



Rusk Fair on the Square
page 13

Ben Jealous takes helm as
NAACP President
See page 11

Mrs. Louise Battle Celebrates
81st birthday
page 11

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TEXAS INFORMER

May 2008
Volume XIII, Number 1

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Mary Martin Nursing, Inc. meets ET aging health care needs



Washington - Meeting David Wilson, a documentary, tracks David A. Wilson's journey to North Carolina to meet David B. Wilson, a descendant of the white Southern family that owned his ancestors during slavery. African American Churches, communities, and the black press have kept an on-going discussion on race and racism throughout the twentieth and twenty first century. This documentary and the present presidential election has jumpstarted a dialogue in mainstream America on race and racism 40 years after the assassination of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.. See story page 5

Texas Health Conference 2008

Jacksonville, TX.- Texas Health Conference 2008 will be held June 7, beginning at 9:30AM. Sessions will be held on Healthy Food for Healthy Minds, for youth ages 11-19 "Who Am I?" will address high risk behaviors for this age group, Diabetis: Food For Life, Fit For Life, Diabetis and Cholesterol: What do the Numbers Mean, S.M.I.L.E. ages 11-19 succeeding minds identifying life essentials, Understanding Medicare and Medicaid Benefits and Dress for Success for ages 11-19. Staffing will include two Board Certified Family Practioners, three Registered Nurses, and one Wellness Specialist.

The goal of the conference is to provide a better opportunity to

educate the community with regards to their health. To also provide free ready care services as a way to help motivate members of the community to take better care of their health.

The mission is to create an annual presence that will eventually generate enough motivation for the community to build a YMCA that will house a "Free Health Clinic". The conference will be held at Seminary Heights C.O.C. 1208 Arnold Street, Jacksonville, TX.

This years's conference will be followed by a 2 day "Free Ready Care Treatment Service", provided by Heart-To-Heart International which will be provided to the community free of charge on Monday June 9th and Tuesday, June 10th. from 11:00 AM to 5:00PM in Lincoln Park, Jacksonville, Texas. RSVP e-mail >seminaryheights@yahoo.com or call Brenda Roberts at (903) 586-6795.



Mary Bowens Martin profiled page 3

Letters to the Editor

REPRESENTATIVE CHUCK HOPSON ENCOURAGES RESIDENTS TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE STATES TAX HOLIDAY

JACKSONVILLE—Representative Chuck Hopson wants to remind East Texas shoppers that during the Memorial Day weekend, they will receive a break from state and local sales taxes on certain energy efficient products.

The 2008 Energy Star sales tax holiday begins at 12:01 am on Saturday, May 24 and ends at 11:59 pm on Monday, May 26th. In addition to the sales tax holiday, anyone who comes into the South Jackson Sears over the holiday weekend and uses their federal rebate check will receive an additional 10% off their purchase. Representative Chuck Hopson will be at the new Sears located at 1627 South Jackson on Saturday at 3pm.

"This is a good deal for everybody," said Hopson. "Shoppers save money on their purchase, they save money on their utility bill with the energy saving units and this will boost our local economy in a time that we sure need it."

Qualifying products will display the Energy Star logo, which may appear on the appliance, the packaging or the Energy Guide label. Earning the Energy Star means a product meets strict energy efficiency guidelines set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy. There is not limit on the number of items you can purchase during the tax holiday.

The products qualifying for the exemption are: air conditioners priced under \$6000 clothes washers (not dryers) ceiling fans dehumidifiers dishwashers light bulbs (incandescent and fluorescent)

programmable thermostats

refrigerators priced under \$2000
Call Sears for holiday weekend hours. For additional information on the Memorial Day Energy Star tax holiday, please contact Representative Hopson's office at 903-541-2250.

Dear Editor,

Please publish the following letter which has information about the Eddie D. Harris Scholarship Foundation and annual fundraiser tournament.

Hello and thanks for your time my name is Marcus Carter a former alumni and High School star athlete and scholar from the Rusk High School Class of 99. I wanted to present you with some information on the 4th annual Eddie D Harris Scholarship Foundation Tournament (Basketball, Softball) will be hosted at the Rusk High School and Jr High campuses on the weekend of June 20th and we are in the process of searching the local area and contacting local businesses about the opportunity of donation to the foundation and maybe even tournament sponsorship. The profits will be presented to local High School students in scholarship form. I have attached a letter that will give you more history and information about the event. Thanks for your time and hopefully for your consideration. My company that I have started the pledges off by pledging \$1,000. Every little bite helps to educate the future kids of tomorrow.

Thank you,

Marcus Carter

Executive Director

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Our goal is to strengthen families,

Dear Mrs. Session,

This note comes to you for several reasons. First, I am excited about the family wedding announcement that will appear in the May issue. Secondly, I want to let you know how much I enjoy reading the Informer. So do many others that I know. Not only are the papers informative, but they are educational and encouraging as well.

Thanks a bunch, and I look forward to meeting you.

Ms. Crist

Palestine, Texas

<p><i>"The power to build or destroy lies in the power of the tongue. Be careful what you say to others." Mammie McCullough</i></p>

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Mary Martin Nursing, Inc making a difference in the lives of others

Cover Story

by Maxine Session

The aging population of America is causing communities and health care professionals to re think the services this growing population needs and the manner in which these needs are met.

