

THE Anchor NEWS

FREE! | AUGUST 2026 VOLUME 24, NUMBER 1

FROM “NOT COLLEGE MATERIAL” TO DIRECTOR

BY LINDA CRAWFORD

When Beverly Michelle Davis sat in her high school guidance counselor's office as a senior, she expected to hear about graduation. Instead, she heard words that could have shaped the rest of her life.

The counselor handed her a slip of paper with her class rank and grade point average, numbers she did not even understand at the time. Then he asked which factory she planned to work in after graduation, suggesting either a local chicken processing plant or a patio furniture factory.

College was never mentioned.

“No one in my family had gone to college,” Davis recalls. “I had not even thought about my life after graduation.”

That moment could have become the end of her story. Instead, it became the begin-



BEVERLY DAVIS

ning.

Shortly before graduation, Davis took an aptitude test that revealed she had a gift for working with people. Social work appeared among the recommended careers. Around the same time, she unexpectedly received a \$100

scholarship from Top Ladies of Distinction, even though she had never applied. Looking back, she calls those moments divine intervention.

She enrolled at Stephen F. Austin State University but struggled and was suspended after her first year. During that difficult season, Davis accepted Christ as her personal Savior. Soon afterward, while watching television late one evening, she saw a commercial for Texas State Technical College. She believes God spoke clearly to her heart, directing her to attend.

Leaving home became an act of faith. At Texas State Technical College, everything changed.

The young woman once labeled “not college material” earned Dean's List honors every semester while completing an associate degree in

SEE **DAVIS**, PG. 11

PROFESSOR JALISA JACKSON VISITS KILLEEN

BY W.B. GUNTER

Professor Jalisa Jackson, Director of Debate and Speech at the University of Texas at San Antonio, recently visited Killeen as the featured speaker for IMPAC Outreach's The Lovely Art of Advocacy and Public Speaking.

Professor Jackson has participated in debate since the age of 14. As a middle school student in Kansas City, her debating skills sometimes landed her in alternative classroom settings. One teacher recognized her potential and encouraged her to join the debate team, a decision that changed her life.

By the time she entered Kan-



JALISA JACKSON

sas State University, Jackson had become an accomplished debater. She later developed into an elite competitor and nationally recognized championship coach.

Professor Jackson believes everyone has the potential to become an effective speaker. “Everybody has the potential,” she said. “Debate teaches people to use their own voice and speak in a manner that's natural. There's no need to speak fancy.”

She explained that many beginning debaters believe they must use overly academic language. Instead, she encourages

SEE **JACKSON**, PG. 2

RODRICK VANN SHARES AVIATION EXPERTISE

BY LINDA CRAWFORD

After more than 26 years in aviation maintenance, Rodrick Vann found a new mission. Instead of repairing aircraft himself, he now prepares the next generation of aviation maintenance professionals to keep them flying safely.

As an Aviation Maintenance Instructor at Texas State Technical College, Vann combines decades of real-world experience with a passion for teaching. Although he has spent only one year in higher education, he has trained mechanics, coworkers, and military personnel throughout his career. Those experiences prepared him to step confidently into the classroom.

Vann's educational journey began in the United States Air Force, where he received technical training in aircraft maintenance. He later earned his FAA Airframe and Powerplant certification before completing a bachelor's degree in Aviation Maintenance Management from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. Along the way, he completed numerous leadership courses and specialized aircraft training that strengthened both his technical expertise and leadership skills.

At TSTC, Vann teaches students how to inspect, maintain, repair, and troubleshoot aircraft according to strict aviation regulations and industry standards. His goal extends beyond helping students pass exams. He



RODRICK VANN

wants them to become safe, skilled, and dependable professionals whose work protects every person who steps onto an aircraft.

One of his greatest joys comes from watching students master concepts that once seemed impossible. Seeing confidence replace uncertainty reminds him why he accepted the challenge of becoming an instructor.

Vann believes every student can succeed when instructors remain patient, flexible, and willing to adapt their teaching to different learning styles. He encourages accountability, professionalism, and a commitment to lifelong learning while emphasizing that shortcuts have no place in aviation.

His advice to students reflects the values he teaches every day: never stop learning, ask questions, follow the technical manuals, and always place safety above con-

SEE **VANN**, PG. 11

**J.L. & LINDA CRAWFORD**

J.L. and Linda Crawford are co-owners of *The Anchor News*. J.L. Crawford serves as Director of Operations and is a Bible teacher and columnist writing on faith, family, and men's issues. Linda Crawford serves as Publisher and Editor, is a motivational speaker, and is the owner of Enjoy the Journey Life Coaching Services.

TEACHING HOPE: TARA L. BRISCOE INSPIRES THROUGH CHAPLAINCY

Rev. Dr. Tara L. Briscoe believes education reaches far beyond the classroom. As a staff chaplain at Ascension Providence, she teaches through compassion, guidance, and the ability to help people navigate some of life's most difficult moments. Her recent certification through the Association of Professional Chaplains on July 21, 2026, represents another milestone in a career devoted to learning, teaching, and serving others.

Dr. Briscoe built a strong educational foundation by earning a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Baylor University, a Master of Divinity from George W. Truett Theological Seminary, and a Doctor of Ministry from Payne Theological Seminary. Her academic studies prepared her in theology, ethics, leadership, preaching, pastoral care, and spiritual formation while equipping her to minister to people from many different backgrounds.

Years of pastoral ministry

**REV. DR. TARA L. BRISCOE**

reinforced what she learned in the classroom. She provided counseling, crisis intervention, grief support, hospital visitation, and spiritual care for individuals and families facing illness, loss, and major life transitions. Those experiences convinced her that effective

chaplaincy requires both knowledge and the ability to listen with empathy, dignity, and respect.

Although many view chaplains primarily as caregivers, Dr. Briscoe sees them as educators as well. Every conversation becomes an opportunity to teach hope, encourage resilience, explain spiritual principles, and help individuals discover meaning during challenging seasons. She also works alongside physicians, nurses, and healthcare teams, helping provide holistic care for patients and families.

Earning certification demanded extensive research, writing, reflection, and disciplined preparation. The challenging process strengthened her clinical skills, expanded her knowledge, and affirmed her commitment to lifelong learning and professional excellence.

Looking ahead, Dr. Briscoe hopes to become a Clinical Pastoral Education educator, preparing and mentoring future chaplains. She also plans to write educational resources that will strengthen chaplaincy training and equip others for effective ministry.

Throughout her journey, Dr. Briscoe credits God's guidance and the unwavering support of her family, especially her sister, Tammy Gindratt; nieces LaTasha Gindratt and TaShea Gindratt; cousin Marques Carroll "MJ"; and Father Aloysius Ezenwata, affectionately known as "Uncle Al," her first CPE educator and mentor. She dedicates this achievement to the memory of her mother, Lela D. Briscoe, and her godmother, Juanita Thornton, whose love and legacy continue to inspire her commitment to teaching, serving, and leading with compassion.

JACKSON | CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

FROM THE EDITOR...

CELEBRATING EDUCATION

Education changes lives, strengthens families, and builds stronger communities. In this special Education Issue, *The Anchor News* proudly celebrates the educators, students, graduates, mentors, and lifelong learners whose dedication inspires excellence every day. Their stories re-

mind us that learning extends far beyond the classroom and continues throughout life.

We hope these inspiring features encourage you to pursue knowledge, invest in others, and recognize the remarkable individuals who are shaping brighter futures across our community.

students to communicate clearly and confidently. Her team includes students from many academic disciplines and backgrounds, and each member competes in at least two tournaments every semester. She believes debate provides lifelong benefits regardless of a student's career field.

Professor Jackson also described the discipline required for competitive debate. During the pandemic, competitions moved to hybrid formats. Debaters researched assigned topics, exchanged citations with opposing teams, and present-

ed evidence before judges who evaluated both preparation and credibility. Success depended on research, strategy, critical thinking, time management, and composure.

She also shared the history of organized debate. Policy debate gained popularity during the 1940s. During the 1950s and 1960s, many students and judges of color faced barriers to participation because of travel restrictions, segregation, employment obligations, and limited accommodations. Urban Debate Leagues expanded opportunities during the 1980s, and collegiate

debate became increasingly inclusive during the 1990s and beyond.

Professor Jackson's visit gave IMPAC Outreach students a master class in advocacy, public speaking, leadership, and critical thinking. She hopes more students will have opportunities to participate in debate before reaching college.

