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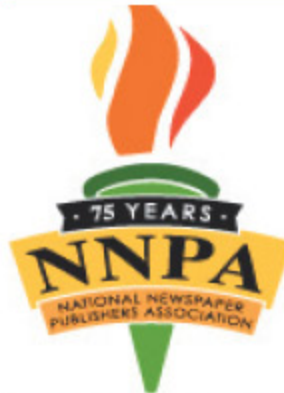
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Kingdom Christian Center Still On A Mission for God

Pastors Charlvin and Loretta Doty, Jacksonians, moved to Austin kickstarted their careers and family and has now kept their promise to return to Jacksonville.

See story page 3



Picture by Maxine Session

EDITORIAL

Seasons of our lives



Maxine Session

So many things in life bring us joy and happiness, a loving family, a good conversation with a friend, a soul-stirring church service with a good message, a choir who sings those good old hymns with the best messages and yes a good meal.

When I get the urge to complain about small things that don't amount to "a hill of beans", I remember those things and people that bring joy and how very blessed we are to have them. We have reached that season in our lives where recently, my friends and I have had conversations about the many we have lost to death, just lately. We attended a homegoing service, held in Jacksonville, for one of my classmates in August, Jessie Cox, who had lived in Austin many years and I thought about this saying that I read somewhere, "*Life takes us to unexpected places....love brings us home.*" That is so true in many ways. Sometimes we come home to loved ones and other times they are brought home to us....sometimes at the end of this journey called life.

Monday of this week Sherman Johnson passed away. He is one of Walter's lifelong friends. Both were born and raised in Elm Grove, went to high school together as classmates and were inseparable as teens. Sherman and his brother Ronnie (Red) and Walter and his brother Dee...where you saw one you saw all four. Back then, they were called "The Elm Grove Boys".

The phone rang many times this week as Walter and his classmates made plans to attend the service for Sherman in Dallas this weekend. From some of the conversations I got the good feeling that they were providing much needed comfort to each other as they dealt with this great loss... the end of a special chapter in their lives that included Sherman.

Ecclesiastes 3:2 lets us know that we are to understand that time is in God's hands, meaning He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, He has put eternity into man's heart, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end. So the seasons of our lives bring changes that we can't always know what they will bring. We know God determines the day of our birth and the day of our death. We also know he gave man free will, so it is up to us what we do in between.

Summer- a season for reward and fulfillment. Autumn - A season for survival, mistakes and problems. Winter- A season for reflection, hibernation and planning, and Spring- A season for learning, opportunity and dynamic thinking.

Letters To The Editor

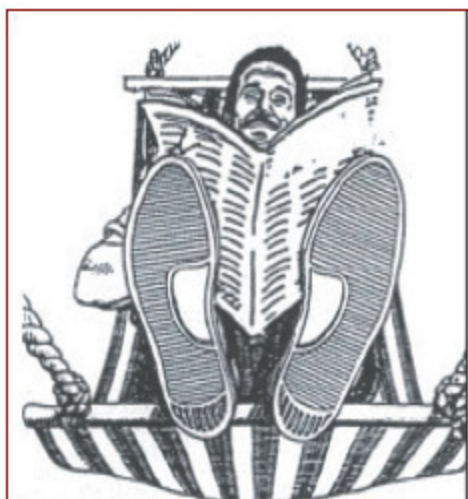
Maxine,

It's good to see you back on line again, I missed you. Happy birthday to you and Daphne. The article on the Monte Verde Plantation is great. As with your hubby, the names of Austin and Blanton are of interest to me. What is your subscription mail price? I wish to help keep your newspaper on line. You will receive \$30.00 soon but I will continue to read the on line issue. I'm charging \$20.00 for a hard copy of my book but I put both the book and the update on-line. Go to familysearch.org and click Books and Type my name: Felix Green. The name of the book is: *The Piersons and Barnetts of East Texas*. I believe it can be printed also. Thanks for the assistance. Felix Green

Christian-based Parenting Book Published

ROWLETT, Texas – When author Janice Tittle Utterback was raising her four daughters, she found herself entrenched in research. She often prayed to God, asking Him to reveal to her the best way to raise children into successful, healthy adults. Now a grandmother, Utterback wanted to compile a guidebook to help her daughters raise their own children. Featuring lessons drawn from Utterback's experience as a mother, "Pearls for His Girls: Raising Daughters of the King" (published by WestBow Press) is a new Christian-based parenting book designed to teach parents how to raise their children, particularly their daughters, in a way that pleases the Lord. The book focuses on tenets of

Christianity, including the importance of faith and purity, as well as tips on how to ensure children know how to withstand corrupting influences. "Today, parenting is one of the scariest jobs to attempt. It is both scary and risky with no do overs and sometimes little practical instruction," says Utterback. "Parents often feel criticized from every side. This book provides reasonable and do-able ideas as well as encouragement without judgement." "Pearls for His Girls" New parenting book provides advice on raising children in a way that pleases the Lord. Author Janice Tittle Utterback announces release of 'Pearls for His Girls'



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Kingdom Christian Center Still on A Mission for God

Cover Story
by Maxine Session

In some areas of the United States faith-based church attendance is growing and in others attendance is down. Churches here in East Texas display a mixture of both.

