



# TEXAS INFORMER

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September 2018  
Volume XXIII NUMBER 1



*Bringing you positive news about local people since 1995!*

P.O. Box 332  
Rusk, Texas 75785

## Monte Verdi Plantation Historical Marker Recognizes Slave Names



*Picture by Maxine Session*

Much to the surprise of many Rusk and Cherokee County African American residents, a very important piece of their local ancestry history sits in their midst and has been there since 1856. Thanks to Dorothy Franks, Project Manager, Deborah Loftis Foster, President of the Laneville Allen School Alumni Association, the alumni and the Texas Slave History and Inventory Preservation Board, the unknown history has been made known. Located about one mile off Highway 84, approximately eight miles East of Reklaw, Texas on County Road 4233, the plantation is easily found. On Saturday, September 1, 2018 descendants gathered at the plantation to "Speak Their names", 200 plus Monte Verdi slaves. Story page 3.

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## EDITORIAL



Maxine Session

On August 24, 2018, I received a call and a fax from Elizabeth Whitaker of Jacksonville informing me that there would be a special Ancestor Recognition Ceremony and a historical marker unveiling at the historic Monte Verdi Plantation located off highway 84 in Rusk County. She asked if I was aware of it?

I was born and raised in Rusk, Texas. I talk to many people from Rusk and Cherokee Counties on a regular basis, but this was my first knowledge of this historic plantation.

In the coming days some of my family and I took a trip to the plantation and was in awe. It has been there since 1856. I told everybody I talked to about it. Nobody knew about the plantation.

A book by Dorman H. Winfrey was written about it in 1962, "*Julien Sidney Devereux and his Monte Verdi Plantation*".

Now that we know, it can be used to teach history to the children in our area. There is information online that tells how tours can be scheduled by appointment and there are beautiful pictures of the inside of the immaculately kept house.

In the month of August we took a trip to the African American Civil Rights Museum in Jackson Mississippi. The children showed great interest in the displays and films, at times shedding tears as we did. Its good to know that we can find our ancestor history in a place that still exists right here at home.

If you have not driven down highway 84 East to 11992 CR 4233, do so when you find the time. Your family name might be there.



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## Letters to the Editor

Editor,

Can you please tell me how to locate archived publications of The Cherokee Informer / The Texas Informer.

I am researching the schools and communities of Jacksonville, Larissa, Cuney, Mt. Haven, Church Hill and Pine grove. Also, the citizens and groups that were highlighted. I know that I saw things (in the Informer) before, however, I did not save them. When I go online now, I can not go back to 2004 and I know that the paper was established in 1995.

I am from Jacksonville, graduated in the last class of FDHS (CO70), but live in Arlington, VA. I only get home once a year and I do take advantage of the local library when I am there.

Thanks for your help.  
Patricia Bowens Scott

From the Editor: Thank you Patricia for reaching out to us. Right now only issues from 2007 to present are on the web at [www.texasinformer.com](http://www.texasinformer.com). We are working to get all issues onto the website and into the archives at Stephen F. Austin State University and North Texas State University.  
Thank you.



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### Letters to the Editor Policy

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# Monte Verdi Plantation African American Slave Family Decendents Return to Roots

Cover Story By Maxine Session



Slave house which still stands behind the big house.



Current plantation owners Joe and Cecelia Koch



Decendants from as far away as Maryland and South Carolina.

On Saturday, September 1, 2018 more than 150 decendants and others gathered under a large tent and shade trees at the beautiful old Monte Verdi Plantation to "Speak the names" of their ancestors. Located in Rusk County near the Glenfawn community, they gathered to commemorate the names of the slaves who once lived and worked on the 10, 700 acre plantation by calling out their names and unveiling the historical marker containg their names and their history. Joe and Cecilia Coke, the current plantation owners were there to greet them and join in the ceremony. Slave decendant, Tarrant County Judge Lewis Sturns, 213th District,

had this to say,"I have mixed emotions. Our ancestors were brought here against their will. A people without knowledge of their history is like a tree without roots. Let us be glad that the South did not win (the Civil War). We would still be working the cotton fields." Dr. Scott Sosebee, Stephen F. Austin History Professor said history is like a fabric. If you loose a string you loose the fabric. Everybody's story has to be told.

Furlich July Arrington of Jacksonville is a 12th generation decendent of Jesse July(1870 U. S. Census) family. She and daughter Janea were there.

Shirley Freeney Jones, decendent, from Dallas had this to say." My Daddy, Rev. Earnest Freeney was born and raised in Freenytown near Fairview Community. He told me much of our family history was lost when he was a small boy. The Klan burned a cross in their front yard. The family ran, settling in Rusk, Texas with nothing more than what they could carry. The land was lost."

Walter Session of the Sessions family decendants said he was shocked when the family name "Sessions" was included in the slave family list. "I had no idea my family roots were here."

Dorothy Franks, founder, told of her visit to the Rusk County Courthouse to take care of business when a man she met carried her to the basement vault and showed her documents from the 1856 Will of Julien Sidney Devereux, Monte Verdi Plantation owner. From that began the researc which led to the recognition ceremony and marker dedication..