The Texas 2006 census count shows more than 20% of Texas population to be 65 years old or older with the coming of retirement age of "Baby Boomers". A great many in this age group have not experienced major health or family lifestyle changes while others function well on their own with minor adjustments. Still others need accessible and affordable housing, or assisted living and other services to help them manage an evergrowing range of personal needs that will enable them to remain in a family environment. Some communities now provide age appropriate fitness programs, adult daycare and door-to-door transportation services.

Mary Bowens Martin and her husband Joe of Crockett, Texas is the owner and operator of Mary Martin Private Duty Nursing Services, Incorporated. Mary is doing her share in meeting the needs of the aging population of East Texans and the handicapped by providing private home nursing service and transportation. The business was established in 1993 by Mary and Joe. The corporation currently employs fifty-three people. All staff are assessed by rigorous interview and handpicked by Mary. The staff is certified in home health aide care and or nursing assistant. Many of them have been with the service since it was established. The special attention given their clients has given the service a reputation of excellence.

The service helps meet the needs of people who are disabled, frail, temporarily disabled by an accident, and those who are aged. The service is available twenty-four hours a day and it provides assistants in nursing such as provider services, respite care for those who qualify, personal caregivers, sitters and transportation."

Mary's Private Duty service is ideal for those who are coming home from the hospital or receiving outpatient care and need assistance with personal grooming, housekeeping, meal preparation and errands. The cooperation also provides private duty services to those in nursing homes or hospitals.

Health care in the home setting is a minimum of four hours a day with the exception of those who qualify for respite care. Both male and female caregivers are on staff.

Transportation is essential to maintaining a happy life style wether it provides a means to get to dialysis, doctor visits, the beautyshop, grocery shopping or other errands. Mary Martin's Nursing services is available for these purposes and many others. Handicapped transportation is available upon request. There are four vans, three with lifts, and three cars available that travel within a two hundred mile radius. Some of the cities clients are transported to and from are Centerville, Crockett, Houston, Huntsville, Lufkin, Madisonville, Nacogdoches, Palestine, Trinity, Tyler, and surrounding areas.

Mary was recognized as "Business Woman of The Year"

in 2002 in Washington D. C..

At a young age, Mary helped her mother, Eva care for her father, Vernell, who was fifty years old at the time Mary was born. During her junior year at Crockett High School she had the opportunity to work at a local hospital. She worked in a variety of departments, the kitchen, ICU, med-surgery, ER, OB, Unit secretary, drug room, central supply and surgery.

In 1993, Mary left the hospital position and with a team of two she assisted in the opening of Piney Woods Home Health

She discovered that some patients had a need for followup care after being discharged from the hospital. At that time she provided private duty nursing care and enjoyed assisting the patients and getting to know the families on a one to one basis. Out of that came the idea to begin her nursing service. Armed with her CNA Certification and years of experience she opened her service and began to live her dream.

Mary was born in the Simon Springs Community. While on the way to her uncle's home on the day of this interview with, she, Ada, one of the drivers who grew up with Mary and Tarsha the officer manager gave me a tour of Simon Springs community, Cooper Settlement, Porter Springs and Alabama Crossing. Alabama Crossing was once the home of a Black College.

Early populations that settled these communities were slaves leaving Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi and other southern states to cross



L to R- Cooper Bowens, Tarsha Hightower, Wallace Bowens Ada Hackney and Mary

Texas but stayed in the area, causing large populations to settle there. Although the population is sparse now, the countryside is still beautiful. Mary's father's only living brother, Wallace Bowens and wife Cooper still live in Simon Springs. Mary says it gives her great joy to be able to make a difference in their lives. Because of the special care and attention given him, he and his wife can enjoy living at home.

Joe and Mary Martin have been married thirty-five years and have three children, Tonia Abbs, Joe Martin, Jr. and wife Johnita, and Amber who is a junior in high school. They also have five grandchildren, and two adopted grandchildren. Mary says if you or a family member needs assistance or if you are looking for a job with a service that feels like family, call her.

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AKA National president denounces Republican Party attack on Michelle Obama

Chicago, IL (BlackNews.com) - Barbara A. McKinzie, Alpha expressed indignation and outrage over the Tennessee Republican Party running a smear campaign against Michelle Obama, wife of Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama. McKinzie denounced the transparent mindset that triggered the decision by the Tennessee GOP to design such an ad. She said it is the basis of an ugly underpinning that is being echoed in established racist Internet chat rooms, within the right-leaning blogosphere and among some conservative pundits. To make Michelle Obama a target of a potentially hate-inspired offensive is something that she -- and the 200,000 primarily African-American female members she leads -- will not tolerate.

"The impulse to take a statement of hers out of context and make it a focus of an unpatriotic ad is to trivialize her and to attempt to devalue her," said McKinzie. "This is unacceptable!"

She said the ad appeals to the subconscious racial fears of a sliver of Americans who remain unaware of progress. "This intransigent posture," said McKinzie, "defies the American ideal of democracy and fairness, the bedrock of the Constitution." McKinzie said at a time when the economy should be the issue around which Americans should unite, using a fringe element to stoke racial fears is a temporary distraction. Emphasizing that point, McKinzie said, "The fragile state of America's economic psyche threatens the

viability of this nation. Alpha Kappa Alpha has made economics a major focus through the ESP program that is the theme of this administration. Putting America's psyche on a strong financial global footing needs to be front and center on everyone's mind -- not polarizing messages that fan the flames of historical racial prejudice. We must snuff out the embers of racial fear that the ad attempts to ignite," declared McKinzie.

