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page 7

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TEXAS INFORMER

March 2011
Volume XII, Number 9

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P.O. Box 332
Rusk, Texas 75785

Crockett Chosen to unveil State African American Brochure

Crockett has been chosen by the State of Texas and Texas Forest Trail as one of the 10 cities to unveil the State African-American Brochure. Several events are planned. Texas Forest Trail represents 35 counties from NorthEast to SouthEast Texas, and especially with budget cut proposals, this is an extremely important event for us to show off what the Heritage Trails program does for Texas.

Event Date: Saturday, March 26, 2011

Time: events starting at noon
1:00 pm: Opening Ceremony/Unveiling (we have invited the Buffalo Soldiers to present the colors)

2:00 pm: Willia Wooten will present a story of African American Heritage through spirituals sung acapella, stating that in slave days there was no music in the fields.

2:45 pm: Vivian Grant—presentation of poetry

3:30 pm: Pip/Guy Gillette with Camp Street Café will perform a Blues Series
5:00 pm: Doors close

6:00 pm: Doors open for concert

7:00 pm: Stephen Pride Concert with Curtis Lovejoy Band backup. Stephen Pride is Charlie Pride's brother and was very interested in the unveiling itself. During the day there will be

See African American Brochure page 7

Lawsuit Challenges Rusk ISD Policy and Procedure

Rusk, TX.- The disciplining of two Rusk ISD students has landed the district in court to defend a lawsuit. The suit was filed in state court by attorneys for the students and their parents following the suspension of and placement of the students in the district's alternative education program without holding a district placement committee hearing with parents invited to attend. This is alleged by the parents to be a violation of their children's 14th amendment civil rights alleging

Disparity among minority student disciplining says TEA Report

Austin- Black students in Texas are much more likely to be kicked out of their regular classrooms than children of other races when the decision is left up to school administrators, according to state data from the last three years.

Texas Education Agency data shows that black student referrals to "disciplinary alternative education programs" were twice the rate of those for Hispanic students and three times the rate for white students for incidents not serious enough to warrant automatic removal.

state and local policy was not followed. Named in the suit were Rusk ISD, Superintendent James Largent, High School Principal Scott Schwartz and assistant principal Jason Wilcox.

The disciplining of the students came when 27 high school age students attended an event in San Antonio, Texas. February 18th RISD staff were notified of students drinking alcohol and one female student had to be transported to a San Antonio hospital for medical care from alcohol poisoning.

In their answer to the suit RISD Superintendent James Largent contends that the courts do not have jurisdiction to hear complaints about student referrals to the alternative education program because they have immunity as governmental employees of RISD.

Julie Harris-Lawrence, TEA's deputy associate commissioner of student affairs and educator performance, said the disparity "is a concern". Parents can usually appeal the punishment, but some have found it to be a battle. Below are numbers for two East Texas School districts.

Tyler ISD	
1009-2010	
African American:	165
Hispanic:	59
White:	42
Longview	
African American:	94
Hispanic:	24

Betty Jean White Christopher



Betty Christopher has been a permanent fixture in the classrooms of RISD forty years. She has thought about retiring but her duties as a teacher aide has allowed her to make the difference in the lives of so many children, she can't imagine not going to Rusk Junior High School each day.

Read her story page 3

Reunion for Booker T. Washington Former Alto School set June 17, 18, 19.

Editorial



**Disparities
in
minority**

student

disciplining

a huge

problem!

Maxine Session

As a child, I spent lots of time questioning my elders about what life was like during their childhood days. My maternal grandfather was (born in November 1888 and died 1974) and my dad born (Jessie March 1910 died 1973) I especially questioned. My grandfather (O. B. Denman) who talked about everything from farming to ghost stories to pranks his children pulled when they were young, but never about the hardships he and his family had endured as a result of segregation and racism. My dad's family (Burley and Dupree) were part of the Slocum Massager of 1910. Some were murdered and all were run out of Slocum, losing family owned land, but he never volunteered information about it. I had to really pry to get anything out of him.

Many times in my life I have either written about or been asked questions about the difference between my generation and the children of today. The longer I live and the more I see of life, the harder it becomes to answer that question. My generation, every aspect of our lives was limited by race. I use

to say children of today are free from boundaries that limit their future. I still say that to some extent, but I'm finding the longer I live and the more I learn that some adults who hold the future of today's youth in their hands are using race and racism to limit their success now and for the future.

A recent report released by TEA on Disparities Among Minority Student Disciplining when the decision is in the hands of school administrators should be a wakeup call to parents and everybody else.

It makes me want to question the moral conscience of those people and the ones who hire them. When youth are criminalized as high school students, how does this impact their education and their chance for future success? Children of today are outspoken, easily provoked and react immediately to any emotion stirred inside them. Where do they find understanding and guidance, if not from the people they spend the most time with during a day other than their parents?

