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# Texas Informer

P. O. Box 332  
Rusk, Texas 75785

Volume 12 No. 4



**Myrtis Dightman, National Cowboy Hall of Fame Inductee hosts rodeo**



**Sixteen year old Jonathan Avant earns Eagle Scout Rank -Pg. 9**



**Comedian and actor Eddie Griffin thrown off stage for using N-word. see page 16**



**Singer and recording artist Tony Henry performs see page 15**



### Letters to the Editor

**Many a good man has failed because he had his wishbone where his backbone should have been.**

~author unknown

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Hello,  
My name is Susann Johnson and I was just reading your article on African American organ donation. On September the 9th it will mark my 4th year anniversary for my kidney transplant. I got lucky, because I did not have to wait long for my kidney. I started dialysis in 2000 I received my transplant in 03 two days after my 37th birthday. I thank God for the person who decided to donate her organs so that I and others might have a second chance at life. But before all of this happen to me I never once considered donating my organs, as a matter of fact one year before I became ill a co-worker had asked me if I would donate my organs. I told him no and he asked me why and I responded that I was born with my organs and I will die with my organs. I do not think that way anymore. Every since my path with kidney problems and transplant I have convinced my family to donate every organ that they have. It's really not a hard thing to do. We as African Americans are always talking about how things are, so why not try and make a difference. Because the life that you save could not just be someone that you know, but it could also be your own.

Thank you  
Susann Johnson  
Longview, Texas



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### What's Cook 'in'?



### Apple Pancakes

1 Tbs. unsalted butter  
5 Tbs. melted butter  
3 Tbs. firmly packed light brown sugar  
3 large Delicious Apples  
1/8 Tbs. ground Ginger  
1/2 Tbs. ground Cinnamon  
1/8 Tbs. grated Nutmeg  
1/8 Tbs. ground Clove  
1/4 Tbs. Salt  
1 cup heavy cream  
2 Tbs. lemon juice  
1/4 cup maple syrup  
1 Tbs. confectioners' sugar  
1 batch filled pancake batter.

In saucepan over low heat, cook for 30 minutes  
1 Tbs. butter, brown sugar, apples, ginger, cloves, nutmeg, 1/4 teaspoon cinnamon and lemon juice. Drain liquid. Beat cream, maple syrup and salt to soft state. Cover and refrigerate.

Brush wells of filled pancake pan with melted butter. Heat over medium heat and butter bubbles. Pour 1 Tbs. batter into each well. Cook 2 minutes. Spoon tsp apple filling into center of each pancake: cook 3 minutes. Transfer to plate and cook remainder of batter in this fashion.

Combine in small bowl confectioner's sugar and 1/4 tsp. cinnamon. Sprinkle on pancakes: serve with maple syrup and top with whipped cream. Makes about twenty-five.

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# Myrtis Dightman, SR. the man behind the Crockett, Texas Rodeo and Trailride

Cover Story

**Crockett, TX.** - Trailrides and local rodeos have been very popular around East Texas with black cowboys and cowgirls since the 1980s.

You won't find black cowboys in Hollywood's old Western movies, except maybe as slaves. You won't find them in history books either. They are the black cowboys of the 1700s, 1800s and 1900s. From the plantations of the South to the plains of Texas, black cowboys made their mark on the cattle industry and rodeos of our nation.

As early as 1825, the Mexican government gave grants to colonists promising to raise cattle on the land. Plantation owners were enticed to come to East Texas in hopes of becoming wealthy. These immigrants came with their wives, children and slaves.

Between 5,000 and 8,000 black cowboys, mostly ex-slaves, are said to have ridden the cattle trails and helped maintained ranches between 1866-1896.

Myrtis Dightman, Sr. of Houston, formerly of Crockett, Texas is a true blue cowboy at heart and spirit, who followed in the footsteps of the early black cowboys. Having qualified for the National Rodeo Finals in 1966, he blazed a trail to the National Rodeo for the black cowboy.

On Labor Day weekend, Saturday September 1, hundreds of Crockett citizens and people from around the state took part in celebrating the nineteenth annual Myrtis Dightman Rodeo. The Rodeo not only celebrates Myrtis Dightman's place in history, but it provides family entertainment and the opportunity for cowboys of today to showcase their skills in riding, roping, steer wrestling and barrel racing.

Myrtis' parents Ada Lee and O. D. Dightman raised him on a ranch. He attended school in Crockett and learned the ins and outs of ranching from O. D. as he worked beside

him on the ranch. In the 1950's he moved to Houston to find a job. Each year he noticed rodeos came to town. He noticed there were never any black cowboys that participated in those rodeos. It bothered him so much that he went to the organizer of one of the rodeos and questioned him. He was told, "You can participate in the rodeo, but the white guys won't like it."

You will be called dirty names and they will mistreat you. "What you should do is start your own rodeo".

So, along with his longtime friend, James Francis, in 1957 Myrtis went to the administrators of Prairie View A & M University, told them his concerns and asked for help. They agreed to help him under one condition, that he would never have alcohol on the campus. The black rodeo and trail rides were organized and became a part of activities held at Prairie View. It was soon taken to Houston. One of the parade routes centered around Shepard Street and Washington Avenue to Memorial Park. Myrtis watched Rodeos on television and never saw black cowboys. Again, this bothered him. "I only

wanted to show the world and other black cowboys that we could be successful in the Rodeo arena",

Mr. Dightman said.

"The judges will not give you the score you deserve.

They will treat you unfairly and mark you down," he was told by his friend Freddie. Against the advice of friends, Myrtis set his heart on competitions that would get him to the National Rodeo. He was a diesel truck driver, but he started fighting bulls as a rodeo clown. In 1961 he began riding bulls. It was difficult, because he never got the score to place.

He would alternate between riding bulls and driving truck. Soon after entering the arena, Dightman earned the respect of cowboys of all races.

Finally, in 1964 he placed 15th. In 1966, he became the first black cowboy to qualify for the National Finals Rodeo. In 1967 he finished third in Bull Riding World Standings. He went seven times to the National Rodeo. When he was in California he was approached by Charlie Sampson wanting him to teach him to ride bulls. The first time Dightman told him to finish school, then he would help him. He became Charlie's mentor, teaching him what he knew. When he became famous, Myrtis received a call to come to California to pull Charlie's rope in championship competition.

During the era of segregation he often slept in his car rather than risk being turned away from hotels. In the dangerous world of professional rodeo, he worried more about Brahma

Bulls than he did racial prejudice. In 1982, Charlie Sampson became the first Black Cowboy to win a world championship. It was fitting that Myrtis was one of the first to offer his hand in congratulations. Dightman wasn't the first black cowboy to compete in the R. C. A., but he was the first serious contender for the world title.

Myrtis Dightman was inducted into the *National Cowboy Hall of Fame* in 1997, the *Texas Rodeo Cowboy Hall of Fame* in 2001, and the *Ring of Honor* at the 2003 PBR Ford Built Tough World Finals in Las Vegas. He has one movie to his credit for acting in "J. W. Coop" starring Cliff Roberson, John Crawford and Christina Ferrare.

Myrtis has five children and grandchildren. His mother, Ada Lee, still lives in Crockett and he still has three sisters Earlie Mae Martin, Lillian Bell and Nannie Francis. He comes to Crockett every two weeks to visit family and take care of the Dightman Ranch. More than 19 years ago he brought the rodeo to Crockett. "It was difficult to find a place to hold it the first time", Mr. Dightman stated, "but after the permit holders checked me out and found what my record looked like, the permit was issued and we have had no problems since. I do start in a timely manner each year by taking care of the necessary things to hold the parade and rodeo."

September 1, 2007 The 19th Annual Labor Day Weekend Myrtis Dightman, Sr. Rodeo was held at the Porth Agriculture Indoor Arena in Crockett with participants from around the states and fans filling every section.

The world's only living Black National Cowboy Hall of Fame inductee was there to mingle with fans and participants and to enjoy the day. He spends his Sundays driving the church bus for Rev. Ed Young at Second Baptist Church, Houston and his days enjoying his buddies and of course horses, at J. W. Marshall's Big Ten Ranch in Houston, Texas.



Rider prepares to rope, throw and tie calf.



Myrtis Dightman, Jr. and J. T. Thomas  
deco, he worried more about Brahma



## Asian Art Expert to Speak on Chinese Landscape Screens

TYLER, TX—Art enthusiasts will get their first opportunity to view a pair of mid-18th century folding screens painted by one of Japan's most prolific and eccentric artists during a special lecture and reception set for September 29 at 4 p.m. at the Tyler Museum of Art, 1300 S. Mahon. The pair of six-fold screens known as Chinese Landscape were painted by Soga Shohaku (Japanese, 1730-1781) around 1770. The screens were recently donated to the TMA by the late Julietta Jarvis of Troup, a long-time supporter of the Museum and active member until her death in April 2007. The lecture and reception, sponsored by Eleanor and Harold Cameron, are open to the public; reservations should be requested by calling 903-595-1001.

