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TEXAS INFORMER

September 2009
Volume XIII, Number 5

Web: www.texasinformer.com
e-mail: informernews08@aol.com

P.O. Box 332
Rusk, Texas 75785

Michael Jackson Movie "This Is It" to be released

This Is It was a series of 50 concerts by Michael Jackson held at The O2 arena in London. They were scheduled to begin in July 2009 and continue through March 2010. Less than three weeks before the first show was due to begin and with all tickets sold out, Jackson died after suffering cardiac arrest.



a planned series of 50 Michael Jackson to be held inside The O2 arena in London. They to begin in July 2009 and March 2010. Less than three weeks before the first show was due to begin and with all tickets sold out, suffering cardiac arrest.

announced the concerts at held inside The O2 the concert promoters, promotional video that commercial break, setting a record for ITV. The first major series of World Tour finished in 1997, and had been cited as one of the year's most important musical events. Over one million people would have attended in total. See "This Is It" page 12

Jackson officially a press conference arena. AEG Live, released a took up an entire record for ITV. The first major series of World Tour finished in 1997, and had been cited as one of the year's most important musical events. Over one million people would have attended in total.

Djuana Walker graduates Stephen F. Austin State U



Nacogdoches, TX. Djuana Denise Walker, a 1982 Rusk High School graduate received her Bachelor of Science degree in Sociology and Psychology from Stephen Austin State University on Saturday, August 15, 2009. The ceremony took place at the William R. Johnson Coliseum located on the University campus.

Ms. Walker was one of six hundred candidates for degrees at the summer commencement. During her undergraduate studies, she participated in the Archaeological Field School in the summer of 2008 under the directions of Dr. Leslie Cecil. See Walker page 7

HUD Secretary announces \$8000. tax credit for new home buyers

WASHINGTON - Speaking to the National Association of Home Builders Spring Board of Directors Meeting, U.S. Housing and Urban Development Secretary Shaun Donovan today announced that the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) will allow homebuyers to apply the Obama Administration's new \$8,000 first-time homebuyer tax credit toward the purchase costs of a FHA-insured home. Donovan said that today's action will help stabilize the nation's housing market by stimulating home sales across the country.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 offers homebuyers a tax credit of up to \$8,000 for purchasing their first home. Families can only access this credit after filing their tax returns with the IRS. Today's announcement details FHA's rules allowing state Housing Finance Agencies and certain non-profits to "monetize" up to the full amount of the tax credit (depending on the amount of the mortgage) so that borrowers can immediately apply the funds toward their down payment. See Home Buyers Credit page 13

EDITORIAL

Just "Push"

We all reach points in our days when we feel overwhelmed by situations we face. The next time you face an endless task or a situation that seems too complicated to master, think about this story, smile a little and be encouraged.

A man was sleeping when suddenly his room filled with light, and God appeared. The Lord told him he had work for him to do, and showed him a large rock in front of his cabin. The Lord explained to the man that he wanted him to push against the rock with all his might. So, the man did, day after day. For many days he toiled from sun up to sun down his shoulders set squarely against the cold hard surface of the unmoving rock. Each night he returned to his cabin sore and worn out, feeling that his day had been spent in vain. Since he was showing discouragement, the adversary (Satan) decided to enter the picture, placing negative thoughts in his weary mind: "You have been pushing against that rock for a long time, and it hasn't moved". Thus, giving the man the impression he was a failure.

"Why kill myself over this?" He thought. "I'll just put in minimum effort; and that will be good." That's what he planned to do, but decided to make it a matter of prayer and take his troubled thoughts to the Lord. "Lord", He said, "I have labored long and hard in your service, putting all my strength to do that which you have asked. Yet, after all this time, I have not even budged that rock by one inch. What's wrong? Why am I failing?" The Lord responded compassionately, "My child, when I asked you to serve Me and you accepted, I told you that your task was to push against the rock with all your strength, which you have done. Never once did I mention that I expected you to move it. Your task was to push. And now you come to Me with your strength spent, thinking you have failed. But, is that really so? Look at yourself. Your arms are strong and muscled. Your back is shiny and brown. Your legs have become massive and strong. Through opposition you have grown much and your abilities now surpass that which you used to have. Yet you haven't moved the rock. Your calling was to be obedient to push and exercise your faith and trust in My wisdom. This you have done. Now, my child, I will move the rock."

At times, when we hear a word from God, we tend to use our own intellect to decipher what He wants when actually what God wants is just simple obedience and faith in Him. By all means exercise the faith that moves mountains, but know that it is still God who moves mountains. When everything seems to go wrong...just PUSH! When the job gets you down...just PUSH.

When people don't react the way you think they should...just PUSH. When your money does not go as far as you think it should...just PUSH! When people don't understand you...just PUSH!

P= Pray
U=Until
S=Something
H=Happens

~ author unknown

Letter To The Editor

Hello,
I am inquiring about your August 2009 release, page 14 (Faces from the Past). The page contains a large picture of Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts from the 1950's with their Scoutleaders. I am hoping you can put me in contact with those in the photo. The Boy Scouts of America will be celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2010. A committee of dedicated scouters have formed the African American Scouting Camporee which will host its second camporee at

Prairie View A&M University, February 19-21, 2010, to honor scouting's 100th anniversary and the 75 plus years African Americans have been involved in scouting. It's my understanding that East Texas has very historic roots in scouting that is near being lost and one we would like to capture and honor. I would welcome your help and guidance in obtaining any history you may have of founding Scoutmasters and Committee Members, Scouting Executives, Photo's, Uniforms, Books, and any East Texas "Eagle Scouts" we can identify.

I welcome the opportunity to work with the Texas Informer to uncover this history and bring it back to life for our youth and community to appreciate the values of scouting and achievements of African Americans dating back to the 1930's.

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I asked my wife, Where do you want to go for our anniversary?"
It warmed my heart to see her face melt in sweet appreciation.
"Somewhere I haven't been in a long time!" she said.
So I suggested, "How about the kitchen?"
And that's when the fight started....

