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January 2010

Celebrating Dr. Martin Luther King, JR's Birthday
January 18th

TEXAS INFORMER

Dr. Joe Leonard Jr. Assistant Sec. Civil Rights U. S. Department of Agriculture Takes Landowners Association Agriculture Tour



Houston County Landowners Association of Texas hosted its annual Landowners Association Agriculture Tour in Crockett, Texas on December 14, 2009. Special guest Dr. Joe Leonard Jr. Read story page 3.

Celebrating the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Dr. King's 81st Birth- day Celebration



Dr. King hand cuffed and arrested
and carried to a Birmingham jail.

It took 15 years to create the federal Martin Luther King, Jr., holiday. Congressman John Conyers, Democrat from Michigan, first introduced legislation for a commemorative holiday four days after King was assassinated in 1968. After the bill became stalled, petitions endorsing the holiday containing six million names were submitted to Congress.

Conyers and Rep. Shirley Chisholm, Democrat of New York, resubmitted King holiday legislation each subsequent legislative session. Public pressure for the holiday mounted during the 1982 and 1983 civil rights marches in Washington.

Congress passed the holiday legislation in 1983, which was then signed into law by President Ronald Reagan. A compromise moving the holiday from Jan. 15, King's birthday, which was considered too close to Christmas and New Year's, to the third Monday in January helped overcome opposition to the law.

The existence of Black people in America before Dr. King and the Civil Rights movement was much like that of people living in third world countries.

It was so appropriate that the words "Civil Rights Movement" were coined to describe that time period, because at that time, 300 years after the ending of slavery, Black people living in America had no rights. The Birmingham Church Bombing, the vicious dogs and waterhoses turned on people helped turn the attention of those who had kept their eyes turned away for so long...ignoring what took place in some form or fashion in American every day. And yes, the death threats to Dr. King and others...and finally the assassination of President Kennedy and the murder of Dr. King served to show the real truth about the ugly truth of the human rights abuse turned loose on Black people here in America.

And we gratefully celebrate the life and legacy of this man
January 18, 2010.

Preston Meador runs for Justice of the Peace Pre- cinct three



Preston Meador has filed to run for the position of Justice of the peace Cherokee County Precinct three on the Democratic ticket.

Meador was born and raised in Cherokee County and attended public schools in the county, graduating from Fred Douglass High School. He is a graduate of the University of Texas. He served twenty-one

years in the United States Air Force retired. He also worked as a manager for Kelly Springfield Tire Company retiring after fifteen years of employment.

Preston Meador has been a public servant most of his life. He served six years as a trustee of the Jacksonville Independent School District Board of Trustees.

Mr. Meador spearheaded the renovations of the old Pine Grove School Building which is now a Texas Historical Site. The building serves as the Pine Grove Community Center and is used for community events such as family reunions, family recreation and wedding receptions.

Mr. Meador is a member of the Pennell Chapel CME Church where he serves on the Steward Board and finance committee.

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by Maxine Session

Dr. Joseph Leonard, Jr. U. S. Asst. Secretary Civil Rights for U. S. Department of Agriculture takes Crockett Landowners Tour

The Landowners Association of Texas held its annual Agriculture Tour of Crockett, Houston County, Texas farms and ranches December 14, 2009. Dr. Joseph Leonard, Jr. Assistant Secretary of Civil Rights for the U. S. Department of Agriculture was the special guest.

The Landowners Association of Texas was founded in 1978 with the primary goal to curtail the alarming rate at which Black land owners are losing and have lost their land over the past thirty years. The current president for the state Association is Edward Kline.

On the morning of December 14th some of the members of the Crockett, Texas Landowners Association of Texas met in Porter Springs at the home of Cather Woods. The tour bus was scheduled to arrive there at 12:00 noon. Those participating were Rose McCullough, Vivian Grant, Otis Duren, Jimmy Wane, Crispen Skinner, Michael Woods and Cather Woods. President of the local chapter is P. A Colter.

At 12:00 P. M. the tour bus carrying special guest, Dr. Leonard and others arrived. Introductions were made and a warm welcome was extended to him by Cather Woods on behalf of the association president and members.

First stop on the tour was Willie (Red) Fred's Kitchen where a delicious lunch was served. Following lunch the tour took them through Cooper's Settlement and to Oakwood to Wesley and Marie Ratcliff's 900 acre Caney Creek Ranch. The Ratcliff's grow every kind of grass imaginable, hay and ferns.

Those taking the tour expressed their enjoyment of the information, sights and good company. Dr. Leonard is a native of Austin but has roots in Crockett. He was asked how it felt to be home. "The air is sweeter", was his response.



