peace activists and common sense thinkers!

We are saddened to hear of the death of Dr. Linda Faye Williams of Chicago, a late 1960's graduate of Lovelady's Center Grove High School in Houston County. Dr. Linda Williams was the daughter of the late great East Texas educator W.C. Williams and wife Wilma of Lovelady, Texas. She got her B.A. degree from Rice University in Houston and her PhD in political science from the University of Chicago. During her lifetime, she was on the faculty at Howard University in Washington D.C. for nine years; she also worked at Cornell University. She recieved many awards for the books she wrote. Sherecieved the Michael Harrington Best Book Award for her book, The Constrain of Race: Legacies of the White

Skin Privilage in America and the W.E.B. Dubois Best Book award in 2004. Dr. Williams was a family lady, wife, historiean, educator and advocate for the rights of women, the homeless, the working poor and people of color. She had been interviewed by CNN, C-Span, Mac Neil-Lhrer, Nightline, The Today Show and was a regular contributor to three major news outlets -- The New York Times, the Washington Post and The Wall Street Journal. The accomplishments of this East Texas Educators are way too numerous to mention in just one column. I will just say that the world lost a great lady who left some giant shoes to fill. Dr. Williams was married to Dr. Ralph C. Gomes of Chicago and they had three children. Rest in Peace Dr. Linda Faye Williams, you did your job well you at the crossroads.

Kudos go out all of the NAACP chapters of East Texas, their presidents and members for the supreme job they are doing for African Americans in East Texas. East Texas thanks go out to, Dr. Lanthia Fisher, Tracy Kent, Jim Rhodes,
Continue page 7

A time comes when
silence is betrayal

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

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The Great Debaters Box Office exceeds \$25,000,00.



L. to R. - Co-stars Denzel Whitaker, Nate Parker, Jurnee Smollett, Dr. Hayward Strickland Wiley College President and Denzell Washington actor, director and producer of the movie "The Great Debaters."

Rusk Local young ladies, Shunda Miles and Denicia Alexander experienced the event of a lifetime on December 13, 2007 when they met Denzell Washington in person as he conducted interviews for the promotion of the Golden Globe nominated movie "The Great Debaters".

The press conference was held about 5:00PM in the Wiley College Chapel. Accompanying Mr. Washington were young co-stars Denzel Whitaker, Nate Parker and Jurnee Smollett. Mr. Washington was so humble and down to earth. He stood back and encouraged the young co-stars to answer questions from the more than six hundred reporters present and talk about themselves and their characters in the movie. Then he answered questions, talked about the making of the movie and allowed the press total freedom in taking pictures of him.

Mr. Washington made it clear that it is time to resurrect the Wiley College Debate Team which has been inactive more than five years. He has since donated \$1,000,000. to that cause. Following the press conference, Marshall City officials and residents joined others around Texas to give a Hollywood Style Wel

come at the reception held at the Marshall Hotel. A long list of contributors and contributions to Wiley College were announced. The star-studded premier showing of the Great Debaters was held at the Marshall Cinema.

The Denzell Washington and Oprah Winfrey produced movie inspired by the remarkable story of Wiley College's winning debate team of the early 1930's set against the backdrop of the Jim Crow South chronicles the journey of the Wiley College Debate Team coached by the brilliant professor Melvin B. Tolson, played by Denzell Washington. Segments of the movie were actually filmed on the college campus and at the Palestine/Rusk Texas State Railroad. The movie which opened in theaters on December 25, 2007 has raked in a box office total in excess of \$25,000,000. and has put Wiley College and Marshall, Texas on the map as the home of the Great Debaters. Forest Whitaker plays the important role of Dr. James Farmer, Sr..

Denzell Washington, a native New Yorker said he has spent so much time in Marshall the past four years that being there again was like coming home.

Dr. King's Assassination Proven in Court

Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., civil rights activist and winner of a Nobel Peace Prize, was killed in Memphis by a rifle shot on April 4, 1968. King was in Memphis helping organize the protests of sanitation workers there.

In December 1999 a jury decided that the death of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was a US government conspiracy according to transcripts of the trial available at www.thekingcenter.org. Congresswoman Cynthia McKinney, six-term Democrat from Georgia, is spearheading a movement to have records pertaining to the death of Dr. King released. According to the transcripts, seventy witnesses set out the details of a



conspiracy in a plot to murder Dr. King. On the evening of April 4, 1968 Dr. King was in Memphis supporting a worker's strike. Details taken from William Pepper's "An Act of State" said, by the end of the day, top-level army snipers were in position to knock him out if ordered. Two military officers were in place on the roof of a firestation near the Lorraine Motel, to photograph the events. Two

black fireman had been ordered not to report to duty that day and a black Memphis Police Department detective on surveillance duty in the fire station was physically removed from his post and taken home. Dr. King's Room at the motel was changed from a secluded ground floor room to number 306 on the balcony. Loyd Jowers, owner of Jim's Grill which backed to the motel from the other side of the street

continue page 11

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Hollywood's Time

continued from page 5

Oak Cliff Assassin, Mike "Heavy Love" Jones, Tyrone Denman, Melvis Wooten, E. Wade, Rev. Mack Warren, Elaine Richardson, Delores

"Chicken Bitty" Washing, Gerald Barkley and the Johnson Boys.

Attorney Daphne L. Session of Crockett is running for the position of Houston County Attorney in 2008.

Attorney Session is a hardworking, honest, young lady who is having a very positive, profound effect on the citizens of Crockett and Houston County.

She has made history in Houston and Cherokee Counties by becoming the first African American female to have a private law practice in Crockett and in her hometown, Rusk.

Attorney Session was raised to be an humble leader by her parents Rusk community leaders, Walter and Maxine Session, founders and publishers of the Texas

Informer newspaper of East Texas. I don't know who Attorney Session's opponent in the election will be. I just know that she has done a super job as an Assistant District Attorney for Houston County in the past and is continuing that excellence as a lawyer in private law practice.

In my humble opinion, she is the best candidate for the job and we should go out and vote for Attorney Daphne L. Session on March 4th and November 4, 2008.

Kudos go out to Dr. Ruth Watson of Houston, a Crockett high graduate who was recently elected to the school board of the Spring Independent school district in the Houston area.

Dr. Watson is the daughter of Sis. Earlie Groves of Crockett and the sister of educators Dr. Helen King and husband George of Huntsville, Dr. Ianthia Fisher and husband Jimmy of Crockett. Brenda Atchinson and husband Rev. Delvin Atchinson of Waco and Victoria Essien and husband Martin of Houston.

