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Denzel Washington's  
new movie, "The Great  
Debaters" under production.  
see page 13.

Legislation introduced to  
protect Texas Southern  
University student degrees.  
see page 6

Letter to the Editor  
reveals child abuse gone  
unchecked. see pg. 2



# TEXAS INFORMER

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Lorene Williams White is a Rusk Icon. Former owner of The Rusk Palimano  
Cafe of the sixties , she recalls Juneteenth of the past. (See page 5)



Pictured are Evelyn Barnett Cleaver and Penny McRugg, RN, UNA III. Evelyn, Psychiatric Nurse Assistant retires after 28 years employment with Rusk State Hospital. See page 14

\*Fred Douglas All-School Reunion set  
for July 27 -29, 2007 at the LandMark in  
Jacksonville, Texas

\* June is Black Music Month. To find  
Rythm & Blues, Soul and  
Gospel, see page 18.

\*Jacksonville Baptist Missionary  
Association Theological Seminary  
announces New Partnership Focuses  
with African American Ministers. See page 19.

California Juneteenth, Inc. wants  
Juneteenth to become "National Day Of  
Freedom" as July 4th, for all states.  
see Editorial page 2.





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## Editorial



Maxine Session

During June, African Americans celebrate two very important holidays, Father's Day and Juneteenth. Legislation was passed in 1971 making "Father's Day" official. A 1993 Parent Magazine survey found that 84% of men reported they are spending more time with their children than their fathers spent with them. Hopefully, in 2007 that amount of time has grown.

September 22, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation stating that on the first day of January 1863, all persons held as slaves within the United States were forever free. January 1, 1863, the state of Texas did not comply with President Lincoln's proclamation, keeping the slaves unaware that they were free. Two and one-half years later on June 19, 1865 General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston and began spreading the word. For one hundred forty-two years African Americans in Texas have celebrated that day of freedom. Legislation was passed June 13, 1979 and signed into effect by Governor William P. Clements as written and lobbied for by Houston's State Representative Al Edwards, declaring Juneteenth a legal Texas state holiday.

Today, Juneteenth is celebrated throughout most of the other states and countries like Japan with California's Juneteenth America, Inc. working to have the date become a "National Day of Freedom". It would be come the first ever national holiday commemorating slavery.

**Juneteenth  
celebrated as a  
Day of Freedom  
...California  
Inc.  
asks for  
National Day of  
Freedom for all**

## Letters to the Editor

### The child abuse cycle has to stop for Children's Sake!

To The Editor:

My Name is Crystal Miles-Broussard. I have been molested, raped, and drugged up for other people's pleasures. I am here to stop the cycle. It is a repeated cycle that has gone on for generations in my family. Now we have infants and toddlers going through it as I write. It must be stopped. The drug running has to stop as well. For a few generations now, my cousins and I have been running drugs for certain law affiliated and political figures. We have swept a major prostitution ring under the rug. It has been run by a doctor in our home town for over seventeen years. Yes, I have the evidence to back back all of what I say up. And I will not be scared any longer. My life, my husbands life, and our children's lives have all been threatened. It's sad when you cannot even trust your own parents. When my mother found out I was going to expose the family all she could say was, "I do not want to get beat up for what you're doing", and turned her back on me. It's sad. I have even had to call Child Protective Services on them for my oldest son. He was messed with at four year's old by my cousin, the son of the uncle that messed with me. Nothing was done. When it happened to me, my parents told the sheriff's department, "It's a family matter we will take care of it." You know how they took care of this? They sent me to a State Hospital at twelve year's old, making me feel it was my fault. Under twelve years old I was messed with by several different cousins, even my sister's ex-husband. I also have cousins having sex with cousins. I have cousins that are mentally retarded and handicapped from incest in the family. My great grandmother who just passed at one hundred and three years old has over one hundred and seventy descendants and they are multiplying everyday. Over half of these have been involved in the child molestation and incest. It is way past time to stop this sickness. Several of these issues have been reported over the last thirty years, but everything has been swept under the rug. Where is the justice for

(continued on page 4)

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## House Bill 2365 Protects Texans From Far-Reaching Consequences of Government Accounting Rule

By Texas Comptroller Susan Combs  
State Senator Robert Duncan  
State Representative Vicki Truitt

In 2004, the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) issued Statement No. 45 (GASB 45), creating accounting standards for governmental entities' "other post employment benefits" (OPEB). We are concerned that an arbitrary accounting rule, handed down by a board with no checks or balances, will adversely impact health care benefits for our state retirees.

GASB 45 requires Texas state and local governments to recognize and record retiree health insurance benefit costs as a financial obligation, even if there is no such legal obligation. On the surface this appears to be a fairly innocuous and ministerial requirement. However, because the rule requires these costs to be measured and reported for a period up to 50 years in the future, the requirement has a far-reaching and potentially damaging affect.

Consider your own individual health care costs and those of your family for this year alone. Now try to predict how your health may change during the next 50 years and project the associated cost. It's an impossible figure to determine or to guess. Despite this fact, now healthy debate in both the House and the Senate, contemplate opening a trust account and depositing that total amount today. For most people, attempting to do this would be financially impossible or would at least cause serious fiscal hardship. GASB 45 has put state and local governments

around the country in this untenable position.

Retirement health benefits for the state of Texas and most Texas governmental entities are not constitutionally mandated or contracted programs. Instead, the programs are reviewed and renewed during the regular budgeting process.

Accounting experts tell us GASB 45 — this nationally developed, voluntary accounting standard — conflicts with Texas law. We explored this issue fully during the recently concluded legislative session. There was We learned the American Academy of Actuaries believes the rule would damage the credibility of a balance sheet and add unwarranted volatility. Many actuaries recommend predicting liabilities for no more than five to ten years into the future.

The rule didn't pass the GASB board unanimously. One dissenter, Paul Riley Wood, indicated it would mean governments should pre-fund or book items that do not require pre-funding or booking. This is precisely the concern we have in Texas. We appreciated the appearance of Carl Johnson, a main author of the GASB 45 statement, during our legislative discussions. We asked how this principle was developed and requested an explanation of the rule's underlying theory. His response was that it's what the board concluded based on "all of the facts and communications." *Ipsa dixit*, the Latin phrase for "because I say so." Contrary to the GASB board's out-of-state hearing process, our facts and communications are laid out in

full view. Texas retiree health benefits are budget - not contract - based, and that process is clearly visible every budget cycle, when the Legislature and other local governmental entities draft their budgets Texas budgets within available revenue; however, what we can afford as a state changes each biennium. For example, in 2003 the Legislature faced a \$10 billion shortfall. Consequently, benefits were reduced Texas is a pay-as-you-go state, and there is no way to accurately report that changing figure on a balance sheet. Susan Spataro, an accounting expert and Travis County, Texas, auditor for the past 18 years, investigated what GASB 45 would mean for her county. She obtained two opinions from professional accounting firms on the cost of pre-funding retirees' health insurance benefits based on the requirement of projecting the cost of the program. One firm suggested a price tag of \$89 million; the other projection was \$320 million. This disparate range illustrates the flaw in GASB 45's measurement of the cost of the benefits. It's true. GASB doesn't specifically say these amounts must be paid immediately. Instead, they require calculation and reporting of an "Annual Required Contribution."

Travis County would be required to front an annual required contribution of \$46 million. To obtain those extra millions, property taxes would have to increase 16 percent, the proceeds of which would be devoted exclusively to the GASB contribution. If that price went unpaid, it would compound, eventually showing these fictional liabilities as exceeding assets. The county would be insolvent on paper

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## Hollywood's Time

## Crockett &amp; East Texas News

by Billy "Hollywood" Groves

If you watch television and follow mainstream media then you probably think race relations are just fine in America. A closer observation of the situation will reveal African Americans are still the most vilified, ostracized and discriminated race of people in America. While this news should come as no surprise to most Black Americans, it certainly speaks volumes to the mindset of so called normal Americans. Before the tragedy of 911, African Americans were really feeling the brunt of America's wrath across the country. After 911, there seems to be a conscious effort on the part of mainstream America to paint a superficial picture of African American inclusion in mainstream America. When the truth is, more Black people are in prisons than ever before, more Black families are fractured than ever before and more Black people are out of work than ever before. Because we (Black folks) don't have enough media outlets to counter the misinformation out there on us, most Americans just look the other way. Keep up the good work Sis. Groves and we wish you many more happy birthdays. Signer Jesse Wade of Los Angeles formerly of Jacksonville, Texas was recently recognized by the American Inland Empire Music Award Group in California. Jessie was nominated for the best urban music category and placed fourth among fifteen hundred people. He told me to tell the people that he would be performing again in East Texas as soon as his schedule permits him. Nick Wyatt, Buddha Ali Shaw, Pookie, Avery and H.T.P. the Rap group from Hope, Arkansas recently did their thing at Club Platinum City in Crockett. D.J. Wizz, owner of Platinum city said H.T.P., MAC and the Texas Hard Hitters of Trinity with Gangster One, D. Johnson and P.A.D. Entertainment of New Waverly and Bud Warfield and Nigel of Crockett all did a masterful job. East Texas thanks go out to Tuan Johnson, Rev. R. P. Taylor, Tyrone Colter, Marsha Butler, Joe Ards, Tracy Kent, Jimmy Spivey Brandy Pleasant, Sis. Frankie Jones, Georgia Rhodes ooten, s.