Charlvin and Loretta Doty grew up in Jacksonville, were childhood sweethearts, married, earned their education and eventually moved to Austin, Texas. Their parents and other close relatives remained here in Jacksonville. Over the years they traveled back and forth from Austin to Jacksonville during holidays, for family gatherings and of course they attended church when they were home. He was licensed in 1992 and was ordained as a minister in 2000.

When they were asked why they returned to Jacksonville to start a church, this is what they had to say, "God led us to do it. When we came home to visit the people seemed to have no hope. The churches seemed to be losing people. This is where we came from. Our roots are here, so we wanted to give back...just make a deposit to the community by bringing a change."

The change that Pastor Charlvin and Pastor Loretta brought to Jacksonville is a new house of worship called "Kingdom Christian Center". It is a non-denominational religious organization. On September 2, 2018 The Dotys and Kingdom Christian Center congregation celebrated four years of existence in Jacksonville. Sunday morning bible study begins at 9:00, Sunday worship service begins on time at 10:00am for adults with a powerful, uplifting message. They understand that for some churches there has been a separation from the Lord. The church is the body of the Lord. Without Jesus there can be no church. Children's church begins at 10:00am also. Bible study is at 6:30pm on Wednesdays.

Pastor Doty was installed as Senior Pastor of Kingdom Christian Center on August 31, 2014. The first location for the church was 1155 Corinth Road. Within the last year the congregation moved to the

present facility, a beautiful sanctuary with offices, classrooms and a large fellowship hall, which provides a place for many of the church activities. The facility has a wonderful history. It was the First Presbyterian Church built in 1909 and rebuilt in 1960. It is just the church to fit the many missions they have planned.

The location is 411 South Bolton. "God has blessed us so greatly, that when we acquired the church, all we had to do was move in and begin the work God set out for us to do. It was immaculate," Pastor Doty said. Their goal is to minister to the whole man spiritually, mentally, socially, financially and to their physical well-being.

The process has begun. Their senior saints visit residents at Bonner Place Nursing Home weekly to teach bible study. They provide the "Always and Forever" marriage seminars that are approved and certified by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHSC). Classes on Path to Home Ownership are taught. These classes help provide information that families need to improve their lifestyles. Seminars on diabetes and other health related issues help to better understand what the issues are and

how to deal with them and it provides support from others who deal with the same problems. This year they hosted a Ladies Tea which provided an opportunity for families to enjoy themselves. On October 31st the church will sponsor a Community Festival called Hallelujah Night which is an alternative to Halloween with games and free food. It will begin at 5:30pm and is open to the public. Pastor Doty added, "we've got lots of plans. We plan to add an afterschool ministry, tutoring and college prep sessions.

The Sunday worship is filled with a congregation that crosses all age groups. The services are upbeat and filled with the Holy Spirit. Most services when the doors of the church are opened, new members answer the call of God to join. The Children's church usually led by Pastor Loretta Doty is filled with a growing crowd of children and teens.

At the time the church was established here in Jacksonville the Dotys were traveling back and forth from Austin to Jacksonville. Now they are fully moved home and established here. She graduated from the University of Texas at Tyler after earning a Bachelor's

of Business Administration degree. She also graduated from the New Light Christian Center Ministry Development Institute. Pastor Loretta is also certified as a Senior Professional in Human Resources (SPHR) and currently works as a human resources director at Stephen F. Austin State University.

Pastor Charlvin Doty is a graduate of Park University where he earned a Bachelor of Business Administration degree, and of New Light Christian Center Ministry Development Institute.

He worked for the state of Texas more than 26 years. The couple recently celebrated their 35th wedding anniversary. They have two children and two grandchildren. Pastor Doty believes God has given them a calling to meet the needs of His people who are standing in line to receive God's word.

Pastor Charlvin is the son of Charles and Hazel Peoples Doty. Their families have strong ties to the community and have contributed long years to the community through Mt. Haven CME and North Bolton Christian Church.



Kingdom Christian Center
411 South Bolton

Ms. J's 411



Ferlich July Arrington

Prayer does not change God, but it changes him who prays. In my deepest, darkest moments, what really got me through was a prayer. Sometimes my prayer was "HELP ME." Sometimes my prayer was "THANK YOU." What I've discovered is that intimate connection and communication with my creator will ALWAYS get me through because I know my support, my help is just a prayer away.

Prayer My Armor of Protection

If the only prayer you ever say in your entire life is THANK YOU. It will be enough. Prayer is the key of the morning and the bolt of the evening. Trust me, prayer changes things.... Try it!!!! Until next time take care of yourself and others too!!!!

Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day and having done all to stand. Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the spirit, and watching thereunto with all perserverance and supplication for all saints.

~Ephesians 6: 13 - 18

CHRISTIANITY

Eutychus Falls Asleep in Worship Service



Acts 20: 7-16

Most people have observed someone fall asleep in worship service or have done so themselves. The following is a story from the book of Acts about a young man called Eutychus.

Paul and his companions were in a town called Troas for about a week and was to leave the next day when they and a large group of believers gathered in the upper room, the third floor of a house, to Break bread in celebration of the Lord's Day.

The believers were well prepared to hear the gospel. It was in the evening so they brought their oil lamps which filled the room with much light. Paul had so much to say to the people that he went on and on, and preached long into the night. The young man named Eutychus was sitting on a window sill, listening. He became so tired. His eyes began to grow heavy and he soon fell fast asleep. His body leaned forward toward the open window. Finally he fell through the window to the ground below and was taken up dead. Paul went down, and fell on him and embracing him said, "Trouble not yourselves; for his life is in him. Immediately Eutychus started breathing again. Theybroughthimuptotheupperroom again. His family was very pleased.

After the disruption Paul and the crowd went up again to the upper room where they broke bread and ate as was tradition since the resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ. They talked a long while longer even until the break of day when Paul departed. Paul and his followers boarded a ship as he hastened to be at Jerusalem by the Day of Pentecost.

Do you think Eutychus fell asleep in church again? Can you imagine witnessing a scene such as this? Can you imagine spending all night in worship service from dusk until dawn?

It is good to gather together with God's people on His special day to worship Him and to hear the gospel preached.

October BIRTHDAY BLAST!



- Shirley Burley Clark 5th
- Virginia Dennis 27th
- Tayzra O'Conner 27th
- Phyllis Johnson 27th
- Edna Faye Boyd 24th
- Jennifer Williams 31st
- Carlena Battle 28th
- Carlecia Battle 27th
- Flora Milton 27th
- Andrea Williams Merrill 2nd
- Ricky Dunlap 12th
- Michelle Dunlap Browning 31st

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Beto O'Rourke holds town hall at Prairie View A&M University



PRAIRIE VIEW, TEXAS -- U.S. Senate candidate Beto O'Rourke held a town hall at Prairie View A&M University yesterday with students from across the state to mark National Historically Black Colleges & Universities Week. During the event, O'Rourke discussed the importance of funding for HBCUs, outlined his platform and engaged in an open dialogue with those in attendance.

"HBCUs in Texas embody the very notion that higher education should be an opportunity available to all who want it," said O'Rourke. "With HBCUs across our state participating in the discussion last night, we made a commitment to protecting voting rights and civil rights while making healthcare more accessible, higher education more affordable, and the justice system more equitable. I'm grateful for the opportunity to spend the evening at Prairie View A&M." The town hall was streamed online to several Texas HBCU campuses

throughout the state including Paul Quinn College, Huston-Tillotson University, Jarvis Christian College, Texas Southern University, St. Phillip's College, Wiley College and Texas College.

O'Rourke answered questions on a range of topics including voting rights, civil rights, gun violence, healthcare, economic inequity and criminal justice reforms. He also highlighted the tragic death of Sandra Bland, a Prairie View A&M University alumna who died in the custody of the Waller County Sheriff's Department in 2015

Robert Francis "Beto" O'Rourke is an American politician and businessman serving as the U.S. Representative for Texas's 16th congressional district since 2013. He is running for United States Senate against Ted Cruise.

Getting Ahead in a Just Getting by World

by Sandra Fry

An Outhouse is an Outhouse



Sandra Fry

I grew up in rural East Texas, seven miles outside of Jacksonville. In all my years, 61 to be exact, I have not seen dirt as red as East Texas red dirt or clay dirt that tasted as good. My Aunt Earlene, my daddy's sister taught me how to dig for clay dirt, the kind that was edible and so good. Now that I think about it, that clay dirt probably rescued me from visiting the outhouse on a few occasions. Yes ma'am, that is what I said—an outhouse! A stinky little house on the edge of the inner pasture. That outhouse had flies swarming around it and recycled newspaper inside to clean with. Lye was used to deteriorate the waste and kill bacteria. We did manage to keep it somewhat tidy, only because my siblings and I knew what momma would do if we didn't tidy up a bit. Nobody wanted a whipping from momma. Based on what I knew, the outhouse continued to be the norm in rural East Texas, during the 60's and early 70's. We had an outhouse during the first 9-10 years of my life. An outhouse was a part of the rural lifestyle, the same as gardens, field crops, chickens, wash pots, clothes

