

Gateway to East Texas Since 1995



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The Emancipation Proclamation Ignored by some states including Texas



The Emancipation Proclamation consists of two executive orders issued by United States President Abraham Lincoln during the American Civil War. The first one, issued September 22, 1862, declared the freedom of all slaves in any state of the Confederate States of America that did not return to Union control

by January 1, 1863. The second order, issued January 1, 1863, named ten specific states where it would apply. Lincoln issued the Executive Order by his authority as "Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy" under Article II, section 2 of the United States Constitution.[1] The proclamation did not name the slave-holding border states of Kentucky, Missouri, Maryland, or Delaware, which had never declared a secession, and so it did not free any slaves there. The state of Tennessee had already mostly returned

See Emancipation Proclamation page 11

Grand Opening for Addie E. McFarland Foundation, Inc. Community Center Gym



Annie E. McFarland Community Center of Mineola pictured above

Cities Often Skip Services to Older Black Communities - Rusk gets Grant

Embarrassing eyesores commondilapidated houses and overgrown lots the norm" (See Page 7)



This eyesore has sat abandoned and overgrown in one black community more than fifteen years. (See page 6)

Renovation of the McFarland School Gymn has been completed and a grand opening of the gym will be held June 12, 2010. The Addie E. McFarland Foundation, Inc. was incorporated by the State of Texas on December 4, 1995. It is a 501 (C) (3) tax exempt, non profit organization.

The purpose of the organization is to provide an educational and recreational facility for the citizens of Mineola. The gym will be a place for a youth recreation. The center is currently used for Student Tutoring * Summer Feeding Program for youth and senior citizens, Workshops, Senior Citizen Activities, Special Interest Classes which includes physical fitness classes, Community Affairs Meetings, Career Planning * Reunions, and Nutrition Assistance . The center is open daily Monday

through Thursday.

The old elementary school building of the McFarland School and grounds were donated by Timothy and Maxine Hancock, former students. Renovation of the building was funded by the Meredith Foundation for a sum of \$152,833.00.

Furnishings, operation and up-keep of the center must be funded by grants, the citizens of the community, ex-students, teachers, churches and organizations, along with volunteers to assist in providing services. Your support is needed to keep the "Dream" alive!

Addie E. McFarland
Community Center
P.O. Box 987
Mineola, Texas 75773

Erasing Civil Rights: Rewriting History

By BENJAMIN TODD JEALOUS

In Arizona, they just passed a law that would make the study of the role of African Americans, Latinos, Asian American and Native Americans illegal. They banned "ethnic studies" ignoring the reason those studies were created: that for too long history books have left out people of color from the central narrative of our nation's history.



Benjamin Jealous

Texas wants to rewrite their history books to do the same thing. This year, they want to change the record on slavery, celebrate the Confederacy and shed a positive light on Jim Crow laws. If the proposed textbook changes happen, children won't learn about civil rights icons like Malcom X, or Sam McCollough, who gave his life for Texas independence. And they won't learn that Texas seceded from the Union to fight for the Confederacy in the Civil War.

In many ways, as Texas goes, so goes the nation. Standards in Texas influence the contents of history books used in schools around the country meaning the numbers miseducated children could grow exponentially.

Texas students must compete for college seats and jobs with students from other states, who will arrive equipped with a more complete and mainstream education.

Advanced Placement exams, which let students earn nationally recognized college credit while in high school, are tailored to any particular state's ideology.

Similarly, International Baccalaureate exams are benchmarked to world-class university standards.

By narrowing our students' exposure, we cut them off from opportunities for accelerated learning, and free college credits that will be recognized around the country and the world.

Every voter on a referendum should know how our Consti

tution and laws have evolved to expand civil rights to all citizens. Yet the Texas board's current proposals would minimize those brave men and women's contributions to our national story.

To make informed decisions about the limits of government power, students must know about its past abuses, such as those perpetrated by Senator Joseph McCarthy. Yet the proposed standards would gloss over such injustices. Students who have studied poll taxes and their abolition will have a better perspective on when taxation is used inappropriately.

All of these are questions confronting today's voters, including those high school students who have turned eighteen. In order to exercise the rights and responsibilities conferred to them by their fellow citizens to safeguard their families and communities, students today or tomorrow need a strong grounding in our nation's full history.

We are - and have always been a nation of immigrants, which has folded various strands into our collective story. So it is vital for those citizens who will work alongside diverse peers to have an accurate understanding of their co-workers' background and culture.

Minimizing or misrepresenting African American and Latino culture and history can lead to distorted beliefs regarding our fellow Americans. What's more, it can lead students from those ethnic groups to have a skewed picture of themselves and their place in the world. Studies of high school dropout rates out have shown that students became disengaged with classes because what they were learning didn't seem relevant to their lives. And in 2006 national study, more students cited disengagement and disinter-

est in their lessons as a factor in leaving school than those who reported serious academic challenges.

When, according to conservative estimates from the US Department of Education, Texas loses about one in every four high school students before graduation, can we really afford to drive anymore young people from the schoolhouse door?