To learn more, contact Professor Jalisa Jackson at the University of Texas at San Antonio or visit IMPACOutreach.org. Dr. Rodney Duckett and Ms. Kasba DeGrate can provide additional information.



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-

als 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

DESIREE HARDEMAN SHAPES LIVES THROUGH LEADERSHIP

BY WB GUNTER

For Desiree Hardeman, M.Ed., education has never been just a profession. It has always been a calling. From the classroom to school leadership and now to community education, she has dedicated her career to helping others discover their gifts and reach their full potential.

Hardeman earned a Master of Education degree and completed doctoral coursework in Educational Leadership. She has continued to strengthen her knowledge through professional development in educational leadership, culturally responsive teaching, arts integration, social emotional learning, gifted education, and leadership development. She believes the best educators remain lifelong learners because every new experience creates new opportunities to serve students and communities.

After serving Waco ISD for 20 years as a classroom teacher, English Language Learner Content Specialist, and Assistant Principal, Hardeman retired from the district in June 2024. Retirement, however, opened the door to another opportunity to educate. Today she serves as Director of Edu-



DESIREE HARDEMAN

cational Programs at Art Center Waco, where she develops educational experiences for children, teens, adults, teachers, schools, and community partners across Central Texas.

Her leadership extends far beyond the classroom. She directs youth programs, leads teacher professional learning, writes grants, expands community partnerships, and creates opportunities that make arts education accessible to learners from every background. She believes talent exists everywhere, but opportunity does not. Her mission focuses on creating those opportunities so every learner

can thrive.

Hardeman finds her greatest joy in watching people discover abilities they never knew they possessed. Whether a child completes a first work of art, a teacher rediscovers a passion for learning, or an adult explores a new creative skill, she celebrates each milestone as a victory for educa-

tion.

Her philosophy centers on affirming people before measuring achievement. She wants every student and family to know they belong, their voices matter, and their experiences hold value. She believes meaningful relationships create lasting success and that creativity builds confidence,

leadership, and hope.

Through every classroom, program, and partnership, Hardeman continues planting seeds of possibility. Her work reminds students, educators, and families that education changes lives, strengthens communities, and inspires future leaders who will leave an even greater legacy.

FROM A CHILDHOOD DREAM TO A LIFETIME OF TEACHING

BY WB GUNTER

As a little girl sitting on the porch outside her grandmother's apartment, Sonya Johnson confidently declared that one day she would become a teacher. It was a simple childhood dream, but one that would shape the course of her life and inspire a career spanning more than three decades in education.

Born in Waco, Texas, to Charlene Tisdale and Stanley Johnson, Sonya has called Austin home for more than 30 years. She is a devoted wife to Christopher Johnson, the proud mother of six, and a loving grandmother. Her faith also remains central to her life as a member of New Zion Baptist Church under the leadership of Pastor Colby Cotton.

Education has been the foundation of Sonya's life's work. With more than 30 years of experience in the field, including 26 years with Child Inc., she has helped shape the lives of countless children, families, and adult learners. Today, she also serves as an Adjunct Professor at Austin Community College, where she continues preparing the next gener-



SONYA JOHNSON

ation of educators.

Her own educational journey reflects her belief that learning never ends. Sonya earned an Associate's Degree in Child Development, a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education, and two master's degrees—one in Early Childhood Education and another in Curriculum and Instruction. On September 19, 2026, she will add another milestone by earning a Doctorate in Christian Counseling, Marriage, Family, and Child Therapy from Providence Christian University.

Throughout her career, So-

nya has remained passionate about helping every student succeed. She believes every person has the ability to learn when educators recognize and adapt to individual learning styles. Rather than expecting students to fit one method of instruction, she believes effective teachers meet learners where they are and help them grow into confident, capable individuals.

Beyond the classroom, Sonya's entrepreneurial spirit shines through as owner of S & J Photobooth and More, where she helps families celebrate weddings, graduations, birthdays, reunions, and other milestones with customized keepsakes and 360 Photo Booth experiences.

A proud member of the National Society of Phi Delta Kappa Sorority, Sonya embodies the organization's commitment to scholarship, sisterhood, and service. Whether teaching young children, mentoring future educators, counseling families, or serving her community, she continues to prove that a dream nurtured by faith, education, and perseverance can become a lifelong legacy of impact.



Louis George Gregory
Bahá'í Leader and
Advocate for Unity

"...the great truths of the Bahá'í Revelation have given me an entirely new conception of Christianity and of all religion, and with it my whole nature seems changed for the better."

To learn more about
the Bahá'í Faith,
call (254) 717-7903

or visit wacobahais.org



bahai.org/beliefs

ADVERTISE *here!*
Call 715-8943 today!

KILLEEN EDUCATOR ROYCE SMITH INSPIRES STUDENTS

KILLEEN — For more than 20 years, Dr. Royce B. Smith has dedicated his life to helping students discover the power of education. As an Assistant Professor of English at Austin Community College and an instructor for the University of Maryland Global Campus, he teaches far more than grammar and literature. He equips students with the confidence, critical thinking skills, and communication abilities they need to succeed in college, their careers, and life.

Dr. Smith's educational journey reflects his commitment to excellence. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in English from Lane College, a Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction from Texas A&M University-Central Texas, and a Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership from the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor.



DR. ROYCE B. SMITH

His academic achievements have prepared him to serve a diverse student population that includes first-generation college students, adult learners, dual-credit students, and military-affiliated students.

His passion for teaching began long before he en-

SEE **SMITH**, PG. 11



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

SAUNDREA BIBLE: BUILDING FAITH AND LEADERSHIP

Saundrea Bible is an educator, youth mentor, and community leader whose passion is helping children grow academically, spiritually, and personally. As a teacher at WSG-BC Daycare Center, she creates engaging learning experiences that build strong literacy, language, and social-emotional skills while nurturing each child's confidence and love for learning.

Beyond the classroom, Saundrea is the founder of Young Bible Readers, a youth ministry dedicated to helping children develop a lifelong habit of reading and understanding God's Word. Through interactive Bible lessons, reading activities, prayer, and hands-on learning, she encourages children to discover that faith is something they can live every day.

Recognizing the importance of preparing children for the future, Saundrea also founded YBR Kids, an extension of Young Bible Readers that teaches entrepreneurship and



SAUNDREA BIBLE

financial literacy through biblical principles. As a parent liaison for Lemonade Day Waco, she ensures children have access to youth pop-up shops, and community outreach, where they learn customer service, responsibility, money management, and leadership while serving others.

Her influence extends beyond her own students as she

creates original educational resources, children's workbooks, Bible activities, coloring books, and family literacy materials that equip parents, churches, and educators with practical tools for teaching children.

Saundrea is also the devoted wife of Pastor John Bible of Waco Sovereign Grace Baptist Church and the proud mother of four children. Together, they are committed to serving their church and community while raising the next generation to love God, value education, and become leaders of integrity.

Whether leading a classroom, mentoring young entrepreneurs, teaching Vacation Bible School, or serving families throughout the community, Saundrea Bible's mission remains the same: to equip children with faith, knowledge, character, and confidence to become lifelong learners and servant leaders.

"Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it." — Proverbs 22:6

ANNISE PAYNE INSPIRES STUDENTS TO BELIEVE

For Overseer Pastor Annise Payne, teaching extends far beyond the classroom. As a special education paraprofessional with Waco ISD and pastor of Trinity Temple of Deliverance, she has dedicated her life to encouraging students, strengthening families, and helping people recognize the potential God has placed within them.

With five years of service in Waco ISD's Special Education Department and 13 years of ministry leadership, Payne believes education is about developing the whole person. She works daily with students who have special needs, helping them build confidence, make responsible decisions, and pursue their goals. At the same time, she provides guidance, mentorship, and practical support to families and members of the community.

A graduate of Richfield High School, Payne also attended the University of Mary Hardin Baylor and later earned her life coach certification through Bloom University. She considers education a lifelong journey, one that continues through ministry, mentoring, community service, and ev-



PASTOR ANNISE PAYNE

ery life she has the privilege to touch.

Payne's passion for education began with a simple desire to help others. She understands how encouragement and positive support can transform lives and believes her faith calls her to uplift, educate, and empower those around her.

"Current circumstances do not have to determine your future," is a message she shares often. Whether in a classroom, church, home, or community program, Payne believes learn-

ing happens wherever people are willing to grow.

