



Texas Agriculture Looks

Bleak Pg. 7

Texas, Slavery and Civil War

Pg. 4

Editorial "Count Your Many

Blessings One by One

Page 2

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Your Gateway to East Texas

TEXAS INFORMER

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P.O. Box 332
Rusk, Texas 75785

President announces death of Bin Laden



President Obama made history for American on May 2, 2011 when he announced to the world the death of Al Qaeda Leader Osama Bin Laden. The president stated, " Tonight, I can report to the American people and to the world that the United States has conducted an operation that killed Osama bin Laden, the leader of al Qaeda, and a terrorist who's responsible for the murder of thousands of innocent men, women, and children.

It was nearly 10 years ago that a bright September day was darkened by the worst attack on the American people in our history. The images of 9/11 are seared into our national memory -- hijacked planes cutting through a cloudless September sky; the Twin Towers collapsing to the ground; black smoke billowing up from the Pentagon; the wreckage of Flight 93 in Shanksville, Pennsylvania, where the actions of heroic citizens saved even more heartbreak and destruction."

By the time his speech was over many Americans and others around the county and the world breathed a deep sigh of relief.

Juneteenth Marks Important Texas History



Juneteenth has come to symbolize for many African-Americans what the fourth of July symbolizes for all Americans - freedom. It serves as a historical milestone reminding Americans of the triumph of the human spirit over the cruelty of slavery. It honors those African-American ancestors who survived the inhumane institution of bondage, as well as demonstrating pride in the marvelous legacy of resistance and perseverance they left us.

See page 3

EDITORIAL



Count
Your
Many
Blessings
One by One

A very old hymn that people use to sing called "Count Your Many Blessings One By One" comes to mind often. In making plans for the local Juneteenth Celebration this month and in rereading the history of Texas and slavery and the cruelty Black people endured, I realize, our blessings as free Americans living in this time period, our blessings are just too numerous to count one by one.

To most of us, a job and adequate income is vital to caring for the family we love so dearly. Time spent with family and friends and time spent in worship are key to our happiness. These are things we treasure and probably take for granted in 2011.

In doing research on Texas History, the Civil War and slavery, I read through some of the Cherokee County records in the period prior to the end of slavery. Page ten of this issue under the article "Record of Lein on Negro Boy Tom" filed in the Cherokee County Courthouse in June, 1858 showed the actual record of a slave boy referred to only as Tom.

Tom, an actual black male, described only as about twenty years old with dark complexion was put up as collateral on a loan. His name was listed only as "Tom" which gave him no last name or no last name connection to any family. See Tom page 16

From: Carol Arrington
4940 So. Ellis Avenue
Chicago, IL 60615

Hello Hancock Family Members,

I pray that everything is going well with you this year. The Hancock family reunion is scheduled for Saturday, July 16 and Sunday, July 17, 2011 with fellowship and fun on Saturday evening and worship service on Sunday, followed by dinner in Jacksonville, TX at the Woodmen of the World Hall. Pastor George Melvin Hancock, of Texas will be our speaker. We will have dinner and games after service. I hope that each of you will be present for these activities. We're looking forward to having a great time there. Encourage your family to join us.

It's always wonderful to have family members to take part in the service. If you sing, play and instrument or would like to share any other talent with us please email me immediately and you will be added to the July program.

Following the activities, we will have a meeting to discuss ideas for our future reunions.

I am sure that you and some of your close family members are doing great things that the other members of the Hancock Family would be proud to hear about. Please prepare news items and pictures on each of these activities for the JULY 2011 issue of the Hancock Herald. Spread the word and include info on your brothers, sisters and anyone else this letter may not get to. We would love for you to volunteer to serve as reporter for your part of the family. Feel free to pass my email address along to all family members and you may send addresses to me at any time.

You've probably heard by now that Clyde Christopher retired from the Hancock Newsletter and program coordination. Carol Arrington, Elaine Franklin and Michele Hancock are currently assisting in these areas. In Clyde Christopher's honor and for our appreciation of a job well done for many years, we would like to keep things moving smoothly so he will be proud. Therefore I ask that you please send your news items no later than June 24th. You may send them by US mail to my home address above.

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LEGAL NOTICE

These Texas Lottery Commission Scratch-Off games will be closing soon:

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1305	Triple Lucky Diamonds Overall Odds are 1 in 4.85	\$3	07/27/11	01/23/12
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Happy
Father's
Day to
Fathers
Everywhere

Letters to the Editor Policy

We welcome your letters to the editor. Please send to P. O. Box 332, Rusk, Texas or informernews08@aol.com. Letters must include name of the sender.

The Word of Emancipation Proclamation frees Texas Slaves

on June 19, 1865 two and one-half years late

Slavery is one person
being the property of
another.

On Monday, September 22, 1862, President Abraham Lincoln summoned his cabinet to the Executive Mansion. The Battle of Antietam was over, General Lee's army had retreated across the Potomac, and wounded soldiers filled the halls of the Capital. "I have, as you are aware, thought a great deal about the relation of this war to slavery," Lincoln told his Cabinet members. Since the war started, he had believed that the Union cause eventually would be linked to emancipation. "I think the time has come now," he said.

Lincoln read a draft of what he called "A Proclamation." Some Cabinet members suggested revisions, while others warned of political fallout in the upcoming election. Lincoln adopted the changes but rejected the politics. The next day newspapers across the country printed the statement in full. It started: 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." The areas "designated" were only those still in rebellion. Elsewhere, slavery would remain, although everybody seemed to understand it would take a civil war to enforce the Emancipation Proclamation and the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution to formally outlaw slavery in the United States.

