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P.O. Box 332  
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**Texas Sales Tax Holiday This Weekend**  
— Aug. 9 to 11  
(AUSTIN) — Texas Comptroller Susan Combs reminds shoppers the annual sales tax holiday weekend is scheduled for this Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 9-11.

Families can save money by not paying sales tax on most clothing, footwear and school supplies priced under \$100. Lists of tax-free items can be found at [www.TexasTaxHoliday.org](http://www.TexasTaxHoliday.org).

The sales tax holiday weekend in Texas has been an annual event since 1999.

Shoppers are expected to save an estimated \$78.9 million in state and local sales taxes during the sales

## Fred Douglass Reunion Weekend Draws large Crowd



Former Fred Douglas High School Students came out locally and from far away cities to enjoy a weekend of fun, food and friendship which began Friday night, July 26th and ended Sunday evening July 28th. The group poses on the steps of the Tomato Bowl. Saturday's schedule included a parade, classic car show and a "Kicking It Western Style" Dance and Banquet at the Legacy. Sunday worship was held at Benson CME. (See page 7)

### Job Available

Cherokee County Appraisal District seeks motivated applicants for data entry clerk. Applicants must have verifiable work history, willing to submit to drug testing, be customer service oriented and be computer literate. Bilingual skills are a plus. Cherokee CAD is an equal opportunity employer. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. Submit applications by mail:  
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## EDITORIAL



Maxine Session, editor

## When Will The Tragedies End?

name and number on the identification badge of the officer, (3) don't move unless you are told to do so, .....and so on.

After my grandson had been stopped five or six times, he told his mom and other family members. It continued that he was stopped everytime he came home until his aunt, an attorney, contacted and setup a meeting with the police chief, the city judge, herself and my grandson.

Another grandson at the age of 18, spent the summer in Houston working and living with family. He was driving his car to a neighborhood grocery store with a younger male cousin riding with him when a city police car pulled up beside him and stayed even with him by driving the same speed. The officer driving motioned for him to pull over. He parked on the parking lot of the next available business. One of the officers jumped out of the car, moved quickly to my grandson's car and told them (my grandson and his cousin) to get out of the car. He shoved the boy against the car, pulled his gun and asked, what are you looking at me for... "I'll lock you up!" My grandson, scared half out of his mind, didn't say a word. The policeman with the one making the threats, talked the officer back into the car and they drove away.

I could go on and on about stories such as this told by black people I know.

What causes this and when will it stop? Will the George Zimmerman NOT GUILTY Verdict help or hurt? You be the judge.

## EXCITEMENT BUILDS FOR COMMEMORATION OF 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF MARCH ON WASHINGTON

### MLK'S "I HAVE A DREAM" SPEECH

Dozens of Cities Plan for World-wide 'Let Freedom Ring' Celebration Atlanta, GA (August 13, 2013). As part of the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the 1963 March on Washington and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I Have A Dream" speech, The King Center announced expanded details for the observance of this historic milestone.

"The response to our call to commemorate the March on Washington and my father's "I Have A Dream" speech has been overwhelming," said King Center C.E.O. Bernice A. King, a convener of the nation-wide and global mobilization. "Our coalition has organized a wonderful, diverse program, which begins in Atlanta, continues for 8 days in Washington, D.C. and culminates with a global bell-ringing. We expect hundreds of thousands of people to join us in the nation's capitol for this historic event, and many more to take part world-wide in their communities."

The King Center, along with the National Park Service and others, is co-sponsoring a full day of activities on August 28th, the actual anniversary of the 1963 March on Washington and Dr. King's "I Have A Dream" speech. There will be an Interfaith Service at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial in Washington, DC from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m. that will include a variety of religious disciplines.

That afternoon there will be a "Let Freedom Ring Call to Action and Commemoration Ceremony" from 11:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. will feature remarks from President Obama, former Presidents Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton, the King Family, elected

It hurts to talk about the Zimmerman verdict and it brings flashbacks of close personal matters involving both family and friends. George Zimmerman, volunteer neighborhood watchman from Sanford Florida found not guilty of killing Trayvon Martin. Trayvon, was an unarmed seventeen year old who left home on Sunday evening to go to the store for Skittles and Ice Tea, never to return. NEVER TO RETURN!

In two thousand and two, one of my grandsons left Rusk to go to college. He returned home at least once a month driving the same car he drove his senior year in high school when he lived in Rusk. EVERY time he entered the city limits of Rusk, he was stopped by the city police on the pretense that his license plate light was out. Having four grandsons, we taught them in their early teens how to act when an on duty law enforcement officer stops you. Among other things, (1) Keep both hands on the steering wheel, be polite when spoken to....answering questions truthfully, (2) Look for the

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# Jacksonville's Dr. Xavier Whitaker holds E. T. Baptist University Position

Cover Story

Marshall, Texas - Dr. Xavier L. Whitaker, a native of Jacksonville, Texas, believes that although we cannot control all the good and bad things that happen in our lives, we can control how we respond. Dr. Whitaker currently serves as the Vice President of Student Affairs at East Texas Baptist University in Marshall, Texas. He recently completed a Doctorate of Education degree with an emphasis in Higher Education Leadership from Azusa Pacific University in Azusa, California. His doctoral research focuses on the role of psychological, cognitive, and behavioral factors in the academic success of engineering students at a premier public research university consistently ranking among the top five percent of more than 360 accredited engineering schools in the United States.

Dr. Whitaker advocates that everyone has God-given gifts and talents to utilize during life's journey, and each person can decide how determined he or she is to maximize their potential for success. Regardless of our humble beginnings, he believes that we can navigate past obstacles and discover many pathways to success in spite of life's challenges.

While serving as a Senior Administrator and Academic Advisor at the University of Texas at Austin, he became a recipient of the legendary Eyes of Texas Award and Staff Excellence Award given to outstanding faculty, administration, and staff for exemplary service.

He has worked in higher education for over 15 years. As the Chief Student Affairs Officer, he serves as a member of the President's Cabinet, guides the student life experience of the University, and acts in a consulting/advisory manner to the President concerning student

growth and development within the University community. Other positions served in higher education include Director of Campus Life at Southwestern College, Assistant Director for Leadership Initiatives at Baylor University, and Coordinator of Student Activities at Friends University. He has teaching experience at both the University of Texas at Austin and Baylor University. Prior to his doctoral education, Dr. Whitaker received a Bachelor of Science degree in Education from Southwestern College of Winfield, Kansas. He holds a Master of Arts degree in Christian Ministry with an emphasis in Leadership from Friends University of Wichita, Kansas. Dr. Whitaker states, "I am honored to help serve the East Texas community, and I am delighted to support the holistic growth of our youth based on Biblical principles. Above all, I am blessed to serve our future leaders who will serve the world."

