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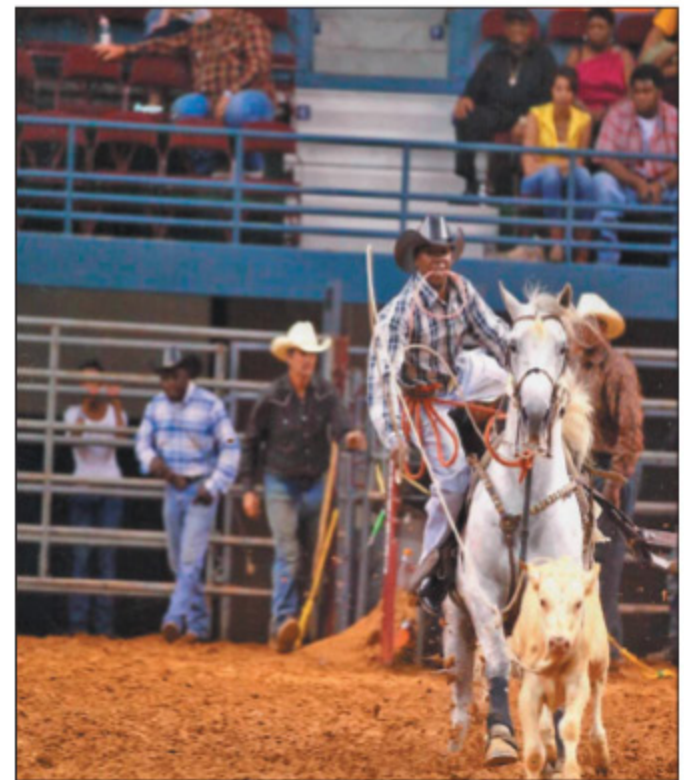
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P.O. Box 332
Rusk, Texas 75785

And Still I Smile

Harold Sheppard competes in National Black Rodeo Finals



On Saturday, November 16, 2013 Little Harold Sheppard will compete in the Real Cowboy Association's National Black Rodeo Finals at the Centery Link Center in Bossier City, Louisiana. Little Harold is currently ranked 2nd in the Tie Down Calf Roping. He is coached by his Day, Big Harold Sheppard who is a retired Rodeo Champion. When preparing for this season, he had a very rough start as if he couldn't make a break. While training with his dad he would always give him advice which he follows.

Continued page 12

Employment Opportunity

Free lance reporter needed to write investigative stories for Texas Publishers Association's news service. Email resume and two samples of your published investigative articles to Hattie Kelly TPA President, at ppages2@sbcglobal.net

Read Michael's powerful life testimony page 3

EDITORIAL PAGE

Children need positive role models

Maxine Session

This month's cover story really touched my heart. Just as many of my friends, I taught school more years than I will say. I did it because I care about kids. That is what my grandmother and all the other women in our family were taught to do. Kids first, which means protecting them in everyway from all hurt, harm and danger. The story that Michael told has not been far from my mind since I first

heard it. I hope, just as he does, that young parents will read his story and take heed to what he is saying.

Children learn what they live. Be careful of the people you allow your children to come in contact with. Be careful of the language you use with them and the way you handle them. How they feel about themselves plays a big part in how they see themselves and that translates to self-esteem. The children you are raising now will determine our future world. *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.*

~Lanston Hughes

Investigating The South



Mollie Belt - Publisher, The Dallas Examiner - Vice President TPA and tSecretary NNPA.

Last Saturday at the closing banquet of the Texas Conference of NAACP Branches, the association awarded me the highest honor of the state NAACP, the 2013 Texas Hero. Former Texas Supreme Court Chief Justice was also named a 2013 Texas Hero.

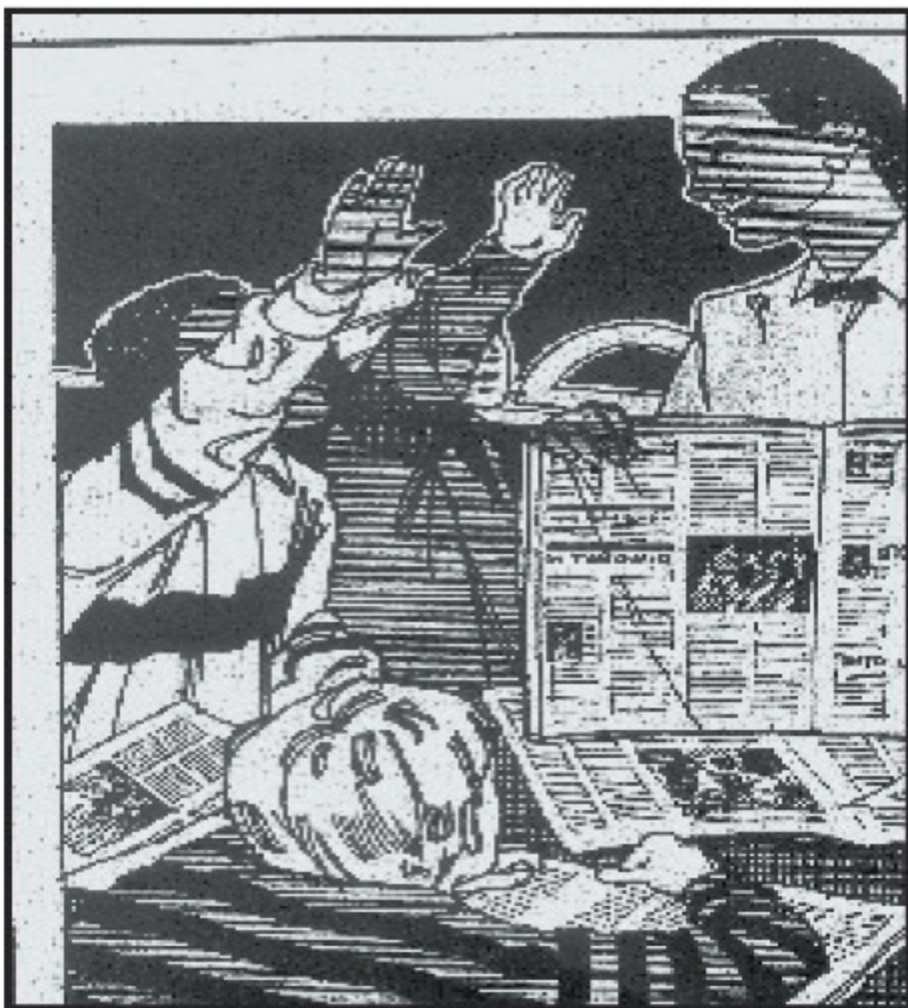
The keynote speaker was Jerry Mitchell, an investigative reporter who has uncovered substantial evidence to convict murderers of civil rights workers in the 60's. Information he discovered through interviews and other methods has

been used to find, help convict and put behind bars four Klansmen: Byron De La Beckwith for the 1963 assassination of NAACP leader Medgar Evers, Imperial Wizard Sam Bowers, for ordering the fatal firebombing of NAACP leader Vernon Dahmer in 1966, Bobby Cherry for the 1963 bombing of a Birmingham church that killed four girls, and Edgar Ray Killen for helping organize the June 21, 1964, killings of James Chaney, Andrew Goodman and Michael Schwerner.

