



**NAACP
Garland
Political Forum**

Page 2



**Bill Clinton,
Others Honor
Church Of God
In Christ Chief**

Page 10



**Macy Gray
Returns With
New Album**

Page 7



The Gazette

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**People In
The News**



Dallas on April 15.

Former United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan, one of the most respected international leaders of our time - is the next Brilliant Lecture Series speaker as part of the organization's "Conversations With Brilliance" series. Annan, winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, who left office in January following 10 years in the UN's top post, will share his experiences and perspectives in a unique and interactive format in Dallas on April 15.

Annan, who was the first black African to serve as secretary-general, is considered immensely popular worldwide and his humanitarian programs, garnered acclaim and support around the world. As head of the United Nations, he strived to restore public confidence in the organization by, in his words, "bringing the United Nations closer to the people".

The Brilliant Lecture Series - Conversations With Brilliance is a forum for ideas and perspectives, particularly for the leaders of tomorrow - the young people within our communities. Secretary-General Annan offers a unique point of view based on a decade as the head of our international governing body.

Tickets are available through Ticketmaster 214-965-1116 or www.ticketmaster.com.

Economist and author Julianne Malveaux was named the new president of Bennett College on Monday, taking over the private women's school amid a \$50 million fundraising campaign.



The college's Board of Trustees chose Malveaux to replace Johnetta Cole, who has led the historically black university since 2002. Malveaux will take over June 1.

"I am honored to have been chosen to lead an institution that will continue to educate and celebrate African American women at our best," Malveaux said in a written statement.

Malveaux, a writer and syndicated columnist, has hosted talk radio programs in Washington, New York and her native San Francisco. She serves on the boards of several organizations, including the Economic Policy Institute and Women Building for the Future.

Malveaux earned a doctorate in economics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and received a bachelor's degree and a master's degree in economics from Boston College.

The school has raised more than \$44 million through its Revitalizing Bennett Campaign and officials expect to reach the \$50 million goal by June, said Arthur Affleck, vice president for institutional advancement.



The Lancaster City Council voted unanimously to name Rickey C. Childers as City Manager. Mr. Childers was named the lone finalist from an applicant pool of 38 candidates in February; he assumed his duties as City Manager on April 2nd.

Rickey C. Childers a native Texan received his Bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Tulsa and his Master's degree in public administration from Texas Tech University. Rickey began his career in local government with the City of Abilene in 1975. He has served as Assistant to the City Manager in Lubbock, Assistant City Manager in Abilene, and Carrollton and Deputy City Manager in Arlington. Rickey most recently served as City Manager in Longview from 1999 through October 2006 where he has since served as a consultant.

Mr. Childers is a member of the International City Management Association (ICMA), the National Forum for Black Public Administrators (NFBPA) and the Texas City Management Association (TCMA) of which he is the Immediate Past President. He leads a family tradition of public service; his brother currently serves as Deputy City Manager of College Station and his son works for the City of Dallas.

INSIDE

- People In The News 1
- Community Spotlight 2
- Community Calendar 2
- Op-Ed 3
- Education 4
- Business Service Directory 5
- National 6
- Arts & Entertainment 7
- Career Opportunities 8
- Sister Tarpley 8
- Church Happenings 9
- Church Directory 9 & 10

Following Protests, Shaquanda Cotton Released In Paris



Shaquanda Cotton is greeted by well wishers and mother Creola Cotton at left after release from a Texas youth prison facility.

After spending a year behind bars, Shaquanda Cotton walked out of a central Texas youth prison Saturday pretty much like many 15-year-olds would: eager for a hug from her mom and pining for a Big Mac.

So McDonald's was the first stop for the soft-spoken black teenager, who was abruptly released by Texas officials after nationwide civil rights protests erupted over her sentence of up

to 7 years for shoving a teacher's aide at her high school.

"I feel like I have a second chance," she said, moments after devouring her hamburger. "I'm going to be a better person now. I'm a good person, but I want to be a better person."

Soon after the restaurant stop, though, Cotton and her mother Creola headed out on the five-hour drive from the prison in Brownwood back home to Paris, the small northeast Texas town that has been rocked by protests and racial animosity over her case and broader allegations of racial discrimination in the town's schools and courts.

What reaction awaits the teenager there in coming days is anyone's guess, but her mother

Cotton Released Page 6

Tuskegee Airmen Get Congressional Medal



President Bush, right, greets Tuskegee Airmen Dr. Roscoe Brown, center, and Lt. Col. Alexander Jefferson, left, in the Capitol Rotunda in Washington, during the Congressional Gold Medal Ceremony for the Tuskegee Airmen.

AP

President Bush saluted the Tuskegee airmen on Thursday, six decades after they completed their World War II mission and returned home to a country that discriminated against them because they were black.

"Even the Nazis asked why African-American men would fight for a country that treated them so unfairly," Bush told the group of legendary black aviators, who received a Congressional Gold Medal - the most prestigious Congress has to offer.

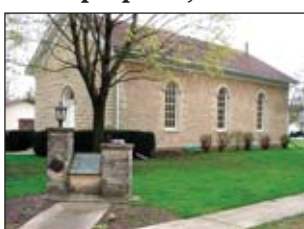
"These men in our presence felt a special sense of urgency. They were fighting two wars. One was in Europe and the other took place in the hearts and minds of our citizens," he said.

Bush then saluted the airmen, saying he offered the gesture to "help atone for all the

Tuskegee Airmen Page 8

2007-08 City Of Plano Heritage Grant Workshop April 5, 2007

The City of Plano Heritage Commission has approved the 2007-08 Heritage Grants Calendar, with a Grant Workshop to be held Thursday, April 5, 2007 to coincide with the online release of grant application forms and related guidelines.



The Plano Stone Church. In 1974 this church was listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Grant Workshop will be held at the City of Plano Municipal Center, 1520 Avenue K, Planning Conference Room 2E, April 5, 9:00am. The Workshop will encompass a review of the revised grant application process and grant submittal calendar with staff furnishing information

and assistance to potential applicants.

Heritage Grants, funded Plano Heritage Grant Page 9

Plan For Monuments Ignites A Racial Debate In House



State Rep. Marc Wasey, D. Fort Worth Lawmaker kills a bill to keep Confederate statues. Special from the Houston Chronicle

A lawmaker abandoned his effort to preserve some Confederate statues after a riveting, and sometimes heated, debate that veered into slavery, civil rights and terrorist groups.

"I apologize for the bill get-

ting out of hand," said state Rep. Sid Miller, R-Stephenville. He then effectively killed the bill by postponing it until July 4, when the Legislature won't be in session.

The bill would have prohibited the removal or relocation of memorial plaques or statues from state property without approval of the Legislature, Texas Historical Commission or State Preservation Board.

The University of Texas is considering whether to keep four bronze figures honoring Confederate leaders - including Jefferson Davis, president of the Confederate States, and Gen. Robert E. Lee - in a prominent location on the campus's South Mall. Some critics have proposed moving the statues to a museum.

Some Confederate history buffs are still upset that two

Racial Debate Page 5

Thousands Attend Immigration Rally In Downtown Dallas



Thousands of people wearing white shirts and waving American flags rallied in downtown Dallas on Sunday as part of a continuing push for immigration reform for the millions of illegal immigrants already living in the United States.

Many in the crowd authorities estimated at more than 5,000 held signs that read "No to 2903," referring to an ordinance in the Dallas suburb of Farmer's Branch that would make it illegal for landlords to rent apartments to illegal immigrants.

"The struggle hasn't ended. It doesn't end," said Jose Mata, a legal resident who attended the rally with his family. Mata held a sign reading "This country can't survive without immigrant help."

Organizers said Sunday's demonstration, which coincided with Palm Sunday, is the first of many events to be held to continue urging lawmakers to pass a comprehensive immigra-

tion plan. Many of those who attended walked with their children after Mass ended at the nearby Cathedral Shrine of the Virgin of Guadalupe.

Speakers asked those who were eligible to become citizens and asked those who already are to vote. Volunteers at nearby booths provided information on the rights of immigrants, filing immigration paperwork and registering to vote.

"The most powerful strength we have aside from our labor force is our vote," Hector Flores, past national president of the League of United Latin American Citizens, told the crowd gathered at City Hall.

Dallas police called the rally peaceful and said no arrests were made.

Nearly a year ago, up to a half million people gathered for a massive march and rally in downtown Dallas that was part of a series of coordinated national protests intended to raise awareness on the issue of

Immigration Rally Page 5

Friends Of The Plano Public Library Presents Donation For Genealogy Department

Fred Frawley, Friends of the Plano Public Library president and Cathy Ziegler, Davis Library manager, presented a check for \$20,000 to the Plano City Council at a recent Plano City Council Meeting.

This donation will be used to purchase:

- The State of Texas tax rolls up to 1910, which are the only consistent annual records for that time. These microfilm rolls are extremely useful for tracking migration and land ownership. They are full of excellent clues when dealing with counties with lost records.
- The 16-volume Roster of Confederate Soldiers, 1861-

1865.

• The 33-volume Roster of Union Soldiers, 1861-1865.

• The 30-volume set of Colonial and State Records of North Carolina, which is one of the most researched states. These acquisitions continue to help the Plano Public Library System (PPLS) grow as an excellent resource for professional and amateur genealogists. The PPLS genealogy collection is currently located at Harrington Library, 1501 18th St.

To learn more about Friends or to volunteer, call (972) 208-8002 or visit www.friendsofplano.org.

NAACP Garland Holds Political Candidate Forum



Panel members, BJ Williams, Adrianna Daniels (Garland NAACP Youth Council Member), and Dale Long.



Candidates Darren Lathen (District 8) and Ronald Jones (Mayor) speak with Dale Long.



District 6 candidate, Marcus Reed



District 8 candidate, Darren Lathen.



Thurman Jones receives recognition from BJ Williams.



Garland resident, Tony Torres addresses the candidates.



Mike Rose addresses the crowd.

Photos By: LaQuisha Buchanan
The Garland Branch of the NAACP recently held a political forum on March 27th at the Garland Women's Building. The forum featured candidates for City Council, Garland ISD School Board, and Garland Mayor. Mon-The Gazette Publisher, Thurman Jones, moderated the forum. Panel



Garland resident, Ron Sessions addresses the candidates.



BJ Williams questions the candidates.

members included B.J. Williams, Adrianna Daniels and Dale Long. Each candidate was allotted time to present their vision and platform statement, then field questions from the panel members and Garland residents. Candidates in the Garland city election include Lee Alewome, Ronald Jones and Mike Rose for Mayor, Preston Edwards for District 3 city council, Barbara Chick and Marcus Reed for District 6 city council, Scott



Garland resident, Dino Quintanilla addresses the candidates.



Garland resident, Lee Lutz addresses the candidates.