He looks forward to celebrating his accomplishments with family and friends at the Norman Activity Center on August 31, 2013. A place located next door to the legendary Tomato Bowl where he led the Jacksonville Fightin' Indians years ago during his days of youth. Presently, as a Vice President and Doctor, he is still determined to lead the way in helping others embark on their life's journey to discover pathways for success.

The theological underpinnings for his dissertation and personal determination to succeed are based on the following Scriptures: Jeremiah 29:11

For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Proverbs 3:5-6

Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will direct your path.

Dr. Whitaker graduated from Jacksonville High School with the class of 1991. He excelled academically and in Choir, Football,



Dr. Xavier Whitaker, Jacksonville native and graduate of the JHS class of 1991 has earned his Doctorate Degree.

Track, and Basketball. Don Wallace, Jacksonville Daily Progress (sports editor), wrote an article about his extracurricular achievement in 1990 called "X Marks the Spot".

Successfully manipulating his busy high school class schedule and extra curricular activities helped prepare him for his journey down the road to higher education. As a child, his mother (Gennell Runnels) and father (Lonnie Whitaker) were instrumental in shaping his desire to work hard and love everyone regardless of socioeconomic status, race/ethnicity, and gender. During his entire life, his mother has often worked two jobs daily to make ends meet. His father was a military veteran who sacrificed the early years of his young adulthood to serve our country. "Thankfully", He say, "my parents always said that I should go to college. Also, my uncle and aunt Willie Scott and Helen Scott greatly influence my ability to make responsible decisions during high school and preparing for college. They let me live with them for a few years and contributed

to my overall personal well-being".

**Dr. Whitaker looks forward to celebrating his accomplishments August 31, 2013 at the Jacksonville, Texas Norman Activity Center.**

He is married to Leslie Whitaker, and they have three children (Trenton, Elizabeth, and Sophia). Dr. Whitaker says, "I would encourage young people to believe in their personal talents, gifts, and potential regardless of life's circumstances. Literature indicates that approximately 1% of the U.S. population has achieved this goal. Also, when you factor in being a member of the underrepresented population (African American) the statistic gets even more minuscule. Thus, the most difficult thing that I faced was being alone during the journey.

See Dr. Whitaker  
page 3



# OBITUARIES

## Mr. John Henry Mallard

Funeral services were held Sunday, July 7, 2013 for Mr. John Henry Mallard at Mount Olive Community Church Rusk, Texas with the REv. Mertis Bartley II, officiating.

John Henry Mallard was born on March 27, 1927 to Mr. & Mrs. Abraham (Ham) Mallard in Rusk, Texas.

He was the third child born to this union having two brothers and three sisters.

John Henry worked for Ike Feed Mill of Rusk for a large number of years, then he worked for Rusk Independent School District until he was able to retire.

He is survived by one daughter; Beverly Stewart of Jacksonville, Texas and close friend Katie Stewart.

Interment was at Macedonia Cemetary, Rusk, Texas under the direction of Mercy/McGowan Funeral Home.

*Read a chapter from a book in the bible everyday. The bible is the inspired word of God, the book of instructions left to man. How else can you know what to do to assure your soul salvation? REMEMBER, Hell is real! Read "The Judgement" Revelation 20:11-15 if you don't believe it!*

## March On Washington con't from page 2

officials, international dignitaries, celebrities, youth and leaders from national and international organizations. The program is global in nature and will include performances by a Haka Team from New Zealand and Junkanoo Performers from the Bahamas. Confirmed program participants include: Kid President, Jaime Fox, Peter and Paul, Hill Harper, Soledad O'Brien, Lynda Johnson Robb, Bebe Winans and others to be announced. For more details, go to <http://officialmlkdream50.com/>.

Ms. King said that her father's call to "Let Freedom Ring" in his speech will be answered with programs and bell-ringing ceremonies across the nation on August 28th at 3:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time. In addition to the diverse activities scheduled for Washington, D.C., programs celebrating the '63 March and Dr. King's dream with bell-ringing ceremonies have thus far been scheduled in places as diverse as: Montgomery, Alabama; Little Rock, Arkansas; Rocky Mountain National Park, Colorado; Stone Mountain, Roswell, Rome and Atlanta, Georgia; Honolulu, Hawaii; Topeka, Kansas; Louisville, Kentucky; Boston, Massachusetts; Detroit, Michigan; Chaska Minnesota; Tougaloo College, Jackson, Greenwood and Columbus, Mississippi; Jefferson City, Missouri; Amherst, Concord, Isles of Shoals, Nashua, North Conway,

# State Employee Update - surcharge for smokers

By August 31, 2013, all employees and retirees must indicate to ERS whether they and/or their covered dependents are tobacco users. For those who don't do so, ERS will assume they are in fact tobacco users and a \$30 monthly surcharge will be added to their premiums, paid out of their pockets. Of course, there will continue to be a surcharge for those who are already identified tobacco users. This requirement won't please everyone, but it is part of a package of health care cost containment provisions supported by TPEA in order to keep the insurance plan whole and promote wellness to keep costs down. Through a TPEA initiative, smoking cessation medications will be covered under the prescription drug program.

Pelham and Mt. Washington, New Hampshire; New York, New York; Delaware and Grandville, Ohio; Allentown, Lafayette College and Allegheny College, Pennsylvania; Nyack, New York; Mount Rushmore, South Dakota; Lookout Mountain, Tennessee; Austin, Houston and Dallas, Texas; Marion Cross School, Norwich, Vermont; and the University of Virginia, Charlottesville, with more being added every day. Bell-ringing programs will take place outside the U.S. at 3:00 p.m. in their respective time zones in locations as diverse as: Kathmandu, Nepal; Lutry and Montreaux, Switzerland; Monrovia, Liberia; London, U.K.; and Tokyo, Japan.

