

SERVING *the* CENTRAL TEXAS COMMUNITY for 22 YEARS!

THE *Anchor* NEWS

FREE! | JANUARY 2025

VOLUME 22, NUMBER 6

HOMETOWN SON BECOMES THE FIRST BLACK MAYOR

In a groundbreaking election, Waco native Monroe Nichols was elected as the first Black mayor of Tulsa, Oklahoma, marking a significant moment in the city's history. Former State Representative Nichols won the race with 56% of the vote, defeating Tulsa County Commissioner Karen Keith who secured 44% of the vote.

"I know the road ahead will take work, and there will be setbacks and challenges. But I also know the people of Tulsa are strong, determined, and unwavering in their commitment to make this city the best it can be," said Mayor Nichols during his inauguration speech on December 2, 2024. "Thank you for your trust and partnership. Our work to build a strong, prosperous and united city takes all of us, and it starts today!"

A WACO NATIVE SON

The son of Dr. Ramona Curtis, Nichols was born in Waco, Texas. He participat-



MONROE NICHOLS

ed in the Zeta Gents Youth Program, Teen Leadership Waco, Jack and Jill Beautification, and The United Methodist Youth Fellowship (One Fellowship UMC). He played high school and college football at Bishop Louis Reicher Catholic School and the University of Tulsa, respectively.

Nichols first called Tulsa home when he began attend-

ing the University of Tulsa, where he received a bachelor's degree in political science and economics. Shortly thereafter, he received a master's degree in public administration from the University of Oklahoma. Throughout his career Nichols has been active in government, private business, higher education, and the nonprofit sector.

Before serving as mayor, Nichols represented House District 72 in the Oklahoma House of Representatives and served as Chair of the Oklahoma Legislative Black Caucus. He has one son, Gavin Monroe Nichols.

A CAMPAIGN WITH A VISION

Nichols ran on a platform of ending homelessness as we now know it, increasing student outcomes, increasing support for public safety,

SEE **MAYOR**, PG. 2

MEET PREMIER HIGH SCHOOL'S TEACHER, CRYSTAL MARTINEZ

Who is Crystal Martinez? Crystal is the daughter of an immigrant and a Chicana. Her father hails from Toledo, San Juan del Rio, Durango, Mexico—a small village in the state of Durango. Her mother is from San Antonio, TX, and Crystal herself is from Waco, TX. Her father arrived in the United States at the age of fifteen. Her parents married young, at sixteen and eighteen, but divorced when Crystal was just two years old. Unable to care for her alone, her father sent her to Mexico to live with her grandparents. Tragically, her grandmother passed away in her sleep when Crystal was only four, leaving her grandfather Juan and her aunts, especially her aunt Juanita, to raise her.

At eight years old, Crystal crossed the border as an illegal immigrant with her family. The journey was fraught with fear and danger, including a painful injury when her uncle accidentally stepped on her hand. Once in the United States, she lived with her father, stepmother, and step-siblings in Pittsburg, TX. She attended Mt. Vernon Elementary School, where she struggled to learn English due to the lack of ESL or bilingual classes. It wasn't until she moved to Pittsburg Elementary School that she began to learn English, thanks to her ESL teacher, Mrs. Rocio Rodriguez. By the age of ten, she had a better grasp of the language.

In seventh grade, Crystal moved to Waco, TX, to live with her maternal



CRYSTAL MARTINEZ

grandmother, Gracie, who became like a mother to her. She attended University Middle School and University High School in Waco, graduating in 2005 in the top 10% of her class. She was the first in her family to graduate from high school and later earned an Associate's degree in liberal arts from McLennan Community College in 2007. In 2010, she graduated from the University of Mary-Hardin Baylor with a bachelor's degree in Spanish and a minor in Psychology, becoming the first in her family to achieve this milestone.

At nineteen, Crystal married her husband, Celestino Lopez, and they have been together for 21 years. They have three children: Celeste, Isabel, and Joan. Crystal's journey into motherhood was unique, as she became the mother of her three-year-old brother Eliazar just before giving birth to her daughter Celeste.

SEE **TEACHER**, PG. 8

AFRICAN AMERICAN ARTS AND HISTORY SHOWCASE IN KILLEEN

BY R. DUCKETT AND WB GUNTER

Dr. Rodney Duckett, founder of IMPACOUTREACH is bringing to this year's African American Arts and History Showcase on February 8, 2025 at the prestigious, Killeen Civic and Conference Center, a memorable historic event for the family that will be hosted by The Legacy Curators. "Immerse yourself in the vibrant atmosphere of the AAAHS Open Market and gain insights from our esteemed speakers at the AAAHS Lecture Series, featuring Dr. Virginia Allen, Mr. James Daughtridge, and author, JayNay Ratcliff.



DR. VIRGINIA ALLEN

This year's event promises to be unforgettable, with out 2025 Heritage Legacy Curators

ensuring a truly enriching experience for all attendees. Secure your tickets now online at <https://2025AAAHS.eventbrite.com> or by visiting impacoutreach.org. Don't miss out on this unique opportunity to celebrate African American arts and history. See you there!"

The Heritage Legacy Curators will be hosting this event. The Heritage Legacy Curators are a group of youth documentarians who preserve, collect, and document oral histories on film and in writing. They have traveled great distanc-

SEE **KILLEEN**, PG. 6

**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.

From the Crawfords...

THE BUCK STOPS HERE!

Back in the day, a Christian friend of mine said she hoped I would fall and break both legs on my way to vote for President Bill Clinton. Another Christian friend said I was unstable and wishy-washy because I voted for George W. Bush. Still, another accused me of establishing the anti-Christ because I voted for President Obama. And then there's Donald Trump. One acquaintance reminded me that I should question my own salvation if I refused to vote for Trump and suggested that so-called Christians like me might experience a sudden death. Wow! Well, I DID NOT VOTE FOR DON-

ALD TRUMP, and I am still here.

But here's the bottom line. Come January 20th, you won't hear the Crawfords say one negative word about the President. Why? Whether the President is Bush, Obama, Clinton, or Trump, scripture says, "Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore, whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist WILL incur judgment." Yep, God said it! And as hard as it may be, I believe it. Oh...and for me, that settles it.

GLOBAL SCOPE. GLOBAL IMPACT.

BY ERICA JOHNSON

Originally, from Cincinnati, Ohio, Dr. Tyrha Lindsey-Warren has built a multi-faceted career based on different aspects of entertainment. As a professional jazz singer, she knows first-hand the power of connecting with the audience. As a Professor of Marketing, she knows the power of infusing PR and Marketing techniques with the nuances of storytelling, something she learned firsthand from her time spent working for organizations like Quincy Jones' David Salzman Entertainment, Creative Artist Agency, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, and UniWorld Group.

Dr. Tyrha's years of varied business experiences enable her to provide her students with "real life" business situations and experience, fulfilling her goal to be the "Professor she never had." In recognition of her expertise, she was recently named Faculty Director of Industry Relations and Ex-

**DR. TYRHA LINDSEY-WARREN**

periential Learning Baylor University, Hankamer School of

Business. She is a published Consumer Behavior Scholar with research streams rooted in empowered storytelling, multicultural media and advertising, "health education," emotional contagion (Word-of-Mouth) and movies. Her articles have appeared in the *Journal of Advertising Research*, the *Journal of Cultural and Marketing Strategy*, the *Journal of Academic Marketing Education*, and in the book, "Entertainment Values," published by Palgrave UK.

Long a fan of empowering stories, Dr. Tyrha founded the Waco Family & Faith International Film Festival to provide a platform for emerging, as well as established, filmmak-

ers and as a vehicle to bring the Waco community together. The mission of the festival is that it is "dedicated to EMPOWERING the creative spirit, SERVING with heart, and CELEBRATING all!" In February 2025, the film festival will celebrate its 6th year! The film festival has expanded over the years to Florida, Nigeria, and an HBCU edition. Moreover, Dr. Tyrha's passion for the Waco community also shows in her great support of MARIE'S Wine Bar (723 Austin Avenue) and MARIE'S Bistro (@ the Waco Regional Airport) owned by her husband, Sidney Warren. She is also a new Mother of their daughter, Kennedy Gloria-Marie Warren.

MAYOR | CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

increasing affordable housing, and co-governing with Tribal Nations. Throughout the campaign, Nichols' team emphasized specific approaches to fostering the vision that Tulsa will be the safest big city in the nation.

