

THE Anchor News

Serving the Central Texas Community
Celebrating 18 Years!

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Vera P. McCoy: 100 years well-lived

BY CURTIS MCCOY

Vera McCoy has always done things her way. Born to Frank and Ethel Person in Corsicana, Texas on June 6, 1921, she is still going strong at the tender age of 99. A strong-willed and determined woman with a heart of gold, she has always known who she was and whose she was. An early introduction to the church has ordered her steps as she walks in faith and the belief that she is a child of God. McCoy was blessed to have been raised in love by both parents and a devoted paternal grandmother, Lizzie Person.

Growing up in the south in the 20s and 30s was challenging for her. From the harsh economic turns of the Great Depression to the ever-present reminders of what being black truly meant, her world was fraught with peril every



VERA P. MCCOY

single day. But through it all, she never learned to hate or see herself as being less than anyone else. Smart, McCoy loved to read and she took the opportunity to read whenever she could. Being a voracious reader had a profound impact on her ability to learn and to speak with poise and

eloquence.

A few years after graduating from high school, she met and married Odie L. McCoy. He was in the Army and they were stationed at Ft. Leonard Wood, Missouri. After his discharge from the Army, they moved to Ft. Worth, Texas where their first two sons, Odie, Jr., and James, were born. They remained in Ft. Worth for several years before moving back to Corsicana. Later, they made the decision to move to Waco, some 50 miles east of Corsicana.

McCoy bade farewell to her parents and to her four siblings, John, Lavern, Frank Jr., and Orville and headed to Waco. Waco meant opportunity for both her and her husband. She wanted to put herself on some type of pro-

See **MCCOY**, pg. 5

Killeen mom brings back art and film festival

BY W.B. GUNTER

Filmmakers, artists, writers, actors, and critics--this is the grand event you have been waiting for! It's live; it's virtual! The Killeen Black Art and Film Festival is back. This family event has something for everyone--workshops, panel discussion, films, trailers, live art, music videos and acting classes for children.

Busy mom, Luvina Sabree, is bringing the energy back to the stage and the public with this monumental first-class festival. For vendors, this is the event for your very best products. Spruce up those tables and booths, add a little extra to your advertising, and show it off in the best and



LUVINA SABREE

most unique light possible. If you have created a film, this is the time to put it out where people can see it. Bring your words, your art, your craft to

a stage where it will be appreciated and taken seriously. The Killeen Black Art and Film Festival provides a platform where seasoned and new artists thrive. This year's event will feature actor, Carl Kennedy, who has the role of Officer Gordon in Tyler Perry's, "The Haves and The Have Nots." He's had roles on well-known shows including, MacGyver, The Quad, Paradise Lost, and so many more. Kennedy will be presenting the workshop, "The Art Of Storytelling." Bring paper and pen for taking notes. Have your questions ready.

Kaylynn Wilkerson returns

See **SABREE**, pg. 7

Priscilla Gutierrez Stinnett: finding joy is the blank line

It was June of 1979 when Priscilla Gutierrez Stinnett began what would become 42 years (and counting) in retail banking and the financial services industry, thirty-five of which were with Bank of America, originally Citizens Bank in downtown Waco.

When Stinnett was in first grade, her father was transferred to Waco while employed with HEB. Stinnett was born in Carrizo Springs, Texas, but at the time the family had been living in San Antonio, so the move was significant. According to Stinnett, English was definitely her second language given that everyone in San Antonio spoke Spanish.

"San Antonio and Carrizo Springs are great places to visit and I still have strong roots along with many extended family members there," says Stinnett. "However, Waco has been home since 1963."

Attending Waco ISD schools—Bells Hill, South Waco Elementary, Alta Vista, and University Junior High, Stinnett excelled, graduated from University High School, and attended McLennan Community College.

In June of 79, her destiny in banking began. Starting as a teller, she soon won the hearts of many staff members, who literally took her under their wing. She says she has been blessed beyond measure to have worked with so many amazing people



PRISCILLA GUTIERREZ STINETT

throughout her career.

"I have worked with top leaders who mentored me, who genuinely cared about me and who pushed me toward greater things. I have gained many professional and personal friendships that I consider a gift in the truest sense."

Stinnett had the privilege to serve customers and their families in the community. This was an opportunity that she that she believes would not have been possible, had it not been for God's plan for her life.

"I don't know who originally said, 'Love what you do and you'll never work a day in your life,' but, in many ways, it sums up my career. My work. I continue to enjoy what I do and by the Grace of God, I believe I continue to add value to the lives of others. Every day I strive to continue to grow leaders. I give God the glory for all things good in my life."

See **STINETT**, pg. 14



Photo by Any Given Day Photography

J.L. AND LINDA CRAWFORD

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

BY DEXTER HALL

As we approach Mother's Day, my mother Mrs. Mildred Y. Hall has weighed heavily on my heart. I lost my mother on Sept. 3, 2019, and not a day has gone by that something has not reminded me of her.

My mother was a fiercely independent woman who raised five kids and worked her entire life until her health failed. As a kid I knew she worked a lot and sometimes held two jobs. Because of her job(s) she wasn't always able to make it to my school events. While it was disappointing as a child, as an adult doing financial security work in our community, I have an even better understanding of "WHY."

The pandemic has been a force to be reckoned with across numerous fronts. This beast has shined light on many disparities in our community, including those impacting women, as they did my mother...long ago.

I was deeply troubled when the January unemployment numbers showed 346,000 members of our American communi-

ty had filed for unemployment. I became more troubled and saddened when I learned 80% or 246,000 of those who had filed were women. February-November 2020 statistics show 5.3 million women have lost their jobs compared to 4.6 million men.

These numbers alone are startling by themselves but are compounded by gender/ethnicity pay gaps.

According to a study by J.P. Morgan Chase on Racial Gaps in Financial Outcomes, "Black women (like my mother) face the greatest gap in take-home income and liquid assets compared to White men, but racial gaps are larger among men than women."

Women of color, and especially Black women, have been disproportionately affected by this pandemic.

Working women have now lost more than three decades of labor force gains in less than a year, as reported in the new issue of *Fortune*. The ongoing employment crisis, which is closely aligned with a widespread caregiving crisis, has especially hurt the women of color who dis-

proportionately work in restaurants, retail, education, health care, and other "essential" industries. These workers, who are often paid very low wages, rarely have the option of working remotely and trying to schedule their paid work around remote learning and other childcare responsibilities.

My mother would say she has known this to be true long before a pandemic.