During the Civil War, Texas did not experience any significant invasion by Union forces. Although the Union army made several attempts to invade Texas, they were thwarted by Confederate troops. As a result, slavery in Texas continued to thrive. In fact, because slavery in Texas experienced such a minor interruption in its operation, many slave owners from other slave-holding states brought their slaves to Texas to wait out the war. News of the emancipation was suppressed due to the overwhelming influence of the slave owners.

Juneteenth or June 19, 1865, is considered the date

when the last slaves in America were freed. Although the rumors of freedom were widespread prior to this, actual emancipation did not come until General Gordon Granger rode into Galveston, Texas and issued General Order No. 3, on June 19, almost two and a half years after President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation.

When blacks in Texas heard the news, they alternately sang, danced and prayed. There was much rejoicing and jubilation that their life long prayers had finally been answered. Many of the slaves left their masters immediately upon being freed, in search of family members, economic opportunities or simply because they could. They left with nothing but the clothes on their backs and hope in their hearts.

Emancipation allowed
ex-slaves the right
to assemble and to
worship openly.

Freedom meant more than the right to travel freely. It meant the right to name one's self and many freedmen gave themselves new names. County courthouses were overcrowded as blacks applied for licenses to legalize their marriages. Emancipation allowed ex-slaves the right to assemble and openly worship as they saw fit. As a result, a number of social and community organizations were formed, many originating from the church. Freedom implied that for the first time, United States laws protected the rights of blacks. There was a run on educational primers as freed men and woman sought the education that had for so long

been denied them. The Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands, commonly known as the Freedmen's Bureau, was founded by Congress in March 1865 to provide relief services for former slaves. Schools were established and joined churches as centers of the newly-freed communities. The promise of emancipation gave freedmen optimism for the future; few realized slavery's bitter legacy was just beginning to unfold and that equality was to remain an elusive dream. The optimism was short-lived, however, and soon replaced by a betrayal so soul shattering blacks questioned whether the United States was serious about granting them their freedom. Ex-slaves found for the most part, that despite the Freedman's Bureau, they were left to fend for themselves. The abject poverty and the racism that maintained it, prohibited any hope for assimilation into American society. In Texas, the editor of the Harrison Flag newspaper denounced as "treasonable" the sale of land to blacks.

The Texas Homestead Act, passed during Reconstruction, granted up to 160 acres of free land to white persons only. The Texas legislature in 1866 passed a new set of black codes that attempted to reverse the limited gains blacks had been granted.

Ex-slaves entered freedom under the worst possible conditions. Most were turned loose penniless and homeless, with only the clothes on their back. Ex-slaves were, as Frederick Douglas said "free, without roofs to cover them, or bread to eat, or land to cultivate, and as a consequence died in such numbers as to awaken the hope of their enemies that they would soon disappear."

Many white Texans disdained black freedom and this utter contempt guaranteed the price of freedom for many would be unaffordable. The sharecropping system that emerged in Texas and all over the deep South kept many blacks from starving, but had little to distinguish it from the slave life blacks thought they had escaped. This was the other side of emancipation where high expectations gave way to heart-crushing disillusionment.

By 1877, Federal Troops had left the south. The end of Reconstruction, left black Americans abandoned to the will of southern whites, who through violence, racial discrimination and Jim Crow laws succeeded in disenfranchising them, resulting in more than 100 years of oppression which lasted until the Civil Rights era of the 1960s. It's not surprising that blacks turned to the only institution that gave them hope—the church.

Living the life of a slave was brutal. They were handled much like livestock, with the worst of it being children sold away from their mothers as soon as they were old enough to work, and the many oppressive acts committed against them to keep them full of fear and enslaved. Upon the word of freedom for the slaves, little did they know that the forces of evil would not disappear but the road to true freedom loomed wide and long ahead.

"We have worked in
your fields and garnered
your harvests, for two
hundred years! and
and what do we ask in
return? Do we ask you
for compensation for
the sweat our fathers
bore for you? ... We ask
it not. We are willing
to let the dead past bury
its dead; but we ask you
now for our rights."

State Representative Henry McNeal
Turner - 1866

Texas, Slavery and the Civil War

Local Leader takes rural nonprofit issues to DC

From the population of Texas, only about 22,000 Texas families, approximately one in four, owned slaves. Most slave-holders lived in the eastern part of the state. Most Texans believed that slavery was vital for continued prosperity. The election of President Abraham Lincoln in November 1860 alarmed them. In a June 1858 speech Lincoln had stated, "A house divided against itself cannot stand. I believe this government cannot endure permanently half slave and half free. I do not expect the Union to be dissolved. I do not expect the house to fall, but I do expect it will cease to be divided."

At a state convention held in Austin in early 1861, delegates voted 166 to 8 to secede from the Union. February 1, 1861 Texas seceded from the union. (Some 70 percent of the delegates owned slaves.) The following is the cause stated for succession. "We hold as undeniable truths that the governments of the various States, and of the confederacy itself, were established exclusively by the white race, for themselves and their posterity; that the African race had no agency in their establishment; that they were rightfully held and regarded as an inferior and dependent race, and in that condition only could their existence in this country be rendered beneficial or tolerable."

—Secession Convention, "A Declaration of the Causes which Impel the State of Texas to Secede from the Federal Union"[3] Texans overwhelmingly approved the

ordinance of secession, and in late March, Texas joined the Confederacy. Since pro-union Governor Sam Houston refused to take the oath of allegiance to the new government, the office of governor was declared vacant. President Lincoln offered to send federal troops to help Governor Sam Houston if he would resist the Confederacy, but he refused, went home to Huntsville and died later in 1863.

