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Michael Williams, State Railroad Commissioner, gives facts on booming oil industry and need for engineers. page 6.

185 Texas schools labeled drop-out factories. page 7

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P.O. Box 332
Rusk, Texas 75785

Stacy-Deanne releases Everlasting

Story



There is a cultural and generational gap growing due to the stigma of this fashion statement...school districts across the United States are prohibiting the practice and indecent exposure ordinances are being passed. See the proposed solution page 10.

Salute to veterans page 4

Texas College President, Dr. Hawkins gives resignation. page 6.

December 1st World Aides Day
page 11.



Cutline

BET ROLLS OUT A WEEKEND OF AWARD-WINNING, HIV-THEMED PROGRAMMING COMMEMORATING WORLD AIDS DAY

Washington, DC (BlackNews.com) - BET Networks today announced that it will air a lineup of special HIV-themed programming to coincide with World AIDS Day Saturday, December 1. This HIV-focused programming rounds out a successful year for BET's pro-social initiative Rap-It-Up, which recently won the Emmy® Award for "Outstanding National Community Service Campaign" and a 2007 Cable Positive Award for "Outstanding Special Programming." The Rap-It-Up campaign also includes dedicated grassroots efforts and a comprehensive educational program, all to raise awareness about HIV/AIDS among the African-American community.

On Friday, November 30 at 6:00 p.m. ET/PT, BET's popular music countdown show 106 & PARK will air a LIVE 90-minute telecast hosted by veejay duo Terrence and Rocsi. The music special will tackle the issue of HIV/AIDS and the risky behaviors associated with contracting the disease, and will also feature celebrity guests Magic Johnson, Juelz Santana and Jim Jones to discuss healthy life choices and provide important information about HIV testing and prevention methods to BET viewers. An encore presentation of the provocative

HIV/AIDS special WHAT
U KNOW BOUT THAT?

RAP-IT-UP SEX QUIZ will air on Saturday, December 1 at 7:30 p.m. ET/PT. The one-hour BET News special addresses a host of HIV/AIDS-related issues faced by BET's audience, including stigma and homophobia, HIV testing, substance abuse, and the impact of HIV/AIDS on personal relationships and family life. BET News personality Jina Johnson hosts the show and is joined by fellow BET personalities Lamorne Morris, Sharon Carpenter, and Samson Styles, along with BET News producer Antonio Neves, who visited the cities of New York, Los Angeles, Atlanta and Miami to talk with young adults and test them on how much they really know about safe sexual health, behavior and practices, and discuss their own personal experiences. Special guest stars Ciara, Kelly Rowland, Common, Romeo and Lyfe Jennings also make appearances to ask various questions, and sexual health expert Dr. Rani Whitfield (also known as the "Hip-Hop Doc") is on hand to provide pertinent health information and facts to assist young adults who may be dealing with these issues.

Since 1998, BET Networks has worked diligently to raise awareness about HIV/AIDS and its impact on the African-American community.

"This Christmas" Hits Theaters November 21st

Blacknews - Be sure to start your Thanksgiving Holiday off right by getting your entire family together to enjoy the new Rainforest Films / Sony Screen Gems movie "This Christmas." "This Christmas" is a family story that every type of family can relate to.

"There is nothing stereotypical about it," said Executive Producer Ronnie Warner. "There's a common thread through everyone. We all have issues in our families. We all cry over the same things. And we laugh over the same things. And so it's really about finding that ... common denominator."

An All-Star cast consisting of Regina King, Loretta Devine, Idris Elba, Mekhi Phifer, Delroy Lindo, Columbus Short, Laz Alonso,

Sharon Leal, Lauren London, Keith Robinson, David Banner and Chris Brown where brought together to create this magical film.

"The real magic is in how these great actors and actresses really created a sense of family in the film. We all have ups and downs with family and share in the laughing, crying, fighting and loving moments within this film," says the film's producer Will Packer of Rainforest Films, the makers of the smash hits Stomp The Yard and The Gospel.

So, mark your calendars and gather your entire family to experience an evening of love, laughter and joy with The Whitfield Family in "This Christmas."

Good Samaritan Food Bank Needs Help

The Good Samaritan Food Bank & Resale Shop is Looking for Personal Hygiene Items & Canned Goods

The Good Samaritan Food Bank & Resale Shop is in need of personal hygiene items and canned goods to re-stock the shelves. The volunteers that run the center help needy family with food, and offers clothes for only .25 cents per item. All donations are appreciated!

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Palestine's Stacy-Deanne author of best-selling *Divas of The New Millennium* releases "Everlasting"

By Maxine Session

Cover Story

Palestine, Tx.- Lucy Terry is the author of the oldest piece of African American literature known, which was "Bars Fight", 1746. Poet Phillis Wheatley published her book *Poems on Various Subjects* in 1773. The rise of African American writers to the literary forefront during the 20th century was one of the most significant occurrences of that period. Poetry, novels, essays, biographies and newspaper and magazine editorials gave insight into the lives of African Americans and addressed themes such as African heritage and racial pride, political push for respect, and Black culture and consciousness.

The Harlem Renaissance, which followed World War I, was a period of creativity among Black artists, writers, musicians, and entertainers. It was a time when Harlem became the capital of Black America.

The Sixties is considered by many to be the Second Black Renaissance. It was African-American's most significant decade in terms of self-consciousness, goals, and achievements. The 1960s was self-generating, self-determining, and self-sustaining.

Many significant events occurred during the 1960s such as the March on Washington, countless civil right demonstrations. The Sixties also saw the assassination of two of Black America's greatest leaders: Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X. New cries of black nationalism, black separatism, and violent resistance were often heard in African-American communities. The authors during this time addressed such themes as black pride, self-actualization, black sexuality, justice, and race relations. The Nineties has been categorized as the "Attack on the Black Male." The number of black males being put in prisons and killed on the streets increased tremendously during this decade. Black on Black crime has risen at an astronomical rate. The nineties saw the Freeing of South Africa, Million Man March, the L.A. Riots, O.J. Simpson trial, increases in police brutality, and the murder of Tupac Shakur. Racial

tension has increased dramatically over the decades with church burnings, recorded police beatings, hate crimes, and an attack on affirmative action. Black literature during the Nineties includes themes such as Black female-male relationships, urban life, self-awareness, economic power and black unity.

Issues of the 20th century have carried over into the 21st century. Early on in the 21st century a new breed of young writers have emerged bringing with them the spoken word in open MIC forum and the written word in freedom of expression in both nonfiction and fiction.

Among the new breed comes local East Texas Writer, Stacy-Deanne. She is the author of the best selling compilation music biography book, "Divas of the New Millennium" and the author of the new fiction release, "Everlasting", published by Simon and Schuster.

Born and raised in Houston, Texas, Stacy currently lives in Palestine, Texas. She is a novelist who prides herself on writing stories that feature characters of different backgrounds and races. She has been writing professionally for ten years....since the age of nineteen. Stacy is a member of the Author's Guild and is featured in the 2006 book, "Literary Divas."

Stacy was interviewed, LIVE on Rhymes, Views & News, Sunday, Oct. 28th. She discussed her latest release, "Everlasting" and gave guests feedback on life in the literary industry!

Stacy graduated Jefferson Davis Senior High School in Houston. Her father is John Reed. "My mother is Elva Reed. She died of Leukemia in December 2006. She passed the day after Christmas. Her death is the main reason I moved to East Texas. I wanted a new start. I wanted to sample living in a smaller place for a while," Stacy said. She went on to say, "I've lived in

Palestine since February 2007. It will be one year this coming February. I moved here to be closer to family. The bulk of my family comes from Palestine, Elkhart, Neches and Houston.

My Mom was my best friend, sister and mother. I miss her very much but realize that life has to go on. I will live my life here on earth until it's time for me to join her in heaven."

When Stacy was asked who or what inspired her to become a writer she answered, "To be honest, my only inspiration is the feeling I get from writing.

Writing makes me happy. I live for it. It's a part of me. I couldn't see myself doing anything else. I feel it's what I was put on earth to do.

Her first book signing was held in October at Walmart SuperCenter in Palestine. She was very happy at the response she received. "To sell out at your first book signing is quite an accomplishment," She stated. Her second book signing was Saturday, November 3rd at Barnes and Noble in Tyler, Texas. It too was a great day with her selling lots of books and staying 30 minutes past the scheduled time.