One of the greatest rewards of her work is watching students overcome obstacles, gain confidence, and discover their own abilities. She hopes every student understands that success is measured not only by grades but also by character, perseverance, kindness, discipline, and wise decision making.

Throughout her career, Payne has learned that many people carry unseen burdens. Those experiences have strengthened her patience, compassion, and commitment to listening before judging. She believes every student deserves to be seen, heard, valued, and challenged according to their individual needs.

Looking ahead, Payne hopes to expand her work in education, mentoring, ministry, health, and community outreach by creating additional programs that strengthen students, families, and neighborhoods.

Guided by Jeremiah 29:11, she reminds others that "God still has a plan." Her personal motto reflects the life she strives to live each day: "It is not about perfection; it is about consistency."

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: MICHAEL ALEXANDER'S BRIGHT FUTURE

As he prepares to enter his junior year of high school, 15-year-old Michael Alexander is quietly building a future defined by faith, creativity, and academic growth. The son of Lana and Marvin Alexander, Sr., Michael approaches each new opportunity with determination, humility, and a desire to continue learning both inside and outside the classroom.

Michael has earned a reputation as a thoughtful student who enjoys discovering how things work. His interests extend far beyond traditional academics, reflecting a curiosity that inspires him to explore a variety of subjects. Whether studying in school or developing practical skills, he embraces each experience as an opportunity to grow.

One of Michael's greatest strengths is his creativity. He is a gifted artist whose imagination comes alive through drawing and design. His artistic abilities are complemented by his love of music. He enjoys singing and has developed his



MICHAEL ALEXANDER

musical talents with dedication and enthusiasm. These creative pursuits allow him to express himself while building discipline and confidence.

Michael also has a passion for hands-on learning. He has developed an interest in welding and engineering, fields that combine problem solving, technical knowledge, and innovation. As he considers his future, he looks forward to exploring educational pathways

that could lead to a career where he can design, create, and build meaningful projects.

Outside the classroom, Michael continues to grow in his faith. He studies God's Word and works to apply biblical principles to his daily life. His commitment to living with integrity and purpose reflects the values his parents have instilled in him from an early age. Soft spoken like his father, Michael leads more through his actions than his words.

As he prepares to earn his driver's license, he enjoys helping his father by picking him up from work, a simple act that reflects the close bond they share and the respect he has for his father's guidance and example.

With strong family support, a commitment to education, remarkable artistic and technical abilities, and a growing faith, Michael Alexander is laying the foundation for a promising future. His willingness to learn, serve, and pursue excellence makes him a student with limitless potential.

THE CHURCH NEEDS A SPIRITUAL COMPASS

BY PASTOR MATTHEW REED

Paul and his companions, on their journey to Rome, landed at Syracuse, fetched a compass, then continued their journey.

Acts 28:12-13: "And landing at Syracuse, we tarried there three days. And from thence we fetched a compass, and came to Rhegium: and after one day the south wind blew, and we came the next day to Puteoli."

These travelers saw their need for a compass (a sense of direction) to travel by so that they would reach their destination, Rome. If we, the Church, are going to reach that New Jerusalem, where we will dwell forevermore with the Father and the Son, we need a spiritual (moral) compass.

If there is one willing



PASTOR MATTHEW REED

to attempt the journey to that new city that will be let down out of the sky, get you a Bible. Read the New Testament, study it, and obey it. It is the spiritual compass that will guide you to this holy city.

Remember, when you arrive, there ain't no coming out. All the struggles, sacrifices, and any other things you may have endured will be well rewarded.

Amen.

JEREMY AND COURTNEY DAVIS MENTOR WACO STUDENTS

For Jeremy and Courtney Davis, education extends far beyond school walls. Through Mentor Waco, the husband-and-wife team have dedicated themselves to teaching young people the skills, confidence, and character needed to succeed in school and in life.

Jeremy founded Mentor Waco in February 2018 after recognizing the need for consistent mentorship and educational support for middle and high school students. Since then, he has taught students valuable lessons in leadership, financial literacy, entrepreneurship, career readiness, academic success, and community service. His goal is not simply to help students graduate, but to prepare them to become responsible citizens and future leaders.

Courtney serves as an essential partner in the organization's mission. She helps plan programs, coordinate events, and build meaningful



JEREMY AND COURTNEY DAVIS

relationships with students, especially young women. Together, the Davises create a welcoming environment where students feel valued, encouraged, and inspired to pursue their dreams.

One of their signature educational initiatives is the annual two-week Summer Enrichment Camp. Students participate in hands-

on workshops led by community professionals who introduce them to career opportunities, leadership, financial literacy, health and wellness, entrepreneurship, and life skills. The experience broadens students' horizons while helping them build confidence and discover new possibilities for their futures.

The impact of the Davises' teaching is evident in success stories like Daylen Sauls, a Mentor Waco participant who overcame dyslexia, graduated from college ahead of schedule, returned to teach at his former middle school, and was recently named Waco ISD's First-Year Teacher of the Year.

Jeremy and Courtney Da-

vis prove that some of life's greatest educators never stand behind a classroom podium. Through mentorship, encouragement, and unwavering commitment, they are teaching the next generation to believe in themselves, pursue education, and become leaders who will positively impact their communities.

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*

BRIANNA DAVIS: LAW, LEADERSHIP, AND INSPIRATION

Brianna Davis knows that success rarely comes without sacrifice. As a second year student at Mitchell Hamline School of Law, she manages the demands of a full-time career, marriage, motherhood, and law school while pursuing her lifelong dream of becoming an attorney.

Davis earned a Bachelor of Social Work from the University of North Texas before completing a Master of Social Work at the University of Texas at Arlington. While earning her graduate degree, she worked full-time as a Conservatorship Worker with the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services. She now serves as a legal liaison, where she assists attorneys with litigation, trial preparation, and courtroom procedures. Although she wanted to attend law school for many years, life delayed those plans until she enrolled in August 2025. She expects to graduate with her Juris Doctorate in May 2029.

Her academic success reflects her commitment to excellence. She earned Dean's List and President's List honors during graduate school. At Mitchell Hamline, she serves as the Social and Engagement Chair for the American Civil Liberties Union student chapter and as a BARBRI student representative. She also holds



BRIANNA DAVIS

membership in Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated.

As a first generation law student, Davis entered the legal profession without family experience to guide her. She learned to seek opportunities, build relationships, and create her own path. She continues that journey while working full-time, raising two young children with her husband, and supporting his pursuit of a master's degree. Together, they have invested countless hours and made many sacrifices to achieve their educational goals.

Davis credits her family, friends, coworkers, and the attorneys she works with for encouraging her along the way. She also draws inspiration

from her mother, Sheila Brown, a respected Waco entrepreneur and owner of several businesses, whose work ethic and determination helped shape her own. Her children remain her greatest motivation, and she hopes they will grow up believing that faith, perseverance, and hard work can make any dream possible.

Criminal Law has become her favorite area of study because she enjoys analyzing criminal intent and understand-

ing how a person's mental state can affect the outcome of a case. Looking ahead, she hopes to build a career in Criminal Law or Entertainment Law, where she can combine her passion for justice with her love of music while protecting the interests of artists, including her husband, who is an actor.

Outside of school, Davis treasures time with her family and appreciates every opportunity to catch up on sleep. She also has a unique distinc-

tion that often surprises people. She is a triplet and shares that special bond with her siblings, Brittany and Brandon.

Her advice to other students reflects the determination that defines her journey. "Your setbacks do not define you. Keep showing up, keep learning, and trust that every step forward brings you closer to your goals." She lives by a simple motto that continues to guide her every day: "Choose your hard."

DR. MIA MOODY: HELPING STUDENTS FIND THEIR VOICE

Dr. Mia Moody has built a distinguished career around communication, storytelling, education and service. As a professor of journalism, public relations and new media at Baylor University, she helps prepare students to become thoughtful communicators, ethical leaders and lifelong learners.

Dr. Moody's educational journey began with a passion for journalism and the power of words. She earned journalism degrees from Texas A&M University and Baylor University before completing a Ph.D. in Journalism from The University of Texas. Throughout her career, she has continued to grow through research, leadership training, national conferences and service in academic organizations. She believes learning should continue throughout life, and she models that commitment for her students.

