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P.O. Box 332
Rusk, Texas 75785

Ira Atkins Hometown Hero Saves a Life Now Needs Support

Fairview Community Opens Newly Constructed Center



Rusk, TX.- In mid August of 2008 Ira Lee Atkins and his uncle Doe-Doe Shears were traveling north of Rusk on highway 110. They were on the way to Elm Grove to attend the Morris family reunion. Entering a curve, they noticed the tremendous swaying of small trees and bushes to the right of them and down a deeply sloped hill.

Ira Lee Atkins (Taylor)

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These citizens of the Fairview Community and surrounding areas gathered in front of the newly constructed Fairview Community Center located at the site of the school that closed in about 1963. Pictured are: Albert Sheppard, Beulah VanZandt Wright, Edna Bradford, Nycole Whitaker, Sanonah Williams, Ed Williams & wife, Sr, Kattie Simon, Cynthia Loftis, Mary Garrett John Garrett, Clay Williams, George Grant, Tracy Harris, Wanda Howard, Gene Crawford & Clara Crawford, Wilton Johnson, Mandie Whitaker, Mable Johnson, Big John & B. J. Henry, Lewis Crawford, John Thompson, John Ozell Polk, Jerry Grant, Wayne Freaney, Dorsie Blanton, Harold Blanton, Lucille Freaney, Ella Johnson, Rachael Grant, Levita Crawford, John Tenner, Homer Sturns, Evelyn Johnson, Janis Freaney, Erby Crawford. (See storypage 3.)

Jury Finds Texas Workforce Commission \$900,000 for Retaliation

Austin, TX. - After a week-long trial in the 353rd District Court of Travis County, the Jury found that the former Texas Commission on Human Rights, now known as the Texas Workforce Commission-Civil Rights Division, illegally retaliated against Marilou Morrison, a former employee of the agency, and returned a jury award totaling \$900,000, with the final award to include front pay, which is still to be determined in the coming weeks by Judge Scott Ozmun. The case received a great deal of notoriety back in 2003 when Ms. Morrison was

Continued page 14

Editorial



Maxine Session

“Mother of the Year” Contest

Mother's Day is Sunday, May 10, 2009, but you can celebrate it any day by letting the mother in your life (wife, aunt, sister, daughter, friend, ect.) know she is loved.

The Informer will hold a “Mother of The Year” contest this year. To enter your mother or some one you know in the contest, write a letter telling why you think she should be mother of the year. The letter can be as long or as short as you need it to be. The deadline for mailing the letter is April 10, 2009.

There were an estimated 82.8 million mothers in the United States in 2004 and that figure is up significantly in 2009.

The following was sent to me recently by my granddaughter, Tiffani. To help you recall days gone by from your childhood and maybe even precious memories of your mother, read on:

MOTHERS

~author Unknown

Real Mothers don't eat quiche; they don't have time to make it.

Real Mothers know that their kitchen utensils are probably in the sandbox.

Real Mothers often have sticky floors, filthy ovens and happy kids.

Real Mothers know that dried play dough doesn't come out of carpets.

Real Mothers don't want to know what the vacuum just sucked up.

Real Mothers sometimes ask 'Why me?' and get their answer when a little voice says, 'Because I love you best.'

Real Mothers know that a child's growth is not measured by height or years or grade... It is marked by the progression of Mommy to Mom to Mother...

The Images of Mother

4 YEARS OF AGE - My Mommy can do anything!

8 YEARS OF AGE - My Mom knows everything!

12 YEARS OF AGE - My Mother doesn't really know everything.

14 YEARS OF AGE - Mother doesn't know much at all.

16 YEARS OF AGE - Mother is hopelessly old-fashioned.

18 YEARS OF AGE - That woman is way out of date!

25 YEARS OF AGE - Well, she might know a little bit!

35 YEARS OF AGE - Before we decide, let's get Mom's opinion.

45 YEARS OF AGE - Wonder what Mom would have thought about it?

65 YEARS OF AGE - Wish I could talk it over with Mom.....

The beauty of a woman is not in the clothes she wears, the figure that she carries, or the way she combs her hair. The beauty of a woman must be seen from in her eyes, because that is the doorway to her heart, the place where love resides. The beauty of a woman is not in a facial mole, but true beauty in a woman is reflected in her soul. It is the caring that she lovingly gives, the passion that she shows, and the beauty of a woman with passing years only grows!

Mother's Day Contest "2009" Texas Informer Mail to P. O. Box 332 Rusk, Texas 75785

To enter your mother or someone you know in the Mother's Day Contest, write a letter telling why you believe she should be Mother of The Year.

The winner will receive a gift certificate and her story and picture will be published.

Please include your telephone number. Send letter to the above address or e-mail>informernews08@aol.com

Letters should be mailed by the deadline April 20, 2009.

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Letter to The Editor

Elizabeth Ross article enjoyed!

Maxine,

You are to be commended on this article on Elizabeth Ross. I went to your website and pulled it up. The entire family is elated and all crying over how beautiful the picture is and the beautiful work you did on it.

Thank you so much.

Viajo, daughter

Rusk People hurting Rusk

Dear Editor,

My family and I come home for holidays, school reunions, family reunions and the Elm Grove 3rd Saturday in August Homecoming.

I can't believe how East Texas is growing by leaps and bounds and Rusk is sitting still... no department stores, the best restaurant is Dairy Queen, and only one decent hotel. Now I hear people are fighting over a wet dry election to sell beer and wine. Like Marvin Gay said, "What's Going On"? Are Rusk people trying to bury Rusk?

Con't page 14

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Fairview center opens at site of old school

~Maxine Session



Buelah Van Zandt Wright, original center Board member



Homer Sturn, Ed Williams, John Tenner & Gene Crawford



Ladies served crowd a delicious lunch in new kitchen following the open house. Rachel Grant, Ella Johnson, Leveta Crawford and Wonda Howard.

Fairview is a populated community located in Rusk County a few miles northeast of Reklaw, Texas.

Saturday March 7, was a historical and long awaited day for the citizens of this community and some who no longer live here but are closely tied to the roots they've planted here.

Clara Crawford, one of the dedicated board members whose volunteer labor helped steer it into reality, recalls it as the culmination of about fourteen years of fundraising, planning, completion of documents and attending meetings.

Bulah VanZandt Wright remembers attending school at the original Fairview School located under the hill to the west of the center on County Road 4247. As a young student on December 7, 1941 she recalls the excitement and uncertainty in people's voices when they discussed the radio announcement that told of the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor. The community was hit hard when many fathers and sons left to fight in that war.

Community historians recall the names of some of those veterans as A. B. Lewis, Amsie Johnson, Artemous Henry, Christian Richison, Curtis Hardeway, Frank Freeney, Frank Thompson, Fres Sullivan, Fred VanZandt, G. H. Punch, Henry Hutchingson, Homer Anderson, J. B. Armstrong, Jessie Windom, Jim Bo McDonald, Jim Freeney, Joe Barnett, Joe Coleman and John F. Reddic. (See others in picture page 15.)

