

CELEBRATING NINETEEN YEARS!



TEXAS INFORMER

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Rusk, Texas 75785

Maya Angelou Phenomenal Woman



Dr. Maya Angelou is one of the most renowned and influential voices of our time. Hailed as a global renaissance woman, Dr. Angelou is a celebrated poet, memoirist, novelist, educator, dramatist, producer, actress, historian, filmmaker, and civil rights activist.

Remembering Maya Angelou See page 3

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Texas Slaves were freed from slavery June 19, 1865, two years after the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation January 1, 1863. Celebrate the 49th year of commemoration of this historical event Saturday, June 14th in Rusk, Texas by joining in the parade at 11:00 a.m. and the Juneteenth celebration at Conley Park and Mt. Pleasant Church with Daphne Session and Pam Joyce as speakers.

EDITORIAL

**June 19th
history
celebrated
in 42 states**



Maxine Session

Juneteenth, also known as Freedom Day or Emancipation Day, is a holiday in the United States honoring African American heritage by commemorating the announcement of the abolition of slavery in the U. S. State of Texas in 1865. Celebrated on June 19, the term is a portmanteau of June and nineteenth, and is recognized as a state holiday or state holiday observance in 41 states of the United States. Being a part of the Confederacy, the state of Texas was against Emancipation or freeing of the slaves, but the state of Texas is widely considered the first U.S. state to begin Juneteenth celebrations with informal observances taking place for over a century; it has been an official state holiday since 1980. It is considered a "partial staffing holiday", meaning that state offices do not close, but some employees will be using a floating holiday to take the day off. Schools are not closed, but most public schools in Texas are already into summer vacation by June 19th. Its observance has spread to many other states, with a few celebrations even taking place in other countries.

As of June 2011, 42 states and the District of Columbia have recognized Juneteenth as either a state holiday or state holiday observance; these are Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin and Wyoming.

Eight states have not recognized Juneteenth: Hawaii, Maryland, Montana, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Rhode Island, South Dakota, and Utah.

Though Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on September 22, 1862, with an effective date of January 1, 1863, it had minimal immediate effect on most slaves' day-to-day lives, particularly in the Confederate States of America. Many liberated slaves died during emancipation as a result of the illness that devastated army regiments. Freed slaves suffered from smallpox, yellow fever, and malnutrition. Texas, as a part of the Confederacy, was resistant to the Emancipation Proclamation. Juneteenth commemorates June 18 and 19, 1865. June 18 is the day Union General Gordon Granger and 2,000 federal troops arrived in Galveston, Texas, to take possession of the state and enforce the emancipation of its slaves. On June 19, 1865, while standing on the balcony of Galveston's Ashton Villa, Granger read the contents of "General Order No. 3:

The people of Texas are informed that, in accordance with a proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of personal rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves, and the connection heretofore existing between them becomes that between employer and hired labor. The freedmen are advised to remain quietly at their present homes and work for wages. They are informed that they will not be allowed to collect at military posts and that they will not be supported in idleness either there or elsewhere.]

That day has since become known as Juneteenth, a name coming from a portmanteau of the word June and the suffix, "teenth", as in "Nineteenth"

Former slaves in Galveston rejoiced in the streets with jubilant celebrations. Juneteenth celebrations began in Texas the following year.[Across many parts of Texas, freed people pooled their funds to purchase land specifically for their communities and increasingly large Juneteenth gatherings.

**HAPPY
JUNETEENTH!**

Letters To The Editor**Palestine Summer Football
Camp**

Dear Editor,

My name is Gregory Shaw Jr. and I would like to ask for your help in sharing the good news about a summer football camp for upcoming 9th grade to 12th grade athletes.

All athletes from all schools are welcomed. Here is the website and flyer that you can check out yourself and refer others to. The camp will be held at Palestine High School on June 14th, 2014. This camp will give the kids in the area more opportunities to get seen and better chances of receiving a scholarship for college. I would also like to learn about more upcoming volunteer events that I may be apart of.

That information will be greatly appreciated. Thank you and have a blessed day.

Greg Shaw, Jr.
Palestine, Tx.

Editor's Note: See page 10 for web site and additional information.

Aging Poem

I can live with my arthritis, and my dentures fit me fine,
I can see with by bi-focals, but I sure do miss my mind.

The Texas Informer

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Co-publisher : Maxine Session

Contributors: Billy "Hollywood" Groves

A. J. Rhodes

Cecil Roy

**Reader Enjoys
"Faces from the Past"**

Dear Publishers Walter and Maxine Session:

Congratulations to you both and The Texas Informer Newspaper on your 19th year of "Bringing positive news about local people."