We test, test, test the kinds on every hand before they can earn a high school diploma. Anybody who would hurt kids needs to have his or her head examined. It appears that psychological testing might need to be part of the application process for school administrator positions when they are considered for hire. Our family has a three month old, one due in June, two two-year olds, a three year old a five year old and others coming along in the near future, I hope. I am seriously concerned about their educational future with the mind set of some of these people running our schools. I wonder, do they know God?

Letters to Editor

Gallatin history lessons needed

Mr. Session,

I have a question for your newspaper. The Gallatin Gopher Fest, which I enjoy as a resident, promotes itself as a "friendly family oriented event." In East Texas terms that means no alcohol. However, every year a main focus is the reenactors of the Civil War (Confederates) who periodically blast a cannon and sell pro confederate memorabilia.

As I understand it, Gallatin didn't exist as a community during the Civil War. As I understand it, beer drinking did. I'm confused about the notion that training the residents of Gallatin in the confederate ways is a friendly family affair. Wouldn't a chili cookoff as a fund raiser, ignoring that the cooks have beer, be even more family friendly?
Christine Harper
Gallatin, Texas

We welcome your letters to the editor.

Please send letters to:

P. O. Box 332

Rusk, Texas 75785

or

e-mail to:

informernews08@aol.com

"Your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God."
1 Corinthians 2:5

Happy Birthday

Estebianna J'Nae Arrington

March 6, 2011

**Shady Grove Church of God
in Christ**

373 Cherokee Street
Rusk, Texas

Revival March 28-April 1, 2011

7:45 Pm M. Nightly

Speaker: Evangelist H. L. Beans

Lancaster, Texas

Church Pastor: Supt. Donnie Timmons

The public is invited to come out to hear this great evangelist.

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We are already too many

Dear Sir,

I enjoyed reading your newspaper for the first time. However, in your article, "Births for Unmarried Black Women Continue to Drop", gives pause. You stated, for women who aren't giving up much, early single motherhood can be the rational choice.

Sometimes choices don't appear on the radar screen for years. Many are late bloomers, yet once a women chooses to have a child, she has effectively thrown in the towel in many of those choices, for many years, perhaps forever. Additionally, we are already too many whether black, white, brown, or yellow.

Only China seems to have made a rational choice with their one child policy. More and more, nations are grappling with too many people, too little land and water. That is the problem with our neighbor, Mexico. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Ray Cryer

Rusk, Texas

**Cherokee County Informer
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Cherokee, Houston and Rusk Counties.

Betty Jean White Christopher Tells History of Elm Grove

by Maxine Session

Elm Grove is a quiet little community located 6 miles north of Rusk on hwy 110 and two miles south of the 204 and 110 intersection. The community was sparsely populated by sharecroppers in the late 1800's and was named for an area which contained a large number of Elm Trees. After the January 1, 1863 Emancipation and the June 19, 1865 notice to Black people in Texas that slavery was over, then it became legal for black people to learn to read.

Reading, writing and arithmetic classes were held at churches. The few families located in and around the area constructed a school called Iron Hill located on the present County Road 1315. This was the first school Betty Jean White remembers attending.

Another School located on hwy 110 north of the 204 and 110 intersection was established by the Plainview Methodist Church somewhere in the early 1900s. It was called Plainview School. Betty's husband Ruby Christopher attended that school for awhile. R. B. and Caroline Wood donated land located on CR 1308 and the Elm Grove School was built there. Some say it was built by the people of the community in the 1890s and others say by the Rosenwall Foundation. The school closed in 1957 when it merged with George Washington Bradford school in Rusk which was part of



L to R - Julie Warren, Malicia Warren, Christopher Warren, Gerald Gardin, Mrs. Shivers, Christopher Shivers, Nadean Gardin, Betty Christopher, Shanique Key, Ruby Christopher, Regena Atkins, Bobby Christopher, Gwen Warren and squatting in front William Warren.

Rusk ISD. The building was used as a community Center until it burned down in about the year 2001. Many of the families like the Jordons, Henderson, Price, Stafford, Christopher, Kennedy, Session, Doty, Barnett, and McDuff families migrated to Texas from Louisiana after the Civil War.

The Church of The Living God, Mt. Hebron Presbyterian Church, Elm Grove Baptist and Mount Mariah Plainview Methodist Church mark the heart of the community. The four churches have operated there since well before 1960.

Betty Christopher was born and raised in the Elm Grove Community and has lived there all of her life. The grand daughter of Charlie and Margie White and the daughter of Leveta and Doc White,

she has been one to carry on traditions of Elm Grove which they began. She is actively involved in the family church Elm Grove First Baptist and the other three churches.

The one tradition that no longer exists is the Elm Grove Homecoming which originated in 1955 and was held in Booker Session's Pastor until he and his wife Ola passed away, and the property was sold in the late 1980s. Each Saturday before the third Sunday in August hundreds of people returned to gather in that pasture and enjoy a day of baseball games, good food and friends. Sunday was a time to gather for worship at local churches from Elm Grove to Woodville. "After the older people passed away it was never the same," Betty Said. There was professor Ben Hunter and his wife Irene, Albert and Finnie Henderson,

Arizona Hampton, Chilton Stafford, the Heman Christophers, Albert and Carrie Christopher and so many others. Betty said, we have family reunions, church anniversaries at the four churches and do what we can to maintain community history. We try to follow the lead of people like Mrs. Portia Hooper, Mrs. Geneva Henderson, Ola and Eula Muse.