Shohaku, considered one of the most important painters of Japan's Edo period (1515-1868), is often credited as being the vanguard for his contemporaries, encouraging other artists to be bold in showing their individuality, as he did in his many expressive, energetic paintings. The Chinese landscape scene on the Jarvis screens was a common subject in Japanese art of the time. This addition to the TMA permanent collection puts the Museum in excellent company, as other Shohaku screens are included in the collections of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Art Institute of Chicago, the Museum of Fine Arts of Boston, the Kimbell Art Museum in Fort Worth, the Cleveland Museum of Art, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, the Kyoto National Museum, the British Museum and many others.

Emily J. Sano, Ph.D., director of the Asian Art Museum of San Francisco, will speak at the Tyler Museum of Art event with a lecture entitled "Soga Shohaku: An 18th Century Eccentric Painter." Dr. Sano joined the Asian Art Museum's staff as chief curator, deputy director and chief administrative officer in January 1993. Prior to that time she served as deputy director of collections and exhibitions and senior curator of non-Western art at

the Dallas Museum of Art. She has also worked in similar capacities for the Kimbell Museum in Fort Worth. At both institutions, Dr. Sano organized exhibitions and displays of Chinese, Indian, Indonesian, Islamic and Japanese art, including the landmark exhibition, "The Great Age of Japanese Buddhist Sculpture" at the Kimbell in 1982, the first major showing of Japanese sculpture ever presented in the United States. The catalogues of two other important exhibitions organized by Dr. Sano, "The Blood of Kings: A New Interpretation of Maya Art" (1984) and "Painters of the Great Mind: The Imperial Court and the Che School" (1993) received the College Art Association's Alfred Barr Award for the most distinguished work of scholarship in an exhibition publication.

"This is an incredible opportunity for East Texans to hear from a world-renowned expert in the field of Asian art," said Kimberley Tomio, TMA director. "We are very appreciative of the donation of these beautiful screens and the generosity of the Camerons for helping us share knowledge of them with the public."

Dr. Sano received her undergraduate degree at Indiana University, master of arts and master of philosophy degrees from Columbia University in New York, and her Ph.D. in art history from Indiana University. She has lectured and published worldwide and is the recipient of many professional grants and honors, including Fulbright-Hays, Carnegie, Woodrow Wilson, and Metropolitan Foundation awards.

This special TMA Fall Lecture coincides with the current exhibition, "Curator's Choice: Selections from the Permanent Collection." The free exhibition, showing in the Bell Gallery through January 20, 2008, includes numerous rarely-seen pieces from the Museum's 800+ piece permanent collection. The Chinese Landscape screens will be on display only through October 7, as various pieces from the permanent collection are rotated through the exhibition creating a continuously changing experience for TMA visitors. Exhibition hours are Tuesdays through Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sundays 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. For more information visit [www.tylermuseum.org](http://www.tylermuseum.org) or call 903-595-1001.

**Happy Birthday**

**Chanda Anderson**

**September 13th**

*Watch a sunrise at least  
once a year.*

## Rev. Jessie Jackson and Rev. Al Sharpton to Lead group for Jena 6

JENA, La.(BlackWeb.com). Jesse Jackson and Rev. Al Sharpton will gather with thousands in Jena Louisiana on September 20th to protest charges against six Black Jena teens. The two civil rights leaders are demanding a federal investigation into the treatment of the teens in the beating of a white classmate.

September 20th is the day that one of the six, Mychal Bell, is to be sentenced on an aggravated second-degree battery conviction. Bell faces up to 15 years in prison. "After that, if we need to, we'll go to Baton Rouge and see the governor and the Legislature," Sharpton said Sunday by phone from New York.

The "Jena Six" case drew protests after five of the six teens were originally charged with attempted second-degree murder and conspiracy to commit murder, carrying sentences of up to 80 years in prison. The sixth was charged in juvenile court.

The beating victim, who is white, was treated for injuries at a hospital and released the same day, and a motive for the alleged Dec. 4 attack at Jena High School was never established.

Sharpton said he would ask for an investigation by the state attorney general and judicial oversight agencies into the actions of LaSalle Parish District Attorney Reed Walters, who has led the prosecutions. A telephone message left at Walters' residence was not returned Sunday. He has previously said he cannot comment because of the pending cases. The Rev. Jesse Jackson spoke to about 200 people at a school

Sunday in Jena, where he urged the town's 3,000 residents to come together - white ministers and black ministers talking and white parents and black parents talking.

"Why be fighting when we can turn to each other and find common ground?" Jackson said. "Jena is too small not to move together."

He said he planned to try to meet Monday with Bell, who remains in jail and unable to post bond, as well as officials at the courthouse.

"We don't want this community to be permanently scarred," Jackson said.

The beating came amid tense race relations in Jena, a mostly white town in north-central Louisiana. After a black student sat under a tree on the school campus where white students traditionally congregated, three nooses were hung in the tree. Students accused of placing the nooses were suspended from school for a short period. Six black youths called the Jena Six have faced criminal charges and the possibility of spending up to 22 years in jail in connection with a fight with a white student at Jena High School on Dec. 4.

The civil rights leader said he met with the LaSalle Parish sheriff on Sunday and had hopes of meeting with LaSalle Parish District Attorney Reed Walters and the judge on the case. He said he plans to meet Monday meeting with area ministers and leaders to discuss strategy.

"American justice is on trial in Jena. The world is watching," Jackson told BlackAmericaWeb.com. "The more outside pressure is applied, the greater the impact."

**Kimberly Peoples Davis and Derrick Davis, Sr.  
Announce  
the birth of their son  
Derrick J. Davis, Jr.  
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# Hollywood's Time

by Billy "Hollywood" Groves (Sept.-07)

## Black Media A Necessary Tool

Crockett, TX. - As a people we have come a long way since slavery. Many in our race have achieved astounding success in their lives. We are making more money than ever before. We are accepted in more places than ever before as a race in the history of America. Yet, something just isn't right with the condition of Black folks in the United States. Aids, high unemployment, the prison industrial complex, apathy about voting, no banking system, racism, along with a distrust of each other (which prevents us from working together) are some of the problems. The lack of a strong Black media presence is also definitely a problem of major proportions for modern day African Americans. As a freedom fighting journalist, I don't just tell about what's happening to my people, I fight for freedom and I write about solutions

to the problems. The first bit of information that I offer my people is, "We must support Black media outlets, such as the Informer Newspaper of Walter and Maxine Session, as well as every other positive Black media outlet that we have." Wasn't it Hosea in the Bible who said, "My people perish for the lack of knowledge"? It's as true today as it was two thousand and some years ago. Once we get our Black media together, then we can get all of our people on the same page. God Bless America, Africa and Black media outlets which constantly remind us that the issues of African Americans are important to Black people, if no one else! The Myrtis Dightman Labor Day Rodeo was held labor day weekend at the Porth Agriculture Arena in Crockett to a packed house of enthusiastic rodeo fans. Legendary African American cowboy, Myrtis Dightman of Houston, a Crockett native participated in the parade and other



festivities of the Rodeo. Dightman, a member of the Cowboy Hall of Fame told me he still enjoys riding in his rodeo and helping the young people of East Texas any way that he can. He added that this year's Rodeo had cowboys and cowgirls from all over the state and other states competing for prizes. Houston businessman J.T. Thompson, a Crockett native, hosted the First Annual Labor Day Western Fashion Show at the Crockett Civic Center, in conjunction with the Myrtis Dightman Rodeo. Singer Tony Henry of Houston, a Crockett High graduate, who recently signed a contract with hit rapper Chamelionaire, was the featured singer. Megan Cook, a singer, dancer and rodeo performer from Grapeland displayed her singing talent at the Western Fashion Show. Tayo the Poet of Houston, who plays a harmonica and had a lead role in the movie "Deadly Wordz" was there with Anthony Henry. Gospel Singer, David Walker and Serenity will be performing in the near future at the Lone Star Cowboy Church in Montgomery, Texas. For more information on the concert, contact [www.dwserenity.com](http://www.dwserenity.com) Ricky Mitchell of Crockett and Grapeland is the hard working father of a nine month old daughter, Kashia Mitchell. Ricky is the son of Rena Fay and

Leotis Mitchell of Grapeland and attends Jones Chapel Church in Crockett. "Stay out of trouble, stay away from drugs and get a job that you can do", was his advice for young people. Ricky calls Crockett City Councilman, Nathan "Brother Nate" Gardner his role model, along with his parents. He often volunteers his time to helping the city of Crockett and positive places like the Groves Educational Foundation in Crockett.