I enjoy reading your very well put together and informative newspaper online. I try to model my newsletter after yours. :) happy. I love your column "Title name "(Faces from the past)"... I hope you don't mind me borrowing it to accompany old photographs in my newsletter? Just let me know.

Keep up the outstanding work! May God continue to bless both of you with many more happy years.

Sincerely,
Alonzo Hardy

Dr. Maya Angelou Remembered

The family confirmed the news in a statement on Wednesday:

"Dr. Maya Angelou passed quietly in her home before 8:00 a.m. EST. Her family is extremely grateful that her ascension was not belabored by a loss of acuity or comprehension. She lived a life as a teacher, activist, artist and human being. She was a warrior for equality, tolerance and peace. The family is extremely appreciative of the time we had with her and we know that she is looking down upon us with love."

A professor, singer and dancer, among other things, Angelou's work spans several different professions. She spent her early years studying dance and drama in California.

After dropping out of high school at age 14, she became San Francisco's first African-American female cable car conductor.

Angelou later returned to high school to finish her diploma and gave birth to her son a few weeks after graduation. While the 17-year-old single mother waited tables to support her son, she acquired a passion for music and dance.

people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."

Affectionately referred to as Dr. Angelou, the professor never went to college. She has received over 50 honorary degrees and was Reynolds Professor of American Studies at Wake Forest University. Angelou is famous for saying, "I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."

Maya Angelou's birth name was Marguerite Annie Johnson,



and she was fluent in 6 languages. Angelou was also named one of the 10 most admired North Carolinians in a recent Elon Poll. She was also named one of the most admired people in the world, according to a recent Elon Poll.

Angelou was born on April 4, 1928, in St. Louis, Missouri. She grew up between St. Louis and the then-racially-segregated Stamps, Arkansas. Sent by their mother to live with their devout, self-sufficient grandmother in that small Southern town, Maya and her brother, Bailey, endured the ache of abandonment and the prejudice of the local "powhitetrash." The famous poet got into writing after a childhood tragedy that stunned her into silence for almost a decade. When she was 7, her mother's boyfriend a man many times her age—raped her. He was later beaten to death by a mob after she testified against him.

"My 7-and-a-half-year-old logic deduced that my voice had killed him, so I stopped speaking for almost six years," she said. From the silence, a louder voice was born.

Years later, in San Francisco, Maya learns about love for herself and the kindness of others, her own strong spirit, and the ideas of great authors ("I met and fell in love with William Shakespeare") would allow her to be free instead of imprisoned. Poetic and powerful, *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* is a modern American classic that will touch hearts and change minds for as long as people read. Her list of friends is as impressive as her



illustrious career. Talk show queen Oprah Winfrey referred to her as "sister friend." She counted Martin Luther King Jr., with whom she worked during the Civil Rights movement, among her friends. King was assassinated on her birthday.

Before making it big, the 6-foot-tall wordsmith also worked as a cook and sang

Angelou spoke at least six languages, and worked as a newspaper editor in Egypt and Ghana. During that time, she wrote "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings," launching the first in a series of autobiographical books.

"I want to write so well that a person is 30 or 40 pages in a book of mine ... before she realizes she's reading," she said.

Angelou was also one of the first black women film directors. Her work on Broadway has been nominated for Tony Awards. Before making it big, the 6-foot-tall wordsmith also worked as a cook and sang with a traveling road show. "Look where we've all come from ... coming out of darkness, moving toward the light," she has said. "It is a long journey, but a sweet one, bittersweet."

Mount Zion Baptist Church in Winston-Salem will hold a memorial service to honor Maya Angelou on Thursday night. The service will be held at 7:30 p.m. at 950 File Street.

The service is open to the public. Herb Walker and the staff of Walker Funeral Home sends our sincere heartfelt condolences and prayers to the Angelou family.

I know why the caged bird sings

by Maya Angelou

The free bird leaps on the back of the wind and floats downstream till the current ends and dips his wings in the orange sun rays and dares to claim the sky.

But a bird that stalks down his narrow cage can seldom see through his bars of rage his wings are clipped and his feet are tied so he opens his throat to sing. The caged bird sings with fearful trill of the things unknown but longed for still and his tune is heard on the distant hill for the caged bird sings of freedom. The free bird thinks of another breeze and the trade winds soft through the sighing trees and the fat worms waiting on a dawn-bright lawn and he names the sky his own. But a caged bird stands on the grave of dreams his shadow shouts on a nightmare scream his wings are clipped and his feet are tied so he opens his throat to sing. The caged bird sings with a fearful trill of things unknown but longed for still and his tune is heard on the distant hill for the caged bird sings of freedom.