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Published monthly it serves Anderson, Angelina, Cherokee, Houston and Rusk Counties.

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Wiley College on schedule with revived Debate Team

Cover Story

by Maxine Session

1823 Alexander Lucius Twilight became the first African American to receive a bachelor's degree in the United States, from Middlebury College in Vermont. In the late 19th century, colleges for black students were started in boxcars (Atlanta University) and church basements (Spelman College). Mary McLeod



Megan Moten, left, presents her argument as Caress Russell, center, and Keisha Coleman, right, wait their turn to talk, during a practice session for the debate team at Wiley College in Marshall, Texas.

Bethune, one of the nation's foremost black educators, opened a college in 1904 with \$1.50 and 5 students.

Today, there are 106 historically black colleges and universities in the United States, who can count among their graduates such luminaries as W. E. B. Du Bois (Fisk University), Thurgood Marshall (Lincoln University and Howard University), Toni Morrison (Howard University), and Martin Luther King, Jr. (Morehouse College). 1837 In Pennsylvania, the first historically black college was established. Founded by Philadelphia Quaker Richard Humphreys, The Institute for Colored Youth was originally a teacher training college. The school later became known as Cheyney University, which remains the oldest historically black institute of higher education in the United States

The state of Texas presently has two public four-year Universities, Texas Southern and Prairie View. It has six private four-year colleges and universities... Houston Tillotson, Jarvis Christian College, Paul Quinn College, Southwestern Christian College and Wiley College. There is also St. Phillips which is a two-year college.

Wiley College has, after more than eighty years, revived its debate team with much success.

The first Wiley College debate team in 80 years let loose in a room filled with students, teachers, leaders and media. January 24, 2009. The very excited crowd filled the Julius S. Scott, Sr. Chapel. The tone was always friendly and cheerful as the Wiley and Southern Methodist University teams squared off on the resolution: "For our presidential leader, the pen is mightier than the sword."

by March 23, 2009, newly reinstated debate team appeared to be returning to its glory days of dominating national debate competitions by walking away with numerous awards at their first society tournament.

The team was just restarted August 2008 and led by Coach Shannon LaBove.

The team won eight awards in numerous categories at the prestigious Pi Kappa Delta National Tournament held at Louisiana State University in Shreveport, the team's "Nationals". The team, which has been debating for less than a year, stood out in the white dominated field of more than 600 competitors across the country. The tournament was the last one for the May 2008 semester.

Wiley College received a \$1 million donation from Denzel Washington to restart the team in December 2007. Washington gave the money to the historically black school after making the movie

"The Great Debaters," which was based on the debate team's former glory days and produced by Denzell Washington and Oprah Winfrey. A drama based on the true story of Melvin B. Tolson, a professor at Wiley College Texas. In 1935, he inspired students to form the school's first debate team, which went on to challenge Harvard in the national championship. Melvin Tolson coaches the debate team to a nearly-undefeated season that sees the first debate between U.S. students from white and Negro colleges and ends with an invitation to face Harvard University's national champions. The team of four, which includes a female student and a very young James Farmer, is tested in a crucible heated by Jim Crow, sexism, a lynch mob, an arrest and near riot, a love affair, jealousy, and a national radio audience.

Marshall, Texas, described by James Farmer, Jr. as "the last city to surrender after the Civil War," is home to Wiley College, where, in 1935-36, inspired by the Harlem Renaissance and his clandestine work as a union organizer.

Dr. Haywood Strickland was elected the 16th president of Wiley College on September 12, 2000. As the President and CEO, he brings extensive higher education administration and fund-raising experience to Wiley College, where he hopes to create a new milieu and achieve excellence in the life of the College.

This highly competitive spirit toward debate in black colleges and universities inspired black high schools to form debate as a way to foster in the schools of Texas the study and practice of public speaking.

During the fifties and sixties black schools in east Texas such as Booker T. Washington, George W. Bradford, Fred Douglass High School, Laneville High and others had debate teams that won acclaim for their schools.

UIL competitions often told the story by those who participated and and walked away with blue ribbons. Today Historically black colleges and universities still maintain a high standard of education and encourage students of all races to enroll with them.

Religion

The Revelation of God

According to the Bible, God has made Himself known in a variety of ways. "The heavens declare the glory of God" (Ps. 19:1). "For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead." (Rom. 1:20). But while God is revealed in His creation and through the inner voice of human conscience, the primary means by which He has made Himself known is through the Bible.

God has revealed Himself through His mighty acts in the words of His messengers, or spokesmen. Either of these ways is incomplete without the other. In the Old Testament record, none of the mighty acts of God is emphasized more than the Exodus - God's deliverance of the Israelites from Egyptian bondage. As He delivered His people, God repeatedly identified Himself as their redeemer God: "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. You shall have no other gods before Me" (Ex. 20:2-3).

If they had been delivered with no explanation, the people of Israel would have learned little about the God who redeemed His people. The Israelites might have guessed that in such events as the plagues of Egypt and the parting of the waters of the Red Sea, some supernatural power was at work on their behalf. But they would not have known the nature of this power or God's purpose for them as a people.

God also communicated with His people, the nation of Israel, through Moses, to whom He has already made Himself known in the vision of the burning bush. God instructed Moses to tell his fellow Israelites what had been revealed to him. This was no impersonal force at work, but the God of their ancestors, Abraham, Issac, and Jacob. In fulfillment of His promises to them, God was acting now on behalf of their descendants.

Preston's Point of View



Preston Meador

Barack Obama, making him the first African

YOUR RIGHT TO VOTE

It will be one year ago November 4th, that voters in the U.S. made history by electing President making African

American president in the history of the United States of America. This shows what great progress has been made from the days when it was a crime to teach a person of color to read. We still have many struggles to wage to get past discrimination but the following will shed light on how we got this far.

It was 1965 and less than a week after the children marched in Birmingham, two firebombs crashed into the Mississippi farmhouse of Hartman Turnbow. Before he could lead his wife and daughter out of the burning house, Turnbow had to fight off a gang of white men who were waiting outside.