This column is sponsored by Customer's Choice in Crockett, Chris and Lynn Martinez, managers.

God bless America, Africa and the rest of the world.

Tanya Mitchell Foreman business woman of the month

Rusk, TX.- If you have reason to visit Southern Cherokee Federal Credit Union in Rusk, look for the smiling face of Tonya Mitchell Foreman. Mrs. Foreman is a loan officer there and she is the Business Woman of the month. She is a great example of working mothers in East Texas who balance work, take care of home and raise children giving them support with their education and extra-curricular activities.

Tanya Mitchell Foreman graduated from Rusk High School in 1984 and attended Tyler Junior College. She has been employed with Southern Cherokee Federal Credit Union since September of 1990.

She began as a teller. Several years later she was promoted to collections officer and the last six years she has been a loan officer.

Tonya is married for 21 years to Delanger Ray Foreman. They have two children, Courtney age 11. Mr. & Mrs. Foreman



Rae Foreman, 18 year old senior and Delanger Ray (Ray Ray) are also raising her greatnieces, Amber Parker, 15, and Samuelle Mercer, 13.

Tanya is a member the Rusk Quarterback Club and the family attends West Union Faith Ministry of Rusk.

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Deadlines approach for college applications



~by Krystal Ward- As 2008 begins, high school seniors are approaching vital deadlines for college applications, housing, financial aid, and scholarships. With a much-needed holiday break, you should be ready to complete your applications, before it's too late. Most students have taken the ACT or SAT at this point, some students have applied early and been accepted. If you haven't done any of this you are behind, but don't worry it's not absolutely too late, but that depends on schools you plan on applying to. Each college has specific deadlines, but generally most major college deadlines are between January and April 15th. Deadlines for smaller colleges and universities are closer to the first day of class in the fall semester. If you plan to apply this spring I have listed some tips below to help you get on track for the application




season.1. Send test scores to the appropriate colleges or universities. This can be done by going online to the sat or act web site or contacting your high school counselor. If you have not taken the admission tests yet, you may decide which schools you would like to send your scores to when you take the test.
 2. Have your transcripts sent to the preferred schools. Talk to your high school counselor, and stay in their office to make sure this is done in a timely manner.
 3. Submit Fasfa as soon as possible. You are able to submit fasfa applications online after January 5, 2008. If you are accepted, make sure you submit your fasfa application 4-6 weeks prior the deadline application.

The earlier you submit the more the more sources you could possibly receive aid from.
 4. Investigated my preferred institutions to gather information on any admission or financial aid deadlines
 5. submitted application materials for admission to preferred institutions and also have sent required fees
 6. taken or registered to take the THEA if planning to attend a Texas public college or university (unless exempted by SAT, ACT, or TAKS scores).
 7. thoroughly examined with parents, counselor, and/or principal financial aid and scholarship opportunities. Through fastweb.com, ppslc.com- schools you would like to send your scores to when you take the test.
 2. Have your transcripts sent to the preferred schools. Talk to your high school counselor, and stay in their office to make sure this is done in a timely manner.
 3. Submit Fasfa as soon as possible. You are able to submit fasfa applications online after January 5, 2008.


If you are accepted, make sure you submit your fasfa application 4-6 weeks prior the deadline application. The earlier you submit the more the more sources you could possibly receive aid from.
 4. Investigated my preferred institutions to gather information on any admission or financial aid deadlines
 5. submitted application materials for admission to preferred institutions and also have sent required fees
 6. taken or registered to take the THEA if planning to attend a Texas public college or university (unless exempted by SAT, ACT, or TAKS scores).
 7. thoroughly examined with parents, counselor, and/or principal financial aid and scholarship opportunities. Through fastweb.com, ppslc.com, just to name a couple of sites. Do not get caught in scholarship scams where you have to pay to search scholarships or pay to attend seminars that offer scholarships.

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TEXAS SPOKEN WORD POETS speak



Michael Guinn, Jacksonville, Texas native, with Jeanean Livingston and Chuck Jackson, spoken word poets as he hosts the 2007 Great Debaters National Poetry Slam in Dallas,

Poets from Kansas, Houston, Austin, Waco, Arkansas, Oklahoma and beyond.... gathered at the EMBARGO home of the Fort Worth National Poetry Slams, on December 16th 2007 at 9550 Forest Lane in Dallas Texas at the intimate Salon Of Splendor the 2007 Great Debaters \$1600 National Poetry Slam which was hosted by Michael Guinn, Jacksonville native and spoken word poet.

A National Poetry Slam was held to promote the movie *The Great Debaters* starring Denzel Washington and Forest Whitaker. The list of competitors vying for a possible \$1600.00 in cash and prizes were HBO Def Poet Rock Baby and National Performance Poets U-N-I-Verse, Mo-Man and KrYSIS (Little Rock) and Mr. Chuck Jackson along with local poets Audacious, Kristina Patrice, God's Poet and Demetrius Brock.

Several new comers were present, Christopher Morgan, Arin Simchian, Terrence Anderson, Deuce, John Bailey and others. Salon was packed to compacity. Proof positive that the drawing

power of Mike Guinn as a host/co-ordinator of quality spoken word events was undeniable. There is

No one in the DFW that can develop an audience, coordinate a show and do it based solely upon his reputation for promoting and hosting a show that delivers everything it promotes. Michael brought in poets from as far away as Little Rock Arkansas who traveled to take part in THE 2007 GREAT DEBATER POETRY SLAM. A Poetry competition created to help promote the amazing new film about a small east Texas college debate team who took on Power house Colleges like Havard. The Film is set in the 1930's and stars Academy Award Winner Denzel Washington who also directed the film and Academy Award winner/East Texan Forest Whitaker. <http://www.thegreatdebatersmovie.com/> The film hit theaters Christmas day to sold out audiences in 3000 theaters. The place was filled with a standing room only crowd. Mrs. Quen Wright, owner and Hostess was present. cameras and FOOD! oooweeee what amazing food catered by Ms. KIM! 17 poets graced the stage.

The mood was set by D.J. TC the hottest spoken word D.J. in the Country.

We had a small open mic to heat things up. Followed by our featured poets and some give aways by the salon staff.... And then the GREAT DEBATERS SLAM 10 Poets.... competed.... 2 poets tied with a Perfect 50.... /10- 10- 10 \= 30 We had a tie breaker anddrum roll please.....

The evening's top winner was Mr. Chuck Jackson. He is a member of the Fort Worth National Team and is also the 15th Ranked Poet In The Country. He took home \$75 and his video will be sent to Hollywood to be judged in the regional competition... for \$500 dollars and if he makes it beyond the regionals... he will qualify for \$1000 ... a possible \$1,600.00 YA'LL!

