



CHEROKEE COUNTY INFORMER

"The Leading African-American Press in Rusk, Anderson & Cherokee Counties"

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Happy Mother's Day!



Sandra Newsome Thompson joined the staff at Jacksonville Savings Bank in 1980. She is a wife and mother of two. We profile her on page 3.

EDITORIAL



by Maxine Session

Ain't it funny how time slips away. It seems just a few months ago that we published the first issue of the "Informer", but it was May, 1995. We celebrate our fourth anniversary with this printing, thanks to all of you who send us news stories and poetry, buy adds, subscribe to the mailing list, make donations or just read the news. We can't say thank you enough. We thank God for enabling us to put together a positive publication that you enjoy reading. In addition to mailouts that go to about eight states, the "Informer" drop locations, news racks, or deliveries are located in Anderson County, Rusk County, southern Smith County, and of course Cherokee County. In March we increased the number printed by two thousand. This month we add drop locations in Nacogdoches and Lufkin by request. It is our goal this year to construct a building to house the "Informer" office. Again, we say thank you for your support.

With May being Mother's Day month, we say Happy Mother's Day to all of you wonderful mothers, grandmothers, and great-grandmothers. If you are a mother, you know that children do some unexplainable things. We would like to share a story with you about a mischevious little boy by the name of Leroy. They say laughter is good for the soul, so here goes.

Will the Mother of this Kid please stand up!

-Author unknown

Little Leroy went to his mother demanding a new bicycle. His mother decided that he should take a look at himself and the way he acts. She said, "Well Leroy, it isn't Christmas and we don't have the money to just go out and buy you anything you want. So why don't you write a let-

Continue page 18

Letters To The Editor

Dear Editor,

It's been over a week now since the shootings and bombings in Littleton, CO. Everywhere you turn on TV and in the newspapers there are reports and questions. The one question that keeps coming up over and over again is WHY? I agree wholeheartedly with the letter to the editor from Mrs. Smith in Wednesday's Daily Progress. This verse seems to sum up what I believe she was saying. Proverbs 29-18 -Where there is ignorance of God, the people run wild; but what a wonderful thing it is for a nation to know and keep His laws.

Everyone has their opinion. Here's mine. First, let me say, I in no shape, form or fashion excuse or condone what happened. I believe the boys who did the shooting were fed up with being teased, taunted and picked on by the "Cool Kids" or the "In Group". You may be thinking kids have been teased since the beginning of time without killing others. That's true, but this is a different world now. The teasing is much more severe, parents aren't home to lend support, and the kids see thousands of examples of violent ways to deal with their emotions and problems in a more appropriate way.

I have been teaching for 11 years and I've been a mother for 21 years. In those years, I've witnessed just how mean children can be. (Some adults can be just as cruel.) Any child who is a little different, not particularly, pretty, smart or athletic, or maybe just a bit shy, is kidded, teased and taunted unmercifully from Pre-K on through all levels of school. It's like a "Snowball" situation. One child begins to make fun of this child and others join in. Soon the unfortunate one is branded as the misfit and chosen as the "whipping boy" (or girl) for the whole school. I've heard so many say, "Children can be so cruel." Since we know this, why don't we make a bigger effort to teach them to be kind and compassionate? Why don't we teach the "Golden Rule" and teach it by example? People seem to think that manners are old fashioned. Well, manners are nothing more than showing consideration for others. The logo, W.W.J.D. should be a reminder to us to love and protect each other because that is what Jesus would do. In every school shooting, the shooter was labeled, an outcast or misfit. I believe they were picked on and teased so much until they had had enough, and because they see frustration and anger dealt with violence on TV, movies, and video games, that's how they chose to handle theirs. If all of us would treat other people the way we would like to be treated and teach our children that everyone has value and feelings, I believe there would be fewer killings. The child or adult who seems the least lovable is the person who needs our love, compassion, and understanding the most.

We must stop teaching hatred and start teaching forgiveness and caring. "The acid of hatred does more harm to the container in which it is stored than to the object on which it is poured" and "Our own souls are nourished when we are kind to others."

Sincerely,
Anne Cumbee
Rusk, Texas

To The Editor:

In reference to an article in the Cherokee/Herald of Rusk dated April 22, that stated Alto Trustees adopted discipline policy.

The parents of AISD disapprove of the New Behavior Management Plan that was adopted by the Alto Board of Trustees that requires students to sit in a room for four hours at a desk with hands face down on the desk and stare at the wall. We voiced concern over how medically and psychologically healthy this would be for our children, but our concerns and pleas were ignored by the Board of Trustees.

Surely, there must be other forms of disciplinary tactics that would attempt to change or improve unwanted behavior but also enhance intellectual skills. We feel, that disciplinary measures that encompass these goals would be more beneficial in the long run to the student in a positive way.

Sincerely yours,
Concerned Parents of AISD

Cherokee County Informer:

I really enjoyed reading the newspaper! I found it to be well put together, informative and mostly, well-rounded.

I was born and raised in the Sweet Union Community. My father, Dennis Bean Sr., passed away this past May 1998 of cancer, however, my mother Mrs. Ida Lee Bean, still lives in Sweet Union.

After reading the article on *Revitalizing the Community*, in Sweet Union, I would like to probe the ideal of opening a ADULT DAY CARE/RECREATION CENTER and CHILD-CARE CENTER.

The centers would serve the Sweet Union, Wells, Alto, and Rusk communities.

The Adult Day Care/Recreation Center, would provide: nursing staff, medical services, recreational activities, hot meals, socialization, guest speakers, field trips, and FREE TRANSPORTATION. ALL OF THESE SERVICES ARE FREE TO MEDICARE/MEDICAID RECIPIENTS....

The Child Care Center would provide: quality, stimulating, and nurturing programs for each child. Upon enrollment, each child would be individually assessed to determine their strengths and their weakness. These services would be FREE TO AFDC RECIPIENTS, LOW TO MODERATE INCOME (SLIDING SCALE) DISADVANTAGES., SINGLE PARENTS, ETC.

I would like to work to bring these services to the community, if there is AN INTEREST OR A NEED.

For additional information you may contact: Ivory North, Rt. 2 Box 181, Alto, Texas 75925, or call (409) 867-4288.

Happy May Birthday
Kizzie Anderson
From Carolyn, Sandra and Marcellous

Happy Mother's Day
Hattie Lofton
From Kizzie and Goldia

Happy Mother's Day
Carolyn Anderson
From Graceline and Stacy

ASK A.J.



Question: Jermain Loguen, a black "conductor" on the Underground Railroad, helped 1,500 slaves escape. What future female "conductor" was among them?

Answer: Harriet Tubman (who would help 300 slaves escape to freedom)

Question: What New England industry was changed forever by the 19th-century invention called "Temple's Toggle"?

Answer: whaling (A new kind of harpoon fitted with a toggle at the end was invented by Lewis Temple.)

Question: Who were the first African people met by the Dutch in South Africa: the Bantu, Ashanti or Hottentots?

Answer: the Hottentots (who call themselves Khoikhoi, or "men of men")

Question: Did Maya Angelou take the title of her autobiography, I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings, from a poem by Paul Laurence Dunbar or Phillis Wheatley?

Answer: Paul Laurence Dunbar (The book tells about growing up in the rural South.)

Question: What do we call the period of rebuilding that followed the Civil War?

Answer: Reconstruction, 1865-77 (during which states that had seceded from the Union were reorganized and reestablished)

Question: In what sport did George Branham III win the Brunswick Memorial World Open?

Answer: bowling (He defeated Mark Roth in 1986 to become the first African American professional champion in the sport.)

Gov. George W. Bush Joins Baseball Great Nolan Ryan and Agriculture Commissioner Susan Combs to Kick Off "GO TEXAN"



(From right to left) Agriculture Commissioner Susan Combs, Baseball Hall of Famer Nolan Ryan, Gov. George W. Bush, Lt. Gov. Rick Perry and Speaker of the House, Pete Laney receive the first GO TEXAN branding irons at the Texas Department of Agriculture GO TEXAN roll out April 8.

AUSTIN - With help from Baseball hall of Famer Nolan Ryan, Texas Agriculture Commissioner Susan Combs delivered a big pitch for Texas agriculture at the State Capitol, rolling out a Texas Department of Agriculture campaign to encourage Texans to choose Texas products first.

Gov. George W. Bush, Lt. Gov. Rick Perry and House Speaker Pete Laney joined Combs and Ryan to introduce GO TEXAN, a campaign promoting Texas food, natural fibers and leather, wine, horticulture and all products grown or processed within the Lone Star State.

Combs said Texans will soon be seeing the program's distinctive image - a glowing brand and the words GO TEXAN - all around the state.

The event was highlighted by the unveiling of a television public service announcement featuring pitching great Ryan, who is seen throwing out-of-state fruits and vegetables at the side of a barn.

Combs has also enlisted the star power of actor Tommy Lee Jones, who appear in an upcoming GO TEXAN commercial. Both men have donated their time to promote Texas agriculture.

"GO TEXAN is a first for Texas agriculture, a high-profile presence that will simply make it un-cool and un-Texan to buy anything but Texas products," Combs said.

The GO TEXAN campaign is part of Combs' initiative to promote Texas agriculture to Texans. A TDA survey of Texas shoppers found that almost 90 percent would buy a product identified as coming from Texas.

"I want to tap into that loyalty," Combs added. I want consumers to know that whether they're shopping for food, fiber, wine or plants, if they're looking for the best, then they should GO TEXAN."

Advertisement for Shep's Bar-B-Q & Catering Service, featuring a cartoon pig logo, contact information (903) 729-4206, address 1013 E. PALESTINE AVE., PALESTINE, TEXAS 75801, and name BRUCE BARRETT.

Advertisement for CHAPMAN PHARMACY, featuring the slogan "We Care About Your Health", address 100 East 5th On The Square Rusk, TX 75785, and contact information for Harold Porter, R. Ph. and Jim Abell, R. Ph. with phone numbers (903) 683-2422 and (800) 657-1873.

92nd Birthday Celebration

Pictured below is Mrs. Betty Bradford Monmouth Spencer and family members as they celebrate her 92nd Birthday on May 1st.



