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P.O. Box 332
Rusk, Texas 75785

Grapeland, Texas Mayor George Pierson the right man



Elected four years ago, Mayor George Pierce is at the helm of Grapeland, Texas, a small town with big plans. See page 3 for the story.

EDITORIAL

Rusk Promise is a Reality



Maxine Session

Presented and approved at the Tyler Junior College February Board Meeting was an agreement between Citizens Ist Bank, The Perkins Family Foundation and Tyler Junior College to guarantee scholarships to the top 50% of the graduating classes of RISD. This year that number is 67 RISD graduating students who meet the criteria of a 2.5 grade point average and are in the top 50% of the class. The scholarship will pay \$2,000. per semester and 4,000. per year. This promise will translate into great future economic changes for Rusk families and the town as a whole.

On behalf of the RISD graduating class of this year and future years, their families and the city of Rusk as a whole, thank you Mr. James I. Perkins and may God continue to richly bless you and your family.

Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.
~ 2 Corinthians 9:7

Mr. James I. Perkins, CEO of Citizens Ist Bank and Rusk "hometown boy," let it be known that it was his dream to bring the "Scholarship Promise" to students of RISD. The past three years there have been many hours of phone calls, meetings, conversations with close friends and trips to other states to observe their programs. With the Citizens Ist Bank family beside him, the Perkins family beside him, wife Margaret, daughter Laura and son James, and the strong determination of a man with a big heart, his dream is now a reality.

Letters to the Editor

Race factor in Breast Cancer

Dear Editor:

A series of long-running studies have identified a troubling racial gap in breast cancer mortality rates. Research suggests that African-American women are on average 40 percent more likely to die from breast cancer than Caucasian women.

The findings are jarring for all women, since we all have a vested interest in defeating breast cancer together. I, too, am considered high-risk and reducing that risk is important to me. That's one of the reasons I'm vegan.

According to Dr. Jane Plant, a British scientist, cancer survivor, and author of The No-Dairy Breast Cancer Prevention Program, "Undoubtedly, the best anti-cancer diet would be to go completely vegan." Meat and dairy products are full of cholesterol, saturated fat,

excess protein, hormones, and other harmful substances that increase breast cancer risk. But a vegan diet maximizes intake of foods that help us fight cancer—fiber-packed grains and beans and phytochemical-packed fruits and vegetables.

I intend to arm myself against breast cancer with every weapon I've got. Going vegan is one of the best decisions I've made, and I hope other women will join me. For a free vegetarian/vegan starter kit, please visit www.PETA.org.

Sincerely,
Michelle Kretzer
The PETA Foundation
501 Front St.
Norfolk, VA 23510
859-539-2394

Rusk, Texas Fair on
the Square May 25th

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(The opinion of the writers is their own and not necessarily that of the Texas Informer.)

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Happy Birthday
Terri Franklin



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Cherokee County Informer /dba Texas Informer
Walter Session: Managing Publisher

Letters to the Editor Policy

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

Grapeland Mayor George Pierson

the right man for the job

Mayor George Pierson is on track to reaching goals he and his team at city hall have pursued the past four years. "We have not raised taxes, have paved fifteen streets, gotten a new water well in place, torn down old buildings and cleaned up the center of our wonderful little town," he proudly states. We have become more accountable of friends. With a 2010 census population of 1,489, we have a high population of senior citizens, so we have setup a project whereby a city employee checks on them regularly.

"Future goals are to work on improving our infra-structure and continueing to work on acquiring a grocery store, a lumber yard and a motel", the Mayor continued. One weak area we have is the lack of involvement of our 25 to 45 year olds. We want to get them more actively involved in volunteering and helping to set the pace. We are the north gateway to Houston County and have excellent ranches, excellent school system..... our boys basketball team went to state playoffs this year, and beautiful land that welcomes expansion."

Mayor Pierson is a former military man with extensive experience in law inforcement who believes in dotting every i and crossing every t to get the job done right.

George was born and raised in Oakwood, Texas as an only child to FCL Pierson and Lue Ella Handsborough.

He attended W. R. Banks High School his freshman year in Grapeland. Intergration came and he attended Grapeland High School tenth grade through graduation in 1970.

