

THE Anchor News

BLACK HISTORY EDITION

Serving the Central Texas Community
Celebrating 19 Years!

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Free



Dr Pepper Museum & Free Enterprise Institute names Anthony Betters Sr as Board Chair

BY MARY BETH FERRELL

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The Dr Pepper Museum and Free Enterprise Institute (DPMFEI) 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 inclu-



ANTHONY BETTERS, SR.

sion, 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 Wa-

co'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 is the Community Educator for Bluebonnet Health Services. Rounding out the 2022 Executive Committee

See **BETTERS**, pg. 5

Alta Vann enjoys being in the aviation industry

The only black female in her department since she started in 2003, Alta Vann is excelling in the aviation industry. "I became an analyst after my boss at the time moved into a higher position and decided it was time for me to move up too." Vann is currently a Lead Project Analyst at L3Harris Technologies where she has received numerous accolades for her work.

Vann was working as a material coordinator at the time and had no background in analytical work. Vann says Brian Henry "believed in me and knew I was capable of doing the job," and as the saying goes, "The rest is history."

She is responsible for making sure tasks get completed on time and under cost, and she produces the data that monitors those efforts.

Vann grew up in Teague, Texas and always knew she would attend college somewhere. "I never knew that NOT going to college was an option for me. I went to church with many of the black teachers in the school district and both of my parents had degrees. No one ever talked to me as if there were any other choice."

After high school, Vann attended Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, TX, earning a bachelor's degree in computer science and then, a master's degree in business administration from Tarleton State University. Upon graduation, Vann moved to Houston to pursue a career in logistics. She later moved to Waco to work in aerospace.

While it is becoming more common for women to work in aviation, Vann credits



ALTA VANN

being in her field of work to the African Americans whom she worked around. "L3Harris (Raytheon at the time) was my first career job out of college," explained Vann. "There were several older African Americans in other departments that took me under their wing. They treated me as if I was their child and looked out for me. Many of them have moved on to new jobs or retired, but I still stay in touch with them."

She is a member of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, E. E. Wheat Freestone County NAACP Chapter, mentor at LaVega Middle School, president of the L3Harris Employees of African American Descent - Waco Chapter, school board member at Live Oak Classical School, and the recording secretary for the Negro Business and Professional Women's Club of Waco. In her spare time, Vann enjoys spending time with her husband, Rod, and their two girls, Saniyah and Alayna. She is a member of High Point Church, where John Rambeau is the pastor.

Kamala Harris, First Woman VP of the USA

Reprinted from <https://www.womenshistory.org/education-resources/biographies/kamala-harris>

On January 20, 2021, Kamala D. Harris became the first woman, the first African American woman, the first Indian-American, the first person of Asian-American descent, and the first graduate of an HBCU to be sworn in as the Vice President of the United States of America. As she said in her election acceptance speech, she "may be the first, but [she] will not be the last." Kamala Harris has spent her life breaking glass ceilings.

Born on October 20, 1964 in Oakland, California, Harris is the daughter of immigrants.



KAMALA HARRIS

Her father was born in Jamaica and her mother was born in India. After her parents divorced, Harris and her younger sister Maya were raised by their mother, Shyamala Gopalan Harris, a single parent. Harris recalls she "had a stroll-

er-eye view of the Civil Rights movement" as she went with her mother to marches. These early experiences inspired her to make it her life's work to fight against injustice.

While growing up in Oakland, she was immersed in both Indian and African American culture. Her mother took Harris to spend time with her grandparents in India during the summer but also made sure her girls were connected to their African American roots. Harris noted in her autobiography, "My mother understood very well that she was raising two black daugh-

See **HARRIS**, pg. 9



Photo by Any Given Day Photography

J.L. AND 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.

A NOTE FROM THE EDITORS...

This issue of *The Anchor News* is to remind you of the many "firsts" for local African Americans. Some are gone home to be with the Lord. Others are with us today. Take your time and look through the Anchor. Enjoy our Black History Issue as we feature many historical "firsts."

Waco NAACP explains new rules for mail ballot application process

DR. PEACHES HENRY TEXAS STATE NAACP CIVIC ENGAGEMENT VICE-CHAIR

The Texas Legislature passed new rules for the mail ballot application process which has resulted in applications from individuals who have voted by mail for decades being rejected across the state and in McLennan County. "The Republican-dominated Texas Legislature fully intended to confuse voters and make the process for voting by mail confusing in an effort to suppress this legal means of voting that was used by millions of voters in the 2020 election," declared Dr. Peaches Henry, president of the Waco NAACP and the Texas State NAACP Civic Engagement vice-chair. "This effort by the Texas Legislature is a twenty-first-century version of the poll tax, jellybeans in the jar counting, and literacy tests—legal voter suppression laws," she continued. "Just as we did in the twentieth century, while we fight these bogus laws in the courts, we will help voters overcome them till we win," Henry declared. To help voters avoid having their mail ballot applications rejected, the Waco NAACP wants to provide voters with clear instructions on how to complete them.

Former Waco ISD Acting Superintendent Dr. Hazel Rowe was shocked to learn that her application for a mail ballot had been rejected by the McLennan County Elections Office. Dr. Rowe was informed that the identification number she had used when she registered to vote decades ago did not match the identification number she had used on



DR. PEACHES HENRY

her mail ballot application this year. Providing an identification number on the mail ballot application is a new requirement as is the requirement that the identification number on the mail ballot application match the number used by a voter when he or she registered to vote. Dr. Rowe said, "I had no idea whether I had used my driver's license or social security number to register to vote. I don't even recall whether identification numbers were required years ago." The Elections Office worker who called her said that the application could not be corrected via phone, explaining that Dr. Rowe would have to complete a new application with the matching identification number and either deliver or mail the new application to the Elections Office. The worker told Dr. Rowe that she could go to the library or the post office to pick up a new application form. Feeling unsure that she would receive the correct form at either location, Dr. Rowe asked whether she could simply pick up a new application at the Elections Of-

fice. Informed that she could, she drove to the Elections Office to complete a new application. She was informed that it was best for her to include both her driver's license number and the last four numbers of her social security number despite the fact that the official form indicated that she should include one or the other. After completing a new application form with both her identification numbers, Dr. Rowe followed up to make sure that her application for a mail ballot was now approved. Then she called all her friends

and let them know that their applications might be rejected as well.

To make sure other voters do not get their mail ballot applications rejected as Dr. Rowe did, the NAACP provides step-by-step instructions here.

REQUEST A MAIL BALLOT APPLICATION. NOW!

Requesting and returning a mail ballot application now will give a voter time to deal with a rejection of the application. Some eligible voters—those 65 years or disabled—may have already received applications—from a political party for example. If they have received

See **HENRY**, pg. 8

Dr. Sheryl Victorian



DR. SHERYL VICTORIAN

Dr. Sheryl Victorian will go down in history as Waco's first female African American police chief. With a doctorate and an extensive background in the criminal justice system, Dr. Victorian's presence on the force is already making an impact in the community and has made national news.