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Josh Carter, Rev. R.C.

Emanuel, Harold Shepherd, Sue Harris, Rev. O.T. Harris and Rev. Hosea Dolphu I asked Rev. Hosea what he had to say about the condition of Black people in America, he had this to say. "African Americans have been insulted most of all the racial groups in America. History will show that." He went on to say, history will also show that people of color have more compassion for what God gave us. He added, Black people have accomplished so much in a short amount of time since 1865, but we have much more to accomplish in the future. Johnny encouraged young people to go to church, finish school, find out something about their heritage including many Black folks are brain washed into believing massive lies over the truth. I truly believe once America feels they have gotten control of the war and terrorists, the overt racial hostility that African American faced before 911 will come back with great gusto. In the meantime, I challenge African Americans to come out of their comfort zones and get out in the real world and find out what's really happening to our people. I guarantee (you, once you discover the truth behind the faade, you will never feel the same about mass media. God Bless America, Africa and the rest of the World! Johnny Burnett of Huntsville is an interesting intelligent member of Greater Zion Baptist Church in Huntsville, where Rev. Michael Davis is the pastor. I recently had a great conversation with Johnny, a 1960 graduate of Huntsville High, at the Dead End Barbershop in

Huntsville. In response to a question I asked him about the economic productive citizens. His final advice was, remember that "We are not exempt from evil". Dr. Ruth Watson and Victoria Essien of Houston, Brenda Atchison of Waco, Dr. Helen King of Huntsville and Dr. Lanthia Fisher of Crockett recently celebrated their mother, Earlie Groves's birthday in Crockett. Sis. Groves was treated at a local East Texas restaurant, where most of her grand kids and sons-in-law were present.

## Send Us Your News

The Texas Informer is eager to share your news with the rest of the community. Club news, social events, charitable activities and service organizations are welcome. We publish your news and announcements at no cost to you. Birthday announcements are published. Picture can be included at a cost of \$5.00 to defray production cost. Pictures can not be faxed. News contributions can be faxed or mailed to P. O. Box 332, Rusk, Texas 75785 and should be typed, if possible.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Continued from page 2

## For the Children's Sake

for the children then and now. There is none! I am just giving everyone a rough overview of what's coming out in the open.

Help me to help the little one's in my family and others. I can not have them go through what myself and others have been through. My husband and I are hiding in several states away for fear of our lives. I will not hold my head in shame, I will no longer fear, I will hold my head high in triumph. Our Dear Jesus has showed me my purpose and it is to stop this sickness and unlawfulness. If my life gets taken in the process, that is the way God wanted it to be.

Please contact ( ..... ) She is my mother-in-law and does not know where we are at.

Please let her know what we can do to receive protection from East Texas Law Enforcement and family members. We will contact my mother every so often by different means.

Crystal Miles-Brouard

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# Lorene Williams White recalls Juneteenth of the past

## Cover Story

written by Maxine Session

Lorene Williams White remembers the fifties and sixties and Juneteenth celebrations of that time as if only a few years have passed.

The summers were long and hot. School was out a little past the middle of May and didn't start again in Texas until after Labor Day. Most

teenagers around Rusk spent the summer at home with the exception of a few who spent a week or two in the cities visiting with relatives. Summer jobs were just not available except for the few washing dishes in local restaurants or peeling tomatoes at the local cannery. A few of the boys.....brave souls, picked up on money for fall school clothes by picking cotton, tomatoes, and catching chickens from 1:00AM to 4:00 or 5:00AM three to four nights a week at the local chicken houses.

For others who couldn't find a job, mostly girls, the days were spent giving their parents an extra hand with chores around the house. This usually consisted of washing laundry by hand and hanging it on the line, starching and ironing clothes, preparing meals and of course, washing dishes.

In the early sixties a big Oak tree in the front yard of Lorene's Cafe provided a cool, shady spot for the community teenage boys, Sonny Watts, Cleo Craig, Ivile Thompson, Billy Thompson, Charles Thompson, Thurmon and Floyd Smith, Junior Martin, Jessie Simmons, Joe Arthur Teague her son Charles Lee and the others who gathered there in the afternoons to shoot the breeze. Some days Thurmon Smith (Monk) brought the guitar and the French Harp and the singing would commence. ....sounded like Muddy Waters and B.B. King in person.....

Lorene Brown grew up in Beckville, Texas, a little place near Carthage, Texas. Her Mom and Dad, Mammie Lee and Nathan Brown sent her and her two brothers and four sisters to Beckville Schools. Life was good to them. She recalls, there were no problems that couldn't be easily solved. Nobody ever saw a hungry day.....if you were hungry you went to the smokehouse for fresh pork or beef .... or to the kitchen or to the garden to get freshly canned or freshly grown vegetables..

Lorene moved to Rusk in the early forties. Rusk was a lot like Beckville. The community was peaceful and safe. You could stand in one place and see for miles around. She met her husband Richard Williams through his mother Carrie Williams. She said, "He was in the army and I wrote letters to him for her." When he came home we got to know each other and we were married.

Juneteenth was really something back then. We had parties everywhere. Different people had them at their houses. P. Joe Cobb, Fannie B. and Lonnie Watts, Willie and Lizzie Watts all lived in the Sawmill Quarters near Edward Brother's Saw

mill. Irma Jean Thompson and a bunch of us walked the dirt roads to get there and then back here. The big thing was to have barbeque and red soda water with all the trimmings. . A lot of families hung a goat and dressed it right in the backyard at home and barbequed it for the celebration.

There were several cafes that provided a place for entertainment. In the fifties, Fronnie and Oscar Bradley had one on the corner of Beale Street and Foreman. They sold Armadillo Sandwiches. Believe it or not, they were good, people actually bought and ate them. Big Boy Williams had one on Williams Street. He sold Hog Head and hog head Cheese sandwiches. Then there was Ollie and Irene Majors Cafe where they sold the best greasy hamburgers and people played dominoes all night long. Harvey Martin had a cafe on the corner of Collins and Williams Street and May Liza and George Young had one next door called the Palimino. I worked at the Zackery Cafe in town and Richard worked at the Rusk Motel. We lived on Whiteman Lane but had moved to Valley Street in this community. We had the experience to cook and run a cafe, so in 1958 we bought the Palimano Cafe from George and Mae Liza Young. All of the cafes had jukeboxes and they sold good food. We sold all kinds of food from barbeque and fish with all the trimmings to hamburgers, chilli and hot dogs. We served breakfast, too. Thurmon Smith (Monk) taught Sonny(her son) how to play a guitar right under that big Oak tree out there. Sonny started a band. All the schools around had jazz combos, too, so it was easy to have a live band play at the cafe from time to time." People played cards and dominoes and danced to the music. We had a big pool table and just about everybody shot poole."

Mrs. White continued by saying, "Kilgore was jumping back then. Nancy Thompson was always, as we use to say, my "Ace Boon Coon" buddy. Where one of us went the other went. Usually on Juneteenth after we partied around here, a bunch of us piled in cars and went to Kilgore. They had cafes and clubs like the Elgreco. We went to Laird Hill, to a little hole in the wall. Kilgore was the only place around where you could buy liquor. I always drank 7UP. If somebody wanted to bring alcohol back to Rusk, we had to go through all kinds of trouble. It meant we had to go Bloody 31 to Tyler and back. The Laws would stop you, take anything you had and put you in jail. They were tough times in that sense.

Integration of the late 1960's and early seventies caused the closing of many small minority businesses. The Palimino Cafe and the others around the community closed one by one. Lorene's husband Richard Williams



Lorene Williams White

in 1980 and moved to Nebraska. She lived there until he passed away in 1986.

The cafe building was torn down while she was away. The good memories that she and a lot of others have from that era are all that is left now. Ms. White enjoys sitting in the swing on her front porch. Anybody who visits Rusk stops by to visit with her. She is the tie that binds most to the past.

On Sundays and Wednesdays you can find her at Mount Olive Baptist church where she has been a member since 1947. Being one of the oldest members, she serves as Church Mother. Her church family is her extended family. Over the years, Lorene has remained active serving in positions from usher to secretary. Every now and then people get a taste of her delicious barbeque when she has a barbeque fundraiser to support projects around the church. She spends a lot of time on the phone with her son Charles Vanzandt who lives in Tyler and like most grandmothers, she visits with her granddaughter Chondra, daughter-in-law Louise and the two great grandchildren by phone and trips.. A longtime family friend, Memphis Lowe, had been in a local nursing home a few years. When he expressed to her recently that he wanted out, she brought him home to her house to take care of him. She just takes everything in stride with a smile.