NOW SHOWING Palestine (MFG) Housing Hwy. 155 N. (Tyler Highway) Largest Selection In East Texas!

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Send Someone That Buys A Home And Receive \$500

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\$32,000 (Unbelievable!)

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Huge Rooms, Big Rooms, Small Price!

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3.9 APR - 48 Mos.
4.9 APR - 60 Mos.



1999 BUICK REGAL LS SEDAN

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Sandra Newsome Thompson: Jacksonville Savings Bank Secretary & Treasurer

By Maxine Session

Most people go about their daily lives doing what comes natural for them, never realizing that other people are watching them. They go about their lives never realizing that someone somewhere looks at them as a role model.

Such is the case with Sandra Newsome Thompson of Jacksonville, Texas.

Sandra is employed at Jacksonville Savings Bank as secretary /treasurer. She is a wife and mother of two.

Banking in East Texas is one business where very few African American faces are seen behind the desk conducting business. Sandra is the only African American female in East Texas to hold the position that she holds in a major banking institution.

The following interview was conducted with Sandra to share her personal goals and opinions.

Informer: As secretary/ treasurer, what are your job duties?

Sandra: I do benefits for employees.....collecting data on benefit plans and employee insurance. I do payroll and vacation.....basically anything that deals with human resources.

Informer: How long have you been with the bank?

Sandra: I have been employed here since August 4, 1980, which is nineteen years.

Informer: Where did you work before this time?

Sandra: I worked at Travis clinic as a receptionist, and in x-ray as a transcriber.

Informer: How did you come to make the change from Travis Clinic to banking?

Sandra: Lana Cook, who was employed here at what was at that time Jacksonville Savings and Loan. She called me and asked me if I would be interested in coming to work here. I talked to my supervisor at Travis clinic and was convinced to stay on there.

Some time later a rumor surfaced that Travis Clinic was closing. I called Jake Hunt who was

Jacksonville Savings and Loan President at that time. He hired me. I gave two weeks notice at the clinic and began working here.

Informer: Was this a dream come true for you?

Sandra: I didn't dream of doing this. I attended Texas Women's University in Denton with a major in Child Development and Nursery Education

Informer: I talk to a lot of people who are in careers they don't necessarily want to be in for one reason or another. They have dreams of starting their own business or just making a change, yet they doubt themselves and their abilities. You made the career change. You have been successful at it. What gave you the self confidence that you needed to take on the challenge?

Sandra: My mom and the kind of upbringing that I had. My father died when I was two years old. There was ten of us kids. I have often wondered how she did it, but mother raised us all. We didn't have a lot of material things but we were happy. She made our clothes and she sewed for other people, too. No matter what activity we were in at school she was always there. When I was in high school I was the first black majorette. All the other girls had years of training, but that was a difficult challenge for me. I had to learn everything in one summer.

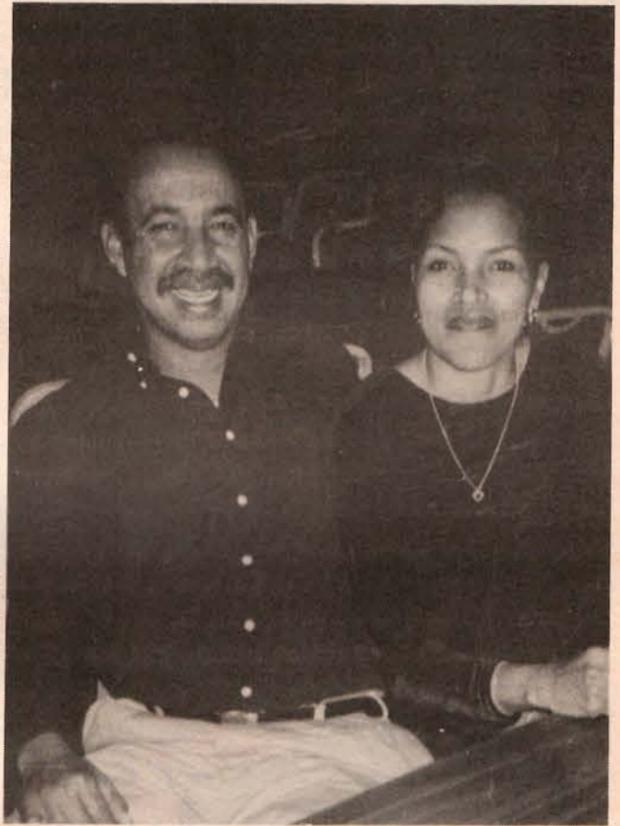
The first night of my performance on the field, I remember well. Mother and Mrs. Otha Johnson had their own special spot to sit at every football game. As we marched onto the field, above all the people in that big crowd, I could hear her yelling, "That's my baby! Yea!, Sandra! That's my baby!"

She lay ill in the hospital in a coma for a long time about a year before she died. When she woke up she kept trying to ask us something. When we finally figured it out, she was asking who won the world Series. She was strong like a rock. She made everybody in her life feel good just being around her.

Mother raised all ten of us and today no one is in jail and no one is on drugs.

Sometimes we don't realize just how blessed we are.

Now my sister Debbie keeps us all together and she makes sure we all know the Lord.



I get my strength from Phillipians 4:13, I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me. This is one of my favorite scriptures.

I try to be like my mother. We've raised our children the way she raised us. I feared her. What that means is that I respected her and I did what she she told me to do.

A lot of parents don't know how to be good parents so their kids don't fear God or them. They don't know respect of themselves or anybody.

Parents have to be there for children in everyday.....homework.....meet the teacher with concerns and when there are no concerns. Support the school and the teacher. Let the child know that you are going to question what happens at school, but that you are going to support the teacher.

I thank God for my family and my upbringing.

There is a song we sing at church called "I Have Hope". Where there is hope, we never give up.

Sandra is a 1973 graduate of Jacksonville. She and her husband Travis will celebrate twenty-five years of happy marriage on september 12th of

"Life can never overwhelm our children if ignorance is no longer a part of their curriculum. Today I will devote more time to the education of my children." -Samuel Cornish

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Cannings celebrate 4th Anniversary of MC Tours and Travel



John and Mable Cannings, owners, celebrate the 4th anniversary of MC Tours and Travel and Cannings Communications located on North Street in Nacogdoches, Texas. MC Tours and Travel is a travel agency with the capability to book travel of any kind from airflight to cruise to any part of the world. Cannings communications specializes in public relations, advertising and institutional marketing for financial, educational, municipal, corporate and public entities. Mable Cannings, president, has 23 years of experience in marketing, strategic planning and public relations. Her professional experience includes management positions with Deep East Texas Council of Governments where she had direct responsibility for the Title VII, Private Sector Initiatives Program including OJT, targeted Jobs Tax Credit Program, Classroom Training, and small business Development.

"We treat our clients as if they have a million dollars to spend. We book air-fights, tour packages and cruises, charter buses, hotels nation wide, and car rentals to and from any where in the world. We give our clients special attention working on their own budget. A lot of people don't know that we can help them plan for travel to and from family reunions and plan reunions that can be held on tour or cruise. For more information contact Mable or John at 2728 North Street, Naacogdoches. (409) 568-9607 Fax (409) 568-9679 OR 1-888.568-9607.



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FIRST IN EAST TEXAS. SECOND TO NONE.

As part of the ETMC Regional Healthcare System, ETMC Rusk, a 49-bed hospital, provides East Texans with health care that is second to none.

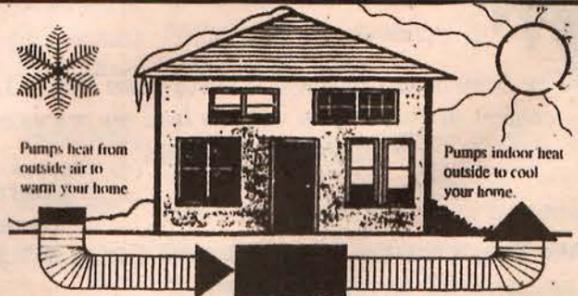
- X-ray and CT scanner, nuclear medicine & ultrasound
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IN SUMMER AND HEATS IN WINTER**

Southwestern Electric Service Company

a Subsidiary of Texas Utilities Company

Wickware's Celebrate 55th Wedding Anniversary



Sam and Alma July Wickware formerly of Rusk celebrated their 55th Wedding Anniversary on March 4, 1999 in their home in Duncanville, Texas. They were married on March 4, 1944 in Rusk by Rev. Lee Carter. They lived in Tyler, Texas 25 years before moving to the Dallas area.

Alma is a retired public school teacher and Sam is retired from De Ford Hardware and Lumber Company. They have three children, eight grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Happy Birthday
Dave Black (Papa)
 May 4th
 from Tedarius and Anfernee Black

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\$16,990

1996 Geo Tracker 4 Dr.
 Hard Top, Auto, 11,800 Miles,
 1 Owner
\$9,995

1997 Ford 1/2 Ton LWB
 6 Cyl., Auto, Air, 30,600 Miles
\$12,900

1995 Isuzu Rodeo 4Dr.
 Loaded, 1 Owner, 50,000 Miles
\$11,990

1996 Olds Cutlass 4Dr.
 Loaded, 1 Owner
\$8,995

1995 GMC Ext. Cab LWB
 Loaded, Leather Buckets, 1 Owner
\$15,500

1994 Chevy Ext. Cab 4WD
 Loaded, Bucket Seats, 350
\$14,990

1993 Chevy Ext. Cab 4WD
 Loaded, Bucket Seats
\$12,990

1996 GMC Sonoma 4WD
 5 Speed, Air, 1 Owner
\$7,995

1991 Pontiac 6000SE
 Loaded, 1 Owner, 64,000 Miles
\$5,800

1995 Nissan Pickup
 4 Cyl., 5 Speed, 1 Owner, Air
\$6,500

Many Many More!
 Low Down Payment
 WAC

Rev. Tony Teague to Pastor Palestine Church



The New Jerusalem Primitive Baptist Church of 814 Spencer Street, Palestine, Texas has elected during a regular meeting of the Church Conference by the members of the church, Rev. Anthony Teague as their pastor on April 4, 1999. Rev. Teague, formerly an Associate Pastor of Blounts Chapel Baptist Church, Rusk, where his father, Rev. James Wickware is the pastor, was ordained on April 24, 1999 at Blount Chapel Church, Rusk, Texas at 7:30 p.m.