If learning about Cesar Chavez or Thurgood Marshall will inspire a student to study government or law, we cannot afford to pass up that opportunity. If learning about Hendrick Arnold's role as a guide and spy during the Texas revolution inspires young people to military service, who are we to deny them their dreams?

Our future is a stake when the State Board votes on May 21. Will we decide to prepare our youth for success in the 21st Century or let nostalgia for the 19th hobble our graduates and leave large groups of students behind? Rewriting history is not promoting patriotism, it is institutionalizing ignorance.

And it's an indulgence that Texas and the country cannot afford. Broad exposure to all the facts of American history, government and economic theory.

Anyone who is passionate about the accuracy of the state and nation's historical record should be appalled at these proposals and should let it be known.

Our children are entitled to We urge the State Board to vote down these proposed changes, take some more time to set out broad guidelines ensuring all students are equipped to compete

and thrive, then follow the thoughtful recommendations of their fellow Texans who are educators, economists and historians. I will be in Austin when the board convenes to join the Texas State Conference of the NAACP to raise our voices for accuracy and fairness.

Join me and fax a letter opposing changing the text books to the state board at 512-322-0757. Tell them that erasing civil rights from history is wrong. Tell them to make sure our children get the world class education they deserve not a racially biased and ideological revision of our history.

Benjamin Todd Jealous is President and CEO of the NAACP.

The Ross Senior Activity Center

The Ross Senior Activity Center offers games of dominoes, 42, Chickenfoot and other games from 9 a.m. to noon every Monday and Wednesday. All area seniors are welcome. The Activity Center is located in the Rusk Civic Center, 555 Euclid St., Rusk. Admission is free. Refreshments are available.

LEGAL NOTICE

This Texas Lottery Commission Scratch-Off game will close on June 13, 2010. You have until December 10, 2010, to redeem any tickets for this game:

Game #1211 Gold Bar Bonanza (\$10) Overall Odds are 1 in 4.21

This Texas Lottery Commission Scratch-Off game will close on June 18, 2010. You have until December 15, 2010, to redeem any tickets for this game:

Game #1180 Blackjack Showdown (\$5) Overall Odds are 1 in 3.88

These Texas Lottery Commission Scratch-Off games will close on July 28, 2010. You have until January 24, 2011, to redeem any tickets for these games:

Game #1159 Treasure (\$2) Overall Odds are 1 in 4.76

Game #1202 Triple It (\$3) Overall Odds are 1 in 4.84

Game #1213 The Money Game (\$1) Overall Odds are 1 in 4.97

Game #1216 Pot O' Gold Tripler (\$1) Overall Odds are 1 in 4.43

Game #1259 Loteria® Texas (\$3) Overall Odds are 1 in 3.87

Game #1260 Wild 10's (\$10) Overall Odds are 1 in 3.35

Game #1263 Bonus Word Crossword (\$3) Overall Odds are 1 in 3.44

For detailed odds and game information, visit tlottery.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.



The Mis-Education of the State?

Despite scores of protest, Texas education board passes controversial and conservative textbook curriculum

Reprinted with permission from the Dallas Weekly

By Gordon Jackson

AUSTIN—A week-long series of strong testimonies, marches, rallies and cries of injustice by nationally renowned figures such as NAACP president Dr. Ben Jealous and former U.S. Secretary of State Rod Paige could not deter a bloc of hard-core ultra “Christian Conservatives” of the Texas State Board of Education (SBOE) from passing 9-5 a controversial social studies component of the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) curriculum in the late evening of May 21. Unless other efforts are successful, the structure of the social studies curriculum will be implemented into Texas schoolbooks, by law, for the next 10 years and taught to over 4.7 million public school students. Further, with the state being the largest supplier of schoolbooks in the country, up to 40 percent of the rest of the nation could adopt the same curriculum for their school districts. The vote ended, at least for now, several months of heated debate and charges of attempting to rewrite history in a way that would drastically diminish the credibility and contributions of African Americans and Hispanics. “I am ashamed of what we’ve done to the teachers and the students in this state, I will not support this travesty of a document,” said trustee Mavis Knight (D-Dallas), one of the five Democratic board members who have been fighting losing battles to prevent the adoption of the conservative curriculum. “We might as well say Hispanics don’t exist,” said board member Mary Helen Berlanga (D-Corpus Christi). “We have hidden information; we have tried to cover up a lot of information. I guess there are people that have a difficult time with the truth. I feel that down the student have let down the students in our state.”