Stacy expressed the following, "The main thing about me is that I do my best to steer aspiring writers in the right direction. I don't sugarcoat anything about the industry, yet I don't try to bust people's bubbles either. I love writing but I also want to be an inspiration for as many people as I can. I want aspiring and unpublished writers to realize that success is what they measure it. We all have different degrees of success but our goals are what makes or breaks us in any industry of entertainment. Writing is not an easy life but if you really believe in yourself, have talent and are willing to work, the rewards will come. So overall, I want you to see that I am a positive person and I really care about how the writing industry affects aspiring writers who may not know much about the industry.



As for me, I am a simple person. It doesn't take much to please me. I could be happy with just writing a book for the rest of my life. I feel that I wouldn't need much else. Stacy is a member of the writer's Guild, Author's Guild. I am seeking out other organizations that actually help aspiring writers get their feet in doors. I want to make sure an organization actually helps before I get involved. Many writing organizations claim to help but only end up frustrating aspiring/unpublished writers with false hopes. I like to be a part of something that helps writers become published and noticed.

She has been interviewed and had book reviews featured in Billboard Magazine, BellaOnline, World Life News, Black Expressions, Thabiz Magazine, Lady Ingenuity Magazine, SistaDivas Magazine, The Rock Magazine, The Sistah Circle Book Club, Black Refer, Black Men in America and more. "Like Tonie Morrison, Mayu Angelu, Langston Hughes, Terry McMillan and other African American writers of the 20th century, Stacy loves the fact that her work touches other people."

About Everlasting:

Everlasting is the chronicle of two equally fascinating Latino teenagers, seventeen year old Juan Alonso and sixteen year old Nina Sagastume, who fall in love despite unrelenting odds. Juan is a political, outspoken romantic who believes education and determination is the key to a better life. His brother Rico is the leader of the notorious Bronx street gang, The New York Assassins. Juan can't seem to escape the hold of his community until he meets Nina. Nina is a striking, straight-laced dreamer who's never even been kissed. She quickly becomes Juan's salvation. In return, Juan allures her with his charm and inspiring intelligence. Nina finds herself doing something that she's never done...falling in love. It isn't until Juan rules her heart that Nina finds out he's affiliated with the New York Assassins, the rival gang of the Bronx Gangstas,

Continue on page 15

2007 Salute to Veterans

King enjoys retirement after 36 years



San Antonio, TX. - Jay Lee King, formerly of Rusk, is enjoying retirement after 36 years with the U. S. Government. After graduation, he and four other members of the Bradford graduating class of 1965 joined the U. S. Air Force. They were the late Ellis Ira Parks, the late Richard Session, Charles Bradley and Leon Hart. Three of them were stationed together the first four years.

During his military career he served in Viet Nam, Thailand, Germany, and the Phillipines two times. State Side he served in Kansas, Oklahoma, California, and Alabama. His last assignment was really a great experience. He was with the Presidential Wing in

Washington D. C. He got a chance to see first hand how our government works.

After retirement from the Air Force in 1985 he decided to return to his home state of Texas, settling in San Antonio. He became employed with the government as a civilian, doing the same job he had done in the military. In 2001 he retired again, with more than 36 years with the government.

He is married to Vivian Hatcher and they have two daughters and four grandchildren, two girls and two boys.

His daughters followed in his footsteps. One works for the state of Texas and the other works for the state of Tennessee.

Since retiring, he enjoys traveling and recording C D's from his old collection of reel to reel music and albums. Some of his accomplishments are: Airforce Presidential Unit Citation, Viet Nam Service Medal with two Bronze Service Stars, Air Force Good Conduct Medal with five oak leaf clusters, Air Force Outstanding unit award with one oak leaf cluster, National Defence Service Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal, Airforce Longevity Service Ribbon with three oak leaf clusters, Republic of Viet Nam Gallantry, Republic of Viet Nam Campaign Medal, and small arms expert marksman-ship. Jay Lee retired MSgt. (E 7)

Oliver Bradley received Purple Heart

Lufkin, TX. - Oliver Bradley, Jr. - U. S. Navy, 1943-1946- S-2 Division Troop CV16- Served aboard a new ship commissioned the USS Lexington. The old one known as the Blue Ghost sank. Mr. Bradley served his country well.

The Meritorious achievement of and above that required by his rating, in connection with operations against the enemy, from 17 February 1943 to the cessation of hostilities and the surrender of the Japanese Government. He performed his duties in an exceptional manner. His outstanding industry and sense of responsibility were an inspiration to his shipmates. During this time, he served with distinction as a member of an anti-aircraft gun crew. On 4 December 1943, when the ship was hit by a torpedo, with complete disregard for his personal safety, he entered a smoke filled ready service room and carried a wounded Marine to a battle dressing station. His personal bearing, military conduct, and performance of duty were at all times in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Navy.

He is currently looking for any member of the troop who might have served with him between 1943 and 1946.

The USS Lexington is currently in moth balls in Corpus Christi, Texas.

Byron Bennett, Arlington, TX. - U. S. Army; 1967-1969; Viet Nam; Purple Heart, Bronze Star

Jessie B. Lindsey - San Antonio, TX. - U. S. Navy 1968 -1970 Served Viet Nam

Rosalyn Brown - Rusk, Texas - U. S. Marines May 1990 - June 2001.

Willie King, Houston, TX.- United States Army, 1965 - 1967- Served in Viet Nam.

Clarence Kelly - Rusk, Texas - United States Army 1971- 1975

Lonell Glenn, Virginia Beach Virginia, U. S. Navy - 1971 - 1998

William Fuller, Rusk, TX. ;U. S. Army - 2 years. served in South East Asia.

Jerry Wickware- Illinois, U. S. Army 1965 - 1967. Served Viet Nam.

Willie Glenn, Dallas, U. S. Army 1965 - 1969.

Earnest Glenn, Dallas, TX, U. S. Army 1968 - 1971.

Frenchie Henderson, Rusk, Tx.; U. S. Army 1953-1955.

Leon Hart, Houston, Texas U. S. Army 1965 - 1968, served in Alaska & Thailand.

Charles Bradley, Rusk, TX. - U. S. Army, 1965 - 1969; Served in Thailand & Las Vegas.

Melvin Session, Rusk, TX.- U. S. Army 1966 - 1968; served Ogsburg, Germany.

Darryl Vallier, Durham, North Carolina; United States Air Force, 1965 - 1969.

D. C. Waggoner, Rusk, TX. - U. S. Army; 1951 - 1958.

Walter Session, Rusk, Tx. -1962-1965 - Served in Germany. U. S. Army.

See Veterans Salute pg. 7

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Hollywood's Time

by Billy "Hollywood" Groves

U. S. Surveillance? What Do You Know About It?

While in the Washington D.C. area last year, I had people tell me about how good America's spying and surveillance capabilities are. They told us how the traffic outside the capitol is monitored by satellites and aircraft in the sky. They also boasted about the government being able to see a person's eyeball through the peep hole in their door from a mile up in the sky.

Since then I have asked many people about this so called technology. Most of them were like me..... they didn't know enough about it to prove or disprove the existence of it. In my mind the next logical question to ask is, if there is so much superior tracking and spying technology in the United States, then why hasn't the U. S. government found Osama Bin Laden? Or why hasn't the the government solved the murders of national celebrities Tupac Shakur and Christopher "Biggie Smalls" Wallace? This is the time when African American News and Issues (Houston, Texas) great African Warrior, Bud John

son, says the theme music from the "Twilight Zone" cranks up. This is the time when you find out what the Native Americans (Indians) found out, that many white man speaks with fork tongues", (tell lies).

The truth of the matter is America is only good at finding Black people and other minorities enslaving them and taking their rights away and teaching them their culture and habits.

Having never worked for the government, I can't say what they have in spy and surveillance equipment. I can say that a lot of information, both good and bad is taken in by paid informants on the ground, not the sky. As the average American citizen, at the end of the day in my mind, it looks like America's spying and surveillance techniques only works where America's money spends.

They can't catch Bin Laden because the war in Iraq is consuming time, attention and money, and American money can't buy the right spys in certain remote areas.

The late great Richard Prior had it right when he said



"Black people go to the courthouse looking for justice and what we find is "just - us". Miseducation, lies and discrimination doesn't come from technology in the skies! God bless America and the rest of the world, too!