And about this Juneteenth, she said, "I will still have to have a strawberry soda. Its just always been a tradition from childhood."



## TSU Bill to protect student degrees passes House Committee Unanimously

(Austin) A bill introduced by State Representative Garnett Coleman, Democrat, has passed unanimously out of the House Committee on Higher Education. It now heads to Calendars Committee and awaits scheduling to be heard on the House floor for debate. The Senate Bill 2039 is the House companion to HB 4130 and it will protect the students' degrees at Texas Southern University addressing the short and long-term financial problems at the university," Coleman said. I'm pleased the bill unanimously passed out of the committee and I am eager for it to come to the House floor for a vote. SB 2039, was authored by Rep. Coleman, Senator Rodney Ellis and Senator Royce West.

The Annual Pinegrove Homecoming  
will be held Sunday, July 5, 2007

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## Finding takers to lead Texas Southern University won't be easy

Even before finance scandal, few had opted to seek a spot on the board

By Matthew Treaugue

(Houston, TX.)—Richard Holland knew little of the problems at Texas Southern University until friends urged him to be part of the solution. Because the idea of public service appealed to the Ivy League-educated management consultant, Holland applied to be a regent. Six months later, he is at the table as the state's largest historically black university ponders difficult choices for its future. The governor's office is hoping other well-qualified people follow Holland's lead. But the job appeared less than desirable even before scandals and administrative missteps prompted Gov. Rick Perry to oust the previous board last month.

State records show that fewer than 50 people applied for spots on the TSU board over the past six years, while twice as many applied for the University of Texas System's governing board in just the past year. Perry's desire to turn TSU around could hinge on his ability to recruit promising candidates to the governing board, lawmakers and education experts say. "His ability to persuade is more meaningful than the number of applications," said Richard Novak, executive director of the Center for Public Trusteehip and Governance at the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges. "If the right people are in place, they can make a difference."

The nine regents are appointed by the governor for six-year terms. The state Senate must confirm a nomination during the ensuing legislative session. Regents are not paid, but the spots usually are coveted because of the prestige. In effect, regents oversee cutting-edge scientists and potentially influence the lives of future generations. Their lengthy terms are intended to provide stability and to insulate them from politics.

But regents generally lack substantial expertise in university issues, such as enrollment, fundraising and shared governance with faculty members. Forty percent of board members said they were "slightly" or "not at all prepared" for the job, according to a recent nationwide survey by The Chronicle of Higher Education. Michael Cemo, a University of Houston System regent since 2001, said the appointment for the job, according to a recent nationwide survey by The Chronicle of Higher Education. Michael Cemo, a University of Houston System regent since 2001, said the appointment comes with a steep learning curve. Even with his experience on corporate and nonprofit boards, he needed a year of study to

understand the university's operations. The job may be even more difficult at TSU, Cemo said, because every move by the board will be scrutinized intensely by alumni, students, community leaders and lawmakers. The previous regents were sharply criticized after a series of financial and management problems, including a spending scandal that led to criminal charges against TSU's then-president, Priscilla Slade. A jury recently sentenced her chief financial officer, Quintin Wiggins, to 10 years in prison for his role in the matter. The board, which Perry appointed and later pressured to resign, included attorneys, bankers, a Methodist minister, Riverside General Hospital's chief executive and an administrator from the troubled North Forest school district.

Before resigning, regent Belinda Griffin acknowledged at a state Senate Finance Committee hearing in February that the board needed help in key areas, such as accounting.

"We could clearly strengthen the board," she said, responding to a question from Sen. Royce West, D-Dallas. Rather than add a missing ingredient to the board, Perry decided to start from scratch. He initially wanted to turn over control of TSU to one person: a state-appointed conservator.

After lawmakers balked at the idea, Perry pushed for a five-member board, which ideally would make changes more quickly than a full complement of regents.

The plan unraveled in the House shortly after he appointed five regents. So Perry has four seats to fill, but he may leave some vacant. "What's most important is that the board has a quorum, and the governor will look to fill those positions in the near future," Perry spokesman Ted Royer said. "But in terms of a timetable, his philosophy on appointees is that it's more important to get it right than to get it fast." The governor's office has received 32 applications for seats on the board over the past year. Perry could choose from Tracey McDaniel, chief operating officer of the Greater Houston Partnership business advocacy group; David Stephens, owner of automobile dealerships across Texas, and Thelma Clardy, a DeSoto city councilwoman, among others. Another applicant is Kevin Daniels, whose brother represented Wiggins in his recent criminal trial. An English professor at Prairie View A&M University, Daniels has advocated turning TSU into a private, self-sustaining institution. Big names already on board. So far, Perry has picked some prominent Texans for the board, including three from his advisory committee on TSU. Former state Rep. Glenn Lewis led the committee and is now chairman of the regents. Austin lawyers Gary Bledsoe and Richard Salwen also moved from the committee to the governing board. The governor's office recruited Javier Loya, chairman and chief executive of Choice Energy, a brokerage house for natural gas and electricity and a marketer of wholesale power.

**Wheeler - White  
Family Reunion**

Saturday, July 20th

VFW Rusk, Texas

Contact: Betty @ 903-683-4835



## Texas Publishers Association, the black press of Texas, new officers take helm

TPA Newswire - Texas Publishers Association held its first meeting under the newly elected 2007 - 2008 slate of officers, Saturday, May 19, 2007 in Corsicana, Texas. The 21 year old organization was founded in 1985 and is made up of twenty-two black newspapers around the state of Texas including Houston, San Antonio, Lubbock, Dallas, Longview, Tyler, Rusk, Corsicana, Farmersville, Greenville, Mesquite, Plano and Austin, the capital of the great state of Texas.

To be classed as a black newspaper, a newspaper must be owned and managed by black people, intended for black consumers, and deal with the interests and concerns of black people. Most importantly, it should speak for the poor, women, minorities and the oppressed as well as, empower the people politically, socially, and economically.

The black press remains the main source of information for Texas' growing black population. Black owned newspapers are published weekly, bi-weekly and monthly. A recent readership study showed statewide readership exceeding 500,000 weekly, 520,000 bi-weekly and 550,000 monthly.

As with the first founded black newspaper, Freedom's Journal, in 1927 and others of the early 1900's, Texas Publishers Association continues the legacy of its predecessors. It challenges the black press of the past by being better. It uses the latest technology to disseminate the news faster and more efficiently. It uses investigative reporting to tell the facts and shed light on issues of political interest to the black community.

The May meeting was held at the Bethlehem Baptist church with The Corsicana Examiner publisher, Rev. Dairy Johnson hosting the meeting. The publishers enjoyed a barbeque luncheon and listened to special guest speaker, Ester Davis, host of the Ester Davis Television Show. Ms. Davis' show is an ION Media Network Television Production which airs North Texas: Saturdays & Tuesdays-Channel 68 and 42-KPXD-TV@5:30 AM. Houston & Metroplex - Channel 49 - KPXB-TV@5:00 AM San Antonio & Metroplex - Channel 26 - KPXL-TV @5:00 AM. Willie Hobdy, 2006-2007 president presided over the meeting until new officers were sworn in. Those sworn into office were Hattie Kelly, publisher Power Pages, President; Mollie Belt, publisher Dallas Examiner, Vice President; Maxine Session, publisher Texas Informer, treasurer; Dairy Johnson, secretary and Tommy Wyatt, publisher The Villager, Parliamentarian. Mr. Hobdy is the publisher of Kuumba Heritage, Metroplex South Star and Garland News Journal. The next meeting will be held July 21, in Austin Texas.

## Fathers are you raising your sons?

What are fathers: They are men I hardly see anymore. I grew up with a wonderful father who had six girls and one boy. Daddy went to work everyday of my life, leaving before day and making it home at night. My mother never had to cook breakfast for him because he got up and ate whatever he saw from the night before; or if there was cake or pie, that was his breakfast. He also fixed his own lunch because, in those days Blacks couldn't stop and get a hamburger anywhere. He bought his check home and on Saturdays we went to town to shop and buy groceries for the next week. My mother didn't work because daddy took care of the household. Mother and daddy only had one fight. It wasn't about anything but my daddy pulling off his belt to whip my sister who was always sick. She was so devilish that when she was in trouble, she would get a nose bleed. I never saw a can of beer or a whiskey bottle at our house; as a result, none of my sisters drank to this day nor do any of us smoke. We all graduated High School, five out of seven in the top five, and one valedictorian. My daddy whipped me once and he never had to again. My only brother was in jail one time and my daddy let him sit it out. He never was locked up again. At his death he was a wealthy man. I am writing this article because I wonder where are the fathers like the one I had. My daughters are blessed with a good father but I see this as the last generation of GOOD Men. They need to teach their sons to: Not let their

(Continued on page 15)

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## New BMATS partnership from page 19

just the churches, but the community as a whole," said Dr. Charley Holmes, BMATS president. He said, "We are not only offering life-changing opportunities for individuals, but groundbreaking strategies to improve inter-cultural relationships in the community and leadership in our local churches."

Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary has been nurturing students in Christian service and leadership roles, by uncompromised teaching from God's Word and quality education since 1957.

this year, the seminary celebrates its Golden Jubilee and graduated the largest class of students in its history. For more information about the media conference or BMATS, go to WWW>BMATS>EDU or contact Bert Cooper at (903) 586-2501.

## The Hidden Costs of War

By Jesse L. Jackson, Sr.

© Tribune Media Services

War costs. It costs the lives and the limbs of young men and women who are sent into battle. Their families, their loved ones, their communities and their nation lose the potential of some of the best young citizens. For the Iraq war, that total already exceeds 3,300 dead and nearly 25,000 wounded, with tens of thousands more scarred psychologically, often permanently, from the horrors they witnessed.

War costs. It squanders billions on destruction that might be devoted to construction. Best estimates are that the Iraq War — which has already consumed about \$425 billion — will end costing about \$2 trillion when the cost of veterans' health care, disability payments, replacing the weapons and rebuilding the military is counted. That's \$2 trillion — largely debt left to our children to pay — that will not be available to move this nation to energy independence, rebuild our cities, insure that every despair and more violence right here at home. Orleans and the Gulf and to the broader challenge of poverty in America.

That was then. Now, the lights are still off in many poor neighborhoods in New Orleans. Thousands are still dispersed around the country with no progress made on rebuilding their homes. The lethal failure of rescue during Katrina has been made worse by the unforgivable failure of reconstruction after Katrina. Dr. King opposed the Vietnam War in part because he saw that as the war escalated, the war on poverty was abandoned. Without much debate, the nation wasted lives, resources and attention on the folly in Vietnam, and abandoned the struggle which showed great promise against poverty at home.

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

Houston- Texas Southern University's former chief financial officer was convicted Thursday of misusing nearly \$300,000 to help the school's ex-president lavishly furnish and landscape her home.

Quintin Wiggins faces a punishment range of five years probation to life in prison. "We were very surprised, very saddened, very shocked," L. Mickle Daniels, Wiggins' attorney, said about the verdict. Daniels said he plans to appeal. Prosecutors would not comment about the case until Wiggins is sentenced. Prosecutors said Wiggins diverted \$286,000 of funds at the historically black school into secret accounts that then-president Priscilla Slade used to buy furniture, landscaping and a high-tech security system for her home.

Wiggins violated university and state procurement rules by approving the purchases and by failing to tell TSU's board of regents or other

school officials about them, prosecutors said.

Defense attorneys said Wiggins was a dedicated employee who had done nothing wrong because the university had previously approved similar furniture purchases for Slade. They said he did not try to hide the purchases.

When it was discovered that TSU had mistakenly paid for Slade's landscaping, she gave the money back, Wiggins' attorneys said, adding that their client knew nothing about the security system.

Slade, who was fired last June, is set for trial in August on two charges of criminally misusing university money for private benefit.

The allegations against Wiggins, Slade and others coincided with a series of reports that revealed a pattern of financial mismanagement at the school. Gov. Rick Perry has called for a state takeover.

In his State of the Union address, the president didn't mention Katrina. No questions were asked about it in the first Democratic and Republican debates. Poverty, stagnant incomes, indebted families, unaffordable health care and college — all got passing mention at best in either debate.

The focus? Iraq, of course, and the "war on terror." War has not only squandered American lives and dollars; it understandably has consumed our attention. And in doing so, it simply blinds us to the looming challenges we face right here at home. We know more about Baghdad than about New Orleans, or any of our other cities. child has a healthy start, make our schools the best in the world, keep college affordable, or renovate our collapsing infrastructure in everything from sewers to communications to subways. We face a staggering investment deficit at home that few talk about simply because we are already facing large deficits. And that cost will be measured in a less competitive economy, less well-educated children, more inequality, more poverty, more War costs. One of its great costs was on display in the recent presidential debates. War consumes our attention. Each day the papers are filled with reports from the frontline. The President, House and Senate focus their attention on the war. The presidential candidates and their debates devote most time to the war. Busy Americans devote a large part of the time they have to talk to talking about the war. The failed occupation in Iraq is costing this country lives, resources and security. It consumes our attention. Some will pay with their lives; some already have. The nation will pay for it with our future, with hope deferred and possibility foreclosed. These terrible costs can not be recovered

War — even failed war — feeds on itself. The violence it generates fosters hatred, vengeance and more violence. The Iraq war, our own intelligence services report, has been the best recruiting tool for al Qaeda across the world.

The commitment of the military generates demand for more military. We spend almost as much as the rest of the world combined on the military. The Pentagon now consumes more than half of the US discretionary budget — the budget Congress appropriates each year, about \$3700 per household each year. Yet every major candidate in both parties is committed to spending even more on the military, to expanding it, to giving greater capacity to go places and do things.

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**Connie Mae Hicks Dearman**

May 13, 1936 - June 9, 2007



Connie Mae Hicks Dearman was born in Cherokee County, Texas on May 13, 1936 to the parents of Lula Bell and Joe Hicks, Sr. She was a

member of the G. W. Bradford High School graduating Class of 1955. Connie was a member of The Church of The Living God, Jacksonville, Texas until 1999 when she joined with Mount Olive Baptist Church, Rusk, Texas. She passed away June 9, 2007 in a Tyler, Texas hospital.

She was married to the late Leon Dearman. Survivors include: One daughter and son-in-law Maria and Tarvare Moore, Rusk, Texas; four sons and daughters-in-law; Larry and Jennifer Dearman, Charles and Callie Dearman, Westley and Veronica Dearman and Eddie Dearman, all of Rusk; ten grandchildren Veronica and Floyd Johnson, Shannon Dearman, Latoya and Jonah Branham, Candace and Michael Overstreet, Clarice Dearman, Darrin Dearman, Quanisha Dearman, Symira Dearman, Mark Mitchell, Raven Moore; twelve great-grandchildren, two brothers, Joe and Mazel Hicks of Houston, Texas; Alonza and Laura Hicks of Rusk, Texas; a best friend Loyal Barron; a host of aunts, uncles, neices, nephews other relatives and friends.

The service was held Saturday, June 16, at Mount Olive Baptist Church under the directions of Mercy - McGowan Funeral Home with Rev. officiating and Rev. Mertis Bartley, Bishop Mabel Berry, Rev. Larry Leonard, Evangelist Stella Bartley and Rev. Gaylon Taylor officiating.

Burial was at Memorial Cemetery, Rusk, Texas.

**Mary Alice Overstreet**

Nov. 18, 1943- May 26, 2007

Mary Alice Overstreet was born November 18, 1943 in Rusk, Texas, to the parents of Riley and Emma May Overstreet. She attended G.W. Bradford School in Rusk, Texas and was a member of the "class of 1965". She was a member of the Church of Christ, where she joined at an early age.

Later she moved to Dallas, Texas and made it her home until 1996 when she returned to Rusk to live. At this time she united with Mt. Olive Baptist Church and remained a member until her death.

She was preceded in death by her parents, four brothers, and two sisters. She passed away May 26, 2007 at Lexington Place Care Center, Rusk, Texas.

Survivors are three sons; Willie Ray Overstreet (Lakisha), of Rusk, Texas; Herman Lee Overstreet of Jacksonville, Texas; and Oscar Eugene Overstreet (Frances) of Palestine, Texas; eight grandchildren, one brother, David Overstreet, of Rusk, Texas; a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, and friends.

Funeral Services were held June 9, 2007 at Mount Olive Baptist Church under the directions of Mercy McGowan Funeral home with the Rev. Mertis Bartley officiating. Burial was at Salem Cemetery, Rusk, Texas.

#### A THANK YOU NOTE FROM

#### THE MYRTIE JOHNSON FAMILY

When a loved one so dear is lost, kind gestures from friends make it so much better.

We would just like to say from us to you, that the kind gestures you gave us did truly make a difference. The phone calls warmed our hearts. The visits uplifted our spirits. The food filled our stomachs when we had no desire to prepare food.

