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TEXAS INFORMER

October 2009
Volume XII, Number 8

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P.O. Box 332
Rusk, Texas 75785

Marker Dedicates Weeping Mary Community as Historical Site

Texas ranks almost last in Stimulus Funds received

WASHINGTON – Texas has received less funding per resident from the stimulus package so far than almost any other state according to state reports. Why has not been determined with many blaming Governor Rick Perry and others blaming legislators who wrote guidelines for receiving the money. Texas has been approved for about \$12.9 billion in stimulus grants and contracts, not including the estimated \$4.2 billion that Texans received through the law's main individual tax credit, according to federal estimates. Texas is also a victim of its own thrift: With fewer research universities, less subsidized housing, and a smaller contribution to programs like Medicaid and unemployment insurance, it stands to on the programs

receive less emergency funds than if it spent more of its own money. The \$787 billion stimulus flows through a variety of established channels – tax credits, student loans, Social Security checks, highway contracts and dozens of other programs. The law devoted extra funds to entitlements like Medicaid, and lawmakers extended safety nets for unemployment insurance and subsidies for COBRA, which allows workers to maintain their group health coverage if they leave or lose their jobs.

Texas is 50th out of 50 states in terms of children and adults insured for health care, that has hurt those families and it has hurt

See Stimulus page



See Weeping Mary story page 3

Tom Joyner gets Justice for executed Uncles

Nationally syndicated radio host Tom Joyner raised his hand in victory. Nearly 100 years had passed since his great-uncles, Thomas Griffin and Meeks Griffin, were wrongfully executed in South Carolina. On Wednesday, a board voted 7-0 to pardon both men, clearing their names in the 1913 killing of a veteran of the Confederate Army.



Tom Joyner
See Joyner page 5



Publishers Corner



The challengers of life test our strength and clar-

Sometimes little things happen in our lives that cause us to remember them for years to come. The following tells of one of those times in my life and I still take seriously the lesson I learned.

Halloween is viewed many different ways by different people. In the time of my childhood it was a time to dress up in homemade costumes and scare people. Today it is about buying candy and costumes for the kids and trick or treating for candy. Still others use this time as John Milton did in the poem "Paradise Lost" to remind people that there is an on-going war between good and evil.

Some years ago just a few days before Halloween, Terry, Kathy, Daphne, Shun, Eddie and I went to the much talked about Halloween "Castle" located on South Broadway in Tyler. We waited in a very long line for almost an hour, all the while we could hear screams coming from inside. They teased me asking if I was sure I wanted to go inside. I never thought of changing my mind because I couldn't imagine anything beyond fake ghouls and goblins that would scare me. We had been told this was not the usual haunted house, but a christian house of realities.

Upon entering the building we were greeted by a very good facsimile of Satan (the devil) who guided us through seven scenes of real life horror. The kinds of horror

which people sometimes bring upon themselves through making poor choices...example, the fake funeral of someone killed by driving drunk. As he guided us through each scene, he stopped to encourage us to make the wrong decision. We made it through the scenes in quiet sadness, making a few whispered comments now and then.

Finally he led us to a room that was very different from the others. One whose atmosphere was not that of make-believe, but one so strange that I wanted to turn and go back! We must have all experienced fear about the same time, because we were all saying, "Um-um, I can't go in there! I remember saying it more than one time. Our guide said, "This is the only way out! You can't go back." Before us was no door, but a standing coffin. As we went through it the wall opened leaving us finding ourselves in a psychological place like hell! It was pitch black, hot, endless and it felt as if we were walking on hot coal. I couldn't breathe. My heart started to race as if I was about to have a heart attack. I could hear other people screaming and moaning.

Shun was screaming. "Let me out, I can't breathe. Let me out!" I was holding her hand with one of my hands and trying to feel my way out with the other. I felt helpless and truly panic stricken. I remember thinking, how did I get myself into this situation. Somehow I realized I had to gain control of myself. I told Shun to stand still and be quiet. When she did, I started praying the Lord's Prayer. I don't know how long we stood there, but finally, we could see a little light streaming in and a door opened. We were led upstairs to a waiting angel, through three more scenes and then exited to counselors waiting to greet us.

