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Minority Opportunity News - The Gazette 1100 Summit, Suite 101 (@ Avenue K) Plano, Texas 75074

from

this date.

descendants.

Juneteenth celebration is a time

Juneteenth celebration is a time for reassuring each other, for praying and for gathering remaining family members. Juneteenth continues to be high-ly revered in Texas decades later,

with many former slaves and

descendants making an annua pilgrimage back to Galveston or

History Of Juneteenth Page

The

Another is that federal troops actually waited for the slave owners to reap the benefits of one last

cotton harvest before going to Texas to enforce

the Emancipation Proclamation. All or neither

read to the people of Texas, General Order Number 3 which began most significantly with: "The people of Texas are informed that in

accordance with a Proclamation from the

Executive of the United States, all slaves are free.

This involves an absolute equality of rights and rights of property between former masters and

could be true. One of General Granger's first orders w

Hilton Should Become A tice system. Thanks

oster Child For The Ailing

The world is focused on Paris Hilton's incarceration.

The circus even triggered a

campaign to remove Los Angeles Sheriff Lee Baca from

office for granting Hilton an

Sheriff Baca is not the cul-

malfunctioning criminal jus-

; the real perpetrator is the

early release.

Criminal Justice System

overzealous prosecutors and the failed war on drugs, jails and prisons are filled danger-

ously beyond capacity. Some jails – especially in California – are releasing inmates after

serving only ten percent o

Minorities and the poor have suffered the wrath of an unjust system for years.

Addiction To Prison Page 2

their time

The Writer's Block (WBI) **Combines Several Art** Forms To Present One **Incredible Literary Event!**

an evening that combines theater, dinner, poetry, and the traditional art forms of dance and music? The Writer's Block, Inc. (WBI) calls it a Literary Showcase. And, you're invited to come and experi-

This Literary Showcase, based on the anthology A Legacv of Africar American Literature, will present works from the book in visual art form. Words will come to life as the one-act plays and poet ry are lifted from the pages of the book

This is a must-experience event, full of extras that include dinner, prizes, displays and games. For the price of the typical week-end outing, come and experience more at our Literary Showcase - where all the sense will be entertained!

Dallas - What do you call 2007 at 6:00 p.m. at the n evening that combines Magnolia Lounge at Fair Park in Dallas, Texas. Ticket prices are \$40.00 per per-son, which includes the anthology, A Legacy of African American Literature, or \$33.00 without the book. Register by mailing in the registration form to the P.O. Box or

online at www.writersblockinc.org. Proceeds from this event benefit the WBI College Scholarship Fund and Literacy program. The Writer's Block, Inc. is

a non-profit organization that supports the growth and advancement of African American, youth and adult writers of all genres. Its key programs focus on commu-nity-based offerings that bring awareness to the contributions of African American authors, events and literature. For more information on The Writer's The Writer's Block Block, Inc., please visit Literary Showcase will be www.writersblockinc.org or held Saturday, June 23, call (214) 946-2357.

Beginning Genealogy

Denton, TX – Join us Saturday, June 30, at 10 a.m. at the Emily Fowler Central Library for an introductory class that will cover the basics of genealogical research and the resources available at the library. Topics include: gathering family information, using genealogical forms, access-ing vital records, locating census records and military records and finding state county, and local records. Kathy Strauss, Genealogy and Special Collections Librarian, will provide instruction on using the

The

Sponsored By:

library catalog, Ancestry atalog, Edition, and Online; Library HeritageOuest searching the obituary index-es; and using genealogical resources on the Internet.

For more information con-tact Laura Douglas at laura.douglas@cityofdenton.c om, visit the Denton Public Library, call 940.349.8752 or see the library's Web site at www.dentonlibrary.com. For other news items on the

City of Denton, visit our website at www.cityofdenton.com, go to Quick Information and click on Press Releases.

call 214-928-9303

Ongoing Uin County is offering tenant-based rental assis-tance to 22 eligible families and indi-viduals for rental housing in The The Frisco Housing Authority Chapter of the American Business Women's Association meets the fourth Tuesday of the month at is offer viduals for rental housing in Frisc Call 972-377-3031 for information Call 972-377-3031 for information. Kumaasi African Ensemble Dance Classes from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. West African dance classes held every Saturday at the South Dallas Cultural Center, 3400 S. Fitzhugh Ave. For more info call S-Eldorado Country Club, 2604 Country Club Drive in Eldorado Country Club ... McKinney Trans Tenant Legal at 6 p.m. Workshops are at 6 p.m. Fuesdays at Douglass

worksnops are at 0 p.m. Tuesdays at Douglass Community Center, 1111 Ave. In Plano. Call 972-941-7174. Alpha Beta Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi a social serv-ice 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 bridt Werbersday of each Ankh Rasa at 214-298-5858 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. 810 for adults, 87 for sen-ior citizens and 85 for students with current school LD. 214-922-1200, publicprograms@DallasMuseumofA rt org

rt.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, Frisco. For more info, call 214-33-5777 or c-mail dbunorth@dbu.edu eater Collin County meets third Wednesday of each th. Visit www.assistanceerague-geccorg. "EVOLVE," a social net-working 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 Coir Road, Suite 202. Call 972-267-4452. A free legal clinic is offender Mere legal clinic is offender Mere legal clinic is offender Mere legal clinic is offender A free legal clinic is offender Mere eague-gcc.org. "EVOLVE," a social net-

dbunoth@dbu.edu. TheYundraeShow the live televi-sion taping every Thursday. The doors open at 7pm and the show starts at 7:45pm. There are door prizes and giveaways each week. Tickets are \$15 at the door. Check it out at; www.theyundraeshow.com

June 21 Dave Koz & Friends with Special Guests David Benoit and Phil Perry 8:00 PM Nokia Live Theater 1001 Next Stage Dr Grand Prairie Call 214-373-8000 Ticket info.

June 22 Heart of A Warrior Foundation and the City of Dallas Parks and Recreation Department host

on To Prison Page 1 Recently our prison-addicted society has inconvenienced a few wealthy white American's like Hilton and the Duke La Crosse players. Their celebrity status should be used to draw attention to broader issues like the fact that the Dept. of Justice reported that over 7 million people were on probation, in jail or prison, or on parole at yearend 2005.

Rather than complaining about Hilton's release, activist would accomplish more b protesting the biased laws that result in long sentences for petty drug criminals and cause such overcrowding in prisons that officials are forced to release inmates early. In 2000 the mean sentence imposed on federal prisoners for violent felonies was 63.0 months as opposed to 75.6 months for drug felonies.* The fact that murders child molesters rapists, and other violent crimi-nals can get less time than nonviolent drug offenders is alarming and a lot more newsworthy than Hilton's ordeal.

Augmenting the prison population is not the only accom-plishment the drug war can claim. Since the enactment of mandatory minimum sentenc-

ing for drug users, the Federal Bureau of Prisons budget has increased by 1,954% from \$220 million in 1986 to more than \$4.3 billion in 2001.* That same year, the California's prison expenditure was \$4.2 billion, yet residents still live in violent, drug-infested neighborhoods Instead of questioning why

Community Spotlight

Sheriff Boca sent the confused hotel heiress home, citizens should wonder why he, according to the Los Angeles Times, is the highest-paid local elected official in the nation. Find out why the state built 21 new pris-, and only one new u ty from 1984 to 1996. Or, ask California officials if they think increasing prison expenditures 30% while decreasing higher education spending by 18% from 1987 to 1995 had anything to do with California ranking the fourth dumbest state in Morgan Quitno's annual state education survey. The media could evolve beyond stories on Hilton's

prison stay and feature some of the talent wasted due to our prison-addicted society. Take for example, Kemba Smith, the Hampton student sentenced to 24 1/2 years on conspiracy charges. Since her pardon in

2000 by President Clinton, Smith graduated from Virginia Union University with plans attend law school; was awarded a Soros Justice Postgraduate Fellowship; and is the founder Kemba of the Kemba Smith Foundation educating youth about injustices in the criminal justice system. How many Kemba Smith's are working for the average .93 cents per hour

paid to prisoners? The web sites of the November Coalition and Families Against Mandatory Minimums feature compelling stories about victims of the war on drugs, including an article about twin brothers Lawrence and Lamont Garrison. They were arrested just months after their graduation from Howard University when the owner of an auto body shop was apprehended for playing a major role in a drug operation. To reduce his sentence, the shop owner implicated the brothers in the cocaine conspiracy. Despite the fact that there was no evidence of drugs found on the Garrisons or in their house, instead of attending law school as planned, Lamont and Lawrence are in a federal penitentiary serving 19 and 15 years respec-

\$69*

Criminal Defense

DWI / Suspended Licens

WARRANTS Removed *

tively. The shop owner was enced to three (3) years

Americans have become so desensitized to locking citizens behind bars, many people don't realize how barbaric it is to call for a troubled young lady to remain in jail instead of receiving treatment. Perhaps that's why the US has th highest incarceration rate in the world and the reason Georgia Attorney General Thurbert Baker would fight for Genarlow Wilson to serve his 10-year sentence for hav ing consensual sex with a 15 year-old girl when he was 17.

