

**Special Edition** Southwest Digest

## *Black History Month*



**Carter G. Woodson**  
1875-1950



We have a wonderful history behind us...

It reads like the history of people in an heroic age...

If you read the history of Africa, the history of your ancestors -- people of whom you should feel proud -- you will realize that they have a history that is worthwhile. They have traditions that have value of which you can boast and upon which you can base a claim for the right to share in the blessings of democracy.

We are going back to that beautiful history and it is going to inspire us to greater achievements.

Carter G. Woodson

## From Buffalo Soldiers to Modern Nursing: Recent Books on African American History

by Alwyn Barr, Texas Tech University



Paul Hi Carlson, a professor of history at Texas Tech University.

In 1877 the South Plains including the Lubbock area remained a grassland without permanent settlers, black or white. That summer the region suffered from drought, a lack of rain that dried up most playa lakes and other water holes on the plains. Despite the lack of settlers on the Llano Estacado a number of people crossed the region on various trails. Although the Comanche Indians of West Texas had been forced onto a reservation in Oklahoma during 1874, some still hunted on the high plains, at times legally and by others in defiance of treaties. The Comanches also traded with Hispanics from eastern New Mexico. White buffalo hunters faced raids by the Indians who opposed destruction of the great bison herds that had provided their food and independence.

Nicholas M. Nolan, an Anglo lieutenant, led sixty buffalo soldiers—African American enlisted men—including several new recruits on a scout from Fort Concho onto the plains in July 1877, searching for Indians with the aid of some hunters. They also met Quanah Parker, a Comanche chief sent to bring the Indians back to their reservation. The men found little water from the beginning.

From July 26 to the 30th, a period of eighty-six hours, the men rode and walked from the Double Lakes in modern Lynn County to the New Mexico border and back.

Many ran out of water by the end of the first day, but found only dry lakes as horses also suffered. Nolan and his guides debated where water could be found. Some men began to collapse the second day and became scattered along the trail with others trying to help them. Other men went off thinking Nolan had allowed them to seek water.

On the 28th the hunters struggled northeast toward Silver Lake, while Nolan led his remaining men back toward the more distant Double Lakes. Men in both groups collapsed from heat and thirst. A scout brought water to one separate group of soldiers. Others drank urine with sugar but continued to suffer. The hunters and some soldiers finally found water at Casas Amarillas and Yellow House Spring. The soldiers with Nolan killed horses for their blood, but could not eat without water. Finally on July 30 two officers and some soldiers reached the Double Lakes and took water back to those who had fallen behind. A second group of soldiers led by Sergeant William Umbles reached a supply camp on August 1.

In all four soldiers had died and Nolan charged four others with desertion. Yet Carlson believes that "in a modern American army, Nolan, rather than his men, might well have been the person court-martialed" for several mistakes in judgment. The author also states that one of the buffalo soldiers encouraged the others late in the march and inspired their survival more than anyone else. The expedition, in Carlson's words, "had been an adventure in courage and fortitude, a testament to human will and endurance."

Two other books provide additional information on African Americans in the frontier army. William A. Dobak and Thomas D. Phillips authored *The Black Regulars, 1866-1898*, published by the University of Oklahoma Press in 2001. This

For African Americans in Lubbock and West Texas the most interesting book in recent years is *The Buffalo Soldier Tragedy of 1877*, published by the Texas A&M University Press in 2003. The author is

volume discusses the creation of black regiments after the Civil War and the background, morale, daily life, and discipline of the soldiers. Further topics include both prejudice toward the troops as well as positive images of the men within the army and across the West.

Frank N. Schubert presents accounts of their military service and life in the army by African American enlisted men and chaplains as well as white officers of black regiments in *Voices of the Buffalo Soldier*, published by the University of New Mexico Press in 2003.