A HISTORIC FIRST

Tulsa, Oklahoma was the site of one of the most violent racial incidents in United States history. In 1921, hundreds of African-American Tulsans lost their lives, homes and businesses when a white mob attacked the

affluent neighborhood of Greenwood, then known as Black Wall Street, then one of the most prosperous Black communities in the United States. In its 112-year history Greenwood has never had a Black mayor. The promise of this election is that prioritizing and investing in all parts of Tulsa will bring hope that everyone has an equal shot.

LOOKING FORWARD

Mayor Nichols assumed office on Monday, December 2, 2024, succeeding former mayor, G. T. Bynum. For

now, Tulsa celebrates a historic milestone, with many of its residents hopeful that this new chapter will pave the way for a more prosperous future.

Nichols will be the 2025 Guest Speaker at the Waco NAACP's Scholarship Banquet on Saturday, February 22, 2025 at 7PM at the Lee Lockwood Library and Museum. Tickets are currently on sale via CashApp (\$WacoNAACP), PayPal, or Eventbrite. Individual tickets are \$50 each; a table of 8 is \$400.

Advertise
IN THE ANCHOR

Call Linda at
(254) 715-8943 today!
Space is limited!

THE *Anchor* NEWS

The Anchor News is a free, monthly publication of Crawford Publishing, E-T-C, located in Waco, Texas, (254) 715-8943. All rights reserved.

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 editor-

ials 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.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions are \$49 a year (12 issues) and can be paid by check or money order. Send all correspondences to *The Anchor News*, P.O. box 24014, Waco, Texas 76702, or email to theanchornews@aol.com.

ADVERTISING RATES

To request advertising rates, contact the office at (254) 715-8943 or visit theanchornews.org.

A N C H O R S T A F F

LINDA CRAWFORD
Editor-In-Chief/Owner

STASHA AUSTIN MALONE
Associate Editor

FAITH WEAVER
Editor

J.L. CRAWFORD
Director of Operations/Owner

RAY AUSTIN
Website Designer

GALE EDWARDS
Advisor

WANDA B. GUNTER
Contributing Writer

SCOTT NEFF
Design/Layout

SHOULD WE JUDGE ONE ANOTHER?

BY EVANGELIST
RUBY MCCRAY

Matthew 7:1-5 states, "Judge not, that you be not judged. For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you. And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me remove the speck from your eye'; and look, a plank is in your own eye? Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye."

Is that passage telling us not to judge? No. It tells us that we shouldn't be trying to point out someone's fault when our fault is worse. We must make sure that we're walking the straight and narrow path without deviating. Let's see what else we are told about judging.

1 Corinthians 6:1-11, "Dare any of you, having a matter against another, go to law before the unrighteous, and not before the saints? Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world will be judged by you, are you unworthy to judge the smallest matter? Do you not know that we shall judge angels?"

How much more, things that pertain to this life? If then you have judgments concerning things pertaining to this life, do you appoint those who are least esteemed by the church to judge? I say this to your shame. Is it so, that there is not a wise man among you, not even one, who will be able to judge between his brethren? But brother goes to law against brother, and that before unbelievers!

"Now therefore, it is already an utter failure for you that you go law against one another.

Why do you not rather accept wrong? Why do you not rather let yourselves be cheated? No, you yourselves do wrong and cheat, and you do these things to your brethren! Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God."

Precious people, God expect the church to make righteous judgments. I've heard many Christians say that we are not supposed to judge. I know without a shadow of a doubt that it's one of the reasons why so many churches are blatantly going contrary to God's will, and not walk-



EVG. RUBY MCCRAY

ing in holiness. You can call that statement judging if you like; yes, but I also call it "fruit inspecting" just as Matthew 7:15-20 indicates. If the fruit on the tree is bad, the tree is bad. If the fruit on the tree is good, the tree is good.

We constantly have to make judgments. We judge between what's right and wrong. We make judgments about how we should discipline our children according to the deeds done. We must make righteous judgments

according to Proverbs 31:9 and Matthew 7:24.

Please read 1 Corinthians, Chapter 5. Paul rebuked the church at Corinth for the members not judging the grave sin obviously before their eyes. He said that the Gentiles didn't even do such things.

This is what he said in verses 12 and 13, "For what have I to do with judging those also who are outside [the church]? Do you not judge those who are inside? But those who are outside God judges. Therefore, put away from yourselves the evil person."

Let's look at Matthew 18:15-18 where another judgment must be made. "Moreover, if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother. But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. And if he refuses to hear them, tell it to the

church. But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector.

"Assuredly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

Allow me to make this suggestion: read 2 Kings, Chapters 22 and 23. Let's renew or make a covenant with God, our Creator, to love Him with all our heart, soul and mind; and to love our fellowmen as ourselves. Matthew 22:37-39 after all, He created us to bring Him glory. Isaiah 43:7

Please join me in February for a new 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 rubbyacorm@yahoo.com or write to: A City of Refuge Ministries, P. O. Box 2025, Waco, Texas 76703.

THERE IS BUT ONE TRUE GOD

BY MICHAEL JONES

"God is not a Christian. God is not a Jew or a Muslim or a Hindu or a Buddhist. I honor my tradition; I walk through my tradition. But I don't believe that my tradition defines God. It only points me toward God." --Episcopal Bishop John Shelby Spong

I might be one of the rare, no longer strictly Christian folks around here with friends who celebrate Christmas, Ramadan or Chanukah, all of whom observe beautiful, sacred and joyous holy days near the solstice and at other times of the year, according to their own beliefs. Most of these holidays celebrate a close personal relationship with a loving, compassionate, generous and forgiving God.

I've always loved the Dalai Lama's observation that, even when someone is on a different path to God, it doesn't mean that person is lost.

I enjoy pleasing and honoring my friends by learning about their observances and wishing my Jewish friends "Chanukah, Sameach," or "Ramadan mubarach" for my gentle and loving Muslim neighbors. My dear Bahá'í family greet each other with



MICHAEL JONES

"Alláh'u'Abhá!" (God is most glorious!) throughout the year.

Affirming these different greetings does not mean I'm betraying my God; it merely means that I respect and choose to be enriched by other traditions of worship and unity and gratitude as well as my own.

So, to Christian exceptionalists I say lighten up! "Happy holidays" is a perfectly acceptable greeting to strangers any day of the year because it recognizes that they might be following different paths. God loves and has spoken to humankind in many diverse, rich, and beautiful ways. God really

is big enough to do that!

"Treat not others in ways that you yourself would find hurtful." --Buddha, Udana-Varga 5:18

"Cleave unto that which draws you together and unites you. This, verily, is the most exalted Word which the Mother Book hath sent down and revealed unto you. ...It behooveth man to adhere tenaciously unto that which promotes fellowship, kindness and unity." --Bahá'u'lláh, Tablets of Bahá'u'lláh

"This is the sum of duty: Do not do unto others that which would cause pain if done unto you." -- Mahabharata, 5:1517 (Hindu)

What is hateful to you, do not do to your neighbor. This is the whole Torah; all else is commentary." -- Hillel, Talmud Shabbath 31a

"Unity is the expression of the loving power of God and reflects the reality of Divinity. It is resplendent in this Day through the bestowals of light upon humanity." -- 'Abdu'l-Bahá, The Promulgation of Universal Peace

To learn more about the Bahá'í Faith, please visit our local website at www.wacoba-hais.net or the global information site at bahai.org/beliefs.



The tabernacle of unity hath been raised;
regard ye not one another as strangers.

*Ye are the fruits of one tree,
and the leaves of one branch.*

Bahá'u'lláh

To learn more about
the Bahá'í Faith,
call (254) 717-7903
or visit bahaisofwaco.org



bahai.org/beliefs/

TAKE CHARGE OF YOUR CHOICES

BY MONA DUNKIN

From the earliest moment of life, we automatically respond positively or negatively to the stimuli around us, seeming to indicate one's inherent understanding of the power of choice. This mysterious nascent ability unknowingly knows that choices lead to another choices.

Life is full of choices. Perhaps the most difficult choice to move past is the one we made against our internal knowing. Self-betrayal abdicated our power to another, and we became enmeshed in the consequences. We struggle with being controlled by a person, addiction or circumstance.

Yet this is Universal Intelli-

gence teaching the power of choices. Allow it to be a lesson without failure. Overcome by rethinking, reframing and making effective choices today; and tomorrow, and so forth on an ongoing continuum.