Before entering higher education, Dr. Moody worked in journalism and communication at the Waco Tribune Herald. That experience helped shape her understanding of ethical communication, diverse representation and public service. She later moved into higher education, where she has served as professor, researcher, mentor, graduate program director and department chair.

For more than two decades, Dr. Moody has devoted her work to teaching, mentoring, research, leadership and community engagement. At Baylor, she teaches courses in journalism, public relations, social media and media studies. She also mentors students, publishes scholarly work and serves in leadership roles within journal-



DR. MIA MOODY

ism and mass communication education.

Dr. Moody serves as President Elect of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication, one of the nation's leading organizations for journalism and mass communication educators and scholars. Through AEJMC and other professional organizations, including the National Association of Black Journalists, she supports students, faculty members and future media professionals.

Her love for education comes from witnessing the life changing impact that teachers and mentors can have on others. Dr. Moody believes education creates opportunities, expands perspectives and empowers people to transform their lives and communities. She entered the field because she wanted to help students recognize their own potential.

One of the greatest joys of her work comes from watching students discover their voices. She takes pride in seeing stu-

dents gain confidence, overcome challenges, earn scholarships, publish research, secure jobs, complete graduate degrees and become leaders in their professions.

Dr. Moody has also received Journalism's Bingham Award for her commitment to mentoring and diversity efforts. She values leadership opportunities that allow her to advocate for excellence, opportunity and inclusion in journalism and communication education.

Faith, family, service and education remain at the center of Dr. Moody's life. She enjoys reading, writing, mentoring, traveling and spending time with loved ones. She recently completed a book titled Blackface Memes: Racist Cultural Appropriation in the Twenty First Century, which examines media representation, digital culture and social justice issues.

As she looks ahead, Dr. Moody plans to continue mentoring students, writing books, conducting meaningful research and creating opportunities for future generations of journalists, communicators and educators.

Her guiding scripture comes from Luke 12:48: "To whom much is given, much will be required." For Dr. Mia Moody, that verse reminds her that talents, opportunities and accomplishments should serve others.

Through teaching, mentoring, scholarship, leadership and service, Dr. Moody continues to make a positive difference in the lives of students and communities. She believes that when people invest in education, they invest in a brighter future for everyone.

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



MARY EVANS SAYS, "ONCE MY STUDENT, ALWAYS MY STUDENT"

Mary E. Evans believes education reaches far beyond textbooks, lesson plans, and test scores. For nearly 20 years, she has dedicated her career to helping students discover their abilities, build confidence, and recognize the purpose God placed within them. As a middle school mathematics teacher with Waco Independent School District, Evans uses math as a pathway to develop critical thinking, resilience, and self confidence in every student who enters her classroom.

Evans earned an Associate of Arts in Elementary Education from McLennan Community College, a Bachelor of Arts in Speech Communication with a minor in Spanish from Texas State Univer-

sity, and a Master of Science in Educational Administration from Baylor University. She also holds Texas certifications as a Principal EC through 12, ESL Supplemental, 4 through 8 Mathematics, and 4 through 8 Generalist educator. She continues pursuing professional development because she believes learning never ends.

Throughout her career, Evans has served as a teacher, educational leader, academic advisor, student success coach, entrepreneur, educational consultant, speaker, photographer, and children's book author. While her responsibilities have changed over the years, her mission has remained the same. She strives to encourage, equip,



MARY EVANS

and empower others to become who God created them to be.

Evans entered education because she believes every

child deserves someone who believes in them before they believe in themselves. She treasures the moment when a struggling student suddenly understands a difficult concept and realizes, "I can do this." She hopes every student leaves her classroom believing they are capable of accomplishing more than they ever imagined.

Her greatest rewards do not come from awards or recognition. Instead, they come from hearing former students share that they became doctors, nurses, teachers, engineers, lawyers, pharmacists, military service members, business owners, authors, parents, and community leaders. Knowing she helped strengthen their confidence and perseverance

brings her tremendous joy.

Outside the classroom, Evans tutors students, mentors educators, speaks at conferences and community events, develops educational resources, and supports literacy through her children's books. She also serves through her church and as a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., where she works on the Economic Development Committee.

Guided by her Christian faith, Evans lives by a simple promise that her students never forget: "Once my student, ALWAYS my student." That lifelong commitment reflects her belief that true educators never stop encouraging those whose lives they have touched.

JL CRAWFORD JR. NEARS COMPLETION OF DOCTORATE

For JL Crawford Jr., education has never been simply about earning degrees. It has always been about answering God's call to learn, teach, and serve others. Today, as a doctoral student in the National University School of Education, he stands on the threshold of defending his dissertation and completing a lifelong dream that once seemed out of reach.

Crawford is currently ABD (all but dissertation) and expects to receive his Doctor of Philosophy in Education this semester. His journey began in 2021 when he and his wife, Linda, decided to pursue doctorates together. At the time, Linda was 65 and JL was 72. Although they had dreamed of earning doctoral degrees for years, they believed the opportunity had passed. Their perspective changed through the persistent encouragement of their friend, Dr. Pam Hunter, who earned her doctorate at age 68. She called regularly to encourage the couple, reminding them that age is only a number.

The journey has not been easy. In 2023, Crawford supported his wife through the heartbreaking loss of her younger brother. Only a month later, he became critically ill and spent three weeks in the



JL CRAWFORD JR

hospital, including nine days on a ventilator. Doctors doubted he would survive, but Linda confidently declared that he would. Family and friends across the nation united in prayer, and Crawford experienced what he considers a miracle. Five additional family deaths followed within three months, and his recovery required a leave of absence from both work and school. Despite every obstacle, he remained committed to finishing what he started.

A longtime educator, Crawford says teaching as an adjunct instructor at McLennan Community College for more than 13 years confirmed his

calling to education. Courses in educational policy and school administration became his favorites because they deepened his understanding of leadership and service.

His commitment extends well beyond the classroom. Crawford belongs to Omega Nu Lambda National Honor Society, Alpha Phi Omega National Fraternity, the NAACP Scholarship Committee, and the Willow Grove Cemetery Association. He also serves as co-owner and Director of Operations for The Anchor News, a publication that has highlighted positive news throughout Central Texas for 24 years. His service has earned recognition including the Man of Valor Award and a Community Service Award from the Cen-Tex African American Chamber of Commerce.

Crawford credits the encouragement of his wife and children, Dr. Pam Hunter, Dr. Arvis Scott, Dr. Sylvia Lombard, Mrs. Alta Vann, the late Dr. Linda Dulin, and former McLennan Community College department chair Dr. William (Bill) Matta for helping him persevere.

The accomplishment he treasures most is becoming a disciple of Jesus Christ. His favorite scripture, Habakkuk 2:2-

3, reminds him to "write the vision, and make it plain."

His advice to others is simple: "Put God first in everything. Never give up on getting an education, and finish what you started."

At his core, JL Crawford Jr. is a husband, father, educator, and servant of God who believes learning has no age limit. His story proves that with faith, perseverance, and purpose, dreams never expire.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: JEREMIAH ALEXANDER ON THE MARCH

At just 12 years old, Jeremiah Alexander is already demonstrating that a love for learning, dedication, and perseverance can lead to exciting opportunities. The son of Lana and Marvin Alexander, Sr., Jeremiah recently celebrated his twelfth birthday and is preparing to enter seventh grade with enthusiasm and determination.

As the youngest member of his family, Jeremiah brings energy and positivity wherever he goes. In the classroom and at home, he approaches new challenges with curiosity and confidence. His parents have encouraged him to develop his talents, and he eagerly embraces every opportunity to learn.

Music is one of Jeremiah's greatest passions. He plays the saxophone, piano, and drums, and he also enjoys singing. Family members are continually impressed by how quickly he learns new instruments and musical skills. His natural ability, combined with a strong work ethic, has helped him become a talented



JEREMIAH ALEXANDER

young musician.

Outside the classroom, Jeremiah enjoys spending time with friends and playing video games. This school year,

he looks forward to joining the football team for the first time while continuing his participation in the school band. Both activities will allow him to strengthen teamwork, discipline, and leadership skills.

Jeremiah's faith also plays an important role in his life. His father encourages him to build a personal relationship with God and to live with integrity, compassion, and purpose.

As he begins seventh grade, Jeremiah continues to grow as a student, musician, athlete, and young man of faith. With the support of his family and his commitment to learning, he is building a strong foundation for a bright future. Jeremiah Alexander is a student whose best accomplishments are still ahead.