In lambasting the ad, McKinzie took a cue from Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice who acknowledged that the United States still has trouble dealing with race because of a national "birth defect" that denied black Americans the opportunities given to whites at the country's very founding. "This ad," stressed McKinzie, "is nothing less than a very public display of America's 'birth defect.'"

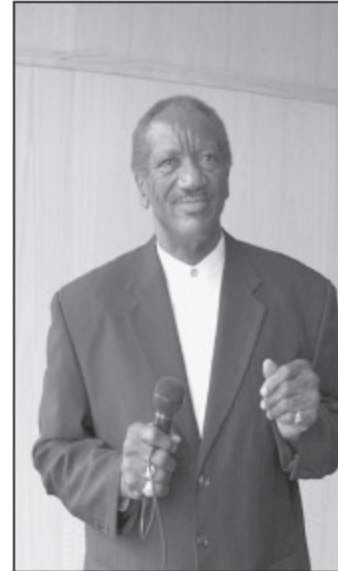
"Given the historical challenges facing American women, the resolve should be to improve the stature of American women rather than to denigrate them," declared McKinzie.

She challenged all fair-thinking citizens -- including President George W. Bush, Senator Hillary Clinton and Secretary of State Rice -- to join Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority in denouncing the ad and the climate of intolerance that prompted its creation.

She said she would galvanize members and wage a counteroffensive by speaking out, writing letters, issuing statements and signaling that these types of acts will trigger a solidarity that will combat offensive messages.

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Meeting David Wilson

David Wilson, at the time, a 28-year-old African-American journalist, journeys into his family's past to find answers to America's racial divide. Along the way he meets another David Wilson, the descendant of his family's slave master. This discovery leads to a momentous encounter between these two men of the same name but whose ancestors were on the opposite sides of freedom. Through DNA testing, David determines his African roots and returns to his native land. It is very appropriate that David B. Wilson releases this documentary but only now, with the emergence of an African-American candidate with a real chance of winning the presidency, has race finally pushed itself into the heart of America's civic conversation. "Meeting David Wilson" Wilson, now 30, a veteran of ABC, CBS and Fox News, said it was "about creating a dialogue for America as a whole."

"What you have in the two of us is the story of two races and two generations honestly talking about the dark cloud of slavery and its continuing impact on our families and our lives even today," he said.

Brian Williams, anchor of "NBC Nightly News," aired as the host on MSNBC in April ET and it streamed live on msnbc.com. It included radio talk show host Tom Joyner; author and Georgetown University professor Michael Eric Dyson; Malaak Compton-Rock, an entrepreneur and wife of comedian Chris Rock; and the Rev. DeForest Soaries, a prominent Republican activist.

Also on the panel was David A. Wilson, whose intensely personal look at the ties of two American families —

The documentary is available on video and in book form. It is a must read highly recommended for everyone.

A Woman's Strength

A woman has strengths that amaze me...

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She sings when she feels like crying

She cries when she's happy, and laughs when she's afraid, and her love is unconditional.

There's only one thing wrong with her, at times, she forgets what she's worth!

Ladies, don't forget your worth and ALWAYS love and appreciate yourself!

Be blessed always and remember the Father is always with us.

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Hollywood's Time

Crockett, Texas news & views
by Billy (Hollywood)
Grooves

Having survived the Rev. Jeremiah Wright controversy, presidential hopeful Barack Obama is poised to become the first African American president of the United States.

In my mind and i am sure in the minds of every African American there is a sense of pride in Obama's presidential bid. However it's the young people of America who will benefit from having diversity in the Whitehouse the most. They get the opportunity to grow up in America and see the Whitehouse as a place where and "qualified American" can live there as president regardless of their skin color or gender. Now its up to every responsible citizen who wants changed in America to step up and vote for either Barack Obama or Hilary Clinton. I had a great conversation with rapper, writer, producer, entrepreneur "Smack Water" of Houston. Smack Water is the grandson of the late Grammy Award winning blues singer Johnny Clyde Copeland of Houston and the nephew of current blues sensation Shemekia Copeland, Smack Water was born in 1975 and is managed by my good friend Rob T. Turner of Houston who also manages hit rapper "Lil Flip". I asked Smack Water about his career, where he saw himself in the future and what advice did he have for young people. He told me he had wrote and made a lot of music his latest C.D. titled "Smack Water" is a great C.D., with some very good songs on it. His song "All Over" is really a hit in the making. He says he can see himself being a major force in Rap, Gospel, Blues, and country music because God gave him a gift to write and perform music. "First thing is get an education, be true to yourself, have self respect and honor your parent's Legacy was his advice for young people. Smack Water has written material for singers R.Kelly and Destiny Child he described himself as a realist who is trying to build a bridge to

the world through music. He went on to say that there are too many factors that are keeping people of the world apart and the main factor is religion. He emphasized that we are creating unstable kids through society's Action of religious division. He added that there is only One God and we



should Celebrate that one God. Smack Water can be reached at 713-294-3954 or 281-657-5278. Kudos go out to Chris and Lynn Martinez, managers of Customers Choice Rentals in Crockett. Chris and Lynn are God fearing, great people who respect and treat everyone they meet like they want to be treated themselves. They Martinezes have made Crockett and Houston County a better place. Congratulations go out to Former Crockett High Star Athlete Crystal Fisher a Jarvis Christian College graduate and multiple sports star for J.C.C. Crystal currently lives in Tyler and will be getting married in May to Ramon Williams of Tyler a Louisiana Native. High Fives go out to Melvis "Shooting" Wooten of Crockett who is running a free basketball camp for youngsters at I.T. Williams Park on M.L.K. Blvd. in Crockett. Wooten also told me about his Internet web sites which high lights his son Cartier Martin a Kansas State basketball great who is currently playing pro basketball in Turkey. Wooten added that current K-State basketball star Micheal Beazley, U.S.C. basketball star O.J. Mayo, and Gilbert Arenas of the N.B.A. were also highlighted on his web site. We commended Dr. Ruth Watson a 1980s graduate of Crockett