Lieutenant Governor Edward Clark, who supported the Confederacy, became governor. Confederate troops soon opened fire on South Carolina's Fort Sumter. In response, President Lincoln called for 75,000 Union soldiers to face the rebellion. The Civil War had begun. Two years into the war, seeing no end to the war as long as slavery existed, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation which freed all slaves and went into effect January 1, 1863.

Approximately 90,000 Texas men participated in the war. Some 2,132 whites and forty-seven blacks from Texas served in the Union Army.

After the loss of thousands of soldiers from both the Confederate and the Union and the destruction of much of the South, the Confederacy surrendered in the spring of 1865. Union General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston on June 19. He declared that the war was over and that Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation was in effect. All slaves were free. This date is now commemorated as Juneteenth.

Pam Anderson, Director of Outreach for A Circle of Ten, Inc.-Network for Collaboration (C10), was invited by the US Dept. of Health & Human Services (HHS) to present at their Affinity Network for Rural Serving Projects. She is currently the Project Director for Expanding Capacity Opportunities for Nonprofits Initiative (ECON), a two-year grant from HHS, awarded in 2009. The funding provides capacity building in the form of training, technical assistance and subgrant financial awards to nonprofits serving in North Tyler and/or Alto, Texas.

Attending the Affinity Network were rural-serving agency reps from across the nation, including Arkansas, Colorado, Hawaii, Iowa, Minnesota, South Dakota and Texas. Topics discussed during the conference covered a wide range of rural nonprofit issues from working with emerging organizations to attracting funding, and time spent networking with each other as well as some of the HHS staff.

Ms. Anderson's presentation spoke to keeping nonprofit agencies engaged in capacity building. Conference attendees participated in group activities similar to those used during C10's trainings. Workshops include seventeen different offerings from leadership, grassroots community organizing, innovative program development and grant writing, to internet grant research, board trainings and strategic



Pam Anderson, Director of Outreach for A Circle of Ten, Inc.

planning. Other topics include adult and financial literacy, technology consultation and "GreenJobs" trainings.

"It was a humbling privilege to be invited," stated Ms. Anderson. "I met some wonderful people and brought back additional resources to assist C10 in its own capacity building efforts with area nonprofits. Despite the busy schedule and flight changes, I even managed a little sight-seeing while I was there."

C10 is currently in their 15th year of providing capacity building services to nonprofits and recently passed their 1,000 alumni mark for their 3-day Process of Collaboration workshop. Other Regional initiatives include Rebuild America Rural Community Building Initiative, Gateway to American Opportunities and the operation of a Small Business/Nonprofit Incubator.

For more information on C10 or any of its services please visit www.etvv.org, or contact them at circleof10@circleof10.org, 903-541-0013.

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New Video Programs Help State Promote

Readiness Planning for Natural Disasters

Texas doesn't get much in the way of tsunamis or major earthquakes. That's the good news. The bad news is, we get just about every other kind of natural disaster, including tornadoes, floods, wildfires, hurricanes, tropical storms and even crippling ice storms.

Mother Nature's rambunctiousness means Texans need to be ready for quick action when any of these disasters strike. And as the Texas Department of State Health Services' (DSHS) "Ready or Not?" campaign reminds us, quick response requires a plan.

'Ready or Not?' offers many planning and informational resources, including a brand new public education tool: a series of six mini-documentaries in DVD format that feature real-life stories of Texans who survived recent natural disasters. The "Surviving Disaster: How Texans Prepare" videos include: "Surviving Hurricanes: Grab It and Go" "A Community Rebuilds: Recovering From Wildfires" "Back to Business: Planning for Disasters" "Ready for Anything: Preparing for the Next Flood" "Winds of Destruction: A County's Lessons" "Facing Disasters: A Plan for Work and Home" "The series puts a human face on disasters and reinforces how to prepare," said DSHS Commissioner Dr. David Lakey. "We're putting the documentaries into the hands of people across Texas so they can hold a screening locally, share them with others and create or improve their disaster plans."

The videos are full of vivid, resting moments such as a Maverick County resident's tornado memory: "First a washing machine went flying by, then a horse" and a Montague

County farmer's rueful admission that, "I thought I was prepared but I was only prepared 99 percent instead of 100, and there's a hell of a big difference in that one percent."

Many of the videos' subjects admit they weren't ready for the disasters that hit them — and that they paid dearly for that lack of preparation.

For example, a dry cleaning company in Beaumont was devastated after "flying by the seat of our pants" as Hurricane Rita approached in 2005. Three

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Rusk Rotary makes plans to Salute Veterans July 4th



Veterans ride float in Rusk July 4th parade 2010.