Other events commemorating

the 50th Anniversary include The first King Center observance of the 50th anniversary begins on Saturday, August 17th from 3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at The King Center and National Historic site, Atlanta, GA. The King Center, in cooperation with the Martin Luther King, Jr., National Historic Site, Ebenezer Baptist Church, Atlanta Public Schools, the City of Atlanta, Operation Hope and others, will present the Atlanta Global Freedom Exposition to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington and Dr. King's historic "I Have A Dream" speech. The program will provide a unique, family-friendly opportunity to participate in honoring Dr. King's great dream for our nation and world in the community

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# Verdict

continued from page 5

to ban New York's controversial "stop-and-frisk" policy used by police to stop people suspected of unlawful activity and frisking those suspected of carrying weapons.

Critics of the policy say it targets minorities and violates their Fourth Amendment rights for protection against unreasonable searches and seizures. Dredging Up a Bad Past Lenwood Graham, 18, a high school senior from Laurinburg, N.C., said youth leaders at the convention talked to them about "how we should not let our anger or emotions cloud our judgment and make wrong decisions." "I just want to change laws," he said.

Christian Minter, 15, a high school sophomore from Chatham, Pa., said she now understands her mother's unyielding belief that the world would always be divided along racial lines.

"I thought it wouldn't. It (the verdict) told me it would always be like that," Minter said.

Tony Henderson, 52, an engineer from Seattle worked with youth participating in the convention's annual arts and science competition which in years past has drawn the likes of successful rappers and music producers such as Kanye West and Lauryn Hill. "The kids thought it isn't like it used to be. This told them it is what it used to be," Henderson said.

The youth delegates rolled out a campaign against violence against black youth with the slogan "A child was shot today," modeled on signs hoisted in another era at NAACP offices that read "A man was lynched yesterday."

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## Oprah graces the cover of Jet Magazine



In the September 2nd issue of JET magazine, readers get details from an intimate interview with cover subject Oprah Winfrey.

After a 15-year hiatus from acting, the media icon returns to the big screen in Lee Daniels' *The Butler*, opening in theaters nationwide on August 16th. During her one-on-one conversation with JET Editor-in-Chief, Mitzi Miller, Winfrey opened up about why she took the role and how she

anticipates its reception among the public.

"This film is a tribute to both the working-class Negro of that time and all of the many unsung heroes whose names never made the history books," said Winfrey. "It never occurred to me that there could be any [backlash] until you said it... But if there's a backlash, so be it," she continued.

The first Black female billionaire also gets candid about her struggles, including the difficulties and disappointments she has had with her network, OWN, and what she believes truly holds the majority of people back from achieving true success.

She said, "The biggest fallacy on earth is that you can be anything that you want to be. You can only be what you were meant to be."

JET is the No. 1 African-American newsweekly and has more than seven million readers. The publication was initially billed as "The Weekly Negro News Magazine," and is noted for its role in chronicling the early days of the American Civil Rights movement from its earliest years -- including coverage of the Emmett Till murder, the Montgomery Bus Boycott, and Martin Luther King, Jr. The magazine has been a staple in homes and businesses of Black Americans since 1951, bringing life to its popular catchphrase: "If it isn't in JET, it didn't happen." JET is the beloved bible of African-Americans and ranks No. 4 in reader engagement.

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# Protecting the vote: Attorney General seeks to force Texas to 'preclear' voting changes

Attorney General Eric H. Holder takes aim at Texas voter laws.

PHILADELPHIA – Fulfilling a pledge to aggressively protect the voting rights of people of color in the wake of the Supreme Court striking down a key section of the Voting Rights Act, Attorney General Eric H. Holder Jr. has announced that the Justice Department will sue the state of Texas to compel it to preclear any planned changes in its voting procedures before they can go into effect.

In *Shelby County v. Holder*, a sharply divided Supreme Court gutted Section 4 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, the part of the law that describes the formula to be used to determine which states or political subdivisions are subjected to preclearance requirements. President Obama has stated that his administration will press Congress for new legislation that will override the court's decision that weakens the landmark legislation.

Holder called the court's 5-4 vote "a deeply disappointing – and flawed – decision." Speaking at the National Urban League's annual convention here last Thursday, Holder said, "And today I am announcing that the Justice Department will ask a federal court in Texas to subject the state of Texas to a preclearance regime similar to the one required by Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act. This request to 'bail in' the state – and require it to obtain 'pre-approval' from either the department or a federal court before implementing future voting changes – is available under the Voting Rights Act when intentional voting discrimination is found. Based on the evidence of intentional racial discrimination that was presented last year in the redistricting case, *Texas v. Holder* – as well as the history



of pervasive voting-related discrimination against racial minorities that the Supreme Court itself has recognized – we believe that the state of Texas should be required to go through a preclearance process whenever it changes its voting laws and practices." In its

*Shelby County v. Holder* ruling last month, the Supreme Court struck down the requirement that nine states, most of them in the Deep South, and portions of others to obtain permission from the Justice Department or a federal court before changing election procedures. Under the Voting Rights Act, states can "bail out" of the preclearance provision if they can prove that they have not discriminated against disadvantaged groups in a decade. Under the rarely used Section 3(c) of the law, which was not overturned by the court, states not previously covered by the Voting Rights Act can be added or bailed in if it is proven that they are discriminating on the basis of race or ethnicity. Within two hours after the Supreme Court ruling, Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott announced that he will restore a controversial voter ID requirement that was frozen by the Justice Department. Under the provision, student IDs are not accepted to verify the identities of voters, but gun registration is an accepted document.

Abbott, who is running for governor next year to succeed outgoing Rick Perry, also announced that the state will implement a controversial redistricting plan that dilutes Black and Latino political clout

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# Fred Douglass Reunion continues

## Dr. Whitaker

continued from page 3

### After College

Since he played sports in college, he became an All-American football and track athlete. Due to this success, he had an opportunity to attend an NFL free agency camp and attempt to play professional football. By God's grace, he decided to instead pursue graduate school and obtain additional education. He felt blessed to participate in sports, but his heart seemed to be connected to working with others beyond sports. He often remembered his mother and father's comments that education is an achievement that will last a lifetime. Thus, he began working at several colleges and universities while simultaneously completing a Master's degree. During this time, he experienced his greatest growth as a young adult. He said, "I met several colleagues, Dr. Sheryl Riney, Dr. Biff Green, and Mr. Dan Falk at Friends University in Wichita Kansas, who poured love and professionalism in me, which proved fundamental to success."