Dr. Mia Ramirez



DR. MIA RAMIREZ

In 2019, Dr. Mia Moody-Ramirez became the first Black female chair at Baylor. She has worked at Baylor University for 20 years. Last year, she was named the Cornelia Marschall Smith professor of the year.

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.

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A symbiotic relationship: You & the IRS

BY DEXTER HALL

A symbiotic relationship occurs when two organisms, individuals or groups of people work together by helping one another with the intent of getting help in return. In a symbiotic relationship, the two people or groups of people live together to provide the greatest benefits to one another.

OK, I know we could debate the point of mutually beneficial, but nevertheless we are definitely in the relationship so let's make sure we understand it and get the most from it.

Here we go ...

It's hard to believe that the 2022 Tax Filing Season is here.

After the world wind of change we have had in each of our lives over the last couple of years, including with our good friend, the Internal Revenue Service, it's time to catch up and make sure we all understand the current guidelines of our "friendship."

The IRS this year began accepting and processing Individual Tax Returns on Jan. 24.

Our friend the IRS also has a program called, "IRS Free File." This filing process opened Jan. 14 and allows taxpayers with under \$73,000 to file their tax returns at no-cost through IRS Free File partners. The IRS Free File allows you to file your tax return online using free guided tax preparation or using free fillable forms.

Take a look at the IRS partner site for more information on the Free File program. Providers of this free program include FileYourTaxes.com and TaxAct.com. You can also find other providers to receive a free federal tax return using this link [Browse All Offers](#).

In addition to the IRS, our friends at the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau have created an easy to navigate site with a guide to filing your taxes in 2022.

2021 brought lots of changes to programs like the Child Tax Credit (CTC) and the Child and Dependent Care Credit (CDCC). Information can also be obtained on Earned Income tax credits (EITC) and on new programs where taxpayers received assistance through the Emergency Rental Assistance and



DEXTER HALL

Recovery Rebate Credits.

Please review this information to ensure you are prepared for a successful filing of your 2021 tax returns.

Guide to filing your taxes in 2022 | Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (consumerfinance.gov):

- Increased tax benefits
- Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) payments
- Getting ready to file
- How to get your money
- Make a plan for your tax refund
- Watch out for scams

There is also FREE in-person assistance to help you through the tax filing process with all of the changes in 2021. Please reach out to the following Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites in our community:

University High School / AJ Moore Academy, Ron E. Smith Academy of Business and Finance, 3201 South New Road, Waco, TX 76706, Open — Jan. 25 - April 14, Hours — Tuesday and Thursday, 4:30-6:30 p.m., Appointments not required, Languages — English, Spanish; Tarleton State University VITA, McLennan Community College, Michaelis Academic Center, Room 202, 1400 College Drive, Waco, TX 76708, Open — Feb. 19, Hours — Saturday, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Appointments not required, Languages — English, Spanish; and La Vega High School Business Program, McLennan County/Waco Central Waco Library, Central Meeting Room, 1717 Austin Ave., Waco, TX, 254-299-8252, Open — Feb. 16 and 23, March 16, 23, and 30, April 6 and 13, Hours — 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Appointments not required, Languages — English, Spanish.

Note: In-person services could change based on COVID-19 protocols at each site.

As you work to ensure a great friendship in this symbiotic relationship with our friend the IRS here are some key dates:

- Jan. 14: IRS Free File opened. Taxpayers began filing returns through IRS Free File partners; tax returns were transmitted to the IRS starting Jan. 24. Tax software companies also are accepting tax filings in advance.
- Jan. 24: IRS began 2022 tax season. Individual 2021 tax returns began being accepted and processing begins

accepted and processing begins

- Jan. 28: Earned Income Tax Credit Awareness Day raised awareness of valuable tax credits available to many people – including the option to use prior-year income to qualify.
- April 18: Due date to file 2021 tax return or request extension.
- Oct. 17: Due date to file for those requesting an extension on their 2021 tax returns.

If you need further assistance or more information to ensure you get the most out of your symbiotic relationship with our friend the IRS, please contact me at Dexter@prosperwaco.org.

Lastly, if you would like to learn more or assist us with the implementation of the Blueprint for Financial and Economic Security for all Wacoans, please feel free to contact me as well at Dexter@prosperwaco.org.

Until next, please ensure you learn, nurture, and grow your friendship with the good ol' IRS.

Dexter Hall is chief of staff and senior specialist for financial security with Prosper Waco.

Officer Quinton R. Vonner



OFFICER QUINTON R. VONNER

Quinton R. Vonner was a trailblazer. In 1963 he was appointed to the Texas Liquor Control Board by Governor John Connally, making him the first African-American state commissioned officer. Known by his fellow agents as a man of integrity, dedication, loyalty, honesty, and compassion, he was an humble and modest hero to many families and individuals.

Dr. Shamonica Trunell



DR. SHAMONICA TRUNELL

A God-given healer, Dr. Shamonica Trunell, D.C. was Waco's first African American female chiropractor. Coming to the area in 2011, Dr. Trunell has impacted the Central Texas community, causing a major shift in the healthcare model. She is dedicated to the health and wellness of her patients while giving back to the community.

Dr. Hazel Row



DR. HAZEL ROW

Dr. Hazel Rowe was the first female African American Interim Superintendent in Waco in 1999 after the retirement of Dr. Rosanne Stripling. Dr. Rowe retired from ESC Region 12 but returned to be Interim Superintendent again following Dr. Marcus Nelson.

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ISRAEL KWAKU KAZULA LEWIS: My Ancestor's Legacy

BY W.B. GUNTER

Israel Kwaku Kazula Lewis is the first born 5th generation descendant of Kudjo (Cudjo) Kazula, who arrived on the shores of the US via the schooner/slave ship Clotilda (Clotilde). It is the duty of the first born to know and pass on the oral history. He graciously agreed to share his historical recollections with the Anchor News.

Mr. Alvin Pollard



MR. ALVIN POLLARD

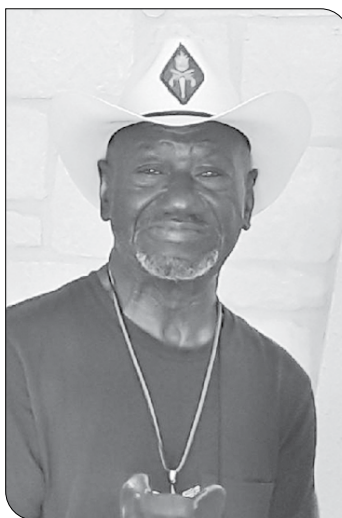
Hired in the 70's, Alvin Pollard was McLennan Community College's first African American dean. Pollard was in that position for 29 years. In 2002, he became the College's first African American Vice-President. He was a VP for 13 years before he retired.

"I was named Kwaku Kazula, which means Wednesday Warrior. My birth was witnessed by a midwife named Melvina. My grandfather asked to see me one day when I was in first grade. That's when he first taught me of my heritage. I experienced three initiations, the first one at birth, one at the age of 6, and another at 12 years.

The Kalua Family were from West Africa and descendants of the Ashanti in the region of Ghana. My family can be traced to the first Ashanti King, Osei Tutu. The Kazula family is part of the Tarkar tribe, warriors. The family was very skilled in the art of negotiations because war is no Sunday School picnic.