I have a dream that one day this nation will look beyond race and class and recognize that our criminal justice system is terminally ill. It suffers from swollen prosecutors, severely infected police departments, a paralyzed judicial sys-tem, and a fractured legislature passing cancerous laws.

Paris Hilton needs counseling; but our criminal justice system needs a transplant. The public needs to wake up from their celebrity-induced coma and focus on the real issues.

*US Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice St VORCE

Family Cases

orce / A Child Support / Paternity

Restraining Order

Domestic Violence

Protective Order

Custody Modification

Name Change / Adoption

FAIR PRICE OFFER For Oil and/or Gas Buying

ommunity

972.267.0990

ble at Ticket m

small town girl turned internation

ntrepreneur, who found that the true

key to happiness is a life of "human being", instead of the overly worked

"human doing" she once was. The performance of her "Walkin in the

Journey album and inspirational sto-rytelling held at The Majestic Theatre

8pm Tickets \$20, \$30, and \$40 avail-

Spm Tickets \$20, \$30, and \$40 available at Ticket master. June 23 The City of Plano Douglass Community Center will host the 2007 Juneteenth Celebration. Join in the observance and enjoy a day of community service, family fun and games, live music, celebrity event, a carnival atmosphere and food ven dors. 8-10 pm, 1111 H Avenue Plano FREE For more information contact the Center at 072-041-0714. "New Growth A Natural Progression," a documentary high lighting the evolution of hair in the Black community. Black Box Theater, Dilinois Branch, 2951 South Hampton Rodmission *8 Torgresses Theatre's "'MEM-BUH" A Musical Play, in honor of Junet center presents the acutined touring hit musical "MEMBUH" 'MEMBUH: Confessions of The Only Generation. "MEMBUH combines musical their "Member of the start of th

Email To: tri1909@tx.rr.com Call Voice Mail: 972-606-3891 (Leave Message)

through the highs and lows of recap-turing their family legacy. Appropriate for ages 13 years and up. Performance location: Richland College, Fannin Performance Hall 12800 Abrams Rd; Dallas 75243 8pm §5 - General Admission. Call 877-3-PT-TOUR for Johnson Recreational Center 12225 Willowdell Drive; Dallas 75243 –Entertainment and lunch provided RSVP: carla@northstarpr.net; or call 3rd Annual Peace Conference nformation to buy ticket vw.ProgressTheatre.com Hosts Benefit Concert Jane Rivar, a re infor

visit www.Progress/Theatrc.com. Cinema in the Circle - Join fam-ily and friends for some of the most memorable musicals to hit the big screen. Movies begin at 9 p.m. Blankets and chairs are permitted. Addison Circle Drive REE events For more information please visit The Town of Addision, Texas website at: www.addisontexas.net or 1-800-ADDISON. ADDISON

www.addisontexas.net.rot. 1-800-ADDISON.
Full Moon of Sonia - One Night Only of Spoken Word and Music Starring Sonia Sanchez and T.C. Carson 7:30pm, \$10, Canvention Center Theater Complex The Black Academy of Arts & Letters, Dallas Naomi Bruton Main Stage, 650 South Griffin Street Dallas, Phone 214-743-2440 cicket information.
124r-743-2440 cicket information.
126. Annual White Linen Party Extravaganza Vocals by the charming world re-known singer, Howard Hewitt, 3pm until, Intercontinental Dallas Hord IS201 Dallas Parkway, Addison 75001 Tickets, \$35.00 & Up Call

2145239538 for more information. Habitat Home Run 5K, 8:00 am Bob Woodruff Park, Plano; Visit w w w . h a b i t a t -.org/homerun5k07.htm for full details and register at www.getmereg istered.com Dance With Lahunter In Flight

817-277-0196 (Metro)

Dance Theatre Starring Happy Nia Dance Theatre In its third season, this modern

dance company is bursting at the seam. If you like ballet, jazz and even a stint of hip-hop, then you're sure to enjoy this very p mising company, 8 p.m. Tickets \$10 TBAAL, Dalla Convention Center Theatre Complex Naomi Bruton Main Stage, 650 South Griffin Street, Dallas, Box office 214-743-2440.

office 214-743-2440. June 26 DART Bus Operator Job Fairs Must be at least 21 years of age. 9 Am. - 4 pm. Tuesday, June 26 and Wednesday, June 27, 2007, 1401 Pacific Ave. DART Headquarters (Akard Station), DAIlas 2nd Floor Atrium, Phone 214-740-3636 The Listening Room a live Jazz set and Artist talk with Saxophone Marcel Ivery, Southside on Lamar, 1409 S. Lamar, Dallas, Phone 214-670-0315 Free June 27

June 27 Take the Test, Take Control in recognition of National HIV Testing Day, Dallas County Health and Human Services (DCHHS) will offer free HIV tests at its Stemmons location 2377 North Stemmons Freeway. For more information, call 214-819-1980. Information is also available on our website at www.dallascounty.org

June 29 Inaugural S. E. E. (Self-Esteem Elevated) Conference Irving based Now Faith Ministries International is proud to host the 1st Annual S.E. E.

conference Now Faith Ministries' vision is to uplift all women so they can see them-selves through God's eyes of love, grace and mercy. Friday June 29, 9:00am -12:30pm, evening session 7:00pm, saturday June 30, 9:00am -5:00pm. Fellowship Bible Church of Dallas, 9330 N. Central Expwy Dallas 75231 Cost \$25 Contact 214-783-8778 Cheryl Roseborough crose@jpventures.com

crosse@jyentures.com June 30 K104 Summer Jam 2007 starring Chris Brown with Paul Wall, Rasheeda, Huey, Mimz, Mike Jones, Li Mama, Crime Mob, Shop Boyz and more. Jons Snironf Music Centre 1818 1st Ave, Dallas 75210 Phone 214-421-1111 ticket information. Lub 14

July 14 "What I Want You to Know (Before I Go)" Memoir Writing Workshop, 11a.m.-4 p.m. Your simple memories an special moments can becor treasured family heirloom. Thi fun and provocative workshop will get you started on writing your life stories and preserving your history for personal use or publication. You don't have to be a writer to participate. Fees: \$55 day of workshop. \$5 discount for mail-in registration by July 11; \$35 for repeat partici pants. ArtSpirit Center for Spirituality 408 W. 8th Street, Ste. 102 Dallas, contact man lock@yahoo.com 214-803 lock@yahoo.com 214-803-3920; www.artspiritdallas.org ArtSpirit Center for Spirituality 408 W. 8th Street, Ste. 102 Dallas, 214-288-5225.

Proud To Be An Active Partner In The Community

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at&t



Op-Ed THE TRUTH CLINIC

The Rocky Road To Racial Reconciliation

By: James W. Breedlove And you, that were sometimes alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled, (Colossians 1:20)

Recently, some 142 years after was unofficially ended when Robert E. Lee surrended at Appomattox Court House in Virginia and almost 400 years after the first African slaves arrived in Jamestown, the Virginia legislature officially apologized for Virginia's role in those abominable actions.

The apology is the latest in a series of long overdue steps Virginia has taken to reconcile its segregationist past. In 2004 the Legislature created a schol-arship fund for blacks whose schools were shut down between 1954 and 1964 because of the massive resistance to school desegregation

Sponsors of the symbolic resc lution believe Virginia is the first state to pass such a measure. The resolution is mild, innocuous and totally toothless, but it acknowledges the monstrous wrong of slavery.

It states that slavery "ranks as the most horrendous of all depre-dations of human rights and violations of our founding ideals in our nation's history, and the abo-lition of slavery was followed by systematic discrimination enforced segregation, and other insidious institutions and prac-tices toward Americans of African descent that were rooted in racism, racial bias, and racial mis-understanding."

The Virginia House approved the resolution 96-0 and it wa unanimously passed in the 40member Senate. Among those voting for the measure was Delegate Frank D. Hargrove, an 80-year-old Republican who antagonized black leaders earlier this year by saying "black citi-zens should get over" slavery instead of seeking a formal apology from the state. Hargrove voted for the revised measure because it expresses regret with-

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MON-The Gazette assumes no

Opport

out actually apologizing. In a broader sense, now that Virginia has opened the door, Congress should also step up and atone for its role in slavery. Michigan Congressman John Conyers has had such a bill bounc-

ing around Congress since 1989. The greatest impediment to black empowerment, economic justice, and reconciliation has been the Constitution, which institu-tionalized the disparate social and economic status of blacks and whites. It wasn't just Virginia and a handful of other southern states that nurtured slavery. The U.S. government had encoded slavery in the Constitution and encour-aged it for over a hundred years. This operous system of entrenched bias, bigotry and segregation fos-tered the wealth and power imbalance between blacks and whites. The American economy boomed as landowners, traders, insurance companies, bankers, shippers, and other businesses made billions off

the backs of black slav e backs of black slaves. The several small steps that Virginia has taken toward recon-Virginia has taken toward recon-ciliation are a welcome start after many decades of dialogue on race issues. Still the residual effects of the multi-generational alienation between blacks and white liener on whites lingers on. Blacks have made little relative

progress from slavery to today because the American majority still harbors notions of race that perpetuates the slavery pathology. Even while America searched for its own moral high ground and championed personal freedom and ecoomic independence blacks were still socially, economically and

politically marginalized. There is nothing new about state and federal governments issuing apologies for past wrongs committed against Blacks. The U.S. government admitted it was legally liable in 1997 to pay the black survivors and family members of the four-decade long Tuskegee syphilis experiment begun in the 1930's that made human guinea pigs of

Where Do You Want To Go Today?