I remember giving the greeters and counselors a

round of applause and thinking, "Thank God I'm saved!"

As the popular saying goes, "When push comes to shove you'll find out what you're made of." When we are at ease everything blends together uniformly. Our encounters with the uncomfortable define us and show us who we really are.

Dr. King once said, "The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy." The challengers of life test our strength and clarify our values. That experience presented enough challenge and discomfort to remind me that the real "hell" must be unbearable. I know I don't want to go there!



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S. B. Rufus

LIFE: A CELEBRATION OF AGE

Weeping Mary Community designated site of Texas Historical Marker

by Maxine Session

September 26, 2009 was a history making day for citizens of Weeping Mary Community. A crowd gathered on the grounds of the Baptist Church to witness and to be a part of the dedication of the community as an official Texas Marker.

Terry Guinn, Chair of the Cherokee County Commission gave the welcome. Rev. Ike Wiley, Pastor of Weeping Mary Baptist Church gave the invocation and read the scripture from Acts 17: 22-31. The crowd joined in as he led the hymn, "Blessed Be The Name of the Lord".

Jim Cromwell, secretary of the commission led the pledge to the United States Flag and the Texas Flag.

Jennifer L. Price, site manager for the Caddo Mounds State Historic Site of the Texas Historical Commission, read the "Story Of The Community".

Terry Quinn dedicated the Marker and it was unveiled by William Skinner and Cynthia Ross Thacker, both community residents.

The Marker reads "WEEPING MARY COMMUNITY" Freed African Americans organized the Weeping Mary Community following the Civil War. Two sisters who were born into slavery, Nancy Ross Lockhart and Emily Ross Skinner purchased the land on which the settlement was developed. The community and church were likely named for Mary Magdalene's weeping at the tomb of Jesus, though local folklore suggests other possible origins for the name. The historic area is located on a section of El Camino Real. Roads developed by native Americans and used by Spanish soldiers, pioneers and others throughout Texas History. As with most communities founded by freedpersons, in Weeping Mary most residents engaged in farming. Many were employed on farms in neighboring Wallace-Town. Others would later work at the Indian Mound Nursery,



Emma Lee Martin and Jesse Moore look on as youth listen and mingle.



Citizens wait for the historical marker dedication program to start.

operated by the Texas Forest Service and in other labor intensive jobs.

Children attended a school in the settlement by the late 1800s. The school had an enrollment of 40 in 1896. When it closed during World

War II, students began attending school in Alto. Religious and social life centered on Weeping Mary Baptist Church. The congregation's earliest church was in Wallace Town in 1957. A flood damaged

the church building and members rebuilt it at this location. Weeping Mary Baptist Church continues to be a focal point for area residents and remains active today, serving a community rich in heritage and tradition.

The narrative for the marker was researched and written by Jennifer L. Price and Terry Guinn.

Following the unveiling of the marker, comments and reflections were made by many in attendance who told of what they remembered about community history.

The benediction was given by deacons of the church: J. L. Skinner, G. W. Parker, J. B. Moore, David Washington, R. L. Ross, Jr. and Jamie Lee Glenn.

A beautiful new Weeping Mary Baptist Church was constructed about 50 feet to the west of the existing building. It was completed in 2008.

Spanish controlled Texas did not rely upon slavery for labor. In 1829 Mexico abolished slavery. The history of African Americans in East Texas begins with the settling here of run away slaves whose journey was intended to take them to Mexico. Many traveling from Louisiana to San Antonio settled along the Old San Antonio Road, joining various East Texas Indian Tribes where they were generally accepted and treated well.

Thus, the settling of Weeping Mary began with run away slaves (Wikipedia encyclopedia)

Decendents of early families still live there today.

