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TEXAS INFORMER

July 2010
Volume XV, Number 3

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Juneteenth Celebrated In Style



(Photo by Krystal Ward Carter)

G. W. Bradford reunion goes celebrate Juneteenth in style as they kick back on the float above. Front to back: Travis Matthews, Carolyn Foreman, Delois Tucker, Matthew (Sonny) Watts, Johnnie Jewel Ashley, Emma Lois (Mop) Hodge, L. B. Hodge, Dorothy Sneed, Marie Bennett, Johnny (Billy) Thompson, Carrol Matthews. Nate drove the pickup with Frank Session and Alvin Sneed riding with him. The float was provided by the Dallas Chapter Alumni and decorated by those above with Frazier Foreman, Burnis Session and others assisting. See Bradford Story page 3

Black-farmers group cheers deal in war bill

(Washington)Two longstanding discrimination lawsuits against USDA and the Interior Department received settlement money in the war supplemental approved by the House late Thursday, spurring advocates to call on the Senate to follow suit.

The bill included money to pay for the settlement of a black farmers' anti-discrimination case against USDA, known as Pigford II, and the Cobell Individual Indian Money Accounts claims at Interior.

The House had tried to include the Pigford II and the Cobell settlements in the "extenders" bill passed earlier by the chamber, but that bill remains stalled in the Senate. National Black Farmers Association President John Boyd on Friday praised the House for including the settlements, citing Rep. Bobby Scott, D-Va. and other members of the Congressional Black Caucus for their work.

Boyd called on Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., and other Republicans to vote for either the extenders bill or the supplemental so that black farmers could receive justice.

Boyd said Senate Agriculture Committee Chairwoman Blanche Lincoln, D-Ark., had been supportive, but he noted any bill including the settlements still needs GOP backing to pass. Boyd said he is appealing first to Senate Finance ranking member Charles Grassley, R-Iowa, to vote for one of the bills containing the settlements because Grassley has long been a champion of settling the black farmers' cases. Boyd also called on southern

Republican senators to "do the right thing for the black farmers" who are their constituents and vote for it. He noted that Mississippi and Alabama each has about 20,000 black farmers who would get settlements.

Boyd said he is also working with the advocates in the Cobell claims, who are located mostly in the western states, to try to find 60 Senate votes to pass the legislation. The black farmers' settlement has been a contentious matter for years. Dan Glickman, the Agriculture secretary in the Clinton administration, settled the initial Pigford case brought against USDA, but black farmers argued not all discrimination victims had a chance to file their cases before the deadline passed.

The Justice Department's Judgment Fund has paid out more than \$1 billion in the initial Pigford settlement. In the 2008 farm bill, Congress allowed additional claimants to file their cases in what has become known as Pigford II and authorized USDA to settle the cases. But the bill included only \$100 million for the settlement and stipulated the rest of the money could not come from the Judgment Fund. That means it would need to be appropriated. The Obama administration reached agreement with the farmers for a total settlement of \$1.25 billion to be divided among the victims, but the administration has refused to ask Congress for an emergency declaration for the \$1.15 billion needed to complete the settlement.

House leadership said the settlement in the supplemental is offset.

Happy Birthday Destyne LaDae

Harris July 23rd

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ETCOG introduced the new brand for its transportation system formerly known as the Rural Transit District at the May 8th National Train Day celebration in Longview. The new name GOBUS encourages East Texans to "Get on the Go" in the eye catching purple and green buses. At the celebration ETCOG featured the first bus with the new design (pictured right) and distributed GOBUS calling cards. Currently, one bus carries the new design, and the remaining 40 will be completed this summer after ETCOG completes the procurement process. You can GOBUS! Just call 1.800.590.3371

Letters To The Editor

Dear Editor,
Thank you all so much for your generous time and publicity throughout our completion of the Fairview Community Center.

Your newspaper is appreciated. Keep up the good work.

Thank you,
Maxine Willis

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Published monthly it serves Anderson, Angelina, Cherokee, Houston and Rusk Counties.