Having less costs more – especially for those trying to invest in their own education. Black graduates with bachelor's and associate's degrees carry 13% and 26% more student debt than their White peers. They also get paid less, earning 27% and 14% less for the same degrees.

Thasunda Brown Duckett, CEO of Chase Consumer Banking at JPMorgan Chase, says we must move beyond the "ingrained perception that talking about money and race is taboo, and that financial hardship results simply from bad personal decisions. . . . It also requires moving beyond a culture with the prevailing ideology that success comes simply from individual responsibility."

While my mother was not the CEO of a bank, she certainly managed what she had while working two jobs and raising a family like she was the leader of one. I salute my mother, Mrs. Mildred Y. Hall and the fight she instilled in me to fight for our community and ensure an inclusive economy for all.

When women win, we all win! Happy Mother's Day.

Prosper Waco welcomes you to join us in the fight for an in-

clusive economy for women and everyone. Please contact me for opportunities to assist at

**DEXTER AND MILDRED Y. HALL**

Dexter@prosperwaco.org.

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

This article was reprinted with permission and in partnership with Act Locally Waco. Dexter Hall is Chief of Staff and Senior Content Specialist for Financial Security with Prosper Waco.

The Act Locally Waco blog publishes posts with a connection to these aspirations for Waco. If you are interested in writing for the Act Locally Waco Blog, please email Ferrell Foster at ferrell@prosperwaco.org.

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR...

Mother's Day is the happiest of times for some, but it is bitter-sweet for others. We are among those who feel glad that our mothers aren't suffering anymore, but we are sad because we miss them so much. We believe we will see them again and wish them an awesome Heavenly Mother's Day. We hope you enjoy this Mother's Day issue of the Anchor News.

**EMMER GLADNEY**
1925-1987

We miss you so much.
Love, Linda & Kenneth

**THERESA CRAWFORD**
1919 - 2010

I miss you every day, Mother.
J.L. (Junior)

THE Anchor News



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PURPOSE

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

POLICY

Anchored on the principles of scripture, *Anchor News* will at

EDITORIAL POLICY

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

LETTERS AND ARTICLES POLICY

The comments and opinions of our readers are welcomed. Letters

and articles should be e-mailed. Letters should be no longer than 200 words and must include a name and phone number. Article submissions should be no longer than 450 words and should include an original head shot (in jpeg format) along with your name, address and phone number. We reserve the right to edit for grammar, space, potentially libelous material and copyright infringement. We also reserve the right to refuse derogatory, irrelevant and malicious submissions.

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Pamela Hytche-Hunter earns doctoral degree

Pamela Hytche-Hunter holds many titles and fills many roles. For 43 years, she has been a wife to Dr. Jimmy D. Hunter, Pastor of Toliver Chapel Missionary Baptist Church, which makes the First Lady one of her titles. In addition, one of her roles is as an active partner in ministry with her husband. She holds the title of being a mom and a grandmother as the Hunters are the proud parents of two children and four grandchildren.

And now, she holds the title of Doctor of Philosophy. At the Spring Commencement on Friday, May 14th at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore in Princess Anne, Maryland, Dr. Pamela Hytche-Hunter will be conferred a Ph.D in Organizational Leadership.

While Hunter is a woman of many talents and many interests, some things are most dear to her heart. Her family, for example, is number two, coming only after God. Education is in her DNA because of her rearing and she views anyone she encounters as having that same DNA and thus, pushes them toward excellence regardless of their age. Her children were no exception. Neither of them had an option when it came to their education. Her daughter and son graduated from the University of Maryland Eastern Shore with bachelor's degrees.

J'Naudia Hunter-Phillips has her masters in rehabilitation counseling, is working on her doctorate and currently serves as Director of Disabilities and Support Center at the University of Houston Clearlake. Hunter's son, Dr. Jamison Hunter, graduated with his Master of Divinity from Howard University, Doctor of Ministry from United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio and currently serves as the pastor of Mt. Jezreel Baptist Church in Silver Spring, Maryland.

She has always had her students at heart and has pushed each of them to excellence. At both churches where her husband has pastored, she has been a great encourager to the youth, encouraging them to continue their education, especially on into higher education. For those students who didn't want to go that route, she challenged them to find a meaningful trade.

"Just recently, one of the young men in Port Arthur spoke with her about how influential she was in encouraging him to secure his credentials in auto mechanics and today he is a master mechanic for Toyota," said Pastor Hunter. Their godson whom they took under their wings during his

sophomore year in high school while they lived Port Arthur, today has his Ph.D.

Hunter loves the church members she has been blessed to serve alongside her husband. To her, no one is a stranger. She implemented the membership phone system at Toliver so their church can stay in close contact with members for important issues; she implemented her church's monthly involvement with preparing beans and cornbread for the Salvation Army, and this is naming only a few of her many people-oriented ideas. People can see her Christian attributes wherever she goes.

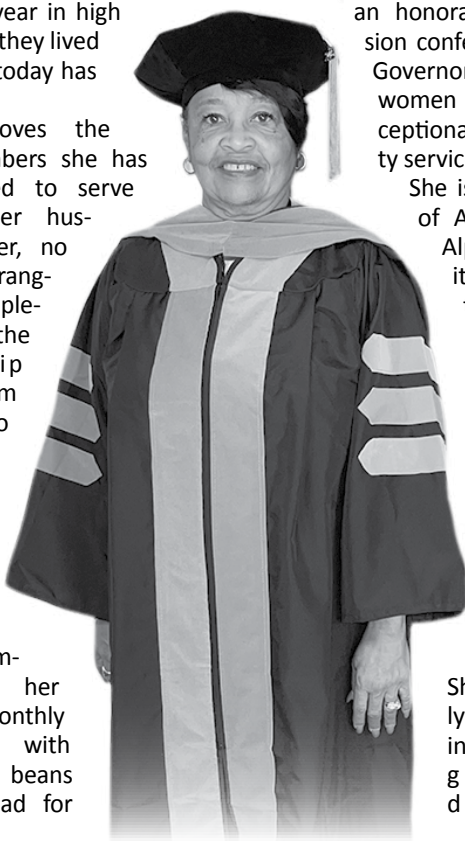
"She loves people," said her husband, "and no one is too low in statue for her to touch with her life."

Hunter has a BA in psychology with a minor in human services and Master of Arts in psychology with a specialty in Minority Mental Health, and she is also a licensed master social worker.