Continued page 9

**WHAT'S COOK'N****Delicious Chicken Salad****Ingredients**

3 Split Chicken Breasts  
 1½ teaspoons salt, divided  
 1 teaspoon black pepper  
 1 cup finely chopped celery  
 ¾ cup sweet pickle relish  
 ¾ cup mayonnaise

**Directions**

1. Place Chicken Breasts in a 6-quart pot. Add cold water to cover the chicken. Add 1 teaspoon salt and ½ teaspoon black pepper. Bring to a boil, reduce heat and simmer for 50 minutes. Remove meat from the bones, discarding skin.  
 2. Finely dice the chicken.  
 3. In a medium size bowl, add chicken, celery, pickle relish, ½ teaspoon salt and ½ teaspoon black

**Home Fried Cabbage**

6 slices bacon, chopped  
 1 large onion, diced  
 2 cloves garlic, minced  
 1 large head cabbage, cored and sliced  
 1 teaspoon salt, or to taste  
 1 teaspoon ground black pepper  
 ½ teaspoon onion powder  
 ½ teaspoon garlic powder  
 1/8 teaspoon paprika  
 Add all ingredients to list

Place the bacon in a large stockpot and cook over medium-high heat until crispy, about 10 minutes. Add the onion and garlic; cook and stir until the onion caramelizes; about 10 minutes. Immediately stir in the cabbage and continue to cook and stir another 10 minutes. Season with salt, pepper, onion powder, garlic powder, and paprika. Reduce heat to low, cover, and simmer, stirring occasionally, about 30 minutes more

**CHRISTIANITY****Spiritually Speaking Trust**

By James Washington, the Dallas Weekly/NNPA Member

Sometimes words alone cannot convey meaning and feelings the way we'd like them to. Trust for example. The reference point for my meaning is "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all things acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight." Proverbs 3:5-6.

Trust is such a complex thing. Have you ever been betrayed by someone in whom you had total trust? Have you been able to totally trust another person since? You can see how easily misplaced trust puts you in a terribly vulnerable place. It's uncomfortable. It's abnormal. It ain't fun. Yet, in this passage, we are instructed to put our trust in the Lord. The question is can you do it? Are you able to put trust in your heart after you experience devastating betrayal? And we've all been betrayed in one way or another; either by having our beliefs proven false or maybe your heart has been broken.

Everyone knows someone who has been crippled by a lover or spouse gone crazy, or, watched someone stumble up on the truth about a situation that everybody but them knew the real deal. In the real world that kind of stuff hurts. In a real sense, once destroyed, "trust don't come 'round here anymore."

But now we're supposed to go out and trust in the Lord implicitly. You get my meaning? Extreme caution usually follows crippling betrayal. New relationships are founded largely on mistrust and 'prove it to me;' not, blind faith and unconditional trust. Life teaches us that only a fool would allow themselves to be misused again and again.

Therein lies my question about trust and what it means to you. Can you deal with this concept everyday? How much of a struggle are you having trying to trust people who have taught you not to give them the time of day? Do you treat all people this way or just the one(s) who betrayed you? Can you forgive? Can you ever forget? Do you really want to? And what does all of this have to do with God? How are you treating Him in the trust area?

"Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful." 1 Corinthians 4:2. Now exactly, who's proving what to whom? Are you requiring God to prove something to you before you trust Him? Are you demanding from God those same things you demand from someone, anyone before you would even consider giving him or her your love? You see it is so easy to succumb to a lifestyle which requires proof before love is given.

It's so easy to demand the possible from people who are incapable of giving it to you. But how can you base your relationship with God on worldly principles grounded in betrayal and disappointment? Are you requiring God to prove His love to you before you give yours to Him? The key to this trust thing lies deep within each and every one of us. We first have to confront those demons which have plagued us for years. And yes, that means all the pain that goes with them. Then and only then can we begin to even accept the concept of trust and loyalty, total and without equivocation. Because then trust means knowing. Trust means truth. Trust means no matter what, I know that regardless of conditions and circumstances, I am God's child, made in His image and the recipient of His love. After all, He loved you first and has never gone back on His word. Trust that!

May God bless and keep you always.

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# Four Chaplains Honor Award

continued from page 7

Mike Traylor -provision of community food pantry, and Ramsey and Bootsaba Walker -Habitat for Humanity in 30 countries.

The Award recipients and guests were welcomed by Chaplain Hopkins. The story of the Immortal Four Chaplains by Fr. Barry Thibodeaux, the Orthodox Church. Chaplain Alexander D. Good tribute was given by Congregation Beth El. The Chaplain Clark V. Poling tribute was given by Steve Edwards, Baptist. The Chaplain John P. Washington tribute by OLS Catholic Church, Chaplain George L. Fox tribute by Rev. Jimmy Reese, Methodist . Shirley Reese and Billy Bateman introduces previous award recipients. Chaplain Hopkins presented the Legion of Honor Awards to the Honorees and he also gave the Mission assignment to awardees. Celebrants of the Four Chaplains

gave blessings of awardees and guests followed by Congratulatory reception for the award winners by Days & Stones.

The Chapel of Four Chaplains is founded upon one shining manifestation of our heritage - that of four Army Chaplains who, after giving their life jackets to soldiers who had none, linked arms with one another and went down with the USAT DORCHESTER, after it was torpedoed on February 3, 1943.