**Willie Holman,
Natural Resource
Conservation
Outreach Specialist**

**Prairie View A & M University Offers
information and Degrees in Agriculture**



Lufkin, TX- Willie Holman, Outreach Specialist from Lufkin, Texas, covers 16 East Texas Counties reaching out to historically underserved landowners both farmers and ranchers. This includes veterans, socially disadvantaged, limited resource and beginners. To have him visit you, to setup a conservation plan or just ask questions contact him at (936) 634-9900.



R - Prairie View - Billy Lawson, M.Ed. – Program Leader for Agriculture and Natural Resources and Horace Hodge disseminate information about the Prairie View Agriculture and Natural Resources Programs. “Over the years, we’ve helped small scale ranchers and farmers manage their agricultural operations to ensure that they are profitable and also environmentally friendly”, Says Lawson. The Agriculture and Natural Resources unit of the Cooperative Extension Program is the primary educational outreach unit of the university that disseminates research based knowledge to agricultural producers. County and specialist staffs assist small scale farmers and ranchers to become self sustaining and profitable. The college of Agriculture and Human Sciences offer degrees in the field. To contact the university or Mr. Lawson please call 936-261-3311 or go online to <http://www.pvamu.edu/cahs/agriculture-and-natural-resources/>

Prairie View A&M University, the second oldest public institution of higher education in Texas, originated in the Texas Constitution of 1876. On August 14, 1876, the Texas Legislature established the “Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas for Colored Youths” and placed responsibility for its management with the Board of Directors of the Agricultural and Mechanical College at Bryan. The A&M College of Texas for Colored Youths opened at Prairie View, Texas on March 11, 1878.

The University now services students of all races and nationalities. It’s enrollment exceeds 8,000 including more than 2,000 graduate students. Students come from throughout the United States as well as many foreign countries. In the last five years, 5,970 degrees were awarded, including more than 2,400 graduate degrees. During the University’s 130-year history, some 46,000 academic degrees have been awarded.

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

Game #	Game Name / Odds	\$	Official Close of Game	End Validations Date
1586	What's Your Number? Overall Odds are 1 in 4.52	\$1	7/30/14	1/28/15
1585	Veterans Cash Overall Odds are 1 in 4.44	\$2	7/30/14	1/28/15
1578	10X The Cash Overall Odds are 1 in 4.15	\$2	7/30/14	1/28/15
1454	Bonus Break The Bank Overall Odds are 1 in 3.81	\$5	7/30/14	1/28/15
1553	Cash Extravaganza Overall Odds are 1 in 3.86	\$5	7/30/14	1/28/15
1573	Red Diamond 7's Overall Odds are 1 in 3.70	\$5	7/30/14	1/28/15
1575	Cash Club Overall Odds are 1 in 4.20	\$5	7/30/14	1/28/15
1277	Casino Action Overall Odds are 1 in 2.47	\$50	7/30/14	1/28/15

For detailed odds and game information, visit tlottery.org or call 1-800-97-LOTTO. Must be 18 or older to purchase a ticket. The Texas Lottery supports Texas education. © 2014 Texas Lottery Commission. All rights reserved.



Smile!

A little girl asked her grandmother how she felt. The grandmother responded, “I feel good.” The little girl said, “Well if you feel good, why don’t you tell your face”!

CHRISTIANITY

**What
does it
mean to
listen to
God?**

To listen means to hear and act. We often hear the expression "It went in one ear and out the other" to describe a person who hears something but does nothing... fails to act on it.

Deuteronomy 4: 35 : 6: 1-9 tells us that a person does not listen or hear God unless he or she acts in obedience to what God has said. The Lord is a God of love and as such He expects His people to live in alignment with His character.

Deuteronomy 6:5 gives us the greatest commandment. It tells us to love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your being and all your strength. The second greatest commandment is to love thy neighbor as thy self. This means that we should evaluate our own lives to place all aspects under the lordship of Jesus so that only the Lord functions as a God in our life. In order to strengthen our walk with God we are to remember scripture. These scriptures are to always be on our minds. We should recite them and talk about them. We are to teach them to our children in our homes. We are to talk with God (prayer) and about God to others as we go about our daily lives.

This biblical message is comprehensive in its insistence that we connect our spiritual life with God with the way we interact with others.

Rick Perry among governors requesting to investigate Veterans Affairs Facilities

Six Republican governors, including Texas Gov. Rick Perry, have asked the federal government for authority to investigate Department of Veterans Affairs facilities in their states, citing the scandal over the treatment of veterans at a VA hospital in Phoenix who were put on a secret waiting list for health care.