Sometime after the fifties the school was moved to the location of the present community center. It was operated as a public school in the New Salem Common School District until between 1963 and 1965 when intergration caused the students to be bused to Henderson ISD Schools.

The land for the school was originally owned by Bud Sturns and later Sam and Irene Richardson who donated it for the school to be built. The school was the heart of the community, so when it closed members of the community wanted to continue using the facility. A board was organized and on December 13, 1966 what was known as the New Salem Common School was purchased for the sum of \$100.00 by the following trustees: Henry T. Sturns, W. R. Coss, Brooke Dansby, Robert VanZandt and Buelah Wright. This unincorporated organization became known as New Salem Education and Improvement Association.

The facility remained a popular gathering place for family reunions, community celebrations, horse races and fundraiser activities until it burned in 1980. Within two years, a small building was constructed with plans to one day build another larger one.

It remained under the name of New Salem Education and Improvement Association until the only surviving trustee, Bulah Wright signed it over to the corporation known today as the Fairview Community Center, Incorporated on March 1, 2002.

The current board members are Albert Sheppard, President; Irby Crawford, Treasurer; Latoya Waggoner, Secretary; and Clara Crawford, Coordinator. This board consensus is that Clara Crawford was the guiding light and the Girl Friday who lead them through the acquisition of the new facility. She was the one who attended seminars, certification workshops and coordinated meetings for the board to attend.

Clara says that she was in a store in Rusk one day when she spoke with Thurman Hampton. This was about 1995. He knew of their plight to construct a new facility. He was working on a similiar project for the Elm Grove Community School in Cherokee County. He told her of the availability of grant funds for such community endeavors. She informed the board, they took the necessary steps to become incorporated and began the long process of obtaining a grant to put with money they had in the treasury.

"At one point my husband put in \$7,000.00 of our personal money not knowing if we would get it back. Thats just how dedicated we were", stated Mrs. Crawford. In the end, the board was approved for a grant from USDA. The contract to construct the building was closed in June 2008. The 3200 square foot facility was completed February 9, 2009.

People came out in large numbers to open the center. Jerry Grant gave the invocation. Leveta Cradford and Albert Sheppard introduced guest speakers John Tenner and Gene Crawford. Gene Crawford and John Sturns made a presentation to WWII Veterans Edd Williams, Vadis Anderson and Homer Sturns. Clara Crawford gave the Fairview Tribute and Erby Crawford gave the benediction. 2009 Officers are: Albert Sheppard, pres.; Rhonda Franklin, V.P; Latara Waggoner, Sec. and Erby Crawford, Tres.

THE TRUTH CLINIC

President Obama's Trump Card

- The Citizen



James Breedlove

President Barack Obama, just 40 days into his presidency, has revealed to Americans the boldness and breadth of the change he campaigned on. The \$787 billion dollar stimulus legislation and the \$3.6 trillion budget proposal outline policy emphasizing jobs, education, energy and economic equity that marks the biggest ideological shift in Washington since the Reagan administration.

Political battle lines were drawn almost immediately as the new President took control over the reordering of federal priorities to address the realities of the trillion dollar deficit, the financial meltdown, and the economic recession he inherited.

Republicans, still shocked by Obama's November victory, are thumbing through Newt Gingrich's 1993 playbook looking for tips on how to undermine President Obama's political momentum. Representative Eric Cantor of Virginia, the Republican House Whip, said he had studied Mr. Gingrich's years in power and had been in regular touch with him for advice on solidifying Republican resistance to the President's initiatives.

The Republicans and their right-wing allies are unleashing the same misguided propaganda against the Obama administration that they used to inflict damage on the Clinton administration almost immediately as the new President took control over the reordering of federal priorities

to address the realities of the trillion dollar deficit, the financial meltdown, and the economic recession he inherited. In the case of both Clinton and Obama, the Democrats inherited recessions and huge budget deficits from Republican presidents named Bush. Using similar strategies, congressional Republicans rallied against the economic package of the new President in an attempt to stifle any political traction the newly elected administration had garnered.

In a two pronged approach the congressional Republicans attacked the new administration directly while their media allies and covert operatives were busy reviving attack material from the campaigns to sow doubts about the new Democratic presidents and whip up the right-wing base into revolution mode. The Republican machine of division and hate was successful in the congressional elections of 1994 when they regained control of congress. Now, Republicans are stuck with the right-wing media infrastructure that has promoted their conservative based big interests for so long. During the first month of Obama's presidency, normally a honeymoon for a choice but to bet on the ability of their Right-Wing Machine to conjure doubts and hysteria about Obama's religion, birth, and liberalism while hypocritically touting their new found reverence new president, the congressional Republicans fell in line behind Rush Limbaugh's openly declared desire for Obama to fail. Desperate Republicans have little

for the Constitution after eight years of defending Bush's trampling it.

The potential success of Obama's initiatives to bring the country out of its economic Chernobyl and chart a course for the future may be debatable; the Obama resolve is not.

Obama is a brilliant student of governance. He has an innate feel for the intricacies of reforming what has become a flaccid and ineffective self preserving government that is not of, by, or for the people.

During the campaign Barack Obama often expressed his views on the relationship between Americans and their government. Not surprisingly, they were different from those of the other candidates.

His core idea is that citizens are at the center of politics. Campaigning in New Hampshire in 2006, he said, "There's a wonderful saying by Justice Louis Brandeis, that the most important office in a democracy is the office of citizen. All of us have a stake in this government, all of us have responsibilities, and all of us have to step up to the plate."

He illustrated his governance concept in making his campaign maximally participatory by pushing power out into the network of workers and by minimizing the partisan rhetoric. While he is a Democrat he realized that citizens are both liberal and conservative, and they need to work together to solve any serious problems.

Obama had the largest grassroots operation in history and his internet-based political engine inspired millions of supporters to build a new coalition of Americans that would propel him to the White House. But Obama's politics did not consider winning the election as its final

goal; the election was about getting the opportunity to solve problems.

His ideas were not poll-driven concessions designed to win instant points in the current political environment. They were a carefully crafted menu of what needed to be done and could be done when supported by a citizenry that believes that our individual destinies are tied together in a common destiny and that government depends not just on the consent of the governed, but on the service of citizens.

Of late, citizen-voters have found it increasingly difficult, if not impossible to comply with Brandeis' citizen precept. Citizens deprived of relevant information cannot participate in their government's decisions or hold their leaders accountable. Without this check, government officials are more likely to make decisions contrary to the public interest, abuse their authority, and engage in corrupt activities. James Madison warned in 1822, "A popular Government, without popular information, or the means of acquiring it, is but a Prologue to a Farce or a Tragedy; or, perhaps both."

As he steps into the current quagmire President Obama fully understands the implications of Justice Brandeis' quote espousing the importance of the citizen.