The Runner Up- Ms. Audacious \$25.00. She also had T-Shirts and announced a scholarship fund for a fallen friend she lost just a few days ago. Great Job for a local poet who is definitely had some of the exposure to national poetry slams rub off and is reflected in her growth and development as a performance artist. Kudos Girl.

he bows What an amazing way to way to work out the emotions then via the vehicle of poetry.

The hosting was flawless, music smooth and the poetry was awesome. Now we know why Michael Guinn is the number one host and poetry event coordinator in the state. Thanks so much for your time and support of Mike Guinn and to UMCA's Field Rep for their presence at this event.. Ms. Kristina Patrice-Publicist (901) 219-3370

YOUTH

A WARRIOR HAS FALLEN
A Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
By Herbert Harris, Jr.



New York, NY (BlackNews.com) - Olivia Harris, a 14 year old New York City 10th grader has recorded a unique and powerful rendition of "A Warrior Has Fallen", a poetic tribute to Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. written by her father, Herbert Harris, author of *The Twelve Universal Laws of Success*.

The recording features the poem interwoven with music and excerpts from Dr. King's speech in Memphis, Tennessee.

Olivia recorded this poem in Wilmington, North Carolina, a town with special significance in Dr. Martin Luther King's story. His next speaking engagement was scheduled to be in Wilmington before his untimely death.

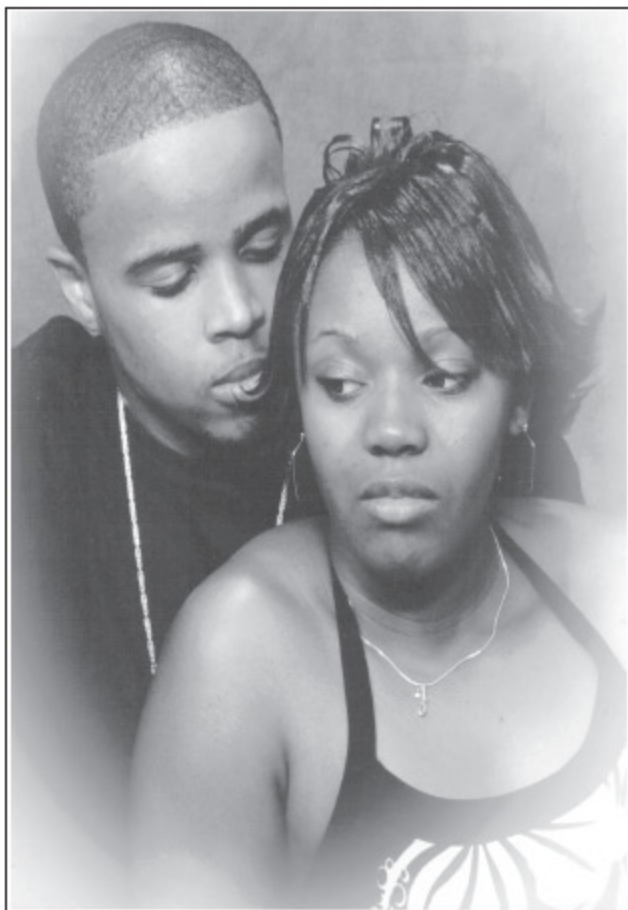
Olivia was excited to record "A WarriorHasFallen" because she feels that it is important for young people to remember Dr. King's legacy and understand his impact on the world.

Her rendition of this poem revives the art of dramatic recitation that was prevalent in American schools of the past. She hopes to have "A Warrior Has Fallen" heard by young people on radio and television stations throughout the country.

In addition to dramatic reading, Olivia is also an author. She has written a book of poetry entitled *To Whom it May Concern*.

Olivia's recording of "A Warrior Has Fallen" is one of the top MP3 downloads on amazon.com. It will also be available on itunes and is being distributed to radio stations across the nation. It will soon be available through her website: *Warrior Has Fallen*, contact John Hughes at (910) 262-2680

Pope - McGowan to wed



Together with their parents, Vivian Lee Ann Pope and Reginal Joel McGowan, II announce their engagement and approaching marriage. The happy couple will wed, Saturday, February sixteenth at New Hope Baptist Church Alto, Texas at Four o'clock P.M. in the afternoon.

Vivian is a 2003 Alto High School graduate, and a graduate of Tyler Junior College and East Texas School of Nursing. She is a Licensed Vocational Nurse and is newly employed with The Lufkin State School. She is the daughter of Ms. Angela Moore and Mr. Roy Pope and Mrs. Kimberly Pope. Her grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Jack and Alberta Pope and Mr. and Mrs. J. B. & Jessie Moore all of Alto.

Joel is a 2002 Rusk High School graduate. He also graduated from Sam Houston State University December, 2006 with a Major in Education. He is currently employed with Lufkin ISD where he coaches physical education and track. He is the son of Mr. Reginal McGowan, I of Tyler and Mrs. Kathy Harris of Rusk and the late Eddie Harris. He is the grandson of Walter and Maxine Session of Rusk and the late Mr. Jessie McGowan and Mrs. Novaline McGowan.

The reception will be held in Rusk following the wedding. The newly weds will live in Lufkin, Texas following the honeymoon.

WEDDINGS & ANNIVERSARIES

Mrs. L. V. Stafford celebrates Birthday



On December 9, 2007, Mrs. L. V. Stafford celebrated her 90th birthday at her home at 12:30pm. All fo her children and grandchildren and her church family celebrated with her. She had cake adn delicious food. Among the family members present from out of town were her niece and grandson from Kansas City. June Buckner and her gandson Victor Allen was also in attendance. Everyone sang the happy birthday song to her. She had a joyous time.

The church family was very proud for her. She is one of the most active members of Elm Grove Baptist church. We hope that she will have many more birthdays.

Financial Aid Seminar

for Rusk High School Seniors & Juniors
6:00 PM at the Rusk High School Auditorium
Representatives Tyler Junior College will be present to provide information on making financial aid applications
For additional information, please call (903) 683-5401

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A nation that
continues year after
year to spend more
money on military
defense than on
programs of social
uplift is approaching
spiritual death.

Martin Luther King, Jr., Where Do We Go from Here: Chaos or Community?, 1967.

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THE TRUTH CLINIC DEAR CONGRESS== LEAD OR GET OUT OF THE WAY

by James W. Breedlove

As the first year of the 110th Congress comes to a close it would be appropriate for the American people to review what their representatives have done to earn their money. If any employer/employee relationship is to be effective there must be periodic assessments of whether the employees performance has been supportive of the employer's objectives.