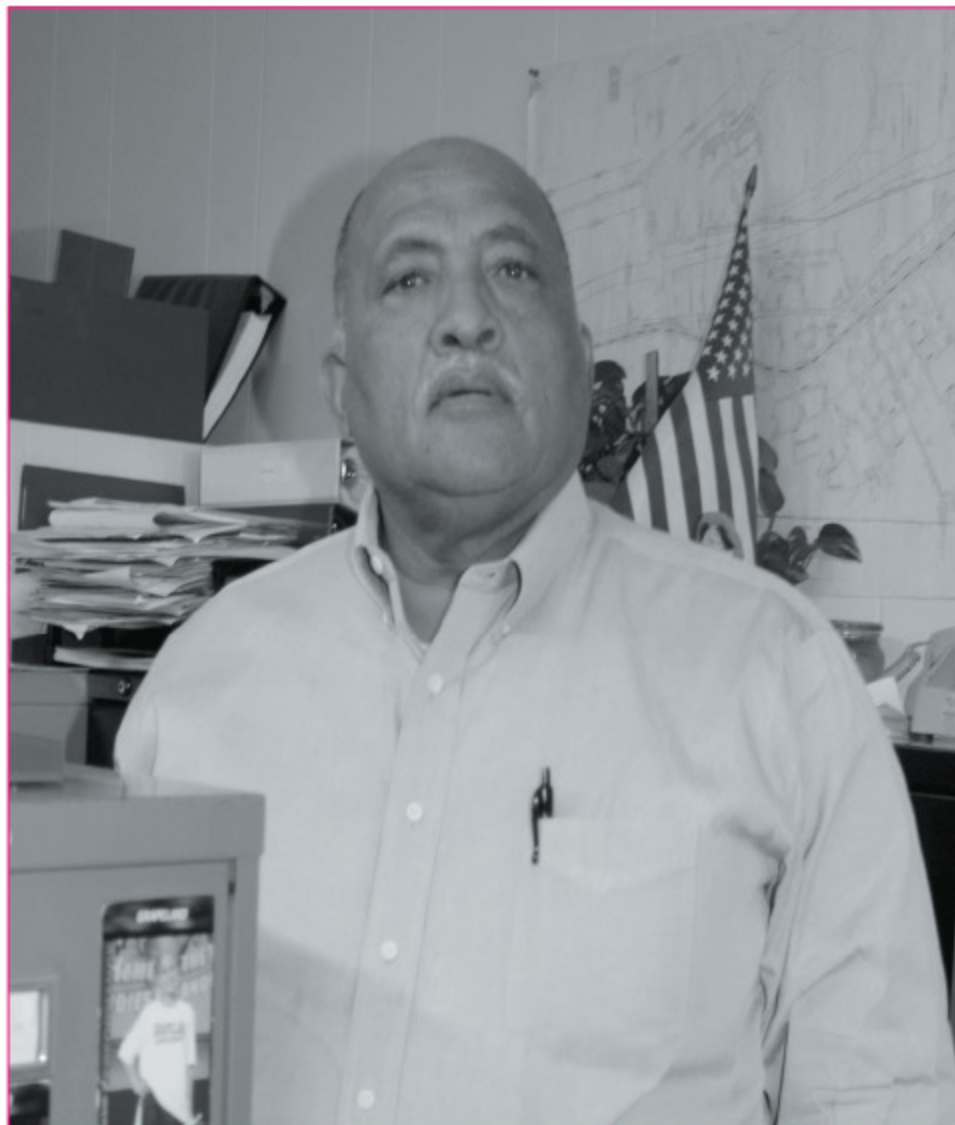
After high school graduation Mayor Pierson attended Prairie View A & M University, then worked for the Southern Pacific Railroad in Ennis and Hearn. While he lived in Hearn, he was drafted into the U. S. Army. He was stationed in West Germany as a Military Police Officer and as a Military Police Investigator. Following an honorable discharge from the Army, he returned to Grapeland and

went to work at Vulcraft working seven and a half years there. From there he went to work for Texas Department of Criminal Justice and enrolled at Sam Houston State University. George worked his way through the ranks to Prison Warden. After twenty five years and six months, he retired and returned home to Grapeland.

George was great about showing interest in the town, attending meetings and getting involved where he could. He was approached by friends to run for mayor. He lost in his first bid for mayor but was successful the second time around. He is unapposed for the May 2014 election and is looking forward to a second term as mayor. "We have a great teamcity hall, the chamber and the citizens. I want to keep this team effort and make it stronger for the sake of our town. We have a good solid police department and a city superintendent." Mayor Pierson is an unpaid mayor, but he is the kind who spends lots of time in city hall just to see that every thing is in compliance.

The mayor went on to say, "Our 1/2 cent sales tax is used by economic development to help maintain the businesses we have and to assist with establishing new business. We can point proudly to the future construction of Shepherd Truck Stop and to Walker and Walker funeral Home, Elite fitness and Jack Patton Barbeque.

Grapeland is located at the intersection of U. S. Highway 287 and Farm Road 227, twelve miles north of Crockett in Houston County. It has been on the map as a city since 1873 when application was made for a post office. Peanuts became the primary agriculture product following the decline of cotton and World War II. Since 1945 Grapeland has celebrated an annual Peanut Festival. In October of 2013 the town celebrated the 68th annual festival with a fun parade, carnival, Queen coronation and 5K run, drawing



Grapeland, Texas Mayor George Pierson

large crowds from surrounding towns and cities in and out of Texas.

This year, February 22, a Wild Game Tasting Benefit was hosted at the Cafe' and Creamery located downtown. Benefits went to the Senior Citizen Center. There was an auction and live music. The best of Texas wild game food was served...raccoon and sweet potatoes, smothered squirrel, alligator, pulled pork, mountain oyster and much, much more. Again, a large East Texas crowd came to enjoy the festivities.

Mayor Pierson has been married to his high school sweet heart, Ruth Pierson, since 1971. She is an RN who works at Crockett, Texas ETMC. Ruth has worked as a nurse the past 34 years. They have four daughters Roshunda, Laquita, Tejuana and Tewquteya and one son John Anderson Pierson, III, named from his grandfather.

Mayor Pierson is a member of Ceda Branch Missionary Baptist Church where he is a Deacon and past Chairman of the Deacon Board. He is a present member of the Grapeland Noon Lions Club, Finance Chairman of the W. R. Banks Alumni. He is also a member of Houston County Farm Service Agency, Small Farmers & Ranchers, past chair, and Houston County Land Owners Association.

Grapeland is known as "The Queen City of The Sand Flats" and it has a rich history of festivals and events such as the "Possum Walk" of 1913. "We invite you to come on to Grapeland, says Mayor Pierson, "and enjoy yourself with the best homegrown watermelons and peanuts and much more. Call (936) 687-4814. or 936 887-3277 or find us on the web at city of grapeland@yahoo.com.

