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## A legacy to remember



June 1967 Dr. King gives a press conference with his aide left to right Bernard Lee , Al Rabym and Mike Lawson. Dr. King was expanding the scope of his efforts to include human rights as well as civil rights.

See story page 3

## EDITORIAL



Since its inception in 1926, Negro History Week and Black History Month have been given annual themes. The first annual theme was simply, "The Negro in History," but since then the themes have grown more specific. Now that the Texas State Board of Education has chosen to rewrite the history books, ignoring facts surrounding Black History it is of the most urgent need that Black History is taught at home and in churches. Here is a list of the most current and future themes for Black History Month.

- 2005 - The Niagara Movement: Black Protest Reborn, 1905-2005
- 2006 - Celebrating Community: A Tribute to Black Fraternal, Social, and Civic Institutions
- 2007 - From Slavery to Freedom: Africans in the Americas
- 2008 - Carter G. Woodson and the Origins of Multiculturalism
- 2009 - The Quest for Black Citizenship in the Americas
- 2010 - The History of Black

*"Once let the black man get upon his person the brass letters, U.S., let him get an eagle on his button, and a musket on his shoulder and bullets in his pockets, and there is no power on earth which can deny that he has earned the right to citizenship in the United States." - - Frederick Douglass*

These words spoken by Frederick Douglass moved many African Americans to enlist in the Union Army and fight for their freedom. With President Abraham Lincoln's issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863, the Civil War became a war to save the union and to abolish slavery.

Approximately 180,000 African Americans comprising 163 units served in the Union Army during the Civil War, and many more African Americans served in the Union Navy. Both free African-Americans and runaway slaves joined the fight.

On July 17, 1862, Congress passed two acts allowing the enlistment of African Americans, but official enrollment occurred only after the September, 1862 issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation. In general, white soldiers and officers believed that black men lacked the courage to fight and fight well. In October, 1862, African American soldiers of the 1st Kansas Colored

Volunteers silenced their critics by repulsing attacking Confederates at the battle of Island Mound, Missouri. By August, 1863, 14 Negro Regiments were in the field and ready for service. At the battle of Port Hudson, Louisiana, May 27, 1863, the African American sol-

diers bravely advanced over open ground in the face of deadly artillery fire. Although the attack failed, the black soldiers proved their capability to withstand the heat of battle.

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## Dr. King's Legacy an ever present reminder of segregated times for African Americans



They walked, took taxis and found other transportation. Dr. King's home was bombed during that time, but the boycott forced the bus company to desegregate and in late 1956 the Supreme Court declared bus segregation unconstitutional.

Afterward Dr. King traveled extensively and lectured about civil rights for Black People. In India in 1959, he studied Mahatma Gandhi's ideas of nonviolent resistance. He used those ideas when he assumed the presidency of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference in 1960. For the next five years, Dr. King's use of nonviolent direct action campaigns throughout the south captured the country's attention because of the brutality directed at protesters.

As demonstrators sought to end segregation in 1963 in downtown Birmingham stores, city officials used attack dogs and fire hoses against unarmed men, women and children as the nation watched via television.

Dr. King was jailed along with hundreds of marchers. He was placed in solitary confinement. While there he wrote the famous "Letter from a Birmingham Jail", which explained why he believed in nonviolent direct action. The letter is considered one of the greatest essays in American History.

In 1963, Dr. King and other movement leaders organized the March on Washington, D. C. where more than 200,000 people gathered to support passage of civil rights legislation. Dr. King gave his "I Have A Dream" speech and met with president John F. Kennedy. The Civil Rights Act was passed the next year.

Another bloody confrontation occurred in Selma, Alabama in 1965, on a march to Montgomery in support of Black voting rights. When protesters were turned back by law enforcement using tear gas and nightsticks, national outrage caused religious leaders of all denominations to join a second attempted march. Afterward, President Lyndon Johnson maneuvered the Voting Rights Act of 1965 through Congress.



After these successes, Dr. King's efforts turned toward organizing a multiracial poor People's Campaign to march on Washington, D. C. to secure basic economic rights. The demonstration was planned for the spring of 1968, but in April, while in Memphis, Dr. King was killed by sniper James Earl Ray.