Previous award recipients are: Billy Bateman - emergency relief services,, Shirley Reese - child and family welfare activities, David Butler, Santa Rosa Beach Floriday, -provisions of community clothing and goods, Rev. Ron Sparks, California, - AIDS/HIV and prison inmate assistance and Carey Spearman, Stanton Island, NY - twelve relief missions to Viet Nam

# “Hidden Figures” Katherine Johnson Turns 100



Katherine Johnson

By Stacy M. Brown,  
NNPA Newswire Contributor

Katherine Johnson, who hand-crunched the numbers for America’s first manned space flight – a feat that finally got its Big Screen acknowledgement just two years ago, turned 100 on Sunday, August 26, 2018.

“[On Sunday], we celebrate Alpha Kappa Alpha’s own, Katherine Johnson. She’s credited with crunching the numbers by hand that allowed NASA to launch the first U.S. astronauts into space,” leaders of the Alpha Kappa Alpha said in a statement.

“We are women of many first. First and finest.” Many others paid tribute via statements and social media. “If you haven’t seen the movie about what she and other brilliant Black women at NASA accomplished, be sure to watch the fabulous movie, ‘Hidden Figure,’ in her honor,” said comic book writer Grace Randolph. “I stand on your shoulders,” said Dr. Camille Alleyne. “You blazed the trail which I and so many have had the privilege to walk on ... Katherine, you are my hero. I love, honor and salute you,” Alleyne said.

Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr., president and CEO of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA), also paid homage to Johnson.

“Katherine Johnson’s historic contributions to the evolution of applied mathematics and aerospace science epitomizes her genius to overcome the scientific challenges

of her generation,” Chavis said.

“Today, African American women in particular should be inspired by the example of Katherine Johnson in STEM career fields,” Chavis said.

“The NNPA salutes Johnson’s transformative legacy that is no longer hidden.”

The recipient of the 2015 National Medal of Freedom, and a 2016 People Magazine honoree as being among the 25 Women Changing the World, Johnson enjoyed a brilliant 33-year career at NASA and her life story finally was told on the big screen in “Hidden Figures,” the award-winning movie that starred Taraji P. Henson, Octavia Spencer and Janelle Monáe.

In an earlier interview, she told NNPA Newswire that she missed working. “I’d go back now,” she said.

After leaving her teaching job in 1953, Johnson began working for NASA and was able to calculate the trajectory for numerous space missions, including for the space flight of Alan Shephard, the first American in space and the trajectory for the famed 1968 Apollo 11 flight to the Moon.

“I’d do them over if I had to. I’d do anything for anyone,” she said.

At an early age, Johnson developed enviable math skills so much so that even NASA officials wrote a story about her titled, “The girl who loved to count.”

“I counted everything. I counted the steps to the road, the steps up to church, the number of dishes and silverware I washed ... anything that could be counted, I did,” Johnson said.

“I entered college, I was 15. I was going to be a math teacher because that was it. You could be a math teacher or a nurse but I was told I would make a good research mathematician and they had me take all of the courses in the catalogue,” she said.

When Astronaut John Glenn went to the moon, Johnson said her “Hidden Figures” crew acted as the computer for the mission. She said calculating everything involved in the flight became like a geometry problem.

# United Women of Strength holds regular meeting

Jacksonville, Tx. - United Women of Strength met August 20, 2018 in the home of President, Lois Teague.

The organization is now recruiting new members and planning fall and spring 2019 activities.

New member Mary Yarbrough was introduced. Members present were Vice president Charlie Esco, Secretary Jean Hinton, treasurer Annie Blanton, Corresponding secretary Helen Scott, Maxine Session, Gladys

Thompson, Ann Silman, Ruby Franklin, Genell Parsons, Barbara Scott, Annie McClelland, Francis Freeman, Barbara Scott, Ethel Rollins, Mary Tatum, Annie Williams and new member Mary Yarbrough.

The next meeting is scheduled for 1:00pm, Monday August 20, 2018 in the home of Jean Hinton . United Women of Strength is a Non-Profit Organization which has been in existence since July 20, 2007..

## LEGAL NOTICE

These Texas Lottery Commission scratch ticket games will be closing soon:

Game #	Game Name / Odds	\$	Official Close of Game	End Validations Date
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2044	The Cash Wheel Overall Odds are 1 in 5.05	\$3	9/29/18	3/28/19
2037	Some Like It Hot Overall Odds are 1 in 4.70	\$1	10/24/18	4/22/19
1861	Instant Bingo Overall Odds are 1 in 4.24	\$2	10/24/18	4/22/19
2009	Bling Overall Odds are 1 in 4.65	\$2	10/24/18	4/22/19
2033	High Roller Overall Odds are 1 in 3.89	\$5	10/24/18	4/22/19
2036	Power 5's Overall Odds are 1 in 3.97	\$5	10/24/18	4/22/19
2026	Super Hit Super Ticket™ Overall Odds are 1 in 3.45	\$10	10/24/18	4/22/19
1845	\$100 Million Golden Treasures Overall Odds are 1 in 3.16	\$20	10/24/18	4/22/19

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**Nov. 6, 2018**  
**Early voting**  
**begins**  
**October 22 -**  
**Nov. 2, 2018**

## Dr. Courtney Phillips picked to head the Texas Health and Human Services Commission



By  
Marissa Evans  
Health and Human  
Services Reporter

Rusk State Hospital is a part of the Health and Human Services that Dr. Phillips will oversee..