James W. Breedlove

Comments or opinions may be sent to the writer at: jaydubub@swbell.net

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A child's smile can last a lifetime

By ROBYN H. JIMENEZ
The Dallas Examiner

Healthy teeth and tooth loss is a different issue when you're 5-years-old than when you're 55-years-old. Yet, good oral hygiene plays a significant role in maintaining good over all physical and mental health, at any age.

Inadequate care can lead to unhealthy teeth and gums, resulting in misalignment, discoloration, gingivitis, tooth decay or an abscess.

Untreated, tooth decay can spread through the enamel and into the pulp, which houses the nerves, causing intense pain. Left untreated, decay can lead to abscess, which can be fatal, according to the Health Professional's Guide to Pediatric Oral Health Management.

Last year, after a 12-year-old in Maryland died due to complications of a tooth infection, reports revealed that, nationwide, about 6.5 million children with tooth decay receiving Children's Medicaid go untreated. However, program requires regular dental visits.

"A lot of people are only driven by discomfort. If their children are not complaining about their teeth, they don't bring them in," said Dr. Donna Barefield, a local pediatric dentist who treats children covered by Children's Medicaid.

Many parents don't realize the importance of proper early care.

"Baby teeth serve a function, not only for appearance, but they contribute to the child's ability to speak clearly, proper nutrition by having teeth to chew, said Barefield.

Also, unhealthy teeth may not be as aesthetically pleasing, according to Barefield. Unhealthy or missing teeth can lower a child's self-image, especially in older children, according to the National Institute of Health. "Children with black spots on their teeth don't want to open their mouth. They keep their head down and don't want to bring attention to

themselves. They aren't going to do as well in school," said Barefield. "Your smile just says so much about how you feel about yourself. Children who feel confident will flash a huge smile. It's a reflection on how they feel about how they look."

Some children inherit or develop dental problems that may cause embarrassment.

"My daughter had gaps in her teeth," said Pam Goodwin, mother of four. "She never really wanted to show her smile. Now she has braces and she can already tell a difference in her bite and everything."

The care of primary teeth can affect permanent teeth and should start during infancy, as suggested by Texas Health Steps, which provides preventive medical and dental checkups for children on Medicaid. It's "Take Time for Teeth" initiative states that infant should be held during bottle-feeding, then clean the gums with a clean damp washcloth.

"The American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry recommends that soon after the first tooth comes in, parents should plan to take their child to see a dentist, and no later than age one. As soon as that first tooth come in they need to start brushing and sending them to the dentist," said Barefield. "For children, dental problems can progress rather quickly, so we like to see them every six months.

Pediatric dentist play a significant role in teaching proper oral care, making the first visit crucial to long-term dental health.

"My son is a special needs child. He's on so much medication that it messes with his teeth. And she [Dr. Barefield] taught me how to take special care of his teeth," said Goodwin.

By age 2, children should begin brushing twice a day with fluoride toothpaste, as recommended by

the American Dental Association.

With proper oral care, children's permanent teeth can remain permanent and healthy.

"It's absolutely possible for teeth to last a life-time. That's why we recommend to parents, as soon as the first tooth comes in, to get the child use to seeing the dentist regularly," said Barefield. "It really does give children an option to keep teeth for a lifetime."

In Texas, more than 2 million children have access to regular dental care through Children's Medicaid and CHIP. The programs, administered by the Texas Health and Human Services Commission, provide low-income children with health-care coverage, including dental checkups twice a year.

These programs provide health coverage for children in families that earn up to 200 percent of the federal poverty level. To apply, visit www.chipmedicaid.org or call 1-877-543-7669.

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Ira Lee Atkins

- HERO *from page 1*

A head of them another vehicle was pulling over to park. They parked behind her and got out. The driver was calling 911 and told them a car ran off the road and rolled down the deep slope. Without thinking, Ira ran down the slope in search of the car. He found it at the bottom of the hill turned upside down in a riverbank.

He heard no sound. After a quick search he saw a young lady under the car. It was on her chest and neck. Ira said all he remembers is that God touched his body and with his right hand he began to rock the car until he was able to lift it with his right hand and with one large heave, pulled her out from under the car with the other. "I turned her on her side and after a few seconds she gasped and began breathing. He had a towel around his neck which he placed over the gash in her neck. The young girl he saved was Caylee Thompson, who just happened to be in the class with his niece and a friend of his daughter.

"I credit all the years of working in health care for helping me automatically know what to do." He said. Ira worked eleven and a half years at REA after graduating Rusk High in 1979, but the past 15 years has worked at first Birmingham Nursing Home and now Alto Nursing Center. He does not think of himself as a hero because like his daddy, the late Clearence Lee Shears, he has always helped anybody who needs help.

Recently Ira Lee was diagnosed with colon cancer. Being ill for months, he was turned away from care at four hospitals because he has no health insurance. He said when he went to Trinity Mother Francis Hospital, they did not turn him away but immediately took measures to save his life. He has undergone four surgeries in the process having a 7 centimeter tumor removed. He is now undergoing chemotherapy and will eventually need more surgery.

His sister brother and mother who is also ill, are giving him the best of care.

The hometown hero now unable to work, needs help from others.

To make a donation toward his medical care and other expenses, donations can be sent to:

Ira Lee Atkins, 209 Hill Street,
Rusk, TX. 75785.

Hollywood's Time East Texas

News & Views

by Billy (Hollywood) Groves



I heard a CNN Reporter say recently that racial hate groups were gaining membership since Barack Obama became president.

The source of the report was the Southern Poverty Law Center group of Alabama which tracks the movement of hate groups like the KKK, Neo Nazis and Skinheads and other groups that make racial hating their mantle. The man giving the report suggested that the bad United States economy might have something to do with it. My take on the subject is that, "I believe racist hate groups, which are basically "home grown terrorists". While I know that there are some people in America who can't accept that an African American man is President of the USA. I can understand that every man has a right to his own opinion; however, when that opinion turns into vindictive acts of law breaking against innocent American citizens, then that is a problem. After the

Civil War, the South came out with the KKK, Jim Crow Laws and other restrictive codes, against African Americans as retaliation for the new freedom and rights of slaves. Many of these unwritten directives carried out in secret meetings right in the heart of many an East Texas town.

I see the increase in racist hate groups as a modern day attempt by racists to undermine President Obama's tenure as the leader of our great nation. From the history of this great nation we know that they threaten and will do harm to anybody of any race who goes against them. I believe the only way to combat the rising threat of these groups is to expose them to the American public.

If you know of any illegal activity or threatening behavior by racist groups, then please let the U. S. Department of Justice and our new Attorney General Eric Holder know about them. The Department of Justice at the U. S. Attorney General's Office address is 950 Pennsylvania Avenue, North West Room 4400, Washington D. C. 20530-0001. The telephone number is: 202-514-2000; Fax 202-307-6777 and the e-mail address, askhoj@us.doj.gov. This is the new America and we must let the Obama administration know what is really going on in grass root communities in our nation. God

Bless America, Africa and the rest of the world.