Much of the debate came to a head during the public hearing session on May 19, before overflowing crowds at the SBOE boardroom, where a total of 206 citizens signed to speak. The board was forced to trun away over half of that number as the testimonies ran into the late night hours. Jealous however was one of the first to speak and stated his case as to why the board should delay the vote. “We are entitled to our own opinion but we are not entitled to our own facts. We have to make sure our kids are taught what actually happened not what they school board wishes,” Jealous told the board. “We are concerned about quality, not quotas. We are concerned about our children learning the whole truth, not half of it.” Jealous commented on one example, where the Atlantic slave trade would be renamed the “Atlantic Triangular Trade.” Also that speeches by Confederate President Jefferson Davis, also a slaveowner, should be taught in equal value with Abraham Lincoln. “They will talk about the civil rights movement but not about the struggle,” Jealous said. “It minimizes the role of the civil rights movement. The civil right movement moved our country and you got to talk about the facts. They will be learning something other than the truth. They will not be able to compete on SAT exams.” Paige told the board: “In Texas, we’ve allowed the pendulum to swing backwards and forward. I’m asking that the swing (should) be narrower and let history speak for itself. What students are taught should not be the handmaiden of political ideology. “We have allowed ideology to drive and define the standards of our curriculum in Texas.” Other items within the proposed curriculum included the lauding of conservative institutions such as the Moral Majority, the National Rifle Association and the Contract with America with no counterbalance from the progressive perspective. Another states that President Thomas Jefferson’s contribution to the writing of the U.S.

Constitution did not promote the concept of the Separation of Church and State, as believed before by many historians. The actions of 1950’s Senator Joseph McCarty, whose antiCommunist campaign resulted in the blacklisting of several Americans – many of them African Americans – will be recorded as justified, even though many of the blacklisting were deemed inaccurate and McCarty left the Senate in disgrace. The “Double V Campaign” of African American World War II veterans promoting to fight for equality both at home, as well as abroad, was “gutted from the current TEKS draft.” Amendments has to be placed to keep the curriculum from removing the works of Thurgood Marshall, the nation’s first Black Supreme Court justice and the lead attorney behind the landmark Brown vs. Board of Education case and Caesar Chavez, the highly heralded labor organizer and Hispanic rights activist. The curriculum also purports that the gains made in the women and civil rights movements were more because of White-male benevolence in stead of the courageous and death-defying sacrifices made by its leaders. “Minimizing or misrepresenting African American and Latino culture and history can lead to distorted beliefs regarding our fellow Americans,” Jealous said. “And it can lead students from those ethnic groups to have a skewed picture of themselves and their place in the world. Studies of high school dropout rates have shown that students became disengaged with classes because what they were learning didn’t seem relevant to their lives.” Another amendment revealed that President Barack Obama’s full name was previously absent from the high school curriculum. Republican member David Bradley motioned to further include Obama’s middle name “Hussein” into the amendment, for what Democratic trustees felt was for a wrong motive of stirring up the same controversy Obama endured during his presidential campaign. After debate, Bradley said: “It’ll put an end to the whining. I’ll with-

draw the motion.” Constantly, throughout the last several months, Democratic trustees Knight and Berlanga, along with Rene Nunez (El Paso), Rick Agosto (San Antonio) and Lawrence Allen, Jr. (Houston) have been defeated in a string of 10-5 votes in their attempt to derail the conservative measures, with one of the moderate trustees occasionally siding with them, still resulting in 9-6 losing votes. The board considered the more than 20,000 responses and worked on many of the over 400 amendments that were recommended to tweak the curriculum, many of them at the 11th hour before the May 21 vote, which upset trustees. State board member Mavis Knight (D-Dallas) has fought to derail the curriculum changes, to no avail. “I don’t know of anyone that would be accepting cut-and-paste material now,” Berlanga said. “I don’t think a teacher would accept that from a student.” Allen made the motion late Friday evening to delay the vote until this July, with moderate trustee Bob Craig (Lubbock) actually seconding the motion. Still, the motion was defeated 8-6, followed by the conservative side passing the curriculum for elementary, middle school and high school. The conservative board members held their positions throughout the debate. Don McLeroy (R-College Station) said the revisions, albeit last-minute, was proof that the curriculum was valid, calling diminishing of minority representation as “clearly false.” “We have corrected the imbalance and are heading straight in the right direction,” McLeroy said. “Children need to know what makes the country so great and unique.” Cargill (R-The Woodlands) spoke about the amendment that will teach high school students not the “effects” of the free enterprise market economy, but its “benefits” in the world history, without any counter argument. “This is one of the most important things we teach our students, to value free enterprise,” said Barbara Cargill (R), author of the contentious last-minute addition. “By delaying this process we’re doing nothing but increasing the