If you are old enough to remember, you can look around and possibly see remains of signs of Johnny Windom's grocery store and gas station, Booker Session's Cafe, Mrs. Gladys Barnett and her husband's Cafe, and Pate gas station and grocery store. Booker Session's Cafe was located near where Miss Pearl Session's house sits now on the corner of 110 and CR. 1308. The community was self sufficient so most people went to town in Rusk or Jacksonville only on Saturday.

Of course there was Ponta right down the road with a general store where larger items could be purchased and doctors could be found.

Betty had seven brothers and sisters, Hazel, Unis, Venora, Lavern, Charlie and Bobby who are all deceased. Her sister Helen lives in Houston.

Her and Ruby have seven children, Bobby, Tracy, Dana, Regina, Larry, Nadie and Guinn.

She has been employed in the classrooms of Rusk ISD 40 years.

What's Cook'N?

2 1/2 lbs. lean beef chuck, cut into 3/4-inch cubes
 1/3 c. all-purpose flour
 1/4 chopped onion
 1 T. + 1 1/2 tsp. salt
 1 1/2 tsp. pepper
 2 T. vegetable oil
 7 c. beef broth
 4 c. peeled carrots, cut into-inch pieces
 16 sm. new potatoes, peeled
 12 sm. white boiler onions peeled
 3/4 c. all-purpose flour
 1/2 c. water
 1 T. browning and seasoning sauce

In large bowl, sprinkle meat with flour and toss to coat evenly. Heat oil in large sauce-pan or Dutch oven over medium-low heat. Add meat and cook, stirring 2 or 3 times, 15 minutes or until beef begins to brown. Add broth and bring to boil. Reduce heat, cover, and simmer 20 minutes. Add carrots and continue simmering 5 minutes. Add potatoes and continue simmering 10 minutes. Add onions and continue simmering 10 minutes. In small bowl, whisk together flour and water until flour is completely dissolved and mixture is smooth. Gradually add to stew, stirring constantly. Continue cooking uncovered 5 minutes or until meat is tender. Stir in browning sauce. Makes 8 servings.