Subsequently, Dr. Whitaker returned to Texas to serve at Baylor University where professionals such as Dr. Samuel W. Oliver and Mrs. Pearl Beverly were influential. Dr. Oliver and Mrs. Beverly dedicated their lives to help students succeed, and he gained a greater understanding about the impact of education for service to individuals, families, the state of Texas, and society. Since he desired to understand how both private Christian schools and large public research universities serve students, he accepted an opportunity to work at the University of Texas at Austin, the flagship research institution in the state. I quickly learned, He said, "that Texas took pride in being ranked as a top tier university with many of its academic majors leading the state and nation in research. I enjoyed learning about how things work. My father often spoke about building houses and engineering, so I accepted an Academic Advisor role in the Cockrell School of Engineering ranked as the number six public engineering school in the nation. I was blessed to have mentors such as Mrs. Patricia Gore, Mrs. Maria Perkins, and Dr. Al Myer to support and encourage my professional development. In sum, it is the collective love, encouragement, and support of family members and professional colleagues that have greatly influenced my determination to succeed. While in college, I was fortunate to have an administrator, Dr. Dawn Pleas Bailey, who cared deeply for me and influenced my decisions to succeed. Dr. Bailey served as the Dean of Students at Southwestern College in Winfield, Kansas. She affirmed my personal gifts and talents as well as encouraged me to persist toward graduation.



Linda Thompson, Venita Johnson, Linda Johnson, Helen Hymes, Pearlie Jean Bealy Richard, Evelyn Wilcox, Georgia Dennis, Gwendalyn Stafford, Willie Scott (not pictured) and Mary Keeton part of the class of sixty-eight attend Friday night dinner held at Jacksonville VFW.



L to R - Ella V. Newsome Ricks class of 63, Anita Newsome Starlings and Sandra Newsome Thompson both class of 71, attend registration and opening of the Fred Douglass School reunion at Woodmen of the World.



## New ministers brought into full connection



Pictured above - Betty Smith Rogers, Elgena Weaver, Anson Lawson, Lonnie Johnson, Deborah King (not pictured) were brought into full connection as ordained ministers.

## 101 year old Alice Bradshaw attends CME Conference



101 year old, Alice Bradshaw, oldest living member of the Tyler District, was present for the conference. She is a member of Mt. Zion CME Church. The bishop and Elder pose with her.

## Michael Session presented "Encouragement Award"

Mt. Olive Community Church held its tenth annual Men's Day Program on July 21st. The theme was "Still There Is Room". Michael Session was presented with the first "Encourage Yourself" award. The plaque read, "Mount Olive Community Church on this tenth annual Men's Day recognizes Brother Michael Session as the 1st annual recipient of the Encourage Yourself Award on this 21st day of July 2013, and it quoted the scripture I Samuel 30:6 ..... but David encouraged himself in the Lord his God."

The award was presented to Michael by Rev. Jerry Leviston, program coordinator who said the following, "Michael is a young man who, due to pitfalls, has turned his life around. He is a family man who chooses to work for the Lord and his community.

Michael is a very active member of The Christian Brotherhood Association. He has taken the leadership role in fundraiser activities and has assisted Brotherhood food service coordinator Jerry Hart in preparing food for all activities. His wife Felicia is by his side assisting him with every activity. Guest minister for the event was Rev. Bobby Cook of Mt. Calvary Baptist Church, Lufkin. Rev. Mertis Bartley is the church pastor.



Left to Right - Rev. Jerry Leviston, Michael Session, Felicia Session and Castacia Polk. Michael accepts "Encourage Yourself" award presented by Rev. Jerry Leviston on behalf of Mt. Olive Community Church.



## Fred Douglass Classes of 62 and 68 gather



Pictured are: Rosia Martin, Nancy Davis, Clara Crear, Frenchell Scott, Charles White, Roger Boykins, Zettie Mock, Tom Jones, Barbara Clark, Jessie Foreman, Gloria Miller, Trudie Tribble, Ruby McClelland, Evon Wilcox, Helen Tyler, Carolyn McCann and J. C. Thompson. This class of 1962 gathered at the home of J. C. Thompson to celebrate 51 years since graduation. They enjoyed bingo, dominoes, cards and delicious barbeque.



Pictured are: Barbara Christopher, Betty Cambell, Calversie Stubblefield, Norris Marshall, Jeanette Cox Teel, Ella Rogers Johnson, Bob McKezzic, Mary Brown Carr, John Jones. This class met at the Jacksonville VFW Banquet Room for dinner, music and the sharing of great memories of school at Fred Douglass. They are celebrating 45 years since graduation. Their class motto was "Be Prepared".

## Session and Clark attend Delta Sigma Theta Sorority 51st Convention in Washington, D. C.



Pictured - Kimberly Clark and Daphne Session, Sorors, give Delta Sigma Theta sign during their convention attendance in D. C.. Ms. Clark is Anderson County Assistant District Attorney in Palestine, Texas and Ms. Session is Houston County, County Attorney in Crockett, Texas. The Sorors are not only sorority sisters, but first cousins.

-- Washington, DC rolled out the red carpet for Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., whose 51st National Convention and Centennial Celebration was held at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center July 11 - 17. During the week-long celebration, the Convention Center, its staff and service partners welcomed nearly 40,000 attendees, marking the highest convention attendance in the 100-year history of the Sorority, which is the single largest African-American women's organization in the country.

Daphne Session of Crockett, Texas and Kimberly Clark of Rusk, Texas were among the 40,000 attendees. The convention kicked off Friday with a presentation of the sorority torch that began its cross-country journey from Los Angeles New Year's Day. The late rights leader Dorothy Height is immortalized as one of the many national leaders from the 100-year-old sorority, with its call to service for sorority sisters of any age. The women of Delta Sigma Theta have been and remain a vital contributor to the success of our communities and a defender of rights of all people for 100 years. Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. is a private, non-profit organization whose purpose is to provide assistance and support through established programs in local communities throughout the world. A sisterhood of more than 200,000 predominantly black college-educated women, the Sorority currently has over 900 chapters located in the United States, England, Japan, Germany, the Virgin Islands, Bermuda, the Bahamas, Jamaica and the Republic of Korea.



