



TEXAS INFORMER



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P.O. Box 332
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Bringing you positive news about local people since 1995!

"The oldest and largest monthly newspaper printed in East Texas"

Texas
Informer
celebrates
twenty years!

Ruskite Spring ISD Middle School Teacher of the Year



Veronica Hamilton Johnson was recently named "Teacher of the Year". The 1993 Rusk High School graduate makes her family, and all who know the wonderful young lady, proud. She is profiled on page 3.

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Booker T. Washington School
Reunion scheduled for June 19,
20 1nd 21st

EDITORIAL/OPINION

20 years
of the Texas
Informer
Celebrated



Maxine Session

We began this publication with the first issue printed in May of 1995. Our goal then was the same as it is now, to bring you positive news about local people, documenting history through the eyes of those whose story is told. The Informer is published to strengthen families and communities, to build race relations and to build business.

Well, it's hard to believe, but we are

celebrating the twentieth birthday of this publication with this printing. Twenty years of documented family successes and history is now a part of our files and the files of many others.

Thank you to those of you who read the Informer and shop or do business with those businesses who support the Informer through advertisement.

To Kathy, Terri and Daphne, thank you for the big part you have played in helping to start this publication and in keeping it going. I know you all still have nightmares from so much typing, and the late nights put in all the years we laid the paper on layout board.

**“The secret to
success is to start
from scratch and
keep on scratching”**

~author unknown

Street Dedication to Walter Session

Needham Street will be dedicated by the city of Rusk to Walter Session, 32 year city councilman.

The dedication will be held on June 19th at 11:30 a.m. at the corner of Needham and Martin Luther King, Jr. The public is invited to attend.

Juneteenth Celebration

The Cherokee Brotherhood Association and Texas Informer will host the Juneteenth Parade and Celebration on June 20, 2015. The public is invited to participate. The parade will begin at 11:00 a.m. The celebration will begin immediately afterwards at Mt. Pleasant CME Church. Dr. Westly Darryl Foreman and Una Deveraux Williams will be the speakers. Ms. Sammie Attaway is the parade marshall.

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. Letters must include name of the sender.

Texas Informer Salutes Poets and writers

During the past twenty years, the Texas Informer has had the pleasure of presenting to our readers many fine local poets and writers. We salute them and thank them for taking the time to write and share their talents with us. Among the poets are Michael Guinn from Jacksonville, Texas who now lives in Dallas and is the best at open mic “Spoken Words”, Betty Walker, retired Rusk Teacher who lives in Rusk, Vanessa Miller who lives in Palestine, Willie Calwell of Palestine and Jill Darden from Dallas.

The column writers have kept us informed and entertained. Among the regulars, we remember with a smile, the late Patricia Spencer author of Ms. P’s Notepad, who kept us informed on the personal comings and goings and ups and downs of our friends and neighbors in Jacksonville and the late Mrs. Elnora Colston who wrote the Mission Circle new for years, Furlich July Arrington wrote Ms. J’s 411 educating us on parenting and education, health issues, as well as news around Jacksonville.

Then there was Preston Meador, retired Military man, author of the book “The Long Journey”, Kelly Springfield Supervisor and former JISD Schoolboard member who

shared his wit and stirred our thoughts on politics and voting. A. J. Rhodes is the author of Ask A. J? He provided us and still does from time to time, with so much black history and information which made us think about the issues at hand;

Billy “Hollywood” Groves author of “Hollywood’s Time” now publisher of his own newspaper in Crockett, Texas, who kept us up to date on local happenings as well as national

There are so many others, the late Leroy Ballard, Tony Teague and Krystal Carter, mother and teacher who wrote the “Education” Column that provided so many parents and young people motivation and information on scholarships and timeline on when to do what as a senior preparing to go to college.

We thank you Michael Ousley and Online Directory for putting The Informer online and helping us keep it there. To Mollie Belt, Dallas Examiner, Hattie Kelly, Power Pages News, and all our fellow Texas Publishers Members thank you for just being a friend to us and other African American publishers. Kathy, Terri, Daphne and the rest of the family thank you for all you have done .

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the past 20 years**

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A special thank you to Essie Hart, Irene Joyce and Blount Chapel Baptist Church for the appreciation you have shown for the Texas Informer and the fundraiser you hosted that 1st year of publishing.



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Veronica Hamilton Johnson Spring ISD Claughton Middle School Teacher of the Year

by Maxine Session

Teaching is hard work and some teachers never grow to be anything better than mediocre. They do the bare minimum required and very little more. The great teachers, however, work tirelessly to create a challenging, nurturing environment for their students. Great teaching seems to have less to do with our knowledge and skills than with our attitude toward our students, our subject, and our work

This time each year teachers and students are counting the days to the end of school. Veronica Hamilton Johnson is excited and just simply bubbling over with energy. She has been named "Spring ISD Claughton Middle School Teacher of the year for 2015, demonstrating that she is one of those teachers who works tirelessly to create a challenging environment, in other words she has demonstrated to be "the best among the rest"

A Rusk High School graduate, she began her teaching career at Jacksonville Middle school and went from there to Hogg Middle School Tyler ISD, six years, to Spring ISD and now she is celebrating eighteen years as an educator.

Her next endeavor is to fulfill her lifetime dream as a counselor and eventually open her own practice assisting at risk teenage girls.

Veronica had this to say about teaching, "Being an educator is not a "teach from your seat job", it requires you to be up, close and personal with kids. I summarize my teaching experience as a play ground of adventure, wins, losses and mostly a life-long relationship that will never end. There is not any other job in the world that will allow you to be a school mom, leader, coach, comedian, singer, dancer, preacher/witch (my kids lingo) an advocate, disciplinarian and most of all an encourager.