Pictured above are L to R standing Cather Woods, Crispen Skinner, Vivian Grant, Jimmy Wane, and Michael Woods. Seated - Rose McCullough and Otis Duren.

The LAT (Landowners Association of Texas) works with several organizations and agencies, the Cooperative Extension Program at Prairie View A & M University, the Texas Agrilife Extension, governmental agencies, and related organizations to provide educational programs that benefit the membership.

The Association sponsors annually The Black Farmers and Ranchers Conference, Educational Tours of successful farm and ranch operations, Fellowship Picnic, Awards and Recognition Banquet for longterm maintenance and land acquisition and development. In addition, the LAT supports students with their agricultural projects by providing funds for the purchase of starter animals, feed, and funds for workshops, etc.

Some methods put in place to accomplish the LAT goals include providing information and assistance to Black farmers to

help maintain land ownership, acquire land and develop and utilize land in a profitable manner, to assist with resolving land disputes through guidance and appropriate referrals, and to increase knowledge about methods of land transfer to heirs.

Their vision is that land owners will work with local community leaders, United States Department of Agriculture, farm and ranch organizations, universities and state and national initiatives to implement programs that keep communities secure and healthy and ensure safe food from farm to table.

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack swore in Dr. Joseph Leonard, Jr., as Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights on April 9, 2009. Nominated by President Barack Obama and confirmed by the U. S. Senate, he has a strong academic, legislative and working history in civil rights.

He holds a Ph. D. in American History with a specialization in civil rights history from Howard University, Washington D. C.; a M. A. Degree from Southern University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana and a B. A. from Houston-Tillotson University Austin, Texas.

The office of the Assistant Secretary of Civil Rights ensures compliance with applicable laws, regulations, and policies for USDA customers and employees regardless of race, color,

national origin, age or religion. The office provides overall leadership, coordination, and directions for USDA's civil rights programs, including matters related to program delivery, compliance and equal employment opportunity.

When Dr. Leonard came into office there were more than 3,000 outstanding civil rights claims against the agency. The resolution of these claims could improve ties with minority employees and minority farmers. In a mid-April 2009 memorandum, Vilsack suspended all Farm Service Agency farm foreclosures for 90 days to review loans involving possible discrimination. He is also consulting with the Justice Department on how to resolve claims not covered in the 1999 settlement of Pigford v. Glickman, a class action suit filed by the National Black Farmers Association.

For more information about the Landowners Association of Texas contact :Mr. Ed Kline at 713 748-0452 or locally Ms. Cather Woods at 936 624-2502.

State, Health District, local groups unite to fight H1N1 in minority communities

TYLER—The Northeast Texas Public Health District, the Texas State Department of State Health Services and the Minority Advertising Association have teamed up to address the potential impact of the H1N1 virus on minority communities throughout east Texas. Health officials are concerned that many in the African American and Hispanic communities are not taking the free inoculations. “There is a lot of misinformation and just plain assumptions about the shots out there that are just plain wrong and inaccurate,” according to William Oliver, Deputy Regional Director of

State Health Services. “This effort is a collaboration of several groups who are determined to address these safe from this dangerous virus.” misnomers and help keep people On Monday, January 11th the groups will hold a press conference to unveil a new media campaign aimed toward Hispanic and Black communities. The conference will take place at 11:00 am at the Tyler Metropolitan Black Chamber of Commerce, 2000 W. Gentry Parkway. Members and officials from all four organizations will be on hand to present the new campaign to

the media and to answer any questions related to it. Your presence is requested and a light lunch will be available for those in attendance.

“January 10-16 is National Influenza Vaccination Week,” said George Roberts, CEO of the Northeast Texas Public Health District. “That makes this an excellent time to unveil our partnership with the state and with the Minority Advertising Association.” Winter Goat Production Workshop To Provide Hands-On Learning Submitted by: Cooperative Extension Agent, Rene McCracken

The USDA/1890 National Scholars application form is available online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/doc/Scholars_application.pdf.

The application form can be printed blank and filled out or completed online, printed and submitted

“Every step toward the goal of justice requires sacrifice, suffering, and struggle; the tireless exertions and passionate concern of dedicated individuals.”