Hunter has served in many, many professional and educational positions, and she was the director for most of them. For nearly two decades, she served as Director of Testing and Counseling at Texas State Technical College in Waco. She was Director/Senior Counselor at Huston-Tillotson College, and was also Director of Student Educational Development and Research, as well as Director of Human Development Center.

She is busy in community affiliations: Board of Trustees, Heart of Texas MHMR; Texas Counseling Association; Past President Heart of Texas Chapter of the Texas Counseling Association 2004-2005; Member of the City of Waco Convention and Visitors Bureau from 2004-2007; and Board of Directors for Goodwill Industries, in Port Arthur.

The daughter of Deloris Cole-Hytche and the Late Dr. William P. Hytche, Hunter has numerous honors, including being commissioned by the State of Texas in 2014 as a "Yellow Rose of Texas,"



DR. PAMELIA HYTCHE-HUNTER

an honorary commission conferred by the Governor of Texas to women for their exceptional community service.

She is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. and the Waco Chapter of Links, Inc. Hunter loves working with these organizations and spending time with her family. She especially loves being with her grandchildren--Kaitlyn Phillips, Jamie DeAnn, Janae Di-

Ann, and Jamison Douglas Hytche Hunter, II.

Hunter has across the years collected lighthouses as a hob-

by, but not too much recently, laughs her husband, "because she has acquired so many that she no longer has anywhere to

put them."

The Anchor News is so proud of Dr. Pamela Hytche-Hunter!

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J.L. CRAWFORD

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From your wife, Linda, & children:
Jarrod, Jason, Ray & Stasha



LESTER MCDOWELL

1951 - 2021

We miss you so much.
Lois, Madelyn & Andrea

**(Up to 10 words, not counting dates for the deceased)*

DEADLINE IS JUNE 6, 2021

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The Complete Woman Conference planned for August 6-7 in Fort Worth

The annual The Complete Woman Conference entitled "Bumblebees and Butterflies...NtheStretch," is set for August 6 and 7th in Fort Worth, Texas. The Complete Woman Conference, designed with the 21st Century woman in mind, encourages women to actively take charge of their own physical wholeness, wellness, and beauty while it champions the delicate balance of health and duty with finesse.

The Conference ministry team is committed to the ho-

listic concerns of all women and is dedicated to promote, inform, educate, and empower women through lifestyle direction, awareness and information towards lives of wholeness, balance and viability.

"Women today are drummed by the constant challenges of vocational, social and domestic obligations that vie against their strained priority of health, spiritual wellness, and self-care," says Founder and host Janice Nixon. "Often the lat-



JANICE MIXON

ter suffers, leaving our women sick, exhausted, and disillusioned."

The CWC was brought about to portray the Woman in her various roles, she says. "More importantly we wanted to raise the awareness of women everywhere, from all walks of life, professionally and ministerial."

Join The Complete Woman Conference with hostess, Janice Nixon as Women get NtheStretch to reach their goals, extend their wings and get ready to fly while addressing concerns that per-

sistently threaten today's woman.

Attendees can register right away. Monetary gifts and contributions toward workshops, procurement of resource information, and referral sources can help as the team empowers and encourages the new millennial woman to become full and complete.

For more information, call 1-800-712-ACTA (2282), check the website, JaniceMixonMinistries.org or send an email to Actarms@yahoo.com.



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Lee Lockwood Library and Museum benefit set for Saturday, May 8

The Lee Lockwood Library and Museum along with Douglass Subaru presents "A Night With Holly Tucker" benefit concert at 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 8, 2021 at the Lee Lockwood Library and Museum, located at 2801 W. Waco Dr. Also, introducing the KCD band – original Country Rock band.

Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and there will be concessions and a cash bar available in the lobby. Tickets are \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door for general admission, or \$25 for a VIP – Meet & Greet ticket,

which includes entry to the VIP area at 5:30 p.m., two beer or wine tickets (for over 21), hors d'oeuvres, photo-op and autographed CD. Limited quantity VIP tickets are available.

Tickets are available at the Lee Lockwood Library and Museum or online at Eventbrite.com. For more information, contact 254-754-3942 or go to www.leelockwood.org.

Proceeds to benefit the Lee Lockwood Library and Museum, a 501c3 non-profit organization.

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In the war zone

BY MATTHEW REED

Revelation 12:17 says, "The dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ." This is just a reminder to the church that from the time you elect to make Jesus your Lord and Savior and you begin to keep his words, you enter into a war with the devil himself. There is not one second of a day that he is not looking to destroy you.

Remember this. In war there is no such thing as fair, so the devil is going to try and get you down any way he can. Now you are to get him down the only way you can, by keeping God's word. Let me remind you if you want to save your soul, the fight is something you have to do. Paul instructed Timothy that he should not get involved with the affairs of this life. In II Timothy 2:4, the Word specifically says, "No man that warreth entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier." He was instructed to endure hardship as a good soldier.

You see, keeping God's word isn't about your being good; it's about having power over the enemy, winning the battles, and ultimately winning the war. May I remind you soldiers of the Lord, that you have your weapons



PASTOR MATTHEW AND LADY HELEN REED

and God's strength. II Corinthians 10:4 says, "For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds."

There are periods that we go for a while without an attack of the devil. During these times, we sometimes tend to get lax in our discipline. We are not praying as we ought; we stop meditating on God's word. In those times we give place to the devil and he attacks, catching us off guard. Just remember that as long as you live, you are in a war. The devil is always the enemy; there is never a period of truce or no ceasefire.

So my advice to the church is found in the Word of God. I Peter 5:8 says you should "Be sober, and be vigilant, because your adversary the devil, is as a roaring lion, walking about, seeking whom he may devour." Amen.

McCOY | Continued from page one

fessional career path, and he wanted to attend Paul Quinn College, the historically Black college located in Waco. While they were in Waco, their third son, Curtis was born.

Life in Waco was basically routine. They were church goers and so were their sons. They both had beautiful singing voices and so did their sons, so everyone was in one of the church choirs. The McCoy's were civic minded and believed in the power of the ballot. Even the indignity of having to pay the illegal Poll Tax did not deter them from exercising their right to vote. Lessons were not lost on their sons. They voted in the 1960 presidential election and were very pleased to have helped elect John F. Kennedy to become the 35th president of the United States.

Over the years, McCoy has been a stalwart of dedication and conviction to a number of causes, first and foremost, to her family. She was a leader of the PTA in Waco schools for several years. She encouraged all three boys to be active

in both church and school. Then she insisted. All three boys were in the marching band at their respective schools. When the school had an out-of-town trip planned, students were often asked to be ready to leave at 4 or 5 A.M. Unfazed by the early departure, McCoy was always up early enough to cook a hot and tasty breakfast. She never failed to send her children off with full stomachs and the best lunch on the bus, every time.

