

# TEXAS INFORMER



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## 1910 Slocum Massacre Decendants gather at Marker Dedication



E. R. Bills author of "The 1910 Slocum Massacre: An Act of Genocide In East Texas, Constance Hollie-Jawaid Solum Massacre Jack Hollie decendant, Maxine Burley Session and Shirley Burley Clark Slocum Massacre decendents of Sam Dupree and Ollie Burley meet in front of the Slocum Massacre State of Texas Historical Marker. Bills and Hollie-Jawaid initiated marker placement and dedication. See story page 3.

In his book "The 1910 Slocum Massacre: An Act of Genocide in East Texas, E. R. Bills tells detailed newspaper accounts and information passed down by massacre decendants of events that occurred. In Chapter One, he quotes the Palestine Daily Herald, Afternoon Edition, July 30, 1910,

"Palestine was startled early this morning by a rural telephone message from Slocum bringing information that a race war was on in that part of the country, and saying that fifteen negroes were killed there last night and six others this morning." The call had come to Anderson County Sheriff William Black of Palestine

The call came from Houston County Sheriff John C. Lacy who stated that a white man had killed two black men (one identified as 25 year old Will Burley) in Houston County, near the county line. Rumors had abounded Prior to the beginning of the massacre, some of which

included black people of Cherokee County. None of which was true. The book can be purchased at Barnes and Nobles or online at [www.historypress.net](http://www.historypress.net).

Story continues page 3

**EDITORIAL**

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**Theme for February 2016 Black History**



Carter G. Woodson the history of African Americans unfolds across the canvas of America, beginning before the arrival of the Mayflower and continuing to the present. From port cities where Africans disembarked from slave ships to the battle fields where their descendants fought for freedom, from the colleges and universities where they pursued education to places where they created communities during centuries of migration, the imprint of Americans of African descent is deeply embedded in the narrative of the American past. These sites prompt us to remember and over time became hallowed grounds.

One cannot tell the story of America without preserving and reflecting on the places where African Americans have made history. The Kingsley Plantation, DuSable's home site, the numerous stops along the Underground Railroad, Seneca Village, Mother Bethel A.M.E. Church and Frederick Douglass' home — to name just a few — are sites that keep alive the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries in our consciousness. They retain and refresh the memories of our forbears' struggles for freedom and justice, and their belief in God's grace and mercy. Similarly, the hallowed grounds of Mary McLeod Bethune's home in Washington, D.C., 125th Street in Harlem, Beale Street in Memphis, and Sweet Auburn Avenue in Atlanta tell the story of our struggle for equal citizenship during the American century. The Association for the Study of African American Life & History has selected this annual theme to bring attention to the centennial celebration of the National Park Service and the more than twenty-five sites and the Underground Railroad Network to Freedom that are part of America's hallowed grounds, including the home of the father of black history, Dr. Carter G. Woodson.

**2016 – Hallowed Grounds: Sites of African American Memories**

*Hallowed Grounds: Sites of African American Memories* is the Theme for February 2016 Black History Month. In Cherokee County designated sites of African American Memories are limited to cemeteries, churches and former schools.

There are no museums, but the African American Exhibit is located inside the Vanishing Texana Museum housed inside the Jacksonville Senior Citizens building located on South Bolton Street. Included in the designated churches are Texas state historical markers placed at Sweet Union Baptist Church on North Main Street in Jacksonville and Weeping Mary Baptist Church located in the Weeping Mary Community West of Alto off highway 21.

Sites also include that of former Fred Douglass High School in Lincoln Park, Jacksonville. That site has been purchased by the Fred Douglass Community Development Corporation (501) (C) (3) and the Fred Douglass Alumni Association (501) (C) (7) and is the future site of the Fred Douglass Community Center. A Texas state historical marker placed at the site of the Pine Groove Community Center former Pine Groove School designates that site and is located in the Pine Groove Community nine miles west of Jacksonville off highway 79 West.

A Texas state historical marker stands at the site of Rusk Colored School, the first public school for Black children, located on highway 84 West in Rusk. The site of former George Washington Bradford High School in Rusk is marked by a large marble monument which contains the history of the school and was placed there in 1976. There is also the site of former Booker T. Washington High School Alto which is now marked by the newly constructed Booker T. Washington Community Center, constructed by the Booker T. Washington Alumni Association.