Coutavia Michell Hale of Lufkin is a former basketball player and cheer leader at Huntington High School in Hunting, Texas. she also attends angelina College and has aspirations of becoming a professional gospel singer. Cautavia attends James chapel True Light church in Huntington where Rev. Cleo Hale is the pastor. Coutavia gave me this advice for other young people, "Don't forget that Jesus is real!"

East Texas thanks go out to the following for their con

tributions to the community: Suzanne Steed, Pastor Earl Harris, and Sister Earl Harris, The Marsh Brothers, Wendell Baker, Charles Jones, Dr. Ianthia Fisher, Charles Jones & Ponsetta Robbins Jones, Larry Robins, Shirley Hackett, Mike "Heavy Love" Jones, the Johnson Brothers, Royce "Doc" Craft, Darrell and Brenda Smith, Harold and Nora Shepherd, Rev. ricky Marshall, Wilma Fay and Billy Joe King and Julius Odum.

I recently met and had an interesting conversation with Borris Miles of Houston. He was introduced to me by my cousin Joe Ards son of Rev. Joe L. Ards of Crockett. Borris, a Sam Houston State University Criminal Justice Major and former Houston Police Officer, says he is very concerned about some of the conditions in his community and wants to contribute to changing it for the better.

This column is sponsored in part by Customer's Choice of Crockett, Texas, Christ and Lynn Martinez Managers.

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Texas College President Dr. Billy C. Hawkins announces resignation

Tyler, TX.- Texas College President Dr. Billy C. Hawkins announced his resignation recently, after seven years at the helm of the Tyler institution, saying he accepted appointment as president of Talladega College in Talladega, Ala.

Hawkins' resignation is effective Dec. 31 and he will begin his new duties on Jan. 1.

Hawkins said he is leaving TC with mixed emotions because of his love for the college, but that he wants to move on to accept a new challenge at Talladega College.

Coincidentally, Hawkins was the 20th president of Texas College and will be the 20th president of Talladega College. Both institutions are historically black colleges.

Hawkins transformed Texas College into a more solid institution, academically and financially. He led Texas College through the last stages of regaining reaccreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools after SACS revoked its accreditation in the 1990s for failing to meet standards. Early in Hawkins' presidency, Texas College earned five-year reaccreditation, and then Hawkins guided the institution to a 10-year accreditation review under new SACS standards in 2006. During his tenure, the campus underwent a makeover with many renovations and new facilities, new academic programs, major improvements in finances, increased fund-raising and grant procurement, acquisition of new property, the acquisition of new property, the addition of six new sports programs, enhanced campus technology and a new marching band. Texas College was included in a recent listing by the magazine US News & World Report as one of the best colleges in America. "This experience for me is like raising a newborn baby," Hawkins said. "Texas College has grown up over the past seven years and still has some growing. When you have been the parent of something so precious, it is hard to walk away."

But Hawkins added, "I believe God placed me at Texas College for a reason, and now he has called me to another institution where my talents and abilities are needed." Hawkins said his "proudest accomplishments" at Texas College is that he will leave the college with no long-term debt and all renovations paid for, which is unusual in higher education. Hawkins raised \$1 million in the first 90 days of his presidency in trying to overcome financial hardship facing Texas

College at that time. There have been eight financial audits of Texas College during his tenure, all finding the college in the black and with auditors issuing unqualified opinions that the college was operating in line with accounting procedures.

Hawkins implemented four new academic programs — a "success program" for adult learners, religious studies, criminal justice and teacher certification. Enrollment jumped 82 percent during the first nine months of his presidency, from 281 to 511, and has been as high as 1,035 during the past seven years with student diversification including Hispanics, whites, African Americans and others. Hawkins increased faculty and student research dollars in science and technology with grant funding he obtained.

During his presidency, Texas College acquired 5.5 acres from the city of Tyler, the former Emmett Scott High School property where a new soccer field was built, and also purchased five acres across the street from the existing campus for possible use for future dormitories.

Campus improvements during his tenure have included a new athletic training complex, band hall and fitness center and dance rehearsal hall, campus landscaping. Major renovations were made to Martin Hall auditorium, the library, main academic building, cafeteria, student union and dormitories. Campus grounds beautification won a city of Tyler beautification award and included new signage, a wrought iron and brick column fence surrounding the front of the campus financed with private funding, a brick walkway, sprinkler system, pole lighting throughout the campus, a new parking lot and new sidewalks.

"This experience for me is like raising a newborn baby," Hawkins said. "Texas College has grown up over the past seven years and still has some growing. When you have been the parent of something so precious, it is hard to walk away." with Texas College being two-time conference champs in three years; women's softball, men's soccer with Texas College conference champs for the first time, women's soccer and men's and women's track teams. Texas College athletes ranked No. 1 in 2006 in academic standings with other athletes in the Red River Conference. Texas College started a 100-member marching band and increased membership in the concert choir to 100 voices.

Railroad Commission: Engineers Needed in Energy Industry

Houston, Texas - Alumni of the Texas Tech University Petroleum Engineering program were joined recently by Railroad Commission Chairman Michael L. Williams, who commended the University for its efforts to generate more engineers for the booming energy industry.

"World energy demand is growing at a phenomenal pace," said Williams. "From 2000 to 2004 demand grew more than 2.5% per year and is expected to continue at that pace through 2030. The Texas oil and gas industry leads the nation in both oil and natural gas production and is operating at full capacity to help meet the growing demand."

"To satisfy this need for energy, the Texas oil and gas industry is in dire need of workers at all levels — pipe fitters, welders, rig hands, engineers, geophysicists," said Williams. "We need Texas' universities, colleges and technical schools to generate the graduates that will fill these jobs."

According to the Society of Petroleum Engineers, this year, total world demand for petrotechnical professionals is forecast to exceed 11,000, up nearly 300% on comparable demand a few years ago, and data suggest it will stay at these levels through 2010 at least.

"Texas Tech's petroleum engineering program has seen record growth in enrollment which needs to be met with a corresponding growth in qualified professors," Williams noted. "I commend them for their efforts to meet this need."

www.rrc.state.tx.us/commissioners/williams/index.html
www.depts.ttu.edu/coe/www.spe.org/spe-app/spe/tt/vol1/no3/summit.htm Former Governor George W. Bush appointed Michael Williams to the Railroad Commission in December 1998. Williams was elected by his fellow Commissioners in July 2007 to chair the Commission and also served as chair from September 1999 to September 2003.

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Texas has 185 high schools labeled 'dropout factories'

Texas has 185 high schools that are hemorrhaging students fast enough to be called "dropout factories" in a new national report. San Antonio has 15 of them.

Researchers at Johns Hopkins University, who did the study for the Associated Press, applied that label to high schools with an attrition rate of at least 40 percent — which amounted to one in 10 high schools.

The report's release coincides with a Texas study by the San Antonio-based Intercultural Development Research Association showing a 34 percent statewide attrition rate for the 2006 graduating class.

"This is the time bomb. This is the tsunami that started already," said Sen. Leticia Van de Putte, D-San Antonio, who is on the Senate Education Committee.

"If you look at our demographics, we aid. As a group, Hispanics have the highest dropout rate in Texas, some 45 percent, according to the IDRC report. Hispanics also make up the

largest percentage of the state's 4.6 million public school students.

Click here to read more about the dropout challenge in Texas. Cuomo:

Appraisers Inflated Home Values New York Attorney General Andrew Cuomo said Thursday a major real estate appraisal company sCuomo said in a news conference.

Cuomo announced the civil lawsuit against eAppraiseIT that accuses the First American Corp. subsidiary of caving in to pressure from Washington Mutual Inc. to use a list of "proven appraisers" who he colluded with the nation's largest savings and loan companies to inflate the values of homes nationwide, contributing to the subprime mortgage crisis.

"This is a case we believe is indicative of an industrywide problem," nd assess penalties.

"These blatant actions of First American and eAppraiseIT have contributed to the growing fore

closure crisis and turmoil in the housing market," Cuomo said in a statement. "By allowing Washington Mutual to hand-pick appraisers who inflated values, First American helped set the current mortgage crisis in motion."

Click here to read more about Cuomo's investigation of home values.

Asarco Criminal Allegations Sent to TCEQEI Paso County Attorney Jose Rodriguez announced Monday that he is asking the state environmental agency to review the possibility of criminal charges against Asarco stemming from alleged violations in the "transportation, storage, and disposal of hazardous wastes."

Under state law, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality must review charges referred to the agency by a licensed peace officer. Rodriguez was requested to make the referral by Get The Lead Out, a coalition that opposes the reopening of Asarco.