lines, hogs, cows, goats, horses and predators, e.g., snakes, coons, coyotes, and bobcats, to name a few. Speaking of predators: one dark night, we heard the chickens making all kind of squawking noises. My momma said, "K, my chickens, something is getting my chickens!" A predator had gotten in the chicken house. My momma always called my daddy, K. J. Fry, just K when she was nervous and knew that a situation was beyond her abilities. My daddy, stood on the back steps with his rifle, aimed and shot that predator straight between the eyes. My daddy said that it was a wolf! Now, I know that there is a huge yea and nay debate about wolves in Texas. I believe what my daddy said. That was one of those childhood moments that made me feel safe and secure. A moment that made me feel good about who I was and the person that I am. Even that old outhouse didn't seem so bad and had the honor of sitting closer-in than the chicken house. I know that I am being fretfully nostalgic. Nevertheless, I still have a point to make! The Year 2019 will be here soon, and I am confronted every day with looking at two outhouses setting off in the distance. My sister created a memorial park, for family outings, on her little property in memory of our momma and daddy. She stationed two outdoor portable toilets in the park. In my opinion, an outdoor portable toilet is a fancy name for an outhouse. Therefore, I can see outhouses every time I walk out the back door of my parent's home. I have been pondering on how to turn this situation around. I started life enduring an outhouse. I sure hope that my seasoned and golden years will not include a daily view of an outhouse. Oh well, it could be a lone wolf or a herd of wild hogs (some of them speckled in color) that I see every day. I haven't seen a wolf since I was a child and the wild hogs come around only two or three times a week. Oh mercy, every day an outhouse!

Article by freelance writer: Sandra E. Fry, MAOM Non-Profit Consultant Certified Facilitator of Getting Ahead in a Just Getting by World Author of Sweet Darling Jesus

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alone
in objective thought
as you
consider the direction
of your life.*

~I. Ching

Rusk Leaders Welcome New Rusk State Hospital



Rusk, TX.- Rusk Mayor Angela Raiborn, Rusk City Manager Jim Dunaway, REDCO Director Bob Goldsberry, Rusk ISD Superintendent Grey Burton County Judge Chris Davis, TDCJ Warden William Jones, Rusk Mayor Pro-Tem Walter Session, REDCO Board member Larry Long, REDCO Board member Maxine Session, Kenny Dudley, Charles Hassell and James I Perkins Citizens 1st Bank, David Scott Koenig, RSH Superintendent and Tim Bray, Associate Commissioner Health and Human Services Commission.

Rusk, TX.- Rusk leaders met recently in the Citizens 1st Bank conference room to welcome new Rusk State Hospital Superintendent David Scott Koenig.

The group enjoyed a light lunch and time getting to know each other. Superintendent Koenig and Associate Commissioner Bray gave an update on the RSH building project.

Rosalyn Brown named Rusk City Secretary



Rosalyn Brown

Rusk City Council named Rosalyn Brown as city secretary during the September 23, 2018 meeting, filling the position of Cinda Etheridge, who recently resigned. Rosalyn began working for the city in 2006 as a Departmental Secretary and was promoted to Utility Billing Manager in 2007. Briefly separated from city employment from March 2012

to March 2015, she returned as a Customer Service Representative. She has worked for three city managers and two mayors.

Rosalyn was born in Houston, Texas. Her parents were the late Linda and Joe Brown. She grew up in the Woodville community of Rusk and graduated from Rusk High School in May of 1998. After graduation, Ms. Brown enlisted in the United States Marine Corps, open contract duty service member in October of 1998. Her MOS/3381 was Food Service Specialist. She was Discharged Honorably as a Non-commissioned Officer with 3.5 years of service including an overseas tour in Iwakuni, Japan after which she returned home to Rusk. Upon return she was employed at Rusk State Hospital six years as a Service Assistant I until she was hired by the city in 2006.

Ms. Brown has three daughters. She had this to say, "I have been blessed to have this appointment. I intend to gain knowledge while in this position and to stay as neutral and unbiased as possible in my duties."

Nia Franklin Wins Miss America



By Stacy M. Brown, NNPA
Newswire Contributor

@StacyBrownMedia Nia Franklin became the first Miss America in the post-swimsuit era. An opera singer, Franklin is a native of Winston-Salem, North Carolina and earned her master's degree in music composition from UNC School of the Arts, according to her biography as reported by CNN.

She moved to New York after being accepted at the Kenan Fellow program at Lincoln Center Education in Manhattan.

During the competition, Franklin described how music helped her find her identity.

"I grew up at a predominately Caucasian school and there was only five percent minority, and I felt out of place so much because of the color of my skin," Franklin said. "But growing up, I found my love of arts, and through music that helped me to feel positive about myself and about who I was." "The NNPA Congratulates 2018 Miss America, Nia Franklin. The genius, intelligence, beauty

Pastor Jerry Leviston speaker for Community Wide Pre-Thanksgiving Service



Pastor Jerry Leviston

The Rusk Ministerial Alliance will host its annual Pre-Thanksgiving Service on Sunday evening

November 18, 2018 at 6:00pm. The service will be held at East Side Baptist Church, 400 North Academy Street, Rusk, Texas.