Kudos go out to Los Angeles Actor, promoter, comedian Robert "Wyatta" Wyatt, a Crockett native who is bringing top music talent to East Texas. Michael Henderson, Midnight Star and Cherelle are the latest singing legends who are scheduled to perform in Crockett at the Civic Center. Wyatta told me he will be bringing the top entertainment to his home town on a regular basis in the future.

East Texas thanks go out to Dr. Ianthia Fisher, The Johnson Boys of the Dead End Barbershop, Rev. Hosea Dolphus, Sis. Earlie Groves, Rev. R. C. Emanuel, George and Dr. Helen King, Agnes Rhoder, Mr. and Mrs. Otis Wooten, Dr. Ruth Watson, Victoria Essien, Rev. and Mrs. Brenda Atchison, Melvis Wooten, John McKnight, Leslie Denman, Joe Batts, Rev. O.T. Harris, Rev. Shannon Harris, Marcus and Krystal Ward Carter.

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# Jena 6: Justice Sought for Black Students who Sat Under "Whites Only" Tree

In a small highly segregated rural Louisiana town of Jena in September 2006, a black student asked permission from school administrators to sit under the shade of a tree commonly reserved for the enjoyment of white students. School officials advised the black students to sit wherever they wanted and they did. The next day, three nooses, in the school colors, were hanging from the same tree. The Jena high school principal found that three white students were responsible and recommended expulsion. The white superintendent of schools over-ruled the principal and gave the students a three day suspension, saying that the nooses were "a youthful stunt." Black students decided to resist and organized a sit-in under the tree to protest the lenient treatment given to the noose-hanging white students. Racial tensions remained elevated throughout the fall. On Monday, December 4 2006, a white student who allegedly had been racially taunting black students in support of the students who hung the nooses got into a fight with black

student was taken to the hospital treated, released, reportedly attended a social function later that evening. As a result of this incident, six black Jena students were arrested and charged with attempted second degree murder. All six were expelled from school. The six charged were: 17-year-old Robert Bailey Junior whose bail was set at \$138,000; 17-year-old Theo Shaw - bail \$130,000; 18-year-old Carwin Jones--bail \$100,000; 17-year-old Bryant Purvis--bail \$70,000; 16 year old Mychal Bell, a sophomore in high school who was charged as an adult and for whom bail was set at \$90,000; and a still unidentified minor. On the morning of the trial, the District Attorney reduced the charges from attempted second degree murder to second degree aggravated battery and conspiracy. Aggravated battery in Louisiana law demands the attack be with a dangerous weapon. The prosecutor was allowed to argue to the jury that the tennis shoes worn by Bell could be considered a dangerous weapon. When the pool of potential jurors was summoned, fifty people ap-

found Mychal Bell guilty on the maximum possible charges of aggravated second degree battery and conspiracy. He faces up to a maximum of 22 years in prison. The rest of the Jena 6 await similar trials. Theodore Shaw is due to go on trial shortly. Mychal Bell is scheduled to be sentenced September 20th. If he gets the maximum sentence he will not be out of prison until he is nearly 40.

As Chairman Julian Bond stated, "This is an American outrage that demonstrates the continuing shame of racial division in our country. It is unacceptable to selectively enforce the law based on race. Prosecutorial discretion should be used in a fair and equitable manner."

The Jena Six should be tried by juries that reflect the racial and ethnic demographics of Jena, Louisiana.

The hanging of nooses is not a "youthful stunt" or "prank." It is a hate crime. Such hate crimes should not be tolerated at any school. Jena High School must establish a curriculum which promotes cultural sensitivity and understanding. The NAACP calls on Louisiana Governor Kathleen B. Blanco and Louisiana Attorney General Charles C. Foltz to thoroughly investigate and monitor the trials of Mychal Bell, Robert Bailey, Jr., Theo Shaw, Carwin Jones, Bryant Purvis and John Doe. The Governor and State Attorney General should do everything in their power to ensure that these young men's constitutional rights are protected.

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# The Texas NAACP Jury Project

by Erica Adams

Austin, TX. - Starting this month the Texas State Conference of the NAACP, with a grant from the Open Society Institute, has embarked on an extensive year-long study of the experience of minorities on juries in Texas. Spurred by troubling evidence that rates of minority participation on juries are considerably lower than they should be, the study seeks to isolate and analyze the different variables that impact rates of minority participation on juries. We are particularly interested in the use of peremptory strikes by prosecutors as a tactical tool to influence the make-up of juries (in light of evidence obtained in other studies suggesting that blacks are especially likely to be "struck" from juries in this manner). The NAACP's work on this issue is motivated by the spirit of the Supreme Court's Batson decision, which makes it unconstitutional to strike citizens from juries purely on the basis of race. As with all things, the State Confer

ence is depending heavily on its local branches to bring this project to fruition, as much of the study consists of gathering anecdotal input from community residents in hopes of capturing evidence of larger trends. Also, local courts are being asked to provide documents, such as jury cards, that will allow for the generation of hard statistics on minority participation. We also ask for your help. Please fill out the accompanying survey and return it to your local branch. Or, if you prefer, mail it to our state office at 1107 E. 11th St, Ste. A Austin, TX 78702.

The end goal is to propose a legislative remedy for what we see as a real, systemic problem. With this study providing a comprehensive account of the experience of the minority juror in Texas, the Texas NAACP hopes to ensure that African-American and other racial and ethnic minorities are able to serve on juries to the fullest extent possible.

# DONNIE MCCLURKIN RECEIVES 2007 RECORDING ACADEMY HONORS

Los Angeles, CA (BlackNews.com) - Grammy Award winning gospel singer Donnie McClurkin has been named a recipient of the New York Chapter's Recording Academy Honors 2007 for his significant contributions and achievements that has enriched the musical community.

McClurkin will join an elite host of honorees including music veteran Bon Jovi, R&B artist Alicia Keys and the creators of "West Side Story" for a black tie gala Wednesday, Sept. 26 at New York City's Cipriani Wall Street. The event will attract recording artists, key entertainment executives and community leaders. The Recording Academy Honors celebrates outstanding individuals whose work embodies excellence. Los Angeles, CA (BlackNews.com) - Grammy Award winning gospel singer Donnie McClurkin has been named a recipient of the New York Chapter's Recording Academy Honors 2007 for his significant contributions and achievements that has enriched the musical community.

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Noted as Gospel's premier male vocalist, a master songwriter and profound minister, McClurkin became a household name after the release of his self titled CD in 1996. The project featured the single "Stand", the song that became his signature and after being lauded by talk show host Oprah Winfrey was gold in two weeks.

The debut CD led to other gold albums including The McClurkin Project which reunited him with his first group of childhood singers and the double platinum-selling Live From London And More, recorded in England. McClurkin expanded beyond the gospel base with the hit single "We Fall Down," which was heard internationally on R&B, and adult contemporary radio formats as well.

McClurkin reached even greater heights with his latest platinum-selling Psalms, Hymns & Spiritual Songs, a collection of church favorites coupled with renditions of Richard Smallwood's "Total Praise" and "Ooh Child" featuring Kirk Franklin. The double disk CD set has crossed both Christian and Gospel genres with McClurkin's unique and original style, taking you from church to worship.

His many successes are evident by the number of awards he has received including: a 2007 Trumpet Award; two Grammy awards, a NAACP Image Award, a BET Award, a Soul Train Music Award and two Doves and numerous Stellar Awards. McClurkin's accomplishments have placed him on an international platform as a highly requested psalmist and preacher. On Sept. 18 he will share the stage with an all-star line up -- Stevie Wonder, Aretha Franklin, Jessye Norman, BeBe and CeCe Winans, Carlos Santana, Garth Brooks, Queen Latifah, John Legend, Baby Face among others -- for The Dream Concert to benefit the building of the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial Project Foundation. The concert, which is being held at the Radio City Music Hall, will benefit the construction of the King memorial on the National Mall in Washington D.C. McClurkin's goal is to reach the people by spreading the gospel.



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Happy Birthday  
Kathy  
September 26

Happy Birthday  
Daphne  
September 10th!



## Disenfranchising Of Prisoners and Former Convicts Suppress Black Vote

by Dr. Henrie Treadwell

Atlanta, GA (BlackNews.com) -

When men and women are incarcerated for crimes, the jail and prison time is meant to be their penance. But in many states, prisoners and former inmates find that another severe penalty awaits — disenfranchisement. For decades,

America has struggled with how to reintegrate prisoners back into society. As the inmate population has exploded, so has that challenge. Clearly, the stigma of being an ex-convict impacts their ability to gain acceptance in their communities, and makes it difficult to find a job. But should these men and women also lose their right to vote, which is such a fundamental part of our society? For decades, America has struggled with how to reintegrate prisoners back into society. As the inmate population has exploded, so has that challenge. Clearly, the stigma of being an ex-convict impacts their ability to gain acceptance in their communities, and makes it difficult to find a job. But should these men and women also lose their right to vote, which is such a fundamental part of our society? Moreover, with African Americans comprising half of the nation's prison population, yet only 12 % of the general public, disenfranchising felons has emerged as a modern version of the Jim Crow era's poll tax — an effective way to suppress black votes.