Plano Baylor Medical Makes Donation

Baylor Regional Medical Center at Plano recently presented members of the American Cancer Society with a \$2,500 donation to support Relay For Life, the signature fundraising event of the American Cancer Society. "I applaud the members of the American Cancer Society for their continual effort in

the fight against cancer. Baylor Plano is pleased to support a cause that inspires hope and empowers those affected by this devastating disease," said Jerri Garison, president of Baylor Regional Medical Center at Plano. Relay For Life honors cancer survivors and remembers those who have lost the battle with

cancer. The event will take place at the Ballpark at Alcatraz in Plano on April 13 and 14. Prior to the event, teams of 8 to 15 people collect sponsorships to raise money for cancer research. On the night of the event, teams set up campsites, enjoy entertainment, honor survivors and remember those who

have lost their lives through a lumbaria ceremony. Meanwhile, one team member from every team walks around the track between the hours of 7 p.m. and 7 a.m. to remind everyone that the battle against cancer never stops. Visit www.planorfl.org for more information.

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Around The Town

Ongoing
The Collin County Chapter of the American Business Women's 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.
Kuamaasi 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. For more info call 5-Ankh Rasa at 214-298-5858.
Late Night at the Dallas Museum of Art. Join us on the third Friday of each month at 1717 N. Harwood. \$10 for adults, \$7 for senior citizens and \$5 for students with current school I.D. 2 1 4 - 9 2 2 - 1 2 0 0 , 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. For more info, call 214-333-5777 or e-mail dbunorth@dbu.edu.
The **Vundrae Show** taped live every Tuesday @ The Historical Rose Marine Theater, 1440 N. Main St. Fort Worth. Doors open at 7:00pm. Tickets are \$10 pre-sale online www.TheVundraeShow.com \$17-840-0457. Tickets are \$20 at the door.
April 5
Underground Poetry Circus will be held at the University of Texas at Dallas Theater, 800 West Campbell Road, 8 p.m. For more information, call 972-883-6438.
April 6
Sexual Assault Awareness Month Poetry Read-In, 7:48 pm, featuring Keith Michael Guinn, 2022 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd Dallas, Texas 75215
Founder of the Ft. Worth Poetry Slam. This event is to highlight Sexual Assault Awareness Month. For more information on the Poetry Read-In or to RSVP please email us at admin@marianjferrell.com.

12th Annual Sickle Cell Disease Association Golf Tournament Cedar Crest Golf Course 1800 Southerland Ave., Dallas, Texas. Help US Raise \$100,000 to fund genetic cell screening and testing, education, outreach, and genetic counseling to individuals with sickle cell disease and their families. Register now at www.sickcell-dallas.org or contact Mary Griffin at 214 942-1262.
April 7
Voices of Soul, Firehouse International Cuisine Restaurant, 1928 Greenville Ave., 10 pm-2 a.m., featuring Country Fried Soul, and a myriad of poets. For more info call 214-826-0077 or visit www.voicesofsoul.com.
Multicultural Festival, Multi Ethnic Education and Economic Development Center, 4319 Bryan St., 12-2 p.m., in celebration of the best of African, Asian, and Latin culture. For more information, call 214-370-4760.
A Taste of Africa, The Act of Change, Inc. Institute of Cultural Arts, 2-6 p.m., at Lancaster-Kiest Shopping Center, 3200 S. Lancaster Road, Ste. 320. For more info call 214-372-3500.
UNT African Cultural Festival, University of North Texas Murchison Performing Arts Center, 2204 W. Prairie St., Denton. 8-10 p.m. For more info call 940-369-7802.
April 8
Global Sacred Music Celebration, Unity Church of Dallas, 6525 Forest Lane., 6-8 p.m. The concert will feature music from cultures all over the globe to communicate and celebrate a supreme spiritual power. For more info call 972-233-7106.
April 9
Dallas Examiner Monday Night Politics: Meet the Candidates, a series of political forums for five southern sector city council districts at the Senior Citizens Building at the Martin Luther King Jr. Center, 2922 Martin Luther

King Jr. Blvd., 6-9 p.m. City Council District 7 is scheduled for this forum. For more info call 214-428-3446.
April 12
AAC Concert Series with Carmen Rogers and Joe McBride, AT&T Plaza on the south side of American Airlines Center, Olive St. at N. Houston, 7:30 p.m. Admission is Free.
General meeting of Stonewall Democrats of Collin County will be held on 6:30-8:30 pm at i. Grano Bakery & Cafe 5960 West Parker Rd #210, Plano, TX. 6:30-7pm social, 7 pm business meeting followed by guest speaker Meredith Fisherman, Outreach & Activism Chair, Texas Democratic Women of Collin County.
April 13
The Silent Partner Presents...O'Jays Nokia Theatre At Grand Prairie, 8:00 pm.
To purchase tickets, contact Ticketmaster online at www.ticketmaster.com or by phone at 214.373.8000, metro 972.647.5700.
The Dallas Black Chamber of Commerce Tenth Annual Excellence in Education Scholarship Luncheon Recognizing Outstanding Performance in Education 2007
Registration: 11:00am Program & Luncheon: 12:00 noon Dallas Convention Center - Ballroom A, 650 South Griffin Street. For more information, contact the Dallas Black Chamber office at (214) 421-5200 or log onto www.dbcc.org
Garland NAACP Youth Council Meeting, 12:00noon, Gale Fields Recreation Center, 1701 Dairy Road, Garland.
April 14
Hoop It Up 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament, Fair Park, 1300 Robert B. Culum Blvd., 8-5 p.m. For more info, call 214-670-8400.
April 16

20th Annual Plano Senior Games for those 50 and older. Registering for Senior Games 2007 allows you to enjoy as many of the competitive games and social activities as you like; and receive a special T-shirt too. First Place medals and ribbons will be distributed at each event. All events will be held at the Plano Senior Center, 401 West 16th Street. Registration fee: \$10 per person. For more info call 972-941-7155.
April 17
Volunteer of the Year Awards Luncheon, A celebration of outstanding volunteers from throughout Collin County. Plano Centre, 2000 E. Spring Creek Parkway. Admission is \$25.00 per person. For more info contact the Volunteer Center of North Texas at (214) 826-6767 or visit www.volunteernorthtexas.org.
April 21
The Mad Hatters "Spring Into Summer with PACE", 11:30 A.M. Brookhaven Country Club, 3333 Golfing Green Drive, Dallas. Wear your favorite hat and join the fun. Proceeds benefit the Scholarship Fund. Tickets \$35.00. Call Patricia Hempstead, 972-236-1337.
Keep Mesquite Beautiful, Inc. (KMB) will host the Bi-Annual Mesquite Trash-Bash on from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at City Lake Park.
April 23
LR Training & Consulting will be offering "Free" Job Readiness training in Oak Cliff. There is a one-time registration fee of \$25. For those that qualify, the registration fee will be waived/sponsored by our nonprofit organization, LRCC Early Learning & Training Ctr. Classes consist of Resume Writing, Interviewing Skills, Cover Letters, etc. If interested, please contact LaShawn @214/263-4894 for more information.
Garland NAACP Annual EXCEL Awards Recognizing Program, Recognizing African-American students

for academic excellence and progress, and good citizenship. GSD Special Events Center, 4999 Naaman Forest Blvd, Garland, 7:00 p.m. Elementary presentations 4/23, Middle school students 4/24.
April 28, 2007
Senior Achievement Award Ceremony at Dallas City Hall Plaza hosted by deputy Mayor Don Hill and Cleo-Glenn Johnson of Black United Funds of Texas. For more info, call 214-650-7065 or e-mail blm119@yahoo.com.
G.I.L.A.P. (God Has A Plan) Grand Writing Seminar, 9 am-4 pm at Ryan's Bakery & Grill, 909 Tripp Rd., Mesquite. Lunch is free. For more info visit www.giap-texas.org or 214-497-4260.
Arlington-Grand Prairie Guide Right Foundation, Inc. in conjunction with the Arlington-Grand Prairie Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. presents: The 14th Annual Metropolis - Beautifull Presentation on Saturday April 28 at 7:00 PM
Location: Wyndam Hotel
1500 Convention Center Dr., Arlington, TX 76011
Theme: Young Miles Pursuing The Rewards Towards Achievement
Guest Speaker: Dr. T.A. Sims, Sr* District 4 Board Member Fort Worth Independent School District *Life Member, Kappa Alpha Psi
Attire: Semi-Formal Tickets: \$35.00 (Tax Deductible)
For more information, please contact: Beaufillion Director, Victor Ponder 972-689-9328
Guide Right Chairman, Randy Harris 972-989-1334
Chapter website: www.agpalumni.com

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Paul Hailey

Eleven Voices All Saying The Same Thing

As a fellow journalist, I have to say that for the first year or so I actually liked outgoing Mayor Laura Miller. That was before she managed to alienate the "great unwashed" of Dallas and unite every constituency in town in their disapproval of both her methods and her policies.

On Miller's watch, the public perception of Dallas government went from being the "city that can't" to "the city that can't", mostly due to some highly publicized shouting matches between Mayor Miller and members of the City Council. Right or wrong, that was the perception. And like I always say, when it comes to politics and political races the perception is reality.

So now, Laura Miller is rather ungracefully bowing out and there are eleven candidates running for her job as Dallas Mayor in the May 12th election. In a race that hasn't even begun to heat up yet, all eleven candidates are freakishly united on one single issue: crime.

The eleven folks running for mayor (which I will now refer to as the Dallas 11-sorry, that's the Wittiest thing I could come up with), all believe that the level of crime in Dallas has reached unacceptable levels and all of them promise an approach that would fix this problem with the quickness.

Quick sidebar-can you name any two members of the Dallas 11? That's ok, I'll wait...yeah, I didn't think so. For the record, here's the player lineup: John Capello, president, West Dallas Chamber of Commerce (who somehow lives in Dallas, but resides in Collin, not Dallas County); Sam Coats, former restaurant exec and former state representative; Jennifer Gale, temporary worker with

no money running on pure political courage; Gary Griffith, District 9 City Council member; Roger Herrera, attorney; and Don Hill, District 5 City Council member who currently serves as mayor pro tem (I will definitely devote an entire column to Hill before the election-did you know his 7 years makes him the longest tenured member of the Dallas City council?). The Dallas 11 also includes: attorney Darrell Jordan, who placed second in the 1995 Dallas mayoral election; Tom Leppert, former Reagan administration White House Fellow and CEO of Turner Corp. Construction Company; Ed Oakley, District 3 City Council member and chairman of the council's Trinity River Committee; Edward Okpa, real estate appraiser and developer; and Max Wells, the 73 year-old former council member and Vice-chairman, Sterling Bank.

Whew. Now I can almost see why some folks don't bother to vote. On second thought-no I can't.