The TCEQ has 45 days to make a decision whether to pursue administrative penalties, criminal penalties, or decline to pursue the matter. TCEQ officials were not available for comment late Monday.

Rodriguez said he decided to refer the matter because Asarco had a poor track record of compliance with both environmental laws and with abiding by penalties.

Click here to read more about the Asarco criminal enforcement review.

SaluteVeterans

continued from pg.

Alver Dee Session, Jacksonville, TX. 1962 - 1965; U. S. Army.

Cleo Cox, Rusk, TX. - U. S. Army; Viet Nam, 1970 - 1974.

L. C. Session, Dallas, TX. - U. S. Army.

Travis McGowan, Rusk, TX., U. S. Army, Viet Nam, Purple Heart.

Joe Teague, Jacksonville, TX. U. S. Army,

Donald Foreman, Rusk, TX., U. S. Army, Dessert Storm- Career.

Charlie Colston, Dallas, TX. U. S. Army.

Frazier Foreman, Dallas, TX. - U. S. Army, 1969 - 1972; Viet Nam

Adrian Silmon, Jacksonville, Tx. - U. S. Army, 1997 - 2002

Leo Simmons, Houston, TX.; U. S. Air Force, 1961 - 1965.

Jessie Simmons, Rusk, TX. -U. S. Army, 1962 - 1965

Norman Roberson, Rus, Texas.- Viet Nam

Jerry Leviston, Rusk, TX. U. S. Army

Larry Desrman, Rusk, Tx., U. S. Army

Charles Denman, Houston, TX. U. S. Navy, 1956 - 1959.

Mozell Tinsley, Rusk, Tx.-U. S. Army, 1968 -1971, Purple Heart

Jessie L. Burley, Nacogdoches, U. S. Army, 1953-1955



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SENATORS CLINTON, OBAMA WELL AHEAD OF THE PACK

Washington, DC (BlackNews.com) - Just weeks ahead of the first presidential primaries and caucuses, Hillary Clinton is the candidate viewed most favorably by likely African American voters -- with Barack Obama running a close second -- according to national survey results released today by the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies.

With a full year remaining to the general election, the survey found a high level of engagement in the political process among African Americans. Eighty percent of respondents said they are closely following news coverage of their party's candidates, while 87 percent said they planned to participate in the nominating process of the Democratic Party.

In the survey of 750 African Americans, sponsored by the AARP and conducted from October 5 to Nov. 2, Sen. Clinton was rated favorably by 83 percent of respondents, with 9.7 percent viewing her negatively. Sen. Obama received favorable ratings from 74.4 percent, with 10.1 percent viewing him negatively.

Of the eight candidates -- four

Democrats and four Republicans -- whose names were presented to survey participants, only Clinton, Obama and former senator John Edwards were rated more favorably than not by likely black voters. Edwards was rated favorably by 45.1 percent, while 19.1 percent rated him unfavorably.

Former New York City mayor Rudolph Giuliani was the best known of the Republican candidates to black voters, but was viewed unfavorably by 42.7 percent of respondents, compared to 27.1 percent who viewed him favorably.

When asked to name the single most important problem facing the country, the No. 1 answer was the war in Iraq, which was cited by 28 percent of respondents, followed by health care (20 percent), jobs and the economy (15 percent) and education (10 percent). None of the black voters polled identified taxes as the most important national problem; less than one percent named immigration and two percent said terrorism.

"What might be called signa-

— taxes, terrorism, immigration and moral values — are just not resonating with African American voters," said David Bositis, senior research associate at the Joint Center. "Not only are African Americans not raising these issues when given the chance, but when pressed on which party has the better approach to them, they are clearly favoring the Democrats." Bositis noted that the poll results offer further insight into how African Americans view their two favorite candidates, senators Clinton and Obama. By a two-to-one margin, respondents said that "commitment to change" was a more important feature in a candidate than "experience in public office" -- a view that could be seen as helpful to Sen. Obama's candidacy. But more respondents named Clinton over Obama as having the best position of the Democratic candidates on three key issues of concern -- affordable health care (47.3 percent to 18.7 percent), strengthening Social Security (41 percent to 18.6 percent) and, by an narrower margin, on dealing with Iraq (35.4 percent to 22.1 percent).

The survey also showed a sig-

nificant gender gap in Sen. Clinton's support among African Americans, with 86 percent of women giving her a favorable rating and seven percent unfavorable, compared to a 78 percent favorable and 15 percent unfavorable rating by men. With regard to Sen. Obama, there was no significant gender difference in his favorable/unfavorable ratings.

Only 11 percent of African Americans surveyed believe that President Bush is doing a good or excellent job, while a clear majority (57.9 percent) gave him the lowest rating of "poor." Likely primary voters were also negative on the job Congress is doing, although the group giving Congress the lowest rating was only half the size of those giving that rating to President Bush.

"From the Joint Center's perspective, these poll results tell us that, even at this early date, African Americans are paying close attention to the presidential campaigns and the positions of the candidates," said Ralph B. Everett, the Joint Center's President and CEO. Two-thirds of respondents saying they are extremely likely to participate in the upcoming primaries and caucuses...



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Missouri, TX (BlackNews.com) new clothing line that they could be proud of and know that they were helping to bridge the communication gap, as well as help draw positive attention to a very important topic. Classic Look Basic Casual They feel they are achieving this. SAGG(TM) Jean Co. is grounded in the concept that the clothing industry and generational cross-dialogue can co-exist; in addition, all of their clothing is sweat-shop free and produced in U.S. SAGGJeanCo.com launches new online eStore! We're more than just a Brand | We're a National Movement. "Be Yourself!" {For interviews and information, contact Pam Sutherland @ promotions@saggjeanco.com or call on 713-893-8034(o) or 281-841-8415 (c).} The new site will also strive to bring positive light to the merits of allowing freedom of expression in a tasteful manner.



School Compliance

There is a cultural and generational gap growing due to the stigma of this fashion statement...school districts across the United States are prohibiting the practice and indecent exposure ordinances are being passed. On the other hand, the American Civil Liberties Union has associated laws against sagging to be racial profiling. Ultimately, this fashion statement has become a point of contention and an obstruction to communication between the generations. The company was determined to roll out a

new online eStore! We're more than just a Brand | We're a National Movement. "Be Yourself!" {For interviews and information, contact Pam Sutherland @ promotions@saggjeanco.com or call on 713-893-8034(o) or 281-841-8415 (c).} The new site will also strive to bring positive light to the merits of allowing freedom of expression in a tasteful manner.

Betty Bircher Elm Grove Baptist Woman of the Year

Rusk, TX. - Betty Bircher of Houston, formerly of Jacksonville was named Woman of the Year recently at Elm Grove Baptist Church. Mrs. Bircher is the mother of three sons and she successfully juggles her roles as TSU student, employee and wife. Betty is the musician and choir director for the church as well as she is the pastor's wife. Her husband, Rev. Timothy Bircher is the church pastor. She was recognized for her contributions and presented a plaque by Sheila Bradley on behalf of the church.



Joyce Dennis Session recognized with pianist appreciation

Jacksonville, TX. - Joyce Dennis Session has played the Gospel for Pennell Chapel CME Church Choirs for the past 44 years. The church family and neighboring churches in Jacksonville and Rusk came together November 11th to show appreciation to her for the years she has dedicated to choir rehearsal, worship services, evening and afternoon programs. She plays for four choirs at the church, Adult, Young Adult, Children and Male Chorus. Poems, special songs, and gifts were presented to Mrs. Session. Joyce is the daughter of the late Jessie Lee Dennis and Hugh Dennis. She took piano from Dorothy Alexander and a Mrs. Reddon starting at about age 12. By the time she was sixteen, she was pianist for Pennell Chapel. She also played for Wilson Chapel and New Community United Methodist churches. Other groups she played for are Shady Green Pastors and The Federation of Churches. Pennell Chapel pastor is Rev. Tommy Starks.



Joyce is married to Dee Session. They have two children, Tamara and Vincent (Angela) and four beautiful grandchildren. They live in the Pinegrove Community.



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Travis & Patsy Ruth Session Simmons celebrate wedding anniversary

Stable Marriages alive and well

Making the
Marriage Mile
Milestone



Marriage is a legal contract. Each state determines the criteria for a legal marriage within its boundaries. Although there are minor differences from state to state on the legal specifics regarding marriage, there are general rules that remain the same.