Dr. King is generally acknowledged to be one of the great social leaders in world history. His work and his legacy live on through the Center for Nonviolent Social Change in Atlanta, which was established by Coretta Scott King following his death.

American History books do not carry the full story of life for American Americans prior to the non-violent civil rights movement, but many independent Black and White authors who lived through those times have provided very accurate records in the form of novels and even movies.

Almost every small town and large city in the fifty states has named a Street, or boulevard for Dr. King.

Civil Rights Museums in Atlanta, Birmingham, Memphis and Washington D. C. offer an emotional glimpse into the past and the real horrors that took place during that shameful period of time in American History. On January 17, 2011 Dr. King's Birthday will be celebrated in various ways. Please remember his legacy. This is not history that should be ignored or rewritten with facts changed but one to be remembered in order to NOT be repeated.

He became the first Black American to be named Time Magazine's Man of the Year in 1964 and in 1986 Congress designated his birthday as a national holiday. Born January 15, 1929 in Atlanta Georgia, into a family of Black Ministers, Dr. King was accepted into Morehouse College at the age of 15 under a college program for gifted students. He received his bachelor's degree in sociology at age 19.

He graduated first in his class from Crozer Theological Seminary Chester, Pennsylvania and was elected first Black student body president. In 1955 he received his Ph. D. in systematic theology in 1955 from Boston University. While there he met and married Coretta Scott King.

After college, King accepted the pastorate of Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama.

In December 1955, a black seamstress named Rosa Parks was arrested for refusing to give up her seat to a White man on a Montgomery bus.

Black citizens of the town decided to challenge the city's law requiring segregated bus seating. They formed the Montgomery Improvement Association, with Dr. King as head, to take action. Lawsuits were filed and for more than a year, Blacks refused to ride the buses.

The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was one of the leading organizers of the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950's and sixties, which led to the abolishment of legal discrimination against African Americans in employment, education, public places and civil rights.

Dr. King's success came from elevating the issue of equality into a moral crusade. He appealed to the conscience of the nation and brought pressure on the federal government to pass legislation that remedied many of society's inequities.

Dr. King's nonviolent direct approach to discrimination included sit-ins, pray-ins, demonstrations, marches and boycotts.

He was a most eloquent speaker who was able to convince people of goodwill that justice is inherent in the Civil Rights cause.

Dr. King galvanized Black people into actions that were filled with danger, the kind that eventually cost him his own life. When he was assassinated in 1968 at the age of 39.

His courage, vision and dedication earned him the nation's highest accolades including the NAACP's Spingarn Medal in 1957 and the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964. Dr. King was the youngest recipient and the second Black American to receive the Presidential

# Higher Education con't from page 10

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petitiveness if it fails to educate more of its growing population. ... Unlike states with higher average incomes or growing economies throughout the world, in Texas, young workers, under 34, now have a smaller percentage of degrees than older workers."

Public investment in university research also helps attract the grants and philanthropy needed to strengthen and expand the number of Texas' Tier 1 research universities, which serve as magnets for new businesses and economic growth. The state government invests about 70 cents a day per resident in support of higher education. Other business-oriented states have found a way to do more. North Carolina and Georgia, with a combined population far less than Texas, together invest substantially more than Texas each year in higher education. North Carolina has long used universities to spur high-wage job growth and in the last five years has increased its full-time college enrollment at a much faster rate than Texas.

Of course, college administrators should both be accountable and have the authority to set fair standards for faculty performance. They should work hard to find efficiencies through measures such as greater use of technology and existing facilities. And emphasizing higher education should not diminish the drive to improve public schools, including needed progress on vocational education.

Will Texas become a national leader in higher education, preparing more Texans for success in global competition? The answer, plain and simple, will be found in the state budget the governor is obligated to present in January, 2011.

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

*~Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*



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 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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## Mary Joyce Taylor Shedd



On Wednesday, December 15, 2010 at 1:00 PM, funeral services for Mrs. Mary Joyce Taylor Shedd were held at Mt. Olive Community Church, Rusk, Texas. Mrs. Shedd was born to the late Hardy Taylor and Francis-McKissie on September 6, 1945. She married the late Tommy Shedd, and to this union 5 children were born, they later divorced. She worked at Rusk State Hospital for 26 years where she retired. She worked in private homes for twenty-seven years. She was preceded in death by her mother and father Francis McKissie and Hardy Taylor. One sister Shirley Foreman, one son Tommy Shedd Jr. and one granddaughter Ny'Kashia Bradley.