The transatlantic slave trade had been abolished years earlier. In Mobile, Alabama, shipbuilders Timothy Meaher and William Foster decided it would be a major accomplishment if they could use their newly built schooner, Clotilda to bring West Africans into America. With \$9,000 in gold, the Clotilda, a ship named after a German woman, Clovis, was built in Mobile, Alabama and co licensed by the Coast Guard in 1855, prepared to sail. William Foster rounded up a crew and the ship was fitted out to become a slave ship.

The Clotilda arrived in Dahomey (Benin). The king was



ISRAEL KWAKU KAZULA LEWIS

notorious for selling young people because they questioned his authority following the previous king. My ancestors were not kidnapped. They were warriors trained to fight to the death. Women were trained to fight. It is said that the children of the Akaan people receive their mother's blood and their father's spirit. There was a mutual respect between the man and woman. My ancestors were, Kudjo Kazula, Charlee, Polee, and Konko, a female.

When Captain Foster arrived in Dahomey, he met with officials to purchase 125 people. 15 of the 125 took off. They docked at night. When the ship arrived to the waters of the Gulf Coast, a runner went to find Timothy Meaher, who was found worshipping

in a Catholic church. Timothy Meaher left out the church to meet the Clotilda where it was unloaded near the Meaher property. 30 people were taken to Mobile Alabama near the Meaher property and Darby Plantation to avoid duty taxes which were owed. The thing that drove slave trade and human trafficking was money, greed, and power.

Because what they had done was illegal, they had to keep us together. By keeping us together, we kept our names, language, customs, heritage, and religion. After the Civil War, in 1868, Rabbi Moses visited Africatown, Alabama where my ancestors settled. In order to have legal immigration status, Rabbi Moses gave them names like, Israel, Joseph, Nathaniel, or Moses. Rabbi James Wood changed the last names to Lewis, which means Warriors."

In 1914, librarian, Emma Langdon Roche conducted interviews and published her findings in a book entitled, The Historical Sketches Of the South. In 1927, author Zora Neale Hurston interviewed Cudjo Lewis, and published the book, Baracoon: The Story of The Last "Black Cargo" In 2018, charred remains of what is believed to be remnants of The Clotilda were found in Alabama and is still being investigated. In January, 2022, National Geographic announced it will be airing a documentary about "Clotilda."

Israel Kwaku Kazula Lewis resides in Killeen, Texas. He is retired from the Army, an artist, scholar, historian, and has made it his life's mission to honor the lives and history of his family. He said, "When you grow up in something and hear it all of the time, it becomes a part of you. Just because I came as a descendant with the last group of Africans to America, I am still a part of the first. KAZULA!!

Mrs. Alice Pollard



MRS. ALICE POLLARD

Alice Pollard was Waco PD's, 1st African American female officer. She began her career in 1970, working in the Juvenile Detectives Unit. Pollard was on the force until 1977.

Pastor Tynna Dixon



PASTOR TYNNA DIXON

Bishop Mike Lowry of the Central Texas Conference appointed Tynna Dixon to First Methodist Waco in July 2021. She represents the first appointment of an African American clergy person to serve at First Methodist Waco in its 171 year history.

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Mrs. Theresa Chaney Crawford



MISS THERESA CHANEY CRAWFORD

In the early 1950s, Mrs. Theresa Chaney Crawford was among the first class of licensed vocational nurses to graduate from Paul Quinn College. Working at Providence and Hillcrest hospitals, she and many other nurses of color were instrumental in breaking the barriers of segregation in the Waco area.

Mrs. Henrietta Napier



MRS. HENRIETTA NAPIER

Mrs. Henrietta Napier, (Nov. 13, 1931 - March 13, 2020) was the first African American hired as a registered nurse for McLennan County. Thousands of African American children received their vaccinations from her in the 1950s and 1960s. Providing many other medical services for hundreds, she was a very important person in the East Waco - Carver Park community.

Pastor Roscoe Harrison



PASTOR ROSCOE HARRISON

Pastor Roscoe Harrison was many firsts: the first African American television journalist in Central Texas, first African American reporter for the Temple Daily Telegram and the San Antonio Express-News in the 60's and the first African American television news anchor for KCEN-TV. We mourn his recent passing.

BETTERS

Continued from page one

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 cooperative; 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."

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The artistry of Samra Thompson, Part 2



W.B. GUNTER

BY WANDA GUNTER

Part 2 Continued from the January, 2022 issue.

Samra Thompson, is an artist who enjoys creating and was generous enough to take time out of a very busy schedule to share her thoughts about art. In her artist statement, she describes herself and some of the art endeavors she enjoys. She states, "As a person with a lot of interests and a modest amount of talent, I've developed a love for many artistic endeavors. Many of my art pieces start as experiments with different types of materials. I've dabbled in so many things."

Fabric Arts: Quilting, sewing, crochet, embroidery, and all things related to them are activities I have been experimenting with. I've grown quite fond of making scrap quilts. I like to use up cast off pieces of fabric and create a useful and cozy item that's meant to be used and loved. "Quilting is a lot like mosaic art, because I'm still taking lots of little bits and pieces and making a larger image from them."

Furniture Refinishing: Finding an unloved, beat-up piece of furniture and giving it a facelift is another very satisfying hobby. I've learned the hard way many times what NOT to do with regards to stripping old paint or using the wrong products. I love color and I love to watch something ugly and discarded become beautiful and useful again.

Paper arts and Printmaking: I went through many phases of paper art, from making greeting cards to doing elaborate collages. Like fabric, paper also comes in a lot of beautiful colors and patterns, which is part of the fun of making stuff out of them. Printmaking, old school linocuts and woodcuts, is also one of my hobbies. I was recently gifted a wallpaper sample book from 1957. This was a glorious find for me, as it had some interesting patterns and styles that sparked an obsession for me to make geometric collages out of the pages. I had a sort of a "jamais vu" experience touching and handling these vintage pieces of decorating history. The patterns and styles felt comfortable. They created a weird nostalgia, thinking about the kinds of homes what would have had these patterns and styles in them. What kind of people wallpaper their rooms in pink pineapples?

Digital Art/Photography/Graphic Design: I do graphic design at a local print shop so I'm faced with creating "art on demand" which isn't easy sometimes. I've learned to use a variety of design programs



SAMRA THOMPSON

for doing everything from simple business cards to full sized magazines, catalogs, and other print materials.

In composing the above list of artistic endeavors it becomes clear that I have a knack for taking things broken and making them whole again. I don't know if there's some deeper philosophy here, but I will say that creating art, fixing the broken, repurposing the outdated, and generally staying busy just making stuff is what I've always done. My

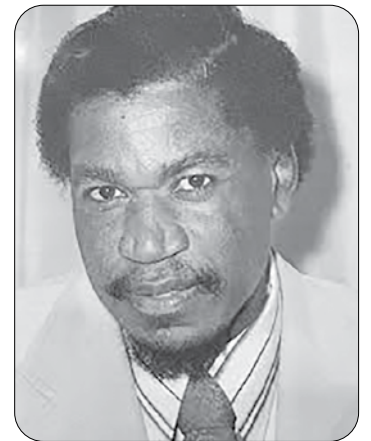
current philosophy regarding art has evolved into creating things that are more meaningful, maybe only to me. I've learned to translate thoughts and feelings and emotions into glass and tile and fabric. These things may not be obvious to the casual observer, but I know. That's all that matters."