A range of other topics related to African American history in Texas appear in three recent volumes. *The Legacy of Vicente Guerrero*,

*Mexico's First Black Indian President*, by Theodore G. Vincent, came from the University of Florida Press in 2001. As president in 1829 Guerrero abolished slavery in Mexico, although he allowed it to continue in Texas for economic reasons. Yet he contributed to the anti-slavery trend that swept through Latin America in the early nineteenth century and left slavery only in the southern United States, Brazil, and Cuba by 1860.

In the late nineteenth century another form of discrimination arose, as described in *Struggle for Mastery. Disfranchisement in the South, 1888-1908*, authored by Michael Perman, and published by the University of North Carolina Press in 2001. The author notes that Texas became one of the final states in the South to limit voting by use of the poll tax and the white primary. Yet those methods reduced black participation in elections to about 15 percent of the potential African American voters by the early twentieth century.

East Texas Daughter, published by the Texas Christian University Press in 2003, is the recollections of Helen Green about growing up with poverty and segrega-

tion, but also about her mother who encouraged her to pursue education, first as a licensed vocational nurse. Green later became one of the first black students at the Methodist Hospital of Dallas School of Nursing and went on to professional success amid the pressures of urban family life.

During African American History Month and throughout the year these volumes offer in sights from the past and inspiration for the future.

# Realizing the Dream

This February, PNS honors the men and women whose contributions have strengthened our community.

Harold Chatman, M.D., believed that everyone deserves access to quality healthcare. By providing this healthcare to all citizens, Dr. Chatman helped make The Dream a reality. We're proud to continue his tradition.



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Physicians Network Services



In keeping with Black History Month, here are some facts you did not know and some myths you have been led to believe. These facts were taken from "True Black History As It Has Never Been Taught," by Dr. Romeo J. Taylor, Sr. P.M.D., D.D., B.B.B.P.

The city named Beverly Hills, California was once called Rancho Rodeo Las Valdez, whose Black grandparents were among the founding members of Los Angeles. The San Fernando Valley in California was owned by Francisco Reyes, a Black man. Francisco Reyes became the first Black mayor of Los Angeles.

Pio Pico, whose grandmother was mulatto, was the governor of California under Mexican control, from 1845 to 1846. Pico Boulevard in Los Angeles and Pico Rivera, California are both named after him.

Dr. Cesar, an original slave from Africa, developed a cure for poisons in 1792. He was only known as Doctor.

An African Prince, Prince Hall, founded the Black Masonry and formed the first Negro Grand Lodge, "African Grand Lodge of North America." After his death, the name was changed to Prince Hall Grand Lodge, F&A.M. of Massachusetts.

The first person to die in the American Revolution during the Boston Massacre in 1774 was a free Black man, Christopher Attucks.

Otis Boykin, in 1955, invented a regulating unit for the first heart pace maker.

The word "cowboy" originated from what the white people called Blacks who worked with cows.

The first historically Black College was founded in Philadelphia in 1863 as the Institute for Colored Youth. It is now called Cheyney State University.

Never use the word "Picnic." Every Friday, the KKK, white supremacist and mobs would pick-a-nigger to hang or burn at the stake. They called this a picnic and it went on for years in southern states and elsewhere around the nation.

## Facts You Did Not Know, Myths You Have Heard and Taken for Granted

by Eddie P. Richardson

The media insist that Black people are the recipients of special treatment and African Americans are on a par with whites today. This is un-true. In Newsweek Magazine in 1993, an article "Affirmative Action—Drugs In Black and White: Crime, Violence, Welfare, Poverty, Illegitimacy, Genetics."

According to the March 29, 1993 issue of Newsweek Magazine, white males make up 39% of the population, yet they account for the following:

According to Robert DuPont, former director of the National Institute of Drug Abuse, 80% of America's drug addicts are white and only 14% are Black.

According to a New York Times survey, the typical crack addict is a 40 year old white male professional, married and suburban.

According to Dr. Arnold Washington, director of a New York Treatment Center, there are more crack addicts among the white middle class than in any other segments of the population.

According to the Children's Defense Fund, white women have the highest percentage of cocaine pregnancies.

In 1999, America's drug users were 12% Black, 70% white. Check out the book, "Don't Believe The Hype," by Paris Childers.