Senior Pastor Jerry Leviston of Mount Olive Baptist Church will be the speaker for the service.

The Ministerial Alliance engages with other churches around the area to unite the community and to bring them to a closer relationship with Jesus. The Alliance offers two scholarships at the end of the school year to two deserving seniors of Rusk High School.

Pastor Leviston and his wife Ann live in Rusk. They are the parents of three children and four grandchildren. He is a veteran, retired Registered Nurse, a member of the Cherokee Brotherhood and a member of the Ministerial Alliance. He has been pastor of Mount Olive Baptist Church for the past six years.

G. W. Bradfordites Celebrate School Memories



Frederick and Valarie Turner- Dallas, Patricia Morris -Rusk, Sandra Carter - Rusk, Jimmy and Essie Turner-Rusk.

Although G. W. Bradford School, ceased to be an institution of learning in 1968, the impact that the principals, teachers and students made on each other and the relationships formed while there still remain a viable part of many of the student's lives. This is evident by the relationships formed then that still exist today. Above pictured are some of the class of 1974 who hosted a reunion for their class and others. The reunion was held at the KOA Conference room in Rusk. Sandra Carter, Patricia Morris, MaLinda Bradley

Farmer, Frederick Turner and John D. Griffith, were among those hosting the event. Callie Dearman attended for her husband the late Charles Wayne Dearman who was a member of the class. Others attending were Ann Dearman, Bessie Willis Harris, Walter and Maxine Session, Joe and Lois Teague, Debra Denman Rushing, J.J. Turner, Marlon Turner, Carla Morris, Malinda Morris, Brandy Morris Attaway and children, Myshiona Stafford, Michelle Turner, Kim and Destiny Morris.



L to R - Letha Colston Northcutt- Jefferson, Mildred Thompson Brown - Dallas, Walter Session- Rusk, Tricia Bradley Watkins - Tyler, Sherman Johnson- Dallas, Dorene King Brock - Houston and Charles VanZandt - Tyler.

The George W. Bradford High School class of 1962 came together recently in a Tyler Restaurant to enjoy each other and a great lunch. This group, along with a few others, bonded years ago and has remained close over the years. May 2018 marked 56 years since their class graduation. Other classmates were

Claudia Johnson Naples, Thomas McKellar, Jerry Wickware, Leo Johnson, Jessie Simmons, Therman(Monk)Smith Hazle Faye Sims Ginger Ruth Thompson, Madeline Thompson, James Howard McDuff, Jimmy Henry, Calene Session, Clarence Shears, Bob Bradley, Sally Jefferson, and Willie Jean Wickware.



Essie Jordon Scott, Gail Session Simmons, Betty Colston Price (not pictured), Patricia Session, Marie Simmons Ealy, Rose Session King, Rena Sturn Tucker, Charlise Foreman Session, Sarai Johnson, Lula Kirkwood Montgomery, Sandra Jones Brown, Charles Turner, Roosevelt Simmons,

The class of 1969 met once since the all school reunion, last held in 2016, for a meet and greet luncheon at Mt. Pleasant Church fellowship hall in Rusk.

They were served a variety of covered dishes and a cake that said class of 1969. They made plans to celebrate their 50th anniversary in May of 2019.

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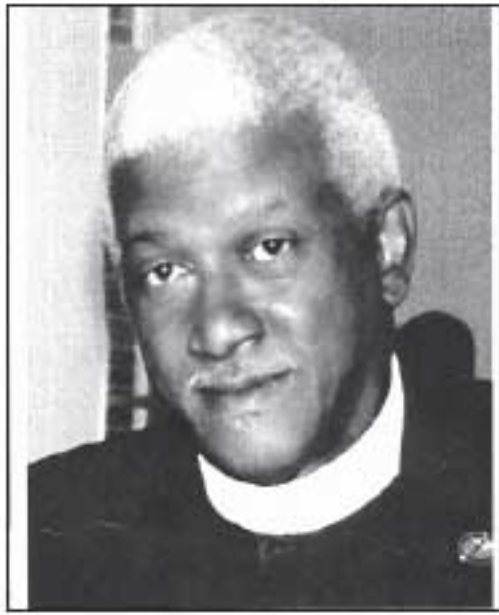
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Obituaries

Rev. Dr. Donald Royce
Madlock, Sr.



Rev. Dr. Madlock held many positions in the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church on local, state and national levels. He served 8 years as National President of the Presiding Elder's Council of the CME Church ending in 2010, he was a member of the general board, Vice Chairman of the Board of Publication Services of the CME Church, a member of the Episcopacy Committee, and Executive Committee member of the Pastors Conference of Prairie View A&M University, past board member of the Congress of National Black Churches, and was appointed a member of the Board of Trustees of Texas College. In 2014, Rev. Madlock was re-elected president of the Presiding Elders' Council of the CME Church.

