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Another Generation Awakens To The Dream

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MON
Minority Opportunity News, Inc.

Volume XVI, Number II

January 18 - January 24, 2007

Fifty Cents

The Gazette

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People In The News



Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson recently announced she has been selected by House Majority Whip James E. Clyburn (D-SC) to serve on his Senior Whip Team for the 110th Congress.

The whip's job in Congress is to gather support for legislation when it comes to the floor for a vote. In this leadership role, Congressman Johnson will help Congressman Clyburn gather support for the Democratic agenda, and advance legislation that meets the needs of the American people.

"I am honored to once again be selected to serve as a part of the Democratic Senior Whip Team, and I will continue to work hard to bring change to Washington and advance legislation that meets the needs of working families," said Congressman Johnson.

"We've already begun to make great strides in moving that agenda. We passed a broadly-supported ethics reform package to restore the trust of the American people in the Congress. We worked to strengthen security for Americans at home and abroad with legislation to implement the 9/11 Commission recommendations. We have also passed an increase in the minimum wage for the first time in a decade.

Shilah Phillips is used to working hard. Her hard work paid off when she was named Miss Frisco and Miss Texas 2006.

She became the first contestant in more than 20 years to win Miss Texas on the first attempt, and she became the first African-American woman to win the crown.

Phillips entered the Miss Frisco pageant when a friend challenged her to do it.

"I was going to Collin County Community College in Plano, and I was working three jobs: I was working at Primrose School; I was a cover band singer; and I was a wedding singer, taking my beat-up 1990 Honda Accord around - it was just barely putting," she laughs.

Now, Phillips speaks in schools all across the state. Her platform as Miss Texas is "Never Give Up." "I tell young people that no matter what you go through, never give up on your dreams... and never give up on your education."

Young and old will cheer Phillips on as she competes in the Miss America pageant this month.

The Miss America pageant will air live on CMT (Country Music Television) at 7 p.m. Monday, January 29. For more info, visit www.misstexas.org and www.mfpo.com.



Dawn Mann, founder of Break of Day Design AD & PR LLC, in 2000. In addition to pursuing a Master's degree at Texas Christian University and serving as an adjunct professor, Ms. Mann has found a way to reach beyond herself through volunteering.

In 2005, the 34-year old wife, mother and business owner received the Volunteer of the Year Award from Girls Inc. of Tarrant County. Giving, she says, is a natural part of life.

Over the past 2.5 years Ms. Mann has donated over \$48,000 in work to local charities. The free service Ms. Mann gives to Girls Inc. of Tarrant County is much greater than money.

"Indirectly she's helping our girls by doing this because we can spend that money on programming," said Susan Herman, president of the Girls Inc. of Tarrant County. "We've never had someone do this much work for us on a continual basis," said Ms. Herman. "For our agency, this is unheard of."

"Volunteering does a lot for your soul and how you look at yourself," says Ms. Mann. "It adds value to your life. For more info visit www.breakofdaydesign.com.

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Obama Launches 2008 White House Bid

AP

Sen. Barack Obama launched a historic campaign Tuesday to become the first black president of the United States and immediately tried to turn his political inexperience into an asset with voters seeking change.

The freshman Illinois senator - and top contender for the Democratic nomination - said the past six years have left the country in a precarious place and he promoted himself as the standard-bearer for a new kind of politics.

"Our leaders in Washington seem incapable of working together in a practical, commonsense way," Obama said in a video posted on his Web site. "Politics has become so bitter and partisan, so gummed up by money and influence, that we can't tackle the big problems that demand solutions. And that's what we have to change first."

Obama filed paperwork forming a presidential exploratory committee that allows him to raise money and put together a campaign structure. He is expected to announce a full-fledged candidacy on Feb. 10 in Springfield, Ill., where he can tap into the legacy of hometown hero Abraham Lincoln.

Obama's soft-spoken appeal on the stump, his unique background, his opposition to the Iraq war and his fresh face set him apart in a competitive race that also is expected to include front-runner Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton of New York.

Obama has uncommon political talents, drawing adoring crowds even among the studios voters in New Hampshire during a much-hyped visit there last month. His star has risen



Democratic Sen. Barack Obama of Illinois speaks at a scholarship breakfast Monday, Jan. 15, 2007, in Chicago. On Tuesday, Jan. 16, 2007,

on the force of his personality and message of hope - helped along by celebrity endorsements from the likes of Oprah Winfrey, billionaire investor Warren Buffett and actors Matt Damon and Edward Norton.

"I certainly didn't expect to find myself in this position a year ago," said Obama, who added that as he talked to Americans about a possible presidential campaign, "I've

Obama For President Page 6

Mckinney Residents Wild About Relay For Life

Kick-Off to unveil new Relay site plan and encourage team registration

McKinney Relay For Life will host its 2007 kick-off ceremony at 7 p.m. on Jan. 23 at Evans Middle School, 6998 W. Eldorado Parkway.

The theme of this year's kick-off is "Wild About Relay." The event will feature door prizes, music, refreshments and speeches from local officials and personalities. Cancer survivors will be honored and attendees can purchase luminaries to be displayed at the Relay. Volunteers will also share information about how to get involved in McKinney's 6th annual

Relay event.

Those interested in learning more about Relay or signing up a team are encouraged to attend. Anyone registering a team at the kick-off will receive an information packet. McKinney Relay For Life volunteers will be present throughout the evening to answer questions.

"We will also be showing off

McKinney Relay For Life Page 9

Plano Dedicates New Fire Station

Proclaiming a facility has the latest "bells and whistles" takes on new meaning when referring to Plano's newest public safety facility - Fire Station 11.

Bells, whistles, sirens - you'll find them all in the new station, along with a dedicated team of fire rescue professionals to serve the ever-growing northeastern portions of Plano.

Saturday, January 6, Mayor Pat Evans joined Plano's new Fire Chief Hugo Esparza, City Manager Tom Muehlenbeck and several members of the Plano City Council and community members to "uncouple the hose" on the facility, which has been in service since November 2006.

An invocation by Plano Fire Department Chaplain Robert Matthews was followed by the presentation of colors by the Plano East Senior High School with comments by Mayor Evans and Chief Esparza. In a twist on the traditional ribbon cutting ceremony, fire hoses were uncoupled to enable a new fire engine to enter the bay.

The station expands fire repression/emergency services into an important residential service area serving approximately 2,000



Plano Fire Chief Hugo Esparza, Mayor Pat Evans and City Manager Tom Muehlenbeck at dedication ceremony for Fire Station #11

homes with more on the drawing board or currently under construction. At over 11,200 square feet, Station 11 is equipped with the latest in technology, decontamination and storage areas and several amenities for the crew, including a weight room and library/study.

The Station design was conceived in part through the input of a firefighter team who visited several facilities and

Plano Fire Station Page 8

NAACP Poised To Use Technology To Update Image, Effectiveness

President Bruce Gordon outlines message during Plano visit

By: Paul Hailey

NAACP President Bruce Gordon was in Plano Friday morning as keynote speaker at the Plano Dr. Martin Luther King festivities. What he outlined was how the organization's leadership, long criticized as "too old" and "not militant enough" is positioning itself to utilize technology to boost memberships.

Mr. Gordon described how the group would broadcast videos to cell phones, send alerts to members via text messages, and how each NAACP branch plans to build interactive web pages. All of these activities are geared toward attracting younger, more technology and internet savvy members.

"Clearly we have a long way to go, but technology is a huge



NAACP President Bruce Gordon

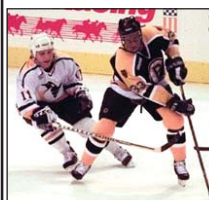
part of our future," Gordon said. "Like every smart organization, we're going to plug into the wireless networks."

Mr. Gordon, a former Verizon senior executive, talked about how the newly elected Dallas Chapter president, Casey Thomas, represents the future of the organization.

"Casey is a good example of our new leaders," he said. "I'm not the future of the NAACP, I'm a transition."

NAACP Updated Image Page 5

NHL All Star Celebration Celebrates African Americans In Hockey At African American Museum



ing this event. Willie O'Ree, the first black player in the National Hockey League, also will be in attendance.

The purpose of this event is to celebrate the history and contributions African-Americans have made to hockey. "Playing innovations used by black hockey teams in the early 1900s directly contributed

As part of the 2007 All-Star Celebration, the NHL and the African American Museum of Dallas will present a luncheon titled African Americans in Hockey: A Discussion of the Origins on Tuesday, Jan. 23 at 12:00 p.m. at the Fairmont Hotel in Dallas. Featured speaker George Fosty, hockey historian and co-author of Black Ice: The Lost History of the Colored Hockey League of the Maritimes, 1895-1925, will give a special presentation dur-

to the style of hockey we know today," George Fosty said. "Players like Henry 'Braces' Franklin, a goalie in the late 1800s who did the unimaginable by being the first goalie to adopt the style of going down on the ice to block shots, were innovators of the game."

Tickets to this luncheon are available at \$25 per ticket or \$250 for a table of 10 by calling 214-565-9026 ext. 315 by Friday, Jan. 19. All proceeds

Black Hockey Players Page 8

Free Plano Citizens Academy Accepting Applications

The informative and high-energy Plano Citizens Academy, always a hit with participants, is now accepting applications for the 2007 Session, with the first session beginning February 23, 2007.

With a focus on the inner workings of Plano Municipal Government, the Plano Citizens Academy is offered free to residents of the City of Plano, 18 years of age and older. Sessions are held bi-weekly at various City/community facilities, primarily on Tuesday evenings, from 7:00pm - 10:00pm.

Applications, which may be found online (see link at bottom of this article), are being accept-



ed on a first-come, first-served basis through Friday, February 16, 2007.

Nine informational/hands on sessions are divided into the following topics: City Council, City Government Organization & Operations, History of Plano; Employee Training, Budget & Finance; Economic & Community Development,

Plano Citizens Academy Page 8

City Of Plano MLK Celebration: "His Vision, Our Mission"

Photos By: LaQuisha Buchanan
Plano, Texas recently celebrated the birthday and the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., which is to promote unity and equality for all Americans.

The City Hall Program held in the city council chambers on Saturday, January 13, 2007 featured, Keynote speaker Elden Cowley. The celebration included an art contest with the Theme "If You Can Dream It You Can Do It."

The Assistant Chief of Police, Ed Drain, and the Parade Grand Marshall also addressed the crowd. The event included in attendance the North Dallas Chapter of Omega Psi Phi.

Plano Police Chief Greg Rushin was also a part of the celebration. The Plano MLK Celebration is

held every January.

Although, inclement weather forced the cancellation of many

outdoor MLK celebrations the event at City Hall proved to be a success.



Slide show at City of Plano MLK Program



Asst Chief of Police, Ed Drain, and Parade Grand Marshall addresses crowd



Key Note Speaker Elden Cowley



Plano Police Chief Greg Rushin, and Asst Chief, Ed Drain, attend program



Young attendees ponder



Art Contest Entries - Theme: "If You Can Dream It You Can Do It"



North Dallas Chapter of Omega Psi Phi, members attend the MLK program



Art Entry

African American Republican Club Of Collin County Meeting

The next meeting of the African American Republican Club of Collin County will be Thursday, January 25th. The meeting will be at the Collin County Republican Headquarters. The doors will open at 6:30 p.m. and the

meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. The meeting will be followed by a light meal and fellowship. The speaker for this month is Charles Wolford, Executive Director, City House.

The African American Republican Club of Collin

County looks forward to this meeting of the New Year. For further information please contact Fred Moses at 972-422-0012 ext. 105 or email fred@texas.com.

Another reminder is that, dues for 2007 are currently due.

If you have not paid your dues, you may bring your dues to the next meeting. We are looking to double our paid membership from 2006. You can help us reach that goal by rejoining today and encouraging others to join.