Some ask the question, "Is marriage a changing or dying institution? The young are delaying it, the old or getting out of it, but in the end many stable marriages are alive and well."

One such marriage is the marriage of Travis and Patsy Simmons of Houston. Saturday, November 10, 2007, Travis and Patsy Ruth were as excited as kids at Christmas.

Memories of their courting days and wedding day flooded their minds and conversation as they got all dressed up and went out to Perry's Steakhouse and Grill, Town Square Sugar Land, to celebrate their 35th wedding anniversary. After dinner they went to Scott Gertner's Skybar to enjoy listening to the jazz band, which they do about once a week.

Patsy Ruth and Travis met in high school. He wrote countless letters which she never responded to. The last day of school 1968, he tried to strike up a conversation. When she ignored him he walked behind her stepping on her shoe. When she walked out of the shoe, he picked it up and refused to give it back until she promised to wait and talk to him after school that day. He was leaving for Houston for the summer and wanted to know if he had a chance with her. She said yes, but only to get her shoe back. Feeling nervous all class period, she got permission to leave ten minutes early, but as she exited the door, he was standing there. "Are you going somewhere?" he asked. Well she was busted and had to tell the truth. Everyone was gathering at Marie Simmon's house

after school and that's where she was headed. They walked there together. Later he went to Houston to stay with his uncle Beau and they wrote each other often.

October 29, 1972 was Veteran's Day Holiday. (Before it was moved to November.) Travis and his cousin Ronnie Turner were living in Houston. They came first to her Daddy (Lester Session) to get permission to get married, then to her mother's job. When she saw him coming, she said her heart fell into her lap. Her friends said, "Oh Mrs. Annie, you are getting ready to lose a daughter. They had heard rumors, because Patsy had quit her job on the assembly line at the Pistol Factory and the company employees had given her a going away party. Patsy's Mom gave Travis a good lecture and her blessings. Travis went back alone to pick up Patsy and take her back to Houston to her sister's house. A week later, November 10, 1972, they were married downtown Houston by Justice of the peace Hugo Touchy. Thirty-five years later they can still remember every detail of that day. She wore an elegant purple dress from Joske's Department Store and he wore navy slacks and white shirt with coordinating tie. His lovely aunt Mat-tie Mae Simmons was their witness.

Now, she laughs about the way he stared at her in study hall and how he and his cousin John whispered and smiled everyday when she entered the library. She even shared a little secret. She was not allowed to date in high school, so they only way she could spend time with Travis was to spend the night with her cousin Sandra (Honey) Brown.

Both graduated Rusk High School, him in 1971 and her in 1972. Travis is a professional truck driver and Patsy Ruth is an executive assistant, daily production to a major home builder in Houston. They have a son, Travis Junior, age 32 and a daughter Latoya Simmons Nmai, 29 and six beautiful grandchildren.

Travis has worked for Saia, Inc. 32 years traveling from state to state. He is eligible for retirement but is not ready. Patsy's job allows her to travel, too. She goes to her corporate office in Scottsdale, Arizona at least twice a month.

They live in Rosharon, Texas and are members of Silver Lake Church. Travis said, "Being a Road Driver has given me the opportunity to provide a good life for my family and see a lot of the world, but I don't like to leave my wife. I am home every weekend, thank God. After I retire, we plan to open a small business."

The Simmons plan to celebrate their anniversary with a week long trip to Alabama and Georgia; mixing a little bit of business with a lot of pleasure with a stop in Duluth, Georgia, Greenville and Stone Mountain, Georgia to visit Saia's Corporate office and her two sisters Linda and Wonda and their lovely families.

"What a wonderful 35 years, Travis said. "If I had to do it all over again, I would marry my beautiful wife again. and again!" And he will. They plan to renew their wedding vows on their 40th anniversary. When asked, what's your secret? Travis and Patsy replied, "Don't take the 'honey' out of the honeymoon!"

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Lon Morris presents WILEY AND THE HAIRY MAN

Jacksonville, TX.- Set deep within the mysterious Tombigbee Swamp, WILEY AND THE HAIRY MAN centers around a young fatherless boy, his conjure-woman mother, his faithful hound dog, and the Hairy Man who haunts Wiley's days and dreams. The magic of this play is not fairy dust; it is soil, earth, and mud of the swamp. The magic of this play is found within each of us - it is the magic of survival.

Based on the book by Molly Garrett Bang, this dramatic scripted version is an exciting duel of wits, wherein Wiley learns to rely upon his own resources and conquers two villains: the Hairy Man and his own personal fear.

This "theatre-in-the-round" production promises to be an enthralling adventure for children of all ages. Directed by the Chair of the Theatre Department, Toni Wright, this production showcases a unique choral movement acting method.

Performance dates are Thursday, November 29 - Saturday, December 1 at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, December 1 - Sunday, December 2 at 2:30 p.m. in the Zula Pearson Theatre on the campus of Lon Morris College. Due to the unconventional staging format (in the round) seating for each performance is limited, so reservations are strongly advised. School matinee performances on December 3 and 4, [9:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 12:00 p.m.] are available for booking, accommodating 120 viewers per performance. For reservations, please contact Tom Allen in the LMC Box Office at 903-589-4084.

We are also taking WILEY AND THE HAIRY MAN on the road as a touring show from January 15 - April 15. We will perform this thrilling adventure at your venue, whether you have a large open space, cafetorium, or simply a gymnasium floor. We can offer multiple performances per day at a touring cost of \$100 per visit. For additional information or advance bookings, please call Tom Allen at 903-589-4084 or email twright@lonmorris.edu.

ARE YOU THE NEXT GREAT WRITER?

Austin, TX (BlackNews.com) - Family Digest Magazine - Black America's No. 1 Family and Relationship Magazine - is holding a contest to find the Next Great American Magazine Writer. We are looking for fabulous writers who enjoy discovering and sharing the latest information on health, family, parenting, relationships, marriage, great food, travel and more. These writers have to be passionate about uncovering that choice bit of information that makes each article all that much more interesting to our audience -- African American adults with families. Are you that writer? Are you passionate about uncovering the latest health, family, parenting and lifestyle information that will help African American adults develop smarter, healthier, happier families and relationships? Do you love uncovering underreported facts that will empower Black adults and families? Do you enjoy

life and want to give others information to help them enjoy theirs? If you are nodding your head yes, send your article on health, family, parenting, relationships, food, or travel to Family Digest Magazine now.

Email us your articles using the form at <http://rs6.net/tn.jsp?e=001jVxbD9MmHQaJCAtWye2JeLFXJWxjiHNMMifaIzo9gOkB402C4z0Qj2hAFod9CX5lv7rWr4YvKlcMDS7PFOfq19ROGHbZuD6YbGAYBIHjWuinD28vNsHw==>. Be sure and tell us about you. Make the subject Next Great American Magazine Writer Contest. The entry deadline is December 10, 2007. You may submit as many articles as you like. The top articles will be featured in Family Digest. Go to <http://rs6.net/tn.jsp?e=001jVxbD9MmHQaJCAtWye2JeLFXJWxjiHNMMifaIzo9gOkB402C4z0Qj2hAFod9CX5lv7rWr4YvKlcMDS7PFOfq19ROGHbZuD6YbGAYBIHjWuinD28vNsHw==> and enter now. Writer Contest will be featured and announced in Family Digest Magazine.

World aides Day December 1st

At this time in history people are facing many challenges including health issues, diabetes, cancer, obesity and Aids.

World AIDS Day is observed every year on December 1st. The World Health Organization established World AIDS Day in 1988. World AIDS Day provides governments, national AIDS programs, faith organizations, community organizations, and individuals with an opportunity to raise awareness and focus attention on the global AIDS epidemic.

In 2007, the estimated number of persons living with HIV worldwide was 33.2 million and there were 2.1 million AIDS deaths.

Majic Johnson announced 16 years ago that he has the virus. He and his wife Cookie have become national spokes people in hopes of raising the awareness level for people to learn about the virus, how it can be prevented and how it can be treated.

Ask A. J. ?



It is past time that African Americans talk about this problem and begin to erase it from our communities. The following sites can provide answers to questions.

www.AIDS.gov: a gateway to all Federal domestic information on HIV/AIDS prevention, testing, treatment, research, policies and resources.

www.PEPFAR.gov: the official website of the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief.

www.HIVtest.org: national HIV testing resources. Enter your zip code to find an HIV testing site near you!

www.worldaidsday.org: brochures and information about international events

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Senator West: A&M's quick choice raises questions about hiring process

Dallas, TX.- In the wake of the Texas A&M's hire of former Aggie assistant and NFL head coach Mike Sherman, a few questions come to mind.

