

THE Anchor NEWS

FREE! | JANUARY 2023 VOLUME 20, NUMBER 6

MLK CANDLELIGHT VIGIL & WREATH LAYING CEREMONY PLANNED

BY TRAVIS GIBSON

Almost four decades ago, Commissioner Lester L. Gibson had a vision that was strategically planned to express great respect and honor to Dr. Martin Luther King's legacy. This year will be the 37th year of the Martin Luther King Candlelight Vigil and the 35th year of the Wreath Laying Ceremony, and the first time Commissioner Gibson will not be present.

Commissioner Lester Gibson and his wife, Coque Gibson, organized the first annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Candlelight Vigil and Wreath Laying Ceremony, which was held Monday, January 20, 1986 at Indian Springs Park. This event marked the first observance within McLennan County honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday. On January 16, 1988, the candlelight vigil event was relocated across the Brazos River to the newly named Martin Luther King Jr. Park.

Friday, January 15, 1988,



COMM. LESTER GIBSON

the first MLK Wreath Laying Ceremony was given life. Held at the Martin Luther King Jr. Park, the candlelight vigil and the wreath laying ceremony were combined as a community reminder to observe the national holiday recognizing Dr. King. The wreath laying ceremony marks the beginning of the activities recognizing and honoring his dream and legacy, while the candlelight vigil marks the culmination of the

activities. Coque Gibson has coordinated the candlelight vigil and the wreath laying ceremony since 1987.

The Honorable McLennan County Commissioner Lester L. Gibson was a servant leader and civil rights activist that loved his community. He served with conviction and passion, while dedicating his life to fight against all injustices and their impact on all oppressed people. Commissioner Gibson was a visionary, organizer, and strategic thinker that planned with the end result in mind.

You are cordially invited to attend the 35th annual Wreath Laying Ceremony Friday, January 13th at 12:00 pm at the Martin Luther King Monument located at 200 South Martin Luther King Boulevard. The 37th Annual Candlelight Vigil will be Monday, January 16th at 6:00 pm. Due to construction, the candlelight vigil will take place at The Front Porch/

SEE **MLK**, PG. 9

A HARKER HEIGHTS LEGACY, DR. LILLIAN L. BILLIE

By W.B. Gunter

Dr. Lillian Billie established a foundation of service and excellence in Central Texas many years ago. She arrived in Bell County as music teacher who taught at Marlboro Heights Elementary School and became an active member of the community. Cathedral of Deliverance and Praise Church of God In Christ was founded March 12, 1969 by her late husband, Superintendent Edward R. Billie, who passed away in 2020. In 2023, the Harker Heights church will celebrate its 54th year, with Dr.



DR. LILLIAN L. BILLIE

Billie as Supervisor of Women's Department.

Dr. Billie was one of 30 women selected by the Church of God In Christ to fulfill the duties of the church. She was installed at the headquarters in Memphis, TN where she received her cap. Her duties include helping to build churches and continue the mission in Texas and beyond. She keeps in communication with other supervisors and district superintendents to ensure all needs are met.

SEE **BILLIE**, PG. 15

ATTORNEY CRIS HOUSTON PROVIDES SERVICES TO THE COMMUNITY

Cris Houston, Esq. obtained her Doctor of Jurisprudence in 2004 from Harvard Law School in Cambridge, Massachusetts. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Finance in 2000 from Hampton University in Hampton, Virginia. Attorney Houston is a licensed attorney (since 2005) and a mediator (since 2018) in Texas.

Attorney Houston's career as a professor, Legal Research and Writing Program Director, and Academic Success and Bar Preparation Program Director spans a combined total of seventeen (17) years. Attorney Houston has taught Legal Research and Writing, Appellate Advocacy, Academic Success, Bar Preparation, Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure, Business Law, Business Leadership and Ethics, and Employment Law courses. Furthermore, she has practiced law, primarily in wills and estate planning, for a total of seventeen (17) years.

Since 2018, Attorney Houston has passionately performed mediation services at every opportunity, garnering experience mediating a wide variety of cases with the objective of bolstering her mediation skills in order to build a successful career in mediation and other fields of alternative dispute resolution. She is also currently completing an American Arbitration Association A. Leon Higginbotham Fellowship to strengthen her alternative dispute resolution skills.

Attorney Houston serves her community through her involvement



CRIS HOUSTON

in the Harvard Alumni Association Early College Awareness Program, National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Club, Christian Women's Job Corps Volunteer Program, Lone Star Legal Aid Pro Bono Attorney Program, McLennan County Dispute Resolution Center Board of Directors, Community Race Relations Coalition Board of Directors, and Greater Waco Legal Services Board of Directors, to name a few of her community service endeavors. She enjoys traveling, Zumba, reading, patronizing the arts, and trying new restaurants and cuisines, among other things.

Attorney Houston attends Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church in Houston, Texas and Open Door Church of God in Christ in Waco, Texas. She is a devoted servant of Christ and a staunch advocate for civil and human rights with a passion for education and diversity, equity, and inclusion work.

**J.L. & LINDA CRAWFORD**

A co-owner of *The Anchor News*, J.L. Crawford is the director of operations for the paper. He is also an instructor at McLennan Community College, a Bible teacher, and a LegalShield Senior Manager. Linda Crawford is co-owner and editor of *The Anchor News*. She is an instructor at McLennan Community College, a Bible teacher and a conference, workshop and motivational speaker.

Remembering 2022 | NEWS THAT MADE HEADLINES

DR PEPPER MUSEUM & FREE ENTERPRISE INSTITUTE NAMES ANTHONY BETTERS SR AS BOARD CHAIR

—FEBRUARY 2022—

BY MARY BETH FERRELL

Reprinted by Permission from staff at Dr. Pepper Museum
The Dr Pepper Museum and Free Enterprise Institute (DPM-FEI) is proud to announce its 2022 Board officers and new members. Anthony Betters, Sr., past Secretary and board member, is now the Board Chair for 2022. Other officers are the following: Autumn Outlaw, Immediate Past Chair; Evan Hankins, Treasurer; and Adrian Sepcic, Board Secretary.

Betters said about his recent appointment: "To continue the excitement in exposing the Museum's mission of education and creativity to our guests locally and around the world, it is a pleasure to serve as Board

Chair. In an era of diversity, equity, and inclusion, especially in organizations and boards in the City of Waco, it is even more of an honor to serve as the first African American board officer and Museum Board Chair." Betters Sr., a TSTC graduate, was born and raised in Waco and works in the City of Waco's Watershed Protection Division. He and wife of 33 years, Sharon Betters, who is a graduate of Paul Quinn College, have jointly volunteered on numerous boards, committees, and inner-city youth teams as coaches to positively serve the city where they were both raised.

Betters Sr. is particularly excited about working with the team of incoming 2022 Board officers and new members, especially Autumn Outlaw, who served as Board Chair in 2020-2021 and was instrumental in helping successfully navigate the many challenges brought on by the Pandemic. Outlaw

**ANTHONY BETTERS, SR.**

is the Community Educator for Bluebonnet Health Services. Rounding out the 2022 Executive Committee are Evan Hankins, Senior Vice President and CFO of The First National Bank of Central Texas and Board Secretary Adrian Sepcic, Senior Manager of Product Development Innovation Research and Development at Keurig Dr

Pepper.

New Museum Board members for 2022 include Mito Diaz-Espinoza, Ph.D, Case Coordinator in Baylor's Office of Equity, Civil Rights, and Title IX; Priscilla Martinez, Co-Director of Faith, Family & Friends homeschooling co-operative; and Angelo Ochoa, Investment Advisor at Disciplined Investors, LLC. All bring valuable experience and a community focus to the Museum. "We are so fortunate to have assembled such a talented and diverse team of Board members dedicated to the Museum's mission and to our community," said Betters Sr. "I am also extremely grateful for the opportunity to work alongside outgoing Board members Pat Cargill, Janet McCarty and Gary Luft. The Museum's success to this point would not have been possible without their many years of dedicated service."

