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People In The News



John F. Iglehart, Dallas Regional Director, U.S. Department of Commerce Minority Business Development Agency. Mr. Iglehart was appointed the Dallas Regional Director in October 1994. Before his current position, Mr. Iglehart served as the Chief of the Advocacy and Outreach Division at the Minority Business Development Agency in Washington, D.C. He has served as Regional Director of the New York Region and Acting Regional Director of the Chicago Region, the Washington Region, and the San Francisco Region. His expertise at managing, coordinating, and administering public policy is vast and widely recognized.

Prior to working for the U.S. Department of Commerce, Mr. Iglehart served as Manpower Development Specialist at the U.S. Department of Labor. Mr. Iglehart has received numerous awards attesting to his unmatched dedication, talent and commitment to fostering minority business development.

Mr. Iglehart is a native of Waco, Texas and obtained a BA degree from Arkansas AM&N and a MA degree from Prairie View A&M.

Sheryl Hilliard Tucker, Executive Editor, Time Inc. was paid a ceremonial homage at the 100 Black Men of America convention in Las Vegas. According to 100 Black Men, Tucker is the quintessential illustration of the prestigious organization's bedrock principles. "We covered their accomplishments, their community work and their political service, so I know what it takes to be successful and to make a difference in the community," said Tucker, who previously chronicled 100 Black Men's collective and individual feats as Editor in Chief at Black Enterprise.

"And so the fact that they're honoring me really makes it an incredible thrill." Tucker, who was bestowed with 100 Black Men's Woman of the Year award, says they share one core philosophy: the importance of mentoring. "I'm so strong in believing we've got to mentor and show our youth what it really takes and help them develop on the tools at an early age to be successful in whatever they want to accomplish," she said. Tucker seeks to ingrain excellence, inclusion and mentoring into the fabric at Time, Inc.

"I've done this job without having made editors in chief at magazines that don't typically hire and promote people of color to senior levels, then I've failed," Tucker said.



Music is Mashonda Payne's passion. She moved to Texas in 1990, knowing that her voice was touched by God. Payne dabbled in secular music with her R&B trio, Zee. In 2001, Payne started listening to God. He called her to win souls through the ministry of songs. Eager to get the word out, she sang in different competitions to move her in the direction that she desired. In 1998, she became a top finalist in the National Black Heritage Competition. In 2003, she entered the INSP Christian Artist Talent Search; however, she missed being in the finals by one point. Her belief that God had worked out her destination with the finest details helped her continue her music ministry despite obstacles.

Payne sings at churches, concerts and weddings. She has collaborated with and done background vocals for artist in the Dallas/Ft. Worth area. Payne is also President of the Youth Department and Youth Choir at Fellowship Baptist Church of Allen, Tex. She is also on the Peace & Worship Team, "Voices of Inspiration." Payne is working on her first album, "Long Journeys," which is set to release on August 25 at the Allen Civic Center in Allen. Payne is married to Toby Payne, and the couple has two children, Amaya and Sean. She can be reached at www.myspace.com/mashondapayne.

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Doctor Makes Changes To Medical Practices
Nigeria-born Dr. Ogwu has a mission to reform the way patients receive care



By: Jesse Williams, Contributing Writer
Dr. Austin Ogwu, CEO of the Alpha Medical Center located in Lancaster, knows from personal experience the consequences of neglecting medical care for what is known as lesser afflictions.

When Ogwu was three months old, his mother died of dehydration due to diarrhea gastroenteritis in Nigeria. He said the illness was "something that could have been easily corrected." After his mother's death, he was raised for a while by his aunt. Later, he was raised and encouraged by his uncle to pursue the medical profession. "I want to avoid people of

Doctor Makes Changes Page 8

UN Expert Reports Gross Violations Of Human Rights By All Sides In Darfur

All parties to the Darfur conflict continue to carry out "gross violations" of human rights, including killings, disappearances, torture and sexual violence, an independent United Nations rights expert has reported after wrapping up her latest visit to Sudan. Sima Samar, the Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation in Sudan, yesterday called for greater action to protect civilians in violence-wracked Darfur from breaches of international law. "While the [Sudanese] Government has the primary responsibility in this regard, I welcome the recent approval of the [African Union] AU-UN peacekeeping force for the region," she said in a statement issued in Geneva after her visit to Sudan, which took place from July 25 to August 2. Samar said she had received allegations

of serious violations in areas under the control of the wing of the Sudan Liberation Army (SLA) controlled by Minni Minawi, a faction that was a signatory to the Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA) last year. Those allegations include torture, sexual violence, harassment and extortion. In South Darfur, Samar said she had also been told of forced disappearances and killings in the town of Gerida. "These cases should be investigated and the perpetrators brought to justice."

Darfur Update Page 8

Oakland Black Editor 'Assassinated', Police Say

By: C. Dianne Howell
Special to the NNPA from the Oakland Post and wire reports

Chauncey Bailey, 57, editor-in-chief of all five editions of the Post Newspaper and long time reporter covering the African-American and other communities, was gunned down in the street by an unknown assailant at 7:30 a.m. Thursday morning, August 2. Devaughdre Broussard, 19, has been arrested for the murder. Police say he has confessed to the shotgun murder, saying he killed Bailey because of stories he was writing on the bakery where he worked as a handyman, according to reports. Bailey had been reporting on the finances of Your Black Muslim Bakery. Already on probation for a robbery conviction in San Francisco, Broussard was arrested last Friday along with six other people in an early-morning police raid on the bakery and adjacent buildings. Reports quote police as saying they recovered the shotgun they believe was used to kill Bailey at the house in which Broussard was living near the bakery. Bailey was shot at the corner of 14th and Alice streets in downtown Oakland, apparently on his way to work. Roland Holmgren, Oakland police spokesman, said witnesses

told police that a single gunman, wearing a mask, shot Bailey several times and fled. Police and Crime Stoppers of Oakland had offered up to \$25,000 in reward money for information leading to the arrest of the suspect. For over 20 years Bailey covered the African-American community for the Oakland Tribune. Prior to writing for the Tribune, he wrote for the Detroit News, UPI, and the Hartford Courant. After leaving the Tribune, he continued to distinguish himself as a reporter on issues of concern to all communities. He was a popular reporter for KDIA radio and Soul Beat TV, and wrote for various other publications, including the Sun Reporter and the Globe. Most recently he was one of the producers, co-founders and hosts for OUR-TV (Comcast *Black Editor Assassinated Page 10*

Swiss Chocolate, English Tea And Dutch Oil – Ha, Ha, Ha!

By: Harry C. Alford - NNPA Columnist
"Beyond the Rhetoric" The above is an oxy-moron. More so, it is an indictment on what happens to Africa the continent with the richest resources on earth. It is an historical pity that we can't get our mind together in the 21st century and harness vast amounts of resources so that nearly a billion children of Africa can enjoy a quality of life replete with healthcare and economic vitality. There is not one cocoa plant growing in Europe let alone Switzerland. Cocoa is harvested in Western Africa and the

raw product is shipped to Europe for processing. A citizen of Ghana or Cote D'Ivoire has to pay a precious price if he wants to buy chocolate from his corner store and it has the moniker "Swiss Chocolate". Swiss hell! The cocoa was grown down the road. There is not one tea plant grown in Europe especially not in England. Yet, the British have the monopoly on the finest tea. The "finest tea" – that would be the tea from the highlands of East Africa. Like coffee, the finest tea comes

Swiss Chocolate Page 5

Happy Birthday, Marcus Garvey!

By: James Glingman - NNPA Columnist
Because most of you who read my articles already know about Marcus Garvey and because you know what he stood for and what he did, this will not be a history lesson. For those of you who are not as familiar with Brother Garvey as you would like to be, please go to a Black-owned bookstore and get a few of the many books written about this giant. No, this is not a history lesson. This is simply about homage, recognition, and allegiance to a Black man who loved his people so much that he sacrificed beyond what most of us would say is reasonable. This is about a man among men who told us to "rise up" and do the things we must do for ourselves to prosper in this country and around the world. Marcus Garvey cared so much about his people that he kept coming back, even after being stymied and stigmatized by the white establishment as well as by some of his own people. After all of the negative experiences put upon him by

his enemies, he kept coming back to fulfill his mission of raising the consciousness of Black people, organizing Black people, and leading Black people to economic prosperity. He even promised to come back in death as a whirlwind or a storm, bringing with him millions of Black slaves who would aid us in our fight for freedom and keep the pressure up until we have succeeded. When you think about how hurricanes that hit the United States originate near the African coast, it makes you wonder if Brother Marcus is not fulfilling some of his prophecy. In addition, considering the debacle that Firestone Tires suffered with all of the lawsuits against it a few years ago, I wonder if Marcus is finally taking his retribution for that company's role in thwarting his work to connect Blacks in the U.S. with our brothers and sisters in Liberia and West Africa via the Universal Negro

Blackonomics Page 5

More Black Women Consider 'Dating Out'

By: Dionne Walker, AP
For years, Toinetta Jones played the dating game by her mom's strict rule. "Mom always told me, 'Don't you ever bring a white man home,'" recalled Jones, echoing an edict issued by many Southern, black mothers. But at 37, the Alexandria divorcee has shifted to dating "anyone who asks me out," regardless of race. "I don't sit around dreaming about the perfect black guy I'm going to marry," Jones said. Black women around the country also are reconsidering deep-seated reservations about interracial relationships, reservations rooted in America's history of slavery and segregation.