She is a member of To-liver Chapel Missionary Baptist Church. Over the course of her years as a member, she has held a number of leadership positions. She was church secretary, Sunday School teacher, BTU teacher, Senior Choir member, and church clerk. McCoy was a multi-time a week attendee at church and rarely missed a meeting, rehearsal, program, Sunday morning or evening service. When she gave her word that she would be there, people could count on it.

And not much has

changed over the years. She is still showing up when and where she says she will. And if Odie, Jr. and James are singing, nothing nor anyone is going to keep her from being there.

Now that she is a grandmother, great grandmother and great-great grandmother, she feels very grateful to have lived long enough to be a relevant part of her family's lives. She is the family matriarch and wears that crown with dignity and grace. She is quick to offer words of wisdom, encouragement, and prayers of a friendly jab if she thinks that they will help the recipient. She is beloved and revered by not only her family but by the hundreds of young people she has mentored over the years.

Come June 6th, McCoy will have been on this earth 100 years! There are many things to be said about someone who has lived this long. She is a woman filled with love. And that love goes out from her and comes back to her from those who know and love her.

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**

Midway teacher Meera Hodges balancing wife, mother, teacher roles

BY SABRINA ZHENG,
MIDWAY HIGH SCHOOL
JOURNALISM STUDENT

No one ever said motherhood was easy. It takes strength, courage, love, determination, and sacrifice. That's why the nation designated the second Sunday in May as a national holiday to honor mothers. Meera Hodges is an inspirational hero in three different forms: a mother to 10-year-old Lilibeth and 7-year-old Nathaniel, she is wife to Brad, and a teacher to Midway High School students.

Hodges was born in Trinidad, a country off the coast of Venezuela.

"My whole story about how I came to be here is really through education," Hodges said. "I grew up in third world poverty. We started secondary school at 11, and we had to take an exam that sorted us into where we would go. I went off to a GT (Gifted and Talented) school, so that opened a whole lot of doors for me. I got a scholarship, and that's how I ended up in the U.S."

Before becoming a teacher, Hodges was an exploration geologist. She went around the world in search of oil and gas. However, because of the trends in the field, she soon left to reflect on her next step in her career.

"As I went through that field, I realized that people don't even talk about their families," Hodges said. "When you're in the STEM field, it's almost like you don't talk about that stuff because you don't want to be left out of an offer or opportunity because someone heard that you may have children. I feel like that's forcing us to choose whether you want a career as a woman or a family as a woman."

Hodges had to do some soul-searching in order to determine her future. She knew that

she liked working with people. But working in healthcare was too stressful and depressing. It would wear on her. In addition, being in the judiciary system would be too hard. She finally arrived on the idea of being a teacher because she felt that she had the skills to be one. She was a people person. People confide in her. As she narrowed down her choices, she started to think about which age group to teach.

"I decided at first that I was going to start and work my way up. I started subbing at Midway," Hodges said. "I knew that I wanted to teach children. I would have to get a PhD or my masters to teach adults, and I'm not ready for that yet. After I started subbing and did different age groups, I realized I'd rather teach high school."

She teaches food science and physics at Midway High School.

"I teach mainly the physical sciences because geology was a physical science," Hodges said. "I'm not much of a life science/ bio person."

As a female STEM teacher, Hodges is passionate about bringing and retaining more women into the field.

"What I've realized is that we encourage girls at a young age to get into STEM, but we're not putting the things in place to keep women in STEM," Hodges said. "Nobody talks about that part. I'm big on trying to get more opportunities for women, especially in the science field."

When she was a geologist, Hodges noticed that as the positions progressively got higher, there were fewer women sitting in those positions. Hodges is also interested in finding ways to retain more women in the STEM field. According to Hodges, many women are disadvantaged if they are mothers.

"If you want to be a mom,



MEERA HODGES

and you want to be in the STEM field, it's really difficult. For example, I was a geologist. You get hazard pay if you go off to a dangerous zone to work. If they know that you're a mom and that you have little ones at home, they probably won't choose you," Hodges said. "As I went through that field, I realized that people don't even talk about their families. When you're in the STEM field, it's almost like you don't talk about that stuff because you don't want to be left out of an offer or opportunity because someone heard that you have chil-

dren. I feel like that's forcing us to choose whether we want a career as a woman or a family as a woman. I don't think we should have to make that choice. We should be able to have both."

As a mother, Hodges likes to encourage her kids to explore nature and their curiosity. She and Brad often take their kids to hike and camp. Their beloved pastime is exploring Texas state parks.

"I was a geologist before teaching, so I really like being outside a lot. I try to encourage that love for outdoors in my kids," Hodges said. "We go to state parks a lot, and I try to point out rock features, geological stuff. My kids are into fossils, so I try to show them different types of fossils. One of our goals is to visit all of the state parks in Texas and all the national parks eventually. Locally, we go to Cameron Park a lot, and we usually do the Highlander Trail and come down Thor."

Because Brad and Hodges come from different backgrounds, the Hodges celebrate a combination of holidays. Trinidad is an island with a mix of

religions. There are Muslims, Hindus, and Christians. Every month has a holiday to celebrate. But because Hodges is a teacher, she doesn't have much time to celebrate them all.

It's not easy balancing the roles of a mother, wife, and teacher.

"It's one of those things that all adults struggle with, maintaining work life balance," she said. "I've had to give up on some stuff just to make sure I maintain that balance."

Hodges suggests reflecting on oneself and asking the question "What do I want?" whenever there is a crossroad.

"For me personally, I have tried every month to at least go out of town, or leave Waco and do something fun to break the monotony," she said. "It rejuvenates me. It gives me something to look forward to." Maintaining a balance between being a teacher, mother, and wife is hard. However, many women are working mothers. That's why Mother's Day is an internationally celebrated holiday, thanking them for their hard work and dedication. All mothers are inspirational heroes, just like Meera Hodges.

Former educator receives great Mother's Day gift

"When we engage in empowering others, we do so out of love without realizing the impact that will evolve." Those are the words of former educator Jocelyn Pierce.