The legislative branch (Congress) of the government currently spends about \$4.4 billion dollars annually up from \$2.9 billion in 2000. Over \$2.0 billion is for personnel compensation and benefits and \$1.5 billion for travel, contracted services and supplies. The remainder goes for acquisition of capital assets, grants and other subsidies. What are we the people getting in return for allowing Congress to feed from the federal trough? Not much that helps the economically distressed American people.

By any description, the 2006 elections marked a voter revolt, fueled by anger over the war in Iraq and corruption at home. Democrats, who were given a majority in both houses of congress for the first time in more than a decade, failed to live up to the mandate for change demanded by the voters.

Congressional Democrats will have plenty to ponder during the Christmas - New Year recess. Like, why did things go so badly so quickly and how did they manage to achieve a lower approval rating than the President in just over seven months as the majority? One reason is congressional leaders made the tactical mistake of walking down the path of good faith compromise with the republican minority instead of rallying public support for needed change through bold legislation. In response to this show of weakness the Republicans solidified and fortified by the President's veto threats forced Democrats to abandon their heavily promoted campaign promises. In a string of setbacks over the last few months, Democratic leaders in Congress yielded to Bush and his

GOP allies on Iraqi war funding, tax and health policies, warrantless wire taps, energy policy and spending decisions that waste billions of dollars throughout the government.

Democrats' inability to wind down the Iraq war has befuddled and angered anti-war voters especially since the democratic majority control the federal purse strings. But the fact is instead of exhibiting the bold leadership the American people expected congressional democrats presented their best "I'm not responsible" act. The stigma of being perceived as not supporting the troops or being labeled as unpatriotic was more than they could handle.

Nancy Pelosi, who had been a leader of the House Democrats since 2002, was promoted as a tough street fighter whose political instincts had been honed from childhood by her father who was then mayor of Baltimore. At her inauguration as the first woman speaker of the House of Representatives she promised to "drain the swamp" after more than a decade of Republican rule. But there was a dramatic change in tone and action after this 66 year old grandmother took the gavel as House Speaker.

She caved to the Republican minority that was staunchly loyal to Bush and his Iraq policies. In the game of political chicken she Empowered by Bush's veto threats, house republicans rejected every Democratic compromise proposal to carry out the will of the American people.

Similarly in the Senate, Republicans repeatedly used their filibuster powers to block or weaken Democratic proposals. The best interests of the American people were superseded by the best interests of political party and corporate leeches flinched first and allowed the House to continue to approve money for the war without conditions while hiding behind the excuse that there were not enough votes to override Bush's veto. A recent report released by the Campaign for America's Future details the 62 times conservatives have used the filibuster to kill or neuter legislation in the first session of

the 110th Congress. GOP senators used this obstruction tactic to negate majority efforts to offset the \$50 billion cut in projected revenue from the alternative minimum tax; allow the government to negotiate Medicare drug prices; impose new taxes on oil companies; require more use of renewable fuels in generating electricity; expand children's health care insurance; and require more rest time for troops deployed to Iraq. The 62nd cloture vote of the session is more than any single session of Congress since 1973.

It appears that many Members of Congress do not understand the basic constitutional authority they have to restrict, redirect, or terminate military operations in Iraq. Because of this lack of understanding the hapless congress muddles around holding irrelevant debates and toothless hearings that confuse the public while nullifying the true purpose of the Constitution in a representative government.

Recent polls indicate that the majority of Americans do not think they are getting value for the billions spent to support congress. Congressional job approval ratings have been as low as 18 percent a few months ago and are currently hovering around 30 percent. The 18 percent rating matches the low recorded back in March 1992.

But the clear message from a growing contingent of distraught Ameri-

Dr. King's Assassination Proven in Court

continued from page 6

had already received \$100,000. in cash for his agreement to participate in the assassination. He was to go out into the brush area behind the grill with the shooter and take possession of the gun immediately after the fatal shot was fired. When the dust settled, Dr. King had been shot, and a clean-up procedure was immediately set in motion. James Earl Ray was effectively framed, the snipers dispersed and the crime scene was destroyed."

James Earl Ray who at first plead guilty, before his death recanted denied being the murderer. December 8, 1999 the jury decided the verdict after just one hour.

The shocking revelations were silent following the trial and jury verdict. There was no major media coverage. Wendell Stacy, Memphis TV reporter and local ABC news anchor, was one of the only reporters who attended the trial everyday. He was fired.

Source: William Pepper's "An Act of State" The Execution of Martin Luther King and Trial Transcripts at www.thekingcenter.org.

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6-2, 2-10. RN for weekend supervision(flexible hours).

Senator West says auto replacement program just in time

DALLAS — State Senator Royce West (D-Dallas) says the implementation of a plan to remove older, polluting automobiles from Texas roads comes just in time for the holiday season.

The accelerated vehicle replacement plan will pay up to \$3,500 to auto owners in various parts of the state as part of an overall plan to improve air quality, particularly in Texas' urban centers. "Texas has this plan to help thousands who own older vehicles," said Senator West. "While the assistance program is not available to everyone, it's a great opportunity that amounts to a substantial down payment on a new or late model car that lower-income Texans should hurry to take advantage of."

The program is part of a six-year-old emissions plan by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality administered by the North Central Texas Council of Governments. Single auto owners who live in Dallas-Fort Worth, Houston, Austin and their surrounding counties who earn up to \$30,630 are eligible to apply for assistance.

For a family of four, the figure is \$61,950. Other requirements include that the vehicle must have been registered within a participating county for the previous 12 months and have passed inspection within the past 15 months. The car or truck must

be at least 10 years old. Officials say the program may remove as many as 40,000 older vehicles from the road.



Senator Royce West

"During the 2007 legislative session, more funds were approved for the vehicle emissions-auto replacement program," said Senator West. "When added to existing funds, about \$100 million is now available to Texans to help buy new cars and clean up our air," said Senator West. "It's

a win-win situation for everyone involved."

Brochures on the vehicle replacement program can be found at authorized vehicle inspection locations. Money is also available for minor vehicle repairs if a car fails inspection. If eligible, a voucher of up to \$3,000 for gasoline-powered vehicles and \$3,500 for hybrids will be issued and can be redeemed by participating auto dealers. The payments can go toward the purchase of a new car or truck, or a one to a two-year-old vehicle worth up to \$25,000. The program will go into effect this month.