Jarvis Christian College Hawkins,

Thursday, November 12, 2009

* 6:00PM - Student Dinner with the President
(Rand Center Varsity Gym)

Friday, November 13, 2009

*7:00PM - Evening for the President
Featured performance by screen actress and professor, Dr. Tommie
"Tonea" Stewart (In the Heat of the Night, A Time to Kill)
(Smith Howard Chapel)

* Reception immediately following in the Fellowship Hall
(Smith Howard Chapel)

Saturday, November 14, 2009

*9:00AM - Inaugural Prayer/Meditation Service
(Smith Howard Chapel)

11:00AM - Investiture Ceremony
(Rand Center Varsity Gym)

*Reception with receiving Line immediately following in the Mirror Room
(Rand Center)

*7:00PM - Inaugural Scholarship Ball
(Individual Tickets @\$50.00 each)
Holiday Inn Ballroom
5701 South Broadway
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Host Hotel: Holiday Inn
For reservations call (903) 561-5800.
(The rate for guests for the Inauguration is \$99.00 prt night)



J'Nae Ar- rington Grand Prize

J' Nae Arrington

Estebiana J'Nae Arrington recently was announced grand prize winner of the Jacksonville Daily Progress "Cutest Kid" Contest for the age two to four division. The Cute little three year old is the daughter of



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Cherokee Brotherhood Association Hosts Rusk ISD Superintendent and Administrators

Rusk, TX. - The Rusk Cherokee Brotherhood Association meets the fourth Monday night in each month. On August 31st special guests were Dr. Jim Largent, Superintendent of Rusk ISD and the athletic director, coach Ted Patton.

There was a question and answer session concerning district policy and how the organization can possibly help with solving student problems before they occur. Coach Patton was asked if he has a policy about athletes and braids. He said no, he only requires that they follow district policy. Dr. Largent was asked why black teachers are not hired in Rusk ISD.

Currently there are no black teachers employed at Rusk High, only one black coach; no black teachers at Rusk Junior High; three black teachers at Rusk Intermediate School; no black teachers at Rusk Elementary and one black teacher at Rusk Primary School. Dr. Largent said 99% of applicants are white and that he feels black teachers don't apply in Rusk ISD because of the base salary. He was asked if RISD recruits teachers at black colleges. The answer was no.

Questions were asked about this years strategies for Black students

Dr. Largent discussed what he felt were possible problems and solutions. He asked the organization to provide role models and to promote those "kids that are doing the right things".

Tracy Session and Oliver Sturns are volunteer mentors in the district and Dr. Largent was told that others are being recruited, but they wanted to be sure that the principals would be o. k. with that.

Rusk ISD principals and assistant principals attended the next Brotherhood meeting September 28th along with Dr. Largent. They assured the group that mentors would be welcome on their campus and they provided a list of activities that could be provided by mentors.

All were treated to a tasty meal of chicken and spaghetti. They assured the group that mentors would be welcome on their campus and they provided a list of activities that could be provided by mentors.

The next meeting will be the fourth Monday night in October at the Texas Informer Conference room.

Screening and recruitment for new members will begin soon. For information contact President Oliver Sturns or any of the current members.

Representative Hopson Supports Proposition 11 ~ Proposition Protects Property ~

AUSTIN— State Representative Chuck Hopson (D-Jacksonville) is encouraging you to get out and vote for Constitutional Amendment 11. The proposed amendment would amend Section 17, Article I, Texas Constitution, to restrict the taking, damaging, or destroying of a person's property for public use to circumstances in which the taking, damage, or destruction is necessary for the ownership, use, and enjoyment of the property by the State of Texas, a political subdivision of the state, the public at large, or an entity granted the power of eminent domain, or for the elimination of urban blight on a particular parcel of property. The right to own and use private property is one of the most sacred rights of Texans. The ability of government to abuse this right is one of the most frightening. Prop. 11 will give homeowners and other private property owner's peace of mind knowing govern

ment will be restricted from using the power of eminent domain except for truly public purposes. Please join with me and the Texas Association of Realtors, Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association, Texas Wildlife Association and Texas Farm Bureau, along with a broad and bi-partisan coalition of statewide organizations and officeholders who are seeking to protect homeowners and private property owner rights by voting for Prop. 11 on November 3, 2009. It's your land. Protect it with your vote. For more information on Proposition 11 or any other constitutional amendment on the November 3, 2009, ballot please visit <http://www.hro.house.state.tx.us/framer2.htm> . If you do not have access to a computer and need additional information please call Representative Hopson's office at 512-463-0592 or 866-233-5100.