We have all read about the many murders of civil rights workers in the 60s in Mississippi and Alabama – people working for Blacks to have the right to vote. These people sacrificed their lives so that Blacks could vote.

His presentation made me reflect on my childhood living in Tuskegee, Ala. I remembered riding in the car with my mother and father from Alabama to Texas to visit my grandparents on holidays. My father always had a loaded gun under his

See **The South** page 4



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(The opinion of the writers is their own and not necessarily that of the Texas Informer.)

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And Still I Smile

Story told by Michael Session and written by Maxine Session

A few months back I received an award called "Encourage Yourself". When I received the award, I felt that it was not just for me, but for a lot of other men like me. When you are on the outside looking in, you never really know what another person has gone through or is going through. I don't blame anybody else for the choices I made in the past. Everybody has a story to tell. I am telling my story because it needs to be told. It might help somebody else, who is in the situation I was in, to let them know that as long as you have breath in your body and God on your side, there is a chance to make a change in your life. I did. I want people to know my story and the reason why I still smile.

I was born in Dallas, Texas and basically raised there. I spent time in Rusk with my grandmother, attending school here at least three different times. I went to third grade, fifth grade, eighth grade and spent some time during the summers, but as I said, I basically grew up in Dallas. I was lonely because I never stayed in one school long enough to make friends. I never stayed very long in one school due to being raised in a dysfunctional household. I say it was dysfunctional because of my stepfather. There was drug abuse, physical abuse, and his friends...the worse type of people to be around. My mother had no control over what was happening. My stepfather used and sold drugs. He beat her and me. He basically beat me because I was so rebellious

Some kids watch the movies to learn about the terrible things I learned from first hand experiences.

My biological father who never got over the fact that my mother divorced him, was an alcoholic. So it would have been no better to live with him.

I was a good athlete and always participated in football and track. I mostly played basketball at the parks.

By the time I was twelve, I smoked my first joint. I never took alcohol

until I was seventeen or eighteen years old. I used to see how it would do my dad when I went around him.

Some kids watch the movies to learn about the terrible things that I learned from first hand experiences. All my influences were drug dealers, pimps, and prostitutes... people who would kill you without giving it a second thought. You can see people do so much that when you hear bad things about them, you just know it's true.

They really showed me how to grow up and be nothing.

Those were the kind of people who influenced me. They told me they loved me and to go to school, but they were the worse negative influence anybody can have. They really showed me how to grow up and be nothing. One day I came home from school. Our apartment door was visible from two other apartments across the hall. I could hear a loud muffled human cry before I got to the apartment.

From where I came is a scary place. I went through a lot of pain and hurt.

When I walked in my stepfather was sitting on the couch. Tied up and mouth bound was a man in the middle of the large area rug in the room. He was holding a gun on the man while two others beat and kicked him. I spoke, went to my room and closed the door. The man owed my stepfather money. The neighbors could hear, but nobody called the police. I never saw the man again. You can guess what happened to him.

I learned how to maneuver the justice system....to get time but not so much. I committed my first felony at age seventeen..... car theft. It came about as part of the life I was in. You were always selling dope and stealing.



Minister Jerry Leviston, Michael and Felicia

That was the in thing.....steal a car, strip it down and sell the parts. I was sometimes invited to give somebody else some help in doing this.

The first time I went to prison for committing robbery, theft and a whole bunch of stuff. I stayed about a year. I became familiar with jail even learning how to evade arrest. My way of thinking actually got worse. I have been to prison three times. Prison was different. I became hardened to the system and got wiser learning more and using it in a worse way. I learned to fly under the radar. All the people in my life took care of me...wouldn't let anybody hurt me. After I became a man, older women taught me what to do and what to say. I eventually started selling dope. Guys I ran with taught me how to rob a drug dealer and I got into a little of that. That went on until I moved to Rusk. I had to put some distance between me and Dallas. I wasn't making any money, just using.

From 1995 to 2000, I became known as one of the biggest drug dealers in East Texas. I didn't think of the results because that's what I was used to. It was like going to a 9 to 5 job. I knew there were consequences, but I wasn't worried about doing time. I had been taught how to deal with prison. I

knew this mother was taking food out of her kids mouth to buy drugs or that this dude had worked all week and didn't go home and pay bills, but bought drugs. When did I awaken? When did I begin to think about the suffering it caused families? From the time I was about 13 I was in Rusk with my grandmother excited about going to ninth grade. My mother came and got me, took me to Dallas. My daddy bought me stuff. I asked, "Why can't I go back to Rusk". I had friends there and people who loved me. By the time I went to prison we were spread so far apart. I just couldn't understand why I couldn't go back to Rusk. I didn't want to be in Dallas. The last time I went to prison, I understood a lot of things. I realized that I had

I began taking T. D. Jakes' classes called *The Promise Keepers*.....they tear you down and build you up into a productive man in society

Continued page 11

Hiring Red, White, & You! Veterans Job Fairs to be Held Statewide November 14th

Provided by the Texas Workforce Commission

MEDIA CONTACT: Lisa Givens
PHONE: 512-463-8556
Longview & Tyler, TX - The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC), in partnership with 28 local workforce development boards and the Texas Veterans Commission (TVC) will host veterans job fairs statewide Nov. 14. TWC's Second Annual Hiring Red, White & You! campaign is a joint initiative supported by Gov. Rick Perry, Texas Medical Center surgeon and University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston professor Dr. James H. "Red" Duke Jr., and TVC to connect our returning veterans in Texas with employers who are hiring.

Last year's Hiring Red, White & You! job fairs attracted more than 12,000 veterans and 1,400 employers statewide, and resulted in approximately 2,800 hires by participating employers. Please consider airing the prerecorded download of this public service announcement (PSA) and help TWC spread the word about the Hiring Red, White & You! job fairs and the benefits of hiring military veterans. A pre-recorded download of the PSA is available at www.texasworkforce.org/news/press/2013/press-releases-2013.html#pressReleaseAudio. The PSA also allows for adding local-area job fair information, available at www.texasworkforce.org/hrwy.

The South

from page 2

seat, and we could not stop and use the restroom anywhere. Many

gas stations had signs – "No restrooms for Negroes."

Alabama was very segregated – more so than Texas. I only saw the Black side of town. In fact, as a young child I didn't know White people lived in Tuskegee.

My father stayed in Tuskegee at the end of World War II to work as personnel director at the Veterans Administration Hospital. My mother taught mathematics at Tuskegee Institute.

We didn't shop for clothes or groceries in Tuskegee. We went to Columbus, Ga., to grocery shop and to Atlanta, Ga., to buy clothes.