**Maxine Session, Editor**

Since the organizing of Cherokee County July 13, 1846, very little history of African Americans has been documented until the late seventies when we began to celebrate Black History and document our own.

Museums are the most popular way to document history and draw attention to memorable sites. Southern states such as Louisiana, Alabama, Mississippi, Georgia, Arkansas and Tennessee are the home of many African American Museums. They draw many tourist to these areas. The Birmingham Civil Rights Museum and the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church, Atlanta's Center for Nonviolent Change and the birthplace of Dr. King, Memphis' Lorraine Hotel, just to name a few, make great educational family outings. The closest African American Museum to Cherokee County is possibly the Dallas African American Museum setup in 1974 on the campus of Bishop College. The original name of the museum was the Southwest Research Center and Museum of African-American Life and Culture.

My generation of people remember people and places that no longer exist. What if we had written it all down and preserved most of the pictures we have taken?

If these memories here in East Texas had been written by more people from "Hallowed grounds: Sites of African American memories", just imagine the details of life and culture we could enjoy now and in the future.

**One's work may be finished someday but one's education, never.**  
~Alexander Dumas, the Elder

**Mt. Pleasant CME Church**  
138 Reeder St. - Rusk, Tx.  
**128th Church Anniversary**  
3:00 P. M. March 13, 2016  
Supt. Donnie Timmons, Speaker  
Geraldine Harrison, Pastor



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Walter Session/Co. Publisher  
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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.

# 1910 Slocum Massacre Marker Dedication draws large crowd.....many still waiting for justice

by Maxine Session

January 18, 2016 will go down in history as proof of an American terror story that was ignored by those outside Texas African American Communities for almost 100 years.

A crowd of about 300, many of them decendants of the Solcum Massacre of 1910, gathered at the Slocum ISD Cafetorium and later the site of the marker unveiling on FM 2022, much to the relief of Constance Hollie-Jawaid and E. R. Bills initiaters of the dedication ceremony and marker placement.

As a child I remember my Dad, Jessie Burley, telling me the story of how his family, the Ollie Burley and Sam Dupree families, cam to live in Cherokee County when he was an infant..They were run out of the Slocum area fearing for their lives. Reigns of terror initiated by the Klan and whites angry at Black people for no legitimate reason were common throughout the south and Texas. There were few if any, to defend them and nothing was written locally that told their side. 1987 Corine Burley Price, a cousin, and I searched the Houston County records and found records that showed where our great grand parents owned land and livestock just inside the Houston County line near the Anderson County line near Slocum. His Uncle, twenty-five year old Will Burley, was found shot dead near on this property. In 1996 I ran across an Article published in the North Dallas Gazette called "Texas Massacre of 1910, the town of Slocum still waits on Justice", by Allen R. Gray.

The article told what Daddy told me and the story told by others. With permission from Allen R. Gray, we published the entire article for the first time in East Texas in the May 1996 issue of the "Cherokee County Informer", known today as The Texas Informer.

Tim Madigan, a Fort Worth Star Telegram reporter wrote a two part investigative article published in Feruary 2011. On March 30, 2011 the 82nd Texas Legislature adopted House of Representative Resolution 865 filed by State Representatives Marc Veasey and Lon Burnam, officially acknowledging that the Slocum Massacre did occur. In 2014 E. R. Bills also of Fort Worth, published a book called The 1910 Slocum Massacre: An Act of Genocide in East Texas. He and Slocum Massacre decendant Constance Hollie Jawaid of Fort Worth, great grand daughter of Jack Holly, petitioned the Texas Historical Commission for a historical marker commemorating the incident and their request was approved on January 29, 2015. That is what brought the large crowd to Slocum, Texas on January 16, 2016. The marker reads:

Racial tensions in America in the early 20th Century were sometimes punctuated by violent outbursts . One such occasion began near Slocum and Denson Springs and spread across a wide area near the Anderson Houston County line.

See Slocum page 9



Wilson and daughter of Palestine, decendants of the Abe Wilson, Dick Wilson and Jeff Wilson family of Slocum Massacre.



Grapeland Mayor George Pierson and Felix Green Slocum Massacre decendants of the Pierson family.



Jack Hollie decendants pose near the unvieled marker including Constance Hollie-Jawaid, who initiated the placement of the marker, to the far right.