FROM THE CRAWFORDS

Life has changed as we know it. We are yet faced with COVID and so many other issues.

A few of this month's articles are dedicated to 2022, articles remembering progress made and those remem-

bering some of the loved ones we lost.

Of course, only a few are included here. The community remembers many more. They may not be mentioned here, but we remember. Enjoy the first issue of 2023.

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CHERRY MILLS BOGGESS STILL MAKING HISTORY

—MARCH 2022—

BY LINDA CRAWFORD

Who would have thought Cherry Mills at 17, would become a civil rights activist? Who would have thought Cherry Mills at 17, would be part of the 60's lunch counter sit-in protests? And who would have thought Cherry Mills at 17, would be going to jail for participating in such activities? Yes. Who would have thought?

**CHERRY MILLS BOGGESS**

Certainly not her parents, Billy and Cherrye Mills. They sent their daughter to Knoxville College to major in music, to get an education, not to do sit-ins and go to jail.

"They were very upset with me when I went to jail," said Boggett, "and pulled me out of school to take me back home to Miami."

Boggett was terrified at the

SEE **BOGGESS**, PG. 6

THE *Anchor* NEWS

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PURPOSE

The Anchor News, dedicated to serving the community and surrounding areas, focuses on positive news and accomplishments of minorities.

POLICY

Anchored on the principles of scripture, *Anchor News* will at no time publish information that is potentially libelous material or intentionally malicious, derogatory or irrelevant.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Signed opinion articles do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the editorial staff. Unsigned editorials

reflect the opinions of the editor.

LETTERS & ARTICLES POLICY

The comments and opinions of our readers are welcomed. Letters and articles should be e-mailed. Letters should be no longer than 200 words and must include a name and phone number. Article submissions should be no longer than 450 words and should include an original head shot (in jpeg

format) along with your name, address and phone number. We reserve the right to edit for grammar, space, potentially libelous material and copyright infringement. We also reserve the right to refuse derogatory, irrelevant and malicious submissions.

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Subscriptions are \$39 a year (12 issues) and can be paid by check or money order. Send all correspondences to *The Anchor News*, P.O. Box 1206, Hewitt, Texas 76644, or email to theanchornews@aol.com.

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Remembering 2022 | NEWS THAT MADE HEADLINES

THE BLACK & WHITE SOUL JAZZ AFFAIR PLANNED FOR MAY 7TH IN WACO

—APRIL 2022—

Waco, get ready! Coming to the Waco Convention Center May 7th, Waco Jazz Now and Black-Tie Productions proudly presents The Black & White Soul Jazz Affair. Producer, Rick Eddings, has put his heart and soul into this show, offering the audience no short-cuts in his line-up of performers. The show features the legendary Delfonics, the original soul jazz flautist, NAACP image award winning saxophonist Jazmin Ghent, 2x Grammy nominated R&B vocalist, Mary Griffin, and Waco native Dallas based Saxophonist Rob Holbert.

The Delfonics, known for their Philadelphia sound, brought new excitement for R&B lovers, especially during the late 60's and early 70's. The group, consisting of brothers Wilbert and William Hart and high school friend Randy Cain, started out singing at school functions and



THE DELFONICS

other community events. Their excellence and popularity eventually landed them a contract and the rest is history. Some of their most well-known hits include "Ready or Not, Here I Come," "La-La Means I love You," and "Didn't I Blow Your Mind This Time?"

Jazmin Ghent, female saxophonist, has humble beginnings. Born in Germany and raised in Alabama, her musical interest

most well-known hit is "Heat."

From Houston, Texas, Mary Griffin is a Grammy nominated R & B vocalist. She has 21 Platinum records and has opened for well-known artists such as Etta James, Anita Baker, Mary J. Blige, the Temptations and Jennifer Holiday, to name a few. Griffin has sung a number of movie soundtracks, such as "I Wanna Get Back with You" for the movie, Driven, starring Burt Reynolds, and "Speed" for Holiday on Ice.

Waco native, Rob Holbert, is known for his saxophone skills and R & B vocal. He has performed with more artists than we can list here, including Bobby Bland, Betty Wright, and Althea Rene, to name a few. Known for his Smooth Jazz sounds, Holbert is talented in any genre of

music and can perform for any audience, any age, and any occasion.

Born on Christmas Day, Althea Rene is well known to the Waco stage. She began in music at age 4 and rose to the top while working as a deputy sheriff. A renown flautist, Rene had the first flute featured piece to become #1 on the Billboard and Smooth Jazz charts.

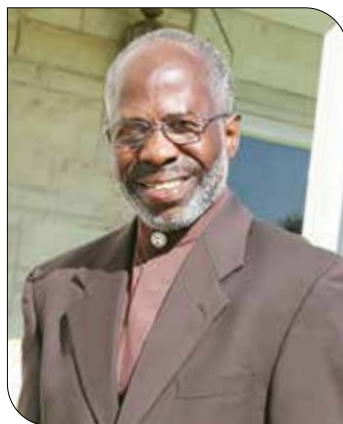
The Producer's VIP Reception starts at 6 p.m., and concert time is 7. Ticket prices range from \$45--\$75. For more information or VIP table reservations, call 254-229-0258 for the 2022 Black & White Soul Jazz Affair.

JAMES ORVILLE MCCOY, FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS

—JUNE 2022—

Mr. James Orville McCoy never met a stranger and offered wise counsel to anyone with whom he crossed paths. His arsenal was full of topics, including wellness, nutrition, self-esteem, faith, the human connection and experience, entrepreneurship, work ethic, patience, endurance, and brotherly love. We miss James Orville McCoy. He touched so many lives. He was unselfish with his time and mentored countless young men and women about leading purposeful Christian lives.

James was born on Thursday, August 16, 1945, in Fort Worth, TX to Odie Lee McCoy, Sr. of Oakwood, TX, and Vera Pearl Person McCoy of Corsicana, TX. At the time, James' father was in the U.S. Army and stationed at Fort Leonard Wood, MO. After he was discharged from the Army, the family moved to Fort Worth where James and his older brother Odie, Jr. were born, joining his older sisters Mary Franklin and Bobbi Batton. They lived in Fort Worth for several years before returning to Corsicana and later moving to Waco, TX. Growing up in Waco, James was educated in



JAMES ORVILLE MCCOY
(1945 – 2022)

the Waco ISD, graduating from the historic A. J. Moore High School in 1963. At his mother's insistence, James participated in the high school marching band. He developed his life-long skill as a musician with his favorite instrument, the saxophone.

James served in the military from 1966 to 1969. He was honorably discharged from the Army on February 27, 1969, a distinctive date in his life history: Fifty-three years later, he transitioned to eternal rest on

SEE **MCCOY**, PG. 7



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Remembering 2022 | NEWS THAT MADE HEADLINES

COMMISSIONER LESTER GIBSON: SAYING GOODBYE TO OUR "MAN DOWNTOWN"

—JULY 2022—

Who was this man with the voice that people heard over all other voices? Who was this man that faced the giants in his life with the simple statement, "Ain't scared,"? Who was this man who came to the rescue of so many, the poor, the middle-class, the blacks, whites, browns? Who was this man?

Lester Leon Gibson planted his feet, set his shoulders, and became an advocate for change in his beloved community of East Waco, aiming to make it a better place. He became the voice of the people, encouraging the recognition, understanding, and resolution of social injustices that were taking place in his community. He was not satisfied with the local leadership in the community, so he got involved in local politics to invoke meaningful change.

Commissioner Gibson was a dedicated servant for the Waco, McLennan County, Texas community. He devoted his life to uplifting and advancement of

the underprivileged and has led a rewarding life in the field of Public Administration. Commissioner Gibson retired from McLennan County on December 31, 2018, after serving the citizens of the County for twenty-eight years. He was the first African American to be elected to the McLennan County Commissioners Court, and he was the longest-serving county commissioner in the history of McLennan County. Commissioner Lester L. Gibson will be long remembered for his work with the community's youth, the expansion of economic development, equity, inclusion, and his unconditional love for the advancement of his community.