ADVERTISE
Call Linda at
(254) 715-8943 today! *here!*

TURNING 65 SOON? DON'T MAKE A MEDICARE MISTAKE



Your first choice matters.
Avoid penalties.
Get it right the first time.

CALL TODAY

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

Free help. No cost. No obligation.

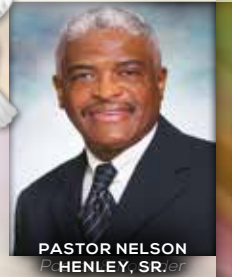
The Word of Life
CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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



**PASTOR NELSON
P. HENLEY, SR.**

Public Meeting BU 77 and SL 484

From I-35 to FM 434 (University Parks Drive)

YOU'RE INVITED!



In Person

Thursday, Sept. 10, 2026
5:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Texas Sports Hall of Fame
The Great Hall
1108 S. University Parks Drive
Waco, TX 76706

Virtual

Thursday, Sept. 10, 2026
by 5:30 p.m. to
Friday, Sept. 25, 2026
at 11:59 p.m.
www.txdot.gov, keyword
search "BU 77 Blvd"



TxDOT invites you to a in-person meeting with a virtual option. The purpose of this public meeting is to present the proposed project, engage with the community and gather feedback. This project would convert the existing Business (BU) 77 access-controlled facility into an urban boulevard with pedestrian/bicycle accommodations. Improvements for this project include replacing the existing pavement, providing pedestrian/bicycle accommodations, and replacing existing bridges. Intersection alternatives are being analyzed for safety and traffic operation improvements. SL 484 would be realigned into SL 574 (South MLK Jr. Boulevard).

The public meeting will be held in an open house format, where attendees may come and go at their convenience. Attendees will be able to view a pre-recorded video presentation, review hard copies of project materials, ask questions of TxDOT staff and consultants, and leave written comments. The same information will be available at the in-person and virtual options.

We invite you to:

- Learn about project updates and the process TxDOT follows
- View a pre-recorded presentation and supporting project exhibits
- Provide feedback on the project
- Ask questions and submit comments

WE WANT YOUR INPUT

Please submit or postmark your comments by Friday, Sept. 25, 2026.

Project questions? Please contact:

Lisa Deitemeyer, P.E.
ldeitemeyer@jmt.com
469-678-3200

To submit comments by email:

ldeitemeyer@jmt.com

If you have special communication or accommodation needs please contact:

Mitzi Ellison
Mitzi@nancyledbetter.com
512-761-2711

The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable Federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried-out by TxDOT pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated July 17, 2025, and executed by FHWA and TxDOT.

Reunión Pública BU 77 y el SL 484

Desde la I-35 hasta la FM 434 (University Parks Drive)

ESTÁS INVITADO!



En Persona

Jueves, 10 de septiembre del 2026
5:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Texas Sports Hall of Fame
The Great Hall
1108 S. University Parks Drive
Waco, TX 76706

Virtual

Jueves, 10 de septiembre del
2026 a las 5:30 p.m. hasta el
viernes, 25 de septiembre de
2026 a las 11:59 p.m.
www.txdot.gov, búsqueda de
palabra clave "BU 77 Blvd"



TxDOT te invita a una reunión presencial con opción virtual. El objetivo de esta reunión pública es presentar el proyecto propuesto, interactuar con la comunidad y recopilar opiniones. Este proyecto convertiría la actual instalación de acceso controlado de Business (BU) 77 en una avenida urbana con instalaciones para peatones y bicicletas. Las mejoras de este proyecto incluyen la sustitución del pavimento existente, la creación de instalaciones para peatones y ciclistas y la sustitución de los puentes existentes. Se están analizando alternativas de intersección para mejorar la seguridad y la circulación del tráfico. La SL 484 se realinearía con la SL 574 (South MLK Jr. Boulevard).

La reunión pública se llevará a cabo en formato de reunión a puertas abiertas, donde los asistentes podrán entrar y salir cuando lo deseen. Los asistentes podrán ver una presentación en video pregrabada, revisar copias impresas de los materiales del proyecto, hacer preguntas al personal y a los consultores de TxDOT, y dejar comentarios por escrito. La misma información estará disponible tanto en la opción presencial como en la virtual.

Le invitamos a:

- Infórmese sobre las actualizaciones del proyecto y el proceso que sigue TxDOT
- Ver una presentación pregrabada y exhibiciones de proyectos de apoyo
- Proporcionar comentarios sobre el proyecto
- Haz preguntas y envía comentarios

QUEREMOS SU OPINIÓN

Por favor, envíe o matasellee sus comentarios antes del viernes
25 de septiembre del 2026.

Si tiene una pregunta sobre el proyecto comuníquese con:

Lisa Deitemeyer, P.E.
ldeitemeyer@jmt.com
469-678-3200

Comentarios por correo electrónico:

ldeitemeyer@jmt.com

Si tiene necesidades especiales de comunicación o adaptación, por favor comuníquese con:

Mitzi Ellison
Mitzi@nancyledbetter.com | 512-761-2711

La revisión ambiental, la consulta y otras acciones requeridas por las leyes ambientales federales aplicables para este Proyecto están siendo, o han sido, llevadas a cabo por TxDOT de conformidad con 23 U.S.C. 327 y un Memorandum de Entendimiento con fecha del 17 de julio de 2025, y ejecutadas por FHWA y TxDOT.

LINDA MASON CRAWFORD DEVOTES A LIFETIME TO EDUCATION, LEADERSHIP, AND COMMUNITY

BY WB GUNTER

Long before she became an award-winning journalist, college professor, author, and community leader, Linda Mason Crawford made a simple decision that would shape the course of her life. She would use her gifts to help others succeed.

That commitment has guided Crawford through a remarkable 46-year career in higher education. She taught Freshman Composition I and II, American Literature, Developmental Writing, and Integrated Reading and Writing while inspiring students to develop confidence in their abilities. She also served for 13 years as coordinator of McLennan Community College's Integrated Reading and Writing Program, mentoring faculty and helping thousands of students strengthen their academic skills.

Education extends far beyond the classroom for Crawford. In 2002, she founded

The Anchor News with a mission to highlight the accomplishments of people and organizations whose stories often go untold. More than two decades later, the publication continues to celebrate positive news throughout Central Texas. Her work earned the State of Texas Journalist of the Year Award for Black Newspapers, and the City of Waco honored her by proclaiming August 5 as Anchor News Day and presenting her with the Key to the City.

Her passion for empowering others has inspired numerous community initiatives. Alongside her husband, JL Crawford, she co-founded the Waco Black Expo, which showcased businesses throughout the community while encouraging economic growth. Together they also established The Pearls Banquet, an annual event honoring pastors' wives of every race whose faithful service often takes place behind the



LINDA MASON CRAWFORD

scenes.

Crawford continues to create new opportunities for learning. She recently developed Change Your Words to Change Your World, an online course that encourages participants to transform their thinking by speaking positively over their daily lives. After beginning as a local program, the course is expanding to reach audiences

across the nation.

Her leadership includes serving as co-founder and president of The Waco Club of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc., and as the organization's national editor. She also contributes to the international YouVersion Bible platform (Defeating Depression) and maintains memberships in Phi Delta Kappa, the NAACP, and the Cen-Tex African American Chamber of Commerce.

Crawford's honors include Omega Nu Lambda National Honor Society, the NISOD Excellence Award, Educator of the Year recognition from Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., the State of Texas Journalist of the Year Award for Black Newspapers, and the Community Service Award presented jointly to Linda and JL Crawford by the Cen-Tex African American Chamber of Commerce. She is also the author of the five-

star-rated book *God, Destiny, and a Glass of Wine*, published in 2018.

Crawford holds bachelor's and master's degrees from Jackson State University and an Adult Learning Certificate from Walden University. She is currently ABD (All But Dissertation) in psychology at National University and expects her doctoral degree to be conferred later this year. Her husband, JL Crawford, is also completing his doctorate, and the couple plans to celebrate together when they participate in commencement ceremonies in May 2027.

Despite her many accomplishments, Crawford measures success by lives changed. Whether teaching a student, mentoring a leader, publishing an encouraging story, or coaching an individual toward a brighter future, her purpose remains constant: to educate minds, inspire hearts, and empower communities.