Christianity

The following of
Jesus Christ
The Last
Seven Words



Out of the ugliness and agony of the crucifixion of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, God accomplished the greatest good of all - the redemption of sinners. Jesus was attached to a cross with nails through His wrists and feet. As was the custom, the charge against Jesus was attached to the cross. He was offered a brew to deaden His senses, but He refused. (Mark 15:23) There was no need for the soldiers to break His legs to hastened His death. By the ninth hour (Mark 15:25), probably 3:00PM - in only six hours, Jesus was dead. (John 19:31-33).

The number seven is a sign of spiritual completeness. The last seven words he uttered from the cross are recorded in Matthew, Mark, Luke and John and are as follows:

1. "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do" (Luke 23:34). Jesus taught that we should forgive those who sin against us. How appropriate that His first words from the cross should be words of forgiveness.
2. "Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise", (Luke 23:43). As He hung on the cross, Jesus certainly did not appear to be a king. Yet, what faith the repentant thief displayed when he asked, "Lord, remember me when you come into your kingdom." (Luke 23:42). Jesus' reply was good news indeed to the dying sinner.
3. "Woman, behold your son! ...

Behold your mother! (John 19:26-27). In spite of His grief and pain, Jesus continued to think of others. His earthly father, Joseph had probably died by this time. Jesus asked His beloved disciple, John to take care of His mother, Mary.

4. "Eli, Eli, lama sabachithani? My God, My God, why have you forsaken Me?" (Matthew 27:46; Mark 15:34) These words came from Jesus' lips about 3p.m., after He had hung on the cross for nine hours. Death was near, and Jesus was feeling the pain and loneliness that sin causes. But sin in this case was our sin and not His. To express His anguish and grief, Jesus quoted the opening word of Psalm 22, using the same words that King David had used a thousand years earlier (Psalms 22:1).
5. "I thirst" (John 19:28). The Old Testament had prophesied that Jesus would suffer for the sins of the world. In His death, that prophesy was being fulfilled. Jesus suffered spiritual torment as well as physical agony as He hung on the cross. His spirit thirsted to win the spiritual battle against evil while His body thirsted for water.
6. "It is finished!" (John 19:30). The word translated "finished" shows clearly that Jesus' victory has been achieved. It carries the idea of perfection or fulfillment. God's plan of salvation had been accomplished through Jesus' sacrifice on the cross.
7. "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." (Luke 23:46; also see Psalms 31:5; Matthew 27:50; and Mark 15:37). Jesus did not die a failure. He died a victorious Savior. He finished His work triumphantly and entrusted His spirit to God His Father.

His Hands

by W. Caldwell
Palestine, Tx.

The work began as a carpenter while he learned from Joseph the ability to create. But it wasn't until he declared he had to be about his father's business that the world would see that his hands are great.

He created hope for the hopeless by laying his hands on the blind, the deaf, and the lame. By closing the book in the synagogue he showed the teacher of the law that Emanuel is his name.

He embraced the children, feed the multitude, and even washed his disciples feet. Broke bread with tax collector and opened doors to leader that waited till night fall so he and Jesus could meet.

But the most amazing thing happened to this miracle worker after the event of the cross, the Bible said Jesus rose again with all power in his hands for the believers who were sin sick and lost. And from the nail marks in his hands, paid the price for sinners today who would never be able make cost.

Cherokee County Democrats Schedule Convention

by Caesar Roy

The Cherokee County Democrats have scheduled their convention for Saturday, March 22, 2014, 10:00 a.m.. Registration will begin at 9:30 -9:55 a.m.

The Cherokee County Democratic Convention & Precinct Conventions will be conducted in the District Courtroom (Second Floor) at the Cherokee County Courthouse on March 22, 2014.

The convention will be called to order by Chairman Caesar Roy at 10:00 a.m. Those who plan to attend should arrive at 9:30.

Delegates and alternate delegates to the State Convention will be selected at this meeting. The State Convention is being held in Dallas on June 27 & 28.

Those who voted in the Republican Primary are ineligible to participate in the convention.

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For if ye forgive men their trespases, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.
~Matthew 6:14

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Five Things Your Parents Didn't Mean to Teach You

By Beth H. Macy

Parents do the best they can to raise you with the tools they have. Many parents would be shocked to know that their children were little sponges, soaking up every word and action and interpreting it in their own way. Since each brain and view of the surrounding world is so different, it is no wonder therapists have a constant flow of clients.

Although many thoughts, fears, reactions, and actions get imprinted upon children at an early age, it is never too late to recognize where these things come from and to decide whether or not you wish to continue to hold onto them. Here are five things, out of potentially many more, that your parents inadvertently taught you!

1. How to Swear

Fathers are especially good at "teaching" this one. Ever been around your dad in his workshop when he hit his thumb with a hammer? Or how about when he came home from work and tripped over the cat? What about your mom's reaction when the dog pooped on the floor? Or what your mother said when your father threw the baby up in the air and played catch? There are many every day situations that can cause a parent to inadvertently let loose a blue streak! How do you react to surprise, pain, fear, or fatigue? What swear words are your children learning?