Dr. Brenda Groves Atchison of Waco, Crockett native, was recently elected to the Greater Waco Chamber of Commerce Board. She is married to the Rev. Delvin Atchinson, pastor of Antioch Baptist Church of Waco and she works at McLennan County College and at the church. Dr. Achison started her career in Crockett. Her husband was pastor of Bethel Baptist Church of Crockett. They helped make Crockett a better place to live while they were there.

Family and friends threw an 80th birthday party for Sis. Earlie Groves recently at the Winfield Nursing Center Activity room. I asked Sis. Groves what she thought about the party. "I am excited and very pleased with everything that occurred on my birthday", She said. And I give God the credit for my longevity." An astounding rendition of "You Are So Beautiful" was played and sung by Dr. Ruth Groves Watson in dedication to her mother. Retired educator, Lavern Brown, sister of Sis. Groves, played the piano and entertained the guests. She was also presented with gifts, cards and letters from family members. Dr. Ruth Watson of Houston, Dr. Ianthia Fisher, of Crockett, Dr. Helen King of Huntsville,

Victoria Essien of Houston, Dr. Brenda Achison of Waco, all daughters of Sis. Groves and their families were in attendance.

Others attending the birthday party were George King, Elouise Wooten, Agnes Rhoder, Sue Murray, Mrs. Hollingsworth, Thomas Essien, Crystal Williams, Margeaux Fisher, Henry and Lola Reece, Martin Essien, Rayford Cotton, Easter Mae and Mickey Pace, Sis. Berry, Natalia Robbins and numerous residents of the center.

Tallie Cooper, AKA T. C. the Great of Dallas did a masterful job of rapping an opening at a rap concert in Hope, Arkansas recently according to Mike "Heavy Love" Jones of Crockett. Heavy Love went on to say that T. C. the Great performed his hit songs *Champion 40 Thousand* to a very appreciative audience. The concert was promoted by Promoter Texas Black Diamond of Houston. Mr. 3-2, The 5th Ward Boys and Mr. Bald Head of Houston headlined the show. For more information go to My Space. millenniumstarrecords.com. An East Texas thanks go out to those attending Sis. Groves birthday party Jimmy Fisher and Dead End Barbershop. This column sponsored by Customer's Choice of Crockett Chris and Lynn Martinez Managers.

Susan Combs Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts

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First African American Female Flight Crew Makes History



Captain Rachelle Jones, First Officer Stephanie Grant, and flight attendants Diana Galloway and Robin Rogers

NAACP Files Landmark Lawsuit Against Wells Fargo and HSBC

The NAACP recently filed separate lawsuits in U.S. District Court in California against two of the country's largest lenders, Wells Fargo, and HSBC. These lawsuits allege systematic, institutionalized racism in sub-prime home mortgage lending. The remedies being asked for in the lawsuit include measures for increased accountability and transparency. According to the lawsuits, African American homeowners who received sub-prime mortgage loans from these lenders were more than 30 percent more likely to be issued a higher rate loan than Caucasian borrowers with the same qualifications. Other studies cited in the lawsuits demonstrate that disparities are pervasive. In fact, upper income African Americans are more than twice as likely to receive higher cost loans as their lower income white counterparts. The National Community Reinvestment Coalition's most recent study finds that discrimination against minorities persists in mortgage lending. The Federal Reserve Board, U.S. Department

of Housing and Urban Development and the FDIC have all made similar observations. "It is time for these lenders to be held accountable," said NAACP President Benjamin Todd Jealous, "We look forward to forcing real change and real relief through this lawsuit."

"These banks are getting billions in bailout money yet think that they can get away with business as usual," said Austin Tighe, co-lead counsel for the NAACP. "Predatory lending policies and practices are legally actionable, morally reprehensible, and fiscally irresponsible." These two new lawsuits raise the same claims as pending litigation by the NAACP against other mortgage industry leaders.

Lenders named in this pending litigation include Accredited Home Lenders, Inc., Ameriquest Mortgage Co., Bear Stearns Residential Mortgage Corp. d/b/a Encore Credit, Chase Bank USA, Citimortgage, First Franklin Financial Corp., First Tennessee Bank d/b/a First Horizon National Corp., Fremont Investment

Con't page 15

Staff Writer

By the time most little girls and boys get to second or third grade they can tell the adults around them what they want to be when they grow up. For these young ladies, their dream has come true.

When Captain Rachelle Jones, First Officer Stephanie Grant and flight attendants Diana Galloway and Robin Rogers boarded their flight on Thursday, February 12, 2009 they found that they were about to make history as the first African American all female flight crew. The flight was Atlantic Southeast Airlines 5202 from Atlanta to Nashville and flight 5106 from Nashville back to Atlanta.

African American women continue to demonstrate professionalism, intelligence and unlimited potential as they contribute to the overall struggle for unlimited freedom, access and opportunity in America.

Atlantic Southeast Airlines President Brad Holt issued the following statement: "Not only are these women gifted in their professions, but they set examples for young people across the country that with hard work, passion and determination, the sky is the limit."

Happy 3rd Birthday!!!!

Estebiana J' Nae Arrington

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Marcus Carter Motivational Speaker Rusk Intermediate



Marcus Carter was the motivational speaker February 20th for Rusk Intermediate School students in observance of Black History Month. He was introduced by Carlene Clayton, Principal. He encouraged the students along the lines of character and academic responsibility to themselves and others.

Marcus also told students of his personal educational and career goal accomplishments and those of family members and classmates who graduated from Rusk High School along with him.

Presently Marcus is employed with the City of Houston as Director of the Southwest Regional Community Recreational Centers where more that 3000 participants take part in the programs each season. He is also the owner of Sportsaholic, a sports recreational program that helps urban youth.

He is a 1999 Rusk High graduate and a graduate of Sam Houston State University. He and his wife Krystal live in Houston.

Happy Birthday (Muffie) Terri!

March 17th From

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Tracey Session CCB Man of Year files for RISD Board Seat



Tracey Session has filed for a seat on the Rusk Independent School District Board of Trustees. The election will take place on Saturday, May 9, 2009 with early voting beginning April 25th.

Tracey is a 1984 graduate of Rusk High School and is a Licensed Vocational Nurse receiving his college education at Tyler Junior College. He is employed with Texas Department of Criminal Justice for the past 13 years. Prior to TDCJ he was employed with Rusk State Hospital 12 and a half years.

He was born and raised in the Woodville Community of Rusk and has been married to Lisa Session the past twenty years. They have three children attending school in Rusk ISD. Jayla is a pre-K student, Derrick a Kindergartener and Lilly a first grader. All three attend Rusk Primary School.

"I am running for a seat on the board because I want to become a part of the team that helps ensure that Rusk ISD Children have the best educational opportunity of any school in the state of Texas", Tracey Said.