If you are looking for these characteristics, then teaching would be your best fit.

What I contribute to my success in teaching is the past and present people in my life.

First of all, God gets all the glory. He is my comforter, joy, healer, mind regulator, provider, counselor, disciplinarian, smile and most of all the love of my life. As a Father, he sent many remarkable women that constantly play a big part in my life. My hard working/praying mother, supportive and humble grandmothers, selflessness sister/aunts and my life-long friend Daphne Session that showed me it could be done. I am truly grateful to God, my husband, family and friends for supporting me in this journey.

My favorite quote is Jeremiah 29:11.....I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

With those words embedded in my heart, I pray that I will be able to help someone along the way to believe that there is hope through Jesus Christ.

Also, my siblings, cousins, children's Godparents and close friends that made me feel as if I could walk on water motivated me to reach further.

Lastly, the three men in my life: my husband, stepdad and grandfather that provided me all the necessities and even desires of my heart : shelter, food, finances and un conditional love to reach any goal I set my mind to.

My success with children over the past years is being able to watch my



The Johnson family - Aerial, Floyd, Kyzler and Veronica

students graduate from high school and now college. Also, watching students in my classroom read and mock my teaching to other students that are struggling. My heart is overjoyed watching that kid that states at the beginning of the year, "I'm shy and I don't want to participate,"

Now, that student is leading discussions. The best part of my career is making it my business that kids know that I love them unconditionally.

Even that kid with behavior issues that speaks and hugs you at the end of day when earlier you ripped him a good one with a consequence, but he still knows you care."

Mrs. Johnson graduated from Stephen F. Austin with a Bachelor of Science Degree in education and a Masters Degree in Counseling from Prairie View A & M University. Veronica Johnson, the daughter of Callie and Charles Wayne) Dearman of Rusk.

Texas College construction in progress



This new dorm is being constructed on the Texas College Campus as part of a \$19.3 facilities update begun in October 2014, and will span a 30 year period. The new dorm will house 314 additional students on campus. The project includes construction of a 214 bed residence hall, renovating an existing athletic complex into a music hall, transforming the band hall into a fitness center and relocating the college's athletic complex. The projects are a part of a four -phase campus improvement plan.

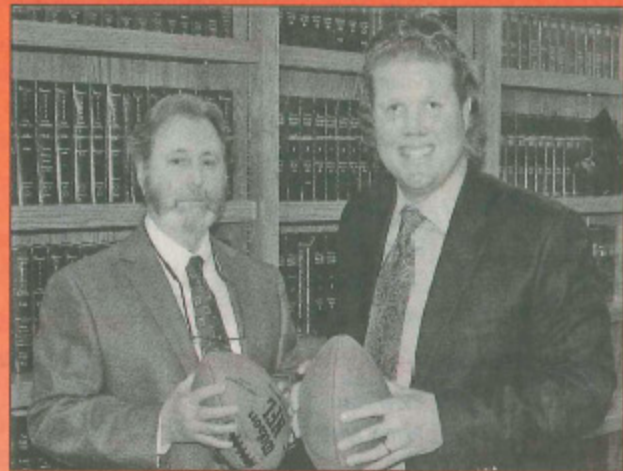
Texas College will be able to house a total of six hundred students on campus.

The Mount Pleasant CME Church, located at 138 Reeder Street, Rusk, Texas will host a Family and Friends service on Sunday afternoon, May 24th at 3:00p.m. Rev. Jimmy Foreman of West Union Faith Ministry will be the speaker. The church pastor is Rev. Geraldine Harris.

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Black Families Must Focus on Asset Building

As the wealthy few continue to prosper, the rest of the nation is caught in a financial tug-of-war between stagnant wages and a rising cost of living. In communities of color, chronic unemployment and underemployment and a host of other social ills are added burdens to an already challenging economy.

These and other disturbing trends were the focus of the recent Color of Wealth Summit, conceived and convened by a national research organization, the Insight Center for Community Economic Development and a solution-oriented social change nonprofit, the Center for Global Policy Solutions. The two-day conference engaged prominent thought leaders to propose solutions to the growing racial income and wealth divide that has come to characterize America's economy.

According to Maya Rockey Moore, its president and CEO, "Most organizations and policy makers focus on improving income and income supports such as safety net programs. While this approach is vital, it is not enough to build economic security for vulnerable families over a lifetime. To achieve true security for vulnerable families, asset building must be part of the strategy. Through wealth, families can have the financial resilience they need to sustain themselves in the event of a job loss or illness. Wealth also gives families the resources to invest in their future and realize their dreams. A truly transformational economic security strategy should focus on both income and wealth." Recent research confirms how hard it is for families that lack adequate earnings, to make it from one payday to the next. While the idea of saving is valued, for too many consumers nothing is left once basic living expenses are met.

According to the most recent report of the Joint Economic Committee of Congress:

- Median net worth in Black households fell by more than 40 percent from 2007 to 2013. White households during this same period saw median net worth drop 26 percent;

- Median weekly earnings of Black college graduates working full-time and their White counterparts showed that the Black grads' annual earnings were

- Overall, the Black median earnings of \$34,600, is nearly \$24,000 less than the same measure for Whites.

"The same groups of people who have historically been left behind are growing in number and population," observed Angela Glover Blackwell, a summit participant and founder and CEO of PolicyLink. "It is critical that we support asset-building programs and policies that create and protect opportunities for all families to save and invest in themselves, their futures, and their communities." Historically, homeownership has been the gateway to building wealth and assets. Unfortunately, the nation's foreclosure crisis altered wealth-building for millions. According to the National Association of Real Estate Brokers, nearly 14.8 million foreclosure notices were filed from January 1, 2007 to May 31, 2013.