Parents Resource Institute For Drug Education (P.R.I.D.E.) . 400,000 high school seniors and juniors were surveyed.

Cocaine use: Black 1.5%, white 4.7%, marijuana use, Black 5%, white 21.2%; liquor use, Black 15.3% and white 51.6%; National Institute of Drug Abuse household survey; 43% more white than Blacks use marijuana; 129% more whites than Blacks used Cocaine; 70% more whites than Blacks used alcohol.

The second leading cause of death among American teenagers is suicide. The teens suicide rate for white grades - 13 to 19 years of age is 2 1/2 times greater than of Black rates the same

age. According to the Annual Crime Reports published by the FBI, white Americans considerably commit the greatest share of virtually all crimes. According to CNN, in a previous study, the typical perpetrator of campus crimes is a 19 year old white male.

According to a New York Times study, whites are the most likely racial group to engage in violence against other groups such as Asian-Americans, African-Americans, Latinos, gays, lesbians, Jews etc.

According to Gerry Soames, from his book — "With Justice For None, Destroying An American Myth."

The cost of corporate crime in America is over ten times greater than the burglaries, robberies, and auto thefts committed by individuals.

One of five of America's large corporations have been convicted of at least one major crime or has paid civil penalties for serious misdeeds etc.

According to a government document by Senator Herb Kohl, "Black youth are four times more likely to be incarcerated than whites who committed the same crime."

Ismael Reed's book, "Airing Dirty Laundry," two-thirds of America's welfare recipients are white. Two-thirds of welfare recipients are on welfare as a result of their husbands abandoning them.

In relation to the entire U.S. population, the proportion of white single mothers (77.9% in 1990) who live in poverty exceeds that of the entire Black population (29.3%).

According to the Children's Defense Fund, the fastest growing students of average progress are occurring among white youth.

Two-third of the teens who gave birth each year are white. Two-third of the teens who gave birth do not live in big cities; 50% of children who live in poverty, live in two-parent homes in the suburban and rural areas.

"Gangs" — The Bloods and Crips are not the only gangs in America, but the most known and publicized. According to the New York City Police, the most violent gang, of the past 100 years, was an Irish gang called "The Westies." According to L. J. English in his book, "The Westies," these were the most brutal men this nation has ever seen. The Seligman was a victim who gang who nearly took his life.

The Klu Klux is a terrorist Jewish gang in New York City. Black gangs, like the Bloods and Crips, have no ability to organize in the urban. Gang trade of guns and drugs which are transported by ship and captured in the most heartless manner in the Black community, which makes no sense. Drugs and guns and guns are wrong. There is no reason for being involved with them so unless where or how they got here.

Before the housing plan was implemented in Los Angeles, a Black elementary school, Wilshire Hill, had the highest reading and scores in the entire district. The reason for that is that Wilshire Hill is an affluent Black community with a highly Black faculty at the school, which cared for and loved the children who attended each day.

This only proves that people are people and will be people. Therefore, we should not stereotype. This is something for us to think about, because of the number no matter what, because of millions, white or negro will always win right, wrong or indifferent. It is just simply to know there are more whites than other groups.

Some Thought To Under: nothing success like success. If you ain't a good time for the work, I don't see when we'll get to it. (For Black) U.S. U. You Might race! YOU CAN ACCOMPLISH WHAT YOU WILL. Marcus Garvey's

Nuf Sell! WTF? No!

# Honoring Black History in Texas



Throughout the proud history of the Lubbock area and West Texas, many prominent African Americans have been an important part of our progress. As we pause to honor their accomplishments, we thank them for making this area a better place in which to live. They leave us a lasting legacy for our children and grandchildren.

