

# TEXAS INFORMER

## SPECIAL BLACK HISTORY ISSUE!



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East Texas

Lue Ella Abraham

Denman  
*Licensed Cherokee  
County Mid-wife*



See page 4 for complete history

**Black Press Called  
“Essential” to  
Future” Progress**

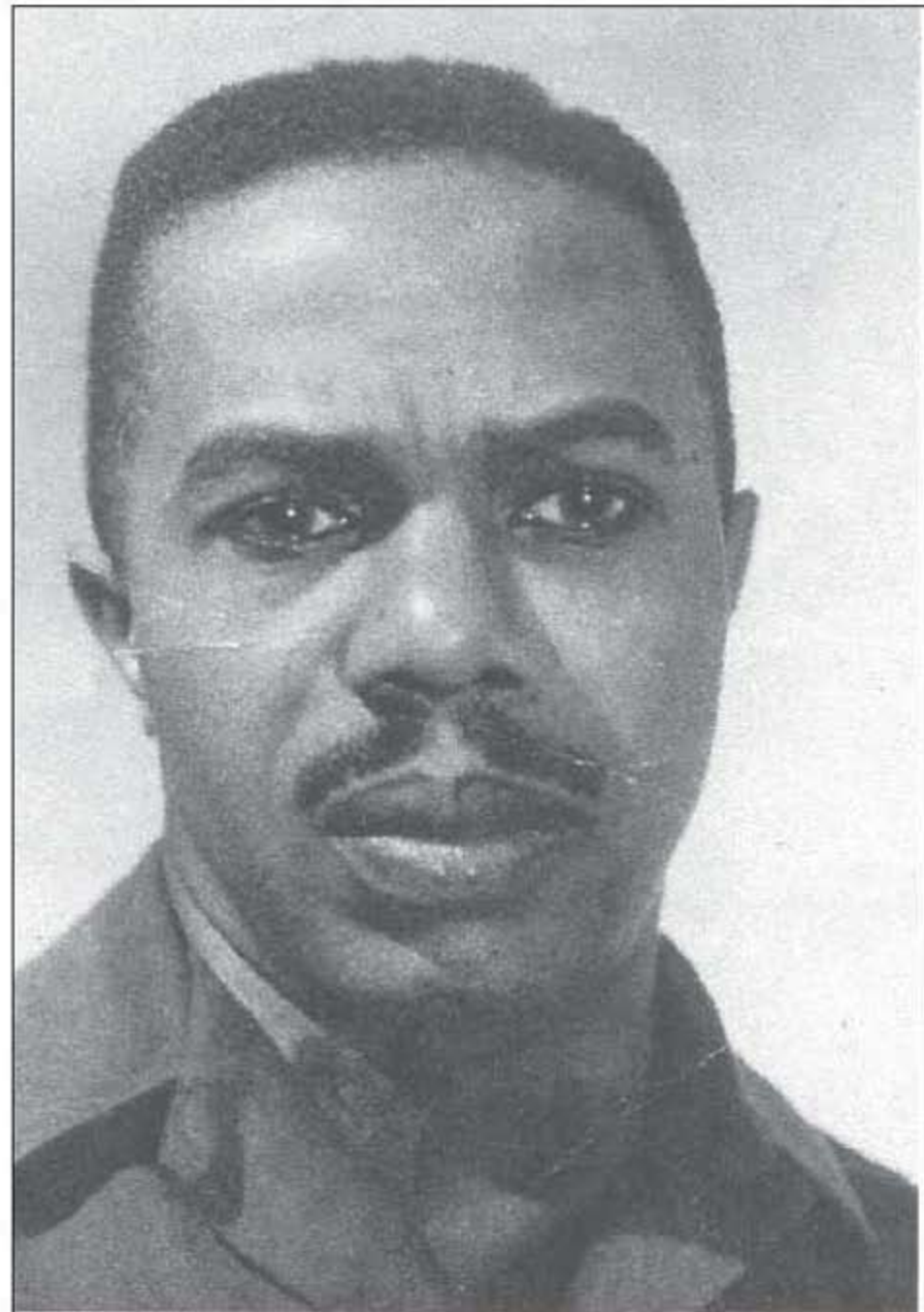
~By George E. Curry, NNPA

NASSAU, Bahamas (NNPA) – A top Bahamas official praised the Black Press last week as essential to truthfully and creditably chronicling African American progress from one generation to the next.

Philip E. Davis, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Works and Urban Development, commended the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) for 75 years of excellence. It goes without saying that your relevance, with time, is all the more important as the stories of struggle and sacrifice are passed on to each generation of Blacks,” he said in a speech at the NNPA mid-winter convention here. “This is

See Black Press page 19

**Irvin Caldwell Conley**  
*a lasting impact on history*



I. C. Conley lived a life that spanned eighty-one years. Most of his adult life he was involved in some project that made an impact on the lives of large groups of people one project at a time..

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## EDITORIAL COMMENTS



Maxine Session

### A Century of Black Life, History, and Culture" as the 2015 National Black History theme.

mirror trying to get herself together. I went to her and we talked. She looked to be a few years older than I am, so I was surprised to hear her say, "I didn't know that happened." She was apologetic about the movie saying over and over that she was sorry! While we were talking three other women came in, two white and one black. They too expressed the surprise at what they had learned from the movie. The black lady and I told them the movie was reality. We know because we lived through racism and injustice right here in East Texas.

My shock was that they lived through that era and were not aware. They really didn't know those things happened and that life was that way for Black people. We talked, hugged and went our separate ways.

Well, that's another reason for everybody to learn about Black History. More movies like "Selma", based on actual history, should be made and released to the public. School text books should be written with the history of all Americans included.

**But for ourselves who know our plight too well, there is a need of great patterns to guide us, great lives to inspire us, strong men and women to lift us up and give us confidence in the powers we, too, possess.**

~Langston Hughes

# The Origin of Black History Month

Black History Month began in 1926 as Black History Week by Dr. Carter G. Woodson, then-executive director of the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASNLH). Dr. Woodson and the organization later expanded it to include the entire month of February.

Originally Dr. Woodson selected that week in February closest to the births of both Abraham Lincoln, the great Emancipator (February 12, 1809), and Frederick Douglass, the Great Patriarch (February 14, 1817) of the 19th century freedom movement. Douglass was the towering figure in the abolitionist movement during the twenty years before the emancipation. He was perhaps the movement's most consistent and tireless leader, who lost no opportunity to speak out, not only against slavery, but racial injustice practiced against so called free persons of color. Frederick Douglass became personal friends with President Abraham Lincoln. He believed that Lincoln was sincere in his desire to find solutions to the many problems affecting Black Americans.

In honoring Frederick Douglass, Dr. Woodson and the ASNLH believed they had the opportunity to pass on to all Americans, especially those of color, an example of triumph over personal suffering, struggle, rejection and exploitation. In addition, Douglass' experiences mirrored those of most Black Americans.

Today, whether celebrating or commemorating the struggles African Americans have overcome, we can still use lessons of our and future. With the Martin Luther

King, Jr National Holiday in January, the two, Black History Month, just flow together.

In listening to the news with all the violence, it get's hard at times to see progress in racial matters, but many people have been exposed to how things were, the imposed suffering that they were apart of, and their hearts have changed, so there has actually been great improvements.

**Today their are still racial problems. We must put memories of past injustices into mental files of lessons learned and let them become resources referred back to for inspiration and incentives to make our dreams become realities.**

~ Lula Faye Mallard Warmley



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#### Letters to the Editor Policy

We welcome your letters to the editor. Please send to P. O. Box 332, Rusk, Texas or [informernews08@aol.com](mailto:informernews08@aol.com). Letters must include name of the sender.

Black History is world history that everyone should know.