Rev. Anthony Teague is the husband of Aretha and father of T.J., Shawntae, Deliance, and Adrian. They reside in Athens, Texas. He is the son of Helen and James Wickware of Rusk, Texas.

Happy Mother's Day!

**From The Cherokee County
 Monthly Informer**

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MS. P's NOTEPAD



Lotto...Jackpot's...Lottery...Losing...Winning, most of the time if one HIT'S BIG they usually retire, but the Cherokee Country Club had a lady who was hired in August 1963, and had been there longer than most of the members, 36 years. She worked as a dishwasher, waitress, and cook at the club, often times wearing all three hats at one time. Many of the dishes she prepared were her favorite dishes. She was a valued employee for half of her lifetime. A mother of five, Zelma went into labor with her youngest daughter, while washing dishes in 1973. She is looking forward to retirement, so she can spend time with her twelve grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. Mrs. Zelma Casel, your daughter Venetia, says, "Hit Big Time when you scratch off or Win That \$\$\$."

Melissa, the computer virus, Kosovo, School zones have become killing zones for far too many young adults. Rampage killings, explosive devices (I wonder where they acquired these?) Universal fear, grief, deaths, and bombings. The blood has been shed for all. Where does the blame and accusations lie??? The Colorado Tragedy was deemed the worst shooting in the United States. Once upon a time the church, grocery shopping or mall was safe. Schools were deemed a safe haven(not heaven). Our neighborhoods were not invaded by peer pressure, bullies, gangs, Nike, Air Jordan, Fila, Iversion, Polo, Guess, Hilfiger, etc. Power Rangers, Cat Dog, Power Puff Girls, Rug Rats and can't forget Johnny Bravo were popular children shows. It seems our youth are needing more counseling, love, attention, distractions, less TV, more hugs less thugs more reading and less needing(materialistic), my personal opinionated belief is the pledge and prayer meant a lot to me in my day of schooling. Self destruction is leading over self denial. In all your gettings, get an understanding!

Forget to mention (granny reminded me) in February, during Black History Month, the speaker for the youth department at New Generation Presbyterian Church, New Summerfield, Texas, was Mr. Rashodd Stewart. I have known him all of his life along with other Stewarts.

Yes, B.J., I know you are 1/2 Williams and 1/2 Stewart, couz. Gee! Gee-Gee, proud of you and yours in the Rusk area, I better get out of the Stewart's family before basketballs start coming at me from Troup, Rusk, and footballs at SMU...

Until next month, do something you haven't done in a long time.

SMILE

Special Tribute

to Mr. and Mrs. Eddie Session given by the children, and grandchildren Saturday, May 8th, 2:00 p.m., at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Session located on hwy. 84 in Rusk, Texas.

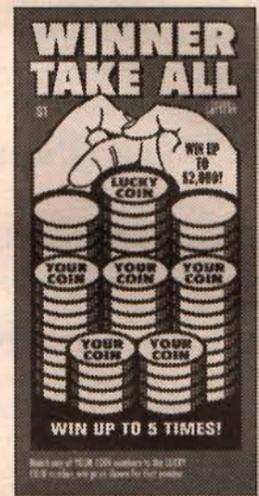
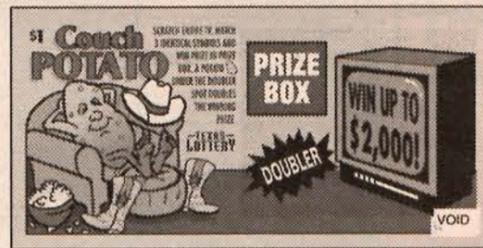
Starlight Steam Train Excursions

It's twilight in the pineywoods as the summer breeze drifts through the windows of your railroad coach. Cuddled side by side with your sweetheart, you listen to the low rumblings of the old steam engine. As the sunlight fades and the stars begin to glitter through the forest canopy, your thoughts drift to a faraway romantic age.

The Romance of the "Golden Age of Steam" is still alive. The Starlight Steam Train Excursion will leave from the Palestine Station of the Texas State Railroad on June 5th. The 50 mile round trip departs 6:00 p.m. and returns 10:00 p.m. For information and reservations call the Texas State Railroad Historical Park 1-800-442-8951 or 903-683-2561.

Happy Birthday Jessie Burley May 17th From your family

END OF GAME NOTICE



Three of the Texas Lottery's instant games will close on May 31, 1999: Couch Potato, Winner Take All and Country Cash. You have until November 27, 1999, to redeem any winning tickets. You can win up to \$2,000 playing Couch Potato, up to \$2,000 playing Winner Take All and up

to \$3,000 playing Country Cash. You can claim prizes of up to \$599 at any Texas Lottery retailer. Prizes of \$600 or more are redeemable at one of the 24 Texas Lottery claim centers or by mail. Questions? Just call the Texas Lottery Customer Service Line at 1-800-37-LOTTO (1-800-375-6886).



Overall odds of winning Couch Potato, 1 in 5.07. Overall odds of winning Winner Take All, 1 in 4.96. Overall odds of winning Country Cash, 1 in 4.65.

Must be 18 years or older to play. ©1999 Texas Lottery

Poetry

Wednesday's Child

by Michael Guinn

Weeping softly they wonder why, their mothers cry, and fathers deny..Why are they only allowed to make small steps, taking little sips from that cup of life, that overflows with denial...never quenching the smile of the loneliest child.

While walking slowly, little girls and boys, sapped of love, devoid of joy. Harden to the touch, missing to much, hugs and kisses...making desperate wishes, for a home that for a while shelters the heart of a battered child.

Wading slightly in ponds of tears, naked emotions swim in lakes of fears, "but" hope's ocean never appears. So they sail seas of misery searching as far as sad eyes can see.. With no oar to row, no place to go... No land in sight ...day or night. There will be no tides of smiles for the abandoned child.

Wanting silence from the pain..seeking shelter from life's hard rain, that beats their brow...Lord help them now...to see their way...by the light of your day..hoping soon that your bright moon still shines...Please, help them find the mythical smiles that elude the grasp of Wednesday's child.

To All Devoted Mothers

You're long overdue for many flowers
 You're something kind of sweet and wonderful
 You're a true blessing from up above
 You're always praying and touching the hearts of many lives
 You're very special and well-liked by others
 You're a hard and willing worker
 You're strong women of God
 You're that friend that we often have to search for
 You're not the peace breaker, but the peace maker
 You're the apple of many eyes
 You're none replaceable
 You're top of the chart for a role model
 You're an inspiration, you often gain your respect easily

You're full of lots of love and happiness
 You're often sharing and showing love to the motherless
 You're deeply concerned about the well-being of others needs
 You're often looking beyond many faults of your love one's
 You're caring and feel the pain of others joy and disappointment
 You're understanding, and often give good advice
 You're smiling face is waiting too brighten up a cloudy day
 You're awesome in your own way
 You're giving so much of yourself and very little given back in return
 You're a cherishable item an not a throw away item
 You're the one who makes a house a home
 You're one of my soul-mates

Mama's Lessons

by Michael Guinn

For as long as I can remember...you've been there for me.
 You were my rock, my strength and your love, was the key.
 Whether good times or bad,,you stood by my side.
 From your courage and wisdom...I gained honesty and pride.
 Because you loved me with your heart and in your life put me first.
 You've brought new meaning to the term..."For better or worst".
 By keeping your promises and making dreams come true.
 You are proof...that with patience, there's nothing we can't do.
 From your examples of dedication, honesty and respect.
 I've learned passion, hard work and to love and protect.
 While raising me...you've shown...great patience and love.
 I give thanks that you are here... My blessing from above.
 I promise to always love you and to cherish every hour.
 Because you are truly a gift from God...an example of his power.
 You were right there for me "mom"...every night and each day.
 I'll be there for you too "lady"...I wouldn't have it any other way.

Happy Mother's Day!

From The Cherokee County

Monthly Informer

"Just by mentioning your name mother, people's expressions change."
 What would this world be without real mothers?

Sincerely love all of your fine mothers.

DeLouise Sturns Miller

Happy Birthday
Jessie Burley
 May 17th

Juneteenth T-Shirts will be available to view at Community Funeral Home, and Churches Chicken in Jacksonville. To order call 586-5824 or 586-4209 to order. A deposit of half price will be required.

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 Rusk, Texas 75785
 Bus. 903/683-5486
 Home: 903/683-6235

State Farm Life Insurance Company
 Home Office: Bloomington, Illinois

WHAT'S COOKING

Mable's Old Fashioned Cake

- 1 lb butter
- 10 eggs, separated
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 1 lb sifted cake flour
- 1 lb sugar
- 1/2 tsp salt

Cream butter and blend in flour until mixture is mealy. Beat eggs yolks, sugar and vanilla until fluffy. Add to first mixture gradually, beating 15 minutes. Fold in stiffly beaten egg whites. Beat until well blended. Pour into two greased loaf pans and bake in slow oven at 325 degrees for 1 hour.

It takes a lot of love and patience when baking this cake.

Mable Jordan

"A cheerful look brings joy to the heart, and good news gives health to the bones.
Proverbs: 15:30

Pearline's Rice Custard

- 1/2 c rice
- 1 tsp grated orange peel
- 3/4 c sugar
- 1/2 tsp nutmeg
- 1 tblsp vanilla flavoring
- 2 c warm milk
- 1/2 tsp grated lemon rind
- 3 eggs

Use left over rice or boil fresh rice until very soft. Beat eggs, add sugar and spice with lemon and orange rind. Add milk. Mix well. Pour into a baking dish. Place in a pan of hot water and bake 40 minutes.

Pearline Persons

"O Lord, help my words to be gracious and tender today, for tomorrow I may have to eat them."

From the Session and Wickware Family and Friends Recipe Book

Happy Birthday
Vincent Session
May 12th

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❖ GIFTS ❖ ENGRAVING

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House and 2 Acres of Land

Make Offer!