They're taking cues from their favorite stars — from actress Shar Jackson to tennis pro Venus Williams — as well as support blogs, how-to books and interracially-themed novels telling them it's OK to "date out." It comes as statistics suggest American black women are among the least likely to marry. "I'm not saying that white men are the answer to all our problems," Jones said. "I'm just saying that they offer a different solution." She reflects many black women frustrated as the field of marriageable black men narrows: They're nearly seven times more likely to be incarcerated than white men and

Dating Out Page 10

"Well, praise Him! I am a happy man! I am so excited I am at a loss for words," were the first words uttered by Apostle Lobias Murray at the 80/50 celebration held at Hyatt Regency Hotel in the Downtown Dallas area. More than 1200 people gathered for this lifetime achievement gala on August 3 that highlighted and recognized the humble character, servant spirit coupled with his eightieth birthday in conjunction with his fifty years of impeccable service to humanity.

The evening began with a letter of salutation from Congressman John Cornyn delivered after the trumpeted entrance of the honoree and his wife, the Ecclesiastical body and the Murray family. The welcome address by the 80/50 event chairman, Reverend Herman Murray, Jr., the grandson of Apostle Murray placed the evening in perspective. It was followed by a flag

Murray Honored At 80 | 50 The Celebration Gala

presentation from the United States Military for Apostle Murray's time of service over 50 years ago.

Then, the spotlight turned to moments of reflections of his life, appropriately titled Honoring a Life of Excellence. Family members, community, city and state officials recounted the goodness and compassion shown by Apostle Murray throughout his life. Mrs. Velma Murray Reedy, the only sister of Apostle Murray spoke on his character as a brother. After sharing stories of his faithfulness to his mother, respect to his father and his constant concern for others, she simply stated "I am grateful for you," as she sealed her words with a hug to older brother. The honoree's youngest daughter, G. Renee Murray also spoke about her father. "He loved me unconditionally," she began. "I thank

God for your favor, she stated to her father." From the political community, State Representative from District 110, Barbara Carraway and Dallas City Councilman Mayor Pro-Tem, Dwayne Carraway spoke on Apostle Murray's contribution to the district and presented him with a gift from the council. Minister G. Craig Lewis of EX Ministries spoke of the encouraging spirit and the personal life-changing message of wisdom shared by Apostle Murray. "When you get to Heaven you will be credited because you are the example of what God does when there is no compromise," stated Lewis. Emotions ran strong throughout the evening reaching its peak as his grandson, Rev. Patrick Murray reminisced on the passing of his father, the late Rev. Herman Murray Sr., the only son of Apostle Murray. "When

my father passed, I was only 16 years old. I felt that I was fatherless and the world was going to eat me alive." Blinded by tears the younger Rev. Murray continued, "He has been my father and my spiritual confidant. God has favored me and blessed me with a real life pattern." Bishop Larry Kiel of the Full Gospel Holy Temple summed, "He is a man of integrity, faith and patience."

During the evening, gospel music artists Ms. Kim Burrell of Houston, Texas and Evang. Beverly Crawford of Florida came with powerful songs, "To God Be the Glory" and "Still Standing" respectively. Elder Kervy Brown sang "Grateful" from Hezekiah Walker's, "80/20: The Experience, as 80 people from the audience ascended to

the starlight stage filling a large leaf-shaped vase with white roses and lilies resembling each year of life of Apostle Murray.

Two more celebrations concluded the weekend of celebrations, the concert on August 4th and closing official celebration service on August 5. The Celebration concert was one to remember with artists as Reverend Timothy Wright, Lorraine Staniel, Tanya Ray, Pastor Beverly Crawford, Elder Kervy Brown, and Jeremia Cannon honoring the life and legacy of Apostle Murray. The concert was hosted by Bro. Joe

Bagby of KHVN Heaven97 and Ms. Christy Crockett Wafer of 1040 KGGK.

The culminating official Celebration service brought about 3000 attendees to the Full Gospel Holy Temple church. From choirs, soloist to tear-jerking remarks and the divine delivery of the word of God by Apostle Richard D. Henton, this was perfect closing to a celebration of a visionary that is led by the spirit of God. "Even though I am 80 years of age, I have no intention of quitting," said the tearful Apostle Murray as he thanked the many people that attended the celebration weekend.



The Political Community Speaks - State Representative Barbara Carraway and Dallas City Councilman, Dwayne Carraway speak of Apostle Murray's contributions to the city and community.



A Grateful Leader - Apostle Murray thanks the gala attendees and committee for the celebration.



To God Be the Glory - Entrance of the Honoree Apostle Lobias Murray at the 80/50 Celebration Gala.



Thanks from the U.S. Military - Presentation of the American flag to Apostle Murray on behalf of the President of the United States.

Mt. Olive's New Sanctuary

Sunday morning worship service in Mt. Olive Church of Plano's (MOCOP) new sanctuary was the same as other worship services at MOCOP—spirit-filled at a place where the "Holy Ghost visits on a regular basis," as Pastor Sam (as he is lovingly called) likes to say. But this Sunday was a little different because Plano's Mayor, the Honorable Pat Evans, and the building's architect, James Ezell, were in attendance, along with church members, family and friends as they worshipped and

praised God. Everyone seemed to enjoy the visitation of the Lord as He was honored for His blessings of a larger and permanent worshiping center.

Pastor Sam ministered the Word of God to the congregation. His message was "The Faithfulness of Jehovah" from the scripture Acts 17:22-30. MOCOP's dance group performed a praise dance in honor of the celebration and there was special music from Ms. Melba Spears. Pastor Sam said their Grand Opening has been scheduled for later this year.



(L to R): Rev. Sam Fenceroy, Senior Pastor, Mt. Olive Church of Plano (MOCOP); Mr. James Ezell, architect of MOCOP's new worship center; the Honorable Pat Evans, Mayor for the City of Plano; and Mrs. Gloria Fenceroy, Co-Pastor of MOCOP

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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 972-941-1714.

Alpha Beta Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi, a social service, cultural sorority, meets the second Monday of each month in members' homes in Frisco, McKinney, and the Plano area. Call 972-473-0089.

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

"EVOLVE," a social networking opportunity for women, meets from 7:30 p.m. 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 at 6:00 p.m. the second Thursday of each month at 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 is 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.

South Dallas Cultural Center host **Kumaasi African Ensemble Dance classes**. West African dance classes for all ages are held every Saturday from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Juanita Craft Civil Rights House (temporary location), 2618 Warren Avenue, Dallas, Texas 75215. For more information, call S-Ankh Rasa at 214-298-5858 or 214-252-7558.

The Dallas Museum of Art hosts "Late Nights" on the third Friday of each month at 1717 N. Harwood. The cost for admission is \$10 for adults, \$7 for senior citizens and \$5 for students with current school I.D. For more information, call 214-922-1200 or email publicprograms@DallasMuseumofArt.org.

Dallas Baptist University-Ledship 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 information, call 214-333-5777 or email dbunorth@dbu.edu.

Hamilton Park United Methodist Church offers a FREE,

28-week African American History course every Wednesday from 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. starting Wednesday, August 22. For more information, contact instructor John Ross at 972-230-9096.

African American Republican Club of Collin County: Collin County's newest Republican Club meets on the 4th Tuesday of every month at Collin County Republican Party Headquarters beginning at 7 p.m. The purpose of this club is for men and women to discuss issues important to African American Republicans. For more info, please call Fred Moses at 972-618-7027 or email him at fred@aaccc.com.

DFW Financially Empowered Women is a group for women interested in taking charge of their financial security. We meet monthly for lunch or dinner and a fun, informative seminar on various financial topics. For more information call 972-542-1530 or visit www.meetup.com/378/.

August 9
William Rodriguez '911 Keymaster Tour." For nearly twenty years, the Puerto Rican-born, New Jersey resident was a custodian in charge of the three stairwells A, B and C in the North Tower. He was also in possession of the master key that opened all of the stairwell doors at each floor in the 110-story building. William Rodriguez courageously made multiple trips back into the burning towers, personally saved the lives of 15 people, and aided NYC firefighters in saving hundreds of others. FREE presentation at 7:30 p.m. at Lakewood Theater, 1825 Abrams Parkway,

Dallas. Contact 214-324-9495.