What a delight to make choices that empower you. Mental health and happiness are about learning to take effective charge of your choices. And to feel good about them.

Here's how. When faced with a decision – from micro to macro – always choose the one that will let you breathe.

Even though the unseen "No" or "Yes" may be difficult to speak into existence and may initially lead to unsettling circumstances but take note of how you walk away unbur-



MONA DUNKIN

dened. You made a choice that is good for you. One you can live with. One you can

grow into. One that is effective in the long run.

Others matter and they do influence. The bottom line is that you are ultimately responsible for the quality of your life, your health, your happiness, your relationships, your thoughts. Manage the power of choice with love and clarity, compassion and compromise.

This article is about learning how to develop self-esteem and helping you to appreciate your power of choice by introducing you to new perspectives and wise truths, such as:

- There is no such thing as a small choice
- No choice is a choice (and often leads to resentment)

• Choices have a long shelf life so choose carefully

• Choices effect our freedom and relationships

• Our choices can come back to bite us

• Our choices can heal us and others

• Choices are game changers

• Love is a choice

• Continuing to love is a bigger choice and well worth the effort.

Some principles have the power to change the quality of your life. This is one of them.

Mona Dunkin, Motivational Speaker, Corporate Trainer and Personal Success Coach. monadunkin@gmail.com Please let me hear from you.

2025 – OUR BEST YEAR YET

BY MARGARET IVORY

As 2025 begins, it's a great time for seniors to set meaningful goals and achieve them with purpose. Contrary to popular belief, age is not a barrier to ambition; it's an opportunity to embrace wisdom, experience, and resilience in pursuit of a fulfilling life.

To start, it's essential to set realistic yet inspiring goals. Whether it's improving health, learning a new skill, volunteering, or spending more time with loved ones, having a clear vision is crucial. Writing goals down and breaking them into smaller, actionable steps makes them more achievable and manageable.

Health and wellness should always be a top priority. Regular exercise, balanced nutrition, and routine checkups not only enhance physical health but



MARGARET IVORY

also boost mental clarity and energy levels. Setting goals like walking 30 minutes daily or trying a new fitness class can be both achievable and rewarding.

Staying mentally active is equally important. Consider learning a new language, enrolling in a class, or pursuing hobbies like painting or gardening. Such activities keep the mind sharp, foster creativ-

ity, and provide a sense of accomplishment.

Social connections play an important role in motivation and happiness. Seniors can aim to join community groups, attend events, or reconnect with old friends. Relationships provide emotional support and make the journey toward goals more enjoyable.

Finally, celebrate small victories along the way. Acknowledging progress, no matter how minor, reinforces positive behavior and keeps motivation high.

2025 offers a fresh start for seniors to pursue their dreams, regardless of age. With determination, a strategic approach, and support from family and friends, there's no limit to what can be done. Every milestone is a testament to the fact that life remains full of potential and purpose at any stage of life. Seniors, 2025 is our year! Let's go for it!

Margaret Ivory, Medicare Plans Broker, 254-313-7413.

Linda McDonald
REALTOR®,
CRS, GRI, PMN, SRS

*Integrity, Trust,
Experience*

CB COLDWELL BANKER
APEX, REALTORS®
18 OFFICES SERVING TEXAS

CELL: (254) 855-1717
LINDAMCDONALDREALTOR@GMAIL.COM
LMCDONALD@CBWACO.COM

BROKEN SILENCE
Books & Publications

WWW.BROKENSILENCEBOOKS.COM

PHONE: 254.458.9254
FACEBOOK: Wanda Gunter
E-MAIL: wbgunter@hotmail.com

P.O. Box 2873 • Harker Heights, Texas 76548

WANDA B. GUNTER
Author, Artist &
Contributing writer
for *The Anchor News*

*We will put your
business in the streets!*

**ADVERTISE IN
THE ANCHOR!**

HONOR YOUR PREPARATION!

BY JERRY SNIDER

The beginning of a year brings with it the promise of what could happen. Goals are set, visions are cast, and excitement of future possibilities over the next twelve months are common feelings we have in January. Rarely do we hear someone say "This is going to be the worst year of my life" before the year even begins. Usually, it's the opposite; people are looking forward to the best year ever.

Why then, does that excitement fade away early in the year? Sometimes even in the first two weeks, we see people giving up on the prospects the year holds and returning to habits that did not provide the life they wanted.

Part of the issue is that a year is both a long time and a short time. When we get to December, we often hear "This year has flown by." This is a statement that shows just how fast time can move, mainly due to the busyness of our lives. 365 days can appear to be a long time when looking into the future because of our



JERRY SNIDER

perception.

Every minute has exactly 60 seconds. All minutes progress at the same exact rate but our perception of time changes based on what is happening in our lives. Time seems to slow down in difficult situations and speed up when we are having fun.

Our perception of time plays a huge role in our overall health. A vast majority of people think "I'll get to my health when I have time" but then fill their time with other parts of life and never make time for

their health. What you do with your time creates the situation that is your health - whether it's healthy or unhealthy. When we fail to make time for our health on a daily basis, we are more likely to be forced one day to make time to fight disease.

So as we start 2025, don't focus on a goal that takes a year to achieve. Start the year by taking control of each minute of each day with a focus of moving towards your goals. Make sure you are the person next December saying "Look how much I got accomplished" and not the person saying "Where did all the time go?"

Have a health 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.

LESS KNOWN LEGALSHIELD BENEFITS

BY J.L. CRAWFORD,
LEGALSHIELD,
SENIOR MANAGER

LegalShield offers a range of services that extend beyond traditional legal help. Users can access a network of attorneys for everything from drafting wills to resolving identity theft issues. Some lesser-known uses include getting legal guidance for starting a small business or navigating family law matters like divorce. Members often leverage services for real estate transactions or landlord-tenant disputes, helping to demystify the legal process. This flexibility makes LegalShield a valuable resource not just in emergencies, but also for everyday legal needs. Whether you're managing a business or dealing with personal matters, LegalShield provides



J.L. CRAWFORD

accessible support to navigate the complexities of law.

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.

ADVERTISE HERE!



You deserve
affordable legal and identity theft protection.

Unexpected legal questions and identity theft issues arise every day, and with LegalShield on your side, you will have access to experienced law firms and attorneys as well as licensed investigators skilled in identity theft monitoring and restoration. No matter how traumatic or trivial the issue, you'll have the power to get legal and identity theft advice and services when you need them, all so you can worry less and live more.

Join over 1.4 million members and protect yourself today with LegalShield.

J L Crawford
Senior Manager
254-717-4927
jlcford500@aol.com
www.legalshieldassociate.com/jlcrawford



This is a general overview of our legal plan and/or identity theft plan coverage for illustration purposes only. See a plan contract for your state of residence for complete terms, coverage, amounts, conditions and exclusions.

CHOOSE YOUR REALTOR WISELY

BY LINDA MCDONALD

In the world of buying or selling a home, trust in your realtor isn't just helpful—it's crucial. Good realtors navigate the complex real estate process while putting your interests first. They share insights into market trends, help you pinpoint the right price, and guide you through the paperwork maze. Without trust, you might hesitate to communicate openly, which can lead to missed opportunities or costly mistakes. Trust your realtor to manage negotiations smoothly and advocate fiercely on your behalf. This professional relationship can determine whether your real estate journey is a success, a struggle, or a regret.



LINDA MCDONALD
REALTOR, CRS, GRI, PMN, SRS

Linda McDonald, Coldwell Banker Apex. 254 855-1717 *Questions about investing? Let's connect. My job is to take the guesswork out of this process for you. Linda McDonald 254 855-1717.*

HE THAT HATH SEEN ME HATH SEEN THE FATHER

BY PASTOR
MATTHEW REED

One of the lessons to be learned from John 14 is the results of unity. In John 1:8 Philip saith unto him, Lord, shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us. Jesus replies in John 14:9 Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; John 10:30 says I and my Father are one. John 14:10 says, Believe thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works.

11 Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in



**PASTOR MATTHEW
AND LADY HELEN REED**

me: or else believe me for the

very works' sake.

John 15:10 says, If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.

The objective of this article is to cause God's ministers to continue in the gospel of Jesus Christ (Matthew through Revelation). This ensures that we all are on one accord and that men can see God in us. Not only will they see God in us, but they will get to know God through us.