My mother carried her poll tax in her wallet – it was precious to her. She told me later that when Negroes would go to downtown Tuskegee to get their poll tax, officials inside would hang a "Closed" sign on the door. So when she was finally able to get her poll tax, she kept it in a secure place.

I remember a time when my mother needed oral surgery. My father took her to the nearest oral surgeon in Montgomery, Ala. – the surgeon told my father he didn't treat "Negroes." My father told him, I am not asking

you to treat my wife, just take X-rays of her mouth. The surgeon took the X-rays; we traveled to New York where my mother had her surgery in a hospital.

I understand now why my grandparents did not want us living in Alabama. I didn't understand the life-threatening situations that were all around me at the time. Now I know Alabama was dangerous. They feared something would happen to us; we were not safe.

We lived in fear – but as a child I didn't know.

Jerry Mitchell and his family have learned to live with fear, as well. He did not admit it, but from what I understand, they have endured threats from Klansmen and others for years.

Mitchell is a White man. He could not have obtained this information had he been Black. White racists felt comfortable sharing with him what had been done, who did it, etc. – not knowing it would be used in court later to convict killers of civil rights workers.

Nevertheless, he stated there are still many more unsolved cases

Don't measure yourself by what you have accomplished, but by what you should have accomplished with your ability"
Ben Chavis, NAACP Executive

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“Fool’s Errand”... Government Shutdown

By Billy “Hollywood” Groves CEO, Groves Standard

Former presidential candidate, Senator John McCain described U.S. Senator Ted Cruz and the Tea Party wing of the Republican Party with scornful mockery. Senator McCain, republican said Cruz and the Tea Party Republicans a “fool’s errand”, when they shut the government down weeks ago. I agree with McCain. I believe the Tea Cruz and the politicians government who voted to our government down foolish and on a “fool’s The recent shut down our government was a traumatic, psychological to the average citizen and an embarrassment America’s international



In my mind if you truly America and you are serving our nation as a public servant, “you should want the best for America.” The people who shut the government down appear to have an agenda of contempt toward President Obama which overrides any rational thoughts that should exist in their biased minds.

I heard a man on television say that Senator Cruz had a bright mind and made outstanding grades at the Ivy League College that he graduated from. Well, I contend that if Cruz is so smart, “why is he taking the wrong steps and connecting himself with people who are pushing such an obviously losing agenda?” There’s an old saying that goes like this “whoever makes you, can also break you.” Ted Cruz was made by the Tea Party and he has to walk, “lock and step” with whatever idiotic assignments they give him. Senator Cruz may be smart in school, but he is certainly doing dumb things in government because of his fear of being dropped in a heartbeat by the Tea Party if he doesn’t do their bidding. He seems to forget that America was built by lots of strong men and dedicated women who are not members of the Tea Party.

Historically reflecting, the one group in history that comes to my mind which most resembles the modern day Tea Party is the Confederate Party, who also shared a similar agenda of shutting down the American government. As a matter of fact, numerous Tea Party participants showed up for a recent government rally with their Confederate flags.

Thankfully, President Barack Obama did not give into the insane, unreasonable demands of Cruz and the Tea Party politicians in our government. America survived the shutdown because the people in our government, who truly love America, stepped up and did the “right thing”.

America is the hope of the world; the entire global world depends on a strong America for its stability. Subsequently, when you shut the U.S. government down, you not only hurt and destabilize America; you hurt people in other nations as well.

The Affordable Health Care Act “Obama Care” is the law of the land, needless to say, but if Senator Cruz and the rest of the Tea Party have a problem with it, then they should seek to change it the right way. The right way to change it is by legal means, that’s how it was implemented legally. Shutting down the U.S. government by “a select” group of Americans is un-American, foolish, detrimental to our national security and just plain stupid.

God Bless America, Africa and the Rest of the World.

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Councilman's Corner

~Walter Session

Rusk City Council meeting and other city business

During the last meeting, the Rusk Lions Club gave the Lions Club Baseball Field and swimming pool to the city of Rusk. The Rusk Lions Club was started in Rusk in 1942. Some of the original members were: Bill Draper and Ike Daniels. Sam Mormino, current President and several other members were present. He was presented a proclamation by the city of Rusk.

Jan Hardy requested guidelines for Keeping Rusk Beautiful. She has been working with the organization for twenty years. It was requested that the city allow Keep Rusk Beautiful to place a sign in Butler Park indicating what can be seen at the top of the old Rusk College steps. The request was denied, but will be placed on the agenda again at a later date.

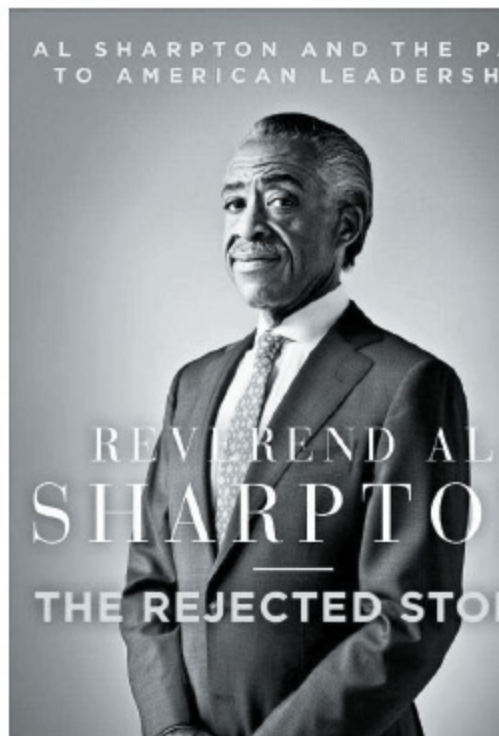
Louis Caveness was approved to serve on the Cherokee County Appraisal District Board of

Black Farmers Lawsuit Settled

WASHINGTON — Thousands of black farmers, mostly in the South, have received payments by now from the \$1.2 billion settlement of their discrimination case against federal agriculture officials.

But those farmers and others still have questions. Here are some of the most frequently asked questions and the answers. The settlement benefits thousands of black farmers who say they were denied loans and other assistance for years by federal agriculture officials because of their race. Thousands of farmers received payments as part of a 1999 class-action settlement in a case known as Pigford I.

This second round of payments (Pigford II) is part of legislation designed to pay farmers who missed the filing deadline for Pigford I. President Barack Obama, who supported the settlement when he was a senator, signed the bill into law in December 2010.



DALLAS-FORT WORTH, TX - Reverend Al Sharpton will be signing his new book release "The Rejected Stone" published by Cash Money Content Publishers on Sunday, November 10, 2013 at 4:00pm at The Dock Bookshop, located at 6637 Meadowbrook Dr. Fort Worth, TX 76112.

The event is free and open to the public. RSVP Today!

Books will be available for purchase at the event or you can purchase today and reserve your copy \$20. Priority Seating and Signing w/ Book \$30

Priority Seating and Signing w/ Book plus Dock Membership \$40 or Business Members. Learn more about Dock Annual or Business Membership.