When a handful of votes and Supreme Court intervention decided the presidency in 2000, it underscored the importance of everyone's vote. But about six million people can't vote today because of state laws restricting the voting rights of former convicts. In 2000, nearly 4.7 million Americans were ineligible to vote, by 2004 the number rose to 5.3 million and it continues to climb.



A large number of disenfranchised former convicts reside in four southern states — Alabama, Florida, Kentucky and Virginia. In these states alone, nearly 1.5 million people are prevented from voting. To put that number in perspective, it is roughly the same number of people whose votes weren't counted because of faulty voting machines in the shenanigans surrounding the 2000 presidential election.

America's discrimination against former inmates is unique in the world. Most other Western democracies have national voting standards, rather than leaving it to states or provinces; other countries also don't restrict voting for men and women who have served their prison time. By contrast in America, there are 35 states prohibiting felons from voting while they are on parole; 30 states preventing felony probationers from voting; and 14 states precluding former felons who have completed their sentence from voting.

The state laws are so varied that from jurisdiction to jurisdiction there is no consistency on what convictions will trigger a loss of voting rights. Only 1.4 million of the people disenfranchised in 2004 were actually behind bars. The rest were living in communities, trying to re-establish their lives on parole, probation or after completing their sentence.

With race playing such a significant role in the criminal justice process, this added penalty is another blow to black communities. Data shows that blacks are prosecuted more often than whites who commit similar crimes, and blacks are offered less attractive plea bargains, leaving large numbers of disenfranchised men and women. By taking away their voting power, it weakens the clout of black communities not only on election day, but every time the communities advocate for policy changes. Even more troubling is evidence that the laws governing the restricting of voting rights to former inmates have been manipulated specifically as part of a pattern to suppress the votes of African Americans. Throughout the south, several states have revised their constitutions and criminal codes to target minorities by

## Comptroller's Amnesty Program Snares More Than \$100 Million in Delinquent Taxes

(Austin) — Comptroller Susan Combs' tax amnesty program, Project Fresh Start, brought in more than \$100 million in unpaid taxes, including more than \$90 million in state taxes and more than \$10 million owed to local governments. "These successful results far exceed our expectations," Combs said. "The tax amnesty brought in \$47 million in sales tax, \$46 million in franchise tax and varying amounts of 19 other taxes." During the Project Fresh Start amnesty period, June 15 through Aug. 15, a total of 1,258 businesses reported and paid delinquent taxes. About 3 percent to 5 percent were taxpayers operating businesses without required tax permits and without paying state taxes. In exchange for their cooperation and payment, the new Comptroller waived penalty and interest charges normally added to delinquent taxes.

"Now that these businesses have a fresh start, I hope they will

continue to be honest, law-abiding taxpayers," Combs said. "The new businesses we have added to the tax rolls will generate revenues for the state and local governments for many years to come."

Only businesses with tax deficiencies that had not yet been discovered by the Comptroller's office were eligible for the amnesty. Businesses that were being audited and businesses the Comptroller's office had already contacted regarding delinquent taxes were not eligible.

"I want to thank and commend every business owner who did the right thing and came forward to clear up unpaid, underreported and overdue taxes," Combs said. "I am committed to seeing to it that every business meets its obligation to pay its fair share of taxes."

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## Eagle Court of Honor held for Eagle Scout Jonathan Avant



L to R-State Representative Chuck Hopson, Eagle Scout Jonathan Avant, Janice Hamilton (Jonathan's Mom), and Billie Hopson.

Rusk, TX.- Jonathan Avant, son of Janet Hamilton, received the Eagle Badge Scouting Award August 19, 2007 when Boy Scout Troop 405 held the Eagle Court of Honor for him. The ceremony was held at Rusk Junior High and was well attended by his family, friends, fellow scouts and state and local dignitaries.

Eagle Scout Michael White opened the ceremony and Eagle Scout Lucas Turner gave the Color Guard Presentation. Troop 405 conducted the candle lighting and Jason Hoffman, First Baptist Youth minister, gave the invocation. The Eagle Honor Guard gave the significance of the Eagle Badge and the Nacogdoches Order of the Arrow was on hand to present the Eagle Ceremony. Jonathan's mother had the honor of pinning him. Eagle Scout Kelly Clay gave the new Eagle Change, Life Scout Bob Goldsberry, Troop 405 Scout Master, and Debbie White Advanced Chairman took part in recognizing Jonathan for his accomplishments.

Janet Hamilton was recognized for the support and encouragement she has given Jonathan over the years which contributed to his scouting success.

Honored guest and award presenters present were State Representative Chuck Hopson and wife Billie who presented Jonathan with a State Flag which has flown over the Capitol, Richard Sanders with Congressman Jeb Hensarling's Office, Lodge Advisor

Millan O'Neal Order of the Arrow Tejas Lodge 72, East Texas Area Council African American Scout Representative Larnie Jackson, Eagle Scout John Moring East Texas Area Council District Executive, Commander Ken McClure Sons of the Confederacy, and members of the Tejas Lodge 72. Present also was Jonathan's Uncle, Dr. Freddie Avant, SFA Professor and wife.

Life Scout Bob Goldsberry praised Jonathan describing him as an outstanding young man who has exhibited perseverance, dedication, hard work, exceptional ability and devotion. These qualities earned Jonathan elevation to Eagle Rank. He also stated that only 3% of Scouts make it to this Rank. Records available show that Jonathan is one of the youngest scouts to make Eagle Rank and the only African American in East Texas. He received over 100 letters from dignitaries including Senator Kay Bailey Hutcherson and Condoleezza Rice.

Jonathan started scouting as a Cub in Rusk earning the Bear, Wolf and Webelos Ranks and then the Arrow of Light. He then crossed over to Troop 405 and became a Tenderfoot Scout in 2003. Since then he has earned merit badges: Camping, Citizenship in the community, Nation and World, Communications, Emergency Preparedness, Environmental Science, First Aid, Personal Management, Safety, Swimming, American Heri-



Ayrric Jones, Drate Berry, Clinton Wilbanks, Robert Westmoreland, Brian Allen-members of the Eagle Honor Guard and Jonathan Avant.

tag, Astronomy, Cooking, Forestry, Disabilities Awareness, Horsemanship, Indian Lore, Motor Boating, Painting, Pulp and Paper, Space Exploration, Stamp Collecting, Wilderness, Survival, Shotgun Shooting, Family Life, Crime Prevention, Music, Computers, Pets and Reading.

He earned the following patches: Donor Awareness, Price of Freedom Trail, Texas Heritage Trail, A Scout is Reverent, Good Turn For America 2005, 2006 and 2007. Scouts and Lions Award, Home

town USA, Outdoor Cooking, Community Service, and On My Honor. He volunteers in the community and church in projects too numerous to name. At Rusk High he is a member of Student Council, tutors math, pulls chairs for hand concerts, helps clean tables after lunch, is a member of band since 6th grade and is involved with the youth in his church. He is Troop 405 member of the Order of the Arrow and is Senior Patrol Leader. A reception was held afterwards.



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## Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Clinic set



L to R -Maribel Arredondo R.N. BSN of Cherokee County Health Department, Louraisal McDonald, County Extension Agent-Family & Consumer Sciences Texas Cooperative Extension and Mary Mitchell L.V.N. of Cherokee County Health Department reviewing educational Material for the new Breast & Cervical Cancer Screening Program.

Cherokee County Health Department has been awarded a grant to offer Breast and Cervical Cancer Services (BCCS) to uninsured low income women in Cherokee and surrounding counties. To celebrate October Breast Cancer

Awareness Month and to kick off its new BCCS program, Cherokee County Health Department has partnered with the Texas Cooperative Extension Agency and the Linwood Baptist Church to host the first BCCS Clinic on October

18th. The clinic will be located at the health department, 593 N. Main Street in Rusk. Linda Henderson, BSN, NP, will provide the screens on that day and be available to answer questions.

The Breast and Cervical Cancer Services program provides clinical breast examinations, Pap test, education, and other diagnostic services at low cost to eligible women. Eligible women age 50 and over and any woman with an abnormal clinical breast exam will be referred for a mammogram at no additional cost. Eligible women who have a positive finding may also be eligible for cancer treatment through the Medicaid Treatment Act program.