We can only achieve this, which is God's goal for the church, by abiding in the word of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

KILLEEN | CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



REALITY THERAPY SEMINAR WACO, TEXAS

Classes are Conducted through Zoom

You will learn:

- Effective self-control
- Resolve conflict in self and with others
- Create optimal environment for change
- Tools for healthy relationships
- Instills hope
- Transfer skills into all aspect of life

Who will benefit:

- Counselors and Therapists
- Social Workers
- Educators and Administrators
- Criminal Justice
- Health Care Professionals
- Business Leaders
- Pastoral and Parents
- Individuals



Mona Dunkin
254-749-6594
monadunkin@gmail.com

Conducted under the auspices of
Glasser Institute for Choice Theory

es to secure primary sourced biographical information and experiences. This impressive group of young people are professionals at what they do, and an exquisite example of greatness. You'll want to get there early to secure excellent seating and shop before the presentation.

Dr. Virginia Allen, is a member of Black Angels. The Campaign for Action is pleased to recognize Black History Month

Advertise In The Anchor!

Call 715-8943

with this powerful story about Black nurses recruited in the late 1920's to care for patients with active tuberculosis (TB), a painful and debilitating contagious disease that killed nearly 5.6 million U.S. residents between 1900 and 1950.

The year was 1947, and the invitation to leave her childhood home in Detroit came from an admired aunt who worked as a nurse in New York City. Few teenagers pack up, leave their families, and head to a distant city to take a dangerous job, but Virginia Allen did just that. Though only 16 years old, Allen set out on a journey that would involve her in one to 20th Century's major medical breakthroughs.

Allen is one of the last living Black Angels, a name patients gave the Black nurses recruit-

ed to staff Staten Island's Sea View Hospital at the end of the 1920's. They cared for patients with active tuberculosis (TB). In New York City alone, the disease killed 10,000 people annually before the city opened an sanatorium on Staten Island, where in those days, patients with TB would find sunlight, fresh air, and plenty of rest the standard treatment for the disease.

Make sure you bring your family to this phenomenally enlightening event located at the Killeen Civic and Conference Center, 3601 S. W.S Young Drive in Killeen. The market will open from 12:00 PM- 6:00 PM. The Lecture Series will begin promptly at 2:30 PM-5:30 PM.

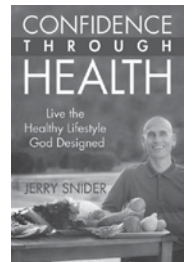
Let's collectively embrace our heritage with a legacy of knowledge.

NO MORE
SUGAR
COATING



JERRY SNIDER

All In HEALTH AND WELLNESS



Transformation Starts Here

**Gain Confidence
Build a Healthier Body
Enjoy a Happier Life**

- For Adults**
- Nutrition Guidance
 - Exercise Prescriptions
 - Weekly Coaching Sessions

www.allinhealthandwellness.com

- For Athletes**
- Sports Conditioning
 - Running Form
 - Speed Training
 - Endurance Training
 - Increasing Vertical

FRIENDS of THE ANCHOR *Club!*

A BIG THANKS TO THESE INDIVIDUALS AND BUSINESSES FOR DONATING TO HELP KEEP THE ANCHOR NEWS ON THE SHELVES EACH MONTH!

- Pastor Darrell & Jackie Abercrombie
- Dr. Chidi and Dr. Allison Achilefu
- Pastors Richard & Sandra Allen
- Misti Anderson, Anderson Candle Decor
- Ray Austin
- Councilwoman Andrea Barefield
- J. Michael Beard
- Pastor Sabrina Beck
- Kay Bell, Passion Garden
- Dwayne & Marilyn Banks, Marilyn's Gift Gallery
- Pastor Dr. Mary Bethel
- Anthony & Sharon Betters
- Bible Way Church
- Tashita Bibles
- Grace Manning Blackwell
- Dr. Cheryl D. Bohde
- Essie Brooks
- Jacki L. Brown
- Nathaniel & Rolanda Burns
- Professor John E & Dr. Joyce Thomas-Campbell, Life Cathedral
- Kim Carr
- Melvin & Lisa Carter
- Janet Cheeves, Christian Brothers Moving Service
- Mrs. C. Coleman-DeVault
- Gil Collins-Heflin, GG's Flower Hut, LLC
- Rick & Sue Connor
- Ceola Coston
- Teresa Courtney, Over the Top Creations
- Larry & Lovie Cuffee
- Robert Cummings
- LaTonya Curl
- Jeremy and Courtney Davis
- Pastor Timothy & Lisa Drake
- Dr. Rodney L. Duckett, Founder IMPAC OUT-REACH
- Mona Dunkin, Faculty, Glasser Inst. of Choice Theory
- Congressman & Mrs. Chet Edwards
- Lexi English
- Author Mary Evans
- Richard Evans and Dr. Jacqueline Evans
- Suzan Falkner, DBA Scrumptious Quisine
- Cerise Franklin
- Bishop Lonnie & Gail Garrett
- Attorney Jamie Goble
- Rotunda Goldsberry
- Regina Green
- Keith & Tracy Guillory, LITWaco
- Dexter Hall
- Pastor Nelson & Tina Henley
- Sherry Harris
- Dr. George and Min. Marva Harrison
- Dr. Peaches Henry, President, Waco NAACP
- Dr. Sandra L.M. Henry, Especially for You by Joslin & Associates
- Dr. Jimmy D. & Dr. Pamela Hytchie-Hunter
- Dr. Patricia Iglehart, JUST AS I AM MINISTRIES, INC.
- Brenda Johnson, RN
- Mrs. Erica C. Johnson
- LaKechia Johnson
- Lenoy & LaJuana Jones
- Doris Jordan & Floyd's Audio Capitol
- Ms. Evelyn Jordan
- Lovie & Henrietta Langston
- Shirley M. Langston
- Author Brenda Lee
- Dr. Tyrha Lindsey Warren, Lindsey & Assoc. International Communications
- Pat London, Insurors of TX Insurance Agent
- KeSha Lopez
- Dr. Carol A. Lowe
- The Malones
- Gloria Mann
- Norman Manning
- Lisa Martin, Realtor, Better Homes & Garden Real Estate, Edwards & Assoc.
- Janice Matthews
- Dave McCarroll & Linda Dulin
- Jara McCoy
- Orva McCoy, 2Pickle'd Gourmet Flavored Pickles
- Ruby H. McCray
- Linda McDonald, Realtor, Coldwell Banker Apex
- Lois McDowell, McDowell Funeral Home, LLC
- Iris Miles
- Robert Miller
- Apostle Fanny Minnitt, Author, Speaker, Media, Veteran
- Mia Moody-Ramirez, Ph.D.
- John & Marcia Neal, Sascee's
- Cheryl Nichols
- Dr. & Mrs. Ofobuike Okani
- Pastor Carl Oliver, Pleasant Olive Baptist Church, Malone, TX
- Rev. & Mrs. CJ Oliver
- R.E. Pate & Family
- Pastor Annise Payne
- Mr. Charles Perkins
- Dr. Scheherazade Perkins
- Attorney DeAndrea Petty
- Michael, Jocelyn, & Jessica Pierce
- Ms. Lucy Price
- Sharri Pyburn
- Doreen Ravenscroft
- Pastor and Mrs. Matt Reed
- Syrenthia Tillman Rice
- Anita Rice, Motions
- Chuck & Lucille Scarborough
- Aida Scott
- Dr. Arvis Scott
- Attorney Erin Shank
- Lowanda Sias
- Pastor Waylon Sias, Sr.
- Viviana Smith
- Toria Smith-Loughridge
- Susie Snell
- Bishop Tyran Snell
- Pastor Carlton and Joyce Stimpson
- Bobby & Rosemarie Tatum
- Temple of Christ
- Gloria Thomas
- Stephanie Tolbert, Fluff, Wash & Fold
- Sam and Kim Torres
- Dr. Shamonica Trunell, Hillcrest Chiropractic
- Rodrick & Alta Vann
- Gus & Mayra Vargas
- Mary Nell Wagner
- Marcus Ward, General Sales Manager, Mike Terry Ford
- Lisa Ware
- Kathy Washington
- JW Watkins
- Pastor Vincent and Tonja Carpenter
- Evangelist Larrye D. Weaver, Good Samaritan Missionary Baptist Church
- Linda Weaver, Franklin Signature Properties
- Dr. Tim & Jo Welter
- Shenequa Williams
- Debra Wilson
- Marian Wilson
- Dr. Cynthia Wise
- Pastor Jovaster & Darlene Witcher
- Dr. Frances Worthey
- Don Wright
- Patricia Young

You can join The Anchor Club via CashApp (\$LindaMasonCrawford), by PayPal or credit card at www.theanchornews.org (click DONATE), or by sending a check or money order to: The Anchor News, P.O. Box 24014, Waco, TX 76702. Sponsors' name or business will appear on the Friends of the Anchor Club page.



amETEX
ROOFING & HOME
IMPROVEMENT

www.ametexroofing.com
info@ametexroofing.com

OFFICE NUMBERS:
(254) 294-8002
(254) 776-1100

**ADVERTISE
IN THE
ANCHOR
NEWS
TODAY!**

TEACHER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Crystal always aspired to be a teacher. She started as a substitute teacher in Waco ISD in 2013, then became a special education aide at Cesar Chavez Middle School in 2014. By 2015, she was a Spanish teacher at Waco High School and later joined McLennan Community College's Upward Bound program. In 2023, she began working at Premier High School.