Rev. Madlock delivered the keynote message at the 1996 CME Convocation in Kansas City Missouri. He also delivered the keynote message at the Minister's Conference in Atlanta, Georgia in 2000. Rev. Madlock was awarded the Senior Minister of the year award in 2000 at Prairie View A&M University, and in 2007 the Outstanding Leadership Award. The Phillips School of Theology (ITC) awarded him the distinguished award for ministry in January 2008. He is a nine-time delegate to the CME General Conference. He was also an Evangelist, preaching all over the United States several revivals each year. On May 19, 2018 the City of Tyler designated that day as "Rev. Donald R. Madlock Sr. Day to be observed annually. Donald passed away from this life on August 12, 2018.

Rev. Madlock is preceded in

Services were held at St. James CME Church, August 18, 2018 in Tyler, Texas for Elder Donald Royce Madlock. He was born to the late Rev. Benjamin F. Madlock and Mildred Warren Madlock on March 22, 1947. He was the younger of two brothers.

Elder Madlock was a 1965 graduate of Emmitt Scott High School. He attended Texas College Tyler, Texas and he received his Masters of Theology Studies and an honorary Doctorate of Divinity from United Theological Seminary, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. He was an ordained Deacon and a Licensed preacher who began his ministry in 1963 at Saint James.

Donald was assigned to the Northwest Texas Annual Conference in 1967, from there to the East Texas Annual Conference for 16 years, then back to his home conference, the Central Texas conference, where he served for 25 years as pastor of Hopewell CME Church Arp, Texas. He was appointed Presiding Elder of the North Tyler District in 1994 by Sr. Bishop Marshall Gilmore.

Library Places Portable Libraries in Local Rusk Area Parks



Rusk Public Library has added a portable library to local parks for the enjoyment of readers. Books have been placed in Jim Hogg Park, Footbridge Park, Butler Park, Conley Park and the Gallatin Community Center. Children and adults have their choice to take a book, leave a book and read a book. Books do not need to be returned to the Singletary Memorial Library.

death by his parents, Rev. Benjamin F. Madlock and Mrs. Mildred Madlock Shaw, one daughter, Donna Madlock Weaver, and one grandson, Brandon J. Madlock.

He leaves to cherish his memory one aunt, Hazel of Pittsburg, California, one brother, Rev. Darryl F. Madlock, Sr. (Gloria) of Tyler, TX., Two sons, Welton Williams III and Donald R. Madlock, Jr. Two daughters, Canji Rhodes and Tanisha Madlock; six grandchildren, Nicole, Asjah, Benjamin, Caylah, Derrick II, and Donovan; one great-grandson Jamari and a host of neices, nephews and other beloved relatives.

Officiating the service were Rev. Brian T. Lightner, Sr. Pastor and Senior Bishop

Lawrence L. Reddick III Eulogist.

Interment was at Evergreen Cemetery, Tyler, Texas under direction of Community Funeral Home.

A Celebration of Life for Sherman Johnson

A celebration of life service will be held for Sherman Johnson of Dallas, formerly of Rusk, Texas on Saturday, October 6, 2018 at 12:00 Noon. The service will be held at Faith Cumberland Presbyterian Church, located at 2903 Al Lipscomb Way, Dallas, Texas.

Sherman passed away Monday morning October 1, 2018 in Dallas.

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COMMENTARY: The Major Role The Catholic Church Played in Slavery



Shackles used on slaves during the trans-Atlantic slave trade

In 2016, Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. offered a public apology after acknowledging that 188 years prior, Jesuit priests sold 272 slaves to save the school from financial ruin.

National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) has launched a global news feature series on the history, contemporary realities and implications of the transatlantic slave trade. This is the second report in the series.

By Stacy M. Brown, NNPA
Newswire Contributor

"When the missionaries arrived, the Africans had the land and the missionaries had the Bible. They taught us how to pray with our eyes closed. When we opened them, they had the land and we had the Bible." — Jomo Kenyatta, First President of Kenya, Africa

Washington, D.C. - September 4, 2018 – The Catholic Church played a vital role in the trans-Atlantic slave trade, according to historians and several published theses on the topic.

The trans-Atlantic slave trade was introduced by the coming of the Europeans who came with the Bible in the same manner that Arab raiders and traders from the Middle East and North Africa introduced Islam through the Trans-Saharan slave trade, according to AfricaW.com, a premiere informational website available throughout the continent.

"In fact, the Church was the backbone of the slave trade," the authors wrote. "In other words, most of the slave traders and slave ship captains were very 'good' Christians."

For example, Sir John Hawkins, the first slave-ship captain to bring African slaves to the Americas, was

crew "serve God daily" and "love one another." His ship, ironically called "The Good Ship Jesus," left the shores of his native England for Africa in October 1562. Some historians argue that if churches had used their power, the Atlantic slave trade might have never occurred.

By the same logic, others argue that the Catholic church and Catholic missionaries could have also helped to prevent the colonization and brutality of colonialism in Africa. However, according to a 2015 Global Black History report, the Catholic church did not oppose the institution of slavery until the practice had already become infamous in most parts of the world. In most cases, the churches and church leaders did not condemn slavery until the 17th century.