Lester Leon Gibson was born on May 28, 1949, to the parents of Olester and Blossie Marie Gibson in Teague, Texas, and passed on June 17, 2022. He was the only child born to this union.

He spent his early years balancing time between Teague and Fairfield, Texas where he learned the value of education



LESTER GIBSON

and the importance of family. Lester had a close relationship with his fraternal and paternal grandparents. (Garrett and Gibson) Although he was an

only child, he had many cousins who affectionately called him "Lester" or simply "Leon."

Lester Leon Gibson began his formal education in the Teague Independent School District. He attended Booker T. Washington Middle School and completed his freshmen year at Booker T. Washington High School, in Teague, Texas. In 1964, his mother accepted a teaching position in Waco. He and his mother relocated to Waco, Texas where he attended and graduated from A.J. Moore High School in 1967. After graduation, he continued his post-secondary education at Prairie View A&M University.

Following a brief stint at Prairie View, he returned to Waco before enlisting in the United States Navy and serv-

ing in the Vietnam War. He often talked about his time spent on the U.S.S. Tolovana. After honorably serving his country, he returned to Waco, Texas, and was united in holy matrimony to his soulmate, and the love of his life, Coque Johnson Gibson, on Christmas eve, 1969. To this union, four children were born, three sons and one daughter. This union was witnessed by their families and Blessed by GOD for fifty-three years. He graduated from Baylor University in 1974, earning his Bachelor of Arts Degree in Sociology.

Commissioner Gibson was one of the founders of the Texas Organization of Black Coun-

SEE **GIBSON**, PG. 7

—AUGUST 2022—

ANCHOR NEWS CELEBRATES 20 YEARS

...in Waco and surrounding areas.

HUNTERS CELEBRATE THEIR 21ST APPRECIATION SERVICE

—SEPTEMBER 2022—

Toliver Chapel is excited to honor its leaders in the faith. Dr. Jimmy D. Hunter, the pastor of Toliver Chapel Missionary Baptist Church, is a native of Austin, Texas. He is known as a pastor, a dad, a grandfather, a friend, a son, and so much more. Dr. Pamela Hytche-Hunter holds many titles, as well, and fills many roles. One of her roles is as an active partner in ministry with her husband. For 45 years, she and Pastor Hunter have been married, which makes the "First Lady" one of her titles. They both hold the titles of parents and grandparents.

The Hunters are partners in their pursuit of life-long learning. Pastor Hunter believes education is a must-have, no



DR. JIMMY &
DR. PAMELIA HUNTER

matter what a person's interests are. He is focused on everyone in the family and his circle reaching their highest potential. While the First Lady is a woman of many talents

and many interests, some things are most dear to her heart. Her family, for example, is number two, coming only after God, and education is in her DNA because of her upbringing. The Hunters seem to share that DNA, and they view anyone they encounter as having the same gene; thus, they push any and everyone toward excellence regardless of their age. As a matter of fact, Dr. Pam just recently lived out the adage, "Age is just a number," graduating with her PhD in Organizational Leadership from the University of Maryland Eastern Shore in Princess Anne, Maryland.

Their children were no ex-

SEE **HUNTER**, PG. 10

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PRAYER WORSHIP
7:00 p.m.

Pastor Matthew Reed and wife, Helen

Remembering 2022 | NEWS THAT MADE HEADLINES

SPOKEN WORD SHOWCASE COMING TO KILLEEN

—SEPTEMBER 2022—

BY W.B. GUNTER

Some of the top male spoken word poets will be coming to the Killeen Civic and Conference Center stage on October 23, 2022! The "He Said What He Said!" showcase will spotlight the dynamic talents and perspectives of men. Tickets are available online at Eventbrite.com. Plenty of free parking will be available, so get there early. For poets who are moved to share, sign up to participate and enjoy the cypher. Doors will be open, and the DJ will keep you moving.

A lot of talent will be packed into a few hours. The non-stop Cypher will kick off at 7:30. Come early to register. At 8:00

PM, the show, "He Said What He Said!" will begin. Hampton Suites will open in September, so book your stay early.

Forressa Harrison, owner of The Sweet Spot and one of the original founding members of The Hungry Poets, has spent years promoting and bringing spoken word to stages around the nation. She has offered workshops and continues to open doors for poets. Expected to kick off a new series, "Spotlight On Spoken Word," this event will feature a variety of talents and themes. For this session of Spotlight On Spoken Word, she will turn the mic up for some of her favorite male artists. Groundbreaking artists presenting at this showcase have spent years crafting and leveling up their art.



FORRESSA HARRISON

Artists like, Talaam Acey, spent time as a traveling poet. For poets who travel, hard work is a must if they want to eat, sleep, rehearse, get gas,

and connect. The nomadic lifestyle allows one to connect with people when the spotlight's off. It relies on the kindness and trust of strangers that can form life-long friendships. Talaam is an activist, who connects purpose with poetry. Bring pen and paper because you'll want to take notes. Check him out online.

Obbie West, a former military personnel, is an author, actor, and poet. Through the messages and his acting skills, Obbie transforms himself into the richness and souls of characters at the heart of his poetry. This nationally recognized poet is at the forefront of a new evolution in spoken word.

Clear your minds and be ready for the thought-provoking, talent of B-Shatter, author

of the book of poetry, I Write on Walls Because I Never Got A Happy Meal. Become immersed in the writing style of the free spirited, Christopher Lee.

In addition to October being the anniversary of the Million Man March, it's time for renewal and atonement. This all-male showcase is providing an opportunity for men to have their perspectives heard. Harrison says, "So much depends on what men are saying. There's such a divide sometimes, but men and women are often on the same page. We just need to listen to each other." She continues, This stage will be personal. This event is not a competition. It's about the love of the art. Poetry is a craft that never gets old."

KILLEEN'S TERRANCE MCGEE RELEASES BOOK

—NOVEMBER 2022—

BY W.B. GUNTER

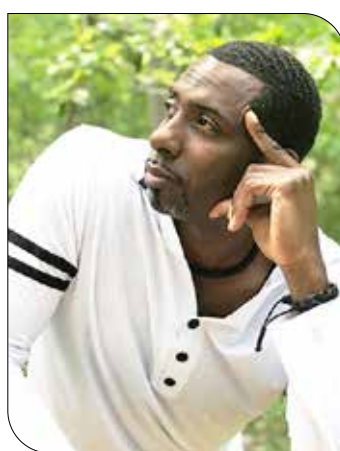
Author, screenwriter, and decorated war veteran, Terrance B. McGee announces his latest book, DIFFICULT ARGUMENTS & SIMPLE TRUTHS. Released last month, the book takes readers on a journey of self-discovery that may divert life's trajectory for the greater good. For all who feel their faith is being challenged, this book will help.

McGee speaks about Difficult Arguments & Simple Truths for the readers of Anchor News. He states, "Difficult Arguments and Simple Truths" is a book imposing emphasis on divine-human virtue and the importance of universal intelligence. "It depicts how we, as humans lack a reality

separate from our ordained life. Although mysticism gives way to the embodiment of truth, spiritual certainties of those who believe receive a genuine reality, a truth that reveals something much greater than themselves. Prejudice, with arguments that are debatable, shows the "strength of what we believe is measured by how much we believe."

McGee proposes that with all difficult arguments, there are simple truths: letting go of expectations, releasing attachments, and silencing egos. Facing uncertainties with faith provides assurance that because we are one through each other, being of service is the most effective way of personal study and application.