In 2024, Crystal decided to pursue a master's degree in Bilingual Education with a specialty in Special Education from Texas A&M International University, aiming to gradu-

ate in May 2025. She believes in the power of education and the importance of being bilingual, not just for personal growth but to help others in the community.

Crystal's journey is a testament to resilience and determination. She has overcome numerous challenges to achieve her dreams and continues to inspire her children and others with her dedication to education and her cultural heritage. She embodies the belief that "El querer es poder y si lo quieres todo se puede"—to want it is power, and if you want it enough, then everything is possible.

THE Waco National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Club, Inc.

BLACK HISTORY OBSERVANCE

National Theme:
African American Women and Labor

Free! SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2025 | 3:00 P.M.
Goodwill Community Connect | 1000 East Waco Drive

Saluting 12 local African American Female Business Owners

GUEST SPEAKER, FIRST LADY LISA LINTON
Mt. Zion M.B. Church | Premier High School Principal

Dr. Andrea S. Petty
Attorney At Law

Law Office of DeAndrea Petty
Criminal, Family & Juvenile Law

254.640.6829 | 1701 Columbus Ave. | Waco, Texas 76701
Email: attorneydpetty@yahoo.com
<https://deandreapetty.wixsite.com/attorneydpetty>

Justice Is Just The Petty Way

5.0 OUT OF 5 STARS | INSPIRING & ENCOURAGING | KINDLE CUSTOMER

(Reviewed in the United States on August 20, 2019)

"I absolutely love this book! I could not put it down and read it in two days. There is so much good stuff in this book that I am reading it again. It is inspiring, encouraging and will bless you."

5.0 OUT OF 5 STARS FIVE STARS | AMAZON CUSTOMER

(Reviewed in the United States on May 21, 2018)

"This is an amazing book. It is entertaining, compelling and convicting. A definite must-read for everyone!"

5.0 OUT OF 5 STARS | EASY READ AND APPLICABLE TO MY LIFE

(Reviewed in the United States on March 27, 2019)

"After God, Destiny, and a Glass of Wine, I felt like I could take the author's response to certain circumstances and apply to my own life. Each chapter is a life learning lesson of praising God through hard times, and walking into God's plan for my life. It may appear as an easy read, because I read it in one day my first time reading it. Then I had the opportunity to re-read and breakdown each chapter week by week."

Rey

5.0 OUT OF 5 STARS | EXCELLENT BOOK

(Reviewed in the United States on June 13, 2020)

"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



**GOD, DESTINY, AND A GLASS OF WINE
AVAILABLE ON AMAZON**

ADVERTISE
IN THE
ANCHOR
NEWS
TODAY!

Castle Heights Bijoux
Event Center

WEDDINGS | REHEARSAL DINNERS
REUNIONS | PARTIES

INCLUDED IN RENTAL:
Caterer's Kitchen | Tables & Chiavari Chairs
Unlimited Nugget Ice | Packages Available

For reservations call (254) 498-1015 or (254) 498-3770
2500 Washington Avenue | Waco, Texas
www.castleheightsbijoux.com




Medicare

ANNUAL ENROLLMENT

MARGARET IVORY 254-313-7413

ADVERTISE HERE...
IN COLOR!



Call The Anchor News at 715-8943!

The Word of Life
CHRISTIAN CHURCH

WWW.THEWORDOFLIFEWACO.COM

Worship Service
Sunday at 10 a.m.

Bible Study
Wednesday at 7 p.m.

824 LONGFELLOW DR. | WACO, TX 76710
(254) 772-1371 | TWOLCC@GRANDECOM.NET

YOUR BUSINESS IS OUR BUSINESS



BUILDING BRIDGES WITH
ENTREPRENEURS ACROSS WACO

McGregor
401 S. Main St.

South Bosque
27000 W. Hwy. 84

Triangle Tower
510 N. Valley Mills Dr.

Downtown Waco
901 S. 8th St.

East Waco
715 Elm Ave.

TNB | Your Bank for Life
Since 1889

tfnbtx.com
Tel: 254-840-2836

Member **FDIC**
EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

Remembering 2024 | NEWS THAT MADE HEADLINES

FORMER KILLEEN RESIDENT LAUNCHES WORLDWIDE MINISTRY

REPRINTED FROM JANUARY 2024

Officially recognized by the State of Texas in August 2023, Fanny Minnitt World Ministries, Inc. later received 501(c)3 status in October. The Board of Directors include Fanny Minnitt, Founder/President, Theodore Minnitt Jr., Treasure, Violetta Butler, Secretary, Wanda Gunter, Historian, and Earlene Franklin, Health Consultant.

The ministry was organized to teach and preach the gospel to all people, conduct evangelistic and humanitarian outreaches, license and ordain ministers of the gospel, and engage in activities that are necessary, suitable, and convenient for the accomplishment of that purpose.

The Hebrews 11:1 - (11-day) Launch Celebration is planned for January 11 through January 21. The ministry starts its social media launch with a video called, "Are You Wondering in An Internet Wilderness?"



FAN MINNITT

"Then, we discuss a few of the Fruits of the Spirit, and our Avatars share a message about self-control. We also ask additional thought-provoking questions throughout the 10-day online period and wrap up with an in-person celebration on the 11th day. The launch and what we asked you to plant evolved from Hebrews 11:1. We have stepped out

on, NOW faith."

Minnitt says "The ministry is based on the powerful words of Hebrews 11:1, which say now faith is at the core of our hopes and the proof of the unseen. Additionally, Hebrews 11:6 teaches us that 'without faith, it is impossible to please God,' emphasizing the significance of believing in His existence and diligently seeking after him."

Minnitt kindly invites you to consider supporting the ministry with a cheerful donation/seed of \$111 or more to help the ministry accomplish its purpose. "Your contribution is crucial to our mission of cultivating a divine mindset that will inspire and impact every household and community worldwide," continued Minnitt.

"Together, we can triumph over the enemy that seeks to sow chaos in our land." To learn more about the ministry, visit <http://fannyminnittworldministries.startsites.org> or to give directly visit <http://churchhalo.app/give/fannyminnittworldministries>.

HONORING THE LIFE OF PATRICIA CHISOLM MILLER



COMMISSIONER PATRICIA ANN CHISOLM MILLER

REPRINTED FROM FEBRUARY 2024

November 10, 1958 - January 28, 2024

BY LINDA CRAWFORD

Servant leaders treat people with respect and make good use of their time and abilities because they believe that all people are valuable to God. Pointing out their positive aspects, this type of leader encourages and instructs those under their direction on how

to effectively serve God and others. Servant leaders put God's glory first, and not their own.

Such was the case with Commissioner Patricia Ann Chisolm Miller. Faithful friend, advocate and woman of God, she was the epitome of a servant leader, possessing the six qualities characteristic of this leadership style. Born November 10, 1958, to Mr. and Mrs. John Oliver and Author Lee Chisolm in Brooklyn, New York, she moved to Waco, Texas at an early age. Under the leadership of Pastor N.T. Burks, she participated in the children's and youth choir, youth ministry, Sunday School, and Bible School. Quality number one, integrity, was evident in her life, and even before she graduated from Richfield

SEE MILLER, PG. 11

Hillcrest Chiropractic Clinic

NEW PATIENT SPECIAL

\$125

- Consultation
- Examination
- X-ray
- Report of Findings
- Neuro Scan
- Full Adjustment

All patients, all locations...ask about the

PAIN MANAGEMENT/ MEMORY LOSS PROGRAM

Call (254) 315-5567!