The Rotary Club of Rusk is making plans for one of the largest Salutes to Veterans in its history! On Monday, July 4, Rusk will be a throwback to the patriotic towns of the 40's and 50's. The Rotary Club will adorn the beautiful downtown Square with American and Texas flags; and give miniature American flags to all who attend. The Patriotic event will kick off at 10am from the steps of the historic courthouse with the invocation by Pastor Jim Goforth of Camp Ground Baptist Church, Alto; Ian Chandler will sing the National Anthem; Pledge of Allegiance

led by VFW Post Commander Emerson Griffin; Taps, played by Jimmy Stingley; and the color guard from Chapter 991 of the Vietnam Veterans of America, Palestine. Patriotic remarks from State Representative Chuck Hopson, Rusk Mayor Angela Raiborn; and former Desert Storm Vet and current pastor of First Baptist Church in Rusk, Donnie Barron. The stirring Military Medley sung by Virginia Goforth will precede the Sons of Confederate Veterans of Cherokee

County's salute to the brave men and women of the Armed Forces, with a rifle volley, which will start the Grand Parade. Sousa Marches will stir your soul as "Patriotism on Parade," led by the nationally-famous Patriot Guard Riders, gets underway. Let your Patriotism flow as you wave your American Flags at our heroic Veterans who will be riding in Military Vehicles, many of which will be supplied by Rusk's own, Tom and Jan Townsend; emergency vehicles, floats, gymnasts, youngster cheer and sports teams, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, youngsters on bikes decorated with red, white & blue; local dignitaries, and much more! At the end, join with everyone gathered around the Square, in singing "God Bless America." After the parade, stay for one of the largest Antique Car Show and judging in the area.....beautifully restored vehicles from the 30's to the 60's..... this year also including WWII and Post WWII military vehicles, with trophies awarded. Live music from the Veterans Memorial Gazebo

will be supplied by the Kid Icarus Project, while "outdoor prizes" will be awarded to lucky spectators. Nothing to buy.....the Rotary Club will give out free tickets to all who attend. To round out the festivities, at 11:30, the annual Gauge Lankford Firefighters' Memorial Competition, which will pit area firefighting teams against one another in a series of fun-to-watch events! Trophies will be awarded to the top two teams. The entire Patriotic event is produced by The Rotary Club of Rusk, and sponsored by Bill McRae Ford-Lincoln of Jacksonville. Monday, the 4th of July in downtown Rusk will be the perfect time to reinvigorate your Patriotism, and instill Patriotism in your children! If you or your family or group would like to participate in the parade, simply be at the Austin Bank parking lot by about 9:30am. All we ask is that you have some representation of Red, White & Blue. Members of RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards) will pin "participation" ribbons on the first 250 youths who participate in the parade. For further information, call Roy Reynolds, Event Chairman, at 903-683-1947.

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The Future of Texas Agriculture Looks Bleak Can You Salvage Your Ag Business?

Agent Rene' McCracken – Cherokee County Cooprtstive Extension

Adapted from an article by Ian McAbeer CFO - Blackhawk Wealth Management

The recent posting from a financial analyst is an ominous warning of things to come in Texas agriculture markets, but armed with knowledge of possible future happenings, Texans can be better prepared for the almost sure shortages and price inflations in feeds, forages and groceries.

Ian McAbeer blogged, "You don't need to be a farmer or an economist to understand that weather events can have a dramatic impact on agricultural production from one year to the next. Much of the country has received above-average rainfall in the past few months and there has been widespread flooding as a result. The Mississippi River, for example, is currently experiencing a 100-year flood event.

If you live in most parts of the country – such as the West Coast, the East Coast, or the Midwest, you might not realize that Texas and the greater Southwest have scarcely received any rain at all this year. In fact, much of Texas is currently suffering through an "exceptional" drought – the highest level achievable. In other words, if the drought in Texas were a hurricane it would be a "Category 5." A drought simply doesn't get any worse than this and the present conditions in the Southwest have been compared to the dust bowl years of the 1930's. In fact, the seven month period from October 2010 through April 2011 is officially the driest ever recorded in Texas.

Partly as a result of the drought, Texas has also been scorched by wildfires this year. According to the Texas Forest Service, wildfires have burned 2.5 million acres in the state just within the first four months of 2011. Of course, the flooding along the Mississippi river and the exceptional drought and fire conditions in Texas are of greater significance than just a casual conversation about the weather. Such events will have an effect on people throughout the country, due to the eventual impact on commodity prices. Texas, for example, happens to be the second largest agricultural producer in the United States, and is the largest producer of both beef and cotton, producing more than 20% of the nation's beef and up to 40% of the nation's cotton each year. Texas is also among the leading producers of hay, rice and sorghum (a crop grown for animal feed). The drought conditions have resulted in reduced water availability for agricultural and farming operations within the state, while the fires have had a devastating impact on cattle ranchers due to the loss of grazing land. These events are contributing to volatility in certain commodity prices, although not always in the most obvious ways. The lack of rainfall has decreased and delayed cotton plantings so far in 2011 with less than 20% of the crop being planted year-to-date. Without a significant amount of rain in the next 3 weeks, Texas faces the likelihood of a failed cotton crop. Additionally, up to 60% of this year's Texas wheat crop has already failed and will not be harvested. In cattle markets, the situation is more complex. Ranchers have less available land to graze, while hay and feed prices are moving higher, so it becomes uneconomical for many ranchers to maintain their herds. As a result, ranchers are slaughtering their cattle early, which will create excess short-term supply in the beef market and temporarily put downward pressure on prices. Meanwhile, ranchers that have been trying to expand their herds are now unable to do so because they lack the grazing land and low-cost

feed to justify herd expansion. This lack of investment will ultimately put upward pressure on beef prices over the long-term. It is interesting to observe how extreme weather at either end of the spectrum ultimately has the same impact on food production. For example, Arkansas is the largest producer of rice in the nation and flooding along the Mississippi River is expected to wipe-out at least 10% of the entire domestic rice crop this year as fields are drowned in water. Ironically, the drought in Texas has put its rice fields under pressure because rice requires more water than any other food crop and the state is running short of agricultural water! Texas is the 4th largest producer of rice in the nation.