Courtney Phillips is the new executive commissioner for the Texas Health and Human Services Commission, Gov. Greg Abbott announced Thursday.

Phillips is currently the chief executive officer for the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. She starts her role as commissioner Oct. 19.

In a Thursday evening news release, Abbott said Phillips' "vast experience in health and human services makes her the ideal person to fill this role."

"Tackling the challenges at HHSC will be no small task, but I'm confident that Dr. Phillips' extensive background will help her lead the department to improve and maintain accountability," Abbott said.

Phillips will oversee an agency with 60,000 employees and an \$80 billion biennial budget — and unlike her predecessor she has a background in health care background. She's also starting in the wake of the departure of dozens of experienced staff members who say morale plummeted during Smith's time as executive director and that they felt overworked and undervalued. Staffers have pointed out that the institutional brain drain among the programs has also stifled the agency's work. The announcement comes nearly three months after Charles Smith, the previous executive commissioner for

the health agency, retired from his position. His announced retirement came after weeks of intense scrutiny over how the commission handles contracts. He was considered a longtime ally of Abbott, who picked him to lead the state's Health and Human Services Commission in 2016 after he worked for Abbott in the attorney general's office. Phillips also will be responsible for overhauling how the agency handles contracts. In the last months of Smith's tenure, state auditors, legislators and Abbott called out the agency over years of error-prone contracts even after years of work to make the onboarding and management process more efficient. In April, Abbott wrote a scathing letter to Smith over contracting failures related to the Children's Health Insurance Program in rural communities.

The letter and other contracting issues highlighted by state auditors led five employees — including two top state officials overseeing contracting and procurement — to depart the agency. In January, the commission endured the ire of Texas House Speaker Joe Straus, a Republican, after an audit report found the commission allowed a health insurance company to pay \$29.6 million in bonus and incentive payments to medical providers' employees, even though those payments were not allowed under the company's contract.

## Jennifer Hudson to play Queen of Soul in Movie



Aretha Franklin picked Jennifer Hudson to play Aretha Franklin in a new biopic about the Motown legend, according to Rolling Stone magazine. Music producer Clive Davis made the announcement.

The American musician, singer, songwriter, and pianist passed away at the age of 76 on August 16, 2018 in Detroit.

She was Born March 25, 1942 in Memphis, Tennessee. Cause of Death was Pancreatic neuroendocrine cancer.

She was married to Glynn Turman 1978 to 1984 and Ted White 1961 to 1969. Her children are Ted White Jr., Kecalf Cunningham, Clarence Franklin, and Edward Franklin. Aretha's Parents were Barbara Siggers Franklin and C. L. Franklin.

Her career spanned from 1956 and covered Black Gospel, Deep Soul, Quiet Storm, R&B, Soul, Southern Soul and opera.

A marker dedication was held at the childhood home of the beloved singer on Wednesday. Memphis Mayor Jim Strickland unveiled a plaque to mark the small wooden home soul singer Aretha Franklin grew up in. Her family moved away from Memphis when she was two

years old.

The decaying home has been vacant for years without being identified as a historical marker. Two residents explained why this house is important to them and to Memphis.

"I want to keep it standing, not only just for Aretha, I raised my kids in there, and I stayed there for years. I love the house," says Vera Lee House.

"It's a great thing, it's a great thing to do that because it's a great landmark," says Ricky Givan. "We do know that Aretha Franklin was born in this house. We all recognize that, over the years, but I'm just glad to see the City of Memphis doing something to make a landmark here for tourists to come through the city to see."

Lawyers and community leaders have been trying to find ways to preserve the house, which sits empty with its windows boarded up.

The house was ordered to be demolished, but the order was put on hold last year after volunteers stabilized the crumbling structure.

Producing the film about Aretha will be Straight Outta Compton's Scott Bernstein and music producer Harvey Mason Jr., who has worked

with Franklin and also produced music for the film Dreamgirls, on which Hudson won the Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress, alongside Beyonce. Hudson has gone on to a strong career that included the premiere of Monster, which premiered in Sundance.



# TJC Vocational Nursing Pinning Ceremony



Rusk - The Pinning Ceremony for Tyler Junior College /Rusk Vocational Nursing graduates was held Tuesday, August 7, 2018 at Rusk High School Auditorium.

Felicia Mayo, BSN, RN presented the seventeen candidates for Placing of the Pins. Each candidate was pinned by a nurse of his or her choosing.

With locations in Tyler, Rusk and Lindale. Vocational Nursing classes are for one year and are easily accessible to East Texans.

LVN's provide care in hospitals, clinics and homes under the guidance of doctors and RNs. The median annual wage for licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses is more than \$42,000. per year.

The next application period for the Vocational Nursing class is September 10-26, 2018 at noon. The ATI TEAS exam must be taken by September 24. TEAS exam tickets will only be given out during the application period.