Participants viewing the Slocum Massacre Marker.

# State Historical Marker tells history of Rusk Public School No. 2

Many people are not aware that the little green house located on State Highway 84 West in Rusk is the site of what was once known by the people of Rusk as Rusk Colored School. Many prominent Rusk citizens who attended this school went on to make a lasting mark on Rusk history. Among them was Irvin Caldwell Conley who petitioned the RISD and Texas Historical Commission to place the marker there. The marker reads as follows:

**Rusk Public School No. 2 For African Americans**

By 1884 the Rusk Public School District maintained 2 schools No. 1 for it's Anglo Students and No. 2 for its African American students. A yearly average of 50 students met in a small house built about 1895 to house Rusk Public School No. 2. In 1939 the RISD erected a new school building southeast of downtown Rusk for its African American students . Named after lont-time principal G. W. Bradford, the facility was used until Rusk intergrated its schools in the 1960's. Many graduates of this school became highly known and respected professionals.



Rusk Colored School students taken in the early 1900s.

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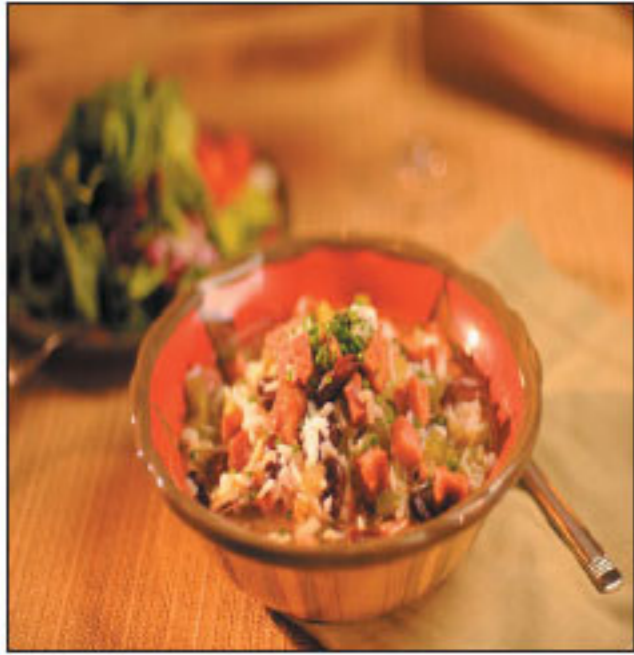
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Sausage****INGREDIENTS**

1 pound dried pinto beans, soaked overnight  
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 1 ham hock or leftover ham bone  
 1 medium onion, chopped  
 3 cloves garlic, minced  
 1 1/2 teaspoons salt  
 1 pound andouille smoked sausage or similar smoked sausage, sliced  
 1 can (14.5 ounces) tomatoes, diced (Optional)  
 1 can (4 ounces) diced mild green chile peppers, or mixture of mild and jalapeno  
 boiled white rice

**PREPARATION**

Combine soaked and drained beans with water, ham hock, onion, and garlic in a large saucepan or Dutch oven over high heat; bring to a boil. Cover, reduce heat to medium, and cook for 45 minutes. Add remaining ingredients. Cover, reduce heat, and simmer 1 hour, stirring occasionally. Remove ham hock and shred ham from bone with a fork. Return ham to bean mixture  
 Add cooked sausage and Serve over hot cooked rice.  
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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:  
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## Boyd - Mansel exchange wedding vows



Rusk, TX. - Vanessa Rivers Boyd and Donnie Mansel exchanged wedding vows on Sunday afternoon, January 28th at Mt. Pleasant CME Church with the Rev. Geraldine Harrison conducting the ceremony. The reception followed the wedding in the church fellowship hall.



Charlie Esco and Odell Hinto visit with a friend while waiting for the MLK March to start. Neither of them can recall missing this annual celebration in more than 30 years.



As was the scene around East Texas on January 18, 2016, a large group of Jacksonville and surrounding areas citizens gathered at 11:00 A. M. in front of the Norman Activity Center to begin the birthday celebration of Slain Civil Rights Leader, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. . The group walked from Commerce Street to the celebration service at Sweet Union Baptist Church located on North Main Street. The service inside the church included the recitation of Dr. King's I Have A Dream speech, performances by youth from Jacksonville area churches and a review of black history and the King area by Rev. Stacy Hinton, speaker. The celebration was organized by the Unity Committee which is headed by Helen Scott and A. J. Rhodes. Many of those old enough to remember the civil rights era and Dr. King, shared their memories as they waited for the celebration to begin.

