

TEXAS INFORMER



November 2016
Volume XXI Number 7

Web: www.texasinformer.com
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P.O. Box 332
Rusk, Texas 75785

Bringing you positive news about local people

Petty Officer 3rd Class Justice Johnson 2013 Rusk High School graduate and operations specialist plays key role supporting largest amphibious Navy warship



Petty Officer Justice Johnson is a Rusk High School 2013 graduate. See story page 3.

EDITORIAL

What If "She" Is Elected?



She has held every position that male dominated road blocks have not kept her out of.from mother, to grandmother, to teacher, to mayor to govenor, from engineer to scientist, to space travel to the highest positions in federal government, except president. So why not give her a chance.

What if "she" is elected. Would it be so bad? Usually she is the one to get the job done while he is still planning. He works from sun to sun while her work is never done.

Who around the world and in this country has gotten the world into wars and rumors of war and "mess" that he can't seem to clean? It's time to give her a chance to take her rightful place beside him instead of behind him!

What if "she" is elected? After all the mistakes that he has made, the last 200 pluss years, she might just get it right!

Education is your passport to future, for tomorrow belongs to the people who prepare for it today.
-Malcom X

Following a year and a half of wild and crazy campaigning for the highest office in the land, it has come down to the wire....two candidates, one male and one female... one of which will soon become the president of the greatest country in the world, the United States Of American.

This country declared it's independence on July 4, 1776 which makes it 240 years old. It has been headed by 44 presidents, but never a woman. NOT ONE! WHY? Think back to your growing up years. Who organized, beautified and sanitized your living environment and disciplined, encouraged, cared for, provided guidance to, loved, amazed and gave birth to you?and in most cases helped him bring home the bacon while wearing high heel shoes! The female human is unique! God gave her the ability of none other like her. She gave birth to the human race and keeps it replenished.

Local Volunteers to Collect Shoebox Gifts for Children in Need

Rusk, Texas- Nov. 01, 2016— Several local locations will serve as collection sites this year for the Samaritan's Purse project Operation Christmas Child—the world's largest Christmas project of its kind.

Rusk collection site is Jacksonville Central Baptist Church. During National Collection Week, Nov. 14 – 21, Rusk residents will donate shoeboxes—filled with school supplies, hygiene items, notes of encouragement and fun toys, such as a doll or soccer ball—for Operation Christmas Child to deliver to children in need around the world. This year, Rusk and surrounding cities residents hope to contribute more than shoebox gifts toward the 2016 global goal of reaching 12 million children.

The shoebox gifts donated by Rusk volunteers at these drop-off locations will shine a light of hope to children living in poverty overseas," said Regional Director Matt McClland. "Anyone is welcome to pack a shoebox and help a child facing difficult circumstances to feel loved and not forgotten."

Jacksonville, TX - Central Baptist Church
1909 E Rusk Street
Jacksonville, TX 75766

Mon, Nov. 14: 5 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Tue, Nov. 15: 5 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Wed, Nov. 16: 5 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Thu, Nov. 17: 5 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Fri, Nov. 18: 5 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Sat, Nov. 19: 9 a.m. - 11 a.m.
Sun, Nov. 20: 3 p.m. - 5 p.m.
Mon, Nov. 21: 9 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Local Collection Sites:
Athens, TX - Warehouse
1700 S Palestine Street

Athens, TX 75751
Mon, Nov. 14: 3 p.m. - 6 p.m.
Tue, Nov. 15: 3 p.m. - 6 p.m.
Wed, Nov. 16: 3 p.m. - 6 p.m.
Thu, Nov. 17: 3 p.m. - 6 p.m.
Fri, Nov. 18: 3 p.m. - 6 p.m.
Sat, Nov. 19: 3 p.m. - 6 p.m.
Sun, Nov. 20: 3 p.m. - 6 p.m.
Mon, Nov. 21: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Corsicana, TX - First Baptist Church
510 W Collin Street
Corsicana, TX 75110

Mon, Nov. 14: 9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Tue, Nov. 15: 9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Wed, Nov. 16: 9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Thu, Nov. 17: 9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Fri, Nov. 18: 9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Sat, Nov. 19: 2 p.m. - 5 p.m.
Sun, Nov. 20: 2 p.m. - 5 p.m.
Mon, Nov. 21: 8:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Palestine, TX - Evangelistic Temple
3011 N Loop 256

Palestine, TX 75802
Mon, Nov. 14: 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Tue, Nov. 15: 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Wed, Nov. 16: 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Thu, Nov. 17: 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Fri, Nov. 18: 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Sat, Nov. 19: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Sun, Nov. 20: 2 p.m. - 5 p.m.
Mon, Nov. 21: 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

For more information on how to participate in Operation Christmas Child, call 817-595-2230 or visit samaritanspurse.org/occ.