Jacksonville, Texas, on Frankston Hwy
Take a right on Quevado and go about 3 blocks.
The House is on 305 Dorothy Street.
Call (903)593-3558 or (903)852-3025 for more information.

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Burger King
1608 S. Jackson
Jacksonville, Texas 75766

What Texans need to know:

Cable, Phone Investment: Good News For Texas!



If you want a choice for local phone service, if you want greater speed in connecting to the Internet, and if you want to see hundreds of millions of dollars of investment ... well, there's good news and bad news.

The good news is that AT&T wants to offer all of that. The bad news is that a bill introduced in the Texas Legislature would limit, if not eliminate, local phone choice, greater Internet speeds and huge investments.

This legislation would impose new, burdensome regulations on cable networks, discouraging investment in infrastructure and leading to fewer choices for consumers across a wide range of telecommunications services.

The last thing we need is anything slowing down the remarkable, innovative growth we've seen on the Internet. That growth has provided benefits for our homes, schools, hospitals and libraries in the African-American community.

Even more troubling is the effect this new law would have on investment across Texas and particularly in the African-American community. Passage of this legislation would prevent companies like AT&T from spending money to upgrade their systems, add service options and create jobs.

That investment would be used to upgrade cable systems belonging to TCI, with whom AT&T recently merged. The cable lines currently used to send television signals into your home would be upgraded to carry two-way voice transmissions. Dallas would be among the first cities in the nation to test this new technology sometime in the fourth quarter of this year. Houston would be next, followed by Austin and San Antonio.

For the first time, you'd be able to choose your local phone company over a separate and competing network from that of local telephone monopolies like Southwestern Bell and GTE. And that means lower prices, better service and advanced technology.

If this bill passes, it also would hurt development of the Internet. With the combined service of AT&T and TCI, customers will be able to get faster dial-up connections to the Internet. They'll also be able to choose high-speed, unrestricted access using cable modems at speeds several times faster than what is currently available.

But, all that could change with passage of this bill at the Legislature. We want to make sure you get a choice of local phone service, give you greater speed in connecting to the Internet, and invest in Texas and the African-American community.

Darrick Eugene
AT&T Government
Relations - Texas



This column is part of an ongoing series sponsored by AT&T to educate Texans on telecommunications issues.

Let's Give Texas Electric Customers the Power to Choose

Special to the Texas Publishers Assn. Wire Service

The freedom to choose is one of the most sacred privileges of our political and economic system. As Americans, we have a choice in almost everything we do, from choosing our leaders to the type of bread we purchase at the market.

However, there is one service we presently have no choice about, and that's electricity. The Texas Legislature can give Texans power to choose their electric provider this year. The Legislature, which is meeting in Austin until the end of May, is considering bills to restructure the electric utility industry. They want to replace the current monopoly system with competition.

If legislation passes, many Texans will be able to choose which electric company they buy from. We will be able to compare services and options, as we do when we shop around for the best deal in a car or groceries. Actual delivery of the electricity will continue to be handled by the local utility company, and that part of the process will continue to be regulated.

Texans should encourage their representatives in Austin to vote in favor of retail competition in the electric industry because of the potential economic and social benefit for communities. Such a retail bill must ensure that all cus-

tomers—both large and small—have the opportunity to benefit.

Competition will give many Texas communities the opportunity to save money on electric bills. Competition will give Texans the power to choose. That means we



Alphonso Jackson, President, CSW Texas

would be able to choose our electric company based on price, or even the company's contributions to charitable and civic activities.

Lawmakers can pass a law that gives us the power to choose our electricity provider, but also protects us. Electric providers cannot be allowed to "redline" which neighborhoods they will not serve. Special programs for low-income and elderly customers should continue or even be expanded. Customers should not have to worry about having their electric service changed without their permission (slamming) or having

unauthorized services added to their bill (cramming).

Several other states already have given people the right to choose electricity providers. We should have that choice, too. Since these states are already moving to competition, Texas can see any mistakes made and try to learn from those lessons.

Giving Texas electric consumers the right to choose their electric provider is the right thing to do for Texas. As legislators hammer out the details, they have the benefit of watching at least 18 other states move toward competition and choice in electric service, too. Texas has a unique opportunity to develop a restructuring plan that introduces competition while avoiding the pitfalls experienced in other states.

As a representative of the electric companies that served Texas consumers well for decades, CSW and its Central Power and Light Company, Southwestern Electric Power Company and West Texas Utilities Company subsidiaries look forward to helping design a new marketplace that provides Texas consumers the type of electric service they demand and deserve—that which is high quality, low cost, fair and competitive.

This article is printed courtesy of the Texas Publishers Association Wire Service. TPA neither endorses or rejects the opinion presented in this article. It is published solely as an information service to our readers.

**In memory of Novaline McGowan,
Honoring her birthday and
Mother's Day**

"ONLY ONE MOTHER"

**Take her to your heart we can
have only one mother, patient,
kind and true.**

**No other friend in all this
world will be so true to you, for
all of her love and kindness she
asked nothing in return. If all
the world deserts you to Mother
you can turn.**

**We can have only one mother,
none else can take her place,
You can't tell how you need her
till you miss her loving face.**

**Be careful how you answer her,
choose every word you say.**

**Remember she's your mother,
though now she's gone away.
We can only have one Mother, so
take her to your heart.**

**You can not tell how soon the
day will be when she must part.
Let her know you love her dearly.
Cheer and comfort her each day.**

**You can never get another,
when she has passed away.**

From your Children

Happy Birthday

**Erica Spencer, May 4
Chris Spencer, May 26
Shunte Ellsworth, May 8
Janice Whitaker, May 31**

Evelyn Palfrey



author of
Dangerous Dilemmas
Book Signing
Friday, May 7th
7:00 p.m.

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East Texas Employment and Training, Inc. is now TAKING APPLICATIONS for the SUMMER WORK PROGRAM

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- *\$5.15 per hour

To be eligible for the Summer Youth Employment Training Program

You Must: *JTPA Eligible

- *Age 14-21
- *Reside in Cherokee County
- *Have a Social Security Card
- *Be a Legal Resident Alien, or
U.S. Citizen

Pick up Pre-Application at the office located on:

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Rusk, Texas
(903) 683-2586

Equal Opportunity Employer/Program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.
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YOUTH

Congratulations to the 1999 Graduates!



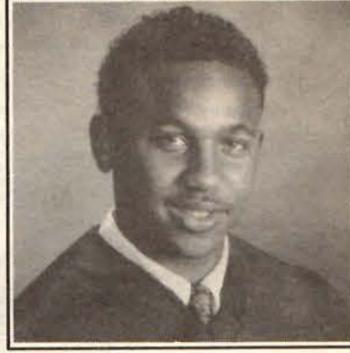
Crystal Black



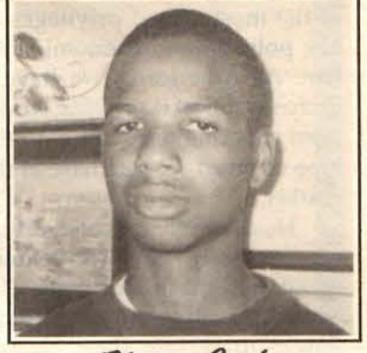
Nicole Butler



Marcus Carter



Cory Colston



Kevin Cook



April Dickerson



Tameka Gardner



Makesha Glenn



Krashaunda Lewis



Nisha Lewis



Cangela Mallard



Glenda Nelson



Angela Pierce



Christina Session



Barrick Stafford

The above students submitted pictures to the Informer. Any other Senior portraits submitted by May 25th will be printed in the June 1999 issue. Please send picture to Attn. Senior Portraits Cherokee County Informer, P.O. Box 332, Rusk, Texas 75785.

VOUCHERS FOR EYE EXAMS AND GLASSES FOR CHILDREN STILL AVAILABLE

Tyler, Texas -- Prevent blindness Texas in collaboration with vision service plan still has vouchers available for children in need of an eye examination and glasses. This current program expires June 30, 1999. "We would love to be able to use all of our 8,000 vouchers statewide," stated Amy Gould, Executive Director.

1 out of 20 preschool children have a vision problem. "The sad thing about this number, is so often, parents aren't aware

that children have a problem, until it is too late," noted Mrs. Gould. Prevent Blindness Texas Recommends routine eye examinations for children by an eye care professional at 6 months, 3 years, before beginning school periodically throughout the school years.

The exams and glasses are free to eligible persons. For more details or to make an appointment call (903)592-2664.

Not pictured are the Boys Track Award recipients, Jimmy Johnson, and Charlvn Denman.

Letters To The Editor continued

Walter,

If we have senior citizens or someone that just can't pay for their subscription, let me know and I will take care of it. You and your family are providing a most valuable and needed service, and I really appreciate it.

Mildred Brown
Dallas, Texas

Happy Birthday
Mabelle Franklin
May 3rd

Happy Birthday
Lula Franklin

All Dressed Up and Headed For The 1999 Prom



CANGELA MALLARD, NAKIA WALLACE, KEON RETTIG, JAMES LIPSHAW, TRACY MEADOR, IISHIA LEWIS, AND ASHLEY COX.



JOEL MCGOWAN, CRYSTAL BLACK, AKEEM LIVINGSTON, KEVIN COOK, RYAN RUSHING, DEVONNA WILLIAMS, DARREN MCGOWAN, KIM CLARK, MARCUS CARTER, AND KRystal WARD.



BRODERICK SESSION, GLENDA NELSON, CORY COLSTON, TAMEKA GARDNER, BARRICK STAFFORD, CELENA, AND TONY ATTAWAY.

Highlights From The 1999 Rusk High School Sports Banquet

J.L.Hassell

Award

for best all around

female athlete

recipient, **Tameka**

Gardner. Presented by

Mary B. Hassell.



The Fighting

Heart Award

recipient, **Cory Colston.**

Presented by Coach

Tucker.