2. The White Lie

Ever overhear one of your parents calling in sick to work? "Cough, cough, cough. I seem to have caught a bug from one of the kids. Can't make it in today." You look around the house to see which one of your siblings is sick. Then you wonder if it could be you who is sick! But when your parent comes into the room, he/she is perfectly healthy sounding. How confusing is that? In later years, you make a note to tell your therapist about it! What are some other white lies you overheard, and how does that affect your behavior today? Are you a master at the "mental health day" phone call to work?

3. Fear of (Spiders, Mice, Lightning, and Other Events)

Parents tend to have different parenting styles here. Your father may have run around the house after a mouse with a shotgun declaring, "I've got it!" and your mother may have picked the mouse up by its tail and thrown it out. However, do you remember the reaction to a spider in the bathtub? Which parent screamed and ran away? And how was the offending critter taken care of? Was it squashed into a piece of toilet paper and flushed down the toilet, or trapped in a cup and let go free outside? Now look at your reaction to these critters and events. Where did it come from? Is it a carbon copy of one of your parent's reactions or is it the exact opposite?

4. How to Mess Up a House

Are you a piles person, compulsively orderly, or somewhere in between? Chances are that you are a reaction to, or an embodiment of, the way your parents lived. We all know the basics of cleaning a house, but our houses reflect not as much our ability to clean the house but our ability to mess it up! The best way to analyze your style is to look at how your parents live once the children have flown the nest.

5. How to Procrastinate

It's 9 pm on a school night, and your mother is putting you to bed. You mention that you haven't finished your big craft project for the Science Fair, and it's due tomorrow. Your mother lectures you on leaving something so late and then runs around the house gathering materials for your science project. The two of you sit for the next two hours at the kitchen table modeling a papier-mâché volcano, complete with a baking soda eruption. You proudly carry it to school the next day and get an A on your science project. When do parents enable self-learning and stick-to-it behavior, or when do they, from fatigue, and their own need to have some quiet time and get to bed at a decent hour, inadvertently encourage procrastination? Any attention can be good attention, even if children are being scolded by their parents. There are many ways parents, and you, yourself, as a parent, model less than desirable behavior. When you internalize this behavior, you can model it yourself or model the exact opposite behavior -- or even model a behavior that stems from your own unique interpretation of that behavior. Ever wonder how two siblings who grew up in the same household can have two entirely different interpretations of what went on in that household? Everyone sees the world differently, and everyone chooses how to react to that world. Even years after the original incident that formed our behavior has taken place, you can still chose to react differently. What behaviors do you have that you can trace back to your parents? How did you chose those behaviors, and do you still chose to keep them?



Walter Session
District II

Councilman's Corner

The latest in Rusk City Council news

repairs and should be completed by opening date.

April is City-wide cleanup month. Dumpsters will be placed at I. C. Conley City Park and city maintenance building for the convenience of aiding citizens in getting rid of miscellaneous trash. Items prohibited are tires, batteries, lawn mowers with gasoline in the tank and paint cans containing paint. For additional information, call city hall at (903) 683-2213.

The general election to be held May 10, 2014 for three council members Don Jones District III, Donald Woodward District IV, and Sam Florian District V, has been canceled due to being certified as unopposed.

Rusk city council accepted a contract with the Rusk Baseball/Softball Association. The league will start on April 26, 2014 at the park located on Euclid Street.

City of Rusk is accepting bids for the concession stand at the Rusk Baseball/Softball Complex. At the March council meeting the city had received no bids. If you have concession stand experience, contact Mike Murray, city manager or Cindi Etheridge city secretary.

Jan Pate purchased the Troublefield house with a bid of \$175.00. He is going to move the house to his property adjacent to the golf course.

Discussion on possible action on burning restrictions within the city limits of Rusk were held by the council. The position is that it is

legal to burn any size pile of wood within 50 feet of the adjacent property, provided, the burning pile is not left unattended. This item was tabled until further investigation can be conducted. Under Capital Improvement Project, the Singletary Memorial Library extension and renovation is going well. The swimming pool is under construction for

Community News Mt. Mariah Cemetary

Living family members that have deceased relatives at Mt. Mariah Cemetary located off Bagley Road are encouraged to help with the upkeep by paying a yearly dues of 25.00. The cost of a burial plot is \$200.00. No dues has been paid within the past several years. The cemetery will not be maintained properly without your help. You are welcome to volunteer with the mowing and weed eating. Dues can be mailed to Walter Session at P. O. box 332, Rusk, Texas 75785 or hand deliver to get a receipt.