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Letters to the Editor Policy

We welcome your letters to the editor. Please send to P. O. Box 332, Rusk, Texas or informernews08@aol.com. Letters smust include name of the sender.

Petty Officer 3rd Class Justice Johnson plays key role in US Navy Warship operations

By Ricky Burke, Navy Office of Community Outreach Public

(SAN DIEGO) – A 2013 Rusk High School Graduate and Rusk, Texas native is playing a key role in supporting the newest and largest amphibious warship in the Navy. The warship named after the United States of America Petty Officer 3rd Class Justice Johnson, is an operations specialist serving aboard USS America (LHA 6), based in San Diego, California. America is the fourth warship to be named for the United States.

As an operations specialist, Johnson is responsible for tracking surface ships and airplane contacts to determine if they are friendly or enemy.

"I love my job because it's so well-rounded, it allows me to learn different things aboard the ship which includes, ranging radars and weapons systems to the ship's movement," said Johnson.

America is equipped with a fuel-efficient hybrid electric propulsion system, which is an energy initiative designed to increase range, endurance and longer deployments enhancing America's combat capability. It's 844 feet long and 106 feet wide and weighs nearly 45,000 tons, with two gas turbine engines that push the ship through water at more than 22 knots.

Her mission is to support a wide spectrum of military operations and missions, including putting Marines ashore for combat operations, launching air strikes, keeping sea lanes free and open for the movement of global commerce, and delivering humanitarian aid following a disaster like the typhoon that devastated the Philippines in 2013. As a member of the U.S. Navy's finest warships, Johnson said she and other Sailors are proud to be part of most capable amphibious force in the world "I have a sense of honor and pride representing this nation as an ambassador for our great nation," said Johnson.

Sailors' jobs are highly varied on America, according to Navy officials. Their job includes keeping all parts of the ship running smoothly-this includes everything from

maintaining aircrafts and engines, processing paperwork, to handling weapons, and flying the aircraft.

Serving in the Navy, Johnson is learning about being a more responsible leader, Sailor and person through handling numerous responsibilities.

"The Navy has given me a stronger work ethic, it's taught me the real meaning of discipline and upholding the traditions and values of a United States Sailor." She has recently taken the test to rank as E-5 but has not gotten the results. Her grandmother will fly to San Diego in December to pin Justice as she receives additional rank. Justice is a 2013 Rusk High School graduate who graduated 13th in her class of more than 100 students. She was a cheerleader and Lady Eagle basketball player. She is the daughter of Chonda Anderson and James Johnson and the granddaughter of John and Joynell Cook all of Rusk.

Why Being There Matters"

On our planet, more than 70 percent of which is covered by water, being there means having the ability to act from the sea. The Navy is uniquely positioned to be there; the world's oceans give the Navy the power to protect America's interests anywhere, and at any time. Your Navy protects and defends America on the world's oceans. Navy ships, submarines, aircraft and, most importantly, tens of thousands of America's finest young men and women are deployed around the world doing just that. They are there now. They will be there when we are sleeping tonight. They will be there every Saturday, Sunday and holiday this year. They are there around the clock, far from our shores, defending America at all times.

Thank you very much for your support of the men and women in U.S. Navy, deployed around the clock and ready to protect and defend America on the world's oceans. **The number of active duty enlisted individuals is 317,054. The number**



Justice Johnson

of reserve personnel at this time is 109,120. Combining both active and reservists that gives a total of 426174 people enlisted in the navy. Many women have served in the United States Navy for over a century. Today, there are over 52,391 women serving on active duty in an array of traditional ... and non-traditional (aviation, combat systems, etc.) ratings or careers.

