

Cherokee County Informer



January 1996

Serving Rusk, Jacksonville, Alto, and all of Cherokee County

Volume 1 no. 9

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Informer

UADA offers scholarship details page 13. Local poet writes "from the heart" page 18. Read excerpts from Dr. King's Speech pages 6 & 9.



Meet **Preston Meador**, Jacksonville ISD Board of Trustee Member, Pennell Chapel Sunday School Teacher and more. Retired from twenty years service in the Military, he has the desire and the time to devote to education and community.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Publisher's Corner



When evil men plot, good men must plan. When evil men burn and bomb, good men must build and bind. When evil men shout ugly words of hatred, good men must commit themselves to the glories of love. Where evil men would seek to perpetuate an unjust status quo, good men must seek to bring into being a real order of justice.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Where were you November 22, 1963 and April 4, 1968?

On November 22, 1993, I was in Mrs. Bessie Burns' tenth grade home economics class at Bradford High School in Rusk, Texas. W. R. Meador, the principal, called for an assembly in the auditorium. An assembly usually meant fun and excitement was about to happen. On this day we walked in to see a small black and white television playing on the stage and to hear the news that President John F.

Kennedy had been shot. Most of the girls and female teachers began to cry. For the next hour or so everyone sat quietly glued to the t.v. set. By about one o'clock that very cold day the president had died and we were all sadly on our way home.

The next few days are a blurr in my memory. I don't remember Thanksgiving or anything else other than sitting glued to the television with my cousins Vera and Doris and crying my eyes out.

About four years, four months and 13 days later, a mother of two, my husband and I sat watching television when a special news bulletin announced that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. had been shot while standing on the balcony of his second-floor room at the Lorraine Motel in Memphis. Somehow I knew immediately that, just like President Kennedy, he would not live. Again I sat in front of the television and cried.

I fully understood the impact of his death because I am of the age that I remember life as it was for African Americans before and after Dr. King and the civil rights movement.

A few years after Dr. King's death I read two books about him, "What Manner of Man Is This" and "He Slew A Dreamer." Every now and then I read them again and cry as I did then. As we celebrate his birthday on January 16th I hope people will do as I will and thank God that he sent Dr. King to point out to the world how wrong and how hurtful racism can be.

"Words cannot express the exultation felt by the individual as he finds himself, with hundreds of his fellows, behind prison bars for a cause he knows is just.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Martin Luther

King, Jr.

Day

January 15th

"Freedom has always been an expensive thing. History is fit testimony to the fact that freedom is rarely gained without sacrifice and self-denial".

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.W

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health and prosperity!



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On the cover

Preston Meador Devotes Time To Community

"My mom passed away when I was six years old. From that time on I was reared by my father who was a great guy", stated Mr. Meador. "He had great expectations for me and he let me know this! Growing up, I always had a strong desire to prove myself to him. When dad passed away, I was left in a state of limbo... Full of hurt and anger, so, at the young age of 18, I joined the military." This gave Preston Meador a purpose in life... His Air Force specialization areas were radio communications and telemetry. In 1953 he married Fannie who he describes as his best friend and partner. He retired to Tyler aftr 20 years. Then retired from a second 10 year career at Kelly Springfield. He and his wife then returned to the home they had built in the Pine Grove, Jacksonville, to be near their farm and ranch.

Mr. Meador, Fred Douglas High School graduate, has a Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science from UT Tyler. He is also very active in Pennel Chapel C.M. E. Church, serving as chairman of Trustee Board and teaching Sunday School. He is also President of the Pine Grove Community Improvement Organization, Secretary for the North Side Community Improvement Organization and a member of JISD Board of Trustees since May 1994.

Mr. Meador stated, "I ran for a position on the JISD board because in my Sunday

School work I noticed that some of the students had reading problems. This bothered me, but spurred a desire in me to want to make a difference in the educational process...to cause things to happen that would benefit all children."

When asked to make a statement of phylosophy on life Mr. Meador replied, "There are no free lunches. Someone has to pay. The opportunity exists in America. To youngsters I'll say :

*God is always available to those who seek him.

*Stay off drugs!

*Stay in school!

*Assume the responsibility of citizenship. One person can make a difference!"

Mr. Meador is a regular contributor to The Cherokee County Informer "Point of View." He will soon make an official announcement of plans to run for Cherokee County Commissioner, Precinct #3.



Preston Meador Announces Candidacy for Cherokee County Commissioner Precinct # 3.

Meador says that he feels fully qualified to serve as County Commissioner. He is asking the voters of Precinct 3 for their support. "I will strive to help improve our County in the areas of job opportunities, crime prevention, fiscal integrity, and safer roads. I will not spend tax dallors for personal or political gain. I believe Cherokee County is ready for change." He also said that his election as Comissioner would be proof positive that the people of Cherokee County are willing to move into the 21st century with pride, hope, and a feeling of accomplishment.

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National Policy Institute Planned

By Walter Session

Washington, D.C.- The seventh National Policy Institute will be held **January 25 - 27, 1996** at the Washington Hilton and Towers Hotel. This quadrennial conference for black elected and appointed officials is the only national, nonpartisan conference that bring together public officials from all levels of government at the beginning of each presidential election year.

There are at least 8,000 African Americans who hold elected public office in the US. More than 530 serve in state legislatures alone.

The seventh National Policy Institute comes at a time when profound changes in the political climate in our country and great controversies about the role of government are shaping national priorities. It is also a time when public programs that serve millions of Americans are being cut back or eliminated entirely.

This institute is designed for black public official and others who seek information and data on policies and issues, on strategies that work, and how to make a difference in 1996. In short it will provide an excellent opportunity for black officials to make their voices heard.

Sponsors of the event are: * *

Congressional Black Caucus - Donald Payne, Chairperson

* Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies - Eddie N. Williams, Pres.

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* National Conference of Black Mayors - Robert B. Ingram, Pres.

Contact Yvonne Scruggs, Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, 1090 Vermont Avenue, NW, Suite 1100, Washington, D.C. 20005. Phone 202-789-3500, Fax 202-789-6390.

Children need foster, adoptive homes

QUESTION: How do you make a lasting difference in the life of a child?

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To become a foster or adoptive parent, you don't have to be rich. You don't have to be especially brave. You just have to care enough about kids to give them a loving home.

At your local office of children's Protective Services, you can find out how to become a foster or adoptive parent. You can find out about the financial assistance resources available to foster and adoptive parents.

Please take the time to read "Kid Stuff" and learn more about the children.

All of the children featured in "Kid Stuff" currently reside in foster homes while they await the chance of finding permanent, adoptive homes. All were once abused or neglected. All await the