Also, Rev. Al Sharpton will be speaking and signing books at Friendship West Baptist Church on Sunday, November 10th during the 8:00am & 10:45 am services. On Monday, November 11, 2013, Rev. Al Sharpton will be speaking and signing books at the NAN-Social Justice Revival held at Friendship

West Baptist Church.

Rev. Al Sharpton is the founder and President of the National Action Network (NAN), a not-for-profit civil rights organization headquartered in Harlem, New York, with over sixty chapters nationwide including a Washington, DC Bureau and regional offices from coast to coast. Rev. Al Sharpton has been praised by President Barack Obama as "the voice of the voiceless and a champion for the downtrodden." Rev. Al Sharpton is currently the host of a daily television show on MSNBC that analyzes the top political and social news and features the country's leading newsmakers. "PoliticsNation" with Rev. Al Sharpton airs at 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Rev. Sharpton also hosts a nationally syndicated radio show "Keepin it Real" that is heard daily all over the country as well as two weekend radio shows that air in markets within the U.S.

Rev. Sharpton delivers live remarks at NAN's weekly Saturday Rally at NAN's Harlem headquarters the "House of Justice" that is broadcast live on NAN's website www.nationalactionnetwork.net each Saturday from 9-11 a.m.

Reverend Al Sharpton, is the author of *The Rejected Stone: Al Sharpton and the Path to American Leadership*. In the book, Reverend Al intimately discusses his personal evolution from street activist, pulpit provocateur and civil rights leader while providing a series of essential life lessons that readers can adopt to transform their own lives. "...I have prided myself on taking the side of the rejected people," says Reverend Al Sharpton, "and so I decided to call this book *The Rejected Stone*," from a passage of scripture which refers to a stone which was rejected

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Poetry

Mrs. Issue

by W. Carwell Palestine

I lay in this bed of affliction
and I hear the people as they pass
by.

They labeled me an outcast,
my condition has made me unclean.

So I lay in this bed and I cry
I have done all that I know to do to
release myself of this shame, but
I've been suffering with this for
12 long years that Mrs. Issue has
become

My name.

I even see the women out with their
children they look at me then they
look away,

Is there anyone out there who can
take away the burden of my pain...?

Just the other morning I heard
something different in the people's
voice.

No longer where they're
conversation about me the miracle
man was in town the man from

Galilee so he was there topic of
choice.

There where people from all around
so many faces I had never seen all
crowded around this man as if he
were the king.

I got down on my hands and knees
so I could maneuver through the
crowd, and I knew better to be seen
so I kept my face turned toward the
ground.

But by the time I decided to look up
I was right at the master's feet, and
I said to myself I've never seen a
miracle before and here's one within
reach.

I know I broke the rules today the
whole town knows I'm unclean but
here I am with JESUS garment in
hand and now he is looking down at
me.

And from that day to this one I'm
known throughout my town as the
women who's faith was bold.

What's Cook'n

Pecan Pumpkin Bread Makes 2 loaves

3 cups sugar
1 cup vegetable oil
4 large eggs
1 (15 Oz.) can pumpkin
3 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
1 Tbsp pumpkin pie spice
1 tsp. baking soda
1 tsp. table salt
1 1/2 cups chopped pecans, toasted
Orange Marmalade-Cream Cheese
Spread

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
Beat together first 8 ingredients at
low speed with an electric mixer
until blended. Add 2/3 cups of
water, beating until blended. Stir in
pecans. Pour batter into 2 greased
and floured 9 X 5-inch loaf pans.

Bake at 350 degrees for 1 hour
and 15 minutes or until a wooden
pick inserted comes out clean. Cool
in pans on a wire rack 10 minutes;
remove from pans, and cool
completely on a wire rack. Serve
plain or with Orange Marmalade-

Cream Cheese Spread.

Orange Marmalade- Cream Cheese Spread

1 (8 ounce) package cream cheese,
softened
1/2 cup orange marmalade
1 tsp. orange zest

1. Stir together all ingredients until
blended.

Sugar Free Hot Chocolate

4 tablespoons unsweetened cocoa
2 tablespoons Splenda (sugar sub.)
3 1/4 cups skim milk
1/2 teaspoon vanilla

In heavy saucepan mix cocoa and
sugar. Over medium heat, add
1/2 cup milk, stirring constantly
with wire whisk until ingredients
dissolve. Gradually add remaining
milk, cook and stir until cocoa
bubbles are gone. Remove from
heat and stir in vanilla.



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The Field's Family Reunion



Decendents of the late Arthur Fields gathered for The Field's Family Reunion Saturday, October 19, 2013 at the Texas State Railroad in Rusk, Texas.

The reunion was held in honor of Arthur Fields, better known as "Big Papa". He was born in 1887 in Hayworth, Oklahoma. His family owned a large portion of land near Idabel Oklahoma. Their land was beautiful and went on for miles. They called it "The Fields Ridge". They farmed the land and raised many heads of cattle. Big Papa was not just another farm boy, he was taught to read and write at an early age. He grew up working the family business.

After reaching manhood he married a beautiful woman named Elise. They had four children, two boys, Tillman and Louis and two girls Ollie Mae and Maude. His wife Elise became ill and passed away in 1939. Arthur took his children and moved to Corsicana, Texas where he was employed with the Cotton Belt Railroad. He turned this opportunity with the railroad into a career that lasted for many years.

One of his many interests was making whiskey. He became very good at it and sold his brand of whiskey which turned out to be a very profitable side business. After a period of time he got married again. His new bride was Francis Fields. Even though Francis was petite in size she was nicknamed "Big Mama".

Arthur's job on the railroad transferred him to Rusk, Texas where he worked until he retired. After he and Francis raised their children they decided the town of Rusk was getting too big and too busy, so they moved to the Woodville Community, about eight miles East of Rusk. Here they would have more space for his animals to roam around freely. He loved gardening and being outdoors tending to his livestock. The best part was when his family came to visit. He loved his children, grandchildren and great grand children. He went home to glory when he was 98 years old. He left behind a legend and legacy that will be passed on for years to come. We have a heritage preserved in loving memory of Arthur Fields better know as "Big Papa".

Job Corps education and training centers in Texas are accepting students

Programs provide diplomas, credentials and skills training in more than 100 occupations

DALLAS – The U.S. Department of Labor's Job Corps program is accepting applications throughout the autumn and winter months. The program provides free education and training for eligible young people, ages 16 to 24, to help them start a career, earn a high school diploma or equivalent credential and find and keep a good job.

"Job Corps offers our nation's youth the opportunity to learn and expand their skills and begin rewarding careers," said Grace Kilbane, the national director for the Office of Job Corps. "We urge eligible youth to enroll and prepare for today's competitive employment environment."

Job Corps, managed by the department's Employment and Training Administration, provides students with hands-on training in more than 100 career fields, such as construction, business and finance, health care and information technology. The program, which has 125 centers nationwide, provides eligible, low-income students with room and board, counseling and mentoring services, living allowances and basic medical care. Students also can participate in on-the-job training through work-based learning opportunities.