WHY HOMEOWNERSHIP IS STILL ONE OF THE BEST INVESTMENTS

BY LINDA MCDONALD

For many families, buying a home is more than purchasing property. It is an investment in their future. While interest rates and housing markets may change, homeownership continues to provide long-term benefits that renting often cannot match.

Owning a home allows you to build equity with each mortgage payment. Over time, that equity can become a valuable financial resource for retirement, education expenses, or future investments. A home also offers stability, giving families a place to create lasting memories and establish roots in their community.

If you are considering buying a home, begin by reviewing your credit, creating a realistic budget, and getting pre-approved for a mortgage. These simple steps will help you understand what you can comfortably afford and make you a stronger buyer when you find the right property.

For current homeowners, regular maintenance is one of the best ways to protect



LINDA MCDONALD
REALTOR, CRS, GRI, PMN, SRS

your investment. Small repairs completed promptly can prevent costly problems later and help preserve your home's value.

Whether you are buying your first home, upgrading to meet your family's needs, or preparing to sell, knowledge is your greatest asset. Partnering with a trusted real estate professional can make the process smoother and help you make confident decisions.

Your home is more than a place to live. It is a foundation for building wealth, security, and a brighter future.

Buying or selling a home can seem like an overwhelming task. A Certified Residential Specialist (CRS) can make the process easier—and more profitable. A CRS, with years of experience and success, will help you make smart decisions in a fast-paced, complex and competitive marketplace. To earn the CRS Designation, residential real estate specialists must demonstrate outstanding professional achievements—including high-volume sales—and pursue advanced training in areas such as finance, marketing and technology. Contact your CRS today!

ADVERTISE
IN THE
ANCHOR
NEWS!

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

ametex
ROOFING & HOME
IMPROVEMENT

www.ametexroofing.com
info@ametexroofing.com

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

MCC STUDENT ALANA ALEXANDER BUILDS A BRIGHT FUTURE

At just 20 years old, Alana Alexander is laying the foundation for a career devoted to helping others. A student at McLennan Community College, she is completing the prerequisite courses needed to enter a nursing program and pursue her dream of becoming a registered nurse. Since graduating with the Class of 2024, Alana has remained committed to her education while balancing college with work.

Determined to succeed,

Alana works while attending school, helping pay her own way and demonstrating the responsibility and independence that will serve her well in the healthcare profession. She understands that achieving her goals requires discipline, perseverance, and a willingness to work hard.

Family has been a strong source of encouragement throughout her journey. As the only daughter in her family, Alana has been reminded by her fa-



ALANA ALEXANDER

ther that she deserves respect, possesses great potential, and can accomplish anything she sets her mind to achieve. His steady encouragement has strengthened her confidence and inspired her to pursue her dreams.

Although naturally quiet and reserved, Alana has a beautiful singing voice that reflects her gentle spirit and humble nature. Her faith remains the guiding force in her life as she seeks God's direction while preparing

for a career centered on compassion and service.

Friends and family describe Alana as hardworking, resilient, and kind. Each semester at McLennan Community College brings her closer to achieving her dream of becoming a nurse. With faith, determination, and a strong support system, Alana Alexander represents the promise of today's college students and the bright future that dedication and education can create.

ELIJAH SCOTT CELEBRATES STRAIGHT A SUCCESS

BY LINDA CRAWFORD

At just a young age, Elijah Scott is already showing what determination, focus, and encouragement can accomplish. The Providence Heights Elementary student recently completed the school year with all A's and proudly advanced to the third grade.

When Elijah learned that he had earned straight A's for the year, he said he felt "happy." His achievement reflects not only academic excellence, but also a strong commitment to doing his very best in the classroom each day.

Elijah especially enjoys math and reading. He loves solving math problems involving addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, and fractions. Reading is another favorite because he enjoys learning new things through books. His favorite parts of school include recess, math, and reading, while outside the classroom he also enjoys recess and P.E.

According to Elijah, one of the things that motivates him most in school is reminding himself not to give up or forget what he has learned. When challenges arose during the school year, Elijah



ELIJAH SCOTT

overcame them by trying his "absolute hardest." His positive attitude and willingness to keep pushing forward helped him succeed academically.

Elijah's mother, Tamara Winfield, has been one of his greatest supporters and encouragers throughout his educational journey. His godparents, Richard Allen and Sandra Allen, also expressed how proud they are of his accomplishments.

"My husband and I both are very proud of him," they shared. "He set a goal at the beginning of the school year to get all A's. We were excit-

ed about him striving for excellence. We celebrate him today for his accomplishments."

Elijah already has big dreams for the future. One day, he hopes to become both a soccer player and a scientist. When asked what advice he would give other students about making good grades, Elijah encouraged them to "pay close attention and read and read."

With family support, determination, and a heart for learning, Elijah Scott is already proving that excellence begins with believing in yourself and never giving up.

JILLIAN DEATON SHAPES FUTURE HEALTHCARE LEADERS

For Jillian Deaton, education reaches far beyond lectures, textbooks, and exams. As an adjunct faculty member at Georgetown University, she prepares future healthcare providers to think critically, serve compassionately, and understand that every patient represents a unique story shaped by family, community, and public policy.

Deaton earned a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Oklahoma Baptist University and a Master of Science as a Family Nurse Practitioner from Georgetown University. She currently pursues an Executive Doctor of Nursing Practice in Healthcare Systems Leadership and Policy and expects to graduate in

May 2027.

For the past three years, she has taught graduate nursing students across the nation while continuing her work as a Family Nurse Practitioner and Quality and Onboarding Clinical Manager. She guides students through clinical reasoning, patient assessments, documentation, specialty examinations, and the transition from the classroom to professional practice.

Deaton finds her greatest reward in watching students connect classroom knowledge with real patient care. She enjoys seeing confidence replace uncertainty as future providers discover their purpose and develop the skills needed to serve



JILLIAN DEATON

others with excellence.

Her own journey began as a nurse assistant and medi-

cal scribe before she became an intensive care nurse, school nurse, case management nurse, and eventually a nurse practitioner. Each experience strengthened her commitment to teaching and mentoring others.

Growing up in a single parent household presented financial challenges, but strong mentors encouraged her to pursue every educational opportunity available. Those experiences inspired her to advocate for nursing education on Capitol Hill, where she joined others in supporting recognition of nursing as a professional degree.

Deaton credits many mentors for helping shape both her career and her calling.

Today, she strives to provide that same encouragement for every student she teaches.

Her philosophy centers on educating, equipping, and empowering students to achieve personal, clinical, and leadership excellence through a holistic and equitable approach. She hopes her graduates will make every patient feel seen, valued, and cared for while improving healthcare in clinics, hospitals, communities, and beyond.

Her advice remains simple but powerful. Dream big, build a strong village of support, and trust God to open doors that education and perseverance make possible.

SPIRIT-LED LIVING: BRINGING THE HUMAN SPIRIT UNDER GOD'S AUTHORITY

BY APOSTLE DR. FANNY MINNITT

I am reading *The Spiritual Man* by Watchman Nee for the second time. During my first reading, I approached much of the material through what Nee describes as the soul-ish or self-conscious part of humanity. Although I understood the words intellectually, my human spirit was not fully connecting with Father God for a deeper spiritual understanding.

Human beings are spirit, soul, and body. Yet possessing these three dimensions does not necessarily mean they function in proper order. Our body should align with our soul, our soul with our human spirit, and our human spirit with the Holy Spirit.

The human spirit is the divine connection created to



APOSTLE FANNY MINNITT

know God, receive from God, worship God, and respond to His purposes. Zechariah 12:1 declares that the Lord "formeth the spirit of man within him." It is not merely emotion, personality, or intellect. It is the God-breathed inner di-

mension through which we become spiritually conscious of Him.

Many people live primarily through body-consciousness or soul-consciousness. Body-consciousness centers on physical desires and natural appetites. Soul-consciousness centers on thoughts,

emotions, ambitions, and self-awareness. These dimensions are not evil, but they should not govern the believer apart from God.

Romans 8:16 declares, "The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God." When our human spirit is submitted

to the Holy Spirit, God transforms not only us but also our homes, relationships, communities, and society.

May our prayer be David's in Psalm 51:10: "Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me." May our spirit remain open to God.

DAVIS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Supermarket and Retail Management. She later returned to Stephen F. Austin, earned a bachelor's degree in social work, completed a Master of Social Work from Texas A&M University-Commerce, and became a Licensed Social Worker.