Continue page 21

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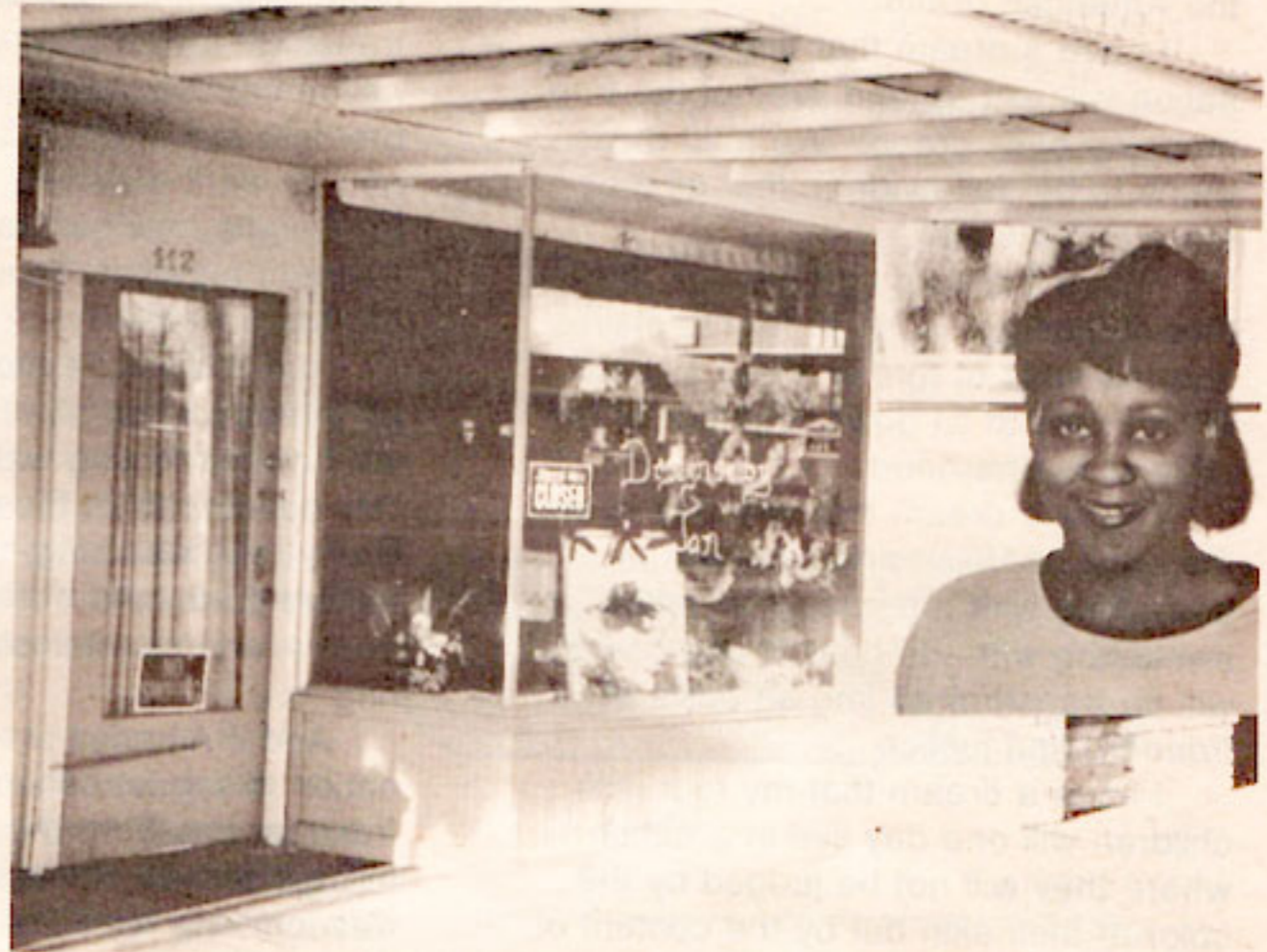
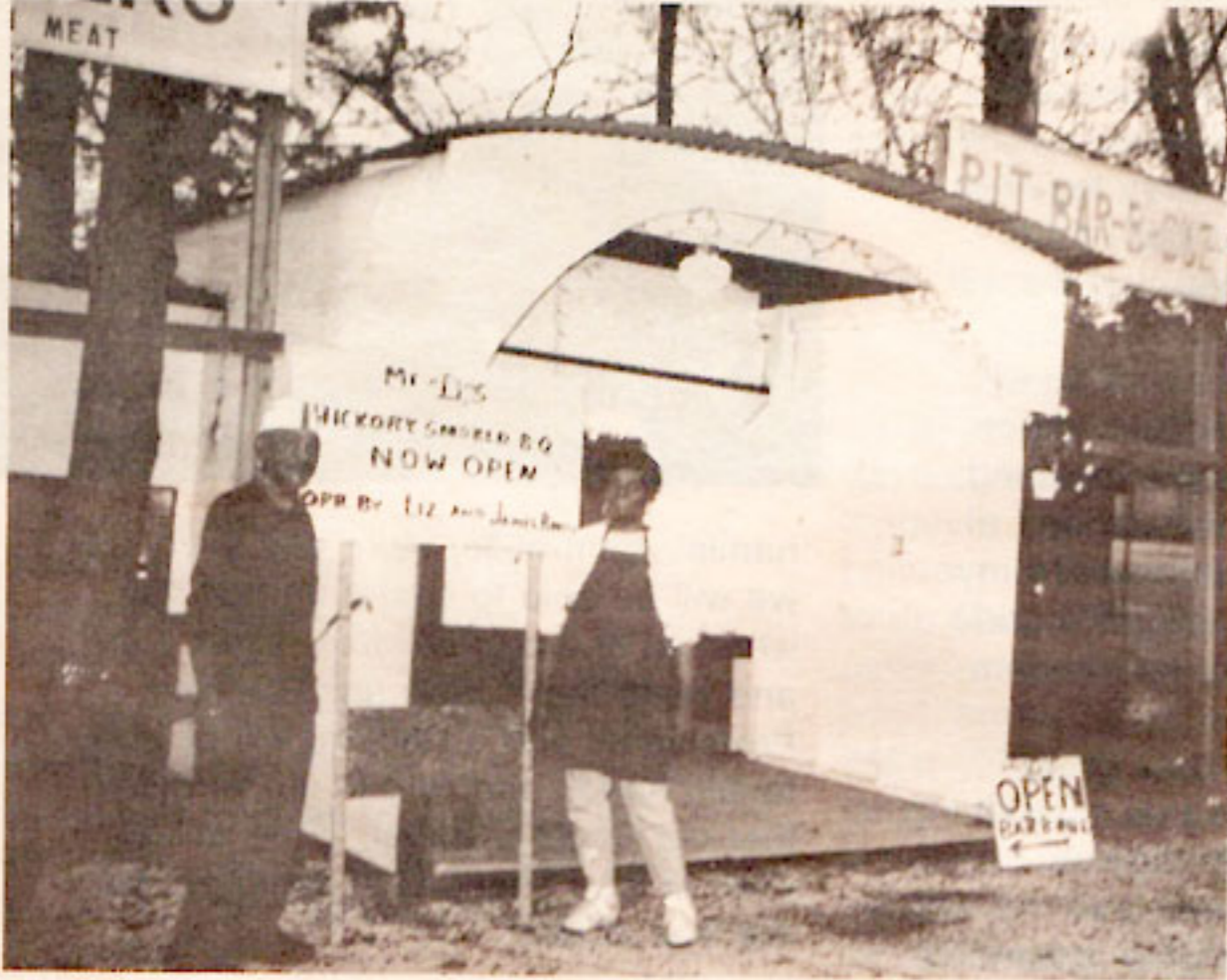
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NEW BUSINESSES OPEN IN RUSK AND ALTO

Designs by Jan, the first African American business to open downtown Alto, opened at 112 San Antonio, November 11, 1995. The owner, Jan Christopher, has operated business as homebased in Alto since 1990. She reports that nearly all of

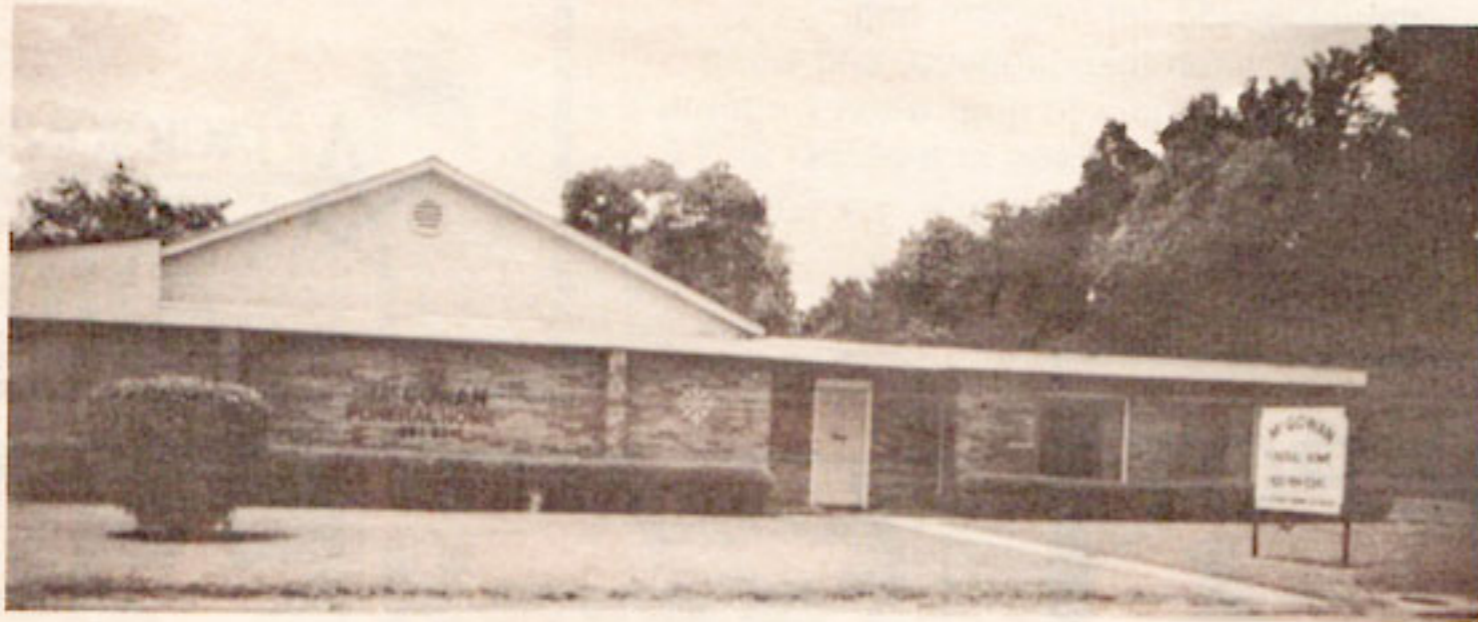
her personally designed pantsuits and other items such as earrings, purses, hairbows, cologne, and floral arrangements sold out during the Christmas rush. She is now in the process of restocking. Opening hours

are Monday through Saturday 10:00-8:00 p. m. Jan is married to Jimmy Christopher and they have one daughter, Adrian. Her mom is Mrs. Agnes Torney of Alto.