<u>Gen</u>The Gazette

-Naris Ballas Wartin Baras alle Menter AND MIL

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

Sandra Robin

1100 Summit, Suite 101 • Plano, Texas 75074

black patients. They were the victims of a blatant medical atrocity conducted with the full knowledge and approval of the U.S. government. Indicative of the wide dispersion

of thought and dialogue over racial reconciliation is an observa-tion by Dr. Raleigh Washington in the book Breaking Down the Walls. He addresses the issue of how whites talk to whites about blacks and how blacks talk to blacks about whites. The underlying problem with this lies in the fact that whites and blacks do not intrinsically communicate with one another about their experiences, resulting in walls of friction and misunderstanding.

The even deeper problem is the inability of man to reconcile with God. That being the case it is not difficult to understand the continuing racial reconciliation gap. In spiritual reconciliation God is

the offended party whose law has been and is being violated. Therefore, it is man who must become reconciled to God not God to man. The cause of the spiritual disharmony and enmity with God is that man first strives to be in harmony with the world

Reconciliation with God should be man's first priority because an alienation and separa tion exists. God is love and even though God loved the world so much that he gave his only begot ten son on behalf of man, the fact remains that mankind as a whole has been in a state of enmity towards God. God's ultimate gift of love to the world was a gift made by Him to His enemies because of love guided by princi-

ples rather than friendship. Once man is reconciled to God these same principles could be used to smooth out the rocky road eading to racial reconciliation by those who are now alienated and enemies in their own minds because of their wicked works. Comments or opinions may b

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UN: Security In South Darfur Town Not Improved

UN - The United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) said this week that the security situation in the southern Darfur town of Gereida has not improved and militia attacks against civilians. especially women, are continu-

ing. UNMIS conducted the visit to Gereida to follow up on the Darfur Peace Agreement's (DPA) effect on the overall security situation, livelihoods and tribal reconciliation, according to a news bulletin issued by the Mission. Gereida is a key town about 90

kilometres south of the provincial capital, Nyala. The UNMIS team found that

Ianiaweed attacks outside towns were ongoing and women were still subject to rape and harassment The DPA, signed in May 2006

Government and part of the Sudan Liberation Sudan Liberation Movement/Army (SLM/A), was supposed to put an end to the fierce fighting in Darfur, and the agreement covers security, wealth-sharing and power-sharing

But the Darfur conflict has raged on and some 200,000 peo-ple have now been killed since season, thousands of refugees

2003 and more than 2 million and internally displaced people others have had to flee their will face even greater hardship. This airlift will help avoid any homes, resulting in large numbers of Sudanese refugees in neighbouring Chad and the Central African Republic (CAR). In a related development, the Sheeran

UN World Food Progra

critical gaps in our operation to feed thousands of people," said WFP Executive Director Iosette WFP aimed to pre-position



A group of Child e Rindergarden ns (IDPs) camp in Zo rnaalya internatiy a vei. West Darfur, Suo

(WFP) has welcomed France's offer to airlift life-saving humanitarian assistance to a growing number of Sudanese refugees and displaced Chadians living in an "increasingly precarious situa-

six-month supply of food to feed 240,000 Sudanese refugees in 12 camps and 150,000 inter nally displaced persons (IDPs) in eastern Chad through the rainy season from June to November. So far, it has man-aged to build four months of food stocks.

Gov. Perry Joins HHS Secretary Leavitt To Sign Landmark Medicaid Reform Fort Worth - Gov. Rick Perry serve individuals better and Commission (HHSC) to

Medicaid reform is designed

increase the percentage of

Texans with health care cover-

age, focus on prevention, and emphasize consumer choice in

health services. Reform efforts

will transform the state's health

care infrastructure, optimize health investments, and provide

employer-sponsored plans • Create tailored benefit pack-

· Promote consumer choice

through health savings accounts and consumer directed services

· Set a cost-sharing base for

non-emergency use of emer-

health care needs

incentives

200,000 uninsured Texans Additionally, Medic reform will do the following:

more cost effectively.

was joined today by U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Michael Leavitt to sign SB 10 into law, reforming the state's Medicaid program that serves more than 2.7 million vulnerable, disabled and elderly Texans. The bill also creates a health opportunity pool, which will fund a premium assistance program to help uninsured working Texans who are not eligible for Medicaid buy private insurance

"By optimizing available funding for health services, expanding consumer choices. encouraging personal responsi-bility for Medicaid recipients, and providing new sources of financing for private insurance, we are taking a historic step toward a better, more accessible healthcare system," said Perry, Today, Texas' Medicaid pro-

gram costs \$39.5 billion, accounting for 26 percent of the state's biennial budget. By instituting a more flexible, innova-tive methodology to provide health care to underprivileged Texans, the state will be able to develop a pilot project, which will provide incentives to pri-mary care physicians serving Medicaid recipients who utilize health information tech-nology, including electronic health records. Electronic medical records will help to ensure recipients receive appropriate medical care.

health coverage to an estimated "It is not the end-all, be-all in a state with unique health care challenges, including Medicaid including more than 5 million unin Provide assistance for enroll-ment in private insurance and sured many of whom have immigrated here from poor conditions. But this plan is a good start at solving the prob ges for children with special lem working Texans who make too much to qualify for

Medicaid, but not enough to affordably purchase health insurance coverage," said Perry HHSC will immediately

Reward healthy lifestyle behaviors with health care begin work to prepare and sub mit a Medicaid waiver request by this fall to the U.S ency rooms In addition to Medicaid Department of Health and Human Services. effect reform, SB 10 also requires the

takes SB 10 September 1, 2007.

Health and Human Services **Dems Push For Voter Suppression Probe**

By: Lara Jakes Jordan - AP Washington - Senate Democrats urged the Justice Department on Monday to investigate whether one of its former prosecutors led attempts to suppress Florida voter turnout during the 2004 presi-

ential election. The request by Sens. Edward M. Kennedy of Massachusetts

ory Of Juneteenth Page 1 On Jan. 1, 1980, Juneteenth became an official state holiday through the efforts of Al Edwards, an African American state legislator. The successful passage of this bill marked Juneteenth as the first emancipa

tion celebration granted official Backed Civil Rights Page 1 local law enforcement officers and prosecutors. Additionally, the bill authorizes \$11.5 million

nual appropriati these new services. The legislation was named after teenager Emmett Till who was murdered and mutilated in Money, Mississippi in 1955. In many

unsolved Civil Rights crimes.

and Sheldon Whitehouse of adviser Karl Rove who worked Rhode Island is the latest facet at the Republican National Committee in 2004. The two of Congress' ongoing inquiry into whether politics played a senators Monday pointed to role in the firings of eight U.S. two e-mails to Griffin - titled "caging" and dated August 2004 — listing nearly 2,000 potential voters in Jacksonville, Fla. One of the fired prosecutors Bud Cummins in Little Rock, Ark., was replaced on an interim basis by Tim Griffin — a pro-tege of presidential political

The e-mails were posted on Voter Suppression Page 4

self-improvement and for planning the future. Its growing popularity signifies a level of maturity and dignity in America long over due. Sensitized to the conditions and experiences of others, only then can we make significant and lasting improvements in our society.

and the Senate Select Committee on Ethics. He serves as the top Republican on the Judiciary Committee's Immigration, Border Security nigration, Border Security Refugees subcommittee Im and and the Armed Services Committee's Airland subcommittee. He served previously as Texas Attorney General, Texas Supreme Court Justice, an Bexar County District Judge. and



provide quality services. Should you dare 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 Co ity Nous was fe d hales d

Y a Pring Residence in \$2 Willie Wattley Coty Rodriguez-Ande

state recognition. Today Juneteenth comme es African American freedom and emphasizes education and achievement. It is a day, a week, and in some areas a month marked with celebrations, guest

attorneys

is to fund

states, there are still

en. Chris Dodd, D-Conn., and Sen. Cornyn co-sponsors. Senilar legislation, the Unsolved Civil Rights Crime Act, during

the 109th Congress.

Sen. Cornyn serves on the Armed Services, Judiciary and Budget Committees. In addi-tion, he is Vice Chairman of the Senate Republican Conference

Southern Justice while his appeal was pending. He has been behind bars for more than 28 months. I awmakers last year voted to

By: Shannon McCaffrey - AP Atlanta - Genarlow Wilson's

joy was short-lived. The African-American man, who has become a symbol for extreme cases of getting tough on sex offenders, was ordered released from prison by a Georgia judge who called his 10-year sentence for having consensual oral sex as a teen "a

grave miscarriage of justice." The verdict brought cheers from his legal team. His mother, Juannessa Bennett, wined c., Juannessa Bennett, wiped away tears as she called it "a miracle."