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Ralph Bunch the first person of African decent from any country to win Nobel Peace Prize

The Detroit-born son of a barber, Ralph Bunche sold newspapers as a child, worked as a houseboy for a Los Angeles movie star and worked for a carpet installer. He was recognized early on for his brilliance, winning a scholarship to Harvard University, which was supplemented by a \$1,000 fund raised by the African American community in his home town of Los Angeles. He completed a doctorate at Harvard several years later with a focus on social science and anthropology in Africa.

A brilliant academic and diplomat, and lifelong activist in civil rights, Bunche was instrumental in negotiations in 1948 between the newly-formed Israel and hostile neighboring Arab states. He subsequently spent a long career in the United Nations, culminating in 15 years as Undersecretary-General, the highest post ever held by an American.

Quotable Quotes about Ralph Bunche
In a speech announcing Bunche as winner of the 1950 Nobel Peace Prize, Gunnar Jahn, Chairman of the Nobel Committee, quotes Bunche's own writings. Describing having suffered "many disillusioning experiences," Bunche wrote,

"Like every Negro in America, I've been buffeted about a great

deal. Inevitably, I've become allergic to prejudice. On the other hand, from my earliest years I was taught the virtues of tolerance; militancy in fighting for rights - but not bitterness. Bunche goes on to say that in becoming a social scientist he developed a professional demeanor of "coolness of temper, an attitude of objectivity when dealing with human sensitivities and irrationalities" that, he said, was "invaluable."

In awarding the Nobel Peace Prize to America's first African American winner, the chairman of the Nobel Committee said, "Ralph Bunche's enduring fame arises from his service to the U. S. government and to the UN."

Bunche's own moving acceptance speech for the Nobel Peace Prize was entitled *Some Reflections on Peace in Our Time*.

In subsequent years, U.N. Secretary General U Thant described Bunche thus, "An international institution in his own right, transcending both nationality and race in a way that is achieved by very few." Ralph Bunche was one of the nation's most prominent diplomats. Like Barack Obama, who recently made headlines as an African American winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, Bunche was a deeply thoughtful man with an early background of robust academic achievement. He was one of a rare breed:

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Speak out!

Should teens who send nude pictures via cell phone get charged with child pornography, a felony?

Sexting is the practice of sending nude or semi-nude pictures of ones self or others via cell phone. The arrest of several "sexting" teenagers on charges of child pornography is alarming parents, school officials, police and prosecutors. New Jersey lawmakers are considering bills that would decriminalize sexting when it's perpetrated by teens with age-appropriate poor judgment. Instead, the law would require sexting teens to take a course that teaches them why sexting is a bad idea, both legally and reputationally.

The bill is a response to the decision in June to charge a 14-year-old with distribution of child pornography after she posted nude photos of herself on MySpace. This alleged sexter was eventually given probation and counseling. Prosecutions of other teens on similar charges have led to Constitutional court battles and a general sense among many observers and parents that courts may not be the ideal environment to deal with this phenomenon.

Should teens get charged with this as a felony? The following people speak out!



Reginald Dickson
Parent



Clarence Kelly
Parent



Kiara Skinner
Rusk High school junior



Amber Morrison
May 2009 Alto high school graduate

There is a device that parents can put on a teens car to regulate speed. There should be a way to monitor what kids can do on a cell phone. Charging them with felonies is not the answer.

It's wrong for a child to do this. If one is smart enough to slip this past their parents, then parents should be notified and let handle it. Parents should be discipling the kids not the law.

No! the person you send the pictures might show them to somebody else. I don't think it is serious enough for a teen to be charges with a felony.

Anybody who does that should be punished, but I don't not with a felony. It shouldn't be taken that far.



Seated here, Mr. Jamis I. Perkins, Citizens 1st Bank President, Washington Red Skins Linebacker and former Citizens 1st Bank Employee, Cody Glenn; Andrew Melontree of the Tyler Bank and Walter Session, Rusk City Councilman and Mayor Pro Tem. 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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THE HEALTHCARE SOLUTION--GIVE ME WHAT YOU GOT

Just when it seemed that health-care reform was gaining a little momentum in congress various special interest groups and anti-reformists have stepped up their attacks touting the evil burdens that the proposed reform will inflict on the American public.