The five major countries that dominated slavery and the slave trade in the New World were either Catholic, or still retained strong Catholic influences including: Spain, Portugal, France, and England, and the Netherlands. "Persons who considered themselves to be Christian played a major role in upholding and justifying the enslavement of Africans," said Dr. Jonathan Chism, an assistant professor of history at the University of Houston-Downtown.

"Many European 'Christian' slavers perceived the Africans they encountered as irreligious and uncivilized persons. They justified slavery by rationalizing that they were Christianizing and civilizing their African captors. They were driven by missionary

Further, many Anglo-Christians defended slavery using the Bible. For example, white Christian apologists for slavery argued that the curse of Ham in Genesis Chapter 9 and verses 20 to 25 provided a biblical rationale for the enslavement of Blacks, Chism said.

In this passage, Noah cursed Canaan and his descendants arguing that Ham would be "the lowest of slaves among his brothers" because he saw the nakedness of his father. A further understanding of the passage also revealed that while some have attempted to justify their prejudice by claiming that God cursed the black race, no such curse is recorded in the Bible.

That oft-cited verse says nothing whatsoever about skin color.

Also, it should be noted that Black race evidently descended from a brother of Canaan named Cush. Canaan's descendants were evidently light-skinned – not black. "Truly nothing in the biblical account identifies Ham, the descendant of Canaan, with Africans. Yet, Christian apologists determined that Africans were the descents of Ham," Chism said.

Nevertheless, at the beginning of the sixteenth century, the racial interpretation of Noah's curse became commonplace, he said.

In 2016, Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. offered a public apology after acknowledging that 188 years prior, Jesuit priests sold 272 slaves to save the school from financial ruin. This is how The New York Times first reported the story: The human cargo was loaded on ships at a bustling wharf in the nation's capital, destined for the plantations of the Deep South. Some slaves pleaded for rosaries as they were rounded up, praying for deliverance. But on that day, in the fall of 1838, no one was spared: not the 2-month-old baby and her mother, not the field hands,

not the shoemaker and not Cornelius Hawkins, who was about 13 years old when he was forced onboard.

Their panic and desperation would be mostly forgotten for more than a century. But this was no ordinary slave sale. The enslaved African-Americans had belonged to the nation's most prominent Jesuit priests. And they were sold, along with scores of others, to help secure the future of the premier Catholic institution of higher learning at the time, known today as Georgetown University.

"The Society of Jesus, who helped to establish Georgetown University and whose leaders enslaved and mercilessly sold your ancestors, stands before you to say that we have greatly sinned," Rev. Timothy Kesicki, S.J., president of the Jesuit Conference of Canada and the United States, said during a Liturgy of Remembrance, Contrition, and Hope.

"We pray with you today because we have greatly sinned and because we are profoundly sorry."

During the early republic, Catholics celebrated the new Constitution for its guarantee of religious liberty while simply accepting its guarantee of slaveholding, according to Blackthen.com.

Internal church politics mattered too. When the Jesuit order was suppressed in 1773, the plantation system of the order in Maryland was seen as a protection for their identity and solidarity. The universal church taught that slavery enjoyed the sanction of Scripture and natural law. Throughout the antebellum period, many churches in the South committed to sharing their version of the Christian faith with Blacks. They believed that their version of Christianity would help them to be "good slaves" and not challenge the slave system, Chism said.

"Yet, it is important to note that African Americans made Christianity their own, and Black Christians such as Nat Turner employed Christian thought and biblical texts to resist the slave system. Furthermore, Black and white abolitionist Christians played a major role in overturning the system of slavery," he said.

"We pray with you today because we have greatly sinned and because we are profoundly sorry."

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Rusk City wide cleanup Saturday, October 6, 2018

7:30am - 5:00pm. City workers will monitor dumpsites located at the City Barn on HWY 69 South, and at Conley Park located on Reeder Street. Items that can be accepted are brush, yard waste, bulky items, furniture and other household items, outdoor grills, dishwashers, appliances that do not use freon, paper or cardboard, lawn mowers construction debris, mattresses, wood and metal and water heaters.



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VOTE

**Tuesday, October 9 – The last day to register to
vote**

Monday, October 22 – Early voting begins

Friday, November 2 – Last day of early voting.

Tuesday, November 6 – Election Day

Hollywood's Time



Tribute To Aretha Franklin

By Billy "Hollywood" Groves

America and the world lost a great leader with the recent passing away of Aretha Franklin. Aretha's talented singing took her legacy around the world and it was loved and appreciated by people who didn't even speak English. Aretha connected the dots of race relations together positively everywhere she performed or wherever her music was heard. I can say without reservation, we have had many great entertainers and performers from America who have made a positive impact on the world, but I truly believe Aretha Franklin along with Muhammad Ali have been historically the most loved and respected Americans ever.