But the mood dampened some 90 minutes later when the state's attorney general announced he would appeal, which will keep the former honors student and football star behind bars for now.

Wilson's case has gained national attention, with critics saying his sentence was far too harsh. Supporters like former President Jimmy Carter have said it raises questions about race and the criminal justice syst

"As far as I'm concerned, this case is a throwback to Southern justice," said state Sen. Vincent Fort, an Atlanta Democrat.

Wilson, now-21, and five other male partygoers charged in the cases were Black, as were the two teenage girls involved.

Wilson is serving a 10-year mandatory sentence for having consensual oral sex with a 15year-old girl in 2003, when he was 17. If his conviction is upheld, he will also be placed on Georgia's sex offender reg-

At the time of his crime, Wilson would have faced just one year in prison if he had sexual intercourse with the girl. The "Romeo and Juliet" exception in Georgia law also would have allowed him to avoid the sex offender registry.

close that loophole. state's top court said the new

law could not be applied retroactively to Wilson's case. Opponents of Wilson's release threw out Wilson's 10-year sen-tence and amended it to misdemeanor aggravated child molestation with a 12-month term, plus credit for time served. He would not be said it could lead to similar legal challenges. Georgia prisons cur-rently hold 189 inmates who were sentenced for aggravated child molestation when they were 21 or younger.

In his notice of appeal, Attorney General Thurbert Baker argued that Georgia law does not give a judge authority to reduce or modify the sen-



sed by the trial

He said he would seek an expedited ruling from the Georgia Supreme Court. And he noted that a plea deal is on the table that would spring Wilson in a maximum of five years and also remove him from the sex offender registry. Not good enough, said

Wilson's lawyer, B.J. Bernstein. "It is really ridiculous when you consider that we had a judge that just said it is a mis-demeanor that carries no sex offender registration," she said."It is extremely, extremely disturbing that the attorney general would take this action

Bernstein said her office was seeking bond for Wilson that would allow him to leave prison



cannot recognize the injustice of what has occurred here, then our court system has lost sight of the goal our judicial system has always strived to accomplish ... justice being served in a fair and equal manner," the judge

The judge's ruling Monday

Wilson's mother was jubilant at the prospect of her son's freedom and looked stricken when she learned of the appeal. "It's heartbreaking," Bennett

said A jury in 2005 found Wils guilty of aggravated child molestation for having oral sex with a 15-year-old girl during a 2003 New Year's Eve party involving alcohol and marijuana. Although the sex act was consensual, it was illegal under Georgia law.

Wilson was also charged with rape for being one of several male partygoers at the Douglas County hotel to have sex with another 17-year-old girl, but was acquitted. The party was captured on a videotape that was played for the jury The five other male partygo

ers took plea deals in the case. One has been released from prison and is now in college



Chicago Church Billboards Target Ten "Trash" Rappers; Snoop, Lil Wayne, Nelly, Others Named

rappers" are among the ten rap-pers targeted on the billboards, a By: Roman Wolfe A variety of popular rappers have come under attack in Chicago, where a Southside spokesman for Saint Sabina told AllHipHop.com today (June 19).

church has erected twenty billboards throughout the city, denouncing rappers they claim "demean women and perpetuate violence." The billboards were placed by the Faith Community of

Saint Sabina church and urges community members to "stop listening to trash." Snoop Dogg, Fat Joe, Lil Wayne, Nelly, 50 Cent & G-

Having self esteem or what onference host and founder Cheryl Roseborough calls "God Confidence," is what makes a person whole: being healed mind, body and soul. ough adds, "I understand Roseb that I had low self esteem for vears. It wasn't until I was around 32 that I starting seeing that I was somebody and the true healing process began for me. In the process of making the journey I found the "real me." The real me couldn't be tied to anything, any body or anyone that didn't help

Voter Suppression Page 3 a political Web site critical of the Bush administration, but a White House spokeswoman said the Democrats did not doubt their authenticity

"Caging" refers to efforts to disqualify voters who fail to sign for registered campaign mail sent to their houses. In theory, the practice identifies homes where voters no longer live. But the Democrats said in a letter to Attorney General Alberto Gonzales that "there are many reasons why registered mail might be 'returned to sender' that have nothing to do with a voter's eligibility. The caging lists targeted pre-

Path~Way to Purpose® CEO dominantly African-American neighborhoods in Jacksonville, the senators said in their letter. Instice

Department spokesman Dean Boyd said the agency is "not able to comment on an individual who is no longer a Justice Department employee, nor on allegations about this individual before he became a Department employ-

Griffin stepped down as interim U.S. attorney in Little Rock earlier this month.

The caging controversy also was raised last month by Monica Goodling, the Justice Department's former White House liaison. In House testiwomen, we must fight every form of negativity, including the music industry." Rev Michael Pfleger said of the campaign in a statement.

Rev. Pfleger and Saint Sabina have spoken out against a number of issues in the past, including acism, the retail sale o drug paraphernalia and grain alcohol and the rise of alcohol and tobacco billboards in the African-American community

There are currently 10 billboards placed around Chicag

Inaugural S.E.E. (Self-Esteem Elevated) Conference boost my self-esteem. Negative Cynthia Mickens-Smith, former people or dead weights you have

beauty queen Brenda Bridgeforth, author Shewanda Riley and conference host and founder Chervl Roseborough.

History: Irving based Now Faith Ministries International is proud to host the 1st Annual S.E. E. conference. Now Faith Ministries' vision is to uplift all women so they can see themselves through God's eves of

love, grace and mercy. For more info contact Cheryl Roseborough at crose@jpven-tures.com or at 214-783-8778.

mony, Goodling said Deputy Attorney General Paul McNulty was aware of allegations of Griffin working to cage votes in 2004 — but told a Senate panel he was unfamiliar with the case.

Goodling said McNulty was aware that that was an issue. I told him the day before that it was" and provided him then newspaper stories about the allegations, she testified

People close to McNulty have said he did not have time to review the media stories before the Senate hearing in February and told lawmakers he did not know enough about the situation to discuss it.

The City of Richardson celebrates with you the important milestone Juneteenth represents in the history of our nation!



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"If we are going to end the vio-

to get rid of." This inspirational event will show women how to

develop their own self-esteem

blueprint and live it successfully

Highlights include a special ses

sion with celebrity makeup artist

Sam Fine who has worked on

such celebrities as Halle Berry and Vanessa Williams.

Retired NFL player Thomas Everett, Minister Kim Smith,

bank executive Rosilyn Houston

Conference Speakers Include

Ludacris, Chicago Twista and "all negative Unit,

lence and the disrespect of

Business Directory To Advertise Call 972-606-7498

First Time In Collin County **Two Minority Chambers Of Commerce Form Partnership** The public partnership is a symbol of the strength that the



Plano, Texas - June 14, -Collin County Chamber Hispanic of Commerce announced that a formal

Agreement with Collin County Black Chamber of Commerce was signed into action during the Hispanic Chamber month-Partnership ly lunch on Thursday, June 14. www.cchchamber.org

Heart Of A Warrior Foundation **Community Celebration**

The Heart of a Warrior Charitable Foundation and the City of Dallas Parks and Recreation Department Cordially invite you to a community celebration in recogni-tion of a special gift to the Willie B. Johnson Recreational nter's Summer Enrichment Camp WHEN:

at 11 a.m

WHERE: Willie B. Johnson Charitable Foundation in cele-Recreational Center 12225 Willowdell Drive; Dallas, TX 75243 – Hamilton Park Entertainment and lunch pro-vided. RSVP: carla@north-

vided. RSVP: carla@north-starpr.net; or call 972.267.0990 Dallas civic and business lead-ers, along with supporters of the Friday, June 22 Hamilton Park community, will join the Heart of a Warrior

bration this unique initiative to benefit our local youth. This inaugural gift by the Heart of the Texans.

Texas Unemployment Rate Drops To Historic 4.1 Percent Low Texas Employers Add 22,700 Jobs In May

Austin - The May seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell to 4.1 percent, its lowest point since the current series began in 1976. The unemployment rate dropped from 4.2 percent in April and 5.0 percent a year ago. Seasonally adjusted nonagricultural employment in Texas grew by 22,700 jobs in May, with 10 industries gaining jobs from the previous month. Texas employers now have added 239,000 jobs over the past 12 months.

"Sustained job growth and strong Texas economy have driven the unemployment rate to this historic low," said Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) Chair Diane Rath. "Texas employers are pros-pering which means more opportunities for working

Statistical Area (MSA) experienced the lowest unemploy ment rate in the state at 2.0 percent (not seasonally adjusted). The Amarillo and Odessa MSAs were second at

3.0 percent, followed by the College Station-Bryan and Lubbock MSAs at 3.1 percent

Professional & Business Services continued to surge forward with 10 consecutive months of job growth, gaining 5,400 positions in May. This industry has added 61,600 jobs this past year. Education & Health Services showed the largest over-the-month increase since last summer, gaining 4,900 jobs. The industry has now logged 38 months of job growth since January 2004.