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## Dunbar Hall of Fame inducts two



Lufkin, TX.- Mrs. Mary L. Driver, retired science teacher and girls basketball coach, was inducted into the Dunbar Hall of Fame January 18, 2016 during the Annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Program.



Lufkin, TX. - Mrs. Louise Menefee, Nurse and Business Woman, was inducted into the Dunbar Hall of Fame during the 2016 Commemorative Celebration Program. The program took place after the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Walk to the Dunbar Primary School Auditorium.



Crockett, TX.- Private Ja Various Taylor and Roberta Mason pose above following the 38th Commemorative Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Program. The program was sponsored by the Memorial Committee of which Mrs. Mason is the president. Houston County elected officials, including the Mayor, Robert Meadows and County Attorney Daphne Session participated in the program.



Crockett, TX.- Billy (Holly) Grooves, Gene L. Locke, event speaker and Walter Session pose following the January 17, 2016 38th Dr. Martin Luther King Commemorative Program in Crockett Texas. The event was held at the Crockett ISD Administrative Building Auditorium.. Mr. Lock is a practicing Attorney in Houston, Texas and was instrumental in the negotiations and development of Minute Maid Park and Reliant Stadium.

# Obituaries

## Minister Robert Charles "RC" Brown, Sr.

Funeral Services were held February 6, 2016 at White's Temple Church of God In Christ in Jacksonville, Texas with Elder Larry Williams as Eulogist and Superintendent Herman P. Jordan, Officiating. Robert Charles was born to parents Robert and Rosetta Davis Brown September 8, 1936 and passed away January 29, 2016. He was born, raised and educated in Centerville, Texas. The family moved from Centerville to Waxahachie, Texas; and RC moved to Jacksonville, Texas in the late 1950s, where he lived with his family the remainder of his life.

He worked at the Old Gay Laundry, Nan Travis Hospital, East Texas Medical Center,, Jacksonville Savings Bank & Trust and Prosperity Bank. He was a skilled carpenter and an artist at landscaping. He was also a guitar player and singer,

Minister Brown served as White's Temple Sunday School Superintendent where he played his guitar and sang, President of the Jacksonville District Evangelist Department, and was a member of Shady Green Pastures.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Brothers Elder Daniel Brown, Bobby Lee Brown and Jimmy Ray Brown.

He is survived by his wife Roxanna Brown; children: Robert Charles Brown, Jr. (Kim), Mary Kathryn Carter (Michael), and Olivia Michelle Brown; Brother Robert Brown, Jr; sister-in-law Bennie Faye Brown; brothers-in-law Tommy Williams, Willie Lee Williams and George Chivers; nine step-children; 14 grandchildren; 13 great grandchildren; a host of neices, nephews, church family and friends. Community Funeral Home was in charge with burial at Ragsdale Cemetery, Jacksonville, Texas.

Jacksonville, Texas and later moved her membership to Rising Star Baptist Church where she served as usher and on the Missionary Board. She was preceded in death by her parents Louie Esco and Rhonda Scott and her husband George Carr, Jr.

She leaves to Cherish her memory two sons, Rev. Nathaniel Carr of Wichita Falls, Texas and David (Angela) Carr of Baytown, Texas; two daughters Mary (Azell) Williams of Lenexa, Kansas and Eileen (Cregg) Reese of Garland, Texas, ten grandchildren, 12 great grandchildren and many more relatives and friends..

Community Funeral Home was in charge of the service. Interment was at Alexander Cemetery, Jacksonville, Texas..

Sheldon Hadnot officiating. Michael was born March 18, 1955 to Clearence and Lorine Smith and passed away January 22, 2016. He accepted Christ at an early age and was a member of New Hope Baptist Church Alto, Texas. He attended Booker T. Washington High School and graduated from Alto High School in 1973. He attended Prairie View A & M University where he played College football. He later moved to Houston, Texas where he met and married his wife. Rosilyn in September 1977. During this union Michael became the father of four boys; Roydrick, Anthony, Marques and Michael. The family became members of Gethsemane Baptist Church. He later joined New Mt. Calvery Baptist Church. Michael cherished spending time with his wife and children and hosting family gatherings.. He enjoyed taking road trips and spending time with the love of his life for over thirty years, Rosilyn. He liked life on the road as a professional truck driver for Heartland Express where he worked for over ten years.