The letter, dated Tuesday, was sent to President Obama and signed by Perry, Governors Rick Scott of Florida, Sam Brownback of Kansas, Bobby Jindal of Louisiana, Tom Corbett of Pennsylvania and Gov. Paul LePage of Maine. The governors' request seeks unprecedented permission for states to exercise authority over federal facilities and the practices of federal personnel. Scott said Wednesday that he will pursue a lawsuit against the Department of Veterans Affairs for the authority to inspect the Florida's hospitals. "Reports from states around the country of wait times in a system manipulated by VA leaders to hide the growing problems are not only inexcusable, they demand your immediate and full attention," the letter said. "Given the claims that high-ranking VA officials, including former Secretary (Eric) Shinseki, were unaware of the critical nature and scope of the problems at VA hospitals throughout the country, it is clear that a system for significant oversight is nonexistent." No major problems have been reported in Maine's VA system,

and wait times for care have been in line with federal standards. Shinseki resigned in light of the scandal in Phoenix, which led to scrutiny of veterans' health-care systems nationwide. Twenty-six VA hospitals are now under investigation for allegations of long waits and delays in treatment.

The six governors urged the president to suspend a VA bonus system that rewards managers for meeting performance goals, including giving veterans care within 14 days of requests for appointments. They also asked that veterans get federal vouchers to seek care elsewhere if they cannot get it from a VA facility within 30 days. Kyle Kondik, a staffer at the University of Virginia Center for Politics and the managing editor of Sabato's Crystal Ball, a well-regarded political magazine, said the letter is about politics, pure and simple.

The Department of Veterans Affairs launched the investigation into scheduling practices at Veterans Hospitals in Texas and 41 other states as a nationwide audit of access to care. A whistleblower at San Antonio's North Central Federal Clinic told that he and other clerks were instructed to manipulate scheduling data so it appeared there were no wait times.

VA officials at the hospital said his claims could not be substantiated.

The VA has acknowledged that 23 patients have died as a result of delayed care in recent years. In May of 2014 more than 308,000 claims were part of the backlog.



Arthur J. Rhodes

**Education
for
African
Americans
once
forbidden?**

A mail carrier in Texas and a 68 year old educator in Oklahoma were the lead plaintiffs in two landmark cases decided by the U. S. Supreme Court on June 5th, 1950. Both plaintiffs, Herman Marion Sweatt and George W. McLaurin, had been denied admission to state graduate schools because they were black. Both had been offered inadequate redress by the states, a one-student law school in the Sweatt V. Oklahoma State Regents.

Both the Sweatt and McLaurin cases established the right of African Americans to equal opportunity in graduate education. Ruling for Sweatt, the Supreme Court ordered his administration to the University of Texas Law School. In McLaurin, the Court ordered an end to the restrictions placed upon McLaurin by the University of Oklahoma. The Court did not directly challenge the 1896 Plesy V. Ferguson "separate but equal" decision in either ruling. However, its decisions opened the way for such a challenge. Three weeks after the Sweatt and McLaurin decisions were handed down, NAACP council Thurgood Marshall convened a conference of lawyers with the purpose of planning an all out attack on school segregation.

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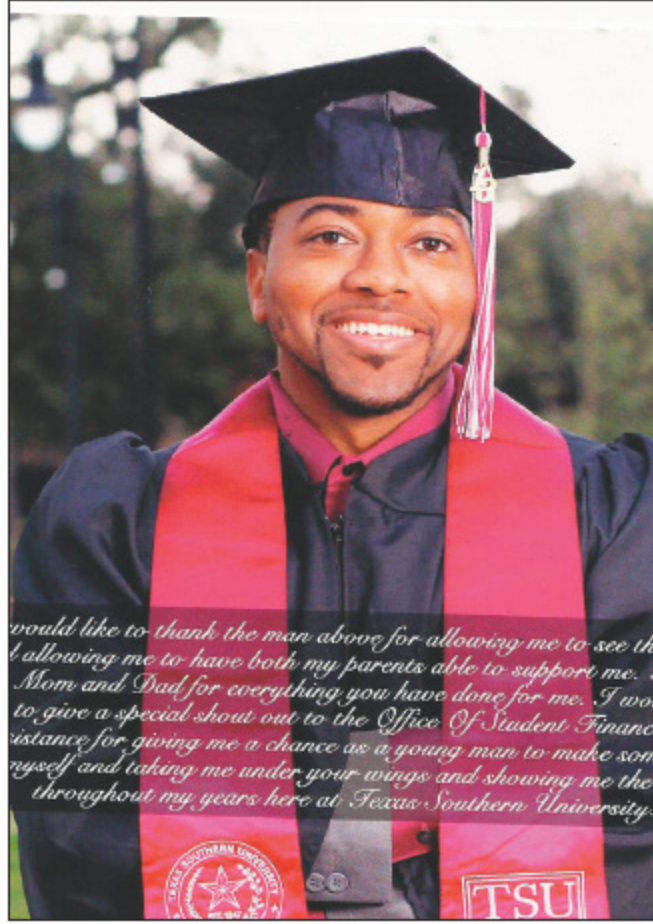
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**Charnell Franklin
Graduates U of H**