# Irvin Caldwell Conley: a lasting impact on local History

~by Maxine Session

Irvin Caldwell Conley, better known as I. C. Conley, probably never knew until well past middle age that he had greatly impacted the lives of many people.

Born in 1914 in Rusk, Texas, he was just a teenager when the great depression hit in 1929 and did not end until the early forties, but in the midst of very hard economic times, I. C. Conley's Mother and Daddy were able to send him to college. His mother, Bertha Conley was a teacher and his Daddy Ed Conley worked on a public job. Mr. Conley grew up in Rusk. He attended Rusk Colored School. The school only went to tenth grade. He attended the last two years in Jacksonville, graduating from Jacksonville High School then on to Texas College, Tyler, Texas, getting a Bachelors degree.

I. C. grew up in a segregated time in society. Black people owned their own businesses such as grocery stores, funeral homes, cafes, beauty and barber shops, hotels, pharmacies and construction companies. Many were self-sustaining farmers. Those who did not own their own business were limited to low wage private home maid jobs, field work, pulpwood cutters and haulers, sawmill workers and tomato peelers in tomatoe sheds. There were many teachers, but in East Texas they had to leave home to find a teaching job.

It was told that there was a theater in Rusk located on Henderson Street in the 1920's. Black people were not allowed to attend this theater. The back door was left open and they would sit outback to view the silent films. Irvin was often heard talking about his daddy setting up a small theater and showing films for black people.

He served his country in the U. S. Army. He met Inez Reeder at Texas College and were married in 1945. They made Rusk their home. Mr. Conley taught school one year at Bradford High School. When he

discovered the student textbooks to be worn from use by white students across town and out of adoption, he went to the county school superintendent and talked to him about the situation. When nothing changed, he left teaching, went to barber school and became a barber.

I. C. built his first barbershop in his huge front yard and cut hair there for many years. Once he was interviewed by Joan Hallmark on 'Proud of East Texas'. In that interview he made this statement, "I always wondered why the white man worked on the head and the black man on the foot (shining shoes). So I decided to work on the head."

He was a member of Mount Pleasant CME Church, a steward, a trustee and church treasurer. The church was located on North Main for many years. In 1952 Irvin donated 3 lots of the Irvin Conley Estate to his church. With the help of the city of Rusk and Herman Bradley, he donated land to the city and had a street cut to the property, naming the street Reeder Street, from his wife Inez's maiden name. The church was torn down at the main street location and rebuilt on Reeder Street. It opened there in 1953 with the help of Irvin Conley, Herman Bradley and Bud Vinson who were all members of the church.

Mr. Conley usually spoke what he thought and most often acted on it.

The 1954 Supreme Court case Brown VS the Board of Education declared separate but equal schools to be unconstitutional and declared that the schools be intergrated with all due speed. At that time, Rusk had a school system which placed white students in one school and Black students in another. The school for Black students was not equal, offering only basic classes using out of adoption textbooks.

Mr. Conley went to his friends and neighbors with a petition, explaining the court ruling and gathering signatures. He took the petition to the County School Superintendent. The petition



L - R- Rev. Jerry Leviston, Thurman Hampton, William Hicks and Councilman Walter Session and I. C. Conley following the Park dedication.

requested that Cherokee County Schools be intergrated, according to the law. Mr. Conley was not given a response, but all terror broke loose on many Black families in Rusk. Most of the men who had signed the petition were fired from their jobs. Others were physically abused on the job and threatened. Mr. Conley was self employed, so he didn't get fired, but his life was threatened. He slept nights with a gun under his pillow. The schools intergrated fourteen years later, 1968, when federal law forced that it be done.

Black families in Dickinson's First Addition, where Mr. & Mrs. Conley lived, did not have indoor plumbing in the early 1950's. Outhouses were used with wells for water. Mr. Conley petitioned the city of Rusk to extend the water and sewer lines that were in the community so that families would have access to running water and sewerage. Streets were not paved or blacktopped. He initiated this and the first hard surfacing of the main street (Dixon) which ran through the community to G. W. Bradford School was paved in the early 1960's.

This Street today is Martin Luther, King Jr. Drive. Black citizens could only be burried on the back side of the city cemetery. Mr. Conley Donated land and worked with the city to set up Rusk Memorial Cemetery, which is also located on Reeder Street.

Irvin Conley built a building, with his own hands, that housed a restaurant, youth center, laundry mat, beauty shop and a barbershop, where he cut hair. It opened for business in the early summer of 1960. The Village, as he named it became the center of the black community. There was the Dairy Queen, Stover's Cafe, Smith's Cafe others in the city, but Black people were not allowed to go inside to sit down and eat. The Village Restaurant, the first black owned restaurant in Rusk joined Harvey Martin's Cafe, Ollie Majors Cafe, and Lorene's Cafe as a place of comfort to sit down and order a good meal, hamburger or just a slice of homemade pie and coffee. The guys could get a haircut, shave and shoeshine all in one place.



## Lue Ella Abraham Denman Licensed Mid-wife



Mrs. Denman

Rev. Wilmore, moved to Rusk, Cherokee County. In the middle 1930's Lue Ella and her husband Oscar B. Denman, Sr. and children followed her parents from Houston County, to the Oakland area in Cherokee County.

She was the mother of ten children. They were members of the Holly Springs CME Church but also attended Delmar Baptist Church where her husband was a Deacon.

The family moved to Rusk in the early 1940's. Lue Ella Denman and the children became members of Mount Pleasant CME Church. She was a member of the Missionary Society, the Stewardess Board and was the Church Mother in later years. At that time members of the Stewardess Board and Missionary Society wore white and sat up front in the church. Her husband Oscar B. Denman, Sr. became a Deacon, Sunday School Teacher and Choir director at Mount Olive Baptist Church.

As a young woman, Lue Ella was a stay at home mother who worked the fields of crops her husband grew, cooked, cleaned, washed the family clothes using a wash pot and rub board, made homemade lye soap, sewed and kept her grandchildren during the day while their parents worked. For a short period of time in the middle 1950's she worked as cook in the school cafeteria at G. W. Bradford High School.

Mrs. Denman was once featured on "Proud of East Texas" by Joan Hallmark. In the later years of her life she enjoyed sitting on her front porch and while there she often had visits from those she delivered.

She loved attending church and remained an active member of her church until her health began to fail in the early 1990's. She passed away in April, 1994.

Lue Ella's children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great grandchildren still attend the same church she attended.

## Water Project

Quality. The report will be looked at and if there is a need according to their guidelines, then the city of Reklaw will be invited to apply for the grant. The determination will be made and the city notified by February 27, 2015. Deadline for submitting the grant is April 30, 2015.

Deadline for awarding the grant is June 2015.

The grant will pay for supplies and equipment but volunteers must do the work.

Three volunteer leaders must be chosen:

- (1) Construction Coordinator
- (2) Scheduling Coordinator (volunteers & their duties)
- (3) Coordinator to document photos and sign-in sheets

Upon completion, all documentation must be turned in to the Texas Department of Agriculture.

When Manuel Martinez asked how many would volunteer, almost every hand in the room was raised.

Tim Perry of the Palestine, Texas Public Works Department volunteered his help and possibly a monetary donation. The Fairview citizens present,

Reverend Foreman Blount Chapel Baptist Church, Rev. Jason Hoffman of First Baptist Church, Rev. Donnie Timmons of Shady Grove COGIC, James and Bobby Smith of Palestine, Betty Nicholson all stated that they will volunteer.

Rusk County Judge Hale from Henderson addressed the crowd and will look into what he can do to help.

Mayor Crawford stated that he and the city staff will volunteer as well.

Tonya Carter and Betty Nicholson each took turns addressing the crowd, thanking everyone involved, stating again how the community got involved with the request for help in obtaining water. Mrs. Nicholson and Bobby and James Smith continue to supply some of the families with bottled water brought from Palestine to Fairview.