Finally, it's important to understand that a shortage of one commodity can lead to higher prices in numerous other commodities. For example, with diminished domestic production of rice and sorghum, there will be higher-than-usual demand for potential substitute commodities, such as wheat, corn and soybeans. The net effect is that a shortage in one commodity often contributes to higher prices for other, somewhat similar commodities. We are experiencing both a 100-year flood and a 100-year drought occurring in neighboring states, with the ultimate impact on agricultural commodities being the same: lower supply and higher prices. Those of us who live in Texas and the greater Southwest are hoping for some rain to come our way, although long-term weather models show little rain in the forecast until July, at the earliest. Meanwhile many people in the remainder of the country, and particularly the Midwest, are praying for the rain to end. Regardless, much of the damage for this year is already done and I suspect that the recent price decline in agricultural commodity markets may be near its end, as the fundamentals of supply and demand once again move to the forefront."

Continue page 16

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Hart and Baker Receive Master's Degree



Evette Session Hart was among the forty-four candidates who received their Master's Degree in Social Work from Stephen F. Austin State University on Saturday, May

Sonja Danette Baker received her Master's Degree in Social Work from Strehpen F. Austin State University on Saturday, May 14, 2011.

James I Perkins

SFA Commencement Speaker



Pictured above are Walter Session, James I. Perkins, President of Citizens 1st Bank and Maxine Session.. Mr. Perkins was the Speaker for the May 14, 2011 Commencement . The picture was taken at the breakfast hosted for his family, friends and former schoolmates.

Bruce Bradley elected to RISD Schoolboard



Bruce Bradley was elected to the Rusk Independent School Board of trustees in the May 14, 2011 election. Fancis Long , Anthony Holcomb and Bradley ran for the two available seats with Bradley defeating Holcomb.

"I wish to thank those of you who voted for me. I am excited and looking forward to joining the board. I hope to make a difference in some small way," he said.

He is a 23 year employee with the state of Texas. He and his wife Sheila live in the Elm Grove community.

Charlsie Session Surprise Birthday Party



A surprise birthday party was given to Charlsie Session May 28th at the Rusk VFW. Among those pictured with Charlsie above are her children Melvin Session, II; Dana Martin, Katy Session and Brandon Session. Her brother and sisters Carolyn & Frazier Foreman, Ann & Jerry Leviston, Lola Mallard, Mary Foreman. Grandchildren and neices and nephews. The grand accasion celebrated her sixtieth birthday.

Harris' Celebrate 1st Anniversary



Happy 1st Anniversary to Eddie and Shonda Harris who celebrate their first wedding anniversary June 5th.

Carter Baby Shower Held



L - R pictured above are aunts and cousins who hosted the shower: Front Row Mary Session- great grandmother, Sandra Carter, Sarai Johnson, Mary Foreman, Carolyn Matthew, Linda Roberson, and Lula Perry. Back Row - Ann Leviston, Shunnon Ratcliff, Kathy Harris, Charnell Franklin - sister, Shirley Freeney Jones , Terri Franklin- Krystal's mother, Krystal Ward Carter- honoree, LaDora Holmes - Marcus's mother, Willa Jenkins, Maxine Session, Vivian McGowan, Daphne Session, Shanitta Foreman and Shalamar Spears not pictured. The baby shower was held for Marcus and Krystal Carter May 21st at Mt. Pleasant Church Annex here in Rusk. The baby boy, Max Westley Carter is due to arrive June 15th.

Myrtis Dightman Statue Unveiled



Crockett Chamber, Historical Commission members and Houston County Rodeo officials pose with Myrtis Dightman, National Cowboy Hall of Famer in front of the statue unveiled on May 13, 2011. Family of Mr. Dightman and a crowd of friends were on hand to attend the short unveiling ceremony.



Myrtis Dightman, Texas Cowboy Hall of Famer, was honored with a statue placed in front of the Houston County Rodeo Arena. Mike Mathes, Rodeo Manager presents plaque to Myrtis Dightman following the unveiling of the statue.

Record of Lien on Negro Boy Tom

The following is an actual recorded lien on a person used as collateral in Cherokee County June 1858.

One day after date I promise to pay to M. H. Bonner and Jo Everett the sum of two hundred and eleven and 33/100 dollars for services to attorneys in two suits presiding in the District Court of Cherokee County State of Texas to wit Jerdon VS Francis W. Thompson and Bennet and Francis Thompson in which said suits Bonner and Everett represent my interests in and to three negroes which I claim as my separate property to wit Jane Minerva and Alexes and thereby in consideration of said services rendered and to be rendered in said suits give Bonner and Everret a lein on said Negroes to secure the payment of said sum of two hundred and eleven & 33/100 in testimony whereof I thereto set my

hand and scrasol for seal this 23rd day of June AD 1858, and I Thomas S. Thomason husband of said Francis H. Thompson do hereby ratify and give my consent to the above contract and obligation made by my wife Francis H. Thompson with M. W. Bonner witness my hand and seal this day and date above written. The state of Texas Whereas I David B. Dickinson of said county and state here Cherokee County this day purchase Public Sale of property of this estate of George B. Keahy deed under an order of the county court of said county a negro boy named Tom about twenty years of age of dark complexion and a slave for life for the sum of twelve hundred dollars I owe by the order of said sale to give note due of twelve months with approved security and mortgage on the property for the payment of said purchase money and whereas I

have givrn said note with E. Mallard and John H. July as witness. Now therefore know all men by these present that I the said Daivd B. Dickinson for and in _____ time of promises have this day granted, bargained sold and mortgaged and do by these present grant mortgage and

mortgages unto William S. Keahy as administrator of the estate of said George B. Keahy deed said Negro boy Tom names whose conveyance to be null and void however without furthernot on condition that I pay said note with interestIn testimony whereofI hereto set my hand and seal forward this 1st day of June AD 1858.