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Johnsons spend holidays with Duncanville relatives

Mr. & Mrs. Amsden Johnson of the Elm Grove Community spent the holidays with family in the home of Mr. & Mrs. Cherry (Earnestine Nelson Cherry) of Duncanville. Others who attended the family dinner were Mr. Ocie Barnett, Willie Brown, Inola Coleman all of Dallas. Mr. & Mrs. Sam Earl Nelson of Houston, and Mr. Floyd Nelson of Rusk.

"I HAVE A DREAM"

.....I say to you today, my friends, so even though we face the difficulties of today and tomorrow, I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream.

I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: "We hold these truths to be self-evident; that all men are created equal."

I have a dream one day, on the red hills of Georgia, sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood.

I have a dream that one day even the state of Mississippi, a state sweltering with the heat of injustice, sweltering with the heat of oppression, will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice.

I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.

I have a dream today.

I have a dream that one day, down in Alabama, with its vicious racists, with its governor having his lips dripping with words of interposition and nullification, one day right there in Alabama, little black boys and black girls will be able to join hands with little white boys and white girls and walk together as sister and brothers.

I have a dream today.

I have a dream that one day "every valley shall be exalted, every hill and

mountain shall be made low, the rough places will be made plains, and the crooked places shall be made straight, and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together.

This is our hope. This is the faith that I go back to the South with. With this faith we will be able to hew out of the mountain of despair a stone of hope. With this faith we will be able to transform the jangling discords of our nation into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood. With this faith we will be able to work together, to pray together, to struggle together, to stand up for freedom together, knowing that we will be free one day.

And this will be the day. This will be the day when all of God's children will be able to sing with new meaning, "My country 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing. Land where my fathers died, land of the pilgrim's pride, from every mountainside, let freedom ring."

And if America is to be a great nation this must become true. So let freedom ring from the prodigious hilltops of New Hampshire. Let freedom ring from the mighty mountains of New York. Let freedom ring from the heightening Alleghenies of Pennsylvania!

Let freedom ring from the snowcapped Rockies of Colorado!

But not only that; let freedom ring from Stone Mountain of Georgia! Let freedom ring from Lookout Mountain of Tennessee.

Let freedom ring from every hill and molehill of Mississippi. From every mountainside, let freedom ring.

And when this happens, and when we allow freedom to ring, when we let it ring from every village and every



hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God's children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of that old Negro spiritual, "Free at last! Free at last! Thank God almighty, we are free at last!"

August 28, 1963

Washington D.C.

Excerpt from the speech given at the March on Washington
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

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DARREL AND NELLEAN Unite in Holy Matrimony



Mr. and Mrs. Darrel Sturns united in Holy Matrimony in a beautiful celebration of marriage at 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, Dec, 16th, at Shady Grove church of God and Christ. The Elder Donnie Timmons officiated. Special music was played by Wanda Allen. Special Solo's were song by Kindi McDuff and Doritha Polk. Parents of the bride are Mr. and Mrs. George Shepard, Sr. Parents of the groom Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Sturns, Matron of honor Linda Hackney, best man Oliver Sturns, bride maids Julie Johnson, Joy Johnson, Sheila Sturns, and Nina Polk. Groomsmen were Patrick Sturns, James Johnson, Ronnie Shepard and Chris Sturns. Flower Girl-Elisha Hackney, trainbearer- Jonathan Polk, ringbearer, Justin Sturns. Urshers were Chamberlain Hart and Joel Bowden.

Young Men Together



YMT members pictured above from left to right are:(front row) Joel McGowan, Eddie Walter Harris, and Aaron Rushing (back row) Ryan Rushing, Akeem Leviston, Kevin Cook, and Eddie Harris. YMT members not pictured are: Royce Hunt, Bobby Jerome Cook, Marcus Carter, and Jason Overstreet.

Eddie Harris has worked activity with Rusk Little Dribblers, youth and adult basketball, and hardball. Now he's mentoring to a group of young boys. They have adopted several streets for trash pickup in Dickerson 1st Addition including Martin Luther King Drive. The city of Rusk furnished the group with bags.



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Point of View

75 Things You Can Do...

to help end violence and drug abuse in our community.

★ **SET AN EXAMPLE**

- ✧ Don't use drugs or abuse alcohol.
- ✧ Stop smoking.
- ✧ Look for other ways to handle stress than drinking or taking drugs
- ✧ Serve non-alcoholic beverages at parties.
- ✧ Be careful not to let guests or friends drink to the point of drunkenness -- especially if you are serving.
- ✧ Do not drive after drinking.
- ✧ Refuse to ride with a driver who has been drinking.
- ✧ Encourage friends who have drinking or other drug problems to seek help.
- ✧ Be willing to recognize signs of problem drinking in yourself, your friends or colleagues and do something about it!
- ✧ Reduce your use of caffeine and over-the-counter medications.
- ✧ Educate yourself about the warning signs of alcohol and other drug abuse by reading pamphlets or watching TV specials.

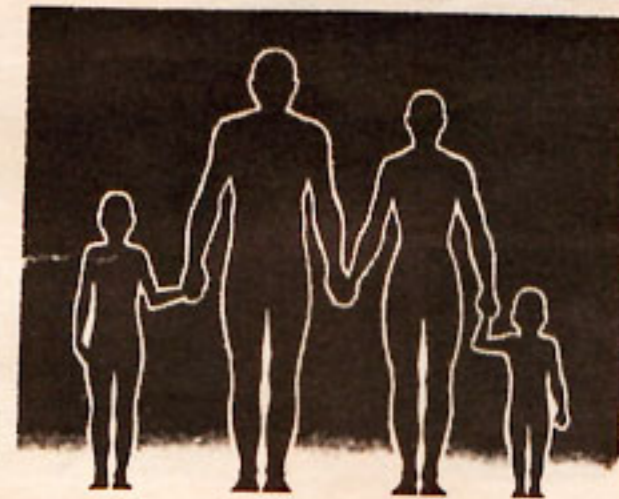
★ **ADVOCATE**

- ✧ Ask radio and television stations to increase the

- ✧ Ask your video stores about their free drug prevention videos.
 - ✧ Support funding for prevention programs.
 - ✧ Discourage networks from running prime time programs that glamorize alcohol or other drug use.
 - ✧ Write or call to express your appreciation for positive television programs against drug abuse.
 - ✧ Write letters to the editors of your local papers expressing your concern about substance abuse.
 - ✧ Do not view programs that promote use of alcohol and other drugs.
 - ✧ Ask experts in your community to write editorials about prevention & treatment for local newspapers.
 - ✧ Invite federal, state and local legislators to visit local community groups.
 - ✧ Write to the television networks to express your concern about commercials that glamorize alcohol or portray high-risk activities.
 - ✧ Write to your legislator and express your concerns about the problems and ask for support for effective prevention programs.
 - ✧ Urge legislators to focus on solutions to prevent users from using drugs.
 - ✧ Suggest to legislators that they take a long term approach and not look for "quick fix" solutions.
 - ✧ Urge legislators to contact local prevention professionals in developing drug abuse prevention plans.
- from the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention and the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America*

When evil men plot, good men must plan. When evil men burn and bomb, good men must build and bind. When evil men shout ugly words of hatred, good men must commit themselves to the glories of love. Where evil men would seek to perpetuate an unjust status quo, good men must seek to bring into being a real order of justice.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



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Religion

Don't hate, it's too big a burden to bear.

--Martin Luther King, Sr.

Jesus commands us to love those who hate us. "Do good to those who hate you," he says. How is this possible? Hating those who despise us is like hitting those who strike us. Both are reflexes.