The Job Corps centers in Texas are David L. Carrasco Job Corps Center in El Paso at 915-594-0022 or <http://davidlcarrasco.jobcorps.gov>, Gary Job Corps Center in San Marcos at 512-396-6652 or <http://gary.jobcorps.gov>, Laredo Job Corps Center in Laredo at 956-727-5147 or <http://laredo.jobcorps.gov> and North Texas Job Corps Center in McKinney at 972-542-2623 or <http://northtexas.jobcorps.gov>.

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Five year Celebration for Mrs. Eurline Sturns

Mayor, City Secretary and Councilman attend TML Conference



The Sturns family with Mrs. Eurline Sturns and husband Raymond Sturns pictured center, surrounded by Children and grandchildren

Rusk, TX. - A celebration was held Saturday evening, October 19, 2013 at the Rusk Junion High Cafetorium for Mrs. Eurline Sturns. More than five years ago she was dianosed with stage four breast cancer. When she addressed the crowd, she told of the honesty of doctor reports that were grim and the struggles of Chemotherapy. She told of never giving up the faith that God would heal her.

Eurline proudly wore pink and proclaimed "I AM A SURVIROR".



Rusk City secretary Cinda Etheridge, Councilman Walter Session and Mayor Angela Raiborn was in Austin October 8 - 11, 2013 to attend the Texas Municipal League 101st Annual Conference and Exhibition. This event provided elected and appointed cit leaders from across Texas the opportunity to learn how other cities are coping wht challenges facing local governement today.

During this conference, attendees also were offered a number of sessions that focused on key topics including quality of life, human resources, professional development technology, and much more. They had the opportunity to hear presentations by Cheryl Cran, president of Synthesis at Work, Inc.; and Marilyn Sherman, motivational speaker from Las Vegas, Nevada.

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C. D. Colston Family Keeps Military Tradition Alive



The late C. D. Colston - April 4, 1941 - 1943



Charlie D. Colston - January 03, 1968 - December 15, 1969



Technical Sergeant Charles D. Colston Sept. 9, 1991 - present

Covering a span of 93 years, men from the C. D. Colston family have made intermittent contributions to keeping this nation safe by actively participating in the United States Armed Services. C. D. Colston began the family tradition April 1941 and his grandson Charles is still actively participating today, in 2012.

C. D. was born April 4, 1919 in Nacogdoches County, Texas. Later in life he moved to the Shady Grove Community, Rusk, Cherokee County Texas, where he received his elementary and high school education. He attended East Texas College of Vocational Training, Arp, Texas. In July 1941 he married Elnora Jones.

He was then drafted into the U. S. Army Forces in 1941 and served in World War II. He received his honorable Discharge in 1943 after two years of service. Mr. Colston departed this life on February 22, 1999.

Charlie D. Colston was born in Rusk, Texas on March 26, 1948. He graduated from G. W. Bradford High School in 1967.

On January 3, 1968 Mr. Colston was drafted into the U. S. Army. He completed his basic and Advance Training in Fort Polk, Louisiana and Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

After completing his training, he was deployed to the 4th Division, 6th Battalion and 29th Artillery Squadron in Pleiku, South Vietnam.

After 12 months in Vietnam, Mr. Colston was deployed to Bamberg, Germany for six months. He was honorably discharged on December 15, 1969.

Happy Birthday
Clarice Dearman
November 12th

From your Family

Technical Sergeant Charles D. Colston was born in Dallas, Texas on October 20, 1973. He graduated from Business Magnet Center in May 1991 and entered the Air Force on September 9, 1991. Upon completion of initial training he was assigned to Mobility Squadron Patrick AFB, Florida, working as a Communications Systems Radio Operator. He was then assigned to 608th Air Communications Squadron at Barksdale AFB, Louisiana from September 1993 - May 1996. He was then assigned to 39th Communications Squadron at Incirlik Air Base, Turkey where he worked fixed communications support of Operation Deny Flight. Technical Sergeant Colston was then assigned to 17th Special Operations Communication Squadron from June 1996 - November 2003. Sergeant Colston held several Positions. He was team chief on numerous deployments including Operation Allied Force, Operation Enduring Freedom, and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Sergeant Colston then retrained in November 2003 into Ophthalmic Technician, and was assigned to 49th Medical Operations Squadron Holloman AFB, New Mexico, as the NCOIC of Optometry. He then was reassigned to 17th Medical Operations Squadron at Goodfellow AFB, Texas in January 2007. He

served as NCOIC of Optometry, Career Field Functional Manager, Flight Chief, Unit Training Manager, Unit Security Manager and Commander's Executive. TSgt Colston has two wonderful children, eleven year old Chaz and eight year old Chase Colston.

Education: 1991 Air Force Basic Training, Lackland AFB, Texas; 1991 Radio Systems Information Operator, Kessler AFB, MS; 2000 Airman Leadership School, Hurlburt Field AFB, Florida; 2001 Radio Systems Mission Planned Course, Keesler AFB, MS; 2003 Ophthalmic Technician Course Sheppard AFB, MS.; 2007 NCO Academy, Goodfellow AFB, Texas; Communications Applications Technology, CCAF.

Military Medals: Joint Service Commendation Medal, AF Commendation Medal (2 Oak Leaf Cluster), AF Achievement Medal (1 oak leaf cluster), AF Good Conduct Medal (6 oak leaf clusters), National Defence Service Medal (1 Bronze star), Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Medal and Humanitarian Service Medal.

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ASK A. J.?**Have you planned your will or estate?**

A. J. Rhodes -
Jacksonville, Texas



Have you made a will or planned your estate?

A will lets you specify your wishes, including how you want your property distributed, who will administer your estate and who will care for your minor children.

A trust holds your assets for the benefit of one or more people (you, your spouse, your children). You'll need an attorney's assistance to create a trust. Life insurance proceeds are paid to a beneficiary at your death. Gifts are transfers of property made during your life to family, friends or charity. Tax exclusions are available as important estate planning tools. Consult your tax professional for details. If you care about what happens to your money, home, and other property after you die, you need to do some estate planning. There are many tools you can use to achieve your estate planning goals, but a will is probably the most vital. Even if you're young or your estate is modest, you should always have a legally valid and up-to-date will. This is especially important if you have minor children because, in many states, your will is the only legal way you can name a guardian for them. Although a will doesn't have to be drafted by an attorney to be valid, seeking an attorney's help can ensure that your will accomplishes what you intend.