By late 2014, according to the Census Bureau, only 42 percent of Black families were homeowners – more than 22 percentage points lower than that of the nation (64 percent) and 30 percentage points lower than that of Whites (72 percent). The current homeownership level is the lowest since 1993. For Congressman Emanuel Cleaver, II (D-Mo.), a summit keynoter, the discussions provided a timely connection between his work in the House Financial Services Committee and the conference's agenda.

"[T]he collapse in home values during the Great Recession hit Black households especially hard. At a time like this, we need more affordable housing and a stronger safety net," said Cleaver. "Both in the House Financial Services Committee and in the Congress as a whole, we have more work to do to increase opportunities for families around the country." example of a government initiative that will bring consumers "closer to the keys of their own home." While most Black and Latino homebuyers have had their mortgages underwritten by government-backed programs such as FHA, VA and USDA, the greater challenge has been access to private sector conventional mortgages that over the life of a loan are far cheaper than the government-backed offerings.

An estimated 90,000-140,000 buyers will be assisted this year.



Charlene Crowell
NNPA Columnist

found that borrowers of color and low-wealth families who received safe mortgages that were fully-underwritten during the housing crisis saw their home equity appreciate by \$23,000.

"Proving that when families receive responsible mortgage loans, they are able to build a financial safety net that they can access during challenging times," said Nikitra Bailey, a CRL executive vice-president.

"There are a number of wealth gaps that are troubling," said John A. Powell, director of the Haas Institute for a Fair and Inclusive Society at the University of California at Berkeley. "One is the gap between the very rich and everyone else. Another is the gap between people of color and their White counterparts. What is not appreciated and needs to be explored is the relationship between these gaps."

The policy answer to that keen insight will determine whether this and future generations will be able to reasonably accomplish what our parents and forefathers did – a better quality of life.

"America will be a people-of-color nation by 2042, and addressing the racial wealth gap is necessary to ensure sustained economic growth for all Americans," stated Blackwell.

Ever-widening wealth gaps are not a Black, or White, or Latino problem. Nor can the dilemma become more fodder for partisan bickering. It is an American problem that deserves a response equal to its challenge.

Concluded Powell, "Our lives, our economy and our democracy are at risk."

Charlene Crowell is a communications manager with the Center for Responsible Lending. She can be reached at Charlene.crowell@responsiblelending.org.

Additionally, research by the Center for Community Capital at the University of North Carolina

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The annual Home Mortgage Disclosure Act report (HMDA), quantifies by race and ethnicity mortgage lending and denials for mortgage loans. For 2013, the most up-to-date report, the data clearly reveals that while conventional mortgage originations rose slightly from 2012 to 2013, nationwide Black consumers, who are more than 13 percent of the population, received only 2.3 percent or 36,903 loans. In 2012, the same data point was even smaller, with only 26,500 such loans.

Earlier research by the Center for Responsible Lending (CRL), a summit co-sponsor, revealed that many homebuyers of color were steered into higher-cost, subprime loans – even when they qualified for cheaper ones. After analyzing 50,000 subprime loans, CRL concluded that Blacks and Latinos were almost a third more likely to receive a high-priced loan than were Whites with the same credit scores.

Additionally, research by the Center for Community Capital at the University of North Carolina

Facing “Officer Friendly” while black

by Lee a. Daniels

Without the video, North Charleston, S.C. police officer Michael T. Slager would likely have gotten away with murder.

Without the video, we wouldn't see Officer Michael T. Slager have the, shall we say, presence of mind, to quickly retrieve what appears to be his Taser and plant it beside the lifeless body of Walter Lamar Scott.

Without the video, Officer Michael T. Slager would no doubt have quickly been coached on the techniques of making himself appear in news media interviews the victim of the lethal encounter with the Black man he killed, 50-year-old Walter Lamar Scott.

Without the video, the conservative punditocracy and talk-show jockeys would be raging that the dead man's action again proved that Black and Brown civilians are “waging war” on police.

But we have the video – one of the technological innovations that increasingly have helped suggest what people of color face from an alarming number of White cops – and the first-degree murder indictment of Officer Michael T. Slager. And so we are faced with a long list of powerful questions: Why did Slager pull over Walter Lamar Scott's vehicle? Was it really for a broken taillight? Or, was it because Slager, feeding off the power of

his badge, wanted to show some Black person – any Black person – who's boss? What, then, was going through Slager's mind that led him to not give chase to the unarmed, slow-footed Scott when he ran, but quickly and calmly pull his gun and fire eight times at the fleeing man?

I think some part of the answer to these questions and the many others that must

be asked can be found in a recent instance of a police encounter with Black teenagers that did not escalate to violence but was nonetheless revealing.

That incident – captured on a police car camera – occurred in Minneapolis March 18. Four Black teens of Somali descent, having just finished playing basketball at the YMCA, were driving home when they were pulled over by the police for making a U-turn. They ordered the youths out of the car at gunpoint and handcuffed them,

an background checks on the car to see if it was stolen and on the youths to see if any had criminal records. They found nothing. None of the youths had a criminal record, and they were subsequently not charged.

But at the beginning of this hour-long ordeal, a police camera captured this exchange between one of the police officers and one of the youths he was handcuffing: “Plain and simple,” the officer says, “If you [profanity] with me, I'm going to break your leg before you get the chance to run.” The youth responds, “I never said I was going to run.”

The officer answers back, “I'm just giving you a heads up. Just trying to be officer friendly right now.”

“Can you tell me,” the youth police persists, “Why I'm being arrested?”

The officer responds, “Because I feel like arresting you.”