August 10
Fort Worth Community Drum Circle. This recreational music-making experience is open to everyone. No experience needed! If you have a drum or percussion instrument, bring it! If not, we'll have instruments on hand. Mind Body Spirit Center, 5521 Bellaire Drive South in Fort Worth. Community Drum Circle lasts from 7 p.m. - 8 p.m. and is FREE. Email sjanhughes@aol.com with any questions.

August 10
Threads: African-American Culture from Africa to America. Please join the IRC for a FREE art reception and benefit featuring African and African-American art from 7 p.m. - 10 p.m. The exhibit, entitled Threads: African-American Culture from Africa to America, is free and curated by Phillip Collins, Chief Curator for the African American Museum. 3311 Elm Street. For more information, call 214-461-9781 or email robin.alhaddad@theirc.org

August 11
Jeffrey Osborne and The Impressions headlines Urban League of Greater Dallas 40th Anniversary Gala. VIP Reception & Raffle starts at 6:30 p.m. Dinner is at 7:45 p.m. Show begins at 9:00 p.m. Black Tie (Optional). For more information call 214-915-4600.

August 11
Urban League 40th Anniversary Gala Event at the Hilton Anatole Hotel, 2201 Stemmons Freeway, Dallas. Call 214-915-4600.

August 11
Dallas' inaugural salute to Home Movie Day gives North Texans an opportunity to see, share, and learn how to preserve their 8mm, Super8, and 16mm family films. One of only two Texas cities to participate in this national event, the Museum will announce more details in the coming weeks. Located at the Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza, 411 Elm Street Dallas. Call 214-747-6660 for more information or visit www.jfk.org.

August 11
Homeowner Seminar: General information on process of how to buy a home. There will be free backpacks for children. This is a FREE seminar located at the Iglesia C.A.F.E., 2200 East Park Row, Arlington, TX 76010. Presentations will be from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. & 1:30-4:00 p.m. Email gil@avazco.com or call 817-475-8272 with any questions.

August 11
Ricky Smiley. 8:00 p.m. at the Nokia Live Theater, 1001 Next Stage Dr., Grand Prairie. For more information, call 214-378-8000. May 5th tickets will be honored.

August 11
11th Annual Senior Fest will be held at Eastfield College Saturday from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

August 11-12
Caribbean Music Festival. It's Caribbean Music Time at Traders Village! Get ready to party hearty as the Annual Caribbean Music Fest drums up some tropical fun at Traders Village. Free live music, dancing, festival foods, and barrels of bargains guarantee there'll be

great fun at the market all weekend long. Free event; parking is \$3.00. Traders Village, 2602 Mayfield Road, Grand Prairie. Contact 972-647-2331.

August 17-19
Take a break from state and local sales tax in Dallas during Texas' annual Tax-Free holiday. From 12:01 a.m. on Friday, August 17 to midnight on Sunday, August 19, Texas consumers will be exempt from both state and local sales taxes on nearly all clothing and footwear as well as backpacks for students priced under \$100, potentially saving Texas consumers \$8.25 on every \$100 spent.

August 17-18
The Essence Salon will launch its new Divine Diva Magazine and host its 3rd Annual Divine Diva More Than a Woman Conference Tour. Registration is \$30 and includes lunch and conference materials. Check-in begins at 6:30 p.m., and the conference begins at 7:30 p.m. The General Session is open to the public, classes begin on the 18th and are for registered persons only. Wear your work-out clothes. The event will be located at the Wyndham Hotel, 1500 Convention Ctr. Dr., Arlington, Texas 76011. Registrations must be received by August 10; you may register online at www.essenceincmags.com. For more info contact Sonya at 812-784-8666 ext. 2.

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SCLC: No Post-Civil Rights Movement

By: George E. Curry -
NNPA Columnist

The Southern Christian Leadership Conference, celebrating its 50th anniversary for the past week, made a strong case that it is once again a major player on the civil rights stage and strongly defended the need for the continued existence of major civil rights organizations.

Many critics had questioned the need for SCLC, saying the organization had essentially died in 1968 with co-founder Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Immediate past president Fred Shuttlesworth, who quit in 2004 after clashing with the SCLC board of directors, said the organization had reached its nadir in 2004, when he stepped down. Now, Shuttlesworth is optimistic about SCLC's chances for recovery.

Steele, a former Alabama State senator, is widely credited with revitalizing an organization that was moribund and nearly bankrupt three years. In three years, he has raised more than \$7 million and on Monday prepared to move into a new \$3 million international headquarters on historic Auburn Avenue.

"As an organization, just a few years ago, people were writing us off as dead. I am an undertaker. I bury dead people, but not dead organizations...we weren't dead, but we were struggling on life support." He says that has now turned around.

"I came here tonight to announce that SCLC now has a strong pulse," Steele continued. "We are out of our sick bed. We walked out of the Intensive Care Unit on our own power. We disconnected the tubes from our arms, we removed the heart monitor, and we unplugged the oxygen tank because now, thank

God, we can breathe on our own."

Conservatives – and some Blacks – try to portray civil rights organizations as having outlived their usefulness. According to their argument, the movement is a victim of its own success because it tore down the barriers of segregation.

There is no post-Civil Rights Era," Steele declared. "We're in a post-civil rights enforcement era," he said, emphasizing the word enforcement. One common complaint against the Bush is that under this administration, civil rights cases are not pursued with vigor, a shift from the practices of the previous president. Justice Department official deny that assertion.

But in his speech, Steele cited what he said was proof that we don't live in a post-civil rights society.

"We're not living in a post-Civil Rights Era when Don Imus sees accomplished Black women basketball players at Rutgers University as 'nappy-headed hos.'"

It was not just him. We're not in a post-Civil Rights Era when the chairman of the board of trustees of Roger Williams University in Providence, Rhode Island, a lily-white board, can refer to African-Americans as the n-word.

We're not living in a post-Civil Rights Era when the president of the United States of America can call a news conference on Dr. King's birthday to denounce affirmative action.

We're not in a post-Civil Rights Era when a Democratic-controlled Congress refuses to cut off funding for a needless and senseless war.

We're not living in a post-Civil Rights Era when a White person with a prison record is more like-

ly to be called back for a job interview than a qualified Black person without a record.

We're not living in a post-Civil Rights Era when 15-year-old Shaquanda Cotton can be sentenced to seven years in prison for pushing a teacher's aide in Paris, Texas. Just months earlier, that same judge had given probation to a 14-year-old White girl who had burned down her family's home.

We're not living in a post-Civil Rights Era when it took the Georgia Supreme Court to throw out the conviction of Marcus Dixon, a 19-year-old African-American, who was serving 10 years in prison for having consensual sex with a White girl.

We're not living in a post-Civil Rights Era when in Douglas County, Ga., 17-year-old Genarolo Wilson faced 10 years in prison on molestation charges because he had consensual sex with a 15-year-old.

We're certainly not living in a post-Civil Rights Era when for years they had a near Jena High School in Louisiana under which only White students sat. When Blacks decided to sit there, they later found nooses hanging from tree limbs. Subsequently, a racial fight broke out and six Black teenagers – now called the Jena 6 – were charged with attempted murder after beating a White teenager.

Steele declared, "Judging by the latest Supreme Court ruling involving school districts in Louisville and Seattle, looking at organized efforts by Right-wing groups to intimidate universities into eliminating their affirmative action programs and considering the Justice Department has gone after Southern Illinois University because it had a voluntary affirmative action program, we need

SCLC now more than ever."

DFW Financially Empowered Women

DFW Financially Empowered Women is a group for women interested in taking charge of their

financial security. We meet monthly for lunch or dinner and a fun, informative seminar on various financial

topics. For more information, visit www.meetup.com/378/ or call 972-542-1530.

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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



In West Africa, 'Dash' Means 'Pay Me.'



Senator
Eliot
Shapleigh

In West Africa, 'dash' means 'pay me.' It's corruption. When a guy in a uniform has an AK47, he gets some attention, especially when he's had a few rounds of palm wine. Early in life I learned a lesson in fighting corruption, we must act, all of us. When old-timers say—'it's always been that way', then we need to say 'it's time to change'.

A few years ago, I was a Peace Corp Volunteer in West Africa stationed in a village in Koinadugu Province, Sierra Leone. On the way to Kabala, the district capitol, every so often a gang of guys with AK47's would stop us at the crossroads.

"Dash me now," they said. In West Africa, "dash" means "pay me." It's corruption. When

a guy in a uniform has an AK47, he gets some attention, especially when he's had a few rounds of palm wine. What does New York City do about public contracts? Strong did Seattle do to create a strong ethics Board? We will create a Citizen's hotline so you can call law enforcement and report misconduct on a contract or a corrupt practice. We will ask business to develop a businessman's pledge, so strong competition drives business, not the biggest bribe.

Corruption is killing Africa. Everyone from Bono to Wolfowitz calls it the chief challenge to the future of the continent. Road money goes to build palaces. School money goes to Presidential galas. Famine relief funds go to pay the "janjaweed."

Early in life, I learned a lesson in fighting corruption—we must act, all of us. When old timers say, "it's always been that way," then we need to say "it's time to change."