"Texas employers are making enormous strides across a wide spectrum of industries," said TWC Commissioner Representing Employers Ron Lehman. "Our state's annual

job growth rate at 2.4 per-cent now outpaces the U.S. rate at 1.4 nercent "

Trade, Transportation & Utilities recorded employment gains for the sixth consecutive month, adding 2,600 positions in May and 20,900 jobs in the past 12 months. The Mining industry added 1,600 positions this past month and 19,100 jobs in the past year, achiev-ing a 10.5 percent annual job growth rate.

"As more and more people find work, the economy improves for all Texans," said TWC Commissioner Representing Labor Ronny Congleton. "The state has added more than 104,000 jobs since the first of the year."

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two largest minority groups in Collin County believe they

share in the economic destiny of the county. They will collab-

orate on legislative issues and

events of interest to the com-

Their first co-sponsored event will be a Minority Business Certification

Business Certification Seminar, Saturday, August 18,

2007, 10am to 4pm, 111 N. Tennessee Street, McKinney, TX. Registration information

munities they serve.

on-line

EDS Credit Union Announces Sponsorship **Of Frisco Thunder Football Team** Thunder plays a close-up

Plano - EDS Credit Union has announced the title spon-sorship of the Frisco Thunder Football Team. The Thunder is a member of the Intense Football League, a fast-paced indoor football organization

Football fans can enjoy the game May until July. Unlike most football teams, the

Blackonomics Page 1 ing to cast their votes. Foiled

again!

The next 100 years saw Black people fighting for public accommodations, education, and yes, voting rights, which were given to us again in 1965, but even today certain aspects of the law must be "reviewed" "extended," or "renewed" every now and then. Freedom? You tell me.

Having fought the battles for civil rights, education, and voting, after being "freed" so many times it makes my head swim, Black people are still in a battle to attain true free-dom. What is true freedom? It is all those things that we were supposed to have been granted after the Civil War, with the ratifying of the 13th 14th and 15th Amendments. But, the culmination of freedom for Black people in America is economic freedom

It was great to get freed so many times, but freedom in 1865 with no money, no forty acres, and no mules was not freedom at all. Unlike the Israelites who were instructed by God Himself to go back and get reparations from their former captors, we received nothing but more trouble, Thaddeus Stevens' 1867 Reparations Bill notwith-

anding. When we did get some money, it was nice to have the choice of spending it in busi-nesses we did not own, but it was better to support those businesses we did own. It was nice to be able to go to school with White folks who hated us, but better to have our own schools. It was nice to finally have the right to vote without being threatened, but better to ur votes count for som thing other than condescen-sion and false promises, which would not have been the case if we had maintained our economic base

"Families make up a large percentage of the fans in the stands," said Kent Lugrand, That's why I say the culmi-nation of freedom, if we are really free at all, is economic freedom. I don't mean individual economic freedom, although that's great for those brothers and sisters who have attained that status, but rather collective economic freedom. When we reach that status as a group of people in this country we will have completed that long journey that began at the

game within feet of cheering fans. This brings the excite-ment of the game to a new

level. With pre-game and half-time activities, the Thunder provides an entertaining time

for kids as well as adults

Door of No Return How can we do it? Well, we can begin by loving and trusting one another enough to be willing to make an individual sacrifice for the betterment of our group. We will accomplish it when we are able to maintain our own institutions and organizations with our own dollars, rather than having to close them down or downsize because corporate donations dry up. We will do it when we care enough about our children to educate them ourselves, or at least take more control over what they are taught in school. We will reach the zenith of

true freedom when we own and control a proportionate share of this country's assets, when we have more banks, more hotels, more office buildings, more manufacturing, more dis-tribution, more development rights, more equity funds, more investment funds, more real estate investment trusts, more revolving credit associations, more bartering associations and more collective activity among Black people.

Yes, the culmination of freedom, even after all of the times we have been "freed" is eco-nomic freedom. In this capitalistic society where the almighty dollar rules, people are truly free when they are economically free, not just free to eat where they want, free to go to the bathroom when and wherever they happen to be, free to attend public school with other folks, or free to cast a vote.

Wide Wide Receiver for the Minnesota Vikings, is the new owner of the Frisco Thunder. The Thunder games take place

The culmination of freedom, econo nic freedom, for Black people is our last charge in this our "final imperative," as George Fraser puts it, plenty

the final movement in Freedom Suite, and the final chapter in our historic and heroic existence in this land of

BURIAL PLOTS PRIME BURIAL LOTS FOR SALE One, two or three lots for sale at Restland in North Dallas; located in the beautiful and peaceful Serenity Gardens Section

(Southeast corner of Greenville Avenue & Restland Road.) Market value \$3450 each, but selling price negotiable. View plots by appointment only. Call 972-606-3878, 972-416-6109, or 469-235-5808.



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Sixth Annual Reebok Heroes Celebrity **Baseball Game June 23 To Benefit Children Charities Of The Heroes Foundation And** The Mike Modano Foundation

Dallas - Batter up! Round up the family for a rollicking. celebrity-filled day of fun at the Sixth Annual Reebok Heroes Celebrity Baseball Game (www.heroesbaseball.org) or Saturday, June 23, 2007, at the Dr Pepper Ballpark in Frisco. Superstars from the basketball court, football field, ice rink and entertainment world will come together to "play ball!" with proceeds benefiting the children's charities of The Heroes Foundation and The Mike Modano Foundation. The big

The Alternative Networking

Dallas - The Park Young

Adult Ministry® will host 1st Fridays @ The Park® on Friday, July 6, 2007 at 6:30 pm

in the Hamilton Park United

Methodist Church Christian

Event for Dallas Area Young

Adults

day will invade the parking lot at Heroes Field. 2 p.m. with a tailgate party com-plete with family-fun activities and games. Then, Wade Boggs, Ben Grieve, Mark McLemore and others will swing into action for the Home Run Derby at 5 p.m. before the celebrity all-stars take the field to compete for bragging rights in the "big game" at 7 p.m. The big weekend also includes "little-league" action beginning at 3 p.m. on Friday, June 22 when the Little Heroes Baseball Game gets underway at the Whataburger Little

1st Fridays At The Park

praise and worship with The Park Posse®, Comedian

Antonio Johnson, DJ Red, an open microphone session led by

Dallas' 1st Lady of Spoken

Word - Tisha Crear, and a hir

hop flavored word by Pastor E.

Light refreshments will be

served and childcare is available

at this free monthly event. For more information, con-

Sponsors of the event are Sewell Automotive, Bayl Medical Center at Frisco Baylor WFAA Channel 8, K104 FM. ESPN 103.3 FM and the ABC

Radio Group. Tickets are \$5, \$7, \$12 and \$15 and are on sale now at Ticketmaster (214-373-8000), online www.Ticketmaster.com.or.at the Dr Pepper Ballpark Box

Office during office hours. For more information, www.heroesbaseball.org visit

The Hamilton Park United

Methodist Church, a Christian "Community" of faith, is called

by God to make Disciples for Jesus Christ by transforming lives and communities through

the preaching and teaching of

the Word and the works of the

Holy Spirit. The Park Young Adult Ministry®, a ministry of

Hamilton Park United Methodist Church, serves to address the needs of young adults in the Dallas Metroplex.

You can visit the church at www.hparkumc.org.

Students participating in the

Student Leadership Academy

must submit an academic tran-script, two letters of recommenda-

Applications are available at the Center for Scholarly & Civic Engagement in Room F105 at the

Spring Creek Campus, 2800 E. Spring Creek Parkway in Plano or online at www.ccccd.edu/sla.

For info contact the director

tion and an essay.

ing act against humanity The annual conference has

What happened Page 1

several goals. Topping that list is self-evaluating the mission of the organization. The 100 implemented four signature programs entitled FOUR FOR THE FUTURE TM . The subject areas are Mentoring, Education, Health & Wellness, and Economic Development. The 100 has identified these

made through these pro-grams by local chapters have allowed the 100 to gain prominence as one the world's leading organizations for mentoring African American

the conference to devel-op new business partnerships with major corporations, to celebrate the accomplishments of

to reunite with friends of the 100

was constant throughout this gathering was an overwhelmand pride.

Smith knew he had to do

"I was among the few of my peers who had a father in the home ", Smith said. "He was, without question, my best

"Recruiting Men who will care, commit and give time, mentoring youth is our pri-

member, said completion, because we do what we say, pride, and, excellence, which describe the leadership and dedication Woodyard also cited a close

role model in his life who

repeatedly said that helping and serving others was important "My father was a man of the

100, he just didn't know it", said Woodvard.