Is that it: that some White cops' need to show these “colored people” a White man can control their freedom whenever he “feels like” it? Is that the attitude that explains why Officer Michael T. Slager pulled over



Lee A. Daniels
NNPA Columnist

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Happy Birthday Krystal
Carter May 1st

Happy Birthday Joel
McGowan May 22nd

Lamar Scott? In the aftermath of Scott's murder, some Black North Charleston residents have said that police constantly racially profile Black drivers there. Comedian Chris Rock's recent social-media posting of his being repeatedly stopped by police while driving near his suburban New Jersey home suggests that, for Black and Brown drivers, that otherwise legitimate police duty remains laced with racist intent. Further, we can go down the long, long list of just recent, controversial White cop-black or brown civilian encounters and ask is that why so many of them have a palpable undertone of menace: Is it because the White cops are acting on their “feelings?”

A final question: How often does a Black or brown person's chance of surviving an encounter with a White cops come down to whether that officer or those officers have decided to be or not be “Officer Friendly” at that moment?

To put that another way: How often does it come down to whether the police officer or officers have decided at that moment to be a public servant of integrity, or a criminal?

Marilyn Bradley Harris continued from page

with Dixon Circle Baptist Church where she remained an active, faithful member until her health failed. She united in holy matrimony with Mr. Otis Ragsdale until his death. Later she met and married Mr. George Harris. To this union no children were born.

Marilyn was a loving wife, sister, aunt and friend who loved her family dearly

On May 4, 2015 in Dallas, Texas God called Marilyn to a peaceful rest. She leaves to cherish her memory a loving husband, George Harris of Dallas, one brother Don Williams of Los Angeles California; four sisters, Ella Faye Berry of Glenn Heights, Texas, Genell (Charles) Hicks of Rusk, Texas, Toni Bradley and Sheryl (James) Hart of Gilmer, Texas. , a host of neices, nephews, relatives and friends; a very special friend Tina Smith of Dallas, Texas.

GRADUATES

Four Graduates Receive Degrees



Pamela Session - Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing -University of Texas.



Armistia Genell Sanders - Associate of Applied Science Degree in Nursing - Tyler Junior College.



Vivian Leah Pope McGowan - Associate of Applied Science Degree in Nursing- Tyler Junior College.



Emily Ann Richardson - Associate of Applied Science Nursing- Tyler Junior College

The University of Texas and Tyler Junior College graduated these four Registered Nurses from Rusk, and Tyler recently.

Pamela Session graduated from the University of Texas, Tyler College of Nursing and Health Sciences on May 1, 2015 with the pinning ceremony held at Ten O'clock in the morning and the University graduation held at 3:00 p.m. She lives in Rusk and is the daughter of Arthur Ray and Sharon Ross and the wife of Jacob Benton.

Armistia Sanders, Vivian McGowan and Emily Richardson graduated from Tyler Junior College with the pinning ceremony held May 7, 2015, 7:00p.m. and the Commencement Ceremony held May 8, 2015 at 4:00 p. m.

Armistia is the daughter of Sam and Wyvonne O' Neal and she lives and works in Rusk.

Vivian McGowan is the wife of Reginal Joel McGowan and the daughter of Angela Moore and LeRoy Pope of Alto. Vivian lives and works in Tyler.

Emily Richardson is the daughter of Barbara Richardson and she lives and works in Rusk.



Oliver Sturns of Rusk has been called into the ministry and has been ordained. He will preach his frist sermon on Sunday, May 17, 2015 at the Shady Grove Church of God in Christ at 3:30 p.m..

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COMMUNITY

Mary Allen Museum Board hosts fashion show fundraiser



The Mary Allen Museum of African American Art & History recently held a fashion show fundraiser to help provide financial support for the Museum and Mary Allen Heritage House. Work will begin on the grounds of the former college, now museum, at anytime now. Donations and gifts to the project are all tax deductible. Board members are: Jesselyn Reese, Pres., Jean Shepherd, V. Pres., Suzanne Steed, Sec., Nikita Warner, Tres., Sandra Berry, Asst. Sec., Gloria Wooten, Steve Lewis, Francine Frazier, Thelma Douglass, Ph. D., Larry Robbins, Budget & Finance, Lincoln Steffans, Communications, Jeffield Jefferson, Public Relations and Viktor Ewing. Advisory Council members are Barbara Wooten, Earlene Clebourn and Deleta Curtis Jones. The fashion show was held at the Heritage House located at 1503 South 4th Street, Crockett, Texas.

Emerson Griffin Ordained Deacon



May 3, 2015 Emerson Griffin was ordained and installed as a deacon for West Union Faith Ministry by Pastor, Rev. Jimmy Foreman. He joins Deacon Patrick Session on the deacon staff. He currently teaches the men's Sunday School class. His wife Jackie pose with him and Rev. Foreman following the ordination.

Alto Trailride draws 100 riders



May 2, 2015 horseback riders, hayride flatbeds filled with children and parents, four wheel drivers, cars and trucks gathered in Alto to enjoy the Annual Community Trailride.

Organizers were very pleased that the number of families that participated was so high. Games and food were enjoyed following the trail ride.

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Adrian Peterson's agent wants 'commitment' from Vikings

With Minnesota Vikings running back Adrian Peterson seemingly not going anywhere, his agent is now turning his focus to Peterson's contract.

The Vikings have said they do not intend to trade Peterson, and the first round came and went Thursday without Peterson being dealt.

"One of the things that I appreciate with the Vikings is their resolve to say, 'We're not trading him,'" agent Ben Dogra told USA Today. "That tells me they value him not only as a football player but what he's done for the organization. 'But actions speak louder than words. If ... you want to keep him, then show him a commitment to make him retire as a Viking. And I haven't had that solution.'" Peterson is under contract for three more years, for a total of \$46 million. But none of it is guaranteed, which apparently is what Dogra is seeking.

offseason workouts, and Dogra did not say whether Peterson would be with the team when organized team activities begin May 26.