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Bradford Bunch celebrates “Together Again”

G. W. BRADFORD CAMPUS 1957



North View of the George Washington Bradford School Campus formerly located on William Street in Rusk, Texas. Photo from the files of Doris Hardeaway Finley of Jacksonville, former student.

Former G. W. Bradford students spent an entire weekend with classmates and schoolmates celebrating their eleventh bi-annual reunion. This year marked twenty-two years of coming together to celebrate their school roots. The school opened in 1938- 1939 as the Rusk Colored School and was renamed for Principle George W. Bradford in the school year 1952-53. The school ceased to be a high school in 1968 and was dismantled in 1973. “This reunion wasn’t the biggest one we’ve had, but it was the best”, stated Carolyn Bennett Matthews of Dallas. The Chatter, hugs and kisses and the huge smiles on faces told the story better than words ever could. Everybody was having a great time.

The weekend kicked off with Friday night registration at the old Bradford Gym (now Rusk Primary). The Houston Chapter, President LaWanda Rasberry, served a most delicious home-cooked meal of spaghetti and meatballs, chicken and spaghetti, salad, tea, chocolate cake and cheese cake. The Joe Teague ensemble took everybody back a ways with the Jazz and oldies music they played.

To top it off, the group got a bang out of a game of basketball “Best of Two Out of Three Shots”. The creative idea of Letha Northcutt and Billy Thompson, the game drew a large number of participants from the classes of 55’ to 69. Odell Hinton of Jacksonville was the big winner.

Saturday began with a continental breakfast for the early risers with a business meeting afterwards.

Had there been a judging of floats, the Dallas Chapter would have won. Alumni from Arlington, Houston, Richmond, California, Glendale, Arizona, Grand Prairie and Dallas piled on the float and made the rounds.

A stop at Mt. Pleasant Church proved to be worth the time as Charles Denman, Jacksonville, class of 55 and Jamaal Leviston, son of Ann and Jerry Leviston, Dallas, addressed the crowd giving insight into local and state history of Juneteenth. Mayor Angela Raiborn welcomed out of towners and read a proclamation proclaiming June 18th, 19th and 20th G. W. Bradford weekend.

A relaxing picnic hosted by the Dallas Chapter Alumni was held at Jim Hogg Park

Saturday was topped off with an unforgettable evening at the Legacy. The dinner and dance drew a crowd of 100. Joe Teague, Jacksonville, class of 59 was the M.C. Kenneth White, Evans, Georgia, class of 55 was the speaker. H. R. Waggoner, Rusk, class of 56 introduced the speaker. Maxine Session class of 65, gave the history. Coretha Lola Mallard, Rusk, class of 58 introduced the classes. The Class of 1960 celebrated their fiftieth year since graduation.



DON'T MISS OUT!

We Invite You to Attend:

Texas Lottery Commission's Annual Historically Underutilized Business (HUB) Forum

Thursday, July 29, 2010 ★ 1:00 pm - 4:30 pm
611 E. 6th St. - Austin, Texas

The forum will provide information about our HUB program, procurement processes, and Mentor Protégé initiatives. It will also feature a roundtable networking session with key Lottery Commission staff and prime contractor representatives.

Roundtable assignments will be made on a first-come, first-served basis on the day of the forum.

This HUB Forum is FREE of charge!

Register online on or before 7/23/10 at:
www.txlottery.org/hub

For more information contact:

Joyce Bertolacini, HUB Coordinator
 512.344.5293
joyce.bertolacini@lottery.state.tx.us

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Transportation Study, Public Meetings This Week

ETCOG in cooperation with TxDOT, the Texas Transportation Institute (TTI) and the graduate program for urban planning at Texas A&M University is conducting research about travel patterns and public transportation needs in Henderson County. Five public meetings will be held throughout the county to collect public opinion and feedback on the existing public transportation services. In addition to the public meetings, approximately 4,500 surveys have been mailed to a random sample of Henderson County residents and to all existing public transit users. Recipients should receive the mailed survey early this week.