From the Myspace-Hip Hop-IPod generation, repre-



Eddie Levert with Bry dah C Hick

senting the St. Louis Chapter

was Jason Ware. "Associating with the 100 has been life changing" Ware said proudly. "When I tell any young brother about the 100, I say this is about self-development, self-growth, not about destroying who you are". He said

Did Ware have a mentor? Yes. The President of Harris Stowe State University, Dr. Henry Givens.

Valarie Green, National Relationship Manager for Aetna, answered the charge to promote Health & Wellness with the 100. By simply asking

"What can Aetna do"? A campaign cen-tered around the 20th anniversary of the 100's National Conference was created. "We needed to start within

the organization with the members themselves. If the

Organization is not healthy, outreach to the community will have little impact, so we launched 20 weeks of healthy

living in 2006" Green said. This summer Aetna plans to take Health Power 2007 to another level by implement ing awareness in HIV/AIDS Prostate Cancer,Sickle Cell Anemia, Depression and Cardiovascular diseas

"Being a part of the 100 for the past 5 years has been eye opening for me. They support and nuture the dreams of our youth who are dreams of our youth who are trying to help themselves. How can you not help? Whatever I can do, however I can do it, I'm there". Green stat-

ed. In the Art and

Literary Corner, there were several authors on hand for signing and promoting their books. Among them, Eddie Levert. promot-ing " I Got Your Back' (Co-Authored with late son Gerald) Tavis Smiley,Radio

and Talk Show Personality, had the honor to introduce had tuc his mentor, Cornell West

Princeton Professor

Dr. West introduced a social awareness CD,produced by Hidden Beach Records. He reminded the audience of a time when Black Music had a message in it. When we could turn on the radio and be uplifted,encouraged,inspired and fall in love with one another. A time when we taught ourselves with musical

words. West charged the beneficiaries of the "Dream" to be good examples for our youth to believe in. To our young people who create music all but ordered them to stop "Bastardizing" our History in music

"If we lose our History we lose life. You don't have a History if you are not willing to preserve an afterlife of your ancestors". West said.

Life Center (11881 Schroeder Road, Dallas, Texas). The monthly Christian-based nettact us at 972-235-4633 ext. 15 working and worship event opens with a mix and mingle or 30 or at 1stFridays@hparkumc.org. moment in the church's Christian Life Center. Experience authentic Christian Young adults, ages 18 and older, regardless of religious belief, ethnicity, or gender are Student Leadership Academy Seeks Students For Fall 2007

The deadline to apply for collin College's Student Collin Leadership Academy is 5 p.m., Friday, July 20. Established in 2002, the

Student Leadership Academy is a rigorous semester-long leadership experience unique to Collin College. The course is designed to encourage leadership, integrity, professional development, scholarship and service. The curriculum fosters skills through lecture guest speakers, student facilita-

dents earn three credit hours upon completion. Only 25 students will be accept-ed into the fall LEAD 1301 course. Students interested in the

course must have a 2.5 cumulative grade point average and fill out an application packet. The application must be completed in its entirety to be considered for the class. LEAD 1301 classes are sched-

uled every Friday from 8:45 a.m.noon in the fall semester. Class will be at the Preston Ridge Campus, 9700 Wade Blvd. in Frisco.



THIS AD VALID WED., JUNE 20 THRU TUES., JUNE 26, 2007. C cable, additional purchase excludes al Page 6 • June 21 - June 27, 2007 • Minority Opportunity News - The Gazett

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Other members attend

the mentors and mentees, and One universal theme that

ing sense of accomplishment

been involved with the 100 for 9 years. He got involved after witnessing to many young males become desensitized.

time'

mary focus" Smith added. I asked several members to use 3 words that best describe

Bernal Smith, Chapter President from Memphis, has

something.

example, a living giant among young people who made

their experience with the 100. Lionel Woodard, Atlanta



Father Of African Cinema Buried In Senegal

By: Rukimini Callimachi - AP DAKAR, Senegal (AP) His body wrapped tightly in a shroud adorned with Quranic verses, the man credited with giving birth to African cinema was buried June 11 as hundreds looked on and a continent grieved.

Sembene Ousmane, who died over the weekend at age 84, was a fisherman who taught himself to read and write, a car mechanic. a dock worker, a bricklayer and a union organizer, all before he began write. He penned six novels before 1966, when he turned one of his short stories into a 60-minute movie, com-monly referred to as Africa's first feature-length film.

Those who knew him say he turned away from litera-ture because he believed film could reach a larger share of the continent's illiterate masses. Like his novels, his films dealt with issues of social justice in Africa, from the story of a young woman whose outof-wedlock pregnancy scandalizes her community to a cart driver, whose daily life brings into stark relief the exploitation of the poor. "Sembene's cinema gave

voice to the voiceless in Africa," says Samba Gadjigo, a professor of film a professo literature at ' Mount and Massachusetts' Mount Holyoke College, who has written a biography of the written a biography of the filmmaker and who trav-eled to Senegal for the funeral. "What made his work stand out is that it offered an alternative to the official discourse on African bicrow." African history."

For instance, his 1966 feature The Black Girl tells the story of a Senegalese girl hired as a maid in a French household. Released four years after Senegal's independence, the movie is widely seen as a metaphor for the nation's continued enslavement to its colonial master. In exile on the French Riviera, the African maid commits suicide He worked hard to dis-

mantle stereotypes of Africa, not just in the char-acters he portrayed but j

Fox will reprise the role of Shante Smith, a relationship expert who uses her knowledge of the male psyche to help women reach their rela-tionship goals. The original \$6 million "Game" earned

\$22.2 million at the box

Meanwhile, the Associated

office

also in the techniques he used. In his early films, he refused, for instance, to use the "tam-tam" drum as the musical backdrop, using stringed African instrustringed African instru-ments instead, said Odile Cazenave, a film and litera-ture professor at Boston University

Among the ways he tried to reach out was through language, making the first film in an African tongue.

Mandabi in 1968, a film in Senegal's Wolof. last film. Sembene's

2004's Moolade, which won a prize at Cannes, is set in a small African village where four girls try to escape the brutal practice of female circumcision.

Among the hundreds that came to pay their respects were his stagehands, costume designers and actors.

"He taught me to work within African cinema. There was never a comparison to Europe. Everything was from here- the decor, the costumes, the symbols," said Magaye Niang, who plays a pickpocket in 1974's Xala

Sembene was also instrumental in trying to create an infrastructure for the art in Africa. He is a founder of the FESPACO film festival, often referred to as the "Cannes of Africa," held biannually in Ouagadougou, the capital of Burkina Faso.

He helped create a region-al filmmaking organization that fought the sale of old cinema halls, a trend that has left almost no local venues for seeing African films in Africa.

It's one of the enduring ronies of Sembene's work. 'Game' On For Vivica/ Calls DUI

'Learning Lesson': Actress Prepares For 'Two Can Play' Sequel And

Although pirated DVDs of Blood Diamond and The Last King of Scotland are readily available on street corners throughout Africa, the movies of the man who struggled to reach out to Africans are difficult to come by, especially in his native Senegal.

"Sembene understood that cinema is part and parcel of the development of a coun-try. You cannot uproot poverty without tending to the soul of a nation," said Malian filmmaker Souleymane Cisse, 67, the president of UCECAO, the regional group that fought the sale of cinema halls. Born Jan. 1, 1924 in southern Senegal's

Casamance region. Sembene was destined to become a fisherman like his father, but could not keep from getting seasick. He was sent to live with relatives in Dakar, where he worked as a bricklayer and mechanic by day and taught himself to read and write at night.

He also fell in love with cinema watching movies in one of the dozen-or-so cinema halls in Dakar that have

long since been shuttered. After being drafted as a soldier in World War II, he moved to Marseilles, where he unloaded ships as a dock worker, joined the Communist Party and became a union organizer. He began to write novels, many with political subjects, including one of the master-pieces of African fiction, God's Bits of Wood, about a railroad strike in Senegal.

In describing his death, some reached for typical African metaphors, as if to honor the filmmaker's legacy His death is "an immense loss," said Baba Hama, the director of the FESPACO

film festival. "It's the fall of a baobab," he said, referring to the thick-trunked tree, one of the most recogniza-ble symbols of Africa which is venerated for its ability to survive drought.

But "he lives on in o hearts." Associated Press writers

Brahima Ouedraogo in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, Almahady Cisse in Bamako Mali and Heidi Vogt in Dakar, Senegal, con tributed to this report.