**Lonnie Gipson graduates
Texas Southern University**

**Keshera Muhammad graduates
Texas State University**



Charnell Franklin

Lonnie Gipson

Kashera Sane Muhammad

Charnell Franklin, 2009 RHS graduate, received her Bachelor of Science Degree in Educational Psychology from University of Houston, May 10th. Charnell is the daughter of Terri and Floyd Franklin, the granddaughter of Walter and Maxine Session all of Rusk and the granddaughter of Floyd Franklin and Lula Perry of Jacksonville.

Lonnie Durrell Gipson, son of Lonnie Ray and Kathy Gipson, of Jacksonville, formerly of Rusk, graduated from Texas Southern University on December 14, 2013, with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Health Administration. He is a 2009 graduate of Rusk High School. He is the grandson of Louise Jefferson and Guy Jefferson of Rusk and the late Bertha B. and John D. Gipson.

Kashera Sane Muhammad, 2010 RHS graduate, graduated from Texas State University, May 8, with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Family and Consumer Science. She is the daughter of Kamaal Muhammad Longview, Texas and the granddaughter of William Watson of Rusk.

Graduation luncheon honors Alto High School graduating seniors



Alto, TX. -Front row L to R- Yoshyr'a Skinner , Carenza Johnson, Dariyana Moore. Back row l to r - Jadarian Skinner, D'Anthony Richards, Jacolby Whitaker and Anfernee Black will attend graduation luncheon held at the home of Rosie Skinner, 1:00 p. m. Saturday for all Alto HS seniors. It was hosted by parents Camille Green, Pam Black, Jamie and Denise Pope, Jalane Green, Charlotte Cook, Josh Skinner and Chan Lacy.

Ms. Rostene Green, front center, of Alto celebrates the graduation of five of her grandchildren in May of 2014. Four graduated from Alto High School; Jadarian, D'Anthony, Anfernee and Carenza. Yoshyr'a skinner graduated from Athens High School.

Debra Denman Rushing retires from Rusk State Hospital



L to R - Hermina Mallory, Karla Gattis, Debra Rushing, Glenda Hackney, Bessie Harris, Darryl Stums. Front Row- Pam Black and James Scott. Co-workers hosted a retirement party for Debra on Friday, May 30, 2014 at the RSH Dogwood Room.

Ryan Rushing - son, Debra Denman Rushing and husband Dean Rushing . Debra retired after thirty years and seven months with Rusk State Hospital. She has worked in Nursing and rehab. She was a PNH Supervisor at retirement. Debbie plans to travel and spend more time planting good seeds in their grandchildren.

Veterans of Foreign Wars and Ladies Auxiliary Memorial Day 2014



L to R - Reverend Jerry Leviston Pastor Mt. Olive Baptist Church, event speaker, Mayor Angela Raiborn, special guest, Commander Emmerson Griffith, Post 3406 and Kim Nickle Ladies VFW President.

Jazzmine Crist, performed a moving rendition of Amazing Grace.

Rusk, TX. - Memorial Day 2014 was held at 10:00 a.m. Monday, May 26, 2014 on the Cherokee County Courthouse lawn carried out by the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Ladies Auxiliary, Post 3406. The service was held to honor and to remember those who have given their lives for our freedom. Emerson Griffith gave the welcome, invocation by Betty Townsend Ladies VFW, Virginia Goforth sang a beautiful rendition of the national Anthem, Angela Raiborn Rusk Mayor special comments, Speaker Rev. Jerry Leviston Pastor Mt. Olive Baptist Church, Memorial commendation was done by Emmerson Griffith and Kim Nickle by placing flowers at the Veterans Memorial, James Dishman VFW Chaplain gave the Benediction, closing remarks were given by Emerson Griffith and a rifle volley was done by the Sons of Confederate Veterans. Two Rusk High students performed taps at the closing of the ceremony.

What's Cook'n?