For information go to the TJC website or contact J. Michelle Nelson Department Chair/Professor, or Felicia Mayo Coordinator/Professor Vocational Nursing.

Candidates were Ladetra D. Beasley, Kristen Benard, Eliana Borja, Jeremy Brummett, Dana M. Canady, Jasmine Harris, Layla Johns, Corrie B. Martinez, Karen Mendoza, Alejandra Palacios, Amy Parsons, Kimberly REamy, Lori Robertson, Ashley Rojo, Tonya Sheppard, Karisma Smith, and Alanna Stewart.

## The Chapel of Four Chaplains Presents the Legion of Honor Awards



Charlie Esco is presented the Legion of Honor Award and a 3 cent stamp as her family accompanies her to the stage.

Jacksonville - The Chapel of Four Chaplains, a national non-profit organization, added the names of fifteen new recipients to their honor roll June 30, 2018 in an All Faith Awards Convocation held at the Norman Activity Center.

Each was presented with a plaque and 3 cent stamp which reads "In recognition of your lifetime service to all people regardless of race or faith. This award symbolizes for all Americans and for all time the unity of this Nation, founded upon the Fatherhood of One God."



Award recipients are Janis Adams - multiple community service organizations, Dr. Mary Adamson - pro bono medical services, Joe Angle-procurement of higher education for city, Antonio Cardenas, Jr. - support of higher education, Al Chavira - support of public education and cultural relations, Dr. Edwin Crank- support of compensatory adult education, Jo Anne Flores Embleton - social media civic and relations promotions, Charlie Esco - preservation of African American heritage, Randy Gorham - support of non-profit charities, Rev. Don Hammock - services to homeless people, Debbie Kerzee - support of women's crisis center services, Fr. Mark Kusmerick - community leadership for social services, Nancy Sontag - services for remedial education,

Continued on page 9

# Obituaries

## Dorothy Lamb McCuin

Services were held Friday August 31, 2018 at Williams Funeral Home Chapel in Jacksonville, Texas for Dorothy McCuin. Dorothy Mae Lamb McCuin was born October 8, 1948 to the parents of J. B. Lamb and Charlie Mae Tyler in Knox City, Texas. She grew up in the Elm Grove Community of Rusk and was a graduate of G. W. Bradford High School with the class of 1967.

Dorothy lived in Dallas and moved back to Jacksonville where she was employed many years for Senior Care Assisted Living Rehabilitation Center of Jacksonville. She worked in the Nursing Field as a CNA for over fifty years.

She passed away from this life on Wednesday, August 22, 2018. She was preceded in death by her parents, three brothers, Elijah B. Lamb, Arthur Lamb and Chester Lamb; two sisters, Eula Mae Gray, and Willie Mae Lamb Lewis.

Dorothy leaves to cherish her memories a daughter Ursula McCuin of Dallas, Two sons, Michael Lamb and wife Doris of Tyler, and Detric McCuin of Mesquite; four brothers J. B. Lamb of Dallas, A. B. Lamb of Elm Grove Rusk, Texas, Curtis Lamb and wife Brenda of Dallas, Elvin Tyler of Denver Colorado; three granddaughters Ambra McCuin or Rowlett, Texas, Ashley McCuin of Dallas, and Monte McCuin of Mesquite; four grandsons, LeMarcos and Michael Jr. of Tyler, Detric Jr. and Micah of Dallas, one great grandson, Taj Grant of Mesquite and a dear longtime friend Mary Foreman of Rusk, a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

### Vote

November 6, 2018  
(You Regular voting place)

Early Voting  
October 22 - November 2, 2018

## Jessie Marie Cox

Services were held Saturday September 1, 2018 at Mercy McGowan Funeral Home Chapel Jacksonville, Texas for Jessie Marie Cox.