She leaves to cherish her memory 5 sons: Ernest Shedd, Charles Bradley, Anthony Bradley, all of Rusk, Texas. Johnny (Mary) Shedd, Melvin (Samantha) Shedd both of Jacksonville, Texas. Three daughters, Brenda (Randy) Hollis, Latricha Shedd McGowan and Yvette Taylor (Terri) Stubblefield all of Jacksonville, Texas. Two sisters Diana (Carl) Foreman and Lee Autry Atkins of Rusk, Texas. Special grandkids that she raised are: Jeremy Shedd, Joyce Shedd, and Jimendrick Christopher. She also leaves to cherish her memory 23 grandkids and 15 great grandkids. Mr. Lewis Bush was a special father and friend of the family. Ms. Shedd leaves her best friend Mrs. Diane Lewis, and a host of nieces, nephews, and relatives that will forever cherish her memory.

## Kenith Arnold Adams



On Saturday, December 11, 2010 at 11:00 AM, funeral services for Mr. Kenith Arnold Adams were held at Greater Shiloh Misionary Baptist Church. Mr. Adams was born, July 22, 1954 in Smith County, to Verline Waggoner Adams-Johnson and Carnell Adams. He attended Elementary School in Smith and Cherokee Counties. Kenith graduated from Crocket High School, in May of 1972 with honors. In May of 1976, he graduated from Angelina College, attaining an Associates Degree in Drafting. He was employed at Texas Foundries/Citation, and Lufkin State School for many years. He retired from the Texas Department of Human Services on July 31, 1998, after ten years and eleven months of service to the people of Texas. Kenith was a member of the Great Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church, and accepted Christ as his Lord and Savior, under the leadership of the late Hosea

Dolphus, Sr. He was a member of the Great Shiloh Male Chorus, New Zion Gospel Male Chorus, and Lufkin Interdenominational Choir. He departed this life on Wednesday, December 8, 2010. Kenith leaves to cherish his memories: his loving and devoted wife of twenty-one years and nine months, Catherine; a son, Christopher Cavell of Lufkin, Texas; his daughters, Veronica Michelle and Courtney L. Adams of Humble, Texas; his mother, Verline Adams-Johnson of Lufkin, Texas; his father, Carnell Adams of Tyler, Texas; sisters, Kathy (Mark) Curry of Crowley, Texas, Pamela A. Jones, and Jennifer Miller of Tyler, Texas, and Cassandra Gray of Irving, Texas; sisters-in-law, Winifred Ferguson Adams, Belva Godwin-Hartsfield (Willie) of Lufkin, Texas, Terry Godwin-Pierce of Garland, Texas, Nelva Regina Sowell of Houston, Texas, Carolyn Godwin-Wood (Darrin) of Riverdale, Georgia; brother-in-law, Allen J. Godwin of Lufkin, Texas; Goddaughters, Elicia C. (Sissy) Godwin of Woodbridge, Virginia, Latoyia Benton of Lufki, Texas; special cousin, Sharondee Waggoner of Arlington, Texas; life-long friend, Shirley Johnson of Lufkin, Texas; stepbrothers, Kevin (Joyce) Johnson and Myrick (Pat) Johnson of San Francisco, California; a host of aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends. Reverend Arthur "Archie" Adams (brother), Gloria J. Gray (sister), and Wade D. Johnson (stepfather) preceded him in death.

## Obituaries



On December 18, 2010 at 11:00 AM, funeral services for Mr. Jessie Louis Simmons were held at Mt. Olive Community Church. Mr. Simmons was born to the