Player's Choice

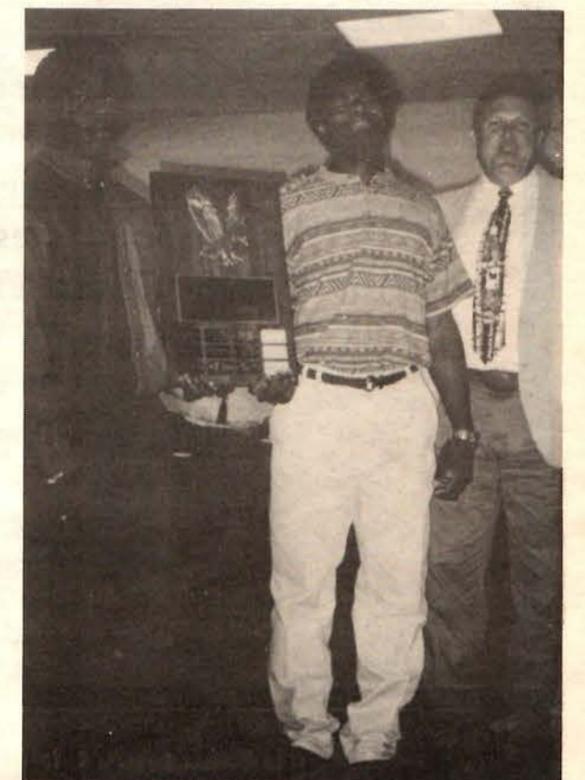
Football Award

recipients:

Barrick Stafford and

Keon Tilley. Presented

by Coach Hergenrader.





WE GIVE EVERYONE A CHANCE. AFTER ALL, WE'RE THE LOTTERY.

A Texas Lottery vendor is currently searching for Historically Underutilized Businesses (HUBs) certified with the State of Texas and experienced in the following areas:

FILM PRODUCTION

Shooting film for television spots. Submit directors' demo reels on 3/4" cassette format which show television spots previously shot. Prices must be competitive.

MUSIC PRODUCTION

Composers and arrangers who have experience in television and radio music production. Please submit a demo reel which demonstrates your capabilities and past experience and a description of the equipment available in your studio. Prices must be competitive.

CASTING/TALENT SERVICES

Looking for companies that represent experienced talent from multiple ethnic and age groups. Voice talent for radio and television. Need voice audition recording capabilities. Demo tapes accepted for the files.

EDITORIAL

Must be able to creatively edit film and television commercials. Please submit a demo reel (on 3/4" cassette) of previous television commercials edited and a description of equipment used for off-line editing. Prices must be competitive.

Please respond in writing to: Melissa Villaseñor-Dye
Retailer and Minority Development Supervisor, Texas Lottery-GBP
P.O. Box 16630, Austin, TX 78761-6630.

**TEXAS
LOTTERY**

Church Announcements

JUNETEENTH ACTIVITIES SCHEDULE:
Friday Night, June 18th:
 Gospel Singing Service Benson Memorial C.M.E. Church
Saturday, Morning, June 19th:
 Annual Juneteenth Parade
 Mrs. Tracy Wallace and her family will be the Parade Marshal
11:00 A.M.: "Fun and Games" in Lincoln Park
7:30 P.M.: "Lip Sink Contest"
 First Prize \$200.00;
 Contact AJ Rhodes, 586-5824, to sign up.

Benson Memorial C.M.E. Church
 Jacksonville, Texas
Annual Choir Day
 May 19, 1999, 6:00 p.m.
 Speaker, Rev. Orenthia D. Mason, Pastor of Cole Hill C.M.E. Church

Whites Temple C.O.G.I.C.
 115 Ladd Street
 Jacksonville, Texas
Women of the Bible Pageant
 June 20, 1999 at 4:00 p.m.
 Rev. Daniel Brown, Pastor
 Submitted by Missionary J. Sanders

Grace Temple COGIC Troup
Family & Friends Program
 Saturday, May 15, 1999, 7:30 p.m.
 Bishop David R. Houston, Speaker
 Texas Northeast Jurisdiction #2
 Samuel Jones, Pastor

Pennell Chapel
 Pine Grove Community
Men's Day Program
 May 23rd, 3:00 p.m.
 Speaker, Rev. Reginald Garrett of St. James C.M.E. Tyler, Texas
 Pastor, Rev. Charles Hill
 Call Preston Meador, 586-7774, for more info.

Woodville C.M.E. Church
 Rusk, Texas
Family Day
 May 23rd, 3:00 p.m.
 Rev. Vandell Smith, Speaker
Usher Anniversary
 June 13th, 3:00 p.m.
 Rev. Ike Wiley, Speaker
 Rev. Leonard Spurling, Pastor

Mt. Hebron C.P. Church
 Elm Grove Community
Revival
May 2nd, 2:30 p.m. Rev. Timothy Bircher or Elm Grove Baptist Church, Speaker
May 3rd-7th, 7:30 p.m. Rev. James Wickware, Evangelist
 Rev. James Fuller, Pastor

Mt. Mariah C.M.E. Church
 Elm Grove Community
Garage Sale
 May 31st, 9:00 a.m.
Annual Revival and Homecoming
 June 9th, 7:30 p.m.
 Rev. Clifton Reagan, Speaker
 Rev. Hill, Pastor

Church Of The Living God
Choir Anniversary
 May 23rd, 3:00 p.m.
 Elder Earl Whitaker, Speaker

Pine Grove Baptist Church
 Cushing, Texas
ANNUAL HOMECOMING
 for the Fuller Cemetery
 May 23rd, 2:00 p.m.
 Speaker, Rev. Herman Martin
 Rev. Roy Witcher, Pastor

Mount Pleasant CME Church
Pastor's Appreciation & 1st Anniversary
 for
Pastor Victory-Phyllis Davis
 July 9,10,& 11th

Rising Star Missionary Baptist Church
First Pastor and Wife Appreciation Service
 Rev. James People and
 Sis. Brenda Peoples
 Sunday, June 7, 1998, 3:00 p.m.
 Guest Church and Speaker, Liberty Winona Baptist Church
 Winona, Texas
 Rev. Johnnie Hinton, Pastor

Happy 14th Birthday
"Joel"
 May 22nd
 With Love From,
 Moma,
 Eddie,
 Lil' Eddie,
 Jasmine,
 & Tiffani



Reginald Joel McGowan, II

Happy Birthday
A. Willis
 May 23rd

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OBITUARY

Life Epitome of Mr. Leon Franklin Dearman

(June 10, 1930-April 20, 1999)

Leon Franklin Dearman was born June 10, 1930 in Rusk County, Texas to the parents of Felix Leon and Mrs. Abie Johnson Dearman. He attended Laneville Public School. He was a member of Mt. Olive Baptist Church, Rusk. He married Miss. Connie Hicks, June 2, 1952. They had five sons and one daughter. One son Alonza Lee Dearman preceded him in death.

To forever cherish his memory he leaves a devoted wife Mrs. Connie Dearman, Rusk, Texas; four sons and daughters-in-law, Larry and Jennifer Dearman, Charles and Callie Dearman, Wesley and Veronica Dearman and Eddie Dearman and a special friend, Nedra Rettig, all of Rusk, Texas; one daughter and son-in-law, Maria and Mark Mitchell, Rusk, Texas; nine grandchildren, six great-grandchildren; two sisters, Mrs. Mazola Session, Rusk, Texas, and Mrs. Frankie Singletary, Los Angeles, California; Aunts, Uncles, nieces, nephews, rel



Mr. Earl Lee (Butcher) Henderson

(April 13, 1931-May 4, 1999)

Mr. Earl Lee (Butcher) Henderson, child born to the union of the Mrs. Essie Blount Henderson, was born April 13, 1931 in Rusk, Texas.

Tuesday evening, May 4, 1999 in Rusk, Texas, he entered Eternal Rest.

Butcher was reared in the Shady Grove community where her attended public school and church.

At an early age he united with the Blount Chapel Baptist Church. He was a loyal member. He was Tribe Leader No. 2; member of the Brother and Male Chorus.

On March 26, 1949, he was united in Holy matrimony with Miss Esterlean Hart. To this union

five daughters and four sons were born. He was a devoted husband and a loving father.

He was a retired employee of Rusk State Hospital where he had worked nineteen years.

To forever cherish his memory, he leaves a devoted wife, Mrs. Esterlean Henderson, Rusk, Texas; five daughters and sons-in-law, Dianne and Horace Lewis; Essie and Jimmy Turner; Verlean and George Moore, all of Rusk, Texas; Mrs. Margie Carter and Gloria and Dave Norman of Houston, Texas; Mack Henderson, Livingston, Texas; David Henderson, Rusk, Texas; Calvin Henderson, Houston, Texas; two God-sons, Ray Boston and Phal Carter; two sisters, Mrs. Laura Kelley, Los Angeles, California; one uncle, Mr. Autry Henderson, La Marque, Texas; twenty-two grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, a special friend of the family, Mrs. Mary Shedd, Rusk, Texas; and relatives and friends.

Acknowledgement - Sylvester Dennis

We wish to thank everyone for the phone calls, cards, visits, food, and prayers during the illness and death of our loved one. Also, we appreciate the professional service rendered by Community Funeral Home (A.J. Rhodes) during this difficult time. Please keep us in your prayers!

Eula Mae Dennis & Family

Boxcars, BBQ & The Bridge

Special Tour Package: Steam Train Excursion, Dinner & Play. Enjoy a relaxing a day of East Texas hospitality with a 50 mile round trip steam trip excursion, world famous Texas Bar-be-que and *The Bridge*, a lighthearted play based on the history and characters of the Cherokee County, Texas.

Each Friday, Saturday & Sunday in June, the citizens of Rusk, Texas invite you to come *Hear Texas Tales* and *Ride the Rails*. For information and reservations call the Rusk Chamber of Commerce 1-800-933-2381 or visit their website www.thefootbridge.com.

14th ANNUAL MS BLACK TEXAS SCHOLARSHIP

The Fourteenth Annual Ms. Black Texas Scholarship Pageant will be held July 16, 17, & 18 at the Raddison Hotel, 1893 Dallas, Texas.