--Dr. Martin Luther King

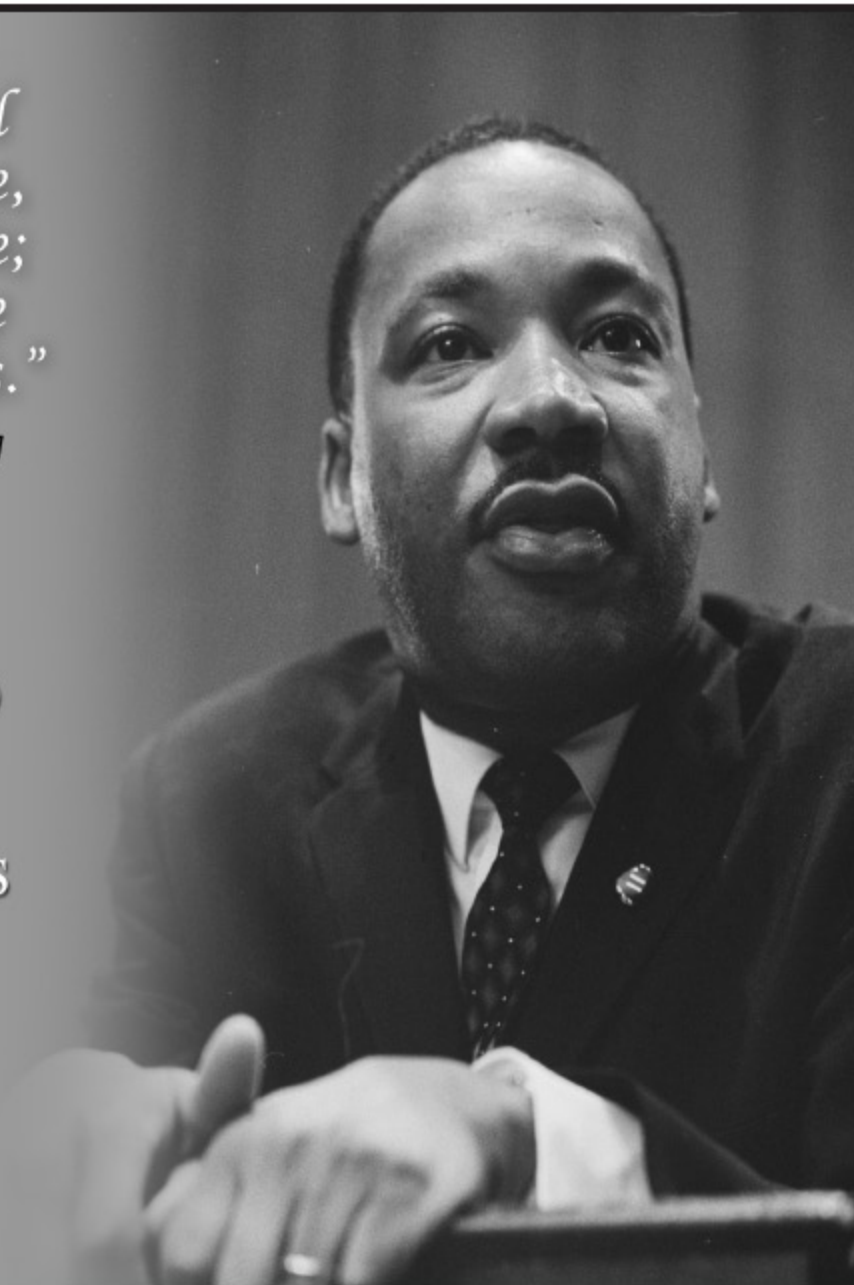
Saluting Dr. King and the dedicated men and women who carry forward his legacy and continue to fight for civil rights for all people.

Farouk Shami

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G. W. Bradford Dallas Chapter Alumni holds J. W. Carter 3rd Annual Scholarship Banquet



Corine Waggoner



Billy Wickware, Dallas Chapter President, Juanita Wickware and Helen Boston, Rusk Chapter President.

The Dallas Chapter of the G. W. Bradford High School Alumni Chapter held the Third Annual J. W. Carter Holiday Scholarship Fundraising Gala December 12, 2009 at the Envoy' ounce Event Center in Dallas.

Shirley Freeney Jones was the Mistress of Ceremonies and Doretha Session Johnson gave the history of the founding of the Chapter. Tenell Atkins, Dallas City Councilman, formerly of Rusk, was the guest speaker.

The late J. W. Carter was a graduate of G. W. Bradford and he taught and coached there from 1948 until the school was dismantled in 1968.

Members of Mr. Carter's family present were daughters Sandra Carter, LaDora Carter, son Randy Carter and wife, sister Corine Waggoner, sisters-in-law Emma Lois Hodge, and Carolyn Matthews; granddaughters Mychilette, Monique and Jessica. The large gathering of former Bradford students were treated to an evening of great music and food.