Her journey was not easy. She admits writing did not come naturally, and good study habits had to be learned. College algebra proved especially difficult. She took the course four times before finally passing.

Determined not to let one class stop her dream, Davis drove 30 minutes every morning during a summer semester to meet her professor before class.

"I got my C," she says. "It felt like an A."

That perseverance has defined her career.

For the past 25 years, Davis has dedicated her life to serving children and families. Today she serves as Head Start and Early Head Start Director for Child Inc. in Austin, overseeing program operations, budgets, compliance, staff, the Board, and Policy Council while helping provide quality early childhood education for low income families with children from six weeks to five years of age.

Her passion for education grew from a desire to ensure students never experience the discouragement she once

faced. She originally dreamed of becoming a school social worker so she could encourage struggling students to believe in themselves, and she still hopes one day to serve in a secondary school district.

Davis credits much of her success to her husband of 34 years, Pastor Dr. Nika Davis, whose encouragement inspired her to return to college and continue pursuing her dreams. She also acknowledges Patrick Sanders, whose invitation to join Head Start launched a career that has impacted countless families.

Beyond her professional responsibilities, Davis serves as a Youth Sunday School teacher, youth choir director, leader of the deaconess and ministers' wives ministry, assistant youth director, and participates in the National Association of Negro Business and

Professional Women's Clubs.

Her philosophy is simple: "All children are born to learn. Treat children as individuals."

To students, her advice reflects the lessons she has lived: "Read. Travel the world through reading. Don't be afraid to try. If God opens a door, keep walking through it until He closes it. When one door closes, God will open another."

Perhaps the proudest moment of her educational journey was watching her mother witness one of her children graduate from college.

For anyone who has ever been told they are not good enough, Beverly Michelle Davis offers living proof that predictions do not determine destiny.

As she often says, "It's not where you began. It's where you end up."

SMITH

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

tered a classroom as a professional educator. Inspired by outstanding teachers and encouraged by his family, Dr. Smith developed a lifelong desire to help others reach their fullest potential. Today, he finds his greatest reward in watching students grow in confidence and realize they are capable of accomplishing goals they once thought impossible.

Beyond the classroom, Dr. Smith demonstrates his commitment to education through church leadership, scholarship committees, mentor-

ing, and community service. He also writes on education, faith, and leadership while actively supporting initiatives that expand educational opportunities for future generations.

Grounded in the belief that education develops both character and purpose, Dr. Smith continues to inspire students to pursue lifelong learning and meaningful service. His influence reaches well beyond the classroom, leaving a lasting impact on countless lives throughout Central Texas and beyond.

VANN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

venience. He hopes that years from now, former students will remember one simple lesson: slow down, pay attention to detail, and never compromise safety.

Whether mentoring in the classroom or preparing future technicians for successful careers, Rodrick Vann demonstrates that great educators do more than teach technical skills. They build confidence, shape character, and prepare students to carry lives safely into the future.

As an Aviation Maintenance Instructor at Texas State Technical College, Vann combines decades of real-world experience with a passion for teaching. Although he has spent only one year in higher education, he has trained mechanics, coworkers, and military personnel throughout his career. Those experiences prepared him to step confidently into the classroom.

Vann's educational journey began in the United States Air Force, where he received technical training in aircraft maintenance. He later earned his FAA Airframe and Powerplant certification before completing a bachelor's degree in Aviation Maintenance Management from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. Along the way, he completed numerous leadership courses and specialized aircraft train-

ing that strengthened both his technical expertise and leadership skills.

At TSTC, Vann teaches students how to inspect, maintain, repair, and troubleshoot aircraft according to strict aviation regulations and industry standards. His goal extends beyond helping students pass exams. He wants them to become safe, skilled, and dependable professionals whose work protects every person who steps onto an aircraft.

One of his greatest joys comes from watching students master concepts that once seemed impossible. Seeing confidence replace uncertainty reminds him why he accepted the challenge of becoming an instructor.

Vann believes every student can succeed when instructors remain patient, flexible, and willing to adapt their teaching to different learning styles. He encourages accountability, professionalism, and a commitment to lifelong learning while emphasizing that shortcuts have no place in aviation.

His advice to students reflects the values he teaches every day: never stop learning, ask questions, follow the technical manuals, and always place safety above convenience. He hopes that years from now, former students will remember one simple lesson: slow down, pay attention to

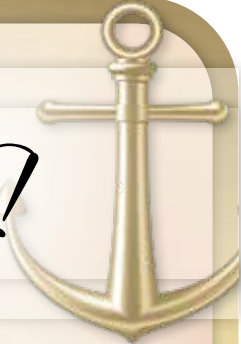
detail, and never compromise safety.

Whether mentoring in the classroom or preparing future technicians for successful careers, Rodrick Vann demonstrates that great educators do more than teach technical skills. They build confidence, shape character, and prepare students to carry lives safely into the future.

ADVERTISE IN THE ANCHOR!



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
- Leon & Courtenay Hicks
- 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
- Denise Robinson & 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
- Jeffie Sanders
- 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.

AUGUST: ROUTINE—HEALTHY HABITS FOR A STRONG START

BY DR. SHAMONICA TRUNELL

August brings fresh beginnings as students return to school, teachers prepare their classrooms, and families settle into new routines. While backpacks are packed and calendars fill quickly, one priority should never be overlooked: your health.

Healthy habits improve focus, reduce stress, strengthen the immune system, and give you the energy to meet each day's demands. No matter your age or stage of life, this is the perfect time to reset.

Start each morning with purpose. Drink a glass of water, stretch for a few minutes, enjoy a healthy breakfast, spend time in prayer or quiet reflection, and review your goals for the day. Small actions each morning can set a positive tone for everything that follows.

Protect your spine and posture throughout the day. Whether you work at a desk, teach in a classroom, or spend hours driving, sit with both feet on the floor, keep screens at eye level, and stand to stretch every 30 to 60 minutes.

Choose foods that nourish your body and mind. Fill your plate with fruits, vegetables, lean proteins, and whole grains instead of re-



DR. SHAMONICA TRUNELL

lying on processed convenience foods. Good nutrition supports concentration, energy, and overall wellness.

Make sleep a priority. Most adults need seven to nine hours of quality sleep each night to support healing, memory, mood, and immune function.

Find simple ways to move every day. Walk after dinner, ride bicycles with your family, dance in the kitchen, or stretch before bed. Every movement benefits your health.

Finally, don't neglect preventive care. Schedule your annual wellness exam, eye and dental appointments, blood pressure screening,

sports physicals, and other recommended checkups.

This month's self care challenge is simple. Choose three healthy habits to practice every day. Drink more water, walk 20 minutes, stretch for five minutes, or add an extra

serving of vegetables to your meals. Focus on consistency instead of perfection.

Dr. Shamonica's Prescription for Healthy Living:

"Health is built in the ordinary moments of life. Every healthy choice you make

today is an investment in a stronger tomorrow. You don't have to be perfect. You simply have to be consistent."

Until next month, be well, live intentionally, and remember that your health is your greatest wealth.

THE HUMAN ELEMENT

BY MONA DUNKIN

Each human being is created. There have been major changes in the past few years. International travel has expanded, salaries have swelled, material possessions have increased, and technology has skyrocketed. Yet amid it all, "The human heart still beats the same." — Touched by an Angel

Figures often lie or are massaged to say what we need them to say. Headlines declare that more students are passing tests, but that does not necessarily mean competency has increased. Sometimes, the standard has simply been lowered. Likewise, the statement that unemployment is down sounds encouraging until you consider those labeled "unemployable." Why? Laziness. Belligerence. An uncooperative attitude. Chronic absenteeism. Our tax dollars support many of the unemployable, not temporarily but permanently, because we



MONA DUNKIN

have given up on them.

In business, we focus on the bottom line. I suggest that people are the bottom line. They buy your products, use your services, make your products, and perform your services. People are our greatest assets, and we have two kinds of customers: external and internal.

Someone is always serving us, and we are always serving

someone. Too often we become so focused on the job that we forget the human element. In Patch Adams, the interns gather around a doctor absorbing every word of a lecture about the gallbladder in Room 207. Patch Adams interrupts and says, "That would be Mrs. Johnston. The gallbladder has a name."