NAACP Garland Branch Installation Of Officers And Jubilee Observance

The NAACP Garland Branch Invites you to share in the installation of officers and Jubilee Observance on Tuesday, January 23, 2007, at 7:15 p.m. at the Women's Activity Building, 713 Austin Street @ Glenbrook, Garland (downtown) keynote speaker:

Reverend. Charles E. Franklin, Pastor, St. Luke A.M.E. Church - Garland. Please contact us via email garlandnaacp@garlandnaacp.org or phone (972) 381-5044, if you have questions or need directions. ***Not only are you welcome - you are wanted!!***

Richland Collegiate High School Accepting Applications

Applications will be accepted through March 9, 2007, for the Richland Collegiate High School of Mathematics, Science, and Engineering (RCHS). Applicants must be students who will enter the 11th grade in fall of 2007. RCHS students can complete their last two years of high school at Richland College, graduating

from RCHS by taking college courses and earning college credits with a focus on mathematics, science, or engineering. RCHS students can also graduate from Richland College with an Associate of Arts degree, ready to transfer to a four-year university.

For more info visit www.richlandcollege.edu/rchs/admissions.htm.

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Around The Town

Ongoing The Collin County Chapter of the American Business Association meets the fourth Tuesday of the month at Eldorado Country Club, 2604 Country Club Drive in McKinney.
Free Tenant Legal Workshops are at 6 p.m. Tuesdays at Douglas Community Center, 1111 Ave. H in Plano. Call 972-941-7174.
Alpha Beta Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi a social service cultural sorority meets the second Monday of each month in members home in Frisco, McKinney, and the Plano area. Call 972-473-9089.

Assistance League of Greater Collin County meets the third Wednesday of each month. Visit www.assistance-league-gcc.org.

"EVOLVE," a social networking opportunity for women, meets from 7:30 to 9 p.m. the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month at the northwest corner of Park Boulevard and Coit Road, Suite 202. Call 972-267-4452.

A free legal clinic is offered for residents who meet low-income guidelines, 6:00 p.m., second Thursday of each month, First United Methodist Church, 601 S. Greenville Ave. Applicants must be Collin County residents and income eligible. Call 1-800-906-3045.

Free HIV Testing offered by the LaSima Foundation from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. every Thursday at two different locations. For locations and more information, call 214-928-9303.

The Frisco Housing

Authority is offering tenant-based rental assistance to 22 eligible families and individuals for rental housing in Frisco. Call 972-377-3031 for information.

Kumaasi African Ensemble Dance Classes from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. West African dance classes held every Saturday at the South Dallas Cultural Center, 3400 S. Fitzhugh Ave. Contact S-Ankh Rasa at 214-298-5858 for more information.

Late Night at the Dallas Museum of Art
The art doesn't go home, why should you? Join us on the third Friday of each month. Each late night offers hundreds of experiences for visitors of all ages with performances, concerts, readings, film screenings, guided Starbucks Coffee tastings, tours, family programs, complimentary Starbucks Coffee, and more! 1717 N. Harwood. \$10 for adults, \$7 for senior citizens and \$5 for students with current school I.D. 214-922-1200, public programs @ DallasMuseumofArt.org.

Dallas Baptist University-North Leadership Empowerment Luncheon Series is from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. the first Wednesday of the month at Dallas Baptist University-North, 3211 Internet Blvd., Suite 100. Call 214-333-5777 or e-mail dbunorth@dbu.edu.

The Yundrae Show the live television taping every Thursday. It's new, it's off the chain, and it's only at Strait Street. Artists, celebrities, who's who, sports icons, and many more. The doors open at 7pm and the show starts at 7:45pm. There are door prizes and giveaways each week. Tickets are \$15 at the door. Check it out at www.theyundraeshow.com

Three of A Kind: Wine, Art and Music
The Enchanté Wine Tasting Society

will be held from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the African American Museum, 3536 Grand Ave. For more info, call 214-431-5444; visit <http://aews.org> or e-mail mailews@aews.org.

Texas Diversity Council Women In Leadership Symposium

Theme for the symposium: "Profiles of Outstanding Women"
Fairmont Dallas Hotel, 1717 N. Akard Street 8:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Underground Poetry Circus

10:00 p.m. at the PUB - University of Texas at Dallas 800 W. Campbell Rd., Richardson. 972-883-6438.

Dallas ISD Open House
Harry Stone Academy and Vanguard Open House, 6 p.m. 4747 Veteran Drive. W.H. Atwell Fundamental Academy Open House, 6 p.m. 1303 Reynoldson Lane. B.T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts Open House, 6 p.m., 3434 R.L. Thornton Frwy.

January 19, 2007

Plano Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting
7:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Featuring keynote address, passing of the gavel for the Chairman of the Board, early morning networking session and trade show. For more info and to RSVP call the Plano Chamber of Commerce 972-424-7547 or visit www.planochamber.org

Black Cinematube Dallas
8:00 PM @ Black Forest Theater, 1920 MLK. \$5.00 Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Celebration "Mighty Times: The Children's March" 2005 Academy Award - Best Documentary Short.

South Dallas Cultural Center Jammin' at the Center

12 MidNight-3 a.m. Free -> jazz jam session with critically acclaimed saxophonist Shelley Carroll, drummer Alan Green, pianist Caleb

McCampbell and bassist Jonathan Fisher at South Side on Lamar 1409 S. Lamar Street Loft# 001. Info: <http://www.dallasculture.org/>

Taste of the Arts
Booker T. Washington High School for he Performing and Visual Arts will host "A Taste of the Arts, at 6 p.m. at the Latino Cultural Center, 2600 Live Oak St. Former Mayor Ron Kirk and his wife Matrike Kirk will serve as Honorary Chairs.

January 20, 2007

An Evening of Worship" with Katrina Dauway

Featuring guest Minister Thelma Wells, Christian comedienne CoCo, and The Voices of Africa, will begin at 7:30 p.m. at The Fairmont Hotel; 1717 Akard St. Attire is semi-formal/formal. Tickets are \$30.00 per person and can be purchased at www.ketrinadauway.com.

Genealogy Seminar

The Genealogy Friends of the Plano Libraries presents information on the United States and Mexican War. Event will be held at Harrington Library, 1501 18th Street from 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. For more information call the Library at 972-941-7175 or visit www.planolibrary.org.

January 21, 2007

National Women's Health and Wellness Expo 2007

11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. EXPO is designed to promote health and wellness for all women, men and children. Vision hearing, screening, and other health-related checks will be performed. Plano Centre, 2000 East Spring Creek Parkway.

Admission: \$5; 10 years and under free. For more info contact Richard Anderson at 214-597-8940 or visit www.nwhexpo.com.

South Dallas Cultural Center presents Reading the Writers

2:30 p.m. FREE, Dallas Public Library, 1515 Young St. Dallas TX.

African Company Presents Richard III, written by Carlyle Brown, is based on a true story dating back to 1821. Info: <http://www.dallasculture.org/>

Texas Democratic Women of Collin County

The next meeting of the will be held at 6:45 p.m. at Lone Star Crossing 5800 Coit Rd South of Spring Creek Parkway Plano. Guest Speaker from Planned Parenthood will discuss Legislative Days in Austin. www.tdwc.org

Books Sandwiched In

Sponsored by the Friends of the Plano Public Library. The groups review books at different Plano sites to enable everyone the opportunity to experience the world of literature. Davis Library, 7501-B Independence Parkway from 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

January 23, 2007

Moore Learning - How Toxic Are You?

Come learn about this 21-day Purification and Nutrition Workshop dealing with topics like: "How toxic are you?" "Your personal nutrition template" and "21-day purification and nutrition." Plano Centre, 2000 East Spring Creek Parkway from 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. For more information call Moore Chiropractic at 972-517-5779.

The Listening Room

Come listen to master musician Marchel Ivery and his combo play jazz standards and original compositions. Light refreshments for sale. South Side on Lamar 1409 S. Lamar St. @ 7-9:30 pm; Free Admission

January 24, 2007

Nationwide Insurance Recruiting Program

The event will be held at the Fairmont Hotel @ 6:00 p.m. Recruiting reception to announce the partnership between Nationwide and the Dallas Urban League.

January 25, 2007 A Midsummer Nights Dream

Featuring the music of Shakespeare will begin at 8 p.m. at the Charles W. Eisemann Center for the Performing Arts, 2351 Performance Drive. For more information, tickets and reservations, call 972-733-7262.

African American Republican Club of Collin County Meeting

The meeting will be at the Collin County Republican Headquarters. The doors will open at 6:30 p.m. and the meeting will be at 7:00 p.m. and the meeting will be followed by a light meal and fellowship. Speaker for this month is Charles Wolford, Executive Director, City House. The meeting will be followed by a light meal and fellowship.

Bruce Bruce

Thursday, January 25, 2007 - Sunday, January 28, 2007 Various times, at the Addison Improv

Fiddlisticks

Part of the Family Symphony Sundays, will begin at 3 p.m. in the Courtyard Theatre, 1501 Ave. H, Plano. For more information, tickets and reservations, call 972-473-7262.

January 26, 2007

Blues and Jazz Festival

Jan. 26-27 includes a concert by famed saxophone player Leroy "Hog" Cooper, a theatrical performance of Blind Lemon Blues, lectures and a panel discussion. All proceeds from the festival will be donated to the Larry D. Terry Emerging Leaders Scholarship Endowment. UT Dallas Center for the Arts, 800 W. Campbell Rd. in Richardson at 7 p.m. kristi.barras@utdallas.edu 972-883-2972.

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Paul Hailey

"The television is an invention that permits you to be entertained in your living room by people you wouldn't have in your home." — David Frost

"TV is chewing gum for the eyes." — Frank Lloyd Wright

"TV. If kids are entertained by two letters, imagine the fun they'll have with twenty-six. Open your child's imagination. Open a book." — Unknown

Television is a timewaster that is rotting the brains of otherwise productive members of our society. TV is polluting the minds of our youth and corrupting this nation's ability to think from the inside out. TV is one of the main contributors to the cultural decay of the United States. It has taken nearly 70 years for television to become the curse of our generation.

Whew...I feel better.

Ok, maybe that was a little extreme, but more often than not, there is some element of truth in even the most extreme statements. The truth is, the vast majority of us watch too much television and what we watch is usually not content which could be termed "quality programming".

Here are some numbers that were a bit unsettling to me:

- 248 million. The number of television sets in U.S. households as of 2001.

- 1,669. The projected number of hours that you will watch television this year. This is the equivalent of about 70 days.

- 87.3%. The percentage of households with at least one TV in 1960.

- 98.2%. The percentage of households with at least one TV in 2001.

In 1980, the number one television show in America was "60 Minutes". Last year, the number television show was

The TV Is On-What Are You Watching?

"American Idol". (The # 2 show in 1980 was "Three's Company, which kind of blows you the point I'm trying to make, but don't pay attention to that right now.)

There's nothing wrong with "American Idol". Everybody loves a contest, and there is definitely something inherently funny about watching the train wreck of tone-deaf people who think they can sing. But "Idol" tells me a great deal about how our television choices have devolved intellectually.

Let me make myself perfectly clear: I like TV. I was raised on television, and I don't have a problem with TV as an entertainment vehicle. But I have to wonder about the impact of television on how, and ultimately, what we think.

The negative impact of television is not restricted to only adults. Our children, who are now being referred to as "Generation M", are feeling the longer reaching effects of TV watching. The "M" stands for media.

The average child or teen watches nearly 3 hours of television a day. Numerous studies have proven a direct correlation between a child's weight and the number of hours the child spends watching television. As TV viewing has risen over the past three decades, so has the average weight of American children.

Another study showed that preschoolers who watch television violence and play violent video games are more likely to show high levels of aggression and antisocial behavior than those not exposed to violent television and video games. None of this even begins to speak to possible correlations between television watching and attention deficit disorder.

Here's a good quote:

"We cannot blame the schools alone for the dismal decline in SAT verbal scores. When our kids come home from school do they pick up a book or do they

sit glued to the tube, watching music videos? Parents, don't make the mistake of thinking your kid only learns between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m."

The author of that quote? None other than President George W. Bush on the campaign trail.

I know what you're thinking right now. So we watch too much television, and a lot of it is mindless drivel, what can we do about it?