Although it was highly likely that changes would be made, given the recent controversy surrounding former Texas A&M head coach Dennis Franchione, the speed at which new Aggie head football coach Mike Sherman was hired raises a few questions as to the flagship university's hiring process.

While Texas A&M athletic director Bill Byrne went on record as recently as Saturday saying a nationwide search for a new coach would take place, one has to think that the wheels were already in motion. And while time may prove Mike Sherman to be a great choice, the question is raised as to whether an extensive search was ever conducted.

Within the proud tradition of Aggie football, the past few decades have witnessed a number of marvelous athletes who have worn the maroon and white, many of them African-American. But this search was done in such total secrecy that one is only left to wonder, a) how many candidates were actually interviewed for the job?, (b) if the names of any qualified minority coaching candidates were part of the process? And c), whether minority candidates were given serious consideration- including being interviewed.

The days should be numbered that allow glass-ceiling hiring processes to take place. According to the Black Coaches Association (BCA), of 119 major college football programs, when the 2007 season opened, only six had



State Senator Royce West

African-American head coaches.

Of 23 vacancies this season, just two were filled by minority candidates. Then there's the argument that head coaches are normally picked from the ranks of coordinators. Another problem may exist here. Of 242 coordinator positions at top football schools, the BCA says African Americans number but 31.

The BCA also lists at least 33 "prominent minority" assistants they'd promote as head coaching candidates. Did A&M speak with any of them?

In 2002, the National Football League (NFL) implemented the "Rooney Rule" that requires all teams to interview at least one minority candidate for head coaching vacancies. In 2007, the world saw two African American head coaches lead teams onto the field for the Super Bowl.

While the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) laments that it lacks the cohesive structure to implement such policy, conversations along those lines have taken place as recently as last month. And according to Big 12 officials - of which Texas A&M is a member school - neither is there a policy in place that requires minority candidates to be included in coaching searches.

The National Basketball Association likely boasts the best record of all and Major League Baseball is not far behind when it comes to minority coaching hires. But we still see big time college football programs give chance after chance to a closed fraternity of sideline leaders. America and Texas have progressed to the point where minority coaches should have the same opportunity to be yelled at from living room sofas and stadium bleachers as anyone else.

For more information, please call Kelvin Bass at 214-467-0123-Office of Senator Royce West.

Watch for Your 2007 Economic Census Form

By Bob Goldsberry-
Rusk Chamber Director

In December, more than 4 million American businesses will receive 2007 Economic Census forms from the U.S. Census Bureau. The economic census is the nation's most comprehensive measure of business and industry, and is taken every five years. Ben Bernanke has called the economic census "indispensable to understanding America's economy." Business response is so important that it is required by law.

Chances are some of our local businesses could be one of the estimated 330,000 businesses in Texas that will receive a 2007 Economic Census form from the U.S. Census Bureau this December.

The forms ask for basic information like your location, employment, payroll, and sales by type of product or service. Businesses that receive a form are required by law (Title 13, U.S. Code) to respond by February 12, 2008.

The Rusk Christmas Parade will be held Tuesday, December 4, 2007. The lighting ceremony is at 5:15 PM. with the parade to begin at 6:00PM. The Theme "Gifts For Christmas."

Alto ISD is selling old yearbooks for the years 1980, 1996, 1997, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007. The cost for 2006 back is \$25.00. the current year cost is \$45.00. Contact ljones@mail.altoesc7.net or call (936) 674-9898.

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Special Events Around East Texas

Green Tie Affair Monday, Dec. 3rd

Green Tie Affair, Honoring Cancer Survivors & Benefiting Relay for Life 5:30 PM at the Castle on the Lake at 9110 U.S. Highway 79 West, Jacksonville, TX

Free to Cancer Survivors or \$15.00 per person/\$25.00 per couple

All proceeds from Ticket Sales & Silent Auction are benefiting Relay for Life

For additional information, please call Amy at (903) 683-2327

Sixth Annual Funders' Forum & NETWORKING GATHERING
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October 26th - Full Day Forum
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A Circle of Ten Schedules Part I & II Grant Workshop Dates

A Circle of Ten, Inc.- Network for Collaboration has scheduled workshop dates for November & December 2007. Classes will be held at their Retreat Center 20 minutes west of Tyler in the woods of Van Zandt County.

Part II - The Next Step (Part I prerequisite) December 11, 12 & 13 picks up where Part I left off, with four real grants worked on and mailed; Part II

grants are usually funded. A team could work on your grant or you can learn

by being on another team.

Part I - The Process of Collaboration will be January 29, 20 & 31, 2008. Pt I teaches collaboration, linking leadership, community organizing, program development and grant writing. This tailor-made workshop builds on existing skills and allows staff to meet individual and agency needs. Pre-workshop interviews are held with each participant and research is done to assess

their needs and find funding prior to the class. Each person completing Part I receive two hours of post workshop support and feedback to use for their next grant, collaboration, etc.

Free Sunday Family Day Celebrates TMA's Mexican Nativities Exhibition

TYLER, TX— Our neighbors to the south are in the spotlight as the Tyler Museum of Art continues its holiday celebration with a free TMA Family Day from 2-4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 2 at the Museum. During Family Days, adults and children of all ages are invited to learn more about the Museum's exhibitions through free gallery tours, art activities and more, said Elnora Williams, TMA school tour coordinator and education assistant. With Yuletide approaching, this Sunday's Family Day highlights "Silent Night, Holy Night" (Noche De Paz, Noche De Amor), a bilingual, holiday-themed exhibition featuring close to 20 traditional Mexican nativity scenes depicting the birth of Jesus Christ as interpreted by classic and contemporary Latin American artists. The show, continuing through Jan. 27 in the Museum's Bell Gallery, contains works on loan from Laura and Dan Boeckman, the Dallas-area patrons of the arts who have compiled one of the nation's premier collections of contemporary Mexican and Latin American folk art. "This Family Day is particularly special because it gives us the opportunity to share our celebration of the holiday season as it's seen across different cultures," said TMA Director Kimberley Bush Tomio. "Everyone who views the nativity scenes comments on how colorful and full of life they are. Not only are they a lot of fun to look at — such as the mariachi musicians included in one group, or the very tiny carved wooden nativity — but they show us what a vital role artistic expression can play in bringing us all together, especially at this time of the year." Family Day activities begin with parents and children taking a self-guided tour of "Silent Night, Holy Night," with holiday-themed

freshments to be served immediately afterward in the TMA classroom. Younger visitors then can turn their attention to their own creations, with a variety of art activities in the classroom celebrating the nativity theme. Children can create their own artwork to take home, choosing from one or more of the hands-on art projects planned for Family Day: "papel picado" (literally meaning "pierced paper"), a popular Mexican art form in which the artist designs a pattern on a piece of paper, then cuts through it and multiple sheets of tissue paper with special tools; Christmas cards featuring nativity scenes; and "model magic," a 3-D activity for "creating animals that might have been in a nativity," Ms. Williams said. All Family Day activities are open to the public with free admission. Space is limited, so participants are encouraged to make reservations by calling (903) 595-1001 on or before Friday, Nov. 30. Family Day visitors also are encouraged to stay and enjoy "Past/Present/Future: Folk Art of Mexico, Selected Works from the Laura and Dan Boeckman Collection of Mexican and Latin American Folk Art." The exhibition, open in connection with "Silent Night, Holy Night" and spotlighting contemporary Mexican folk art recently donated to the TMA's permanent collection, continues through Jan. 6 in the Museum's North Gallery. Also on view at the TMA is "Curator's Choice: Selections from the Permanent Collection," which continues through Jan. 27 in the Bell Gallery. The Tyler Museum of Art is located at 1300 S. Mahon Ave., at the corner of Apache Pass, adjacent to the Tyler Junior College campus off East Fifth Street. Regular hours are 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday through



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Mount Olive Hosts Deacon and Deaconess Banquet Black Tie Affair



St. Paul Baptist Church,
Longview, Texas.

Everyone dawned their black ties and formal wear to attend the first annual black tie affair for the Deacon and Deaconess Banquet.