Robert L. Duncan  
State Senator—District 28



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# History's Influential African-Americans

**Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.**  
1929-1968

I do not oppose the efforts of those who endeavor to instill into the Negro a genuine belief in the brotherhood of man and the superiority of moral force. But suppose there should arise a Gandhi to lead Negroes without hate in their hearts to stop tilling the fields of the south under the peonage system; to cease paying taxes to states that keep their children in ignorance; and to ignore the iniquitous disenfranchisement and Jim Crow laws. I fear we would witness an unprecedented massacre of defenseless black men and women in the name of Law and Order and there would scarcely be enough Christian sentiment in America to stay the flood of blood.



The quintessential leader of the African-American unending quest for full economic, political, and social equality was Martin Luther King, Jr. "He became the symbol not only of the civil rights movement but of America itself," said James H. Cone, "a symbol of the land of freedom where people of all races, creeds, and nationalities could live together as a 'beloved community.'" Martin Luther King, Jr., became E. Franklin Frazier's prophesied "Gandhi," with a "belief in the brotherhood of man and the superiority of moral force." Born on January 15, 1929, in Atlanta, Georgia, Michael (later changed to Martin) Luther King Jr., was heir to a tradition-through his grandfather and father-of black church as a source of leadership and as a tool of protest for the equal rights and justice for African-Americans.

**Richard Allen and Absalom Jones**  
1763-1831 and 1746-1818

Whereas Absalom Jones and Richard Allen, two men of the African race, who, for their religious life and conversation have obtained a good report among men, these persons, from a love to the people of their complexion whom they beheld with sorrow, because of their irreligious and uncivilized state, often communed together upon this painful and important subject in order to form some kind of religious society, but there being too few to be found

under the like concern, and those who were, differed in their religious sentiments; with these circumstances they labored for some time, till it was proposed, after a serious communication of sentiments, that a

society should be formed, without regard to religious tenets, provided, the persons lived an orderly and sober life, in order to support one another in sickness, and for the benefit of their widows and fatherless children.



**Crispus Attucks**  
1723-1770

There is no doubt that the first American to die on March 5, 1770 in the Boston Massacre at the hands of hated British soldiers, was Crispus Attucks, a black man. However, there is considerable dispute as to the impact of



## Remember your first real history lesson?

When Grandma used to sit you down and talk about her life she wasn't just telling tales. She was following a long line of Black historians who passed their precious knowledge from generation to generation using the most expressive instrument created. The human voice.

This knowledge is power. Because when you know where you came from you know who you are. Our grandparents knew this. So did W.E.B. DuBois, Carter G. Woodson and Martin Luther King.

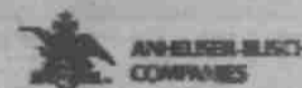
They also knew how important it was that this knowledge continue to be handed down. We all have a responsibility to preserve and protect this history in order to positively affect the quality of our future.

Anheuser-Busch appreciates this fact. We have an on going commitment to forging partnerships with Black Organizations across the country which are involved in preserving the Black cultural heritage.

And we have brought black history into the community through our Great Kings and Queens of Africa Art collection.

A real picture of being black in America includes all of us. The future rests on people of all races working together to make our common reality one we can all be proud of.

**Building a future in partnership with the community.**



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this event on the subsequent events of the Revolutionary War and the impact of the sacrifice of Attucks's death on the lot of black slaves in pre-revolutionary and post-revolutionary America.

**Ida B. Wells-Barnett  
1862-1931**

For nearly twenty years lynching crimes.....have been committed and permitted by this Christian nation. Nowhere in the civilized world save the United States of America do men, possessing all civil and political power, go out in bands of 50 to 5,000 to hunt down, shoot, hand or burn to death a single individual, unarmed and absolutely powerless. Statistics show that nearly 10,000 American citizens have been lynched in the past 20 years. To our appeals for justice the stereotyped reply has been that the government could not interfere in a state matter....



We refuse to believe this country, so powerful to defend its citizens abroad, is unable to protect its citizens at home.