Many of the words in my formula for destiny are weighty and sometimes elusive. Others, such as integrity and morality, also belong there. We often think, "If you don't have it by now, you're never going to get it." I disagree. We are not static individuals. We can change.

I once taught a company's sales force "things their mommy obviously did not teach them." All any of us brings to the table is our knowledge and skills thus far. If I don't know where I'm going, any bus will do. We know when life isn't working, but we often don't know how to fix it. Frustration breeds aggression, and it is hard to give from an empty basket.

As Viktor Frankl wrote, explaining away guilt by biological, psychological, or sociological factors reduces a person to "a machine to be repaired." Even criminals, he observed, prefer to be held responsible for their actions because responsibility affirms their humanity.

Invite Mona to speak to your group. You will be entertained by her humor, challenged by her uncommon insights, and inspired by her thought provoking poems. Call 254-749-6594.

Temple of Christ — C H U R C H —

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

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



Integrity, Trust,
Experience

COLDWELL BANKER
APEX REALTORS®
18 OFFICES SERVING TEXAS

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

**Sell Stuff
In The
Anchor!**

Call 715-8943

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

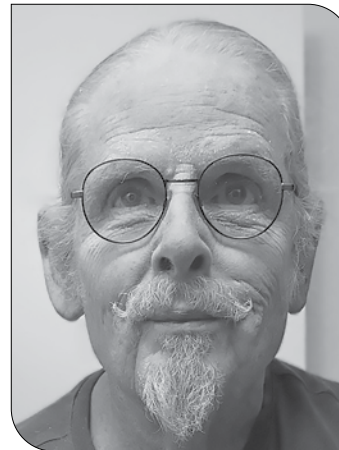
LMCDONALD@CBWACO.COM

LOUIS GEORGE GREGORY
— BAHÁ'Í ADVOCATE

BY MICHAEL JONES

One of the most distinguished and revered leaders and teachers of the Bahá'í Faith in America and abroad was Louis George Gregory, an attorney, and pioneer of interracial harmony. He was born in June of 1874 in Charleston, South Carolina to African American parents emancipated during the Civil War. Gregory was raised by his mother and her husband, 1st Sgt. George Gregory, a Union Army veteran. He attended the first racially integrated public school in Charleston, then Avery Institute, Fisk University, and Howard University Law School, earning his LL.B. in 1902. He practiced law in Washington, D.C., before joining the U.S. Department of the Treasury in 1906.

In 1907, Gregory attended a Bahá'í lecture and became a follower in 1909, inspired by the religion's teachings on the oneness of humanity. Writing that same year, he asserted that "...the great truths of the Bahá'í Revelation have given me an entirely new conception of Christianity and of all religion, and with it my whole nature seems changed for the better. It is a sane and practical religion, which meets all the



MICHAEL JONES

varying needs of life, and I hope I shall ever regard it as a priceless possession."

In 1910 Gregory became the first to introduce the Bahá'í Faith in the American Southeast, and ultimately traveled to 46 states, parts of Canada, Haiti, the Middle East, and Europe, lecturing, organizing, and meeting with thought and spiritual leaders. In 1912, Gregory was elected to the Executive Board of Bahá'í Temple Unity, the governing body in North America at the time; then in 1922, to the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís

of the United States and Canada, as one of few African Americans elected to national leadership in any interracial organization in the first half of the twentieth century.

Gregory was a champion of interracial reconciliation, often facing the indignities of Jim Crow travel and separation from his wife, Louisa Matthew, a white Englishwoman he married in 1912 – thus becoming the first Bahá'í interracial couple. He worked tirelessly to promote race amity and was admired by figures such as W.E.B. Du Bois, who called him part of the "talented tenth." Gregory's life's work helped bring the Bahá'í Faith to a wide audience and inspired generations to embrace unity. His childhood home in Charleston is now the Louis G. Gregory Baha'í Museum, dedicated to his mission of harmony and social transformation. The museum's website is www.louis-gregorymuseum.org. A more detailed history of Gregory's life and work is available at www.bahai-pedia.org/Louis_Gregory.

To investigate Bahá'í life and activities in Waco, visit our local Bahá'í website at wacobahais.org. You are also invited to visit the global information site at bahai.org/beliefs.

HILLCREST CHIROPRACTIC
— Family Wellness Plans —**FAMILY CARE PLAN***(Per-Visit)*

- 1st Member: \$85/visit
- 2nd Member: \$76.50/visit
- 3rd+ Members: \$68/visit
- Commitment: 2 months minimum
- Visits Included: As purchased
- Savings: 10–20% off regular rates

UNLIMITED FAMILY PLAN*(Monthly)*

- 1 Member: \$350/month (includes up to 12 visits + one 30-min massage)
- 2 Members: \$700/month (includes up to 12 visits each + one 30-min massage)
- 3 Members: \$850/month (includes up to 12 visits each + one 30-min massage)
- Commitment: 3 months minimum
- Savings: \$400+ compared to pay-per-visit

NOTES

- Household members only; proof of address required.
- Monthly payments are non-refundable once the month begins.
- Unlimited Plan capped at 12 visits per month, per member.
- Massage included only in Unlimited Plans.

Sign Up Today!

___ FAMILY CARE PLAN | ___ UNLIMITED FAMILY PLAN

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Start Date: _____

254-754-4000

WAYS SENIOR CITIZENS CAN EARN EXTRA INCOME

BY MARGARET IVORY

Retirement can be one of life's greatest blessings, but it can also bring financial challenges. Rising costs for groceries, housing, healthcare, and utilities have caused many seniors to look for ways to supplement their income. Fortunately, there are many opportunities to earn extra money while working at a pace that fits your lifestyle and health.

One of the simplest options is part-time employment. Many retailers, libraries, churches, museums, schools, and local businesses appreciate dependable workers with years of life experience. These positions often offer flexible schedules while helping seniors remain socially active.

If you have professional experience, consider consulting or tutoring. Retired teachers, accountants, nurses, office professionals, mechanics, and skilled tradespeople can often earn income by sharing their knowledge. Tutoring children or adults in reading, math, music, or computer skills can also be rewarding.

Many seniors have turned hobbies into small businesses. Sewing, quilting, woodworking, baking, gardening, painting, jewelry making, and other crafts can provide extra income through craft fairs, farmers markets, community events, or online market-



MARGARET IVORY

places.

The internet has also created new opportunities. You might write books, create online courses, start a YouTube channel, or sell digital products such as planners, greeting cards, recipes, or printable calendars. While these opportunities may take time to grow, they can eventually produce ongoing income.

Providing services within your community is another excellent option. Pet sitting, house sitting, babysitting, companion care, light housekeeping, transportation, and running errands are services that many families need.

These jobs provide income while allowing seniors to remain active and connected with others.

Increasing your income is not the only way to improve your finances. Reducing expenses can be just as helpful. Many businesses offer senior discounts, and assistance programs may help with prescription medications, utilities, property taxes, and other essential expenses.

Always use caution when searching for work-from-home opportunities. If someone asks you to pay money upfront, promises unrealistic

earnings, or requests personal financial information before hiring you, it is likely a scam. Research every opportunity carefully before committing.

Your retirement years can still be productive and fulfilling. The skills, wisdom, and experience you have gained over a lifetime remain valuable. Explore opportunities that match your interests, abilities, and health. It is never too late to learn something new, serve others, and create additional income while enjoying this rewarding season of life.

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

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

PLACE A
COLOR
AD IN THE
ANCHOR
TODAY!

- Restaurants
- Businesses
- Garage Sales
- Birthday Ads
- Anniversaries
- Weddings
- New Arrivals
- Obituaries

— CALL —
254.715.8943

Temple of Christ — CHURCH —

SUNDAY SCHOOL10:00 a.m.

MORNING WORSHIP11:15 a.m.

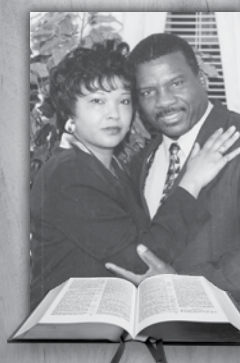
SUNDAY EVENING.....6:00 p.m.

MON. BIBLE STUDY.....7:00 p.m.

WED. PRAYER WORSHIP...7:00 p.m.

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

MATTHEW REED
MINISTRIES, INC.



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

PASTOR NELSON HENLEY, SR.

Building a legacy together.



Join today!
wacofoundation.org/foreverfund

the FOREVER FUND EST. 2021