Probably the greatest advantage of a will is that it allows you to avoid intestacy. That is, with a will you get to choose who will get your property, rather than leave it up to state law. State intestate succession laws, in effect, provide a will for you if you die without one. This "intestate's will" distributes your property, in general terms, to your closest blood relatives in proportions dictated by law. However, the state's distribution may not be what you would have wanted. Intestacy also has other disadvantages, which include the possibility that your estate will owe more taxes than it would if you had created a valid will. Wills allow you to leave bequests (gifts) to anyone you want. You can leave your property to a surviving spouse, a child, other relatives, friends, a trust, a charity, or anyone you choose. There are some limits, however, on how you can distribute property using a will. For instance, your spouse may have certain rights with respect to your property, regardless of the provisions of your will. Gifts through your will take the form of specific bequests (e.g., an heirloom, jewelry, furniture, or cash), general bequests (e.g., a percentage of your property),

or a residuary bequest of what's left after your other gifts. In many states, a will is your only means of stating who you want to act as legal guardian for your minor children if you die. You can name a personal guardian, who takes personal custody of the children, and a property guardian, who manages the children's assets. This can be the same person or different people. The probate court has final approval, but courts will usually approve your choice of guardian unless there are compelling reasons not to. Probate is the court-supervised process of administering and proving a will. Probate can be expensive and time consuming, and probate records are available to the public. Several factors can affect the length of probate, including the size and complexity of the estate, challenges to the will or its provisions, creditor claims against the estate, state probate laws, the state court system, and tax issues. Owning property in more than one state can result in multiple probate proceedings. This is known as ancillary probate. Generally, real estate is probated in the state in which it is located, and personal property is probated in the state in which you are domiciled (i.e., reside) at the time of your death.

And Still I Smile continued from page 3

the choice to do what I wanted to do and to do what I needed to do. I started working in the kitchen for the warden and the captains as ODR waiter. These were the people with all the rank. These people showed me a lot of favor. They told me to do the right thing. T. D. Jakes had a Potter's House Ministry available to inmates. I started taking those classes called "Promise Keepers Project Build" they tear you down and build you up into a productive man in society... make a man out of you. I still have the written material from the classes. I go back and read them, even now. My life is like a fine line. I pray and

in progress so I have to use it. I try to stay with people who are trying to do the right thing. From where I came is a scary place. I went through a lot of hurt and pain. I did a lot of wrong. Out of all the stuff that was done to me, I was not a victim. I took it as how to inflict pain on others. You can't say anything to me that will embarrass me. The kind of people that influenced me to do wrong are all dead and gone. They don't make people like that anymore. I want to offer my services to talk to some of the young people. I always hear some people say, "Ah, man", what's the use in going to church. Listen to me,

because what some of you are doing is going to get you locked up or killed. I can show you to the schoolhouse, but I can't teach you. If you want to live the right way, listen to me. I can tell you. I know how to get you headed in the right way. If you are going to be a whole man, you have to have a family to be responsible for. Because lonely people, you don't find too many that are happy. Looking at the fruits of your labor.....watching your child graduateyou took part in that. My life has changed for the better. I wanted to work. I wanted to be a leader in my community... be someone people look up to. I

went to work for EMS Pipeline Company. I got married. I was a supervisor on the job and had a company pickup, but they wanted to send me out of state to work. I was on parole and couldn't go. My past cut that short.

I have tried to do everything right. I went through the WIA Program through Texas Workforce. I got truck driver's license and I am a Crain operator. I worked for CUD Energy Services for a year. My life's mission is to share my life testimony, my story from start to finish

continued page 12

Christianity

The following of Jesus Christ



Sin and the Book of Life

Man was created without sin, morally upright and inclined to do good (Ecclesiastics 7:29), but sin entered the human experience when Adam and Eve violated the direct command of God by eating the forbidden fruit in the Garden of Eden. (Genesis 3:6). Because Adam was the head and representative of the whole human race, his sin affected all future generations. (Romans 5:12-21) Associated with this guilt is a corrupted nature passed from Adam to all his descendants.

God is holy and cannot sin. (James 1:13). Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who came to earth in human form, is also sinless. His perfection arises from His divine nature as well as His human nature (1 Peter 2:22).

Mankind originally fell into sin at the temptation of Satan. As the tempter, he continues to lure people into sin (1 Peter 5:8); nevertheless, people remain fully responsible

for what they do. God is not the author of sin, but His plan for world redemption does include His dealing with the reality of sin (2 Samuel 24:1; 1 Chronicles 21:1). This truth is dramatically witnessed in the death of Jesus Christ. The crucifixion happened according to God's will; but at the same time, it was the worst crime of human history (Acts 2:23).

Sin is a real and positive evil that produces sorrow and distress. It is more than unwise, but is rebellion against God and is actually a contradiction to the holiness of God, whose image mankind bears.

Sin involves the denial of the true and living God from whom humans draw life and existence (Acts 17:28). The consequence of this revolt is death and the torment of hell. Death is the ultimate penalty imposed by God for sin (Romans 6:23).

The Bible (Exodus 32:32) tells us that there is a Book of Life. This is a heavenly book in which the names of the righteous (the redeemed or saved) are written. At the end of time (Revelation 20:11-15) Those whose names are not written in the Book of Life will be cast into the lake of fire (Revelation 20:15),

but those whose names appear there (Revelation 21:27) will be allowed to enter the new Jerusalem, which is heaven.

What must a sinner do to be saved?

Matthew 9:13 and Luke 5:32 tells us that in order to be saved you must repent, turn from your wicked ways back to God. It means having a change of mind (Genesis 6:6-7) or a feeling of remorse or regret for past conduct, an act of godly sorrow and a turning around and going in the opposite direction. It is associated with prayer, belief, baptism and conversion and is accompanied by humility. (Matthew 11:21) Repentance is God's will (Luke 15:7-10). According to Luke 13:3 without repentance, we cannot be saved.

Little Harold Sheppard

Competes from page 1

He would always give him advice. like, "You need to rope, and follow through"! This advice helped him get back on target.

And Still I Smile

from page 11

There is still a lot of pain and hurt. It comes from lack of positive role models and bad choices. Once I had a bullet wound to the back and was left for dead. I'm not apologizing for my anything. I am not a victim of my past. I victimized my past. The "Encourage Yourself Award" came from 1st Samuel 30:6. "But David Encouraged Himself in the Lord His God".

I accepted it on behalf of everybody who has been where I've been or thinking about going where I've been. Ones that had the opportunity to go to school everyday... stand at the bus stop and just be boys. I have sent up a lot of prayers. I'm still living on my grandmother's prayers. She taught me how to sew on a button using a thimble. The few years were together she taught me so much.

In us all there is a dominant side and a weak side. I urge you if you are leaning toward the wrong side to think about it before you get started or get out while you can. Encourage yourself to think about the positive things you have in your life...parents and grandparents who love you. Friends who are there for you. Go to church and learn how to pray. God is real and He answers prayers. This is my story. This is my testimony.

I am a living witness .



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Family Fued

“We will band together and survive or live apart and die as fools”

~Susan Taylor
Essence Magazine
Editor-in-Chief

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1401	Texas Lottery Black-Series IV Overall Odds are 1 in 3.29	\$10	1/1/14	6/30/14

For detailed odds and game information, visit tlottery.org or call 1-800-37LOTTO. Must be 18 or older to purchase a ticket. The Texas Lottery supports Texas Education. © 2013 Texas Lottery Commission. All rights reserved.