Like their male counterparts, female sailors are expected to adhere to regulations specific to appearance, grooming, and health and fitness; however some differences exist for example in physical fitness tests due to performance and in relation to pregnancy and parenting provisions created to help support military families. Major changes occurred for Navy women in the 1970s. Alene Duerk became the first female admiral in the Navy in 192. In 1976 RADM Fran McKee became the first female unrestricted line officer appointed to

flag rank. In 1978, Judge John Sirica ruled the law banning Navy women from ships to be unconstitutional in the case Owens v. Brown. That year, Congress approved a change to Title 10 USC Section 6015 to permit the Navy to assign women to fill sea duty billets on support and noncombatant ships. During the 1970s, women began to enter the surface warfare and aviation fields, gained access to officer accession programs previously open only to men, and started to screen for command opportunities ashore.

In December 2015, Defense Secretary Ash Carter stated that starting in 2016 all combat jobs would open to women. In March 2016 Ash Carter approved final plans from military service branches and the U.S. Special Operations Command to open all combat jobs to women, and authorized the military to begin integrating female combat soldiers "right away."

CHRISTIANITY

Anna answered

her calling

staid, serious, unearthly in spirit and had a strangely expectant faith. She very seldom left the temple and probably held the place of a deaconess or sister of charity. We don't have a timeline of her age, but she was about 84 years old when this most important event took place in her life. It is easy to visualize her as a woman erect for her years walking about the temple of Jerusalem in a flowing black dress with a shoulder shawl of blue and a drapery about her white hair. She had a look on her face that seemed to say, "I am one of those who never ceases to believe in the great wonders of God." She had time to enjoy all of God's beauties, such as the stars that lighted the skies at night and the breaking of dawn as the sun rose. She spent much time looking for the Savior's return because she believed. Forty days after Jesus was born, his mother Mary brought Him to the Temple. Out of nowhere, when the priest lifted the child to bless him, Mary announced to the audience, this is our Lord and savior Jesus Christ for which we have long awaited.



Paul said in Romans 12: 4-7, For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same functions, so we though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another, having gifts that differ according to the grace God gives us."

As a member of the body of Christ, He has work for us to do. He places a calling on our lives according to the gifts he gives us. There was a woman in the bible named Anna who listened to the calling God placed on her life, the most important role of which she was to play in the life of Jesus Christ.

Anna was the daughter of Phanuel. She was married at a young age but her husband died after only seven years leaving her a widow. She had no children. Luke 2:36-38 tells us that after her husband died she lived at the temple in Jerusalem. She was humble, kind

WHAT'S COOK'N

Sweet Potato Pie

TOTAL TIME: Prep: 10 min. Bake: 50 min. + cooling

MAKES: 6-8 servings
Ingredients

1/3 cup butter, softened
1/2 cup sugar
2 eggs, lightly beaten
3/4 cup evaporated milk
2 cups mashed sweet potatoes
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1/2 teaspoon ground nutmeg
1/4 teaspoon salt
1 unbaked pastry shell (9 inches)
Add to Shopping List
Nutritional Facts

1 slice: 372 calories, 18g fat (9g saturated fat), 86mg cholesterol, 300mg sodium, 48g carbohydrate (25g sugars, 2g fiber), 6g protein.



Directions

1. In a bowl, cream butter and sugar. Add eggs; mix well. Add milk, sweet potatoes, vanilla, cinnamon, nutmeg and salt; mix well. Pour into pie shell. Bake at 425° for 15 minutes. Reduce heat to 350°; bake 35-40 minutes longer or until a knife inserted near the center comes out clean. Cool. Store in refrigerator. Yield: 6-8 servings.



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AIDS Foundation to host World AIDS Day Luncheon

Author and HIV activist Sean Strub to deliver
keynote address

Houston Methodist Research Institute's
Department of Nanomedicine
to receive Shelby Hodge Vision Award

HOUSTON, TX — AIDS Foundation Houston will host the World AIDS Day Luncheon, generously presented by Chevron, on Thursday, Dec. 1 at 11 a.m. at the Hilton Houston Post Oak. This annual event raises funds to support the organization's goal of "Getting to Zero" — zero new infections, zero AIDS-related deaths and zero stigma.