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Mr. James I. Perkins, Citizens 1st Bank President, received one of the greatest honors that can be bestowed upon an individual. January 29, 2008 the Stephen F. Austin College of Education was named the James I. Perkins College of Education in his honor. Seated here, Mr. Perkins and Indianapolis Colt, Cody Glenn, also former Citizens 1st Bank employee; Andrew Melontree of the Tyler Bank and Walter Session, Rusk city Councilman. They are viewing a thank you card to Mr. Perkins from Rusk State Hospital Employees and Superintendent Ted Debs for support given to RSH. The card is signed by each employee and has been framed and placed on display in the bank. RSH provides 936 jobs to East Texas.

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OBITUARIES



Jessie Antowan Smith

these years. Towan united with the Delmar Baptist Church at an early age, where he remained a member until his expiration. His love of life was fishing and listening to music with his Big Speakers. Towan was well known for his contagious smile. His smile was so bright it would light up a dark room. Towan was united for 19 years to companion and loving wife of common law to Myrenka "Nikki" Skinner and to this union he raised 3 children as his own, DeMarcus, Kalen, and Kiara, who were all proud to know him as a wonderful father figure. Also a beautiful grand-daughter named after him, Jessika Antowanette Carter. He was preceded in death by his father Jessie L. Simmons and daughter Najee Leasha Dickerson. He leaves to cherish his memories: Devoted and Loving Mother, Juanita Simmons of Rusk, Tx; Best friend and Wife, Nikki Skinner of Rusk, Tx; one Loving Brother, Dedrick La Shone Smith of Rusk, Tx; Loving Sister, Demetra La Shale Spead {Glenn} of Oklahoma; A Favorite Aunt, Marie "Aunt Ree" Ealey {Nate} of Dallas, Tx; A very Special Uncle, Samuel "Uncle Sam Simmons" {Nae Nae}, Uncles, Jessie B. Lindsey {Pat} of San Antonio, Tx; Perry Simmons {Shirley} of Dallas, Tx; Billy Wickware of Los Angeles, CA; and a host of other relatives, cousins, nieces, nephews, and many many friends.

Funeral Services for Jessie Antowan Smith-Simmons were held on Saturday, May 21, 2011 at 10:30 A.M. at Mount Olive Baptist Church, in Rusk, Texas. Mr. Simmons was born to the parentage of the late Jessie Lewis Simmons and Juanita Simmons on January 18, 1969 in Rusk, Texas. On May 11, 2011 he entered eternal rest. Towan received his education in the Rusk School District. He also obtained his Certification as a Certified Nurses Aide (CNA) and was employed at several Nursing Facilities in Rusk. Towan was also employed at Baxter Pharmaceuticals in Jacksonville, Texas for several years. He was employed at Rusk State Hospital, Alto Care Center, and Sonic Drive-in in Rusk where he touched the lives of many during

Mrs. Vesta Maddox

A Homegoing Celebration for Mrs. Vesta Maddox was held at Churchill C.M.E. Church in Jacksonville, Tx at 1:00 P.M. on Saturday April 16, 2011. Mrs. Maddox was born to the Proud Parentage of Mr., Proud Anderson and Mrs. Mary Tilley Anderson on August 18, 1919 in Cherokee County, Texas. Vesta attended Churchill Elementary School and Fred Douglas High School. Vesta was employed many years as a domestic worker by Mr. and Mrs. Wilson. She also loved working in her garden that was filled with beautiful flowers. Vesta accepted Christ into her life at an early age and united with Churchill C.M.E. Church in Jacksonville, Texas. Where she served on the Usher Board and was a member of the Willing Workers Missionary Society of Churchill C.M.E. Church. She remained a faithful member until her health failed. She possessed a beautiful personality and was dearly loved by her church family. Vesta met Mr. Arnold Maddox and they were united in Holy Matrimony on July 14, 1949, to this union no children were born, but she assisted in raising her nieces and nephews, who she loved as her own. Vesta was preceded in death by her husband, her parents, 2 sisters, and 1 brother. Vesta entered eternal rest on Sunday April 10, 2011 at Gardendale Nursing Home in Jacksonville, Texas. Vesta leaves to cherish her memory: One brother Mr. Lorenzo Anderson, Jacksonville, Texas. Three nephews, Vernon O. Anderson Jr. (Benita), George Smith (Dashun) Fresno, California. Thurman Massey II, Jacksonville, Texas. Three nieces, Gloria Smith

(Gary) Jacksonville, Texas. Lois Teague (Joe) Jacksonville, Texas, Bobbie Robertson (Charles) Houston, Texas. Plus a host of great nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends who will forever cherish her memory.