Guests were treated to an evening of great gospel music, praise dance from the Mt. Olive Youth Praise Dancers, and a healthy meal of good down home cooking catered by the church kitchen staff.

The Rusk Junior High Cafetorium tables were decorated in black and white with clear lights to give a holiday atmosphere.

The theme "My Life Is On Display" How am I Doing?" was used to highlight the life of the Deacons and their wives and the role each has played at the church over the years.

Marie Hicks introduced Evelyn Timmons who spoke on the role of a Deacon's wife.

Charles Hicks introduced the speaker, Rev. Vandell Smith, who told of Paul's Letter to Timothy and how it gives the qualifications of a Deacon, Acts 6.



Sandra Brown,
MC for
the event.

L to R. top L- Mertis Bartley, Pastor, Jerry Leviston, Mike Cook and Sam O'Neal Deacons. Top right left to right - Theresa Co, Ann Leviston, Stella Bartley and Shenequa O'Neal Deaconesses. Bottom left Donnie Timmons, pastor Shady Grove COCIG, and Evelyn Timmons - speaker Evelyn Smith and Vandell Smith, speaker & pastor of



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Thurgood Marshall Law School Speaker's Series Features RRC Chairman Williams

Houston, TX. - Marshall School of Law Government Law Society Speaker's Series event on Thursday featured Railroad Commission of Texas Chairman Michael L. Williams.

"The public sector has a need for bright young minds to fill legal positions," said Williams. "I encourage students to pursue legal careers in public service and to take advantage of opportunities to participate in the public policy process. The wide variety of available positions allows recent graduates to find careers that match their special talents and interests, which makes for a very rewarding experience."

Williams speaks from an experience rich in public service. In 1990, President George H. W. Bush appointed Williams to be Assistant Secretary of Education for Civil Rights at the U.S. Department of Education. Previously, Williams served as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Law Enforcement at the U.S. Department of the Treasury. In that capacity, he had policy oversight responsibility for

the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, the U.S. Secret Service, the U.S. Customs Service, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (Aug '89 - Jun '90). He also served as Special Assistant to Attorney General Richard Thornburgh at the U.S. Department of Justice (Jan '88 - Jun '89). In 1988, former U.S. Attorney General Ed Meese awarded Williams the Attorney General's "Special Achievement Award" for the conviction of six Ku Klux Klan members on federal weapons charges. He is a former federal prosecutor from 1984-1988 and a former assistant district attorney in his hometown of Midland, Texas. Williams currently chairs the state agency that regulates the oil and gas industry, pipeline safety, surface mining, gas utilities and alternative fuels research and education. The agency's Office of General Counsel has 20 attorneys on staff. Williams continued, "Law students and recent graduates might also consider legal positions associated with

the booming energy industry. For young people with an interest in mineral law, this is an especially exciting time in the oil and gas industry. The growth of the industry has created a huge demand for employees of all skill sets, including legal expertise."

Texas leads the nation in both oil and natural gas production. The Barnett Shale field in North Texas is one of the largest and most active fields in the U.S.

Railroad Commission:

Engineers Needed in Energy Industry

Con't from page 6

Williams was elected statewide most recently in November 2002 to a six-year term expiring in 2008. the first African-American in Texas history to hold an elected position in the executive branch of Texas state government. In December 2002, Governor Rick Perry appointed Williams to chair the Governor's Clean Coal Technology Council. In March 2006, U.S. Department of Energy Secretary Bodman appointed Williams to the National Coal Council.

Everlasting

continued from page 3

an equally powerful street gang led by her cousin Tajo. Tajo and Rico refuse to let Nina and Juan run off into the sunset. Tajo and Rico will do anything to keep the war between the gangs solid and anything within their power to keep Juan and Nina apart.

Things become even more complicated for Juan and Nina when Chino, a jealous Bronx Gangsta admirer determined to be with Nina enters the picture. Despite the intervention of their families, friends and utter violence of the gangs' retribution, Juan and Nina learn the hard way that true love is definitely worth fighting for.

Charles VanZandt Releases CD

Tyler, TX. - Charles VanZandt recently returned from a recording session in Washington. His latest CD can be purchased by calling (903) 593-7810, (903) 683-2786 or (903) 683-8543. See

complete article December 07.



Mr. James I. Perkins, Citizens 1st Bank President, was inducted into the Rusk High School *Wall of Honor* Friday night September 8, 2007. He is pictured here with 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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Representative Chuck Hopson Announces Re-Election Plans

~ Hopson says he'll continue fighting for East Texas' priorities and values ~

JACKSONVILLE- Representative Chuck Hopson has made it official. He is running for re-election in 2008. And from the events of this summer, he is clearly moving full steam ahead. This week wraps up a very positive and special summer for the whole Hopson family.

"Over summer I welcomed my seventh grandchild into the world. I got to celebrate my birthday and another successful year with family and friends," said Hopson. "I figured, what better time to announce that we're ready to make another run and get back to Austin to work for East Texas."

Two fundraisers were held over the summer for Hopson, both of which were well-attended and showcased Hopson's support from both political parties.

The first event was at the home of Dr. Yasser Zeid and Dr. Brenda Vozz-Zeid in Henderson. It was the second event this summer in Henderson that indicates a solid and powerful block of support for Hopson in Rusk County. In September, Hopson was given the Key to the City of Henderson and a plaque honoring his work on behalf of Henderson and Rusk County.

At Hopson's annual Birthday Bash, at the 3G's Ranch in Jacksonville, Representative Tommy

Merritt, a Republican from Gregg County, presented Chuck with a certificate of achievement, not only for being an outstanding legislator but also being a successful small business owner. That weekend saw the 50th anniversary of Hopson's pharmacy, May Drug.



"Chuck and I go to Austin to represent East Texas, not party politics," said Rep. Merritt after presenting the certificate. "Chuck knows about business and about people."

We've been friends a long time and I look forward to both of us getting back down to Austin next year."

Hopson was also honored this summer by two important statewide groups. The Texas Pharmacy Association named Hopson "Pharmacist of the Year" and the Texas Retailers Association named him "Best Legislator for 2007". When asked about his top issues going forward Rep. Hopson stated that guaranteeing East Texas' right to control its water resources, private property rights, education, and continuing to strengthen our border security and immigration laws. These are just a few areas that he believes can be addressed in the 2009 legislative session.

Cherokee County Health Department Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening (BCCS) Clinic A Success



left to right, Lilly Jones, Pam Buckingham, Judy Beck, director of CCHD and Reba McKnight of Linwood Baptist Church.

The first Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening (BCCS) Clinic at Cherokee County Health Department was a great success! The clinic was held October 18 and was hosted by the Linwood Baptist Church. The Church served a light snack while the clients received valuable education followed by an exam. Each month Cherokee County Health Department, Cherokee County Extension Agency and a host church or club will continue to

insurance. Cherokee County Health Department presented the ladies from Linwood Church with an appreciation plaque. Pictured from left to right, Lilly Jones, Pam Buckingham, Judy Beck, director of CCHD and Reba McKnight of Linwood Baptist Church. For more information over getting a Cancer screening or being a host club or church contact Pam Davis at 903-683-4688.

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Continue from page 18

God is Talking

quent second term. While many of the electorate were duped by Bush's proclaimed transformation there is little evidence to indicate that finding God actually improved his character or humanity. Instead, by gaining the presidency, Bush was further emboldened with heavy neocon support to implement his God mission of an apocalyptic retribution upon Iraq.

The result was not the promised democratized Iraq but a country torn by sectarian violence, cities in ruin, an impotent central government, a demoralized populace, millions of displaced refugees, and America isolated from most of the world's nations. By deliberately couching their nefarious objectives in messianic terms, and repeatedly defining their enemies, in biblical language (axis of evil, evildoers, good versus evil, religious zealots), they have had no difficulty getting the president to carry out their profiteering agenda. Hossein-Zadeh sets forth a persuasive array of documentation that clearly bursts the long accepted perceptions of America being a peaceful democracy and its intention of spreading democracy peacefully.

Yet, as Professor Hossein-Zadeh warns, the immediate danger to the U.S. and the world does not come from continuing to follow the flawed strategy in Iraq. It is that the United States is led by an emboldened narcissist who is out of touch with reality but believes he is God directed while being manipulated by a callous Vice President and greedy corporate opportunists.

How are we to uncover the false prophet? The three essential criteria for establishing the credentials of a true prophet, as given through

Moses, were: he would speak in Jehovah's name; the things foretold would come to pass; and his prophesying would be in harmony with God's revealed word and commandments. A true prophet's life must be in conformity with God's immutable will and purpose before he can receive God's revelation.