Feature Film "Stand Up" **Featuring Syndicated Radio Host** Gary Haves To Premiere In Dallas

Dallas, TX...STAND UP, in a feature film, his co-star, the new feature film by radio veteran Russ Parr premieres in Dallas at the Northpark Centre's AMC Theatre on Thursday, June 28th at 7 PM. The film stars Anthony Anderson (Romeo Must Die, Anderson (Romeo Must Die, Me, Myself & Irene, Barbershop), Darren Dewitt Henson (Soul Food, Double Platinum) and Guy Torry (Runaway Jury, American History X, Don't Say a Word). The film also fea-tures Port Arthur native Gary Hayes as TREVOR. "I play the love interest of Darren's character "TD" says Hayes. "He and I are Darren's character "TD" says Hayes. "He and I are caught in a somewhat unex-plainable situation by "TD's" roommate "REG" (played by Torry.) It is one of the funnier moments in the film "

film. The film is a drama about four friends who travel to Los Angeles in hopes of making it in the world of stand up comedy. One finds success, one loses his life and the other two are left to return where they started. Parr had no decision to make when it came to casting the role of "TREVOR". "Russ told me some time ago that he was going to produce a feature film, and there was a role in it that I was perfect for," explains Hayes. "I did-n't really think it would ever come to fruition, but before I knew it I was on the set in Los Angeles for the produc-tion." Hayes says that while this is his first speaking role

Henson, made being on set easy for him. "Darren was very reassuring while we were on set. He really helped me to focus on my scenes and just told me to follow his lead, and I did!"

Hayes, a longtime radio personality, continues to win audiences over with his wildly popular gossip segment and "Colour of the Day" segment. He can be heard weekly on The Russ Parr Morning Show in over 45 markets around the country



including Washington D.C. and Virginia Beach, VA. He also has a regular segment on Palm Beach Florida's new X102.3 on the Mark McCray Morning Show and The Rickey Smiley Morning

Show in Dallas, Texas. Hayes began his career at KJMZ "100.3 Jamz" in Dallas more than a decade ago. What started as a fre-quent caller turned into a featured weekly character with Russ Parr. From there

has sprung a continually escalating career that has launched Hayes to the upper echelon of the ever changing radio industry. His ability to keep his segments fresh and entertain-ing has allowed him to experience a level of success few featured personal-ities have been able to achieve. So does Hayes plan to put up his head-phones in exchange for the silver screen? "I love radio and will always produce my segments as long as there are stations that find them entertaining and informa-tive for their listeners, but I have always wanted to branch out into acting," says Hayes. "I definitely think this is the start of a budding film career!"

In addition to his radio success, Hayes starred as "COOKIE" in the nation-ally touring stage play "I'm Doing the Right Thing with the Wrong Man" by renowned playwright Shelly Garret. Hayes has been featured in a number of national industry trade magazines like BRE and newspapers such as Rolling Out and can frequently be spotted in The Dallas Weekly's "Seen on Scene" pages. Hayes also recently graduated with his Bachelors Degree in Business Administration. For more information about Gary Hayes and all vour favorite celebs, log onto www.garysgossip.com



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Comments On Drunk Driving Arrest A long-discussed sequel to of alcohol and driving with a blood-alcohol level above the the 2001 film "Two Can Play That Game" will be made by legal limit. Sony Pictures as a straight-to-DVD movie with return-ing lead actress, Vivica A. Fox. However, the film could

end up in theaters, a Sony spokesman revealed to the Hollywood Reporter. driver next time." Fox, who says she's current-

ly in the process of trying to resolve her legal issues, admits having empathy for jail inmate Paris Hilton, currently serving a 23-day sentence for violating probation in an alco-hol-related reckless driving case.

"We are not above the law," Fox said about celebrities. "She's going to get more coverage when her butt gets out of jail. It's going to be a spe-cial alert and we all are going to watch, right?'

Press caught up with the actress backstage at Friday's Daytime Emmy Awards and As for her own situation, the Fox laments: "It was an unfor-

son. I won't ever make that mistake again," she said. "Trust me, I'm going to hire a

asked for comment on her misdemeanor charges of driving under the influence Visit Our Website At www.MONTheGazette.com



tunate judgment that I an taking full responsibility in. I oility in. It is so not worth what you go through for getting a DUI." The "Kill Bill" star will next

appear in the upcoming film "Cover." an indie drama centering on a woman in a black family struggling with AIDS and issues of faith

more privilege. The results were published in 2006 in the journal Race, Gender and Class

Ashraf Esmail, a sociology and criminal justice professor at Delgado Community College in New Orleans, and Ias M. Sullivan, an assistant professor of political science and African American Studies at Louisiana State University,

conducted the study. According to Sullivan, its purpose was to test whether the color line continues to be a problem for the African American community.

American community. "We know that there has been a preference for lighter skin in the past as a result of racism," said Sullivan, "but we really wanted to know whether or not that preference still exists in the 21st century."

The researchers asked 50 African American men and 50 African American women, all students at a large Midwestern university, to participate in semi-structured interviews. The university was not named in the study and Sullivan declined to provide the name for this story. The students were all

between 18 and 19 years old with complexions ranging from light to dark. Each subject was shown pictures of light, medium and dark-skinned men or women from fashion magazines and asked to rate the images based on attractiveness. In addition, each respondent was asked questions about their mating preferences in terms of skin color and about the value of skin color in the African American community

One reason for the difference in answers between African American men and African American women, according to the authors, is that women tended to take

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more characteristics account such as line hair ever eight and style of dress, when determining a man's attractive-

The interviews pointed to lavery and a social stigma slavery attached to darker skin.

"I think that people are val-ued for their light skin," said one student. "You can take this theory way back to the house slave mentality. I think a lot of people, because that was valued, were taught to value light skin. I think it is still an ongoing type of thing, and society really has not lost that altogether." Both men and women cited

edia as a driving force in the preference for lighter skin.

"When you talk to a guy, he thinks that he wants a perfect girl he sees on the videos. Usually, the women portraved in the videos are light-skinned and have long hair," said one respondent.

Still another participant argued that African Americans don't divide themselves based on light and dark complexions. Rather, the greater issue is color prejudice in the United States as a whole.

"Black people just see all black people as black no matter if they are light or dark. If you community considers you black." have any black in you, the black

Analysis for the Esmail-Sullivan study took place in 2000. Though it is the most recent on the subject, its results differ dramatically from an earlier study of African American col-lege students conducted in 1997. Louie E. Ross, then associate

professor of sociology at Fayetteville State University in Fayetteville, N.C., interviewed 149 African American men and 149 African American men and 236 African American women for his study, "Mate Selection Preferences among African American College Students." His research was conducted on

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into the campuses of two historically black institutions in the east; one public and one private

The Ross study indicated that only 16.4 percent of women would prefer to date a person of a lighter complexion and 16.8 percent of women would want to marry a person with light skin. The study showed that 33.3 percent of men preferred to date a person of a lighter complexion and 38.3 would prefer lighter skin in a marriage partner. Taken together, the research

by Esmail and Sullivan and the earlier research by Ross indi-cate that colorism does have some impact on the African American community

Esmail and Sullivan conclud-ed that, "Further research in this area is needed. Clearly, colorism continues to plague the African-American community and we must first accept that claim and begin to find solu-tions that would ameliorate the superiority of light skin color to dark skin color.

Sullivan said there were plans to expand the research to other schools and to include historically black colleges. One of the issues he and Esmail plan to address is that colorism isn't unique to the African American unity, he said.

Career Opportunities

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The NewYork Times reported on May 30 that the popular popular cosmetic products among modern Indian women are those that lighten the skin Didier Villanueva, country manager for L'Oreal India, said in the article that "fairness eams" account for half of dia's skin care market. In the 2005 book "Fair

In the 2005 book Women, Dark Men: The Forgotten Roots of Color Prejudice," Canadian anthropologist Peter Frost reports that lighter women were pre-ferred in medieval Japan, Aztec Mexico and Moorish Spain even before there was signifint contact with Western ide ology.

Sullivan said. "What we sought to uncover in this study is whether or not the preference for lighter skin still exists in the African American com munity. "Clearly you could make the connection between the preference for lighter skin and the past, but the deeper question, the question that needs much more observation is the why. Why does the black community self-select? Is this preference a dormant trait, is it something psychological, or is it just that light skin is all we see in the media and that affects our choices? These are the questions that still need

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answering. Other studies published by Esmail and Sullivan include: "Black Candidates in Search of Electoral Support: Is Success on Residential and Social Dependent on Integration Interaction?' (2003).