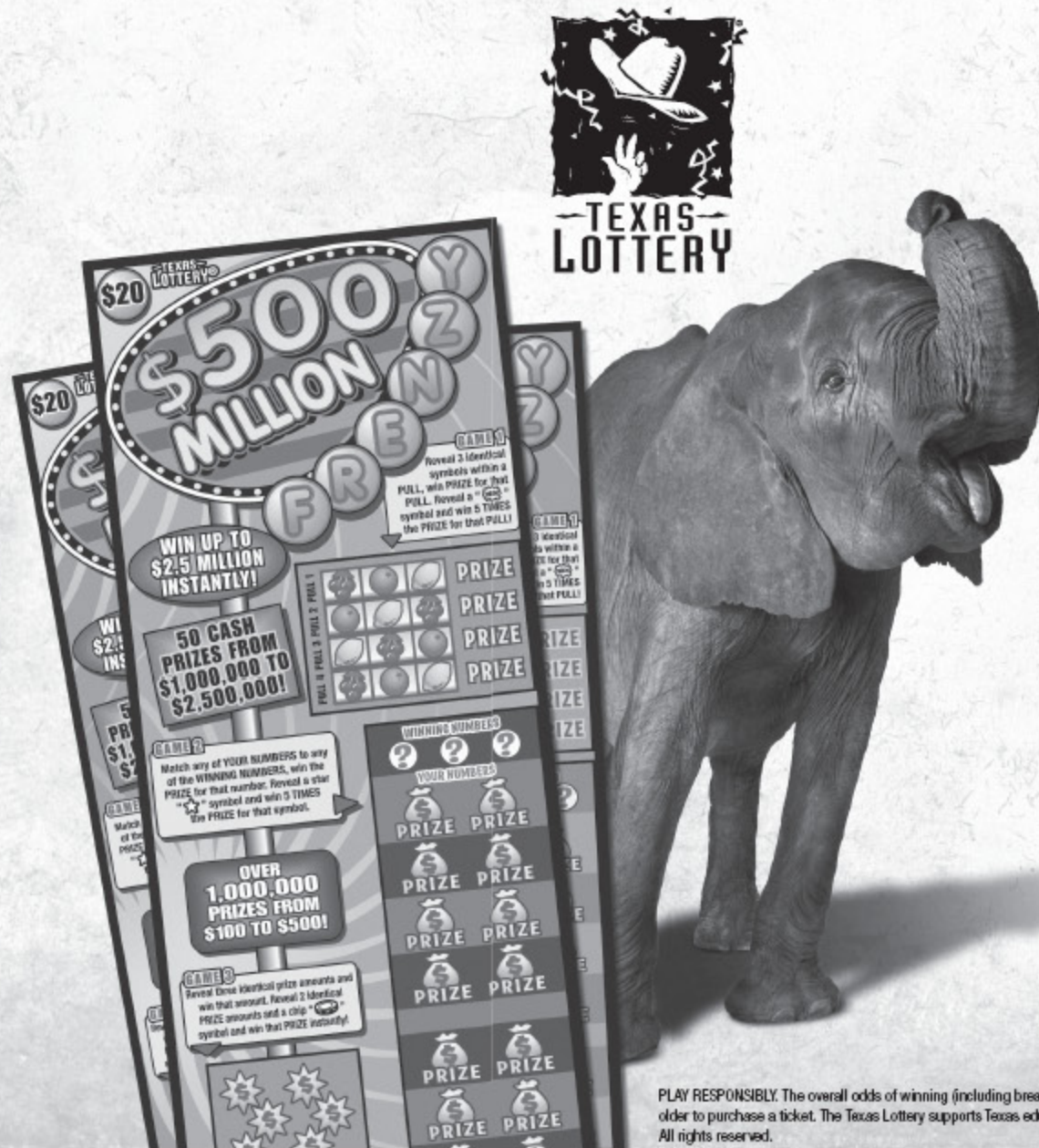
It's Tough to Quit Smoking

Want to quit smoking? First, pause to consider all the techniques and products that promise to make it easy: hypnosis, herbal cures, aversion therapy and "tapering off." Now, forget 'em all. Unless you're very lucky or highly susceptible to placebo effects, they probably won't work for you. As the Texas Department of State Health Services' Tobacco Prevention and Control campaign notes, nicotine is a prodigiously addictive drug. It "rewards" the user by causing the body to release a heady cocktail of substances including dopamine (linked to feelings of pleasure and well-being) norepinephrine (mental and physical stimulation), acetylcholine and vasopressin (cognitive enhancement) and serotonin (mood regulation).

See Smoking page 8

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Rusk ISD Superintendent pleads "qualified immunity" in February 2011 lawsuit



Ask A. J.

their placement committees and policy and operate at their disgression when dealing with students and parents. Then parents will, for sure have no civil rights. Policy is put in place by the state and local school boards to insure fairness to all. But come to think of it, some school board members, after they are elected, don't remember they are elected to represent the people in taking care of school business and kids are the most important business the school has.

I guess he could be right about the immunity thing. The October 11, 2010 Rusk ISD school board meeting headlined Mr. Scott Schwartz high school principal as he TOLD the board he had instituted a "no pass no attend" policy on the high school campus. He and the teachers had decided (without board approval) that

failing high school students can not attend sporting events, concerts or any extra-curricular activity. This is for any student, not just those participating in UIL events. This is no UIL Rule but Mr. Scott Schwart's Rule. Does the board realize this opens them up to more lawsuits?

High School students are minors with parents who should not only be kept abreast of positives about their kids but negatives too. Rusk High School students are alleged to be placed in ISS, expelled and placed in Saturday school without a writeup or parent notification. What policy is followed here?

One grandfather said the high school principal is out of control with nobody to monitor his actions. When the grandfather acted as spokesperson at a gievance hearing, the principal went back to the campus and within thirty minutes, without a writeup on the 10th grader in ten years of public school, he called this man's grandson into the office and began retaliation against him. Now this is clearly a violation of civil rights.

This lasted more than two weeks even with the parents requesting conferences with him. When the superintendent was notified in writing, about what was happening, he never responded to the grandfather. I guess he's enjoying qualified immunity!

A couple (Parents) were ousted from the coliseum by the high school principal after being falsely accused

of using a curse word in October of 2010. They filed a complaint in October and have followed district policy for complaints. Rusk ISD again has not followed state and it's own local policy. As of January 2011 the parent's level I and Level II grievance hearings were complete. Three written requests for level III before the board have been made. The stall tactic has been used with them and no date for the hearing with the board has been set as of March.

When they notified school board members of their situation, they were treated as if it was against the law to speak with officials elected to represent the community.

If it is against the law, "AIN'T NOBODY TOLD ME NOTHING!" There has been big discussion, especially around the senior citizen arena, about the millions spent on artificial turf at a time when we've known for a long time that the state deficit is in excess of 24 billion dollars. Now taxpayers have to contend with paying attorney fees and such while classroom teacher jobs are in jeopardy.

Which is more important teachers or turf?

If a teacher had failed to put kids first and allegedly violated their civil rights, somebody's contract wouldn't be renewed.

I Wonder if Donald Trump will have to be called in in this case before somebody can be fired?

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Rusk Chamber of Commerce Award Winners Recognized by Hensarling



Back Row L- R-Amy Gould Representative from Congressman Jeb Hensarling 's Athens Office, Anita Woodlee, CPA, Rachel Loden, past Chamber president, Tara Crosby, Jimmy Thompson, Wallace Thompson Front Row L - R Charles Horton, former Rusk Mayor, Maxine Session and Walter Session, Councilman and Mayor Pro-Tem.