McGee is an intellectual philosopher. He is the Creative Manager of New Media,



TERRANCE MCGEE

where he works as an associ-

ate to conglomerate medical facilities, such as the Department of Veterans Affairs, Baylor, Scott & White, Methodist Hospital, St. Joseph, Seton, and private organizations. He uses computer graphics to create simulations and programs that improve student learning. He mentors teens as part of his tutelage while coaching residents who are incarcerated in juvenile detention centers, alternative state schools, and throughout school districts.

Self-published author, McGee is a registered screenwriter, whose articles have been featured in Mary Hardin Baylor's newspaper, Bells. McGee has worked on a plethora of short

films, public service announcements, stage plays, infomercials, and training videos.

As a film director, he is co-founder of "Intelligent Minds Proving & Applying Commitment" Outreach (I.M.P.A.C. Outreach). He is the Chief Media and Marketing Director of the show, @iYouthChat, a teen talk show that was televised on PBS for three consecutive years. He directed the short film, "Last Waltz," and operated as a film producer/ production assistant with 1st Take Media with director and photographer, Ray Bings-ton.

McGee says, "When we lose our fear of death, we can have some real opportunities."

OCTOBER IS HEALTH OBSERVANCE AND AWARENESS MONTH

—OCTOBER 2022—

There are many interesting aspects to health and wellness, whether it be emotional health, physical health, or even spiritual health. Whatever the case, we are blessed with specific professionals who can see us through. This month we chose

to showcase a new organization called Central Texas Health Equity Alliance. Spearheaded by Dr. Terri Woods-Campbell, the Alliance is a compilation of local minority physicians who hope to be a resource for all, especially for members of the African-American community. Enjoy.

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WANDA B. GUNTER

Author, Artist & Contributing writer for *The Anchor News*

Remembering 2022 | NEWS THAT MADE HEADLINES

ANDREA J. BAREFIELD ELECTED TO NATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

—DECEMBER 2022—

WACO, TEXAS – District I Councilwoman Andrea J. Barefield was elected to the National League of Cities (NLC) Board of Directors by NLC's membership at the organization's 2022 City Summit in Kansas City, MO. Councilwoman Barefield was elected to a two-year term and will provide strategic direction and guidance for NLC's federal advocacy, governance and membership activities. NLC is the largest and most representative organization for cities, their elected leaders, and municipal staff, and advocates for city priorities in Washington by building strong federal-local partnerships.

"The makeup of this body (NLC Board of Directors) allows us to connect our individual strengths, experiences, and distinctive schools of thought with the bandwidth and resources of the NLC to advocate for and advance our



ANDREA J. BAREFIELD

municipalities in a monumental yet sustainable way. I'm excited to lend my commitment to Truth, Vision, and Voice while representing the City of Waco."

As a member of the board, Councilwoman Barefield will meet in March, June, and November to guide NLC's strategic direction. Board members are selected by a 15-member

nominating committee and are confirmed by a vote from NLC's membership at the organization's annual business meeting.

"The National League of Cities Board of Directors is critical in guiding our organization's priorities and policies," said National League of Cities (NLC) President Victoria Woodards, mayor of Tacoma, Washington. "NLC's Board is made of a group of incredible and diverse leaders, and I look forward to working closely together with them to advance priorities for cities, towns and villages across the country."

More than 3,000 mayors, councilmembers and other delegates from nearly every state and the District of Columbia convened in Kansas City for City Summit. Local leaders are on the frontlines of the nation's most pressing challenges and are working hard to pioneer innovative solutions that move our cities, towns, and villages forward.

MEET WACO'S YOUNG AUTHOR, ZION ESTELLE

—DECEMBER 2022—

Zion published his first book entitled *Snowman & Reindeer: Christmas Talk* when he was 6 years old. In his book, Snowman and Reindeer are having a conversation about the true meaning behind Christmas. Snowman seems to have an idea what the holiday is about, and Reindeer wants to know too. This book is a powerful teaching moment between two characters that children admire.

Publishing a book at six years old is the greatest accomplishment for any child that age. His success was celebrated at the age of seven in Waco, Texas inside Richland Mall for his first book signing on December 3rd, 2022. He sold over 60 books in less than 2 hours! Parents were so touched by seeing such a young author that they purchased copies of his books to inspire their children.

What sparked the interest to motivate this young boy to write?

During the early stages of the pandemic, Zion saw his mom write her book. He watched her sit at her computer typing words and designing her book cover. When she published and ordered copies of her book, he was amazed at how the book on the computer screen became a physical copy in her hand.

Zion has loved writing since he was 3 years old because he would take whatever paper he could find around his mom's apartment and write a story that only he



ZION ESTELLE

could understand. He would draw pictures that illustrates what he was writing about. At such a young age he figured out the concept of developing a story. Due to his rich imagination, he is a great storyteller because he uses descriptive words so his listeners can visualize his story. He has had the opportunity to be a part of the Heart of Texas Storytelling Guild, an affiliate of Tejas Storytelling Association in the children's storytelling program.

Zion is a determined young boy with a bright future ahead of him. He wants to turn his Christmas book into a movie and TV series. The sky is limit when it comes to Zion's imagination. He is now working on his next book to release before the Easter holiday. Zion loves bible stories and by writing books he is able to tell other children the good news about Jesus using characters like Snowman, Reindeer and even the Easter Bunny to share the message.

Keep on writing Zion!

BOGGESS | CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

thought of leaving school, and when her God-father in Waco convinced her parents to let

her attend Paul Quinn College, she was very grateful.

However, it just wasn't that

easy. This sit-in situation was truly a part of her now. She couldn't stop. At Paul Quinn, she met a group of like-minded students and got an opportunity to receive training to prepare them for more sit-ins...trainings in Tennessee. She had to sneak away to get the training, which eventually kept her from going to jail again. And the good part? Her parents didn't find out.

She and her friends learned how not to respond to violence with violence. When food was thrown at them, they knew how to keep their composure. When lit cigarettes were put out in their faces, they learned to sit still. When they were kicked, beaten, and called the "N" word, they learned not to react. In these trainings, they learned what it meant to be peaceful protesters.

Lunch counter sit-ins may seem like a passive form of demonstration, but they served their purpose. These students made it known to business owners that blacks wanted the right to sit down and eat wherever they wanted to, and sit-ins also interfered with business profits because regular

lunch customers were not able to be served when blacks were sitting in their seats.

Finally, Waco businesses succumbed to the pressure and began serving blacks in areas where they had previously been denied. They had a victory, but there was much more to do and much more to endure.

The public can learn more about the lunch counter sit-

ins by visiting Waco's Dr. Pepper Museum exhibit. "Sit Down to Take a Stand" features several Civil Rights activists. Boggess became a part of history when she was just 17, and now at 80, she is making history once again. She is featured in the exhibit as an active lunch counter sit-in organizer and in an interview that is available on Podcast with Dr. Sloan. Visit the museum at 300 S. 5th Street in Waco.

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MCCOY | CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

February 27, 2022, a soldier in the Army of the Lord.

James made many lasting friendships in high school and in the community...one of which resulted in his meeting his life partner, the former Eleanor Lee Jones. They married July 1, 1972 and were blessed by the arrival of Michael Anthony, Orva Denise, and Jara Lynette who joined their oldest brother Jimmy Lee in creating a lifetime of love and respect. James always placed priority on family first. He was always the quiet background supporter of the Annual Jones Family Christmas Eve Parties, and he worked tirelessly to make memories and preserve connections by sacrificing to ensure his family could attend the Annual Hammond-Batts Family Reunion across the country every single July for over 40+ years. Despite economic circumstances, which sometimes were very challenging, he tuned up his trusty 1978

Brown & Green Dodge Maxi-Van and then his comfy 1998 Tan Suburban SUV and ensured his family reached destinations both far and near... Las Vegas, Detroit, Los Angeles, Dallas-Fort Worth, New Orleans, Washington DC, the Bahamas, Cozumel (Mexico), and down-home to Hammond, TX, just to name a few locations. He traveled thousands of miles so that the children and grandchildren could learn about their rich family history.