**Langston Hughes  
1902-1967**

We younger Negro artists who create now intend to express our individual dark-skinned selves without fear of shame. If white people are pleased we are glad. If they are not, it does matter. We know we are beautiful. And ugly too. The tom-tom cries and the tom-tom laughs. If colored people are pleased we are glad. IF they are not, their displeasure doesn't matter either. We build our temples for tomorrow, strong as we know how, and we stand on top of the mountain, free within ourselves. As one of the most prominent black artists of the Negro Renaissance of the twenties and thirties, Langston Hughes, like his contem-



porary, Raul Robeson, used black culture as weapons in the struggle of African-American against racism and discrimination. Hughes believed that authentic and legitimate Negro artists were obligated to associate their art with the "eternal tom-tom beating in the Negro soul-the tom-tom of revolt against weariness in a white world, a world of subway train, and work, work, work; the tom-tom of joy and laughter, and pain swallowed in a smile."

**Jack Johnson  
1878-1946**

Jack Johnson became the "first world symbol of black athletic achievement" on December 26, 1908, in Rushcutter Bay, near Sydney, Australia, when he defeated the white heavyweight boxing champion of the world, Tommy Burns.



**Carl Rowan  
1925-**

Carl Thomas Rowan was born on August 11, 1925, in Ravenscroft, Tennessee, to dirt-poor parents, Thomas David and Johnnie Rowan, nearly three months after Malcolm X was born in Omaha, Nebraska. At an early age, he and his brother and three sisters moved to McMinnville, Tennessee, where during the Depression they-like most blacks-were exposed to poverty, discrimination and economic exploitation, which he later described: "My parents never expected an economic calamity that would make life miserable for most people everywhere, especially black people in brutally racist communities, which is what McMinnville was. But they lapsed into poverty that was so bad that my children wince when I talk about it. It is as though they cannot believe that in that rat-infested house we had not a single clock or watch. We



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Paul by Delwin Jones, State Representative

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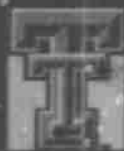
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From the





## Principal Proud of Wheatly's Showing

The principal of Wheatley Elementary School, Mrs. Margaret Randle, is proud of the showing by her school as it was one of two Lubbock Independent School District schools which ranked in the top 100 of Texas schools for student improvement, according to a Dallas-based think tank last year.

The other local school was Dupree Elementary School. Dupree and Wheatley Elementary Schools ranked 48th and 72nd, respectively, of 2,003 schools housing the sixth grade, according to the National Center for Policy Analysis.

The center ranked schools on each one's ability to educate different socio-economic groups. The ranking was done mainly by comparing sixth graders scores on the now-defunct Texas Assessment of Academic Skills test to their progress from the year before.

Other high-ranking schools in the area, which did not place in the top 100, included Brown, lies, Arnett, Wolfforth, Bean, McWhorter, Honey and Tubbs elementaries, according to the center.

Mrs. Randle was elated over what her students did last year. "It shows what young people can do when they give their very best," said Mrs. Randle.



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## *We Salute Our African American Citizen*

*It is not so much a Negro History Week as it is  
History Week. We should emphasize not Negro  
history, but the Negro in history. What we need is not  
a history of selected races or nations, but the  
history of the world void of national bias, race hate,  
and religious prejudice.*

Carter G. Woodson, 1926



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### KEEP THE DREAM ALIVE

As Black History Month comes to a close let us remember this time not only as a reflection of where we have been as a people, as a community, as a nation, but an examination of where we are going as a people, as a community, as a nation.

• Todd R. Klein

Recipes continued from pg 7

# Traditional African-American Recipes

*Recipes from The Black Family Reunion Cookbook*

## Emancipation Proclamation Breakfast Cake

1/3 cup Butter Flavor Crisco  
1/3 cup sugar  
1 egg  
2 cups all-purpose flour  
1 tablespoon baking powder  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
1/4 teaspoon cinnamon  
1/3 cup of milk  
1 1/2 cups blueberries, fresh or frozen  
1/4 cup honey  
grated peel of one orange  
grated peel of one lemon

1. Heat oven to 400°. Grease 9-inch pie plate.
2. Combine Butter flavor Crisco and sugar in large bowl. Beat at medium speed of electric mixer until creamy. Beat in egg.
3. Combine flour, baking powder, salt and cinnamon. Add alternately with milk to creamed mixture. Fold in blueberries.
4. Pat dough out to 1/2-inch thickness on lightly floured surface. Cut into nine 3-inch rounds. Place one in center of pie plate. Arrange eight, tilted and overlapping, around center dough circle. Spread with honey. Sprinkle with orange and lemon peel.
5. Bake at 400° F for 20 to 24 minutes or until dough in center is thoroughly baked. Serve warm or at room temperature.