## Street Paving to begin in Rusk

by Councilman Walter Session

The city council discussed and approved the paving of streets allotting 1,000,000 of the 6,000,000 in bond monies acquired a few months ago, to be spent.

The Rusk Civic Center is in the final stages of renovation. Work has begun on building extensions and renovation of the city Singletary Memorial library. Other projects approved for use of the bond money will begin in the immediate future.

The Rusk Economic Development Commission amended fiscal year budget was adopted for fiscal year 2013-2014 to include an increase to support the purchase of a new HVAC System to replace the old air conditioning unit at the Rusk Chamber of Commerce office.

The council discussed the possibility of holding a special election in November for the sale of property. Discussion will

continue in August regular session.

Discussed was the house at 302 Center Street that failed to comply with minimum standards for continued use. The house is scheduled to be demolished within the next month. Accounts payable were approved.

Walter Session announced the July 24th 100th birthday of Ms. Inez Conley. The birthday celebration will be held 11:00AM July 28th at the Mount Pleasant Church with a reception from 1:00 - 2:00PM. Members present at the council meeting: Mayor Angela Raiborn, Mayor Protem Walter Session, Councilmen Ben Middleton, Don Jones, Sam Florian, Don Woodard, City Manager Mike Murray, and Cinda Etheridge, city secretary.

## Orenthia Mason birthday recognized



Above, Doris Williamson represents Cole Hill CME church as she recognizes the birthday of Rev. Orenthia Mason and presents a surprise birthday gift. Rev. Mason is the church pastor.

### Rusk City Sales Tax Ahead of Last Year

The City of Rusk & EDC, for the 2012-2013 FY, are approximately 13.38% ahead of last fiscal year in sales tax rebates from the State of Texas. For the Month of August the rebate increased approximately 14.08%. The August Distribution is for retail sales made in Rusk during June and 2nd quarter of 2013.

The 2012-2013 REDC budget is based upon receiving \$199,500.00 from the ½ cents sales tax for the FY with an average monthly amount of \$16,625.00. The monthly average for the REDC, based upon 11 Months received of the FY is \$19,617.77. What the information below contains:

FY 2011-2012 TOTAL: State of Texas Comptroller's Office monthly total sales tax distribution to the City of Rusk by month for the 2011-2012 fiscal year. Italicized numbers are not added into the total for reporting purposes. FY 2012-2013 TOTAL, Estimated REDC & City Portion: State of Texas Comptroller's Office monthly total sales tax distribution from Comptroller's office to the City of Rusk by month:

\* % Inc/Dec Monthly: Percent of increase/decrease by month for current fiscal year compared to same time period last fiscal year.

\* Estimated REDC 2012-2013 FY Receipts: Estimated REDC amount from the monthly distribution for current fiscal year.

\* Estimated City 2012-2013 FY Receipts: Estimated City amount from the monthly distribution for current fiscal year.



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# Trayvon Martin Trial Verdict

# Zimmerman

con't from page 13

The not guilty verdict in the fatal shooting of Trayvon Martin has reshaped a black civil rights convention in Orlando, Fla., where delegates are calling for federal charges following a trial they say failed to serve justice.

The civil rights activists were gathering for the annual convention of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) just 30 minutes drive from where the murder trial took place when the jury issued its decision on Saturday night.

The verdict by a nearly all-white jury of six women in the trial of former neighborhood watch volunteer George Zimmerman reverberated around the country and rocked the convention of 3,000 national, state and local officers and members. Speeches were hastily re-written, agendas altered and conversation in the halls re-focused.

More than 800,000 people have signed an online petition of the NAACP asking U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder to file civil rights charges against Zimmerman, the association said on Monday.

"It was like an atomic bomb dropped," said Michael Edwards, 55, a union official and NAACP member from St. Louis.

On Tuesday, the convention will hear from Holder, who on Monday called the death of Martin, an unarmed black teenager, "unnecessary," raising questions about whether he believed Zimmerman, acted in self-defense.

"The Justice Department shares your concern," Holder said, triggering an enthusiastic response from some 14,000 black sorority members at a Washington convention center. The Justice Department said it would reopen its investigation into the case to determine whether

any civil rights laws had been violated by the state court handling it.

SNAACP Chief Warns of 'Great Peril' The Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2009 would require the government to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that Zimmerman, who is white and Hispanic, shot Martin because of race.

The Seminole County jury in the town of Sanford, Fla., rejected the second-degree murder charge that Zimmerman acted with ill will, spite or hatred.

Ben Jealous, the NAACP's president, said he cried when he heard of the Zimmerman verdict Saturday night in the Orlando hotel suite where he was meeting with his board and staff. He put his one-year-old son to bed and rushed to comfort the thousand black youth attending the convention this week.

At a nearby hotel, the high school and college delegates, the future of the 104-year-old civil rights organization, reacted viscerally. Jealous found some tears, some anger and some hard to read faces. Grief counselors were enlisted to help.

Jealous had intended for his keynote speech to address the body blow delivered on June 25 by the U.S. Supreme Court in repealing provisions of the Civil Rights Act of 1965 which required federal preclearance of changes of voting practices in jurisdictions with a history of voting discrimination. Instead, the speech he delivered reflected the second blow delivered by the jury. "These are not only times of great possibility, they are also times of great peril. We hear it in the Supreme Court's decision in *Shelby County v. Holder*. We see it in the verdict handed down in Sanford two nights ago. And we feel it every time we watch one of our young sons—or nephews—walk out the front door and pull up his hoodie over his head," Jealous said. Jealous also highlighted efforts

Benjamin Crump, a Martin family lawyer, said he had urged Mr. Martin's parents to stay out of the courtroom for the verdict. They were home and planning to attend church on Sunday. The parents, he said, were grateful for all the support.

Mr. Crump asked the family's supporters keep the peace and read a Twitter post by Dr. Bernice King, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s daughter.

"Whatever the Zimmerman verdict is," Mr. Crump read, "in the words of my father, we must conduct ourselves on the higher plane of dignity and discipline."

Sanford's new police chief, Cecil E. Smith, was in the courtroom for the verdict, and said afterward that while many calls were coming in from worried residents, the downtown was open and neighborhoods were calm.

Still, there was anger over the verdict. "We are outraged and heartbroken over today's verdict," said Benjamin Todd Jealous, president of the N.A.A.C.P. "We stand with Trayvon's family and we are called to act. We will pursue civil rights charges with the Department of Justice, we will continue to fight for the removal of Stand Your Ground laws in every state, and we will not rest until racial profiling in all its forms is outlawed."