Tracey was chosen Cherokee Brotherhood Association "Man of the Year 2009" for his active community involvement. He is a Mentor at Rusk Junior High, coaches Little Dribblers and T-Ball, is a member of Woodville Community Center Association, Woodville Cemetery Association and Pleasant Holly Presbyterian Church where he is an ordained Elder.

Tracy is the grandson of Lester Session of Woodville Community Rusk and the late Annie Session.

Quinn Anthony signs with Northwestern University



L - R Quinn Anthony, Rusk ISD Senior, Angela Anthony, standing Vester Tilley.

Quinn Anthony, Rusk High School Senior All District defensive lineman, has signed with Northwestern University for a full four year scholarship. His Mom, Angela Anthony, stated, "We're so excited. This is the moment we have prepared for the past four years." Quinn has an outstanding record as a Rusk Eagle. He is a Two-Star Recruit second team All East Texas player. Senior year he had 30 tackles for a loss, 4 forced fumbles, 6 tumble recoveries and 16 sacks. Quinn's career tackles totals: 63 solo, 103 assists, played offensive line as a sophomore and junior. Eagles were 8-4 his sophomore season and reached second round of state playoffs.

Quinn was also a regional qualifier in track and field lettering in basketball and in baseball. He has maintained a 3.33 academic grade point average. He is the son of Angela Anthony and Vester Tilley.

Quinn stated, "I have been active in athletics all four of my high school years. I appreciate all the help my high school coaches have given me and the support my parents and other family members have given me. I plan to go to Northwestern University in the fall and make them all proud."

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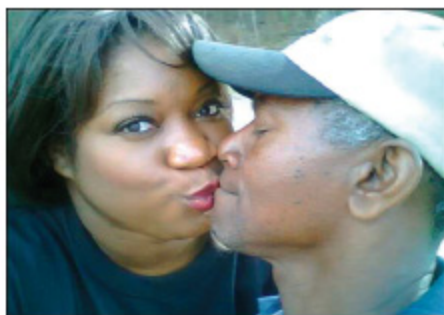
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Tipps - Grant to Wed

Wedding



Reklaw, TX.- Christine Arlynda Tipps and George Edward Grant announce their engagement and approaching marriage. The couple plan a sunset wedding at 7:30PM on Friday, June 19, 2009 at the Castle on the Lake Jacksonville, Texas. The bride is the daughter of Lestene Tipps. The groom is the son of Alma Grant. The couple will make their home in the Fairview Community, Reklaw, Texas. She is employed at the University of Texas Medical Branch Correctional Managed Care at B. Moore & Bradshaw Correctional Facilities as Health Services Administrator. She received a Master of Business Administration from LeTourneau University. The groom works for Walmart Corporation as an instore remodeling crewman. He graduated from Henderson High School and attended El Centro College Dallas, Texas.

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Krystal Ward Carter

- 11) National Assoc. of Black Journalists Scholarships (NABJ) <http://www.nabj.org/html/studentsvcs.html>
- 12) Saul T. Wilson Scholarships (Veterinary) <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/mb/mrphr/jobs/stw.html>
- 13) Thurgood Marshall Scholarship Fund http://www.thurgoodmarshallfund.org/sk_v6.cfm
- 14) FinAid: The Smart Students Guide to Financial Aid scholarships) <http://www.finaid.org/>
- 15) Presidential Freedom Scholarships <http://www.nationalservice.org/scholarships/>
- 16) Microsoft Scholarship Program <http://www.microsoft.com/college/scholarships/minority.asp>
- 17) WiredScholar Free Scholarship Search http://www.wiredscholar.com/paying/scholarship_search/pay_scholarship_search.jsp
- 18) Hope Scholarships & Lifetime Credits <http://www.ed.gov/inits/hope/>
- 19) William Randolph Hearst Endowed Scholarship for Minority Students <http://www.apsanet.org/PS/grants/asp3.cfm>
- 20) Multiple List of Minority Scholarships <http://gehon.ir.miami.edu/financial-assistance/Scholarship/black.html>
- 21) Guaranteed Scholarships <http://www.guaranteed-scholarships.com/>
- 22) BOEING scholarships (some HBCU connects) <http://www.boeing.com/companyoffices/educationrelations/scholarships>
- 23) Easley National Scholarship Program <http://www.naas.org/senior.htm>
- 24) Maryland Artists Scholarships <http://www.maef.org/>
- 26) Jacki Tuckfield Memorial Graduate Business Scholarship (for AA students in South Florida) <http://www.jackituckfield.org/>
- 27) Historically Black College & University Scholarships <http://www.iesabroad.org/info/hbcu.htm>
- 28) Actuarial Scholarships for Minority Students <http://www.beanactuary.org/minority/scholarships.htm>
- 29) International Students Scholarships & Aid Help <http://www.iefaf.org/>
- 43) HBCU Packard Sit Abroad Scholarships (for study around the world)

- 30) College Board Scholarship Search <http://cbweb10p.collegeboard.org/fundfinder/html/fundfind01.html>
- 31) Burger King Scholarship Program <http://www.bkscholars.csfa.org/>
- 32) Siemens Westinghouse Competition <http://www.siemens-foundation.org/>
- 33) GE and LuLac Scholarship Funds <http://www.lulac.org/Programs/Scholar.html>
- 34) CollegeNet > \> s Scholarship Database <http://mach25.collegenet.com/cgi-bin/M25/index>
<http://www.paralegals.org/Choice/>

- 35) Union Sponsored Scholarships and Aid <http://www.aflcio.org/scholarships/scholar.htm>
- 36) Federal Scholarships & Aid Gateways 25 Scholarship Gateways from Black Excel <http://www.blackexcel.org/25scholarships.htm>
- 37) Scholarships and Fellowships <http://www.osc.cuny.edu/sep/links.html>
- 42) Scholarships for Study in Paralegal Studies

If you have questions and need my help e.mail me at > krystal_ward@hotmail.com

Rep. Hopson Announces Stimulus Weatherization Plan

Between \$240 to \$350 Million will come to Texas

Austin, TX.-According to Rep. Chuck Hopson, up to \$345 million will come to Texas for home weatherization as a result of the Federal Economic Stimulus plan recently passed by Congress and signed by President Obama.

A maximum of \$6,500 per home will go to weatherizing homes which meet the program guidelines. These dollars will not only immediately put out of work contractors and their employees back to upgrading houses, but it will also have the secondary effects of making thousands of homes more energy efficient and cutting dollars off monthly utility bills.

"The construction industry has been one of the hardest hit by this recession," said Rep. Hopson. "This money will immediately put contractors back to work, which is what our State and our economy desperately need right now." will distribute the money to the contractors qualified to perform

Between \$240 to \$350 million will come from the US Department of Energy through the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs to the Greater East Texas Community Action Program (GETCAP), which weatherization projects. The local agency will also be responsible for selecting the applicants whose homes will be weatherized. "I strongly urge all homeowners to contact GETCAP to see if they qualify for these services," added Rep. Hopson. "I also recommend that our local contractors contact the agency and see if their business could qualify for these weatherization funds." Should you have any questions about the application process, Cherokee, Rusk and Houston counties please visit <http://www.tdhca.state.tx.us/ea/wap.htm>, or contact GETCAP at (936) 564-2491. Panola County residents can visit the same website or contact Tri-County Community Action, Inc. at (936) 598-6315.