High, Sam Houston State University and T.S.U., for her dedication to children of Houston and East Texas. Dr. Watson is a long time educator in Houston, and currently serves on the Spring I.S.D. school Board. Dr. Watson's Accomplishments are far too numerous to mention in this column or in a book, its going to take a series of books to describe the Life of this remarkable East Texan. I will just simply say she is irreplaceable! Keep up the good work Dr. Watson. Kudos go out to Dr. Brenda Groves Atchison of Waco who recently was awarded her Doctor's degree in Waco. Dr. Atchison is a 1970's graduate of Crockett and Sam Houston of State University she started her education career as a teacher in Crockett and worked in many cities and small towns since then. Dr. Atchison is married to former Bethel Baptist Church in Crockett pastor Rev. Delvin Atchison a Hearne Native. East Texas thanks go out to you. Daphne Session, sis. Earlie Groves, Broderick "Lil B" Purvis, Lavern Brown, Harold and Nora Shephard, Opal and Flutie Woolbrite, Odis and Ella Barrs, Walter and Maxine Session, Claude Watson, Rev. Walter

Marlean Willaims, Rev. R.P. Taylor, Sonny Davis, Victoria Essien, Earlie Essien, Sundra Essien, Harold Brown, Smith Gardner, G.B. Burton, W.L. Tillis, Kim Brasher and Donna Kasper.

Tonya Fuller graduates UT Tyler

Tonya Lynette Fuller graduated Saturday May 10, 2008 from the University of Texas at Tyler with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Interdisciplinary Studies. The Commencement ceremonies were held at the R Don Cowan Fine and Performing Arts Center at 1:00PM. Tonya is the daughter of William and Laura Fuller of Rusk, Texas. The family hosted a reception for her at the Cherokee County Electric Coop Community Room in Rusk following the graduation ceremonies. Ms. Fuller plans to begin her teaching career this fall and to begin work on her Masters Degree.

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~Proverbs 22: 22-23

Health

CHIP/ Children's Medicaid

Good deals are hard to come by. If you're raising children who don't have health insurance, Children's Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) may be one of those good deals you've been looking for.

"Parents want their children to have access to quality medical care," says Texas Health and Human Services Executive Commissioner Albert Hawkins. "Children's Medicaid and CHIP make that goal a reality for many families struggling to make ends meet."

The two programs provide coverage for children in families who earn up to 200 percent of the federal poverty level. That's \$42,400 a year for a family of four. The state estimates that more than half of the 1.4 million uninsured children in Texas meet the qualifications for Children's Medicaid or CHIP and could be enrolled if their families applied for the programs. Enrollment in Children's Medicaid is free. In CHIP, enrollment fees are based on income and range from no fee to \$50 for a year of coverage. That's quite the bargain when the average cost of private health insurance for Texas families exceeds \$1,000 per month.

Children's Medicaid and CHIP currently provide coverage for more than 2 million young Texans — or one out of every three children in

the state. Both programs cover pre-existing conditions and offer a choice of doctors. Services include doctor visits, immunizations, hospital care, surgery, X-rays, physical, speech and occupational therapies, prescription drugs, vision services, emergency services and transplants.

Applying for the programs is easy. Families don't need to determine which program they may qualify for. Once an application is submitted, the state will review the information to see if the family qualifies for either CHIP or Children's Medicaid. To start an application or get more information on Children's Medicaid or CHIP, call 877-KIDS-NOW (1-877-543-7669). Assistance is available in English and Spanish from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Central Time Monday through Friday. If you have a speech or hearing impairment, call 1-800-735-2988 (Relay Texas). You'll be able to start your application over the phone and have it sent to you for your signature. Mail the signed application back with copies of your information and you're done. It's that easy. You can also visit www.chipmedicaid.org to get more information or download an application. The Texas Health and Human Services Commission, which administers Children's

CALLING ALL VETS!

Rusk, TX.-Starting this year, the Rotary Club of Rusk will lead the tribute to all area peacetime and wartime Vets. Known for placing American and Texas flags around the Square in Rusk during patriotic holidays, Rusk Rotary has been given the honor to be the official producer of 4th of July events in Rusk. They'll begin by creating "Patriotic Pride", with red, white and blue bunting of the Square around mid-June. This precedes the massive "Salute to Vets" celebrations in July. On Thursday, July 3. From 7-9pm, there will be a "picnic in the park" at Jim Hogg Park in Rusk, dedicated to ALL peacetime and wartime Vets. The ENTIRE East Texas community is encouraged to attend and bring food of any sort.....covered dishes,