The 1 p.m. Pageant will include ages: Babies 0 to 2, Princess 3 to 6, and Preteens 7 to 12. Areas of competition are Overall Appearance, Most Beautiful Pageantry Dress, Evening Gown, Sports, and/Poise, Personality, and Overall Beauty.

Contestants in the 1 p.m. pageant will be vying for U.S. Savings Bonds, Official Banner, Crown, Gifts and Awards, and Trophy. Contestants in the 7 p.m. pageant

will be vying for U.S. Bonds, The Official Banner, Crown, Gifts and Awards, Trophy, Cash Scholarship or a Trip to Las Vegas. (Scholarship or trip ages 18 - 26)

The 7 p.m. pageant will include ages: Teens 13 to 17, and Ms. 18 to 26. Areas of competition are: The Judges Interview, Swim or Sports Wear, Evening Gown, Impromptu Questions, Poise and Personality and Overall Appearance.

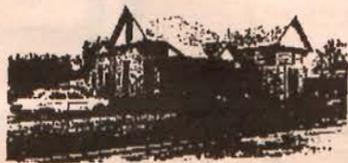
For detailed information call for your application today: 903-597-9512, FAX 903-597-9512 or toll free 1-800-335-5397 VERNELL V. DELLEY, STATE DIRECTOR.

Happy Birthday
Valeria Smith
May 12th
From Mom and Dad

Happy Birthday
Clyde Session
May 29th
From your family

Happy Birthday
Jessie Burley
May 17th
From your family

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MISSION CIRCLE NEWS



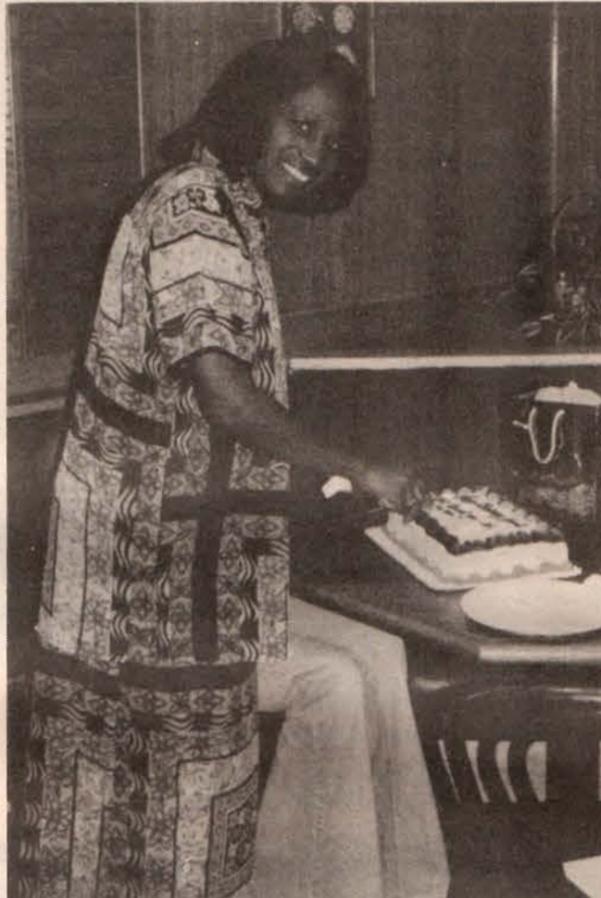
Mission Circle Programs

By Elnora Colston

By Elnora Colston

THEME: "Christ Liveth In Me."

Jesus said "I am the light of the World. The Lord shall be unto thee an everlasting light. To give light to them that sit in darkness, to guide our feet into the way of peace. Light is sown for the righteous, and gladness for the upright to hear. For God who commanded the light to shine out of darkness hath shined in our hearts. In him was life: and the life was the light of men everyday and every hour, let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify our Father which is in heaven through this changing world, we stand in need of much power. From on high today. So often we desire to do good, but evil is always present. When Christ said, "Lo, I am with you always, even until the end of this world." He was speaking to the whole world so as Christians we must go forward doing our duty with thankfulness in our hearts. We must pray earnestly for peace in our world. Pray for leaders of all nations, our Ministers, and members of all our churches. Make your wants known and remember that God answers prayer.



A Surprise Birthday Party was held at Pizza Hut in Rusk in honor of Jewel Gardner. A host of family and friends were present.

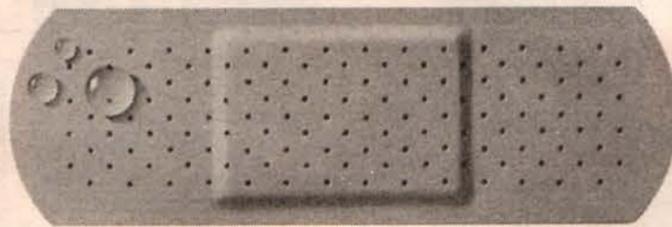
Happy Birthday
Valeria Smith
May 12th
From Mom and Dad

Happy Birthday
Stewart Willis
May 1st
From Your Family

Happy Birthday from K.Ward:

Raven Henderson, May 7th
April Dickerson, May 23rd
Christina Sturns, May 13th
Sammy Taylor, May 17th
Tyrus Cooper, May 1st
James Upshaw, May 12th
Tameka Gardner, May 9th
Crystal Hicks, May 24th
Kendra Clark, May 24th
Melonie Foreman, May 22nd
Mychilette Carter, May 10th
Kesha Glenn, May 3rd
Grandma Maybelle, May 3rd
Mama Mary, May 3rd
Mrs. Jewel Gardner, May 4th
Sharon Ward, May 6th

You Don't Treat Chronic Wounds With One Of These.



When most of us cut ourselves or have a wound our bodies will heal in about three weeks. But for some a simple wound can develop into a serious health problem.

People with Diabetes, poor circulation and other medical conditions are at a higher risk of suffering from chronic wounds. Even small foot ulcers can lead to possible amputation. You don't treat these wounds with a band aid.

The Center for Wound, Skin and Ostomy Care at Trinity Valley Medical Center offers a comprehensive approach to wound healing. We utilize a dedicated team concept which includes doctors, nurses, nutrition counseling, Diabetes Education, Vascular Surgery, Podiatry, Rehab and advanced techniques and therapies.

If you suffer or have a loved one who suffers from a wound that just won't heal call 731-2278 today. Let the healing begin.

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ter to Jesus and pray for one instead."

After his temper tantrum his mother sent him to his room. He finally sat down to write a letter to Jesus.

Dear Jesus,
I've been a good boy this year and would appreciate a new bicycle.
Your friend,
Leroy.

Now Leroy knew that Jesus really knew what kind of boy he was(brat). So he ripped up the letter and decided to give it another try.

Dear Jesus,
I've been an O. K. boy this year and I want a new bicycle.

Yours truly,
Leroy

Well, Leroy knew this wasn't totally honest so he tore it up and tried again.

Dear Jesus,
I've thought about being a good boy this year and can I have a bicycle?

Leroy

Well, Leroy looked deep down in his heart, which by the way was what his mother really wanted. He knew he had been terrible and was deserving of almost nothing. He crumpled up the letter, threw it in the trash can and went running outside. He aimlessly wondered about depressed because of the way he treated his parents and really considered his actions. He finally found himself in front of a Catholic Church. Leroy went inside and knelt down looking around not knowing what he should really do. Leroy finally got up and began to walk out the door looking at all the statues. All of a sudden he grabbed one small statue and ran out the door. He went home, hid it under his bed and wrote this letter.

Jesus,
I've got your mama. If you ever want to see her again, give me a bike.

You know who

Happy Birthday
Mary Session
May 3rd

Shown here is Reginald Blow, President of Texas Publishers Association and Publisher of the North Texas Journal of Wichita Falls, Texas, Akwasi Evans, Publisher of Nakoia, The Observer of Austin, Texas, Convention speaker Mike Epsy, former U.S. Secretary of Agriculture. and Walter Session, Publisher of the Cherokee County Informer. The Thirteenth Annual TPA Convention was held in Austin at the Raddison Hotel the weekend of April 17th. Carol Keeton Rylander, Comptroller of Public Accounts was the Saturday Luncheon Speaker.



Wickware Anniversary Held at County Line



Rev. Wickware and wife, Mrs Helen Wickware, were given a pastor and wife's 14th anniversary by the members of County Line Baptist Church. He has been pastor there since 1985. The speaker for the evening was Rev. Mills. Rev. Wickware was introduced by Rev. Tony Teague. The gifts of appreciation were presented by Dolvin Upshaw.

The New Progressive Lodge #357 held its first annual banquet in April. Members were presented with certificates of recognition by Worshipful Master J.C. Thompson, and Sr.Warden, Royce L. Whitaker. Dinner was served and speakers for the event were Joe Teague, Tracy Wallace, and Maxine Session.

Happy Birthday
KRYSTAL WARD
May 1st

Cherokee County Informer
The African American Press of East Texas
"Bringing you positive news about local people."

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Walter Session
- EDITOR/WRITER
Maxine Session
- PRODUCTION MANAGER
Terri Franklin
- GRAPHIC DESIGN
Kathy Harris
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- TECHNICAL ADVISOR
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Eddie Harris
- DISTRIBUTION
Milton Reagan

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The "Informer" is a monthly publication based on the African-American life-style. A copy can be mailed to your home or business at a cost of \$20 per year, or \$12 for six months.

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Speak Out

You have heard much discussion about school shootings. Adults have given their opinions about what caused it. They have given their opinions about the schools and safety.

What do you think caused kids to take guns to school and shoot others?

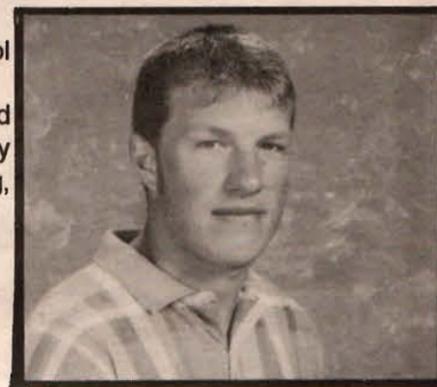
Ryan Rushing-Rusk High School Junior

"I think kids bring guns to school because of safety and they are picked on by peers. This is bad because if there is a problem at school, they should tell their parents."