Curtis Charles Freeney

Funeral Services for Mr. Curtis Charles Freeney were held Saturday, April 30, 2011 at 11:00 A.M. at Pine Spring Baptist Church. Mr. Curtis Charles Freeney was born on July 30, 1843 to the union of Mr. Robert and Mrs. Lucille Freeney. Mr. Curtis Freeney was the first born of nine children. During his education years he attended G.W. Bradford Carver in Frankston, Texas and soon after he attended Clemons High School in Neches, Texas. At an early age he attended the Anidarko Church of Christ. He was employed by Tuler Pipe in the North Mill Room until retirement. He loved horses and fishing as well as gardening. But most of all he loved his family and friends! He was always a loving and stern father. Mr. Curtis Freeney married his High School sweetheart Francis Scott on July 30, 1964 and to this union four girls were born. Then he met and married Courtney Renfro. To this union three children were born and she preceded him in death. His home going was on April 22, 2011 at ETMC. He was preceded in death by his father Robert Freeney Jr., brother Miguel Freeney, a granddaughter, four great granddaughters, and one

Continued on pg. 13



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Religion



The Right Use of Today

The only preparation for tomorrow is the right use of today.

Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil there of.

-Matthew 6:34

A comic strip created by Charles Schulz addresses the need for each of us to make the most of the immediate present in our lives: Charlie Brown is seen at bat. STRIKE THREE. He has struck out again and slumps down on the player's bench. He says, "Rats! I'll never be a big-league player. I just don't have it! All my life I've dreamed of playing in the big leagues, but I know I'll never make it." Lucy turns to console him. "Charlie Brown," she says, "you're thinking too far ahead."

What you need to do is set yourself more im-mediate goals." Charlie Brown looks up and asks, "Immediate goals?" Lucy responds, "Yes. Start with this next inning when you go out to pitch. See if you can walk out to the mound without falling down." The first step toward walking into any future is the step that you take today. Make it a forward... positive... springy and light-hearted... energetic... well-aimed... purposeful step. The steps you take today become the well-worn path of tomorrow.

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You can't just sit there and wait for people to give you that golden dream, you've got to get out there and make it happen for yourself.

~Diana Ross

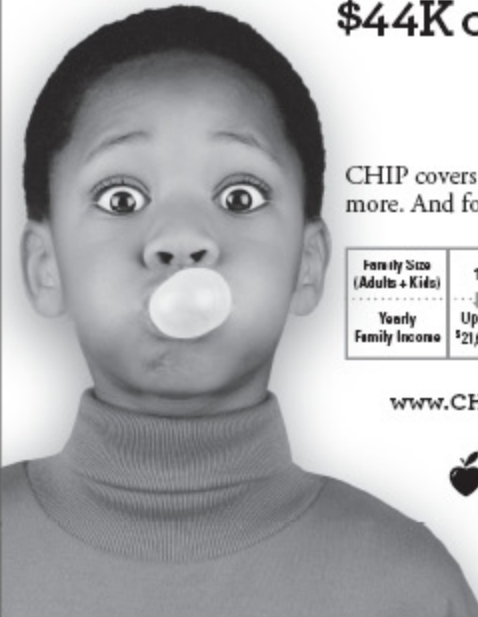
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Continued from pg. 11
nephew, Shawn Ford. He leaves to cherish his memory: his mother Lucille Freeney (Tyler, Tx) his son Curtiss C. Freeney (Liberty City, Tx), six daughters, Denise Crear (Jacksonville, Tx), Stephanie Freeney (Dallas, Tx), Barbara (Harold) Patterson (Palestine Tx), Carol Freeney (Dallas, Tx), Candice Freeney and Courtney Freeney (Athens, Tx), Brothers Robert Freeney (Wells, Tx), Kenneth Freeney (Longview, Tx), Donald Ray Freeney (Tyler, Tx), Glen Freeney (Rusk, Tx), Three sisters; Ella (Bill) Price (Forth Worth, Tx), Janice Freeney (FL), Carlas Smith (Houston, Tx), Twenty Grandchildren, Ten Great-grandchildren, as well as a host of nieces, nephews and many other relatives and friends.

Success is the result of perfection, hard work, learning from failure, loyalty and persistence.

~Colin Powell

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Georgetown University tells worth of college major

Census information is being used to give worthwhile information to Americans. A recently released report showed that undergraduate majors in college are strongly tied to a student's future earnings, with the highest paying majors providing salaries of about 300 percent more than the lowest paying.

Based on the census data, Georgetown University in Washington found that majors are highly segregated by race and gender.

College graduates earn overall 84% more in a lifetime than those who have only a high school diploma according to the study. Further analysis of 171 majors shows that various undergraduate majors can lead to significantly different median wages. Researchers found that Petroleum engineering majors make about \$120,000 a year, compared with \$29,000 annually for counseling psychology majors. Math and computer science majors earn \$98,000 in salary while early childhood education majors get paid about \$36,000 per year.

It's important that you go to college and get a bachelor's degree, but it's three to four times more important what you take as a major said Anthony Carnevale, director on Education and the Workforce. "The majors that are most popular are not the ones that make the most money," he stated.

It's great to choose a major which matches your likes and dislikes, but it is also important to research salaries in relations to jobs for which your major will prepare you.

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To learn more about the State of Texas HUB Program, visit the Texas Procurement and Support Services web page at: <http://www.window.state.tx.us/procurement/prog/hub/>



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138 Reeder St.
Rusk, Texas 75785

Rev. Greenie Phillips, Pastor
Sunday School 9:45AM

Sunday Worship Service
11:00 AM

2nd & 4th Sunday Service
Contact: (903) 683-3441 or
Rt. 2, Box 417A - Rusk, Texas 75785

**Shady Grove Church of
God In Christ**

Cherokee Street

Rusk, Texas 75785

Pastor: Donnie Timmons



**St. Paul Baptist
Church**

558 N. Main
Street
Jacksonville, TX. 75766

Phone:
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Contact:
Sharon Sims

Sunday School 10:00AM

Morning Ser. 11:00AM

Wednes. Bible Study 7PM

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Pastor

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& wife

Evangelist Stella Bartley
Assistant Pastor

Contact: Sis. Sandra Carter
Ph: (903) 683-2100

Sunday School 9:00AM
Worship: 10:00AM

Classic 4-H Club Kick's Off Summer of Fun

Submitted by: Rene' McCracken, CEP-AgNR

The last school bell rang sometime ago for most area youth. I'll bet it was soon followed by a resounding chorus of "I bored!" from kids getting used to being "stuck" at home all day. If inflated gas prices and increased food costs have left your "kid fun budget" flat, maybe 4-H has the solution for your summer slump.