I'll save my comments on the candidate's personalities and platforms for a later time, for now I'm fascinated by the comments being made by the Dallas 11 on how to solve the problem of crime. And anyone looking to be elected mayor of Dallas has no choice but to address the city's crime rate.

According to a Dallas Morning News poll, voters rank crime as the single most important issue in this year's race for mayor. Apparently, Dallas residents are tired of their city having the country's worst per capita crime rate among large cities. The crime numbers have improved under new Dallas Police Chief David Kanke, but not enough.

As a black man who has lived in the United States my entire

life, I get antsy whenever I hear political candidates start talking about taking steps to reduce the crime rate of some locale. Usually, folks running for office speak in racial code about crime and I've gotten very adept at understanding their language.

Whether we like it or not, there are still white citizens in our country that believe most crimes are committed by minorities. Getting "tough" on crime is interpreted by these citizens as "keeping an eye" on minorities citizens (particularly the male minority citizens). That is how racial profiling by law enforcement continues to take place at unacceptable levels and how our justice system became institutionally racist.

Don't get me wrong, I am definitely not justifying anything for people of any color that break the law. Having my car burglarized in Dallas two months ago pushed me in the category of citizens that believe we need a different approach to crime in our city. But we can't afford to be short sighted or simplistic on this issue.

Beware of any candidate who comes bringing easy, catchy solutions to fix the crime problem. Beware of any approaches by the Dallas 11 that sound good in the 30-second sound bite on channel 8. The problem of crime didn't just appear in the last two, three or even five years, and the solutions will not be nice or neat.

Crime watch groups, cameras, improved salaries for police recruits that at least rival suburban pay, are all real steps at solving the problem of crime. Do your homework and hold the feet of the Dallas 11 to the fire. Whatever you do, just make sure you don't get sucked in by eleven voices all saying the same thing.

Paul Hailey can be reached at pahailey@MonTheGazette.com

A Path To Success For Young Black Men

By: Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson
Last month I had the pleasure of introducing my good friend and colleague Danny Davis (D-IL) during one of his State of the Black Male summits at Paul Quinn College. During the meeting, we discussed a number of problems and solutions around improving the quality of life and opportunity available to our young men. One of the thorniest problems identified during the summit and echoed in testimony before Congress' Joint Economic Committee last week was unemployment.

Over the past two decades, unemployment rates among black males have reached alarming levels. Today, approximately half of all black men are jobless. This is a far worse situation than unemployment statistics would suggest, as the official numbers issued by the Department of Labor do not include those incarcerated, or individuals who are not seeking employment. This number is not only shocking, but a potential social and economic crisis if it persists.

One factor contributing to this problem is a lack of educational attainment amongst black males. The bottom line is that education is the single greatest factor in determining financial success. We know that as few as 43% of all black males graduate on time. Many are dropouts who will never attain a degree; making it very difficult to obtain a good paying job with benefits. The availability of well paying traditional 'blue collar' jobs has been deteriorating. While previous generations may have been able to get a manufacturing job that paid a living wage despite having limited education, the same opportunities do not exist today. Most of those jobs have been sent offshore, and it's highly unlikely they will return.

The stereotypical goal of the American Dream has vanished for our young Black men, and in its absence there exists a pervasive

sense of hopelessness. With a lack of positive outlets, there has been the emergence of a new worldview. Those who obtain significant financial gains rapidly are the new role models, and violence, misogyny, and illegal activity are accepted forms of making that happen. As a witness told the Joint Economic Committee, since, there is no hope for the future, the focus is on the here and the now, and the possibility of going to prison is no longer a deterrent for many black men.

In fact, many young black men have come to expect that incarceration will be a part of their life. It's shocking that for African American males in the twenties, 1 in every 8 is in prison on any given day, and among dropouts in their late twenties, more are in prison on a given day than are working. There is revolving door of ex-offenders into our urban neighborhoods with over 600,000 prisoners returning home each year. These ex-offenders face serious impediments in obtaining employment, only adding to the staggering numbers of joblessness.

Since there are a multitude of factors contributing to unemployment amongst our Black men, we must examine and address each one if we wish to reverse this trend. We can begin with preventing our at-risk youth from forming destructive mental patterns. The U.S. Department of Justice has predicted that one in three African American men born in 2001 will end up in prison. We simply cannot let this happen to our children. It is time to restore hope and create positive options for the future. We must invest our time and more federal dollars into ensuring that every child has the access to a high quality education, and the opportunity to complete that education.

This challenge motivates my search for ways to open opportunities for youth to pursue the science and technology skills the job market increasingly demands.

Whether seeking to interest students in science and math careers at an annual lecture series, helping provide for grants so schools can purchase state-of-the-art equipment or participating in town hall meetings like the black male summit, the Congress should be constantly looking for ways to improve our children's educational outlook. We must provide our children a path to success, not a path to prison.

For those black men who are incarcerated or are ex-offenders we need to provide them rehabilitation programs that not only teach job skills, but teach life skills, such as conflict resolution, parenting, and decision-making. We must work to create initiatives that connect individuals reentering society with meaningful employment. That's why I supported Congressman Davis' bill in the last Congress that provided increased funding for offender re-entry programs. If we simply leave our ex-offenders jobless and desperate they will end up back in prison.

Perhaps the most difficult factor that needs attention is a change in attitude and the creation of an environment of high expectations for our black men and youth. We must alter our young people view as role models and instill a sense of self-worth. Part of this change must come from within our community itself. We cannot sit back and continue to let the futures of millions of young black men simply slip through the cracks. Unless we can change these negative mind-sets and give our young people viable alternatives, we'll continue to see increases in unemployment, arrests and dropouts among our black men. That was the message I took away from the committee testimony and the State of the Black Male Summit: There is a hopeful future out there; we just need to take the steps to realize it.

Congress Should Listen To The Judges On Mandatory Sentencing

By: Earl Ofari Hutchinson

Every effort to scrap or modify the blatantly unfair minimum mandatory sentencing law for illicit drug abusers has crashed against two things: The first was then President Bill Clinton's half-hearted fight to change the disparity sentencing in the law in Congress in the mid-1990s. Next, it crashed against President Bush and the Republican controlled Congress's dogged battle against changing the sentencing disparity. The law requires that judges slap a minimum mandatory sentence of five years on anyone caught with crack cocaine. Those convicted are mostly poor blacks. Those caught with the same amount of powdered cocaine, mostly whites, often middle-class suburban whites get a comparative hand slap sentence.

Clinton, Bush and Congress easily turned a tin ear to those screaming for reform as long as they were the usual suspects, the ACLU, black and Latino activists, a handful of elected officials, drug reform organizations, and criminal justice reform advocates. Congress may have a harder time ignoring the latest to raise their voices against the law. The ones screaming louder this time are federal judges. Many of them are Reagan and Bush appointees, have impeccable conservative credentials, and are not bleeding heart liberals on crime. But a growing number of them say its time for change in the law.

Michigan Democrat John Conyers, the new chair of the House Judiciary Committee, and a long time crusader against sentencing disparities has pledged to hold hearings on the disastrous impact of the laws. And they

have been a disaster.

When Congress enacted the law in 1986, the idea was to use tougher drug sentencing to rid the streets of violent, drug kingpins. At the time, drug and gun violence tore many poor black neighborhoods, and police and terrified residents demanded a crackdown. The law hammered poor blacks, had almost no effect on the drug lords, and gave white drug users a relatively free legal pass. The problem for the judges was that the laws stripped them of much of their discretionary legal authority to impose sentences. In several judicial districts, judges quietly rebelled, bent the rules, and lightened sentences for some first time offenders.

Meanwhile, the majority of blacks that are sentenced under the law, and that's upward of 80 percent, are poor, ill educated. They fit the increasingly standard, and disturbing profile of thousands of federal prisoners. Though studies confirm that black illicit drug use is no greater than that of whites, they are less likely to be offered a chance to plea bargain, black drug offenders are more likely to fall under federal or state minimum mandatory sentencing law, and will serve a sentence nearly double that of whites. The escalation in black incarceration is the single biggest cause of the massive bulge in the number of inmates in federal prisons. The number has jumped four fold since the late 1980s, and more than half of them are there for drug crimes, or other petty offenses.

The law has wreaked havoc on many black communities and families. A handful of states permanently ban ex-felons from voting. More than half of those disenfranchised are black men.

The voting ban diminishes the political power of the black communities. Women convicted of felony drug offenses are also barred for life from receiving welfare benefits. This puts thousands of women and their children at dire social risk and increases the likelihood they will commit more crimes. The high black imprisonment rate also drastically increases health risks and costs in black communities, since many prisoners are released with chronic medical afflictions, particularly HIV/AIDS.

The mandatory sentencing law has been a costly white elephant, and has done nothing to curb violent crime. More states realize that stuffing thousands in jail cells is no cure for crime and drug ills. In Michigan, California and New York, courts are much more willing to send people to drug treatment programs rather than prison. And a growing number of states have repealed, or modified their mandatory sentencing laws.

Still, it's the judges that can make a difference with Congress. Breyer, Kennedy and the other federal judges that protest minimum mandatory sentencing have repeatedly said that the laws are wasteful, harmful, and a judicial embarrassment that threatens the legal independence of judges. The law further mocks the concept of equal protection under the law for rich and poor alike.

Conyers should move with all due speed to get congressional hearings going and show the damage of sentencing disparities. Then Congress should change or end them.

BlackNews.com columnist Earl Ofari Hutchinson is an author and political analyst.

Where Do You Want To Go Today?

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MON-The Gazette assumes no responsibility for unsolicited material and reserves the right to edit and make appropriate revisions.

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 visible 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

Collin College Unveils New Surgical Technician Degree

Collin College recently unveiled its new associate of applied science degree in surgical technology. The degree will prepare students to assist in surgical operations, prepare the operating room by setting up surgical instruments and equipment and making sure equipment works properly. Surgical technicians also prepare the patient for surgery by washing, shaving and disinfecting incision areas, transport the

patients to the surgery area, observe patient vital signs, process charges and generally assisting the surgical team.

Surgical technicians are employed by hospitals and free-standing day surgery facilities and as the volume of surgeries increases, the need for professionals such as surgical techni-

cians also increases. In 2004, the median salary for surgical



technicians ranged from \$33,130 in hospitals to

\$37,510 in dental offices. In areas of high demand and a shortage of qualified professionals, salaries climb to the mid-\$40,000 range.

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, the surgical technology field is expected to grow by 27 percent in the coming years, the highest comparative level of any other occupation. Additionally, the need for surgical technicians in Dallas is expected to grow by 31.74

percent and by 33.95 percent in north central Texas.

According to Dr. Merry McBryde-Foster, Dean of Health Sciences and Emergency Services at Collin College, "requiring the Associate of Applied Science Degree in Surgical Technology will provide a health science degree not widely available in the north central Texas area. This degree will provide well prepared surgical technicians for the healthcare workforce."