"That's Adrian's decision," Dogra said. "He's a grown man. He's got strong principles. He's endured a lot. It's when he feels that true commitment. Adrian's a very passionate person, very transparent. It's when he feels it's right." As for trade options for Peterson, general manager Rick Spielman said, "I'm not getting into who called or not called. Adrian Peterson is under contract as a Minnesota Viking. End of story." Peterson was reinstated by the NFL in April, returning to active status for the first time since September, when child-abuse charges involving his 4-year-old son Peterson has spent his entire career with the Vikings. Since being drafted out of Oklahoma in 2007, he has rushed for 10,190 yards and scored 86 touchdowns.

The Rusk TJC Citizens Promise

The Rusk TJC Citizens Promise is available exclusively to qualifying Rusk High School graduates who enroll at Tyler Junior College within three years of graduation.

Rusk TJC Citizens Promise Scholars may receive up to \$8,000 for two years to be used toward tuition, fees, books and housing.

Unlike a typical college experience, Rusk TJC Citizens Promise Scholars have access to a dedicated Promise scholarship coordinator who will guide them toward their academic goals.

What makes a student eligible for the Rusk TJC Citizens Promise Scholarship?

Eligible Candidates Must:

- * Graduate from Rusk High School in top half of class with a minimum 2.5 GPA
- * Reside in Rusk ISD

- * Attend RHS for grades 11 and 12

Qualifying candidates who, during their senior year, are notified by Rusk High School that they are eligible for this scholarship must:

- * Submit the Rusk TJC Citizens Promise Scholarship acceptance form

- * Submit a current TJC scholarship application

- * Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

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Rusk Baseball/Softball Association season opens in newly renovated facility



Oliver Sturns, Little League softball coach and member of the Citizens Community with other teams and coaches in the background.



Rusk Lions Club Members



Mike Murray, City Manager, Donald Woodard (councilman), Bill Middleton (councilman) Mayor Angela Raiborn, Sam Florian and Walter Session councilmen.

Members of the Rusk City Council and City manager were on hand May 6, to witness their vision of the newly renovated Rusk Baseball/softball Association Complex grand opening. The more than 50 year old complex was put together by Rusk Lions Club in the in 1950s and has been the home of Rusk Little League baseball and softball for generations of children since then.

City Manager Mike Murray says that in January 2014 the city made the decision to create a committee to look into how to proceed with the complex renovation. Rusk Baseball/Softball Association, Officials, Mayor Angela Raiborn, City Councilman Sam Florian, Austin Young, Oliver Sturns and other members of the community to come up with ideas on

on what the city should do. They looked at building a completely new facility which would have cost three time as much but in the end decided to renovate what they already had. Work was done to level the existing fields, the bathrooms, the dugouts, fencing, retaining walls storm drainage. Additional parking has been added with newly constructed wheelchair ramps and a walking trail which encompasses the pool and children's waterpark. At present the complex has three fields named for local citizens:

the Dickinson Field, The Stovall Little League Field and the Francis Townsend Field. Rusk Baseball/Softball Association President Jeremy Hubbard and Mayor Angela Raiborn addressed the crowd during opening ceremonies. There are 11 divisions with 60 teams representing Rusk, Jacksonville, Alto, Slocum, Troop and Whitehouse. The work was done by local contractors from Rusk and Alto along with Rusk City staff Neill Holcomb, Howard King, Dough Byfield and Gregg McDuff.

LEGAL NOTICE

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

Game #	Game Name / Odds	\$	Official Close of Game	End Validations Date
1600	Veterans Cash - Overall Odds are 1 in 4.14	\$2	5/18/15	11/14/15
1645	Caesars® - Overall Odds are 1 in 3.90	\$5	5/29/15	11/25/15
1542	Break the Bank - Overall Odds are 1 in 4.80	\$2	6/24/15	12/21/15
1543	Weekly Grand - Overall Odds are 1 in 3.92	\$2	6/24/15	12/21/15
1591	White Ice 8's - Overall Odds are 1 in 4.13	\$2	6/24/15	12/21/15
1599	Golden Key - Overall Odds are 1 in 3.47	\$5	6/24/15	12/21/15
1615	Cowboys - Overall Odds are 1 in 3.48	\$5	6/24/15	12/21/15
1616	Houston Texans - Overall Odds are 1 in 3.61	\$5	6/24/15	12/21/15
1583	100X The Cash - Overall Odds are 1 in 2.86	\$20	6/24/15	12/21/15
1394	\$7,500,000 Fortune - Overall Odds are 1 in 2.47	\$50	6/24/15	12/21/15

For detailed odds and game information, visit tlottery.org or call 1-800-375-6886. Must be 18 or older to purchase a ticket. The Texas Lottery supports Texas education and veterans. © 2015 Texas Lottery Commission. All rights reserved.



Obituaries

Loretta Simmons



sister aunt, cousin, and friend; she is and will be truly missed by all.

Loretta Simmons was born in Cleveland, Texas March 31, 1947 where she grew up and later moved to Houston. She met and married John Simmons and they made Reklaw their home. She was employed at Rusk State Hospital for many years. Eventually they lived in Houston for awhile but Reklaw remained their home where she was overcome by the loss that ended her earthly life. She passed away April 8, 2015 in Jacksonville, Texas.

Loretta Cook Simmons was preceded in death by her mother Grace Scott, father John Cook and sister Dorothy King. At the loss of her parents, she asked her in-laws R. L. and Elmira Simmons to be her parents and they preceded her in death along with brother-in-law Onzie Simmons.