Event chairs Bill Baldwin (owner, Boulevard Realty) and Ernie Manouse (senior producer/host, Houston Public Media) welcome author and HIV activist Sean Strub as the keynote speaker. Strub is a longtime HIV survivor, founder of POZ magazine, director of the Sero Project, an advocate for PLHIV-led advocacy and PLHIV networks and the author of *Body Counts: A Memoir of Politics, AIDS, Sex and Survival* (Scribner, 2014). His short film, *HIV is Not a Crime*, has introduced the problem of HIV criminalization to audiences worldwide. A longtime activist, he was the first openly HIV positive person to run for the U.S. Congress. He produced the off-Broadway hit *The Night Larry Kramer Kissed Me* and served as a member on the board of the Global Network of People Living with HIV.

The Shelby Hodge Vision Award, dedicated each year to an individual or organization that exhibits extraordinary vision in addressing HIV/AIDS, will be given to the Houston Methodist Research Institute's Department of Nanomedicine. Alessandro Grattoni, PhD — the chair of the Department of Nanomedicine at the Houston Methodist Research Institute — will accept the award for his work on a refillable implant that administers Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) drugs to subjects at risk of HIV-exposure. Grattoni was recently awarded a multi-million dollar grant from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases to enhance the technology which provides sustained and constant release of drugs without the use of pumps, valves or a power supply.

Through this annual event, AIDS Foundation Houston raises critical funds that support ending new HIV/AIDS infections and helps those who are infected. Individual tickets start at \$150 per person, with corporate and individual underwriting opportunities available from \$1,500. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit www.AIDSHelp.org.

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<http://www.window.state.tx.us/procurement/prog/hub/>



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AND VETERANS**

Baby Shower for Joel and Vivian McGowan held



Vivian McGowan seated middle front with her mother Angela and mother-in-law Kathy Harris.

A baby shower for Vivian and Joel McGowan was held Saturday October 22, 2016 from 3:30 P.M. until 5:30 PM at Mt. Pleasant Church Fellowship Hall. Baby Hazel 's projected arrival date is December 26. The McGowans's have one son, Reginal Joel McGowan III, and they live in Tyler.

VFW Post 3406 Celebrates Veteran's Day 2016



VFW Post 3406 kicked off November veterans activities in the classrooms at Rusk Junior High and continued with the November 11th Veterans Day Celebration on the Courthouse square in down town Rusk. Emerson Griffin is Post Commander.

Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, a national association of men who as soldiers, sailors, marines, and airmen served this Nation in wars, campaigns, and expeditions on foreign soil or in hostile waters, is a federally chartered corporation. The purposes of the corporation are fraternal, patriotic, historical, charitable, and educational, and are:

1. to preserve and strengthen comradeship among its members;
2. to assist worthy comrades;
3. to perpetuate the memory and history of our dead, and to assist their widows and orphans;
4. to maintain true allegiance to the Government of the United States, and fidelity to its Constitution.

West Union Faith Ministry celebrates Pastor's Anniversary



Rev. Jimmy Foreman and wife Shirley Foreman

West Union Faith Ministry celebrated the 16th anniversary of their Pastor and wife, Rev. Jimmy and Shirley Foreman at their morning worship service on Sunday, October 30, 2016. Gifts were presented from the choir, the Deacon board, Debra Rushing and the congregation. Rev. Geraldine Harrison, Pastor of Mt. Pleasant CME Church was speaker.

Shady Grove COGIC Eighth Annual Ursher Program



Sis. Zalinda Colston presented gifts to Sis. Maxine Session from Mt. Pleasant CME Church, Rusk.



Sis. Zalinda Colston presented gifts to Missionary Barbara Richardson from First Pentocostal COGIC Church, Jacksonville. Master of Ceremony was Minister Oliver Sturns. Pastor Superintendent Elder Donnie Timmons.

Shady Grove Church of God In Christ Held it's eighth annual ursher board program on Saturday night October 15 at 7:00PM.

The Theme was "Destined to Serve". Speakers were Sis. Maxine Session, Missionary Barbara Richardson and Sis. Zalinda Colston.

Christmas Village at Bayou Bend

The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, presents new activities and enhanced programming for the second annual Christmas Village at Bayou Bend. The 14-acre winter wonderland will feature carolers, Santa, a snowball-play area, holiday treats, a model train display, holiday gifts, live music, art-making activities, and a reindeer. Tickets are currently available online. Please see the attached media alert for more information.