"Interaction Patterns between Black and White College Students: For Better or Worse?" (2002), and "From Racial Uplift to Personal Economic Security Declining Idealism in Black Education" (2002)



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June is a busy month for me; it's "Family Reunion" time in Mexia, TX on both sides of my family. My mater-nal side is 60 years old this month; and my paternal side is 30 years old this month.

this month. Some interesting things about Some interesting things about Mexia during the months of Jane, July & August is hat every weekend, there are not only Family Reunions being held, but at least two and many times more, school reunions and church Homing Comings going on at the same time. Interester of the school of the Interester of the school of the school of the school of the Interester of the school of the school of the school of the Interester of the school of the school of the school of the Interester of the school of the school of the school of the Interester of the school of the school of the school of the school of the Interest of the school of the school of the school of the school of the Interest of the school of the s

the same time. Juncteenth (African American's holday in celebration of Freedom on June 19, 1865) is going on in Mexia also, Juncteenth memorializes the end of slavery in Texas. In many ways Juncteenth has come to symbolize for many older African Americans, what he 4th of July means to Americans. For years in Mexia, the Comanche Crossien C Considerate Reminon For years in Mexia, the Comanche Crossing (Confederate Reunion Grounds, Old Fort Parker - The Old Fort - Fort Parker, is a place where African Americans came into Texas.) There was a large gathering of Black folks from all over the United States in celebration of the 19th of June.

celebration of the 19th of June. Long ago (to keep the family unit closer and in tact) families came together; they were not necessarily came together to catch up on family news and to support one another in any way that was needed. When Alex Holex mosts "Poats"

y way that was needed. When Alex Haley wrote "Roots," searching family history and family reunions became very popular. Many folks, especially African Americans wanted to know more about family

AVENUE F CHURCH OF CHRIST July 7, 10 am to 2 pm Please join us for our Community Pienic, in the

Douglass Community. There will



Church News

Picture of The Week Edward Lott with his grands David Edward Lott at David Kindergartner Graduation.

ly (each member doing his or her part) there is nothing better to give strength and unity to the family, to help the fam-ily nurture, grow, and keeping the world in balance for each member.

a balance for each member. Families are: One of God's greatest reasures and the embodiment of all here is important in life.

there is important in life. Families are a refuge in good times and bad; a warm place of peace where acceptance regins. It matters not what you do or where you are, one thing you never doubt is

1026 Avenue F Plano, TX 75074 972-423-8833

Family Reunions your family. The members are always there, arms ready to embrace with heal-ing hugs, and hearts with unconditional love to share. A family is a gift that's never com-

526 Compton Aver Irving, TX 75061 972-986-5552 pletely unwrapped; it is a present for which each is eternally thankful. –Becky

which each is eternally manstur. - necky Speckels Hare. The Family Tree: I think that I shall never see the finish of a family tree. As it forever seems to grow from roots that started long ago; way back in ancient history times, in foreign land and distant climes; from them grew trunk and branching limb that dated back to times

branching limb that dated back to times o dim. One seldom knows exactly when the parents met and married then, nor when the twigs began to grow with odd named children row on row though verse like this is made by me; the end's in sight as you can see; "Ties not the same with family trees that grow and grow through centuries! Author unknown.

grow through centures: example, unknown. Now is the time to forget the bad things that happened in the past, you can't bring back yesterday and its prob-lems; the future is not here; you might not live to see the future; but today, you have the chance to bridge a gap, to for-give and to love each family member; feet together with your family and your extended family; get to hrow each habove law nof one we members that have other; learn of new members been added to your family tree mbers that hav

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

to RSVP, call 972-790-6930 munity Outreach al Ministr Intomotic or Lisa Tarpley, Overseer

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Rev Sa nuel Baker Rev. Samuel Baker, Senior Pastor 3550 Gilbert Road Grand Prairie, TX 75050 972-790-0432

HILL CHAPEL CME CHURCH

July 27 & 28, 2007 Come to our Women's Retreat 2007 at the Crowne Plaza Central

2007 at the Crowne Plaza Central Suires, 7800 Alpha Road, Dallas, TX 75243. Speakers: Pastor Gloria Fenceroy, Mt. Olive Church of Plano; Dr. Jacquelyn Brown; Rev. Pat Thresher; Rev. Lisa Aurry, Eirene Christian Fellowship; and Pastor Ouida Lee, UM Church of the Disride the Disciple. There will be workshops; prizes;

musical performance by the McCampbell Trio; facials; mani-cures; pedicures; massages; and For information and registrat call 972-423-4090.

Hill Chapel CME Church Rev. Clarence Ford, Pastor 11131 Avenue I Plano, TX 75074 972-423-4090

MESQUITE FRIENDSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH June 24, 10 am Please join us as we celebrate the 16th Pastor's & Wife's Anniversary in our new worship facility. Theme: "Building on a Firm Foundation." For information call Sis. Iris Gines @ 972-329-5030.

Mesquite Friendship B. C. Rev. Terry Turner, Pastor 680 East Highway 80 Mesquite, TX 75149 972-329-5030

NOW FAITH MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL

We will host the Inaugural S.E.E. (Self-Esteen Elevated) Conference; to Boost Self-Esteem and a Blue Print for Life; come to Fellowship Bible Church of Dallas, 9330 N. Central Expressway, Dallas, TX 75231. Speakers include: Retired NFL

player Thomas Everett; Minister Kim Smith; Bank Executive Rosilvn Houston; Path~Way to Rosilyn Houston; Path-Way to Purpose® CEO Cynthia Mickens-Smith; former beauty queen Brenda Bridge Bridgeforth; author Shewanda Riley; and host and founder Cheryl Roseborough. Friday's Session is 9:00 am to 2:20 am to the marine sension 12:30 pm with evening session starting at 7:00 pm. Saturday's Session is 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.

For details and conference fees, call Cheryl Roseborough @ 214-783-8778

Now Faith Ministries International Cheryl Roseboroug Founder/CEO P. O. Box 142972 Irving, TX 75014-2972 214-783-8778

NEW LIFE FELLOWSHIP

NEW LIFE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH OF ROWLETT June 20 – 22, 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm You are welcome to New Life Vacation Bible School. Theme is "Rescue Zone: Saved by God's Power," Light refreshments will be served nipbly: be served nightly. For more information about events above call the 972-463-4964

New Life Fellowship Church of Rowlett Bishop Miller E. Johnson, Jr. Senior Pastor 7401 Miller Road Rowlett, TX 75988 972-463-4964

ST. PAUL UMC CHURCH

ST. PAUL UMC CHURCH June 21 – 29, 2007, 8:30 am – 5:00 pm We are sponsoring an Arts Vision Summer Day Camp for children ages 5 – 12 on Mondays thru Fridays. We will focus on Visual Arts, Music, Theatre, & Denore Americanette for area Dance. Arrangements for care before/after camp are available. Call Muriel Johnson-Redd for fees and registration @ 214-922-0000 for more information.

St. Paul UMN Church St. Paul UMN Church Rev. L. Charles Stovall, Pastor 1816 N. Routh Street Dallas, TX 75201 214-922-0000

.....11:00AM

Morning Worship Wednesday Bible Study

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Church Happenings Cont'd Dallas District AME Church on, ticket prices, or Greater Aller Temple AME Church

DENTON FULL GOSPEL HOLY TEMPLE June 20 – 22, 8 pm Nightly You are invited to our Homeo ming Revival. June 24, 11 am Join us for our "Family & Friends Day. Call 940-484-0963 for infor-mation on the above events.

Full Gospel Holy Temple Elder F. H. Daniels, III, Pastor 529 Bolivar Street Denton, TX 76201 940-484-0963

FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH OF ALLEN

Started June 9, 2007 We are offering (FREE) English as a Second Language Class for everyone. Please call Marcia Jones @ the church for details. Fellowship B. C. of Aller

Rev. W. L. Stafford, Sr., M. Div Rev. W. L. Stafford, Senior Pastor 200 Belmont Drive Allen, TX 75013

GOD'S LOVE COMMUNITY

FELLOWSHIP CHURCH June 24, 3:30 pm Join us for the dynamic preach-ing of Rev. Wayne L. Stafford, Sr.,

Senior Pastor of Fellowshin Bantis

Church of Allen and his congrega-God's Love Community Fellowship Church in Anna Elder T. Hackworth, M. Div., Founder & Pastor

BEAR CREEK COMMUNITY OUTREACH COMMUNITY CHURCH COMMUNITY CHURCH July 23 – 27, 6:30 m. – 9:00 pm Everyone is welcome to our FREE Vacation Bible School; this will be a week of fun with games, crafts, and snacks. For informa-tion, call Carmelia Godwin @ 972-513-0122 INTERNATIONAL MINISTRY INTERNATIONAL MINISTRY July 7, 6 pm You are invited to our Black Tie Pastoral Celebration Gala honor-ing our Overseer, Pastor Lisa Tarpley at the Radisson Hotel, 100 Alta Mesa East Blvd., Fr. Worth, TX 76134. Keynote Speaker is the renowned Bishop Gerald Long, Jr.

Church Happenings Rev. Dennis Webb, Pastor 2700 Finely Road Irving, TX 75061 972-513-0122









Sunday Early Morning Worship 8:00 a.m. Sunday School Classes 9:30 a.m. Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.

Evening Worship (1st Sunday) 6:00 p.m.

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

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

7:30 p.m.

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 Sunday: Worship Services
 Wodnesday

 8:00 a.m. & H1:00 a.m.
 12:00 p.m. Bible Society

 9:45 a.m. Sunday: School
 7:00 p.m. Proper Hour

 6:00 p.m. Baylor training Union
 7:30 p.m. Bible Study

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. 9:30 a.m 10:45 a.m . 4:00 p.m

7:00 p.n

Sunday Life Bible School Sunday Life Celebration Wors First Sunday: Inorre

ay: Ingredients for Life . . s: Life In The Word Prayer

WWW.INDECONTRACTOR ercessory Prayer @ 7:00 am ol @ 9:30 am • Morning Worship @ 11:00 an p & Women's Group Bible Study @ 6:30 pm - Samily Bible Study @ 6:30 pm