Dr. Shamonica Trunell, D.C.
Doctor of Chiropractic

SEMG

INITIAL EXAM STRESSED

FOLLOW UP EXAM HEALTHIER

Heart Rate Variability

INITIAL EXAM STRESSED

FOLLOW UP EXAM HEALTHIER

Thermal

INITIAL EXAM STRESSED

FOLLOW UP EXAM HEALTHIER

BELLMEAD: 4209 Bellmead Drive, Bellmead, TX 76705 | (254) 224-5344

WACO: 6701 Sanger Avenue, Suite 104, Waco, TX 76710 | (254) 754-4000

GATESVILLE: 606 East Leon, Gatesville, TX 76528 | (254) 248-1335

HILLCREST CHIROPRACTIC
ROOTED IN WELLNESS

www.Hillcrestchiropracticclinics.com

drtrunell@gmail.com

Remembering 2024 | NEWS THAT MADE HEADLINES

MILLER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

High in Waco, members of Toliver Chapel recognized and honored her as a Toliver Chapel Youth of Distinction., integrity at its best.

(NLT) Colossians 3:12 says, "... wrap yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience because God has chosen you to be the holy people he loves." By the time Pastor Jimmy D. Hunter became her pastor, Commissioner Miller was moving into another level of servant leadership: humility. She served with mercy and kindness, and even though her role was to lead others, out of humility, she was always willing to listen and learn. Co-director of Bible School and a teacher, she was also a member of the Pictorial Directory Committee, the Women's Day Committee (Chairperson), the Toliver Celestial Voices Choir (first President), the Sanctuary Choir, and when she married Deacon Robert Miller in 2015, she became a deaconess.

Commissioner Miller gradu-

ated from East Texas State University in Commerce, Texas with a BA in Political Science. While she was there, she pledged Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., serving throughout the years in many capacities, including parliamentarian and Chair of the By-laws and Standards Committee. Currently, she was on the Advocate for Social Justice Program Initiatives Committee and the Mentoring Committee. A charter member, Commissioner Miller was also the 2nd Vice-President of THE Waco National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Club.

In the past, Commissioner Miller held some interesting positions. She operated the computer lab in three Waco ISD schools and facilitated several women's programs at Texas State Technical College. But it was not until she and her sister, Teresa, volunteered to work on the late Commissioner Lester Gibson's successful campaign, that Commissioner Miller stepped into her calling. Always interested in public service, she became Commissioner Gibson's executive assistant, a position she held for 22 years. Her newest venture was the radio program, What's Going On?

which began in January 2024 on 107.3 The Beat.

Flexibility and resilience are virtues of servant leaders, who are prepared to change with the times and environments. They understand that unforeseen circumstances and obstacles might arise in life. But through Jesus, they know they will rise in victory. In 2018, Commissioner Miller successfully ran for County Commissioner, Precinct 2, making her the first African American woman elected to the court in McLennan County. A servant leader from the heart, she was reelected in 2022. In this position, she always faced many obstacles and disappointments, but she was flexible and resilient. Often in the late hours of the night, while others were sleeping, the Commissioner was awake, working diligently on projects like securing industrial development programs, improving infrastructure, and achieving equal and fair opportunities for all citizens. Talk to her constituents for whom she successfully fought to get salary increases because their salaries were below the national average. Talk to the elderly who had no means of connection or transportation to get their first COVID-19 vacci-

nations. Talk to the young adults and their families who face food insecurities on a daily basis. Please. Just talk.

Servant leaders make the most of their time for God's glory—not for personal gain, and they can easily put themselves in other's shoes, knowing and experiencing their pain. Stewardship and empathy, it seems, were Commissioner Miller's greatest qualities. She was organized and considerate of others in every aspect, and she could sit with her friends and family encouraging them, guiding them, and loving them amid hard times; her gentle, yet powerful voice made people want to follow her. Her kindness knew no limits and her word was her bond. There were no small people in her eyes, and she had a special way of making people know they were important to her. As soon as Commissioner Miller knew Keith Guillory and Jeremy Mays were running for School Board, she began working diligently to make sure they attained their goals. She changed their lives drastically—politically, spiritually, and even emotionally, as she willingly and confidently spoke into their lives. As busy as she was, she made time for

Keith and Jeremy's campaigns.

Commissioner Miller closed her eyes for the last time on Sunday, January 28, 2024. She is preceded in death by her parents and younger sister, Teresa Chisolm Jones. She leaves to cherish her memory, the only love of her life, Deacon Robert Miller Sr. and her sister, Jocelyn Bennett; two sons, Robert (Sonya) Miller Jr., and Reginald (Sherry) Miller; Five grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, her beloved nieces and nephews, the Toliver Chapel Family, and a host of other family members and friends.

In total, Commissioner Miller served Precinct 2, McLennan County for 28 years. As a black woman in her position and a history-maker, she was the first woman and the first African American woman to sit on the commissioner's court. She was always conscientious about setting an example for all young people in the community. Commissioner Patricia Chisolm Miller was a trailblazer and a visionary, and with the help of her talented and devoted executive assistant, Tracy Guillory, Commissioner Miller worked tirelessly to open doors, tell our stories, and get into "good trouble."

FOR THAT *Elegant Touch* IN FASHIONS, VISIT...

*Marilyn's
Gift Gallery*

818 Elm Avenue | Waco, Texas 76704
(254) 755-8218

*New
fashions
arriving!*

- Jewelry & Hats
- Perfume Oils
- Suits & Fashions
- African American & Christian Apparel



Owners
Dwayne &
Marilyn Banks

Remembering 2024 | NEWS THAT MADE HEADLINES

SERVICE STATION PAYS HOMAGE TO SOUTH WACO BUSINESS

REPRINTED FROM
APRIL 2024

BY DR. PEACHES HENRY

The grand opening of *Jean's Place Dew Drop Inn Texaco* is Monday, May 6 at 4 p.m.

A little before dawn on a frosty morning in February, a truck maneuvered to fill the gas tanks at a service station in East Waco, completing a two-year endeavor to bring a brand-named gas station to the East Waco community. After two years of late-night researching, hours on the phone, attendance at



SHELIA BROWN

gas station conventions, acquiring property, obtaining city and state permits, and convincing an international corporation, entrepreneur Shelia Brown reached an agreement with Texaco to brand a station in East Waco. Now the Black-owned, woman-owned *Jean's Place Dew Drop Inn Texaco* station stands at the corner of East Waco Drive and Clifton Street.

The station is named in homage to Brown's grandfather, David Taplin, and mother, Willie Jean Brown, who owned the *Dew Drop Inn* in South Waco. According to Brown, "my mother never worked for any-

one." Instead, right out of high school, Willie Jean's father set her up in business as owner of the *Dew Drop Inn*. With the *Jean's Place Dew Drop Inn Texaco*, Brown aims to create a neighborhood store where locals can come together, just like they did at the legendary *Dew Drop Inn*. With an inviting atmosphere and a menu featuring mouthwatering fried ribs, *Jean's Place Dew Drop Inn Texaco* is a testament to Brown's commitment to her roots and her desire to leave a lasting legacy on the community where she grew up. *Jean's Place Dew Drop Inn Texaco* will open on her mother's birthday, May 6th.

Brown's grandfather instilled the importance of being in business in his children and grandchildren, and Brown took Taplin's teaching to heart, embarking on an entrepreneurial journey that is ongoing. After leaving a 33-year successful career at Child Protective Services, she stepped out on faith to start a business. Her first business was *Bates and Bates Security*. Her second business, *Aspiring Future Leaders Academy*, a daycare, became her platform for providing childcare to all children,

including those who had been rejected by other facilities due to behavioral issues; it closed in 2023. Currently, her BB & E Enterprise, LLC handles commercial and residential rental property while another of her businesses, DBA Legacy Event Center, is an event venue.

A native Wacoan, Brown was raised on Clifton Street just blocks from where her service station now stands. One of four children, she attended J. H. Hines Elementary, G. L. Wiley Junior High, Lake Air Junior High, and Richfield High School. In 1981, she graduated from Prairie View A & M University in political science with a minor in accounting and with a teaching certification. She has a Master's in sociology from Baylor University and a Master's in social work from the University of Texas at Arlington. She is the mother of four children and seven grandchildren with one on the way.