Con't page 13

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Enjoy Hunting Season — But Be Aware of Disease Threats Lurking in the Wild

Texas can be a letdown for visitors who expect the set of "Rio Lobo" (actually shot in Arizona) and instead find an urbanizing state fully integrated with the 21st Century. But even in the iPhone age, much of our frontier culture survives. Among the richest of these traditions is fall and winter hunting.

It all starts in September with zone-by-zone seasons for dove, teal, turkey, squirrel and alligator. Later, guns and crossbows are trained on javelina, pronghorn antelope, deer, quail, pheasant and chachalaca, among other game. With all these opportunities, devoted hunters can pretty much live in their camouflage suits until mid-February.

But, if you're going to spend all that time out in the fields and marshes, you need to be aware of the many disease-causing critters whose habitat you'll be sharing. Ticks, mosquitos and fleas are near-ubiquitous. So, too, are rodents and larger mammals that carry a host of harmful viruses and bacteria.

Just a few of these nastier diseases you risk contracting are West Nile virus, encephalitis, Lyme disease, Rocky Mountain spotted fever, brucellosis and tularemia. These health threats should be taken seriously by every hunter but, according to the Texas Department of State Health Services, they all can be minimized with a combination of basic knowledge and a few common-sense precautions. Following is the rogue's gallery of common

and how you can avoid taking on their unpleasant cargo.

Ticks

If you're outdoors in Texas, you're in tick country. The most common malady spread by these tiny bloodsuckers is Lyme disease, which produces short-term symptoms such as skin lesions or rashes. Left untreated, things quickly get worse, sometimes including damage to the joints, heart and nervous system.

Ticks also carry Rocky Mountain spotted fever, which causes a measles-like rash and may be fatal if not treated quickly.

Tularemia also hitches frequent rides in ticks. Rabbit hunters are at especially high risk for this disease. So, after handling rabbit carcasses, be sure to disinfect your hands and other body parts that have come in contact with the animals.

To protect yourself against insect bites, follow these recommended steps:

Use insect repellent containing DEET.

Mosquitos

West Nile virus is carried by mosquitos and can cause encephalitis, a brain inflammation occur. As with ticks, the best protection is insect repellent with DEET. Because mosquitos live and breed near water, be sure to use repellent that's water- and sweat-resistant, and re-apply often. characterized by high fever,

LEGAL NOTICE

These Texas Lottery Commission Scratch-Off games will close on October 28, 2009. You have until April 26, 2010, to redeem any tickets for these games:

Game #1081 King of Cash (\$5) Overall Odds are 1 in 4.53

Game #1138 Aladdin's Lamp (\$3) Overall Odds are 1 in 3.79

Game #1139 Lucky Dice (\$2) Overall Odds are 1 in 4.76

Game #1145 BlackJack (\$1) Overall Odds are 1 in 4.94

Game #1148 Sapphire Blue 5's (\$5) Overall Odds are 1 in 3.88

Game #1150 Precious Jewels (\$10) Overall Odds are 1 in 3.89

Game #1151 Money Tripler (\$2) Overall Odds are 1 in 4.67

Game #1161 Cash to Go (\$1) Overall Odds are 1 in 4.93



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

headaches, nausea, muscle soreness, partial unconsciousness and even coma. In rare cases, death may occur. Avoid areas of overgrown brush and tall grasses.

Wear protective clothing such as a hat, long-sleeved shirt and long pants tucked into boots or socks. Wear light-colored clothes to easily spot ticks. Check your body for ticks every few hours. They're small, easy to miss and will attach to any part of the body from heat. Fleas and infected rats, mice and other rodents can spread hantavirus infection to people through droppings, urine and saliva. You also can be infected by inhaling dust that contains the virus, so wear a cloth face mask when you're cleaning deer blinds, cabins, sheds or barns. These precautions are crucial because hantavirus infection may lead to extreme

breathing difficulty or even death.

Disease-Carrying Larger Mammals
Bubonic plague is rare among humans, but it's common in wild rodent populations of West Texas. It's spread to people by direct contact with infected animals such as prairie dogs, squirrels, cats, rats and mice. The odds of this happening are low, but take care anyway. Plague fully deserves its dread-disease status and can be fatal if not treated promptly. Hunters also should be aware that deer may carry the bacterium that causes anthrax in people, and feral hogs can carry brucellosis. Precautions include wearing latex gloves when field dressing animals or handling any wild animal carcass.

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Jerry Hart recognized as CCB Man of The Year



Jerry C. Hart was recognized for community service by the Cherokee Brotherhood Club at a recent monthly meeting. Above President Oliver Sturns presents him with a well deserved plaque for Man of the Year. Jerry has worn the apron and the chef's hat almost two decades as he leads the food preparation for the Brotherhood community functions. From barbeque to burgers and hotdogs served at various functions throughout the years to burgers and hotdogs grilled at the nursing home for senior citizens, Jerry has been there with a smile on his face and a calm demeanor. He is retired from Rusk State Hospital and employed by ACCESS. He is married to Essie Hart and they live in Rusk.

Palestine Angels of Mercy and Volunteers operate summer youth program



Palestine, Tx.- Pictured above are Bobby Smith, with a youth volunteer and student participants in the summer program. More than 30 children ages five to sixteen participated. The Palestine Texas Angels of Mercy partnered with the Department of Health and Human Services to provide summer services for Palestine area youth which included reading, field trips to the park and lunch. Pictured below are Ms. Denmon, Bobby and James Smith volunteers.



Vernon Denman, Palestine City Councilman spear headed the summer program. More than 30 community teachers and parents volunteered. during the summer.



Houston, Tx. - L to R -LeTonya McDuff, Darius Doze, Artie Hawkins, Michael Smith and Rosalind Smith.

Darius graduated Channelview High School in June 2009. The family is celebrating his graduation with a Crawfish Boil given in MacGraggor Park. About one hundred people attended including family from Rusk and Houston.