The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston : 713.800.5345 | M: 281.900.9017

Unveiling of the Texas African American History Monument

Texas State Capitol November 19, 2016

Time: 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM
Price: Free

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Obituaries

Carl Edward Foreman

Services were held Saturday, October 15, 2016 at West Union Faith Ministry with Rev. Herman Martin and Rev. Jimmy Foreman officiating.

Carl Edward Foreman was born on April 28, 1931 to the parents of James and Mary Jane Jordon Foreman of Rusk, Texas. He attended school at G. W. Bradford in Rusk, Texas.

He was employed at the Feed Store for a number of years. He then went to work at Rusk State Hospital where he retired after twenty-four years of service.

Carl united with West Union Baptist Church at an early age and remained a faithful member until his death. He served as Deacon and Chairman of the Deacon Board forty years, Superintendent of Sunday School, sang in the church choir where he sang his signature songs "It's Gonna Rain", "Search Me Lord" and "I'm Pressing on". He also sang in the United Community Male Chorus of Larue, Texas for eighteen years. He was the last member of the original Rusk Male Chorus of the 1950s where he sang with late members Fred Sims, James Thompson, Noah Wallace and James Rivers with Loleta Wallace as Pianist.

He later united in matrimony to Dianne Foreman and was married fifty years. To this union one child was born. Carl enjoyed talking and drinking coffee with his friends and strangers that he met. He enjoyed spending time with his wife, children, grandchildren.

Mr. Foreman was preceded in death by his parents, brothers; Vernon traylor and Charles Foreman, sisters; Verline Carter, and Gladys Adams and son Larry Foreman.

He is survived by his devoted wife Dianne Foreman of Rusk, daughters; Shatori (Dave) Tennison of Longview, Dorothy Coleman, Frances (Robert) Browne all of Rusk, Shirley(Fletcher) Session of Tyler, Lue Ann (John) Williams of Jacksonville, sons; Donald(Linda) Foreman of Rusk, Jerry (Bobby Sue) Foreman of Dallas, sister Donna Richards of Rusk, brothers; Lee Earl (Vera) Foreman of Jacksonville, Ollie (Evelyn) Foreman of Rusk, god daughter Faith Moore of Desoto, Tx. grand children, great grandchildren, great-great grandchildren, along with a host of neices, nephews and other relatives and friends.. Services were under the direction of Mercy/McGowan Funeral Home Jacksonville, Texas with interment at Rusk Memorial Cemetery.

There is really a very little difference in people; it is called attitude; and it makes a really big difference. The big difference is wether it is positive or negative.

~W. Clement Stone

Economics: The election won't change anything until we vote with our wallets



By Jim Clingman (NNPA Newswire Film Critic)

By the time you read this, I trust you will have wiped away the slime and the grunge, regurgitated a few times, taken a good bath or shower, relentlessly scrubbed the stench from your bodies, and maybe even found it necessary to delouse, because the dirty, filthy, hateful, distasteful, embarrassing, vile, toxic, grimy, polluted campaign we all witnessed is likely the worst in the history of electing a President.

At the time of this writing (November 4, 2016) the results are unknown, but in light of the lies, slander, vitriol, vulgarity, hypocrisy, hyperbole, false accusations, innuendo, leaks, assaults, and even physical threats of murder, it matters less than usual who wins. No matter the result, there will be millions of people in this country who will be so angry that very little will get done for "The People." January 20, 2017 will be a very sad day for many voters depending on which side is victorious. That's a terrible commentary on this country, and an even worse reflection on the leadership we have chosen. But what does it say about us? We have fought one another over the two

in high regard by the majority of the electorate. It has been suggested that our choice is between the "lesser of two evils," and some say the "evil of two lessers." We have been led down one of two primrose paths of prevarication, perversion, pseudo-piety, and pompous posturing, only to have gone to the polls holding our noses to choose our next leader.

Some have even dropped out of the system altogether because they cannot stand to be a part of such downright evilness. Some have said they will start a civil war, if their candidate does not win; some say they will "take out" one of the candidates if things don't go their way; some have said they will move to another country; and some say the whole system is corrupt anyway so why care about it at all?