Robert Haberle and Gary Traylor have been helpful to Mayor Crawford and the city taking the lead in the grant process.

Many small towns in Texas have applied for the STEP Grants. Those who are not awarded in this round can apply again in the second round which begins June 1, 2015 and will end December 2015.

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# Heart Health from page 16

walking, which probably works so well because it slows us down. And, it is an incredible way to build relationships.

"Also, I recommend ingesting essential monosaccharides, which is new and unknown territory for most people," he says. "They are the simplest form of carbohydrate molecules found in the body, are essential for protein molecules and can be found in maple syrup, sweet potatoes.

## Jacksonville Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday from page 11

the music. Regina Garner Session, Amad Sanders and Linnetric Riden sang solos and Mount Haven CME Church Praise Team performed. Ministers from various churches participated in the march and the program. The celebration was sponsored by the Unity Committee of Jacksonville headed by Helen Scott and A. J. Rhodes.

## The 46th NAACP Image Awards

Airing live Friday, February 6 at 8/7c on TV One, and this year's show is going to be big.

Our host, Anthony Anderson, is sure to keep you laughing all evening long, but the star power doesn't end there. The top names in film, TV, music, and literature are coming together Friday night to celebrate an incredible year of arts and entertainment.

Few are too young, and none are too old, to make the attempt to learn.

*~Booker T. Washington*

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Goodwill Baptist Church  
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Pastor: Rev. G. Harrison

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Margarett Perkins, Laura Perkins, James I. Perkins and Dr. L. Michael Metke President of Tyler Junior College enter into agreement making possible the Rusk TJC Citizens Promise. The James I Perkins Family Foundation and Tyler Junior College established this scholarship program for Rusk High School graduates. The top fifty-percent/qualifying students will have \$8000. scholarships to TJC which began with the class of 2014.

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## Irvin C. Conley

from page 3

The plaque reads "In honor of Irvin C. Conley for many years of dedicated service to the community as an educator, developer and civic leader. "Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting, get understanding." Proverbs 4:7 and it is dated March 13, 1986

Irvin Conley was born February 20, 1914 and passed away in Aug 1995.

He used his long and fruitful life to make a lasting impact on history.

*"If you have a dream in one hand and an obstacle in the other, put the obstacle down and run with the dream"*

I. C. was a property manager, purchasing and developing land. He and W. R. Meadors purchased land and drew up plans for a subdivision which included zoning for a store. He owned rent houses. Many years after the intergration of the schools, RISD vacated the old Rusk High school building located on third street, and put it up for sale. Irvin Conley purchased the school buildings and grounds.

In 1986, at the request of City Councilman Walter Session, the city park located on Reeder Street was named for and dedicated to Irvin C. Conley.

## Cost of waiving tuition for veterans could grow to \$2 billion

Austin, TX. -Senate budget writers on Thursday gawked at the exponential cost projections of a state law that waives tuition for veterans and their families at any of the state's public higher education institutions.

The Texas Veterans Commission estimates the annual price tag of the Hazlewood Act could eventually grow to \$2 billion if veterans start moving to the state to take advantage of the law after a federal judge last month struck down one of its provisions that says veterans and their families may receive free tuition as long as they enlisted while living in the state.

"We've created a monster," said state Sen. Charles Schwertner, R-Georgetown, a member of the Senate Finance Committee.

"This is something we really, really, really need to figure out Earlier this week,

the state Attorney General's office told the budget-writing panel it would appeal the recent Hazlewood ruling. how we're going to address this," said state Sen. Jane Nelson, chairwoman of the committee.

According to Nelson's office, \$30 million of the nearly \$33 million funding increase to the veterans commissions in the Senate's proposed budget is to reimburse higher education institutions for a share of the "Hazlewood's Exemption Legacy Program," which allows veterans to waive their tuition benefits so their children may take advantage of them.

That is a fraction of the total price tag, however. Hazlewood cost the state's public higher education institutions \$169 million last year to cover nearly 40,000 students, according to the Legislative Budget Board

## Slocum Massacre Marker Approved



Leo Hollie and Constance Hollie-Jawaid, whose relatives were murdered in the Slocum Massacre

By JOHN AUSTIN CNHI State Reporter

AUSTIN—Nobody can say for sure how many of their black neighbors the white people of Slocum, Texas, wiped out during a racially charged killing rampage in 1910.

Constance Hollie-Jawaid, a great-granddaughter of survivor Marsh Holley, believes they slaughtered more than 30 of her Anderson County relatives.

"That's just in my family," said Hollie-Jawaid, who applied for a Texas Historical Commission marker to memorialize the events and the dead. "I feel like those who were killed are depending on me."

On Thursday, commission members in Austin authorized an 18-by-21-inch marker that would help bring the long-buried story to life.

"I feel like my ancestors didn't die in vain," said a tearful Hollie-Jawaid, who was in the hearing room with her only sibling, Leo Hollie, and other relatives for the

late-afternoon decision.

The vote came in the face of controversy. Jimmy Ray Odom, the historical marker chairman for the Anderson County Historical Commission, has said in an interview with Texas Public Radio that no race riot or massacre took place.

"Something happened," Odom explained later. "It was mislabeled a massacre. A massacre is when you kill hundreds of people."

In the same radio report, Greg Chapin, another Anderson County Commissioner, predicted that a Slocum marker would be thrown in the river within a day of its installation.

Hollie-Jawaid said what happened in the unincorporated community 16 miles southeast of Palestine was not a race riot, but was indeed a massacre. Based on her research and the work that her late father began in the 1970s, the total number of those murdered could be 75 or 80, she said.



# Speak Out

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated on April 4, 1968. In 1983, Congress made January 15th a national holiday honoring the birthday of Dr. King. This day is a special day for many reasons. One, it reminds those of us who remember, of our past history and it teaches those who don't know. The people below waiting the start of the Martin Lakin King, Jr. march and celebration were asked, "Why are you here today?" They speak out.



Tamar Session - Jacksonville

Joe Teague - Jacksonville

Charlie Esco - Jacksonville

Wayne & Sherry Rollen - Jacksonville

I have not missed a celebration since they began holding them. I make sure I come just to support Dr. King's Dream and the difference he made in my life.

I participate because I want to make sure that our young people remember and learn from Dr. King and the whole civil rights history. To make sure they learn from what takes place here today.

I'm here because Dr. King gave me a priviledge I didn't have. I was fortunate to have been born in 41 in the middle of the century and to have seen the worse that American had to offer until today when America has made many strides.

Wayne Rollen - We are here to support Dr. King's dream. From where our ancestors were to where we have come.....He represented and gave his life for justice for all concerned.