The new degree totals 68 credit hours including 13 hours of prerequisites. Prerequisites include Health Terminology I, Anatomy and Physiology I and II and Introduction to the Healthcare System, being offered for the first time at Collin College this summer. For more information, contact academic advisor Lynne Meyer at 972.548.6778 or lmyer@ccc.edu.

College Entrance 101 At New Mount Zion Baptist Church



The New Mount Zion Baptist Church is presenting its College Entrance 101 workshop on April 21, 2007 from 10am-2pm in the Family Life Center, 9550 Shepherd Road, Dallas. The Pastor of New Mount Zion is Dr. R.E. Price.

The purpose of College Entrance 101 is to provide information and preparation for 7th-11th grade college bound students and their parents.

Submitted applications must be received by April, 15th

2007, and can be obtained by visiting www.ce101.com.

In 2004, College Entrance 101 was the recipient of Texas Credit Union League and Credit Union National Association Dora Maxwell Social Responsibility Recognition Award and Texas Credit Union League DeJardins Award for Youth Community Programs.

College Entrance 101 is a product of Dorothy Mequier and Katherine Murrill Education Fund and is a 501 C3 Education Public Charity.

Future African American Leaders Of Economic Influence Financial Education Scholarship Available

Leviathan Winn, Founder and Chairman of the Future African American Leaders of Economic Influence (FAALEI) Financial Education Scholarship is proud to announce the start of the open application process for the awarding of scholarships for 2007.

The purpose of this initiative is to intensify the financial consciousness of African

American high school seniors entering college, while simultaneously providing a source of support for their educational pursuits. The long term vision is

for this award to stimulate future generations of black leaders to become agents of positive change through economic influence.

For 2007, one FAALEI Scholar will be selected and awarded a \$1,000 scholarship.

Eligibility: African American High School Senior graduating in Spring of 2007

whose principal residence is in Denton, Dallas, Tarrant or Collin counties Applied or accepted into a two or four year university or

community college (verification of enrollment will be provided prior to the Fall of 2007 by the winner)

Demonstration of Financial Need is not a requirement for this scholarship

Applications must be received or faxed by April 15, 2007 for consideration.

For an application, please contact Leviathan Winn 388 Greenwich St., 34th Floor, Collin counties 75241-3151 or call 212-816-3869.

Plano ISD's 13th Annual Teacher Recruitment Open House A Huge Success



James L. "Dudis" Thomas III, Administration Intern at Larry Gunn Special Programs, led a group of teacher applicants on a bus tour of Plano schools.



Members of the Plano ISD Human Resources Division (l-r) Emiliano Mirques, Rob Stewart, Becky Wussow, Astry Daniel, Tamara Griffin and Dee Sampson.

The 13th Annual Plano ISD Teacher Recruitment Open House broke records. "It was the highest attended fair in our history," reported Becky Wussow, director of human resource services, of the March event.

"We had more than 500 volunteers and 1,039 Highly Qualified teacher candidates come through the doors of Murphy Middle School. Based on multiple principal comments, most feel that they were

able to see a wide range of excellent candidates. Several principals have already made

recommendations to human resources to hire these top candidates."

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Child Care Group Providing Child Care Assistance For Dallas County Residents

The Child Care Group of Dallas is providing assistance for child care for qualified applicants. The Child Care Group is looking to provide assistance to a greater number of residents as a result of changes in the monthly income guidelines.

Qualified applicants must be: Dallas County residents. (Non-Dallas County residents should call 2-1-1 a social services information line, and ask for the Child Care Assistance center that serves the zip

code/county you live in.) Single parent households cur-



rently working and/or in job training or attending an educa-

tional program for a total minimum of 25 hours a week or more.

Two-parent household, are you BOTH currently working and/or in job training

or attending an educational program for a combined total minimum of 50 hours a week or more.

Meet the Federal monthly income guidelines.

If you answered yes to all 3 questions you are pre-qualified

for assistance. For an application, please visit our website at: www.childcaregroup.org/cca/AreYouEligible.htm.

In addition, several ChildCareGroup centers are enrolling students, including the Martin Luther King Center. These child development centers offer care for children ages 0-5.

ChildCareGroup - Child Care Assistance, Attn: Processing Dept., 8585 N. Stemmons Frwy., Suite 600 South, Dallas, TX 75247 or call 214-630-7911.

Artist Stephen Marc Lectures On The Underground Railroad At UT Dallas On April 4

In conjunction with the exhibit Legacy of Photomontage: Engineering the Photograph, featured artist Stephen Marc will lecture on Walking in the Footsteps: Dealing with Remnants of Slavery and the Underground Railroad at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, April 4 in the Jonsson Performance Hall at The University of Texas at Dallas. The lecture is free and open to the public.

The lecture is co-sponsored by the School of Arts and Humanities at The University of Texas at Dallas and by Richland College in conjunction with The Parallel Festival: The 15th Annual Richland College Computer Arts Festival.

Stephen Marc, photographer and art professor at Arizona State University's Herberger College of Art, will lecture on his imagery, which references the history of slavery in America, specifically the Underground Railroad. He has traveled across the United States and Canada, photographing locations that housed the Underground Railroad,



visualizing the hidden history embedded in the geography of these communities and the artifacts that remain.

Marc creates digital photo montages of the approximately 30,000 photographs he has taken in 21 states, D.C. and Canada, creating captivating collages that blend the past and the present in artistic renderings that make history accessible - even fascinating - as he preserves and repackages the story of one of this country's most significant historical movements. When the Underground Railroad project is complete, Marc plans to publish it in book form and exhibit it as a traveling exhibition.

Samples of Marc's work can be seen on his Web site at Arizona

State's Herberger College of Fine Arts, where he is a photography professor. The site includes sample composites of locations as well as the offbeat and graphically compelling art montages that the artist hopes tell a bigger story.

Marc combines images of locales, artifacts and individuals to produce visual narratives. His digital photographs will be on display in the main gallery of the Visual Arts Building from March 16 through April 13 as part of the Legacy of Photomontage exhibition.

Marc is producing a book that documents his images from A Passage on the Underground Railroad series. He has several previous photographic book publications, namely The Black

Trans-Atlantic Experience, Street Life and Culture in Ghana, Jamaica, England and the United States, and Urban Notions, a photograph series on African-American life in the Midwest.

For information about the many musical, arts, theatre, dance and other performances and exhibitions held throughout the year at UT Dallas, please call 972-UTD-ARTS (972-883-2787), e-mail utdarts@utdallas.edu, or visit the School of Arts and Humanities' Web site at <http://ah.utdallas.edu/>. Persons with disabilities needing special accommodations may call 972-883-2982, Texas Relay Operator: 1-800-RELAAYV.

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Smart Financial Moves Can Pay Off After Layoff



Marcia Donaldson

If you get laid off or "downsized," it's unquestionably a tough break, and it can be stressful in many ways. However, if you make the right investment-related moves, the loss of a job doesn't necessarily mean you have lost the opportunity to achieve your important financial goals.

Above all else, don't panic when you learn of an impending termination. If you are going to get a severance package, you may not have to take the first offer that comes your way; you might be able to negotiate for more attractive

terms. But even if there is no room for negotiation, you need to make sure you get all the information you need, such as whether the severance will be paid at once or in stages. As severance packages may have tax consequences, you should consult with your tax advisor before making any decisions.

Here's another suggestion: Don't rush to collect the money from your 401(k), 403(b) or 457(b) plan. Of course, if your retirement plan is your main source of savings, you may have no choice in the matter. But once you cash out your plan, you'll no longer benefit from tax-deferred earnings growth. Furthermore, your former employer must withhold 20 percent from your distribution.

If you don't cash out your plan, what should you do with it? You might be able to leave the money in your former employer's plan. When you get your next job, you could move the money from your old plan into a new employer's plan, if the new plan allows such transfers.

However, you can get much more flexibility by rolling over your retirement assets into an IRA, which provides an almost unlimited array of investment choices. By making a direct rollover to an IRA, you'll avoid the 20 percent withholding and current income taxes on your retirement plan distribution, and you'll give your earnings the potential to keep growing on a tax-deferred basis. Keep in mind, though, that before you

reach 59-1/2, your IRA withdrawals will be subject to ordinary income tax and a 10 percent penalty, unless you take systematic distributions under Section 72(t) of the Internal Revenue Code. To make sure you're making the right moves, consult with your tax and financial advisors before tapping into your IRA.

After deciding what to do with your 401(k) or other retirement plan, you might also want to adjust the other, non-IRA investments in your portfolio. While you were working full time, you may have established an investment mix that was based on a variety of factors, including your goals, time horizon, risk tolerance, ability to invest and your need for

growth and income. But if you are between jobs for an extended time period, you may need to adjust your portfolio. A financial advisor can help you select an appropriate investment mix. Once you're employed again, you can readjust your portfolio as needed.

do with your retirement plan and your investment portfolio, you can survive this setback — and stay on track toward the future you've envisioned.

Article contributed by Marcia Donaldson, a licensed Financial Advisor with Edward Jones Investments. You can contact her at (972) 542-1530.

Dallas Urban League Offers Paid Internships And Job Opportunities For Hurricane Evacuees

The Urban League of Greater Dallas has launched its Gulf Coast Employment Initiative which is designed at reconnecting and rebuilding the lives of Hurricane Katrina

and Rita evacuees. The Urban League is offering paid internships and job opportunities to adjudicated and out of school youths ages 18-24 through the National Urban

League. Qualified applicants can receive assistance with GED and College Preparation, Personal Development, Computer Skills, Job Readiness Training and Career

Development. For applications and more info contact Urban League of Greater Dallas, 4315 S. Lancaster Road, Dallas or call 214-915-4609.

Circuit City Lays Off 70 Locally, 3,400 Nationwide



Circuit City Stores is firing about 3,400 higher paid sales associates at its stores, including 70 locally, and will hire new lower-paid associates to replace them.

The Richmond, Va.-based consumer electronics retailer

said the workers being laid off Wednesday are associated that were paid "well above the market-based salary range for their role."

New associates will be hired and paid at the current market range to replace them, the com-

pany said. Circuit City said the layoffs were done to improve its cost and expense structure.

Company spokesman Jim Babb said 13 of Dallas-Fort 15 stores were affected by the layoffs. A total of 70 workers at the stores received pink slips Wednesday morning, Babb said. The most layoffs came from the Lewisville store, which had 11 workers affected. The Garland store had only one

worker affected by the cuts. Most stores have about 50 sales associates, Babb said. All of the workers received severance packages, he said.

The company also said it has outsourced its information technology operations to New York-based IBM. About 130 corporate workers will be affected by this change, Circuit City said, with about 50 employees transitioning to jobs with IBM.