Chapter Officers are Billy Wickware President, Marie Bennett, Vice President, Frazier Foreman Treasurer, Emma Hodge, Secretary.

The eleventh bi-annual G. W. Bradford Reunion is scheduled for June 18, 19, and 20, 2010.

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America Still Can't Connect

Terrorism Dots

by James Breedlove

The unease that has infected Americans since the terrorist attacks of September 2001 flared up again when Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab, a 23 year old Nigerian, tried to blow up Northwest Airlines Flight 253 on its final approach to Detroit on Christmas day.

Fortunately, the explosives that Umar Abdulmutallab had hidden in his underwear did not go off. The explosive in question was pentaerythritol (PETN), a colorless compound similar to nitroglycerin that had to be mixed with another chemical to detonate. Umar was quickly subdued, after attempting to mix the PETN, and the 279 passengers and 11 crew members on board the flight were spared being unwitting pawns in what could have been a horrible tragedy.

The real tragedy is the revelation that the government's security bureaucracy appears to be nothing more than a gang of uncoordinated keystone cops eight years after the 2001 terrorist attacks made the devastating statement that terrorism is for real. The response to the Abdulmutallab crisis, as is the normal response of bureaucrats to a crisis, was to do something quickly to placate the public, even if the response didn't make sense.

The airlines were immediately ordered to: Limit international passengers to a single carry-on bag, perform second level pat downs and body searches, disabling the map

showing the plane's progress and location on certain flights, requiring passengers to remain seated for the last hour of the flight, and prohibiting passengers from having blankets or pillows in their laps for the last hour of the flight. But sanity prevailed after a few days as the airlines and disgruntled passengers complained at the absurdity of the new security decrees. Most of the orders were changed from "mandatory" to "optional". The Abdulmutallab incident validates that despite massive security modifications adopted since the infamous Richard "Shoe Bomber" Reid's unsuccessful attempt, terrorists are adapting their methods and personnel to find new ways to seize or destroy airliners. The decision to not place Abdulmutallab on the no fly list was made by the National Counterterrorism Center (NCTC) that is organized under the Office of the Director of National Intelligence and staffed by representatives of at least 16 agencies and departments specifically to connect the dots on terrorism. His father had warned the U.S. Embassy in Nigeria weeks earlier of his son's extremist connections in Yemen and U.S. intelligence agencies knew at least a month earlier about a possible Nigerian threat but never did connect the dots. Let's recap. A man who has made multiple trips to terrorist training

camp is outed as a potential threat by his own father and yet our sophisticated high tech security agencies allow him on board a U.S. bound flight without a passport. President Obama has said there was little doubt that Abdulmutallab should not have been permitted to board the Northwest flight. "What's also clear is this: When our government has information on a known extremist and that information is not shared and acted upon as it should have been ... a systemic failure has occurred. And I consider that totally unacceptable." He has ordered a complete review of this incident and promised a thorough assessment of what went wrong and appropriate changes that need to be made.

Hopefully, this will be an opportunity to look beyond the politics, the high tech fantasy and apply some common sense. Ask the tough questions. Why did security stop using the Computer Assisted Passenger Prescreening System (CAPPS) that cross-checks databases to help flag individuals who could be traveling under false identities or pose terrorism risks? Why are over 150 multi-million dollar whole-body scanners sitting idle in warehouses? Why has the TSA been without an Administrator for nearly a year and what is there about the system that TSA administrators in eight years is a recipe for security disaster.

Perhaps the security system has become a bloated bureaucra

tors have such short duty cycles? cy and needs to be streamlined so that coordination and data sharing will be less cumbersome.

Counterterrorism programs exist in the individual budgets of some 40 departments and agencies of the Federal Government. Huge sums of money are being spent on Homeland Security. Over \$68 billion dollars is budgeted for distribution to these agencies with over 150,000 employees to ensure America's security. Are the taxpayers getting value for their money? The Abdulmutallab incident screams out a resounding No.

Why not at least investigate new approaches that are simpler and less costly? For example, sniffer dogs have the notable quality of being able to discern individual scents even when the scents are combined or masked by other odors. Their sense of smell is 2000 times more sensitive than that of humans.

Agencies in Hungary, Korea and the UK are using sniffer dogs specifically chosen for their keen sense of smell and training them to recognize specific odors including explosives. The costs for this training are miniscule compared to the high tech scanning machines.