Holly Springs -Delmar Cemetery
Community Pride Day
 April 19, 2014
 9:00 a.m. - until
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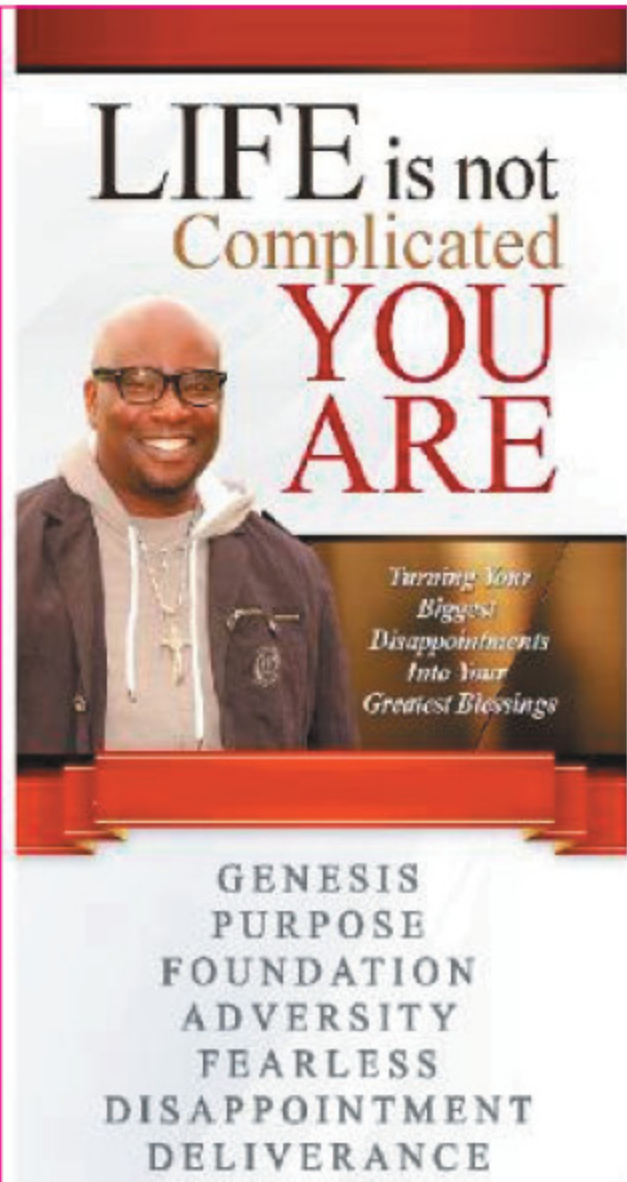


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JACKSONVILLE, TEXAS NATIVE SON CARLOS WALLACE RELEASES CRITICALLY ACCLAIMED BOOK, ON TRACK TO BEST SELLER



Meet Carlos April 12th at the Jacksonville public library

Jacksonville, TX— Native son Carlos Wallace crediting success to humble Jacksonville beginnings. Critics across the country are raving about his new book, *Life Is Not Complicated, You Are: Turning Your Biggest Disappointments Into Your Greatest Blessings*, available in hard cover, paperback and e-books. The book has already sold thousands of copies, in less than 2 months. Meet the bold new author during an official book signing and speaking engagement April 12, at the Jacksonville Public Library. The event begins promptly at 11:00 a.m.

In *Life is Not Complicated, You Are*, we follow Carlos' captivating journey from Jacksonville to Houston, railroad engineer to businessman and philanthropist. Carlos uses his unique story of triumph over tragedy to explore the value in everyday life experiences and demonstrate how every one can use his or her past to become empowered. This cover-to-cover reflection on inner strength and endurance also tackles topics such as depression, betrayal, success and victory with sensitivity and perspective.

Dr. John A. Nadalin, Adjunct Professor at Franklin University says, "Never has a book with such broad appeal touched so many on an intimate and personal level. Chapters like *Legacy, Deliverance, Success and Adversity* force readers to delve deep into their past in order to live with peace of mind today." Award winning journalist and New York based television news anchor Liz Faublas says, "It takes a profoundly deep regard for humanity to open up your life as generously as Carlos Wallace does in this book. And he does it to give us the courage to look beyond our fears.

Contact: Elizabeth Faublas

917-232-1798

editor@milliondollarpenink.com

To learn more about *Life Is Not Complicated, You Are: Turning Your Biggest Disappointments Into Your Greatest Blessings*, RSVP to the book signing at the Jacksonville Public Library, or to schedule an interview with Carlos Wallace, contact: editor@milliondollarpenink.com.

NNPA conducts region IV publisher Training in Dallas



The National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) will conduct training workshops during the remainder of the fiscal year. Region IV Training was held Saturday, March 8, 2014 in Dallas, Texas at the Embassy Suite Hotel. Publisher Instructor George E. Curry, editor-in-chief NNPA News Service; former Washington correspondent and New York Bureau Chief for the Chicago Tribune and former editor of *Emerge* magazine, conducted morning and afternoon sessions on *Polishing your interviewing skills, Writing more complete news stories, The finer points of good writing and Advanced feature writing.* Herman Ray Thornton operations manager of the Columbus Ohio Post, taught sessions on *Design and Layout, Photography and weblayout.* Pictured above are publishers and their staff attending, who represented The Texas Informer, The Dallas Examiner, The North Dallas Gazette, The Dallas Post Tribune, The Houston Forward Times and Power Pages News.

Rusk TJC Citizens Promise funds TJC

Scholarships for Rusk graduates



Pictured above are the James I Perkins family, Charles Hassell and the Citizens 1st Bank staff, Dr. & Mrs. Mike Metke, Dr. Davis RISD Superintendent, Rusk City Manager Mike Murray, Terry and Robert Gonzales of the Rusk Cherokeean Herald, and Mayor Protem Walter Session and wife Maxine of the Texas Informer. The group celebrates "The Promise" following the TJC Board Meeting.

The Rusk TJC Citizens Promise, the first scholarship program of its kind in Texas, may fund two years at Tyler Junior College for the top 50 percent of qualifying Rusk High School graduates. The new initiative, during Thursday's TJC board

meeting, begins with the Rusk High School graduating class of 2014. The Rusk TJC Citizens Promise covers \$4,000 per year (for two years) for each qualifying student who graduates in the top half of the class. Funded by gifts and pledges

from Citizens 1st Bank, The Perkins Family Foundation, and others, the program is a partnership between TJC, the TJC Foundation, Rusk ISD, Citizens 1st Bank and The Perkins Family

Foundation. "We couldn't be more pleased to be a part of this historic first for Tyler Junior College and for the state of Texas," TJC President Dr. Mike Metke said.