Breast cancer is the second most common cancer diagnosed among women in Texas. Cervical cancer ranks seventh in the leading cancers diagnosed among Texas women. Surviving breast or cervical cancer depends on how early the cancer is detected. The best way to detect breast or cervical cancer in its early stages is through regular screenings.

Most doctors feel that early detection test for breast cancer save many thousands of lives each year. Many more lives could be saved if

### Women's Health

even more women and their health care providers took advantage of these tests. Following the American Cancer Society guidelines for the early detection of breast cancer improves the chances that breast cancer can be diagnosed at an early stage and treated successfully.

Women in their 20's and 30's should have a clinical breast exam (CBE) as part of a periodic (regular) health exam provided by a health professional. It is preferable to have these exams every three years. After the age of 40, women should have a breast exam by a health professional every year. Women age 40 and older should have screening mammogram every year and should continue to do so for as long as they are in good health.

About 3,670 women will die from cervical cancer in the United States during 2007. Cervical cancer was once one of the most common causes of cancer death for American women.

For more information and an appointment, please call the Cherokee County Health Department at 903-683-4688. Eligibility screens can be done over the phone.

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### Baby Birth Announced

Thomas and Cynthia Peoples announce the birth of their son Patrick David. Patrick was born in Arlington, Texas on August 23, 2007 weighing in at seven pounds, one ounce and twenty-three inches long. Proud grandparents are H. P. and Hallie Peoples of Jacksonville.

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## Texas Publishers Association Hosts Local Meeting In Dallas

*TPA Newswire* - The Texas Publishers Association monthly meeting was held August 11, 2007 at the Dallas Sheraton Suites Inn. An Executive session began at 9:00AM followed by the regular session at 10:00AM. The Association launched an Organ Donor Campaign for the month of August. The campaign objective is to increase the number of African American organ donors. According to statistics, African Americans makeup about 27% of those awaiting a transplant, while only 12% of all donors are black.

A special luncheon for the publishers, their staff and special guest began at 11:30AM. Guest speaker was Mikel Watts, San Antonio Democratic candidate for U. S. Senate who is running against Republican Senator John Cornyn. Watts formed an exploratory committee on June 1, 2007 and has since raised \$1.1 Million dollars in his bid to challenge Cornyn. Accompanying Watts was Tommy Calvert, Jr., also of San Antonio. Daniel Clayton of Austin, President of The Texas Coalition of Black Democrats was also a special guest.

Texas Publishers Association officers present were Hattie Kelly, President and publisher of Power

Pages News of Farmerville; Mollie Finch Belt, Vice President and publisher of The Dallas Examiner; Maxine Burley Session, Treasurer and publisher of The Texas Informer of Rock and Tommy Wyatt, Parliamentarian and publisher of The Villager of Austin.

Other publishers present were Ali Hnasch, San Antonio Observer; Walter Session, The Texas Informer; Willie Hobdy, Kuumba Heritage of Greenville; Thurman Jones, MON-The Gazette of North Dallas/Plano and Richard Nwachukwu, The African Herald of Dallas. TPA will hold the next meeting in Tyler, Texas on September 8, 2007.

Other Texas African American Newspapers participating in the Organ Donor Campaign are: Elite News -Dallas, Garland News Journal, Metroplex Southstar - Southern Dallas County, Corsicana Examiner, African News and Issues - Houston, Dallas Post Tribune, East Texas Review - Longview, Ebony News Journal - Tyler, Houston Forward Times, Houston Defender, Houston Style Magazine, Noks The Observer - Austin, San Antonio Register, Southwest Digest-Lubbock and The Dallas Weekly.

## New Blog Offers Free Business Coaching Service To African American Entrepreneurs



Columbus, OH - Dante Lee, the young entrepreneur who owns Diversity City Media, has launched a blog to allow others to pick his brain.

The blog is called The Black Business Coach (available at [www.BlackBusinessCoach.com](http://www.BlackBusinessCoach.com)), and it offers free daily advice, tips, and strategies for African American entrepreneurs. "Black-owned businesses are nearly 3 times as likely to fail than other businesses," Lee says. "My goal is help Black entrepreneurs succeed, and avoid making the critical mis A blog (also known

as a web log) is a web-based publication consisting of regularly updated entries or articles displayed in reverse chronological order. Blogs takes read like a diary or journal, and are 100% FREE to subscribe to.

Other notables that have blogs include: Donald Trump, Al Roker, Bill Maher, Star Jones, and Paris Hilton.

Dante Lee is the young African American author and entrepreneur who founded Diversity City Media - a multicultural marketing and public relations firm.

Founded in the year 2000 and based in Columbus, Ohio, his award-winning company helps Fortune 500 advertisers reach African American consumers online.

The company is highly regarded in the multicultural marketing industry, and has annual billings of more than \$500,000. Their long-time clients include Nationwide Insurance, Choice Hotels, McDonald's, BET, NASCAR, Marriott, Verizon, Toyota, and TV One.

To subscribe to his blog, visit: [www.BlackBusinessCoach.com](http://www.BlackBusinessCoach.com)

## Fred Douglass High School Alumni Hosts Reunion

-by Hazel Peoples Doty

Fred Douglass High School Alumni Association celebrated the eleventh reunion anniversary July 27, 28, 29, 2007 at The Landmark, Jacksonville, Texas. The Theme, "Celebrating Our Legacy - Embracing The Memories" was appropriate for the occasion.

The class of 1957 celebrated their fifty year graduation anniversary.

Members of the class of 1957 in attendance were: Hazel Peoples Doty of Jacksonville, Jeannie Fry Brown of Athens, Donald Waits of Tyler, Britton Tilley Alto, Maurice Roland Clarksville, Tennessee and Curtis McEwing of Los Angeles, California.

The annual registration, parade, banquet were held. First place winner in the parade "Class of 57" was Hazel Doty.

The next reunion is scheduled for July 2009.

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# COLLEGE IS NOT FOR EVERYONE

by Krystal Ward Carter

The past six months I have given a great deal of college help information for those who are going to college. For those who don't plan to go to college, this month, I would like to offer information on a no-cost, vocational training program offered across the nation by the United States Department of Labor- Job Corps. Job Corps, specifically targets young people ages 16 thru 24 to help them become more marketable in the work force, make money, and contribute to society! Job Corps allows students to adopt a trade, earn a high school diploma, obtain a GED, and help finding a good job. The students are paid a monthly allowance that increases throughout the program. Career counseling and transition support is offered up to 12 months following graduation.

## JOB CORPS ELIGIBILITY:

To be eligible for students must be age 16-24, be a United States citizen or legal resident, be from a home that is considered low income, be ready, willing, and able to participate fully in an educational environment.

## HEALTH SERVICES:

One of the benefits of Job Corps is the Health Services offered to students: medical care, mental health counseling, dental cleaning, some dental services, eye exams, glasses, immunizations, family planning, anger management classes, smoking cessation assistance and substance abuse counseling. All students are required to have a physical, HIV/STD tested upon entrance into Job Corps if you or someone you know is interested in job corps and/or would like more information about the program call (800)-733-JOBS or (800) 733-5627, an operator will provide you with general information

## HOW CAN YOU JOIN JOB CORPS?

and/or refer you to an admissions counselor in your areas that will provide you with more information.

## WHAT HAPPENS IN JOB CORPS?

Each Job Corps center has its own unique environment, similar to colleges it has feature campus-like settings dormitories where students live. Again like college campuses, it provides a great atmosphere to complete an education, learn a marketable trade, and make lifetime friends and to ultimately graduate with a good job! There are 4 phases that describe the student life cycle at Job Corps: Outreach and Admissions, Career Preparation Period, Career Development Period, and Career Transition Period.

**WHAT DO THE JOB CORPS STUDENTS DO FOR FUN?** The activities and events are tailored for each site at the Tulsa Job Corps Site (918-591-5644) they offer a slew of recreational programs like Intramural sports, Cultural and Social events, Chess club, Bowling club, Horseback riding, Mountain bike riding, Dance just to name a few. Job Corps also has a Student Government Association and special events throughout the year: Blood drives, Prom night, Women's Monthly Luncheon, Diversity week, Basketball Tournaments, National Youth Service Day, Legislative Day, Project Life, and Car washes in the spring. In the summer offer Softball, Survivor challenge/Fun day,

Academic Challenge, Summer Fratric Park Day, Volleyball Tournament, Project Life, and United Way's Day of Caring. In the fall the events include a Halloween dance, Thanksgiving dinner, Breast Cancer Walk,

Walk for Diabetes, Men's Month Luncheon, Make a Difference Day. In the winter season the offer Christmas Parties, Basketball Season, Valentine's Day Dance, Black History Month Program, Groundhog Job Shadow Day, John 3:16 Mission Food Drive, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade.