Daddy King preached love for decades. It is noble, and it is also common sense. Hate is heavy. Hating someone is like dragging around a cumbersome weight wherever we go. Hate is a hassle. It is awkward and bulky.

Jesus gives us the strength to love, but when we hate, we're out there by ourselves. He will have no part of that. Living in this world without hating is challenging but possible. We must allow God to rescue us from the temptation to retaliate.

Can you shun the heavy burden of hate and pick up love?

Dear God, I need your strength to help me love when I'd rather hate. Amen.

For further meditation read Luke 6:27-

"It was Cain who first killed his brother. He has returned and he's killing our brothers and sisters this time, but he calls himself Cocain."

-Cloteal Johnson

MISSION CIRCLE CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

The Mission Circle thanks God for a successful December program which ended activities for 1995.

On Wednesday, December 6th, 6:30 p.m. we celebrated our Eight Pre-Christmas Program at Woodville C. M. E. Church. Theme: "Joy To The World The Lord Is Come." For unto you is born this day in the city of David, A Savior, which is Christ The Lord. Luke 2:11. The Pastor, Rev. M.L. Bell, spoke from Luke 1:26-28 and Proverbs 31:29-31. His text was titled "The Blessed Virgin." Dinner was served afterwards in the Fellowship Hall.

On December 13th, 2:30 p.m., a Pre-Christmas Program was presented at Oak Park Care Center by The Mission Circle. Theme for December was "Christmas Is A Joyous Time to Serve." The Program consisted of singing Christmas carols and reading Christmas poems. Rev. James H. Wickware, Pastor of Blounts Chapel Baptist Church, spoke on "Why We

Celebrate Christmas?"

On December the 14th, 2:30 p.m. The Mission Circle presented a program at Birmingham Health Care Center. We sang Christmas carols and read Christmas poems.

The Mission Circle, during this season, focuses on this thought, it is more blessed to give than to receive. Gifts were presented to both nursing homes. Christmas cards were given to the sick and shut-in with a token of love inside. A Christmas card was given to each Pastor of the circle, also with a little token inside to let them know how much we appreciate them.

We want to thank Mrs. Helen Finley, a resident of Birmingham, for the beautiful music, and the staff of Birmingham for the refreshments.

As we enter into a new year, we wish to thank the staff and residents of both nursing homes a happy new year!

**Happy 9th Birthday
AMBER
Love, Daddy**



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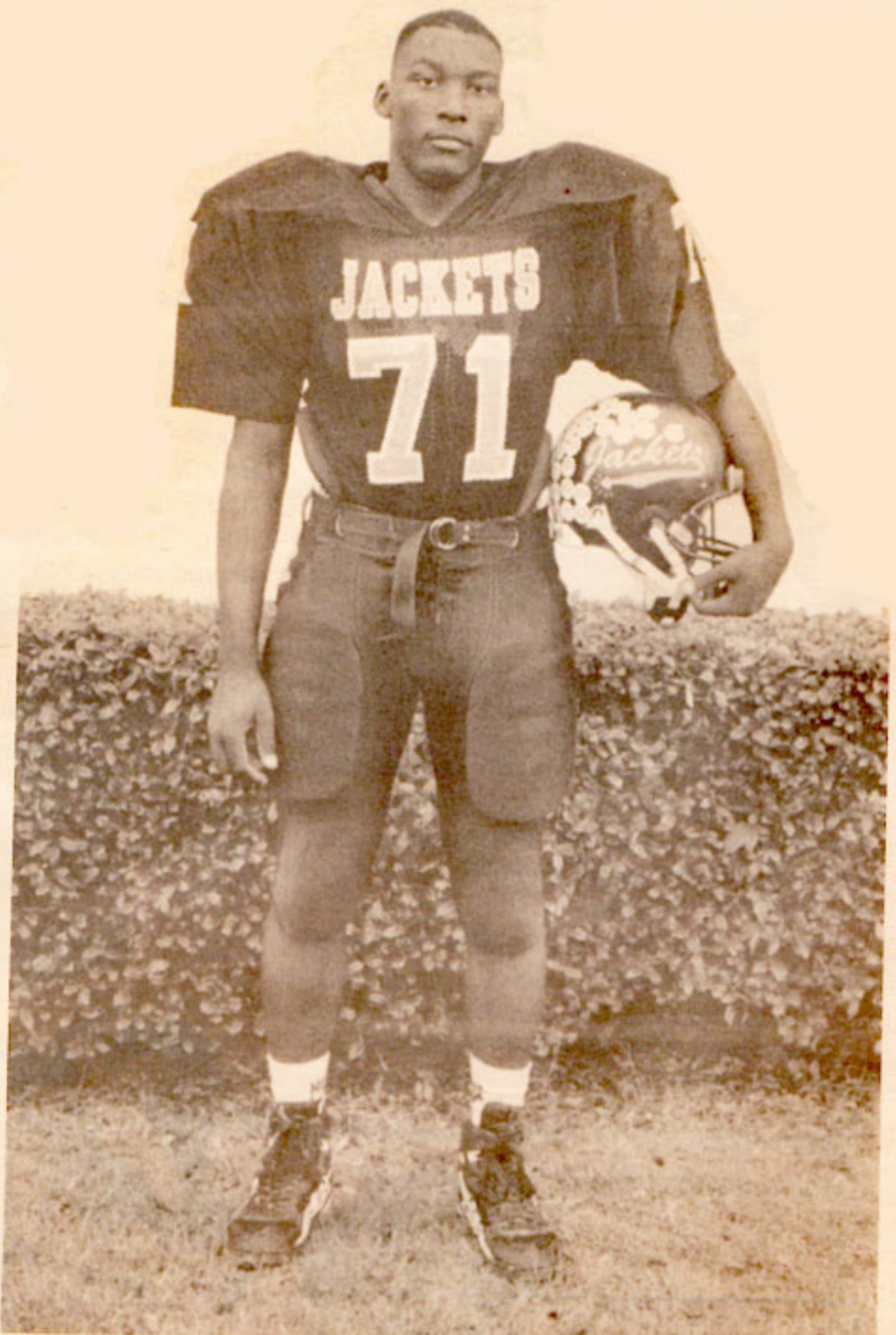
Good Sports

Michael Hackett voted Defensive Player of the Year

Martin Luther
King, Jr.
Day
January 15th

Michael Hackett, one of the stars of the Alto Yellowjackets, was the main link in the powerful chain that helped propel the team to the Astro Dome in Houston and Texas Stadium in Dallas. Alto 15-0 faced Celina 14-1 in a State Championship game. Hackett a 6-1, 200 plus pounds player, played defense extremely well. He was instrumental in leading the Alto defense with 116 tackles, 5 knock down passes, and 2 block punts. He received more votes at the defensive end position than any other 2A player which earned him the Defensive Player Of The Year. Michael is the son of D.B. and Doris Hackett of Alto.

Alto fought a hard battle, but so did Celina. When the final seconds passed Celina won 32-28. The entire team played well in a group effort all season which landed the Yellowjackets in state finals.



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SCRATCH & DENT

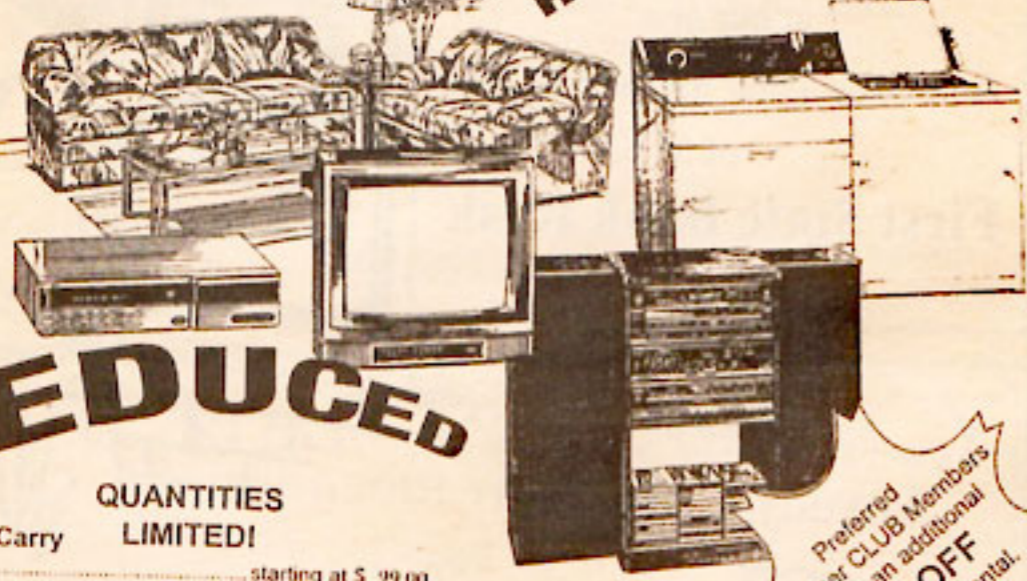
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NEW YEAR!**

Speak Out

Corrections and Law Enforcement...BIG Business In America

Corrections and law enforcement are big business in America. A recent Justice Department report stated that over 1.1 million people nation wide are locked up with that number on the rise. A December 3, 1995 report shows that between June '94 and June '95 a record setting 89,707 new inmates were lodged in state and federal prisons. State and Federal budgets including constructions,

guard salaries, housing and other costs totaled 22.3 billion dollars according to the corrections handbook. Over the past decade California built 19 prisons, and one University. One of every 14 black males is locked up.