Obituararies

Lola B. Ward Mallard

Services were held November 2, 2013 at Mount Olive Community Church Rusk, Texas for Lola B. Ward Mallard. Lola was born September 4, 1940 to Luther Ward and Izona Ward Foreman in Cherokee County, Texas. She was the fourth child born to this union. She was a member of the G. W. Bradford class of 1958 and an active member of the G. W. Bradford Alumni and Bi-annual School Reunion Committee.

She accepted Christ at an early age and joined with Mount Olive Baptist Church, Rusk Texas. Throughout her lifetime she held many positions in the church, among those were pastor's aide, member of the Missionary Society, and she was over the kitchen for many years until her health failed. On March 24, 1957, she married adam Mallard, Sr., the love of her life. To this union seven children were born. This union lasted fifty-five years until his death.

Lola was a dedicated wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. She was always loving and nurturing. She would give her last of anything

and do it with a smile, but more than anything she loved the Lord. She encouraged her family daily with warmth and the words of God. She never changed God's word, she stood on it. She was the backbone of her family. She would always say, "This is the day the Lord has made and we shall rejoice and be glad in it."

Lola entered into eternal rest on October 29, 2013 in Rusk, Texas.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband Adam Mallard, Sr., and her daughters Gwendolyn, syretta and senetta Mallard.

She leaves to cherish her memories; daughters Sharon E. Ward, Karen "Bolton" Edmond, and Brenda Davis all of Rusk, Texas; one son Adam Mallard, Jr.; grandchildren Cangela (Carl) Mallard Cook, Alisha Barnett, Jeremy (Jessica) Bolton, Ashley Grismore, Di" Mond Edmond, Porsha Edmond; great-grandchildren; Tootie, Trey, Jacey, Niya, Bre and Cordell; Brothers; Hubert L. Ward, Lufkin, Texas and Frazier (Carolyn) Foreman, Dallas, Texas; Sisters; Mary Foreman, Charlise Session, Lela (Jerry) Leviston all of Rusk, Texas; a special friend Callie Dearman, god daughter Janice Hamilton and a host of other family and friends who will cherish her memory.

Officiating were Rev. Lionel Whitaker, Min. Melvin Session, Min. Ray Boston, Rev. Jerry Leviston and Rev. Mertis Bartley. Services were under the direction of Community Funeral Home.

Ray Jean Parks McDuff



Services were held Saturday, November 9, 2013 at Elm Grove Missionary Baptist Church for Ray Jean Parks McDuff. Ray Jean, the eldest of three children born to the parentage of the late Jow Willie and Theresa Parks, was born on June 19, 1942 in Rusk, Texas. She received her education at George W. Bradford School in Rusk, and after graduating in 1961, Ray Jean continued her education at Espanola Beauty College in Houston, Texas.

Ray Jean Joined Mount Olive Baptist Church at a young age and later united with Elm Grove Baptist Church. She was an active and faithful member, singing in the Senior Choir, and serving as Choir President, Missionary President, and Sunday School secretary until her health failed. She was also a member of the Heroines of Jerico, Sunny Crest Court #356.

Ray Jean was united in Holy Matrimony with her high school sweetheart, the late Paul McDuff on June 10, 1966, a union to which four children were born. The couple raised their family in the small close knit community of Elm Grove. A dedicated wife, mother and grandmother, Ray Jean loved, loved, loved her children and grandchildren and never hesitated to go above and beyond to ensure their

well being. She was employed at Rusk State Hospital, retiring in 2002 after twenty-eight years of service.

A creative spirit who enjoyed crafting and decorating, Ray Jean was also an exceptional cook and made an amazing peach cobbler. She loved to hear singing, and will always be remembered for her rousing rendition of her signature song, "Showers of Blessings". She was loved by many and her kind and loving ways will be greatly missed.

Ray Jean was preceded in death by her beloved husband of forty-two years, both of her parents and one brother, Ellis Ira Parks.

She leaves to cherish her memory threesons; Derrick (Cynthia) McDuff, Sr. of Jacksonville, Anthony McDuff, and Gregory (Indus) McDuff, all of Tyler, Texas, One daughter, Kindi (Ronnie) Shepard of Rosharon, Texas, Six grandchildren; Rawlisha Session of Rusk, Texas, Christian McDuff of Tyler, Texas, Derrick McDuff, Jr. of Rusk, Texas, Dyrans McDuff of Tyler, Texas, Braneesha McDuff of Jacksonville, Texas, Jayla McDuff of Tyler, Texas, one great-grandson B. J. Singletary of Rusk, Texas, one sister: Joann Pipkins of Irving, Texas, two nephews: Michael (Felicia) Session of Rusk, Texas and Edrick Session of Irving, Texas, three neices; Kimela Byars and Stacy Schfford, both of St. Louis, Missouri, and Tracy Provost of Houston, Texas, one sister-in-law, Rosie Lee Ross of Houston, Texas, and a host of other neices, nephews, family and friends.

Services were under the direction of Brooks-Sterling & Garrett Funeral Directors, Tyler Texas with the Rev. Travis McGowan, Rev. Lionel Whitaker, Rev. Timothy Bircher and Rev. James Glenn officiating. Interment Rusk Memorial Cemetery.



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African American Chamber holds conference



AUSTIN – The theme of the Texas Association of African American Chambers of Commerce annual conference – “It’s A New Day” – was evident throughout the organization’s 13th Annual Conference held recently in Austin.

Photos: Charles O’Neal, Senator Rodney Ellis, Marilyn Marshall & Jim Wyatt-

Significantly, the conference cemented the relationship between the state’s 22 Black chambers of commerce and the 22 Black-owned newspapers in Texas.

“It is vital that we have a reliable communications channel,” said TAAACC Chairman Jim Wyatt. “Because the Black Press in our state understands perfectly the challenges faced by Black-owned businesses in Texas, there is no confusion, distortion or misrepresentation in their reporting the facts of our predicament.”

Marilyn Marshall, editor of the Houston Defender, led reporting on Texas state agency spending with Black businesses in a multi-part series published in March of this year.

“We discovered that the years of struggle to enact legislation to assist in the inclusion of ethnic minority businesses have yet to yield results positive enough to make pursuit of state business an attractive business proposition,” noted Marshall. “However – on the other hand – we discovered during our work that Black businesses have a passionate, committed champion working on their behalf. TAAACC truly deserves to have its work more widely known, understood and appreciated.”

T’13 MARILYN -SENATOR ELLIShe Defender was recognized for its contribution to TAAACC and the Texas Black business community during the organization’s first ‘13 MARLYN MARSHALL Awards Gala, which culminated the two-day conference. Marshall, who also moderated a luncheon “discussion” between Texas Senator Rodney Ellis and TAAACC Chairman Wyatt, accepted the first “Richard Nelson Award” on behalf of Defender Publisher Sonny Messiah-Jiles. the award, named for the publisher of the first Black newspaper in Texas, will recognize outstanding coverage of Black business issues in Texas

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Medicine’s Growing Spirituality

By Laura Landro

In a health crisis, patients and families may turn to a member of the hospital staff who offers help beyond the physical aspects of medical treatment: the chaplain. With growing recognition of the role of spirituality in health care, hospital chaplains are being called on to help patients cope with fear and pain, make difficult end-of-life decisions and guide families through bereavement after a loss. They may help sick or dying patients reconnect with estranged family members. New guidelines call for chaplains to be included on teams of doctors and nurses who provide palliative care—which specializes in relieving the pain, symptoms and stress of serious illness. And chaplains often step in to help clinicians deal with their own feelings of stress and burnout.