During her forty years as an educator and administrator, Pierce has had the pleasure of experiencing wonderful interactions with fellow co-workers and students. Early in my career, while teaching English and theatre arts at La Vega High School, she shared and facilitated instruction with many wonderful young people. Some fondly captured her heart as she watched them grow socially and academically. Two very special individuals who were enrolled in her English and theatre arts classes in 1986 and 1987 respectively were Geneva Ramirez and Brian Polster. High school sweethearts, the two were married shortly after Brian's graduation in 1987.

Brian's dream after high school was to attend Texas A&M in College Station, which is Pierce's hometown. Without hesitation, she volunteered to help them locate an apartment in the city, and they diligently



JOCELYN PIERCE

worked to secure lodgings for this next chapter in their lives. He proudly graduated from A&M four years later.

Two children and thirty-five years later, Brian and Geneva are still happily married and are living in Frisco, Texas, where Brad owns his own business and Geneva is actively involved in many social and civic community activities. Their successes and love have afforded them the opportunities to share in the educational experiences of others through their sponsoring

of scholarships to the colleges where their children attended. And now they will help students at LaVega High School through the newly launched Polster Alumni Scholarship in Honor of Jocelyn Pierce and the Polster Alumni Scholarship in memory of Diane Dietiker.

Both Pierce and Dietiker made lasting impressions on the Polsters who fondly reflect on their high school days at LaVega High School. The lasting impacts prompted them to give back to their childhood community and the high school where they met through these two special scholarships.

"I am both humbled and grateful that these former students think enough of me to share their successes and love for their Alma Mater and the Bellmead community by helping current students fulfill future educational opportunities," said Pierce.

The Polster Alumni Scholarship in Honor of Jocelyn Pierce, valued at \$1,000, will be awarded May 12, at 10:00 a.m. at the school's scholarship awards ceremony. What a great way to celebrate, even if it's after Mother's Day.

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Grass roots grooming

SUBMITTED BY
LINDA McDONALD

Owning a home with a luscious lawn is a dream for many. But once you have it, how do you care for it? At first, it may seem like a lot of work, but it's actually not difficult if you take the time to learn. Here are some tips on how to maintain a pristine lawn.

Mow the right way. Don't cut your lawn too short, as it may damage the grass and not allow roots to take hold. A general rule is never trim more than one-third of the blade of grass at a time. Also, the blade of your mower should be sharpened or replaced at least once a mowing season. A dull blade results in a jagged cut, leaving your grass looking malnourished and unsightly.

Provide nutrients. Watering and feeding your lawn in the right way will result in increased and consistent lawn health. When watering, make sure to do so in the



LINDA McDONALD

early morning, as it gives the sun time to help evaporate the water sitting on the grass blades. Moisture that sits on your lawn may cause disease. When feeding, use a mixture of fast- and slow-release nitrogen-enriched fertilizers to keep your lawn healthy. But make sure not to apply fertilizer to any dormant grass, as it can't absorb nutrients when in this state.

Watch out for weeds. Proper weed care is twofold: preventing them from sprouting and removing them when they do grow. Use a pre-emergent herbicide to stop weeds from taking hold in your lawn. If a few grow, you can pick them out by hand. Or if there are a few patches of weeds, use a granular weed control product to wilt them away without harming your grass.

Sooner or later, having a beautiful lawn be easy to maintain. Once you learn the secret, your lawn will be your pride and joy.

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

Mother's Day Tributes



NELDA MOODY

Happy Mother's Day, Mom.
We love you!

Todd, Mia, Wayland & Ashley



CARRIE G. BROCK

An elegant advocate; humorous,
wise, innovative, forgiving,
caring, decisive, woke.

Love, Linda, Wanda, Jackie

SABREE

Continued from page one

with the acting class for children, which received rave reviews last year. Kerry Ann Zamore, playwright, actor, director, filmmaker, motivational speaker, and dynamic talent will be presenting the workshop, "Writing A Dynamic Script for ages 12 and up." Sign up early for all of these workshops. They fill up quickly.

Portions of the event will be professionally videoed for viewing at a later date. To attend virtually, May 20th is the last day to purchase tickets online at filmfreeway.com. For more information, please contact Luvina Sabree via email; info@killeenblackfilmfest.com.

Get your ticket today at filmfreeway.com/killeenblackartandfilmfest/tickets. Attend virtually or in person at the Killeen Civic and Conference Center, 3601 South WS Young Drive, Killeen TX. May 22, 2021, at 10:30 AM-7:00 PM. Arrive early to meet the actors, listen to the stories behind the films, ask questions, and enjoy a day

of pure entertainment. This year's theme is, "Telling Our Stories." If you have a story, or know of someone who is a storyteller, please share this information with them.

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A Mother's Day Tribute to Special Women



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1929 - 2021
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Your Children, the Lee Family



LINDA CALHOUN
We love you.
Sabrina, Jordan,
Bridget and Gabrielle



BRENDA J. BELL
1951 - 2014
To our moms, We love and miss you both.
Love, Tanya & Jacoby



BRENDA J. KEMP
1952 - 2010



MRS. MARY CYRUS
Happy Mothers Day!!
We love you MUH!
Linda, Shelia, Angela, Michael,
Bobbie, Charles, Sharonda



MRS. ARTHUR LEE CHISOLM
1929-1979
"A Rose In Heaven's Bouquet"
Love, Pat, Jocelyn & the kids



MAYOR MAE JACKSON
1941-2005
We miss you, Mom.
Andrea J. Barefield, Tammie J. Perry
& Ken R. Hall



DR. JO ANN VALLIE RUSH
To my wife: I love you more than words can say.
Always, Frank



THE LATE DOLLIE R. AUSTIN MOSS
We thank God for our grandmothers' Christian Legacy.
Otis, Robert, Frank, Sherryl, Ronald (deceased) and Linda



THE LATE VIOLA MITCHELL RUSH



LINDA WEAVER
Her children rise up and call her blessed... Proverbs 31:2
Happy Mother's Day to you!
Your Daughters



MRS. MAUREEN WEBSTER BRIDGES
1947 - 2020
Happy Heavenly Mother's Day, Mom!
Delisa, Chris & Stevie



BARBARA EVANS
We love & appreciate you. Thanks for being a wonderful mother.
Sandra & Robert



WILLIE ALLEN
1931 - 2013
We love & miss you very much.
Robert & Sandra



MRS. VERA PERSON MCCOY
Happy Mother's Day to you from your family



A Mother's Day Tribute to Special Women



MAYE W. DANIELS
We love you, Mom!
Tim & Lisa



VICTORIA CRENSHAW
1925 - 2012
*You were our foundation.
Love & Miss You,*
Engram, Mary & Toria



**ROSETTA MANNING-
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*100 years old & still going strong. We
love you, Mama.*
Sascee, John, Brenda, Reggie, Fred & Sonny



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MASSEY-THOMAS**
You are the greatest mom ever!
Love, your children, great-
grands and great-great grands.