## WHERE IS JOB CORPS LOCATED?

Job Corps locations are across the nation in every state. However, the Job Corps locations in Texas include the David L. Carrasco Job Corps Center in El Paso, TX; the Gary Job Corps Center in San Marcos, TX; the Laredo Job Corps Center in Laredo, TX; the North Texas Job Corps Center in McKinney, TX.

## WHAT PROGRAMS ARE OFFERED AT JOB CORPS?

Job Corps offers over 100 vocational programs at each site varies, therefore you must contact each site individually to find a program that fits you. Listed below are some of the vocations offered: Business Technologies, Rehabilitation Technician, Food Service, Nurse Assistant, Medical Office Support, Facilities Maintenance, Welding, Automotive Repair Technician, Advanced Career Training, Dental Assistant, Retail Sales, Facilities Maintenance, Culinary Arts, Meat Cutting, Auto Repair Technician, Plumber, Health Occupations, Electrician, Material

Handler, Lithograph Printer, Machinist, Carpenter, Accounting Clerk, Bricklayer, Bookkeeper, Security, Warehousing/Material Handler, Desktop Publishing, Office Technology, Computers, Painting, and there is more! For those who plan to use Job Corps at step towards college, they do college prep courses, and have connections with local community colleges that help students transition to college, and even obtain college credits.

**WHAT IS CAMPUS LIFE LIKE?** Once again, each site has it's own feel and environment; however, each site offers residential housing and non-residential housing. The sites are near shopping centers, restaurants, stores, churches, industrial businesses, financial institutions, and public schools. Just like college students share dorm rooms and responsibilities.

As you can see Job Corps provides a great opportunity for our youth ages 16-24 to take control of their lives! Once again, Job Corps provides a structured environment with career planning, on-the-job training, job placement, residential housing, food service, drivers education, health and dental care, bi-weekly basic living allowance, and a clothing allowance. Some centers even offer childcare programs for single parents. Each year it provides over 62,000 youth with an opportunity to gain a career with at no cost! Don't wait any longer if you, a sibling, your daughter or son or grandchild is ready for a life changing experience call today: (800)-733-5627 and visit the website at [www.dol.gov](http://www.dol.gov)

Krystal Ward-Carter  
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Not only is the Peanut Festival like an old friend...one could go further and say it's like a member of the family.

Looking at the list of past queens, it is obvious that winning the queen's crown runs in some families. Among the former winners there are four sets of mother daughters, three sets of sisters and numerous cousins.

Frankie Lois Richardson Pennington was the first queen and the first former queen to see her daughter win the crown. Charm Pennington, now Mrs. Mark Pierce of Tyler, was queen of the 28th Peanut Festival in 1974. Linda Jones Skidmore of Grapeland, 1956 queen, saw her daughter, Marsha Skidmore Cook, win the title in 1978.

### HISTORIC US 80 HI-WAY SALES AND FALL ROAD CRUISE BACK FOR THE 6TH YEAR BY POPULAR DEMAND

3rd Weekend  
in OCTOBER!  
OCT. 19, 20, 21, 2007

The Historic US 80 Hi-Way Sale will begin at 8 a.m. daily on Oct. 19, 20, and 21, 2007 and should draw crowds from far and wide looking for a bargain. For more info, contact ETTA at office@etta.com. The event will be held in conjunction with fall auto cruises, with motorists encouraged to hit the highway in their vintage and not-so-vintage vehicles. ETTA's Tucker Conley is in charge of the cruises, and can be reached at tucker@etta.com. The first sale, stretching more than 200 miles, was basically a free-for-all. Previous sales, despite rain, have drawn large crowds of shoppers and vendors, and auto rallies. Calls have been coming in from a wide area asking about this year's sale. Chambers of Commerce along the route are again encouraged to recruit vendors for crafts, household items, antiques, candy, water, and anything else-up to and including the kitchen sink-to set up booths along Highway 80. The interest is in-

or information or visit <http://www.us80.com/> to get a local contact number.

The event is part of ETTA's 15-year effort to draw attention to the byways of its region. Each city along the U. S. 80 route will be responsible for its part in each upcoming Hi-Way Sale.

U.S. 80 was designated in 1926 and was the nation's first transcontinental highway in the Southern states. It ran more than 2,700 miles from the Atlantic Ocean in Georgia to the Pacific Ocean in California. Just like Route 66, ETTA wants to increase the awareness and appreciation of Highway 80, coast to coast. They want people to cruise it, and write stories and songs about our own 'mother road'.

What ETTA is trying to do is push forward the preservation of this highway - its roadside architecture, the old 'mom and pop' motels and service stations and all the things that relate to the 30s and 40s and 50s, as well as little remaining sections of the original road. We're trying to jog people's memories. It really is a national treasure that's been overlooked and gradually forgotten since the interstate was created.

News of the sale is spreading among antique car, motorcycle, RV clubs and flea market enthusiasts. While shoppers will be searching for great deals, cities along the route hope they find the highway's more permanent treasures, such as bed and breakfasts, motels, restaurants, and historical sites. The traffic on Interstate 20 is almost 40,000 vehicles per day. Along US 80, it's just about 3 to 4,000 per day. And there are no historic markers on interstate highways. ETTA's goal in promoting tourism is to get more people off the interstate, slow down, and spend more time and money in East Texas.

## Thomas The Tank Engine Is Scheduled to Arrive In Rusk

Thomas the Tank Engine, popular children's character, is scheduled to be at the Rusk Train Depot October 19th, 20th, 21st and October 26th, 27th and 28th bringing with it an estimated 20,000 people. Those interested in purchasing tickets for the event should call the Rusk Chamber of Commerce at (903) 683-4242.

## Rusk Chamber Needs Volun- teers for Thom- as the Tank runs

The Rusk Chamber is recruiting volunteers from Rusk and the surrounding for the last two weekends in October. A total of 90 volunteers are needed for each weekend. Those who help with the Thomas The Tank event will receive one free ticket for every four hours volunteered.

Volunteers will be responsible for helping riders board the train, lineup for different events and just keep safe. Contact Connie Brown to volunteer or purchase tickets at (903) 683-4242 or [www.thomasandfriends.com](http://www.thomasandfriends.com).



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## Ms. J's 411

There is a Place For  
Good Manners and A  
Way To Teach Them

Too often parents focus on actions, rather than attitudes. I have learned

there are seven attitudes that we can correct in our children: Proverbs 4:23; Mark 7:20 - 23 tell us to guard the heart for it is the well-spring of life. These seven attitudes are windows into the heart of a child and

into the hearts of adults. They explore the root of what could be, behavior problems in children. Our parents and grandparents automatically taught many of us these things. They called them good manners.

#1. WHINING - Do all that you can to cheerfully as unto the Lord and not unto men. Colossians 3:23 - Children should learn to say "May I please \_\_\_\_\_ with a cheerful face, not a whine."

#2. Sour Face - I will leave off my sad countenance and be cheerful. Job 9:27 - The Lord said unto Cain, "Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast?" Genesis 4:6 - A sourface is a window into a child's soul. It reveals a bad attitude

that hampers the child's spiritual growth and development, of course,

there is a big difference between true sadness and a sourface. Please do not misuse this teaching. Allow emotions to be expressed not suppressed.

#3. Jerky Body Movements - Better a patient man than a warrior; a man who controls his temper than one who takes a city. Proverbs 16:32 Says like a city whose walls are

broken down is a man who lacks self-control. "Proverbs 25:28 you know the examples of jerky body movements."

#4. Disrespectful Tone and Voice - "Honor your father and mother". Exodus 20:12, "Else in the presence of the aged, show respect for the elderly, and revere your God. I am the Lord." Leviticus 19:32, Honor one another above yourselves. " Romans 12:10.

#5. Selfishness - Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves.

(Continue October 1007)

Former President Clinton  
Honors 9 Students Who  
Integrated School

LITTLE ROCK, Arkansas (Blacknews.com) - The Little Rock Nine, black students who became an important test of the desegregation of schools in the United States, returned to the campus Tuesday to mark 50 years since former President Dwight D. Eisenhower directed soldiers to escort them inside.

"They didn't ask to be a part of history, but they certainly are now," said U.S. Representative Mike Ross. Former President Bill Clinton was among the national and civil rights leaders marking the anniversary.

For three weeks in September 1957, Little Rock was the focus of a showdown over integration as Arkansas Governor Orval Faubus blocked the nine black students from enrolling at the high school of about 2,000 white students. Although the U.S. Supreme Court had declared segregated classrooms unconstitutional in 1954, and the Little Rock School Board had voted to integrate, Faubus said he feared violence if the races mixed in a public school. The showdown soon

became a test for Eisenhower, who sent the army in to control the angry crowds. It was the first time in 80 years that federal troops had been sent to a former state of the Confederacy, the pro-slavery southern states which seceded from the U.S.