When you have the skills and ability to bring people together who really don't like each other and don't have much in common, then you know you are not a normal or average person and the rest of the world knows that as well. When Aretha Franklin came on the stage, everybody started to watch and pay attention to her singing and performing. Wherever her music was heard, her popularity grew and people reacted. She seriously helped race relations in America in those areas where racism was out of control.

Remember Aretha was raised in the church by her parents, her father Rev. C.L. Franklin allowed her to sing to America. The church people of America embraced her music regardless of their religious backgrounds or their racial backgrounds. They recognized and knew that when they heard her music, it was something special and that it was something that you just didn't hear every day and they fully embraced her and her music.

Radio stations across America played her music and gained instant recognition and respect from their listenership. Even now, when you hear the modern day singers sing, especially

the really popular ones and compare their singing to Aretha's singing, you can clearly distinguish the dominance in her voice and style over the current singers. Actually a lot of our modern day singers are using some forms of her singing style, whether they know it or not.

Although Aretha Franklin wasn't a "political" person seeking a governmental office through election; I know she was a "political power" who could have easily won any election, possibly even the President of America if she had decided to do so.

I love and respect Opra Winfrey, who is truly a super star of this era and almost as popular as Aretha, who has also been God Bless Aretha and America! considered as a possible candidate for President of the United States. I can only imagine that it would have been a great time in America if Aretha Franklin could have run for president with Opra Winfrey as her vice president. I know that this is just a thought that can't happen, but Aretha and Opra really could have made America Great!

Since Aretha's death I have heard countless numbers of people, including celebrities from America and all over the world speak progressively about Aretha and her many accomplishments. As a longtime journalist, I have never heard a "superstar's" life being discussed from a positive standpoint and without negative things being said about them. Well, Aretha Franklin was a rare, exceptionally gifted African American Superstar, entertainer and singer, who made our world better during her lifetime.

God shared Aretha Franklin with the world and we were blessed to have had her for the time that she was here. She will forever be remembered as one who gave the people of the world "RESEPECT".

Rusk City wide cleanup
Saturday, October 6, 2018
7:30am - 5:00pm. City workers will monitor dumpsites located at the City Barn on HWY 69 South, and at Conley Park located on Reeder Street. Rusk residents are urged to take advantage of the opportunity to get rid of those large items that cannot be picked up as regular garbage.

Former HISD superintendent blasts district



Former Houston ISD superintendent Richard Carranza is speaking out about his disappointment in HISD's failure to pass major reforms while he was here. Carranza, who now leads the New York public school system after abruptly quitting HISD, said the district lacked the appetite for changes that would boost outcomes for lower-income and minority students. "As soon as I left, it seemed like people just didn't have the stomach to take the fight," Carranza said.

In an interview with Atlantic Magazine, Carranza who was with the district for 18 months, said HISD leaders resisted changes that would benefit historically underserved students, creating inequitable access to quality education among students from all backgrounds.

The Atlantic article largely focused on his immediate reform efforts in New York City, but Carranza didn't mince words as he talked about HISD's current campus funding model and the geographic layout of its magnet schools, which he said have favored students from more affluent and white backgrounds. In the months before his departure from HISD, Carranza proposed shifting toward a more centralized funding model that largely would benefit schools in lower-income and predominantly Black and Hispanic neighborhoods.

You would think if you want to integrate schools and really provide a robust push for the entire system, you would place some really sexy magnet schools in those African-American neighborhoods. No! They were all concentrated in white, upper-middle-class


neighborhoods, so that if you're an African-American student, you have to leave your neighborhood to go to those programs," he said.

Carranza's comments cut to key questions about the district's dedication to impoverished and minority students, while also raising the specter that Carranza's abrupt departure contributed to the proposals stalling. During his tenure the district dealt with

Ultimately, HISD trustees tweaked the district's current campus funding model and shelved the magnet proposals, to Carranza's dismay. However, it is arguable whether trustees resisted Carranza's proposal because they "didn't have the stomach to take the fight." Some trustees embraced Carranza's proposal, but others thought the district administration was moving too hastily and did not provide enough details about the proposal's merits.

"Carranza didn't leave any definite plans on the table. Only ideals," HISD Board President Rhonda Skillern-Jones said. "For me, there were conceptual changes that were never fully vetted or fleshed out by the administration."

The district also was dealing with a large budget deficit and a looming threat of a state takeover of the school system resulting from a state law that required the Texas Education Agency to control operations of any school district in which one or more schools failed to meet state academic standards for five consecutive years, prompting a few trustees to question whether HISD was tackling too much at one time

A photograph of Beto O'Rourke and Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson. Beto is on the left, wearing a light blue button-down shirt, gesturing with his hands as he speaks. Rep. Johnson is on the right, wearing a white top with pink and black stripes, listening attentively. The background is an indoor setting with wood paneling and a light switch.

Beto with Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson

BETO O'ROURKE

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