The public meeting schedule is as follows:

Tuesday, July 13th - Payne Springs
 10:00 AM, Payne Springs Community Center, 9602 Highway 198

Tuesday, July 13th - Chandler
 2:00 PM, Chandler Community Center, 811 Highway 31 East

Wednesday, July 14th - Gun Barrel City
 2:00 PM, La Quinta Inn & Suites, 210 Heritage Parkway (Near new theater)

Thursday, July 15th - Athens
 2:00 PM, Cain Community Center, Room B, 915 South Palestine Street

Thursday, July 15th - Malakoff
 7:00 PM, Malakoff Community Center, 503 North Terry (HWY 198, Senior Center) | Find out more...

AARP Driver's Safety Course Scheduled

An AARP Driver's Safety course will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday, July 30, at the Ross Activity Center in the Rusk Civic Center, 555 Euclid St., for all local senior citizens. Class fee is \$12 for AARP members, when they present their membership cards and \$14 for non-AARP members. The course is specifically tailored to register. Participants are also

drivers ages 55 and older and features issues those drivers face, including determining if a senior citizen is too old to drive. Course completers will receive a 10 percent discount certificate, redeemable at most auto insurance companies. Anyone interested in taking this class can call Cristin Ross, 903-683-2850, invited to bring a sack lunch. Other refreshments will be available

What is the name of the black Navigator of the *Santa Maria* on Columbus's first voyage to the new world?

Pedro Alonzo Nino
(Crew members of African decent sailed on all major expeditions to the Americas.)

Phyllis Wheatley's earliest surviving poem is dated 1767. What present-day northeastern university did it address?

Harvard University
The poem is entitled "To the University of Cambridge in New England."

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Juneteenth 2010 celebrated with pictures speakers



L to R: Cherokee Brotherhood members Melvin Session, Oliver Sturns, Frenchie Henderson, Jerry Hart, Walter Session participants and hosts of celebration.



Jamaal Leviston Youth Speaker and Charles Denman Senior speaker for Juneteenth celebration.



Juneteenth Parade Marshall Lorene White.



Jerry Leviston, MC for Celebration

Juneteenth is the oldest known celebration of the ending of slavery in the United States and has been an African American tradition since the late 19th century. Economic and cultural forces caused a decline in the celebrations beginning in the early 20th century. The Depression forced many blacks off farms and into cities to find work. In urban settings, employees were not eager to grant leaves from work to celebrate the date.

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WEDDINGS**Miles - Harris Wed**

Lashonda LaDae Miles and Eddie Walter Harris were Married in a beautiful candle light ceremony on Saturday evening June 5, 2010 at Mount Pleasant Church, Rusk, Texas. The bride is the daughter of Delaine Miles (Dallas) and Terry and Teresa Miles of Tyler. The groom is the son of Kathy and the late Eddie Harris. Grandparents of the bride are John and Loretta Simmons of Reklaw. Grandparents of the groom are Eva Mae Castleberry, Cleophus Harris Jacksonville, and Walter and Maxine Session of Rusk. Great-Grandmother of the groom is Mary Session. Great-Aunt of the groom is Elizabeth Rivers. The newly weds will continue to live in Rusk.

Inez Conley to Celebrate Birthday July 24th

Mrs. Inez Reeder Conley will celebrate her birthday July 24th.

She was presented this live bouquet of fresh flowers recently by members of her church.

She is a native of Tyler, a retired nurse and teacher having taught in both Jacksonville and Rusk ISD.

Mrs. Conley was on the nursing staff at Nan Travis Memorial hospital before it was renamed ETMC.

She is a board member for Good Samaritan of Rusk.



Cody Glenn, Indianapolis Colts, defensive back, poses with members of the newly formed Rusk Eagles Youth Association, football players and cheerleaders, following the Rusk July 4th parade. Association President Mario McGowan and Coach Oliver Sturns holds the banner for the Cody Glenn Foundation which sponsors one of the teams.

Start looking for rollout of the health care reform bill

by Royce West- Texas Senate
If they haven't already, seniors should soon expect to receive a \$250 check from the federal government. It's the rebate promised to seniors who have shelled-out their hard-earning savings and cash for prescription drugs despite having coverage through Medicare or private insurance plans.

Many seniors have painfully become familiar with the "donut hole" in Medicare coverage. Since the advent of Medicare Part D coverage in 2006, recipients have been made to shoulder the full cost of their medications when a pre-determined spending cap was reached; an amount that has actually increased.