## Soul Bread

3 cups cornmeal  
1 tablespoon sugar  
1 1/2 teaspoons salt  
2 1/2 cups boiling water  
1 small sweet potato  
1 cup cold water  
1 cup all-purpose flour  
1 1/4 cups molasses  
1/2 teaspoon baking soda

1. Combine cornmeal, sugar and salt in large bowl. Pour in boiling water. Beat with electric mixer until well mixed.
2. Boil sweet potato until tender. Peel while hot. Add to meal mixture. Beat 10 minutes. Add cold water. Beat well. Add flour and molasses. Beat well.

3. Cover. Place in warm, draft-free place overnight.
4. Heat over to 250° F. Grease and flour 10-inch Bundt pan.
5. Stir baking soda into bread mixture. Pour in pan.
6. Bake at 250° F for 3 hours.
7. Remove from oven. Cover pan tightly with foil to steam bread. Cool at least 1 hour before removing from pan.

## Geneva's Quick Gumbo

1 can (14 1/2 ounces) chicken broth  
1 can (14 1/2 ounces) tomatoes  
3 cups water  
1 small bay leaf  
1 tablespoon dried thyme leaves  
2 tablespoons butter or margarine  
1 cup chopped onion  
3/4 cup chopped green bell pepper  
1 tablespoon minced parsley  
3 tablespoons chile powder (or more according to taste)  
1 pound sliced chicken breast (other parts may be used)  
3 hot links or polish sausage, sliced  
2 cups frozen sliced okra  
3 cups cooked rice  
2 cups frozen baby shrimp, cooked hot pepper sauce (optional)

1. Combine chicken broth, tomatoes, water, bay leaf, thyme, butter, onion, green pepper, parsley, chile powder, chicken, sausage, salt, pepper and garlic powder in stockpot or large Dutch oven. Cook 30 minutes.
2. Add okra. Cook according to time on package (8 to 10 minutes). Add rice and shrimp. Let stand 5 minutes. Remove bay leaf before serving. (if you prefer, cook rice separately and pour the gumbo over it.) Season with hot pepper sauce, of desired.

## Corn Relish Salad

3/4 cup sugar  
1/2 cup Crisco Oil  
1/4 cup white vinegar  
1/2 teaspoon celery seed  
1/4 teaspoon whole mustard seed

1 can (17 ounces) whole kernel corn, drained  
1 can (16 ounces) sauerkraut, drained and pressed to remove excess liquid  
1/2 cup chopped green bell pepper  
1/3 cup chopped onion  
1 jar (2 ounces) diced pimiento, drained

1. Combine sugar, Crisco Oil, vinegar, celery seed and mustard seed in medium serving bowl. Stir until sugar dissolves.
2. Add corn, sauerkraut, green pepper, onion and pimiento. Mix well. Cover. Refrigerate at least 8 hours or overnight. Drain. Stir before serving.

## Heart of the South Fried Okra

1 pound okra  
1 cup cornmeal  
1/2 cup Crisco Shortening or Crisco Oil Salt and freshly ground pepper

1. Rinse okra. Remove caps. Cut pods into one-half inch slices. Toss with cornmeal.
2. Heat Crisco shortening or Crisco Oil to 365° F in electric skillet or on medium-high heat in large heavy skillet. Fry single layer of okra about 8 to 10 minutes or until golden brown on all sides. Do not overcook okra will become too soft. Turn carefully. Drain on paper towels. Sprinkle with salt and pepper. Serve immediately.