Because so many patients and caregivers are dealing with chronic illness outside the hospital setting, the nonprofit organization is planning to launch a new website, ChaplainsOnHand, which will include a Chat With a Chaplain feature to allow users to communicate by email or phone with a professional chaplain. In Times of Trouble

HEALTH

“Now seems to be the time for spirituality to come along in health care, as everyone recognizes we are all body, mind and spirit,” says the Rev. Eric Hall, a Presbyterian minister and the group’s chief executive officer. “At times of difficulty, the chaplain is an incredible resource to engage and guide and direct.”

Chaplains are typically board-certified by one of several professional associations following at least 1,600 hours of education. While they may come from different religious affiliations, they are able to minister to all faiths—or to those who don’t have a specific religion but feel the need for spiritual guidance or discussion, Mr. Hall says.

A Pew Research poll last year found that the number of Americans who don’t identify with any religion increased to nearly 20% of all adults from 15% five years earlier. Yet Pew also found that many of the country’s 46 million unaffiliated adults are religious or spiritual in some way, with two-thirds saying they believe in God and more than a third classifying themselves as spiritual but not religious. Nearly 70% of community hospitals surveyed in 2011 provided chaplaincy services, up from 62% in 2003, according to the American Hospital Association.

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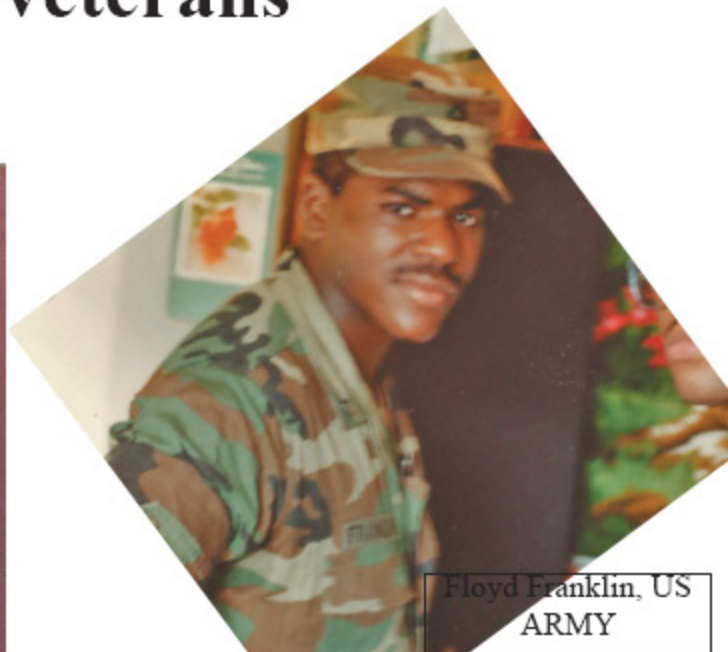
Church Recognizes local veterans



Walter Session, US ARMY



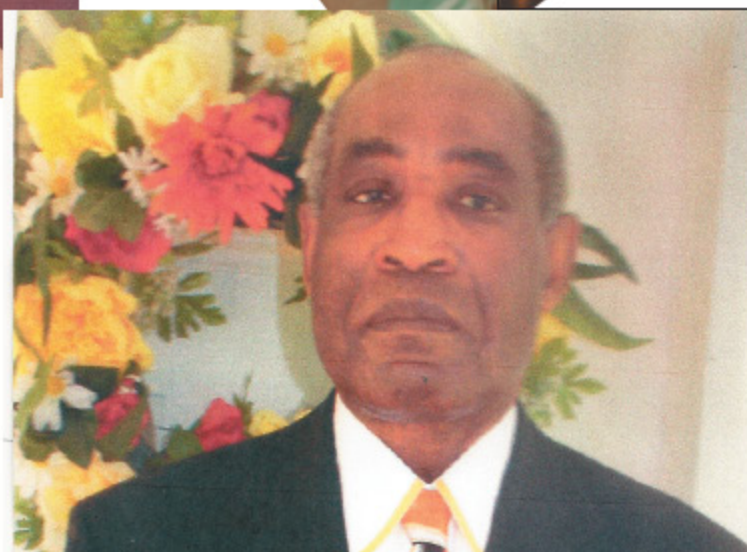
H. R. Waggoner, US ARMY



Floyd Franklin, US ARMY



Inez Conley, US ARMY



Greenie Phillips, US ARMY

Rusk, TX. Mt. Pleasant CME Church recognized these five veterans in November. Walter Session, H. R. Waggoner, Floyd Franklin, Inez Conley and Greenie Phillips. The veterans service information was made a part of the church's rich history.

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Deep East Texas Council of Governments Regional Housing Authority Empowerment for Success Workshop

Grapeland Texas hosts 68th Annual Peanut Festival



spoke about her life and how the program has helped her through struggles in life, to realize some of her dreams. She became a mother at age 15. She continued her education. She is the only one in her family to graduate from college. Now, Ciara works full time, and goes to school parttime. Her goal is to get her masters degree in counseling and to own her own home.

Another single mother of five spoke of her successes, which now includes owning a 4 -bedroom 2,100 square foot home.

Some of the benefits of belonging to the Family Self Sufficiency Program are: (1) A chance to earn a degree, (2) A feeling of Upward Mobility, (3) An opportunity to obtain valuable resources such as parenting classes, counseling and credit repair. (4) Have a savings (escrow) account by simply meeting your established goals.

To find out the qualifications or to sign up for the program, please call Brandy Mitchon, Family Self Sufficiency Coordinator at 1-800-256-7696 extension 5501 or email her at > bmitchon@detcog.org.

Ciara Horace, among speakers for Empowerment Tenants Workshop

Lufkin, TX. - The Deep East Texas Council of Governments Regional Housing Authority presented a Tenants Workshop entitled "Empowerment For Success" at the Lufkin Civic Center on Friday, October 25th. Among the speakers was Ciara Horace. Ms. Horace is a graduate of Stephen F. Austin. She



City and county elected officials



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October 12th, 2013, Grapeland, Texas hosted one of the largest ever Peanut Fest Parades in the sixty-eight year history of the event. The record breaking crowd of both vendors and attendees gathered at the fair grounds immediately following the parade. This year featured events included carnival rides for children, as well as food and craft booths. Heavy rain brought the Peanut Fest Day to a quick end before 1:00p.m. disappointing attendees and causing vendors to lose money.

Today I will step back and take a hard look at the things I am committed to.