Because of the "donut hole" seniors whose total prescription costs exceed the lower threshold of \$2,700 no longer receive Medicare benefits until their spending reached the "catastrophic" amount of \$6,154; a gap of \$ nearly \$3,500. At that point, Medicare kicks back in and pays 95 percent of prescription drug

costs. However more costly coverage can be purchased to span the gap.

The first of the \$250 checks were scheduled to be issued June 15. And starting in 2011, seniors who hit the donut hole will receive a 50 percent discount on brand name prescription drugs. The healthcare reform legislation has the goal of completely closing the donut hole gap by 2020.

Americans will begin to see even more benefits of the landmark "Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010" rollout even as some members of Congress and tea party activists call for the law's repeal. Now, small businesses with less than 25 employees can claim up to 35 percent of the costs paid in employee healthcare coverage in tax credits.

Two more phases of the healthcare law will kick-in by late summer. Parents will find relief in the bill's provisions that will stop providers from denying coverage to children

LEGAL NOTICE

This Texas Lottery Commission Scratch-Off game will close on July 30, 2010. You have until January 26, 2011, to redeem any tickets for this game:

Game #1221 \$100,000 Super 7's (\$10) Overall Odds are 1 in 3.87

This Texas Lottery Commission Scratch-Off game will close on August 1, 2010. You have until January 29, 2011, to redeem any tickets for this game:

Game #1204 Precious Pearl 7's (\$7) Overall Odds are 1 in 3.56

These Texas Lottery Commission Scratch-Off games will close on September 1, 2010. You have until February 28, 2011, to redeem any tickets for these games:

Game #1169 Crazy Cash (\$1) Overall Odds are 1 in 4.29

Game #1172 Super Wild 8's (\$5) Overall Odds are 1 in 3.84

Game #1199 Match & Win (\$3) Overall Odds are 1 in 4.06

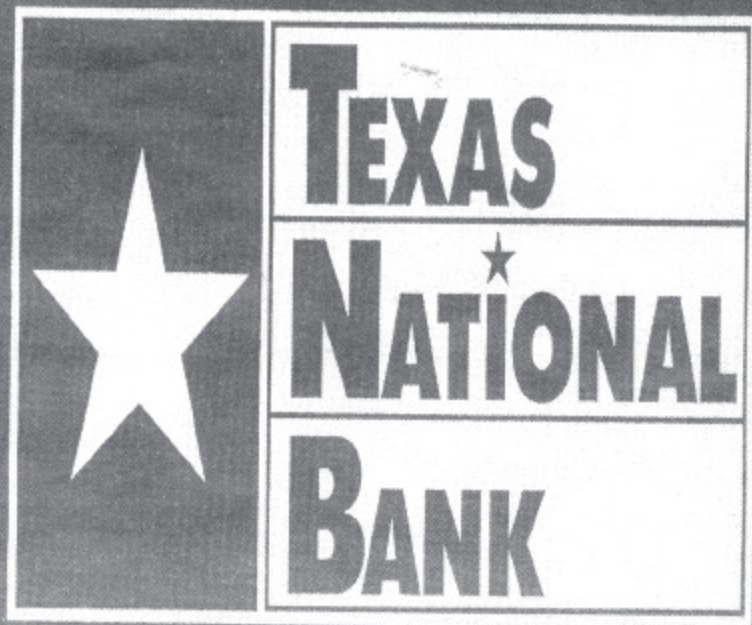
Game #1209 Super Deuces (\$2) Overall Odds are 1 in 4.76

Game #1212 \$50,000 Cash (\$5) Overall Odds are 1 in 3.87

Game #1220 Match 3 Tripler (\$1) Overall Odds are 1 in 4.76



For detailed odds and game information, visit txlottery.org or call 1-800-37LOTTO. Must be 18 or older to purchase a ticket. The Texas Lottery supports Texas Education. © 2010 Texas Lottery Commission. All rights reserved.