Easy Blackberry Cobbler

Original recipe makes 1 - 9 x 13 inch cobbler -approximately 8 servings

- 1/2 cup butter
- 2 cups flour
- 1 tablespoon baking powder
- 2 cups white sugar
- 2 cups milk
- 3 1/2 cups blackberries
- 1/4 teaspoon lemon juice

Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. (175 degrees C). Once oven temperature is reached melt butter in a 9 x 13 inch baking pan.
 2. In a medium bowl stir together the flour, sugar and milk; batter will be slightly lumpy. Pour mixture on top of melted butter in baking pan. Do not mix butter and mixture together.
 3. Drop blackberries into batter; if more crust is desired add less blackberries. Bake in preheated oven for one hour or until golden brown.
- COOK: 1&1/2 hours.



Oven Baked BBQ Chicken

Original recipe makes 12 servings

- 4 tablespoons water
- 3 tablespoons ketchup
- 3 tablespoons brown sugar
- 2 tablespoons vinegar
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 2 tablespoons Worcestershire sauce
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon dry mustard
- 1 teaspoon chili powder
- 1 whole cutup chicken, skin removed
- 1 small onion (optional)

Directions

1. Preheat the oven to 375 degrees. In a small saucepan over medium heat, stir together the water, ketchup, brown sugar, vinegar, lemon juice, and Worcestershire sauce. Season with salt, mustard powder, and chili powder. Simmer the sauce for 15 minutes.
2. Place whole cut up chicken pieces into an oblong baking dish, and pour the sauce over them. Sprinkle cutup onion over top. (optional). Cover and
3. Bake for 15 minutes in the preheated oven, then reduce the temperature to 300 degrees F. and bake for 45 minutes. Remove cover, stir and bake uncovered for 15 minutes.

POETRY

By W. Caldwell
Palestine, TX.

This Is My Cup

The container of my fate,
the holder of my pain.
The agony of betrayal,
the introduction of their gain.
This cup is filled with everything
that has brought you shame,
the stench of sin,
the defileness of lies,
but I can't pass it to another
it bears my name.
Adam nor Moses
not even John the Baptist could
take one sip from my glass,
because their sins are in here too
from the days of their past.. when I
look at all the trials and tribulation
that float around in this cup for a
moment I think
maybe I should pray for this to pass
from me and I.
Just give it up, but nevertheless not
my will father,
but let your will be done. I accept
my purpose for mankind and the
fate of the cross,
You sent me for their redemption,
and to recover the lost.
So I'm here to serve you father at
any cost
This is my cup.

Meet Vickey L. Chivers New Mayor-Protem



Vickey L. Chivers

Palestine, Tx. - Vickey L Chivers, District 3, was re-elected May 10 to the Palestine City Council and, unanimously voted in as Mayor Pro-Tem on May 19, 2014, at the City Council Meeting. She has been on the City Council since 2002, at which time she filled the unexpired term of the former District 3 City Councilwoman, Pat Davis. Vickey has served with four different Mayors and four City Managers. She presently is the only African-American female on the Council. Ms. Chivers says, "I look forward to continuously working diligently along with the current members of the Council and I thank you the voters for re-electing me. I will continue to work to represent you and the entire city of Palestine."

Kroger continue from page 11

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CATEGORY	2013	2012	%GROWTH
Television Spot	\$86,868,459	\$75,992,229	14.3%
Newspapers	\$42,888,312	\$42,853,068	0.1%
Local Radio Summary	\$39,401,595	\$42,013,186	-6.1%
Outdoor	\$14,039,582	\$12,186,852	15.2%
U.S. Internet - Display	\$6,649,711	\$8,110,329	-17.9%
Magazines	\$4,643,761	\$2,843,753	63.3%
National Radio Spot	\$1,536,202	\$1,650,188	-6.8%
US Internet - Search	\$1,032,616	\$1,059,486	-2.4%
National Newspapers	\$398,000	\$701,744	-43.2%
Hispanic Newspapers	\$218,426	\$207,270	5.4%
African American Newspapers	\$0	\$0	0%
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Does Alameel Want the Black Vote?

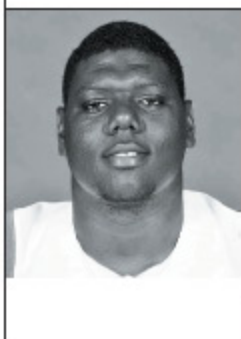
Texas Publishers Association Wire -Service

It has come to the attention of the Texas Publishers Association -The Black Press of Texas, that Mr. Alameel's campaign has deliberately neglected the Black Press. He and his representatives have ignored the Black Press. Mr. Alameel is not seen at Black Churches, Black organizations and other venues to present himself to Black voting populations. The African American community deserves more than yard signs and blanket statements about how electing him to be our Senator is advantageous to the empowerment and continued strengthening of our communities.