We have former candidates who called the two finalists insulting names: "pathological liar," "con man," "woefully unqualified," "criminal," "predator," and the like; but those same self-righteous folks, some of whom profess to be of high moral character, are telling us to vote for the very persons they disdained and denigrated during the primaries. What kind of people are they? Are they typical of what we call a "politician"? Hypocrites who turn on a dime when it's politically expedient for them, no matter what they said a couple of months ago? I guess we know the answers to those questions, right?

Talk about trouble, folks, we are deep into it. This nation is split nearly 50/50, so there is very little room for compromise or concession.

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These Texas Lottery Commission scratch ticket games will be closing soon:

Game #	Game Name / Odds	\$	Official Close of Game	End Validations Date
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1766	60X Fast Cash - Overall Odds are 1 in 3.25	\$5	11/26/16	5/25/17
1669	Lucky Bucks - Overall Odds are 1 in 4.68	\$1	12/28/16	6/26/17
1738	Hit \$6,000 - Overall Odds are 1 in 4.78	\$1	12/28/16	6/26/17
1762	Spicy 9's - Overall Odds are 1 in 4.68	\$1	12/28/16	6/26/17
1754	Cats vs. Dogs - Dogs vs. Cats - Overall Odds are 1 in 4.40	\$2	12/28/16	6/26/17
1725	Jungle Gold - Overall Odds are 1 in 3.88	\$3	12/28/16	6/26/17

For detailed odds and game information, visit tdelottery.org or call 800-375-8888. Must be 18 or older to purchase a ticket. The Texas Lottery supports Texas education and welfare. PLAY RESPONSIBLY. For help with a gambling problem, www.problemgambling.org. © 2016 Texas Lottery Commission. All rights reserved.



Happy Birthday

Walter Session
Nov. 24th

Darren Franklin
Nov. 29th

HEALTH! Are You at Risk for Type 2 Diabetes?

November is National Diabetes Month

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that 29 million people have diabetes, but about 1 out of 4 of them aren't aware of their condition. Meanwhile, more than 86 million people have prediabetes and 9 out of 10 do not know they are at great risk for developing full-blown diabetes. Are you one of these people?

Research diabetes so that you'll learn about the most common factors that increase your risk so that you can become educated and make changes to your lifestyle. Remember that it is possible to prevent or delay diabetes if you take action!

A family history of diabetes increases the risk of developing the disease, especially when one or both parents are affected and you also have contributing lifestyle risk factors such as: physical inactivity and poor diet. If you have a family history of diabetes you should discuss this with your health care provider to assess your need for screening. **Diagnosis of Prediabetes**

Effective screening and treatment of prediabetes can help to prevent the progression of full-blown diabetes. Prediabetes, also referred to as impaired glucose tolerance, is defined as a state by which your blood sugars are elevated, but not high enough to be diagnosed with diabetes. Lifestyle interventions such as diet, exercise and weight loss can help to prevent or delay the diagnosis of type 2 diabetes.

According to the American Diabetes Association, Latinos, American Indians, Asian Americans and non-Hispanic blacks are twice as likely to have type 2 diabetes as non-Hispanic whites. In addition, the types of complications experienced by people with type 2 diabetes in each racial/ethnic group can vary. Click on the links above to learn more about awareness programs and resources available.

Screening for Diabetes: If you've been diagnosed with prediabetes your doctor will likely check your hemoglobin A1C (three month average of your blood sugar) yearly

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

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Entrepreneurs Grow Their Companies with the Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Business Program

By Stacy M. Brown (NNPA Newswire Contributor)

A growing number of Atlanta businesses are living up to the city's famous nickname: Hotlanta!

More than 20 businesses have entered, thrived and graduated from the Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Business program, a scholarship-based course that convenes them to learn critical business skills and create growth plans for their companies.

The Goldman Sachs program is an investment to help entrepreneurs create jobs and economic opportunity by providing greater access to education, capital and business support services.

With 31 sites across the United States and United Kingdom, 10,000 Small Businesses has served over 7,100 small business owners. The program has reached businesses from all 50 states, Puerto Rico, and Washington, D.C., and has resulted in immediate and sustained business growth for the alumni of the program.

One of those successful businesses is Atlanta's own Yardstick Learning, which also has locations in Iowa, Louisiana, Michigan, Illinois, Texas, Colorado and California.

Yardstick Learning is owned and operated by Ebbie Parsons, who has joined thousands of entrepreneurs across the country in an initiative to create jobs.