James shared a ministry through song throughout his life and recorded four CD's, most notably his first release in 2011, *After the Storm*. This first release includes original vocals and saxophone by James and encourages those who are facing a season of sorrow. The release and acclaim for *After the Storm* inspired him to formalize his efforts by launching Shamgar Productions. Shamgar Productions'

latest release is the inspirational "James McCoy Live at East Waco Farmers Market."

As loyal members of Tolver Chapel Missionary Baptist Church, James and older brother Odie, Jr. sang on many occasions while youngest brother Curtis shared his poetic talent. Special projects included the regionally recognized McCoy Brothers Gospel Group with James, Brother Odie, and Musician Doris Ellis, the Don Degrate Delegation, and vocal performances with daughter Jara.

Being an excellent provider and with an entrepreneurial spirit, James was a blessing to countless citizens in the City of Waco as a housing inspector for the Waco Housing Authority for 25+ years. James also owned McCoy's Roofing, Picture Perfect Photography, and Shamgar (Music) Productions which all offered incomparable customer service and value to

Central Texas over many decades.

He attributed his long and full life to his love of wellness and fitness and enjoyed prayer, meditation, communing with nature, running, playing tennis, boating, jet skiing, and most of all kayaking along the Brazos River. He completed his first 5K Run at 55 years old and 20 years and many 5K's later, also celebrated his 75th birthday with a 5K Run!

Having nurtured family bonds throughout the years, James will be greatly missed by his loving wife Eleanor Lee Jones McCoy "Ella," Children Jimmy Lee Parhm (Tammie) of Grand Prairie, TX, Michael Anthony McCoy (Mona) of Albany, GA, Orva Denise McCoy and Jara Lynette McCoy (Nolan) both of Waco, TX; Grand-Children Raeshun Denise McCoy Presha, Cameron Alexander Parhm, Myles Stevenson McCoy, Madison Jones McCoy, and Tristan James McCoy-Hawkins; Great-Grandson Khyrin Presha Williams; Brothers Odie Lee McCoy, Jr. (Vivian) of Waco, TX and Curtis Weldon McCoy of Cedar Hill, TX; Sisters Mary Franklin of Los Angeles, CA and Bobbi Batton of Sacramento, CA; Sisters-in-Law Allene Jones Johnson and Carolyn Jones King both of Waco, TX; Uncle Orville Daniel Person, Sr. (Nell) of Fort Worth, TX; Special Friends Jeannie An-

derson, Lilla Benson, Doris Bilton, Bill "Boomer" Collins, Sam Ellis, and Johnnie Mary Talton; and many nieces, nephews, cousins, special classmates, tennis partners and countless sorrowing friends and adopted daughters and sons. He is preceded in death by Grandparents Frank James Person Sr., Ethel English Person, Thomas McCoy, and Uzzie Brown McCoy; devoted father Odie Lee McCoy, Sr. and loving mother Vera Pearl Person McCoy with whom he celebrated her Centennial "100th" birthday in 2021; Father-in-Law Leonard Jones, Jr., Mother-in-Law Eula Brown-Jones, and Brother-in-Law Charles Lyndon Jones; Aunts Arizona McCoy, Cherry McCoy Speed, Odessa McCoy Thomas, and Laverne Person Livingston; Uncles Casey McCoy and Frank James Person, Jr. The legacy lives on for a life well-lived.

In a special proclamation delivered by McLennan County Commissioner Patricia Chisolm on Sunday, February 20, 2022, James' commitment, dedicated life work, and singular community contributions were honored. They included his service as one of the organizers of the initial Juneteenth Celebration on Elm in Waco and the Doris Miller Memorial Fundraiser. We love him. We miss him, and we look forward to seeing him again one day.

GIBSON | CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

ty Commissioners, having served as the organization's President from 1998-2001, and 2011-2013. In August of 1992, Commissioner Lester Gibson, along with a dedicated group of community activists, organized a Leadership Luncheon. In 1996, the luncheon was renamed to the Fred D. Batts Jr. Leadership Luncheon. The luncheon was dedicated to its mission statement, "Networking to Make a Difference." Commissioner Gibson, always the visionary, created and as editor circulated two community newspapers, *The Grass Roots News*, and *The Bottom Line News*. He served as the President of the Grassroots Progressive School Board. Commissioner Gibson served as the McLennan County representative to the Texas Clean Air Cities Coalition, Founder and organizer of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Candlelight Vigil, Waco MLK, Jr. Park; Past President of Eastern Little League, Past chairman of the Heart of Texas Legal Services, Tejas Camp Fire, Past Director of Habitat for Humanity, Former Member Board of Directors YMCA Central Texas.

Commissioner Gibson was the recipient of many awards. His many accolades include, but are not limited to, the following: Award of Recognition & Outstanding Contributions by the Texas Organization of

Black County Commissioners, Political Achievement Award from the Texas Association of Minority Business Enterprises, The McLennan County NAACP Vanguard Award, The African-American Male Image Award presented by the Waco Save Our Sons, The Family of the Year Award presented by Conference of Christians and Jews, The Man of the Year Award presented by the African Methodist Episcopal Church, Citizen of the Year Award presented by the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, The Community Service Award presented by the McLennan County Branch of the NAACP, Leadership Award presented by the Regular Fellows Club of Waco, and so many, many more. Commissioner Gibson

hosted a weekly Saturday morning radio show on our local Hip Hop Station, 94.5 FM "The Beat" and is a perfect example of his own philosophy and the show's title, "If We Only Knew, What We Could Do."

Commissioner Gibson's remarkable life will forever be cherished by his wife, Coque Johnson Gibson; children, Mayor Travis Gibson (Launda), Umoja Adeyemi Gibson Sr. (Nicole), Izegbe Omolara Ramla Gibson Lee (Judge James), Ajamu Kitwana Gibson (Sheala); and a host of loving grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and other relatives and friends.

The community says goodbye to THE man downtown. We will see you again, one day soon.



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GOOD WILL TOWARD ALL MEN

BY BRENDA KHOZEIN

About this time of year, we are all winding down from all the Christmas celebrations and holidays and looking forward to the New Year and getting back to our normal routines. The Christmas cards with all the wishes of peace, love, hope and joy that were received from friends and loved ones have been put away along with all the decorations pertaining to the season.

As I ponder one of the meanings of Christmas - peace on earth - I realize that very little is done to incorporate this into our daily lives and within our Waco community, past sending out the Christmas card. As with all things, peace begins with us, in our homes, families and communities. We each have a responsibility to help create a better world, a peaceful world.

But how do we start?

I believe we can start by looking at our own behavior and the way we treat others. However, it goes a bit further



BRENDA KHOZEIN

than that. How do we treat those who are different from us? A different race, a different culture, a different religion? Do we pull them in our circle to help create understanding and a better, peaceful world? It is easy to love one's family, one's own church members... but to welcome all, regardless of the things that are different or foreign to our way of life, is much harder. Our circle must widen to include those in our community who are different. Baha'u'llah, founder of

SEE **KHOZEIN**, PG. 9



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KHOZEIN | CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the Baha'i Faith, proclaimed ther "ye are the waves of one ocean and the flowers of one

garden." By befriending others of different races, cultures, and religions, we are breaking

down the barriers that prevent peace on earth. Instead of indifference, we create understanding and with understanding comes respect and love for one another.

We must become a world citizen even in our own community of Waco. Thus, I have pledged to keep my eyes open to broaden my inner circle with new friends of different races, cultures, and religions to help build Peace on Earth and good will toward all men. Will you join me?

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MLK

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Bridge Street Plaza located at 200 Bridge Street Waco, Texas. Please bring your candle. Seating will be available at both events.

Dr. King said, "The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy." For the first time this weekend, since the ceremony's inception, Commissioner Gibson will not attend. He passed away last year, but his wife intends to keep his dream alive.

For additional information, please contact Coque Gibson at (254) 722-1274.