With a new year of oppor-

tunities in front of us, there's much to reconsider about re-discovering and exploring our talents and gifts. To begin any endeavor, organization is key. Knowing where things are located, the care of tools, materials, and supplies are a must. If being more organized is something of a struggle, Samra suggested, labels, clear jars, and designating space for tasks. To begin, one simply has to begin. Depending on the art or collection, things will accumulate unless limits are set by setting a space limit and minimizing everything else.

Other conversations with Thompson included her extensive knowledge of botanicals, poultry farming, time management, and canning. More than what one may think of when contemplating art and what an artist is or does, Samra Thompson is an avid reader who embodies the artistry of living.

Rev. Robert Gilbert



REV. ROBERT GILBERT

Rev. Robert Gilbert was Baylor University's first African American male graduate in 1967 earning a B. A. in history. In 1970. He was also the first African American to enroll in Baylor's graduate program in the Department of Religion. He was an educator, pastor, and civil rights leader. Because of Rev. Gilbert's impact, the Department of Religion in Baylor University's College of Arts & Sciences has announced the establishment of the Robert L. Gilbert Scholar in Religion Graduate Stipend, named in honor of Baylor's first African American graduate. The recipient will be awarded full tuition for five years.

Professor A.J. Moore



PROFESSOR A.J. MOORE

In the late 1800's, Professor Alexander James Moore started teaching African American children from his home. The attendance grew tremendously, and eventually, a school for blacks was built. Professor Moore became the first black in Waco to have a school (AJ Moore High) named in his honor.

Attorney Richard Evans



ATTORNEY RICHARD EVANS

Waco's first African American attorney was Richard Evans. Known as R.D., Attorney Evans was also a courageous, well-informed civil rights leader.

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The Promise by Damon Galgut

BY JIM MCKEOWN

The 2021 Booker Prize was awarded to Damon Galgut for his stunning novel, *The Promise*. This was his second trip to the shortlist. His most recent novel was nominated for the Walter Scott and Folio Prizes. These novels have appeared in sixteen languages so far. He has a recent film adaptation of *The Quarry* released in 2020. Damon lives and works in Cape Town.

Amor is a young woman, whose mother has recently passed. Damon wrote, "The moment the metal box speaks her name, Amor knows it has happened. She's been in a tense, headachy mood all day, almost like she had a warning in a dream but can't remember what it is. Some sign or image, just under the surface. Trouble down below. Fire Underground, // But when the words were said to her aloud, she doesn't believe them. She closes her eyes and shakes her head. No, no. It can't be true, what her aunt has just told her. Nobody is dead. It's a word, that's all. She looks at the word, lying there on the desk."

like an insect on its back, with no explanation" (3).

The days begin to pass. Damon wrote, "Amor follows her aunt, not quite on the ground, a few centimeters above it, a giddy gap between her and things as she heads for the kitchen door. Inside, Oom Ockie is mixing himself a brandy-and-Coke, his second of the morning. He has recently retired from his government job as a draughtsman in Water Affairs and his days are listless. He jumps to guilty attention when he's bust by his wife, sucking on his nicotine-stained moustache. He's had hours to dress himself properly, but is still wearing pants and a golfing shirt and slippers. A blockish man with thinning hair Brylcreamed sideways across his scalp. He gives Amor a clammy hug, very awkward for both of them. // 'Sorry about your mother,' he says. // 'Oh, that's okay,' Amor says, and immediately starts to cry" (7).

This wealthy family also has a housekeeper. Damon wrote, "But somethings you do know, because you saw them yourself. In the same impassive way that Salome sweeps



JIM MCKEOWN

and cleans the house and washes the clothes of the people who live in it, she looked after Ma through her last illness, dressing and undressing her, helping her bathe with a bucket of hot water, helping her go to the toilet, yes, all the jobs that people in her own family didn't want to do, too dirty or too intimate. 'Let Salome do it', that's what she's paid for, isn't it? She was with Ma when she died, right there next to the bed, though nobody seems to see her, she is apparently invisible. And what-

ever Salome feels is invisible too. She has been told 'Clean up here, wash the sheets, and she obeys, she cleans up, she washes the sheets'" (19). The family knows they were supposed to provide Salome with a home and a plot of land for her in perpetuity.

The promise to Salome recurs. "Lucas saw Amor on the koppie yesterday. And she told him your father will give me my house." // 'I don't know anything about that.' // 'Okay' she says. Apparently unperturbed, though she has thought of nothing else since the words were spoken. To have her own house, to hold those papers in her hand! // 'Better ask my father,' he says. // 'Okay.' He watches her inscrutable back, which bore his infant self innumerable times, as it moves to and fro along the kitchen counter, carrying the stacked plates to the cupboard. // 'Yes' he says, absently. 'Better ask him.' // The question about the house has traveled from his mother to his sister to Lucas to Salome and has now been planted in him, a tiny dark seed just starting to sprout.

Damon Galgut reveals the mistreatment of a good person who was promised a home. *The Promise* is a story—recounted again and again—mistreatment of the lowest individuals scotching out an existence.

-Jim McKeown is an MCC retired English Professor.

Dr. Mae Jackson



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Deal Hinton releases second book

BY W.B. GUNTER

At 80 years old, Ms Deal Hinton was writing a book of poems entitled, "Let Me Say This." It was a book of encouragement intended to leave a lasting legacy for future generations. That was in 2015.

Years later, Ms Deal asked her niece, Annie Holloway to help edit and transcribe. They'd meet and decide what materials would be printed. Annie enlisted help from Ms Hinton's sisters.

When it came to her growing years, she had a good sense of humor, but made it clear that there were some things, best kept to yourself.

Annie says, following the passing of Betty White and Sidney Poitier, "it dawned on me that Aunt Deal is in her 90's. Every day I worked on the book. On her 96th birthday, I handed her the author's proof of, "Just A Glimpse Down The Road I Traveled."

The self-published book is available online.

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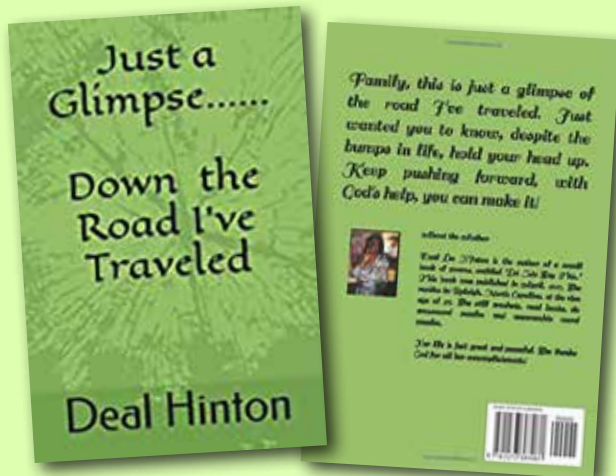
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Nelson R. Henley, Sr.
Pastor & Founder

HENRY

Continued from page two

applications, voters should immediately complete and return them to the Elections Office. If they have not received an application, voters may request a mail ballot application by calling: 254-757-5043. Voters may also obtain a mail ballot application from the Elections Office website: <https://www.co.mclennan.tx.us/DocumentCenter/View/697/Ballot-by-Mail-Application-PDF?bidId>. Do not be fooled by the statement on the form that says a voter may email her application. That is simply another effort by the Texas Legislature to confuse voters. Though the form indicates that voters can email the form, a paper version signed by the voter must be presented in person

or mailed to the Elections Office. Thus, do not be fooled into emailing a form that will not count. Deliver it in-person or mail it.