The "enemy" will remain an invisible presence, unseen except for its devastating effects when an attack occurs. The American people are engaged in what may be an eternal never ending nightmare unless the real problems are addressed and truly effective reforms made. More of the same is no longer acceptable

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Parental Involvement Equals Success

~Ferlich R. July Arrington

Parent involvement is the participation of parents in every facet of a child's

education from birth to adulthood. The word parent is used to refer to all those who are involved in a child's education. Parents are the primary influence in a child's life. Research shows that National PTA recognizes that other adults such as grandparents, aunts, uncles, stepparents and guardians may also carry the responsibility for a child's educational development. Study after study indicates that parent involvement increases student achievement. "The evidence is now beyond dispute. When schools work together with families to support learning, children tend to succeed not just in school, but throughout life. The form of parent involvement chosen is not as critical to success as the fact that it be reasonably planned, comprehensive and long-lasting. Teachers in schools where parents are actively involved find that their jobs become easier. Working in partnership with students and parents creates an environment of trust, positive interaction and optimism for what can be accomplished. Having the support of parents relieves considerable stress for teachers who often feel they are struggling alone to improve children's achievement. Effective parent involvement programs can prevent burnout and the loss of hardworking, dedicated teachers.

Parent involvement takes many forms including: two way communication between school and home, serving as primary educators, participating as a volunteer, sharing responsibility in decision making about your child's education, health and well-being, collaborating with community organizations that reflects aspiration of all children.

Schools and families working together can prepare children to lead healthy, happy and productive lives. Please participate in your children's education. It will make a difference. Until next time take care of ourselves.

CITY OF RUSK TAKES APPLICATIONS FOR PROPERTY CLEANUP ASSISTANCE

The city of Rusk is accepting requests for assistance to help clean up overgrown lots and dilapidated houses inside the city limits of Rusk that were affected by Hurricane Ike or otherwise pose a health or safety hazard to citizens of Rusk. Lots and structures requiring attention will be evaluated and prioritized.

Those that pose the greatest risk will be given the top priority for cleanup and the owner's ability to pay for the cleanup will be taken into consideration. Owners will be asked to assist financially in the cleanup of their own lots or properties based on a sliding scale. This program is for a limited time only. Applications will be accepted until Jan. 8, 2010. Participation in this program will not excuse future responsibilities for maintenance of property.

Non-participation will not excuse responsibilities for maintenance of property. It is the responsibility of every property owner to maintain their property in a manner proscribed by city ordinance and state law. Overgrown lots, weeds, junk, debris, junk cars, dilapidated properties and other hazards are deemed by state law and city ordinance as a detriment to public health, safety and a nuisance which causes reduced property values.

This notice is to inform the public of this one time opportunity for assistance as well as to inform the public of intent to vigorously enforce state and city laws regarding the above mentioned health, safety and nuisance laws.

This program is being offered as a one time opportunity available through a grant received by the city of Rusk. Once the grant is expended, there will be no further funds to assist property owners. It is a first-come first-served opportunity (based on need). Once again, participation or non-participation in this opportunity will not negate property owners responsibilities for maintenance of their property.

Once the grant is expended, the city of Rusk will continue to enforce the applicable laws, charging property owners the full price for cleanup of their non-compliant property. For more information about this program, please contact Cristin Ross, Community Development Specialist for the City of Rusk at 903-683-2850 or christinross@yahoo.com



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What's Cook 'n?

Red Beans and Rice



2 lb. dried red beans
 1 lb. smoked sausage
 3 Tsp. vegetable oil
 1 lb. salt pork (cut into pieces)
 1 medium onion, chopped
 2 small carrots, chopped
 2 medium celery stalks, chopped
 2 Tsp. vinegar
 1 tsp. salt
 1/2 tsp. pepper
 2 cups rice

Sort red beans and wash. Place in soak in large pan or bowl, cover well with water. Let beans soak 2 to 3 hours. Brown sausage in small amount of vegetable oil remove and drain. Drain beans. Cover with water and add all ingredients. Cover and simmer two to three hours. Serve over hot cooked rice.

Delicious Tea Cakes

2 cups sifted flour
 2 cups sugar
 2 eggs
 2 tsp. baking soda
 1/2 cup shortening
 1 tsp. vanilla
 2 eggs

Cream sugar and shortening together well. Add eggs and flavoring and blend. Fold in dry ingredients. Roll out on floured board and cut into cookie. Place on greased cookie sheet and bake at 350 degrees until brown.

Peanut Butter Cookies

1 cup creamy peanut butter
 1 cup sugar,
 1 egg

Mix ingredients well. Roll into small balls and flatten with fork.. Bake until done.

ASK A.J. .?



Which was worse? The plight of the Iraqi people eight years ago or African Americans in slavery in the US?