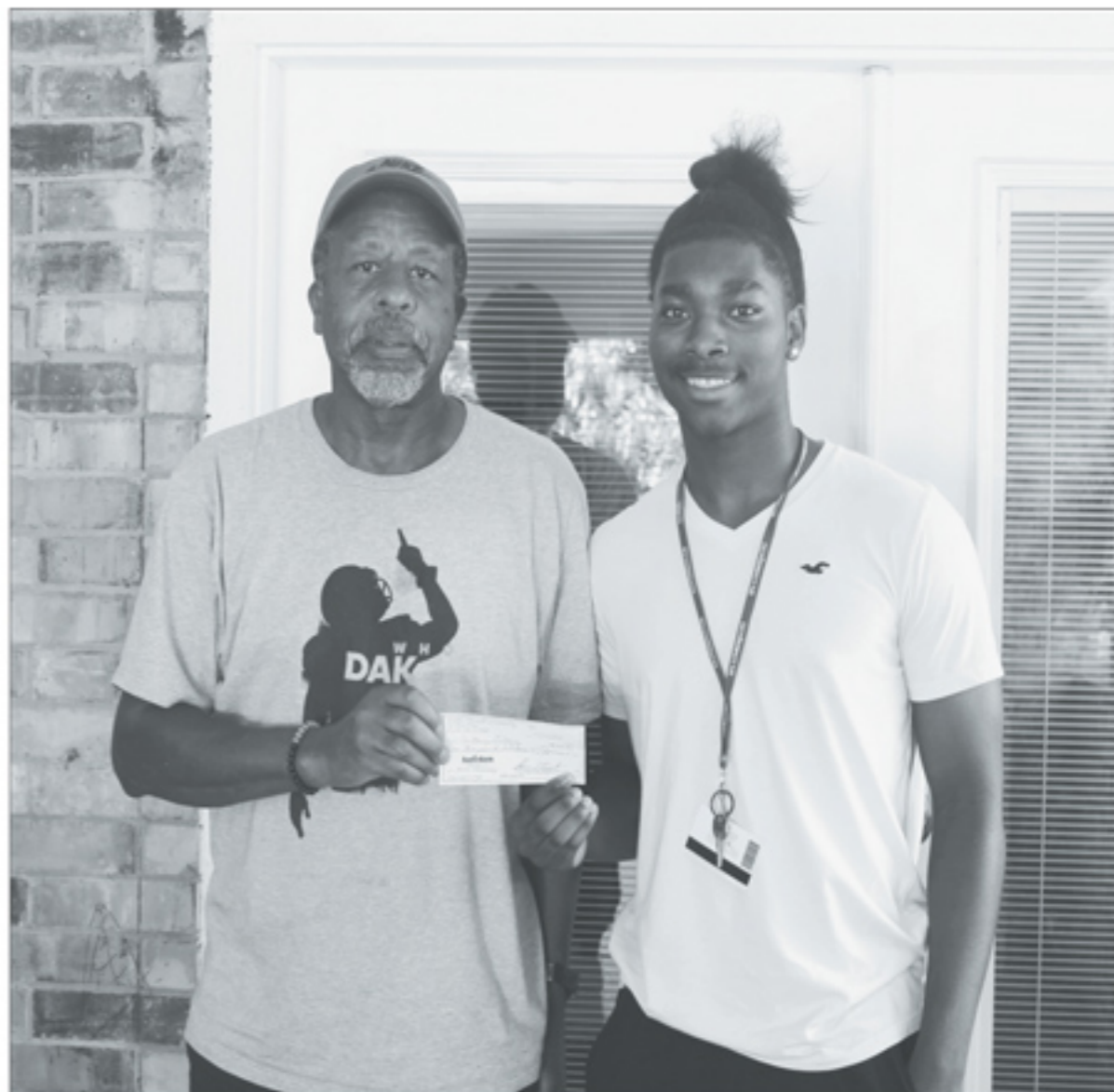
Jessie was born May 1, 1946 to Jesse and Vera Cox. She was raised in the Shady Grove Community of Rusk and graduated from G. W. Bradford High School in 1965. She was a member of Shady Grove Church of God in Christ where she gave her life to Christ at a young age.

Jessie lived in Austin, Texas. Preceding her in death were her parents, brothers Marvin (MC) Cox, Henry (Sonny) Cox, & Johnny Cox; sisters Dora Walker and Laura (LV) Cox Price.

She leaves to cherish her memories son LaQuin Cox of Austin, Texas and granddaughter Morgan Cox of Austin; three sisters Vera Mae Cox Scales and husband James, Thelma Cox Bennett all of Dallas and sister Mamie Cox Shears of Lancaster, Texas; one brother Jesse Charles Cox and wife Alice of Dallas, Texas, a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, extended family and friends.

Interment was at Pleasant Holly Cemetery, Woodville Rusk, Texas

## Lauretta Colston Stewart 2018 Scholarship presented



Elmer Stewart and Antone Tilley

Antone Tilley, Rusk High 2018 graduate was presented the 2018 Lauretta Colston Stewart Scholarship. Letha Colston Northcutt, scholarship board member and sister to Lauretta, presented Antone the award during the High school spring scholarship ceremony. Tilley is now attending Stephen F. Austin State University majoring in pre-med. Recently, this check for \$1,000. was presented to him by Elmer Stewart, husband of the late Lauretta Colston Stewart, who taught school many years in RISD.

Lauretta Colston Stewart was a devoted wife, mother and educator who set high standards, not only for her own children, but for the many students whose lives she touched as they passed through her classroom.

This scholarship has been given to a Rusk High School graduate since 1995 and serves as a memorial to her family and those of us who hold her memory dear and who carry on her work with children and youth,

The Lauretta Colston Stewart Scholarship Board members are Elmer Stewart, Thomas Northcutt, Letha Northcutt, Maxine Session, Georgia Colston, Irene Joyce, Euralane Harkless, Lynda Roberson and Roy Colston.

Lauretta is the mother of Tracy, Darwin and Lori Stewart.

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# Speak Their Names

from page 3

Dorothy went to her Laneville Allen School Alumni Association, board members of the Texas History and Inventory Preservation and partnered with them in coordinating the special Ancestor Recognition Ceremony after she did research, wrote letters to the plantaion owners and others, submitted application to the State Historical Commission for placement of the marker and got it approved.