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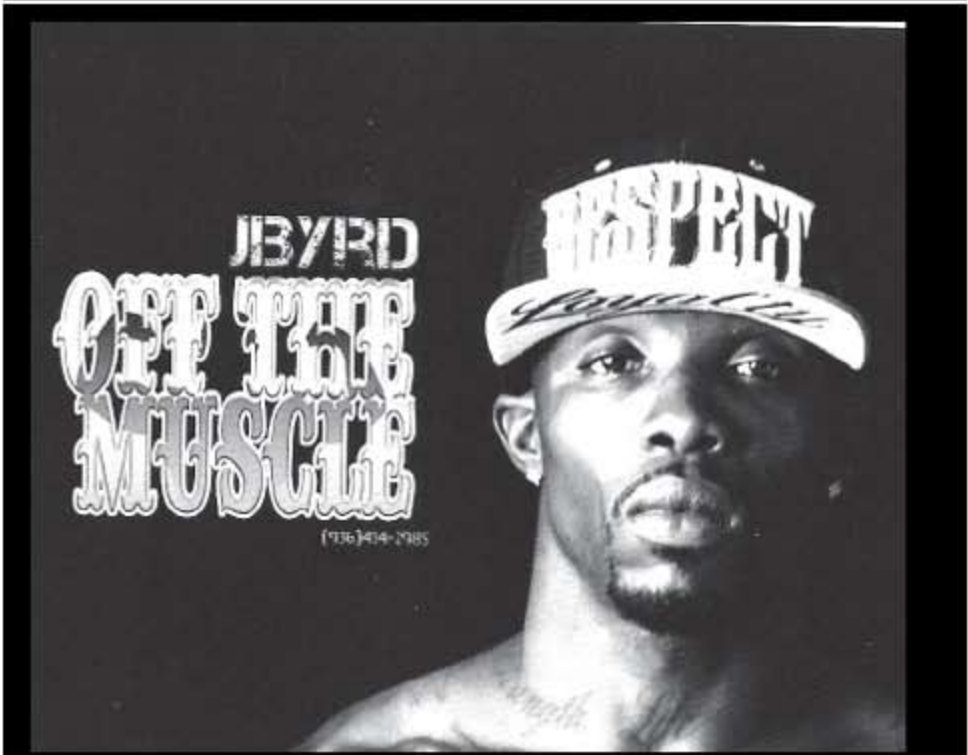
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# Citizens come together for Crockett Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Program



L -R - Nelson Daniels -PHD, Credilla Lambert, Della Newman, Dr. Eloria Simon Cambell, PHD, Henry Ford Reece, Roberta Mason, James Gentry. members of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Committee.



The audience participates.



Houston County Elected Officials, Jarvarius Taylor - Boy Scout Troup #419, Speaker Tyesha Elam, Mayor Robert Meadows and committee chair Roberta Mason.



Daphne Session, Houston County, County Attorney and speaker Attorney Tyesha Elam of Houston, Texas

Honor and tribute was paid to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at the thirty-seventh Commemorative Program celebrating his birthday in Crockett on Sunday January 18, 2015. The event is sponsored each year by the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Committee. The committee Chair is Roberta Mason.

The Speaker for the occasion was Tyesha Elam, Houston Attorney with Crockett ties. She kept the audience spellbound as she spoke of her childhood, spending time in Crockett with her maternal grandmother and her initial encounter with racism while attending the University of Texas at Austin in 1991. Elam said it was Greek Week and the Fraternities had a contest with the theme, "Who can be the most racist?" What she described was a

horrific story that went beyond that of a cruel joke. Tyesha said after that encounter with racism she began to understand and appreciate Dr. King's dreams and all he accomplished.

She did an exercise with the audience that challenged them to dream, having them write down their goals on a card and share them with a partner. She urged them to "do the possible and let God do the impossible."

Tyesha Elam graduated from the North Carolina Central University of Law, is co-founder of Alpha Lambda Omega Christian Sorority, Inc. and she opened the Elam Law Firm, PC in Houston in 2002. One of her proudest accomplishments is being awarded a grant from the Harris County Agency on Aging which afforded her the opportunity

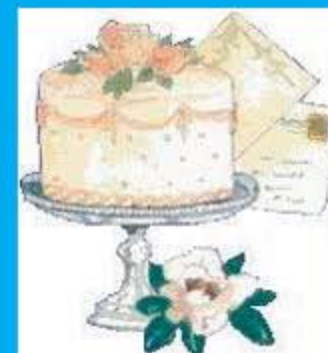
to provide Free legal services for the elderly. The experience was so rewarding she dedicated her practice to providing affordable legal service

to the greater Houston community. Ms Mason presented her with a plaque.

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# Jacksonville Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Celebrated



Jacksonville, TX.- "Living the Dream " was the theme of the 2015 Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Celebration. A crowd gathered in front of the Tomato Bowl and walked the approximately half mile distance to Sweet Union Baptist Church where the celebration has been held for more than twenty years.

An eager crowd filled the sanctuary as the program began. Bethany Johnson, a junior high student, took her position behind the mic and guided the crowd through the program beginning with "Lift Every Voice and Sing". Rev. Jason Peoples gave an outstanding rendition of "Dr. King's I have a Dream Speech ". Rev. Anson Lawson was the speaker. Children and young people were part of the program. Ahmad Sanders, Phillis Johnson and Teresa Franklin provided

Continued page 5

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## Phyllis Wheatley

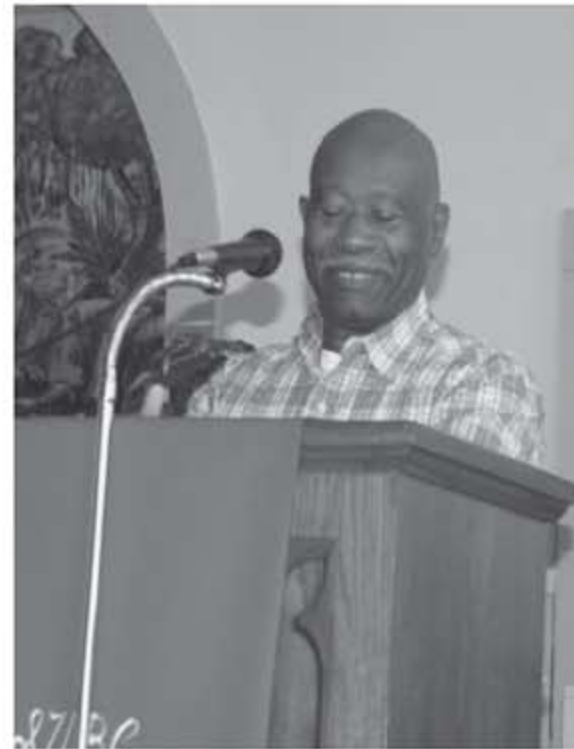


Born in West Africa, Wheatley was seized in 1761 and brought to the colonies when she was seven years old. Too young for the grueling labor of the West Indies or the southern colonies, where slave traders stopped first after the Atlantic crossing, she was brought to Boston. Phillis was purchased by John Wheatley, a well-known tailor, and his wife Susanna, who were looking for a domestic servant. Unlike the vast majority of Africans held in bondage in the colonies,

Phillis was taught to read and write by the Wheatley family. While continuing in her domestic duties, she studied geography, history, astronomy, and Alexander Pope and John Milton as well as Virgil, Homer, Ovid, and other Greek and Latin classics. In 1767, at the age of thirteen, Phillis published her first poem in the Newport Mercury, "On Messrs. Hussey and Coffin." In 1784 Wheatley published a sixty-four line poem in a pamphlet called Liberty and Peace in which she was the first writer to hail the new nation as Columbia, linking the colonies' triumph in the War for Independence with a struggle for spiritual freedom. Her patriotism and faith in America's future, however, was not justified by the response of colonial Americans to her work, who had difficulty seeing beyond Wheatley's color. She advertised in Boston for subscribers to her first volume of poems but met with no success. While Poems on Various Subjects in its London edition sold twelve hundred copies in four printings, it could not sell most of the first printing of the American edition. In 1778 she married John Peters, a free black man whose desire to be a gentleman and a merchant found no better success than Phillis's artistic ambitions. The couple had three children, all of whom died in infancy, and then drifted into poverty. Phillis's death in Boston in 1784 became, among nineteenth-century Americans who celebrated her work, a lesson in racial injustice. As Margaretta Odell described it:

"The woman who had stood honored and respected in the presence of the wise and good...was numbering the last hours of life in a state of the most abject misery, surrounded by all the emblems of a squalid poverty!"

## Robinson announces candidacy for reelection



Mayor Hubert Roberson

Jacksonville, TX. - Mayor Hubert Robinson recently announced his candidacy for City Councilman. Local elections will be held Saturday, May 9, 2015. Mayor Robinson who was Mayor Protem for the city of Jacksonville became Mayor upon the death of the sitting Mayor Kenneth Melvin, who passed away in December 2, 2014. after a bout with pneumononia. Mayor Robinson has represented District I for the past eight years and would like to continue serving the citizens of Jacksonville.