Congressional naysayers and industry lobbyists are rolling out the big guns and bombarding the public with scare messages of higher premiums, higher taxes, and more government in a concentrated effort to once again derail any health reform.

Even those members of congress that support healthcare reform say the proposals currently being considered are not perfect, that the technical issues are so complex with so many variables that it is difficult to predict the cost, coverage or effectiveness of a proposed reform package.

Perhaps the difficulty in addressing healthcare reform lies in the fundamental approach that congress is using in developing a bill that satisfies politicians, special interest groups, and consumers. The new healthcare models being proposed are vulnerable to assumptions in applicable variables, speculation on effectiveness, variation in cost estimates, and a lack of hands on experience with the models. There is a healthcare model that overcomes all of these shortcomings. The question that should be raised by the American public is why is this model not being given serious consideration?

For over eighty years the members of congress have had access to a healthcare plan that has been described as the country's best and most efficient government run health care. (OAP) was established by congressional resolution in 1928 to meet the medical needs of Members of Con

The Office of Attending Physician gress. The OAP began its authorized medical duties with the House of Representatives in 1929 and in 1930 added the United States Senate. In addition to the United States Congress it currently is responsible for the medical welfare of the delegates to the U.S. House of Representatives, the Resident Commissioner of Puerto Rico, and the nine justices of the U.S. Supreme Court. According to an article by Ezra Klein in the Washington Post OAP provides members of Congress with physicals and routine examinations, on-site X-rays and lab work, physical therapy and referrals to medical specialists from military hospitals and private medical practices. When specialists are needed, they are that guns and bombarding the public with scare messages of higher premiums, higher taxes, and more government in a concentrated effort to once again has caused the cost of healthcare to spiral for the American public.

Congressional naysayers and industry lobbyists are rolling out the big ss.employee health insurance policies. Instead, as of 2009, members pay a flat, annual fee of \$503 for all the care they receive. The annual fee has not changed significantly since 1992 despite the rampant inflation

Members of Congress do not pay for the individual services they receive at the OAP, nor do they submit claims through their federal brought to the Capitol, often at no charge to members of Congress have is a form of socialized medicine — health care that's not only financed by the government but also directly provided by government

employees. This kind of government funded health care is provided in many of the industrialized nations of the world and is anathema to many member of congress even though they have been using it consistently since 1929. One can only speculate why the time tested congressional model is not the primary candidate for the healthcare reform bill. Congress had not complained about ineffective care, the insurance industry has not lobbied against it, and the service providers have not objected about any inability to provide service.

Of course, there is the implied concern about what would it cost to implement the congressional healthcare model for the mass population. Sufficient cost data is available to make any cost projections more accurate than those being made for the untested model currently being considered.

A combination of slightly higher pre

miums than the \$503 annual premium congress pays and diverting the allocated but unspent bailout money could get the congressional model expanded to the public. That is if congress were not so beholden to the pharmaceutical and insurance industries. If the alternative of making the healthcare model that congress uses available to all Americans is so fiscally and logistically difficult to implement then members of congress should be required to enroll in the same healthcare plan offered to the public. In other words the message to congress to close this twenty year and equitable solution is: Give Me What You Got or You Take What I Get.

James W. Breedlove

Comments or opinions may be

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Tom Joyner gets justice for wrongly executed uncles

From Page 1

Columbia South Carolina

It marks the first time in history that South Carolina has issued a posthumous pardon in a capital murder case.

"It really, really feels good," Joyner told CNN's Don Lemon.

Joyner made the journey to Columbia, South Carolina, with his wife, his sons, his brother and nieces and nephews. When the board announced its decision, they danced, hugged and kissed. "All of the above," he said. Joyner describes gleeful, historic moment »

In the end, it took only about 25 minutes for their pardon, nearly a century in the making.

"It's good for the community. It's good for the nation. Anytime that you can repair racism in this country is a step forward," Joyner said.

He said the ruling won't bring back his great-uncles, who were electrocuted in 1915. But it does provide closure to his family. "I hope now they rest in peace." Many who were present were touched by the symbolism and significance of the moment. "I felt like I was a witness to a historical event. It was pretty exciting around here," said Peter O'Boyle, the chief spokesman for the Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services. Dwayne Green, an African-American member of the pardon board, said he admired Joyner for seeking the pardon. "He's not only done his family a service, but also the people of South Carolina."