parentage of the late Evelyn Williams Simmons and Berry Simmons on January 1, 1944 in Rusk, Texas. On December 9, 2010 he entered "Eternal Rest". He recieved his education at the Elm Grove Elementary and George W. Bradford High School. He united with Pleasant Holly Church at an early age and several years later he united with Mt. Olive Community Church and remained a member until his death. Jessie was united in Holy Matrimony for 42 years to Juanita Lindsey and to this union five children were born and adopted. He was a United States Army Disabled Veteran and a Guitar Artist. He was employed at Kentucky Fried Chicken Distributing Co. of Dallas, Rusk State Hospital, and Southern Pacific Rail Road. He was preceded in death by his parents Evelyn Williams Simmons, and Berry Simmons and one granddaughter. He leaves to cherich his memories: Devoted and Loving Wife, Juanita Simmons, Rusk, TX; Two Sons, Detrick of Rusk and Jessie Antowan (Nikki) of Palestine, TX; Two Daughters, Demetra La Shale of Oklahoma, OK and Jasmine Clemons of Jacksonville, TX; One Sister, Doris Marie (Nate) Early of Lancaster, TX; Two Brothers, Perry (Shirley) Simmons and Samuel Edward (Na Na) Dallas, TX; Two Aunts, Paula Williams, Stockton, CA and Vida Marie Berry of Los Angeles, CA; One Uncle, Billy Wickware of Los Angeles, CA; One Brother-In-Law, Jessie (Pat) Lindsey; Eight Grandchildren, Six Great Grandchildren, Many Loving nieces, nephews, and other relatives and friends,

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## Church holds first annual community Thanksgiving dinner

Rusk, Texas- Sunday, November 21, 2010 Mt. Pleasant Church located at 138 Reeder Street held its first annual community-wide Thanksgiving Dinner where everyone was invited to come and enjoy good food and good conversation. The dinner began promptly at 2:00PM with carryout delivered to the sick and those who were unable to come out to get there own. The traditional meal of turkey & dressing yams, turnip greens, field peas with a variety of desserts was served. Ladies of the church who prepared the feast were, Sarai Johnson, Terri Franklin, Kathy Harris, Daphne Session, Kimberly Clark, Krystal Carter and Maxine Session. More than 60 people enjoyed the meal.



## Thompson Sneed Teague Foundation makes contribution

The Thompson, Sneed and Teague Foundation spread a little holiday cheer to five Rusk families on December 21, 2010. The foundation provided turkeys with all the fixings for Christmas dinner for each family which included a total of seventeen children. Clothes, toys, and a bicycle were also provided.

Johnny (Billy) Thompson, Dallas; Alvin Sneed, Grand Prairie; and Joe Teague, Jacksonville organization founders look forward to spreading a little holiday cheer in their hometown again next year. The men took the basic part of a week to gather information on the families,

purchase the items and deliver them personally to Rusk to each family.

"This was basically Johnny's idea," said Alvin Sneed. "Joe and I thought it was a really great one." The economy has been rough on families with children, so we thought we could do something that might make a difference."

"I just can't thank them enough," said the grandmother of two of the children. What they did for my family really made a difference. It makes me feel good to know people like them care enough to let you know they care."



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## James to Head New Center for Elimination of Disparities



Joyce James

chapter of the Texas story.” James, who previously served as deputy commissioner at DFPS, took over as head of the new Center for Elimination of Disproportionality and Disparities on Sept. 1. “At the heart of all our programs and services, we’re about people,” Suehs said. “And we want to make sure that every person is treated with respect and dignity. Joyce has been a pioneer in helping improve equity in our protective services programs, and we want to put that same focus on all our services.” James has received several awards for her efforts to address disproportionality in the child welfare system in Texas. She also served on several legislatively created task forces, including the Council on Children and Families and the Task Force for Children with Special Needs, and on the executive committee of the National Association of Public

Child Welfare Administrators. “This work is so important to me personally and professionally,” James said. “I can honestly say that there is no other work I would rather do, and I feel I owe it to the children, youth, families and other vulnerable clients we serve to be a voice that says in human services there is also equity in services.” DFPS Commissioner Anne Heiligenstein praised James for making Texas a national model for addressing disparities in the child welfare system. “Joyce is recognized nationwide as a pioneer in addressing disproportionality in child welfare and she is very passionate about this work,” Heiligenstein said. “I can think of no one better than Joyce for this important assignment. Though I am saddened that DFPS is losing her, I am thrilled that this important work will be continued and expanded on at the enterprise level.”