## THE TEXAS AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

The Texas African American History Memorial Foundation (the "Foundation") is committed solely to the development and construction of the Texas African American History Memorial (the "Memorial") on the State Capitol grounds. The Foundation has been established and is dedicated to raising funds for the Memorial. The Foundation has commissioned an artist, as the sculptor for the Memorial. The Foundation is committed to raise at least \$2.6 million for the construction, maintenance, and dedication of the Memorial with an anticipated completion date of 2015. Ten percent of the cost of the Memorial will be retained for future maintenance and repair. The Foundation has received the support of Governor Rick Perry, Lt. Governor David Dewhurst, Speaker Joe Straus, and the entire membership of the Texas Preservation Board. The Foundation also has the support of the Legislative Black Caucus of Texas.

### LOCATION OF MEMORIAL

The Memorial will be located on the South Capitol grounds on the west of the central driveway facing South Congress. The Memorial will be the last monument erected on the South Capitol grounds under current law.

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## Predatory Lenders from page 19

After World War II, the GI Bill provided White male veterans a pathway to college, professional careers and a boost into the middle class, a bridge that was closed to Black veterans who also fought and spilled blood overseas. Later, the Federal Housing Administration blocked Black families from moving into suburban neighborhoods, built with and partially funded by government subsidies. "More than a quarter of all White families shifted from renting to owning in the twenty years following WWII," stated the report. "Despite laws to the contrary, Black people were excluded from buying homes in White neighborhoods and were forced instead to live in urban ghettos." According to the UFE report, less than 1 percent of all mortgages from 1930 to 1960 were issued to Black people.

By 2013, the median wealth held by White families (\$141,900), dwarfed the median wealth (\$11,000) of Black families. "As an estimated 80 percent of assets come from transfers from prior generations, the history of the financial situations of prior generations is a primary cause of the racial wealth gap," stated the report. Leyba said that economic exclusion, largely based on race still exists, but it's much harder to pinpoint. "It may not be legalized or sanctioned by the federal government," said Leyba. "But it still exists." Economic exclusion continues to plague the banking sector, leaving 93 million Americans "unbanked" or "underbanked." "The unbanked are people that do not have any type of consumer checking account, and are outside the entire banking system," the report explained. "The underbanked are people that have a checking account, but also rely on Alternate Financial Service Providers."

According to the report more than 20 percent (20.5 percent) of Black households were unbanked in 2013, compared to 3.6 percent of White households.

Forty percent of Black households were full-banked compared to 75.4 percent of White households.

Alternate Financial Service Providers or AFSPs include payday loans, auto title loans, rent-to-own shops, subprime credit cards, high-interest rate installment loans, check cashing, prepaid reloadable debit cards, and money orders, the report said.

Researchers found that people shun traditional banks in favor of AFSPs for a number of reasons. Fifty-eight percent said that they didn't have enough money to meet minimum balance requirements to keep an account open, while others (17 percent) said that past credit problems made it difficult for them to open new accounts.

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[joyce.bertolacini@lottery.state.tx.us](mailto:joyce.bertolacini@lottery.state.tx.us)

To learn more about the State of Texas HUB Program, visit the Texas Procurement and Support Services web page at:  
<http://www.window.state.tx.us/procurement/prog/hub/>





# Scott Joplin

Beginning his career as an itinerant piano player traveling along the Mississippi River from New Orleans to St. Louis, by the early 1900's Joplin became the creator of a "ragtime madness" that swept the world.

The syncopated melodies and richness of his lyrical ragtime tunes were so well respected technically that they influenced even classical composers such as Stravinsky and Debussy. His most famous peice, Maple Leaf

Rag, was published in 1899, propelled Joplin to massive fame and reputedly sold over a million copies of sheet music, an unheard of feat!

With Joplin's death in 1917, the ragtime subsided but experienced a phenomenal rebirth in the 1970's when celebrated musicians and symphony orchestras performed his "rags". His work won Oscars for best sound track and title song in the 1974 movie "The Sting",

## LEGAL NOTICE

These Texas Lottery Commission Scratch-Off games will be closing soon:

Game #	Game Name / Odds	\$	Official Close of Game	End Validation Date
1621	Instant Millions - Overall Odds are 1 in 2.91	\$20	2/13/15	9/12/15
1589	Double Blackjack - Overall Odds are 1 in 4.58	\$1	4/1/15	9/28/15
1639	6X The Cash - Overall Odds are 1 in 4.52	\$1	4/1/15	9/28/15
1618	Triple Dynamite - Overall Odds are 1 in 4.28	\$2	4/1/15	9/28/15
1640	10X The Cash - Overall Odds are 1 in 4.15	\$2	4/1/15	9/28/15
1647	Lucky 13 - Overall Odds are 1 in 4.13	\$2	4/1/15	9/28/15
1635	Loteria™ - Overall Odds are 1 in 3.98	\$3	4/1/15	9/28/15
1559	All or Nothing™ - Overall Odds are 1 in 3.21	\$5	4/1/15	9/28/15
1604	10X Super Fast Cash - Overall Odds are 1 in 3.25	\$5	4/1/15	9/28/15
1623	Solid Gold - Overall Odds are 1 in 3.24	\$5	4/1/15	9/28/15
1636	Texas Dream Home - Overall Odds are 1 in 3.77	\$5	4/1/15	9/28/15
1536	10X Mega Money - Overall Odds are 1 in 2.88	\$10	4/1/15	9/28/15

For detailed odds and game information, visit [tdottery.org](http://tdottery.org) or call 1-800-37LOTTO. Must be 18 or older to purchase a ticket. The Texas Lottery supports Texas education. © 2015 Texas Lottery Commission. All rights reserved.



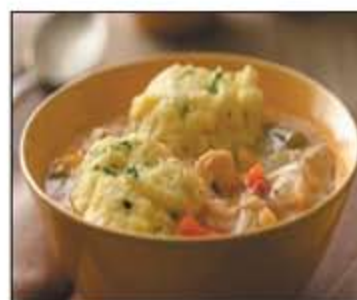
Happy birthday

Lynda Robertson

February 19th

# What's Cook'n

## Delicious Chicken and Dumplings



Simmer, covered, one hour or until chicken is tender. Drain, reserving liquid. Cool chicken slightly. Remove chicken from bones and skin, cut or pull apart chicken into bite-sized pieces. Discard bones and skin.

Mix 2 cups flour, baking powder and remaining 1/4 teaspoon salt. Add 1/4 cup reserved liquid to flour mixture. Stir until soft dough forms, adding additional liquid if necessary. Knead dough gently on lightly floured surface until smooth. Roll until dough is 1/4-inch thick. Cut into 1 X 3-inch strips. Bring remaining liquid to boil in saucepan. Add dumplings. simmer, uncovered, 20 minutes. Add chicken pieces and thawed vegetables and then cook until heated through.

- 8 cups water
- 1 broiler-fryer chicken (about 3 lbs)
- 1 tsp. poultry seasoning
- 2 cups flour
- 1 (10 oz.) pkg. frozen peas and carrots thawed
- 1 tsp. celery flakes
- 1 tsp. pepper
- 3/4 tsp. salt, divided
- 1/4 tsp. baking powder

Bring water, chicken, celery flakes, pepper, poultry seasoning and 1/2 teaspoon of salt to a boil in larger saucepan

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# Christianity

The following of  
Jesus Christ

## Jesus Weeps He raises Lazarus from the dead

John 11:1-15 20-45

Now a certain man was sick, Lazarus of Bethany, the town of Mary and her sister Martha. It was that Mary who anointed the Lord with fragrant oil and wiped His feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick.