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Miracles in the New Testament. As with the Old Testament, the New Testament miracles are essentially expressions of God's salvation and glory. Why did Jesus perform miracles? Jesus answered this question Himself. When in prison, John the Baptist sent some of his disciples to Jesus to see if He was the "one to come" (Matt. 11:3). Jesus told them to inform John of what He had done: "The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor" (11:5). With these words, Jesus declared that His miracles were the fulfillment of the promises of the Messiah's kingdom as foretold by Isaiah (24:18-19; 35:5-6; 61:1). Jesus' miracles were signs of the presence of the kingdom of God (Matt. 12:29). This theme of the miracles pointing to the kingdom of God was developed and deepened especially in the Gospel of John. John presented the miracles of Jesus as "signs" on seven occasions: John 2:1-11; 4:46-54; 5:1-18; 6:1-15; 6:16-21; 9:1-41; 11:1-57. He thought of these miracles as pointing to deep spiritual truth, demanding obedient faith (John 2:11, 23-25). Thus, Jesus' feeding miracle (6:1-15) was Jesus' presentation of Himself as the True Manna, the one who gives life and sustenance. Jesus also understood His miracles as evidences of the presence of the kingdom in His ministry (Matt. 11:2-5; 12:28). Every miracle story was a sign that God's salvation was present. But not only did the kingdom come; it came in great power, because the dead were raised (Is. 26:19; Luke 7:11-15) and Satan was bound (Mark 3:27). Jesus' miracles were also performed upon the most unlikely people. Jesus consciously brought the salvation of God to those who were rejected. He healed the lame (Matt. 9:1-8), the mute (Matt. 9:32-33), and lepers (Luke 17:11-19). Jesus brought the kingdom to all, regardless of their condition.

The Emancipation Proclamation

Washington, C.C. 1 January 1863

- Abolition of Slavery By the President of the United States of America:
A Proclamation Issued by President Abraham Lincoln

Whereas, on the twenty-second day of September, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-two, a proclamation was issued by the President of the United States, containing, among other things, the following, to wit:

"That on the first day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, all persons held as slaves within any State or designated part of a State, the people whereof shall then be in rebellion against the United States, shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free; and the Executive Government of the United States, including the military and naval authority thereof, will recognize and maintain the freedom of such persons, and will do no act or acts to repress such persons, or any of them, in any efforts they may make for their actual freedom.

"That the Executive will, on the first day of January aforesaid, by proclamation, designate the States and parts of States, if any, in which the people thereof, respectively, shall then be in rebellion against the United States; and the fact that any State, or the people thereof, shall on that day be, in good faith, represented in the Congress of the United States by members chosen thereto at elections wherein a majority of the qualified voters of such State shall have participated, shall, in the absence of strong countervailing testimony, be deemed conclusive evidence that such State, and the people thereof, are not then in rebellion against the United States."

Now, therefore, I, Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, by virtue of the power in me vested as Commander-in-Chief, of the Army and Navy of the United States, whereas, on the twenty-second day of September, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-two, a proclamation was issued by the President of the United States, containing, among other things, the following, to wit: "That on the first day of January, in the year of our Lord one thou-

sand eight hundred and sixty-three, all persons held as slaves within any State or designated part of a State, the people whereof shall then be in rebellion against the United States, shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free; and the Executive Government of the United States, including the military and naval authority thereof, will recognize and maintain the freedom of such persons, and will do no act or acts to repress such persons, or any of them, in any efforts they may make for their actual freedom.

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Now, therefore, I, Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, by virtue of the power in me vested as Commander-in-Chief, of the Army and Navy of the United States in time of actual armed rebellion against the authority and government of the United States, and as a fit and necessary war measure for suppressing said rebellion, do, on this first day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, and in accordance with my purpose so to do publicly proclaimed for the full period of one hundred days, from the day first above mentioned, order and designate as the States and parts of States wherein the people thereof respectively, are this day in rebellion against the United States, the following, to wit: Arkansas, Texas, Louisiana, (except the Parishes of St. Bernard, Plaquemines, Jefferson, St. John, St. Charles, St.

James Ascension, Assumption, Terrebonne, Lafourche, St. Mary, St. Martin, and Orleans, including the City of New Orleans) Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, and Virginia, (except the forty-eight counties designated as West Virginia, and also the counties of Berkeley, Accomac, Northampton, Elizabeth City, York, Princess Ann, and Norfolk, including the cities of Norfolk and Portsmouth[]), and which excepted parts, are for the present, left precisely as if this proclamation were not issued.

And by virtue of the power, and for the purpose aforesaid, I do order and declare that all persons held as slaves within said designated States, and parts of States, are, and henceforward shall be free; and that the Executive government of the United States, including the military and naval authorities thereof, will recognize and maintain the freedom of said persons. And I hereby enjoin upon the people so declared to be free to abstain from all violence, unless in necessary self-defence; and I recommend to them that, in all cases when allowed, they labor faithfully for reasonable wages.

And I further declare and make known, that such persons of suitable condition, will be received into the armed service of the United States to garrison forts, positions, stations, and other places, and to man vessels of all sorts in said service. And upon this act, sincerely believed to be an act of justice, warranted by the Constitution, upon military necessity, I invoke the considerate judgment of mankind, and the gracious favor of Almighty God. In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed. Done at the City of Washington, this first day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, and of the Independence of the United States of America the eighty-seventh.

By the President: ABRAHAM LINCOLN
WILLIAM H. SEWARD, Secretary of State.