I thought about exactly that as I read some lines from a broadcaster named Howard Beale in one of my all-time favorite movies, *Network*:

"We deal in illusions, man. None of it is true. But you people sit there day after day, night after night, all ages, colors, creeds. We're all you know. You're beginning to believe the illusions we're spinning here. You're beginning to think that the tube is reality and that your own lives are unreal. You do whatever the tube tells you. You dress like the tube. You eat like the tube. You raise your children like the tube. You even think like the tube. This is mass madness - you maniacs! In God's name you people are the real thing, WE are the illusion."

"So turn off your television sets. Turn them off now. Turn them off right now. Turn them off and leave them off. Turn them off right in the middle of the sentence I am speaking to you now. Turn them off!"

That's precisely what I am going to do.

From Sunday, January 21, until Super Bowl Sunday, February 4th, I am going to turn off my TV. I'm going to fill that time with reading, writing, listening to music, and actually doing stuff that doesn't involve lying on my couch. I'm going to go out to museums, catch a play, go visit some friends. I'm going to take the next two weeks and get back in touch with me.

What are you going to do?

Paul Hailey can be reached at phailey@MonTheGazette.com

The Mentally Ill, Behind Bars

By: Bernard E. Harcourt

Last August, a prison inmate in Jackson, Mich. — someone the authorities described as "floridly psychotic" — died in his segregation cell, naked, shackled to a concrete slab, lying in his own urine, scheduled for a mental health transfer that never happened. Last month in Florida, the head of the state's social services department resigned abruptly after having been fined \$80,000 and is facing criminal contempt charges for failing to transfer severely mentally ill jail inmates to state hospitals.

Ten days ago, the Supreme Court agreed to determine when mentally ill death row inmates should be considered so deranged that their execution would be constitutionally impermissible. The case involves a 48-year-old Navy veteran who is a diagnosed schizophrenic. In the decade leading up to the crime he was hospitalized 14 times for severe mental illness.

According to a study released by the Justice Department in September, 56 percent of jail inmates in state prisons and 64 percent of inmates across the country reported mental health problems within the past year.

Though troubling, none of this should come as a surprise. Over the past 40 years, the United States dismantled a colossal mental health complex and rebuilt — bed by bed — an enormous prison. During the 20th century we exhibited a schizophrenic relationship to deviance.

After more than 50 years of stability, federal and state prison populations skyrocketed from under 200,000 persons in 1970 to more than 1.3 million in 2002. That year, our imprisonment rate rose above 600 inmates per 100,000 adults. With the inclusion of an addi-

tional 700,000 inmates in jail, we now incarcerate more than two million people — resulting in the highest incarceration number and rate in the world, five times that of Britain and 12 times that of Japan.

What few people realize, though, is that in the 1940s and '50s we institutionalized people at even higher rates — only it was in mental hospitals and asylums. Simply put, when the data on state and county mental hospitalization rates are combined with the data on prison rates for 1928 through 2000, the imprisonment revolution of the late 20th century barely reaches the level we experienced at mid-century. Our current culture of control is by no means new.

If we include residents of those facilities, from 1935 to 1963 the United States consistently institutionalized at rates well above 700 per 100,000 adults — with highs of 778 in 1939 and 786 in 1955. It should be clear why there is such a large proportion of mentally ill persons in our prisons: individuals who used to be tracked for mental health treatment are now getting a one-way ticket to jail.

Of course, there are important demographic differences between the two populations. In 1937, women represented 48 percent of residents in state mental hospitals. In contrast, new prison admissions have consistently been 95 percent male. Also, the mental health patients from the 1930s to the 1960s were older and whiter than prison inmates of the 1990s.

Why did we diagnose deviance in such radically different ways over the course of the 20th century? Do we need to be imprisoning at such high rates, or were we right, 50 years ago, to hospitalize instead? Why were so many women hospitalized?

Hoping For A Chicago-Indianapolis Super Bowl

By: George E. Curry -

NPNA Columnist
I admit that it may be considered narrow-minded, politically incorrect and not altogether logical, but that's not going to stop me from pulling for a 2007 Super Bowl that features the Indianapolis Colts against the Chicago Bears. Although a Black quarterback, Doug Williams, has won the MVP trophy, no Black head coach has taken his team to the ultimate football game. And if the Bears line up opposite of the Colts on Feb. 4, it will place two Black head coaches on the sidelines, guaranteeing that one will emerge victorious.

Even though football is a game, it has never been only a game. I know because I played football in segregated Alabama and remember how I beamed with pride when I saw an African-American on TV playing quarterback, the position that supposedly requires the most intellect. At 14 years old, I saw Sandy Stephens on TV quarterbacking the University of Minnesota. After that, in my mind, I became Sandy Stephens. His talent was on display for everyone to see. On the field, I didn't want to be like Mike, I wanted to be like Sandy.

When you have "White" and "Colored" signs staring at you every day, you take pride wherever and whenever you can find it. In the athletic world, Sandy Stephens gave me that pride. The all-White teams at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa, my hometown, certainly didn't instill any Black pride, so I looked north for it. I never met Sandy Stephens, but I didn't have to. His mission was accomplished from afar and, at the time, that worked just fine.

Even though the sports land-

scape has drastically changed for the better since 1961, even at Deep South universities, kids still need role models and the impact is greater when they can see people who look like them succeed at the highest level of competition. While that's certainly not limited to sports, we're often consumed by athletics during our youth.

Although no one made a big deal of it, I was happy to see that when Ohio State University and the University of Florida squared off to determine the national championship, each had a Black starting quarterback. In the biggest college game of my lifetime, the first time that a No. 1-ranked football team was playing the No. 2-ranked team, each would be led by an African-American quarterback.

Our young people in particular need to know that the world many of them take for granted, has not always been this way. When Blacks played on integrated teams up north, they were still shut out of playing quarterback and middle linebacker, the defensive equivalent. We were supposedly too dumb to play those positions. And heaven forbid Blacks becoming stars at those coveted positions; the secret would be out.

These myths persisted even though the 1950s and 1960s teams of Jake Gaither at Florida A&M, John Merritt at Tennessee State and Eddie Robinson at Grambling were capable of beating some White schools in the South. In fact, in the first interracial football game in the South, played on November 29, 1969, Gaither's Florida A&M Rattlers defeated the University of Tampa 34-28 (I wrote a chapter on that game in my first book, "Jake Gaither: America's Most Famous Black

Why have they been replaced by young black men? Have both prisons and mental hospitals included large numbers of unnecessarily incarcerated individuals?

Whatever the answers, the pendulum has swung too far — possibly off its hinges.

It would be naïve, today, to address any of these questions without also considering the impact of imprisonment on crime. One of the most reliable studies estimates that the increased prison population over the 1990s accounted for about a third of the overall drop in crime that decade.

However, prisons are not the only institutions that seem to have this effect. In a recent study, I demonstrated that the rate of institutionalization — including mental hospitals — was a far better predictor of serious violent crime from 1926 to 2000 than just prison populations. The data reveal a robust negative relationship between overall institutionalization (prisons and asylums) and homicide. Preliminary findings based on state-level panel data confirm these results.

The effect on crime may not depend on whether the institution is a mental hospital or a prison. Even from a crime-fighting perspective, then, it is time to rethink our prison and mental health policies. A lot more work must be done before proposing answers to those troubling questions. But the first step is to realize that we have been wildly erratic in our approach to deviance, mental health and the prison.

Bernard E. Harcourt, a professor of law and criminology at the University of Chicago, is the author of "Against Prediction: Profiling, Policing and Punishing in an Actuarial Age."

Coach.").

Segregation was designed to crush the dreams of Blacks. And one way of doing that was to make sure Black athletes didn't star in the glamorous positions, especially quarterback. It was stupid for anyone to assume that Blacks couldn't play those positions because we were playing them whenever we played one another. Did they think that we played offense without a quarterback, using 10 players instead of 11? Did they think we played with 10 on defense because none of us had the intelligence to play middle linebacker? They weren't thinking about logic at all. The goal was to suppress Black aspiration and accomplishment.

That brings me back to my original point. Black kids will be among the millions watching this year's Super Bowl on TV. And while most eyes will be fixed on the action occurring on the field, some youngsters will notice the guys walking on the sidelines with a headset on. From that moment on, the kids won't have to wonder whether they can compete at the highest level of coaching, they will have proof. They would have seen it for themselves.

If Tony Dungy coaches Indianapolis in the Super Bowl, that will be wonderful. If Lovie Smith leads the Bears on the field, that, too, will be a delight. If both of them end up on opposite sidelines, I'll be in football heaven. No one could possibly miss the point.

George E. Curry is editor-in-chief of the NPNA News Service and BlackPress USA.com. To contact Curry or to book him for a speaking engagement, go to his Web site, www.georgecurry.com

Where Do You Want To Go Today?

Publisher's Office:

Phone: (972) 516-2992

Fax: (972) 509-9058

Email: publisher@monthegazette.com

Editorial Department:

Phone: (972) 516-2992

Fax: (972) 516-4197

Email: editor@monthegazette.com

Entertainment Department:

Phone: (972) 509-9049

Email: entertainment@monthegazette.com

Sales Department:

Phone: (972) 509-9049

Fax: (972) 509-9058

Email: opportunity@monthegazette.com

Website: www.MonTheGazette.com



1100 Summit, Suite 101 • Plano, Texas 75074

Chairman Emeritus

Jim Bochum

Published By

Minority Opportunity News, Inc.

Office Manager

Cynthia Westley

Production

Robert Booker

Assistant Vice-President Marketing

Edward Desnyne "Proseur Boy" Gibson, Jr.

Account Executive

Arielle Johnson

Religious/Marketing Editor

Shirley Demus Tarpley

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Editor

Paul Hailey

Editorial Support

Publisher

Cheryl Jackson

Contributing Writers

Justin Jones

Ruth Ferguson

LaKesha Joe

Columnist

Paul Hailey

Photography

Patrick "PJ" Johnson

Laquisha Holey

Ronald Coleman

Advisory Board:

John Dudley

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Ben Thomas

Distribution:

Keith Rock

Jonathan Lockhart

Integrity Distribution

Is the sky clearest on the day it is most blue?

While you ponder that thought we would like to announce that Minority Opportunity News, Inc., formerly a Dallas based renaissance community tabloid, founded in 1991, has relocated to Plano, Texas and changed our name to MON-The Gazette. In addition to moving our offices to Plano, our editorial coverage has also shifted to encompass Dallas' Northern Corridor. The Northern Corridor is clearly the fastest growing region in Texas, if not in America. MON-The Gazette believes that the engine to continue this growth is the airport expansion in McKinney, which is the largest and most viable of many area opportunities. As always, and true to tradition, MON-The Gazette will be there carrying a world of opportunity for those seeking to provide quality services. Should you date to expand your quest for economic parity outside the southern region or just want to know what is going on up north.

Think of MON-The Gazette as your paper of opportunity!

MON-The Gazette formerly Minority Opportunity News, was founded July, 1991, by Jim Bochum and Thurman R. Jones

Plano ISD MLK Tribute: "United By The Dream"

Student performers of all ages will present a program this week to honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and to celebrate the diversity in our school district and community. The program, "United by the Dream," will be presented from 7:00 to

8:15 p.m. on Thursday, January 18, in Collinwood Hall at Plano Centre, 2000 E. Spring Creek Parkway. This program is free and open to the public. Featured entertainers will include Plano ISD middle school students in the Procession of Nations, the

Plano Children's Choral, the Clark High School Choir and the Plano West Senior High School JROTC. Selected elementary school students will present their original writings in English and Spanish, and Beaty Early Childhood School students will be showcased in a

video production. Art Contest and Diversity Leadership Award winners will be recognized.

Program highlights will also include the reading of Dr. King's "I Have a Dream" speech by Plano East Senior High School students. Plano West Senior High School stu-

dents will present a scene from the play "To Kill a Mockingbird," and Plano Senior High School speech students will present a poetry montage.

District and community leaders participating will be Dr. Myrtle Hightower, Dr. Doug

Otto, Ed Drain, Sam McPherson, Danny Modisette and Karla Oliver. Dr. Hightower is chairman of the Plano ISD Martin Luther King, Jr. Planning Committee. The committee includes Plano ISD staff, parents and community leaders.