Yesterday, a friend of mine compared corruption to a fire. "When it starts in your home, you have no choice." He's right. We need to put it out.

So, what do we do? Soon,

community leaders will ask a Citizen's Commission to investigate best practices all across America. What does New York City do about public contracts? Strong did Seattle do to create a strong ethics Board? We will create a Citizen's hotline so you can call law enforcement and report misconduct on a contract or a corrupt practice. We will ask business to develop a businessman's pledge, so strong competition drives business, not the biggest bribe.

Most of all, we will ask everyone to educate themselves on good candidates, then go vote—our better yet, run yourself.

Together, we can take back our town.

This column was written by Senator Eliot Shapleigh. You can visit his website at www.shapleigh.org.

Report Says 2,100 Texas Bridges Are Deficient

By: Liz Austin Peterson - AP
More than 2,100 Texas bridges were classified under the same structurally deficient rating given to the bridge that collapsed in Minnesota and killed at least four people, but state officials insisted Thursday that all the spans are completely safe.

Structurally deficient bridges accounted for 4 percent of the state's approximately 50,000 bridges in a 2006 report by the Texas Department of Transportation. Seventy-seven percent of Texas bridges were labeled good or better, while most of the rest were deemed functionally obsolete, meaning they were not designed to handle the current traffic demand.

But department spokesman Mark Cross said there is no reason for Texans to worry about a repeat of the bridge collapse that happened Wednesday evening in Minneapolis. The eight-lane Interstate 35W bridge was in the midst of repairs when it buckled during the evening rush hour, sending dozens of cars plummeting more than 60 feet into the Mississippi River and injuring 79 people.

"We talked to our state bridge engineer and that is the first thing he said: Texas has an aggressive bridge inspection program, and all bridges in Texas are safe," Cross said.

Texas ramped up its bridge repair efforts in 2001, setting a requirement that at least 80 percent of bridges be in good or

better condition within a decade. That percentage has steadily increased to 77 percent as of September 2006, the department said in its report.

The new standard was set a month before a towboat captain lost control of four barges in a strong current and slammed into the bridge leading to South Padre Island. The force caused the midsection of the Queen Isabella Causeway to tumble into the water 85 feet below. Motorists drove blindly into the chasm in the road, and eight people died.

The 2001 accident ultimately was blamed on heavy currents, pilot error, and insufficient horsepower for the load at hand.

State Sen. Robert Nichols, a Republican from Jacksonville who was a member of the Texas Transportation Commission at the time of the collapse, said the incident made state officials even more cautious about protecting bridges.

Bridges are inspected at least every two years, Cross said, and those with critical issues are checked out more frequently.

Inspectors look for corrosion, deterioration and damage and check for cracks that signal fatigue, said Joseph Yura, a professor emeritus of engineer at the University of Texas at Austin who specializes in structural steel design.

"Like everything that gets older, there's some deterioration, but that doesn't mean that the bridge is unsafe," Yura said.

What's On The Agenda?

State Senator Royce West and Dallas County Commissioner, John Wiley Price, will be hosting a series of topic-driven discussions on relevant issues facing Dallas County, particularly economic growth and develop-

ment in Southern Dallas County, on Thursday, August 16. The presentation will be located in the David W. Carter High School auditorium, 1819 Wheatland Rd., Dallas, from 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Topics of

discussion will include jobs, employment, business expansion, University of North Texas at Dallas, and Paul Quinn College. For more information, call Kelvin Bass at 214-467-0123.

Making Black Communities HIV/AIDS Smart Campaign

Reach Out and Lift Up Family Ministry, along with Dona Gassaway Mitchell Productions, are presenting a Black HIV/AIDS awareness campaign from August 12 through the 31, "aiming to reduce the HIV infection among Black Communities." The Itinerary is as follows:

On August 13, from 11 a.m. to noon, there will be a Free Youth Rally Against AIDS at the Lake West Family YMCA, 3737 Goldman St. Dallas, Texas 75212, which will include AIDS Drama, AIDS educator, entertainment and door prizes.

On August 18, there will be a Free Man2Man talk show from 2 - 4 p.m. at the Tommie Allen Recreation Center, 7071 Bonnie View Rd. Dallas, Texas 75216, and will include AIDS drama,

special guest speaker former Mayor Pro Tem-Don Hill, I Won't Complain Ministry Testimony, and free men's haircut giveaways by DeZine Entertainment.

On August 21, the Free AIDS Drama Explosion will include a series of plays, monologues, poetry, entertainment, and MOSAIC services from 6 - 9 p.m. at the African American Museum at Historic Fair Park, 3536 Grand Avenue, Dallas, Texas 75315.

On August 30, Paul Quinn College will host the Black Women AIDS Summit at the Grand Lounge Student Union Building, 3837 Simpson Stuart Rd. Dallas. The Free presentation will include special guest speakers, AIDS drama, SAAVED Ministry, Women Praying for Christ Ministry, St. Luke AIDS

Ministry, entertainment and door prizes.

Also, from August 12 through the 31 The Baby AIDS Pamper and Baby Wipe Drive will be in motion, so contact Dona Mitchell for drop off locations at 972-748-4648 or email her at aidsawarenessexpo@yahoo.com.

Remember, HIV is the virus that causes AIDS, the deadly Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome that more than 1.2 million Americans live with, and more than 500,000 of them are Blacks. So come show your support during the "Making Black Communities HIV/AIDS Smart" campaign. You can always call the AIDS National Hotline at 1-800-342-2437. "Together we can build a better life! This battle is not yours, it's the Lords!"

Collin College President Cary Israel's vision and leadership have catapulted Collin College to national recognition. Dr. Israel was recognized with the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Award for the Western Region by the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT).

Dr. Israel was one of five regional winners for ACCT, a national organization of the governing boards of community colleges. From among the regional winners, a national CEO Award winner will be selected and announced at the Community College Leadership Congress in San Diego on Sept. 28.

"I am extremely honored and deeply appreciative to be chosen as a representative for such a meaningful award, and I'm proud of the great strides this college has made," said Dr. Israel. "The success of this institution has occurred because of the vision of the

trustees, the hard work of the faculty and staff, and, most importantly, because of the successes of our students. Thanks to strong support from



Dr. Cary Israel, president of Collin College, was recognized with the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Award for the Western Region by the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT).

local legislators and from donors, the college can continue its mission of providing quality higher education to our

Israel CEO Of The Year

community and making a lasting impact."

Dr. Israel was nominated for the honor by the Collin College Board of Trustees. In the nomination, the Trustees cited his creativity, vision and planning.

"Dr. Israel is a true asset to the college because he is an astute CEO who is passionate about higher education as well as the community," said Dr. J. Robert Collins, chairman and founding board member of the Collin College Board of Trustees. "Under his leadership, the college has established award-winning initiatives as well as unique programs to serve the changing student population. We are thankful for his service and look forward to continued success under his leadership."

Dr. Israel joined Collin College in 1999. Under his management, the college has been recognized nationally for excellence by Phi Theta Kappa, the

American Association of Community Colleges, the Council for Advancement and Support of Education, the Carnegie Foundation and the League for Innovation in the Community College, among others. The college has seen tremendous growth in the past eight years and is expected to lead all Texas colleges and universities in growth through 2015.

Dr. Israel has spearheaded innovative programs that have propelled Collin College to the forefront of education. He signed Texas' first concurrent admissions agreement between a community college and a university, making it easier for Collin College students to

transfer and continue their education. He created Collin College's first Center for Scholarly and Civic Engagement, which administers the college's award-winning service-learning and learning communities programs. In addition, he started the first post-baccalaureate teacher certification program at a community college in Texas. One of the college's most recent accomplishments was the development of Destination College, a program that prepares high school students and their parents financially, academically and mentally for higher education.

Former student Adele Bailey, who was selected as a member of the prestigious 2005 Phi Theta Kappa All-USA

Academic Team, was mentored by Dr. Israel. "Dr. Israel exemplifies fortitude of leadership through his fervor for higher education and dedication to students. He knows us by name, he converses with interest, and he labors selflessly to advance us through the vigor of his expertise," said Bailey.

"Dr. Israel is committed to making college affordable and accessible to all students. During his tenure at Collin College, he worked with the Trustees to secure two \$1 million donations and helped raised more than \$180,000 annually during fundraising events. Prior to his leadership, the largest fundraising event at the college raised \$19,000," said Dr. Collins.