Con't page 9

## Mrs. Vialline Carr

Funeral Services were held Saturday, January 30, 2016 at 1:00PM at Rising Star Baptist Church for Vialline Carr with Rev. Nathaniel Car, Eulogist, Rev. Dale Ward Pastor, Rev. Reginald Scott and Rev. Claudell Anderson.

Vialline Esco Carr was born to parents Louie Esco and Rhonda Scott in Nacogdoches County, Texas on March 13, 1924. The Lord called her home to be with Him on January 25, 2016. She met and married George Carr Jr. on June 24, 1942 and to this nion four children were born.

She was a member of Greater New Zion Baptist Church in

## Kad "Michael" Smith "Big Mike"

Funeral services were held January 30, 2016 at 10:00 A. M. at Loyal Missionary Baptist Church Houston, Texas for Michael Smith with Rev.

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## Slocum Con't from page 3

Beginning on the morning of July 29, 1910, groups of armed white men shot and killed African Americans, first firing on a group near Sadler's Creek. Murders in the Black community continued during the remainder of that day and night, accounts in the state and national newspapers brought widespread attention to the situation. Judges ordered saloons and gun and ammunition stores to close, and the state militia and Texas Rangers were dispatched to the area. The murders of eight men were officially recorded. The victims were Cleveland Larkin, Alex Holley (Hollie), Sam Baker, Dick Wilson, Jeff Wilson, Ben Dancer, John Hays and Will Burley. Many African American families fled the area and did not return.

Eleven white men were soon arrested, and District Judge Benjamin H. Gardner empaneled a grand jury within a week. When its findings were reported on August 17, seven men were indicted. The cases were moved to Harris County but were never prosecuted. The

events which came to be known as "Slocum Massacre" largely disappeared from public view in subsequent generations. In 2011, the 82nd Texas Legislature adopted a resolution acknowledging the incident and stating that "only by shining a light on previous injustices can we learn from them and move toward a future of greater healing and reconciliation.

In his book, E. R. Bills discusses many facts that his years of research uncovered about this massacre. He also discusses many other atrocities committed against innocent African Americans. According to him, this state historical marker placed in Slocum, Texas is the only one of its kind in Texas dedicated to the fact that an atrocity such as this actually did occur.

Dr. Malachai Crawford assistant Director of African American studies at the University of Houston was the keynote speaker along with E. R. Bills and Constance Hollie-Jawaid. Felix Green, Tameka Hollie and Mayor Pierce gave comments. Jimmy Odom discussed the significance of historical markers.

At the site of the dedication on

FM2022 eight balloons were let go in honor of the eight recorded murder victims and the bell was rang eight times by Edward Ramirez.

Davie Lee Hollie, L. D. Hollie and Leo Hollie, Jr. unveiled the marker.

Michael Smith  
con't from page 8

Michael was preceded in death by his father, mother sisters Artie Ree Hawkins, Maggie Smith and Weetah Smith; brothers

Cyrus Smith, Clearence Smith, Jr., Marcus Smith; neice Joshlyn Smith- McDuff. He leaves to cherish his memories his lovely wife Rosilyn along with their four sons; Roydrick (Cee Cee) Anthony (Tamara), Marques (Shameka) and Michael. A special neice/daughter Tonya, nephew/Godson Darius, six grandchildren; aunts Grace Spencer and Fannie Colman. Burial was at New Hope Cemetery Alto, Texas under the directions of Ross Mortuary of Houston, Texas.

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Margarett Perkins, Laura Perkins, James I. Perkins and Dr. L. Michael Metke President of Tyler Junior College display 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 receive \$8000. scholarships to TJC which began with the class of 2014.

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# UT System Invests \$2M to Expand 'Engineer Your World' and Offer College Credit to High School Students

AUSTIN, Texas — The University of Texas System Board of Regents has invested \$2 million to expand The University of Texas at Austin's Engineer Your World program to better prepare high school students for college engineering programs and allow them to receive college credits.