Therefore the sisters sent to Him, saying, "Lord, behold, he whom You love is sick." When Jesus heard that, He said, "Sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it."

Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. So, when He heard that he was sick, He stayed two more days in the place where He was. Then after this He said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again. The disciples said to Him, Rabbi, lately the Jews sought to stone You, and are You going there again? Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours in a day? If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. But if one walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him. These things He said, and after that He said He said to them, "Our friend Lazarus sleeps, but I go that I may wake him up. Then His disciples said, "Lord if he sleeps he will get well." However, Jesus spoke of his death, but they thought He was speaking about taking rest in sleep. Then Jesus said to them plainly, Lazarus is dead. "And I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, that you may believe. Nevertheless let us go to him.

Then Martha as soon as she heard that Jesus was coming went and met Him, but Mary stayed in the house. Now Martha said to Jesus, "Lord if you had been here, my brother would not have died. " But even now I know that whatever You ask of God, God will give you." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again. Martha said to Him, I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last Day." Jesus

said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes me, though he may die, he shall live. "And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this? She said, yes Lord I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God, who is to come into the world." And when she had said these things, she went her way and secretly called her sister, saying, "The teacher has come and is calling for you. As soon as she heard that she arose quickly and came to Him. Now Jesus had not yet come into the town, but was in the place where Martha had met Him. Then the Jews who were with her in the house, and comforting her, when they saw that Mary rose up quickly and went out, followed her saying, "She is going to the tomb to weep there." Then when Mary came where Jesus was, and saw Him, she fell down at His feet, saying to Him, Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died. Therefore when Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her weeping, He groaned in the spirit and was troubled. And He said, "Where have you laid him? They said to Him "Lord come and see. Jesus wept. then the Jews said, "See how He loved him!" And some of them said, "Could not this Man, who opened the eyes of the blind, also have kept this man from dying?" Then Jesus again groaning in Himself, came to the tomb. It was a cave and a stone lay against it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha the sister of him who was dead, said to Him, "Lord by this time there is stench, for he has been dead four days. Jesus said to her, "Did not I say to you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?"

Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead man was lying. And Jesus lifted up His eyes and said, "Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. "And I know that You always hear Me, but because of the people who are standing by I said this, that they may believe that You sent Me." Now when He had said these things, He cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth!" And he who had died came out bound hand and foot with grave-clothes, and his face was wrapped with cloth, Jesus said to them, "Loose him and let him go."

## Obituararies

### John Phillip Thompson

Funeral Services were held January 9, 2015 for John Phillips Thompson at First Pentecostal church of Phoenix, Arizona. John was born on December 27, 1936 to Ovester and Willie Rene Dearman. John spent most of his childhood in Rusk, Texas. He moved to Fort Worth, Texas in 1969. He moved to Phoenix, Arizona in April of 1980. In July 1980 he and his family became members of First Penecostal Church. He loved to give solicited and unsolicited advice. He was an outstanding mechanic. He loved the youth and was a great mentor to them.

He loved God and the Word. Shortly after joining First Penecostal Church he served faithfully as grounds keeper, security and custodian. His interests were playing the trumpet,

singing in a local group, playing football. Mr. Phillips passed away January 4, 2015.

John was preceded in death by his parents, siblings: Thurman Brown, Frank Thompson, Walter E. thompson, Lizzie Mae Thompson, Bobby Ray Thompson and Nancy M. Gants: and one son James Thompson.

He leaves to cherish his memory Carsandra Katon (Bobby) of Rusk, Texas, his only living sister Ann M. McPherson of San Diego, California: five grandsons Frank, Jr. Andre, Eric Thompson of New, York, Dominique and Michael Katon of Rusk, Texas; one granddaughter Tiffany Pierce of Jacksonville, Texas, three great grandchildren Alyjia, Arianna and Kamden of Rusk, Texas; two special God daughters Faith Freeman-Brooks of Maryland and JoAnn Calvin of Arizona. He also leaves behind a host of neices, nephews and other relatives and friends. Final arrangements were entrusted to Preston Funeral & Cremations Servies.

### Garrett D. Neal

Funeral services for Garrett Neal were held Wednesday, February 4, 2015 at Mt. Hebron Baptist Church in Henderson, Texas. Garrett Neal was born to Monie Earl Neal and Shirley Simon Neal on April 25, 1984 in Henderson, Texas.

He attended the public schools in Henderson, Texas and relocated to Longview, Texas pursuing his career as a truck driver. Garrett was preceded in Glory by his father, Monnie Earl Neal.

On January 28, 2015, Garrett Neal departed this life to be survived by his loved ones: mother Shirley Neal, Henderson; siblings, Willie Neal (Aretha), Henderson; Dale Neal (Joanne), Richmond, California; Aundra Neal (Karen), Henderson; Sonya Sturns (Oliver), Rusk, Felicia Evans (Corey); Katrina Sherow and Monta Sherow of Longview; special friend, Deborah Cox, Longview; many nieces, nephews, and

other relatives. The Rev. Donnie Timmons was the Eugolist and Rev. Tony Zinnah, Pastor. Services were under the directions of Garmon Funeral Home. Burial was at Henderson City Cemetery.

*The Lord possessed me at the beginning of His way, Before His works of old, I have been established from everlasting, From the beginning, before there was ever an earth.*

*When there was no depths, I was brought forth, When there were no fountains abounding with water. Before the mountains were settled, before the hills, I was brought forth;*

*While as yet He had not made the earth or fields, Or the primal dust of the world. When He prepared the heavens, I was there.....*

Proverbs 8: 22-27



## Judith G. Pritchett Honored for Art Legacy with Memorial Scholarship



L-R Judith Pritchett and Sherry Gasper, Rural Arts Initiative Founders at 2005 Funders' Forum with Cathy Vass, National Endowment of the Arts



Joe Pritchett wearing & displaying Judith Pritchett's Art, as "Feb Artists of Month", Edom Gallery

Jacksonville, TX. - East Texans are invited to gather to honor Judith G. Pritchett in Edom, February 13 or in Jacksonville, Feb 16 as Joe Pritchett announces the Memorial Scholarship Fund started in his wife's memory. Ms. Pritchett and Sherry Gasper cofounded A Circle of Ten's (C10) Regional Arts Initiative Network in 2003. "Through these scholarships, we can continue to train leaders developing programs to bring new grants for art opportunities!" stated

Pam Anderson.

The Edom Gallery proclaims Ms. Pritchett as their February "artist of the month" with her work displayed and for sale. The Gallery plans a short ceremony honoring Judy on February 13, 6pm. C10 plans a ceremony Feb 16, 6pm at The Event Center, Main & Commerce, Jacksonville. Each ceremony is followed by music and fellowship. Details at Facebook.com/edomgallery, Facebook.com/acircleof10 and 903-541-0013.

## Healthy Habits To Implement

In February, American Heart Month

Misconceptions Are Among The Greatest Obstacles For Heart Health, Says One of the 'Best Doctors in America'\* Despite decades of medical research and public campaigns to ease the problem, heart disease is the No. 1 killer in the United States and throughout the Western world. One of the problems driving heart disease is the messaging, says Robert Thompson, M.D., an integrative medicine specialist deemed by his peers to be in the top 5 percent of U.S. physicians. While there's plenty of good research to indicate good advice, the general public, and many of his peers in the medical community, are stuck with faulty conclusions, he says. "Perhaps the biggest misconception is that an overabundance of calcium, which may include supplements, is very good for people, especially women, but that's simply not true," says Thompson, author of "The Calcium Lie II: What Your Doctor Still Doesn't Know," (calciumliebook.com), a new book that details the roles minerals play in overall health and how to identify and correct deficiencies and imbalances. Calcium is just one of 12 substances, as well as traces of 64 other minerals, that make up our bones. Excessive amounts of calcium hurt our bodies in many ways, especially the heart and the brain, he says. We cannot possibly replace minerals with just calcium, which hardens concrete and makes bones more brittle. One study, published in the British Medical Journal in 2008, was meant to assess the effect of calcium on bone density and fractures in postmenopausal women. Researchers found that participating women were significantly more likely to suffer heart attacks while taking calcium supplements. "This is far from an isolated study - there are others, including 15 studies combined into a meta-analysis yielding similar heart-health results, which show an increased risk of heart disease by at least 30 percent," says Thompson, who offers practical recommendations for what individuals can start doing for better overall health in recognition of American Heart Month, celebrated in February.