"Our revenue has grown by 56 percent since participating in the Goldman Sachs program," Parsons said. "Our total employees, including consultants and contractors, grew

109 percent. We have tremendously benefited from the program."

Further, Parsons said he never imagined the program having such a positive influence.

"Frankly, that's all I could do at first was imagine. We're dreamers but seeing any of this come to fruition is just unbelievable, beyond exciting because you're creating an opportunity for yourself and your team and you're helping others and doing good work by helping our clients solve real issues in their respective communities," he said.

Yardstick Learning is considered a leading global strategic management consultant firm that provides strategy and change management services to mission-driven organizations.

"Our clients include, on the education side, K-12 school districts, charter school management, parochial schools, private schools, colleges and universities," Parsons said.

"On the corporation side, we work with several Fortune 500 companies on their social responsibility foundation and we work with international nonprofits," he said.

Parsons' story isn't unique.

The Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses curriculum is designed by Babson College, the leading business school for entrepreneurship. Just six months after their graduation, 68.7 percent of all alumni see revenue growth. Also, 47.9 percent of the alumni create new jobs within that same timeframe. As a comparison, 23 percent of U.S. Small Businesses

For Parsons, the program was a key step to understanding growth opportunities for his business. "What was interesting for us, and me is that the program helped me to understand that we can't solve every problem and that was difficult for me," Parsons said.

"I am an African-American business man and an alum of the nation's largest HBCU and our goal was to expand our services to work with so many more HBCUs and help them with any challenge they may have," he said.

"One of the things I learned the hard way is that we have to connect with clients who can afford our services. As a small business owner, there are some challenges that you can't fix at the time. I had to realize that you just can't tackle every issue," Parsons said.

While participants in 10,000 Small Businesses hail from a wide array of industries, they engage in the program from their shared experience as entrepreneurs.

Georgia alumni include firms focused on staffing, health and

senior care, and other industries.

Through the peer-to-peer learning environment, the participants focus on overcoming universal business challenges – like human resources, access to finance, and leadership.

"I learned that my gift was in nurturing relationships," Parsons said. "But, I also learned that my weakness was that I needed to be a better master of the financials. I did not know initially that it was my weakness until I went through the program and it was a skill set that was honed in the Goldman Sachs program," he said. With an eye to the future, Parsons is ready to keep growing his business.

"After the sobering realization that we don't have the financial strength to tackle every issue that I'd love to, I look forward to building our assets to the point where we can help solve some of the problems that currently we cannot." Business owners are invited to apply to the next cohort of Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses before their upcoming deadline on November 2. Learn more at <http://www.10ksbapply.com>.

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Crockett Texas Houston County has an opening for an adult probation officer. The position will become available in January 2017.

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ETCOG Grants \$87,623 to Continue CodeRed Emergency Notification

ETCOG Grants \$87,623 to Continue CodeRed Emergency Notification System for an Eighth Year Kilgore, TX, November 14, 2016: On November 3rd the ETCOG Executive Committee approved an eighth year of funding CodeRED, a reverse emergency notification system, for the East Texas region as a part of its public safety program. The CodeRED system, funded by a Homeland Security grant, is a telephone communication service that allows the county/city Emergency Management Coordinator to quickly notify citizens about emergency situations such as: Tornadoes and storm events; Drinking water contamination; Utility outage; Evacuation notice and route; Missing person; Fires or floods; Bomb threat; Hostage situation; Chemical spill or gas leak; and Other emergency incidents where rapid and accurate notification is essential. The CodeRED system has been contracted through the Emergency Communications Network since 2009 for all of the counties served by ETCOG, with the exception of Henderson County, due to their 9-1-1 district already providing them a reverse notification system. A total

of eight years of billing with a sum of \$985,310 has been granted by ETCOG, to date, to provide East Texas with CodeRED. The new service agreement is for the period of January 1, 2017 - December 31, 2017 and was approved for \$87,623. A breakdown of the 2017 contract for the East Texas region is as follows:

GoBus to Serve Veterans

In the near future, GoBus in partnership with Longview Transit, Amtrak, the VA, and EasTexConnects are going to be providing trips to the Overton Brooks VA Hospital in Shreveport, LA., twice a week. The service will be provided to our eastern 7 counties: Camp, Upshur, Gregg, Rusk, Panola, Harrison, and Marion. GoBus will pick up veterans from the counties bringing them to the Multimodal center in Longview to catch another GoBus to Shreveport. Passengers will board the Amtrak Lone Star Motorcoach for the return trip in the afternoon back to the Multimodal center where GoBus will pick the passengers back up and return them home. The cost is \$30 round trip, \$15 each way. Just call 1.800.590.3371 to schedule your trip.