Obituaries

Mrs. Helen Louise Teague Wickware

Funeral services were held Saturday May 29, 2010 at Blounts Chapel Baptist Church Helen Louise Teague Wickware was born in Harris, Oklahoma to the late Willie and Ollie Mae Teague on March 1, 1935. Helen grew up in Corsicana, Texas where she attended school and became a member of United Friendship Baptist Church. Helen gave her life to Christ at age 16. Her family later moved to Rusk where she got married and raised her family. Helen was employed as a licensed Vocational Nurse at Rusk State Hospital for 27 years and surrounding nursing homes. She also taught nurses aids classes through Manpower. She met and married Oscar B. Denman Jr. whom preceded her in death. He was the Pastor of County Line and Blounts Chapel where she was a faithful member until her health failed her. She was a quiet spirit and was willing to serve in any capacity. On Monday, May 24, 2010 at Continue Care Trinity Mother Frances, Tyler, Texas, God called Helen to a peaceful rest. She leaves to cherish her memories: three daughters, Pamela(Charles) Hafford, Palestine, Tx, Debbie(Willie) Rushing and Rita Denman Willis both of Rusk; one son, Anthony Teague, Afghanistan; one sister Melinda Farmer, Springfield, Missouri; two brothers, Joe(Lois) Teague, Jacksonville, Tx, Jessie Bradley, Austin, Tx; seven grandchildren, Ryan, Aaron, Tony, Shawntae, Christian, Charles Jr., Keith; 6 great grandchildren, Jaden Chaylee, Hope, Shaye, Lexie, Camdean; a host of nieces, nephews, family and friends.

Mrs. Lorine Brinkley

April 4, 1931-May 19, 2010

Mrs. Lorine Brinkley the daughter of the late Abraham and Odell Mallard was born in Cherokee County on April 4, 1931.

May 19, 2010, her life came to a close and she entered Eternal Rest.

Lorine was reared and attended school in Rusk, Texas. At an early age she joined Myrtle Spring Baptist Church and later became a member of Linwood Baptist Church.

On November 7, 1954, she was united in Holy Matrimony with Grady Brinkley who preceded her in death on October 18, 1998. One sister Olivia Wickware preceded her in death.

Lorine was expert cook and super B home maker.

She retired in 1993 from the Rusk State Hospital after 19 years of service. She lived, loved and worked hard. The endless memories she created as a mother, grandmother, aunt, relative and friend will sustain us for the rest of our lives.

She leaves behind five children who will cherish her memory: Santazay(Ava) Brinkley, Tyler, Texas; Eri Brinkley; Varnando Brinkley and Layzonia Brinkley all of Rusk, Texas and Zombear(Beverly) Brinkley, Addison, Texas; one sister Lula Slaughter, Rochester, Texas; three brothers: John Henry Mallard, Adam(Lola) Mallard and Carl Mallard all of Rusk, Texas; sister-in-law, Dollie M. Johnson, Longview, Texas; three grandchildren, two great grandchildren, nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

ADAM(ADD um) (red, ground) - the name of a man and a city in the Old Testament: 1. The first man, created by God on the sixth day of creation, and placed in the Garden of Eden (Gen. 2:19-23; 3:8-9, 17, 20-21; 4:1, 25; 5:1-5). He and his wife Eve, created by God from one of Adam's ribs (Gen. 2:21-22), became the ancestors of all people now living on the earth. Adam was unique and distinct from the animals in several ways. His creation is described separately from that of the animals and the rest of God's creative acts (Gen. 1:3-25; 1:26-27; 2:7). God breathed into Adam's body of "dust" the divine "breath of life; and man became a living being: (Gen. 2:7). God also made man in his own image and likeness. The exact words are "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness" (Gen. 1:26). The apostle Paul interprets this to mean that God created man with spiritual, rational, emotional, and moral qualities (Eph. 4:24-32; Col. 3:8-10). God placed Adam in the garden

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of the animals (Gen.1:26-28;2:19-20). God made Eve as a "helper comparable to" Adam (Gen., 2:20), creating her out of one of Adam's ribs so they were "one flesh" (Gen. 2:24). God told the human pair, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth" (Gen. 1:28). As a consequence, they had a number of children: Cain, Abel, Seth, and a number of other sons and daughters (Gen. 4:1-2; 5:3-4). Created in innocence, they did not know sin (Gen. 2:25). Genesis 3 tells how Adam failed to keep God's command not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. The consequence of this disobedience was death (Gen.2:17), both physical (Gen. 5:5) and spiritual (Eph. 2:1), both physical (Gen.5:5) and spiritual (Eph. 2:1). Eve disobeyed first, lured by pride and the desire for pleasure (Gen. 3:5-6; 1 Tim. 2:14). Then Adam, with full knowledge of the consequences, joined Eve in rebellion against God (Gen.3:6. 3:16; Eph.5:22-23); and (6) separation from God (Gen.3:23-24; 2 Thess.

Community Funeral Home of Jacksonville

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

~Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



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"I have the audacity to believe that people everywhere can have three meals a day for their bodies, education and culture for their minds, and dignity, equality and justice for their spirits
I believe that what self-centered men have torn down,
other-centered men can build up."
-Martin Luther King, Jr.

Neglected Property Hurts Community Image-Citizens



Many families enjoyed this rent house on MLK before it deteriorated



The Old Lela Mae Lattimore Vinson home & later years home of W. R. Meadors.