Thank you and may God Bless you,  
Your kindness will never be forgotten.  
Sincerely,

The Myrtie Johnson Family

## CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS URGES END CONTROVERSIAL

Washington, DC (BlackNews.com) - Ohio Senator Sherrod Brown and Sen. Tom Harkin (D-IA) this week moved to protect low-income teens from some controversial federal research that will soon be forced on federally-funded college prep programs. Meanwhile, the entire House of Representatives membership of the Congressional Black Caucus called on House colleagues to withhold funding for the study entirely (to read the letter, go to: [www.coenet.us/files/upward\\_bound-cbc\\_june\\_2007.pdf](http://www.coenet.us/files/upward_bound-cbc_june_2007.pdf)). The U.S. Department of Education has commissioned a national evaluation of Upward Bound, the venerable and highly-successful college access program that has helped nearly a million students prepare for, apply to, and go to college. The evaluation has been a source of great concern for college access educators because of its design. Upward Bound programs are being required to recruit double the number of teens they can serve, with half of the students placed in control groups.

"The vulnerable youngsters and families who make the serious commitment to study hard after school, Saturdays, and summers with Upward Bound will be devastated when they learn that they are, instead, assigned to the control group and can never participate," said Arnold L. Mitchem, president of the Council for Opportunity in Education. "This is an unethical study design that should not be foisted on low-income 14-year-olds to satisfy some bureaucratic whim in Washington," Mitchem continued. "We are tremendously grateful for the leadership of Senators Brown and Harkin and the House Congressional Black Caucus, under the leadership of Reps. Bobby Scott (D-VA) and Gwen Moore (D-WI). Their actions may result in protecting thousands of low-income youngsters from research that can have terrible personal consequences. Some Upward Bound educators believe the study design is reminiscent of the tragic Tuskegee experiments because students will inevitably be harmed in the process. Unless Congress blocks the plan, Upward Bound programs will be forced to participate in the study or lose their funding all together."

"Senators Brown and Harkin and the HELP committee, and Congressman Scott and the Black Caucus are making it clear that the Department of Education does not have carte blanche to engage in this type of unethical research," Mitchem said. "We support research on the effectiveness of Upward Bound. We already know what a superb program it is," he continued. "There are other credible study designs that can be used to examine Upward Bound without harming students."

Upward Bound serves 9th-12th grade low-income and first-generation students with an intensive college prep program including academic support, mentoring, and college admissions and financial aid counseling. Nationally, more than 90% of the Upward Bound students who complete high school go on to college. It is the granddaddy of college access programs, having been founded more than 40 years ago.

For more information, contact Susan Trebach (202) 347-7430 ext 107 (o) or (703) 346-8438 (cell)

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## Marcus & Krystal Carter Celebrate 1st Anniversary



Marcus and Krystal Ward Carter will celebrate their first wedding anniversary July 8th. They were married at the Lon Morris College Chapel, Jacksonville Texas and currently live in Houston, Texas.

## Overstreet - Hart exchange Wedding Vows



Tangie Roshelle Overstreet and Jerry Don Hart were married, Saturday May 19, 2007 at 6:00PM in the evening at Mount Olive Baptist Church Rusk, Texas. Rev. Mertis Bartley performed the beautiful double ring ceremony. The reception was held at the VFW Rusk, Texas. They will live in the Sahdy Grove Community of Rusk. Tangie is the daughter of Forna Overstreet and Delian Session. Jerry Don is the son of Ira Hart and the late Calvin (C. S.) Hart.

## Franklin- Benton Announce Engagement

Milton and Osie Franklin announce the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter Casandra to Ramon Benton of Lufkin, Texas. The happy couple will exchange



vows in a double ring ceremony at 4:00PM on Saturday, September 29, 2007 at The Woods in Jacksonville, Texas. Casandra is a Jacksonville High School graduate and is employed at Rusk State Hospital. Ramon is a 2000 graduate of Crockett High School, Crockett, Texas and is currently serving his country in the U. S. Army. His

parents are James and Blanch Benton of Kennard, Texas.

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## West Union Faith Ministry Hosts Fun Day



Rusk, TX. - West Union Faith Ministries hosted their Annual Fun Day on Saturday June 9th on the parking lot and outside grounds of the

church. More than seventy children and their families enjoyed swimming, basketball, Bible games, basketball, hotdogs, sausage on a stick, hamburgers, soft drinks and all the trimmings. The event lasted from 10:00AM until 6:30PM.

Deacon Patrick Session, Assistant Pastor, Marvin Whitfield and Pastor Jimmy Foreman prepared the grilled food. Shown serving and assisting children are Theresa Session, Linda Roberson, Shirley Foreman, Lashunda Foreman, Trish Atkins, Etta Foreman, Dianne Foreman, and Ella Whitfield.

### Jasmine LaShae Session places in "Bee"



Henderson, TX. - Jasmine LaShae Session, daughter of Vincent and Angela Session, placed second in the West Rusk Elementary School Second Grade Spelling Bee. Jasmine is an "A" Honor Roll student who enjoys school, Little Dribblers Basketball, Little League Softball and singing in Church.

She is the granddaughter of

Alver Dee and Joyce Session of Jacksonville and Ras and Lillie Pollard of Henderson.

### Congratulations to Earlisha Hackney



Earlisha Hackney, a senior, has been named Drum Major for the Frankston High School Indian Marching Band for the school year 2007-2008. She is an A-B Honor Roll student and was named Citizen of The Month in March 2007. Earlisha is a distinguished student who was accepted into the National Honor Society this year, named Most Valuable Player Frankston girls tournament January 2007, received academic excellence in Social Studies. Her goal is to graduate in the top three of her class. She encourages other youth to remember her motto, "You can do all things through Christ who strengthens you."

accepted into the National Honor Society this year, named Most Valuable Player Frankston girls tournament January 2007, received academic excellence in Social Studies. Her goal is to graduate in the top three of her class. She encourages other youth to remember her motto, "You can do all things through Christ who strengthens you."

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## Rep. Chuck Hopson Joins Gov. Perry to Sign Landmark Medicaid Reform

FT. WORTH—Rep. Chuck Hopson joined U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Michael Leavitt today, as Gov. Rick Perry signed SB 10 into law, reforming the state's Medicaid program which serves more than 2.7 million vulnerable, disabled and elderly Texans. The bill will also offer a premium assistance program to help uninsured working Texans, who are not

eligible for Medicaid, buy private insurance. "The health of our state economy depends on programs like Medicaid," said Rep. Hopson. "We need these programs to help our elderly and our disabled live their lives with honor and dignity. We need these reforms to make sure our healthcare system stays viable as our state grows."

Today, Texas' Medicaid program costs \$39.5 billion, accounting for 26 percent of the state's biennial budget. Hopson, who is a member of the Appropriations Committee that crafts the budget every two years, believes this bill will help institute a more flexible, innovative methodology to providing health care to underprivileged Texans, and will be able to serve individuals more efficiently.

Medicaid reform is designed to increase the percentage of Texans with health care coverage, focus on prevention and emphasize individual choice. Reform efforts will transform the state's health care infrastructure, optimize health investments, and begin providing health coverage to an estimated 200,000 uninsured Texans.

"Without these reforms we could be facing a health care crisis in the future," said Hopson. "These reforms will help prevent overcrowded emergency rooms, as well as, help local hospitals cover costs due to patients without health insurance and unable to pay their bills." Additionally, Medicaid reform will do the following: Provide assistance for enrollment in private insurance and employer-sponsored plans. Create tailored benefit packages for children with special health care needs. Promote consumer choice through health savings accounts and consumer directed services. Reward healthy lifestyle behaviors with health care incentives. Set a cost-sharing base for non-emergency use of emergency rooms. In addition to Medicaid reform, SB 10 also requires the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) to develop a pilot project which provides incentives to primary care physicians serving Medicaid recipients who utilize health information technology, including electronic health records. Electronic medical records will ensure recipients are provided appropriate medical care. HHSC will immediately begin work to prepare and submit a Medicaid waiver request by this fall to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

SB 10 takes effect immediately. District 11 residents are encouraged to contact Rep. Hopson and his staff in his capitol office at 512-463-0592, or district office at 866-233-5100.

Page 12 \* June 2007 Texas Informer



## Brown County Grand Jury Indicts Texas Youth Commission Officer, Inmate for Drug Possession

BROWNWOOD – A Texas Youth Commission officer and an inmate were indicted Thursday for possessing drugs at the Ron Jackson Juvenile Correctional Facility. Juvenile correctional officer Henry Ruben Firth, Jr., 29, and inmate Daniel Ochoa, Jr., 20, each face one count of possessing a prohibited substance in a correctional facility, a third-degree felony punishable by two to 10 years in prison.

Law enforcement officers with the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) arrested Ochoa at the facility and transported him to the Brown County Jail, where bond was set at \$10,000. OAG officers arrested Firth in Bedford. He was transferred to Tarrant County Jail, where he is being held in lieu of \$15,000 bond. Both defendants will be prosecuted by the Brown County District Attorney's Office. With these indictments, Texans can rest assured that state and local officials are aggressively pursuing allegations of wrongdoing at Texas Youth Commission facilities across the state," Attorney General Abbott said. "We are grateful to Brown County District Attorney Michael Brandon Murray, TYC

grand jury for their diligent attention to this matter. Together, we will ensure that order and justice will pervade at these facilities."