Why do you think this is happening? What do you think can be done to turn around this trend?

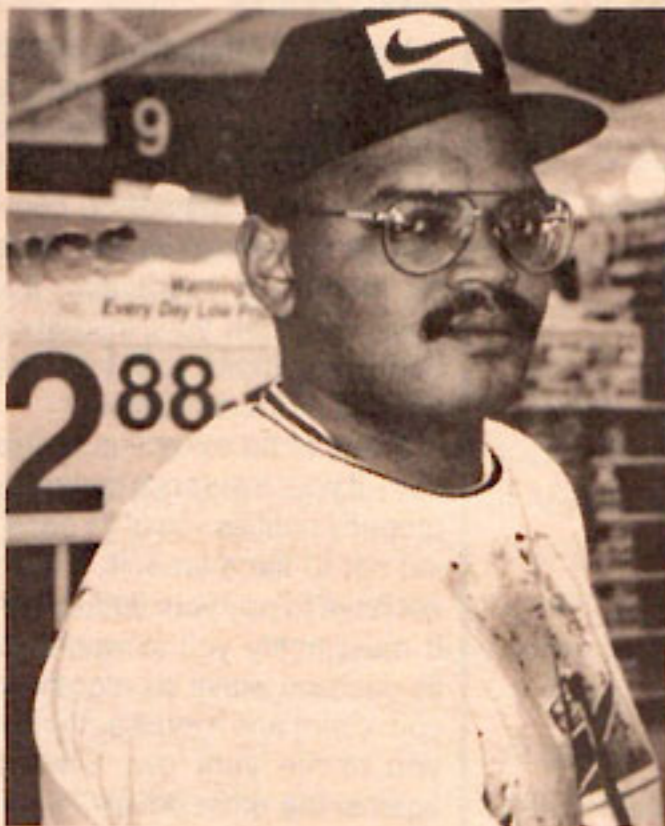
The following people speakout!



Charles VanZandt, Tyler
 Why? It's moral decay of God's Law. There is a separation between God and man. We have to be reconciled with God through repentance.



Floyd Franklin, Rusk
 "Black men often feel frustration and hopelessness given their situation as compared to men of other races. Some of the things we can do is give our young people encouragement, let them know their capabilities and try to give them positive influences."



Thomas Bowens, Jacksonville
 Why? "Police target blacks." "The black community needs to become better educated, the older citizens don't need to give up on the youth as early as they do. There needs to be (safe - supervised) places for youth to hang out like community centers to play basketball."



Rev. Herman Martin, Alto, Pastor of West Union Baptist Church, Rusk
 "So many doors are closed in the black man's face! You go to fill out an employment application...there are always excuses given like...the job is filled, we're not hiring, while the job gets filled through the buddy system, or word of mouth." "With the current system the way it is, there is going to have to be legislative changes made."

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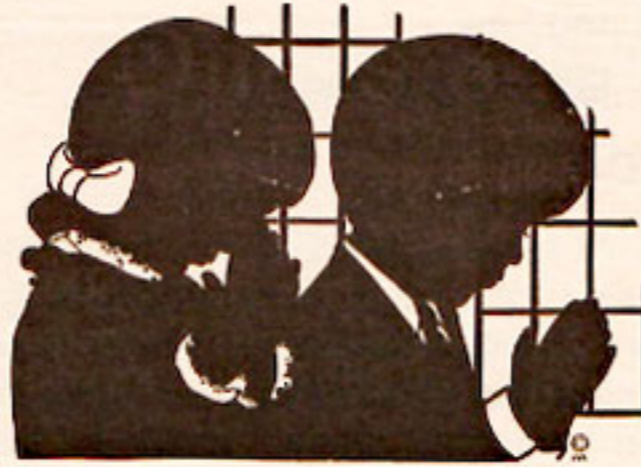
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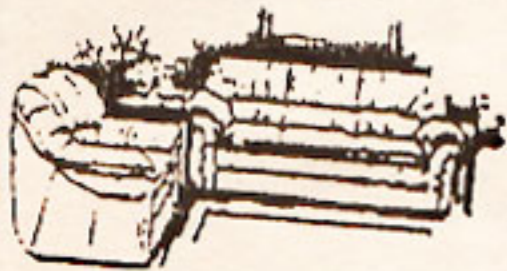
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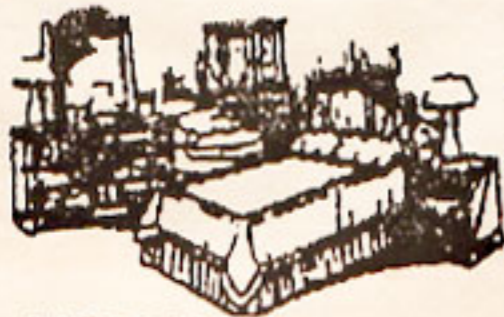
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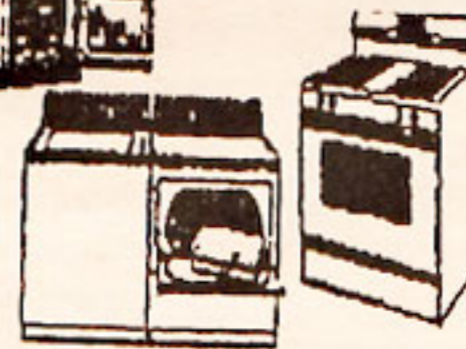
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Yes. If the other driver was at fault, your insurance company must file a lawsuit against the other driver to recover your deductible. Your insurance company is required to do this within six months of your claim. If it does not, then your insurance company must pay you the amount of the deductible.

There is an exception to this law - if your insurance company properly notifies you of its decision not to file a lawsuit, it does not have to pay your deductible. It must notify you in writing of its decision within six months of your claim and it must authorize you to file your own lawsuit against the other driver.

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USDA Offers 34 Scholarships

-by Hugh Soape, Ext. Agent-1890

Prairie View A&M University is in its third year of participation in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) 1890 national scholars program. "Prairie View A&M University has provided educational opportunities for some of the nation's best and brightest young people through this undergraduate scholars program," said Horace Hodge, USDA Liaison Officer at PVAMU. "This program also enhances the diversity of USDA's workforce through the employment component of the program. We consider Prairie View A&M and the other 1890 institutions to

be important partners with USDA, and we encourage students who are interested in a career in agriculture, food or natural resources to consider this scholarship program."

USDA provides students in the program with full tuition, fees, books, use of a personal computer, software, employment, and employee benefits for each of the four years they are pursuing a bachelor's degree. The institution provide the scholarship recipients with room board for each year.

To be considered, a student must score 1,000 on the Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT) or 21 on the American College Test (ACT), have at least a 3.0 grade point average, and demonstrate successful leadership and community service. In addition, students must be U.S. citizens, demonstrate good citizenship, and sign a service agreement to work one year for USDA for each year of the scholarship support.

To date, 107 students have been selected as USDA/1890 national scholars and six have attended Prairie View A&M University. USDA's goal is to provide 34 undergraduate scholarships each year. In addition, USDA established a Woodrow Wilson graduate fellowship program during 1995 and selected nine fellows from the pool of 1890 scholars.

Anyone interested in more information about the USDA/1890 National Scholars Program can contact Hugh Soape, Extension Agent - 1890 at the Cherokee County office of the Texas Agricultural

Extension Service, or call Horace Hodge, USDA Liaison Officer, USDA/1890 National Scholars Program, Prairie View A&M University (409-857-2996). Applications for 1996 must be received by January 15, 1996.