"Thanks to the continued leadership and generosity of Citizens 1st Bank and The Perkins Family Foundation, The Rusk TJC Citizens Promise will improve the lives of countless students and their families for years to come."

Currently, there are 22 "Promise" programs nationwide, including the Kalamazoo Promise in Michigan, the El Dorado Promise in Arkansas, and the Pittsburgh Promise in Pennsylvania.

Studies of Promise programs have shown marked improvement in schools, including increased enrollment and retention, higher test scores and graduation rates, and have created a college-going culture among students, with more enrolling in college after high school.

The program's success also extends to the community at large, with an economic boom created by more families relocating to Promise communities.

"We are fortunate to partner with the nation's best junior college - Tyler Junior College - and announce this life-changing, economic engine for the Rusk community," said James I. Perkins, Citizens 1st Bank president and chairman of the board. "We believe that other communities will be inspired to start similar Promise programs and help future generations through education."

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and
Sherman
Johnson
March 2nd

LEGAL NOTICE

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

Game #	Game Name / Odds	\$	Official Close of Game	End Validations Date
1569	I Love Cash Overall Odds are 1 in 4.26	\$2	3/30/14	9/26/14
1544	Veterans Cash Overall Odds are 1 in 4.43	\$2	4/30/14	10/27/14
1523	Joker's Wild Overall Odds are 1 in 3.84	\$5	4/30/14	10/27/14

For detailed odds and game information, visit txlottery.org or call 1-800-37LOTTO. Must be 18 or older to purchase a ticket. The Texas Lottery supports Texas education. © 2014 Texas Lottery Commission. All rights reserved.



OBITUARIES

Flora Jean Waits

Funeral services were held Wednesday, February 19th for Flora Jean Wallace Waits at Ist Pentacostal Church of God in Christ, Jacksonville, Texas. Flora Jean was born to the union of Aaron Wallace, Sr. and Corsie Lee Wallace, March 12, 1945 in Summerfield, Texas. On February 13, 2014 in Jacksonville, Texas she entered eternal rest after a short illness. She was reared in Jacksonville, Texas and received her education in Jacksonville ISD, graduating from Fred Douglas High School in 1965. She continued her education and received an Associate Degree in Computer Programing from Tyler Junior College.

Flora grewup in White's Temple Church of God in Christ and later joined, and was a very dedicated member of First Pentecostal Church of God in Christ.

She was united in holy matrimony with John W. Waits. She was a member of various community and civic organizatins including United Women of Strength, the United Negro College Fund and the KEBE Hill Neighborhood Exercisers.

Flora was a loving wife and mother - and foster mother. She was always concerned with others well being and happiness; and often gave a good dose of humor to just about every situation.

She was preceeded in death by her husband, John W. Waits, two brothers: Larry Wallace and Aaron Wallace, Jr., two nephews; Terrance Dean O'Neil "Tony" Harris and Eddie Dwayne Harris; and her parents Aaron and Corsie Lee Wallace.

To forever cherish her loving memory she leaves three children: Marcus (Lahoma) Wallace of Jacksonville, Kimberly Wallace of Chicago, and Vernoy Wallace of Jacksonville; Three sisters: Eva Castleberry of Jacksonville, Bettie (Robert) Golden of Dallas, and Doris Whitaker of Jacksonville; three brothers: James (Charlotte) Wallace of Wichita Falls; Johnny (Linda) Wallace of Jacksonville; and Charles (Mary) Wallace of Garland; six grandchildren: James Green, Joshua Wallace, Marcayla Wallace, Dasia Wallace, Daeshaun Wallace, and King Vernoy Wallace; two special "grandchildren" Patrick Smith and Isiah Smith of Longview, Texas.

Officiant was Elder Lanny Williams. the service was under the directions of Williams Funeral Home and burial was at Union Hill Cemetery, New Summerfield.

Taffany Tyler

Funeral services were held for thrity-seven year old Taffany Tyler at 2:00pm on Saturday, February 22nd at Elm Grove Baptist Church, Rusk Texas, with Rev. Travis McGowan officiating.

Taffany was the daughter of the late D. C. Tyler and Connie Jean Watts Tyler of Jacksonville.

The services were under the direction of Mercy-McGowan Funeral Home and burial was at Mount Mariah Cemetery.

*Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.
~ Hebrews 11:1*

Mrs. Elsie Colston

Mrs. Elsie Colston, the daughter of the late Monroe Jones and Adline Jones was born February 1, 1916 in Rusk, Texas. She was reared in the Woodville Community where she received her years of education. At an early age she confessed faith in Christ and united with the Woodville CME Church.

On November 11, 1939, Mrs. Elsie Colston was united in Holy matrimony with Mr. George Colston. To this union nine children were born. After marriage, she united with her husband's church, Blount Chapel Baptist Church in the Shady Grove Community. There she served on the ursher board for many years. She was a member of the Mission Circle and the Eastern Stars. Mrs. Colston initiated the first Grandparent Day at Blount Chapel Church, and she was honored as Mother of the Church.

On Thursday, March 6, 2014 in Jacksonville, Texas, she entered eternal rest. She was preceded in death by her husband, Mr. George Colston, her parents, two daughters LOrene Colston and Lauretta Stewart; four sisters and four brothers.