The last requirement is the most vital since anyone can cry out in God's name and coincidence might make a prophecy appear fulfilled. False prophets will lull the people with soothing assurances that, despite their unrighteous actions, God is still with them to protect, empower and prosper them. While imitating the true prophets their fruits prove them workers of evil. Just as there were false prophets who pretended to be God like in the first century of the Christian church, so there arise false prophets in the 21st century.

False prophets bring dire consequences on the people they beguile.

Terrible fires in Southern California. More than a half-million acres consumed, 1,700 homes destroyed with 12,000 more threatened, over one million people temporarily displaced with damage estimates surpassing \$1 billion.

Epic droughts are occurring in Georgia, Alabama and Florida that threatens the water supply for millions. The Great Lakes are shrinking at an alarming rate and the western Sierra Nevada snow pack is melting faster each year. Across America, the nation's freshwater supplies are dangerously low and official projections indicate that at least 36 states will face shortages within five years.

Record breaking tornadoes and floods, some in areas not normally subject to this type of devastating disaster.

America, God is talking and the message is clear. Continue to follow your false prophet at your own peril.

James W. Breedlove

Comments or opinions may be sent to the writer at: www.truthclinic.com

Who Knew?

Rainy day cure for dog odor: Next time your dog comes in from the rain, simply wipe down the animal with Bounce or any dryer sheet, instantly making your dog smell springtime fresh.

Did you know that Colgate Toothpaste makes an excellent salve for burns?

Easy eyeglass protection... to prevent the screws in eyeglasses from loosening, apply a small drop of Maybelline Crystal Clear Nail Polish to the threads of the screws before tightening them.

Cleaning liquid that doubles as bug killer... if menacing bees, wasps, hornets, or yellow jackets get in your home and you can't find the insecticide, try a spray of Formula 409. Insects drop to the ground instantly.

Vinegar to heal bruises... soak a cotton ball in white vinegar and apply it to the bruise for 1 hour. The vinegar reduces the blueness and speeds up the healing process.

Quaker Oats for fast pain relief... it's not for breakfast any more! Mix 2 cups of Quaker Oats and 1 cup of water in a bowl and warm in the microwave for 1 minute, cool slightly, and apply the mixture to your hands for soothing relief from arthritis pain.

HEALTH

Listerine therapy for toenail fungus: Get rid of unsightly toenail fungus by soaking your toes in Listerine Mouthwash. The powerful antiseptic leaves your toenails looking healthy again.

Sore throat? Just mix 1/4 cup of vinegar with 1/4 cup of honey and take 1 tablespoon six times a day. The vinegar kills the bacteria.

Cure urinary tract infections with Alka-Seltzer. Just dissolve two tablets in a glass of water and drink it at the onset of the symptoms. Alka-Seltzer begins eliminating urinary tract infections almost instantly—even though the product was never been advertised for this use.

Honey remedy for skin blemishes... cover the blemish with a dab of honey and place a Band-Aid over it. Honey kills the bacteria, keeps the skin sterile, and speeds healing. Works overnight.

Smart splinter remover: Just pour a drop of Elmer's Glue-All over the splinter, let dry, and peel the dried glue off the skin. The splinter sticks to the dried glue.

Hunt's Tomato Paste boil cure... cover the boil with Hunt's Tomato Paste as a compress. The acids from the tomatoes soothe the pain and bring the boil to a head.

Balm for broken blisters... to disinfect a broken blister, dab on a few drops of Listerine, a powerful antiseptic.

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Outage
Number to call

1-888-313-6862
or
1-888-313-4747

Obituaries

Mrs. Ada Hughes Lindsey

Mrs. Ada Hughes Lindsey was born to the union of the late Mr. Tommy Hughes and Mrs. arena Bell Foreman Hughes on January 1, 1919 in Elkart, Texas.

She departed this life Thursday morning June 14, 2007 in Rusk, Texas. She was reared in the Slocum Community where she attended public school and church.

At an early age she confused faith in Christ and united with the Baptist Church of Slocum. Later she joined with Delmar Baptist Church where she was a member of the choir, ursher board, missionary

society and church mother. She remained a faithful member until her health failed and the church closed.

Mrs. Lindsey was united in holy matrimony with Mr. David Lindsey. To this union one daughter and two sons were born.

She was preceded in death by her husband, son Tommy Lindsey, her parents, three sisters and two brothers.

She leaves to cherish her memory a daughter and son-in-law Juanita and Jessie Simmons of Rusk, a son and daughter in-law Jessie and Patricia Lindsey of San Antonio, Texas; twelve grandchildren, twenty-nine great-grandchildren; seven great-great grandchildren other relatives and friends.



Bernest C. Freeney

Bernest C. Freeney, son of Worthy and Lois Freeney, was born in Rusk, Texas on April 13, 1941. He received his education at G. W. Bradford Elementary and High School Rusk, Texas. He met and married Annie Lee Haley in 1960 and their union was blessed with four sons and one daughter.

In 1975 he relocated to Oakland California where he met and married Patricia Short and their union was blessed with two sons. He was employed with the city

of Oakland for twenty years. He brought family and friends together around his famous bar-b-ques. In Oakland he was known as "Big Daddy" because he helped a lot of young people. His heart and doors were open to anyone he could help.

His legacy of love and help will never be forgotten.

Burnis Cecil Freeney departed this life October 2, 2007. He was preceded in life by his parents, sister Emma Lois Freeney, brothers M. W. Freeney, M.



Religion

THE TRUTH CLINIC



GOD IS TALKING TO AMERICA

Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. (Matt 7:15)

Then the Lord said unto me, The prophets prophesy lies in my name: I sent them not, neither have I commanded them, neitherspake unto them. They prophesy unto you a false vision and divination, and a thing of naught, and the deceit of their heart. (Jer 14:14) And the people to whom they prophesy shall be cast out in the streets of Jerusalem because of the famine and the sword. (Jer 14: 16)

President George W. Bush on June 4, 2003 in a private meeting with Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas and then foreign minister Nabil Shaath allegedly said God told him to invade Iraq and Afghanistan. "I'm driven with a mission from God. God would tell me, 'George, go and fight those terrorists in

afghanistan.' And I did, and then God would tell me, 'George go and end to run for President. I can't explain it, but I sense my country is going to need me.'" One can only imagine the extent to which his fatally flawed vision was enhanced after he won the White House and subsequently started the tyranny in Iraq. The White House vehemently denied that the president made these statements and the issue was quietly and quickly relegated to the back pages of media coverage. However, the well researched book *The Political Economy of U.S. Militarism* written by Drake University economics professor, Ismael Hossein-Zadeh, provides revealing insight into the dangerous intersection of President Bush's perverted God based policies and the growing militaristic mindset that is undermining America. Bush was put into office largely because his propaganda machine proclaimed that he had found God and was sent to lead the nation. During his first presidential campaign, Bush was narcissistic enough to claim: "I feel like God wants me

See God is Talking page 17

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Phone: (903) 586-6006
 Contact: Sharon Sims
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 Morning Ser. 11:00AM
 Wednes. Bible Study 7PM
 Rev. Sedrick Moore, Pastor

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Sunday Worship Service
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2nd & 4th Sunday Service
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 Rt. 2, Box 417A - Rusk, Texas 75785

Mt. Olive Baptist Church

911 Egbert Street
Rusk, TX. 75785

Rev. Mertis Bartley, Pastor
 & wife
 Evangelist Stella Bartley
 Assistant Pastor

Contact: Sis. Sandra Carter

Ph: (903) 683-2100

Sunday School 9:00AM - Worship: 10:00AM
 Bible Study - Wednesday 6:00PM

Wells Chapel
 Missionary
 Baptist Church
 Wells, Texas



Pastor: Daryl Cranford
 (936) 867-4522

Green Tie Affair

Please mark your calendars to attend the "Green Tie Affair", scheduled for Monday, December 3, 2007 starting 5:30 PM at the Castle on the Lake at 9110 U.S. Highway 79 West, Jacksonville, TX. Green Ties and Green Frogs will be furnished at the door.

MONday, December 3rd

Christ the Redeemer Academy & Church Women's
 Brown Bag Lunch Bible Study Group

12:10 PM - 12:50 PM at 247 Barron Street in Rusk
 For additional information, please call (903) 683-1404

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