In March, Texas The OAG's Special Investigations Unit continues to work with other law enforcement agencies to monitor allegations of wrongdoing at Texas Youth Commission facilities. The OAG's participation in the joint effort stems from a March 2007 executive order, which provided for a collaborative effort with the Texas Dept. of Criminal Justice to provide assistance and support. This case was investigated by the OAG as part of that ongoing effort. Youth Commission staff discovered marijuana in Ochoa's possession. According to the indictment, First provided the illegal substance to the youth.



## East Texas Rural Electric hosts Youth Seminar

Jacksonville, TX. - Nine East Texas Rural Electric Cooperatives join together each summer to sponsor a Youth Seminar. This year's Youth Seminar will be held June 25 - 28, 2007 at Lon Morris College. The purpose of the seminar is to give youth an opportunity to learn leadership and problem-solving skills while providing an understanding of rural, consumer-owned electric systems. It will consist of workshops, group sessions and several social events. Youth will have the opportunity to meet outstanding speakers all over the United States and have the opportunity to compete for at least one of thirteen scholarships. One hundred twenty-five East Texas youth are expected to attend. Parents are invited to attend the Wednesday evening Talent Show. Three Rusk youth are among others attending. They are Courtney Foreman, Sheena Henderson and Jasmine Harris. Sponsoring Cooperatives are Bowie-Cass, Cherokee County, Deep East Texas, Houston County, Jasper-Newton, Panola-Harrison, Rusk County, Upshur-Rural, and Wood County. Sam Hammontree is Camp director.

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## Denzel comes to Rusk, Texas to film new movie "The Great Debaters"

(Rusk, TX.) Two time Academy Award winning actor Denzel Washington is in the process of filming his new movie, "The Great Debaters". The movie is based on the true story of a professor at historically black Wiley College in Marshall, Texas. The professor inspired students to form the school's first debate team in 1935. As he did in the critically acclaimed 2003 drama "Antwone Fisher," Washington will not only have a hand in directing the film, but will also starring in it as Professor Melvin B. Tolson.



Photography began in mid-May in Rusk, Texas at the Texas State Railroad following an earlier surprise visit to Rusk by Denzel. Tolson, leads his team of skilled debaters on to challenge Harvard in the national championship. "Stomp the Yard" star Columbus Short will reportedly play one of Tolson's students. The project is co-written by acclaimed playwright and McArthur Foundation "Genius" Award winner Suzan Lori Parks, who created the 2002 Pulitzer Prize winning Broadway play "Topdog/Underdog," and scripted the masterful telepic "Their Eyes Were Watching God."

## Bernice Johnson Retirement Celebrated

Jacksonville, TX. - A retirement dinner was held May 19, 2007 at the Norman Activity Center for Bernice Johnson of New Summerfield, Texas. Ms. Johnson retired after twenty-nine years service to New Summerfield ISD and Jacksonville ISD Food Service Departments. The dinner, which began at 2:00PM, was hosted by her son and daughter-in-law Reginald and Renea Carter.

Bernice was Supervisor of Food Service at Jacksonville Middle School for the past ten years and has won numerous awards for recipes prepared while working at JISD.



**James Benton**  
Crockett High Graduate, class of 2000 was home recently on leave from Ft. Huachuca Arizona. James joined the U. S. Army in 2005. His parents are James and Blanch Benton of Kenard.

## Armistia Sanders makes National Deans List

Armistia Sanders, a 2005 Rusk High School Graduate, has been named to the National



Dean's List for 2006-2007. This makes her eligible to apply for one of fifty one thousand dollar scholarships. Misty is now a second year student at Tyler Junior College School of Nursing. She is a 2005 recipient of the Citizen 1st Bank Tyler Junior College Scholarship

and the Lauretta Colston Stewart Scholarship. Armistia plans to become a registered nurse. She is a member of Mt. Olive Baptist Church and the daughter of Sheneque Wyvonne and Sam O'Neal and Allen Sanders all of Rusk. And she is the granddaughter of Genell and Charles Hicks and Burnis Session of Rusk.

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## Charlie Waggoner, Races at Cherokee Motor Sports Park



Rusk, TX. - Charlie Waggoner, II nationally 9th ranked Dragster, competed in the Lucas Oil National Competition at the Rusk Cherokee Motorsports Park in May. He entered his 1988 Chevy Malibu in the Super Gas competition and his 1994 Dragster in the Super Comp competition. Racing since 1974, Charlie usually races in the Tri-State area of California, Nevada and Arizona. Once a year he makes a trip out of that area, usually to Texas.

Born and raised in Tyler, Texas, he lived most of his adult life in California. After a stint in the military, he joined with his brother Jerry and invested jointly into dragsters. In 1980 he ventured out on his own, racing at Pomona, Fontana, Bakersfield, Inverton and the Las Vegas Speedway. Charlie retired from the L. A. Department of Water and Power as an Electrical Construction Manager. Charlie is the son of Charlie & Corine Carter Waggoner. Since retirement, Rusk is his home part of the year.

## Evelyn Barnett Cleaver Retires from RSH after 28 years



Pictured above are: Evelyn, her husband Tommy, Pollie Christopher, Carolyn Polk, Ed Bruce, Linda Roberson, Penny McRugg and other co-workers.

Evelyn is retiring from Rusk State Hospital after twenty-eight and one-half years. She began working there in November 1978. Also attending the party was her sister Lamon Richard. Her job title at retirement was Psychiatric Nurses Assistant. Evelyn is the mother of Dominic, Sharett, Chance and Taj. They are the grandparents of four. During the next month Evelyn plans to just relax at home, enjoy their newest grandbaby, and spend extra time with their sons that are still in school. She said, "I thank God who is the head of my life, for allowing me to be able to retire. After this month of vacation, I plan to return to work." She is the daughter of Donnie Mae Barnett Richard.



Pictured left to right Rusk City Councilman

Walter session, Andrew Melontree, Tyler Citizens 1st Bank, James I perkins, Citizens 1st Bank President and Cody Glenn, former Rusk High School Running Back, former Rusk Citizens 1st Bank Employee and current University of Nebraska Running Back. They are viewing a thank you note to Mr Perkins from Rusk State Hospital for all he and Citizens 1st Bank does for Rusk State Hospital.

The Thank you note is signed by each member of the RSH

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## Men Recognized for Service & Support to Church, family and community -Staff

### William Watson



Graduate of G. W. Bradford High School Class of 1966. He is a professional Chef and is currently employed with Homehealth. William volunteers to help his neighbors by assisting them with transportation to the grocery store and

doctors visits. William is a single parent, father of six, who played a vital role in raising his children and is raising his granddaughter Kushira. He is a dedicated member of Mt. Pleasant C. M. E. Church where he serves on the Urshur Board as President, the food committee and the Trustee Board.



### Samuel O'Neal

- Graduate of Airline High School, Shreveport Louisiana Class of 1982. Served his country in the United States Marine Core, then served six years in the reserve. Sam has been employed with Texas Department of Corrections more than seventeen years. He

is a volunteer coach for girls Summer League Basketball, and a faithful member of Mt. Olive Baptist Church- Rusk, Texas where he is an Ordained Deacon, member of Deacon Board and Sunday School Teacher. Dedicated husband & father - Married to Sheniqua Wyvonne Session O'Neal. They have daughters Armistia and Leasha.

### Jeffery Lee

#### Foreman - Rusk

High Graduate class of 1980. Employed with Rusk ISD More than 18 years. Born and raised in West Union Faith Ministry Church where he has been actively involved in the church since

he was a child. He has served as urshur, choir member sound technician and any other spot where he is needed. Jeff is a founding member of "the Voices of Faith" family singing group for almost 24 years. He is a dedicated husband and father married to Connie Wickware Foreman. They have one son, Derrick.



### Jerry C. Hart

Graduate of G. W. Bradford High School Class of 1959 Retired from Rusk State Hospital after 33 years. He is currently employed with ACCESS. He is a member of Reklaw Volunteer Fire Department and member of the Iron Hill Water Board serving as Secretary. Member

Cherokee Brotherhood Club Association, Member Blount Chapel Baptist Church, active in Male Chorus, adult Choir and fills in whenever and wherever he is needed. Jerry was recognized by his family on June 9th with a surprised birthday celebration and a very emotional appreciation service held at Shady Grove Church of God. Family members gave testimony about the many kind and generous things he has done for each of them over the years. Husband, father and Grandfather - Married to Essie Mae Hart. The Harts have five children and three grandchildren.