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## Southwest Digest Publisher Eddie P. Richardson Succumbs



The Southwest Digest, along with family and many friends will pay their last respect to Eddie P. Richardson, a longtime community activist and co-founder of East Lubbock’s community newspaper, Southwest Digest. Eddie was passed away on Sunday at his home. He was 74 years of age. Mr. Richardson is survived by his mother, Helen Hereford, his two daughters, Angela of Lubbock, TX and Karen of Atlanta, GA. Other members of his surviving family include eight grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. Richardson dedicated his life in the black community of Lubbock. He founded the city’s Black Chamber of Entrepreneurs, where he served as a governor’s appointee to a statewide Juneteenth Celebration Board. For several years, Richardson spearheaded the city’s Martin Luther King Jr. celebrations. One of Eddie’s biggest contributions to the black community in Lubbock, was working with his partner and dearest friend for 40 years, T.J. Patterson, at the Southwest Digest Newspaper office. Richardson and Patterson met in 1970, which at the time Richardson wanted to write for a paper. Mr. Patterson thought that Eddie was losing his mind, but about six years later, they crafted their first paper for the black community. Later on through the years, Eddie persuaded T.J. to run for office as City Councilman. Eddie had a heart for people, regardless to race, greed or color. He always wanted to do whatever he could to help people.

Austin, TX. (Special to Texas Publishers Association) Executive Commissioner Tom Suehs has selected Joyce James to head a new enterprise initiative to ensure equity across all health and human services agencies and programs. “No other state has made this type of commitment toward ensuring equity in health and human services,” James said. “Texas is again a first, and I am truly honored and thankful to be a part of the next



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~DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING,  
JR.

**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  
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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 harrassment 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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## Calendar of events

### Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Marches and/or Celebrations

January 17, 2011

11:30 AM - Start at Tomato Bowl Jacksonville, Texas end at Sweet Union Baptist Church. Speaker Tracy Clater Refreshments Served

11:00AM March Begins Downtown to Dunbar School - ---  
Lufkin, Texas  
Speaker and Lunch to follow

11:00 AM Anual Markin Luther King, Jr. Celebration -----  
Crockett ISD Administration - Crockett, Texas

"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*

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### Texas Express to perform

The Ross Activity Center presents Texas Express for its monthly First Friday dance. February's dance will be held on Friday, Feb. 4, at the Rusk Civic Center, 555 Euclid St., Rusk. Admission is \$5 a person. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.; the band starts at 7 p.m. Patrons are encouraged to bring snack food to share. Non-alcoholic beverages will be available. Proceeds benefit Friends of the Singletary Memorial Library and the Ross Activity Center.

### AARP' Drivers's Course

An AARP driver's safety course will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 9, in the Ross Activity Center at the Rusk Civic Center, 555 Euclid St., Rusk. The class covers issues drivers over the age of 55 face. Registration fee is \$12 for AARP members, with a valid membership card; \$14 for non-AARP members. Call the Civic Center, 903-683-2850, to register for the class. Participants who complete the course receive a 10 percent discount certificate, redeemable at most major auto insurance providers

### Circus Comes to Rusk

"Circus Day" is coming to Rusk! The Rotary Club of Rusk will be sponsoring the Kelly Miller circus, one of the few remaining traveling circuses in the United States, on Tuesday, March 22 for two thrilling performances, 4:30pm and 7:30pm at the Old Rodeo Grounds beside the KOA on FM 343 East in Rusk. Their fleet consists of 25 vehicles on which are gathered a galaxy of stars from many nations as well as an exotic display of animals, all of which are enhanced with beautiful theatrical lighting and lively circus music for performances that are guaranteed to warm the hearts of young and old alike. From the early morning hours when the elephants pull up the gigantic circus big top, which has a seating capacity of 1500, to the very moment when the king pole races to the ground at the end of the day, you will experience the magic of "Circus Day" as it has been enjoyed for over 200 years. Advance tickets are \$10 for adults, \$6 for children. At the door, tickets are \$14 for adults and \$7 for children.

All net proceeds will go toward Rusk Rotary's Scholarship Fund. You may purchase tickets from members of the Rotary Club of Rusk and local businesses. Local ticket outlets will be announced shortly. For further information, call Tara Crosby, President, at 903-683-2257. See what the Rotary Club of Rusk has done and is doing for the community by visiting their website: [www.ruskrotary.org](http://www.ruskrotary.org).

MONDAY, JANUARY 17, 2011

Join members of the Tyler community for a  
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. March and Celebration  
9:30 a.m.