Former Home of the Ballard Family



The old Elmo Bradley property and later the Frank and Doris Gonzales Store



The old Pansy house located next door to one of the churches.



City Councilman Walter Session purchased tractor several years ago and voluntarily mows overgrown property in Dickinson Addition.



The old Loleta Cook Home located on Egbert Street

If you travel much by car, then you've noticed that in most states in the south when you leave the tourist sections and the downtown area, a change becomes very noticeable. Street right-of-ways and many buildings reflect blight and decay. Streets are not properly paved, curbed and guttered. There is little to no economic development. Property owners who once took pride in their personal property and their community have passed away without leaving someone responsible in charge of upkeep.

Cities and counties continue to raise taxes without the benefit of services that could

keep the communities in decent order. Although these pictures were taken showing the current condition of some properties within the city of Rusk, Texas, steps are being taken to rid the community of these problems. The city received a grant in the fall of 2009 which is being used to demolish dangerous unsightly structures. Those who have purchased or inherited property within the city can call Christin Ross at (903) 683-2850 to apply for use of this grant to clear property or demolish buildings that are no longer useable. The grant expires August 31

See August Informer for more on story.

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The Little Church That Could

By Cristin Ross

Special Contributor

Slow and steady wins the race – and Mt. Pleasant CME Church in Rusk is slowly, but surely expanding to help bring important programs to its community. The church is in the process of adding a 3,000-square foot wing to the existing church, located on Reeder Street next to Conley Park. “We started building about five years ago,” church member and project volunteer Maxine Session said. “Our members have been doing a little bit at a time, as we have money. It takes more time this way, but we don’t have to have a big loan hovering over our heads either.” Session explained the church, established March 10, 1888, was originally located at the site of Rusk’s Brookshire Brother’s grocery store. “When its community began migrating to (the Dickinson Addition), church members decided to move this way as well,” she said. “In 1952, we moved the original building, piece by piece to where it’s located now.”



H. R. Waggoner, member, installs safety tape around opening for plumbing installation.

The expansion project came to fruition in 1997, when the original fellowship hall/dining room began to show signs of serious deterioration. It was demolished in 1999 and a local trucking company in Dialville donated the dirt to level the building site. The congregation was able to pour the slab for the new wing in 2003 and finally, in 2005, construction started. Church pastor Greenie Phillips said, “Members started donating to our building fund and

this is where we are. It’s usable now, but we anticipate being completely done with it in the next four or five months. It’s pretty exciting to see it so close to done.” Church members have big plans for the new space already. They hope to be able to establish a summer feeding program for neighborhood children and a hot meal program for senior citizens; offer a media center and meeting hall for locals who might not have access to the Internet

or computers otherwise; and start various outreach programs for the area’s youth and elderly, especially. “I think just having a place where people know they can come will help the community tremendously,” Phillips said. “That’s part of this church’s mission – to help people know

they’re welcome, not just for an hour or two on Sunday, but every day. We want to reach out to the masses and let them know we are there for them.” Donations to the Mt. Pleasant CME Church Building Fund may be sent to the Mt. Pleasant CME Church Building Fund P.O. 942, Rusk, TX 75785. Make checks payable to the Mt. Pleasant CME Church Building Fund.



Mr. James I. Perkins, Citizens 1st Bank President, Cody Glenn, also former Citizens 1st Bank employee and Indianapolis Colts defensive back, Andrew Melontree of the Tyler Bank and Walter Session, Rusk city Councilman. They are viewing a thank you card to Mr. Perkins from Rusk State Hospital Employees and Superintendent Ted Debs for support given to RSH. The card is signed by each employee and has been framed and placed on display in the bank. RSH provides 936 jobs to East Texas.

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USDA Announces Direct Loan Home Funding, ETCOG Becomes Certified Loan Packager

Kilgore, TX (May 19, 2010) - USDA Rural Development announced \$85 million in Section 502 Direct Loan funding remains for fiscal year 2010. Due to an increased level of funding as a result of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, USDA Rural Development in Texas had more than \$130 million in Direct Loan funding available this year to help families achieve the dream of home ownership. Direct Loans are available to qualified applicants for purchasing or building a single family home in a rural area. USDA Rural Development's Direct Loan program provides 100% financing through low-interest, no-down-payment loans to help low to very-low income families and individuals purchase their own home. Eligible homes must be located in a community of 10,000 persons or less and locations not closely associated with urban areas. Under certain circumstances loans can be made for homes in towns and cities with populations up to 25,000 people. Funding can be used to purchase an existing home or to build a new home, within the established loan guidelines. To assist East Texas residents interested in applying for 502 Direct Loan funding, ETCOG's housing program, Housing East Texas, has become a certified loan packager through the Texas 502 Consortium with USDA and Texas Community Capital. A nominal fee of \$13 will be charged to cover expenses associated with the loan packaging. For program eligibility or to complete a Direct Loan application, call our Housing Program Specialist, Savannah Pacobit, at 903.984.8641 x235 or visit www.etcog.org/498/Home-Loans.htm. The East Texas Council of Governments (ETCOG) is a voluntary association of counties, cities, school districts and special districts within the fourteen-county East Texas region. ETCOG assists local governments in planning for common needs, cooperating for mutual benefit and coordinating for sound regional development. Established in 1970, ETCOG, either directly, or through its contractors, provides programs and services for East Texas seniors, employers, and job seekers.