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Reverend Al Sharpton And National Action Network's Decency Initiative To Lead A 20-City Vigil To Protest The Use Of Words "Nigga" "Bitch" And "Ho" In The Music Recording Industry

Friendship-West Baptist Church, Dallas Quick Response, the Dallas Branch of the NAACP and the D/FW community joined forces with Rev. Al Sharpton for the National Action Network's Decency Initiative by protesting the use of explicit and offensive language in music. As part

of the Decency Initiative, Rev. Sharpton called for local leaders, churches and organizations to protest at local urban/hip hop stations on August 7 in a show of support for removing songs with explicit and offensive language of the airwaves. Two local Dallas/Fort Worth radio stations were targeted for the

protest: Hip hop stations KKDA-FM/K104fm and KBFB-FM/97.9 The Beat. The national protests on August 7 were held by Rev. Al Sharpton and the National Action Network's Decency Initiative in 20 cities across the country at 12 p.m. to mount public pressure on the music industry

to adopt a universal standard of respect for all people. Organizers say this initiative was not anti-Hip Hop music or against radio stations that play hip hop music. Rather, it was against the explicit and offensive language that degrades women and devalues the community.

Minority Business Certification Seminar And Business Expo

Don't miss this business-to-business expo hosted by the Collin County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and the Collin County Black Chamber of Commerce held next Saturday, August 18, from 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. at the

MPAC Center. The presentation will include two hours of general information on certification, three hours for completing applications and information sessions on getting big contracts, advantages of being a certified minority business owner, local

own resources. The above are just a few examples as to why Africa is poor and Europe is not. We can talk about diamonds, gold, coltan, platinum, flowers and hundreds of other items that are easily marketed in the Western Nations that come from the earth of Africa. Here we are in 2007 and the matter should be simple Economics 101 and straight out good government. Oh uh, that's a problem - straight out good government.

Texas 75069. Early registration fee, which includes lunch, is only \$10; door registration will be \$20. To register online and reserve your seating today visit www.cchchamber.org or www.cbblackchamber.org or call 214-544-4630.

Swiss Chocolate Page 1

from the mountainous regions of East Africa. Ethiopia, Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda and a few other nations have been blessed with the earth, air and weather that blend together a product that cannot be produced as well in any other place on earth. Millions of tons of it are shipped to Europe and other places for processing and packaging and denied its birthright - Africa.

What is the Dutch Oil Co. AKA Shell Oil? There isn't one oil well in Amsterdam. Yet, boatloads of crude oil from Nigeria, Angola and other areas along the western shoreline of Africa go to Amsterdam for refining. A person in Lagos, Nigeria will pay about \$3.50 per gallon for gasoline even though it was generated down the road from the gas station. Conversely, a person in Venezuela pays about 20 cents for a gallon of gasoline because his nation has enough gumption to refine and control it

consider the same for all of its major resources. This should happen for a distinct period of time while it organizes systems to process its resources and direct them to fair markets that will match the value with the price. As they fade away from nationalizing its industries, homegrown corporations can be formed and the entrepreneurial spirit can kick into gear and generate wealth to the savant and jobs to the millions.

These new nations must have banks that can deal in "hard currency," which is money that will not fluctuate in value on a daily basis and has the trust of the people. Right now, with the exception of South Africa, only western banks can offer hard currency in sub-Saharan Africa. Perhaps there could be a multi-national standard like the Euro is used in Europe. The economy could also have one gigantic stock exchange to compete with the rest of the world.

There is enough African brainpower living abroad to staff and assist in this major transformation. If all the educated Africans living in North America and Europe were to return home, the educational indicators of Africa would skyrocket. There would be a need for strong, consistent democracy amongst the new nations. With this, would come intolerance for corruption and a very strict judicial system to handle it.

Right now, China looks to Africa as its new farmland and direct resource for oil. The Chinese are leasing millions of acres for farming and are buying oil above the market rate - just to get it. The United States buys 10% of its oil from Africa and that will change to 25% within the next 10 years. Africa should do what Saudi Arabia has done. It took control of its resource, oil, and turned a poor desert nation into one of the richest nations in the world. Do it Africa. Do it now!

Harry Alford is the cofounder, President/CEO of the National Black Chamber of Commerce. Visit their website at www.nationalbcc.org.

Atlanta prison to which he was sent as a result of trumped-up charges and a "kangaroo court. He was later deported.

"I have sacrificed my home and my loving wife for you. I entrust her to your charge... I have left her penniless and helpless to face the world, because I gave all, but her courage is great, and I know she will hold up for you and me... After my enemies are satisfied, in life or death I shall come back to you to serve even as I have served before. In

life I shall be the same; in death I shall be a terror to the foes of Negro liberty. If death has power, then count on me in death to be the real Marcus Garvey I would like to be. I may come in an earthquake, or a cyclone, or plague, or pestilence, or as God would have me, then be assured that I will never desert you and make your enemies triumph over you."

Happy Birthday, Honorable Marcus Moshiah Garvey! We honor you.

Blackonomics Page 1

Improvement Association (UNIA). What goes around comes around. Right?

From what I recently read on Jamey Wooten's website, www.faiithinmotion.net, Firestone is once again doing some dirt in Liberia with the rubber industry and the workers over there. We probably need Marcus to make a "return."

Marcus Garvey, yet another brother who departed this life much too soon, following Booker T. Washington's shortened life and preceding our dear brother and warrior, Amos Wilson, stood tall among all men. He was principled, he had backbone, and he was fearless - all because he loved his people dearly. Love is the most powerful weapon we have. If Black folks had "Marcus Garvey Love" for one another, imagine where we would be as a people.

Brother Garvey's life should be celebrated just as other icons of the Black experience are commemorated. After all, Garvey did what many of the others only talked about; he demonstrated the viability of economic control of our resources. Garvey showed our people how to pool our dollars and how to do for self, he carried us to new heights, collectively, by building numerous Black institutions and businesses.

Ironically, it was Brother Garvey's dedication to true nationalism that led to his demise among those for whom he so valiantly and relentlessly fought. Unfortunately some Blacks were jealous and envious of Marcus' ability to rally the people, to get Black people to raise huge sums of money, to march and demonstrate in overwhelming numbers, to turnout the vote in unprecedented fashion, and to deny the takeover of the UNIA by "out-

siders." Black "leaders" of his time even came up with a "Marcus must go" campaign. Can you imagine that? I certainly can; been there, done that. Anytime a strong Black man or Black woman stands up for our people, it is almost inevitable that another Black person will lead the charge against them.

Too often we forget, if we ever knew it at all, the importance of our brothers and sisters who stood tall on our behalf. Marcus Garvey, born August 17, 1887, is certainly deserving of our recognition and our honor. His words, "All I have I have given you," are exemplary of this man's love for us. We should be proud of his accomplishments, and it would be wonderful if we would emulate his spirit, his love, and his tenacity as we make our way to economic freedom. Celebrate Marcus Garvey's birthday this year as you never have before!

I will close with a portion of Marcus Garvey's letter from the

Atlanta prison to which he was sent as a result of trumped-up charges and a "kangaroo court. He was later deported.

"I have sacrificed my home and my loving wife for you. I entrust her to your charge... I have left her penniless and helpless to face the world, because I gave all, but her courage is great, and I know she will hold up for you and me... After my enemies are satisfied, in life or death I shall come back to you to serve even as I have served before. In



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3rd Annual Joycie Turner Scholarship Banquet

It was an eloquent affair at the Hilton Garden Inn in Allen, Tex. as the young ladies and gentlemen, along with their pastor, Rev. W. L. Stafford, Sr., First Lady Tasha Stafford, family and friends gathered to witness them being honored with scholarship funds to attend their chosen colleges and universities.

Over \$9,000 was raised by the members of Fellowship Baptist Church of Allen by various methods, especially the 2nd Annual Golf Tournament.

Sis. Sonya Clark served as Mistress of Ceremony and featured vocalist Stefan Walton added to the atmosphere. The scholarship recipients read their

essays; a stand-out act was Stephanie Brewer who performed "Reflections of her Freshman Year in college."

After the introduction of candi-

dates and the presentation of awards, there were words of encouragement by Prophet Wales Williams, Jr. followed by closing remarks by Pastor Stafford.



(Sitting) Mother Joycie Turner, Scholarship named in her honor. Standing (L to R): Matthew Morrison; Ashleigh Fisher; Cordell Weathersbee, II; Courtney Turner; Darius Bolting; Alton Scott; Brannon Ridgley; First Lady Tasha Stafford; and Pastor W.L. Stafford, Sr. of Fellowship Baptist Church of Allen



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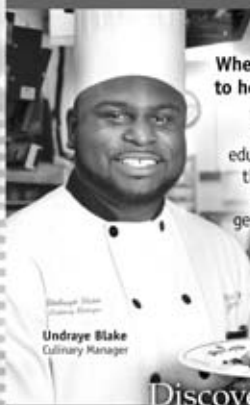

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Macy Gray And The Brand New Heavies Featured In "The Big and Heavy Tour"

Macy Gray and the Brand New Heavies will perform at Bass Hall in Fort Worth on August 29 at 8:00 p.m. as part of the "The Big and Heavy Tour." Gray's unique voice is instantly recognizable as one of the most distinctive in all of pop music. The singer-songwriter earned a Grammy for Best Female Pop Vocal Performance for her 1999 hit single, "I Try," which also received nominations for Song of the Year and Record of the Year. Her debut album, *On How Life Is*, has sold over 7

million copies worldwide. Rolling Stone cited Ms. Gray's "adventurousness, good humor, insight, quirkiness and charm." Now she's back after almost four years with a new album called *BIG*, featuring soulful songs, beautiful ballads and modern dance-floor smashes.