cold dishes, sandwiches, deserts, etc.....plus cold, non-alcoholic drinks; and tables and chairs..... so we can thank our dedicated men and women of the Armed Forces and show them how much we appreciate their service to our country. Every Vet in East Texas needs to come and be recognized. There will be live and recorded music, plus those with "war stories" will be urged to share them. The following day, Friday, July 4, the Grand Patriotic Event will begin at 10am in down town Rusk. The Rotary Club of Rusk will be distributing small American Flags around the Square; while the Rusk Lions Club will be giving out red, white and blue streamers. After beautiful opening ceremonies, the "Salute to Vets" parade will start, to stirring Sousa marches. The parade marshalls will be our wonderful VETS, who will be riding in wartime military vehicles supplied by Tom Townsend of Toyland Military Museum. The crowd will be urged to throw their red, white & blue streamers towards the Vets as they come by. There will be floats, dignitaries, etc; plus antique cars from around Texas which will participate in Rusk's first ever Antique Car Show. After the parade, there will be a host of live Gospel and Patriotic music from the Courthouse steps; plus food, games for the kids, pie baking contest and a first-ever firemen's competition. The Rotary Club of Rusk wishes to thank our sponsors for the July 3rd and 4th events, Greg James Country Motors in Rusk; and Whitehead Enterprises, owners of KTLU/ KWRW & The Cherokeean Herald.

Medicaid and CHIP, also works with community-based organizations that can help families apply for state services, including Children's Medicaid and CHIP. To find an organization near you, call 877-KIDS-NOW (1-877-543-7669) or go to www.chipmedicaid.org for families and small employers.

John Livingston

(512) 424-6951

Families who earn too much to qualify for state insurance programs can shop for affordable health insurance at www.texashealthoptions.com/. The website is a service of the Texas Department of Insurance and provides information and resources

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Juniors and Seniors enjoy prom



L to R - Charnessl Franklin, Jasmine Harris, Brittany Session, Leasha O'Neal, Pune Session, Delnesha Overstreet, Sharell Session



L to R - Matthew Davis, Quinn Anthony, Horace Lewis, Bobby McDuff, Dakota Rysinger, Damarcus Skinner, Chance Cleveland



L to R - Natalie Polk, Rylisha Session, French Hooper, Gregory Sturns, Jeremy Laverne.

The groups pictured above attended the Rusk High school Prom April fifth and enjoyed the music and beautiful decorations. The prom was held in the high school commons area

Moore Bridal Shower held



L to R - Dorothy Cannon, grandmother of the bride, Tiffany Ann Moore, bride elect, Elsie Colston, grandmother of the groom, Zalinda Colston, mother of the groom, Irene Joyce, and Zalinda Colston aunts of the groom.

Rusk, TX. - A bridal shower was held Friday evening April 25th for Miss Tiffany Ann Moore, bride elect of Cory Colston. Friends and family of the bride and groom came together to shower Miss Moore with gifts for the upcoming wedding. The wedding will be held Saturday May 17, 2008 at Benson Memorial CME church in Jacksonville. Tiffany is the daughter of Ennis and Mentorial Mallard. Cory is the son of Roy and Zalinda Colston.

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Guest Speakers: Bishop Mable Bery, Pastor Judy Harrison, Pastor Patricia Rischer, Elder Ola Bolton, Evangelist Marilyn Byrd, Pastor Lori Brewster, Pro. Tonya Cooper. www.womenofexcellenceministries.com

Butler and Christ Wed



Palestine, TX. -Theresa Butler and Cortez Christ were married March 27, 2008 in Palestine, Texas. A reception, hosted by the bride's family, was held April 12th. Theresa is the daughter of Sheila Butler of Palestine and Reginald Jones of Grapeland. Cortez is the son of Brenda Christ of Palestine and Rufus Jenkins of Arlington, Texas. They are both employed with TDCJ Powledge Unit.

Moore and Colston to wed



Mentoria May Mallard and Ennis Mallard announce the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter Tiffany Ann Moore to Cory Bernard Colston son of Roy and Zalinda Colston on Saturday May 17, 2008 at 6:00 p.m at Benson Memorial C.M.E Church Jacksonville, Texas. The Reception will follow the Ceremony at Cherokee County Electric Cooperative Rusk, Texas.

Weddings



Leon and Verta Session of Houston, formerly of Rusk, celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary April 26, 2008.

Houston, TX. - The children of Leon (L. B.) and Verta Session hosted a Fiftieth Wedding Anniversary Celebration for their parents on Saturday, April 26th at the Houston Power Center. L. B. and Verta were both born and raised in Rusk and are graduates of Bradford High School. The High School Sweethearts were married April 26, 1958. The gala, formal sit-down dinner affair, hosted by children Anthony, Stephanie, Stella and Felicia, was attended by many friends and family including his sister Johnnie Jewel. Mr. and Mrs. Session have six grandchildren and one great grandson.

Parson & Muse Wed



Mr. and Mrs. Bennie Lee Muse were married May 3, 2008 at Benson CME Church Jacksonville, Texas. The bride, Patricia Ann Parson is the daughter of Mrs. Johnnie Washington and Mr. D. B.

Hunt - Coleman vows exchanged



Na' Tasha Marie Hunt and Erick Devonne Coleman exchanged marriage vows Saturday, April 12, 2008 at four O'Clock in the afternoon at the Buckner Park Gazebo.

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YOUTH

What's on your mind? In the spotlight!

Whats Cooking



Amanda Session

2007 high school grad. - I'm taking a break from school right now, so I work everyday. The cost of food, gasoline and everything is too high. I don't know what can be done to improve the economy. I don't think anybody really knows.