1st Place, Andrew Paettie, Plano East Senior High School 12th Grade, Teacher: Lori Whitake



1st Place, Aubrie Jeffry, Williams High School 10th Grade, Teacher: Amy Semifero



1st Place, Amber Van Hecke, Carpenter Middle School Eighth Grade, Teacher: Susanna White



1st Place, Wendy Luo, Christie Elementary School Fourth Grade, Teacher: Karen Horton

Black College Alumni Night At The AAC

"The 8th Annual Black College Alumni Night" is Saturday, February 3, 2007 at the American Airlines Center (2500 Victory Avenue; Dallas 75219) with the game between the Mavericks and Timberwolves. Southern University's "Human Jukebox" and the fabulous "Dancing Dolls" will perform at halftime. A portion of the tickets purchased through this fundraiser will go to the scholarship funds of DMCBAA and UNCF to assist DFW students attending Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). To purchase your tickets prior to a Sell Out, contact Gail O'Bannon (Mavericks) at 214-658-7123 or gail.obannon@dallas-

mavs.com. For questions, feel free to contact DMCBAA (dmcbaa@yahoo.com, 972-220-0477 or www.dmcbaa.com).



The Dallas Metroplex Council of Black Alumni Associations (DMCBAA), a 501(c)(3) organization, is entering its 20th year of promoting the awareness of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) in the Dallas/Ft. Worth Metroplex.

the American Airlines Center. All metroplex 9th thru 12th graders and their parents, teachers, counselors, youth directors, etc... are invited to attend this free event. There will be representatives from HBCUs throughout the country to provide application, financial aid and scholarship information on their respective HBCU. For more information, contact DMCBAA (dmcbaa@yahoo.com, 972-220-0477 or www.dmcbaa.com). The Dallas Metroplex Council of Black Alumni Associations (DMCBAA), a 501(c)(3) organization, is entering its 20th year of promoting the awareness of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) in the Dallas/Ft. Worth Metroplex.

Eastfield College African-American Read-In

Eastfield College's African-American Read-In is scheduled for Wednesday, February 7, 11:28 a.m. - 1 p.m. in Building S, Room 100.

This year, in addition to honoring African-American writers, there will be a special tribute to four African-American students: Joseph McNeil, Ezell Blair Jr., David Richmond, and Franklin McCain. They walked into a segregated lunch counter at Woolworths in North Carolina on February 1, 1960 and changed the world. After their courageous step, the "National Sit-In" movement began with students. Two months later there were sit-ins

in over 54 cities and nine states. Freedom Summer, Freedom Riders and the nameless individuals who

share how the experience changed your life and what impact it had on your community. Send your story to



Brynnah Hicks Turnbo at bht4323@dccc.edu. This is an open call for participants for the African-American Read-In. Just prepare a 2-3 minute piece from your favorite African-American Writer to share with the audience.

For more information, contact Brynnah Hicks Turnbo at 972-860-7076.

Eastfield College, one of the seven Dallas County Community Colleges, is located at 3737 Motley Drive in Mesquite, just north of I-30.

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Forest City Planning Urban Development For Texas Stadium Site

The city of Irving and Forest City Enterprises are working on a plan to transform the Texas Stadium site into an urban development when Dallas Cowboys leave the stadium in 2009.

Plans for the 373-acre site include 4,900 residences, retail and entertainment space, a new civic center, hotel, cinema, two

new DART rail stations and a freeway-spanning SkyPark above State Highway 114, according to a fact sheet on the development.

The City Council and Forest City, a Cleveland-based real estate company, will be spending the next couple of months creating a detailed agreement for the site, which will be presented to the City Council at a later date for



approval, according to a city press release.

A spokeswoman for Forest City did not return a call for comment Friday afternoon.

"From the start, this project has truly represented a significant crossroads in Irving's future," said Irving

Mayor Herbert Gears in a statement. "The visibility of this site is significant -- it is the third most-traveled intersection in Dallas-Fort Worth. Collectively, we have 380 acres available for intense urban development, and we are going to capitalize on that."

City leaders began working to generate developer interest

shortly after Arlington residents approved the new Cowboys stadium.

"Yes, we're looking at Texas Stadium," said David Levey, executive vice president of Forest City. "If you're viewing it from Mars, it looks like a great location, with all of the cars driving by the site, but there's no high-value retail nearby."

Stashing Cash Not A Good Tax Strategy - Crooner Ron Isley Found Out The Hard Way

By: Tamara E. Holmes

September, R&B singer Ronald Isley was convicted of tax evasion for allegedly demanding millions in cash for performances so it would be harder for the Internal Revenue Service to track his earnings. While Isley's assumption that cash is more difficult to trace than other forms of payment, tax professionals warn that stashing it is a bad idea since the IRS has ways of checking to see if the amounts of cash claimed and received do in fact add up.

Consumers who file tax returns claiming a lot of cash-based income are immediately under scrutiny, says Juanita D. Farmer, owner of J.D. Farmer & Associates, a CPA firm in Germantown, Maryland. "If you indicate that you have a business that handles cash

you're likely to be flagged because nine times out of 10 people underreport," she says.

Statistics prove that the IRS has good reason to question cash. In the 2004 Report to the Nation on Occupational Fraud and Abuse, from the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners, 87% of the fraudulent business-



es studied were found to have misappropriated cash.

Since the risk of being audited increases for people who report a lot of cash, it's important to keep excellent records.

"Keep track of your deposits and what they represent, whether it is [for] gifts, loans, or income," says Dennis N. Middleton, a CPA in Beverly Hills and Oakland, California.

Small business owners can also issue receipts for products and services rendered. A copy of those receipts will show an auditor that a certain amount of cash has in fact been received.

Consumers who receive a lot of income from a small business should also set up a separate checking account for business-related deposits—another move that will make it easier to track—and prove—cash-based income.

Restaurant workers who receive tips may have an easier time since restaurant owners typically track that information

and report the amount of tips received on a worker's W-2 form, says Middleton.

Consumers who think it's easy to report some income and pocket the rest should be warned that the IRS can and will look beyond the tax return for evidence of tax evasion.

"The IRS can come back and create an analysis of your income by looking at the money you've spent," says Middleton. "They can look at your expenditures through your bank account and your credit card. They can look at the assets you have in your house and add up the value of it and determine what amount of income you must have earned in order to be able to make those purchases."

Not only that, but the IRS will look at industry trends to see if the numbers add up and they may even question a business

owner's clients. "Say you own a daycare center," says Farmer. "The IRS can even ask for the names of the people that you baby sit for and find out from them how much you're paid."

Consumers who receive cash

income might not be able to avoid an audit, but they can make sure their records are impeccable. After all, if a consumer shows proof of income, "the IRS can't refute that," says Middleton.

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House Debates Cutting Student Loan Rates

AP

Continuing its march through an agenda of popular legislative initiatives, the Democratic-led House is considering cutting interest rates on some college student loans in half.

The House was scheduled to vote Wednesday on the measure, which would help an estimated 5.5 million students who get need-based federal loans.

The government pays the interest that accrues on those loans while students are in college. Students pick up the payments after they leave school.

The rates would drop from 6.8 percent to 3.4 percent in stages over a five-year period under the House proposal. That would cost nearly \$6 billion, according to the Congressional Budget Office.

To avoid increasing the deficit, the bill's cost would be offset by reducing the yield on

college loans the government guarantees to lenders and cutting the guaranteed return banks get when students default. Banks also would have to pay more in fees.

The House was expected to approve the bill, though its future is uncertain beyond that. The Bush administration and some top Republican lawmakers oppose it. Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., head of the Senate's education committee, plans to pursue broader education legislation that addresses the proposed interest rate cut.

Democrats, who took over Congress this year, are trying to make good on a campaign pledge. However, the plan has been scaled back.

During last year's campaign season, Democrats did not spell out that the cut they were talking about passing in the first 100 hours of the new Congress would only affect need-based

loans. They also pledged to lower interest rates for parents who take out college loans for their children, and said they wanted to increase the maximum Pell grant award from \$4,050 to \$5,100. Pell grants go only to the neediest students and do not have to be paid back.

California Democratic Rep. George Miller, chairman of the House committee on education, said lawmakers plan to address those issues later.

California Rep. Howard "Buck" McKeon, the highest-ranking Republican on the education committee, criticized Democrats for considering the legislation without hearings. He also said he worried the cuts could lessen the services and benefits students receive.

McKeon noted Congress cut \$12 billion from the student loan program last year as part of

a budget bill.

"If we make it so unattractive to be in the student loan business, they'll go into the car business," McKeon said of lenders.

Luke Swarthout, who lobbies on higher education issues for



U.S. Senator Edward M. Kennedy, D - Mass.

the U.S. Public Interest Research Group, said the industry is highly profitable and can sustain this round of cuts.

"This is one of the most heavily subsidized and lucrative industries," he said. "These lenders receive guaranteed profits with virtually no risk."

Black Frats & Sororities Settle Sneaker Row

By: Ann Brown

A three-year battle over trademark infringement and deceptive trade practices between athletic shoe and apparel maker Converse Inc. and four black fraternities and two black sororities is finally coming to a close.

In 2003, sororities Alpha Kappa Alpha and Delta Sigma Theta and fraternities Alpha Phi Alpha, Kappa Alpha Psi, Omega Psi Phi, and Phi Beta Sigma, filed the suit in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Texas, Dallas Division alleging that the Nike Inc.-owned sports apparel company manufactured, marketed, and sold sneakers called GREEKPAK that contained "the identical founding year and organizational colors" of the fraternal associations.

Converse, which began

advertising the GREEKPAK line in fall 2003, argued in court papers that the colors and founding years, when used together, were not trademarks by the



The Converse "GREEKPAK" shoes featured the identical founding year and organizational colors of black fraternities and sororities.

organizations.

Under the settlement, Converse acknowledges that the fraternities and sororities have exclusive rights to the marks, according to a report in the Dallas Morning News.

"The lawsuit had to work its way through the legal system," says Sam Hamilton, chairman of the organizations' Council of

Presidents and president of Kappa Alpha Psi.

"We are in the final stages of having everyone sign off," Hamilton says.

The groups will negotiate a licensing agreement with Converse, according to the Morning News. Converse spokeswoman Cheryl Calagari, said she can't comment on the settlement until it's finalized.

A deal to market products in conjunction with the organizations might not be so profitable for Converse, according to Lawrence Ross, a branding strategist with Minneapolis-based consumer trend research company Iconoculture.

"In order the deal to be cost effective for Converse, since they will be sharing the revenue, would be to mass market the shoes," says Ross who is also author of The Divine Nine: The

new members have joined since his tenure began in 2005, with the fastest growing segment being members 35 and under. And the youth have always been a crucial part of the organization's success.

Walter "Changa" Higgins of the Dallas New Black Panther Party agrees.

"I feel like the NAACP has lost its juice," he said Friday. "Young people are the key to mobilizing any type of social change in the community. Historically, that's the way it's been."

In recent years the NAACP

has seemed to lack the visionary leadership necessary to keep it relevant into the next century. Some have even questioned if the organization has outlived its purpose. However, the track record suggests otherwise.

In addition to coordinating freedom marches and protests during the 1960s' civil rights movement, the NAACP won historic legal victories for equal opportunity: its first, outlawing "grandfather clauses" that restricted voting rights in 1915; its most significant victory, in the 1954 decision in Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka.

The NAACP has established a track record unparalleled by any other civil rights organization.

With plans to debut pages on Facebook and MySpace, the NAACP is developing communication vehicles designed to help it help African Americans confront the issues of today.

"We've torn down those signs that say 'black only' or 'white only,'" said Claude Foster, NAACP regional president. "But when you look at the disparities in our country, you see that there are still systems that result in inequality."

NAACP Updated Image Page 1

He's an example of the new face of the NAACP."

Nationally and locally, NAACP membership has fallen considerably in recent years, from 500,000 national members to about 300,000 today. NAACP membership in Dallas has gone from a high of nearly 1,000 in the 1990s to the current level of 400.