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OBITUARIES

Benjamin Franklin Davis

Sept. 3, 1939 - Feb. 5, 2009

Jacksonville, TX. - Funeral services for Benjamin Franklin Davis were held Saturday, February 14, 2009 - Pastor Benjamin Davis Jr. was born to the late Benjamin Davis Sr. and Froncell Johnson Davis in Dwason, Texas September 3, 1939. He was minister of God 28 years and Pastor of Cornerstone Baptist Church Jacksonville Texas. He met and married Betty Davis July 10, 1984. He departed his life Thursday February 5, 2009. He leaves to cherish his memories, a loving devoted wife Betty Davis. Also 3 sons, Rodney Clayborne, of Jacksonville Tx- Freddy Sanders of Iwoa Park, Tx- Matthew Davis, of Rusk, Tx. 1 daughter Michele Summers(Harvey) of Jacksonville, Tx. 2 step sons, Joseph Davis(Tony) of Murray Kentucky,- Mathais Davis of Frankston, Tx. 1 step daughter, Leslie Toombs (Aaron) of Frankston, Tx. 13 grandchildren and 1 great grandchild. 1 brother, James Davis of Temple, Tx. 2 sisters. Elsie Campbell LA, California- Kitty Burrell of Jacksonville Tx. Extended family, Tommy and Jerry Aldrige, Mike Aldrige, and Kurt Aldrige. 3 sisters proceeded him in death, Carrie Burns, Jessie Filmore, and Bobby Davis. 2 brothers proceeded him in death, Albert Sessions and Johnie Davis. Long life friends are Rev. Jimmy Parson, Lewis Session, John Cummings, Willie Clayborne, and Bobby Boykin. Roy Walker of San Diego, California formerly of Jacksonville, Texas

passed away December 2, 2008.

Roy was born to the late Ethan and Trudie Cary Walker February 20, 1945 in Jacksonville, Texas. He grew up in Jacksonville and graduated from Fred Douglass High School in 1963. He enlisted in the United States Army in 1965. He was a veteran of the Viet Nam War and spent twenty years in the US Army before retiring in Frankfort Germany.

He was united in holy matrimony with Margaret Smith. They had one son.

Later he moved to San Diego, California and was married to Theresia Marie Harris.

Growing up in Jacksonville, Mr. Walker was a member of New Hope Baptist Church. after relocating to San Diego, he joined with Mt. Ervin Baptist Church and was an active member of the community male chorus.

He was preceded in death by his parents, two sisters Glenda Walker Brooks and Ruth H. Walker, and brother-in-law Henry Garner.

Survivors are his wife Theresia M. Walker of San Diego; son Roy Anthony (Jeanette) Walker of Dallas; five granddaughters: twinn brother Troy (Margaret) Walker of San Diego; sister Ethel J. Garner(the late Henry Garner) Jacksonville; brother-in-laws: Edward Brooks Tyler, Texas, Lawrence Andrewa Milwaukee and the Rev. Earl Jones of Gary, Indiana. Services were held at New Hope Baptist Church Jacksonville in December and interment was Ragsdale Cemetery under the directions of Community Funeral Home, Jacksonville, Texas.

Roy Walker

Black Soldiers in World War II fought enemies at home and abroad

As the U.S. government called for volunteers to the Army and defense industries at the beginning of World War II, thousands of black Americans came forward and volunteered. African-American soldiers and civilians fought a two-front battle during World War II. There was the enemy overseas, and the enemy at home, prejudice and racism.

In small town America most left home and families seeing at night by the coal oil lamp light and living in homes where running water and indoor plumbing were withheld from their segregated section of town.

As soldiers they were fighting the world's worst racist, Adolph Hitler, in the world's most segregated army," says historian and National Geographic explorer Stephen Ambrose. "The irony did not go unnoticed."

The first group of African-American fighter pilots trained during World War II were known as the Tuskegee Airmen. They trained at a segregated base in Tuskegee, Alabama.

Although they joined the Army to help defend the country, black soldiers were assigned to service units supervised by white officers who often gave them duties as cargo handlers or cooks. During World War I, black scholar W.E.B. DuBois wrote a controversial editorial asking that the black and white armies "close ranks," and set aside their "special grievances for the rest of the war and work for victory alongside their white fellow Americans." But DuBois' words

fell on deaf ears.

After much urging from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), in 1941 the War Department formed the all-black 99th Pursuit Squadron of the U.S. Army Air Corps (later the Air Force) to train a small group of pilots. They trained at Tuskegee, Alabama, and became known as the Tuskegee Airmen. The group flew important supply and service missions in North Africa and Europe beginning in 1943.

Black soldiers were generally restricted from combat, but the realities of war would soon blur the lines of race. One major breakthrough came during the Battle of the Bulge, in late 1944, says Ambrose.

General Dwight D. Eisenhower, faced with Hitler's advancing army on the Western Front, temporarily desegregated the army, calling for urgent assistance on the front lines. More than 2,000 black soldiers volunteered to fight.

Similarly, demands in Italy called the Tuskegee Airmen to action. In 1944 they began flying with white pilots in the European theatre, successfully running bombing missions and becoming the only U.S. unit to sink a German destroyer. African-American women also fought to serve in the war effort as nurses. Despite early protests that black nurses treating white soldiers would not be appropriate, the War Department relented, and the first group of African-American nurses in the Army Nurse Corps arrived in England in 1944.

On the homefront, the U.S. government desperately needed workers to fill newly created Executive Order 9981, which desegregated the army and the civilian government.

With the stroke of a pen, Truman struck a major blow to segregation in the United States. Truman's actions did not end segregation, however. Schools, public transportation, restaurants, and drinking fountains continued to be marked "colored" or "white."

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LANGSTON HUGHES

~by Suzzane Steed

Langston Hughes, born February 1, 1902 and died May 22, 1967, was an American poet, novelist, playwright, short story writer, and columnist. Hughes is known for his work during the Harlem Renaissance.



Hughes's parents were mixed-race; Langston was of African American, European American and Native American descent growing up in the African-American Community. After the separation of his parents, young Langston was raised mainly by his maternal grandmother in Kansas. Through the black American oral tradition and drawing from the activist experiences of her generation, she instilled in Langston a lasting sense of racial pride. After her death Hughes lived in Illinois and Ohio. Later he lived with his father in Mexico and then to Columbia to study engineering. He spent time in Paris and then returned to Washington, D.C. to live with his mother. He enrolled in Lincoln University in Pennsylvania and graduated in 1929, then moved to New York. Hughes lived in Harlem as his primary home for the remainder of his life. At the age of 65 he died and his ashes are interred beneath a floor medallion within the Arthur Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture in Harlem. The floor medallion is an African cosmogram titled Rivers. The title is taken from the poem: The Negro Speaks of Rivers by Hughes.