DARLENE WITCHER
*Happy Mother's Day
to my wife.*
Love, Jovaster



JOSEPHINE ELOW
*My "other mother," your love
has never fallen short.*
Nanetta Brook & Children



DENICEY D. MAXENT
*I love you as a mom, with your
wisdom & understanding.*
Your Mom, Nanetta B. & Children



BARBARA HEGGINS
*Happy Mother's Day
Mom! We love you!*
Alta, Tony & Sylvia



ALTA VANN
*Thanks for all you do.
Happy Mother's Day!*
Love you, Rod & the Girls



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We love you!*
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Scams are designed to obtain your personal identifying information (PII), account information, account login information, and/or money. The scammers defraud victims by preying upon trust, compassion, charity, hope, financial desperation, or fear. Some victims fall for scams because the scammer has stirred their emotions or enticed a fantasy so that the victim wants to believe that the scammer's story of need or opportunity is true.

There are many scams an in-

dividual may fall victim to, and some are very elaborate. The best ways to protect against these types of scams are to be cautious, stay informed, and know what to look for when you come across a potential scam. The most common types of these scams are described below.

Types of Popular Scams
Phishing (multiple forms) Phishing scams are emails, websites, pop-up messages, text messages, or phone calls that misrepresent an authentic company or business in an

Consumer confidence scams



J.L. CRAWFORD

attempt to obtain the potential victim's information, including PII, account information, or login information for an online account. Phishing emails often indicate that you must act now to prevent further fraud on an account, or request that a link be clicked to be directed to the company's website. By doing so, you run the risk of having malicious software downloaded to your computer, which can lead to your files being compromised. This software may monitor usernames and passwords being entered into secure sites.

Lottery Scams Lottery scams are notices from a fraudulent organization posing as a gaming commission, in an attempt to trick potential victims into believing they have won a lottery. In order to claim the winnings however, these scammers often request personal information or money to fulfill tax obligations on the monies won. In reality, you cannot win a lottery you haven't entered and will never be asked to pay money to receive the winnings.

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that exists. You don't want to wait until something happens to get protection. Nevertheless, LegalShield Preexisting problems are covered, so give me a call at 254-717-4927. Hurry. With LegalShield, We can help you "worry less and live more."

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Linda McDonald, ABR

Tips to keep you from snacking so much at home

BY JERRY SNIDER

QUESTION: Hi Jerry. I've struggled with snacking all my life. Like with many people I know, last year was really hard being at home so much and I gained almost 20 pounds. I've started exercising and trying to eat healthy but I can't seem to break the snacking habit. Do you have any suggestions?

Thanks, Tara

ANSWER: Hi Tara! This is a common issue, especially when we find ourselves "stuck" at home for long periods of time. There are a lot of entertainment options to fill our down time with, or sometimes help us procrastinate from doing the things that we need to do, and we often associate snacking with entertainment.

I've dealt with snacking all my life as well. When my wife and I got married, she would get upset often because I would eat all the snacks before she got a chance to have any. I realized though that if



JERRY SNIDER

the snack items were never brought into the house, then I could easily go without snacking. I didn't find myself driving to the convenience store to get something. I just did without. I think this is the case for most people. It's a type of snacking I call Boredom Snacking.

With boredom snacking you aren't eating because you actually need physical nourishment but because your brain needs a better stimulus. Here are a few tactics

you can try to change this boredom snacking habit.

Put some fruit and other healthy snacks in a serving bowl on the counter and label the bowl "Boredom Snacks." When you get that urge to snack, eat one of those healthy items. You'll appease your snacking need but with a healthy option.

Create a list of three activities you can do that will take at least 30 minutes each, will need some brain power, and that you consider your hobbies. When you get bored and want to snack, start on one of those activities without snacking first.

Block one or two times a day that you allow yourself to snack on a specific healthy item. If you have it set on your schedule that you get to snack at 10:30 am, you'll be less likely to boredom snack at say 10 am because you know snack time is coming.

While all of these will work, I'll admit the best option might just be to not buy the unhealthy snacks in the

first place. If they aren't in the house when you want to snack, you won't be able to eat them.

Whichever option you choose, I can tell you that overcoming the urge to snack can be done. Good luck!

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

Jerry Snider is an exercise

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

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Can mankind improve upon God? Part 5

BY RUBY MCCRAY

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

Murder is not the only thing worthy of the death penalty. God told His Chosen People, Israel, what to do concerning sexual sins. Yes, there was a death penalty for most sexual sins.

Precious people, believe me when I say that I'm not pointing a finger at anybody, because we all have sinned and fallen short of God's standards. I know that I have. But we shouldn't practice sin by continuing to do the same things or worse. Romans 6:1-23 If we confess our sins and ask for forgiveness, God promised that He'd not only forgive us, but cleanse us from unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9, 10

Since God is Holy, Righteous, Just and does not change, (Malachi 3:6), He has the same laws for everybody; however, they were first given to His Chosen People, Israel.

"You shall have one law for him who sins unintentionally, for him who is native-born

among the children of Israel and for the stranger who dwells among them. Numbers 15:29

God wants all of the judges, officials and leaders of every capacity to be just and fair. They should never twist justice, show partiality or take bribes. He said that bribes blind the eyes of the wise and corrupt the decisions of the godly. Deuteronomy 16:18, 19

Now that we gotten that established, let's see what the Bible tells us about sexual sins.

"If a man is discovered committing adultery, both he and the woman must die. In this way, you will purge Israel of such evil." Deuteronomy 22:22 The New Living Translation

I understand adultery to be that the man or the woman is married to someone else; or both could be married, but not to each other. Here are some other cases of sexual sins.