To cherish her memory she leaves five daughters, one son, a special son-in-law, a sister-in-law and a host of neices and nephews. Her children are Irene Joyce of Rusk, Letha (Thomas) Northcutt, Jefferson; Georgia Colston, Terrell, Texas, Roy (Zalinda) Colston, Rusk, Texas; Euraline (Clifford) Harkless, Tatum; Cylinda Colston, Jacksonville and Renee (Aaron) Howard, Tyler; sister-in-law Frankie Jones, Fort Worth, Texas and son-in-law Elmer Stewart, Rusk, Texas.

Corine Carter Waggoner

Corine Carter waggoner was born to Pete and Margreete Lenzy Carter, November 27, 1928 in Rusk, Cherokee County, Texas. She was aised in the community of her birth and united with Delmar Baptist Church at an early age. Corine graduated from George W. Bradford High School, Rusk, Texas. She received a Bachelor of Science in Home Economics from Butler College, Tyler, Texas. On October 25, 1948, Corine Carter United in holy matrimony with Charlie Sullivan Waggoner, Sr. They lived in Texas several years and moved to Los Angeles, California in 1959 where she was employed as a Senior Manager of a Children's Manufacturer, Evy, of California until her retirement after 30 years.

Corine and her husband moved to Las Vegas, Nevada where they began a new chapter of life traveling across the United States by motor home. They loved touring the states and visiting with loved ones. She loved her family and dedicated her life to their success.

Corine Waggoner was preceeded in death by her parents, husband son Albert Waggoner, daughter Shirley Ann Waggoner; eight brothers; J. W. , Pete, Jr., James, Travis, Howard, MARvin, Tommy and Charles Carter; one sister Virginia Nunley. Corine was called home on February 23, 2014 at Cedars Sinia Hospital in Beverly Hills, California. She leaves to cheris her memories:

Continue page 11

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Workers of America need and deserve a raise

Staff writer

Profits, productivity, executive stock markets keep continues to go up while the income of working and middle class families continue to go down. The years from 2009 through 2012 the rich got richer. The 1% is fully recovered from the economic downturn. The income of the bottom 99% have barely begun to recover.

Raising the minimum wage from \$7.25 to \$10.10 by 2016 would restore the federal minimum wage to about the same inflation adjusted -value as it had in the late 1960s. The \$7.25 hourly wage that minimum wage workers are paid today equal about \$15,080. a year.

Women make up 55% of minimum wage earners. Increasing the hourly minimum wage to \$10.10 would lift nearly 1 million people out of poverty.

Some members of the business community are putting up a tough fight to defeat the pay raise, saying a pay raise would cause them to close their business or to downsize due to budget restraints. America needs a raise. It will take all of us working together to accomplish this. Not only at the bargaining table, but in our communities. Communication Workers of America(CWA) support this payraise.

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God and Family

Let the Word of Christ- the message - have the run of the house. give it plenty of room in your lives.

These are difficult days for our nation and for our families. But, thankfully, God is bigger than all of our challenges. God loves us and protects us. In times of trouble, He comforts us; in times of sorrow, He dries our tears. When we are troubled, or weak, or sorrowful, God is as near as our next breath.

Are you concerned for the well-being of your family? You are not alone. We live in a world where temptation and danger seem to lurk on every street corner. Parents and children alike have good reason to be watchful. But, despite the evils of our time, God remains steadfast. Even in these difficult days, no problem is too big for God.

The first essential for a happy home is love. If you are lucky enough to be a member of a loving, supportive family, then you owe it to yourself and to them to share your thoughts, hopes, your encouragement and your love.

Continued from page 11

New School Discipline Tools

So far, the responses from school officials have been mixed. Rather than working to implement graduated sanctions, or using funding that has been made available to hire juvenile case managers, some schools have increased referrals to DAEP programs or campus police have written up violations as Class B misdemeanors which can still be filed with the courts.

This legislation was never about making things fast and easy for school administrators. If it were your child, would you think a harmless, in-class prank at age 14 should deny college admission, scholarship money or employment four years later? Although the phrase may be recited or claimed all too often, it really should be "all about the children."

For more information, please call Kelvin Bass at 214-467-0123 or Julie Frank at 512-463-0395.

Tribute to a Black Military Legend-Colonel Charles

(L-R) Leonard A. Lawson Jr., President-BlacqueIce Productions, Charles Blatcher III, Chairman-National Coalition of Black Veteran Organizations, Michael Clark, PhD Historian-National Minority Military Museum Foundation and Howard Jackson, Chairman - National Minority Military Museum Foundation. On Friday, February 28, the Coalition of Black Veterans Organizations, in tandem with representatives from Congresswoman Barbara Lee's office, Superintendent of the Golden Gate Recreation Area Frank Dean, and representatives of the National Minority Military Museum Foundation all gathered with local residents and friends at the Oakland African-American Museum and Library to unveil a bronze maquette statue of American hero, Colonel Charles Young. Colonel Charles Young was many things—a diplomat, an educator, a Buffalo Soldier-- and his legacy lives on through all the African-American soldiers, colonels, and generals that came after him. The statuette serves as a model for the monument the Coalition has been working to erect in Washington, D.C., and was designed by renowned sculptor Antonio Tobias Mendez. Once erected, the work will stand as the first depiction of an African-American military officer. The Coalition of Black Veterans has been working diligently to get on horseback.