I've known rivers;

I've known rivers ancient as the world and older than the Flow of human blood in human veins,
My soul has grown deep like the rivers.

I bathed in the Euphrates when dawns were young.

I built my hut near the Congo and it lulled me to sleep

I looked upon the Nile and raised the pyramids above it.

I heard the singing of the Mississippi when Abe Lincoln

Went down to New Orleans, and I've seen its muddy

Bosom turn all golden in the sunset.

I've known rivers:

Ancient, dusky rivers.
My soul has grown deep like the rivers.

According to Joyce A. Joyce (The Furious Flowering of African American Poetry) Hughes used the water or the river as a metaphor for the source of life, the poem traces the movement of black life from the Euphrates and Nile rivers in Africa to the Mississippi. Hughes subtly couches his admonishment of slavery and racism in the refrain

"My soul has grown deep like the rivers." In the line, "Ancient as the world and older than the flow of human blood in human veins", the poet here identifies himself and his blackness with the first human beings. Following the reference to Mississippi, New Orleans, and Abe Lincoln, and at the end of the poem he repeats "My soul has grown deep like the rivers" suggesting that he is no longer the same man who "bathed in the Euphrates" and "built his hut near the Congo."

He is now a black man who has experienced the pain of slavery and racism, and his soul now bears the imprint of these experiences.

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Dr. Richard Berry, provost and vice president for academic affairs, the new program is part of SFA's efforts to increase enrollment and support the state's "Closing the Gaps" initiative.

"We want to motivate students who may think college is out of reach to apply at SFA," said Dr. Richard Berry, provost and vice president for academic affairs. "This is an investment the university is willing to make."

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. Auditions (except for Band students) are slated for April 4th, 2009, at 10:00 am in Wise Cultural Arts room 201. You should be prepared to sing one solo and complete a short sight-reading exercise. If you are interested in Harmony and Understanding there is also a dance audition, and you may sing a popular piece.

For more information, please contact Nathan Russell, professor/director of choral activities, at nrus@tjc.edu or (903) 510-3265.

For Apache Belle Scholarship Information please contact: Ruth Flynn at rfly@tjc.edu

For Dance Scholarship Information please contact: Jennifer Mondani Bailey at jbai@tjc.edu

What's Cook'in Quick & Easy Chess Pie

Approx. 8 servings

1 1/2 cups of sugar
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2 eggs
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2 tablespoons of flour
1 tablespoon cornmeal
pinch of salt
1 teaspoon vanilla
1 teaspoon white vinegar
1 teaspoon whiskey
pastry for single-crust-9-inch pie

Preheat the oven to 400 degrees F. In a large bowl, cream the sugar and butter and blend in the eggs. Add the milk, flour, cornmeal, salt, vanilla, vinegar, and whiskey, blending well after each addition. Line a 9-inch pie plate with the pastry. Pour the filling into the crust. Bake for 10 mins. Reduce the temperature to 350 degrees F and bake for about 30 mins more, or until a knife inserted in the center comes out clean.

The City of Rusk, Texas

The city of Rusk provides street light service to citizens. Those who would like to report street light outage may report the location and pole number to the following numbers.

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Ms. J's 411

Ferlich July Arrington



Black Women Care for Others and Ignore Their Own Health

Black women are the nurturers and the very foundation of the black family. They doctor, care and comfort everyone from newborns to grandparents, yet they have the worst health status of any group. Most people think breast cancer is the number one killer of black women, yet, it is the fifth leading cause. Heart disease, and its related illnesses, is the number one killer of black women. It is 1.4 times higher than that of White women; 2.1 times higher than that of Latino women. Most experts say there have been

no long-range studies to indicate precisely why.

The ten biggest killers of Black women are in order heart disease, cancer, stroke, AIDS, accidents, homicide, diabetes, pneumonia and influenza, chronic pulmonary diseases such as asthma and bronchitis, and infant mortality.

These diseases change the landscape of the Black community by prematurely taking away the mothers, grandmothers, sisters and daughters who are at the foundation of so many families.

Fortunately, experts say, with regular checkups and simple changes in lifestyle and nutrition, many of these health threats can be avoided.

If you have not scheduled your physical, PAP exam, Mamogram etc. within the past year, for the sake of those you love and your own well-being, please do so now!

Start a list of questions to ask your doctor and keep it in your purse. Take it with you to your next visit.

Until next time, take care.

Texas Workforce

Continued from page 1

fired. Ms. Morrison, a white female, had complained that the management of the TCHR was engaging in discrimination against its black and Hispanic employees, hiring unqualified white employees, an absence of cause findings of discrimination in its investigations, bigoted and insensitive remarks made about African-Americans at staff meetings, and retaliation against the employees who were attempting to bring these issues to the management's attention. Ms. Morrison, having not received any reasonable response to her complaints, went on to complain directly to the Commissioners in a public meeting after the Commissioners had specifically promised Ms. Morrison that she would not suffer retaliation for her communications to them. Only one month later, despite having received the highest possible evaluation of "exceeds performance Witnesses testified during trial that Powell had standards" in all categories, and a two-step merit increase only four months earlier, Ms. Morrison was fired from her job for the false

allegation that she had engaged in a "severe act of threat and intimidation" of her manager, who was 16 years her junior and trained in military combat. informed them that he did not want any cause cases during his tenure, and that the only investigator to find a cause case during his tenure, Kirven Powers, was terminated shortly after doing so. TCHR had also fought Ms. Morrison's entitlement to unemployment benefits, and it refused her an appearance before the Commissioners to address her firing as provided by their own policies and the Texas Open Meetings Act. Ms. Morrison, reacting to the jury verdict, stated, "I am so pleased that I finally had my day in court and that a jury of my peers heard the evidence and agreed with what I have known all this time, that I am a professional, that my complaints were real."

Ms. Morrison had contended that her supervisors, Vickie Covington and David Powell, retaliated against her by fabricating a story and making false accusations against her. Ms. Morrison was represented

LEGAL NOTICE

These Texas Lottery Commission Scratch-Off games will close on March 9, 2009.

You have until September 5, 2009, to redeem any tickets for these games:

- Game #803 Cash Celebration (\$1) Overall Odds are 1 in 3.15
- Game #1067 Hot Streak! (\$7) Overall Odds are 1 in 3.98
- Game #1073 World Poker Tour® (\$5) Overall Odds are 1 in 3.92
- Game #1082 Lucky Dice Doubler (\$2) Overall Odds are 1 in 4.59
- Game #1085 King Tut's Treasures (\$5) Overall Odds are 1 in 4.29
- Game #1097 Bonus Cashword (\$3) Overall Odds are 1 in 3.18
- Game #1109 Cherry Doubler (\$1) Overall Odds are 1 in 4.97
- Game #1113 Wild 7s (\$1) Overall Odds are 1 in 4.42

These Texas Lottery Commission Scratch-Off games will close on March 23, 2009.