Rusk, TX.- At a most important time in history when the role of the male as father and leader in the church, and community is so vital, four men in the Rusk area were recognized for their outstanding support of church, family and community. Recognized were William Watson, Samuel O'Neal, Jeff Foreman and Jerry Hart. A committee from Mount Pleasant CME church selected the four based upon criteria set forth. Important to their selection was the giving back to the community that each has consistently demonstrated over a long period of time. On behalf of the church pastor, Rev. Phillips and the church, Walter Session presented each a gift certificate and a framed certificate of recognition. Speaker for the occasion was Rev. Jimmy Foreman, Pastor of West Union Faith Ministries.

Three of the 2006 honorees were present, Frenchie Henderson of Blount Chapel Baptist Church, Jerry Leviston of Mount Olive Baptist Church and Rev. Jimmy Foreman. The fourth 2006 honoree was Melvin Session of Woodville

## Fatherhood

continued from page 7

pants hang off their butts, cut their hair and get rid of the braids, gold teeth, doo rags covered by a cap, the loud music driving down the street, the cursing. What happen to giving their word and meaning it! Getting a job and trying to keep it! Tell fathers its O.K. to hug their sons and please help them in college.

I feel if a man or woman can't be a father or mother every minute, then there should be a law demanding that women get their tubes tied and a man have a vasectomy.

This man I talked about was Valor D. Denman, my father, whom I loved til' he died with his beautiful green eyes.

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# CommunityRoyalty

My Day By Ester Davis

This column is overdue. But I want you to know it has been on my radar of things to do for some time now. This idea started out as a television series on Dallas royalty, and as you can imagine the list kept growing and growing. But this will get me started and get you, my loyal readers, up and remembering what a better world we live in because of people who picked up a passion for serving.

Sticking to anything is a challenge. Sticking to anything is a lot of hard work, encompassing untold sacrifices, crossroads and stop signs. Add the ingredient of people you like and dislike, corporate support, board members, back stabbers, the petrified jungle of progress, your individual life, a microwave family and you have a formula for giving up rather than sticking to the challenging mission. When I look around, I see so many who started so much, only to abort the 'good idea' for one reason or another. To keep anything running year-after-year is a balancing act of courage, inner strength, with its own peculiar matrix of rebellious maverick spirit. Add to that a pair of brass balls.

Let's start with the numeral thirty. Thirty is a third of ninety. Thirty years is stately, excellence, embellished with jewels of knowledge and realms of nobility. For over thirty years Bill Blair, Theodore Lee and John Beckwith have kept a single solid commitment to one community. The 'big three' have maintained a dominant presence in

their community with dignity, power status and kingliness. Edna Pemberton has reigned supreme over initiative, implementation, action for more than thirty years in the same community. For over thirty years, Ann Williams, Harry Robinson and Curtis King have chartered territory befitting a sovereign with world class non profit organizations. Joyce Foreman has been in business in downtown Dallas for over thirty years, serving on over as many boards and commissions.

"Mr. Formal", aka John Ingram, the kingpin, has dressed everyone in Texas in a tuxedo for 45 years. After 37 years every proper home and office in the Lone Star State has a Leo Evans engraved trophy, award or plaque. Connie Davis has put 'sunny' South Dallas on the world stage with her uniforms, mentoring young models and students all the way. "Jock", with overalls, barbeque and "juke joint" blues, has had a good time on one corner corridor for over thirty years. Judge L. A. Bedford and Carl Simon have given more free advice in the barber shop than in Judge's law office. Thelma Wells has been a motivational speaker on every continent, and remains the same. The last time I checked Curtis Cokes was still training young boxers in a local gym. Mr. and Mrs. Record, Fred Conwright and partner James Runnels have served millions, some paying customers and some non paying customers, all in their thirty plus years at bat. Whew!!! What a royal kingdom. In the words of Rev. Dr. Freddie Haynes, at a Prayer Breakfast in Austin one year, you "oughta shoulda wanta" pat these 'royals' on the back and say thank you. On a final note, I am looking for Mrs. Barbara Buffin, I think, who used to work for C. B. Bunkley. Evelyn Johnson, please give me a call so you can help me with part two.

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## Comptroller Susan Combs

con't from page 3.

The county would be in the same unenviable position as the state — register a huge, so-called liability and take the ensuing lumps, or cut retiree health benefits. Ms. Spataro concluded GASB 45 does not meet the two-prong test necessary for an accounting transaction to be booked: it does not meet the accounting definition of an obligation, nor is it measurable. Some suggest that the county or the state could simply book this as a liability without pre-funding. But accounting rules should not require a governmental entity to measure its solvency by liabilities it does not legally bear. Those who want Texas to comply with this mandate also ignore the human and social cost of complying with the rule. To pre-pay retiree benefits as though we had no control over them would cost the state of Texas billions of dollars or unnecessarily force significant adjustments to retiree benefits. Even worse, other important areas of appropriation such as public education, transportation, criminal justice and Medicaid could also be adversely affected. This is a problem. Consider what happened when the private sector equivalent of GASB, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB), imposed a similar rule on private companies. No fewer than 70 percent of Fortune 500 companies cut or eliminated retiree health insurance benefits. Texas is not alone in questioning GASB 45. State Sen. Leticia Van de Putte of San Antonio, the president of the National Conference of State Legislatures, points out that other states are consulting their attorneys and accountants and working through the math. Still others are even looking at ways to eliminate the GASB board altogether. Texas has decided instead to be a leader of reason in the effort to counteract the potential for adverse consequences to our retirees.

exas' Attorney General has clarified there is no legal obligation. House Bill 2365 simply creates an "other comprehensive basis of accounting (OCBOA)" that allows government retiree health plans to continue to be accounted for as they have been for years — on an annual, pay-as-you-go basis. In addition, the bill calls for long-term retiree health cost data to be made available for informational purposes, as part of the supplemental information submitted with a financial statement. This is a fair and balanced approach. Texas funds OPEB obligations for two-year periods because the state Constitution generally prohibits the Legislature from creating a debt or obligation beyond two years. As elected officials, we have an obligation to uphold the Constitution and take into account the implications of implementing GASB 45 for those who have devoted their professional lives to the state of Texas.

And that is exactly what we are doing.

Susan Combs is Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts. Texas State Senator Robert Duncan of Lubbock represents Senate District 28. Texas State Representative Vicki Truitt of Keller represents House District 98.



## THE ROCKY ROAD TO RACIAL RECONCILIATION

And you, that were sometimes alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled. (Colossians 1:20) Recently, some 142 years after slavery was unofficially ended when Robert E. Lee surrendered at Appomattox Court House in Virginia and almost 400 years after the first African slaves arrived in Jamestown, the Virginia legislature officially apologized for Virginia's role in those abominable actions. The apology is the latest in a series of long overdue steps Virginia has taken to reconcile its segregationist past. In 2004 the Legislature created a scholarship fund for blacks whose schools were shut down between 1954 and 1964 because of the massive resistance to school desegregation. Sponsors of the symbolic resolution believe Virginia is the first state to pass such a measure. The resolution is mild, innocuous, and totally toothless, but it acknowledges the monstrous wrong of slavery.

It states that slavery "ranks as the most horrendous of all depredations of human rights and violations of our founding ideals in our nation's history, and the abolition of slavery was followed by systematic discrimination, enforced segregation, and other insidious institutions and practices toward Americans of African descent that were rooted in racism, racial bias, and racial misunderstanding."

The Virginia House approved the resolution 96-0 and it was unanimously passed in the 40-member Senate. Among those voting for the measure was Delegate Frank D. Hargrove, an 80-year-old Republican who antagonized black leaders earlier this year by saying "black citizens should get over" slavery instead of seeking a formal apology from the state. Hargrove voted for the revised measure because it expresses regret without actually apologizing.

In a broader sense, now that Virginia has opened the door, Congress should also step up and atone for its role in slavery. Michigan Congressman John Conyers has had such a bill bouncing around Congress since 1989.

The greatest impediment to black empowerment, economic justice, and reconciliation has been the Constitution, which institutionalized the disparate social and economic status of blacks and whites. It wasn't just Virginia and a handful of other southern states that nurtured slavery. The U.S. government had encoded slavery in the Constitution and encouraged it for over a hundred years. This onerous system of entrenched bias, bigotry and segregation fostered the wealth and power imbalance between blacks and whites. The American economy boomed as landowners, traders, insurance companies, bankers, shippers, and other businesses made billions off the backs of black slaves.