Darius is a freshman student at Lamar University, Beaumont Texas. He is the grandson of the late Frank Earl and Joycelynn McDuff All formerly of Rusk and Alto.

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WHITE, LULU BELLE MADISON (1907-1957) Houston NAACP Leader



Lulu Belle Madison White, civil rights activist in the 1940s and 1950s, devoted most of her adult life to the struggle against Jim Crow in Texas. She campaigned for the right to vote, for equal pay for equal work, and for desegregation of public facilities.

Lulu was one of twelve children born to Henry and Easter Madison in East Texas at the turn of the twentieth century. Her father, Henry Madison, a former Mississippi slave had moved to East Texas and later purchased 120 acres of farmland. When Lulu Madison was born in Elmo, Texas in August 1900, she was born into a community that was thirty-five (35) percent African American and sixty-five (65) percent white. It was also a community where cotton and Jim Crow was "King." Segregation and 'separate but equal' were enshrined in the state's constitution. Furthermore, the white citizenry enforced this oppression by lynching and threats of lynching. In 1908, East Texas had the dubious distinction of leading the state with twenty-four recorded lynchings [6]. The Jim Crow regime denied African Americans basic human rights to health care, jobs, education, and criminal justice. Black males were expected to tip their hats in the presence of whites. The poll tax, whites-only primary, and voter declaration regime suppressed African Americans' right to vote. But Henry and Easter Madison ensured that their children escaped much of the day-to-day indignities of Jim Crow. When most African American children had to leave elementary school to assist

their share cropping parents; Lulu remained in school when the crops were harvested. Even so, some indignities remained. At Old Terrell Colored High School, the library books were those previously used by the white high school students [3-9].

It was at Prairie View A&M University that Lulu honed her leadership skills. Recognizing that the college had the responsibility of developing a cadre of college-educated African American leaders, Prairie View College emphasized the development of intellectual skill, rigor, and discipline in debate through the L & D society, the excelsior Literary Society, and the Aristo Club. Lulu learned these lessons well and emerged as a leader while graduating magna cum laude from the college in June 1928. Shortly after graduation, Lulu married Julius White, a successful business owner who financed some of the race discrimination lawsuits in Houston. Despite her superior grades at Prairie View, Lulu was denied a teaching position in Houston. She commuted to her teaching position in Lufkin, Texas for two years before becoming involved in the struggle against Jim Crow [13-16].

Lulu began as an organizer to help support the Grovey lawsuit. She organized women groups such as the YWCA, Metropolitan Council of Negro Women, The Eastern Star and Grand Court of Calan.

Lulu's hard work earned her a new job as Executive Secretary of the Houston Branch of the NAACP. Her job was created to free up the president from some of the day-to-day tasks so the he could work on fulfilling the objectives of the NAACP. As executive Secretary, Lulu became involved in the following causes: protests against discrimination in the Houston shipyard; protests against discrimination in Atlas Dress Manufacturing Industry; protests against discrimination in Beaumont, Texas that lead to 2,000 whites

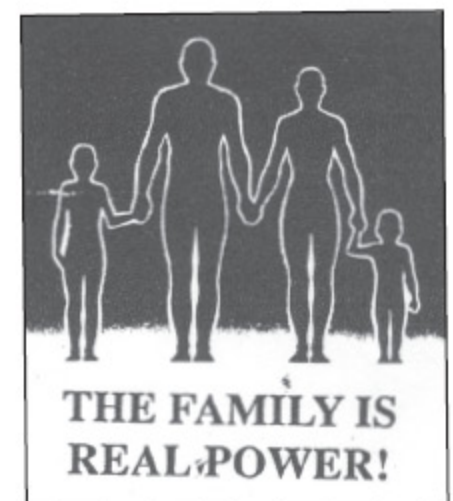
rioting and destroying an African American section of Beaumont; protests for the establishment of Reserve Officer Training corps Units in African American schools; protests that lead to African Americans being able to attend the Houston Music Hall and be seated alongside whites; protests against the Texas white Democratic primary; protests to change or modify the city manager system of government; protests opposing candidates running for city offices that were against African American interest; efforts to get the vote out on election day; protests against Houston's City Council to end protest police brutality; protest which increased the number of African American police officers from six to thirteen; protests by letter which attacked President Johnson for allowing the Anti-Poll Tax Bill to die on the floor of the Senate; protest efforts to raise teacher pay; protests against setting up an Office of Price Administration.

Lulu was involved in these causes and many others that are too numerous to mention. She continued her efforts as she was selected by the National NAACP to be Director of Branches for the Southwest Region. While continuing in both positions, Lulu continued to oppose discrimination, unfair treatment of African Americans, and Jim Crow. She was at case with the local leaders of the NAACP as with Thurgood Marshall and the leaders of the national NAACP.

She was unafraid working with labor groups to enable African American workers, even at the risk of being called a communist. But Lulu White possessed the ideal background for NAACP activism. As the daughter of a middle class farmer, the wife of a middle class businessman, and a college educated professional, Lulu White believed in and fought for African American first class citizenship for persons who possessed this level of professional skills and background. She did not disappoint the NAACP national headquarters. In six short years, she

Houston branch from 2,000 to 10,000 -- the second highest in the nation. Lulu left an indelible mark on the civil rights movement in Texas, especially Houston during the 1940's through the 1960's. Although she was involved in many court cases and protests to gain the equal rights for African American, Lulu's greatest achievement was her contribution to the Sweatt v. Painter case, which desegregated the University of Texas. Lulu, in fact, found and convinced Herman Sweatt to register for law school at the University of Texas. She knew that even though Sweatt was qualified that he would not be permitted to attend UT's law program without a fight. With Lulu and other help, the Sweatt case was taken all the way to the Supreme Court. Based on the Supreme Court's decision, this case lead to the desegregation of the University of Texas. The Sweatt case was also used as a precedent for Brown v. Board of Education [9, 47]. The Supreme Court in Brown declared the doctrine of "separate but equal" null and void. Id. This decision not only dismantled discrimination in education in Texas, but also limited discrimination in education all across the United States. Additionally, the decision also led the decline in Jim Crow laws.