"There's no statute of limitations on doing the right thing," Green said. "There's so much good that can come out of this public show of mercy."

The unanimous vote, he said, was heartwarming and satisfying. "It's a great opportunity to show how much South Carolina has changed," he said. "While change comes slow, outcomes like this are a positive sign."

Joyner, the host of "The Tom Joyner Morning Show," had known nothing of his great-uncles' murder convictions until last year. That's when esteemed Harvard professor Henry Louis Gates Jr. uncovered Joyner's past as part of the PBS documentary "African American Lives 2." In the documentary, Joyner explains that he never knew why his grandmother left South Carolina. "All I know is she left home and she ended up in Florida and she didn't stay in touch with her people, either," Joyner says. "Do you know why your grandmother moved away?" Gates says.

"No," Joyner says. "I have no idea."

Gates then shows him his great-uncles' death certificates. "Cause of death: Legal electrocution," it says. "They electrocuted my --" an astonished Joyner says, unable to finish his sentence.

In that moment, Joyner began the journey that led him to Wednesday's pardon. Gates and legal

historian Paul Finkelman aided in the research of his family history, and helped lobby South Carolina to pardon the two Griffin brothers.

It wasn't the first time a pardon had been sought for the men. According to their research, more than 150 citizens of Blackstock, South Carolina, asked the governor at the time for their sentences to be commuted. Many prominent whites in the community, including the mayor and former sheriff of Chester County, came to the defense of the Griffin brothers.

"I heard this case, and I don't think I could have given a verdict of guilty," one magistrate wrote.

The Griffin brothers had owned 130 acres in the area and were well-liked in the community. They were convicted of killing John Q. Lewis, a 73-year-old veteran of the Civil War. Lewis was slain in his home on April 24, 1913.

"Only the most profound sense of injustice would have led so many white leaders of the community and ordinary white citizens to publicly support blacks convicted of murdering a white man," Finkelman said in a letter to the board of paroles and pardons. According to the research uncovered by Finkelman, Lewis, the former Confederate soldier, apparently had an intimate relationship with a married

Anna Davis. Suspicion initially turned to her and her husband after the murder.

"It is plausible to believe that the sheriff did not want to pursue Mr. and Mrs. Davis because if they were tried, it would have led to a scandalous discussion in open court," Finkelman wrote to the pardon board on October 2, 2008.

The investigation later turned to another man, Monk Stevenson, who would ultimately point police to the Griffin brothers and two other black men. Stevenson received a life sentence in exchange. His journey is continuing. He wants to know even more about his great-uncles -- what happened to their land, how they made the community better, what made them so well-liked by whites in segregated South Carolina.

"Until we can repair some of the deeds of the past, we can't really look forward," he said.

"Stevenson later told a fellow inmate that he had implicated the Griffin brothers because he believed they were wealthy enough to pay for legal counsel, and as such would be acquitted," Finkelman said. The Griffin brothers and the two other men, Nelson Brice and John Crosby, were convicted in a trial that lasted four days. They were electrocuted on September 29, 1915.

Now, Joyner says he urges all African-Americans to explore their pasts -- no matter how difficult that journey may be. "You can look at your ancestor struggles of the past and be encouraged. If they can go through what they went through, you can do much better," he said.

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Obituaries

Ms. Dessie Lee Session Franklin

Funeral Services were held September 26, 2009 for Ms. Dessie Lee Franklin at Sweet Union Baptist church, Jacksonville, Texas under the Pastor Rev. Horace Williams. She passed away on Monday September 21, 2009. Ms. Franklin was born April 5, 1926 to parents the late Ira Session and Dora Cox Session. She was raised in the Iron Hill Community attending school in Rusk public schools. After graduation, she attended Floral School in Houston, Texas where she received an FTD Floral Degree. Ms. Franklin was the owner of Feba's Flowers for many years until she retired. She united in holy matrimony with Rufus Franklin. Four children were born to this union. She united with Mt. Zion Cumberland Presbyterian Church where she served as a loyal member until her death. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband and a sister. Survivors are: one daughter and three sons; Audria (Dannny) Battle of Houston; Stanley



(Cheryl) Franklin of Tyler; ; Sedric (Theresia) Franklin, Ferba (Sandra) Franklin both of Jacksonville; fifteen grandchildren and twenty-four great-grandchildren; four sisters: Ms.