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HUNTER | CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

ception to the rule. Neither of them had an option when it came to their education. Daughter, J'Naudia Hunter-Phillips and son, Dr. Jamison Hunter, both hold degrees. Jamison has earned his doctorate and J'Naudia is working toward hers.

The Hunters have the education to speak for their convictions. Pastor attended the Austin Public Schools graduating from the (Original) L.C. Anderson High School, May 1970. He attended the Huston-Tillotson College (now University) in Austin and received a Bachelor of Arts

degree in Vocal Music Performance and All-Level Music Education. He did further study in music and theatre at St. Edward's University also in Austin. Dr. Pam has a Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology with a minor in human services and a Master of Arts in psychology with a specialty in Minority Mental Health. Plus, she is also a licensed master's social worker.

Their community involvements are many and varied. Pastor Hunter is active in religious, civic, and community affairs. He serves on the Board of Trustees at Har-

din-Simmons University in Abilene, Texas and on the Board of Directors of Prosper Waco. He was the Past-Moderator of Union Baptist District Association where during his administration he led the district in the building of a \$900,000 new tabernacle. He is a brother of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., He was chair of the faith-based committee for the 2010 Census for the City of Waco, served two years as the City of Waco Education Summit Faith-Based Committee Co-Chair, was a budget committee member for the 2011 Camer-

on Park Centennial, completed a 5-year appointment as an Advisory Board Member of the Waco Regional Airport; His past memberships include Waco Center for Youth Advisory Board; the Rotary Club International; W.I.S.D. Foundation Board, and Board of Advocates for the School of Social Work at Baylor University. He is published in Oxford Sermons, Hupomone Press and The Truett Pulpit/Sermons at the George W. Truett Seminary.

Dr. Pam is busy with community affiliations as well. She is a long time member of the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority, the Waco Chapter of Links, and THE WACO National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Club. She is or has been a part of the Board of Trustees for Heart of Texas MHMR and Texas Counseling Associa-

tion, and is the Past President for the Heart of Texas Chapter of the Texas Counseling Association. She was a member of the City of Waco Convention and Visitors Bureau, and the Board of Directors for Goodwill Industries. Hunter has numerous honors, including being commissioned by the State of Texas in 2014 as a "Yellow Rose of Texas," an honorary commission conferred by the Governor of Texas to women for their exceptional community service.

Dr. Hunter and Dr. Pam are excited to celebrate their 21st Appreciation Service Sunday, September 18, 2022 10:00 am. at Toliver Chapel Missionary Baptist Church. They are most excited and extremely proud that their son, Dr. Jamison, will bring the message. Pastor Dr. Hunter and Lady Dr. Pam ask that you to join them.



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JESSE WASHINGTON HISTORICAL MARKER DEDICATION PLANNED

BY JO WELTER

On Sunday, February 12, 2023 an Official Texas Historical Marker will be dedicated in front of Waco City Hall, 300 Austin Avenue at 3:00 pm. The marker, titled "The Waco Horror: The Lynching of Jesse Washington," acknowledges the extra-legal brutal mutilation, torture, and murder of 17-year-old Jesse Washington in downtown Waco in 1916, and the lynching culture that existed in Central Texas. This terroristic practice of vigilante justice



SEE **MARKER**, PG. 11

JO WELTER

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HOW TO CHANGE MEDICARE PLANS DURING THE YEAR

BY MARGARET IVORY

As we have discussed previously, there are three main enrollment periods: The Initial Enrollment Period when you are turning 65 years old; The Annual Election Period which allows everyone to change plans during October 15th – December 7th and The Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment Period which is January 1st – March 31st.

But what if you have a circumstance where you need to change plans but it happens outside of the aforementioned periods? Can you change plans and if so, how?

Listed below are several special situations that will allow you to change plans outside of the normal enrollment periods.

- You have moved or will be moving outside of your current plan's service area within the last two months.

- You have either lost or left group health coverage within the last two months or will be losing or leaving group health coverage.

- You have both Medicare and Medicaid or Extra Help for prescription drug coverage.



MARGARET IVORY

- You have either just received Extra Help or lost Extra Help within the last three months.

- You have either just received Medicaid or lost Medicaid within the last three months.

- You were affected by an emergency disaster and therefore were unable to change plans during the other election periods.

- Your current Medicare Advantage Plan is not renewing for the upcoming year.

You may have another special circumstance which is not

listed above. Your Medicare insurance company will review and determine if an exception can be given. As a Medicare Plans broker, I will be able to help you determine if you are able to use one of these Special Election Periods and help

you make these changes.

Are you turning 65 years old soon? Are you retiring soon from your job? My goal is for all Medicare recipients to understand Medicare options and how to make Medicare work best for them. I represent

all plans in McLennan County but am totally concerned only for what is best for my clients.

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MARKER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

was almost exclusively racially focused in Central Texas beginning in the late 1800's and continuing through 1922.

This lynching culture has had profound and continuing effects on Waco and its citizens, breaking up families and keeping people "in their place" even to present generations. Devastating Waco's reputation, it has crippled growth in our community for many generations. Several entities and individuals have worked locally over many years to bring public knowledge and acknowledgement of this history to fruition: the NAACP, Waco City Councilman Lawrence Johnson, McLennan County Commissioner Lester Gibson, Gibson's assistant at that time and now County Commissioner

herself, Pat Chisolm Miller, and the Community Race Relations Coalition (CRRRC). In 2006 the CRRRC developed a resolution regarding lynching culture and the lynching of Jesse Washington and proposed to the City Council and County Commissioners that they adopt the CRRRC resolution or write their own. In each case these entities wrote their own resolutions to address the issue. In 2015 the CRRRC gathered individuals a year in advance of the 100th anniversary of Jesse's lynching to discuss possible plans to commemorate this anniversary. Various entities held events and collectively held a memorial service May 15, 2016 at Bledsoe Miller Rec Center, with standing room only. Malcolm Duncan,

then mayor of Waco, addressed the crowd with a succinct message of apology and healing.

Although the CRRRC board discussed over the years an official marker, right now seemed appropriate. Former City Councilwoman Toni Herbert made application to the Texas Historical Commission (THC) on behalf of the CRRRC. Accepted under the Undertold Stories Program, THC funded the marker. The City of Waco generously agreed to install the marker in front of city hall. To meet requirements before the marker would be produced, we have worked for 6 years toward completion of this project. You are invited to join us for this dedication. Call 254-717-7903 with any questions.

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THE ART OF PERSUASION

BY MONA DUNKIN

In Dr. Seuss's famed childhood book, *Green Eggs and Ham*, Sam-I-Am persistently insisted that the Cat-in-the-Hat try just one mere morsel of an objectionably looking delicacy. Let's look at Sam's art of persuasion.

Speak from experience. It is hard to convince someone of that which you are not fully persuaded. Try it. Test it. Be comfortable in the performance, concept, or principle before passing it on to others.

Make the presentation interesting. Give concerted thought to the words to use rather than rambling. Use examples, props, visual aids, or other venues to illustrate your message. Present in different formats, keeping in mind the vast array of learning styles.

Do not give up easily. Keep on keeping on. A "No" is not necessarily final. Be willing to do more research and contact later. Although there may come a point of needing to let go, through developing a relationship, the issue is always available to be revisited.

Be more concerned with client's need than with your sale. Whether an item or an



MONA DUNKIN

idea, when you have the other's best interest at heart, your doggedness has more substance. There is a difference in motivation and manipulation. Manipulation is external and for personal gain, whereas motivation is internal and for the benefit of all involved.

Remain pleasant in the face of opposition. Always remember the other's humanity and do not be offended by objections or misunderstandings. Guard your facial expressions and monitor your tone of voice. Show respect by acknowledging that everyone is right from their own perspective. Make relationship more important than being right.

Do not gloat over having persuaded another. We are each self-determining and make our own decisions, whether persuaded in one direction or not. You did not make someone come to your conclusion. If you think you did, it was manipulation and not persuasion. A person convinced against his will is of the same opinion still. If your influence made a difference in the outcome, recognize it for what it is – encouragement and not determinism, effect and not cause.