Engineer Your World is an innovative one-year high school engineering curriculum developed by the Cockrell School of Engineering at The University of Texas at Austin. The program seeks to provide high-quality, low-cost engineering education and teacher training at the high school level.

Approved in December, the Board funding will help Engineer Your World launch a new dual-enrollment course to give high school students an opportunity to earn college credit at a UT System academic institution.

"We are grateful to the UT System for helping Engineer Your World introduce engineering as a dynamic career to more Texas students," said Dave Allen, director of the Center for Engineering Education at the Cockrell School. "Our students leave Engineer Your World better able to tackle real-world problems using an engineering approach and with sharpened math and science skills that will set them up for success in engineering and other STEM careers."

Students will be able to enroll in new freshman-level courses offered by the engineering programs at multiple UT System institutions.

These courses will be available to all Engineer Your World high schools beginning in the 2016-2017 academic year.

The UT System funding will also support the program's efforts to bring its engineering courses to more Texas schools and offer teachers a subsidized summer training program. Since it was created at the Cockrell School in 2008, Engineer Your World has grown from seven schools and 212 students to 61 schools and 2,500 students in Texas. The curriculum has also expanded nationwide to reach 105 schools and 5,000 students in 15 states.

"Since its launch, Engineer Your World has been a remarkable success story," said Sharon L. Wood, dean of the Cockrell School. "Not only has it inspired thousands of young people to consider engineering degrees and careers, it has also provided outstanding professional development to the high school teachers who will educate our future workforce. Thanks to this investment from the UT System Board of Regents, we will be able to reach more high school students across Texas." Engineer Your World aligns with The Texas Prospect Initiative — one of eight Quantum Leaps proposed by UT System Chancellor William H. McRaven in November as part of his vision to advance the UT System. The Texas Prospect Initiative aims to work with campus and civic leaders,

the Legislature, community colleges, school districts and other primary and secondary education constituents to help prepare students from pre-K through 12th grade for college with an array of innovative programs. In a 2013 report, the UT System's Task Force on Engineering Education for Texas in the 21st Century recommended that the state graduate 9,000 engineers and computer scientists annually to remain economically competitive. About 60 percent of students completing Engineer Your World have expressed an interest in engineering careers. But even for those who decide not to pursue engineering, the program teaches students other skills necessary to succeed in college such as collaboration, communication and critical thinking.

For more information, contact: [engineeryourworld@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:engineeryourworld@austin.utexas.edu) or visit <http://engineeryourworld.org/> For more information, contact: Patrick Wiseman, Cockrell School

of Engineering, 512-232-8060; Sandra Zaragoza, Cockrell School of Engineering, 512-471-2129; Ken Ma, The University of Texas System, 512-499-4778; Jenny LaCoste-Caputo, The University of Texas System, 512-499-4361.

Note to editors and news producers: University Communications at The University of Texas at Austin is providing the following news release in the form of text within this message.

The article is posted in the "Press Releases" section of the UT News website at <http://news.utexas.edu/>.

## LEGAL NOTICE

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Número del Juego	Nombre del Juego / Probabilidades	\$	Cierre Oficial del Juego	Último Día para Validar
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1628	Weekly Grand Overall Odds are 1 in 3.96	\$2	2/22/16	8/20/16
1720	AMC® The Walking Dead® Overall Odds are 1 in 4.40	\$2	2/26/16	8/24/16
1721	777 Sevens Overall Odds are 1 in 4.14	\$5	3/4/16	8/31/16
1612	Break The Bank Overall Odds are 1 in 4.80	\$2	3/30/16	9/26/16
1682	10X The Cash Overall Odds are 1 in 4.51	\$2	3/30/16	9/26/16
1710	Neon 9's Overall Odds are 1 in 4.42	\$2	3/30/16	9/26/16
1696	Bingo Mania Overall Odds are 1 in 4.04	\$3	3/30/16	9/26/16
1668	Win It All Overall Odds are 1 in 3.70	\$5	3/30/16	9/26/16
1673	Raceyway Riches Overall Odds are 1 in 3.25	\$5	3/30/16	9/26/16

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## UT Austin Establishes Center to Study Race and Democracy at the LBJ School of Public Affairs

UT AUSTIN, Texas — The University of Texas at Austin has established The Center for the Study of Race and Democracy (CSRD) at the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs, which will host its inaugural national conference Feb. 8-9.