- Drink at least 64 ounces of water a day. As a general rule, we need to drink half of our bodyweight in ounces of water daily. For a 150-pound individual, that's 75 ounces of water. Those who are overweight, or are heavy exercisers or live in warm climates may need more. Take care

to drink quality water. Get a quality filtration system at home, which can range from \$200 to \$3,000.

- Take ionic sea salt-derived minerals. We all need a diverse range of minerals and virtually none of us get enough. Ionic minerals are the only ones that are completely available for our bodies to use because they are water-soluble and they naturally carry an electrical charge that allows them to be carried through the cell membranes. All sea salt-derived trace mineral products are recommended - at least three grams per day.
- Use only vitamin supplements made from 100 percent organic whole foods that have been vine-ripened. Almost all of us need supplements because contemporary food supplies lack adequate amounts of vitamins and minerals, thanks to soil depletion. Most store-bought vitamins include just one component of the many complex molecular elements contained in the naturally occurring vitamin source. You need all of the nutrient components to get the full benefits.
- Get your fill of essential fatty acids; raw nuts and/or seeds are a good source. In 2003, the Food and Drug Administration approved the following health claim for seven kinds of nuts: "Scientific evidence suggests but does not prove that eating 1.5 oz. per day of most raw nuts as part of a diet low in saturated fat and cholesterol may reduce the risk of heart disease." Omega-3 and Omega-6 are considered essential because humans can't manufacture them within our bodies. Research has now shown that plant-derived Omega 6, and not fish oil, is the best oil for humans.

- Eat high-quality proteins. Seafood, eggs, beans, chicken, game meat, duck and turkey are excellent sources of essential amino acids that are the building blocks of every protein molecule, hormone, neurotransmitter, cell membranes and immune molecules. Proteins can also be obtained from grains, sprouted grains, raw nuts and raw seeds. Vegetarians and vegans need to pay close attention to combine protein sources to get the full complement of amino acids.
- Walk at least 30 minutes every day. This activity has a huge effect on relieving the physiologic effects of stress on the human physiology. Exercise is good, but walking is amazing. No other single activity will more significantly or more rapidly affect the adrenal stress response in humans than parsnips, beets and onions."

See Heart Health page 5

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# Faces From The Past

Local ministers attending service 1995



Rusk, TX. - Left to right - Unknown, Rev. Marvin Whitfield and Rev. Herman Martin- West Union Baptist Church, Rev. Mertis Bartley, II - Mount Olive Baptist Church, Rev. Clynell Anderson, unknown, and Rev. Billy Burnett- Mount Pleasant Methodist Church. They are attending an evening service at Mount Olive. The year was 1996.

**We are not makers of history. We are made by history.** ~Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

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## President's Speech

from page 18

Reviewing his accomplishments over the past six years, Obama boasted, "We believed we could reverse the tide of outsourcing and draw new jobs to our shores. And over the past five years, our businesses have created more than 11 million new jobs.

"We believed we could reduce our dependence on foreign oil and protect our planet. And today, America is number one in oil and gas. America is number one in wind power. Every three weeks, we bring online as much solar power as we did in all of 2008. And thanks to lower gas prices and higher fuel standards, the typical family this year should save about \$750 at the pump."

With Democrats applauding, Obama continued, "We believed we could prepare our kids for a more competitive world. And today, our younger students have earned the highest math and reading scores on record. Our high school graduation rate has hit an all-time high. More Americans finish college than ever before.

"We believed that sensible regulations could prevent another crisis, shield families from ruin, and encourage fair competition. Today, we have new tools to stop taxpayer-funded bailouts, and a new consumer watchdog to protect us from predatory lending and abusive credit card practices. And in the past year alone, about 10 million uninsured Americans finally gained the security of health coverage."

Like most politicians, Obama cherry-picked some numbers, according to FactCheck.org, a nonpartisan project of the Annenberg Policy Center at the University of Pennsylvania that describes itself as a nonpartisan, nonprofit "consumer advocate" for voters that aims to reduce the level of deception and confusion in U.S. politics.

For example, it noted, "It's true that nearly 8.2 million private sector jobs have been added since February 2010, which was the low point of the great job slump that began a year before Obama took office and continued through his first year. But total employment as risen less - by 7.6 million - held back by layoffs of state and local government workers.

Obama was technically correct, as he was careful to speak of jobs "our businesses have created."

It also explained, "The president said that 'because of the Affordable Care Act... more than 9 million Americans have signed up for private health insurance or Medicaid coverage.' But that total includes Medicaid renewals, not just new recipients that gained Medicaid coverage because of the health care law.

"The 9 million figure includes 3 million Americans who have chosen insurance plans on the federal or state marketplaces and 6.3 million who were determined eligible for Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program. An estimated 3.1 million young adults under age 26 also joined their parents' plans as a result of the Affordable Care Act's requirements." There is a growing consensus that the economy has largely recovered under Obama's stewardship - with little help from Republicans.

"At every step, we were told our goals were misguided or too ambitious; that we would crush jobs and explode deficits. Instead, we've seen the fastest economic growth in over a decade, our deficits cut by two-thirds, a stock market that has doubled, and health care inflation at its lowest rate in 50 years. This is good news, people," he said to laughter and applause. "So the verdict is clear. Middle-class economics works. Expanding opportunity works. And these policies will continue to work as long as politics don't get in the way. We can't slow down businesses or put our economy at risk with government shutdowns or fiscal showdowns. We can't put the security of families at risk by taking away their health insurance, or unraveling the new rules on Wall Street, or refighting past battles on immigration when we've got to fix a broken system. And if a bill comes to my desk that tries to do any of these things, I will veto it. It will have earned my veto." Exercising the veto is one of the few tools Obama has except for issuing executive order in a Republican-controlled Congress. Until recently he has been reluctant to sign executive orders or veto bills that crossed his desk.



## City of Reklaw prepares to apply for STEP grant for Fairview community water project



Robert Haberle a grant management firm, explains a proposed water line from Reklaw to the Fairview Community.



Fairview community citizens attend town hall meeting to demonstrate support for the grant and volunteering to help.

Reklaw, TX.- A town hall meeting was held January 27, 2015 at the Reklaw City Hall as part of the Fairview Community Water Project. More than thirty people from Fairview, Rusk, and Palestine attended the hearing. The Fairview community is located three miles from the corporate city limits of Reklaw with at least fifteen families completely without water, with some relying upon private shallow wells.

The city began the process back in November 2014 to provide the community with running water. The plan is to apply for

a STEP grant to help pay for the project. The "Small Towns Environment Program, STEP, is a HUD based grant funded through the Department of Agriculture.