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HUD ADDS IMPORTANT CIVIL RIGHTS PROTECTIONS TO ITS GRANT PROGRAMS

Applicants will be required to comply with state & local LGBT anti-discrimination laws

WASHINGTON – For the first time in its history, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) will require grant applicants seeking HUD funding to comply with state and local anti-discrimination laws that protect lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, and transgender (LGBT) individuals. Today, HUD published a notice detailing the general requirements that will apply to all of the Department's competitively awarded grant programs for Fiscal Year 2010. "We're using every avenue to shut the door against discrimination," said HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan. "Today, we take an important step to insist that those who seek federal funding must demonstrate that they are meeting local and state civil rights laws that prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity." Traditionally, HUD requires all applicants for competitive grant funding to comply with all applicable federal fair housing and civil rights requirements including those expressed in Fair

Housing Act; Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Now HUD will further stipulate that applicants and their sub-recipients must comply with state or local laws proscribing housing discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity. It is estimated there are approximately 20 states and the District of Columbia that have laws prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity. In addition, 12 states and the District of Columbia prohibit discrimination based on gender identity. HUD's General Section will not consider an applicant's submission if they fail to meet minimum thresholds which will now include being able to demonstrate that they have not been charged with a systemic violation of state or local law proscribing discrimination in housing based on sexual orientation or gender identity. Last October, HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan announced a series

of measures to ensure that the agency's core housing programs are open to all, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. In addition to the notice published today, HUD intends to propose new regulations that will clarify that the term "family" as used to describe eligible beneficiaries of HUD's programs include otherwise eligible LGBT individuals and couples. The Department's intent to propose new regulations will clarify family status to ensure its core housing programs are available to all families, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity. The Federal Housing Administration (FHA) will also instruct its lending community that FHA-insured mortgage loans must be based on the creditworthiness of borrowers and not on unrelated factors or characteristics such as sexual orientation or gender identity. Finally, HUD will commission the first-ever national study of discrimination against members of the LGBT community

in the rental and sale of housing. The Department is currently seeking online public comment from interested parties in how it might design this new study. In addition, HUD will provide enhanced customer services for members of the public who bring fair housing complaints to the Department's attention on the basis of LGBT status. Specifically, in places where state or local laws already prohibit LGBT-related housing discrimination, intake staff in HUD's Office of Fair Housing & Equal Opportunity will ensure these complaints are directed to the appropriate state and local anti-discrimination offices. HUD intake staff also will be trained to identify any allegations over which HUD has existing authority under the Fair Housing Act, such as HIV/AIDS-related discrimination, that may be considered grounds for enforcement action based on the law's current protections (i.e., against disability discrimination).

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neighborhood in Texas. Extension volunteers help people to gain knowledge and skills that will benefit them for life. And, in return, volunteers have the satisfaction of knowing they're making a difference for their friends and neighbors. What about your neighborhood? Extension needs your help! Extension volunteers can lead activities, teach lessons, answer questions, and organize events. And along the way, they gain new skills, make new friends, and have fun, too! Volunteers help adults and kids learn about: Staying healthy, Gardening for health and leisure, Building strong families and relationships, Managing money, Getting ready for a job, Reducing stress, Keeping food safe to eat, Smart shopping and much more! Volunteers also work with young people in the 4-H program. They can be advisors and managers

for 4-H clubs, leaders and teachers for subject-matter lessons, and coaches for special skills activities. This summer, Classic 4-H Club is meeting at noon every Tuesday in the Rusk Civic Center. There are about twenty kids between the ages of 5 and 17 that are interested in a variety of subjects. Currently, we are seeking individuals to teach quilting, sewing and general mending, canning and cooking, meal planning, fashion design and shopping for bargains, money management, wood working, metal working, small engine repair, welding, jewelry making, fishing, camping, outdoor grilling, hunting, trapping and so much more! If you have a talent, lost art or skill that you would like to share with a new generation, contact Cooperative Extension Agent, Rene' McCracken at 903-683-5416 or lrnccracken@ag.tamu.edu. Don't wait to pass on your legacy

and inspire a child!

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Summer Youth Lunch Program

Free lunch will be served daily in the IC Conley City Park
Rusk, Texas

Youth toddler to age 18
July 9th - Aug. 23rd



Mr. James I. Perkins, Citizens 1st Bank President, received one of the greatest honors 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 Indainapolis Colts, 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 about 936 jobs to East Texas.