Applications may be obtained online at www.driveacleanmachine.org or by calling the North Central Texas Council of Governments at 1-800-898-9103 or visiting their website at www.nctcog.org/air-checktexas

African American health disparities disturbing

by FurlichJuly Arrington



All Families and Children should have access to health care services that ensure their health wellness and productivity. Many of our nations most vulnerable children and families do not have access to good affordable health care and health services. This is especially true for those within racially and ethnically minority neighborhoods. According to the Texas Health Data Center projections, the population of Texas was around 23 million in 2005. Percentage breakdown by race was: Anglo 49.4 %, African American 11.4%, and Hispanic 35.4%. The burden of disease and death is not evenly distributed according to population where statistics show high rates of diseases in minority communities; HIV and STD sexually transmitted diseases, Obesity and diabetes and low rates of childhood immunization.

In addition to such disparities in health, Blacks also report suffering from disparities in the care they receive. A recent study found that 80% of Blacks believe they receive different medical treatment and have different care options due to their race and ethnicity. Findings from a 2001 study by The Kaiser Family Foundation's National Survey of Physicians corroborates Black patients' sentiments. The study's first part examines phy-

sicians' perceptions of disparities in medical care. Of the white physicians interviewed, 77% believed that disparities in how people are treated within the healthcare system "rarely" or "never" happen based on factors such as income and fluency. In the same survey, 8 out of 10 Black physicians reported that the "healthcare system at least 'somewhat often' treats people unfairly based on various characteristics, with differences particularly striking with regard to race and ethnicity." The Tuskegee Institute Syphilis study still influences African Americans willingness to participate in medical studies which are vital finding medications that work and produce cures as a result. The Texas department of State Health Services Health Disparities Task Force selected six priority health issues to improve the health of Texans, promoting childhood immunizations, decreasing obesity, promoting physical activity and fitness, promoting responsible sexual behavior, and promoting adequate prenatal care among minority women..

In spite of improvements, these health disparities for African Americans are off the charts percentage wise.....2005 African American Adult obesity was 76% as compared to 60% Anglo, HIV and STD infection rates for adolescents and adults 78.4% as compared to 15.6% for Anglos.

African Americans makeup 14% of the national population but lead the nation in heart disease and diabetes.

If you need more facts go to>
<http://www.cdc.gov/omh/AboutUs/disparities.htm>

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Special Events Around East Texas

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January 29, 30, 31 2008
February 26, 27, 28 2008

Part II The Next Step-Real Grants are Written during this workshop. Your idea for a grant may be chosen or you may learn by helping write someone else's grant.

(Part I prerequisite)

March 25, 26 & 27 2008

Part I & II workshops are usually held at C10's Retreat Center in the woods of East Texas 20 minutes west of Tyler, TX

2008 Funders Forum (largest gathering of this type in the Nation)

October 23 & 24, 2008

College Station, TX

Phone 903-541-0013 for additional information or go online to <http://www.circleof10.org/> and choose workshops or Funders Forum

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circleof10@circleof10.org

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Jacksonville, TX

75766

Birthday Party will celebrated 99th birthday of Mrs. Cecil Frazier

A birthday party will be held for Mrs. Cecil Frazier on February 25, 2008 in the afternoon at her home to celebrate her 99th birthday. Family and friends are invited.

Anyone needing directions to her Elm Grove Home should call her or Greg at (903) 683 4445.

Cherokee County Fruit Tree Care Workshop Set for Saturday, January 26, 2008

If the fresh flavor of fruit picked from your back year is appealing, plan to learn more at a Cherokee County Fruit Tree Care Workshop on Saturday, January 26th. At the workshop, the production of blueberries, blackberries, figs, grapes, pomegranates, persimmons, pears, peaches, apples, plums and pecans will be discussed. Selection of adapted varieties, planting, training, fertilization and pest management of each of the fruits and nuts will be outlined.

The workshop will be held at the Courtyard Garden at Joe Smith Plant Farm located on the highway 79 northeast of Jacksonville. It will be from 10 till noon. Jow Daniel, horticulturist with Agrilife Extension, Texas A & M System will lead the workshop.

Texas certified Master Gardeners will also be on hand to share their experiences and expertise.

Linwood Baptist Church

Black History Program
Saturday Night,
February 16, 2008 7:30PM

Location: HWY 21 East Alto

For information:
Call 936-858-3282

2008 TAKS Testing Dates.

March 4, 2008— TAKS reading,
grades 3 and 5

March 4, 2008- TAKS writing, 4th
grade

April 8, 2008— TAKS mathematics,
5th grade ...2008 TAKS Test Dates.

March 4, 2008. 9th Grade Reading;
10th Grade ... April 29, 2008. 10th
Grade Math. April 30, 2008.

11th Grade Math. May 1, 2008 ...

KTLU – KWRW 97.7 Oldies Radio Named Business of Month

The Rusk Chamber of Commerce is pleased to congratulate General Manager Robert Gonzales and great staff of KTLU – KWRW 97.7 Oldies Radio for being selected as the January Business of the Month. Take a moment to stop by 618 N Main or call (903) 683-2257 and congratulate them. Please join us at the Rusk Chamber of Commerce Business of the Month Presentation this morning, Friday 01/25/08 at 10:00 AM at the Radio Studio located 618 N. Main in Rusk.



Chuck Hopson: Owner
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Jacksonville, TX.

Call: (903) 586-2208



Continued from page 18

Obituaries

Anderson of Jacksonville, TX; one nephew Colquitt Sanders of Rusk, Texas; two grandnieces Indus (Gregory) McDuff of Tyler, Texas, and Armistia Sanders of Rusk, Texas; one grand-nephew, William Taylor of Tyler, Texas; other relatives and friends.

Dexter Lee Miller, Jr.

Dexter Lee Miller was born July 9, 1930 to the late Dexter and Maggie Miller. He grew up in Anderson County and attended school in the Palestine School District. He retired from Palestine Glass Containers Corp., after eighteen years of service. Following his time at P.G.C. Corp., his transition into a fulfilling and abundant life centered around helping others. Early in life Dexter was united with Brown Spring Baptist Church and later with New Brown Spring Baptist Church and served as chairman of the deacon board and dedicated member. On December 10, 2007, Dexter Lee Miller passed away.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Dexter and Maggie Miller, Sr.; brothers, Sammie Lee Miller, J.W. Miller and George M. Miller; sister, Belma Easley. Bro. Dexter leaves to cherish his memory a loving wife, Gracie Miller; sons, Larry Miller, Reginald Miller, Gerald Miller and Timothy Miller, all of Palestine, Tx.; Gary (Shelia) Miller and Eric Miller both of Houston; daughters, LaWanda Smith of Palestine, Tx., Lisa Williamson of Houston, Tx, Andrea Miller of Ft. Worth, Tx, 16 grandchildren; 8 great-grandchildren, brothers, Ulyless (Vera) Miller, L.J. Miller and Charles (Sandra) Miller all of Palestine, Tx., sister-in-law, Ruthelma Miller and Ruby F. Miller; and host of nieces, nephews and other relatives and friends.