As she continues to make waves in her community, Brown's story serves as a reminder that with resilience, determination, and a heart full of compassion, one person can make a profound difference.



You only live once. That's worth protecting.

Richard Kruger, Agent
7213 New Sanger Ave.
Waco, TX 76712
Bus: 254-776-4593
www.rkruger.com

A conversation about life insurance now can make a big impact on your family (and even your retirement) later.
LET'S TALK TODAY.



State Farm Life Insurance Company (Not licensed in MA, NY or WI)
State Farm Life and Accident Assurance Company (Licensed in NY and WI)

1708142

Bloomington, IL

Business DIRECTORY

RASHAD
"Chip" Davis
THE GOLDEN SHEAR

HOURS:
Tuesday - Friday, 10-6
Saturday, 8-3
By appointment only

SPECIAL!
\$3.00 OFF FOR FIRST-TIME CUSTOMERS!

511 N. Hewitt Dr. • 254.300.4155

Linda McDonald
REALTOR®
Integrity, Trust, Experience
CRS, GRI, PMN, SRS

CELL: (254) 855-1717
LINDAMCDONALDREALTOR@GMAIL.COM
LMCDONALD@CBWACO.COM

Remembering 2024 | NEWS THAT MADE HEADLINES

DR. SHAMONICA TRUNELL: A BEACON OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS IN WACO, BELLMEAD, GATESVILLE

REPRINTED FROM
JULY 2024

In the realm of healthcare, some individuals stand out not only for their professional expertise but also for their commitment to community service. One such individual is Dr. Shamonica Trunell, the esteemed owner of Hillcrest Chiropractic Clinic in

Waco, Bellmead and Gatesville, Texas.

Dr. Trunell's journey to becoming a respected chiropractor began in Fayette, Mississippi, where she was born and raised. Her upbringing in this small town instilled in her a strong sense of community, which would later influence her decision to establish her prac-

tice in Waco. After completing her undergraduate studies, Dr. Trunell pursued her doctorate from Parker College of Chiropractic, graduating in September 2003. This rigorous program equipped her with the knowledge and skills necessary to provide exceptional chiropractic care. Upon receiving her doctorate, Dr. Trunell made the de-



DR. SHAMONICA TRUNELL

the decision to accept most insurances, including Medicaid and Medicare. This decision has made chiropractic care accessible to a wider demographic in Waco, demonstrating Dr. Trunell's commitment to serving her community. Furthermore, Dr. Trunell's practice caters to patients of all ages, from newborns to centenarians. This broad patient base is a testament to her versatility as a chiropractor and her dedication to promoting health and wellness at every stage of life.

Dr. Shamonica Trunell is a remarkable figure in the field of chiropractic care. Her journey from Fayette, Mississippi to Waco, Texas is marked by her unwavering commitment to community service and her dedication to making chiropractic care accessible to all. Through her work at Hillcrest Chiropractic Clinic, she continues to make a significant impact on the health and wellness of the Waco community. She now owns locations in Waco, Bellmead, and Gatesville.

CERISE FRANKLIN RECEIVES HER MASTER'S IN EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP

REPRINTED FROM
AUGUST 2024

As a single parent to her daughter, Cambrie, Cerise Franklin balanced motherhood with her professional responsibilities, finding strength in their bond. During this time, she met Edward Rhodes, her supportive fiancé, who encouraged her to pursue her dreams. With Rhodes's support, Franklin embarked on the journey to earn her Master of Education in Educational Leadership.



CERISE FRANKLIN

Franklin's journey to her Master of Education in Educational Leadership is a tale of perseverance and dedication, underscored by a commitment to personal and professional growth. Born in Waco, Texas, Franklin was influenced by her mother, Mary D. Franklin, who instilled values of resilience and the importance of education. Growing up with her sister, Felecia, Franklin embraced hard work and determination, excelling academically, and driven by a passion for learning and making a positive impact on others.

Franklin graduated from Paul Quinn College with a Bachelor of Science in elementary education, setting the stage for her future career. She began her career at Alta Vista Elementary in the Waco Independent School District, dedicating 24 years to nurturing a love for learning in her students. Her career spanned various districts, including Rosebud-Lott, Connally, Mexia, and Marlin ISDs, where she made an impact on countless lives. After 34 years, she retired from Mexia ISD, only to return to Marlin, driven by her passion for education.

Determined to effect positive change in education, Franklin dedicated herself to her studies in her graduate program, exploring the complexities of educational leadership. Through rigorous coursework and mentor-

ship from esteemed faculty, she deepened her understanding of new educational challenges.

On May 3, 2024, Franklin graduated with her Master of Education in Educational Leadership from Schreiner University in Kerrville, Texas. She stands poised to embark on a new chapter defined by leadership, innovation, and a steadfast commitment to enriching the lives of students and educators.

Franklin is an active member of Pleasant Olive Missionary Baptist Church, a Life member of the National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa, Inc., Gamma Upsilon chapter, and a Diamond Life member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., Waco Alumnae Chapter. Her life is a testament to service and leadership.

ship from esteemed faculty, she honed her leadership skills and

RASHAD

"Chip" Davis

— Barber on Duty at —



The Golden Shear

HOURS:
Tuesday - Friday, 10-6
Saturday, 8-3

- By Appointment Only -

\$3.00 OFF FOR FIRST-TIME CUSTOMERS!

511 N. Hewitt Dr. • 254.300.4155

Temple of Christ — CHURCH —

MATTHEW REED MINISTRIES, INC.
1710 Monte Vista • Waco, TX 76777 • (254) 753-0772



Church Services

SUNDAY SCHOOL
10:00 a.m.

MORNING WORSHIP
11:15 a.m.

SUNDAY EVENING
6:00 p.m.

MONDAY BIBLE STUDY
7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY PRAYER WORSHIP
7:00 p.m.

Pastor Matthew Reed and wife, Helen

Remembering 2024 | NEWS THAT MADE HEADLINES

WACO NATIVE RECEIVES A DOCTORATE DEGREE

REPRINTED FROM
SEPTEMBER 2024

On the surface, Jacqueline is a quiet wife, mom, and grandmother. What most people don't know is Jacqueline has quite the past. She was born Jacqueline Renee Shelton into a military family. Both of her parents, Reby Shelton (Johnson) of Pelham, TX and James Shelton from Connellsville, PA, were enlisted in the US Air Force. Jacqueline is the third of four children: James Jr. (deceased 2022), Reva, and Jan (deceased after birth). The military relocated the family to several destinations before returning to Waco, TX, in 1972.

Jacqueline attended Brook Avenue Elementary School, North Junior High School, and graduated from Waco High School in 1979. She attended one semester at McLennan Community College the summer after graduating but had already enlisted in the Air Force. In December of 1979, Jacqueline traveled to San Antonio, TX (Lackland Air Force Base) to begin her military career. She planned to do one enlistment (four years) and come back to Waco. Jacqueline was trained as an Administrative Specialist which

meant she was a secretary whose duties included taking care of all members in her section, managing the daily activities of officers and the higher ranking enlisted.

Her duties included typing, personnel, finance, budgets, travel, and purchasing. Jacqueline was a one-person stop for up to 150 to 200 members at a time. At her last duty station, her duties remained the same and gained an additional duty of being a dorm mom to Air Force Cadets. Her military career took her to Michigan, Germany, South Dakota, England, back to San Antonio, and Alabama with small tours between the main assignments. She was honorably retired on April 1, 2000, after serving 20 years, four months and 18 days of active military service.

Atlanta, GA was Jacqueline's next stop. She had no family in Georgia but felt Atlanta would be a great place to raise her three children. Besides, starting over in new places was nothing she hadn't done before. She found a job as an executive administrative assistant with IBM. The job helped fill a gap but was not satisfying, so she kept looking for other opportunities. The Coca-Cola Company was the



DR. JACQUELINE EVANS

perfect place, where she was hired as an administrative specialist and purchaser for the company headquarters. Laboratory was a position she was used to, and the pay was more than satisfying. The position was similar to her military duties. She was busy supporting two local and five global laboratories around the world, tracking several million-dollar annual budgets, creating purchase orders, paying bills, ordering and warehousing chemicals, meeting with vendors, working with executive local and global travel, and so much more. Jacqueline worked with scientists and chemists who looked like she and it was here that she became serious about a college degree. She was the only per-

son in her department without a degree.