On the bill with Macy Gray is The Brand New Heavies, called "the definitive



British R&B band" by Billboard Magazine. The group's single "Never Stop" from their self-titled debut album reached an R&B No. 3. Their latest album,

Get Used to It, was released in 2006, prompting PopMatters to rave, "The Brand New Heavies have put the funk back in music."

For further information, or to purchase tickets by phone, call the Bass Hall Box Office at 817-212-4280 or toll-free at 1-877-212-4280.

Audition Announcement

Who: The Collin Theatre Center (formerly known as Quad C Theatre)

What: Auditions for two Regional Premieres of new plays. *Flaming Guns* of the Purple Sage, a satirical suture by Jane Martin. And, *Columbinus*, a docu-drama about school violence written by Steve Karam and P.J. Paparelli, with the United States Theatre Project.

Seeking: Casting 6 women and 9 men. Ages: 20's to 40's. Note: See character descriptions below for both shows.

Preliminary Auditions: A single audition for both shows will be held on Tuesday August 28, from 6:00-9:00 p.m. in the John Anthony Theatre, on the Spring Creek campus of Collin College in Plano. Open Call. NO appointments will be arranged.

Prepare: (preliminary auditions) Prepare one 1-2 minute monologue that reveals your suitability for either or both plays. Actors will be considered for BOTH shows, unless they state otherwise. It is strongly recommended that you read the scripts before auditioning. Scripts for both plays will be available at STAGE (for members: 214-630-7722) and at the Collin Theatre Center.

Callbacks: Callbacks will consist of cold readings from the scripts. Callbacks for both

shows will occur on Wednesday August 29. *Columbinus* callbacks will take place from 5:00-7:30 p.m. in the Black Box Theatre. *Flaming Guns* of the Purple Sage callbacks will take place from 7:00-10:00 p.m. in the John Anthony Theatre. Actors who are called back for both shows will be accommodated.

Where: John Anthony Theatre, on the Spring Creek Campus of Collin College, 2800 E. Spring Creek Pkwy, Plano. Note: The theatre is located on Jupiter Road, between Spring Creek Parkway and Parker Road in Plano. (I-75 N, exit Spring Creek Pkwy-East, R on Jupiter, L into campus)

Rehearse: Rehearsals begin immediately. Rehearsals will generally be scheduled Monday-Friday, 7:00-10:00 pm and Sunday afternoon.

Performances: Both shows will be performed on the Spring Creek Campus of Collin College in Plano. Performances for *Flaming Guns* of the Purple Sage are October 11-21, 2007. Performances for *Columbinus* are October 16-21, 2007. Weekday evening performances are at 8:00 p.m. Weekend matinee performances are at 2:15 p.m.

Plot: *Flaming Guns* of the Purple Sage (3 women, 4 men): Big 8, a feisty former rodeo queen, faces foreclosure on the

Wyoming ranch where she rehabilitates injured rodeo cowboys. The arrival of her son's former girlfriend, Shedevel, and a one-eyed Ukrainian biker, Black Dog, ushers in outrageous violence and horror in this black comedy that roasts and reveres the cowboy code of the West. The play features extreme comedic violence and sexual situations.

Plot: *Columbinus* (3 women, 5 men): This docu-drama examines the Columbine school shooting and brings new meaning to the catch phrase "No child left behind." Set, at first, in a fictional high school in American suburbia, the action moves to Littleton, Colorado in the days leading up to and including the shootings on April 20, 1999. Having conducted interviews with teenagers across the country and taken survivor accounts and police transcripts, the writers have created a haunting piece of theatre. The moral, in a sense, is not that the Columbine High massacre could have been prevented, but that we should be grateful, in a culture as sprawling and violence-ridden as ours, that it does not happen every day.

Flaming Guns ... Contact Gail Cronauer at 972-881-5125 or email gcronauer@ccc.edu
Columbinus ... Contact Brad Baker at 972-881-5679 or email bbaker@ccc.edu.

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75 NORTH
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190 GEORGE BUSH
EAST OR SOUTH, TAKE THE 75 N. EXIT 15TH ST. MAKE A LEFT ON 15TH. MAKE A RIGHT ON ALMA DR., MAKE A RIGHT ON PARK BLVD., THE FIRST RED LIGHT MAKE A RIGHT ON TO CHISHOLM PLACE, ENTER THE FIRST PARKING LOT ON YOUR RIGHT.

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The Special Rapporteur, who reports to the UN Human Rights Council, noted that both the Council and the Sudanese Government have undertaken or pledged to carry out steps and measures to ameliorate the conditions inside Darfur, where more than 200,000 people have been killed since 2003 and another 2 million people forced to flee their homes.

"I welcome the Government's acknowledgement of the seriousness of the situation," she said, urging Khartoum to quickly carry out the recommendations of a group of UN rapporteurs and other experts - which she presides over - on the situation in Darfur.

Fighting began in Darfur, an impoverished and arid region of western Sudan that is almost as large as France, when local rebels took up arms against the Government, which then responded with the support of notorious militia known as the Janjaweed.

In her statement Samar also said that civil and political rights are breached in other regions of Sudan, despite the Government's efforts to introduce legislative bills to ensure that its armed forces, police and national security apparatus comply with international legal obligations.

The situation is also tough in the "transitional areas" in the wake of the comprehensive peace agreement in January 2005 ending the north-south civil war, according to Ms. Samar. Those regions are officially administered by the north but its populations are linguistically and ethnically closer to the south, causing "particular problems," especially given that two parallel judicial systems are in place.

Doctor Makes Changes Page 1
dying of minor illnesses," Ogwu said.

Ogwu graduated from Alexandria University in Egypt with a master's in medicine and worked at the Harlem Hospital in New York, an affiliate of Columbia University. He came to Texas and worked for six years at the Martin Luther King Jr. Family Clinic in Fairpark. For the last three years, he was the clinic's medical director.

During his time at the clinic, he decided to establish the Alpha Medical Center. Ogwu said he couldn't help notice how the "medical practice was fragmented." He said they would have patients come in to only send them off to other locations for treatments.

"Basic healthcare needs to be in one location," Ogwu said.

He also said people with minor injuries were sent to wait too long in the emergency rooms for treatment.

"People shouldn't have to spend all day in the emergency room," Ogwu said.

The Alpha Medical Center covers everything from pediatrics, physical therapy rehabilitation, work injuries, family practice and more.

Ogwu said his center provides immediate treatment, and no appointment is necessary. The center also provides free transportation within a 15-mile radius of the clinic for patients.

"Our mission for the Alpha Medical Center is to provide quality and comprehensive basic healthcare with compassion and convenience," Ogwu said.

Ogwu currently resides in Plano with his wife, Banny, and their three boys: Austin; 18; Tony, 16; and Ike, 8.

Career Opportunities - Contact Marketing to advertise in our career opportunity section
972-606-7498 Fax or Email copy for quote: Fax: 972-509-9058; Email: opportunity@monthgazette.com

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or Leave Message at 972-606-3891



DALLAS COUNTY

Dallas County is currently recruiting for the following positions:

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- Manager, Public Health
- Manager, Public Health Nursing
- Manager, Research & Statistics

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EOE

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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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Community Newspaper seeking Freelance Writers to cover Community Events. Familiarity with AP style a plus. Please send your resume along with a writing sample.

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LEWISVILLE
POLICE OFFICER (TCLEOSE Certification Preferred)
Annual Salary: \$47,011 increasing to \$48,876 after completion of the field-training program increasing through a step pay plan to \$57,111. In addition, the City provides a full complement of benefits. Officers are also eligible for up to \$150/month for education/certification pay after successful completion of the training program. Closing Date: November 16, 2007 Minimum Qualifications: Be at least twenty-one (21) years of age at the time of the written entrance examination. Must be a US Citizen, be a high school graduate or have obtained a GED with 12 hours of college with a 2.0 GPA on a 4.0 GPS scale or 2 years of active duty military service with an honorable discharge, be fingerprinted and subjected to a search of records to disclose a criminal record, driving record in compliance with City of Lewisville Driving Policy, vision correctable to 20/20 binocular, ability to distinguish between red, green, and yellow Special Requirements: Must pass Written Exam Successfully pass a validated physical ability test. Successfully pass a Video-based assessment (B-PAD). Successfully pass a background investigation. Successfully pass a post-offer physical, psychological, and drug test. **An application MUST be submitted to on-line at www.cityoflewisville.com prior testing. 2007 Test Dates: August 24, September 21, October 26 & November 16 2007
Human Resources
151 W. Church St., Lewisville, TX 75057
972-219-3450 • 972-219-5005 (FAX)
www.cityoflewisville.com
EOE

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY
Position: FULL-TIME ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE
News Talk 660 KSKY-AM located in Irving, TX is looking for a full-time Account Executive with outside sales experience. Candidate should have an understanding of news talk format and be ready to hit the ground running. Previous news talk radio sales experience a plus. 2 years sales experience required.