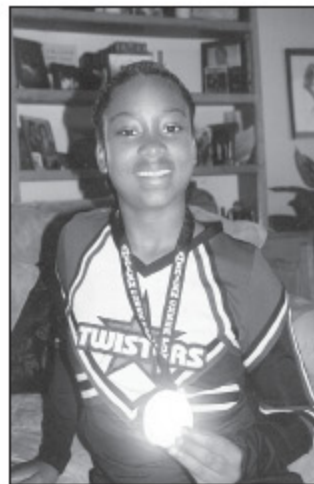
Brittany Session

RISD SR.- Graduation is on my mind and work. I'm working this summer and getting ready for college in the fall. The economy is a problem. All we can do is hope it gets better. I don't listen to what they say in the news.



Shanonda Martin

TJC Student- Right now, the most important thing on my mind is school and all it takes to stay there. There are a lot of things in the news like the economy and the elections. My mind is made up. I'm voting for Obama.



Symira Dearman

Symira Dearman, daughter of Wesley and Veronica Dearman, competed with GTC All-star Cheerleading competition at Six Flags over Texas in Dallas May 3, 2008 and the team received a First Place medal. Symira was awarded Best All Around Cheerleader by Gym Tyler Twisters in Tyler on April 19, 2008. She has maintained A Honor Roll as a RISD student this year. She is the granddaughter of George and Betty Kincade of Jacksonville and the late Leon and Connie Dearman.

Hawaiian Pork Chops

- 1) 4 (1/2 inch thick) lean pork loin chops
- 2) 1 (8 ounce) can pineapple slices in own juice
- 3) 2 tablespoons brown sugar
- 4) 1/2 teaspoon ground nutmeg

Drain and reserve juice from canned pineapple. Place pork chops in baking dish that is lightly sprayed with cooking spray. Mix 3 tablespoons of the reserved pineapple juice with brown sugar and nutmeg. Spoon half of the mixture over the pork chops. Top with pineapple slices and spoon remaining mixture over pineapple. Cover and bake 30 minutes at 350 degrees . Uncover and bake 20 minutes longer, spoon sauce over chops occasionally. 4 Servings.

Krystal Rene Blakemore, daughter of Alwonda Sue Cummings graduated from Jacksonville High School in 2007. She then attended Prairie View A &M University, studying Agriculture with a concentration on Economics and Mathematics, finishing her year with 3.6 GPA. The ACEP-IOWA SUMMER RESEARCH PROGRAM, an 8 week program, was impressed with her outstanding performance and offered her an Internship. Krystal accepted and will be attending the ACEP-Iowa Summer Research Program from June through August this summer.

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OBITUARIES

Sheryl Marie Miller

Sheryl Marie Miller was born March 2, 1961 to the parentage of Sammie Lee Miller and Oweda Hamilton Miller in Palastine, Texas. Sheryl received her education in the Palastine School District. At an early age she accepted Christ as her Lord and Savior. In March, 1979, she married a young man by the name of Herbert Lewis Johnson. To the union three children were born. On Thursday, the 20th day of March 2008, Sheryl Marie Miller passed away. She was preceded in death by her father, Sammie Lee Miller Sr. Sheryl leaves to cherish her memories two daughters, LaDominique Johnson and Crystal Johnson, one son, Herbert Lewis Johnson Jr.; four sisters, Jacqueline Collen Miller, Oweda Johnson (Durman) all of Dallas TX; three brothers, Sammie Lee Miller of Portland,

Lester Bryan Miller of Portland and Chester Brent Miller of Tyler, TX; one grandson, Kerlon Sapeda, a host of aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Oliver Bradley, Jr.

Mr. Oliver Bradley, Jr., the son of the late Oliver and Annie Bradley was born on April 30, 1923, in Rusk, Cherokee County, Texas. He graduated George W. Bradford High School, Rusk of received his Bachelor degree from Wiley College, Marshall, Texas. Mr. Bradley was a teacher and principal serving in Wells, Sweet Union and Diboll. He was married to Mary E. Hill Bradley for 56 years. He was a member of the Wells Chapel Baptist Church for over fifty years. He departed this life on Tuesday, April 22, 2008, at his home in Lufkin, Texas. Survivors are his wife Mary E. Bradley, his cousin Shirley Jo Hughes and a host of other relatives and friends.

NAACP new president takes helm

The NAACP National Board of Directors is pleased to announce the selection of Benjamin T. Jealous as National President & CEO. He is the 17th person chosen to lead the nation's oldest and largest civil rights organization in its 99-year history. The 35 year old is the youngest president to ever lead this historical organization.

Mr. Jealous began his career as an organizer with the NAACP Legal Defense Fund working on issues of healthcare access.

He was born, raised, and attended public and parochial schools in Monterey County, California. He holds a bachelor's degree in political science from Columbia University and a master's degree in comparative social research from Oxford University where he was a Rhodes Scholar.

Mr. Jealous is a member of the Asia Society. He is a board member of Northern California Grantmakers and the California Council for the Humanities. During the mid 1990s, Mr. Jealous served as Managing Editor of the Jackson Advocate, Mississippi's oldest black newspaper. His reporting for the frequently-firebombed weekly was credited with exposing corruption amongst high-ranking officials at the state prison in Parchman, and helping to acquit a small farmer who had been wrongfully and maliciously accused of arson. He initially came to Mississippi as a field organizer on a successful campaign to stop the state's plan to close two of its three public historically black universities, and convert one of them into a prison. The 4th Annual NAACP Leadership 500 Summit is rapidly approaching.



Ben Jealous

workshops, interactive panel discussions and general session led by prominent private sector, non-profit, corporate, and community leaders.