## Documented Family Slave First Names

According to a book written by Dorman H. Winfrey, "*Julien Sidney Devereux and His Monte Verdi Plantation*" Waco Press 1962, the Devereux Family Papers survived the plundering of the Civil War because the plantation was not destroyed. After the death of Sarah Devereux-Garrison, the family deposited them in the University of Texas Archives (Dolph Brisco Library). fortunately, for Texas History, Julien Sidney Devereux and his decendants have preserved the writings and names of slaves as they are recorded in the diary kept by the father John William Devereux, and those written by himself in the records of the Devereux Family Papers.

## Scott and Tabby

The 10,700-Acre AnteBellum Plantation of Julien Sidney Devereux and Sarah (Landrum) Devereux Garrison, was one of the most economicalily and historically significant plantations in the state. Devereux Family papers at the regional and state archives preserve a record of names of "the enslaved people who labored here. Their written family history begins with Scott and Tabby, born 1792 and 1787 respectively, the eldest in John William Devereux's group of slaves who were taken with their children and grandchildren from Georgia to Alabama to Texas. Documented African American families at MonteVerdi in 1846 included Scott and Tabby, their son Anderson, and his wife(unnamed). Other couples included Judy and Jim, Sam from the Loftus Plantation and (Eliza Henry) Mariah, Jinny and Peter, Joanna and Joe, (El) Mina and Walton, Maria and Lewis, and Green and Phoebe, who

founded the Anadarco (Anadarko) Christian Church and School in 1868. Julien Devereux's 1856 probate records name 80 slaves on the estate. After obtaining their freedom in 1865, these resilient men and women paved the way for better lives for themselves and their future generations.

## Slave Decendants of the 80 Surnames

Some families stayed in the area continuing to work and live in villages and communities which comprise the former lands of Monte Verdi, as documented in the 1870-1900 U. S. Census and other records. Decendants of the 80 Monte Verdi slaves rarely adopted the surname Devereux, but instead names including Anderson, Bagley, Blanton, Booker, Bowens, Bradley (Julien's first wife's family)Brantley, Caddell, Cary, Cooper, Freeny, Henry Lewis, Loftis, McDaniel, Owens, Spencer, Sturns, Tipps, Williams and others. Today these family names are recognized for their humanitarian contributions. Others whose Surnames were called were Austin, Ball, Cain, Coss, Fly, Freeman, Garrison, Harris, Hightower, Johnson, July, Johnson, Jordon, Landrum, Lithicum Minter, Norman, Pendleton, Polk, Pruitt, Punch, Richards, Robertson, Robinson, Sessions, Smith, Tilley, Toler, VanZandt, and Wyatt.

## Villages formed by Monte Verdi freed slaves

While some of the freedmen of the Monte Verdi Plantation continued to live and work in the area, others branched out within the 16 miles that comprised the 10,700-acre plantation and formed other villages. These include Anadarco, Concord, Cushing, Douglass, Fairview, Glenfawn, Laneville/Freeneytown Lawsonville, Minden, Mount Enterprise, Mount Zion, New Salem, Pine Grove, Reklaw, Sacul ,Shady Grove, Sulfur Springs, Vallley Grove, West Holly Springs and some locations in Cherokee and Nacogdoches counties..



These 80 names of (200 plus) former slaves of Monte Verdi Plantation Rusk, County, Texas are recognized for their contributions to the past, present and future of the region, state, and the nation.

## Ceremony Participants

Debra Loftis Foster, was the Emcee for the Ceremony. Others who were a part of the program were Bobby Williams, Laneville Allen High Alumni Association, Rev. Bobby Carter, Pastor of Anadarko Christian Church, Joe and Cecelia Koch Monte Verdi Plantation owners and hosts, Alpheus Moss, concord High Schol Alumni Association, Dorothy Franks, Founder Texas Slave History Preservation, The honorable Travis Clardy, State Representative, The Honorable Louis Sturns, 213th District Judge, Tarrant County, The Honorable Joel Hale, County Judge Rusk County, The Honorable Harold Howell, Rusk County Co. commissioner Precint 4, Dr. Jolene Snider, retired History Professor/ Authorthebook "*ClaimingSunday*",

Dr. Scott Sosebee, Associate History Professor Stephen F. AustinState University and President Robert Loftis Laneville ISD Board of Trustees.

Elder Carlvera Maurice Dunn and Barbara Spencer Dunn presented Ancestor Recognition "Rainbow of Love" written by Mico Spencer Scott. Jeri Caddell Mills, TexasSHIP Board of Directors gave acknowledgments, Presentation were made by Marilyn Williams, Laneville Allen High Alumni Association, the marker dedication was done by Jean Smith, Marker Chair, Rusk County Historical Commission and the prayer of didication was given by Rev. Jesse McLendon , pastor of Mt. Zion Baptist Church.

African American families across the state of Texas and this nation thank you Dorothy Franks for not laying aside information given to you, but for taking on the task of the many hours of research, time and task dedication it took to bring attention to this historic site and the placement of this historic marker which brings knowledge to us about our family roots.