Since taking over the NAACP presidency, Bruce Gordon has received kudos for increasing the group's membership by updating its approach. More than 80,000

Ali Turns 65 With A Mind That's Clear

By: Tim Dahlberg - AP

The images are unsettling at best, upsetting at worst. The world, after all, remembers what he once was. Muhammad Ali trembles and has to be wheeled to a ringside spot to watch his daughter fight in New York. A frail Ali needs to be supported by basketball player Dwyane Wade at the Orange Bowl in Miami. The voice that once belted that he was "The Greatest" is but a whisper now, and he communicates mostly with facial expressions.

His body is ravaged by Parkinson's disease and the effects of recent spinal surgery. He tires easily. His mind, though, remains sharp and clear, and his passion for people hasn't faded with age.

Ali turns 65 on Wednesday. The heavy-weight champion who shocked the world as a senior citizen now, eligible to collect Social Security.

Like many other retirees, he has moved from Michigan to the desert to be out of the cold.

Visitors to the home in a gated area of Scottsdale, Ariz., that he shares with his fourth wife, Lonnie, often find him absorbed in the past, watching films of his fights and documentaries on his life -- and Elvis movies.

Even more, he loves to watch himself talk.

"Muhammad is a little sentimental. He likes looking at



older things. He likes watching some of the interviews and saying some of the crazy outrageous things he used to say," Lonnie Ali said. "Sometimes I think he looks at it and says, 'Is that me? Did I really say those things?'"

Those were the days when Ali still floated like a butterfly and stung like a bee, when he added to his legend by defying the odds to beat George Foreman in Zaire and Joe Frazier in the Philippines.

"Rumble young man, rumble," cornerman Bundini Brown would yell to him.

That young man's face is now distorted by Parkinson's, making him look far older than he is. Now, instead of the "Ali Shuffle" that once dazzled the boxing world, he is reduced to sometimes using a walker, the result of surgery to help correct spinal

stenosis, the narrowing of the spinal canal which causes compression of the nerve roots.

Some days are better than others. Ali reads fan mail every now and then and painstakingly signs autographs with his trembling hand. Sometimes, mostly in the morning before his medication kicks in, the family can understand every word he says.

"We give him enough meds to make his day go well enough, but not enough to make him look absolutely normal," Lonnie Ali said. "He would look better if we did, but we don't want to. We don't want him on too many medications."

His birthday will pass with calls from his nine children and other relatives. Ali's only request to mark the occasion is a trip to one of his favorite magic shops so he can pick up a new trick or two to show visitors.

One of his daughters, Hana, says no one should feel sorry for him.

"People naturally are going to be sad to see the effects of his disease," she said. "But if they could really see him in the calm of his everyday life, they would not be sorry for him. He's at complete peace, and he's here learning a greater lesson."

Whatever Happened To Ruby Bridges?



By: Martin Savidge

Ruby Bridges didn't ask to be an icon of the civil rights movement; others made that happen. She was, after all, just six in 1960 when the NAACP selected her to integrate a New Orleans elementary school.

An angry mob tried to keep her out, but federal marshals got her in.

And Norman Rockwell made the moment famous in a 1964 painting.

Forty-six years later, after Katrina flooded the city, devastated the school and triggered a new round of racial upheaval, Ruby Bridges is back, this time on her own accord -- to save the school.

Even before Katrina, William Frantz Elementary in the Lower Ninth Ward was in danger of closing.

"I used to go to the back to sharpen my pencil, there," says Bridges as she takes us on a tour. "I see this school being filled with kids."

But there's more. Bridges wants to integrate the school again.

"Race is still an issue in our country," she says.

Over time, New Orleans' public schools went from all white to almost entirely black.

Bridges wants to attract all races by making the school the best in the city. And she's started a foundation to help.

"I'm just a visionary, and I look for people who believe in my vision," she says.

In the library, where all of the books suffered water damage, she finds copies of her closing.



own book "Through My Eyes."

She rescues it, just as she one day hopes to rescue the school where she was neither welcomed nor wanted.

Farrakhan To Speak At Detroit's Ford Field

The ailing Minister Louis Farrakhan is scheduled to speak on the theme "One Nation Under God" at Ford Field on Feb. 25 as part of a convention during the Nation of Islam's annual Savior's Day observance.

Farrakhan, 73, recently ceded leadership of the Nation of Islam to an executive board because of ill health. He had surgery in 2000 for prostate cancer and recently underwent another operation.

"God willing it will be his first

public appearance since he stepped back to work on his personal health," said Farrakhan spokesman Akbar Muhammad.

Minister Dawud Muhammad, head of Mosque No. 1 in Detroit, said Farrakhan's health is improving.

"He's getting stronger by the day," Dawud Muhammad told The Detroit News. "He's determined to be in Detroit to deliver this address."



Obama For President Page 1

been struck by how hungry we all are for a different kind of politics."

The 45-year-old has few accomplishments on the national stage after serving little more than two years in the Senate. But at a time when many voters say they are unhappy with the direction of the country, a lack of experience in the nation's capital may not be a liability.

"The decisions that have been made in Washington these past six years, and the problems that have been ignored, have put our country in a precarious place," Obama said.

He said people are struggling financially, dependence on foreign oil threatens the environment and national security and "we're still mired in a tragic and costly war that should have never been waged."

Clinton is expected to announce her presidential campaign within days, but her

spokesman said there would be no comment on Obama's decision from the Clinton camp. Back from Iraq, she abruptly canceled a Capitol Hill news conference minutes after word of Obama's announcement, citing the unavailability of a New York congressman to participate.

Other Democrats who have announced a campaign or exploratory committee are 2004 vice presidential nominee John Edwards, former Iowa Gov. Tom Vilsack, Connecticut Sen. Chris Dodd and Ohio Rep. Dennis Kucinich. Sens. John Kerry of Massachusetts and Joe Biden of Delaware and New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson also are considering a run.

Obama's decision was relatively low-key after months of hype, with no speech or media appearance to accompany his online announcement. He said he will discuss a presidential campaign with people around the country before his Feb. 10 event, and he wasted no time calling key

activists Tuesday.

New Hampshire lobbyist Jim Demers talked with Obama for about five minutes. "He is extremely pumped and excited that this campaign is coming together," said Demers, who accompanied Obama on his visit to the state last month.

Obama's quick rise to national prominence began with his keynote speech at the 2004 Democratic National Convention and his election to the Senate that year. He's written two best-selling autobiographies -- "The Audacity of Hope: Thoughts on Reclaiming the American Dream" and "Dreams from My Father: A Story of Race and Inheritance."

Obama was born in Honolulu, Hawaii, where his parents met while studying at the University of Hawaii. His father was black and from Kenya; his mother, white and from Wichita, Kan.

Obama's parents divorced when he was two and his father returned to Kenya. His mother

later married an Indonesian student and the family moved to Jakarta. Obama returned to Hawaii when he was 10 to live with his maternal grandparents.

He graduated from Columbia University and Harvard Law School, where he was the first African-American elected editor of the Harvard Law Review. Obama settled in Chicago, where he joined a law firm, helped local churches establish job training programs and met his future wife, Michelle

Robinson. They have two daughters, Malia and Sasha.

In 1996, he was elected to the Illinois state Senate, where he earned a reputation as a consensus-building Democrat who was strongly liberal on social and economic issues, backing gay rights, abortion rights, gun control, universal health care and tax breaks for the poor.

The retirement of Republican Sen. Peter Fitzgerald of Illinois in 2004 drew a raft of candidates to the Democratic primary, but

Obama easily outdistanced his competitors. He was virtually assured of victory in the general election when the designated Republican candidate was forced from the race by scandal late in the election.

Obama insisted during the 2004 campaign and through his first year in the Senate that he had no intention of running for president, but by late 2006 his public statements had begun to leave open that possibility.

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"Dreamgirls" Wins Big At The Golden Globes

"Dreamgirls" solidified its Academy Awards prospects Monday with three Golden Globes, including best musical or comedy and acting honors for supporting players Eddie Murphy and Jennifer Hudson.

Murphy, previously a three-time loser in the best-actor category at the Globes, finally won a major Hollywood honor after a 25-year career in which his fast-talking comic persona made him a superstar while critical acceptance eluded him.

"Wow. I'll be damned," said Murphy, who plays a slick soul singer struggling to change with the times and find new relevance as the Motown music scene evolves through the 1960s and '70s.

"People don't come to me with supporting roles," Murphy said backstage. "The reason I responded to this was that it was a great role. I've always been open to it; it just never came to me."

HBO To Turn 'Lackawanna Blues' Into Series

The HBO film "Lackawanna Blues," based on Ruben Santiago-Hudson's autobiographical one-man play, will get another makeover as a weekly series for the premium cable channel.

Sources tell the Hollywood Reporter that HBO will develop a weekly drama based on the film, which follows Santiago-Hudson's life growing up in a vibrant black community during the 1960s. Santiago-Hudson will

Hudson rose to fame barely two years ago on "American Idol" on the strength of her powerhouse voice, which she uses to great effect in "Dreamgirls," a film that also shows her remarkable acting range, from brassy



comedy to heartbreaking pathos as a soaring vocalist in a Supremes-like singing group.

"I had always dreamed but I never ever dreamed this big. This goes far beyond anything I could have ever imagined," said Hudson, who dedicated her award to the late Florence Ballard, one of the singers from the Supremes on whom her "Dreamgirls" character was based.

After a decades-long drought in which musicals were virtually

absent from Hollywood's lineup, "Dreamgirls" is the third song-and-dance flick to click with audiences in the last five years. "Moulin Rouge" scored a best-picture Oscar nomination for 2001, while "Chicago" won best-picture for 2003, a achievement.

As Hollywood's second-biggest film honors, the Globes are something of a dress rehearsal for the Oscars, whose nominations come out Jan. 23. The Oscar ceremony will be on Feb. 25.

The Hollywood Foreign Press Association that presents the Globes has roughly 85 members, while about 5,800 film professionals are eligible to vote for the Oscars.

Yet the group has a strong history of forecasting eventual Academy Awards winners and providing momentum for certain movies and stars as Oscar voters begin to cast their ballots.

Nominations for the Oscars closed Saturday, so the outcome of the Globes cannot affect who gets nominated.

reportedly write the pilot script.

S. Epatha Merkerson, who currently stars in the long-running NBC drama "Law & Order," has not been approached to reprise her role as Nanny, which earned her Emmy, Golden Globe and SAG awards.

Directed by George C. Wolfe, the movie also starred Terrence Howard, Mos Def, Macy Gray.



Kanye West Clarifies HBO Project

Kanye West would like everyone to know that his upcoming series for HBO is not a reality show.

"Trade publications reported last week that the rapper/producer has teamed with 'Gurb Your Enthusiasm' executive producer Larry Charles for an as-yet-untitled project that would focus on a day in what is described as 'his crazy hectic life.' But, it's not a reality show."

"I wouldn't do something as cliché as a reality show," West said in a statement. "At least give me the credit for being more creative than that. ... It's a situational half-hour comedy. It's fictional, and loosely based on my life."

As previously reported, West has been developing the project with Charles and Def Jam co-founder Rick Rubin since 2005.

"Maybe this will give me the opportunity to spazz out at the Emmys one day," West added.



Donald Lawrence Dominates Stellar Awards

Donald Lawrence and the Tri-City Singers were honored a



leading eight times Saturday night during the Stellar Awards, which pays tribute annually to artists within the black gospel genre.

The group won artist of the year, while their albums — "Finale: Act One" and "Finale: Act Two" — said to be their last albums before parting ways — also picked up awards during the ceremony at Nashville's historic Grand Ole Opry House.

Natalie Cole presented gospel favorites The Clark Sisters with the Chevrolet most notable achievement award, while veteran

singer Myron Butler received best new artist for his run with the group Levi. Butler also received the male vocalist of the year award, and Dorinda Clark-Cole won for female vocalist. Isaiah D. Thomas won song of the year for "I Will Bless The Lord." CeCe Winans' "Purified" album picked up an award for contemporary female vocalist.

R&B star Patti LaBelle received a standing ovation before performing a cut from her new album, "The Gospel According to Patti LaBelle."

Omarion Celebrates 2007 With the Year's First #1 Album

The chart-topping R&B superstar Omarion is ringing in 2007 with the year's first #1 album, 21. The performer's second solo album (and first on Columbia Records) is entering the Billboard Top 200 best-selling albums chart at #1, with release-to-date sales of 120,463, according to SoundScan. 21 also debuts at #1 this week on Billboard's Top R&B/Hip-Hop Albums chart.