Participants will have the opportunity to attend "Economic Parity and Wealth Creation: A Path to Greater Wealth Creation," a workshop dedicated to answering questions about owning your own business and sharing information about other wealth building opportunities.

July 12-17, 2008, the 99th Annual NAACP Convention will be held in Cincinnati, Ohio.

July 30 - August 3, 2008 the NAACP Act-SO 30th Anniversary will be celebrated at - Walt Disney World Florida ACT-SO is a year-long enrichment program designed to recruit, stimulate, improve and encourage high academic and cultural achievement among African-American high school students. The ACT-SO program centers around the dedication and commitment of community volunteers and business leaders who serve as mentors and coaches to promote academic and artistic excellence among African-American students. There are 25 categories of competition in the sciences, humanities, performing and visual arts.



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Religion

No man can hide any word or deed from God

Proverbs 15:2-4(KJV):

2 The tongue of the wise useth knowledge aright: but the mouth of fools poureth out foolishness.
3 The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good.

4 A wholesome tongue is a tree of life: but perverseness therein is a breach in the spirit. These verses in Proverbs tell us that the Lord God is an "all seeing" and "all hearing" God, who hears the speech of the wise and the foolish. According to verse 2 those who are wise will speak the knowledge of the things that the Bible teaches, while out of the mouths of fools comes folly and foolishness.

We need to be reminded that God truly is omnipresent (His presence is every where at the same time) just as verse 3 states. No man can hide any word or deed from God. Those today who get away with crimes because no man witnessed their deeds will ultimately have to answer for them, as they will one day stand before the living God as He will judge them. Others who were sentenced and wrongly judged in this life, will one day be vindicated by a righteous God who knew what really happened.

The guilty parties will have to face a Holy God who will judge them. We can understand why the unsaved

do evil things with no restraint, as they do not know God. However, many Christians act as if God has gone on vacation and is not watching the deeds they are committing.

If we really believed that God was watching and hearing our conversations, would we speak to our mates, family and friends the way we do?

One of the things that begins to erode a marriage away is when one spouse begins to speak critically to and of the other one. The things we say to and about the other one can either be uplifting and encouraging, or they can bring disharmony and hurt.

Little critical words will lead to a dissatisfaction with one's mate and can escalate to bring about a divorce. No person should threaten to divorce the other just to get their way, or manipulate the other to do something they really don't want to do. When any one threatens divorce, this is like speaking words of murder to your marriage. The Bible tells us to speak good words if we want to see good days and have a love for life.

Words can accumulate in the spirit and cause one to react lovingly or hateful by what is spoken. The Bible warns each spouse not to return "railing for railing" but "blessing for a railing." As kind words are returned this stops the cycle of "railing for railing."

America the Racist?

by author H. J. Harris
Wilmington, NC (BlackNews.com)
- America the Racist? by author H. J. Harris is a Must Read for white and black Americans as the 2008 presidential election unfolds.

This 172 page Ebook sets forth a concise, easy to read, historical, spiritual, and psychological treatment of Racism in America - its causes, evolution, and possibilities for the future. Once we understand why we are where we are as a nation, then we are better equipped to determine what we must do to become the "one Nation under God" described in Dr. King's dream and the Pledge of Allegiance.

As we experience the political battle between Barak Obama and Hillary Clinton, the issue of race in America continually takes center stage. Sometime the race issue is front and center as with the comments of Rev. Jeremiah Wright, Obama's minister for many years.

Have you wondered why the response of many white Americans

rarely dealt with the historical context in which Rev. Wright's comments were made.

to Rev. Wright's comments was anger, disgust, and vicious attacks on his patriotism? White Americans Obama sees victory based on America living up to its creed that "all men are created equal . . ." In the imagery of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Obama is presenting the great check to America and expecting it to clear - paid-in-full.

Many Americans believe that Hillary Clinton's dogged determination to stay in the presidential race is based on a belief in the "Bradley Factor". When Clinton says that she is the most electable, it is a coded way of saying that, in the final analysis, white Americans will not vote for a black American man to lead this country.

America the Racist? shows why the cancer of racism can flare up and a significant number of white Americans will not be able to get beyond the ingrained racism

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In the news today

Daphne Session Wednesday Rotary Club Speaker

Daphne Session, Attorney At Law, was a recent speaker at the Wednesday Rotary Club meeting. She was the guest of Lauraisel McDonald. Daphne spoke about the Texas CPS removal of more than 400 children from the YFZ Polygamy Farm in Eldorado Texas and laws that could or could not apply.

The Rotary Club meets at noon each Wednesday at Southern Cherokee Federal Credit Union Conference room.



L to R - Roy Reynolds, Daphne Session, Lauraisel McDonald and Toni Meador, Rotary President.

Rusk, TX.- Fair on the Square
Ready to enjoy some good old fashion fun and entertainment? Then mark your calendars to attend this year's 2 day event on Friday & Saturday, May 23 & 24, 2008! Be sure and check out some of the Chamber Volunteers as they Car Hop at the Sonic Drive In on Thursday evening, 5/22/08.

Thursday, May 22

4:00 PM -9:00 PM for a Blast from the Past at the Sock Hop at the Sonic, 1505 Dickinson Drive

Friday, May 23

10:00 AM - 4:00 PM "Kids' Day, Pictures with Spiderman and Friends, (Spiderman & Cinderella has a surprise for the first 10 kids!) Kids' Arcade with Free prizes Galore and Free Rides all day!