March from Downtown Tyler Square  
to Cathedral of Immaculate Conception  
10:00 a.m.

MLK Celebration Program

Cathedral of Immaculate Conception

423 South Broadway Avenue | Tyler, TX 75702

# Employment growth and higher education

by **Bill White:**

The U.S. economy is growing, but unemployment remains at the highest level in generations for those without a college education. We should not expect federal "stimulus" or monetary policy to solve the part of this problem related to the training of our workforce. State governments, with the principal responsibility for higher education in our federal system, must respond.

Standing still on higher education means falling behind in a world in which jobs can be outsourced. The percentage of young Americans with at least a bachelor's degree grew from 17 percent to 29 percent from 1971 to 2000. During those years, private-sector jobs increased by 59 million, despite a recession every decade. Since 2000, progress on higher education for young workers almost stopped, while eight other nations caught up with the U.S. in the proportion of young workers with college degrees. In that decade, U.S. private-sector employment actually fell.

These trends were evident before the recent financial crisis. A commission appointed by President George W. Bush reported that America had begun "to take our post-secondary [education] superiority for granted," and other nations "are passing us by at a time when education is more important to our collective prosperity than ever."

The opportunity gap based on education has grown. In the last 30 years, Americans with only a high school diploma experienced a drop in average income from \$36,600 to \$30,000 in inflation-adjusted dollars, while incomes of those with a bachelor's degree rose to \$50,000. The unemployment rate for college graduates is less than half the rate of those with only a high school diploma and less than a third of those who never finished high school. No state has more at stake in higher education than Texas, with 1 million unemployed and one-tenth of all young Americans in public schools. In the next decade, young Texans will account for almost 40 percent of our nation's total growth in public school enrollment. Two years ago, business leaders on our state's Select Commission on Higher Education and Global Competitiveness reported: "Texas is not globally competitive. The state faces a downward spiral in quality of life and economic com

Continued page 4

## THE GAMES THAT GIVE CHANCE A

# SECOND CHANCE.

### → PLAY JUMBO BUCKS FOR **2** CHANCES TO WIN! →



Collect and enter non-winning tickets into second chance drawings for a chance to win from \$1,000 up to \$1 million. See game rules for details.



**PLAY RESPONSIBLY.** The overall odds of winning any instant-win prize (including break-even prizes) are:  
Jumbo Bucks III - 1 in 4.36,  
Giant Jumbo Bucks III - 1 in 3.72,  
and Mega Jumbo Bucks III - 1 in 3.40.  
Must be 18 or older to purchase a ticket.  
The Texas Lottery Supports Texas Education.  
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## Texas NAACP Calls for Department of Education to Review Social Studies Curriculum Changes

The Texas NAACP, Texas LULAC and Texas Association of Black Personnel in Higher Education (TABPHE) are holding a press conference, with partnering groups to announce the filing of a request for a proactive review by the U.S. Department of Education and its Civil rights division. The request addresses many aspects of discrimination against minority public school students in Texas, including recent changes to history and educational standards in social studies.

Texas State NAACP President and National Board Member Gary Bledsoe said, "Education remains the most critical element in the long term economic and social interests of all American citizens. Reasonable people of good will must guarantee that all students, regardless of race or economic circumstances, be given the tools needed to become successful in a rapidly changing global economy. We must also be held to a high standard of accuracy in conveying historical events to students who will use this information to compete for educational access not only in Texas, but increasingly around the country and world. We must not allow the use of our compulsory education system to misinform and negatively impact the academic capacity of our most important natural resource – our children. Our action today seeks on objective review of the partisan attack on the public education system in the State of Texas."

State LULAC President Joey Cardenas said, "We were shocked at the actions by the State Board of Education in emasculating our history. It is necessary for our own well-being and that of the people of our State that we do all that we can to ensure that what they have done does not end up being a reality. Our State and nation will suffer from what they have done and emotionally and psychologically it will

people. Dr. Rod Fluker of TABPHE said that one of the things we are most worried about is how this will impact teachers and the kinds of attitudes it will bring to our next generation of young people to move into this field. This is a serious problem." Bledsoe said that one thing we are looking for is to invalidate the standards so that they do not become a reality. "This is like a criminal assault. The message is that you have no worth. We cannot let this become official policy." Cardenas added that "we have engaged the State in litigation before and will do so again if necessary."