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Ahmad Abdalla

Immigration Rally Page 1

immigration reform. They protested HR 4437, a House bill that would have made it a felony, rather than a civil infraction, to be in the country illegally.

"We won something last year. At least that didn't happen," said Marcelina Mata, a legal resident who attended Sunday's rally.

Although lawmakers didn't approve a plan last year to legalize millions of undocumented immigrants, many held hopes this year will be different.

"I think it's improving a little bit, not too much. But we're trying. Someday," said Gesofranes Mendoza, who was

back for Sunday's rally with his family and held a sign that said "Justice For All."

One bill introduced in the House this year would give six-year work visas to undocumented immigrants and require them to leave the United States at some point and re-enter using their work visa.

Another proposal from the White House and Republican lawmakers would grant undocumented immigrants permission to work but require them to return home and pay hefty fines to become legal U.S. residents.

"We think the price is too high. But at least it gets the debate going," said Domingo Garcia, a Dallas attorney who helped organize the rally.

Racial Debate Page 1

Confederate plaques were removed from the Texas Supreme Court building in 2000 without the Legislature's approval.

Black House members said they were caught off-guard by the bill even though many apparently voted for it last session without knowing its effect. That bill died in the Senate.

"Although the Civil War was fought in the 1860s, people still feel strongly about this today," said Rep. Marc Veasey, a Fort Worth Democrat who opposed the bill.

Veasey offered an amendment to exempt memorials dedicated to anyone who owned slaves or was a member of a "terrorist organization." He said he was talking about the Ku Klux Klan.

"You're trying to rewrite history" by removing all references to the Confederacy, Rep. Joe Crabby, R-Atascocita, told

Veasey.

Veasey thanked the members who voted for his amendment to allow removal of certain memorials. He likened the supporters to whites who stood up for blacks during the civil rights struggles.

Rep. Senfronia Thompson, D-Houston, faced off with Rep. Beverly Woolley, R-Houston, over why the bill was scheduled for House floor debate.

Thompson said she was "insulted" by the bill.

Woolley, chairman of the Calendars Committee, said Speaker Tom Craddick was not to blame.

Later in the debate, the chairman of the State Affairs Committee, which voted to send the bill to the House floor, apologized for not understanding its impact.

"Our committee had no intention of having anything like this on the floor," said Rep. David Swinford, R-Dumas.

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Jesse Jackson Backs Obama For President

AP Civil rights leader Jesse Jackson said Thursday he's backing Democrat Barack Obama in his presidential bid, giving his support to a new generation of black politicians. "He has my vote," the Rev. Jackson told The Associated Press in a telephone interview.

Jackson sought the Democratic presidential nomination in 1984 and 1988, winning 13 primaries and caucuses in 1988. His son, Rep. Jesse Jackson Jr. of Illinois, has already endorsed Obama.

Jackson represents a different era of black politician, battle-tested by the civil rights struggles of the 1960s with Martin Luther King Jr.

Obama, 45, is biracial — his white mother was from Kansas, his father Kenyan — and educated at Ivy League universities.

In his best-selling memoir, "Dreams From My Father," Obama said he couldn't even get in the door at national civil rights groups when he was younger. He wrote letters to them after gradu-

ating from Columbia University but said none responded.

In a statement responding to



Jackson's support, Obama said, "This campaign has been about giving hope since Day One and I

am proud to have the support of my friend Jesse Jackson. It is because people like Jesse ran that I have this opportunity to run for president today."

Jackson could help Obama to secure the support of black voters, a critical bloc in the Democratic primaries.

Jackson has a long history with one of Obama's chief rivals, Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton and her husband former President Clinton. He counseled the two when the president's affair with former White

House intern Monica Lewinsky became public.

But Jackson said his history with the Clintons doesn't complicate his decision to back his home state senator, calling Obama Illinois' "favorite son."

"It's not awkward at all," he said, adding, "I don't owe a debt to any of them."

Jackson said he will support the winner of the Democratic nomination, whether it's Obama or not, and he is talking to other candidates because of his agenda that includes the war on poverty and voter protection.

Although Jackson failed in his bids for the White House in 1984 and 1988, he said that helped make it easier for not only blacks, but women and other minorities to run for president and function at the highest levels of government.

"We broke down barriers," Jackson said.

Jackson said Obama has not asked him to campaign for him and he is not in Obama's inner circle of advisers and fundraisers.

"I just have an appreciation of him," Jackson said.

New Orleans Unveils Katrina Recovery Plan

Reuters

New Orleans officials unveiled a \$1.06 billion plan on Thursday to rebuild their city, saying they could no longer wait for federal aid 19 months after Hurricane Katrina.

The plan targets 17 "recovery zones" for commercial development, including hard hit areas such as the Lower Ninth Ward and New Orleans East.

They said the money

would come from state funds and from the sale of bonds, and be spent on infrastructure repair and other projects with the hope of attracting private investment to spur new business.

Katrina struck on August 29, 2005, and caused 80 percent of the city to be flooded when it burst protective levees.

Much of New Orleans is still damaged and abandoned, which the city has blamed on

the delayed arrival of federal aid.

But Mayor Ray Nagin said in a news conference that the city, which still has less than half its pre-Katrina population of nearly 500,000, can no longer wait for federal help.

"We're not sitting around waiting for anybody any longer," Nagin said in a news conference. "We're going to move this city forward with the resources that we can generate creatively, and everybody who



New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin in the Pontchartrain Park neighborhood of New Orleans, February 13, 2007. City officials unveiled a \$1.06 billion plan on Thursday to rebuild their city, saying they could no longer wait for federal aid 19 months after Hurricane Katrina.

wants to join us later, you're welcome to come on board."

Ed Blakely, who was hired this year to coordinate the city's recovery effort, said the plan must be approved by city residents, the New Orleans City Council and the City Planning Commission before officials begin negotiations with investors and developers later this summer.

"By September, we hope to have cranes on the skyline," Blakely said.

Cotton Released Page 1

says she is concerned.

"I don't want to place my daughter in danger," Creola Cotton said. "I hope we can stay in Paris because this is where my family is. I would hate to have to pick up and leave."

At the heart of the controversy, which exploded across hundreds of Internet blogs and then scores of newspapers and radio and TV stations in the last three weeks, was the seeming severity of the teenager's sentence for an offense that caused no documentable injury to the teacher's aide.

Three months before Cotton, who had no prior criminal record, was sentenced by Paris Judge Chuck Superville in March, 2006, to up to seven years in youth prison for the shoving incident, Superville sentenced a 14-year-old white girl convicted of the more serious crime of arson to probation. Later, when the white teenager violated her probation, Superville gave her yet another chance and declined to send her to prison. Only when the youth violated her probation a second time did the judge order her locked up.

School officials, the Paris district attorney and the judge have all strongly denied that race played a role in the prosecution and sentencing of Cotton. But her case has coincided with an ongoing investigation of the Paris school district by the U.S. Department of Education, which is examining allegations that the district systematically discriminates against black students by disciplining them more frequently and more harshly than whites.

The furor over Cotton's case caused the special conservator now in charge of the Texas Youth Commission, the state's juvenile prison system, to examine it more closely last week, at the urging of civil rights leaders.

The conservator, Jay Kimbrough, who is charged with completely overhauling the Texas Youth Commission because of a spreading sex scandal involving prison officials who allegedly coerced sex from inmates, decided Friday that Shaquanda merited immediate release.

Kimbrough said his decision was not based on the circumstances of the teenager's prosecution and sentence but rather on the arbitrary way in which her indeterminate sentence had been extended by prison authorities since she had been incarcerated. Authorities penalized her because she was found with "contraband" in her

cell—an extra pair of socks.

"The TYC staff brought that file in to me [Friday] morning and were so surprised by what they saw that they felt like immediate action was justified, and I supported that whole-

heartedly," Kimbrough said.

Cotton was the first of an estimated 400 juveniles incarcerated across the state whom Kimbrough has ordered released, beginning Monday. Those youths have all satisfied

their minimum sentences and have committed no serious violations while in custody.

Kimbrough has also convened a special review panel to examine the sentences of all 4,700 juveniles in Texas Youth Commission

custody, with the goal of releasing any whose sentences have been unjustly extended by prison authorities.

"This is the right thing to do and TYC could have and should have done it long before Mr.

Kimbrough took over," said Will Harrell, executive director of the Texas chapter of the ACLU. "Shaquanda was the first domino, but there will be hundreds if not thousands to follow."

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The O'Jays Bring Soulful Sounds To Nokia Theatre April 13

By any measurement, the O'Jays must be considered one of the most important Soul Music groups of the past 30 years. Originally a regionally popular group in Cleveland (and in fact named after local deity Eddie O'Jay), the group was together for a decade before getting a major break by teaming with young songwriter/producers Kenny Gamble and Leon Huff.

Their first album on Gamble

& Huff's Philadelphia International Records, *Backstabbers*, was a masterpiece, highlighted by McFadden & Whitehead's master composition, "Backstabbers." The haunting song with the great intro (later sampled by Angie Stone on "I Wish I Didn't Miss You") became a monster hit, and was followed by the even bigger "Love Train." The *Backstabbers* album was a



The O'Jays Eddie Levert, Walter Williams, Eric Nolan Grant.

smash, and began a string of critically acclaimed and commercially popular albums.

During the remainder of the 1970s, the O'Jays continued releasing chart-topping singles, including "For the Love of Money," "Let Me Make Love to You," "Give the People What They Want," "Love Train," "Livin' For The Weekend," "Stairway To

Heaven," "I Love Music," "Darlin' Darlin' Baby (Sweet Tender Love)," and "Message In Our Music". Powell died of cancer in 1977.

1978's "Use Ta Be My Girl" was their final Top Five hit, though they continued scraping the bottom of the R&B charts throughout the 1980s. Let Me Touch You (1987) was a breakthrough of sorts, and included the #1 R&B hit "Lovin' You". Later in the 90s, the band did little record-

ing, though they remained a popular live draw. Their latest album is *Imagination* in 2004. In 2005, the O'Jays were inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

The O'Jays perform at Nokia Theatre at Grand Prairie on Friday, April 13th at 8 pm. To purchase tickets, contact Ticketmaster online at Ticketmaster.com or by phone at 214.373.8000, metro 972.647.5700.

Macy Gray Seeks Return To Glory With New Album

With a new record label, new production team and new album, raspy-voiced soul singer Macy Gray aims to return to the forefront of pop music.

Her debut CD, "On How Life Is," sold 7 million records worldwide and won her a Grammy for the 1999 hit "I Try."

But subsequent efforts did not fare nearly as well, and 2003's "The Trouble With Being Myself" did not sell.