Try it, you'll like it. Give yourself room to grow by being open to new experiences.

CAUTION: Whether being the persuader or the persuadee, check with your conscious that what you are trying will not lead to addictive or destructive behaviors.

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NAACP REWARDS ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE IN THE TW ZONE

BY PEACHES HENRY

At the end of the first six-weeks and second six-weeks grading periods, the Waco NAACP honored Transformation Waco Zone students for academic excellence. "We wanted to honor the daily hard work that students are putting into their academics," declared Dr. Peaches Henry, president of the Waco NAACP. Henry, NAACP Vice President Andrea Barefield, NAACP Education Committee chairwoman Jocelyn Pierce, NAACP Scholarship Committee chairman Lovie Langston, and NAACP members Syrenthia Rice, Jordan Rice, and Jo Welter held honor roll assemblies at Transformation Waco Zone schools.

At the J. H. Hines first six-weeks assembly on September 23, each student who made the All-A and A/B honor rolls was rewarded with a certificate and a McDonalds gift card while parents, grandparents, guardians, and younger siblings watched. "I was pleased to see so many parents out in the middle of the school day to cheer their children for doing well in school," Langston, the Scholarship Commit-

tee chairman, said. "Showing up for an honor roll assembly teaches students that parents and guardians value academic excellence," he continued. Students at Alta Vista Elementary received their certificates throughout the day a week later.

On September 30, the NAACP recognized sixth- to eighth-graders who made the All-A and A/B honor rolls at Carver Indian Spring United Middle School with gift certificates, McDonalds cards, and dress code exemptions. "I think it is so very important to make sure our children understand how important it is to make good grades and to celebrate those children who are high achievers and to ensure they understand that they can be successful and receive scholarships for good grades as well as sports," Rice, an NAACP member who helped distribute the certificates, commented. Jordan, Rice's special needs son and also an NAACP member, said he "enjoys seeing children being SMART!"

The NAACP recognized honor roll students at the end of the second-six weeks as well, starting with the J. H.



DR. PEACHES HENRY

Hines assembly on November 19. "The best part of the ceremony," said Welter, who made the special cookies that each scholar received along with a certificate, "was that so many of the students were repeat honor roll students." Henry told the scholars to encourage their classmates to strive to make the honor roll for the third six-weeks grading period. "Tell them that if they work hard, they can make excellent grades like you and attend the awards ceremony next time," she said. "By May, I want to see as many students as possible with multiple certificates for making the honor roll," Henry told the group.

"In East Texas where I attended school, the names of students who made the honor roll were listed in the local newspaper each grading period. Once folks read that you were on the honor roll, they would stop you in the grocery store, at the football game, or at church to congratulate you. Sometimes, older women would press 'a little piece of change' into your palm,"

Henry recalled. Rather than appearing in the newspaper, Henry said, these days Transformation Waco students' certificates and names are being posted on social media. "I've encountered a number of relatives and community members who saw students' photos with their certificates posted on social media and told me about it," Henry said. "I think that's fabulous!" she declared.

The principal of J. H. Hines, Dr. Cynthia Wise agreed. "This award ceremony, which will

take place each six weeks, is among my most cherished occasions of the school year as it provides us with an opportunity to highlight the achievements of our hard-working scholars with their parents. We truly believe that a good education is vital and prepares our scholars for a brighter future. Therefore, we are committed to partnering with our community organizations to provide an atmosphere where all of our children can learn and are treasured for their academic success!"

NO PLACE LIKE HOME

SUBMITTED BY
LINDA MCDONALD

4 decorative ways to liven up your home after the holidays:

1. Get colorful. From throw pillows and blankets to rugs and drapes, a pop of color can brighten any room. Colors like dark teal, burgundy, olive or slate gray would be a warm addition to any room in the house.

2. Let the sunshine in. The sun may not be shining much during the winter, but there are ways to allow for more light to enter your space. Aside from opening a window to let in natural light, adding a mirror or translucent shades to your favorite room can also create more brightness.

3. Plants, plants, plants. Activate your green thumb in the wintertime with a few houseplants. Not only will they help you look forward to spring, but they will remove toxins and keep your home clean.

4. Warm it up. Jolly Old St. Nick may have retired to the

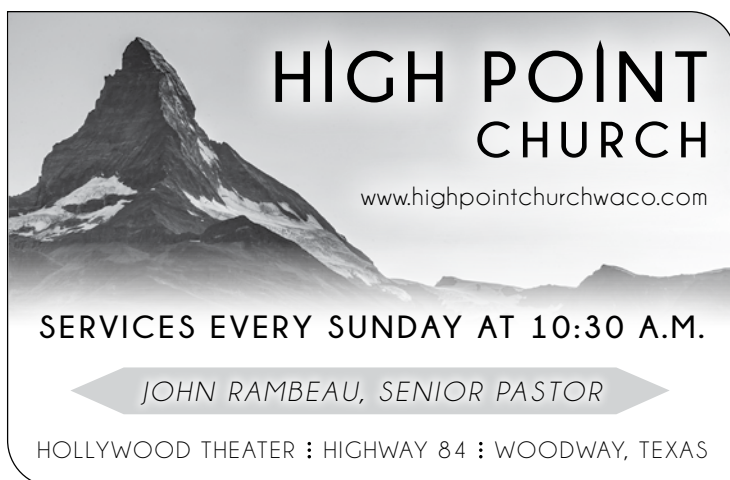


LINDA MCDONALD

North Pole for the year, but that doesn't mean you can forget about your fireplace. Jazz up your mantel with candles, wreaths, pinecones and evergreen clippings to keep the spirit of the season alive.

Call Linda McDonald, ABR, CRS, GRI, PMN, SRS, TRLP, "The Real Estate Lady," for all of your real estate needs: Coldwell Banker/Apex Realtors, 254-855-1717.

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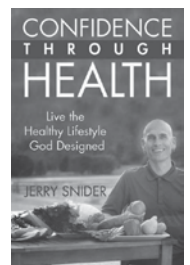


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SPARE THE ROD, SPOIL THE CHILD, PART 1

BY EVANGELIST
RUBY MCCRAY

How many of you have heard the expression, "Spare the rod, spoil the child." I still hear it said just like that, or something similar to that.

My siblings will attest to the fact that I began studying the Bible as a very young teen. Not only did I study it, but I would write different topics, using the Word of God for back-up. Many years have come and gone, and I'm still doing the same thing.

My parents only had the King James Version of the Bible at that time, and I was shocked when I read Proverbs, Chapter 13, Verse 24. It said nothing back then about spoiling the child, and it doesn't say it now. Here's how it still reads, "He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes." Let's see how it's said in other versions of the Bible.

"He who spares his rod hates his son, but he who loves him disciplines him promptly" (New King James Version).

"Those who spare the rod of discipline hate their children. Those who love their children care enough to discipline them" (New Living Trans-

lation).

"If you don't correct your children, you don't love them. If you love them, you will be quick to discipline them" (Easy-to-Read Version Revised Edition).

"He who spares his rod [of discipline] hates his son, but he who loves him disciplines diligently and punishes him early" (The Amplified Bible).

"He who spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is careful to discipline him" (New International Version).

"The one holding back his rod is hating his son, but the one loving him is he that does look for him with discipline" (New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures—Jehovah's Witness Bible)

Spanish: "No corregir al hijo es no quererlo: amarlo es disciplinarlo." Translation: Not correcting the son is not loving him: loving him is disciplining him" (Nueva Versión Internacional—NIV).