It is hard to believe that the official beginning of summer will be on June 21st, since we have been having several days of triple digit weather! Also to mark the beginning of summer will be the Classic 4-H Club's kick-off meeting on Tuesday, June 28th at the Cherokee County Extension Office from 1 pm to 3 pm. The Cherokee County Extension Office is located on 165 E. 6th Street in Rusk, TX. The first meeting will be a "getting to know you" session. Youth will have the opportunity to do various "ice-breaker" activities and provide suggestions for what they "would like to do this Summer"

Each parent and youth will also be asked what times and locations would be best for them to meet. The Classic 4-H Club is a summer only club of Cherokee County guided by cooperative extension agent, Rene' McCracken. "Since last year when my committee and I created this club for summer only activities, we have been able to reach youth who have never even heard of 4-H and inspired them to move on and join clubs and continue their 4-H experiences. Last year, the club had 12 members who ranged in age from 17 down to 3 years of age. Youth enjoyed crafts, photography, jelly making, cooking, and fishing and in August were a part of a local competition where they were able to show off their projects and were awarded ribbons," remarked McCracken.

Every year the club's activities will be different based upon the leadership of the youth elected to serve as officers and the direction

they take us. Meetings will take place weekly on Tuesdays beginning June 28th for six weeks with an end of the summer party designed and coordinated by the youth on August 2nd. Designed with the whole family in mind, there are several activities suited for ages three and up. Youth under the age of 8 will be required to have a responsible guardian with them at meetings. In addition, if your child requires special accommodations, please make those known prior to enrollment. It is not too late to join the group, there is no registration fee for the summer activities but please RSVP so that we will have a place for you by calling 903-683-5416 or reach Rene' at lrnccracken@ag.tamu.edu. Don't miss this opportunity to inspire your child to a lifetime of learning with 4-H.

Extension programs serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race color, sex, religion, disability, or national



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Meeting: 6:00pm**

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with us at Sweet Union"**

Faces from the past

Cora and husband Will Wallace

Texas Agriculture Looks Bleak

continued from page 7



Will your agriculture business be able to survive and what steps do you need to take to ensure your survival? If you are trying to determine what decisions you need to make in order for your farm or ranch to survive the drought, don't miss the upcoming field day at Prairie View A&M University. The Cooperative Extension Program at Prairie View A&M University would like to invite you and your producers to participate in its Forage Field Day to be held on Saturday, June 11, 2011. Registration will begin at 9:00 A.M. at the Carden-Waller Cooperative Extension Building. The program will start at 9:30 A.M. A total of 3 CEU's will be provided for Licensed Pesticide Applicators. Topics for the Field Day include: Soil Testing and Soil Fertility, USDA Environmental Quality Incentive Program opportunities, Rotational Grazing, Economics of Year Round Grazing, Pesticide Laws and Regulations, Dealing with Drought, and Tours of the PVAMU Farm. This program is free but please RSVP so that we can prepare materials for you. For more information contact Rene' McCracken at 903-683-5416 or rmccracken@ag.tamu.edu or Hugh Soape, Integrated Farm Management Specialist, hsoape@ag.tamu.edu or Dr. Nelson Daniels, Program Specialist-Agriculture and Natural Resources, ndaniels@ag.tamu.edu. 936-261-5112. More information can also be found at: <http://pvcep.pvamu.edu/index.html>

Pictured above are Cora and Will Wallace about 1950 in front of their home in Rusk, Texas. Mrs. Wallace was the sister to the late Maggie Alexander Richie, Catherine Alexander Burley, Babe Alexander and Tommy Alexander. It was common practice for both men and women to smoke a pipe filled with Prince Albert tobacco, the most popular brand of tobacco at that time. She is sitting in a rocking chair in front of their house. Their attire also reflects everyday wear of the day for women of her age, a head rag, full apron over her dress with laceup shoes and cotton stockings that came to the knee. He is wearing overalls, long-sleeve shirt, felt hat and brookann laceup shoes. She and her sisters made quilts, plaited rugs from strips of discarded family clothing, canned fruits and vegetables, baked fresh pies and bread and cakes daily and operated a family laundry. Clothes were taken in from all over Rusk for a minimal fee, washed in a tin tub on a rubboard, rinsed, starched, hung on an outdoor line to dry and ironed with a smothering iron heated on a woodburning stove. In his younger years he was a farmer and a very well known horseback rider, even after cars were in common use.

Tom from page 2

Two other slaves named Minerva and Alexis were mentioned by first name only indicating that this was the norm. Our birth name or given name identifies us and plays a great part in making us who we are. Can you imagine not having a birth

Having no family and no family ties must be almost total devastation of the mind and soul. If Tom was about twenty in 1858, he would only have been about 27 in 1865 when freedom was publicly announced in Texas. I would like to imagine that he was able to locate some family and do as thousands of others did, file the family name that could identify him as the person he was..

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