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Religion

Getting ready for church, I hurriedly showered and shaved..... Put on my suit tie and shoes. I adjusted my tie. I got there and sat..... In a pew just in time. Bowing my head in prayer..... As I closed my eyes.. I saw the shoe of the man next to me.... Touching my own. I sighed. With plenty of room on either side..... I thought, Why must our soles touch? It bothered me, his shoe touching mine... But it didn't bother him much. A prayer began: 'Our Father'..... I thought, 'This man with the shoes, has no pride. They're dusty, worn, and scratched. Even worse, there are holes on the side!' 'Thank You for blessings,' the prayer went on. The shoe man said..... A quiet 'Amen.' I tried to focus on the prayer..... But my thoughts were on his shoes again. Aren't we supposed to look our best. When walking through that door? 'Well, this certainly isn't it,' I thought, Glancing toward the floor.. Then the prayer was ended..... And the songs of praise began. The shoe man was certainly loud.... Sounding proud as he sang. His voice lifted the rafters..... His hands were raised high. The Lord could surely hear. The shoe man's voice from the sky. It was time for the offering..... And what I threw in was steep. I watched as the shoe man reached.... Into his pockets so deep. I saw what was pulled out..... What the shoe man put in. Then I heard a soft 'clink'. As when silver hits tin. The sermon really bored me..... To tears, and that's no lie. It was the same for the shoe man.... For tears fell from his eyes. At the end of the service..... As is the custom here. We must greet new visitors, And show them all good cheer. But I felt moved somehow.....

Shoes

And wanted to meet the shoe man. So after the closing prayer..... I reached over and shook his hand. He was old and his skin was dark.... And his hair was truly a mess. But I thanked him for coming..... For being our guest. He said, 'My names' Charlie..... I'm glad to meet you, my friend.' There were tears in his eyes..... But he had a large, wide grin. 'Let me explain,' he said..... Wiping tears from his eyes. 'I've been coming here for months.... And you're the first to say 'Hi.' 'I know that my appearance... I always clean and polish my shoes.. Before my very long walk. But by the time I get here..... They're dirty and dusty, like chalk.' My heart filled with pain..... And I swallowed to hide my tears. As he continued to apologize..... For daring to sit so near. He said, 'When I get here..... I know I must look a sight. But I thought if I could touch you..' Then maybe our souls might unite.' I was silent for a moment..... Knowing whatever was said Would pale in comparison... I spoke from my heart, not my head. 'Oh, you've touched me,' I said..... 'And taught me, in part; That the best of any man..... Is what is found in his heart.' The rest, I thought,..... This shoe man will never know. Like just how thankful I really am... That his dirty old shoe touched my soul. You are special to me, I said, and you have made a difference in my life. I respect you, and truly cherish you. This is a lesson to live each day as your last, it might very well be!!!!

Bradford

From page 3

Those of the class in attendance this year were Irene Colston Joyce, Johnnie Jewel McAwie Ashley, Alver Dee Session, Coretha Goree Smith, Emma Loise (Mop) Bennett Hodge, and Burnis Lee Session, Betty Jean White Christopher was presented a gift for being the first to register for this reunion. Frank Session was recognized and presented a gift for traveling the farthest, Richmond, California to Rusk. Goree Smith, Dallas, introduced the scholarship recipients from 2009 and 2010. Kashera Mahummad and Kadrick Session were the 2010 Scholarship recipients and Jasmine Harris and Charnell Franklin were the 1009 recipients. The dance contest finalists were Janie Sue McMillian, Gail Session Simmons, and Una Lee Deveraux William with Una Lee declared the winner.

The Eleventh Bi-annual G. W. Bradford Reunion ended on a very emotional note following Sunday

morning worship with the Rev. Claude L. Slaughter, Houston, as speaker. Una Lee Devereaux Williams was M. C. Emma Slaughter, wife of Rev. Slaughter, provided the music and Elder Phal Carter led pulpit devotion. Lola Mallard introduced the speaker, Gail Session Simmons made a presentation to the speaker and Walter and Melvin Session conducted the special offering for the scholarship. Helen Boston, Rusk Chapter Alumni President and Reunion Committee President, summarized the weekend long event in her closing remarks.