In challenging the Standards, the Texas NAACP wishes to applaud State Board of Education Members Lawrence Allen and Mavis Knight for supporting us in this initiative. Dr. Felicia Scott of TABPHE said that it is important to note that the most offensive items were opposed by all 5 minority Board members who voted as a block, "that really says something about how offensive these matters are, and this is from a purely academic and humanistic perspective with no injection of politics." Bledsoe said he really thanks all of the people who have worked on this and former Education Secretary Rod Paige and NAACP National CEO and National Education Director Beth Glenn for all of their help. Should you have further questions, do not hesitate to contact Yannis Banks at (512) 322-9547 or email at [ybanks@texasnaacp.org](mailto:ybanks@texasnaacp.org). Regionally, the South and West picked up the bulk of the population increase, 14,318,924 and 8,747,621,

## U.S. Census Bureau Announces 2010 Census Population Counts --

The U.S. Census Bureau announced today that the 2010 Census showed the resident population of the United States on April 1, 2010, was 308,745,538.

The resident population represented an increase of 9.7 percent over the 2000 U.S. resident population of 281,421,906. Commerce Secretary Gary Locke, Acting Commerce Deputy Secretary Rebecca Blank and Census Bureau Director Robert Groves unveiled the official counts at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C.

"A big thanks to the American public for its overwhelming response to the 2010 Census," U.S. Commerce Secretary Gary Locke said. "The result was a successful count that came in on time and well under budget, with a final 2010 Census savings of \$1.87 billion."

Rebecca Blank, now Acting Deputy Secretary of Commerce who has overseen the 2010 Census as Under Secretary for Economic Affairs, echoed Locke. "The 2010 Census was a massive undertaking, and in reporting these first results, we renew our commitment to our great American democracy peacefully, fairly and openly for the 23rd time in our nation's history."

The U.S. resident population represents the total number of people in the 50 states and the District of Columbia.

The most populous state was California (37,253,956); the least populous, Wyoming (563,626). The state that gained the most numerically since the 2000 Census was Texas (up 4,293,741 to 25,145,561) and the state that gained the most as a percentage of its 2000 Census count was Nevada (up 35.1% to 2,700,551).

respectively. But the Northeast and the Midwest also grew: 1,722,862 and 2,534,225.

Additionally, Puerto Rico's resident population was 3,725,789, a 2.2 percent decrease over the number

counted a decade earlier. Just before today's announcement, Locke delivered the apportionment counts to President Obama, 10 days before the statutory deadline of Dec. 31. The apportionment totals were calculated by a congressionally defined formula, in accordance with Title 2 of the U.S. Code, to divide among the states the 435 seats in the U.S. House of Representatives. The apportionment population consists of the resident population of the 50 states, plus the overseas military and federal civilian employees and their dependents living with them who could be allocated to a state. Each member of the House represents, on average, about 710,767 people. The populations of the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico are excluded from the apportionment population, as they do not have voting seats in Congress.

"The decennial count has been the basis for our representative form of government since 1790," Groves said. "At that time, each member of the House represented about 34,000 residents. Since then, the House has more than quadrupled in size, with each member now representing about 21 times as many constituents."

President Obama will transmit the apportionment counts to the 112th Congress during the first week of its first regular session in January. The reapportioned Congress will be the 113th, which convenes in January 2013.

Beginning in February and wrapping up by March 31, 2011, the Census Bureau will release demographic data to the states on a rolling basis so state governments can start the redistricting process.

Article I, Section 2 of the U.S. Constitution calls for a census of the nation's population every 10 years to apportion the House seats among the states. The 2010 Census is the 23rd census in our nation's history.

# Happy New Year to Your Family From our Family!



Photo by Dwight Hall

The Walter & Maxine Session Family - Front Row L to R Kimberly, Krystal, Trinity, Little Eddie. Second Row L to R- Charnell, Darren, Marcus, Jasmine, Tiffani, Shonda. Third Row L to R - Daphne, Terri, Walter, Maxine, Floyd, Kathy, Destyne, Cody and Makayla. Not Pictured: Joel, Viv, Trey, Shirley, and Eddie Walter.