Spanish: "El que detiene el castigo, a su hijo aborrece; mas el que lo ama, desde temprano lo corrige." Translation: "He who detains punishment to his son hates; but he who loves him, from early on punishes him" (Antigua Versión de Cassiodoro de Reina (1569)



EVG. RUBY MCCRAY

Revisada por Cipriano de Valera—King James Version)

As we can see from the few translations of the Bible that I have, state that we "HATE" our children, not "LOVE" them if we don't discipline them. If you read this article, please help me correct this statement that has been misquoted for years. Even my great granddaughter told me that she has a teacher who says, "Spare the rod, spoil the child." Let's say, "Spare the rod, hate the child."

I'm not suggesting that a child should get a spanking for every wrong thing that they do; I'm only trying to get this quote corrected. Sometimes a sim-

ple conversation, or grounding is sufficient to correct a matter. I praise God that He doesn't take us to the woodshed for every wrong deed. Sometimes we receive correction by listening to Christian radio, or other media. Other times, we are corrected by reading the Bible, or other Christian publications, and even by having a conversation with someone.

As we can readily see, a lot of children have not gotten the discipline needed. Some have gotten disciplined, but not in love. That's why a child should never get spankings when the disciplinarian is upset or angry. We must always think about how we would want to be disciplined if we were in that child's place. Also, we need to be role models for our children.

Years ago, I heard someone say that children will do what we make them do while they are too young to rebel; later, they will do what they saw us doing. We must live holy lives before our children; lives set apart from this world. We know right from wrong, and they do, too. We parents, grandparents, great grandparents, etc. must read the Bible daily to our children, explain what we read and ask questions to make sure that they understand what's

been said.

"How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word. Your Word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You." Psalm 119:9, 11 The Word of God in a person's heart can be compared to a good detergent washing dirty laundry.

The main reason why we need to discipline our children is because, "Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; the rod of correction will drive it far from him." Proverbs 22:15

We, disciplinarians, must be mindful of the age of a child when we must discipline them. There is no way we would give the same degree of punishment to a four-year-old that we'd give to a twelve-year-old when trying to correct an action.

All Scripture is taken from the New King James Version of the Bible unless otherwise stated. You may not believe me...just what if I'm right!

Evangelist Ruby McCray is the founder of A City of Refuge Ministries. For questions or comments e-mail rubyacorm@yahoo.com or write to A City of Refuge Ministries, P. O. Box 2025, Waco, Texas 76703.



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DOING BETTER IN THE NEW YEAR

BY JERRY SNIDER

As the owner of All In Health and Wellness, I'm excited to offer a Health Q&A column for the readers of the Anchor News.

QUESTION: Hi Jerry, What's the most important step towards better health I can make in the new year? Thanks, Brandon.

ANSWER: That's a big question because I don't know what your starting point is for your health journey. As I shared in the December Anchor News health article, the first step in any health lifestyle change is taking an honest assessment of where you are right now. That first step for you may be

starting to walk 5 mins a day in an effort to increase movement of your body. Or it could be cutting back on soft drinks daily until you can cut them out completely (sodas are one of the worst things you can drink because of the high sugar content and what that does to your cells).

Whatever you determine your first step needs to be, the key to creating a successful habit with a health change is making small changes daily. While big, drastic, "going cold turkey" type of changes sound like a great way to implement changes, they often aren't successful because it's so much change in such a short amount of time. Com-



JERRY SNIDER

pounding small daily changes from week to week is an easier

way to commit to these changes.

If you think about it, making one healthy change per week and sticking to it as you add additional changes each week will mean that you will have created 52 new health habits for yourself by the end of the year. 52 positive changes to your health would certainly create a new, healthy you. Even if you only made changes every other week, that would be 26 healthy changes in a year. That might sound intimidating, but it's pretty easy when you take it day by day.

Take a little bit of time to be honest about your starting point, pick the first small change you need to make, and

start today with implementing that change. After you do that, it's all about being disciplined to stick to the plan of making a small change each week to go along with the changes you have already made.

Have a question for Jerry? Send it to jerry@allinhealthandwellness.com.

Jerry Snider is an exercise physiologist, health coach, and owner of All In Health and Wellness. He has authored two books available on Amazon: No More Sugar Coating and Confidence Through Health, and is the host of the podcast Confidence Through Health. Visit www.allinhealthandwellness.com to learn more about Jerry Snider.

57 MILLION AMERICANS HAVE LEGAL ISSUES

SUBMITTED BY J.L. CRAWFORD, LEGALSHIELD, SENIOR MANAGER

The Legal Needs Of American Families Study (Legal Needs Study) shows that working Americans and their families face a myriad of legal issues on almost a daily basis.

The study shows that 57 million full-time working Americans experienced at least one significant legal event in the past 12 months, but only 60% of those who experienced such an event actually sought out the services of a lawyer to help them.

The areas of greatest need identified in the survey include auto and traffic issues such as traffic tickets and accidents, family issues such as adoption and divorce, and estate planning concerns such as wills, trusts, and estate or inheritance management.

The Legal Needs Study also shows that legal problems know no economic boundaries. All income levels experience legal issues or events at about the same rate - 66%.

Look at the list below (from <http://www.legalshield.com/top25legalissues/>). If you are experiencing or have ex-



J.L. CRAWFORD

perienced or could experience one of the issues on the list, you need to give me a call, so I can help you "live more and worry less."

- Automobile accident
- Identity theft
- Execution of a contract
- Inherited property
- Secured a home mortgage/refinanced home
- Filed bankruptcy
- Divorce
- Friend who owes you money files for bankruptcy
- Speeding ticket or traffic violation
- Injured someone accidentally
- Prepared a will
- Leased a vehicle
- Marriage
- Challenged a will
- Leased an apartment or home or bought a time share
- Creditor taking legal

- action
 - Set up a trust
 - Adoption of a child/Child Support
 - Became executor of parents' estate
 - Property was damaged while in storage
 - Was subpoenaed
 - Dog bit someone
 - Vehicle damaged while parked on street
 - Sued by tenant
- Is your challenge listed above? Preexisting problems are covered, so give me a call at 254-717-4927. Hurry. With LegalShield, "...we can help you worry less and live more." Please see the ad in this issue of the Anchor.*

JESUS IS LORD

BY PASTOR MATTHEW REED

To the church, not only is Jesus our Saviour, but he is Lord. When I say Lord, I mean he is Lord over everything. Jesus is Lord over peace. He is Lord over the harvest. He is Lord over your enemies. He is Lord over the universe. He is Lord over Joe Biden. He is Lord over Donald Trump. He is Lord over Putin. He is Lord over cancer and all other diseases and sickness. You name it. Jesus is Lord. I'm Just saying!



PASTOR MATTHEW AND LADY HELEN REED

During the freezing temperatures of 2021, through coordination of resources, Dr. Billie made sure people received food and supplies. In December, 2022, residents of the Thayer Residential Center, which recently opened its doors, were blessed by the sock ministry founded by Dr. Billie. Members of the church collected new pairs of socks and distributed them to nursing homes. "Socks are a viable part to the well being of individuals who may have issues with circulatory conditions and prevent wounds and infections," said Dr. Billie. Providing socks is part of an on-

going mission so collections continue.

In 2004, Ladies In Prayer Stations (LIPS), providing round the clock prayers. The first Saturday of every month, meetings are held, the names are distributed, and prayers are spoken on the behalf of anyone in need. To learn more about any of the outreach ministries, or if you're in need, call or text Dr. Lillian Billie at (254) 466-7463.

Dr. Billie is vital to the community she serves. She says, "When people see your work, they want to elevate it higher. I often recall the phrase, 'My Kingdom Come,' and mem-

bers of God's kingdom show up. After losing my husband, the letters, H-W-W came to me. I didn't know what it meant, but I asked someone to pray with me. The letters finally connected, and Holy Widowed Women, was founded. This past year, we met, comforted one another, and celebrated a big event. As we expand, we plan on including a ministry of pen pals."

The contributions of Cathedral of Deliverance and Praise, Church of God In Christ will continue its legacy and blessings at 702 Har-ley Drive, Harker Heights TX 76548.

BILLIE | CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

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