White's friendships with Walter White, Daisy Lampkin, Thurgood Marshall, and Roy Wilkins enabled her to exert influence on the NAACP nationally. She was a field worker in the national NAACP office between 1949 and 1951. Afterward, Lulu White returned to Houston and devoted full time to her position as director of state branches. Lulu White died on July 6, 1957 and was buried in Houston, Texas. The week before her death, the National NAACP established the Lulu White Freedom Fund in her honor.



Ask A. J.



How did Black people survive immediately after being freed?

"After the Proclamation was issued, the government had agents who went through the country to see if the slaves had been freed. (Somehow Texas was missed until June 19 1865.) They would see how the Proclamation was being carried out. They would ask them, 'How are you working?' 'You are free?' 'What are you getting?' Some of them would say, 'I ain't getting nothing now.' Well, the agent would take that up, and they would have that owner up before the government.

Some slave owners worked people for a year, giving them nothing before they found him out. There are some places where they have them cases yet, where they have people on the place and ain't paying them nothing."

-An ex-slave's account in *Lay My Burden Down: A Folk History of Slavery* by Ben Botkin, 1945.

By the end of the Civil War most Southern planters had little or no money left. With their slaves freed, their problem was how to secure labor for the great plantations. But the freedmen had no money and barely a change of clothing, so they were driven by hunger to work for little or nothing. The planters took advantage of the former slaves' destitution. Since some form of agreement between the planter and worker had to be reached, the tenant sharecropping system developed under which, in return for housing, seed and credit at the commissary store a family would work a crop.

Theoretically, when the crop was sold they would share in the profits. But usually debt, sometimes combined with dishonest bookkeeping, left the worker at the end of each year owing the planter. So, the black peasant became bound to the soil. Under pain of arrest for debt, he could not leave and thus peonage developed in the South. The courts added to the misery of the landless Negro by leasing convicts to work on many plantations, turpentine flats and mines and in building railroads. The brutality of the convict-lease system, recorded in official sources, was a bitter contradiction of the South's vaunted paternalism.

Three-quarters of the Negroes lived in the South and the majority of these had been rural workers, mostly accustomed to the cultivation of cotton. But cotton was no longer as profitable as it had once been, and Southern fields received no crop rotation or fertilization to revitalize the soil. Agricultural workers, black and white, "had a hard row to hoe."

During the Reconstruction period many discouraged planters sold their acreage and moved to the cities. Whatever graciousness there had been in plantation life began to disappear. Freedmen able to buy land were few. After ten years of freedom only about 5 per cent of the Negroes in the South had acquired farms and none were large plantation-owners.

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

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Equal Housing Opportunity

Walker
from page 1

instructor. During the summer of 2009 Ms Walker was also a research intern under the guidance of Dr. Jerry Williams, Chair of the Department of Social and Cultural Analysis and Director of SFASU 's Community Outreach Program .

Djuana is also a member of Appha Kappa Delta, an international sociological honor society and the National Scholars Honor Society. She is also a 1199 general studies graduate of Kilgore College.

Ms. Walker 's future plans are to seek employment in Cherokee County and doing further study in child and family deeevelopment in SFASU'sDepartment of Human Sciences' graduate program beginning the fall of 2009.

She is the daughter of Betty and Larry Walker, Sr. and the mother of Brandon DeShawn, all of Cherokee County.

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Hollywood's Time

by Billy (Hollywood) Grooves
Crockett, TX.

The term Stockholm syndrome is a somewhat modern definition of abnormality which occurs between victims and their victimizers. The Stockholm Syndrome explains why kidnapped and abused persons can

grow to admire and even become a member of the group of individuals who abducted them. If you watch the news, I'm sure you heard that term recently used in the kidnapping case in California where a woman was held by her captors for nearly twenty years. In the 1970's newspaper heiress Patty Hearst was kidnapped by



a group called the S.L.A. who got Hearst to help them rob banks. After she was freed, the authorities ruled that she was brainwashed, manipulated and coerced by her captors to join them in their criminal endeavors. The authorities understood that, under normal circumstances, Hearst wouldn't be a bank robber. They understood that captured people will do anything it takes to stay alive. From a historical perspective, I would have to say many African Americans have lived with the Stockholm Syndrome. Think about it. African Americans still live under the shadows of a time in American when one group of Americans were using African American human beings as America's personal slaves and those slaves had to act like they were happy under those conditions. I guess you could have given most of those slaves academy acting awards for the great job they did of appearing happy when "we" know they weren't. Those slaves also convinced their captors that they were content, happy people, living as slaves with absolutely no human rights. I have written in the past more than once, that descendants of slaves and the descendants of slave owners both needed mental counseling. The descendants of slaves needed counseling because they were oppressed for so long that they are still effected by a Stockholm Syndrome type of mindset disorder.

That mindset keeps African Americans smiling and appearing to be happy and all right when "they" (we) are actually facing brutal, racist, harsh conditions across America every day.

The descendants of slave owners and some privileged white Americans need counseling because they have been treating Black folk so wrong for so long that they think their behavior is normal. Although the case can be made that counseling is not needed by either party because both sides of the issues "know the real deal". As an optimist, I know our nation has come a long way since slavery and the future is looking brighter, because we "do" have a Black President (Barrack Obama) in America.

However, it's still disheartening to see Black folks with the Stockholm Syndrome—scared to speak out when they suffer wrongs done to them.....job discrimination, miseducation in public school classrooms and the list goes on. A lot of the school districts here in East Texas have slammed the door shut on black teachers. They will not hire them and will use the lie "they don't apply" to soothe their conscience. I will end this discussion by saying this to those who have Stockholm Syndrome, "power concedes nothing without a struggle". Nuff said.