Loretta is survived by her loving husband John Simmons whom she married June 31, 1972, their three children whom she adored Demetric Scott (Felicia) and their 7 children Brandon, Jasmine, Jayland, Patrick, Chris, Jasmine, and

In the latter part of Loretta Simmons' life she began studying the bible with Jehovah's Witnesses and expressed openly she wanted to serve Jehovah God and once she made her mind up, she strived to do just that and encouraged others to do so. Loretta was loved and appreciated by many as a wife, mother, and grandmother,

Turquoise; Roosevelt Miles Jr. (Penny) and their 6 children Quinton, Tamarcus, Ashley, Corey, Chris and Cody. Terry Miles (Teresa) and their 7 children Lashonda, Derrion, Lamecia, Laquisha, Timberly, Shala, and TJ. 12 great-grandchildren, aunt Maize Watson, 11 brothers-in-law and 12 sisters-in-law: Bobby Simmons, Robert & Rhonda Simmons, James and Joyce Simmons, Zen and Regina Simmons, Sylvia Simmons, Tim and Marcie Simmons, Rickey and Ethel Simmons, Kathy and Larry Lewis, Stephone and Gabrielle Simmons, Faye and Lester Gray, Ondra Simmons, Normel and Rueben Chatman, and Mickey and Micheala Simmons. The Poole's and many many more family members and friends.

Services will be under the direction of Williams Funeral Home and officiated by Brother Sam Ford.

Robert A. O. Fadojutimi, Ph.D.



LONGVIEW- Robert A. O. Fadojutimi, Ph.D., went home to be with his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ Monday, May 4, 2015. He was born May 22, 1951, in Ondo, Nigeria, to Gabriel and Dorcas Fadojutimi. He attended Methodist Boys Grammar School in Lagos, Nigeria. After high school, he served in the Nigerian Navy and was trained as a radio engineer. He attended school in India under the auspices of the Nigerian Navy.

After his military service, he worked for the Nigerian Radio Corporation. He then came to Florida Institute of Technology (FIT). While at FIT, he worked for Harris Corporation. He moved from Florida to work for Vertex Communications (now General Dynamics), in Kilgore, Texas.

He graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering and a masters degree in Business

University in Longview, Texas. He earned his Doctor of Philosophy in Management degree from Walden University.

Robert founded East Texas Review newspaper, the home of infinityplus magazine and KIDS PRESS. He was an engineer and international businessman for most of his career. He was preceded in death by his parents.

Left to cherish the memory of his earthly life and looking forward to being re-united with him in eternity are his loving wife, Joycelyne; daughter, Rhoda; son, Olu; grandson, Oghenekome; and his sisters, brothers, aunts, uncles, nephews, nieces, and in-laws in Nigeria, Texas, California and Minnesota.

Viewing of the body will be noon-7 p.m. Friday, May 15, 2015, at Stanmore Funeral Home, 1105 Martin Luther King Boulevard, Longview, Texas. The celebration of Roberts life will be 11:30 a.m. Saturday, May 16, 2015, at Bethel Temple, 1400 South Mobberly Avenue, Longview, Texas. Robert lived a wonderful and caring life. He was a loving husband, father and grandfather and friend. His faith in God was strong and is a comfort to those he leaves behind

Marilyn Bradley Harris



Marilyn Bradley Harris was born to the late Mr. Louis Bradley and Mrs. Daisy Williams Hogg August 14, 1935 and passed away on May 4, 2015. She was preceded in death by her parents; brother William Lewis and one sister Glenda Bradley Freney. She was raised in Rusk and was a member of the George W. Bradford class of 1954-55. She united with Mt. Olive Baptist Church at an early age. Marilyn moved to Dallas and united

Continue page 6

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Christianity

Forward Thinking the Message

~by Pastor E. A. Deckard - Houston, Tx.



"Nobody can go back and start a new beginning, but anyone can start today and make a new ending."

— Maria Robinson

"Stand up to your obstacles and do something about them. You will find that they haven't half the strength you think they have."

— Norman Vincent Peale

Genesis 39:16-21 New International Version (NIV)

16 She kept his cloak beside her until his master came home. 17 Then she told him this story: "That Hebrew slave you brought us came to me to make sport of me. 18 But as soon as I screamed for help, he left his cloak beside me and ran out of the house."

19 When his master heard the story his wife told him, saying, "This is how your slave treated me," he burned with anger. 20 Joseph's master took him and put him in prison, the place where the king's prisoners were confined. But while Joseph was there in the prison, 21 the Lord was with him; he showed him kindness and granted him favor in the eyes of the prison warden. Forward Thinkers, can you imagine the emotional rollercoaster Joseph is on.

He just recovered from a very negative situation with his family, now he is having a horrible time with his employer. Have you ever had a season in your life where you had to deal with negativity everywhere you went even though, you know you are anointed with the favor of God? Forward Thinkers, I must remind you the "Favor of God" FOG does not prevent you from experiencing some difficult places, but the FOG will give you the power to go through difficult places and not be defeated.

Forward Thinkers, Joseph had the "Favor of God" on him, therefore; his family selling him out could not stop him from reaching his full potential in life.

Forward Thinkers, the FOG on

Joseph's life allowed him to come out the pit and excel. Because we serve the same God as Joseph, we can no longer make excuses for quitting doing a difficult season. Forward Thinkers, if God showed Joseph favor in a difficult place he will also do the same thing for you.

Forward Thinkers, before I unfold the text for this week let me pause to remind you the same God that favored Joseph is the same God that's favoring you today.