7:00 PM Cherokee County Relay for Life Presents "An Evening with Elvis" Elvis Presley Tribute Artist & Elvis look alike contest, \$10 Advance Tickets / \$12 at the Door

For additional information or to purchase tickets Cynthia Kline (903) 683-3421

Saturday, May 24

8:00 AM "5k Run & Fitness Walk"

Louise Battle Celebrates 81st birthday

Louise Battle celebrated her 81st birthday recently surrounded by her family and friends.

The wonderful occasion was marked with A birthday dinner held at Mt. Haven CME Church, where she is a member,

Mrs. Battle is a retired beautician. She is also the past president and team member of the famous Jacksonville, Texas Super Mom's Basketball team.

The team players were ladies fifty-five years old and above. Mrs. Battle was a member for fifteen years.



Front L to R- J. R. Battle Jr., Louise Battle, Eddie Battle. Back row - Audria Battle, Wanda Sutton, Gheopia Braggs, Danny Battle, Jerry Battle and David Sutton

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Horticultural Hints

Daylily Clinic

You are invited to view the daylily collection of Wayne and Kathie Davis and attend a Hemerocallis Clinic on Saturday May 31 at their home in the Sardis community of Cherokee County. The name hemerocallis comes from the Greek terms hemero (for a day) and callis (beauty). It is the genus of the daylily. Daylilies are perhaps the best sun-loving perennial for the south. The Davis family are avid gardeners and in recent years greatly expanded their daylilies. Joe Daniel, Cherokee County Extension Horticulturist will be discussing the propagating and using daylilies in the landscape. The Davis garden is located at 8217 FM 1857 not far from the Sardis church. The program will begin at 10am. Cherokee County Master Gardener Amanda

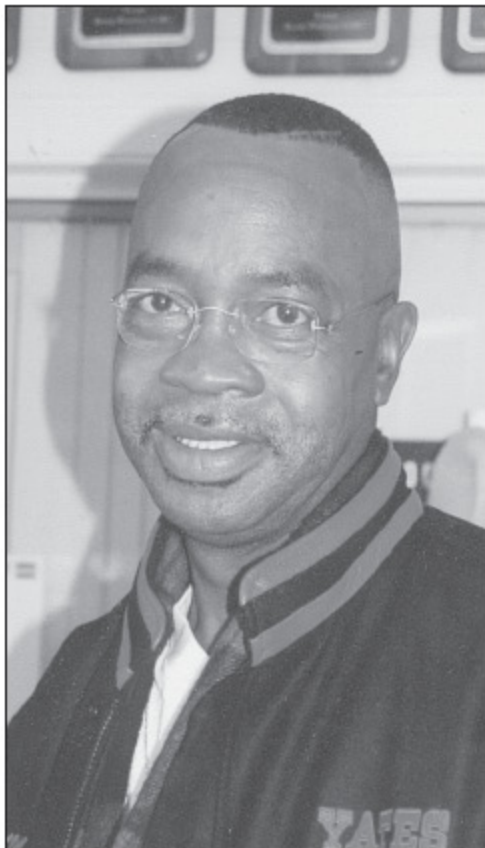
Cherokee County Master Gardener Amanda Childress will also be presenting cottage garden tips at the meeting. Anyone who drives by the Childress home on San Antonio Street in Jacksonville knows her garden tips will be top notch. For additional information contact the Cherokee County Office of the Texas AgriLIFE Extension at (903) 683-5416. Extension programs serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race color, sex, religion, disability, or national origin.

The Texas A&M University System, U. S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating

Arvelle (Sonny) & Lillie Walker Celebrate 55th Wedding Anniversary



Pictured above are Arville and Lillie Walker, celebrating their 55th wedding anniversary April 26th at the Southern Cherokee Federal Credit Union conference room with a family gathering of more than fifty people. Pictured with them are children Charles Ray, Glenda, Sharon and Tammy. They are the parents of the late Pam Session. Mr. and Mrs. Walker were married in the Pinehill community near New Summerfield 55 years ago by Rev. O. B. Hampton with Rev. J. T. Tucker as the witness.



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10:00AM

Morning Ser. 11:00AM
 Wednes. Bible Study

7PM

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Rev. Greenie Phillips, Pastor
 Sunday School 9:45AM

Sunday Worship Service
 11:00 AM

2nd & 4th Sunday Service
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Mt. Olive Baptist Church

911 Egbert Street
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Rev. Mertis Bartley, Pastor
 & wife

Evangelist Stella Bartley
 Assistant Pastor

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Sunday School 9:00AM - Worship: 10:00AM

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Cherokee County Juneteenth Parade
 Saturday, June 14, 2008.

Lineup begins 11:00 AM behind Austin
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For information call (903) 683-5743

Church Announcements

The St. Paul Baptist Church family extends invitation to your church family to come worship with us help us celebrate the second Anniversary of our Pastor and wife (Rev. Sedrick and Sis. Marquisha Moore) In leadership at our church; on Sunday, May 18 @ 3:00 p.m. Rev. Steven Young will bring the spoken word. God has truly blessed our church family under this leadership and we want this to be a glorious day of praise and thanksgiving! Your presence will be greatly appreciated!

Yours in Christ

St Paul Baptist Church Family
 Rev. Sedrick Moore, Pastor

Sweet Union Baptist Church

302 North Main Street
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Sunday School: 9:45a-
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MorningWorship: 11:00AM

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

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