**Donations toward the marker can still be made by sending to: LAHAA, P. O. Box 235, Laneville Tx. 75667.**



Lionel Whitaker, Pastor  
Simpson Chapel

### Mount Pleasant CME Church

138 Reeder Street - Rusk, TX.  
One Day Revival  
3:00pm September 23, 2018  
Speaker -  
Rev. Lionel Whitaker  
Simpson Chapel  
Rev. Geraldine Harrison,  
Pastor

## September Birthday Bash !



Charles Denman 2nd  
Debbie Rushing - 5th  
Trena Boyd - 1st  
Marcus Carter -2nd  
Marie Johnson - 2nd  
Daphne Session - 10th  
Helen Silmon - 13th  
Doretha Johnson 25th  
Kathy Harris - 26th  
Triniti Small - 26th  
Maxine Session - 16th  
Tommy L. Boyd - 27th

Craig Jones - 9th  
Royce Dennis - 9th  
Rowan K. Dennis 9th  
Desandra Porter -9th  
James Bailey - 16th  
Martina Boyd 8th

### Read The Bible For Yourself!

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The New Testament is the story of Jesus Christ, why He came to the world, what He did here, and what will happen when He returns.

Don't miss out! Read it for yourself!

### *Happy Birthday To Each of You!*

*You are God's gift to this world and we thank Him  
Enjoy your day.*

### New Community United Methodist Church

MLK Street  
Jacksonville, Texas

#### Urshers' Day Program

Sunday, September 9, 2018  
3:00pm

Speaker

Rev. Charles Cummings, New Prospect Church

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## Applications Being Accepted for Disney Dreamers Academy

Florida-(Any Student can apply) Applications are being accepted now through October 31, 2018, for the Disney Dreamers Academy with Steve Harvey and Essence magazine. This annual outside-the-classroom mentoring program is scheduled for March 21-24, 2019, at the Walt Disney Resort in Florida. The program helps 100 select high school students, ages 13-19, from across the United States jump-start their life goals and pursue their dreams.

Disney Dreamers Academy turns the entire magical setting of Walt Disney World into a vibrant classroom. Students participate in a series of sessions and workshops designed to help them imagine bright futures, make exciting discoveries and learn how to put their goals into action. Disney Dreamers engage in a wide variety of experiences at Walt Disney World while working side by side with celebrities, community and industry leaders and Disney cast members.

For more than a decade, Disney Dreamers Academy has inspired young people from across the country by fueling their dreams and showing them a world of possibilities as they prepare for the future. Each year, students participate in hands-on, immersive career seminars in a wide range of disciplines found at Walt Disney World. Participants learn how to improve their communication their life goals.

skills, what it means to be a leader and networking strategies, among other skills. They are also inspired by celebrity speakers and other special guests who share their stories and provide insights on how to achieve The second decade of Disney Dreamers Academy is focused on challenging young people to relentlessly pursue their dreams through the "Be 100" campaign. This promotional push is inspired by the powerful impact Disney Dreamers Academy has made on graduates, who have gone on to become doctors, nurses, engineers, pilots, journalists and more. Some have started their own public relations firms, while others have worked with national political leaders.

Applicants must answer essay questions about their personal journeys and dreams for the future. Students are selected based on a combination of attributes, including strong character, positive attitude and determination to achieve their dreams. A parent or guardian accompanies each student on the trip.

This four-day, all-expenses-paid experience at Walt Disney World will continue to help change the lives of young people in 2019. For more information or to apply, visit [DisneyDreamersAcademy.com](http://DisneyDreamersAcademy.com).

Ray Allen Christopher of the Elm Grove Community of Rusk, has entered the ministry at Mt. Hebron Presbyterian Church. He will be speaker at the 11:00am morning worship service on Sunday September 9th.

The church is located on Highway 110 North of Rusk, Tx.

The public is invited to attend.

## Princess and the Pea cast includes Triniti Small and Maddie Carter



Citizens of Riverdome include Triniti Small(center stage), John Mark, Kate Walker, Avery Huffstutler, Mara McMahan, Daniel Martinez, Kaylee Satterley, Ryleigh Collins, Megan, Pennington, Emily Streetman, Katie Bradshaw, Natalie Berrier, Hanna Huffstutler and others.

The Piney Woods Fine Arts Association and The Missoula Children's Theatre presented "The Princess and the Pea" this summer at the Crockett Civic Center. Auditions were held on Monday and rehearsals were held throughout the week with two presentations of the Play held on Saturday. June of each year children are given this opportunity to audition and take part in a theater production. Piney Woods Fine Arts Executive Director is Glenn Barnhart. Also auditioning were Destyne Harris and Max Carter.



Dust Bunnies were played by Eli Morris, Liam Santoya, Jarom Hewett, Caleb Hickson, Raeah Johnson, Andrew McMullen, Lydia Streetman, Maddie Carter, Chloe Ray, Maggie Kelly, Samantha Barrera-Petter, Natalie Furr, Danny McClain, Brody Johnston, Josie Ditoro and Lillian Ditoro.


Kelsey Seals and Bex Schmelzel conducted the auditions and directed the play. Both are touring staff with the Missoula Children's Theatre. Both have a passion for artistic collaboration and working with children.

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

Beto with Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson

# BETO O'ROURKE

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- ★ **A high-quality education for every single child** by keeping public school dollars in public schools and ensuring educational equity
- ★ **Comprehensive justice system reform** that ends mass incarceration, private prisons, the federal prohibition on marijuana, mandatory minimums, and the cash bail system



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