After falling out with Epic Records, Gray sought a career rebound at Geffen Records. Produced by will.i.am from the Black Eyed Peas and Justin Timberlake, her fourth studio album, "BIG," which launched on Tuesday in the United States.

Gray talked to Reuters about her hopes for the new record, her troubles with the law in Barbados and her work with the non-profit M. Gray Music Academy.

Q: Why did you leave Epic Records?

A: They wanted me to do something I didn't want to do, so I left. They wanted me to do a 60s covers album and I wanted to do original stuff.

Q: Your last record didn't sell so well. Do you feel like you have anything to prove?

A: I'm not holding on to any of that. I got over my last album. I learned a lot and it was the best thing that could have happened to me.

It's exciting to be on a label with a lot of big artists like Eminem, 50 Cent, Gwen Stefani, U2. I'm going to be in that club and I want to sell a lot of records. (This album) is one of the greatest things I've ever done and I hope everybody checks it out and that they like it.



Q: Why did you name your album "BIG"?

A: It's named after my big brain, my big heart and my big butt.

Q: You've been raising three kids as a single mom for a while now. How difficult is to do that while working in show business?

A: Being a single mom is challenging and difficult in itself. It could take up your whole life. Being gone and having to depend on other people to help me with my kids is tough. It's going to be fun to see how they come out and what kind of people they turn out to be. They usually go on tour with me, but it's hard to be away from them when they don't.

Q: You almost got arrested in Barbados in January. Take us through that incident.

A: I had no idea that it was

illegal to come in public there. It was crazy. I went on stage and went on talking about stuff, it wasn't like I was trying to be an a-hole or anything. I apologized and it was okay.

Q: You worked with will.i.am from the Black Eyed Peas and Justin Timberlake on your new album. How did you get along in the studio?

A: Will.i.am is like my brother. Will introduced me to Justin. It was really dope, Justin is a very focused, very driven person. Definitely someone who has mastered his craft. He's new at producing for other people and I got to catch him while he was still hungry.

Q: What do you hope to achieve with your music academy?

A: It's an environment for kids to come and learn music and how to write together. This is the age of independence, where you can make your own album and put it out. The academy is about cultivating self-expression, which was something that was not really available that much in California schools.

Q: Should other artists become involved in their local communities?

A: Everybody should really give back. If you want progress in the world you should be part of the process. Find a cause and do everything you can about it instead of just getting mad at the president or whatever.

Left Eye Documentary To Air On VH1

Among the lineup of VH1's Rock Docs specials over the next few months is "Last Days of Left Eye," a documentary about the late TLC rapper-singer and the final days spent at her spiritual hideaway in Honduras.

Directed by Lauren Lazin ("Tupac: Resurrection"), the film uses archival material and talking-head interviews to provide background and transitions for footage shot by Left Eye during a month-long spiritual retreat in the Central American country. She was killed there in a car crash on April 25, 2002.

Left Eye, born Lisa Lopes, speaks at length in the film about her belief in astrology and numerology, and promises to "set the record straight" about her checkered past before redirecting her energies in a positive direction, according to a review in Daily Variety.

"Last Days of Left Eye" is scheduled to open the Atlanta Film Festival, an event in her hometown that will include Lopes' family and friends making rare public appearances. A date has not yet been announced for the film's premiere on VH1.



Usher Engaged To Marry Girlfriend



Popular R&B singer Usher, whose hit songs include 2004's *Yeah*, is engaged to marry his long-time girlfriend, wardrobe stylist Tameka Foster, the singer's representative said.

Further details were not being disclosed, according to Usher spokeswoman Simone Smalls.

Usher, 28, whose full name is Usher Raymond, began his career as a teenager when he was discovered by LaFace Records, and since then he has soared in popularity and

moved from singing into acting.

His 2004 CD *Confessions* was a top-selling album and won the Grammy - the US music industry's top honour - for best contemporary R&B album. *Yeah*, which was on the CD, won the Grammy for best

rapped/sung record.

In 2005, he starred in a feature film called *In the Mix*, playing a young man who becomes romantically involved with the daughter of a mob boss, and in 2006 he starred in the musical *Chicago* on Broadway.

Spike Lee Wants To Film 'Levees' Update-Second Doc Would Cover Gulf Coast Region Outside Of New Orleans.

One of the few complaints regarding Spike Lee's Hurricane Katrina documentary "When the Levees Broke" was that it focused solely on the plight of residents in New Orleans while leaving out the devastated citizens of Mississippi.

Lee plans to remedy the situation with a sequel to the acclaimed HBO film that will spotlight those outside of the Big Easy who were affected by the storm, reports Richard Prince in his *Journalisms* column.

"Next month, we're going back to HBO and discuss how

we can continue this," the filmmaker said Friday during the closing luncheon of the American Society of Newspaper Editors convention in Washington.

"The Gulf Coast will be a much bigger part. We didn't forget about you," he continued, addressing an editor of the Biloxi Sun-Herald, whose paper has attempted to keep America cognizant of Mississippi's rebuilding effort since Katrina. "It was my choice to focus on New Orleans. New Orleans is the Mecca."

Lee's address at the luncheon



included three Katrina victims who were featured in the film: Fred J. Johnson, Phyllis Montana LeBlanc and Galen B. Banks.

BET Special Ranks The Top 25 Movers Of All Time



BET has enlisted its "Rip the Runway" co-host Chris Brown to emcee yet another special on the network.

The R&B crooner joins choreographer Fatima Robinson to host "Top 25 Dancers," a count down of the best entertainers to ever cut a rug - past and present - as ranked by the folks at BET.

Among the contenders are The Temptations, Cab Calloway, Tina Turner, Alvin Ailey, Chris Brown, Savion Glover, Beyonce, Janet Jackson, and of course Janet's big brother, the King of Pop.

Comical insight is added from R&B singer, Omarion; actresses, Debbie Allen, Megan Goode, Malysa Ford, Tasha Smith; celebrity publicist Marvet Britton; pop culture critics Nekesa Moody, Margeaux Watson, Michaela

Angela Davis, Beverly Smith; comedians, Charlie Murphy, Nikki Carr, Capone, Godfrey, Sam I Am, and many others.

Chris Brown, recent host of BET's *Rip The Runway* and Grammy Award-nominated R&B pop sensation, rose to fame in mid 2005 with his Billboard Hot 100 number-one, debut single "Run It!" featuring Juelz Santana. Fatima Robinson, choreographed Oscar-nominated *DREAM GIRLS* and was named one of Entertainment Weekly's "100 Most Creative People in Entertainment."

BET's "Top 25 Dancers" will premiere April 6 at 10 p.m.

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unreturned salutes and unforgiving indignities" they endured.

"We are so overjoyed," said Roscoe Brown Jr., after he and five other Tuskegee Airmen accepted the medal on behalf of the group. "We are so proud today and I think America is proud today."

Bush, members of Congress and other dignitaries joined some 300 airmen, widows and other relatives in the sun-splashed Capitol Rotunda for the ceremony recognizing the Tuskegee Airmen - some of them walking with the aid of canes, others being pushed in wheelchairs - for their long-ago heroism.

"It's never too late for your country to say that you've done a great job for us," retired Col. Elmer D. Jones, 89, of Arlington, Va., said in an interview this week. Jones was a maintenance officer during the war.

Retired Lt. Col. Walter L. McCreary, shot from the sky during a mission in October 1944 and held prisoner for nine months in Germany, said it hurt that the group's accomplishments had not been honored years earlier.

"We took it in stride. It's a recognition long overdue," said McCreary, also 89, of Burke,

Va. The Tuskegee Airmen were recruited into an Army Air Corps program that trained blacks to fly and maintain combat aircraft. President Roosevelt had overruled his top generals and ordered that such a program be created.

But even after they were admitted, many commanders continued to believe the Tuskegee Airmen didn't have the smarts, courage and patriotism to do what was being asked of them.

Nearly 1,000 fighter pilots trained as a segregated unit at an air base in Tuskegee, Ala. Not allowed to practice or fight with their white counterparts, the Tuskegee Airmen distinguished themselves from the rest by painting the tails of their airplanes red, which led to them becoming known as the "Red Tails."

Hundreds saw combat throughout Europe, the Mediterranean and North Africa, escorting bomber aircraft on missions and protecting them from the enemy. Dozens died in the fighting; others were held as prisoners of war.

Other black recipients include singer Marian Anderson, athletes Joe Louis, Jesse Owens and Jackie Robinson, civil rights activists Roy Wilkins, Martin Luther King Jr. and Coretta

Scott King, the Little Rock Nine, Rosa Parks and Dorothy Height, and statesmen Nelson Mandela of South Africa and former Secretary of State Colin Powell. The medal for the airmen, made possible through legisla-

tion by Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., and Rep. Charles Rangel, D-N.Y., and signed last year by Bush, will go to the Smithsonian Institution for display. Individual airmen will receive bronze repli-

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CITY OF PLANO

invites applications for **POLICE OFFICER**. The Plano Police Department is a nationally accredited law enforcement agency with strong community values. Historically, Plano achieves one of the lowest crime rates for Texas cities with a population over 100,000. Training and equipment are provided. After 36 months, a Plano officer's base salary is more than \$66,000.

The City of Plano Civil Service Entrance Examination will occur on **Saturday, May 5, 2007 at 8:00 AM.**

You must pre-register to take the exam. Additional information, eligibility requirements, and registration packets are available by phoning the hotline at 972-941-7299 or by visiting www.planopolice.org. Registration forms must be received prior to 5:00 PM on Monday, April 16, 2007.

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EOE

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NTTA
NORTH TEXAS TOLLWAY AUTHORITY
PUBLIC ADVERTISEMENT

The North Texas Tollway Authority will receive sealed proposals at 5900 W. Plano Pkwy. Suite 100, Plano, TX 75093, (214) 461-2049, until Thursday, April 26, 2007 at 2:00 p.m. for the following projects:

Project: 02210 - Main Lane, Ramp and Direct Connector Re-striping and Signaging. Generally consists of re-striping main-lane and ramp pavement along the President George Bush Turnpike between Midway Road and Brand Road, including the direct connector ramps at IH-35E, Dallas North Tollway and US 75. Approx. Quantities: 440,000 LF Prefabricated Pavement Markings (6 IN), 440,000 LF Eliminating Existing Pavement Markings and Markers (6 IN), 2,100 SF Replace Existing Aluminum Signs and 3,350 EA Linear Delineation System (LDS) panels. Bid packet cost is \$50 and will be available Monday, April 2nd. PLEASE NOTE: THERE WILL BE A MANDATORY PRE-BID MEETING ON April 12th AT 11:00 A.M. AT THE NTTA MAIN OFFICES IN PLANO. Contact Sherry at (214) 461-2049 for more information.