FILL OUT THE APPLICATION

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· NEW! Provide BOTH your Texas Driver's License and the last four digits of your Social Security Number. If you use a personal ID, provide that and your Social Security Number. The requirement to include an identification number on your mail ballot application is new. Applications are rejected when the ID number on the voter registration card does not match the ID num-

ber on the mail ballot application.

· If you are 65 years or older, or are sick or disabled, mark the box for "Annual Application" and you will receive a ballot for all elections during that year.

· If you are out of the county (where you are registered to vote) during early voting and on Election Day, check the box for each election you wish to vote in.

· Mark your party of choice to vote in the Primary Election.

· If you check "Disabled" - do not write in your disability.

· Call to make sure your application has been approved: 254-757-5043.

WHO'S ELIGIBLE TO VOTE BY MAIL?

Those who are eligible to request a vote-by-mail application and vote absentee include voters who are 65 years of age or older by Election Day, voters who will be absent from the county during early voting and on Election Day, voters confined in jail but are eligible to vote, and voters who are disabled.

WHERE TO GET HELP IF YOU HAVE TROUBLE GETTING YOUR MAIL BALLOT OR HAVE OTHER ELECTION CONCERNS.

The Waco NAACP is committed to making sure that voters are aware of their legal voting rights. The Waco NAACP Political Engagement Committee recommends that voters clip or photograph the guidelines and the helplines provided here. If you go to vote in person and feel that it was unsafe or that there was bias, hostility or other irregularity, call one of the hotlines below as soon as possible.

REPORT ISSUES

Report issues to: Vote@naacpldf.org; Call Election Protection at 866-OUR-VOTE (866-687-8683); Spanish at 888-VE-Y-VOTA (888-839-8682; Disability Rights Texas at 888-796-VOTE (8683).

Voters should follow the Waco NAACP on social media for trustworthy information on elections.

Individuals wishing to join the Waco NAACP, may do so by using PayPal or CashApp (\$WacoNAACP) or mailing payment to P. O. Box 20511; Waco, TX 76702.

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By Appointment Only

HARRIS

Continued from page one

ters...She knew that her adopted homeland would see Maya and me as black girls and she was determined to make sure we would grow into confident, proud black women."

After high school, Harris matriculated to Howard University, a HBCU in Washington, D.C. She then received her law degree from the University of California Hastings College of the Law in San Francisco and began her career in the Alameda County District Attorney's Office. In 2003, Harris was elected as the District Attorney of the City and County of San Francisco.

As a lawyer, Harris immediately began breaking glass ceilings. In 2010, Harris was elected as the first African American and first woman to serve as California's Attorney General. While Attorney General, she married lawyer Doug Emhoff and became stepmother to his two children. She proudly became "Momala" as well as Attorney General. In 2016, she was

elected as a Senator for California, becoming only the second African American woman to ever be elected to the Senate in U.S. history. When speaking to The Washington Post in 2019, Harris spoke about how politicians should not have to fit into boxes because of the color of their skin or their background, saying, "My point was: I am who I am. I'm good with it. You might need to figure it out, but I'm fine with it."

While in the Senate, Harris served on two powerful committees: the Intelligence Committee and the Judiciary Committee. As the committees dealt with important issues—such as the investigation into Russian influence and meddling in the 2016 election and judicial appointments to the Supreme Court—Harris became known as a sharp, aggressive questioner who could unnerve opposing witnesses.

In 2019, Harris launched her campaign for President of the United States. While she did not

win the Democratic primary, she proved that she was capable of taking on an even larger leadership role in the United States. Because of her commitment to fighting injustice, her eloquence, and capabilities for leadership and governance, President-Elect Joseph R. Biden chose Harris as his running mate. This pick made Harris the fourth woman on a major party's national ticket and the second African American on a presidential ticket.

On the evening of November 7, 2020, standing on an outdoor stage in Wilmington, Delaware, Harris—wearing a suit in suffrage white—spoke to a crowd of cheering Americans about the work women have done, and continue to do, in the United States. She said,

"When [my mother] came here from India at the age of 19, maybe she didn't quite imagine this moment. But she believed so deeply in an America where a moment like this is possible. So,

I'm thinking about her and about the generations of women — Black Women. Asian, White, Latina, and Native American women throughout our nation's history who have paved the way for this moment tonight. Women who fought and sacrificed so much for equality, liberty, and justice for all, including the Black women, who are too often overlooked, but so often Prove that they are the backbone of our democracy.... But while I may be the first woman in this office, I won't be

the last. Because every little girl watching tonight sees that this is a country of possibilities.

And to the children of our country, regardless of your gender, our country has sent you a clear message: Dream with ambition, lead with conviction, and see yourself in a way that others might not see you, simply because they've never seen it before."

Rothberg, Emma. "Kamala Harris" National Women's History Museum, 2020. 7 February 2022.



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The greatest of these is love

BY MONA DUNKIN

What is Love Anyway?

The concept of loving and being loved never goes away. Flowers wilt, candy is eaten, balloons pop and the cuddly stuffed animals lose their song. Life can be disappointing when the attention wanes. Know this, however: you are unique and special and very loveable. Please believe it.

Love is complicated. As if love was not complicated enough, we Americans use

this particular word is used to express our affection for everything from people to popcorn to places to puzzles to pets. The Greek language has four different words for different loving emotions.

- "Eros" (cupid) is the romantic love,
- "Philio" is friendship or brotherly love

- "Stoic" is the kind of love for whatever is still left - things, places, activities, chocolate.

- "Agape" love is Divine, a God's kind. A love that is



MONA DUNKIN

unconditional, eternal and

healing.

Love, passive and active.

The Hebrew language has two words for love, both in the present active tense.

- "Ahab" is choosing to love from afar with the intent to pursue and to woo. Ahab love is hopeful.

- "Hessedh" is choosing to love and to keep-on-loving whether received or rejected. Hessedh love is steadfast and eternal.

Faith, hope, love. In the Christian Bible, the Apostle Paul wrote a beautiful essay on love. He gave a benchmark for us mortals to use to measure our romantic and brotherly love. He said outrageous things such as- "Love is kind. Love does not envy. Love does not get puffed up or pouty. Love does not always have to have its own way. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things and endures all things." (I Corinthians 13)

A flip of the coin. I like to look at issues from all sides. To observe the direct meaning and also see what is indirectly inferred. In measuring myself by Paul's love yardstick I noticed two phrases coupled together. "Love is long-suffering" - I had that down to a fine art (I could roll my eyes and sigh deeply and it was so obvious I was suffering in my patience) - "and is kind." Oh no! In suffering we are to be kind?