The 2010 Rusk Chamber of Commerce Award Winners were dinner guest at the March Chamber Executive Directors Meeting. They were also recognized with a presentation from

Congressman Jeb Hensarling's Office made by Amy Gould, Hensarling representative. Anita Woodlee was named Businesswoman of the year. Rachel

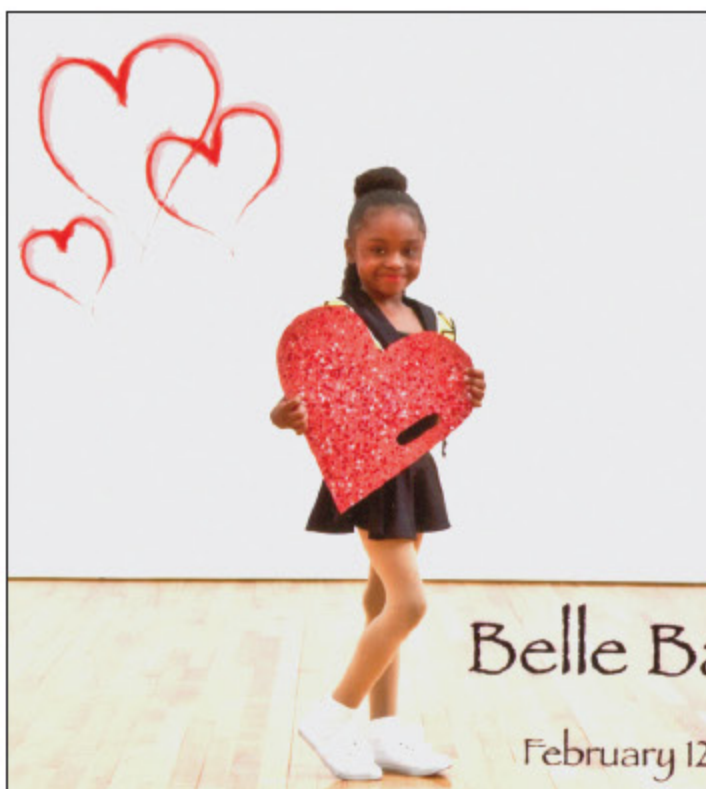
Loden was the Chamber President in 2010. The president's award went to Tara Crosby. Jimmy Thompson was named businessman of the year and as co-owner of Wallace-Thompson True Value, he accepted the award for presented to the store for Business of the year . Charles Horton was presented the Lifetime Achievement Award and Walter and Maxine Session were named Rusk Citizens of the Year.

Minutes of the February Executive directors Meeting were approved. Treasurers report was reviewed and upcoming events/committee reports were given. It included plans for the Fair on The Square, Pioneer Heritage Festival, City Development, Tourism and County Development, Keep Rusk Beautiful, economic Development, Membership development, and Community Awareness.

Unfinished business discussed was initiative to extend the tracks of the Texas State Railroad into Rusk, Jacksonville Rusk Leadership Institute, Chamber new entity "Rusk Community development Foundation, Inc. for grant writing purposes, and update on moving Sacred Heart Church from the Rusk Depot to the Rusk Civic Center location.

Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc.
Celebration of Fathers & Mentors - Brunch
Saturday, April 16th - 10:00 A. M.
Holiday Inn Select - S. Broadway
Tyler, Texas 75701
e-mail hlewis2005@yahoo.com for additional info.
Tickets available at the door

Zoe' Fields performs with famous Apache Belles



Zoe' Fields, Baby Belle

Zoe' Fields, Rusk Primary Student, performed recently with the world famous Apache Belles during the February 12, 2011 half-time intermission of a Tyler Junior College basketball game at Wagstaff Gymnasium. She currently practices jazz and tap at the Cassie School of Dance of Whitehouse, Texas. Little miss Fields is the daughter of Cherresse Fields of Rusk and Deon fields of Frankston, Texas.

She is the grand daughter of Vanessa Boyd of Rusk and Donnell Mansel of Dallas, Joyce and Louis Fields of Frankston and Elizabeth Rivers of Rusk and the late James Rivers. Zoe' and her brother Maddison are participants in Mixed Marshall Arts in Rusk, Texas.

Jenkins-Kennedy to wed



Tommy and Evelyn Cleaver of Rusk, Texas wish to announce the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter LaShara Sharette Jenkins to Rodney Lynn Kennedy. The wedding will be held Friday, March 25, 2011, 300 P. M. at the Texas State Railroad Park in Rusk, Texas. Rodney is the son of Larry and Sally Kennedy of Rusk.

Youth

Rusk Eagle Youth Football & Cheer Association 1st Annual Awards Banquet



Sophomore Football team presented trophies and pose with coach Horece Lewis



Junior Letteman presented trophies and Jackets by board members.



Cheer Mom Adriana Tilley and Sophomore Cheerleaders receive trophies.