A. J. Rhodes

Dear A. J., some of us were discussing the Iraq War recently. It's almost impossible to figure out the cost of that war to Americans in money and human life. It seems that our government switched the reason for starting that war from weapons of mass destruction to human rights. Our ancestors were used and dehumanized here on American soil for more than 300 years. Why did the U S government not rescue them and why won't they admit to the damage the white race did/still doing to the black race?

Still Hurting
 Jacksonville, Texas

A lot of people are trying to get past slavery and all it's cruelty, but the damage has been done and believe it or not, it is documented. Just like you and your friends were talking, no doubt in an all minority group, people of the white race talk and many still believe the stereotypes of old that were used to keep black people in slavery.

If you have white family or friends, ask them sometime. I'm sure they will tell you. There is serious fallout seen today in hiring practices in public and private offices right here in our county. The harrasment by law enforcement against black people is still a result of it. (Unspoken anger on both sides.) Low test scores in the classroom is a result of one of the biggest problems we have in East Texas. That is young white females who still believe the stereotypes, teaching young black males, the ones whose culture they know nothing about and the ones they continue to damage. To answer your question, economic greed took priority over 300 years of rape, castration, starvation, hanging and degradation of our ancestors. To me, that was much worse than the plight of the Iraqi people eight years ago and the war devastation they live in today.

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Obituaries

Mr. Earnest Carlton Mitchell

Funeral Services were held January 5, 2010 for Earnest Mitchell of Alto at the Linwood Baptist Church with Ministers Herman Martin, Johnny Thacker, Lionel Whitaker, August Moore, Kenneth Thacker and Pastor DeClois Johnson officiating.

Earnest was born October 13, 1945 in Cherokee County to the late Matt Mitchell and Rensie Clemons Mitchell.

He grew up in Alto attending public school there and graduating from Booker T. Washington High School.

At a young age he confessed his life to Christ and joined Linwood Baptist Church. He served on the Deacon Board and worked faithfully in that position and as a member of the area Christian Brotherhood until his death.

He was a longtime employee of Rusk State Hospital retiring in November 1999 after completing twenty-eight years of service.

He was preceded in death by his parents, six brothers and one sister. He passed away at home in Alto on Thursday night December 31, 2009.

He leaves to cherish his memory Mary Mitchell, a devoted wife of 37 years, Alto; four sons, Kelly (Colette) Buckingham and Clifton Reagan of Dallas, Texas; Stanley (Laquandra) Mitchell and Randy Lofton of Alto, Texas; two daughters, Beverly (Garland) Mitchell of Angleton, Texas and Jackie (Craig) Fisher of Huntsville, Texas; two brothers, Ellis Mitchell and Robert Mitchell of Alto; three sisters Mary Hackney of Beaumont, Etta (Truman) Mcknight of Austin, and Odessa (Nathaniel) Buckingham of Alto; three sisters-in-law Addie Perry of Killene, Bennie Mitchell of Dallas and Kaye Lofton of Alto; eighteen (18) grandchildren, six (6) great grandchildren and many other relatives and friends.

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

~Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



"Celebrating Dr. King's Legacy and the impact it has made on Civil Rights in America"

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Teresa Phifer Announces For Re-Election as Justice of The Peace, Precinct 2



Judge Teresa Phifer announces her campaign for re-election as Justice of the Peace, Precinct 2. Judge Phifer is a Cherokee County

native, graduating from Jacksonville High School. Having attended Lon Morris Jr. College and Sam Houston State University, Judge Phifer holds a degree in Criminology and Corrections. Prior to election as Justice of the Peace, Judge Phifer worked with Smith County Juvenile Services and the Cherokee County Juvenile Probation Department.

She has also worked as a legal assistant with a local law practice. She is currently serving her second term as Justice of the Peace.

"I've always enjoyed good working relationships with both local law enforcement and the legal community", said Judge Phifer. "The officers and attorneys know from experience that I am readily accessible, fair, well educated in the law and fully capable of carrying out the duties and responsibilities of my office."

Judge Phifer was the focus of several newspaper articles and television reports because of her tough, no nonsense approach to children missing school. Based from her office in Alto, Judge Phifer presides over truancy cases for the cities of Wells, Alto and Rusk Independent School Districts.

Officials from each district have expressed high praise for her many accomplishments. In one article published in the Cherokeean Herald, a former Wells school official was quoted saying, "Our attendance is better than ever since Judge Phifer took over....She's a real asset, I think She's doing a fine job." Officials from both Alto and Rusk Independent School Districts have also praised Judge Phifer's diligence and noted a dramatic increase in school attendance because of her dedication. "I try to impress on the parent and the child that the student needs to be in school," Judge Phifer said. "When they don't go to school they have no chance to learn or have a secure future." Because of her dedication to the children of her community, Judge Phifer has also been honored to serve as a board member on the Cherokee County Child and Family services Board of Directors..