Veola Jackson of Jacksonville, Ms. Anna Cox and Mrs. Johnny Majors (Gerald) both of Tucson, Arizona; Ms. Doretha Session Johnson of Grand Prairie, Texas and a great number of neices, nephews, other relatives and friends who will

forever cherish her memories.

Officiating were Rev. Billy Williams, Rev. William Franklin, Rev. C. L. Anderson, and Rev. Robert E. Thomas. Interment was at Jacksonville City Cemetery.

U. S. Poverty rate increases

On September 11th 2009, the U.S. Census Bureau announced that the poverty rate for 2008 was 13.2%. This means the number of people in poverty has increased by about 2.5 million, to 39.8 million. To give you some perspective, 2.5 million is more than the number of people who live in Detroit and San Francisco combined.

Religion



Selections from
Genesis 29 :

When the LORD saw that Leah was unloved, He opened her womb; but Rachel was barren. Leah conceived, gave birth to a son, and named him Reuben, for she said, "The LORD has seen my affliction; surely my husband will love me now." She conceived again, gave birth to a son, and said, "The LORD

heard that I am unloved and has given me this son also." She conceived again, gave birth to a son, and said, "At last, my husband will become attached to me because I have borne him three sons." And she conceived again, gave birth to a son, and said, "This time I will praise the LORD."

If ever a marriage got off on the wrong foot, it was Jacob and Leah's. The look in his eyes wasn't the warm glow of wedded bliss but the bitter glares of betrayal. Yet Leah learned that what God thinks of you is the most important reflection of who you are.

No, it's not too much to ask of your husband that your relationship become a priority to him - not always taking a back seat to work, hobbies, and whatever it is that keeps his mind so preoccupied. But it is too much to demand. Nothing in your scolding is likely to change his mind or to melt the hard shell on his icy, detached habits. If you want to get his attention, honor him. Serve him. Love him. Make the brave decision that you will do what's right even when your husband does you wrong.

Look At It This Way ...

There's a fundamental problem with expecting fulfillment from people, places, and things. These are the gifts of life, not the source of life. Anytime we expect the gifts of life to give us what only God can, we're asking for our cups to be drained of energy and life itself. When I focus on Jesus Christ as the source of my life, an amazing thing happens. Because he loves me and actually possesses the wisdom, love, peace, and joy I've always wanted - he alone can fill my cup to overflowing! Because I'm no longer expecting people to fill my cup, I'm not hurt when they don't respond in a particular way. Psalm 62 says that we are to wait and hope in God alone. He's our rock, our salvation, our rear guard, our hiding place. He's everything we'll ever need!

The more we place our expectations on another person, the more control we give them over our emotional and spiritual state. The freer we are of expectations from others - and the more we depend upon God alone - the more pure and honest our love for others will become. ~ by Gary Smalley
A Final Thought:

Rejection is not defeated by more rejection but by the reverse -- by unconditional acceptance that looks into the face of disapproval and sees a hurting person who needs your love.

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Stimulus Packet

page

Texas lawmakers gave up \$565 million in stimulus funds when they decided not to make changes to the unemployment benefits program. To get the stimulus funds, states had to expand their program to reach more unemployed workers, including those who seek only part-time work. Only 20 percent of unemployed Texans received unemployment benefits during the second quarter of 2008, the second-lowest rate among states, according to the National Employment Law Project. With fewer research universities, less subsidized housing, and a smaller contribution to programs like Medicaid and unemployment

The stimulus provided \$8.2 billion to the National Institutes of Health to award research projects performed by universities, nonprofits and businesses. An additional \$2.5 billion went to the National Science Foundation for science and engineering projects. Texas lags in this category, too. Its universities and companies have won far fewer stimulus-funded research grants than states such as California, Massachusetts, New York and Pennsylvania.