East Texas thanks go out to President Barrack Obama, Dr. Ruth Watson, Dr. Ianthia Fisher, Walter Session, Maxine Session, Darwin "D.C." Campbell, Dr. Brenda Atchison, The Dead End Barbershop, The Informer, Lone Star Pages, Dr. Helen King, George King, Victoria Essien, Penny Lynn Webb, Chris Martinez, Lynn Martinez, Sis. Earlie Groves, The Messenger, Quanell X, Rev. Delvin Atchison, Lela Wheeler, Ken Houston, Darrell and Brenda Smith, African American news and Ebony Magazine.

This column is sponsored by Customers Choice in Crockett, Chris and Lynn Martinez managers. Billy "Hollywood" Grooves is an Award winning writer, columnist, freedom fighter, activist and community leader.



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L to R Trinity Smalls, Destyne Harris and Eddie Harris

Delnisha Overstreet and Brandon Morris Wed



Mr. & Mrs. Brandon Morris were married in a beautiful double-ring ceremony at 4:00PM Saturday, August 22, 2009 at the Elm Grove Baptist Church. Guests were treated to a three course dinner at the reception following the wedding which was held at the VFW in Rusk. She is a 2009 Rusk High graduate and is employed with Rusk State Hospital. He is a 2007 graduate employed with the Cherokee County Sheriffs Department. They will live in Rusk.

Happy 1st Birthday
Trinity Smalls from all of your family

Love, your cousins Destyne & Eddie Harris

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I can do all things through Christ which
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~Philippians 4:13

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What's Cookin'

Louisiana DIRTY RICE

4 slices bacon cut into small pieces

1 bunch green onions, sliced

1/2 red pepper, chopped

2 cloves garlic, minced

1 pkg. (6 oz.) stove top stuffing mix

1 3/4 cups water

1 tsp dried rosemary leaves

1/2 tsp pepper

1/2 pound chicken livers, chopped

1/2 cup chopped pecans

Cook bacon in large skillet on medium heat until crisp. Add green onions, pepper, and garlic;

cook and stir until tender. Stir in contents of vegetable/seasoning packet, water, rosemary and pepper. Bring to a boil; add chicken livers. Reduce heat to low; cover and simmer 5 minutes or until chicken livers are cooked through. Stir in stuffing crumbs and pecans; cover. Remove from heat. Let stand 5 minutes.

Lucille's Southern Fried Chicken

3 1/2 pounds chicken pieces (skinned - optional)

1 1/2 tsp. salt

1/4 tsp pepper

1 flour

1 1/2 cups buttermilk

1 1/2 cups shortening

1 egg

Season chicken using salt and pepper. Mix buttermilk and egg in bowl. Place flour in plastic or paper bag. Heat shortening in skillet. Dip chicken in buttermilk mixture. Drop in flour and coat well. Drop in hot shortening and cook until brown on both sides. Place on paper towel and let drain.

Approximately 8 servings.

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HUD Housing

Washington- "We believe this is a real win for everyone," said Donovan. "Today, the Obama Administration is taking another important step toward accelerating the recovery of the nation's housing market. Families will now be able to apply their anticipated tax credit toward their home purchase right away. At the same time we are putting safeguards in place to ensure that consumers will be protected from unscrupulous lenders. What we're doing today will not only help these families to purchase their first home but will present an enormous benefit for communities struggling to deal with an oversupply of housing."

Currently, borrowers applying for an FHA-insured mortgage are required to make a minimum 3.5 percent downpayment on the purchase of their home. Current law does not permit approved lenders to monetize the tax credit to meet the required 3.5 percent minimum down payment, but, under the terms of today's announcement, lenders can now monetize the tax credit for use as additional down payment, or for other closing costs, which can help achieve a lower interest rate. Buyers financing through state Housing Finance Agencies and certain non-profits will be able to use the tax

credit for their downpayments via secondary financing provided by the HFA or non-profit. In addition to the borrower's own cash investment, FHA allows parents, employers and other governmental entities to contribute towards the downpayment. Today's action permits the first-time homebuyer's anticipated tax credit under the Recovery Act to be applied toward the family's home purchase right away. Unlike seller-funded down-payment assistance, which was a vehicle for abuse, this program will allow homebuyers to shop for the best home price and services using their anticipated tax credit. According to estimates by the National Association of Home Builders, the Administration's homebuyer tax credit will stimulate 160,000 home sales across the nation - 101,000 of which will be first-time buyers who will receive the credit. Another 59,000 existing homeowners will be able to buy another home because a first-time buyer purchased their home. Given FHA's current market share, it's estimated that thousands of families will be able to purchase a home by allowing the anticipated tax credit to be applied toward their purchase together with an FHA-insured mortgage. most suitable and affordable option.

Homebuyers should beware of mortgage scams and carefully compare benefits and costs when seeking out tax credit monetization services. Programs will vary from organization to organization and borrowers should consider whether the services make sense for them, as well as what company offers the For every FHA borrower who is assisted through the tax credit program, FHA will collect the name and employer identification number of the organization providing the service as well as associated fees and charges. FHA will use this information to track the business closely and will refer any questionable practices to the appropriate regulatory agencies, as necessary.

#

HUD is the nation's housing agency committed to sustaining homeownership; creating affordable housing opportunities for low-income Americans; and supporting the homeless, elderly, people with disabilities and people living with AIDS. The Department also promotes economic and community development and enforces the nation's fair housing laws. More information about HUD and its programs is available on the Internet at www.hud.gov and espanol.hud.gov.

(Preston's Point of View continued)

The firebombing was Hartman Turnbow's punishment for trying to vote. A few days earlier, he had become the first black person since the turn of the century to fill out a voter registration form in Holmes County.

For blacks in the South, voting had always been dangerous business. Elaborate regulations limited black voting and anyone who tried to defeat the system was punished. In 1958, for example black farmer Izell Henry voted in a Democratic primary in Greensburg, Louisiana. The next morning, he was beaten by white men and left for dead. Henry lived, but suffered permanent brain damage.