Col. Young an honorary promotion to Brigadier General, and this event has brought them one step closer to their goal with the help of dedicated public servants like Rep. Barbara Lee. "I will continue to fight for Colonel Young's honorary promotion," she said in a statement through her Deputy Director, Katherine Jolly, "to ensure that his sacrifice, dedication, and service are recognized in full." The Coalition has taken its fight all the way to the White House, and has been awaiting a response from President Barack Obama pertaining to the requested promotion and whether he will accept a casting of the maquette as a gift to the nation from the Black Veterans Coalition. "The maquette is worthy of a place in the White House," says Chairman of the Coalition, Charles Blatcher III. "It is a magnificent work of art that symbolizes the dedication and honor of Black participation in the Armed Forces during an era in American History that should not be overlooked or forgotten."

Blatcher, the Keynote Speaker at the unveiling, noted the importance of recognizing not only great men like Young, but the contributions of all black soldiers. "The obvious racial injustices committed against black soldiers in the separate but not equal Armed Forces is a subject that begs for historical redress," he said to the crowd. "Colonel Charles Young became the standard bearer for the cause."

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Corine Waggoner

Continued from page 8

son, Jerry Don Waggoner, Son, Charlie Sullivan Waggoner, Jr., daughter Patricia Andrena Zulic and daughter Jacqueline Arlene Waggoner, all residing in Southern California; ten grandchildren; three great grandchildren and one great grandchild on the way; two sisters, Geneva E. Taylor, Dallas, Texas and Myrtle J. Garmon, Henderson, Texas; two brothers George E. (Betty) Carter, Atwater, California and Vernell (Barbara) Carter, Washington D. C., aunt Ruby Banks, California; uncle Melvin Lenzy, California; two brothers-in-law, John Westley (Arlene) Waggoner and Hubert Waggoner both of Rusk, Texas; sister-in-law, Norma Carter, Los Angeles, California and Linda Carter, Tyler, Texas; many neices, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Services were held February 28th at Mt. Pleasant CME Church Rusk, Texas with the Rev. Jerry C. Williams Eulogist, under the directions of Garmon Funeral Home. Burial was at Holly Springs Delmar Cemetery.

Holly Springs - Delmar Cemetery Management Group asks support

The Holly Springs-Delmar Cemetery Committee would like to express their deepest thanks to area supporters for assisting with the maintenance of the cemetery. Much progress has been made in the past with installation of new fence on the Eastside, regular mowing and edging and the cutting of new growth around the perimeter of the cemetery.

The committee has set April 19, 2014 as Community Pride Day. Volunteers are asked to come out on April 19, 2014 and bring lawn tools and chair to help with the cemetery maintenance. Cold drinks and good fellowship will be provided. Goals for the coming year include completing the fencing project to the northside and westside of the cemetery. Donations can be sent to: Holly Springs-Delmar Cemetery Fund, P. O. Box 900, Rusk, Texas 75785.

New tools for school discipline need a chance to work

Short-sighted fixes cause long term problems for youth

by Royce West
Texas Senate

Much wisdom has been passed and many great tales have begun with the phrase, "Well back when I was growing up, we used to..." you can fill in the blank. While mention causes one to reflect, this phrase also rings true today when the discussion turns to school discipline.

Corporal punishment is gone, never to return to the tool box of school discipline. It was replaced in part by in-school and out-of-school suspension. Now-days, many school districts, particularly those in urban areas across Texas and in other places across the country, have created special campuses and programs for problem students; those, who due to their behaviors and disciplinary problems, have been removed from traditional classroom settings. In Texas, they are called Disciplinary Alternative Education Programs and go by the acronym DAEP. And while debate continues over whether or not these campuses provide an adequate curriculum or proper instructional support, students, through graduation or by their return to home campuses, do at some point exit these programs.

However, disciplinary measures put in place in more recent years can have implications for students long past their K-12 experiences. These sanctions, duly enforced via on-campus law enforcement presence, administered with expediency by the courts, and aided by the pervasive use of technology, have become barriers to future success for young people who have moved past youthful indiscretions and now seek to enter the workforce or are looking in the direction of college.

To sum up the problem, student discipline policies used over the past decade have resulted in more and more students - including disproportionate numbers of minority students - receiving citations that are processed in municipal and Justice of the Peace courts, both of which are part of the adult court system. Rather than being sealed under juvenile law, these citations become part of the public record. At the time these young people have set their sights on college or employment prospects, these criminal citations, most for violations that would not be offenses if committed off school property, resurface. They result in denied employment, college applications and scholarships. Is this what parents or school officials really want?

SB393 passed the Texas Legislature and was signed into law, effective September 1, 2013. The bill prohibits the issuance citations to students for Class C misdemeanor offenses such as disruption of class and disorderly conduct that have landed them in the adult court system with criminal history records. It creates a system whereby school-based violations that are not crimes under state law can be addressed at the campus or district level. It also creates a system of sanctions where fines can be waived in lieu of tutoring requirements, involvement in school-based community service or counseling, and allows local school districts or counties to hire juvenile case managers to assist at-risk youth.

SB393 also bans the practice of filing court cases for disruption of class against children younger than 12 years old. These measures put in place come from recommendations made by a Texas Judicial Council created task force spearheaded by former Texas Supreme Court Chief Justice Wallace Jefferson.

The new law also institutes a system of graduated sanctions than can be utilized by school officials rather than or prior to filing a complaint with the courts. However, school officials still have the ability to file complaints with the courts, or have students taken into custody for committing acts of violence or other serious violations of state law.

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yard tools to help cleanup and do maintenance through our
Historical Cemetery. Refreshment will be provided.**

**Thanks very much for your support.
H R Waggoner**

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