Governor Mike Beebe said society had made progress since the crisis, but he said economic and educational inequalities still exist.

"There will always be a necessity to show that we are inclusive as a society," Beebe said.

Gene Prescott, who photographed the school's integration for the Arkansas Gazette in 1957, noted the difference in the crowd over 50 years. The all-white mob 50 years ago jeered the nine; Tuesday's crowd of blacks and whites welcomed them.

"They are mingling and they are shaking hands. That certainly is a change," Prescott said.

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~Maya Angelou

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## Injustice in Jena

**Black News.com - Jena, Louisiana -** Racial tensions resurfaced in Jena on September 1, 2006, when hangman's nooses were discovered in a tree in the high school's campus after a black student tried to sit with white students at lunch. The school head recommended that the noose-hungers should be expelled. The board of education overruled him and the three white student perpetrators received in-school suspension. On November 30, 2006 an arson fire destroyed the main academic building at the school. On December 4, 2006 a fight broke out on campus, after which six African-American students, later dubbed the Jena 6, were arrested and charged with attempted second-degree murder. Law enforcement officials told the Alexandria Daily Town Talk they have found no links between the noose incident, the arson fire, and subsequent fights.

The six accused of attempted second-degree murder are black and attacked a single white student after a week of intimidation between the two groups, including the one who was assaulted.[3] Intimidation cited includes an

off campus incident, in which a white student responded to threats by brandishing a gun. Black students allegedly wrestled away the gun and were then held in custody and charged with theft when they refused to return the gun, while no charges were made against the white student. On June 26, 2007 the first day of trial for Mychal Bell, one of the defendants,

the prosecutor agreed to reduce the charges for Bell to aggravated second-degree battery and conspiracy to commit aggravated second-degree battery. Bell was found guilty by an all-white jury, and will face the possibility of up to 22 years in prison when he is sentenced. The sentencing was originally scheduled for July 30, but has been delayed until September 20, 2007. However,



## Tony Henry, vocal recording artist, performs in Crockett

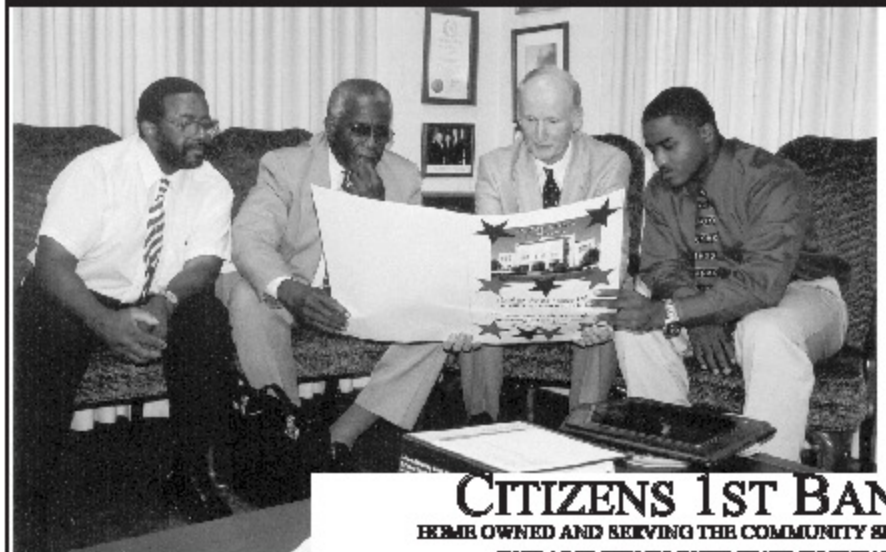
**Crockett, TX-** Tony Henry, vocal recording artist, performed at the Crockett Civic Center recently providing entertainment for the First Annual Crockett Labor Day Western Fashion Show. Mr. Henry entered several major talent shows and won including BET's talent search which gave him the opportunity to perform on BET's 106 and Park. He has performed at New York's Famous Apollo Theater production of "Showtime at the Apollo". The Crockett native, now living in



Houston, has developed a fan base in major cities in Texas and has written and recorded several songs

the case is currently in dispute, as the court-appointed public defender did not call a single witness in his attempt to defend Bell. The other five students will be tried at a later date. The town has gained inter

national notoriety as an example of the alleged "new 'stealth' racism" that lives on in America with national attention drawn to the events by a National Public Radio prime time story on July 30, 2007.



Mr. James L. 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 Makmree 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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## L. C. Session Announces Retirement



Lewisville, TX. -L. C. Session of Dallas, formerly of Rusk, retired recently from Yellow Freight Trucking Company. He was a Teamster, Local 745 for thirty-three years.

L. C. grew up in Rusk, graduating with the Bradford class of 1959. He attended Texas Southern University then served two years in the U. S. Army. After living on the East Coast and Washington D. C. for awhile, he returned to Texas settling in Houston. He recently attended a family reunion in Rusk where he shared with us that he is enjoying retirement tremendously and working part-time in the transportation department of Jarvis Christian College. Although he lives in the Dallas

Suburbs of Lewisville, he always looks forward to coming home to Rusk for visits with family and friends.

## Eddie Griffin Thrown Off Stage For Using N-Word At Black Entertainment Event

Al Sharpton got a laugh at Eddie Griffin but it was far opposite what Griffin thought was funny. If comedian Eddie Griffin didn't know the N-word was banned and buried, he found out when the publisher of Black Enterprise magazine pulled the plug on his raunchy standup routine and had him thrown off the stage. He received a standing ovation from a mostly African American audience.

Griffin, who headlined a soldout show at Black Enterprise's 14th annual Golf and Tennis Challenge in Miami on Friday, was about 10 minutes into his N-word-laced act when publisher Earl Graves turned off the mike. Minutes later, Graves appeared onstage with a cord and plug in one hand and a working microphone in the other. He told the audience at the posh Doral Golf Resort that Griffin's microphone had been turned off because he repeatedly used the N-word. This was a big event and oth-



ers are beginning to take notice, the n-word ban is serious in professional circles. For Griffin to be bounced in front of everybody sent a message. "We at Black Enterprise will not allow our culture to go backward," Graves said. "Black Enterprise stands for decency, black culture and dignity."

The NAACP held a public "burial" for the racial slur during its annual convention in Detroit in July.

Griffin's publicist, Jeff Abraham, declined comment.



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Begins September 27, 2007  
Grapeland, Texas **The Peanut Festival: A Family Affair**  
Not only is the Peanut Festival like an old friend...one could go further and say it's like a member of the family.

Looking at the list of past queens, it is obvious that winning the queen's crown runs in some families. Among the former winners there are four sets of mother daughters, three sets of sisters and numerous cousins.

Frankie Lois Richardson Pennington was the first queen and the first former queen to see her daughter win the crown. Charm Pennington, now Mrs. Mark Pierce of Tyler, was queen of the 28th Peanut Festival in 1974. Linda Jones Skidmore of Grapeland, 1956 queen, saw her daughter, Marsha Skidmore Cook, win the title in 1978.

### HISTORIC US 80 HI-WAY SALES AND FALL ROAD CRUISE BACK FOR THE 6TH YEAR BY POPULAR DEMAND

3rd Weekend  
in OCTOBER!  
OCT. 19, 20, 21, 2007

The Historic US 80 Hi-Way Sale will begin at 8 a.m. daily on Oct. 19, 20, and 21, 2007 and should draw crowds from far and wide looking for a bargain. For more info, contact ETTA at office@etta.com. The event will be held in conjunction with fall auto cruises, with motorists encouraged to hit the highway in their vintage and not-so-vintage vehicles. ETTA's Tucker Conley is in charge of the cruises, and can be reached at tucker@etta.com. The first sale, stretching more than 200 miles, was basically a free-for-all. Previous sales, despite rain, have drawn large crowds of shoppers and vendors, and auto rallies. Calls have been coming in from a wide area asking about this year's sale. Chambers of Commerce along the route are again encouraged to recruit vendors for crafts, household items, antiques, candy, water, and anything else-up to and including the kitchen sink-to set up booths along Highway 80. The interest is in-

or information or visit <http://www.us80.com/> to get a local contact number.

The event is part of ETTA's 15-year effort to draw attention to the byways of its region. Each city along the U. S. 80 route will be responsible for its part in each upcoming Hi-Way Sale.

U.S. 80 was designated in 1926 and was the nation's first transcontinental highway in the Southern states. It ran more than 2,700 miles from the Atlantic Ocean in Georgia to the Pacific Ocean in California. Just like Route 66, ETTA wants to increase the awareness and appreciation of Highway 80, coast to coast. They want people to cruise it, and write stories and songs about our own 'mother road'.