Flag Football team and coaches



Freshman Team and coaches accept trophies.

The first annual Rusk Youth Football & Cheer Association Awards Banquet was held Saturday February 19, 2011 at Rusk Junior High Cafeteria. The Flag and Freshman Teams banquet began at 3:00P.M and the Sophomore and Junior Teams banquet began at 6:00P. M. Wyvonne McGowan, mistress of ceremony for both banquets. A large crowd of young parents attended each banquet. A full course meal was served and motivational speakers Joel McGowan and Marcus Carter, both graduates of Rusk High School and Sam Houston State University addressed the crowds. Both, deeply committed to working with children, gave tips on parent involvement. The REYFCA was founded in 2009 and has its first very successful season in 2010. Registration for the 2011 season has begun with early bird prices Flag \$55., Tackle \$75.00 and Cheer \$65.00.

Current board members are Mario McGowan President, Sam O'Neal Vice President, Yvonne McGowan Secretary-Cheer Coordinator, David Westbrook, Treasurer, Oliver Sturns Football Commissioner, Jerry Hill Website Administrator, members Bruce Bradley, David Matlock, Emerson Griffin and Jessica Cummins.

Booker T. Washington Center ready for 2011 reunion

Smoking

from page 5

These powerful, temporary effects are why quitting is so hard — and why a major key to success is accepting that it's going to be a struggle.

Fortunately, motivation is easy to come by. Smoking is linked to a host of serious health problems. You can probably list them as well as we can, but we'll throw out emphysema, lung and throat cancer, heart disease and artery damage just for starters. It can cost thousands of dollars a year. And, increasingly, it's a major social liability.

The first step toward quitting is to make a commitment and develop a plan. If you're ready to begin, go to the DSHS-supported Yes Quit website (www.yesquit.com) and check out their Quitting Tips / Info section. The section's opening line, "Excuses [for smoking] are like ashtrays; every smoker has one and they all stink," sets the tone for the site's reality-based approach.

Next up is positive reinforcement. By quitting smoking, Yes Quit notes, you reap benefits such as sharpened senses, younger-looking skin, cash savings, lower insurance premiums, longer life and more respect from loved ones and yourself.

Booker T. Washington Community Center located on highway 69 North of Alto

Alto, TX.-The Booker T. Washington Community Center shown above is near completion. It has been constructed on the site of the original Booker T. Washington High School, which was the only Alto school for black children before intergration. Constructed by the Booker T. Washington Alumni Association, the group plans to have the building ready for use this year during the June 17, 18, and 19, 2011 all school

reunion. Former students, their families and friends will return from cities around the states to join in the fun and festivities and most of all to enjoy the satisfaction of having given something back to the community. The building will soon be ready for lease to the community for family reunions, weddings, wedding receptions, and birthday parties. The weekend activities include: Friday-Gospel singing

extravaganza, Fish fry before the singing, Snacks, games, chit-chat. Saturday- Brunch, banquet, games and dance

Sunday-Worship Service

Membership fee remains @ \$12 per year which should be included with registration. T-shirts (white with blue lettering) will also be available for \$15 each in sizes medium to 3x. The registration fee remains at \$40.00.



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

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POETRY CORNER

Spring

~by vera Mallard Craig

There is a rebirth in the air,
A revival of the soul
A hope that has the heart
tap-dancing,
not skipping a beat.
Mr. Brrr in his
gray coat and snowboots
has been ordered out the door to
drip-drop on out of here,
he has overstayed his welcome!

The furnace in the heavens
is sunbathing the earth;
Yards and yards of green carpet
rolled out,
Robins giving a free concert,
Bees sipping on nectar;
Sights and sounds giving
an emotional high,
Soothing to the senses
and repairing the mind's broken
fences.

Under a watercolor blue sky,
Spring is painting sweeping brush
strokes across the canvas,
dotting the landscapes with
bluebonnets,
an outdoor's museum exhibition,
a masterpiece on display
for sightseeing passersby.

Let's give spring a standing
ovation!

A New Foundation

~ by Michael Guinn

Now first we'll begin
by salvaging from our past
And then lay the *Blackprints* for our
children's future, that last

Now for tools
we'll use leadership bricks
Iron will as glue
and love to ensure that it sticks

Black History is the model
from which we will mold
On this project,
we can;t afford to fold

then, from the coals of injustice
that still smolder
We'll begin the search
for more strong black soldiers

To instill in our children, a sense of
'strength and black pride'
This ensures a good framework
for a future un-denied

We have to be the Queens and Kings
of our families and community
Because our children's future de-
pends,
on us seizing that opportunity
to teach the resilience of a people
history chose to trample
We become Christian role models
and be God's example

With everyone working together,
no matter how little
We can avoid building a foundation,
that in the past has been brittle.

African American Brochure

Continued from Page 1

Crockett has been chosen by the State of Texas and Texas Forest Trail as one of the 10 cities to unveil the State African-American Brochure. We have several events planned. Texas Forest Trail represents 35 counties from NorthEast to SouthEast Texas, and especially with budget cut proposals this is an extremely important event for us to show off what the Heritage Trails program does for Texas.