Special thanks were given to Helen for her leadership and to Sandra Brown, Irene Joyce and Maxine Session. Also to committee members Georgia Colston and Letha Northcutt who traveled from Terrell, and from Jefferson for meetings and to help with the work that went into putting together the reunion..

Special Thanks also went to Billy Wickware, President of the Dallas Chapter and LaWanda Rasberry, President of the Houston Chapter.

See the August "Informer issue" for more pictures of reunion.

Friends Forever



Willie Johnson, Tyler, class of 58; Joe Teague, Jacksonville, class of 59; Johnny (Billy) Thompson, Dallas, class of 58; and Matthew (Sonny) Watts, Dallas, class of 61 grew up within hollering distance of each other. They get together several times a year.

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The G. W. Bradford Rusk Alumni

will host scholarship fundraiser

Old School Get Together

Saturday, August 21st

Rusk Civic Center

Begins 8:00PM - Contact Helen Boston for Info.

Emerson Griffin newly elected president Rusk VFW



Emerson Griffin

Emerson Griffin has been elected to the position of president of the local Rusk Veterans of Foreign Wars #3406. The VFW is an organization of service for men and women who have served their country in times of war. The membership is basically restricted to those who have served in Iraq, Dessert Storm, The Invasion of Granada and Panama.

Griffin says the current goal of the organization is to recruit new members. He is putting together a membership drive and bringing information to the public which will make it more visible in the community. It is not a social organization, but one that is here to serve veterans. Prescriptions, paper work to obtain benefits, and assistance to surviving spouses are just a few areas in which assistance can be given to veterans.

The VFW membership meets each first Tuesday of the month at 7:00PM at the Rusk VFW.

President Emerson Griffin says that members are needed from all races, especially African Americans because they don't seem to know the facts about benefits available to vetrans.

There is a veterans services office in the Cherokee County Courthouse which provides information and assistances. Emerson says the VFW building in Rusk is available for use by the public and can be scheduled for use by calling him at (936) 371-2099.

Emerson Griffin lives in Alto with his wife Jackie. They have two children. He was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He is a fifteen year disabled veteran who was a member of the 82nd Airborn Division and served as a Paratrooper. He spent six years in Germany and was stationed at Ft. Hood Texas with the 1st Calvery Division, Ft. Brag North Carolina. He saw combat in the Granada Conflic.

Veterans are asked to bring memorabilia to the VFW for the November Veteran's Day and to participate in planned activities such as open house, July 4th parade amd the November Veterans Day activities.

Griffin wants veterans to know that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric Shinseki announced June 29 that offering bronze medallions to attach to existing, privately purchased headstones or markers, signifying a deceased status as a veteran. For veterans not buried in a national or state cemetary or those without a government grave marker, VA is pleased to offer this option that highlights their service and sacre

nces for our country, "said Secretary Shinseki. The new item can be furnished instead of a traditional government headstone or marker for veterans whose death occurred on or after November 1, 1990 and whose grave in a private cemetary is marked with a privately purchased headstone or marker.

Under federal law, eligible veterans buried in a private cemetary are entitled to either a government-furnished grave marker or the new Madellion, but not both. Veterans buried in a national or state veterans cemetary will receive a government headstone or marker of the standard design authorized at that cemetary.

The new medallion is available only to veterans buried in private cemeteries without a government headstone or marker. Families of eligible decedents may also order a memorial headstone or marker when remains are not available for interment. Information can be obtained at www.cem.va.gov or by calling 1-800-827-1000.

Bill White former Houston Mayor Democrat for Governor Comes to Rusk & Jacksonville July 21st



Please come out to meet Bill White, former Houston Mayor and candidate for Governor of the state of Texas.

He will stop at:

10:45A.M. - Mt. Pleasant CME Church -138 Reeder Street Rusk, Texas

11:30 -Cherokee County Courthouse Rusk, Texas

12:30 PM Saddler's Kitchen Jacksonville, Texas