You have until September 19, 2009, to redeem any tickets for these games:

- Game #797 Bonus Break The Bank (\$5) Overall Odds are 1 in 3.23
- Game #1042 9's In A Line (\$1) Overall Odds are 1 in 4.80
- Game #1098 Jewels Of The Nile (\$5) Overall Odds are 1 in 3.98
- Game #1117 Holiday Package (\$3) Overall Odds are 1 in 3.79
- Game #1119 \$250 Christmas Club (\$1) Overall Odds are 1 in 4.78

This Texas Lottery Commission Scratch-Off game will close on March 30, 2009.

You have until September 26, 2009, to redeem any tickets for this game:

- Game #1106 Mega Jumbo Bucks (\$10) Overall Odds are 1 in 3.75

The odds listed here are the overall odds of winning any prize in a game, including break-even prizes. Lottery retailers are authorized to redeem prizes of up to and including \$500. Prizes of \$500 or more must be claimed in person at a Lottery Claim Center or by mail with a completed Texas Lottery claim form, however, annuity prizes or prizes over \$500,000 must be claimed in person at the Commission Headquarters in Austin. Call Customer Service at 1-800-375-LOTTO or visit the Lottery Web site at www.tdlottery.org for more information and location of nearest Claim Center. The Texas Lottery is not responsible for lost or stolen tickets, or for tickets lost in the mail. Tickets, transactions, players, and winners are subject to, and players and winners agree to abide by, all applicable laws, Commission rules, regulations, policies, directives, instructions, conditions, procedures, and final decisions of the Executive Director. A Scratch-Off game may continue to be sold even when all the top prizes have been claimed. Must be 18 years of age or older to purchase a Texas Lottery ticket. PLAY RESPONSIBLY. The Texas Lottery Supports Texas Education. © 2009 Texas Lottery Commission. All Rights Reserved.



It's good to be a
Christian and know it,
but it's better to be a Christian
and show it!

Letters to the Editor con't from page 1.

Come on people! A glass of wine with dinner never hurt nobody except when they have to drive to Cuney, Palestine or Douglass to get it. It's a waste of gas to do that.

I hope when I come home this summer I can buy my beer in Rusk and not have to take up traveling space bringing it from Houston.

D. Glenn
Houston, Texas

Enjoyed the February Editorial

Dear Mrs. Session,
I am a masters level history major attending University of Texas at Tyler. I have completed my second book and have submitted it for publication.

I just want you to know I enjoyed your February Editorial, "Is There A Need For Black History Month?" I enjoy reading the Informer and would enjoy submitting articles for the Informer each month. I have included my information.

N. White
Palestine, Texas

by Austin attorneys Gary Bledsoe and Robert Notzon. "Ms. Morrison has been vindicated," Mr. Notzon said. "This jury spoke loudly and clearly that the allegations against her were lies, purely and simply.

Ms. Morrison is, and has always been, the dedicated and selfless public servant that she was prior to her termination." Gary Bledsoe stated, "This is not just a victory for Marilou, but for the people of Texas. It is our hope that the Commission and the Legislature will look at this verdict and decide that major changes must be made at the Texas Commission on Human Rights which is now the Texas Workforce Commission, Civil Rights Division."

"Civil rights are being held hostage in Texas. Ms. Morrison is a whistle blower and a hero, and the jury has vindicated her for her earlier admonitions that the fox was in charge of the hen house. It has been a privilege to represent such a fine person." Her attorneys says.

Faces From The Past

World War II Veterans



L to R - Porter Rettic, Robert Freaney, Ed Williams, M. T. Sheppard, Willie Rogers, W. P. Starks, Artemos Henry, Morris Sturns, Frank Thompson, Unknown, Fred Sullivan, Thelma Sheppard and Henry Hutchigson. These World War II Veterans returned home after the war and attended the V. A. School classes which were held at the original old Fairview School located under the hill west of where the community center is located now. This picture was taken in a pasture near the school in 1948.

NAACP Lawsuit

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& Loan, GMAC Mortgage Group, LLC, GMAC ResCap, Long Beach Mortgage and Sun Trust Mortgage. "Lenders named in the suits, on average, made high cost sub-prime loans to higher qualified African Americans 54 percent of the time, compared to 23 percent of the time for Caucasians," said NAACP Interim General Counsel Angela Ciccolo. "Our lawsuit aims to change the policies and practices which lead to those results." Earlier this year a federal court denied a joint motion filed by those defendants seeking

to dismiss the lawsuit. The court denied that motion, finding that the NAACP had standing to bring the lawsuit, and that it had adequately stated its claims for the lawsuit to proceed. The lenders will now be required to turn over information and documents regarding their mortgage policies and practices. One lender has already entered into a preliminary settlement agreement with the NAACP, and a number of other lenders are engaged in similar discussions. Those settlement discussions are being mediated by the Honorable John K. Trotter, a former Justice on the California Court of Appeals. Representing the NAACP is its

Interim General Counsel Angela Ciccolo in Baltimore, Maryland; Brian Kabateck and Richard Kellner of Kabateck Brown Kellner in Los Angeles, California; Austin Tighe of Feazell & Tighe, L.L.P. Gary Bledsoe of Law Offices of Gary Bledsoe & Associates, both in Austin, Texas and Daniel Covich of Webb, Cason and Covich in Corpus Christi, Texas. Founded in 1909, the NAACP—the nation's oldest, largest and most widely-recognized grassroots-based civil rights organization—is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year. Its more than half-million members and supporters throughout the United States and the

Black Soldiers

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Defense jobs and factory positions were left open by soldiers who had left to fight. More than two million African Americans went to work for defense plants, and another two million joined the federal civil service. As these new opportunities drew more and more African Americans into cities, they opened the way for economic mobility. Civil rights leaders such as A. Philip Randolph saw the unique situation created by World War II and the acute need for workers as an opportunity to demand equality.

In 1941 Randolph threatened President Roosevelt with a 100,000-person march on Washington, D.C., to protest job discrimination. In response, Roosevelt issued Executive Order 8802, prohibiting discrimination in defense jobs or the government. As the war dragged on, it affected American society at nearly every level. It shook up society and disrupted old patterns of social and economic segregation inferior role.

"Black Americans made a significant contribution to the war effort at home and abroad," says Ambrose. "It started to make American society take a look at the racism that existed here and feel ashamed of their attitudes." After the war ended, A. Philip Randolph, with the support of civil rights organizations including the NAACP, continued to fight for equal rights for servicemen. Thus the beginning of the Civil Rights movement came shortly afterwards.

world are the premier advocates for civil rights in their communities, conducting voter mobilization and monitoring equal opportunity in the public and private sectors.

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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 Nebraska Running Back, 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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