

# It's A New Day

## Minister honored for lifetime achievement



Hattie Kelly

Kelly, much like Hamer, has had a life that defies much of what should have been accomplished by one woman from the South. Kelly was born and raised in Josephine, Texas. She is the daughter of Isaiah and Luveter Clark and the 13th child of 15 siblings. At the tender age of 15 she found herself married, and by the time she was 20 years older she found herself the mother of five children. At the age of 6, she began picking cotton to help the family. She said, "By the time I was 13, I was picking 200-300 pounds." Hamer only attended school after the harvest, which wasn't for very long. "My parents tried so hard to do what they could to keep us in school, but school - for Black children - didn't last but four months out of the year, and most of the time we didn't have clothes to wear. I dropped out of school and cut cornstalks to help the family." She dropped out after the sixth grade. Even though she did not obtain a formal education, she became a dynamic speaker and civil rights worker. Kelly, after her children were in school, decided to go back and get her GED. In 1971, she attended Cosmetology School and went on to become a cosmetology instructor. She worked as a cosmetologist until a serious illness caused her to give

up that career. She is featured in "Who's Who Among American Business Women" and was invited to the State Capitol for tea with then Governor Ann Richards. Hers was the first Black-owned and -operated business in Farmersville. Hamer was also a catalyst in the development of various programs to aid the poor in her community, including the Delta Ministry, an extensive community development program, and the Freedom Farms Corporation in 1969, a non-profit operation designed to help needy families raise food and livestock, provide social services, encourage minority

business opportunities, and offer educational assistance. And from 1974 to 1977 she was a member of the board of trustees of the Martin Luther King Center for Nonviolent Social Change. Kelly also became very involved in her community and started the Farmersville NAACP. She became so tired of racism in her city, she decided to do something about it and, as a result of her actions, two restaurants were closed for failing to abide by the law allowing Blacks to come in through the front door. She worked with the Farmersville Human Relations Committees and she served several

Continued pg.

## Bradley Runs for Rusk ISD Board Position



Bruce Bradley has filed for a seat on the Rusk Independent School District Board of Trustees. The lifelong Cherokee County resident is a 1984 Rusk High School Graduate. He and his wife Sheila have three daughters; Alisha a gradu

ate of Rusk High School, Delesa an eleventh grader and Joy, a fifth grader now attending in the district. They also have a grandson Ayden. Bruce is a 23 year employee of the state of Texas. He began his career with the state as a temporary Summer Worker and later became full-time where he worked eleven years. After receiving a Bachelor Degree in Safety from the University of Texas at Tyler, he attended the Department of Public Safety Academy and received his Peace Officers Certification and was commissioned by the state. His first assignment as a State Trooper was in Athens Texas. He later transferred home to Cherokee County where he has served as State Trooper for the past twelve years. Bruce is the son of Willie and Melba Bradley.

Bradley Says, "I attended RISD, I am a lifelong citizen of the county, and I have children who are students in the district. This uniquely qualifies me to help steer Rusk Schools in the right direction in these difficult

### House for Sale

3 bedrooms

Moderately priced fixer upper

Located

1412 Manorway

Tyler, Texas 75701

Call: (903) 721-3112