Forward Thinkers, think over your life how many times people have tried to defeat you but somehow God keeps bringing you through. Forward Thinkers remember Joseph was even sold as a slave to a group of people who should have mistreated him but the favor of God on Joseph's life caused them to sell him to Potiphar.

Yes, Forward Thinkers, God's favor can use a negative situation to promote you to a better place in life. Forward Thinkers, I must inform you the enemy will never give up as a matter of fact the more favor of God on your life the more aggressive the devil's attempt to defeat you will become. Forward Thinkers, shout right that the "Favor of God" will keep bringing you through.

Forward Thinkers, this brings us to today's text: Genesis 39:16-21 Joseph had been promoted in Potiphar camp to a high ranking position then Potiphar wife lies on Joseph.

Forward Thinkers Satan will use lies, gossip, and rumors to try to take you out but keep your faith and believe the truth will set you free.

Look at verse 20: Joseph was put in prison But—I've learned how to praise God out loud for all my BUT GOD situations

The devil thought he had me But God Sickness thought it could kill me But God

Depression thought it could steal my mind But God

Somebody walked out on me declared I'd never been anything But God

Forward Thinkers, while Joseph was there in prison, he received the favor of God. God can favor you right where you are, no matter where you may be. The FOG gave Joseph success even in prison. Whatever you are going through right now it can't cancel the "Favor of God" from your life.

Jump down to Genesis 41:41 Gen

esis 41:41 New International Version (NIV)

41 So Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I hereby put you in charge of the whole land of Egypt. Forward Thinkers, Pharaoh who is the top man in all the land now brings Joseph into his administration as his right hand man. Joseph had endured a lot of ups and downs; he went through all kind of unfair situations, Joseph was mistreated by his family, lied on by his employers wife and let down by people he had helped but in spite of all that the "Favor of God" kept flowing in his life.

Forward Thinkers, shout today and declare you receive it and won't stop believing.

Genesis 50:20 New International Version (NIV)

20 You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.

Forward Thinkers, the story of Joseph encourages me to keep going doing a difficult season in life;

nothing can cancel the favor of God on your life and I'm declaring today Forward Thinkers, the favor of God is waiting to promote you to the next level of life.

Pastor E. A. Deckard is the Senior Pastor/Founder of the Green House International Church located, 16711 Ella Blvd. Houston, Texas, 77090. To contact Pastor Deckard for speaking engagements contact him at pr.ghic@gmail.com or the church website www.ghic.net.



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How Women Can Protect Their Bodies During Pregnancy

~by Robert Thompson, M. D.

Many of us have been led to believe a piece of conventional "wisdom" that is taking a significant toll on our health – especially on women and children, says Robert Thompson, M.D., an OB/GYN and integrative medicine specialist.

The conventional wisdom, more accurately described as ignorance, is that we need an abundance of prescription drugs and vitamin supplements, including calcium, to have strong bones and overall good health.

"Bones are composed of at least a dozen minerals and we need all of them in perfect proportions in order to have healthy bones and healthy bodies," says Thompson, author of "The Calcium Lie II: What Your Doctor Still Doesn't Know," (www.calciumliebook.com). The new book, coauthored by health journalist Kathleen Barnes, details the roles minerals play in overall health and how to identify and correct deficiencies and imbalances.

"Osteoporosis is caused by a loss of minerals from the bones, not just calcium, and we cannot possibly replace minerals with calcium alone,

which hardens concrete!" Consuming too much calcium, through food sources or by taking supplements, set up individuals for an array of negative health consequences, including obesity, Type 2 diabetes, Type 2 hypothyroidism, hypertension, depression, problem pregnancies, dementia, heart disease, kidney stones, gallstones and more. Mineral deficiencies are at the root of a host of health problems. Using flavor-of-the-month drugs or vitamins compounds the problem. Thompson reviews how this affects women, children and women who are experiencing menopause, and what they can do about it. • The mineral cost of pregnancy... Women become very vigilant about their health during pregnancy, because they know it affects their babies. Although there are a lot of differences of opinion in the general public on what is best, it is a known fact that pregnant women lose about 10 percent of their total mineral supply to their babies. So, while

pregnant, the average woman loses nearly four pounds of minerals to her baby with each pregnancy.

• Don't underestimate the long-term benefit of using unrefined sea salt. Skilled and experienced farmers know that unrefined sea salt is essential to the health of his or her animals. For more than 50 years, farmers have known that sea salt, or rock salt, is essential for their stock to remain healthy and to breed without birth defects. While we're not farm mammals, all mammals do have similar physiology. It follows that unrefined salt, which is the best source of sodium and ionic minerals, may have similar benefits for pregnant women and their children.

"I want to emphasize that this is a long-term benefit," Thompson says. "Minerals gained from using unrefined sea salt – which yields 15 percent trace ionic minerals – should have similar benefits for human pregnancy in helping to prevent birth defects and miscarriage."

• The problems women experience with menopause. It's estimated that up to 40 percent of perimenopausal (nearly menopausal) women have

low thyroid function that adds to their symptoms when their hormones begin to fluctuate, "but I believe this is far too conservative of a figure," Thompson says. "More realistically, it's near 90 percent or more, and hypothyroidism is probably near 95 percent, especially if a woman is more than 20 percent above her ideal body weight. In addition to hypothyroidism, excessive calcium contributes to dementia and other menopausal problems." To be clear, excess calcium, usually from supplementation and fortification in foods leads to these problems.

• Consider bioidentical hormones. There is overwhelming biological evidence that bioidentical hormone replacement is not only natural and safe, but it also improves the quality of life and reduces breast cancer incidence, heart disease, stroke, dementia, osteoporosis, high cholesterol and nearly all known chronic illness associated with aging. Balanced physiologic transmucosal bioidentical hormone replacement is the specific method to consider.