East Texas Council of Governments

Lindsay Vanderbilt

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THE TRUTH CLINIC Will God Continue To Bless America?

For they have sown the wind, and they shall reap the whirlwind. (Hosea 8:7)

Most of America's political leaders dutifully close their speeches with the words "God Bless America."

As a nation we look to our leaders to create and implement new ideas to guide us through these confused and conflicted times. But the ideas must be based on sound moral principles and our means of implementing them must be moral as well. Instead our nation seems to be mired in a quagmire of increasing moral deficiency that is in direct conflict with God's law. God has never been pleased with or continued to bless a disobedient nation.

When the Israelites entered The Promised Land under Joshua, they were undefeatable. They were a superpower of their day. The Lord was with them, because they were an obedient people. However, over time prosperous decadence overcame the land. Israel had made a god of itself and rationalized it as being right even though they were living in crass idolatry, paganism and immorality.

Israel's strict obedience to God waned as wickedness and sinful living prevailed. As a result of their rebellion the Lord left them to the mercy of their neighboring en-

They knew the Truth but defied it by choosing to define how they would obey the Lord in a manner consistent with their chosen lifestyle.

There are disturbing parallels between the secular focus of God's people in ancient times and modern day Christians. Ancient Israel was identical to the Christian nations of today who have transformed from godliness to living in a state of semi-godless perversion.

Consider this prophecy from Timothy:

"But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power. Avoid such men as these." (2 Timothy 3:1-5).

The Whirlwind for Israel came in the form of their neighbor Assyria who conquered the nation and

honor to the high offices that they have sworn- in the name of God- to uphold. "In God We Trust" is pure tokenism.

Today, hundreds of millions of people in the world identify themselves as Christian. Seventy two percent of Americans claim they are Christians. But 66 percent have no affiliation with any church.

The statistics are wonderful but, considering how divided these Christian-professing people are in their beliefs, and at times their very unchristian attitude toward one another begs the question; what manner of Christians are these?

The confusion arises because people tend to believe what they want to believe and will rationalize and interpret God's word to make it conform to their beliefs rather than adapting beliefs to the Word. Note what the scripture in Mark says about this convoluted Christianity.

"These people honor Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me; in vain do they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the precepts of



st the tradition of men." (Mark 7:6-8)

Denying the Lord is bad

enough but even worse is treating His sacred name with contempt, denying it a rightful place in our lives and using it to move non-righteous agendas. Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting. And let us not be weary in doing good: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not" (Galatians 6:7-9). Americans from every walk of life need to be steadfast in sowing God's seeds for a better America. By doing so we will reap a whirlwind of His blessings instead of reaping a whirlwind of destruction.

James W. Breedlove

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

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



Bill White candidate for governor

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

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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

MIS-EDUCATION....Continued from page 3

amount of disagreement," said Cargill. "Because we're never going to agree." Terri Leo (R-Spring) said that it "punished children if you delay a vote on a proclamation. This is a very transparent and public process unlike your [committee meetings]." Leo was criticized by several members of the audience, feeling that disrespected Jealous when questioning the points during his public hearing testimony. NAACP President Benjamin Jealous told the board to not "institutionalize ignorance" and teach "half-truths." On the legislative front, the Texas Black Legislative Caucus, led by state representative Sylvester Turner (D-Houston) and the Mexican-American Legislative Caucus, led by state rep. Trey Martinez Fischer (D-San Antonio) have jointly expressed their displeasure, as they did at a May 19 rally held outside the Travis Building, sponsored by the Texas Freedom Network. "This year, they are changing the record on slavery, celebrating the Confederacy and shedding a positive light on Jim Crow laws they are rewriting African American history," said Gary Bledsoe, President of the Texas NAACP. The NAACP has initiated a "Not in My State" campaign, hoping to spur a boycott of the textbooks.

Age Nibbles Away at Seniors' Independence; Local Agencies Can Help Restore

Ask a 50-something friend how their parents are doing and you'll often get a two-part answer. First: "They're great! Their minds are still sharp, and they spent half the weekend showing me all the bells and whistles on their new TV." Then: "But I'm getting a bit concerned. Mom had another dizzy spell, and I had to help Dad clear some fallen limbs off the roof. He's not steady enough to use a ladder anymore." That's how age can sneak up on us. Not with sudden, dramatic changes but subtler ones that accumulate over time: minor forgetfulness, decreasing mobility, falling behind on basic tasks. Nothing that threatens loss of independence, yet enough to require a few changes for health and safety's sake. Easing families through those transitions is the stock in trade for area agencies on aging affiliated with the Texas Department of Ag

ing and Disability Services (DADS). These 28 local agencies provide free or low-cost services that support independence for people 60 and older. Three of the most basic and effective services include:

Nutrition
This program provides well-balanced meals in addition to nutrition education and counseling. The meals are available by home delivery and at nutrition sites and senior activity centers. Low voluntary contributions help support the program. "Nutrition is a classic example of a service that has benefits beyond the obvious, immediate purpose," said Claude Andrews, director of the East Texas Area Agency on Aging in Kilgore. "Our meals programs don't just ensure a proper diet; they also help prevent serious injuries for

people who no longer can safely operate their stoves."