With 21, Omarion's second solo album, entering both the Top 200 and the R&B sales charts at #1 simultaneously, the contemporary R&B powerhouse becomes one of a select group of artists to have achieved back-to-back #1 debuts on both charts

with two consecutive albums.

When his debut album, O, debuted at #1 on both charts in



February 2005, Omarion (who'd risen to stardom while still in his teens as a frontman for the

groundbreaking urban "boy band" B2K) became recognized as an important new voice in contemporary R&B and hip-hop. The music on 21 was created by Omarion to celebrate, and reflect on, turning 21 late last year.

Born and raised in Inglewood, California, Omarion rose to fame while still a teen as a member of the groundbreaking urban "boy band" B2K. His soulful vocals, riveting stage presence, and undeniable charisma helped B2K score a hit with the group's very first single, "Uh Huh," in 2001; achieve gold status with the group's self-titled debut album in 2002; and go RIAA platinum with the group's best-selling sophomore outing, Pandemonium! in 2003.

WILL.I.AM, T.I., Mary J. Blige Earn Multiple Grammy Nod's

Will.i.am, Busta Rhymes, T.I., Gnarls Barkley, Missy Elliott, Eminem, Lupe Fiasco and others are up for awards during the 49th Annual Grammy Awards, which take place Feb. 11 at the Staples Center in Los Angeles.

The nominations for the Grammy Awards were announced today (Dec. 7) at The Music Box @ Fonda in Hollywood, with celebrities as Chris Brown, Ludacris, James Blunt, Evanescence's Amy Lee and Mary J. Blige in attendance.

Blige's album The Breakthrough led all nominees with eight nods including Best Female R&B Vocal Performance, Best R&B Album, Song Of The Year and others.

The Red Hot Chili Peppers earned six, while James Blunt, the Dixie Chicks, John Mayer, Danger Mouse, Prince, Rick Rubin, will.i.am and John Williams were each nominated a

total of five times.

T.I., Beyoncé, Gnarls Barkley and Justin Timberlake each



earned a respectable four nominations.

"These nominations truly reflect a diverse and vibrant community of music makers and creators who represent some of the most remarkable music of

the year," said Neil Portnow, President of The Recording Academy. "Once again, the Grammy Awards process has delivered a well-rounded group of excellent nominees, which promises music lovers a spectacular show filled with dynamic performances and 'Grammy Moments' that can only be seen on the Grammy Awards telecast."

Gnarls Barkley's album St. Elsewhere will compete for the coveted Album Of The Year Award against The Dixie Chicks (Taking The Long Way), John Mayer (Continuum) the Red Hot Chili Peppers (Stadium Arcadium) and Justin Timberlake (FutureSex/LoveSounds).

The 49th Annual Grammy Awards will be broadcast live from the Staples Center on February 11 from 8 – 11:30 p.m. on CBS.

Bravo Signs Up Paula Abdul For Docu-Series

Bravo has committed to a TV series about the life of "American Idol" judge Paula Abdul. "Hey Paula," set to debut sometime later this year, will follow Abdul, 44, as she films a new season of "Idol," works on "Batz: The Movie" and develops her own perfume and cosmetics line.

"It fits the Bravo mandate to show what's going on in the culture of the moment," said Bravo president Lauren Zalaznick.

Besides showing the frenzy of life in Hollywood, "Hey Paula" will offer "an intimate glimpse at the real woman behind the headlines,"

Zalaznick said.

Bravo hasn't decided whether that will include mention of Corey Clark, the 2003 "American Idol" contestant who accused Abdul of coaching him and initiating an affair. Fox cleared Abdul of any wrongdoing. "What we want it to be is the current Paula," Zalaznick said. "We're not a biographical or historical channel."

The pop culture network has hits with "Project Runway" and "Top Chef," and announced today (Jan. 12) that the upcoming fifth season of "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy" will be its last. It previously aired a similar docu-series with comic Kathy Griffin, who mocks her life on the D-List."



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Dallas-Fort Worth Association Of Black Journalists Accepting Applications For Urban Journalism Workshop

The Dallas-Fort Worth Association of Black Journalists (formerly the Dallas-Fort Worth Association of Black Communicators) will present its 17th annual Urban Journalism Workshop for high school and college students at Lincoln Humanities and Communications Magnet, 2826 Hatcher Street, Beginning in February 2007.

This 12-week workshop is open to students in Dallas, Tarrant, Ellis, Collin and Denton counties. Students receive hands-on experience working with seasoned profes-

sionals who have gained a reputation locally and nationally, as well as internationally.

The program, which emulates one started by George Curry, Gerald Boyd and other members of the Greater St. Louis Association of Black Journalists in St. Louis, has graduated students who have gone on to anchor newscasts, edit newspapers, open public relations firms and produce radio shows.

Mr. Curry visits the Dallas workshop students annually to conduct his "basic training." Last month he talked about the workshop at a memorial service held



Dallas Weekly Executive Editor and KKDA radio personality Cheryl Smith for Mr. Boyd, who died of lung cancer.

He encouraged journalists to keep the workshops going because so many professionals today got their start sitting in a classroom at an urban journalism workshop.

"We're excited about continuing the tradition that was started almost 30 years ago," said Eva Coleman, one of the instructors for the program. "I am looking forward to working with students this year."

Ms. Coleman, who teaches radio and television at Frisco High School and is also employed at KRLL radio, will be overseeing the radio and television segments

of the workshop, pulling together experts in the field.

Returning to the directorship of the 2007 program is long-time director, Cheryl Smith.

Ms. Smith, who has been with the program since its inception, took over the directorship in the mid 90s and continued through 2004.

At the conclusion of the workshop, the students will participate in a closing ceremony where they will present a newspaper, televi-

sion and radio broadcasts, a website and a special project.

For more information about the workshop, contact Ms. Smith at 214-428-8958.

Applications must be turned in by January 20, 2007.

Mail completed applications to:

Cheryl Smith
The Dallas Weekly
3101 Martin Luther
King Blvd.
Dallas, TX 75216

Denton Organizations Host Visual Arts Contest As Part Of Sesquicentennial Celebration

The City of Denton celebrates its 150th (sesquicentennial) birthday in January 2007. Many festivities are planned this month to help celebrate this auspicious milestone. One of these activities is a visual art contest for Denton ISD grades K-12 students that celebrates diversity in Denton. The event art contest was organized by: Denton's League of United

Latin American Citizens (LULAC), Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Black Chamber of Commerce, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Greater Denton Arts Council (GDAC), Visual Art Society of Texas (VAST), and Wells Fargo Bank.

Denton has a long and rich history reflecting the diversity of

people who have called Denton home. Denton ISD students have been asked to try to capture that diversity through submission of artwork that will be judged by artists from the University of North Texas, Texas Woman's University, and the Visual Art Society of Texas.

The artwork will be judged under three categories: elementary, middle and high school

grades. A "Best in Show," 1st Place, 2nd Place and 3rd Place winner will be selected for each category. The winning entries will receive a US Savings Bonds and Visa Debit Credit Card from Wells Fargo Bank.

The winning entries will be presented to the community at a reception on Thursday, January 18, 5-7pm, Denton Civic Center (321 E. McKinney).

Plano Citizens Academy Page 1

Planning & Zoning, GIS, Engineering, Transportation, Property Standards, Building Inspections, Police, Fire & Public Safety Communications; Public Works, Customer/Utility Billing; Parks & Recreation, Environmental Health, Public Information; Human Resources, Libraries, Information Services; Legal, Municipal Court.

A Graduation Ceremony and Reception celebrates the 10th and final session.

The Academy's focus on the mechanics and services of Plano's municipal government operations, uniformly meets with applause and high marks from graduates, for its openness and wealth of information sharing.

Former graduate Bill Sith,

spokesman for the June 2005 graduating class praised the Academy. "The people who came in to talk to you were the people who could answer you on the spot or get the answers for you. I can see why Plano has grown the way it has. We have the ability to attract and retain business. We have one of the safest cities in the nation. We learned about mosquito control, Parks and Recreation services, how the libraries are laid out - studied our fuel efficient vehicle fleet and learned why we never see any meter readers - because we use an automated reader system."

The Academy, which was the brainchild of the Plano City Council, serves to involve citizens in understanding the inner mechanics of the municipal organization through meetings

with Department Heads and on-site tours of various City Departments.

Participants are invited to become active partners in municipal government by considering service on the City's task forces, Boards and Commissions and volunteer programs.

For more information about the class, contact Ms. Kimberly Simmons, Plano Public Information Department, 972-941-7307.

An Academy application and brochure may be obtained by visiting http://pdf.plano.gov/outreach/pca_brochure.pdf

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AA / EOE / ADA

Plano Fire Station Page 1

used experience and "hands on" knowledge of what is needed to make a station the most efficient and functional. The result is stunning.

The facility can house up to nine firefighters and provides equipment such as an enhanced kitchen facility and heavy duty washing machines. Dorm rooms maximize space and are both efficient and pleasantly arranged.

The Station is located at 4800 Los Rios Drive and local residents are always welcome

for a walk through and to meet the fire team.

Plans are on the drawing board for the execution of at least two more fire facilities in Plano, including an enhanced emergency operations center. The Plano Fire Department mission is to "protect and enhance the quality of life in Plano through a comprehensive program of services directed toward public education, prevention, and control in the areas of fire rescue, medical emergencies, hazardous materials incidents and disasters."

Black Hockey Players Page 1

will benefit the African American Museum of Dallas. The Fairmont Hotel is located at 1717 N. Akard Street, Dallas TX, 75201.

In conjunction with this event, the NHL and the Hockey Hall of Fame will create an exhibit at the African American Museum of Dallas to run throughout the week of the 2007 NHL All-Star Celebration. Highlights from this exhibit will include Willie O'Ree's stick from his 1960-61 season with the Boston Bruins, Reggie Savage's jersey from his 1992-93 season with the Washington Capitals and Grant Fuhr's mask from his 1993-95 seasons with the Buffalo Sabres.

The African American Museum is the only museum in the Southwestern United States devoted to the preservation and display of African American artistic, cultural and historical materials. It is located in historic Fair Park in Dallas, situated at the Grand Avenue entrance in the main axis of the park.

"We are thrilled to be a part of the 2007 NHL All-Star

activities and help promote the great history of African Americans in hockey. We also look forward to the outstanding NHL Exhibit that will be on display at our Museum for all fans to see," said Dr. Harry Robinson Jr. President and CEO of the African American Museum of Dallas.

The 2007 NHL All-Star Celebration, hosted by the American Airlines Center in Dallas, will feature live national broadcasts of the Dodge Nitro/NHL SuperSkills event on Tuesday, Jan. 23, and the NHL All-Star Game on Wednesday, Jan. 24 on VERSUS in the United States and CBC and RDS in Canada starting at 8 p.m., ET. NASN, the NHL's exclusive broadcast partner in Europe, will provide live coverage of the Dodge Nitro/NHL SuperSkills event and the NHL All-Star Game to more than 25 countries and territories in Europe. NHL RADIO on Westwood One will provide exclusive, national radio coverage in the United States and Canada, while Sirius Satellite Radio and XM Satellite Radio each will provide radio play-by-play coverage of the game.

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- Order station promotional merchandise
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- Writing and servicing station press releases
- Establishing station presence at key local events.
- Develop revenue-generating promotions in conjunction with Sales and Programming departments
- Coordinate and facilitate all station events
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NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS OF PROPOSED TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (TxDOT) CONTRACTS

Sealed proposals for contracts listed below will be received by TxDOT until the date(s) shown below, and then publicly read:

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Dist/Div: Dallas
Contract 0261-02-064 for SPOT BASE REPAIR, LEVEL-UP AND OVERLAY IN DALLAS County will be opened on February 08, 2007 at 1:00 pm at the State Office. Contract 0261-03-057 for REHAB VEHICLE DETECTION SYSTEM IN DALLAS County will be opened on February 09, 2007 at 1:00 pm at the State Office.