Wade Lanham - Rusk High School Junior

"I think it is the parents fault and the way they raise their kids. They don't teach them right from wrong, and they don't have any morals."



Lori Stewart - Rusk High School Junior

"I think it all begins at home with the parent not knowing what's going on in the kids life. I don't think TV and the violence, or music has anything to do with it."



Jimmy Johnson - Rusk High School Junior

"They feel left out, because they don't have friends. They feel nobody cares about them. Therefore, they resort to destroying and hurting people."



Happy 3rd Birthday
Anfernee Delray Black
May 6th
From mom,
Pam Black

He celebrated his birthday with a party at the skating rink.

Happy Birthday

- Nakeshia Green, May 30
- Steven J. Warren, May 19
- Tressie Brooks, May 18
- Kizzie Fay Anderson, May 17
- Jo Nell Mitchell, May 19
- Dondrelle Jeffery, May 25
- Janice Martin, May 23
- Janie Ward, May 22
- Shellevia Wickware, May 6
- Nancy Pelton, May 5
- Vernolia Roberts, May 3
- Paul Wilson, Jr., May 3

Think you can't afford a home? There's a First Time for everything.

The Texas First-Time Homebuyer Program helps low- and moderate-income Texans buy their first home with low-interest rate home loans made available by the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs.

Why not contact the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs today? Or visit our website at www.tdhca.state.tx.us to learn more about program eligibility and guidelines.

If you meet the income guidelines, have adequate credit, and haven't owned a home in the past three years, you are eligible to apply.



Call the Texas First-Time Homebuyer Program hotline at 1-800-792-1119.



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Lady Eagles SHOW OUT at Regional Track Meet & Head for State!



Lady Eagles, coached by Laurnce Gardner, won first place in the Regional 3A Track Meet held in Bryan, Texas on April 30-May 1, 1999. Pictured above from left to right are: Erica Bradley(alt.)sprint/mile relay; Raven Jefferson, sprint relay; Nina Brinkley, sprint/mile relay, 400 meter run; Glenda Nelson, sprint/mile relay; Tameka Gardner, sprint/mile relay, long jump, tripple jump; Krystal Ward, mile relay, high jump, and 300 meter hurdles. They will compete at the UIL State Track Meet in Austin, Texas on May 14th.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Cherokee County Informer

on your
4th Anniversary!

from
Mt. Hebron Presbyterian Church
Elm Grove COTLG
Elm Grove Baptist
Mt. Mariah Plainview
Mt. Pleasant CME

Rusk, Texas 75785

Elm Grove Community Makes Donation to CCI



Ray Allen Christopher presented a \$100.00 donation to the Cherokee County Informer from the Elm Grove community churches. Pictured above is Walter Session, Informer Owner, and Ray Christopher.

Black Newspaper Publishers to Oppose House Bill

Setting Higher Financial Accountability for Minority Businesses

Special to the Texas Publishers Assn. Wire Service

The trade association representing more than thirty (30) African American newspapers in Texas is making public its intent to oppose legislation filed by a Harris County legislator. House Bill 413, filed by State Representative Robert E. Talton (R-Pasadena), would require public disclosure of personal and business information in stat's applications to secure certification as an Historically Underutilized Business or HUB.

At present, Texas' HUB applications require an array of detailed financial records. The confidential status of such information would be lost if Talton's bill becomes law. Most often, HUB certification is the entree to information on public contracts and procurement. While Texas laws do no impose minority quotas, virtually every state contract has goals for minority participation.

Thurman R. Jones, chair of TPA's Governmental Affairs Committee and publisher of the Dallas-based Minority Opportunity News, commented on the trade group's concerns: "It's time to move forward, not backward" said Jones. "We are encouraged that at least one African American member of the legislature is willing to stand up for the minority businesses of

the state. We intend to give him as much support as necessary to ensure that this bill dies."

Jones' reference was to another Harris County Legislator, Rep. Sylvester Turner (D-Houston). Turner serves as vice-chair of the House State Affairs Committee, the same committee to which Talbot's legislation was referred. During committee deliberations, Turner made his opposition clear. Rather than hold minority businesses to a higher level of accountability, Rep. Turner has suggested that all businesses be held to the same financial scrutiny. In other words, if personal and income records are public information, all businesses, including prime contractors and non-minority firms should be subject to the same financial accountability.

Reportedly, other opponents of House Bill 413 include the Texas Association of Mexican American Chambers of commerce and Small Business United of Texas. Proponents named in other news reports include the Texas Press Association and the Texas Daily Newspaper Association.

"Rep. Turner is right," observed Jones. "Seperate is never equal. If financial accountability is really the issue, then let everyone be accountable in the same way and at the same time."

The TPA Wire Service represents the African American press of Texas.

this year. They have two sons Travis Jr. who will graduate from Jacksonville Baptist College this month and Christopher who is a seventh grader. Their family church is Saint Paul Baptist where Sandra is choir president. She says she keeps very busy with involvement in the boys education, church and work.

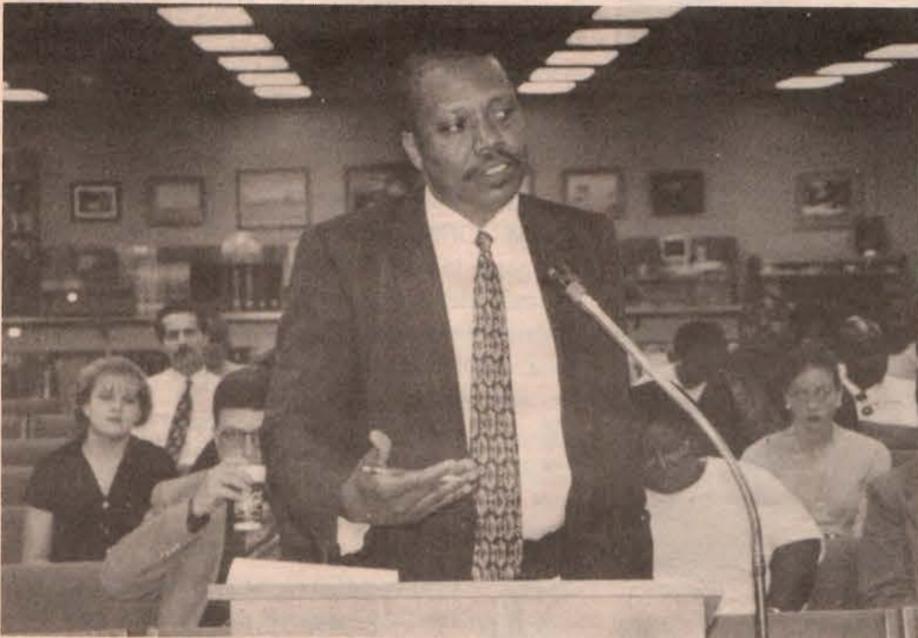
Sandra is the daughter of the late Gerline & Hubert Newsome. She has five sisters: Anita Starling of Spring, Debbie Kenerson of Houston, Ella Ricks of Colorado, Sammie Jo Long of **Sandra Newsome Thompson and husband Travis Thompson.**

Alabama, and Glenda Goree of California; four brothers Bill & Bob of Louisiana, James of Clearlake, and Hubert of Oklahoma City.

Happy Belated Birthday
Tara Bowens
April 18th
Love, Mother

Happy Birthday
Joel McGowan
May 22nd
Love, Aunt Dale

Palestine Local NAACP President Addresses Board



Rev. George Hancock, Pastor of Saint Paul United Methodist Church and President of the local NAACP recently addressed the Palestine ISD with concerns from the black community. Some concerns voiced were the manner in which drill team members are selected, a request for single member voting districts and the contract non-renewal for high school Biology teacher, Hermunth Shiimi.

Several high school students appeared with Rev. Hancock to complain about drill team selection. The girls also complained about unfair treatment, expressing that some members received mistreatment from teachers.

The students appearing were Januel Plumber, Joella Anthony, Anedra Jones, and Krystal Russell.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Cherokee County Informer
on your
4th Anniversary!

From
Texas Publishers Association
Reginal Blow, President

**The African American
Press of Texas**

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Christopher Recieves Scholarship



Rachel Christopher recieved a Scholarship from Mt. Hebron Cumberland Presbyterian Church. Presenter, Rev. Dusty Fuller. She is a 1999 Rusk High School graduate, who will attend Tyler Junior College in the fall. She is the daughter of Polly and Ray Christopher of Rusk.

Morris Recieves UIL First Place



Brandy Morris recently received a First Place award in the Modern Oratory at UIL competition in Central, Texas. She is a 6th grader at Rusk Junior High School. She is the daughter of Patricia Morris.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Cherokee County Informer

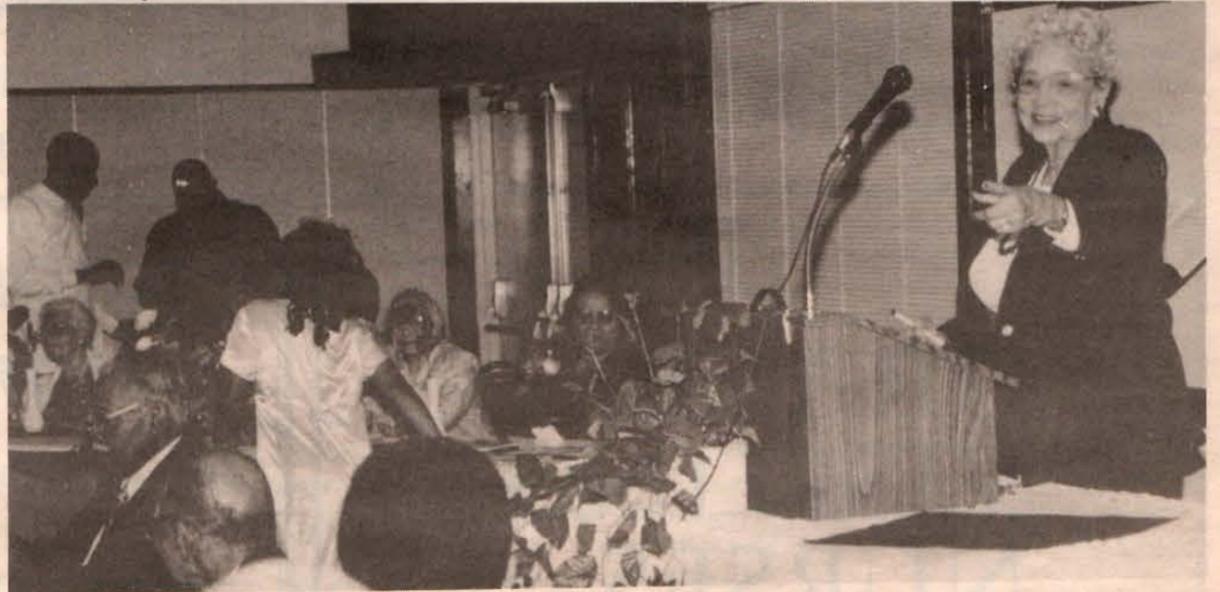
on your 4th Anniversary!

from Blount Chapel Baptist Church Shady Grove Church of God in Christ Shady Grove CME Church



DISTRICT TRACK MVP RECIPIENT, KRISTAL WARD. THE DALE DOTSON PLAYER'S CHOICE AWARD AND THE EMMITT WHITEHEAD AWARD RECIPIENT, MARCUS CARTER.