## Navy Beans and Pig Tails

2 pounds pig tails, salt pork or neck bones  
2 cups dried navy beans  
1 small onion  
Salt and Pepper

1. Place meat in large saucepan. Cover with water. Simmer until meat is tender. Remove meat from broth.
2. Add navy beans, whole onion, salt and pepper. Simmer until beans are tender. Add additional water as needed.
3. Remove meat from bones. Stir into beans. Simmer on low heat until beans mash easily with fork and broth has thickened.



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**Black History Special Edition**

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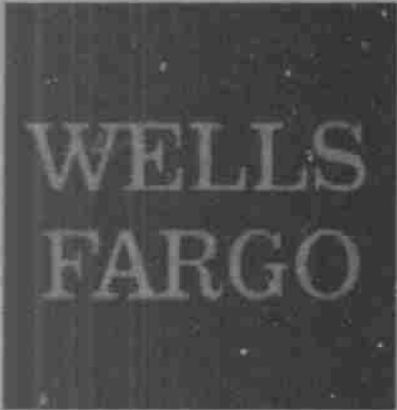
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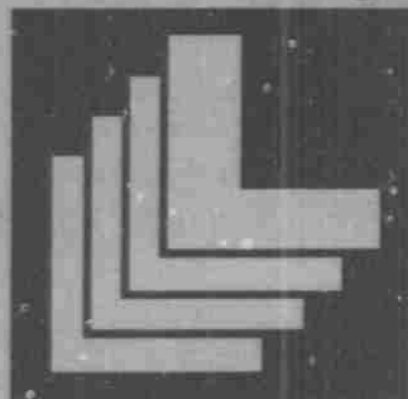
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**Black History Special Edition**



# Mya Mercer Loves Teaching Children

After spending a few minutes with Mya Mercer, it was obvious she wanted to become a teacher at Wheatley Elementary School. Her love of teaching and children was obvious in everything she said. She is truly a gifted individual in numerous ways.

A native of Clovis, New Mexico and graduate of Clovis High School in 1995, she is constantly seeking new ways to bring excitement to her classroom. Her science students can be seen sitting on the edge of their seats hanging on to every word she has to say. Mya brings out the best in them. They ask questions of her and sometimes they do not want to leave her room.

One of her students stated that science is her favorite class, because Mrs. Mercer has a real bird in the room. Another student stated that he likes to go to science, because Mrs. Mercer lets them "play with a lot of stuff." He also said that she tells them a lot of things about light and animals.

Mrs. Mercer attended Eastern New Mexico University in Portales, New Mexico, and received her Bachelor of Science degree in Education. She says, "It is my goal to pursue a Masters Degree in Education, and possibly continue to further to obtain a Doctorate. It is important for my students to view me as a lifelong learner. After all, it has been scientifically proven when we cease to learn, our brain begins to shrink."

She is a team player, who is not afraid of work. She serves on the Wheatley CPOC (Leadership) team, heads the Accelerated Reader (AR) program, and sponsors a robotics team and she willingly takes them to Texas Tech University. She has allowed her students to learn and to grow, because she sets extremely high expectations of them.

Mrs. Mercer enjoys the field of education, and specifically teaching. "I was sort of coerced into the field by my mother. I can remember us taking trips together to Portales, New Mexico just to see the university," she said. Continuing, "My mother would very excitedly proclaim, "Yep that's where you're going to learn how to teach others."

At present time, Mrs. Mercer is the Science Specialist at Wheatley Elementary School. She has been pleased Wheatley was able to implement a science program from which their students can greatly benefit. "It is especially rewarding to see each of my students excited about coming to science class." Mrs. Mercer states, "It is even more of a reward when the students are able to apply what

they have learned to real life situations. Critically observing and evaluating their world around them now will better prepare them for a terrific future that lies before them."

There is no doubt about it, Mya Mercer is well respected by her peers. They sometimes look to her for advice and suggestions.

Mya Mercer is truly an asset to Wheatley Elementary School, the City of Lubbock, and the Lubbock Independent School District.

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