Plans and specifications are available for inspection, along with bidding proposals, and applications for the TxDOT Prequalified Contractor's list, at the applicable State and/or Dist/Div Offices listed below. If applicable, bidders must submit prequalification information to TxDOT at least 10 days prior to the bid date to be eligible to bid on a project. Prequalification materials may be requested from the State Office listed below. Plans for the above contract(s) are available from TxDOT's website at www.dot.state.tx.us and from reproduction companies at the expense of the contractor.

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Sister Tarpley

Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God. (Matthew 5:9).

After listening to some children hollering and screaming at each other while talking on the phone, I wondered why the guardian didn't stop them. While listening to a young lady describe her employer's conduct on her "first and last day" of employment on that job, I wondered why an employer would speak to a first day employee in that manner. After all, a peaceable individual speaking in a calm voice initiates good will and actively promotes peace within a home or a place of business.

Individuals learn by watching the actions of others; some are lead to think that to get along with people and to succeed in this world, one must be intimidating, abusive, aggressive, mean-spirited and even violent; hence all the current abusive behavior and death of children in homes, at the daycare and at school. There are abuses and deaths of individuals in business offices, on the street, in stores, etc. It is wise to do unto others as you would have them do unto you. Will you do aggression for aggression? Or is it practical to be peaceable?

Why it's practical to be peaceable: To be peaceable means having a, 1) Calmness of Heart: "A sound heart is the life of the flesh." Proverbs 14:30(a) "Wisdom rests in the heart of him that

It's Practical To Be Peaceable

hath understanding. . . Proverbs 14:33(a). Many medical reports indicate that anger and hostility can become triggers for strokes and heart attacks. One journal, speaking of people with heart disease, compared explosive anger to poison. It stated that, "Getting really mad can mean getting really sick." Violence, anger, and frustration can cause sleep problems, stress, stomach and nervous conditions which can affect one's



Picture of The Week
Attorney E. Leon Carter and Mrs. Juanita Rainwater both received awards at Christ Community Connection's MLK Program

health. On the other hand, those who pursue peace can develop "a calm heart" and reap benefits.

Learning GOD'S purpose for a peaceful world and developing a new personality can do wonders for cultivating a calm heart. HIS Word and many individuals can tell you from personal experience that developing a peaceable spirit can improve your emotional, physical and spiritual health. (Ephesians 4:22-24; Isaiah 65:17; Micah 4:1-4, and Proverbs 15:1)

2) **Happier Relationships:** Your relationship with others will benefit when you display a peace-

able spirit. "Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor (scream), and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you." (Ephesians 4:31 & 32) Those who display an aggressive, mean-spirited behavior and abusive speech often drive others away and find themselves alone, without dependable friends, family, co-workers and employees. When a person is engaged he/she stirs up contention, but one that is slow to anger quiets down quarreling.

3) **Hope for the Future:** A peaceable spirit shows honor and respect for mankind; and for the expressed Will of GOD. "Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it." (Psalm 34:14).

When we acknowledge GOD and learn to obey HIS life-giving teachings, this opens the door to a personal friendship with HIM and with mankind. With a strong relationship with GOD, we gain "the Peace of GOD" which is an excellent peace regardless of the challenges that life may bring.

It's practical to be peaceable, and then we can experience a "calm heart", a "meaningful relationship" and a "solid hope for the future". These blessings can be yours when you do your best to "be peaceable with all men."

Email: religion@monthegazette.com
Office: 972-516-4191
Voice Mail: 972-606-3878
Fax: 972-516-4197

Let MON-The Gazette help your church accomplish the Prayer of Habakkuk, "Enlarge our territory to expand opportunities that may impact in such a way that we touch more lives for God's glory. Let us do more for Him."

McKinney Relay For Life Page 1
our site plan for the 2007 McKinney Relay at the Ballfields at Craig Ranch," said Sharon Laird, Co-Chair of McKinney Relay For Life 2007. "This new location will allow us to accommodate more teams than ever before and will provide an incredible

ambiance for McKinney's Relay."

McKinney Relay For Life will be held April 27, 2007 at Craig Ranch. In its 6th year, more than 3,000 people have participated in McKinney Relay For Life each year, and the event has raised more than \$1,000,000 in the fight against cancer.

Anyone who is interested in registering a team but cannot attend the kick-off should contact Julie Blankenship at 469-742-4151 or jblankenship@mckinneyrelay.net.

For more information on how to participate in or contribute to McKinney Relay For Life, visit www.mckinneyrfl.com.

COALITION OF CHURCHES IN PRISON MINISTRY

On-Going Mentor Program
Trinity Lee Baptist Church, 3907 Bertrand Avenue, Dallas, TX 75210, 214-421-9435, Rev. Donald Parish, Pastor, is working with a mentor program for children of parents that are incarcerated. Come or call to find out how to get involved.

For more information, donations, and volunteering, please call Carolyn Johnson @ 972-235-6432.

Coalition of Churches In Prison Ministry
Rev. Isaac Johnson, Coordinator
P.O. Box 225863
Dallas, TX 75222-5863
972-235-6432 or 214-632-6519

FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH OF ALLEN
Started January 7, 2007
God has increased our membership and enlarged our territory; and because of this, along with our friends and visitors, we now have new worship hours, from 8:15 - 9:30 am, and from 11 am - 1 pm. Sunday School changed to 9:45 am - 10:45 am. We invite you to join us in our praise and worship service.

January 26, 2007 @ 7 pm
Women Justified By Faith presents, "Holy Women of God" at our 3rd Annual Women's Conference. Our first guest speaker will be Rev. Marilyn Price, Pastor of God's Refuge Church in Dallas.

January 27, 2007 from 9 am to 1 pm
You will be pleased and spiritually fed as we honor GOD with a Praise Dance by Sister Brittany Thomas from Little Bethel Baptist Church. Rev. Lisa Autry, Co-Founder of Eirene Christian Fellowship in Richardson, TX, will speak on, "A Woman Transformed: The Woman at the Well." Minister Veronica Perry, Co-Pastor of True Image Ministry in Dallas, TX, will speak on, "Women Working and Worshiping: Mary and Martha." Our own First Lady Tasha Stafford, will speak on, "A Woman of Courage: Queen Esther."

January 28, 2007 @ 11 am
Our guest speaker for the conclusion of our conference will be Minister Cheryl Coleman, Pastor of St. Paul AME Church in Harrington, Delaware. Don't miss this Spirit-Filled Conference!

February 17, 2007 @ 5 pm
You don't want to miss our First Annual Collin County Gospel Explosion @ the Allen Civic Center Auditorium, 300 N. Allen Drive, Allen, TX 75013. Tickets are only \$15 per person and will feature FBCCA Sanctuary Choir with special guests: Charles Luster, Mashondy Payne, Pastor Niya Adams, and Elder Daniel Davis.

For more information contact Sis. Gray @ 214-495-0544 or Sis. Beachum @ 972-809-3533.

Fellowship Baptist Church of Allen
Rev. W. L. Stafford, Sr., M. Div.
Senior Pastor
200 Belmont Drive
Allen, TX 75013
972-359-9956

FELLOWSHIP OF BELIEVERS MINISTRIES, INC. (FEOBCC)

January 28, 2007 @ 3:30 pm
You are invited to our "50 Men in Black & Red" @ Community Outreach Church, 526 Compton Road, Irving, TX 75061, Pastor L. Tarpley, Overseer. Theme: "Men After God's Own Heart." Theme Speaker, Minister Earnest Hale, Duncanville First Baptist Church; Guest Speaker, Elder James McGary, Greater El-Bethel COGIC, Garland, TX. Please RSVP on or before January 22, 2007. God's Leading Ladies are welcome!

For more information call Sis. Joel Anderson @ 214-723-4828.

Fellowship of Believers Ministries
Bishop Gregory Crawford
Founder and Senior Pastor
501 Wynnewood Village, #423
Dallas, TX 75224
214-372-3624

FRIENDSHIP-WEST BAPTIST CHURCH

January 19, 2007 @ 7 pm
Start the New Year off with a Blessed event, come and celebrate with us. Something Out of the Ordinary (SOTO) will present The Legends of Gospel Tour, "The Legacies of Dr. Martin Luther and Mrs. Coretta Scott King." Tickets are \$25 in advance and VIP tickets (includes reserved seating and dinner with the Artists) are only \$65. A portion of the proceeds from the VIP tickets will be donated to the MLK Center. Featured guest includes: Doc McKenzie & The H-Lites; Lee Williams & The Spiritual QCs; Keith "Wonder Boy" Johnson & The Spiritual Voices; and Slim & The Supreme Angels.

For more information, call 972-228-7233.

Friendship-West Baptist Church
Dr. Frederick Haynes, III

Senior Pastor
2020 West Wheatland Road
Dallas, TX 75232
972-228-5200

GOD HAS A PLAN (G.H.A.P.)

January 27, 2007 from 9 am to 4 pm
We will host a Small Business Grant Writing Seminar @ Ryan's Grill, Buffet and Bakery, 909 Tripp Road at Hwy 80E & Galloway, Mesquite, TX. It is open to individuals, organizations and churches; we will cover all aspects of starting a small business. The seminar will be taught by Annette Evans Smith, Eric Edison, and Edward Smith.

You MUST register by January 21, 2007; lunch is FREE with a \$65 registration fee. For more info, please call 214-497-4260.

G.H.A.P.
Edward & Annette Smith, CEO
P.O. Box 850691
Mesquite, TX 75149
214-497-4260

PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVERS FOR COMMUNITY EXCELLENCE (PACE)

February 11, 2007 @ 4 pm
We are sponsoring an African American Read-In. Bring the family to the Carrollton Library @ Josey Lane Ranch to hear selections being read by African American Authors; experience great stories and story tellers. Refreshments will be served. For more information contact Roxanne Foster @ 972-416-8148.

PACE
Patricia Hempstead, President
P.O. Box 112721
Carrollton, TX 75011-2721
972-236-1337

WESTSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH, LEWISVILLE

This Saturday
January 20, 2007, 9 am to 3 pm
Our Marriage Ministry will host the 2007 Blended Family Conference. The theme is "God Breathes on Blended Families." Registration is \$23.50 per person or \$30 per couple; and includes lunch, a book, and a workbook. Please contact Minister Vincent Williams @ 469-384-4610 for more information.

Westside Baptist Church
Rev. Kenneth Blake, Pastor
802 Bellaire Blvd.
Lewisville, TX 75067
972-221-5668

Church Directory

Temple of Faith Christian Chapel C.M.E. Church

"Where Jesus is the Main Attraction"

Sunday Worship Experience - 8:00 am & 10:45 am
Wednesday Bible Study - 12:00 Noon & 7:00 pm

14120 Noel Road • Dallas, TX 75254
972-239-1120 (Office) • 972-239-5925 (Fax)
templeoffaith_cmc@sbcglobal.net (Email)

Healthy Beginnings Child Development Center - 972-404-1412

FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH OF ALLEN

Pastor W.L. Stafford Sr., M.Div.
"A Ministry that is on the Move for Christ"

Early Sunday Morning Worship 8:15 am
Sunday School 9:45 am
Sunday Morning Worship/Children's Church 11:00 am
Wednesday Prayer/Bible Study 7:00 pm
2nd & 4th Monday "Faith for Christ" 7:00 pm

Come experience the Worship Atmosphere at Fellowship, you will never be the same.

200 Belmont Drive • Allen, Texas • 75013
Phone 972-359-9956 • www.fbcofallen.org
"If you need a ride to worship with us, please call the church."