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WHAT'S COOK'N

Corn Bread Casserole

- 1 can of whole kernel corn, drained.
- 1 can of cream style corn
- 1 pkg. Jiffy corn bread mix
- 1 egg
- 2 T. margarine, melted
- 1/4 tsp. garlic powder
- 1/4 tsp. paprika

Combine all the ingredients in a mixing bowl and transfer to a greased 11 x 7 casserole dish. Bake, uncovered at 400 degrees for 35 to 40 min.



Lemon Dijon Chicken Breasts

- 1/2 c. dry bread crumbs
- 2 tsp. grated lemon rind
- 3 T. lemon juice
- 2 T. Dijon mustard (country style)
- 1 T. Lime Juice
- 6 4oz. skinned, boned chicken breast, halved, halved vegetable cooking spray lemon slices (optional)

Combine bread crumbs and lemon rind, stirring well. Combine lemon juice, mustard, and lime juice, brush mixture over both sides of chicken. Dredge chicken in bread crumb mixture. Place chicken in a 9 X 13 baking dish coated with cooking spray: sprinkle with any remaining bread crumb mixture. Bake uncovered at 375 degrees for 15 minutes. Turn chicken and bake an additional 15 minutes or until done. Garnish with lemon slices, if desired.



Fun things to do with the kids this summer

1. Think outside the cardboard box. Your child will love making a fort, car or spaceship in your living room or backyard.

2. Make musical instruments and have your kids put on a summer evening concert. An empty water bottle and some dried beans makes a great shaker; a plastic container and spoons become a drum; and pot covers can be cymbals.

3. Help your child make a card -- from scratch -- for someone she loves. Use materials from around your home and garden. Pieces of grass, leaves and flower petals can punch up the design.

4. Together with your kids, go through old magazines, wrapping paper and gift bags. Cut out different pictures and make a collage on an old clay pot for the garden. If you have more pots, make a few your kids can sell at yard sales.

5. Organize a weekly neighbourhood talent night, where kids and their parents can show off their singing, dancing and drama talents. You can have theme nights and include story and poetry readings.

6. Make and decorate papier-mache face masks with your kids. They can reflect your child's personality or be completely whimsical.

7. Set your kids up with a bucket of water and paintbrushes and let them

"paint" the fence, an outside wall of your house or the garden furniture.

Green pursuits

8. Build and decorate a birdhouse together, and learn about the birds that will use it in your backyard.

9. Set your tot outside with some large pieces of white paper and crayons and have her draw all the nature she sees, such as birds, butterflies, gardens and trees.

10. Encourage your child to create his own illustrated nature journal, keeping track of all the things he hears, sees, touches and smells outside over the summer months.

11. With an insect book in hand, discover the creatures living in your garden, and learn about their benefits together.

12. Plant veggies (cucumbers, peas, tomatoes) or herbs in your garden or a large pot. Your kids can help tend to them, water them, watch them grow and then eat them when they're ripe.

13. Go for a walk and collect leaves and flowers as you go. Back at home, use a field guide to help you find out what the plants are called.

14. Take a trip to your local farmer's market and teach your children about local fruit and vegetables. Don't forget to try new fare.

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Portraits of Freedom Student Art Exhibition of Run away Slaves

Scheduled

Nacogdoches, TX. - Exhibition of "Portraits of Freedom", a juried student art exhibition opens Saturday June 13, at the Nacogdoches Railroad Depot for the 26th annual Texas Blue Berry Festival.

The student art consists of drawings, lithographs, paintings and screenprints from students at Stephen F. Austin, Texas Christian University and Lamar University, along with interpretative panels contextualizing what's on display. Admission is free.

The Portraits of Freedom student art exhibition of runaway slaves is drawn from the newspaper advertisements aggregates by the Texas Runaway Slave Project.

According to Kyle Ainsworth, Project Manager, there will be an opening reception from 5 to 7:30 p. m. Thursday, June 11, 2015 at the Nacogdoches Court House Annex, featuring commentary by Mr. Ainsworth as well as two lectures placing slavery and freedom in Texas in larger social and geographical contexts. Dr. Douglas Chambers,

from the University of Southern Mississippi, will speak about runaway slaves in the Atlantic World and Dr. Daina Berry, from the University of Texas at Austin, will lecture on Juneteenth. Snacks and refreshments will be provided. The exhibition is scheduled to coincide with the 150th Juneteenth (June 19).

The Texas Runaway Slave Project (TRSP) is a database of runaway slave advertisements, articles and notices from newspapers published in Texas during that era. You may view additional information at google Portraits of Freedom Project Nacogdoches, TX. The 26th Annual Texas Blueberry Festival begins June 13, 2015 in downtown Nacogdoches!

The Texas Blueberry Festival, presented by Brookshire Brothers, is a delightful day of the America you dreamed still existed. This is the most delicious festival in the Lone Star State—a day-long celebration of the annual blueberry harvest.

Fred Douglass School Reunion set for July 24th, 25th and 26th Jacksonville, Texas.

Fred Douglass 15th Biannual Reunion Parade

Come join the fun at the 2015 Fred Douglass Reunion Parade. We are asking Clubs, Organizations, Churches, Owners of Classic Cars, Trucks, Floats, Motorcycles, and horse riding clubs to be a part of the parade. Show us what you got! A parade wouldn't be a parade without food! Food will be provided by organizations in the park after the parade for all to enjoy.

When: July 25, 2015

Where: Starting Point - North side on Martin Luther King,
Ending Point: Lincoln Park

Line up 10:30 - Parade Time: 11:00 a.m.

Interested in this event

Contact : Shelia Jowhson (903) 705 8533



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