Dorothy Robinson 90th Birthday Celebration Held



Five generations of family, members of South Union Baptist Church, members of the Professional Women's Club, members of the Community Organizations Council, Palestine Mayor McElvie, former co-workers, former students, and friends gathered at the Days Inn in Palestine on May 2, 1999 to

celebrate the 90th Birthday of Mrs. Dorothy Redus Robinson. Family members traveled from as far away as Oakland, California to attend. Organizers of the event were great-nieces and nephews, Dennis Irwin of Dallas, Lota Edwards of Cushing, Yvette Alton of Dallas, and Janiece Cox of Dallas.



The New Progressive Lodge #357 held its first annual banquet in April. Members were presented with certificates of recognition by Worshipful Master J.C. Thompson, and Sr.Warden, Royce L. Whitaker. Dinner was served and speakers for the event were Joe Teague, Tracy Wallace, and Maxine Session.

Letters To The Editor continued

Dear Editor,

What's up East Texas. I hope this correspondence finds you all in the very best spirits. I've been very busy with work and writing .had a opportunity to meet Erykah Badu at A spot called Club Reciprocity in Dallas...where many poets/writers and performing artists...hang out...I also host a poetry column in a local newspaper. Book is near completion and I have narrowed down prospective publishers local and abroad. I'll be sure to send you all a copy. When are yall going to host an Open Mic venue...for local poets to read selections amongst peers and poetry lovers? Perhaps once a month at a different business each time. Which may not only peek interest in writing, but also be good for the business that host it. Have a different poet host each month. I have some ideas that I would like to share and this is just one of them...as you see, my love affair with poetry runs DEEP. Of course I would love to come down each month and participate as well. Call me (214)766-5841 and/or (817)621-7921 or email me at jordanmichaelg@mail-city.com ---or--- da_king_of_chat@yahoo.comLove yall.....

Peace Michael Guinn/ZAWADI Writer

Citizens 1st Bank, TJC announces scholarship program

Seniors at Rusk High School have a new opportunity to continue their education, thanks to a scholarship program announced today by Citizens 1st Bank and Tyler Junior College.

James I. Perkins, Citizens 1st President, in announcing the program, said "each scholarship at Tyler Junior College will be named for a past or present Rusk resident whose success has demonstrated that being from East Texas is an advantage that can lead to great accomplishments."

The scholarship program will provide five \$5,000, two-year scholarships to be used for study at Tyler Junior College.

Perkins and TJC President Dr. William R. Crowe announced the scholarship May 4, 1999 at Citizens 1st Bank in Rusk.

Crowe said nominations for the program will be provided to TJC by Rusk High School. A TJC scholarship committee will extend offers to five students who meet program criteria.

"This is really an outstanding example of a community business making a difference in the lives of the people it serves," Crowe said. "We're excited to bring this opportunity to the students of Rusk High School and we're grateful to Citizens 1st Bank for making the program a reality."

"This scholarship program will be available to students who graduate from Rusk High School, who have good grades and the potential to be successful in College, but who have little or no scholarship assistance available" said Charles Hassell, Citizens 1st Executive Vice President. "It will begin with Rusk High School graduates of 1999."

The Scholarships to be available to 1999 RHS graduates are:

- The Citizens 1st Bank James Swink Scholarship**
- The Citizens 1st Bank Joe Max Taylor Scholarship**
- The Citizens 1st Bank Lois Henry Scholarship**

The Citizens 1st Bank R.G. Thompson, Jr., Scholarship The Citizens 1st Bank Birdie Jones Scholarship

Students selected to receive the Citizens 1st Bank scholarship for 1999-2000 may retain them for the 2000-2001 school year if sufficient academic progress is made.

Five new scholarships bearing the names of outstanding past or present Rusk residents will be available to RHS graduates of 2000.

Students selected for scholarships must maintain a full-time college credit class load (at least 12 hours). Funds are to be used for tuition, fees and books. The remaining funds will be distributed to the student on a monthly basis during long semesters (fall and spring).

Rusk High School students wanting to learn more about the program are encouraged to contact their high school counselor or the TJC Student Financial Aid and Scholarships Office, (903)510-2385.



Now accepting applications for classroom teachers for the year 1999-2000 in the areas of
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Fax: (903) 531-3604
e-mail:
jmcleod@tyler.k12.tx.us

Fairview Community Reunion
MOTOWN NITE Friday, June 18, 1999
A fun-filled Karaoke night of Motown music.
JUNETEENTH HOMECOMING PARADE
12:00 NOON from the Fairview Community Center to FM 1662 and back to Fairview Community Center. All participants please sign up by 11:00 a.m.

If interested in the planning of Fairview Community Reunion events, listed below are the remaining meeting dates and times.
May 15, 6:30 p.m.
May 29, 4:30 p.m. (clean up/meeting)
June 4, 6:30 p.m.
June 11, 6:30 p.m.

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Seated: Lois Henry(left) and Birdie Jones. Standing from left are: Tony Murray, RISD Superintendent, Jim Perkins, Citizens 1st President, Dr. William Crowe, President of TJC, and Jerry Thompson, on behalf of his father Gladstone Thompson.

We have such a strong and enduring connection,
A friendship that's based on real love and affection.
We share understanding that comes from inside,
A closeness that few other ties can provide,
And trust upon which I can always depend-
Fate made you my grandma,
Love made you my friend.

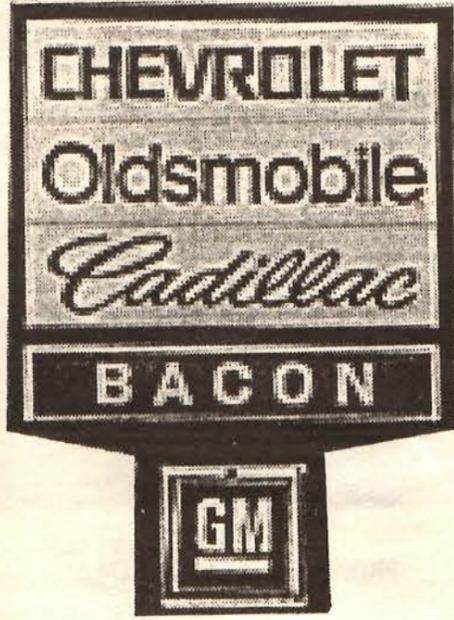
Happy Mother's Day Moma Maxine!

From Krystal, Joel, Tiffani, Eddie, Jasmine, Charmell, and Darren

Steam Train Shop Tours

The Texas State Railroad has one of the best known steam train restoration facilities in the nation. The State Historical Park will open its shop doors to the public for special tours of the behind the scenes work at the famous park. The guided tours will allow visitors to view operating steam engines, antique diesels, train coaches and other historical railroad equipment.

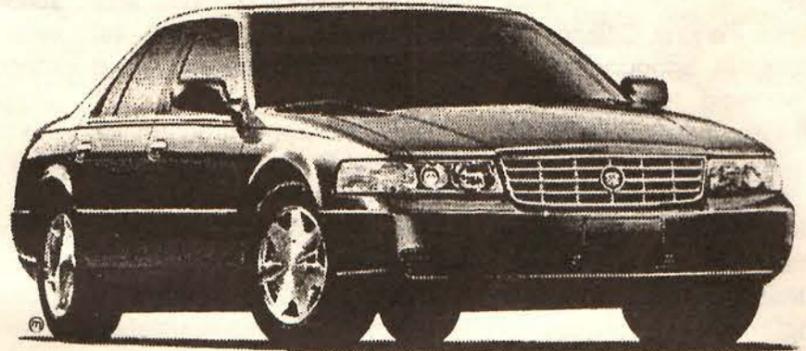
The free tours will begin at the TSRR's Rusk Train Station. The tours will begin at 3:00 p.m. on June 19, July 17, August 21 and September 18. For information on the shop tours and steam train excursions call the Texas State Railroad State Part 1-800-442-8951 or 1-903-683-2561.



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Program Car

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Must See This One

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Program Car, 2 To
Choose From

'96 CHEVY MONTE CARLO

Bright Red, Real Nice Car

'95 FORD ESCORT

Great Transportation

'96 CADILLAC EL DORADO

Local Car, Absolutely Immaculate

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Automatic, Local

One-Owner

'98 FORD F-150

Must See

'95 FORD AEROSTAR CUSTOM VAN

Loaded

'98 FORD F-150

Only 3,000 Miles, Hurry,
This Won't Last

'97 CHEVY 1/2 TON

EXT. CAB

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Great Family Vehicle

'94 CHEVY SUBURBAN

Custom Paint & Interior

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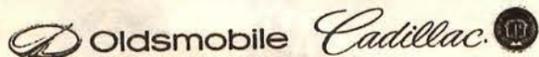
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