"If a young woman who is a virgin is betrothed [engaged] to a husband, and a man finds her in the city and lies with her, then you shall bring them both out to the gate of that city, and you shall stone them to death with stones, the young woman because she did not cry out in the city, and the man because



EVANGELIST
RUBY MCCRAY

he humbled his neighbor's wife; so you shall put away the evil from among you." Deuteronomy 22:23, 24

"But if a man finds a betrothed [engaged] young woman in the countryside, and the man forces her and lies with her, then only the man who lay with her shall die. But you shall do nothing to the young woman; there is in the young woman no sin deserving of death, for just as when a man rises against his neighbor and kills him, even so is this matter. For he found her in the countryside, and the betrothed young woman cried out, but there was no one to

save her." Deuteronomy 22:25-27

"If a man finds a young woman who is a virgin, who is not betrothed [engaged], and he seizes her and lies with her, and they are found out, then the man who lay with her shall give to the young woman's father fifty shekels of silver, and she shall be his wife because he has humbled her; he shall not be permitted to divorce her all his days." Deuteronomy 22:28, 29

"Whoever lies with an animal shall surely be put to death." Exodus 22:29

"You shall not lie with a male as with a woman. It is an abomination. Nor shall you mate with any animal, to defile yourself with it. Nor shall any woman stand before an animal to mate with it. It is perversion."

"Do not defile yourselves with any of these things; for by all these the nations are defiled, which I am casting out before you. For the land is defiled; therefore I visit the punishment of its iniquity upon it, and the land vomit out its inhabitants. You shall keep My statutes and My judgments, and shall not commit any of these abominations, either any of your own nation or any stranger

who dwells among you (for all these abominations the men of the land have done, who were before you, and thus the land is defiled), lest the land vomit you out also when you defile it as it vomited out the nations that were before you. For whoever commits any of these abominations, the persons who commit them shall be cut off from among their people.

"Therefore, you shall keep My ordinances, so that you do not commit any of these abominable customs which were committed before you, and that you do not defile yourselves by them; I am the LORD your God." Leviticus 18:22-30

Don't wonder any longer why we are dealing with COVID-19.

Please join me in June for the continuation of this discussion. All Scripture is taken from the New King James Version of the Bible unless otherwise stated. You may not believe me...but just what if I'm right!

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

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Youth Explosion Conference Planned for June 11-12

Jeffie Sanders, owner of All About God's Glory Youth Productions/Promotions, and Sheila Brown, owner of Enriching All Children, are sponsoring their first Annual Youth Explosion Conference 2021 in Waco, Texas. A free event, this June 11-12 conference is for all youth, no matter the ethnicity, church denomination, race, or social economic background.

Today's youth face so many issues each day. Friday night will be a Night of Wor-

ship, praise and fun. Saturday morning's guest speakers will be focusing on some of the problems youth must deal with, such as teen suicide, human trafficking, drugs, bullying, and more.

Everyone is welcome to attend. Parents, Youth Pastors, youth leaders, please send or bring your youth. Vendors will also be available.

For more information, please call 254-229-5755 or email KaySanders235@yahoo.com.

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**Wanda B.
Gunter**

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

Doris Miller Memorial Park

DORIS MILLER MEMORIAL PARK, INC. is located at 4800 Bellmead Drive, Waco, Texas 76705. The cemetery is owned and operated by Janice Matthews.

The Cemetery was established in 1949. The first burial was that of Doris Miller's father, Connery Miller. The Cemetery is named in honor of Doris Miller, the WWII hero. It has been under the present ownership since 2001.

The Cemetery is located on 16 acres with 12 garden to serve your needs. Family plots and monuments are available on terms. When you make your selection here, you have paid to the deceased your highest tribute.

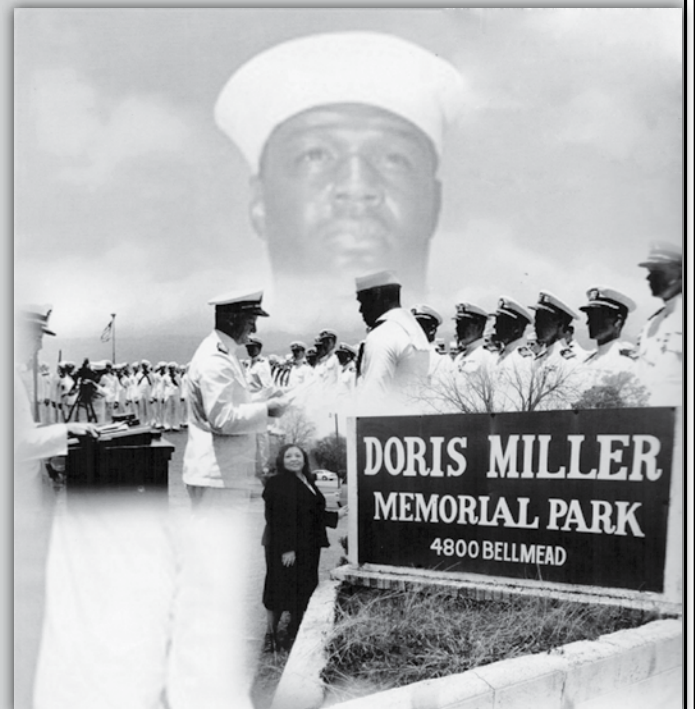
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STINNETT

Continued from page one

And considering all things good, she has been married to Phil Stinnett since April 2013. Her joys are their grown children, Nikki Rhea and Ricky Gutierrez, Jr. and her greatest gifts (they call her GiGi) are their five grandchildren: Riley (21), Katie (19), Sam (14), Myles (13) and Collins (7).

Presently, Stinnett is a Senior Vice President and Retail Manager with BancorpSouth. Since January 1997 (the year she turned 40), she has been blessed to work in various market levels and executive level roles, which typically have involved leading, coaching, managing and mentoring leaders, managers, and supervisors. These roles have required time traveling to a number of community markets beyond Waco and Central Texas. She has spent many nights in communities headed west such as Brownwood, Stephenville, Mineral Wells, Midland, Odessa, San Angelo, Abilene and Lubbock. Com-

munities to the east include Greenville, Paris, Mt. Pleasant, Tyler, Lindale, College Station, Huntsville, and the Beaumont area. Community markets southward include Corpus Christi, Victoria, Aransas Pass, Laredo, McAllen, Mission, Edinburg, Harlingen and Brownsville.

But in 2015, when a career change allowed her to eliminate overnight travel and oversee markets in Waco and the immediate Central Texas area, she found herself needing to get reacquainted and re-integrated with the community where she lives. Stinnett is appreciative of business partnerships and connections that have given her that opportunity. She says her journey "has truly been a career evidenced by the grace, goodness, merciful kindness and protection of God and by the support of family, friends and community."

Priscilla Gutierrez Stinnett, once a first grader struggling with the lan-

guage, is now an active part of this community. Currently, she serves on the MCC Foundation Board of Directors. Past Community Service roles have included Greater Waco Chamber of Commerce, United Way, Leadership Waco, Waco Foundation, Waco ISD Foundation, Bill Louge Juvenile Detention Center and Waco Housing Authority.