Mr. O'Mara disputed the notion that Mr. Zimmerman engaged in racial profiling. "His history was not as a racist," he said.

He added that if Mr. Zimmerman was black, he likely would never have been charged. "This became a focus for a civil rights event, which is wonderful event to have," he said, "but they decided George Zimmerman was to blame and to use as a civil rights violation."

Prosecutors also were not helped by the police and crime scene technicians, who made some mistakes in the case. Mr. Martin's sweatshirt, for example, was improperly bagged, which might have degraded DNA evidence.

VERDICT Continued page 5

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## What's Cookin'

### Mama's Meatloaf

1 cup bread crumbs  
 1/2 cup beef broth  
 1 egg  
 1 med. onion  
 Salt/pepper to taste  
 2 teaspoons chilli powder  
 1/2 cup tomato catchup  
 1/2 cup chopped bell pepper  
 2 lbs ground beef  
 1 small can tomato paste  
 2 cans tomato sauce  
 1 teaspoon brown sugar(optional)

Combine ground beef, breadcrumbs, broth,egg, onion, bell pepper, 1 teaspoon chilli powder, tomato paste into large bowl. Mix ingredients well. Add salt and pepper. Part mixture into two loaves. Place in large casserole baking dish.

Place in 350 degree oven 25 minutes. Take out and drain excess drippings. Pour sauce over loaves and return to oven for 30 minutes.  
 Directions for Sauce:  
 Place in bowl 2 cans tomato sauce, 1 teaspoon chilli powder, 1/2 cup tomato catchup. Add salt and pepper and 1 teaspoon brown sugar.

## EBONY Magazine Devotes September Issue to Trayvon

### Martin

Partnership with the U.S. Department of Education to Discuss the State of Black Boys in National Town Hall Tour also Announced

### Homemade Cornbread

1 cup milk  
 1 cup buttermilk  
 2 extra large eggs  
 1/4 cup vegetable oil  
 1 Tablespoon vegetable oil  
 2 cups cornmeal  
 2/3 cups all-purpose flour  
 2 Tablespoon sugar  
 1 Tablespoon baking soda  
 1 teaspoon salt



Add 1 Tablespoon vegetable oil to 9 inch baking pan or iron skillet.

Place in 400 degree oven 2 minutes or until hot.

In large bowl combine liquid ingredients: eggs, milk, oil. Add dry ingredients: cornmeal, flour, sugar, baking powder, baking soda, and salt. Mix well stirring until smooth.

Pour mixture into hot pan. Bake 30 minutes or until golden brown.

CHICAGO (August 6,2013)—In response to the watershed moment experienced by the Black community after the “not-guilty” verdict in the George Zimmerman trial, EBONY magazine has devoted the September 2013 issue to Trayvon Martin and explores the “Stand Your Ground” laws. Inside the issue, readers can find:

An exclusive interview with Trayvon Martin's parents, Sybrina Fulton and Tracy Martin

An article from Columbia University Professor Marc Lamont Hill on racial profiling

A personal reflection from Spike Lee, Boris Kodjoe and Dwyane Wade on how they talk to their sons about racism in America

A reflection from 17 year old students on how they feel about being Black men in America

A legal analysis from Imani Perry on the verdict

A prayer of healing by Bishop T.D. Jakes  
 A poem for Trayvon Martin by Jill Scott.

An interview with Rev. Al Sharpton on how to turn anger into action “We want people to take the Trayvon movement to the next level,” said Fulton. “We want them to continue to sign petitions. We want their voices to be heard [on this issue].”

The September issue will also have four separate covers, each conveying the message, “We Are Trayvon.” The three separate newsstand issues will feature Spike Lee with his son, Jackson, Boris Kodjoe with his son, Nicolas, and Dwyane Wade with his sons Zaire and Zion, all wearing hoodies. The subscribers' issue will feature an exclusive photo of Trayvon's parents and his brother, Jahvaris Fulton, on the cover. “As a mother of a young Black boy, the tragedy of Trayvon Martin affected me deeply,” said EBONY's Editor-in-Chief Amy

Barnett. “We simply cannot allow the conversations on this issue to come to a standstill. As the leading source for an authoritative perspective on the African-American community, at EBONY we are committed to serving as a hub for Black America to explore solutions, and to giving readers the information and tools they need to help ensure a bright future for all of our children.”

“One of the biggest challenges is a collective inability to see Black males as innocent,” said Hill in his article. “Even when they are the victims of violence, Black men are profiled and assumed to be associated with gang activity, drug dealing or other forms of illegal activity that make it easy to deny them social protection, support, or even outrage.” This groundbreaking issue will explore concerns around racial bias, how to find solutions for those concerns and how to heal and move forward.

EBONY magazine is also honored to announce that the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for African-Americans is partnering with the magazine to host a series of town hall meetings across the country to discuss the state of Blackboys. Beginning November 2013 through December 2014, the community-focused conversations will address issues raised in the EBONY five-part “Saving Our Sons” series, which launched in the May 2013 issue. The program will highlight individuals and organizations that support the development of young Black men and will seek to provide ways to ensure that they reach their full potential. The first town hall will kick off at Morehouse College. Readers can begin to see the August issue of EBONY on newsstands on August 6.

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## Jason Peoples new pastor of Miles Chapel CME Church Crockett

## George Zimmerman Found Not Guilty of killing Trayvon Martin



Jason Peoples was recently ordained as a full connection minister of the Tyler District of the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church Conference. He has been assigned duties as a traveling Elder and fulltime pastor of Miles Chapel CME Church at 189 Fannin Street, Crockett Texas. Jason is a native of Jacksonville and the son of Hallie and H.P. Peoples.

SANFORD, Fla. — George Zimmerman, the neighborhood watch volunteer who fatally shot Trayvon Martin, an unarmed black teenager, igniting a national debate on racial profiling and civil rights, was found not guilty late Saturday night of second-degree murder. He was also acquitted of manslaughter, a lesser charge.