The several small steps that Virginia has taken toward reconciliation are a welcome start after many decades of dialogue on race issues. Still the residual effects of the multi-generational alienation between blacks and whites lingers on. Blacks have made little relative progress from slavery to today because the American majority still harbors notions of race that perpetuates the slavery pathology. Even while America searched for its own moral high ground and championed personal freedom and economic independence blacks

were still socially, economically and politically marginalized. There is nothing new about state and federal governments issuing apologies for past wrongs committed against Blacks. The U.S. government admitted it was legally liable in 1997 to pay the black survivors and family members of the four-decade long Tuskegee syphilis experiment begun in the 1930's that made human guinea pigs of black patients. They were the victims of a blatant medical atrocity conducted with the full knowledge and approval of the U.S. government. Indicative of the wide dispersion of thought and dialogue over racial reconciliation is an observation by Dr. Raleigh Washington in the book *Breaking Down the Walls*. He addresses the issue of how whites talk to whites about blacks and how blacks talk to blacks about whites. The underlying problem with this lies in the fact that whites and blacks do not intrinsically communicate with one another about their experiences, resulting in walls of friction and misunderstanding.

The even deeper problem is the inability of man to reconcile with God. That being the case it is not difficult to understand the continuing racial reconciliation gap. In spiritual reconciliation God is the offended party whose law has been and is being violated. Therefore, it is man who must become reconciled to God not God to man. The cause of the spiritual disharmony and enmity with God is that man first strives to be in harmony with the world instead of God's law. Reconciliation with God should be man's first priority because an alienation and separation exists. God is love and even though God loved the world so much,

that he gave his only begotten son on behalf of man, the fact remains that mankind as a whole has been in a state of enmity towards God. God's ultimate gift of love to the world was a gift made by Him to His enemies because of love guided by principles rather than friendship. Once man is reconciled to God these same principles could be used to smooth out the rocky road leading to racial reconciliation by those who are now alienated and enemies in their own minds because of their wicked work.

By James W. Breedlove

Comments or opinions may be sent to the writer at: [www.truthclinic.com](http://www.truthclinic.com)

### The Tyler Museum of Art Announces Rebecca Lawton Lecture

**June 30, 2007**-The Tyler Museum of Art is pleased to announce an upcoming lecture by Rebecca Lawton, Ph.D., in conjunction with the exhibition "Earth & Sky: The Pastels of Josephine Oliver-Travis" scheduled for June 30th, from 2 - 4 p.m. in the gallery.

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## Making the marriage milestone

Lois and Joe Teague

Jacksonville, TX.- Marriage can be the thread that holds together happy families and balanced communities. For many people their marriage is one beautiful journey that not only brings a sense of joy and fulfillment to them, but to their family and friends. One such couple is Lois and Joe Teague. Lois and Joe reached the marriage milestone of forty-two years on May 22nd.

How did they meet? What were the circumstances? Both attended Jarvis Christian College in Hawkins, Texas. They were members of the fifty member choral group and were in rehearsal. Everybody was talking, singing and having a good time. The atmosphere was great! The Freshmen, who thought they were exceptionally talented, had decided to not talk to the upper classmen. Lois, a freshman, was sitting in the soprano section. Joe, a sophomore, passed her on his way to the tenor section. She stuck out her foot to keep him from passing. He smiled and gave her a look. The next day, determined to get a conversation out of him, she stuck out her foot again to prevent his passing. This time he looked at her and said, "Excuse me please." She moved her foot slightly and said, "Well you can't pass."

That little encounter in choir rehearsal led to three years of dating. Soon after Joe graduated from Jarvis, he gave a concert. His family was unable to attend. Lois and her five roommates sat on the front row to give him support. Looking back now, she felt then that the relationship was headed toward marriage. He said, "It was love at first sight."

Upon graduating from Jarvis, Joe went into the US Army. When he returned from basic training, he took Lois out to dinner in Longview. When she got out of the car, he helped her get into her coat. She smiled and said, "He was such a little gentleman." He had the ring in his hand and tried to slip it on her ring finger as her hand came through the end of the sleeve. It didn't work out that way. Excited, she asked, "What are you doing?", and shook her hand. Well, the ring slipped off and rolled under the car. He retrieved the ring and they went inside. Once there, he asked her to marry him. She accepted. On May 22, 1965 Lois and Joe were married at Churchill CME Church, Jacksonville. The early years of their marriage were more than a great experience. They said, "We made a commitment for life. We tried to live with passion and purpose. We knew that marriage had responsibilities, if done well. It has

been the greatest pleasure and sense of fulfillment two people could ever experience." Lois said, "I married a musician and I knew that was his love, too. We both knew that we had to respect one another, so that was never a problem. We also decided that if we had problems, we had to talk it over with each other. Communication had to be an important event in our lives. We knew that God had to be the main source of our lives

before we accepted marriage to each other. We also decided that important decisions were to be made jointly."

Joe's first job as band director was Dangerfield, then Jacksonville, Crockett, Tyler and back to Jacksonville. Job and extended family is the reason they decided to make Jacksonville their home. She taught school in those same districts, all but Tyler. Lois said their kids were unplanned. They just came when the time was right. Regina was born in 1966, Rita 1968 and Reggie 1975. The Teague's say, "The highlight of our marriage has been the birth of our children, moving into a new home, birthdays, vacations, anniversaries, enjoying our wonderful friends and working with our church family." They're both busy people, always on the move. She volunteers in the community, including working on a Chamber Committee assisting with Tomato Fest, President of National Council of Negro Women and Musician at North Bolton Christian Church. She enjoys walking in the early mornings and learning to play new gospel and praise songs. Joe plays with the Tyler Big Band, East Texas Jazz Orchestra and Educators With An Attitude. He is President of North Side Community Center, Deacon and treasurer of North Bolton Street Christian Church. He enjoys riding his bicycle and practicing guitar early each morning. The Teague's can't believe forty-two years have passed, but there is an old saying that goes, "time flies when you're having fun!" -Written by Maxine Session



## THE SPOTLIGHT IS ON SOUL MUSIC

A Paramount Website Dedicated To Soul Music New York, NY (BlackNews.com) - Where does one go when they're in the mood for the good times, good vibes, and good feelings that soul music brings, they go to <http://rs6.net/m.jsp?t=bwblhbcab.0.ywfgdbca.b.dinu5xbab.45664&ts=S0254&p=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.SpotlightGrooves.com/>

SpotlightGrooves.com is Your Source for Soul bringing to the masses the very latest in R&B, Gospel, and Caribbean music. From the newest music releases of classic recording artists and today's top recording artists, to the refreshing sounds of the undiscovered talents of tomorrow, SpotlightGrooves.com is your connection. In honor of June being Black Music Month, SpotlightGrooves.com has revamped with a new look, refreshing content, and a community for stellar soul musicians. Viewers are able to listen and watch interviews with the artists, be informed, and purchase current releases from their favorite classic artists like Deniece Williams, Howard Hewitt, The Clark Sisters, and others, as well as their favorite artists from today, like Joe, J. Moss, & Ne-Yo. SpotlightGrooves.com has a full collection of artist bios, CD reviews, audio, music videos, and event coverage. Also this month, SpotlightGrooves.com is running a CD giveaway contest for Amel Larrieux's newest release "Lovely Standards". Spotlight Grooves.com was founded in 2005 by Shayna Miller, a technology sales executive and a music lover who found it difficult to find online information about her favorite artists. Shayna's primary reason for launching SpotlightGrooves.com was to fill the void of content on the web dedicated to soul music and to create a one-of-a-kind site that was informative and interactive. Shayna says, "I was surprised by the lack of information available about some of our most celebrated musicians. Understanding the massive marketing powers of the Internet, I mixed my passion for music with the knowledge and

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Jacksonville, TX. - Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary and Texas Education Baptist Congress /Convention launched a history-making alliance June 1, 2007 to impact both local and regional churches and entire communities. "This occasion, without a doubt, is an historic collaboration between Baptist Missionary Association Seminary and the Texas Educational Baptist Congress/convention," said Dr. Jerome Milton, TEBCC President. "our goal is to support those African American students who are studying to become the best prepared under shepherds in tomorrow's churches. We are grateful for the opportunity to work together in making not only an impact, but also an influence in growing God's Kingdom here in East Texas." Through a special partnership, BMATS and the Texas Educational Baptist Congress/Convention will offer two groundbreaking initiatives: Scholarships to local African American pastors through the Harris-Curry Scholarship Program. The scholarship is named for two African American graduates of BMATS - J. T. Harris

is the first African American to graduate from the institution and to distinguish himself as a minister in the greater East Texas area. Dr. S. L. Curry, Pastor of New Zion Baptist Church, Winona, the first African American graduate to earn a doctorate degree (Southwestern Theological Seminary), is president of the Original East Texas Baptist District Association. Dr. Curry is also the first African American professor to be employed by BMATS.

Secondly, these organizations will partner to host the Harris-Curry Pastors and Ministers Unity Conference scheduled for the fall of 2008. The conference open to all area ministers, will offer tools to promote spiritual growth and development in churches. Top church leaders and educators will host seminars on multicultural church awareness, preparation for ministry and community unity. The purpose of this partnership is to train ministers and to provide a quality, solid and accredited seminary education that will impact, not

(Continue page 8)



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