With sincere appreciation
the family of
Calvin Boyd
would like to thank each and
everyone for the many prayers
visits, contributions, cards, flowers,
and other expressions of sympathy
shown during our bereavement.
He was loved by many and will be
greatly missed, but never forgotten.
May God richly bless each of you.

Mark Green Seeks Constable Position Precinct #2



Mark Green, 41 of Alto, Texas, announces his candidacy for constable precinct #2 in the March Democratic Primary election.

Green is a 1985 graduate of Alto High School. He attended Universal Technical Institute and he graduated from the East Texas Police Academy of Kilgore Texas. He also holds an advanced Peace Officers License and has 1072 Mandates Training hours with TCLEOSE. Mark has been in Law Enforcement for the past 17 years. He worked for six years as a correctional officer with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice Institutional Division,

served as a Deputy Constable in Anderson County where he acquired experience in the civil process, worked as Chief Warrant Officer for the Coffee City Police Department, Chief of Police for the City of Cuney, Wells Police Department, worked ten years for the Rusk PD where he was promoted to Corporal and later promoted to K-9 Officer utilizing them for narcotics, cadavers, and tracking for missing people, worked with the Cherokee County Special Projects Unit for the District Attorney's Office, and he has been a reserve Police Officer for Alto Police Department for the past 4 years.

Mr. Green is a member of the Cherokee County Peace Officers Association, Alto Trail Riders Association, Vice President of the Youth Softball Program, President MILE, National Narcotics Detective Association, founder of the Jackson Youth Center and he volunteers as a presenter of Drug Awareness Education Programs for churches, schools, colleges, and community organizations. Mr. Green says, "If elected I will work very closely with the schools and communities in their effort to combat drugs and gangs."



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Crockett Chamber Holds Session Law Office new location Ribbon Cutting



Pictured above: Harold Shepherd, Julie Norton, Shirley Michka, Ansel Bradshaw, Donna Kaspar, Louis R. Michka, Lonnie Hunt, Jim Stephens, Virgil Groat, Tim Culp, Walter Stanley, Claude Wats, James and Rosemary McCullough, Robin Harmon, Paty Barney, Syneva Williams, Cindy Keys (Chamber Executive), Sarah Clark, Terri Franklin, Jaupafil, Kathy Harris, Krystal Ward-Carter, and Maxine Session.

The Crockett Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon cutting and grand opening for Daphne Session's law office. The office was moved from the downtown location to the new location at 213 Martin Luther King. Chamber members and friends are pictured above.

Jacksonville College Announces Dean and President's List for Fall 2007

Jacksonville College is pleased to announce the names of students who have been honored for outstanding academic achievement during the fall semester of 2007. Those full-time students who have achieved a perfect 4.0 semester grade-point average are named to the President's List. Full-time students who have obtained a semester grade-point average of 3.5 or more with no course grade lower than a "C" are named to the Academic Dean's List.

The President's List includes the following students:

Stephanie L. Boyanton, Mineral Wells, Texas Abigail L. Carter, Bullard, Texas, Andrea C. Hayes, Longview, Texas, Emily R. Jacobs, Rusk, Texas, Thomas D. Marquez, Maydelle, Texas, Lorraine A. Odhiambo, Nairobi, Kenya, Amanda N. Reese, Sulphur Springs, Texas Nicholas A. Rice, Bullard, Texas Mark L. Stephens, Hillsboro,

Texas Heather A. Storen, Red Oak, Texas Christa D. Teer, Sulphur Springs, Texas Jordan M. Tew, Karnack, Texas

The Dean's List includes the following students:

Meagan B. Edwards, Jacksonville, Texas Joe A. Gartman, Jacksonville, Texas Christin L. Hackler, Oak Leaf, Texas Ebonie R. Jordan, Forney, Texas Rhonda K. McCauley, Jacksonville, Texas Cathy L. Parker, Jacksonville, Texas Mychal R. Parker, Jacksonville, Texas Caitlin G. Robinson, Allen, Texas Jeffrey K. Robinson, Jacksonville, Texas Heather M. Shuptrine, Rusk, Texas Meagan M. Slayton, Jacksonville, Texas Aaron T. Stevenson, Mineral Wells, Texas Andrea K. Tarant, Jacksonville, Texas Amanda D. Teer, Sulphur Springs, Texas Joseph K. Waites, Jacksonville, Texas Charles R. White, Pollock, Texas Crystal B. Winskie, Bullard, Texas Jacksonville College is a Christian junior college located in Jacksonville, Texas and is owned and operated by the Baptist Missionary Association of Texas, and is affiliated with the Southern Baptists of Texas convention.



The the Stephen F. Austin State University College of Education has been named after Mr. James I. Perkins, Citizens 1st Bank President, He is pictured here with Nabaska Running Back, Cody Glenn, also former Citizens 1st Bank employee; Andrew Melontree of the Tyler Bank and Walter Session, Rusk city Councilman. They are viewing a thank you card to Mr. Perkins from Rusk State Hospital Employees and Superintendent Ted Debs for support given to RSH. The card is signed by each employee and has been framed and placed on display in the bank. RSH provides 936 jobs to East Texas.

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We just celebrated another love-filled Christmas with the giving of gifts and love. We encourage you to carry this message with love in your heart throughout the year as Christ did and not just December 25th, the celebration of His birthday.

The Blessings of Christmas

By Betty Walker

Christmas Day is a blessed day—
A day commemorating the birth of
Mary's Baby.

Christmas Day is a glorious day—
For angels, in their glory, an-
nounced His birth.

Christmas Day is a sacred and
holy day—

A day to sing hymn, carols, and
praising songs.

Christmas Day is a spiritual day—
A day to sing hymns, carols, and
praising songs.

Christmas Day is a joyous day—
A day to be filled with merriment
and happy times.

Christmas Day is a sharing and
gift giving day—

For wise men brought gifts for the
Holy Child—

Christmas Day is humbling day—
For the King Child was born in a
stable and placed in a manger.

Christmas Day is a preeminent,
supremely magnificent day—
For it marks the onset of God's
great redemptive plan.

Christmas Day is a monumentally,
significant day.

For on that day, the door to para-
dise, salvation, eternity,
and the Heavenly Father's pres-
ence was opened unto man.