NORTH DALLAS COMMUNITY BIBLE FELLOWSHIP

"A Spiritual Oasis for a Thriving World" Isaiah 55:1

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES:
8:00 AM • 9:30 AM • 11:30 AM

972-437-3493

Dr. Leslie W Smith, Senior Pastor
1010-1020 South Sherman Street • Richardson, TX 75081
www.ndcbf.org

New Mt. Zion Baptist Church of Dallas

Sunday Service
Morning Worship
7:30 am & 10:30 am
9:00 am Sunday School

Wednesday Service
Prayer Meeting 7:00 pm
Brotherhood 7:00 pm
Missions 7:00 pm
Singles Group 7:00 pm
Bible Study 7:45 pm

Dr. Robert E. Price, Senior Pastor

A Praying Church Family
"Watchmen on the Walls"

214-341-6459 (Phone) • 214-342-8403 (Fax)
9550 Shepard Road
Dallas, TX 75243

www.nmzb.org (Website) • newmzb@aol.com (Email)

Faithway Fellowship Baptist Church
Of Hamilton Park

8219 Bunche Dr. Dallas, TX 75243
Church Office: (972) 792-0239
Pastor's Office: (972) 792-0240

Service Times
Sunday School 9:45AM
Morning Worship 11:00AM
Wednesday Bible Study 7:00PM

PEOPLE OF FAITH WITH A MIND TO WORK

St. Luke A.M.E. Church (aka - SLAME)

"Where we slay dem devils and serve up Jesus"

521 W. Avenue E Garland, TX 75040 972.487.9703
Email: slamechurch@aol.com

Sunday
8:45 a.m. Church School
9:45 a.m. Praise & Worship
10:15 a.m. Worship Experience

Tuesday
7:15 p.m. Bible Study

Wednesday
6:30 p.m. Prayer Service
7:00 p.m. Church School

Thursday
7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Reverend Charles E. Franklin, Pastor

Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church
920 E. 14th Street Plano, TX

Pastor Isiah Joshua, Jr.

FANNING THE FLAMES OF OUR FAITH

Sunday Worship Services 8AM & 11AM

Sunday 9:45AM Sunday School
Monday 7PM Youth, Brotherhood, Mission & Young Adult Ministries
Tuesday 7PM Bible Study & Men's Choir
Wednesday 7PM Mid-Week Service
Thursday 7PM Mass Choir

For more information call (972) 423-6695
www.shilohbaptistchurch.org

Mt. Olive Church of Plano
740 Avenue F Plano, TX 75074 972-633-5511
WWW.MOCOR.ORG

Serving the Plano Community for 13 Years

Sunday Worship
10:00 am

Wednesday Night
7:15 pm

Pastors Sam & Gloria Fennery

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Radio Broadcast: KWRD 100.7 FM Sundays 9pm - 10pm
HEAR PASTOR SAM DAILY ON: "TRUTH MADE SIMPLE"
KGGR 1040 AM MONDAY - FRIDAY @ 5:25pm - 5:30pm

Saint Mark Missionary Baptist Church

1308 Wilcox Street, McKinney TX
Pastor Charles S. Wattley

Sunday
Education Ministries... 9:30 a.m.
Worship Celebration... 11:00 a.m.
- Nursery Facilities Available -

Wednesday
Family Ministries... 7:00 p.m.

Friendly Fellowship with A Family Focus
For More Information Call 972.542.6178
www.saintmarkbc.com • stmarkmissionary@aol.com

The Dallas Black Dance Theatre and Saxophonist Tom Braxton Set to Perform at the McKinney Performing Arts Center - February 25 2007

St. James C.M.E. Church in McKinney presents An Alluring & Enchanting Evening Through Soul-Stirring Movements. Scenes. Sophisticated Moves.

What better way to culmi-



Actress Naïma Imani Lett

nate Black History Month than with a breath-taking evening of fine arts. The McKinney Performing Arts Center will never be the same! During this one-evening event featuring an intriguing performance of the Dallas Black Dance Theatre Company, you'll understand the depth of their dance as they celebrate 30 years of existence.

You'll also experience the smooth saxophone sounds of accomplished jazz musician Tom Braxton, the Holy Spirit-inspired artwork of Artist Ted Ellis and the dramatic voice of Actress Naïma Imani Lett. Mr. Braxton and Mr. Ellis will make their music and artwork available for sale during the evening. In her 113th year, St. James is going back to her roots - community. St. James is the small church located on the corner of Watt and Hwy 5 - a small church with a big heart! For over a century, many of McKinney's finest have served within those doors - Educators like Leonard Evans, Reuben Johnson and Jesse McGowan; Business owners like Allie C. and Alene Johnson; Civil servants like Sandy Smiley and Larry Jagouers.

Continuing in the spirit of community, we continue to give back. As a Christian faith-based entity, St. James desires to create an atmosphere to share in the cultural experience of observing Black History Month, to raise funds for local nonprofits, and to reach out to the local community in obedience to her faith.

Sponsorship levels will include the opportunity to donate a pre-determined number of FREE tickets to local youth in the community for this spectacular event.

This extravaganza will be held on Sunday, February 25, 2007 at 4pm. Tickets are available through the McKinney Performing Arts Center at www.mckinneyperformingarts-center.org or 214-544-4630. Please contact Beth Bentley at



Saxophonist Tom Braxton

214.498.3540 to learn more about sponsorship opportunities or to receive additional event information.

Another Generation Awakens To The Dream

As '60s-era preachers leave the pulpit, younger people keep message alive

The last of the black preachers who came up in the era of Martin Luther King Jr. are nearing retirement, giving way to a generation who learned about the civil rights movement instead of living through it.

It's a transition that carries both challenges and opportunities for pastors and churches committed to continuing the social justice work of the previous generation.

"If you have an institution that is constituted around a dynamic, charismatic personality, can it continue to exist when that person steps down?" asked Melissa Harris-Lacewell, associate professor of politics and African-American studies at Princeton University.

For the Rev. Thomas Johnson Jr., preaching a social justice gospel is still viable and necessary - even without King and his compatriots.

"God is always raising up a voice or voices to speak to the needs of the present day," said Johnson, installed less than a

year ago at Harlem's Canaan Baptist Church of Christ. What's important, he said, is to follow the example that King and others set of working for justice.

Among Johnson's prized possessions are photographs that show King and his predecessor, the Rev. Wyatt T. Walker, being held in the jail cell in Birmingham, Ala., where King wrote his civil rights clarion call.

The new generation definitely has its work cut out in terms of reaching people who may be paying more attention to today's prosperity gospel, which focuses more on personal health and well-being.

"I think there's an enormous social-justice, gospel-education agenda that faces this generation that succeeds some of the towering figures in the black pulpit," said Robert Franklin, professor of social ethics at Emory University.

Lions of the movement step down

Along with Walker, a number of well-known pastors - many

with ties to King - have either retired recently or announced plans to do so.

The Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth, one of the founders of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, stepped down from the pulpit at the Greater New Light Baptist Church in

down from Trinity United Church of Christ in Chicago in 2008.

"I think one of the mistakes that we make is to institutionalize a person rather than institutionalize a movement. Guys like me moving on, passing the torch to a new generation of young folk is good. That's positive," Gray said.

"In each generation people come and they affirm their commitment," Shuttlesworth said.

A new generation of leadership could also provide an opportunity, a way to make struggle for civil rights more relevant and not something that ended decades ago, said Harris-Lacewell.

"I think it's potentially really healthy for us to move away from imagining that the social gospel theologically or the civil rights movement politically started with or ended with Martin Luther King," she said.

"It might actually be good to move into a new generation that has to make claims and arguments for civil rights that are not rooted in a movement that's 40 years old."



Rev. Otis Moss gestures as he speaks during a service at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, to mark the 78th birthday of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

Cincinnati last year. The Rev. James A. Forbes Jr., the first black senior minister at New York's Riverside Church, will retire in June.

Rev. William H. Gray III, the third generation of his family to lead Bright Hope Baptist Church in Philadelphia, will step down next month. And the Rev. Jeremiah A. Wright Jr. has announced he will step

Project Alpha: North Dallas Youths Get A Great Start

Local program to prepare African American teens for adulthood, February 3, 2007

Dallas, January 14, 2007-The March of Dimes and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. will hold Project Alpha on Saturday, February 3, 2007 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Hamilton Park United Methodist Church (11881 Schroeder Road, Dallas, Texas). The free daylong program is a male-focused, teen pregnancy conference that targets 12 to 15 year old boys, but it is open to young men up to 18 years of age, also. Breakfast and lunch will be provided by the United Methodist Men of Hamilton Park United Methodist Church. For more information and to pre-register and receive consent forms call 972-230-6473 or email us at project.alpha@sbcglobal.net. Both forms must be brought to the conference.

The program emphasizes the social, economic, and personal consequences that come with fathering a child. Project Alpha creates a safe environment where young men can learn and explore important life issues. Through education, Project Alpha encourages young men to make healthy decisions and prepares them to be responsible, successful adults.

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. and the March of Dimes

Birth Defects Foundation began collaboratively implementing



Project Alpha in 1980. Designed to provide young men with current and accurate information

about teen pregnancy prevention, Project Alpha consists of a series of workshops and informational sessions conducted by local health officials.

About Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

Alpha Phi Alpha, the first intercollegiate Greek-letter fraternity established for African-Americans, was founded in 1906 at Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y. by seven college men who recognized the need for a strong bond of brotherhood among African descendants in this country. To learn more about Alpha Phi Alpha, visit the fraternity's web site at www.apa1906.net.

Hill Chapel
Christian Methodist Episcopal Church
1113 Ave. I, Plano, TX 75074 (972) 423-4090
Rev. Clarence J. Ford, Jr., Pastor

Sunday School:	9:30 A.M.
Sunday Worship Service:	11:00 A.M.
Wednesday Night Community Bible Class:	7:30 P.M.

Ebenezer Baptist Church
201 E. Greenville Blvd.
Birmingham, AL 35201
www.ebenezer.org
Ph 972 991 0300

Pastor: Reverend Rufus

The Inspiring Body of Christ Church
7710 S. Westmoreland Rd.
Dallas Texas 75237
Phone: 972-572-4262 Fax: 972-709-3888

Sunday Services: 7:30 am, 10:00 am, 12:30pm
Monday School: 7pm
Men's Fellowship: Friday 7:00pm
Website: www.ibccjoy.org

Ben Washington Baptist Church, Inc.
3901 Frisco Avenue
Irving, TX 75061
Church 972-790-8421 Fax 972-986-6590

Email: church@bwhc.org
Web: bwhc.org

"THE CHURCH WITH AN OPEN REAR"

Sunday Worship Services	Wednesday
8:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.	12:00 p.m. Bible Study
9:45 a.m. Sunday School	7:00 p.m. Prayer Hour
6:00 p.m. Baptism Training Union	7:30 p.m. Bible Study

Friendship Baptist Church
Dr. C. Paul McBride, Pastor

Schedule of Services:

Sunday
Early Morning Worship 8:00 a.m.
Sunday School Classes 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
Evening Worship (1st Sunday) 6:00 p.m.

Tuesday
Early Bird Bible Study 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday
Morning Bible Study 9:30 a.m.
Prayer Meeting and Evening Bible Study 7:30 p.m.

4396 Main Street
The Colony, Texas 75056
(972) 625-8186
website: www.fbc-online.net
"The Church with a Vision"

Macedonia Ministries
702 S. Mill Street • Lewisville, TX 75057
972-436-2011

"We Choose Love to Nourish and Cherish One Another"
John 13:34 & Ephesians 5:28-29
www.macedoniainministries.com

Saturday: Intercessory Prayer @ 7:00 am
Sunday Services: Sunday School @ 9:30 am • Morning Worship @ 11:00 am
Monday Service: Men's Group & Women's Group Bible Study @ 6:30 pm
Wednesday Service: Family Bible Study @ 6:30 pm

New Life Fellowship Church of Rowlett
Bishop Miller E. Johnson, Senior Pastor
New Worship Home
7401 Miller Road • Rowlett, TX 75088
972-463-4964

A Place of New Beginnings... I Corinthians 5:17

Sunday Life Bible School 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Life Celebration Worship Service 10:45 a.m.
First Sunday: Ingredients for Life 4:00 p.m.
Wednesdays: Life In The Word Prayer and Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

Restland

**If You Do Only One Thing for Your Family This Month . . .
. . . Make Sure They are Protected in case of an Emergency.**

To help you take care of this important responsibility, we are offering a FREE Simplicity Planner preplanning guide.
Call 972-238-7111 today!
(Don't wait until it's too late to make your final wishes known)

Schools are starting; students are college-bound, and people are joining the workforce. We wish you good health and prosperity. Now do "The Simplicity Plan" for family security and peace of mind.