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2:45 pm: Vivian Grant—presentation of poetry

3:30 pm: Pip/Guy Gillette with Camp Street Café will perform a Blues

Series

5:00 pm: Doors close

6:00 pm: Doors open for concert

7:00 pm: Stephen Pride Concert with Curtis Lovejoy Band backup.

Stephen Pride is Charlie Pride's brother and was very interested in the unveiling itself.

During the day there will be multiply displays of Houston County African-American culture, past and present. Edwardlene Willis will have a table set up, signing books. There will be a quilting exhibit, historical display on Mary Allen College, a Houston County Tuskegee Airman display, and a display of African-American Church photos. We are hoping to have Myrtis Dightman here to sign autographs and take photos with visitors, amongst many other things during the day.

Place: Crockett Civic Center, 1100 Edmiston Dr, Crockett, TX

Info: 936-544-2359

Daytime events are free to public. Stephen Pride concert ticket is \$15.00 and 7.50 for students (must show valid school/student ID).

Please feel free to call me if you need any other information. My cell number is 903-312-8851

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.

1-888-313-6862

or

1-888-313-4747

Forrest K. Phifer Attorney-At-Law

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more than 6 million students and are growing rapidly. They feature affordable tutors, open admission policies, flexible course schedules, and convenient locations. Community colleges are expected to increase in future years to keep pace with the rising cost of college. More stable fundings for pell grants: The Budgeting process for pell grants often leads to funding shortfalls. The current shortfall is particularly severe because the large number of students and workers qualifying for the award that have recently gone back to school. Investments in Community College: As the largest part of the nation's higher education system, colleges are particularly important for students who are older, working, or need remedial classes. Increased support for Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs): while many of today's colleges and universities are facing a host of challenges shrinking endowments, decreasing state appropriations, deteriorating facilities, and increasing costs--America's Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs) are particularly hard hit. Expand Income Based Repayment (IBR) About 2/3rds of graduates take out loans with an average student debt of over \$23,000. The debt is particularly burdensome for graduates who choose to enter lower-paying service careers, suffer

have the highest proportion of college graduates in the world." The Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act represents a historic investment in higher education, expanding educational opportunity for America's students and families. The legislation strengthens the Pell Grant program, invests in Community Colleges, extends support for Historically Black Colleges and Universities and other Minority Serving Institutions, and helps students manage their student loan debts. It pays for these investments while reducing the federal deficit by ending government subsidies currently given to financial institutions that make guaranteed federal student loans. Specific elements of the overall plan include: Larger Pell Grants, The Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act invests more than \$40 billion in Pell Grants to ensure that all eligible students receive an award and that these awards are Community Colleges enroll

setbacks such as unemployment or serious illness, or fail to complete their degree. Student loans that put students first: The education related initiatives funded by the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act are fully paid for by ending the government subsidies currently given to financial institutions that make guaranteed federal student loans. These investments complement President Obama's broader agenda for higher education and will help us reach his goal of America having the highest proportion of college graduates in the world by 2020. Until next time take care of yourself.

-Ferlich R. July-Arrington

Ross Center Activities Announced

The Ross Senior Activity Center's First Friday day will be held Friday, April 1 at the Rusk Civic Center, 555 Euclid St., in Rusk. Texas Express classic country band will provide the entertainment. Admission is \$5 a person. Doors open at 6 p.m.; dancing starts at 7 p.m. Participants are encouraged to bring snacks and finger foods to share. Non-alcoholic beverages will be available. All proceeds benefit the Activity Center and the Friends of the Singletary Memorial Library. An AARP Driver's Safety class will be held Wednesday, April 9, at the Ross Senior Activity Center in the Rusk Civic Center, 555 Euclid St., Rusk. Course material features information on issues drivers ages

55 and older may face. Class fee is \$12 for AARP members with a valid membership card; \$14 for non-AARP members. Participants will receive a 10 percent discount certificate, redeemable at most auto insurance companies, upon completion of the class. Call 903-683-2850 to register for the class or for more information.

Low impact aerobics classes are held at 9 a.m. every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday at the Ross Senior Activity Center, in the Rusk Civic Center, 555 Euclid St., Rusk. Classes are free and open to the public.

Table weaving classes are held at 1 p.m. every Monday at the Ross Senior Activity Center, in the Rusk Civic Center, 555 Euclid St., Rusk. Classes are free and open to the public.

Chickenfoot, 42 and other domino games are available from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. every Thursday at the Ross Senior Activity Center, in the Rusk Civic Center, 555 Euclid St., Rusk. Games are free and open to the public.