In addition to her truancy duties, Judge Phifer also presides over traffic court, small claims civil proceedings, forcible entry and detainer proceedings (evictions) and other civil suits. She also reviews and issues arrest warrants, magistrates prisoners and sets bonds, presides over inquiries into

deaths that occur in Cherokee County. Judge Phifer is on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 52 weeks of the year. Sometimes I'm called out in the wee hours of the morning, even on holidays and weekends, but that's all part of the job. It helps that "I have over 200 hours of specialized training in these areas from the Texas Justice Court Training Center," she said.

Precinct 2 covers the cities of Maydell, Rusk, Alto and continues South through Cherokee County to the city of Wells. It also includes both state prisons and the state hospital. Judge Phifer is married and has one child. She is a member of the First United Methodist Church of Rusk, where she has served as Christian Education Director, Methodist Women's Fellowship President and is currently its Vacation Bible School Coordinator. She is a member of the Alto Lions Club and Justice of the Peace and Constable's Association of Texas.

"I have truly enjoyed serving as your Justice of the Peace and wish to continue to do as," Judge Phifer said. Your support and your vote will be greatly appreciated."



Mr. James I. Perkins, Citizens 1st Bank President, received the greatest honor that can be bestowed upon an individual. January 29, 2008 the Stephen F. Austin College of Education was named the James I. Perkins College of Education in his honor. Seated here, Mr. Perkins and Indiana Colt defensive Back, Cody Glenn, also former Citizens 1st Bank employee; Andrew Melon-tree 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.

CITIZENS 1ST BANK

HOME OWNED AND SERVING THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1920
JUST AS IT SERVES RUSK STATE HOSPITAL AND EAST TEXAS

Rusk - 601 North Main Street (903) 683-2277
Jacksonville - 825 South Jacksonville (903) 586-2201
Tyler - 2001 East South Easty Loop 323 (903) 581-1900
Nacogdoches - 3010 University (409) 5601401

CD'S
Savings
Home Loans

Member FDIC



Winter Goat Production Workshop To Provide Hands-On Learning

Submitted by: Cooperative Extension Agent, Rene' McCracken

Cherokee County Extension Agent, Rene' McCracken and Jacksonville based East Texas Goat Raisers Association or ETGRA have teamed up again to host their annual Winter Goat Production Workshop, Saturday, January 23, 2010. Every year this round-robin, hands-on style workshop is pulled together for the benefit of goat producers, 4-H members and leaders and other persons interested in learning the latest agricultural research and techniques to surviving the economy and raising goats in East Texas. This year's round robin seminar

will be held at The Cherokee County Expo in Jacksonville on Loop 456 beginning at 10 am. Hands on demonstrations will be presented on topics including: tattooing, showing and clipping goats, nutrition and feeding, goat facilities, parasite control, and breeding and kidding from several area goat producers, and all this with no registration fees required! Do not miss the sonogram demonstration, soap making demonstration, raffle for door prizes setting up your own website information, and tax credit and financial information booths for farm,

ers. ETGRA members will have contact information available at the membership table for those looking to purchase goats. If you are a vendor or wish to sell goat related items, or just interested in sponsoring the event, contact Rene' McCracken at the number below.

Many area producers looking for tips on alternative feeds, forages, and marketing that would help move their operations into a more profitable position will definitely find solutions at this round robin style seminar. All youth showing goat projects will

get a hands on demonstration on how to prepare their goat for shows. A general membership meeting, election of 2010 officers will also be held directly after the seminar. Topics such as future production sales and shows, membership and fund-

raising drives, where to market goats, and nominations for leadership roles depicted the association's determination to best serve its membership and the goat industry overall. Members and non-members are encouraged to attend the meeting. For more information on this and other goat events contact Cooperative Extension Agent, Rene' McCracken at 903-683-5416 or lrnccracken@ag.tamu.edu. You may also find additional information on the website at etgra.com. Next "goat date to watch", February 13, 2010 is the Cream of the Crop Boer Goat Show, ABGA sanctioned, to be held in Henderson, TX. Judges will be announced later.

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

KEEP YOUR GERMS TO YOURSELF



WASH YOUR HANDS

Wash your hands often. Scrub for at least 20 seconds with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand cleaner.



COVER YOUR COUGH

Use a tissue to cover your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze. No tissue around? Your sleeve will do.



STAY HOME

If you get sick, stay home until you're well so you don't spread more germs. Steer clear of others who are sick.