The "Race, Democracy and Public Policy in America" conference will bring together nationally recognized scholars, activists and students to analyze race, democracy and public policy from LBJ's Great Society to the Age of Barack Obama and Black Lives Matter.

Peniel Joseph, a scholar and a leading voice on race issues, will serve as the CSRD director. He holds joint professorships with the university's LBJ School of Public Affairs and the Department of History in the College of Liberal Arts.

"CSRD will seek to lead a public conversation about the very meaning of racial, social and political justice and be a source for expert scholarly and research opinion on race and democracy". The CSRD and the upcoming conference are aligned with UT Austin's increasing focus on cultivating an inclusive academic environment for the university's diverse student body.

"Through its interdisciplinary research and scholarship, the center will foster an important and robust dialogue on race relations, civil rights and democracy," said UT Austin President Gregory L. Fenves. "The center will complement the research and study at the LBJ School and other departments in the university. I believe that this work by our faculty and students will make UT an intellectual beacon on issues of racial justice and diversity."

The CSRD will focus on areas of research such as race, policy and the American presidency; race, democracy and mass incarceration; the civil rights movement and public policy; voting rights and American democracy and race relations since the Great Society. LBJ School Dean Angela Evans said: "It is in the LBJ School's DNA to engage in contemporary policy debates, scholarship, and social and political dialogue on the most pressing challenges of our time. Issues of poverty, civil rights and social inequality serve as reminders

of the persistence of these problems. CSRD will contribute to the study of these problems through the lens of history and policy, and I look forward to continued collaboration with College of Liberal Arts Dean Randy Diehl and COLA as well as other UT departments in the work of the center."

The conference Feb. 8-9 exemplifies the scholarly activities that will form the core of the center's mission. "Race and democracy stand at the core of America's national identity, ongoing political evolution and democratic experiment," said Joseph. "The inaugural conference will endeavor to draw on contributions of policy experts, scholars, activists, thought leaders and intellectuals to inform and stimulate the public conversation on the intersection between race and democracy in public politics, culture, economics and society. The conference will feature keynote addresses by Charlayne Hunter-Gault, award-winning journalist and civil rights activist; and Yohuru Williams, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Fairfield University

and author of "Black Politics/White Power: Civil Rights Black Power and Black Panthers in New Haven." Scholars from across the country, including a number of UT Austin faculty members, will participate in the two-day conference. Panel topics will include: From Selma to Ferguson: Grassroots Activism from the Meredith March to Black Lives Matter; The Great Society Then and Now: Reimagining the Racial Justice and Public Policy Legacies of the 1960s; The Civil Rights Movement and Public Policy in the 21st Century; The Color of Change: Racial Justice, Public Policy, and Grassroots Activism in Obama's America; Reimagining American Democracy and Racial Justice: Civil Rights in the Age of Mass Incarceration, Ferguson and Black Lives Matter; and Bridging America's Racial and Policy Divide. For the conference details and complete schedule go to: [csrdconference.eventbrite.com](http://csrdconference.eventbrite.com). For more information, contact: Susan Binford, LBJ School of Public Affairs, 512-415-4820.



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## East Texans turn out in record numbers to celebrate Dr. King's Birthday

Pictured above is a large crowd of participants seated in the Lufkin, Texas Dunbar Primary School Auditorium. Tyler, Lufkin, Longview, Palestine, Crockett and Jacksonville citizens came out in large numbers to march, listen to speakers, honor local citizens and listen to entertainers on Sunday January 17th (Crockett) and Monday, January 18, 2016.



Pictured to the left is a crowd of students from Tyler Junior College and others who participated in the March and celebration of Dr. King's birthday. The John Tyler Band and the Texas College Choir, flag bearers and many others were a part of the crowd who gathered downtown Tyler to hear speaker Niticia Ross from "Kids Aspiring to Dream," and others.

The crowd of about a thousand people marched from downtown to the Cathedral of Immaculate Conception where there was standing room only. They were welcomed by Father "Hank" Lanik and greeted by Sheriff Larry Smith. Texas College Choir gave several musical selections and the keynote speaker was Lina. Rev. Jerome Milton gave closing remarks.

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