After three weeks of testimony, the six-woman jury rejected the prosecution's contention that Mr. Zimmerman had deliberately pursued Mr. Martin because he assumed the hoodie-clad teenager was a criminal and instigated the fight that led to his death. Mr. Zimmerman said he shot Mr. Martin on Feb. 26, 2012, in self-defense after the teenager knocked him to the ground, punched him and slammed his head repeatedly against the sidewalk. In finding him not guilty of murder or manslaughter, the jury agreed that Mr. Zimmerman could have been justified in shooting Mr. Martin because he feared great bodily harm or death.

The jury, which had been sequestered since June 24, deliberated 16 hours and 20 minutes over two days. The six female jurors entered the quiet, tense courtroom, several looking exhausted, their faces drawn and grim. After the verdict was read, each assented, one by one, and quietly, their agreement with the verdict.

The case began in the small city of Sanford as a routine homicide but soon evolved into a civil rights cause examining racial profiling and its consequences — an issue barred from the courtroom — and setting off a broad discussion of race relations in America. Mr. Martin, with his gray hooded sweatshirt and his Skittles — the candy he was carrying — became its catalyst.

Even President Obama weighed in a month after the shooting, expressing sympathy for Mr. Martin's family and urging a thorough investigation. "If I had a son," Mr. Obama said, "he'd look like Trayvon."

Saturday night when the verdict was read, Mr. Zimmerman, 29, smiled slightly. His wife, Shellie, and several of his friends wept, and his parents kissed and embraced.

ybrina Fulton and Tracy Martin, who lost their son a few weeks after his 17th birthday, were not in the courtroom.

After the verdict, Judge Debra S. Nelson of Seminole County Court told Mr. Zimmerman, who has been in hiding and wears a bulletproof vest outside, that his bond was revoked and his GPS monitor would be cut off. "You have no further business with the court," she said.

Outside the courthouse, perhaps a hundred protesters who had been gathering through the night, their numbers building as the hours passed, began pumping their fists in the air, waving placards and chanting "No justice, no peace!" Sheriff's deputies lined up inside the courthouse, watching the crowd, who were chanting peacefully, but intently.

By 11:20, more than an hour after the verdict had been read, the crowd outside the courtroom had begun to dwindle; fists were no longer aloft, placards had come down.

Among the last of the protesters to leave the courthouse lawn was Mattie Aikens, 33, of Sanford. She had been standing outside since noon, holding a bag of Skittles and a can of Arizona watermelon drink, which Mr. Martin was carrying the night he was shot. More than an hour after the verdict, she was still shocked. "He should have went to prison," she said. "He should have just got guilty, guilty, guilty, guilty."

Mark O'Mara, one of Mr. Zimmerman's lawyers, said, "George Zimmerman was never guilty of anything except firing the gun in self-defense."

In a news conference following the verdict, Angela B. Corey, the state attorney who brought the charges, rebuffed the suggestion that her office overcharged Mr. Zimmerman. "We charged what we had based on the facts of the case," she said. "We truly believe the mind-set of George Zimmerman and the reason he was doing what he did fit the bill for second-degree murder."

Calling it a "very trying time,"

See Zimmerman page

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Teach me to do your will, for you are my God; may your good spirit lead me on level ground.

Psalm 143: 10



**Hollywood's Time**  
by Billy (Hollywood) Groves  
Crockett, TX.



**Then a Hero Comes Along**

"Hollywood" Groves, CEO of Groves Standard-Crockett, Texas-As a seasoned journalist and a historian with a keen eye for the accomplishments of illustrious Americans in our nation's history, I have come to the conclusion that President Barack H. Obama, now in his first year of his second term as president, "is the greatest President America has ever had." When President Obama took office in 2008, America was on the verge of economic collapse, involved in a couple of foreign wars, mired in financial scandal, and headed full throttle toward the failed destiny of prior empires and dynasties.

President Obama saved the day for America because he got this Nation out of the "empire/dynasty" mindset

President Obama represents the "New America" which is not your "grandfather's" America.

The entire world has changed; there is no way America could have continued on the path we as a nation were on before President Obama. Empires and dynasties don't last because over time they become more stagnant, more inefficient, more indifferent to the needs of the people, predictable and status quo-dominated.

Because President Obama is the first African American President, he was able to implement his cultural unique visionary plans and creative decisions which worked brilliantly to get our nation back on track. I truly believe President Obama's distinctive and insightful vision for a more inclusive and innovative America linked to the diverse cultural perspective he brought to the position marked the difference between his leadership when compared to that of the U.S. Presidents who preceded him. His unique cultural and social distinction was the most important attribute that he possesses as President.

Being different allowed President Obama the freedom to govern our nation the "right way", without the psychological, historical and social peer pressure of presidents of the past. President

Obama's "outside the box thinking", was what America needed when Obama was first elected in 2008. Our nation could not stand another presidential failure. We had reached a pivotal point in our existence where our abilities and techniques of governing were antiquated, status quo -driven and woefully inefficient. We were caught up in an endless nightmare as a nation, everybody knew we were going down fast, but no one seemed to be able to stop our decline.

Then a hero came along; someone whom I believe only God could have raised up to save America. Just like empires, governments and dynasties of the past, we were caught up in our past and couldn't adapt nationally to the challenges rapidly overwhelming us. At the end of the day, whether you voted for President Obama or not, or even if you dislike him; one thing is crystal clear— President Obama came into a critically unstable situation in our Nation's existence, masterfully corrected our downward trajectory and placed the Nation on a sustainable and stable path.

That is why President Obama is, in my opinion, "the greatest President in American History". God Bless America, Africa and the Rest of the World.

**Cover Story** from 3

The state had better reading and writing skills. He attended classes with Albright scholars, but did not see these things as limiting his learning ability nor was it an impediment to his ultimate goals of helping others. After all these years of hard work, sacrifice, and struggle, he said he would do it all over again because the personal growth and learning proved to be imperative.

"My advice," He Said, " is to never give up on yourself or your desire to make a difference in others and in the world. The journey of a thousand miles begins with one single step. I found that during each step there were other people who walked alongside me and permitted me to join with them in service on behalf of others. They were busy living out their life's dreams and encouraged me to continue pursuing my dreams. "

We all have dreams, He continued, " and they push us forward to achieve great things. My ultimate goal is to establish a Whitaker Spiritual Life Retreat Center on the lake for Student Affairs professionals to bring their students out for leadership training. The plan is to connect high school students and college students on a shared journey of educational preparation and personal development. Also, churches can utilize leadership training retreats for clergy and congregation members. I will do my best to work hard at everything and God will handle the rest."