Attacks on black voters were common, but they were not the only tactics used to keep blacks away from the polls. State legislatures had more sophisticated tools. Until the mid-1960s, most Southern states had laws requiring voters to pay poll taxes, pass literacy tests, or read and interpret any section of the state constitution. Voter registrars applied the tests unequally. Blacks were rejected for mispronouncing a word while whites were approved who could not read at all.

At the whim of local officials, voting lists could be "purged" of unqualified voters. In four Louisiana parishes between 1961 and 1963, 90 percent of registered black voters were taken off the roles while only a handful of whites were removed.



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Civic Theatre holds Auditions for "A Christmas Story".

The Cherokee in Rusk is holding open auditions for their upcoming winter presentation "A Christmas Story".

Auditions will be held Sunday, September 20 at 2pm, and Tuesday, September 22 at 7pm at the First United Methodist Church, 255 S. Henderson Street in Rusk.

The Cast will consist of Boys 5-7; Boys & Girls 8-13ish, Males & Females 18 & up. It'll be a small cast of 2 girls, 6 boys, 2 females and 2-3 males. For info, contact Karen Hendley, 903-795-3779; Judy Faye Garner, 903-683-2414 or the Cherokee Civic Theatre, 903-683-2131. The story is taken from the memoir of humorist Jean Shepherd, growing up in the 1940's midwest. It follows 9 year old Ralphie Parker in his quest to

get a genuine Red Ryder BB gun under the tree for Christmas and .

all that he encountered from most everyone, including Santa! It's a fun look at life in the 40's, complete with bullies, exploding furnaces, sticking a wet tongue on a cold lamppost, Little Orphan Annie decoder pin....and so much more.

Ever wanted to be on stage? This is your perfect opportunity. It's a lot of fun and exceedingly rewarding!

The Cherokee Civic Theatre is always looking for volunteers. If you'd like to help, or need any information, call 903-683-213. Leave a message and one of the theatre's volunteers will return your call; or log onto www.cherokeetheatre.net

Enjoy Hunting Season — But Be Aware of Disease Threats Lurking in the Wild

Texas can be a letdown for visitors who expect the set of "Rio Lobo" (actually shot in Arizona) and instead find an urbanizing state fully integrated with the 21st Century. But even in the iPhone age, much of our frontier culture survives. Among the richest of these traditions is fall and winter hunting.

It all starts in September with zone-by-zone seasons for dove, teal, turkey, squirrel and alligator. Later, guns and crossbows are trained on javelina, pronghorn antelope, deer, quail, pheasant and chachalaca, among other game. With all these opportunities, devoted hunters can pretty much live in their camouflage suits until mid-February.

But, if you're going to spend all that time out in the fields and marshes, you need to be aware of the many disease-causing critters whose habitat you'll be sharing. Ticks, mosquitos and fleas are near-ubiquitous. So, too, are rodents and larger mammals that carry a host of harmful viruses and bacteria.

Just a few of these nastier diseases you risk contracting are West Nile virus, encephalitis, Lyme disease, Rocky Mountain spotted fever, brucellosis and tularemia.

These health threats should be taken seriously by every hunter but, according to the Texas Department of State Health Services, they all can be minimized with a combination of basic knowledge and a few common-sense precautions. Following is the rogue's gallery of common outdoor disease-carriers and how you can avoid taking on their unpleasant cargo.

Ticks

If you're outdoors in Texas, you're in tick country. The most common malady spread by these tiny

bloodsuckers is Lyme disease, which produces short-term symptoms such as skin lesions or rashes. Left untreated, things quickly get worse, sometimes including damage to the joints, heart and nervous system.

Ticks also carry Rocky Mountain spotted fever, which causes a measles-like rash and may be fatal if not treated quickly.

Tularemia also hitches frequent rides in ticks. Rabbit hunters are at especially high risk for this disease. So, after handling rabbit carcasses, be sure to disinfect your hands and other body parts that have come in contact with the animals.

To protect yourself against insect bites, follow these recommended steps:

Use insect repellent containing DEET.

Avoid areas of overgrown brush and tall grasses.

Wear protective clothing such as a hat, long-sleeved shirt and long pants tucked into boots or socks. Wear light-colored clothes to easily spot ticks.

Check your body for ticks every few hours. They're small, easy to miss and will attach to any part of the body from h

Mosquitos

West Nile virus is carried by mosquitos and can cause encephalitis, a brain inflammation characterized by high fever, intense headaches, nausea, muscle soreness, partial unconsciousness and even coma. In rare cases, death may occur. As with ticks, the best protection is insect repellent with DEET. Because mosquitos live and breed near water, be sure to use repellent that's water- and sweat-resistant, and re-apply often.

Fleas

Infected rats, mice and other rodents can spread hantavirus infection to people through droppings, urine and saliva. You also can be infected by inhaling dust that contains the virus, so wear a cloth face mask when you're cleaning deer blinds, cabins, sheds or barns.

LEGAL NOTICE

These Texas Lottery Commission Scratch-Off games will close on September 22, 2008. You have until March 21, 2009, to redeem any tickets for these games:

- Game #830 Instant Bingo (\$2) Overall Odds are 1 in 4.20
- Game #1003 Line 'Em Up (\$1) Overall Odds are 1 in 4.81
- Game #1008 Tic-Tac-TeX (\$1) Overall Odds are 1 in 4.67
- Game #1020 7-11-21 (\$1) Overall Odds are 1 in 4.37
- Game #1021 Double Doubler (\$2) Overall Odds are 1 in 4.31
- Game #1036 Lucky Times 7 (\$7) Overall Odds are 1 in 3.34
- Game #1048 Money Maker (\$5) Overall Odds are 1 in 3.55
- Game #1053 Giant Jumbo Bucks (\$5) Overall Odds are 1 in 3.69

This Texas Lottery Commission Scratch-Off game will close on September 29, 2008. You have until March 28, 2009, to redeem any tickets for this game:

- Game #817 \$1 Million Cash (\$20) Overall Odds are 1 in 3.05



The odds listed here are the overall odds of winning any prize in a game, including break-even prizes. Lottery retailers are authorized to redeem prizes of up to and including \$500. Prizes of \$500 or more must be claimed in person at a Lottery Claim Center or by mail with a completed Texas Lottery claim form; however, annuity prizes or prizes over \$500,000 must be claimed in person at the Commission Headquarters in Austin. Call Customer Service at 1-800-37-LOTTO or visit the Lottery Web site at www.texaslottery.com for more information and location of nearest Claim Center. The Texas Lottery is not responsible for lost or stolen tickets, or for tickets lost in the mail. Tickets, transactions, prizes, and winners are subject to, and players and winners agree to abide by, all applicable laws, Commission rules, regulations, policies, directives, instructions, conditions, procedures, and final decisions of the Executive Director. A Scratch-Off game may continue to be sold even when all the top prizes have been claimed. Must be 18 years of age or older to purchase a Texas Lottery ticket. PLAY RESPONSIBLY. The Texas Lottery supports Texas Education. © 2008 Texas Lottery Commission. All Rights Reserved.

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Life is too short
to wake up in the morning
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ones who don't,
and believe that everything
happens for a reason.
If you get a chance,
take it.
If it changes
your life, let it.
Nobody said
life would be easy,
they just promised
it would be worth it.'

~Author unknown

Senator Ted Kennedy passes away at age 77



Senator Ted Kennedy, the last surviving brother of the late President of these United States of America, President John F. Kennedy

Massachusetts - Sen. Edward Kennedy, the patriarch of the first family of Democratic politics, died late Tuesday at his home in Hyannis Port, Massachusetts. He was 77. Kennedy, known as the "Lion of the Senate," died after a lengthy battle with brain cancer. "We've lost the irreplaceable center of our family and joyous light in our lives, but the inspiration of his faith, optimism and perseverance will live on in our hearts forever," a family statement said. "We thank everyone who gave him care and support over this last year, and everyone who stood with him for so many years in his tireless march for progress toward justice." Timeline: Follow Kennedy's life and career

Kennedy was buried at Arlington National Cemetery, just a few feet from the graves of his brothers. He is eligible for burial at Arlington due to his congressional service and his tenure in the Army from 1951 to 1953. [Learn more about Kennedy's funeral arrangements »](#)

Kennedy, nicknamed "Ted," was the younger brother of slain President John F. Kennedy and New York Sen. Robert Kennedy, who was gunned down while seeking the White House in 1968. However, his own presidential aspirations were hobbled by the controversy around a 1969 auto accident that left a young woman dead, and a 1980 primary challenge to then-President Jimmy Carter that ended in defeat. [View reaction from public figures](#)

But while the White House eluded his grasp, the longtime Massachusetts senator was considered one of the most effective legislators of the past few decades. Kennedy played major roles in passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Voting Rights Act of 1965, the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act and the 1993 Family and Medical Leave Act, and was an outspoken liberal standard-bearer during a conservative-dominated era from the 1980s to the early 2000s. [Watch retrospective on Kennedy's storied career »](#)

President Obama will deliver a eulogy at Kennedy's funeral on Saturday. He was "not only one of the greatest senators of our time, but one of the most accomplished Americans ever to serve our democracy," Obama said, speaking to reporters during his vacation in Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts.

This Is It

Continued from page 1

Randy Phillips, president and chief executive of AEG Live, stated that the first 10 dates alone would have earned the singer approximately £50 million. Originally only 10 concerts were announced, however public demand resulted in a 50 date sold out residency. Ticket sales broke several records and AEG Live stated that Jackson could have sold more dates. Jackson's album sales increased following the announcement.

In preparation for the concert series, the pop singer had been collaborating with numerous high profile figures, such as fashion designer Christian Audigier, choreographer Kenny Ortega and bodybuilder

Lou Ferrigno. Prior to Jackson's death, Allgood Entertainment had planned to sue the musician for \$40 million, claiming that he had breached a contract with them.

In light of Jackson's passing, AEG Live offered either full refunds to all ticket holders or a special souvenir ticket designed by the entertainer. Columbia Pictures acquired the footage of the show rehearsals and made a concert film entitled Michael Jackson's *This Is It*. The Jackson estate will get 90% of the profit made while the remaining 10% goes to AEG Live. Columbia Pictures guaranteed at least \$60 million for the rights. To coincide with the release of the concert footage, an accompanying album (*This Is It*) is also scheduled for worldwide distribution

Coalition of civil rights groups releases recommendations to equalize education

Washington(NNPA) The Campaign for High School Equity (CHSE), a diverse coalition of 10 leading civil rights organizations representing communities of color, has provided recommendations for the development of common academic standards that take into account the unique needs of students of color and low-income students. The purpose of the recommendations, released late last month, is to ensure that all children, regardless of ZIP code, income, race, or ethnicity are taught to the same high standards.

"Even though our kids represent the fastest-growing segment of public school students, communities of color are still frequently left out of the process of defining academic success in our country," said Michael Woterson, executive director of CHSE. "Communities of color must be meaningful partners in the development, implementation, evaluation, and validation phases already under way in the common standards movement. If the leaders of this process fail to engage those most at risk, they may actually perpetuate educational inequities and therefore be complicit in creating a permanent underclass in America." The 10 CHSE partners are the National

Council of La Raza, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights Education Fund, the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, the League of United Latin American Citizens, the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials Educational Fund, the Alliance for Excellent Education, the National Indian Education Association, and the Southeast Asia Resource Action Center. According to the Alliance for Excellent Education, African-American, Latino, and Native American high school students have at best a six in 10 chance of graduating from high school on time and with a regular diploma. And contrary to the model minority myth, many Asian Americans also face barriers in education. For example, about half of adult Cambodian, Laotian, and Vietnamese Americans have less than a high school education. Setting common academic standards can be a critical step toward closing the achievement gap if they are implemented effectively and fairly. But standards that do not take the unique needs of students of color into account will miss the mark