SHANNON BATTLE EXCELS IN POSITIVE ACTIVITIES



Shannon Battle is a sixth grade student attending Jacksonville Middle School. She is currently enrolled in Honors Math, English, and gifted-talented reading. Shannon is a peer mediator and enjoys reading, listening to music and playing the piano. She is a member of Fordyce Music Studio, Jacksonville Mass Youth Choir, and Christian Youth Fellowship. Shannon's career goal is to become a pediatrician. Her parents are Jerry and Elizabeth Battle, grandparents C.L. and Louise Battle and Laura Boyd all of Jacksonville.

Kimberly Clark Leads RJH In Accelerated Reader Points



Rusk-Kimberly Clark, Rusk Junior High 7th grader, leads the student body in Accelerated Reader (AR) points. She has read over 70 books since the beginning of the 1995-96 school year. So far this year she has earned 448 points. The program is designed to help students improve their reading skills as well as develop good reading habits. Students earn points by reading a book, then taking a computer test over the book. Points are earned according to the points the book is worth and the test score. Students can purchase any of the following items from the school AR store using their points earned: \$20.00 gift certificates, Nike t-shirts, earrings, fishing rods, caps, vests, toys, Nike socks, a day as principal, etc. Kim's goal is to earn 500 points in order to become principal for a day at Rusk Jr. High. She is the daughter of Charles and Shirley Clark and Granddaughter of Thurman and Hazle Session.



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Church News

Pennell Chapel 104-Years Old

In the month of October, 1891, a small group of men assembled in the home of one of the group to discuss the organizing of a Christian Methodist Episcopal Church in the community of Pine Grove.

From that humble beginning, the Pennell Chapel CME Church was born. A small **church** was erected near the site where the old Pine Grove School now stands.

Twenty-five years later, in 1916, a new church was built near the site of the present church. The first pastor of the new church was Reverend H. Heth. The Presiding Elder was Reverend J.E. Raines. The Trustees were Ollie Johnson, Ed Meador, Abe Session, William Shanks, and David Simms.

Thirty-four years later, in 1950, the church was in need of major repairs. Reverend S.P. Session asked the Trustees to devise a plan to improve the church. Under the wise leadership of the chairman of the Board of Trustees, R.V. Johnson suggested that the church be constructed in such a manner that it could be bricked at a later date. His suggestion was accepted and a sturdy frame church was built.

Some years later, under the leadership of two different Ministers, Reverend I. W. Whitmore and Reverend A. C. Mitchell Patton, Major improvements were made to our church. New windows were installed, a dining area was added, central heating and air conditioning was installed, the old pews were replaced with new ones, and indoor plumbing was added.

Thirty-nine years after the frame church was built, Reverend W.M. Johnson and the membership agreed to place brick around the church and make other needed improvements. The work was completed in May, 1990 and rededication service was held May 27, 1990, with presiding Elder Robert Christopher Officiating. The speaker for the occasion was Reverend Vynoid McCallister, Presiding Elder of the Longview/Marshall District of the East Texas Conference.

Brother R.V. Johnson was called from labor to rest before his idea for bricking his beloved church could be fulfilled. The members of the church agreed to dedicate the church flower garden in his memory.

It is of historical significance that for the first time in the history of Pennell Chapel a female minister was assigned. Rev. Orenthia D. Mason began pastoring on August 8, 1993. *She succeeded Rev. W. M. Johnson who had been our pastor for more than fifteen years. Rev. Mason is now in her third year as our pastor.*

Special thanks to Barbara Meador Carter, daughter of W.R. Meador and the late Flora Anderson Meador. She is to be commended for providing the funds for the installation of a much needed telephone in our church. We are proud to make this event a part of our church history. The donation was presented September 11, 1994.

Let us not forget our early members and founders.

- RICHARD AND TAMER CARTER**
- ROBERT AND DELCIE FRANKLIN**
- BEN HALL**
- ISREIL HARRIS**
- STEVE AND JANE HARRIS
- OLLIE AND DORA JOHNSON
- ANDERSON AND GEORGIA JONES
- ANDERSON AND NILLEIE MEADOR
- ED AND LIZZIE MEADOR
- GEPRGE AMD SALLIE PORTER
- ABE AND GEORGIA ANN SESSION
- FRANK AND CARRIE SESSION
- OWEN AND LAURA SESSION
- WILLIAM AND MATTIE SHANKS
- DAVID AND BEATRICE SIMMS
- WILLIAM AND HANNAH SIMMS
- JOHN AND MAUDELLA THOMPSON
- JACK AND ANNIE WORD

The offspring of our founding fathers who are more than three score years and ten

- ADAMS, MAUDI JEWEL.....LANDOM, ROZELLA
- BELL, DOCIE.....MEADOR, CLEO
- CHRISTOPHER, DOSSIE.....MEADOR, EVERETTE
- DENIS, COLLEAN.....MEADOR, NANCY
- DENNIS, LAURA.....MEADOR, W.R.
- DENNIS, VIRGLE.....MOSLEY, DIOTHA
- DOUGLAS, DONNIE.....MOORE, VERA
- FRANKLIN, BUFFORD.....PERRY, LOLA
- FRANKLIN, NORA.....PORTER, REVIS
- FRANKLIN, ROBERT.....PORTER, TRAVIS
- GIVENS, RAYE.....PRICE, ARDELIA
- HARRIS, NEATER BELL.....REDDEN, COZETTE
- HOWARD, HELEN.....ROSS, BILLY B.
- HUNTER, WYOZA.....ROSS, ELI
- JOHNSON, MINERVA.....SHIELDS, ELOISE
- JOHNSON, VERNON.....SIMMS, BENNIE
- JOHNSON, VIVIAN.....SMITH, EVELYN
- JONES, ALTHERIA.....SMITH, GEORGIA
- JONES, GLOVER.....WILLIAMS, GERTRUDE
- JONES, JOHN HENRY.....WILLIAMS, HENRIETTA
- JONES, LANGSTON.....WILLIS, VALMON
- JONES, LASSIE MAE

Pastors of our church, The Reverends:

- E C BRANCH
- N G GILBERT
- H HETH
- G.W. LAND SR.
- G.W.LAND JR.
- W.M. JOHNSON
- G YOUNG
- E C RAGSDALE, SR
- S P SESSION
- T.E.WADY
- I.W.WHITMORE
- A.C.PATTON
- Present Pastor, Rev. ORENTHIA D. MASON

Presiding Elders, The Reverends:

- T.C GREEN
- J.C. HENRY
- O.B. JOHNSON
- M.D. McCALISTER
- J.E. RAINES
- T.P. SCOTT
- G.D. SMITH
- J.J. THOMPSON
- Present Presiding Elder, Rev. ROBERT CHRISTOPHER

Presiding Bishops, The Reverends:

- R A CARTER
- C D COLEMAN
- E COTTRELL
- N.S. CURRY
- B.W. DOYLE
- M.F. JAMISON
- J C MARTIN
- J.W. McKINNEY
- C H PHILLIPS
- H.P. PORTER
- L.C. STEWART
- Present Presiding Bishop, Rev. MARSHALL GILMORE
(Assigned to the eighth episcopal District in 1994)

TO GOD BE THE PRAISE



Community

Parkers celebrate 50th Anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. George W. Parker of Weeping Mary Community, Alto, celebrated their 50th anniversary by renewing their wedding vows at Weeping Mary Baptist Church on December 26, 1995. Rev. Herman Martin, their son-in-law, officiated. The youngest grandson, John Harver Parker Jr., was ringbearer. Their children are James Earl Parker of Dallas, George Parker Jr. of Corsicana, Emma Lee Martin of Alto, Ella Ree Payton of Alto, Ellie Reen Washington of Dallas, Carroll Parker of Alto, Janice M. Martin of Alto, Willie Lewis Parker of Alto, John Harvey Parker of Alto. All but one of the Parker children were present and participated in the celebration ceremony.

Happy Belated Birthday

Aunt Lovie

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Helping Hands Organization to Meet

The Helping Hands Organization grant writing committee will meet Tuesday, January 2, 1996, 12:00pm at the ETET board room in Rusk. The organization is currently seeking funds from private foundations to establish a multicultural

Center. In September of '95 the city of Rusk allocated \$15,000 recreation funds toward this project. For more information contact Sharon Phillips, Lynda Roberson or Maxine Session.

