

Organ Donors *Con't from Page 3*

Black Community stress that the medical community must better understand that the fear and mistrust that Blacks face are indeed legitimate and must be faced head on. They encourage health care providers not to be dismissive, but to listen and be ready not to give excuses for what happened in the past. Health care providers must be ready to explain the measures put in place as a result of the past to protect patients. The same approach has been taken in the campaign to increase organ donations in the Black community.

Joanne Cox is an organ recipient and advocate for increased organ donation among Blacks. Cox, Administrative Assistant to Pastor Tony Evans of Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship says that increased donation is so important for Blacks because the need for us is so much greater. Though Cox's organ transplant was over twelve years ago, both her husband and daughter are now in need of organ donation because of failing kidneys from unrelated illnesses. Her daughter Tiffany has been dealing with Lupus since she was five years old and her body now can no longer function without a transplant. Cox said the family has been in the fight of their lives because of the financial strains and the fact that both her husband and daughter still await transplants because of the donor shortage. Cox speaks publicly about the need to increase donors in the Black community. She goes to schools and churches and says the response is good but that it needs to be even greater. Perhaps few people understand this better than she does.

Cox said the campaign to increase awareness includes a push for live donors as well as advance consent from potential donors. They are encouraging potential donors to log onto the official donor registry for Texas, donatelifetexas.org to become a potential donor. The campaign also stresses the importance of Black donations because of the likelihood for many to be in need. Of the potential for barriers because of trust, Cox also recognized the importance of acknowledging the past but stresses that the system of care in this process is very different from those of the past. She says this system can be trusted. She said it is a difficult decision, but she asks people to put themselves in the position of being the one who might need an organ donation. Then she asks them to think about the prospect of that organ not being available because someone did not make the decision give the gift of life.

So, maybe one does not possess the natural ability to walk on water or raise the dead. But most people do have the ability to save a life through organ donation. There is an old African proverb that says, when the heart overflows it comes out through the mouth. People who have made the decision to donate their organs after they die must talk about their decision with their loved ones, because the gift of life is too precious to be left to chance.

Marian Hubbard Jefferson is an investigative reporter for the Dallas Examiner

Tire Recall *from page 20*

Consumers should immediately check the sidewalls of their tires for the brand name, size, model, and U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) number. Tires subject to today's recall bear the DOT number "FTS" as part of the number.

Consumers who own any of these tires should immediately contact FTS toll-free at (888) 899-9293 or online at www.foreigntire.com. FTS may require consumers to complete a questionnaire and present it to a local dealer to obtain replacement tires. Consumers who own these tires should avoid driving for long distances on hot roads. Contact FTS to locate the closest tire shop or mechanic participating in the recall.

In most cases, consumers should not be charged to replace the defective tires. Check the FTS Web site or hotline for additional information. Specific tire sizes and models affected:

- LT235/75R-15 CR861, CR857 (Partial D.O.T. Number: 7DT5FTS)

- LT235/85R-16 CR860, CR861, CR857 (Partial D.O.T. Number: 7DT2FTS)

- LT245/75R-16 CR860, CR861, CR857 (Partial D.O.T. Number: CR857)

- LT265/75R-16 CR860, CR861, CR857 (Partial D.O.T. Number: 7DT4FTS)

- LT31X10.5R-15 CR861, CR857 (Partial D.O.T. Number: 7DT6FTS)

As part of general tire safety, consumers should keep the following tips in mind:

- Inspect tires at least once a month and before every long trip for patterns of uneven wear.

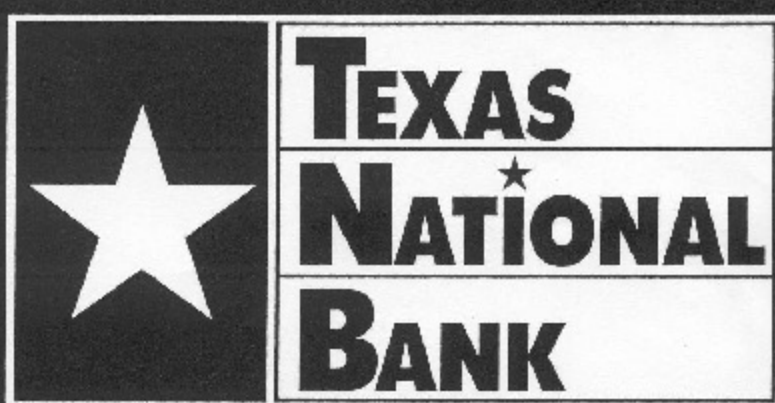
*Check tire inflation pressure in accordance with manufacturer recommendations. For additional suggestions. Please send any concerns or comments you may have to: webmaster@oag.state.tx.us

Jacksons "Family Of The Month"



L to R - Dorothy, Shamika and John Jackson.

Palestine, TX. - The Jacksons have been chosen as "Family of The Month". Dorothy has been employed with Palestine ISD fifteen years as AM Story school nurse. John has been employed with Oncor for thirty-two years in Palestine. He is currently working on the AMR Project which causes him to travel. Shamika is a tenth grader at Palestine High School. Dorothy and John are very active in the community and church. They are members of New Fellowship Christian Church of Palestine where Rev. Obie Bowser is the Pastor.



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