Throughout Jacqueline's military career, she took college courses but never obtained a degree. In 2004, Jacqueline restarted her education at Shorter College which had campuses located all around Atlanta. The great thing about Shorter College is they offer night classes tailored towards working adults. At this time, Jacqueline was a single parent of three, was working on a career, and now, working on being a full-time student. In 2006, Jacqueline graduated from Shorter College with a bachelor's degree in business management. She went back to Shorter University (name change) and in 2011 and received her master's degree in organizational leadership with a 4.0 GPA. Now, she was equal to her peers at work.

She felt accomplished but not satisfied so she enrolled in an online doctorate program at Grand Canyon University in December 2012. This time she wanted to study religion. Her objective wasn't to become an ordained minister but to help with church administration and with the church youth. This degree was personal for Jacqueline. The program that worked for her was a doctorate

in education (Ed.D.). She never was an educator by trade but jumped in with both feet. The degree took a full 10 years to complete. Jacqueline graduated in 2023 with a Doctorate of Education degree in Organizational Leadership with an emphasis in Ministry Studies.

Dr. Shelton-Evans reconnected with her high school sweetheart, Richard Evans, in 2003. The two were married in 2008. Richard and Jacqueline had a long-distance relationship since rejoining in 2003. Jacqueline retired from The Coca-Cola Company in 2016 – never able to use her degrees but grateful for her blessings. She finally moved her home in Georgia and moved back to Texas in 2022 after being gone for 42 years. Together, Richard and Jacqueline, have four children and 10 grandchildren. Today, Dr. Jacqueline Shelton-Evans uses her degree at Antioch Missionary Baptist Church in Waco, TX, as the Youth Coordinator. She and volunteers of Antioch serve the church and community youth through tutoring, teaching Bible verses, assisting with arts and crafts, mentoring, and even sharing meals with them. Jacqueline is finally living her dream.

ETJ Life Coaching

ENJOY THE JOURNEY

ETJ PREPAID PACKAGES:

- One 1-hour session\$90
- Two 1-hour sessions\$160 (\$20 savings)
- Three 1-hour sessions\$240 (\$30 savings)
- Four 1-hour sessions\$320 (\$40 savings)



Linda Crawford
CERTIFIED LIFE COACH
 (254) 715-8943 | etjlifecoaching.org

HILLCREST CHIROPRACTIC
WELLNESS CLINIC
4209 Bellmead Drive | Bellmead, TX 76705

VIRTUAL | FACE-TO-FACE | OFFICE LOCATION (BY APPOINTMENT ONLY)

Remembering 2024 | NEWS THAT MADE HEADLINES

MEET JAIRO RAMIREZ



JAIRO RAMIREZ

REPRINTED FROM
NOVEMBER 2024

BY DR. SHAMONICA TRUNELL

Dear Waco Community,
I am thrilled to introduce Jairo Ramirez, our new chiropractic intern at Hillcrest Chiropractic Clinic. As a native of Waco and a proud graduate of Waco High School, Jairo embodies the spirit of our community. Since his graduation in 2017, he has been on a dedicated journey to pursue a career in chiropractic care, seeking to make a difference in the lives of those around him.

Jairo's passion for health and wellness was ignited during his high school years when he experienced firsthand the benefits of chiropractic care after an injury. This transformative experience inspired him to explore how he could help others achieve similar benefits. He went on to attend Parker University, where he immersed himself in the study of anatomy, physiology, and holistic health approaches that promote overall well-being.

Now, as he returns to Waco, Jairo is eager to apply his knowledge to serve his hometown. He is particularly interested in working with individuals recovering from injuries, as well as those seeking to improve their mobility and quality of life. Jairo believes that everyone deserves access to quality healthcare and is committed to making chiropractic services approachable and effective for all.

In his internship at Hillcrest Chiropractic, Jairo will be actively involved in patient care, learning from our experienced

team, and participating in community outreach programs. He is passionate about educating patients on the benefits of chiropractic care and how it can be integrated into a healthy lifestyle.

Outside of his professional pursuits, Jairo enjoys participating in community activities, volunteering, and exploring the beautiful outdoors that Waco

has to offer. He is particularly excited about engaging with local sports teams and wellness programs, where he can share his knowledge and help promote a healthy lifestyle among residents.

Jairo understands that building strong relationships with patients is vital for effective care. He is committed to creating an open and supportive environ-

ment where patients feel comfortable discussing their health concerns and goals. He believes that through collaboration and mutual respect, he can help patients achieve their desired outcomes.

We are excited to have Jairo as part of our team and look forward to the positive contributions he will make to our practice and the broader Waco

community. Please join me in welcoming him back to Waco as he embarks on this meaningful journey.

If you have any questions or would like to learn more about our chiropractic services or Jairo's role, please feel free to contact us. Together, let's support Jairo in his mission to enhance the health and well-being of our community.

Church DIRECTORY

Tree of Life NDC

1612 Austin Avenue, Suite A | Waco, Texas 76701
Pastor/Founder – RT Allen | Co Pastor – Sandra Allen

SUNDAY SCHOOL – 9:30
MORNING WORSHIP – 10:30
WEDNESDAY INTERCESSORY PRAYER – 6 to 6:30
BIBLE STUDY – 6:30 to 7:45

254-339-9375

HIGH POINT CHURCH

www.highpointchurchwaco.com

SERVICES EVERY SUNDAY AT 10:30 A.M.

JOHN RAMBEAU, SENIOR PASTOR

WACO HIPPODROME : 714 AUSTIN AVE : WACO, TEXAS

BETHEL BREATH OF LIFE Ministries Church

SERVICE TIMES:
Sunday School – 9 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship – 10 a.m.
Tuesday Night Bible Study – 7 p.m.
Friday Night Prayer – 6 to 7 p.m.
Monday through Friday Prayer – 6 a.m.

All services except Monday through Friday 6 a.m. prayer are both in the church and on our virtual platform.

JOIN US AT LINK
<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/203878837>
The access code is 203878837
Or dial in to 1-646-749-3122.
Access code: 203878837

2300 SCHWERTNER DRIVE | KILLEEN, TEXAS 76543

Rising Star MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

1408 EAST WACO DRIVE | WACO, TEXAS 76704

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY
6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

SUNDAY SCHOOL
9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP
11:30 a.m.

PASTOR ROBERT CUMMINGS

Temple of Christ – CHURCH –

MATTHEW REED MINISTRIES, INC.

SUNDAY SCHOOL10:00 a.m.
MORNING WORSHIP11:15 a.m.
SUNDAY EVENING.....6:00 p.m.
MON. BIBLE STUDY.....7:00 p.m.
WED. PRAYER WORSHIP...7:00 p.m.

1710 Monte Vista • Waco, TX 76777 • (254) 753-0772

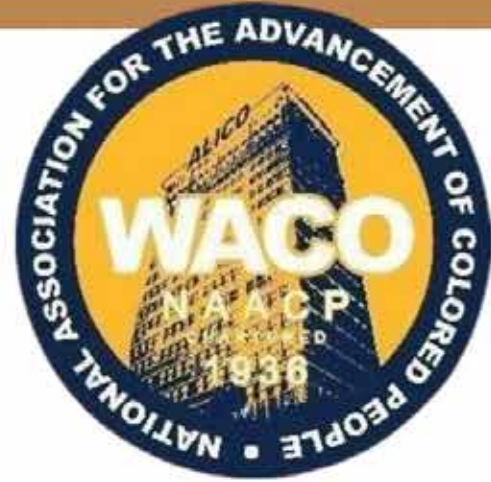
The Word of Life CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Worship Service Bible Study
Sunday at 10 a.m. Wednesday at 7 p.m.

WWW.THEWORDOFLIFEWACO.COM
824 LONGFELLOW DR. | WACO, TX 76710
(254) 772-1371 | TWOLCC@GRANDECOM.NET

THE ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP

Banquet



Guest speaker
**MONROE
NICHOLS IV**
Mayor of Tulsa, Oklahoma

**PUSHING TOWARD PROGRESS,
EQUALITY, & JUSTICE**



Lee Lockwood Library and Museum
2801 W. Waco Drive, Waco, TX 76707

SATURDAY, FEB. 22, 2025 AT 7PM

Tickets: \$50 Individual
\$400 for table of 8
Tix On Sale January 1, 2025
Cash App & Paypal Available