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LEGAL NOTICE

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



GAME #	GAME NAME / ODDS	\$	Official Close of Game	End Validations Date
1247	Flying Aces - Overall Odds are 1 in 4.49	\$2	03/27/11	09/23/11
1254	Houston Texans - Overall Odds are 1 in 3.82	\$5	03/31/11	09/27/11
1285	Platinum Present - Overall Odds are 1 in 2.99	\$20	04/01/11	09/28/11
1257	Holiday Riches - Overall Odds are 1 in 4.01	\$5	04/01/11	09/28/11
1196	Bonus Break the Bank - Overall Odds are 1 in 3.81	\$5	04/27/11	10/24/11
1237	Tic Tac Cash® - Overall Odds are 1 in 4.46	\$1	04/27/11	10/24/11
1248	Run the Table - Overall Odds are 1 in 3.86	\$5	04/27/11	10/24/11
1286	Holiday Cheer - Overall Odds are 1 in 3.72	\$1	04/27/11	10/24/11
1290	Winter Bucks - Overall Odds are 1 in 3.84	\$10	04/27/11	10/24/11

For detailed odds and game information, visit tlottery.org or call 1-800-377-LOTTO. Must be 18 or older to purchase a ticket. The Texas Lottery supports Texas Education. © 2011 Texas Lottery Commission. All rights reserved.

Happy Birthday

**Tamara
Session**

March 12th

*"At your age life
is but a bowl of
cherries"*

Enjoy!

Cherokee Civic Theater presents "Cheaper by the Dozen"

Rotary brings Kelly Miller Circus to Rusk

Cherokee Civic Theatre in Rusk announces that a cast of astounding local actors has been selected for their upcoming Spring play, "Cheaper By The Dozen." You've seen the movies based on the hilarious, yet poignant play written by Frank B. Gilbreth, Jr. and Ernestine Gilbreth Carey.....now see why they were brought to the silver screen. It's the biography of Frank and Lillian Gilbreth and their rather large family. Mr. Gilbreth, an efficiency expert, decides to run his family like his factory. You'll laugh, you'll cry, you'll ENJOY as the story is acted live, on stage. Jon Paul Kelley has been picked to play the father, "Mr. Gilbreth"; "mother" will be portrayed by Christin Ross. Others in this talented cast are: Amy McCalister, who will play "Ernestine"; "Frank" will be acted by Calvin Bailey; Ethan Gonzalez will be "Jackie"; Andrew Sorcini

has been tapped to portray "Dan"; Luke Williams will be "Bill"; "Freda" will be acted by Emily Pierce; Sarah Tedder will depict "Anne"; "Lillian" will be portrayed by Jaci Hood; "Martha" by Rachael Marquez; chosen for the part of "Mrs. Fitzgerald" is Stacy Gwartney; "Dr. Burton" will be acted by Tony Williams; "Joe Scales" will be played by Trae Gunter; "Miss Brill" will be acted by Samantha McClure; and "Larry" will be depicted by Donald Hebert. "Cheaper By The Dozen" will be co-directed by Mary Vardaman and Bill Sherman. Performances will be Friday-Sunday, April 29, 30 and May 1; and Friday and Saturday, May 6 and 7, at the historic Cherokee Civic Theatre, 157 W. 5th Street in Rusk. For further information, call 903-683-2131 or visit their website: www.cherokeetheatre.net.



L-R: Toni Meador, Branch President, Texas National Bank and Rusk Rotarian Roy Reynolds

Kids of All Ages.....time to get your circus tickets! The Rotary Club of Rusk will be bringing the Kelly Miller circus to town on Tuesday, March 22 for two exciting performances: 4:30pm and 7:30pm. The Kelly Miller circus is one of the few remaining traveling circuses in the country, with a fleet of 25 vehicles carrying a multitude of stars from many nations and an exotic display of animals. The electrifying performances, together with magnificent lighting and rousing circus

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Rusk Youth Football & Cheer Association Banquet from page 7.



Freshman Cheer Association and Cheer Mom Krystal Carr.

Mt. Olive hosts Prayer Breakfast



Stacy Hackney, Lola Mallard, Stella Bartley, Alma Bartley, and Sandra Carter pose before the February 26th Prayer Breakfast began. It was held from 9:00 A. M. to 1:00P.M. The Theme: Servanthood Calls Us. The event speaker was Evangelist Alva Taylor of Linwood Baptist Church Alto, Texas.

Franklin and Session Rusk Junior High Black History Speakers



Flag Football presentatins with coach.



Floyd Franklin and Tracy Session were speakers at the Rusk Junior High February Black History Program. Floyd spends time mentoring students at the school. He is an RN/Nursing Supervisor at ETMC Tyler. He and his wife Terri have one son in the district and two daughters who are graduates of the district. Tracy Session is a mentor to students at Rusk Junior High. He is an LVN with TDCJ in Rusk and he

is a RISD School Board Member. He also coaches Rusk Youth Football. He and his wife Lisa have three children in the district. Music was provided by Ki Ki Crist, Jazzimine Crist, Rusk Junior High Treble Choir and Rusk Junior High Mixed Choir under the direction of Mike Miller and David Weaver. Betty Christopher sang an emotion redention of Lift Every Voice and Sing. John Berkhalter is school Principal.

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