Transportation

This program offers rides for people 60 and older who either have no car or can't drive. Transportation services are available to medical and dental appointments, the drug store, supermarket, nutrition center, senior center and other destinations. The service not only supports independence but also promotes personal and public safety and helps seniors save on expenses related to car maintenance.

Home Modification

Simple changes, including wider doors, porch ramps and grab bars, can be powerful independence insurance for people with limited mobility. Andrews added that some modifications also make it possible to receive other in-home services.



Happy Birthday Tiffani McGowan July 9th

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Emancipation Proclamation

continued from page 1

to Union control, so it also was not named and was exempted. Virginia was named, but exemptions were specified for the 48 counties that were in the process of forming West Virginia, as well as seven other named counties and two cities. Also specifically exempted were New Orleans and thirteen named parishes of Louisiana, all of which were also already mostly under Federal control at the time of the Proclamation.

The Emancipation Proclamation was criticized at the time for freeing only the slaves over which the Union had no power. Although most slaves were not freed immediately, the Proclamation did free thousands of slaves the day it went into effect[2] in parts of nine of the ten states to which it applied (Texas being the exception).[3] In every Confederate state (except Tennessee and Texas), the Proclamation went into immediate effect in Union-occupied areas and at least 20,000 slaves[2][3] were freed at once on January 1, 1863.

Additionally, the Proclamation provided the legal framework for the emancipation of nearly all four million slaves as the Union armies advanced, and committed the Union to ending slavery, which was a controversial decision even in the North. Hearing of the Proclamation, more slaves quickly escaped to Union lines as the Army units moved South. As the Union armies advanced through the Confederacy, thousands of slaves were freed each day until nearly all (approximately 4 million, according to the 1860 census[4]) were freed by July 1865.

Near the end of the war, abolitionists were concerned that while the Proclamation had freed most slaves as a war measure, it had not made slavery illegal. Several former slave states had already passed legislation prohibiting slavery; however, in a few states, slavery continued to be legal, and to exist, until December 18, 1865, when the Thirteenth Amendment was enacted.



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Contact: Maxine Pierce or Maxine Session for additional information

The Cherokee Civic Theater Posts 38th Season Schedule

by Roy Reynolds

Join the Cherokee Civic Theatre in Rusk as the curtain rises on our 38th season! There's fun and plenty of music & laughter throughout this magical theatre season, which starts off in a world of pure imagination! On October 1, 2, 3, 8 & 9, Roald Dahl's "Willy Wonka," directed by Castanya Breen, will delight kids and grownups alike. Music and Lyrics by LESLIE BRICUSSE and ANTHONY NEWLEY; Adapted for the stage by LESLIE BRICUSSE and TIM McDONALD; Based on the Book "CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY" by ROALD DAHL. To usher in the Holidays will be the Charles Dickens classic "A Christmas Carol," December 3, 4,

5, 10 & 11. Original adaptation by JOHN JAKES. During each production, director Debra Petri will ask the audience to participate in the singing of Christmas Carols. As we get into Winter, you'll enjoy the romantic comedy "The Philadelphia Story," February 18, 19, 26 & 27 (Red Hat Day), written by PHILIP BARRY, and directed by Sheilah O'Heaney. It's the story which became the Academy Award winning movie starring Katherine Hepburn, Cary Grant and Jimmy Stewart. To round out the season will be the hilarious "Cheaper By The Dozen," April 29, 30, May 1, 6 & 7, dramatized by CHRISTO-

TINE GILBRETH CAREY, co-directed by Mary Vardaman and Bill Sherman. It's the true story of an efficiency expert who decides to run his family like his factory. You are urged to show your support of the theatre by becoming a member. A First Night membership is \$40, and includes 1 free ticket per production; a Curtain Call membership is \$80, and includes 2 free tickets per production; A Sustaining membership is \$150, and includes 4 free tickets per production; a Command Performance membership is \$300, and includes 10 free tickets per production; a Benefactor membership is \$500, and includes

15 free tickets per production; a Sponsor membership is \$1000, and includes 20 free tickets per production. For \$10, students 17 years of age & younger can get a Junior Membership which, among many other amenities, includes a coupon for a free ticket to any two of the four main stage productions. If you would like to direct a production, or have ideas for future shows, or for further information about any of the current shows, or to become a 2010-2011 member, please contact the Cherokee Civic Theatre, 157 West 5th Street in Rusk, at 903-683-2131, or visit our website at www.cherokeetheatre.net.

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