We believe the African American press is the cornerstone for information in African American communities throughout Dallas/Fort Worth and Texas. Many Black people rely on us to inform them of the issues and concerns the major media outlets overlook. Representatives of the Black Press have attempted to contact Mr. Alameel's campaign and his office on numerous occasions and received no reply.

It is unfortunate that Mr. Alameel's campaign strategy is to continue to rely on and pay gatekeepers who pretend to have the best interest of the African American community at heart. Those same gatekeepers do not use the Black Press of Dallas/Fort Worth and Texas to get his very important message out to the African American community. In actuality it is yours and other Politicians' gatekeepers who have kept a large number of African Americans in the dark by not partnering with and using the resources of the Black Press in Dallas/Ft Worth and throughout Texas. This vehicle can help you energize the electorate and push your campaign to victory. Kesha Rogers is Mr. Alameel's current Democratic opponent in the May runoff.

Ms. Rogers is a young African American woman who has Bill Boards throughout the African community stating as part of her campaign, "Impeach Obama". Black people will not support anyone that boldly campaigns to impeach the only Black President this nation has ever had. Hopefully Mr. Alameel and his representatives are not solely relying on Ms. Rogers' campaign rhetoric to lure the Black vote. Again, DOES ALAMEEL WANT THE BLACK VOTE?



Greg

Camp S.H.A.W. announces football camp in Palestine, TX.

June 14, 2014 from 8am-1pm. The camp will be for upcoming 9th thru 12th graders. The camp will get started with a light breakfast, a dynamic warm-up/stretch, followed by a series of NFL Combine-style drills, then rounding it out with football specific drills.

REGISTER NOW

Campers will need to bring football cleats, athletic shorts, athletic shirt, mouth piece and gloves (optional). These items are needed for your safety.

Phone: 903-731-8005 | Fax: 877-839-6489

1600 S. Loop 256, Palestine, Texas 75801

Courtesy: LSUsports.net (@LSUsports)

Pre registration will be \$15 April 5, 2014 until June 7th, 2014. Registration \$25 after June 7th, 2014. Mail in check

GoBus Receives Outstanding Rural Transit System in Texas Award from the Texas Transit Association

Kilgore, Texas - At the Annual Rodeo and Transit Expo held in Ft. Worth April 25th - 30th, the Texas Transit Association (TTA) presented ETCOG's GoBus public transit system, serving the fourteen counties of East Texas, the Outstanding Rural Transit System award for 2014.

The award is given to a public transportation system each year that has designed and implemented

programs that demonstrate innovative concepts of effective problem-solving techniques and have applied these successfully in the public transportation industry.

To catch a ride on the GoBus, you must call 24 hours in advance and schedule a pickup, and you must call before 2 p.m. for next day service. Call toll free 1-800 590-3371. Monday through Friday, the GoBus runs within the county from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. A one-way ticket costs \$2.



ETCOG Director John O. Hedrick was presented the GoBus TTA Award.

We appreciate TTA's recognition of the efforts of the GoBus team," said ETCOG's Director of Transportation, John O. Hedrick, as he accepted on behalf of their drivers and customer service folks who work with customers every day.

The GoBus provides transportation for the elderly and disabled.

For additional information or transportation call 1-800-590-3371.



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Kroger ignores the African American community

Have you been invited?

Texas Publishers Association

By NICOLE SCOTT and ROBYN H. JIMENEZ

It's a simple question that the Black Press has asked its community for several years, with the underlying message, "Don't go where you haven't been invited." How can Black newspapers hire students for summer internships, secretaries, reporters, graphic artists, etc. when stores like Kroger will not do business with African publications? Many publishers of Black newspapers have expressed that stores that do not carry African American products, advertise in African American-owned media, and refuse to carry African American newspapers and magazines for its customers, have sent a clear message that Blacks are not invited.