So far, California universities have landed about \$453 million in stimulus grants and contracts for special projects, compared with \$161 million for New York schools, \$110 million in Pennsylvania, and \$91 million in Texas, according to a News analysis of

“A Christmas Story” cast Announced

By: Roy Reynolds
VP Publicity
Cherokee Civic Theatre

Cherokee Civic Theatre in Rusk is getting ready for their upcoming Winter Musical, “A Christmas Story”. Co-Directors Karen Hendley & Judy Faye Garner announced that the players have been cast: The part of “Ralphie” was awarded to James Burns; Alex Baker will play “Ralph”; the “mother” will be portrayed by Sommer May; Mark Becker will be “The Old Man”; Nicholas McCalister will play the part of “Randy”; “Miss Shields” will be acted by Moira Debbs; Trae Gunter will be “Flick”; the part of “Schwartz” has been awarded to Mika Funches; “Esther Jane” will be portrayed by Sydney Garcia; Zoe Ruben will be “Hel-

en”; and Tristin Kelley will play the part of “Scut Farkas”. Humorist Jean Shepherd’s memoir of growing up in the midwest in the 1940s follows 9-year-old Ralphie Parker in his quest to get a genuine Red Ryder BB gun under the tree for Christmas. He runs into opposition from his parents, his teacher, and even good ‘ol Santa Clause. “A Christmas Story” is slated for December 3, 4, 5 & 6, at the historic Cherokee Civic Theatre, 157 W. 5th Street in Rusk. For further information, call 903-683-2131 or visit their website: www.cherokeetheatre.net.

LEGAL NOTICE

This Texas Lottery Commission Scratch-Off game will close on October 24, 2009. You have until April 22, 2010, to redeem any tickets for this game:

Game #1112 Cash Vault (\$5) Overall Odds are 1 in 3.95

This Texas Lottery Commission Scratch-Off game will close on October 29, 2009. You have until April 27, 2010, to redeem any tickets for this game:

Game #1022 \$250,000 Bingo (\$10) Overall Odds are 1 in 3.14

This Texas Lottery Commission Scratch-Off game will close on October 31, 2009. You have until April 29, 2010, to redeem any tickets for this game:

Game #1131 Bonus Blackjack (\$2) Overall Odds are 1 in 4.85

These Texas Lottery Commission Scratch-Off games will close on December 2, 2009. You have until May 31, 2010, to redeem any tickets for these games:

Game #1049 Aztec Gold (\$3) Overall Odds are 1 in 4.23

Game #1154 Fast Bucks (\$3) Overall Odds are 1 in 4.59

Game #1165 Easy 10's (\$1) Overall Odds are 1 in 4.73



For detailed odds and game information, visit txlottery.org or call 1-800-37LOTTO. Must be 18 or older to purchase a ticket. The Texas Lottery supports Texas Education. © 2009 Texas Lottery Commission. All rights reserved.

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President Obama Awarded Nobel Peace Prize



President Barack Obama

President Barack Obama won the Nobel Peace Prize announced this month. The Nobel Prize is an international award given yearly for outstanding achievements in the fields of physics, chemistry, medicine, literature, economic science, and for peace. Since its inception in 1901 by Alfred Nobel, many have received the prestigious award. The Norwegian Nobel Committee praised Obama for "his extraordinary efforts to strengthen international diplomacy and cooperation between peoples," citing his fledgling push for nuclear disarmament and his outreach to the Muslim world.

The first African-American, and in fact the first person of African descent, to win the Nobel Peace Prize, in 1950, was Dr. Ralph Bunche.

(1904-1971) He was the first man of color, from any nation, to win the Nobel Peace Prize. A man who broke many color barriers as he sought to intervene in some of the most difficult, strife-ridden international conflicts of his day

The second, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was awarded the prize in 1964.

Describing himself as surprised and deeply humbled, President Obama said he would accept the award as a "call to action" to confront the global challenges of the 21st century.

"I do not view it as a recognition of my own accomplishments but rather an affirmation of American leadership on behalf of aspirations held by people in all nations," he said in the White House Rose Garden

The president, who will travel to Oslo to receive the award on December 10, plans to donate the prize money of 10 million Swedish crowns -- roughly \$1.4 million -- to charity, the White House said.



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