Please fax a letter along with a brief resume to Bob Johnson, Sales Manager at 214-561-9662 or email to bjohnson@ksky.com. NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE!

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TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS OF PROPOSED TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (TxDOT) CONTRACTS
Sealed proposals for contracts listed below will be received by TxDOT until the date(s) shown below, and then publicly read.

- CONSTRUCTION/MAINTENANCE/BUILDING FACILITIES CONTRACT(S)
- Dist/Div: Fort Worth
Contract 6162-80-001 for PREFAB HANDWORK IN TARRANT County will be opened on September 06, 2007 at 1:00 pm at the State Office for an estimate of \$61,193,337.
 - Contract 6162-81-001 for THERMO STRIPING IN TARRANT County will be opened on September 07, 2007 at 1:00 pm at the State Office for an estimate of \$709,296.08.
 - Contract 6164-30-001 for CRACKSAL in TARRANT County will be opened on September 07, 2007 at 1:00 pm at the State Office for an estimate of \$952,478.16.

Plans and specifications are available for inspection, along with bidding proposals, and applications for the TxDOT Prequalified Contractor's list, at the applicable State and/or Dist/Div Offices listed below. If applicable, bidders must submit prequalification information to TxDOT at least 10 days prior to the bid date to be eligible to bid on a project. Prequalification materials may be requested from the State Office listed below. Plans for the above contract(s) are available from TxDOT's website at www.tdot.state.tx.us and from reproduction companies at the expense of the contractor.
NPO: 24276

State Office
Constr./Maint. Division
200 E. Riverside Dr.
Austin, Texas 78704
Phone: 512-416-2540
Dist/Div Office(s)
Fort Worth District
District Engineer
2501 Southwest LP820
Ft Worth, Texas 76133
Phone: 817-370-6500

Minimum wage rates are set out in bidding documents and the rates will be part of the contract. TxDOT ensures that bidders will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, sex, or national origin.

NTTA
NORTH TEXAS TOLLWAY AUTHORITY
PUBLIC NOTICE

Request for Qualifications
Cost Management Program Implementation, Ongoing Implementation, and Support Consultant

RFQ number - 02283-NTT-00-CS-FI
The North Texas Tollway Authority invites written proposals from highly qualified Cost Management consultants, with proven ability providing successful implementation and support for Enterprise Performance Optimization software.

Specifications are available at the North Texas Tollway Authority, Glenageles Office located at 5900 W. Plano Parkway, Plano, TX 75093 weekdays from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. through August 21, 2007. Specifications may also be obtained electronically via email by contacting Reggie Sanderfer at 214-224-2152 or email rsanderfer@ntta.org.

There will be one pre-qualification meeting held on August 21, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. at the North Texas Tollway Authority, Glenageles Office located at 5900 W. Plano Parkway, Plano, TX 75093. All qualified firms are encouraged to attend this public meeting.

Proposals must be received at the North Texas Tollway Authority, Glenageles office located at 5900 W. Plano Parkway, Plano, TX 75093; no later than August 28, 2007 at 3:00 p.m.

Church News



Sister Tarpley

Christian One-Liners: Don't let your worries get the best of you; remember Moses started out as a basket case. Some people are kind, polite, and sweet-spirited—until you try to sit in their church pew. Many folks want to serve God but only as advisors. It's easier to preach ten sermons than it is to live one. The good Lord didn't create anything without a purpose but mosquitoes come close. When you get to your wit's end, you'll find God lives there too. People are funny; they want the front of the bus, the middle of the road, and the back of the church.

Opportunity may knock once, but temptation bangs on your front door forever. Quit griping about your church; if it were perfect, you couldn't belong. If the church wants a better pastor, it only needs to pray for the one it has. God Himself does not propose to judge a man until he is dead. So why should you? Some minds are like concrete, thoroughly mixed up and permanently set.

Peace starts with a smile. I don't know why some people change churches; what difference does it make which one you stay home from?

A lot of church members who are singing "Standing on the Promises" are just sitting on the pews. We were called to be witnesses, not lawyers or judges. Be ye fishers of men. You catch them; He'll clean them. Coincidence is when God

Things to Ponder

chooses to remain anonymous. Don't put a question mark where God put a period. Don't wait for sinning men to take you to church before you go.

Forbidden fruits create many jams. God doesn't call the qualified. He qualifies the called. God grades on the cross, not the curve. God loves



Picture of The Week
First Lady Elizabeth White, Love Chapel C.O.G.I.C., Elder Philip White, Pastor, brings the message on 5th Sunday.

everyone but probably prefers "fruits of the spirit" over "religious nuts" God promises a safe landing, not a calm passage. He who angers you, controls you! If God is your Co-pilot, then swap seats! Prayer: Don't give God instructions. Just report for duty! The task ahead of us is never as great

as the Power behind us. The Will of God never takes you to where the Grace of God will not protect you. We don't change the message; the message changes us. You can tell how big a person is by what it takes to discourage him. The best mathematical equation I have ever seen: 1 cross + 3 nails = 4 given.

The Blessings in "No": I asked God to take away my pride. He said, "No." It is not for me to take away, but for you to give up. I asked God to make my handicapped child whole. He said, "No." The spirit is whole, the body is only temporary. I asked God to grant me patience. He said, "No." Patience is a byproduct of tribulations. It isn't granted; it is earned. I asked God to give me happiness. He said, "No." I give you blessings. Happiness is up to you.

I asked God to spare me pain. He said, "No." Suffering draws you apart from worldly cares and brings you closer to me. I asked God to make my spirit grow. He said, "No." You must grow on your own, but I will prune you to make you fruitful. I ask for all things that I might enjoy life. God said, "No." I will give you life so that you may enjoy all things. I ask God to help me love others as much as He loves me. God said, "Abhhh! Finally, you have the idea."

Email: religion@monthgazette.com
Voice Mail: 972-606-3878
Fax: 972-509-9058

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

Church Happenings Cont'd

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

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF HAMILTON PARK (FIRST CHURCH)
August 15-19, 2007

First Church Single Ministry presents their 2007 Annual Celebration; join us. Scripture: "We are More Than Conquerors." Romans 8:37. Kick-Off @ 8 pm on August 15th with Rev. J.D. Cox. Refreshments will be served in the Men's Lounge after the Kick-Off. A Christian Comedy Show on August 17th @ 7 pm with performances by Marcus Wiley and Heaven Sense." The Hotel Retreat is August 18th with dynamic speakers, musical performances and a buffet. The celebration ends with a Praise and Worship on August 19th with special guest Rev. Kennedy Young, Jr.

August 18, 7:30 am - 10:30 am
Richardson ISD in conjunction with First Church will host a Back-to-School Rally in the church parking lot. We will distribute school supplies to our members' children and the community. We need 300 plus volunteers. All church ministries are requested to volunteer; a letter with specific instructions will be provided.

August 26, 2007
Join us for our Homecoming Our Celebration Service and expect a wonderful time in the Lord.

For information about the above events call the church @ 972-235-4235

First Baptist Church of Hamilton Park (First Church)
Dr. Gregory Foster, Senior Pastor
Rev. Anthony Foster, Pastor
300 Phillips Street
Richardson, TX 75081
972-235-4235

HAMILTON PARK UMC
Starting August 22, 2007

Wednesdays, 7 pm - 9 pm
FREE 28-Week African American History Class with instructors John Ross and Kerry Shelton. The instructors are well-versed in African History and will

give an in-depth view of our glorious past and present.
For information contact John Ross @ 972-230-0906 or you may register at the church.

Hamilton Park UMC
Rev. Harold Dangerfield, Pastor
11881 Schroeder Road
Dallas, TX 75234
972-235-4633

MT. PISGAH MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH
August 14 and 21, 7:30 pm

Everyone is invited to our Educational Building to hear two anointed speakers of God's Word. Sis. Joyce Smith from Bethel Baptist Fellowship on August 14th and Sis. Grace Arrington from Lake Out Reach Ministries on August 21st. Our theme: "Putting God's Word to Work." Ph 2:3, Ma. 25:35-40, Pr. 14:31, II Ch. 7:14 & Ps. 131. Our Focus: "God's People Doing God's Work Using God's Word."

Mt. Pisgah MBC
Rev. Robert W. Townsend, Pastor
5116 Webb Chapel Road
Dallas, TX 75229
972-241-6151

NEW LIFE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH OF ROWLETT
August 22-24, 7:30 pm Nightly

We present "Fresh Wind, Fresh Fire Phase II Revival." Join us for three powerful nights of preaching, healing & deliverance! Our National Prelate, Apostle Cornell Hamilton, Founder/Pastor/Overseer from Bondage to Freedom Interdenominational Church in Shreveport, LA will be featured.