Maxine Session, founder and publisher of The Texas Informer newspaper, said she got the message loud and clear. The Informer is an African American newspaper that has served Anderson, Angelina, Cherokee, Houston and Rusk counties for 19 years. During a routine delivery in August of 2013, Walter Session, Informer owner and co-publisher, arrived at Kroger grocery store to find that the newspaper shelf, that had stood for many years inside the store entry, had been removed. He immediately found the store manager Christine Tate and stated that the newspaper shelf had been removed, and he wanted to know where he could place the Texas Informer. She said that he could not leave it there, that it was not her decision, but that of the corporate office. However, the mainstream newspaper was still in the store. After having delivered to Kroger for 10 years, Tate informed Session that he could not continue to place his newspaper in the store, because it was considered solicitation. She told him that it was not her decision, but that of corporate and if he wanted to continue to offer the publication to the store's customers he would have to contact the corporate headquarters in Cincinnati. Session contacted headquarters, but each time he called their corporate office, customer service took a message with the response that someone would give him a call. No one did. The issue became one of many long struggles when you

run a minority publication. "When you have an African American newspaper you fight a lot of battles," Session said. But having to pick her battles, Session decided not to pursue



Walter & Maxine Session

the lost distribution drop and concentrate on moving forward.

During an interview, Tate denied the conversation with Session and suggested that the person to talk to regarding the matter would be Brian Mixon, another store manager. At first, Mixon claimed Kroger Corporate made the decision to stop carrying the African American newspaper. But he quickly retracted his statement and claimed the regional office in Houston would have made the decision. Rather than expound upon the decision, he suggested contacting the consumer affairs office in Dallas.

James Smith, a long-time reader of the Texas Informer newspaper, said he was very concerned when he saw the newspaper was no longer available at the store. He stated that the absence of the newspaper affects the local African American community as well as other ethnicities in the area that read the publication. "Many other groups, Asians and what have you, not just Blacks read the paper," he said.

Other publications, such as The Power Pages News, have reported receiving the same clear message from Kroger that they weren't invited. The publication has served Collin and its surrounding counties for almost 20 years. Publisher and founder Hattie Kelly said that her newspaper has

Other Texas publishers have experienced the same response from Kroger, according to Mollie F. Belt, vice president of the Texas Publisher's Association. Belt is also the publisher and CEO of The Dallas Examiner. Her newspaper doesn't receive any ads from the grocer either. Karen Carter Richards, CEO and publisher of Houston Forward Times, said Kroger flat-out refuses to advertise with any Black newspaper in Houston.

"We don't do any advertising in any African American newspapers," Theresa Bordelon, Kroger's regional hub manager told Judy Foston, HoustonForwardTimes' hub manager. This is not expected to change any time soon. Even though Kroger's is ranked 23rd on the list of Fortune 500 companies, it has no advertising budget allowed for its African American consumers. In 2013, it set aside \$198,058,196 for advertising. Mainstream television stations, newspapers and radio stations received the bulk of the advertising, which is common. It carved out a small portion for other minority media, but refused to include African American media. "However, Blacks spend a \$1 billion

annually in supermarkets, with Kroger being their second choice.

"Are we really invited in their stores?" Belt asked. "Or has the Black community become complacent?" "After so many years of being told No, I've just stayed away. But now I feel it's time to take action as a group," said Kelly, who is the president of TPA.

Forming a united front, the publishers of TPA – representing African American newspapers across Texas – hope to spread their message to their readers. Fifty years ago, one would not expect businesses to invite them in through advertising or carrying products designed for the African American community. Blacks took what they could get because that's the way things were. But the Black community no longer has to accept being left out. TPA suggested that the African American community demand equality from their grocers. Without fear of repercussions, Blacks can ask their managers for products that are designed to meet their needs; write to corporate offices and express their concerns about the lack of advertising geared toward their needs, and printed in the publications they read most; and insist that they carry African American publications in their stores. Furthermore, TPA has suggested that African Americans do business with people who do business with Black businesses.

See Kroger Advertising Budget
Page 8

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Mechere Overstreet, II three month premature miracle baby thriving



Candice Dearman Overstreet, Mechere Overstreet, II and Mechere Overstreet, Sr.

Rusk, TX. - Lil Mikey (Mechere Overstreet, II) born July 3, 2013 weighing a tiny two pounds is nothing short of a miracle baby, says his parents, Mr. & Mrs. Overstreet. He was born three months early with respiratory problems that led him to be hospitalized in Dallas Presbyterian Hospital 4 1/2 months and another month in Children's House at Baylor also in Dallas. "The many trips back and forth to Dallas for Dr. appointments and treatments have not been easy, but he is worth it",

they say. He has been home since December 19, 2013. Although he is on a feeding tube and ventilator, he now weighs 18 1/2 pounds and is doing well. "When man said no, God had a different answer. God gave us this miracle baby and we just want to thank Him, says the Overstreets". We also want to thank our friends and family for all the prayers, phone calls and encouraging words." Grandparents are Larry and Jennifer Dearman and the late David Overstreet and Pearlie Cleaver."



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