Give me a break. It hit me like a ton of bricks. I said out loud, "Surely You jest! You expect me to be kind to my mother-in-law?!" (Or mate, or child, or boss or neighbor; you fill in the blank.) Another word for love is "charity". "Charity" is used instead of "love" in the above-mentioned passage in the King James Bible translation. I like that. I find in some incidents that it is easier to be charitable than it is to be loving. I am learning to be kind to the lovely and the unlovely alike. To strive to overlook bad attitudes and respond in kindness to irritants or rudeness or disrespect.

Charity begins at home. Garland and I married fifty-five years ago. I am humbled by the fact that this guy loves me and keeps on loving me. Opposites attract.

Opposites also attack. Over time, that refreshing opposite way of seeing life from the way you view life becomes stale... and irritating.... And just wrong! Let's be charitable.

How to be charitable.

The hormonal passive love of Eros and Ahab may draw a couple together, but it is the active, on-going, over-and-over choosing to love of Hessedh that keeps a family together. And it is the friendship of Phileo love and the fun-seeking-shared-interests of Stoic love that makes the relationship enjoyable. It grows into the love that "endures all things" - hardships, grief, difficulties - and "believes all things" - sees the good in the midst of the not-so-good. A love that is in it for the long haul. A commitment with no escape clause.

Fifty-five years and counting. . . So it is for me and Garland. It has been difficult at times. It has also been a wonderful, magical adventure and the road ahead looks promising. A love that lasts is one rooted in friendship and mutual respect.

Put first things first. It's a lifetime and counting for genuine Agape love and me. Because I am the willing benefactor of God's universal blessings and unconditional love, I am able to accept myself as I am and to be charitable to others as they are. A quote from the wisdom of C. S. Lewis: "When I have learned to love God better than my earthly dearest, I shall love my earthly dearest better than I do now. In so far as I learn to love my earthly dearest at the expense of God and instead of God, I shall be moving toward the state in which I shall not love my earthly dearest at all. When first things are put first, second things are not suppressed but increased. Second things are corrupted when they are put first." From C. S. Lewis, British Writer and Theologian.

Mona Dunkin is a Motivational Speaker, Corporate Trainer and Personal Success Coach. Read past articles at www.monadunkin.blogspot.com. Contact her at monadunkin@gmail.com.



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Dealing with an unspoken issue

BY JERRY SNIDER

As a health coach, I'm excited to offer a Health Q&A column for the readers of the Anchor News.

QUESTION: Hi Jerry, for the past few months, I've noticed that I'm constipated far more often than regular. I can't think of anything that I changed in my diet or lifestyle. I eat the same and exercise a few days a week. I really don't want to begin taking medicine just to be able to go every day. I'm in my late 40's and have been a once a day guy until this started recently. Any ideas on what could be causing it? I'd love to tackle it without medication. Thanks, Eddie

ANSWER: Well Eddie, constipation is not an uncommon issue. Most people, men specifically, don't want to talk about it though. It's great that you are looking for answers because long term constipation is shown to be an early warning sign for brain issues later in life, such as Dementia and Alzheimer's disease. That's a whole other conversation that we can avoid by getting you regular again.

There are multiple possible reasons for constipation, the

biggest one being the types of food you eat. But if you haven't changed your diet, this is probably not the issue. But to be safe, eating foods with plenty of fiber as well as with foods that are fermented (kimchi, sauerkraut, applesauce, yogurt, etc) will help things move along.

Some other common culprits include lack of sleep and dehydration. These are what I would consider lifestyle behaviors. Making sure you get proper sleep allows your body to recover and repair properly. That includes your digestive system. Hydration can be a factor in constipation simply because the softer the material is, the easier it will move through your system.

These next two tend to go together - stress and exercise. If you are getting enough exercise, you'll likely handle your stress well and therefore shouldn't have any gut issues resulting from stress. But if you aren't exercising and/or have extra amounts of stress going on, your gut will show it.

If your diet and lifestyle are the same as before and there hasn't been an increase in stress levels, then the bacteria in your



JERRY SNIDER

gut could simply be changing. The best thing to do to help with this is feed those bacteria some more fiber. You may be at a point in life where you need to make that change.

The nice thing about constipation is you'll know when you fix the issue. Good luck increasing your regularity.

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.

Chief Bobby Tatum



CHIEF BOBBY TATUM

In 2016 Bobby Tatum became Waco's first African American fire chief. He poured his heart and time into the community, changing and saving lives. In December of 2019, after 35 years in the fire service and opening doors for others to follow, he retired from the city of Waco.

Dr. Marcus A. Nelson



DR. MARCUS A. NELSON

In 2017, Dr. Marcus A. Nelson became the first African American Superintendent of Schools for Waco ISD. Under his leadership, Waco ISD forged ahead and excelled in many ways. In his absence, his influence remains.

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Let's not give the devil legal rights, Part 2

BY EVANGELIST
RUBY MCCRAY

Continued from the January edition of The Anchor News. To review the previous article, please go to www.theanchornews.com, click "Archives," then the year and finally, the month.

"Therefore, putting away lying, 'Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor,' for we are members of one another. 'Be angry, and do not sin': do not let the sun go down on your wrath, nor give place to the devil." Ephesians 4:25-27

Many times, when we talk about opening the door to the devil, we imagine gross sins like adultery, drunkenness, murder, and such like. Those are not the only kinds of sins that give the devil legal rights. Do you know that if you don't do some of the simplest things in faith, you've committed a sin?

If I think that a particular thing is alright to do, but I know that it offends my Christian brother or sister, yet I do it anyway, I just committed a sin and opened the door for the devil. Let's see what the Bible, (the Christians' standard), has to say

about this.

"Accept other believers who are weak in faith, and don't argue with them about what they think is right or wrong. For instance, one person believes it's all right to eat anything. But another believer with a sensitive conscience will eat only vegetables. Those who feel free to eat anything must not look down on those who don't. And those who don't eat certain foods must not condemn those who do, for God has accepted them. Who are you to condemn someone else's servants? Their own master will judge whether they stand or fall. And with the Lord's help, they will stand and receive his approval.

"In the same way, some think one day is more holy than another day, while others think every day is alike. You should each be fully convinced that whichever day you choose is acceptable. Those who worship the Lord on a special day do it to honor him. Those who eat any kind of food do so to honor the Lord, since they give thanks to God before eating. And those who refuse to eat certain foods also want to please the Lord and give thanks to



EVANGELIST
RUBY MCCRAY

God. For we don't live for ourselves or die for ourselves. If we live, it's to honor the Lord. And if we die, it's to honor the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. Christ died and rose again for this very purpose—to be Lord both of the living and of the dead.

"So why do you condemn another believer? Why do you look down on another believer? Remember, we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For the Scriptures say, 'As surely as I live,' says the Lord, 'every knee will bend to me, and every tongue will declare allegiance to God.'