What ETTA is trying to do is push forward the preservation of this highway - its roadside architecture, the old 'mom and pop' motels and service stations and all the things that relate to the 30s and 40s and 50s, as well as little remaining sections of the original road. We're trying to jog people's memories. It really is a national treasure that's been overlooked and gradually forgotten since the interstate was created.

News of the sale is spreading among antique car, motorcycle, RV clubs and flea market enthusiasts. While shoppers will be searching for great deals, cities along the route hope they find the highway's more permanent treasures, such as bed and breakfasts, motels, restaurants, and historical sites. The traffic on Interstate 20 is almost 40,000 vehicles per day. Along US 80, it's just about 3 to 4,000 per day. And there are no historic markers on interstate highways. ETTA's goal in promoting tourism is to get more people off the interstate, slow down, and spend more time and money in East Texas.

## Thomas The Tank Engine Is Scheduled to Arrive In Rusk

Thomas the Tank Engine, popular children's character, is scheduled to be at the Rusk Train Depot October 19th, 20th, 21st and October 26th, 27th and 28th bringing with it an estimated 20,000 people. Those interested in purchasing tickets for the event should call the Rusk Chamber of Commerce at (903) 683-4242.

## Rusk Chamber Needs Volun- teers for Thom- as the Tank runs

The Rusk Chamber is recruiting volunteers from Rusk and the surrounding for the last two weekends in October. A total of 90 volunteers are needed for each weekend. Those who help with the Thomas The Tank event will receive one free ticket for every four hours volunteered.

Volunteers will be responsible for helping riders board the train, lineup for different events and just keep safe.

Contact Connie Brown to volunteer or purchase tickets at (903) 683-4242 or [www.thomasandfriends.com](http://www.thomasandfriends.com).



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## Obituaries

### Sophia Doty Lamb

**Lufkin, TX.** - Funeral services for Sophia Doty Lamb were held Sunday, September 9, 2007 at the Church of The Living God Temple # 1, 202 Forest Park, Lufkin Texas with Elder J. R. Shankle officiating. Ms. Lamb was born October 12, 1916 to Willis Doty and and Ester Jordan Doty in the Elm Grove Community of Rusk, Texas. She was raised in that community attending Elm Grove Community School and uniting with Mt. Hebron Presbyterian Church when she was a child.

She married the late Elijah B. (Syrup) Lamb in 1934 and were married 60 years. They lived in Elm Grove for a few years, then moved to Lufkin to be near his job at Texas Foundry. They joined with The Church of The Living God Temple #1 and remained active in the community, the church, the Lufkin Interdenominational Choir and York Chapter

#307 Order of the Eastern Star, until her health failed a few years ago. Sister Sophia departed this life about noon on Tuesday, September 4, 2007 at Stoneleigh Estates, Lufkin, Texas.

Survivors are: Special Nephew,



Walter (Maxine) Session; God-daughter Doris Tims, Lufkin, TX.; Sister Mary Session; Rusk, TX.; Two sisters-in-law, Dorothy McCum, Jacksonville, and Lela Herbert, Dallas, TX.; One brother, Willis (Lynetta) Doty, Tucson, AZ.; Three

brothers-in-law, J. B. Lamb and Curtis Lamb, Dallas, TX.; A. B. (Pearlie) Lamb, Rusk, TX.; Nephews, Charles (Hazel) Doty and Alver Dee (Joyce) Session all of Jacksonville, TX.; Burnis Session, Rusk, TX.; Elder Marvin (Bertha) Doty, Rialto, CA.; Neices Pearlina (Coy) Newsome, Jacksonville, TX.; Mae Francis (James) McLaughlin, Blairs, VA.; Everline (Troy) Newsome, Tucson, AZ.; and many other relatives and friends. Mercy/McGowan Funeral Home of Jacksonville, Texas Directed the service with burial at Mt. Mariah Cemetery, Rusk, Texas.

### Senetta Yvette Mallard

**Rusk, TX.** - Services were held for Miss Senetta Yvette Mallard on Thursday, August 23, 2007, at Mount Olive Baptist Church, Rusk, Texas with Rev. Lionel Whitaker and Rev. Meritt Bartley, II Officiating.

She was born to the parents of Adam Mallard, Sr. and Lola Mallard on July 17, 1959 in Rusk, Cherokee County, Texas.

Senetta was a graduate of the Rusk High School class of 1977. She attended Tyler Junior College and was employed with Rusk State Hospital where she retired after twenty-three years.

She joined Mount Olive Baptist Church as a child and was an active member serving in many positions over the years including Church Secretary and Sunday School Teacher. She assisted with Vacation Bible School and worked diligently with the youth and the choir.

Senetta had no biological children, but loved her nieces and nephews as her own.

She departed this life on Saturday, August 18, 2007.



She was preceded in death by her grandparents Abraham and Odell Mallard, Luther Ward and Mama Zona; two sisters Guyleon and Syretta Mallard.

She leaves to cherish her memory, her parents Adam Mallard, Sr. and Lola B. Mallard of Rusk, Texas.; one

brother, Adam (Kammy) Mallard, Jr.; three sisters, Sharon E. Ward, Karen "Bolton" Edmond (Terry) and Brenda Davis all of Rusk, Texas; three nieces, Cangel, Alisha and Ashley; one nephew, Jeremy Bolton; one great-niece, Mykelcia; one great-nephew, Admorian Treysun, six aunts, six uncles and a host of family and friends who will cherish her memory forever.

Services were under the directions of Williams Funeral Home of Jacksonville, Texas with burial at Rusk Memorial Cemetery.

### Charlie Sullivan Waggoner

**Rusk, TX.** - Funeral Services were held for Mr. Charlie Sullivan Waggoner, Tuesday September 4th at Mt. Pleasant CME Church with Rev. Phal Carter and Rev. Greenie Phillips officiating. Charlie Sullivan Waggoner was born to Dee Waggoner and Velma Martin Waggoner in Rusk, Cherokee County, Texas June 13, 1928. He was raised in the Delmar Community and united with Holly Springs CME Church when he was a child. Charlie graduated from George W. Bradford High School and received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Education from Butler College, Tyler, Texas.

Charlie S. Waggoner, Sr. was united in holy matrimony with Corine Carter on October 25, 1948. They lived in Tyler for several years, then he and his family moved to Los Angeles, California where he was employed as a Supervisor for the City of Los Angeles

Department of Power and Water. He retired from there after thirty-seven years and he and his family moved to Las Vegas, Nevada.

He was preceded in death by his parents, son Albert Waggoner and brother Chester Waggoner.

Mr. Charlie Sullivan Waggoner, Sr. departed this life on Monday, August 27, 2007 at The Rehabilitation Center, Beverly Hills, Los Angeles, California.

His survivors are: Corine Waggoner, a loving wife of fifty-eight and one-half years; two sons Jerry Waggoner and Charlie Waggoner, Jr.; three daughters Shirley Waggoner, Patricia Zulic and Jacqueline Waggoner all of California; twelve grandchildren, four great grandchildren; one sister, Verline Johnson; three brothers, Dee Waggoner, Jr., John Westley Waggoner and Hubert Waggoner all of Rusk, Texas; an uncle, several nieces, nephews and many friends. Burial was at Holly Springs Cemetery under the directions of Jenkins-Garmon Funeral Home, Henderson, Texas.

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#### Our Gratitude and Appreciation

We the family of Senetta Mallard are truly grateful to all of our family, church family and friends, who have comforted us with your words of consolation. There was such comfort in the assurance that we were not alone in our hour of bereavement and when it seemed that the sickness of our loved one was too hard to bear, God sent you our way. We thank you for your fervent prayers, personal visits, telephone calls, cards, food and flowers. We the family would like to say thank God for friends like you.

~ Mr. & Mrs. Adam Mallard, Sr. & Family ~



# Church Directory

## St. Paul Baptist Church

558 N. Main Street

Jacksonville, TX. 75766



Phone: (903) 586-6006  
 Contact: Sharon Sims  
 Sunday School 10:00AM  
 Morning Ser. 11:00AM  
 Wednes. Bible Study 7PM  
 Rev. Sedrick Moore, Pastor

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## Woodville CME

FM 343  
Rusk, Texas

Ph: (903) 683-6214  
 Sunday School 9:45  
 Sunday Worship 11:00

Rev. Joe Radford, pastor

## MOUNT PLEASANT CME Church

207 Reeder St.  
Rusk, Texas

Rev. Greenie Phillips, Pastor

Sunday School - 10:00 AM  
 Sunday Worship Service- 11:00 AM  
 2nd & 4th Sunday of each month  
 Contact: (903) 683-3421

## 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

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 Jimmy Foreman, Speaker.

## Sweet Union Baptist Church

302 North Main Street  
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 Morning Worship: 11:00AM  
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Speaker Rev. M. D. Hood, Pas-  
 tor Liberty Baptist Church  
 Rev. H. C. Whitaker, Pastor

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