Project: 02090 - Mountain Creek Lake Bridge Concrete Surface Finishes. Generally consists of concrete surface preparation and coating for Mountain Creek Lake Bridge concrete surfaces. Approx. Quantities: 106,848 SF Blast Finish, 5,921 SF Anti-Graffiti Coating (Sacrificial), 55,436 SF Coating Concrete Surface Finish, 106,848 SF Concrete Coating Removal with Asbestos, 180 Day Portable Changeable Message Signs. Bid packet cost is \$50 and will be available Monday, April 2nd. PLEASE NOTE: THERE WILL BE A MANDATORY PRE-BID MEETING ON April 12th AT 10:00 A.M. AT THE NTTA MAIN OFFICES IN PLANO. Contact Sherry at (214) 461-2049 for more information.

Bid packets include plans (if any), specifications, and quantities. Cost of the bid packet is non-refundable. Acceptable methods of payment include cashier's check, money order, company check, or personal check. **Cash will not be accepted.** Bid packets may also be examined at the NTTA offices. In order to bid, you must purchase a bid packet from the NTTA. Bids shall be submitted in sealed envelopes marked clearly with the project number, company's name, and bid opening date. No oral, telephoned, or faxed bids will be considered. Late bids will not be considered and will be returned unopened. To register online to do business with the NTTA, go to www.ntta.org click the "Business" link, and then on "Register". All rights reserved.

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CITY OF ALLEN

The City of Allen Planning and Development Department is seeking qualified General Contractors for their Home Repair Program relating to the Community Development Block Grant Program.

Contact Kellie Wilson at 214-509-4165 to receive additional information and to request a Contractor application packet.

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Church News



Sister Tarpley

From the monthly calendar of Full Gospel Holy Temple, Apostle Lobias Murray, Founder/Pastor: "It's better to be alone than to be in bad company. **Proverbs 1:10** Flowers leave part of their fragrance on the hand that gives them. **Deuteronomy 16:17**. You cannot successfully walk with God while running with the devil. **Matthew 6:24**. Let Christ conquer things within you and you will conquer things without. **1 John 4:4**; **Romans 8:37**. And when Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in clean linen. **Matthew 27:59**. There was a great earthquake, the Angel came and rolled back the stone. **Matthew 28:2**. Although the tongue weighs very little, few people are able to hold it. **Proverbs 8:21**; **34:13**.

"Evil communications corrupt good manners." **1 Corinthians 15:33**. Prayer is a shield to the soul, a delight to God, and a scourge to the devil. **James 5:16**. Peace floods the soul when Christ rules the heart. **Philippians 4:7**. All power is given unto me in Heaven and in earth. **Matthew 28:12**. Rivers of water is the Word of God. **John 7:38**. While there is life, there is hope. **Psalm 65**. Submit everything to God and take the worry out of life. **Matthew 6:34**.

He is not here; for He is risen as He said. **Matthew 28:6**. The Angel said to the women, Fear not; I know ye seek Jesus which was crucified. **Matthew 28:5**. God turned on the light nearly 2,000 years ago. Can you see? **John 1:9** & **10**. A man never shows his charac-

Scriptures For April 2007

ter as plainly as by the way he portrays others. **Proverbs 23:7**. "So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom." **Psalms 90:12**. Faith sees by the ears. **Romans 10:17**; **Hebrews 11:1**. When God forgives the contrite sinner. He also forgets the confessed sin. **1 John 1:9**.

The winds of the spirit are always blowing. Are we opening windows,



Picture of The Week
Sister Tarpley and Craig Watkins, the First Black District Attorney in Dallas County and Texas.

or building windbreakers? **Acts 2:2**. The human spirit falls unless the Holy Spirit falls. **1 Thessalonians 5:19**; **Ephesians 4:30**. No man is truly ready to live until he is fully prepared to die. **Hebrews 9:27**; **Philippians 1:21**; **Amos 4:12**. Spoken words cannot be realized. We need help to say the right thing. **Ephesians 4:25**. Room for improvement is the largest room in the world. **Hebrews 6:11**. Salvation is like a parachute, there isn't any substitute. **John 14:6**. And shall deliver Him to the Gentiles to mock, to scourge and to crucify Him; the

third day He shall rise again. **Matthews 20:19**.

If your troubles are deep seated and long standing, try kneeling. **Psalms 56:16 & 17**. He weighs well and makes decisions wisely who keep eternity before his eyes. **2 Corinthians 4:7 - 18**.

The Awesomeness of God!! In **Chemistry**, HE turned water to wine. In **Biology**, HE was born without the normal conception. In **Physics**, HE disapproved the law of gravity when HE ascended into Heaven. In **Economics**, HE disapproved the law of diminishing return by feeding 5,000 men with 2 fish and 5 loaves of bread.

In **Medicine**, HE cured the sick and the blind without administering a single dose of drugs. In **History**, HE is the beginning and the end. In **Government**, HE said that HE shall be called wonderful counselor and the Prince of Peace. In **Religion**, HE said "No one comes to the father except through ME." HE had no army, yet kings feared HIM. HE won no military battles, yet HE conquered the world. HE committed no crime, yet they crucified HIM. HE was buried in a tomb, yet HE lives today. HE IS JESUS! In HIM find everything!

This Easter Season; let's celebrate HIS death, HIS burial, and HIS resurrection; HE is worthy; Amen! Have a Happy and a Blessed Easter!

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

Plano Heritage Grant Page 1

from hotel/motel tax dollars, are encouraged to propose projects related to heritage and historic preservation and historic education and tourism, such as:

Activities that promote creativity, quality and excellence in historic

preservation/restoration. Innovation and creativity in programming, services, exhibits, capital projects.

Activities that further the Heritage Commission's goals and objectives.

Efforts to reach new audiences through programming, services and education that

promote heritage education. Promotion of Plano as a historic center within the community, throughout the State of Texas and beyond.

Grant applications and guidelines are posted online at the City's Website. Click on the Heritage Preservation Website at www.plano.gov.

Church Happenings

ANTIOCH FELLOWSHIP

MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

April 24-27, 12 Noon
And 7:30 pm Nightly

Lacey Kirk Williams Ministries Conference. Theme: God's Cycle of Grace: 77 Years of Empowering and Equipping Ministry Leaders. The FREE Worship Services will feature Rev. Kevin Rodgers, Pastor, Covenant Baptist Church, Lancaster, TX; Rev. C.B.T. Smith, Pastor Emeritus, Golden Gate Baptist, Dallas, TX; Dr. A. Louis Patterson, Jr. Pastor, Mount Corinth Baptist Church, Houston, TX; Dr. David Kelley II, Pastor, Christ Fellowship Baptist Church, Brooklyn, NY; Dr. Tony Evans, Pastor, Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship, Dallas, TX; and Dr. Freddy Clark, Pastor, Shalom Church, St. Louis, MO.

Sessions this year include topics of interest to women, church staff, ministry leaders and lay leaders. For registration fees and additional information, contact Yvette R. Blair @ 972-228-2420, Ext. 309.

Antioch Fellowship MBC

Rev. Kerry Wesley, Senior Pastor
7550 S. Hampton Road
Dallas, TX 75232
972-228-2420

BETHEL AME CHURCH

April 6, 11 am to 2 pm

The Dunwoody of Naomi Ministry will host its 6th Annual Good Friday FREE Luncheon and Fellowship; then join us with family, friends, and co-workers for the Word of God at 12 Noon for, "The Crown, The Cross, The Church" with speakers: Rev. Reginald J. Houston; Minister Marion Gillian, Director. Call 214-375-3567 for more information.

Bethel AME Church

Rev. Reginald Houston, Overseer
1638 Ann Arbor Avenue
Dallas, TX 75216
214-375-3567

CHRIST COMMUNITY CONNECTION (CCC)

April 23, 11:30 am

CCC, a non-profit 501 (c)(3) organization that provides spiritual growth to the community using various projects to bridge the gap between diverse races, cultures and traditions will host a fundraising Golf Tournament. Join us, Tee-up for fun; and for a great cause: Education Assistance for Youth Scholarship @ the Coyote Ridge Golf Club, 1680 Bandera Drive, Carrollton, TX 75010. The course was recently redesigned with a new Club House.

For more information, donations, to volunteer, or tickets, contact Rev. Rainwater @ 972-242-0933.

Christ Community Connection (CCC)

Rev. Willie Rainwater,
Founder/Director
2006 Southern Oaks
Carrollton, TX 75007
972-242-0933

FELLOWSHIP OF BELIEVERS MINISTRIES, INC. (FOBMC)

April 8, 6:30 pm

"Resurrection Sunday" Quest: Empowering and Equipping God's People. Theme: Strengthening What Remains @ Community Outreach Church, 526 Compton Road, Irving, TX 75061, Pastor L. Tarpley Overseer.

For more info contact Evangelist Evelyn Crawford @ 214-372-3624

Fellowship of Believers Ministries

Bishop Gregory Crawford, Founder and Senior Pastor
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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF HAMILTON PARK

April 20-21, 2007

Daughters of the King, our Women Ministry, will hold its Annual Women's Retreat @ the Marriott Hotel Legacy Town Center, 7120 Dallas Parkway, Plano. Topic: "Women Seeking to Know God More Intimately." All women are invited and we ask you to please wear white. Seats will be reserved. Check in and Registration will start Friday, April 20th @ 1 pm with a Midnight Prayer Service after Sessions and Dinner from 5:30-7:30 pm. Saturday's Prayer Service will start @ 7 am, followed by prayer from 8 am to 10 am; lunch from 12 Noon-1:30 pm and the closing session after lunch.

For early and late registration fees, call Pam Williams @ the church, 972-235-4235 or Joi Cross @ 469-330-7035.

First Baptist Church of Hamilton Park

Dr. Gregory Foster, Senior Pastor
And Rev. Anthony Foster, Pastor
300 Phillips Street
Richardson, TX 75081
972-235-4235

RIVERSIDE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

April 14, 2007

We are having a Fish Fry and Fried Chicken dinner fund-raiser for: "The

Lord's Army Drill Team," an award-winning Drill Team for youth, ages 5-19, for their annual competition trip to the National Missionary Baptist General Convention's Sunday School and BTU Congress in Orlando, FL. The fundraiser helps defray the cost of their trip. They are asking for any donations of food items and paper goods.

For more information and for donations please call sponsors, Yvonne Wilburn or Melva Diane Gardner @ 214-428-3200.

Riverside Missionary B. C.

Rev. S. T. Tutson, Jr., Pastor
3132 Lagow Street
Dallas, TX 75210

ST. PAUL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

April 8 @ 6:30 am

Dallas Black Dance Theatre (DBDT) is presenting "Resurrection, Renewal and Renaissance," a FREE Easter Sunrise Service being held in the sanctuary of the 133-year-old congregation. Breakfast will be served after the sunrise worship service.