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Bills to Reduce Penalties for Marijuana Possession Introduced

Bills to Reduce Penalties for Marijuana Possession Introduced for Consideration by 85th Texas Legislature

House Bill 81, sponsored by Rep. Joe Moody, limits penalties for low-level possession to a ticketable offense. AUSTIN — A bill to reduce penalties for simple marijuana possession was introduced in the Texas House of Representatives today. HB 81, which was introduced by Rep. Joe Moody of El Paso, would remove the current criminal penalties for possession of small amounts of marijuana and replace them with a civil citation and a fine. Details of the bill are available at <http://bit.ly/2gbeTQG>. The bill, which is co-sponsored by Rep. Jason Isaac (R-Dripping Springs), would make possession of one ounce or less of marijuana a non-criminal offense punishable by a fine of \$250. Under current law, possession of two ounces or less is a Class A misdemeanor punishable by up to a \$2,000 fine and 180 days in jail. Sen. Jose Rodríguez, also of El Paso, introduced a Senate companion bill, SB 170. This is the second time Rep.

Moody has introduced legislation to remove criminal penalties for simple possession. Last session, this proposal earned the support of more than 40 co-sponsors in the House and was approved by the House Criminal Jurisprudence Committee before the session closed. The bill was supported by the Texas Association of Business along with dozens of grassroots advocacy organizations, including Texans for Accountable Government and the Texas Young Republicans Federation.

"This bill is about good government and efficient use of resources," said Rep. Joe Moody. "Arrests and criminal prosecutions of low-level marijuana cases distract law enforcement and prosecutors, leaving fewer resources for violent crime."

"State penal statutes regarding the possession of small amounts of marijuana are antiquated and costly. The state and local governments expend millions of dollars prosecuting and incarcerating these non-violent drug offenders," said Sen. Jose Rodriguez. "In addition, those convicted often suffer collateral, disproportionate consequences, such as an inability to find employment or access certain benefits, like student financial aid or housing assistance."

UPCOMING SANTA EVENTS AT BROADWAY SQUARE MALL

WHAT:

Broadway Square Mall invites area-residents to a variety of holiday events with Santa Claus. We hope you will consider sharing the below/attached details with your community. Thank you!

Broadway Square Mall is excited to host a variety of holiday events with Santa and share the magic of the holiday season. On Friday, November 18, families can bring little ones and those young at heart together to have Dinner with Santa from 6 - 8 p.m. in Center Court. Guests will enjoy dinner provided by Chick-fil-a, face painting by Jujubilee, games and a variety of other holiday themed activities with Old Saint Nick! Children with special needs and their families are invited to a special photo experience with Caring Santa in an environment set up to support the sensory, physical, and other developmental needs of kids with all abilities. On Sunday, December 4 prior to the mall opening, families will have the opportunity to enjoy this treasured holiday tradition with no lines, no crowds, and no music, just lots of fun! For local pet owners, the popular Pet Photos with Santa will occur on Sunday, December 4 and Sunday,

December 11 from 7-8 p.m. Bring your four legged friends to Sears Court to meet the jolly old elf.

Breakfast with Santa will take place on Saturday, December 10 in Center Court. From 9 - 10 a.m., a delicious Chick-fil-a breakfast will be served along with face painting, activities and more holiday fun!

COST: *Photo prices vary; please see Santa Set for more details.

WHEN: Dinner with Santa Friday, November 18, 6-8 p.m.
Caring Santa Sunday, December 4, 9-11 a.m.
Pet Photo Nights Sunday, December 4 & Sunday, December 11, 7-8 p.m.
Breakfast with Santa Saturday, December 10, 9-10 a.m.

WHERE: Broadway Square Mall - Sears Court
4601 S Broadway Ave
Tyler, TX 75703

MORE: For more information, please visit www.simon.com.

INFO: Colleen Wagner
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