Let us all sing praises unto our
glorious Saviour!

Sing praises! Sing praises! Amen.

Jacksonville, TX. - The United Women of Strength is a community service organization serving Jacksonville and Cherokee County. The membership is comprized of forty plus professional women from around Cherokee County. The mission is to lead, develop, and advocate for women of African decent as they support their families and community. The year 2007 was a busy year for the organization. Scholarships were presented to five young people, two families who faced disaster from a fire, family member with long-term illness and one who faced financial emergency with the loss of a loved one were assisted emotionally and financially.

Members are: Lois Teague President, Callie Walker Vice President, Barbara Scott Secretary, Helen Scott Corresponding Secretary, Katie Armstrong, Alma Bagley, Louise Battle, Jeannie Brown, Annie Bowns, Billie Brown, Marie Canady, Terry Canady, Lillian Duffie, Tarrion Esco, Ruby Franklin, Francis Freeman, Bennie Ruth Hall, Jean Hinton, Linda Hinton, Felicia July, Vergie Lee, Artie Mallard, Lillian Miles, Terunda Montgomery, Annie McClellan, Connie Nays, Hallie Peoples, Doris Robinson, Evelyn Robinson, Ethel Rollins, Tammy Scott, Maxine Session, Ann Silmon, Verion Starling, Mary Tatum, Gladis Thompson, Linda Thompson, Flora Waits, Evelyn Wilcox, Annie Faye Williams, and Anetta Williams.

United Women of Strength is currently recruiting new members. Monthly meetings are held the third Monday evening of the month at North Side Community Center, 6:00PM. For information please contact any member or Lois Teague (903) 586-3884, Callie Walker (903) 586-2109, Barbara Scott or Helen Scott.

United Women of Strength present Christian Celebrities



Pictured above Christian Celebrities Malcolm Hunter, Jerline Price, Cynthia Boykins, Willie Lee Adams, Pertheria Holman, Elizabeth Fields, Willie Bradley, Ethel Rollins, Annie Faye Glaspie, Barbara Richardson, Willie Mae Scott, James Scott, Francetta McGowan, Kathy Franklin, Travis Sanders, Kathy Harris, Necice Aldridge, Jerline Dennis, Lisa Giles, Betty Session, Patrick Session, Katherine Coleman, John Cummings, Melvin Whitaker, Charles Doty, Gerald Porter, Brenda Boyd, Phyllis Marshall, MARY Black, Inez McCuin, Don Mitchell, Billy J. Williams, Emma Martin and Lela Brown. These celebrities were presented at the United Women of Strength December banquet at the Norman Activity Center in Jacksonville.

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THE IOWA ENIGMA

The Truth Clinic by James W. Breedlove - Something unique and perhaps even providential happened in Iowa last earlier this month.

Barack Obama became the first black candidate to win a presidential caucus or primary in over 230 years of America's history.

The fact that rural Iowa, 95 per cent white, elderly and the epitome of conservative convention, voted for a black man should cause voters in the two immediate primaries in New Hampshire and South Carolina and then the February 5th cluster of primaries to pause and think seriously about the profound statement made by Iowans.

Obama, 46, the son of a black Kenyan father and a white American mother from Kansas is a Harvard Law School graduate who launched his political career by organizing black churches on the industrial South Side of Chicago. He was elected to the Illinois legislature in 1997. He was thrust into the national spotlight when he was chosen as the keynote speaker for the 2004 Democratic National Convention. Elected to the U.S. Senate just four months later he became only the third black U.S. senator since Reconstruction.

After just two years in the U.S. Senate Obama announced that he was running for president as he stood on the steps of the Old Capitol in Springfield, Ill., the launching pad of Abraham Lincoln.

Iowa was a three-way race among Democratic contenders Clinton, Edwards and Obama who collectively invested over \$19 million of campaign resources there in the months prior to the caucuses.

The first-term Illinois senator gained momentum at just the right time. An influx of new caucus-goers and independents helped to propel Obama past Hillary Clinton, the well funded and well known front runner. "We came together as Democrats, as Republicans and in

dependents, to stand up and say we are one nation, we are one people and our time for change has come."



Obama said as he spoke to the delirious crowd of happy supporters.

Obama received 38 percent of the caucus vote, John Edwards 30%, while the preordained invincible Clinton came in third with 29%.

Iowans didn't vote for Obama because of his eloquent oratory or his Kennedy like charisma.

They embraced his opposition to the Iraq war, his mission to clean up the corruption and special interests that control Washington, his promise of universal health care, and the enthusiasm for political change generated by his grass roots organization. His army of volunteers and professionals turned out a massive number of first time caucus participants estimated at over 320,000. The enormity of this accomplishment can only be realized by comparing it to the 125,000 that turned out in 2003 and the 59,000 in 2000.

Obama campaigned aggressively on a promise to change Washington. Clinton had cast doubt on Obama's ability to bring about the change he advocated and accused him of being naive and inexperienced while touting her d

ecades of Washington experience.

But politicians throw the word "experience" around somewhat cavalierly as they let the listener assume that years on the job translates into relevant and practical experience.

A job applicant was asked to describe the 15 years experience that was referenced on his resume. Following the applicant's response the interviewer stated that what he had heard was 1 year's experience that had simply been repeated for 14 more

years. Iowans questioned the ability of the "experienced" candidates, who are bound hand and foot to the party playbook, to bring about needed change and voted accordingly.

A victorious Barack Obama portrayed his decisive first-place finish in the Iowa Democratic caucuses as a "defining moment" that he said would lead the way to change in Washington and an end to the war in Iraq. Throughout his campaign he has encouraged voters to set aside the cynicism,

doubt, and fear that has become the focus of American politics and set a course for change rooted in new hope and a new destiny that we the people create. Race remains a bitterly divisive issue in the US, and the Iowan moment could change dramatically as the radical elements that thrive on divisiveness, racism and fear begin their stealth campaigns to retain the status quo. For all of Thursday night's drama, the startling results in Iowa do not preclude a tight race going into New Hampshire and South Carolina. Hillary Clinton has raised plenty of money and assembled a sophisticated and tough politically savvy field organization.

While the momentous and magnificent moment of Obama's win in Iowa may be just a fleeting aberration and may never to be seen again for a long time it must be savored and appreciated like a rare vintage wine by those who witnessed it.

Obama described the moment this way, "But sometimes, just sometimes, there are nights like this, a night that, years from now, when we've made the changes we believe in, when more families can afford to see a doctor, when our children inherit a planet that's a little cleaner and safer, when the world sees America differently, and America sees itself as a nation less divided and more united, you'll be able to look back with pride and say that this was the moment when it all began."