Continue Dr. Whitaker  
page 7

*Don't blame others....  
The choices you  
make will determine the  
quality of your life.*

Happy Birthday  
Charnell Franklin  
August 15th

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### Church

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### Annual Revival

Begins September 16th -3:00PM  
Nightly 7:30 PM 17, 18, 19, 2013

Woodville CME Church  
Rusk, Texas 75785

### Homecoming

Sunday August 18, 2013

3:00PM -

Annual Revival

Nightly 7:30PM

Aug. 18,19,20th

Pastor: Rev. Betty Rogers

## St. Paul Baptist Church

558 N. Main Street  
Jacksonville, TX. 75766

Phone: (903) 586-6006  
Contact: Sharon Sims  
Sunday School 10:00AM  
Morning Ser. 11:00AM  
Wednes. Bible Study 7PM  
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Sunday Worship Service  
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## Mt. Olive Baptist Church

911 Egbert Street  
Rusk, TX. 75785

Rev. Mertis Bartley, Pastor  
& wife  
Evangelist Stella Bartley  
Assistant Pastor

Contact: Sis. Sandra Carter  
Ph: (903) 683-2100



## Sweet Union Baptist Church

302 North Main Street  
Jacksonville, Texas  
903-586-4578

Sunday School: 9:45a-10:45a

Morning Worship: 11:00AM

Wednesday Night Bible Study/Prayer Meeting:  
6:00pm

Pastor, Rev. Willams "Come Worship with us at Sweet Union"



Wells, Texas

Pastor: Daryl Cranford  
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Miles Chapel C.M.E. Church  
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Pastor Jason Peoples

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Sunday School 10:00AM  
Morning Worship 11:00AM

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Crockett, Texas

Mt. Olive Baptist Church  
Rusk, Texas 75785

Annual Homecoming & Revival  
Sunday: Homecoming Service  
August 1, 2013  
3:00PM

Nightly Revival Services:  
Beginning August 2nd 7:30PM

Pastor: Rev. Mertis M. Bartley

The public is invited to attend and participate in the services.

Mount Pleasant  
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Episcopal Church

One Day Revival  
Sunday, September 27, 2013

3:00PM in the evening

Rev. Lionel Whitaker  
Speaker

Rev. Greenie Phillips, Pastor

Lee Springs Baptist Church

Rev. K. C. Clater  
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Lee Springs  
Baptist Church  
Gresham, Texas  
on Sunday, evening  
Spetember , 2013  
at 3:00PM

The public is invited  
to attend.

South Union Baptist Church Pastor,  
Rev. Derrick D. Lott, Sr.  
10:00 Sunday School  
11:00 am Worship Service.

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# Inez Reeder Conley celebrates 100th Birthday



Walter Session, assisted by Rev. Phillips presents a proclamation from the city of Rusk proclaiming Sunday, July 28th Inez Conley Day.



Daphne Session, Inez Conley and George Reeder. She looks over a resolution obtained by Senator Robert Nichols from the Texas Senate.



**Mrs. Inez Conley and Sam O'Neal dance to celebrate her 100th birthday.**



H. R. Waggoner presents a bouquet of 100 long stem red roses to Mrs. Inez Conley. One rose for each year of her long and wonderful life. made a beautiful bouquet.

She was elated...literally bouncing off the walls...and with good reason. She had promised Sam O' Neal a dance on her 100th birthday and on Sunday July 28th, kept that promise. About one-hundred family and friends stopped by Inez Conley's 100th birthday celebration to wish her a happy birthday and to share in the celebration.

The day started with worship service honoring Mrs. Conley. A proclamation was presented by Walter Session from the city of Rusk proclaiming July 28th Inez Reeder Conley Day. Senator Robert Nichols obtained a resolution from the Texas Senate. This certificate and

a Congratulatory letter and certificate from State Representative Travis McClardy were presented to Mrs. Conley by Daphne Session. Gifts from the church were presented by Terri Franklin and 100 long stem red roses were presented to her from the church by H. R. Waggoner. Her nephew George, his wife Annie Reeder, their children and grandchildren from Tyler, Shreveport and Houston were present.

Inez Reeder Conley was born July 24, 1913 in Smith County in the Pearl Creek Community. Mrs. Conley was the baby girl born to Alice Reeder and Edward Reeder. She had one older brother who was the father of her nephew George Reeder. George

and his wife Annie Reeder live in Tyler, Texas. They and their children and grandchildren were in attendance

Inez grew up in the Pearl Creek area. She attended elementary school in the area later attending and graduating from Emmitt Scott High School of Tyler. Inez obtained her Bachelor of Science Degree from Texas College Tyler, Texas and she is a Licensed Vocational Nurse. She also served in the United States Army three years as a nurse. She taught more than twenty-five years in Rusk ISD and Jacksonville ISD. She worked at Nan Travis hospital as an LVN fifteen years.

Mrs. Conley married Irvin C. Conley in 1940 and moved to Rusk about 1946. They opened the very famous Villiage Recreation Center in 1960 which housed a restaurant, barbershop, beautyshop and laundrymat. She joined Mt. Pleasant CME Church in 1946 and has been an active member since. At Mt. Pleasant she has served as President of the Stewardess Board, Trustee Board, member of the Missionary Society, Sunday School teacher, Sunday School Superintendent and currently serves as Church Mother.

She has been an active part of her community serving on

the Cherokee County Historical Commission, member of Cherokee County Retired Teachers Association, the Good Samaritan Board and hospital Pink Lady Volunteer. A reception began in the church fellowship hall immediately following the morning worship service. The approximately one hundred well wishers from Rusk and surrounding communities came to the reception to wish Mrs. Conley a happy birthday.

Among the well wishers were Stanley Johnson and wife Sandra from Arlington and Gloria Jennings from the Rusk Cherokeean Herald Newspaper.

During the reception Mrs. Conley stood to thank everyone for coming. She walked around hugging and greeting friends.

A delicious dinner of stuffed baked potatoes or fried chicken, green beans, and potato salad was served with birthday cake, tea and fruit punch. Mrs. Conley's birthday celebration actually began on her birthday July 24th. Throughout the week she received flowers and telephone calls locally and from as far away as California.

"It's such a blessing to live to celebrate your 100th birthday," She said. "This is the best one I have ever had. Thank you to my family and all of my wonderful friends."