GET YOUR SHOTS

Protect yourself by getting all your flu shots. You need both the seasonal flu shot as well as the new H1N1 shot.

Stopping the flu is up to you.



TexasFlu.org

For more information, contact:

Northeast Texas Public Health District - 877-244-9641
Texas Department of State Health Services - 877-847-5009



Unity Committee Plans King Celebration



Helen Scott and A. J. Rhodes

***January 18th lineup will begin at 11:15 in front of the Norman Activity Center**

***March begins at 11:30**

***Skit "Big Words" will begin at 12:00 Sweet Union Baptist Church on N. Main
Minister Jason Peoples will be the speaker
Jacksonville, Texas**

Prairie View A&M University Announces Opening of

USDA/1890 National Scholars Program for 2010 Academic School Year

Prairie View A&M University is in partnership with the U.S. Department of Agriculture to encourage bright young people to study agriculture, food, natural resource sciences or related disciplines. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack recently announced that applications are now being accepted for the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)/1890 National Scholars Program for the 2010 academic school year.

This year aspiring high school seniors as well as rising college sophomores and juniors are encouraged to apply before the February 1, 2010 deadline.

"This program furthers the Obama Administration's goal of promoting and encouraging America's young men and women to consider careers in agriculture and public service," said Vilsack. "Under this terrific partnership College-bound students benefit from an outstanding educational opportunity and USDA benefits from the knowledge, talent, diversity and skills that they will one day bring to our organization." The USDA/1890 National Scholars application form is available online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/doc/Scholars_application.pdf.

Tax Agency Is \$32 Billion Short

Washington D. C. - The Internal Revenue Service suddenly reduced the amount of revenue it reported from delinquent collections by \$32 billion, or about 27 percent, providing little information about what happened to the money, according to a report released Wednesday morning.

"There is an astonishing lack of transparency as to what is included in these revenue figures and how they are computed," said National Taxpayer Advocate Nina E. Olson as part of her annual report to Congress. "The failure to highlight and explain revisions of such magnitude erodes confidence in IRS's data reporting." The IRS reported more than \$121 billion in delinquent tax collection revenues from 2005 to 2007. But in its 2008 IRS Data Book, it quietly revised the number downward to less than \$89 billion. Olson's report said that was part of a larger picture of the IRS now having a handle on what type of collection activities really bring in revenue.

IRS spokeswoman Michelle Eldridge said the IRS will explain the discrepancy this spring in its next Data Book. The \$32 billion was taken off the revenue total because some of it involved double counting, she said. For instance, if four officers of a firm owed \$1,000 for not paying payroll taxes and one of them paid the bill, it might be accidentally credited as \$1,000 in revenue multiplied by all four officers. Pete Sepp, vice president of the National Taxpayers Union, said the IRS appeared to be "obfuscating" whether additional funding for collecting delinquent taxes had actually yielded any results. "It's either a terrible deception or a terrible oversight. One way or another, Congress should get an answer." A taxpayer could call and ask. But don't count on the phone being answered.

According to Olson's report, the IRS only plans to answer 71 percent of the calls it gets this year. That's barely above the 69 percent level in 1998 when Congress got so fed up with complaints about taxpayer service that it reformed the agency. And the numbers have gone down in recent years - during the 2009 tax filing season, only 64 percent of callers got through.

"It's a terrible indictment in this day and age that an agency can't even answer its phones," Sepp said. "That's setting the bar awfully low and would probably bankrupt any customer-service-oriented business." When the call does go through, the IRS estimates that the taxpayers will be on hold for almost 12 minutes.

This level of service is unacceptable," said Olson, whose office is part of the IRS but is charged with protecting the interests of taxpayers.

Eldridge said that although the percentage is down, the total number of calls answered was up - from 34 million in 2007 to 40 million in 2008 and 39 million last year. The past two years involved more callers with questions because of the rebate and other changes made in economic stimulus legislation.

STOP THE FLU TEXASFLU.ORG



STAY HOME

If you get sick, stay home until you're well so you don't spread more germs. Steer clear of others who are sick.



PLAN

Even if you're not sick, plan ahead. Stock food and medicine to last several days for family and pets. Also check into alternate work options and child care, in case your family gets the flu.



STAY INFORMED

Get the latest updates at TexasFlu.org, and check your local news for any canceled events or closings.



DIAL 2-1-1 FOR FLU ADVICE

Medical professionals can provide information about managing flu symptoms. They can also give advice on when to seek medical care.

Stopping the flu is up to you.



TexasFlu.org

For more information, contact:

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