St. Paul UMC

Rev. Elzie Odom, Jr.
Senior Pastor
1816 Routh Street
Dallas, TX 75201
972-922-4000

WESTSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH IN LEWISVILLE

April 8, 2007

WBPC Ministry presents, "Praying for Spiritual Breakthrough" Jeremiah 33:3. You are invited to join the Prayer Team as the church consecrates itself for spiritual breakthroughs by committing to 40 Days of Prayer with 40 Ways In 40 Days, February 27th through April 7th. The prayer event will conclude with a prayer saturation session - prayer for the persons who will sit in every seat in the worship center, choir stand, and Sunday morning bible study class on Saturday, April 7th from 10 am - 11 am. Resurrection Sunday worship services start at 10:30 am Sunday, April 8th. For more information and on how you can become actively involved, call Minister Louis Rosenhall @ 214-794-3446.

Westside Baptist Church, Lewisville

Dr. K. W. Blake, Senior Pastor
900 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)

Dr. Jerome E. McNeil, Jr., Pastor

Healthy Beginnings Child Development Center - 972-404-1412

Avenue F Church of Christ
1026 Avenue F • Plano, TX 75074 • 972-423-8833
"Our Pilgrimage to Heaven in 2007" -
Hebrews 11:13-16

Sunday Bible Class 9:45 am
Sunday Morning Worship 10:45 am
Men Bible Class 5:00 pm
Women Bible Class 5:00 pm
Evening Worship 6:00 pm
Wednesday Bible Class 7:00 pm

Radio Program @ 7:30 am on KRVN 970 AM Sunday Mornings
Emory Teater, Associate Minister

www.avefchurchofchrist.org

Ramon Hodridge, Minister

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 Finney

Call Pastor Sam on:
"Vision & Truth Live"
Radio Broadcast: KWRD 100.7 FM Sundays 9pm - 10pm
HEAR PASTOR SAM DAILY ON: "TRUTH MADE SIMPLE"
KGR 1040 AM MONDAY - FRIDAY @ 5:25pm - 5:30pm

Hill Chapel
Christian Methodist Episcopal Church
1113 Ave. I, Plano, TX 75074 (972) 423-4999
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.

St. Luke A.M.E. Church (aka - SLAME)
"Where we slam dunk the devil 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

Thursday 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Tuesday 7:15 p.m. Bible Study

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

Reverend Charles E. Franklin, Pastor

NORTH DALLAS COMMUNITY BIBLE FELLOWSHIP
"A Spiritual Oasis for a Thirsty 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

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

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 am.
- 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

St. Paul United Methodist Church Partners With Dallas Black Dance Theatre To Present An Easter Sunrise Service

St. Paul United Methodist Church announced today its collaboration with Dallas Black Dance Theatre (DBDT) in presenting "Resurrection, Renewal and Renaissance," an Easter Sunrise Service on Sunday, April 8, 2007 at 6:30 a.m. The service will be held in the sanctuary of the 133-year-old congregation, and will be the third consecutive year where scriptures and the arts are united by these two Dallas Arts District neighbors. Sunday School will begin at 9:30 a.m., morning worship service at 10:45 a.m. Breakfast will be served immediately following the sunrise worship

service. This Easter Sunday event is free to the public. "The Soul of the Arts District," St. Paul is the oldest



African American United Methodist church in Dallas and is located at 1816 Routh Street in the Arts District between Ross Avenue and Woodall

Rodgers. The building is easily identified by its fascinating architectural details. Visible from the outside is the patchwork of various shades of brick and original stained-glass windows. Internally, a half-moon-shaped sanctuary includes a steep third-level balcony which includes the original hand-backed wooden chairs. One of the static missions of this historic church is to effectively represent the connection between faith and fine arts. Because of this mission and the church's loca-

tion in the Dallas Arts District, St. Paul envisions itself as "The Soul of the Arts District". "Easter morning, and the joyous celebration of the resurrection that accompanies it, is the highlight of the Christian year," says Rev. Elzie Odum, Jr., Senior Pastor. "It is indeed a joy and a blessing for St. Paul to celebrate the resurrection with our Arts District neighbor, the Dallas Black Dance Theatre. This annual collaboration not only demonstrates the cooperative spirit that exists in the Arts District, but it is also an example of the connection between faith and the arts. We look forward to hosting the community

in our collaborative celebration of "Resurrection, Renewal, and Renaissance". "This is a collaboration that DBDT looks forward to annually," states Ann Williams, Founder and Artistic Director of Dallas Black Dance Theatre. "We love sharing in this special season with the membership of St. Paul and the surrounding community that attends. It is always good when on-going partnerships are formed among residents of the Arts District. It shows our commitment to support one another and to expand the scope of audiences for all of the Arts District venues." Dallas Black Dance Theatre

celebrates its 30th Anniversary during the 2006-2007 Season. This world-traveled contemporary modern dance company employs 12 multi-ethnic professional dancers performing a mixed repertoire of modern, jazz, ethnic and spiritual works. Once renovated, DBDT's permanent home at 2700 Flora will be the artistic anchor on the East End of the Arts District. Dallas Black Dance Theatre will become the resident ballet company for the Dee and Charles Wylie Theatre at the Dallas Center for the Performing Arts when it opens in 2009. For more information, go to www.dbdt.com.

Methodist Health System Presents "Body And Soul" Women's Health Event Free Event Features Rev. Dr. Sheron Patterson

Women of all ages will learn how to cherish their body as well as their soul at a free women's health event hosted by Methodist Health System. The keynote speaker for the event will be nationally-recognized Christian relationship expert and author Rev. Dr. Sheron C. Patterson, senior pastor of Highland Hills United Methodist Church in Dallas. In addition to an uplifting and inspiring message from Rev. Dr. Patterson, participants can enjoy free chair massage, refreshments, osteoporosis screening, and some of the latest health information for women. Dr. Dr. DeShawntrique Gray, an OB/GYN on the medical staff at

Methodist, will discuss necessary screening tests and healthy tips for every stage of life. Dr. Anna Tokar, a colon/rectal surgeon on the medical staff at Methodist, will speak about colon cancer and taking the fear out of colonoscopy. "Women need more emphasis on biblical, church-endorsed encouragement to take care of ourselves," says Dr. Patterson, who will share her insights as well as her inspirations. "I want women to learn how to treasure their temple—their body as well as their soul." According to Dr. Patterson, many women neglect the nurturing of their bodies because someone told them it was vain. "That's just not true," she says. "And as we have neglected

our bodies, our health suffered." Dr. Patterson says this pattern often takes years to undo, but that women are making progress. "Jesus wants us to go to the church and go the gym," says Dr. Patterson. The Body and Soul event will be held Saturday, April 21, from 9 am to noon at Methodist Charlton Medical Center. Space is limited, and reservations are recommended. Call 214-947-0000 to register today or to sign up online: www.methodisthealthsystem.org/events. In the "Category" pull-down menu, select "Health Education Seminar." Click on the event you want to attend. Click on "Register

Online" at the end of the class description. Guided by the founding principles of life, learning, and com-



passion, Methodist Health System (Methodist) uses some

of the latest medical technology and research to bring quality health care to individuals and families throughout North Texas. Methodist Dallas Medical Center, Methodist Charlton Medical Center, Methodist Mansfield Medical Center, Methodist Midlothian Health Center, and three

Methodist Family Health Centers are part of the non-profit Methodist Health System, which is affiliated by covenant with the North Texas Conference of The United Methodist Church. Additional information is available at www.methodisthealthsystem.org.

Patterson Service Draws Thousands Bill Clinton, Others Honor Church Of God In Christ Chief



The governing board members sit alongside the chair used by Bishop G.E. Patterson, left, on Saturday for his service at the Temple of Deliverance Church of God in Christ in Memphis.

A former president and a pair of civil rights movement leaders joined thousands of mourners Saturday to pay final respects to G.E. Patterson, presiding bishop of the Church of God in Christ. Patterson, who helped grow the predominantly black

Protestant denomination to about 6 million members worldwide, died of heart failure March 20 at a Memphis hospital. He was 67. "The nation can be grateful for a good and faithful servant who wished his faith would be known by works," former President Bill Clinton said during Patterson's funeral at the Temple of Deliverance Church of God in Christ. Civil rights leader Jesse Jackson, NAACP Chairman Julian Bond and musician Isaac Hayes looked on while COGIC elders covered Patterson's cof-

fin in a shroud. Alphonso Jackson, secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, called Patterson, who served as a minister for almost 50 years, a "gift from God to this Earth." He read a letter from President Bush that lauded Patterson's

half-century of spiritual work. Clinton compared Patterson's life to that of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., who delivered his famous "mountain top" sermon at COGIC's Mason Temple in Memphis in 1968, a day before he was killed.

Spiritual Direction
"Each One, Reach One"

Worship Services
7:30 am and 10:30 am
Sunday School - 9:30 am
Wednesday Night Service
8:00 pm

Our Mission
To fulfill The Great Commission until Christ comes.

300 Phillips Street • Richardson, TX 75081 • 972.235.4135
www.fbcfp.org

THE EVENING
A WEEKLY SERVICE
7:00 P.M. - 8:30 P.M.
www.1440wfm.com
Fax 972.981.0300

Ministry: Women - Life
Ministry: Black Drama - The

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

"We Choose Love to Nurish and Cherish One Another"
John 13:34 & Ephesians 5:28-29

T.J. Denson, Pastor
www.macedoniaministries.com

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

Fellowship Baptist Church of Allen
200 Belmont • Allen, Texas • 75013
Phone: 972-359-9956 Fax: 972-359-6048
www.fbcofallen.org

"A Kingdom Building Church"

Pastor W.L. Stafford Sr., M.Div.
First Lady Tasha Stafford

Sunday School 9:45 am
Sunday Morning Worship/Children's Church 8:15 am & 11:00 am
Wednesday Prayer & Bible Study 7:00 pm
"Youth for Christ" - Every Monday 7:00 pm

Come experience the Worship Atmosphere at Fellowship, you will never be the same!
If you need a ride to worship with us, please call the church.

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 Fellowships: Friday 7:00pm

Website: www.ibccj.org

Ben Washington Baptist Church, Inc.
3901 Frisco Avenue
Irving, TX 75061
Church 972-790-8421 Fax 972-986-6390

Email: church@benirving.org
Web: benirving.org

"THE CHURCH WITH AN OPEN BIBLE"

Sunday Worship Services:
8:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
9:45 a.m. Sunday School
6:00 p.m. Baptist Training Union

Wednesday:
12:00 p.m. Bible Study
7:00 p.m. Prayer Hour
7:30 p.m. Bible Study

Friendship Baptist Church
4396 Main Street
The Colony, Texas 75056
(972) 625-8186
website: www.fbc-online.net

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.

Dr. C. Paul McBride, Pastor

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.

"The Church with a Vision"