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Alto Care Center

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Mike Drewery, Administrator

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What's Cooking

SOUTHERN CHITTERLINGS

- 10 pounds of chitterlings
 - 1 cup of diced onion
 - 1 cup diced celery
 - 6 small hot peppers
 - 3 cloves garlic, minced
 - 2 tablespoons salt
 - 1 tablespoon black pepper
 - 1 cup cider vinegar
 - 1 tablespoon sugar
1. Soak chitterlings in warm salt water 30 minutes. Cut each into 12-inch pieces. Slit open. Remove all fat particles and debris. Wash in warm to hot water 3 to 5 times. Place in large Dutch oven or kettle. Add onion, celery, peppers, garlic salt and pepper. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat. Cook on medium-low heat 4 hours.
 2. Add vinegar and sugar. Cook on low heat one hour.

6 servings

Delia Johnson, Caterer
Johnson's Catering

MOMMA'S EGG CUSTARD

Crust

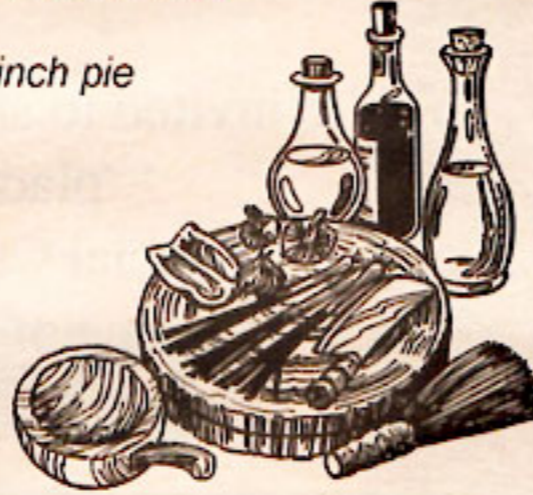
Unbaked 9-inch Classic
Crisco Single Crust

Filling

- 1 cup sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 2 teaspoons flour
- 1 tablespoon butter or margarine, melted
- 1 tsp. Vanilla
- 3 eggs, well beaten
- 1 cup milk

1. Heat oven to 350 degrees fahrenheit.
2. For filling, combine sugar, salt and flour. Add butter, vanilla, and eggs. Add milk and mix well.
3. Pour into unbaked pie shell.
4. Bake at 350 degrees fahrenheit for one hour (until firm).

One 9-inch pie



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CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

MT. PLEASANT C.M.E. CHURCH

205 Reeder Street
Rusk, Texas

CHOIR ANNIVERSARY

Sunday, January 28, 1996
2:30 p.m.

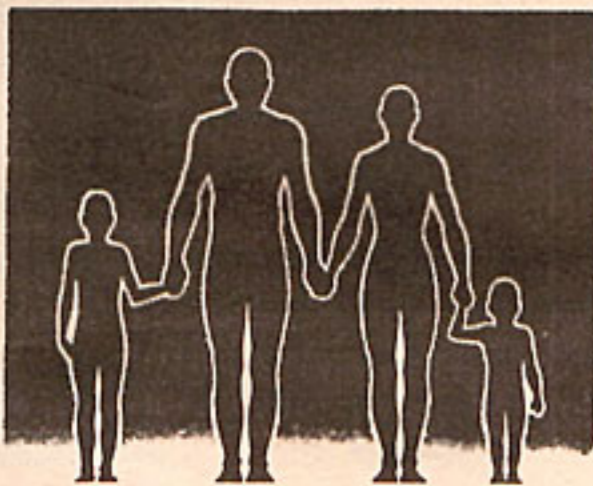
Rev. James Wickware, Speaker
Rev. Billy Burnett, Pastor

MEN'S DAY PROGRAM

February, 11th, 2:30 p.m.

BLACK HISTORY SERVICE

February 25th, 11:00 a.m.



**THE FAMILY IS
REAL POWER!**

West Union Baptist Church

Beale Street
Rusk, Texas

PASTOR'S ANNIVERSARY

Sunday, January 7, 1996
3:00 p.m.

Rev. C.E. Jeffery of Goodwill Baptist Church, Lufkin Tx., Speaker
Rev. Herman Martin, Pastor

Blount Chapel Baptist Church

Hwy. 84 E. Rusk, TX.
Shady Grove Community

PASTOR'S ANNIVERSARY

Sunday, Jan. 21, 1996
3:00 p.m.

Rev. James Wickware, Pastor

Woodville C.M. E. Church, Rusk,

Texas, will celebrate its **FIRST ANNUAL MEMBERS NIGHT PROGRAM**, Saturday, January 20, 1996 at 7:30 p.m.
Rev. M.L. Bell, Pastor.

Elm Grove Mission Hosts Birthday Party

Elm Grove Community Missionary Society hosted a December birthday party for the residents of the Oak Care Center - Rusk.

Missionary members who attended are Sweetie Rufus, Carrie Christopher, Betty Christopher, L.V. Stafford, and Cloteal Johnson.

Woodville C.M.E. Church,

Rusk, Texas, will celebrate **AUXILIARY NIGHT**, Saturday, February 24, 1996 at 7:30 p.m. Rev. James H. Wickware, Speaker.

Rev. M.L. Bell, Pastor.

Shady Grove CME Church, Rusk

Invites the public to their Black History Program, Sunday Feb. 28, 3:00 pm.
Rev. C. Hill, Pastor
Sis. Geneva Harris, Pro. Chair.

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GARRETT MORGAN (1877-1963)



Inventor Garrett Morgan invented the three-color electric traffic signal that now stands on almost every street corner worldwide. It was patented in 1923.

Garrett also invented Garrett's "safety helmet" patented in 1912. It was

is the prototype of the modern gas mask used by fire departments and emergency rescue squads. In Cleveland in 1916, a gas explosion in the waterworks trapped city workers in a tunnel 250 feet below Lake Errie. Morgan led a

crew consisting of his brother Frank, and several fireman, all wearing Morgan's safety helmets, into the tunnel. They rescued six unconscious people who otherwise might have perished with the twenty-one others who died.

Four white members of that rescue squad were awarded medals by the city and heralded heroes, while Garrett Morgan, whose ingenuity and bravery inspired the rescue effort, went virtually ignored. The City Government never recognized him for his act of heroism.

From the heart

MY LOVE..Brown Angel

By Betty Walker

Sometimes when my days are especially long, I will say, "Go away. I have things to do." His eyes transmit a quizzical -- "What's wrong?" He says, "You can hug me if you want to."

Sometimes when I putter around the yard, I will decide to plant a rose or maybe a yew. "Put down that rake. Why is your head so hard?" He says, "You can hug me if you want to."

He's always been awed by the sky above. He writes about a spaceship and it's crew. When I read a story, his eyes reflect love. He says, "You can hug me if you want to."

He has no claim to fame, someday he may. He'll grow tall and handsome, wise and true. And my heart will melt whenever he will say, "Momma, you can hug me if you want to."

A Black Mother's Vow

by Betty Walker



A young black mother tired and weary from pain. Smiles dreamily in a languorous periphery of joy. A little brown baby is placed there by her side. Tho uniformed, she knows instinctively - - a boy!

"I'll hug you, and kiss you, and I'll cherish you with love. I'll keep a constant vigilance as you grow tall, wise, and strong. **Black boy child born into this cruel and treacherous world,** My love will be an impenetrable shield from all hurt and wrong!

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"I'VE BEEN TO THE MOUNTAIN TOP"

.....We have been forced to a point where we're going to have to grapple with the problems that men have been trying to grapple with through history, but the demands didn't force them to do it. Survival demands that we grapple with them. Men, for years now, have been talking about war and peace. But now no longer can they just talk about it. It is no longer a choice between violence and nonviolence in this world, it nonviolence or nonexistence.

That is where we are today. And also in the human rights revolution, if something isn't done, and in a hurry, to bring colored peoples of the world out of their long years of poverty, their long years of hurt and neglect, the whole world is doomed.

.....If I lived in China or even Russia, or any totalitarian country, maybe I could understand some of these illegal injunctions. Maybe I could understand the denial of certain basic First Amendment privileges, because they hadn't committed themselves to that over there. But somewhere I read of the freedom of assembly.

Somewhere I read of the freedom of speech. Somewhere I read that the greatness of America is the right to protest for right. And so, just as I say, we aren't going to let any dog or water hose turn us around. We are going on.

.....Let us rise up tonight with a greater readiness. Let us stand with a greater determination. And let us move on in these powerful days, these days to challenge, to make America what it ought to be. We have an opportunity to make a better nation. And I want to thank God, once more, for allowing me to be here with you.