His vision is now one step closer to reality thanks to that enigmatic happening in Iowa.

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

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Obituaries

Mrs. Lula Faye Mallard Warmlesley

Services for Lula Faye Mallard Warmlesley were held at Woodville CME Church, Rusk, Texas on Wednesday, January 2, 2007. She began this life December 18, 1942 and it came to an end December 27, 2007. She was the daughter of the late Sam Mallard and Vesta Richards.

During Faye's youth, she gave her life to Christ and united with Woodville C.M.E. Church in Rusk. After moving to Jacksonville, where she united with Rising Star Baptist Church where she served faithfully. She was a member of the Tuesday Evening Bible Class under the directions of Mrs. Sue Alexander.

Lula Faye attended Fred Douglas School of Jacksonville, Texas and graduated from G. W. Bradford High School with the class of 1960. She furthered her education at Texas College, Tyler, Prairie View A & M University of Hempstead, Texas. She received her LVN Certification from Nan Travis School of Nursing. She also attended Stephen F. Austin State University, Texas Women's University, later receiving her Bachelor of Arts & Science Degree, in Business and her Masters Degree from the University of Texas, Tyler.

Lula Faye was married to Eugene Warmlesley. To this union no children were born, but she gained two stepchildren.



Mrs. Warmlesley was an LVN at Nan Travis Hospital in the early 60's. In 1965 she gained employment with the Head Start Summer Program for Sweet Union Baptist church. Mrs. Warmlesley along with others worked to get a grant to administer the program full year. She became a class-

room teacher and continued to write grants to refund the program each year under the Sponsorship of Rusk & Cherokee Community Action Program. In 1972 she became director of the program. Later she founded East Texas Family Service, Inc. which became the sponsoring Agency for Head Start.

Under her leadership Head Start expanded throughout 13 counties in the East Texas Area. She was employed with PSI, Inc. Tyler, Texas.

Mrs. Warmlesley was a member of the Board of Directors of the Regional and State Associations, She served as President of the Texas Head Start Association. She served on the Board of Directors for Goals for Jacksonville. She was a member of the Cherokee County Inter-agency Council, and served on the Cherokee Health Advisory Board. She was a member of the Black Citizens for Positive Change. Mrs. Warmlesley was elected for membership in Who's Who Registry. It is limited to those individuals who have demonstrated leadership and achievement in their occupations.

She was the founder of East Texas Family Services, Inc. which became the sponsoring agency for Head Start.

She was a member of the Cherokee. She leaves to cherish her memories and a husband. Mr. Eugene Warmlesley of Louisiana; a loving mother Mrs. Vesta Richards of Jacksonville, Texas; a stepdaughter, Tensha Warmlesley, Shreveport, Louisiana; six aunts, Lula Mae Colston, Elnora Colston, Elsie (George) Colston, Mae Etha Jones, Perlle Session all of Rusk, Texas and Frankie Jones of Ft. Worth, Texas; seventeen 1st cousins; Special Friends Vernice(Bob) Johnson, Jacksonville, Texas a host of relatives and friends.

Mrs. Thelma Foreman Bradley

Mrs. Thelma Foreman Bradley daughter of the late Mrs. Corrine Williams Foreman and Mr. Una Foreman was born June 13, 1923 in Rusk, Texas. Monday Morning, December 10, 2007 in Dallas, Texas. She entered "Eternal Rest."

She was raised in Rusk where she attended public school. At an early age she confessed Christ and united with Mt. Olive Baptist Church several years later.

She moved to Dallas, Texas and united with New Wavery Baptist Church. She was preceded in death by her parents, four sisters and three brothers. She leaves to cherish her memories two sisters, Ms. Arthis J. Hoard, Rusk, Texas and Mrs. Dorothy Rusk, Sacramento, California; an aunt, Mrs. Velma Williams of Dallas, Texas; a host of nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

Sweetie Bell Caro- line Hampton- Rufus

Sweetie Belle Caroline Hampton-Rufus was born on June 26, 1913, the second child of Bradford and Arizona Hampton. She completed her early education in the Iron Hill Community, and she went on to earn a teaching degree from Prairie View University, and later a Masters Degree from Texas College.

Sweetie Belle was united in Holy Matrimony with Lymon Rufus on August 27, 1946 in Cleveland, OH. To this union no children were born, and he preceded her in death in October 1982.

After relocating to Rusk in 1973, Sweetie Belle went to work as the Director of the Cherokee County Community Action Elderly Nutrition Program, a position she held until her retirement in 1990.

She was a lifelong member of the Mt. Hebron Cumberland Presbyterian Church, serving as church secretary and on missionary society board. She was active in the Angelina Presbytery, and also served as a member of the East Texas Council of Government. She was a member of Heroines of Jericho Sunny Crest Court #356.

Sweetie Belle was a very outgoing and loving person. She will be greatly missed by both family and friends.

She was preceded in death by her husband and her parents, brothers, and sisters.

She is survived by a brother-in-law, Carl Sanders of Rusk, Tx; two nieces Jacquelyn (William) Taylor of Rusk and Gwenda (Claudell) Anderson and one nephew, Carlquett Sanders., other relatives and friends.

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St. Paul Baptist Church

558 N. Main Street

Jacksonville, TX. 75766



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

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FM 343
 Rusk, Texas



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

Rev. Joe Radford, pastor

MOUNT PLEASANT CME Church

207 Reeder St.
 Rusk, Texas



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

Sunday Worship Service
 11:00 AM

2nd & 4th Sunday Service
 Contact: (903) 683-3441 or
 Rt. 2, Box 417A - Rusk, Texas 75785

Mt. Olive Baptist Church

911 Egbert Street
 Rusk, TX. 75785



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

Contact: Sis. Sandra Carter

Ph: (903) 683-2100

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

Wells Chapel Missionary Baptist Church

Wells, Texas



Pastor: Daryl Cranford
 (936) 867-4522

The church must be reminded that it is not the master or the servant of the state, but rather the conscience of the state. It must be the guide and the critic of the state, and never its tool.

If the church does not recapture its prophetic zeal, it will become an irrelevant social club without moral or spiritual authority.

*Martin Luther King, Jr.,
 Strength to Love, 1963.*

Blount Chapel Baptist Church

Located Hwy 84 East
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Pastor Rev. D. C. Brown
 Service: 9:45AM Sunday School
 Worship Service: 11:00A.M.

Sweet Union Baptist Church

302 North Main Street
 Jacksonville, Texas
 903-586-4578



Sunday School: 9:45a-
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MorningWorship: 11:00AM

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