"Yes, each of us will give a personal account to God. So, let's stop condemning each other. Decide instead to live in such a way that you will not cause another believer to stumble and fall.

"I know and am convinced on the authority of the Lord Jesus that no food, in and of itself, is wrong to eat. But if someone believes it is wrong, then for that person it is wrong. And if another believer is distressed by what you eat, you are not acting in love if you eat it. Don't let your eating ruin someone for whom Christ died. Then you will not be criticized for doing something you believe is good. For the Kingdom of God is not a matter of what we eat or drink, but of living a life of goodness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. If you serve Christ with this attitude, you will please God, and others will approve of you, too. So then, let us aim for harmony in the church and try to build each other up.

Don't tear apart the work of God over what you eat. Remember, all foods are acceptable, but it is wrong to eat something if it makes another person stumble. It is better not

to eat meat or drink wine or do anything else if it might cause another believer to stumble. You may believe there's nothing wrong with what you are doing, but keep it between yourself and God. Blessed are those who don't feel guilty for doing something they have decided is right. But if you have doubts about whether or not you should eat something, you are sinning if you go ahead and do it. For you are not following your convictions. If you do anything you believe is not right, you are sinning." Romans 14:1-23 (NLT)

Whoever would have thought that something as simple as eating could fit in the sin category? Anything that is not done in faith is sin.

Please join me in March as we continue this series. 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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Will your online history come back to haunt you?

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

Many people falsely assume the personal information they email or post online is private. It is important to understand how your online history can be used against you in a legal proceeding, jeopardize your employment or even put children at risk. The following information will help you understand how your online presence can expose you to risk and how to avoid key mistakes.

- **Anonymity** – Posting comments to online forums, news outlets or blogs may give you a false sense of anonymity and privacy. There is no anonymity online; everything can be traced back to its source. Before posting anything online consider the very real possibility that it will be traced back to you. In addition, anything you post online may be used against you in court. You should never assume that information you post online is private or confidential.

- **Attorney-Client Confidentiality** – Attorney-client confidentiality protects direct communication between you and your attorney. These commu-

nications whether in person, by phone or online cannot be used against you in court. You can jeopardize your confidentiality by talking about your legal matter with anyone other than your attorney. A breach of attorney-client privilege can seriously harm your case. Do not discuss the details of your case with anyone other than your attorney and avoid discussing legal matters online.

- **Children** – Child predators use social networking sites to find victims. Talk to your children about online safety. Even uploading pictures of your children to social media or photo sharing websites could put them at risk. Most smart phones and many newer digital cameras use GPS to tag your pictures with the exact location where they were taken. Predators can locate your child within a few feet using this information. The best way to avoid this danger is to disable GPS tagging on your smart phone or camera.

- **Teens** - Online bullying can have tragic consequences. It is important to talk to children about how to handle being bullied, as well as the importance of reporting and not participating in the bullying of other children. It is



J.L. CRAWFORD

also important to teach teens about the dangers of posting or transmitting illicit photographs or videos. In recent years teens have been convicted of child pornography charges for possessing nude photographs of underage peers. Explain to teens the legal risks of taking, transmitting or even receiving such images.

- **Your Job** – Employers are increasingly turning to social media to learn more about applicants. Applicants should be aware that their profiles and posts could be used for this purpose. Employers must be careful not to unlawfully discriminate based on age, gender, race, religious beliefs or sexual orientation. Em-

ployees who make negative comments about customers, co-workers or their employer could end up losing their job.

- **Family Law** – Facebook profiles and Twitter posts are being introduced as evidence more and more frequently in divorce and child custody cases. No matter what your intention when posting something online, consider how it could come back to haunt you. The best advice is to take a break from Facebook or other social media during a divorce or custody dispute.

- **Criminal Law** - In addition to divorce court, the digital trail created through social networking is becoming increasingly common in criminal cases. Discussing illegal activity, even as a joke could land you in hot water.

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 on page 9. J.L. Crawford, Senior Manager

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Luna's Juice Bar - 1516 Austin
Marilyn's Gift Gallery
Mitch's Corner Stop
NeighborWorks
Public Library (Elm)

Public Library - South 18th Street
Public Library - Austin Street
Public Library in the Target Shopping Center
Records Building
RocMyStyle
Sasce's
Texas Star Properties (Pro-Life Office on Waco Drive)
TFNB (Elm)
Tony DeMaria's Bar-B-Que
Tru Jamaica Restaurant (Taylor Street)

—HEWITT—

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Divine Radiance Healthy Hair Care Services
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Bobby B's Soulfood Restaurant

—WOODWAY—

Allstate - 7213 New Sanger Ave.

Beware of the Valentine Scam

BY MARGARET IVORY

During this Valentine season, many lonely senior citizens are turning to online dating sites to find telephone companions. With extended COVID lockdowns, being separated from family members, recent deaths of friends and just sheer loneliness, the hopes of finding romance, even over the phone, is very alluring.

Online dating sites are up 700% since the Pandemic with over 3 billion swipes of potential sweethearts. Most of the profiles are real people who are also seeking a phone romance too but please beware. There are also scammers who are seeking victims to take advantage of.

The most vulnerable age groups are women over 45 and men over 60. The scammer sweet talks his or her victim to gain trust. Once trust is established, the scammer creates a pretentious lie of needing funds for COVID medical bills or needing money for a family member's funeral.

Statistics show that 60-69 years old seniors lost \$89 mil-



MARGARET IVORY

lion to online dating scams in 2021. Their supposed online sweetie talked them into investing in a fake crypto-currency or a fake business deal. Once the funds were transferred, the online sweetie was also gone.

Here are a few more online dating site scams to be aware of:

- There are fake dating sites that ask for your personal information like your mother's maiden name or the name of your first school. These sites may also ask about financial details. Some of these fake sites don't ask

much at all but all of a sudden you receive many messages from potential suitors.

- You may receive emails asking you to verify your on-line dating account with your password, social security number, credit card and banking information.

Beware! The above two scams are trying to steal your identity.

- Lastly, your new fake sweetie may send your several links and download that he or she tries to persuade you to open.

Beware! They may be send-

ing you to sites that will upload viruses to your computer.

It is possible to uncover a scammer pretty quickly. Are they asking you too many personal questions? Are they refusing to do a video chat with you? Does some of their life story not add up? If so, immediately hang up and block their phone number.

If unfortunately, you become a victim of an online dating scam, contact the FBI Internet Crime Complaint Center at IC3.gov or call the FBI at 800-225-5324.

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. Call today to learn more. All appointments are done remotely.

Praying this is a great day for you. Stay Safe! God Bless!

Margaret Ivory - Medicare Plans Broker - 254-523-8978

Warning to the Church

BY PASTOR
MATTHEW REED



PASTOR MATTHEW AND
LADY HELEN REED

The prophet Ezekiel was sent to warn Israel. He was a watchman chosen by God. Ezekiel 3:17 says Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel: therefore hear the word at my mouth, and give them warning from me. That is what we the Church are to a dying world today, watchmen chosen by God. Matthew 28:19 says Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

We the Church will God hold accountable for their souls, if we don't warn them of the perils of taking sides

with the world against God. Ezekiel 3:18 states When I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life; the same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand.