Manuell Martinez, Field Representative for the Texas Department of Agriculture, was present. Letters have been received by the department stating there is a need for the community. He was there as part of round two. He will write a report and turn in to Texas Commission on Environmental

## With 'No More Campaigns to Run,' Obama Refuses to Back Down

~By George E. Curry NNPA Editor-in-Chief



WASHINGTON (NNPA) – The strongest line in President Obama's State of the Union address Tuesday night was adlibbed. When

he said toward the end of his one-hour speech, "I have no more campaigns to run," Republicans laughed. He quickly shot back, "I know because I won both of them." That brief exchange tells us what we can expect in Obama's final two years in office and reflects two different realities. A confident and relaxed Obama, making it very clear that he is not going to curl up in a corner and concede the next two years to Republicans, outlined his bold vision for the future, a vision that does not abandon his key policy positions. Though Obama did indeed win both times his name was on the ballot, Democrats suffered major losses in the 2014 mid-term elections. Consequently, Republicans hold a 247-188 edge in the House. In the Senate, there are 54 Republicans, 44 Democrats and two Independents who usually vote with Democrats. On Tuesday night, President Obama seemed to be setting the stage for 2016 when in addition to the White House, there will be a major battle for control of the Senate, where 25 Republicans will be up re-election, compared to only 10 Democrats.

Though it will be difficult to get many of the proposals President Obama said will be in his budget when it is delivered to Capitol Hill in two weeks, he argued forcefully that his polices had worked, despite strident Republican opposition over the past six years.

"We are 15 years into this new century," he began in his address to a joint session of Congress. "Fifteen years that dawned with terror touching our shores; that unfolded with a new generation fighting two long and costly wars; that saw a vicious recession spread across our nation and the world. It has been, and still is, a hard time for many.

"But tonight, we turn the page. Tonight, after a breakthrough year for America, our economy is growing

and creating jobs at the fastest pace since 1999. Our unemployment rate is now lower than it was before the financial crisis. More of our kids are graduating than ever before. More of our people are insured than ever before. And we are as free from the grip of foreign oil as we've been in almost 30 years.

"Tonight, for the first time since 9/11, our combat mission in Afghanistan is over. Six years ago, nearly 180,000 American troops served in Iraq and Afghanistan. Today, fewer than 15,000 remain. And we salute the courage and sacrifice of every man and woman in this 9/11 Generation who has served to keep us safe. We are humbled and grateful for your service. "America, for all that we have endured; for all the grit and hard work required to come back; for all the tasks that lie ahead, know this: The shadow of crisis has passed, and the State of the Union is strong."

As has become customary during State of the Union speeches, Democrats stood and applauded when Obama made a point that appealed to them while sour-faced Republicans remained seated. Unlike 2009 when Rep. Joe Wilson, a Republican from South Carolina, violated congressional decorum by shouting, "You, Lie," Republicans were mostly polite, while making it clear they were not endorsing Obama's vision for his final two years in office.

Noticeably absent from Tuesday's State of the Union were three of the most conservative members of the Supreme Court: Chief Justice John Roberts and Associate Justices Clarence Thomas and Antonin Scalia. Thomas has called the event so partisan that it makes him feel uncomfortable. Scalia has dismissed it as a "childish spectacle" and Roberts has likened it to "a political pep rally." In modern years, regardless of a court member's personal views, the robbed justices have attended the yearly event, most of the time displaying no emotions.

See President's Speech page 8



## Efforts to launch Cypress, TX's first African-American gospel radio station underway

(Opportunity for Local Ministers to Broadcast  
*(Sunday Morning Services)*)

CYPRESS, TX (January 29, 2015) - A local minister who is a U.S. Marine Corps veteran is working to launch the first urban gospel FM radio station in Cypress, TX. In February, the Federal Communications Commission granted Rhema Gospel Radio, Inc., a non-profit Christian Internet station, a construction permit to build a 100-watt low-power FM radio station in Cypress to be heard on frequency 101.5 FM. The call letters are KOER-LP. Benard Russett, Cypress resident and president of Rhema Gospel Radio, Inc., says, "It is our sincere belief that we are in God's will concerning this larger platform for Christian radio broadcasting. With over 11 years of broadcasting as an Internet-only radio station, we are closer to seeing this vision become a reality than ever before. We've come this far by faith, and our faith assures us that we will build our new FM radio station in the name of Christ Jesus.

We're grateful for our supporters."

Rhema Gospel Radio.com, formerly Krunk-Radio.com, signed on the air as an Internet-only radio station on June 2, 2003, based in Tomball, TX. Russett explains, "Krunk-Radio.com was born out of my heart's desire to offer young Christians an alternative to secular radio stations and the type of music they play." Originally offering Christian rap, holy hip-hop, and R&P (rhythm & praise), Krunk-Radio.com changed its name to Rhema Gospel Radio.com in July 2011 and its format to a wider variety of urban Christian music to reach a larger, more diverse audience. Rhema Gospel Radio offers competitive and affordable pricing for sponsorship opportunities and broadcast airtime. Please don't miss this opportunity to broadcast your Church or Ministry on this large FM Radio platform in Houston, TX (America's 4th Largest City). Rhema Gospel Radio is also accepting donations on its website, <http://rhemagospelradio.com/koer-fm.html>.

For more information, contact Benard Russett or visit <http://rhemagospelradio.com>.

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## Black Press from page 1

essential so that our youth and future generations understand and appreciate the price of what they enjoy today." NNPA publishers were also greeted by Minister of Tourism Obediah H. Wilchcombe. A former journalist, Wilchcombe pledged to advertise in NNPA newspapers to help attract tourists, especially African Americans, to the Bahamas.

In his speech, Davis said, "No one has the authority to tell your story like you can so as to aptly illustrate in the words of an old African proverb: 'Until the lions have their own historians, tales of the hunt shall always glorify the hunters.'" Davis urged publishers to continue providing robust coverage of their communities while embracing the technology favored by young people.

"As you move to celebrate Black History Month beginning early next week, I encourage you to continue as responsible generational leaders, being the critical voice that gives the perspective that others are simply not equipped to give," he said. "I also entreat you to embrace the technology of youth. Arming yourselves in this way will allow you to exponentially contribute to nurturing hearts and enlightening minds throughout the world."

## Poor Communities Lose Billions to Predatory Lenders ~by Freddie Allen, NNPA Senior Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON (NNPA)—Predatory lenders continue to target poor, Black and Latino communities, siphoning off \$103 billion in fees and interests every year, and the rest of us are paying for it, according to a recent report by United for a Fair Economy.

"This is more money lost in poor communities than the United States spends on domestic food aid annually," the report said. "We as a society end up subsidizing that lost income (an average of \$3,029 per affected household) through a social safety net that is already underfunded and overcapacity." "State of the Dream 2015: Underbanked and Overcharged," United for a Fair Economy (UFE), an independent research group that advocates for economic equality across race,

gender and class lines, chronicled the disparities that continue to plague the banking industry. Davis drew a direct link between the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s and recent unrest across the nation when unarmed African Americans were killed by police officers who were never prosecuted.

"Today, history screams as loudly in Ferguson [Mo.] as it did in Mississippi during the 1960s," he said. "We must, though, be careful that the ideologies which led to our bonded and disenfranchised forebears to unrest and uprising are not used to rationalize the actions of those who resist the necessary casings of law and order. "As journalists, your role as peacekeepers, therefore, can never be overstated. You must do all that you can to continue to be forthright and objective truth-tellers, calming the waters, while providing an accessible resource for young emerging leaders."

Like African Americans, Davis said, the Bahamas has had its own struggles with racial tension. He said that history is "painfully punctuated with accounts of bloodshed and death, poverty and provocative policemen, incited cities and solemn cemeteries."

He explained, "Much as that history derives from the abominable Jim Crow that survives today dressed in the fabled emperor's new clothes."

Mike Leyba, the communications director at UFE and co-author of the report said that systemic economic exclusion, largely based on race, has existed for hundreds of years in the United States.

The free labor of kidnapped and enslaved Africans enabled White male land owners and the financial institutions that supported them to accumulate massive amounts of wealth over hundreds of years.

Following the Civil War, Jim Crow laws and "The Black Codes," continued to deprive freed African slaves of economic opportunities for decades.

Continued page 13



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