Of note, she points out that should you ever get a glance at her resume, you will see a "blank line" beginning in November 2014 until November 2015 (thus the career change). Much like "the dash" that symbolizes life between your date of birth and your date of death, the blank line represents the time between the career Stinnett was leaving and the career she would ultimately undertake, but in her case, the return to work was in the same industry.

"However, the blank line represents a year that

was precious time spent at home with family and more importantly, in building up my faith in a way that was not hurried or rushed. I am forever grateful to have had that time, 'the blank line' on my resume."

At this point in her career, Stinnett admits that there is much to be done beyond the world of banking and she is thankful that everything to this point has been and is preparation for what is next. "I believe it's the same for everyone."

One word from God has dramatically impacted Stinnett's life in recent years. "You have trained your entire life for this day," said the Lord. "Therefore, be encouraged that whatever this day brings, you are ready. Whatever this day brings, you have already trained for it and in fact, you have spent every day of your life preparing for it. You have been raised for this time!"

A Note from Stinnett: I want to thank JL and Linda Crawford and The Anchor News for inviting me to share my professional story and in closing, my wish is to stir up the gift that is in you with these life verses: "And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns." Philippians 1:6 NLT and "You saw who you created me to be before I became me! Before I'd ever seen the light of day, the number of days you planned for me were already recorded in your book." Psalm 139:16 TPT

Stinnett is a member of High Point Church in Waco, where John Rambeau is the pastor.

Priscilla Gutierrez Stinnett is Senior Vice President and Retail Manager at BancorpSouth Bank, 4901 Bosque Blvd., Waco TX 76710.

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7:00 PM

Pastor Matthew Reed and Wife Helen

Remote jobs for senior citizens

BY MARGARET IVORY

In 2017, I created a database that highlights 152 legitimate companies who hired home-based employees. Little did I know that the time would come that many would lose their jobs and would be seeking work at home positions.

Today, I will share a few of the awesome remote jobs that were highlighted in the database that seniors and non-seniors can do.

1. A Pass Educational Group: This educational group is hiring for online curriculum development, writing and illustration positions for K-12 and college level. This would be great for retired teachers and professors. bit.ly/APassEducationalGroup

2. ACD Direct: ACD is looking for independent dependable workers who will provide exceptional customer service via phone, chat or text without constant supervision. <http://bit.ly/ACDDirect>



MARGARET IVORY

3. Alorica: Do you like to talk? If so, work for this company where you will provide customer care via live chats or incoming sales calls. bit.ly/AloricaWorkAtHome

4. American Express: This credit card giant is currently hiring Project Analysts; Account Managers; Business Development; Travel Counselors and Sales Managers. bit.ly/AmericanExpressJobs

5. Appen: Social Media Evaluators plus other remote

positions are available with Appen. <http://bit.ly/AppenPositions>

6. Apple: At Home Advisors are currently needed who will answer questions from the comfort of their own home about Apple products and services. Full training is provided. bit.ly/ApplePositions

Good luck in your work from home job search. I hope these suggestions will help you gain the employment that you seek.

Are you turning 65 years old soon? Are you retiring soon from your job?

My goal is for all senior citizens to understand Medicare options and how to make Medicare work best for them. I represent all plans in McLennan County but am totally concerned only for what is best for my clients. Call today to learn more. Remote appointments are available.

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

Margaret Ivory 254-523-8978

Precept upon precept

BY MONA DUNKIN

As truly as God is our Father, so truly God is our Mother. -Julian of Norwich (1343-1416)

Memories of parenting runs deep and long, whether of infants or adult children with families. Although the rhythmic cadence of "love-marriage-baby-carriage" may seem removed from the standard of today, parenting principle remains a founding truth and the position remains untarnished.

The Holy Scriptures contains two books devoted to the influence of King Samuel. This article shares the yearning for his conception and the preparatory skills of his parents, Hannah and Elkanah. Please read I Samuel, Chapters one and two for further understanding of this outline.

1. Their first priority was to God. They were devoted to God even though there was unhappiness and strife in the home setting. Prayer was a regular part of their lives; they prayed when things were good or bad.

2. Their second priority was to each other. Hannah was concerned over not having a son to carry on Elkanah's name. Elkanah asked her, "Hannah, why are you so sad? Am I not better to you than ten sons?"

3. Their third priority was to the child. Be careful to not reverse the order. Children will grow and leave home; mates are "until death do us part." Our gifts to God were first his gifts to us. Both parents were concerned over his spiritual welfare. Hannah and Elkanah were in agreement over plans for the child's future. They cared for him until it was time to give him "to the Lord." They continued to minister to his needs after he was on his own. They rejoiced in the Lord. They looked beyond the gift and praised the giver.

4. Their household was a blended family. Elkanah treated each spouse with love and respect. When one person acts superior to the other person, there is discord in the family. Personality conflicts are inevitable,



MONA DUNKIN

but does not have to be destructive. They kept the family together regardless of difficulties.

5. Eli's household was not in good order. Eli was professionally successful and parentally a failure. Eli was punished by God, not for his ignorance, but for his indifference, not for his son's actions, but for his apathy, not for what his sons did, but for what he failed to do. Eli recognized God's working. Eli submitted to God's ways.

6. Young Samuel grew, matured, and flourished in an ungodly atmosphere. Parental influence has a long-lasting effect on a child's character. Parental influence is there, even when the par-

ent is absent. Praying parents protect their children with an unseen force.

A child - regardless of the circumstances surrounding conception - is innocent and came from the original source of Divine Love. Whether the home produces benevolent leaders or malevolent dictators, all of us share in the propagation of light and darkness. The human condition is a complicated mix of good and evil. Correcting the slippery slope or climbing to a higher plane is all 'Thanks be to God'.

For all your speaking and training needs, contact Mona Dunkin, Motivational Speaker and Personal Success Coach, monadunkin@gmail.com www.monadunkin.com. Basic Intensive Training, Introduction of Choice Theory Psychology scheduled in Waco, Tx Call today. 254-749-6594

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for blessing me with a lifetime
of your tenderhearted love.
I thanked God for the caring
you've shown me through the years,
for the closeness we've enjoyed
in time of laughter and of tears.
And so, I thank you from the heart
for all you've done for me
and I bless the Lord for giving me
the best mother there could be.
I LOVE YOU MOMMA!

*Mrs. Mildred
J. Hall*

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