.....I don't know what will happen now. We've got some difficult days ahead. But it really doesn't matter with me now, because I've been to the mountain top. And I don't mind. Like anybody, I would like to live a long life; longevity has its place. But I'm not concerned about that now. I just want to do God's will. And He's allowed me to go up to the mountain. And I've seen the promised land. I may not get there with you. But I want you to know tonight that we as a people will get to the promised land. And I'm happy tonight, I'm not worried about anything. I'm not fearing any man. Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord.

April 3, 1968
Memphis, Tennessee
Excerpt from Dr. King's last speech, before he was assassinated on April 4.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday celebration Planned

Jacksonville- Unity of Jacksonville invites everyone to join in the celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday on Monday, January 15th. It will begin with a march at 11:00 a.m. at the corner of North Main and Lincoln and will proceed South to Sweet Union Baptist Church where a program will be held.. For participation information call Helen Scott or A. J. Rhodes at 586-6120.

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Letters can provide evidence of freeworld support

Submitted by Mr. T.

The following information is for the benefit of family and friends of inmates who are interested in supporting efforts for parole by writing letters to the Board of Pardons and Parole. **Support letters can aid parole.** Inmates in the Texas Prison system are encouraged by the Board of Pardons and Parole to provide evidence of support for their release on parole. One way to do this is through letters of support. There are no rules for such letters. The following are only suggestions. Letters of support are evidence

that the inmate will have a network of friends and family to offer help when he or she is released. **Who should write these letters?** Family members, close friends, distant relatives, respected members of the community, TDCJ Supervisors or others who have known him while in prison, such as Chaplain, Counselor, Teacher, and volunteers should write these letters. Three to ten support letters should be enough. There are several general areas of information to be included: relationship to inmate, how long you've known him or her, your belief that, despite his mistake he is a good person, and the reason you feel this way, your belief that the offender

will be a useful and lawabiding citizen if given the opportunity.

You may describe improvements in the inmate's attitude, efforts to improve himself, and behavior.

You should send your support letters to the board of pardons and paroles in Austin, directly to the members of the control panel, or Dr. Mae Jackson-Rt. 5 Box 258A, Gatesville, Texas 76528. The Board of Pardons and Paroles, P.O. Box 13401, Capital Station, Austin, Texas 78711.

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Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



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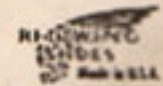
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Contact your local office of Children's Protective Services and ask for an application.

Or, attend a free information meeting. In Austin, free information meetings on "how to become a foster or adoptive parent" are held the second Tuesday of every month, 6:30 p.m., at 7901 Cameron Road, Building 3, **Longview,**

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Miss Joyce Receives Degree



Pamela Denise Joyce received a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education with a specialization in English from the University of Texas at Austin on December 9th.

She is a 1991 graduate of Rusk High School and is the daughter of Billy and Irene Joyce.

Veronica Hamilton Attends SFA



Veronica Hamilton of Rusk has completed the first semester of her Junior year at Stephen F. Austin State University with a 4.0 grade point average. Miss Hamilton, a 1992 Rusk High School graduate, is majoring in education. She is the daughter of Wayne & Callie Dearman and the granddaughter of Leon & Connie Dearman.

Miss Wallace Attends TJC



Miss Arelia Wallace, a 1994 Jacksonville High School graduate is in her second year of attendance at Tyler Junior College. Her major field of study is education with emphasis on English. Miss Wallace is the daughter of Jerry and Alice Wallace of Jacksonville.

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East Texas Youngster Makes a Difference in Austin

by Maxine Session



Jennifer Cole Doyle, 24 year old granddaughter of Willie Cole of Rusk, L. V. Jones of Jacksonville, and great-great granddaughter of Ora Ward of Rusk has accomplished for the youth of Austin what some have dreamed of for Cherokee County. On November 11, 1995 in East Austin (predominantly black part of the city) ground breaking for "The Capital City Entertainment Center" was held. The 9 million dollar project will serve as headquarters for a youth group called "For the Youth by the Youth". This group was organized by Mrs. Doyle and a former Austin city Councilman in response to the murder of 16 year old Tamika Ross and three other youth who were murdered. According to police reports Tamika was gunned down by three other youth because of drug involvement. Her family strongly denies the drug involvement. Three years ago, Jennifer was angered at an Austin public meeting as she listened to one city leader declare that "youth are lost" indicating there is nothing that can be done to save them. Mrs. Doyle told the Austin American Statesman, "It struck a nerve in me", so at age 19, in defense of her fellow young people and with help from the former councilman she organized the group.

The City of Austin soon realized that Jennifer was a new force to be reckoned with. Her contention was that the youth of Austin, especially the African American youth, needed something constructive to do. She pointed out that there was no entertainment east of 35 in the Capital City. That means no movie

theaters, no bowling allies and no skating rinks. Jennifer knew that giving the youth something to do would not eliminate the problem but would certainly help. Soon other youth and adults began to join her effort.

The former Councilman helped secure the funds to purchase an old abandoned shopping center building on Rosewood Avenue. Many critics complained that she was too young to be the head of a city funded board. Disagreement rose over the projects \$816,000 annual budget. Others have dropped out along the way, but Jennifer is determined to keep the goal in front of her. She also continuously reminds herself that the project is bigger than any one person.

Since the project began three years ago, Jennifer has become a wife and mother. She is married to Cedric X, the Head of the Austin Chapter of the Nation of Islam. She is the daughter of Charles Cole of Tyler.

Because of Jennifer's dedication what was an old abandoned shopping center will soon become For the young men and women of east Austin a state of the art entertainment center in a safe environment.

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Book signing successful

Barron's Book Store and George Foreman made up the perfect team to bring together, young/old and black/white. His book signing turned out to be a gathering of all God's children. While the book signing and interviews were going on inside Barron's Book Store, those on the outside were entertained by two area youth choirs. Starting the line up of praise songs was the New Life Outreach Church Youth Choir, where Pastor Mattie Thompson is the shepherd. Next came the harmonizing voices of the Longview Chapter Interdenominational Youth Choir, established by Rev. Eddie Templeton.

In addition to having a good time by displaying their God given talents, the young people were treated to a super long hoagie submarine sandwich, courtesy of Barron's Books, Brookshires and George Foreman.

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Wilson curtails affirmative action

LOS ANGELES - Governor Pete Wilson signed an executive order curtailing affirmative action programs in California state government saying the programs were basically unfair.

Wilson's order repeals three executive orders from previous Governors George Deukmejian, Jerry Brown and Ronald Reagan and eliminated more than 100 programs using race and gender preferences to increase diversity.

The executive order eliminates scores of affirmative action advisory panels, wipes out hiring goals in some agencies and ends policies used to attract more women and minorities to government positions, unless they are required by law or by court order.

Wilson also called for an end to affirmative action policies affecting hiring and admissions in higher education.

Wilson became the first national leader to roll back affirmative action programs, and he is expected to make affirmative action a major platform in his presidential campaign.

Wilson, in remarks delivered by Joanne

Kozberg, secretary of California's State Consumer Agency because the governor is still recovering from throat surgery, said he will continue to aggressively pursue additional changes to laws that mandate special preferences for minorities and women in the bureaucratic culture of government.

The Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Californians for Equal Opportunity and the American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California immediately denounced the governor's action.

The groups said Wilson's attack on affirmative action could only be explained as a desperate effort to recover ground in his bid for the presidency by further polarizing Californians.

"By attempting to dismantle 30 years of hard-won, closely scrutinized affirmative action programs, Pete Wilson hopes to become the president of the United States," said Ramona Ripston, the ACLU's executive director. "He has deemed institutional discrimination - which Bob Dole's Glass Ceiling Commission has confirmed as an acute national problem - to be less

important than his own political future."

The order drew a stinging indictment for San Francisco Supervisor Carole Migden, who predicted the city would ignore the order.

The governor's order directs the state Department of Forestry and Fire Protection to hire nearly 2,000 seasonal firefighters each year strictly on the qualification so the applicants. Nearly 60 percent of the hires last year were women and minorities.

"We must replace the outdated policies of preferential treatment with a new vision based upon justice, upon individuals merit, and upon the fundamental civil rights principle of equality under the law," Wilson's statement said.

The governor's order changes the hiring standard for state agencies so that "relevant labor pool" who possess the necessary skills and qualifications rather than the percent of the group in the overall labor force.

The requirement that the racial and gender ration on job interview panels for Civil Service and career executive assignment positions mirror that of the population as a whole is also being eliminated.

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