The world today accuses the Church of being haters because we warn them of the

sins of homosexuality, adultery, unrighteous judgment etc. This accusation is a tactic that satan uses to intimidate the Church. Don't fall for it. It is designed to separate you from God, to set you at enmity with God. We must continue to speak truth and warn mankind of sin and the wages of sin.

It is our duty today as it was Ezekiel's charge in his day. We find evidence today of this charge. We the Church must be faithful to keep this charge no matter what threats exist or persist. We have to say the truth of the word of God and warn people of the trickery of the devil or be found derelict of our calling. Failing to do so, people's blood will be required of the Church. We should be bold, courageous, count it a blessing to suffer for the Lord sakes. We should speak the truth and warn the people. Be good soldiers. Amen.

Temple of Christ Church

Matthew Reed Ministries Inc.

609 N. 5th St., Waco, TX. 76701 • (254) 753-0772

Church Services

Sunday School
10:00 AM

Morning Worship
11:15 AM

Sunday Evening
6:00 PM

Monday Bible Study
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Wednesday Prayer Worship
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Pastor Matthew Reed and Wife Helen

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**Wanda B.
Gunter**

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

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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



LINDA McDONALD

St. Nick may have retired to the 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 clipings 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.

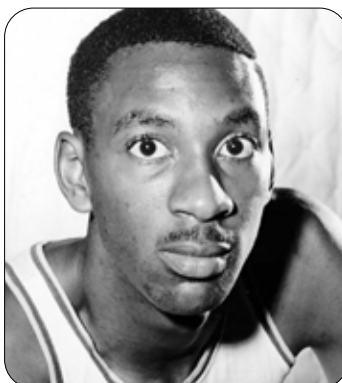
Officers CF Franklin & Jesse Gamble



OFFICERS CF FRANKLIN & JESSE GAMBLE

In 1945, CF Franklin became Waco's first black police officer. Holding the position for 19 years, he was also an undercover agent. Jesse Gamble, another African American, joined the force some time shortly after.

Mr. Tommy Bowman



MR. TOMMY BOWMAN

In 1966, Tommy Bowman was the 1st African American Baylor basketball player. He was the first African American to play on Baylor's varsity team, receiving a full scholarship. Later he became a Southwest Conference (SWC) Hall of Famer.

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God, Destiny and a Glass of Wine, an easy read and perfect gift

The best Christmas gift sometimes comes in a small package. Such is the case with *God, Destiny and a Glass of Wine*. All chapters begin with one of Linda Crawford's own "true-story" personal narratives that she later connects to a point that is relevant to this journey called destiny. The book is an easy read. Several readers have told her that they couldn't put it down once they started. It is available on Amazon.com for \$15.99. You can also go to lindacrawford.org to order there. *God, Destiny, and a Glass of Wine* is sure to open your heart to receive healing, encouragement, and a different outlook on life.

CHAPTER 1: THIS TOO SHALL PASS, BUT WHEN?

I was almost out of breath by the time I made it to the car. Though it was just a few feet away, it seemed like 100 miles. I had parked my car in the back yard to hide it from the bank. Let's face it. It was an old piece of stick-shift junk, but it was all I had, and I was behind on the payments. But tonight, in my panic to get out of the house, maybe the backyard wasn't so smart. Dressed in a gown, house shoes, and a thin jacket, I gripped the keys that were pinned inside my bra. Oh yes, my bra. That

was the safest place to keep my valuables, like my car keys and what little money I had. I had learned a lot in my 29 years. With lightning speed, I dashed out the backdoor, tripping over the threshold, but still holding my balance and determination. Thank God my boy was spending the night with a friend. It was pitch-black dark outside, as I had no time to flip on the outside lights. I just needed to get out. Once inside my car, I let out a sigh, unaware that I had been holding my breath. Quickly locking the car doors, I knew I was on my way. The car was run down and bent up, but it was my path to freedom tonight and my only means of transportation. I'll never forget it. It was a gray and black Toyota, well....a fading gray and a fading black, a hatchback, about 8 years old at the time, and a stick. Ha! A stick. That could be a holdup since I was still in the learning stage, but I could handle it. I tried to crank the old trap, but it just clicked. I tried again, combining my efforts with a plea. "Please God, I need my car!" Just as the motor turned over, I heard that dreadful sound, a swatch-type sound, like an old screen door dragging. My God! He knew I was going to try to get



LINDA MASON CRAWFORD

away. He knew, so he had unlocked the hatch back, ahead of time! He was in the back so fast; all I could do was bite my lip and jerk forward. "Stop the car, Lynn, and give me the money!" he yelled, as he swiftly crawled into the back seat. He lurched through the bucket seats so fast that my head literally seemed to spin, like the girl in the Exorcist. Grabbing the steering wheel, he yelled again, "Gimme the money, Lynn!" The Exorcist...I was sure that his voice changed. But tonight...no, not tonight. I kept driving, the car swerving across into the other the lane and back

again as he, too, gripped the wheel. We came within inches of hitting a minivan. I saw head lights of an 18 wheeler that we also barely missed as we sped into the on-coming traffic. Hands pinned to the wheel, I was driving to my pastor's house, and no one was stopping me. That was the life I lived for most of my 16 years of marriage to a crack addict, one that was much different from my single days of the quiet, country, church girl. I had never touched drugs in my life. I smoked only one cigarette that nearly killed me. And here I was, 29 years old, married to a drug addict. I had so many similar stories to contend with, jumping fences to get my car back from the drug dealers, standing toe-to-toe and nose-to-nose with dealers who threatened to kill me if I didn't leave them alone about getting my car back, knocks on the door in the middle of the night from thugs demanding money my husband owed them, stealing my own car back and driving backwards, trying to miss the flying bullets. You name it; I just about dealt with it. Many times over the years, I walked into my house to find that every piece of furniture and every appliance was gone—sold in exchange for drugs.

I remember waking up one Christmas Day to find that my babies' gifts were gone, sold for drugs. Once, I frantically searched the streets of Tampa because my husband put our 6-year-old out of the car since it was "too dangerous to take him to the crack house," he said. This was before the days of cell phones. I don't even remember how I found my baby boy. I could go on and on, but the only thing that matters is that one day, I accepted the truth that I had to forgive if I expected to move on with my life. I have since come to grips with the truth, that my now ex-husband was a good person, who loved people. When he was straight, he would give away his last. When he was not, he would take another person's last. I literally saw him take his shirt off and give it away. Once he pulled off his watch and gave it away, and then took my watch and gave it away, too. He had a heart of gold, but in addiction, he was the devil. Still, I had to find a way to forgive. I owed it to myself, my children, and my God.

To order *God, Destiny, and a Glass of Wine*, paste the following into your browser: <https://www.amazon.com/Destiny-Glass-Linda-Mason-Crawford/dp/069211761X>.

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Rey

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"This is an amazing book. I found it helpful in navigating my fear of not reaching my full potential. It helped me understand how I can have a positive God-ordained destiny. Excellent work!"

Dr. Mia Moody-Ramirez



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