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

ST. LUKE COMMUNITY UMC
August 11, 2007

The voices of St. Luke along with other churches in the D-FW area will host a sectional practice in preparation for a musical workshop and singing with Richard Smallwood. Tenors will meet @ 10 am; Altos @ 11 am; Bass/Baritone @ 12 pm; and Sopranos @ 1 pm.

August 15 or August 16
Choir sections will practice for the August 26th music workshop.

August 24 - 25, 2007
Two-day Music Workshop in preparation for singing on August 26th @ 11 am.

August 26, 11 am
Richard Smallwood will be ministering songs from his latest CD, "Journey! Live in New York." For information, workshop fees, or to volunteer call Monya @ 214-563-0824 or Howard Hyde @ 214-986-5756.

St. Luke Community UMC
Rev. Tyrone Gordon, Pastor
5116 Webb Chapel Road
Dallas, TX 75223
214-821-2970

SIMS CHAPEL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH
August 10, 7:30 pm

Our Victory Youth and Children will be jammin' along with their guests (a drill team, a mime ministry and a puppet ministry).

August 19, 4 pm
The Grand Finale--The Anniversary Hour, our guest church is New St. Phillip Baptist Church, Arcola, TX and others.

For information, call Helen Shaw @ 972-226-4127
Sims Chapel MBC
Rev. Ronald Session, Pastor
317 Parker Drive
Garland, TX 75040
972-276-0014

Church Happenings

CONCORD BAPTIST CHURCH
August 11, 9 am - 12 Noon
FREE Community Emergency Response Team (C.E.R.T.) Training by the City of Dallas Office of Emergency Management. For information call Edna Pemberton @ 972-780-7544.

Concord Baptist Church
Rev. Bryan Carter, Senior Pastor
6808 Pastor Bailey Drive
Dallas, TX 75237
214-331-8522

DAYSPRING FAMILY CHURCH, IRVING
August 15-18, 2007
You are invited to our "P3 Metroplex Youth" Conference for ages 10-18, with God's Purpose, Passions and Promise! FREE T-shirts will be given to the first 350 youths to register. For information call Minister Monica Sowell at the church.

Dayspring Family Church,
Irving
Elder Kevin Dickerson, Pastor
618 N. Beltline Road

Irving, TX 75061
972-399-7729

FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH OF ALLEN
August, 2007 & On Going

Our Education Department is providing a FREE English as a Second Language Class for everyone; and a FREE GED preparation, including pre-testing and tutoring every Wednesday @ 6 pm. If you or someone you know needs assistance, contact Marcia Jones @ the church.

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.
Emercy Tenae, Associate Minister
www.avefchurchofchrist.org

Hill Chapel
Christian Methodist Episcopal Church
1113 Ave. I, Plano, TX 75074 (972) 423-4899
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.

The Inspiring Body of Christ Church
7710 S. Westmoreland Rd.
Plano, TX 75075
Phone: 972-577-4262 Fax: 972-709-3888
Sunday Services: 7:30 am, 10:00 am, 12:30 pm.
Monday School: 7 pm
Men's Fellowship: Friday 7:00 pm
Website: www.ibccjoy.org

NORTH DALLAS COMMUNITY BIBLE FELLOWSHIP
"A Spiritual Oasis for a Thriving World" Isaiah 55:1
SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES:
8:00 AM • 9:30 AM • 11:30 AM
972-437-3493
Dr. Leslie W Smith, Senior Pastor
1010-1020 South Sherman Street • Richardson, TX 75081
www.ndcbf.org

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

Mount Moriah Baptist Church
253 East Marguerita Garland, TX 75040
972-272-2344
Join Us in this Great Celebration!
Our 64th Church Anniversary and Revival.
Guest Churches and Events
August 8 - 10, 2007 Revival at 7 pm
Evangelist Michael Ray Hubbard, Senior Pastor of Hopewell Baptist Church, Dallas
August 12, 2007 Conclusion
Rev. Ronald Sessions, Senior Pastor of Sims Chapel Baptist Church, Garland

Mt. Olive Church of Plano
300 Chisholm Place Plano, TX 75075 972-633-5511
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Serving the Plano Community for 13 Years
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Wednesday Night 7:15 pm
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Black Editor Assassinated Page 1
Channel 78).

In June, he was promoted to become the editor-in-chief of all of the Post Newspapers - Oakland, Berkeley Tri-City, Richmond, San Francisco and South County.

"Chauncey and I were scheduled to meet this morning to organize the launch of our 'Good-News' publication, but his life was cut short. Now, the bad news is that the 'GoodNews' is put on hold," said Paul Cobb, publisher of the Post NewsGroup. "He was so proud of his new position [as editor of the Post] and was embarrassed and humbled by the respect and accolades the community gave him. Let's continue his legacy by being unafraid to print the truth - stories which need to be told."

Bailey was recently honored as one of 101+ Outstanding Men in Our Community honored at the Black Expo Gala. "We are deeply saddened by this tragic loss of such a treasure in our community. Chauncey Bailey was chosen to be honored because he has distinguished himself so highly as an advocate for and reporter on issues of concern to underserved and underrepresented communities. We join with so many throughout the country in our grief and our sense that our community has lost a great individual," said Dr. C. Diane Howell, producer of Black Expo and publisher of the Black Business Listings.

Bailey's reputation for fighting for African-Americans and justice for the oppressed is reflected in the reactions of those who knew his work.

"Chauncey will be missed. He was at every media event, and he always asked the first

question," said Oakland Mayor Ronald V. Dellums. "His questions were thoughtful and you knew that he sought to truly inform the public."

U. S. Rep. Barbara Lee (D-Calif.) says she hopes his death will shed new light on the problems of crime and violence in American cities.

"It is my hope that the perpetrators of this horrible crime are brought to justice swiftly, and that Chauncey's untimely death will bring our community together and strengthen our collective hand in routing out this type of violence."

Although violence is an ongoing problem in Oakland, news of the assassination-style killing was particularly riveting.

"I'm shocked and saddened at the senseless act that took the life of this dedicated father and sensitive human being," said State Assemblyman Sandre Swanson.

Bailey's pastor, Father Jay Matthews, of St. Benedict's Church, recalls Bailey's hunger for truth.

"Chauncey always wanted to be considered as serious journalist and would go to great lengths to follow his leads - even to places like Iran. How tragic it is that he becomes a victim in his own beloved community. We must ban together as a community, to proclaim 'enough is enough!' - and be serious about it."

Bailey's style of journalism caused his former newsroom at the Oakland Post Tribune, to flourish, said Martin Reynolds, Managing Editor, Oakland Tribune.

"Chauncey's coverage at the Oakland Tribune...was essential to the paper," Reynolds said. "His was a voice and perspective we have not had since he left...His Tribune family sends condolences...his jour-

nalistic contributions will be sorely missed."

Bailey did much more than print media. He was multi-talented for radio and television and used them all for justice.

Bob Butler, President of the Bay Area Black Journalists Association, said Bailey was an example among his peers.

"African-Americans have lost a champion, and the world has lost an outstanding journalist."

Despite his outspokenness, Bailey was also known for his ethics and professionalism, says David Glover, executive director of OCCUR and a long-time personal friend of Bailey's.

"I have no idea why anyone would do this. Chauncey Bailey was a consummate professional...It's just shocking and unbelievable."

He impacted lives and was especially proud of doing that through the Black Press, many said.

"Chauncey has always been proud to represent the Black Press and always would strive to show the Black community as well as the general media the professional skills of Black reporters," says Jeff Douel, a colleague of Bailey's for over 15 years. "As an activist for many grass root causes you were very fortunate if Chauncey took on your cause."

Dating Out Page 1
more than twice as likely to be unemployed.

Census data showed 117,000 black wife-white husband couples in 2006, up from 95,000 in 2000.

There were just 26,000 such couples in 1960, before a Supreme Court ruling banished laws against mixed marriages.

Black female-white male romance has become a hot topic in black-gear magazines and on websites, even hitting the big screen in movies like last year's "Something New."

"Black women are refusing to comply with that message about just find yourself a good blue-collar man with a job, or just find a black man," Moore said.

She pointed to low rates of black men in college, a place where women of all races often meet their spouses.

Black women on campus largely are surrounded by non-black men: In 2004, 26.5% of black males ages 18 to 24 were enrolled in college versus 36.5% of black women that age, according to the American Council on Education's most recent statistics.

Even after college, Roslyn Holcomb struggled to meet professional black men.

"I wanted to get married

(and) have children," she said. "If I was only meeting one guy a year, or every few years, that wasn't going to happen."

The Alabama author eventually married white.

"I think a lot of black women are realizing or feeling that the pickings are slim," she said.

They're made even slimmer, grumble many black women, by high rates of successful black men choosing blondes. For some, they argue, white wives are the ultimate status symbol.

"They don't want a dark chocolate sister laying around their swimming pool," Moore said.

Nearly three quarters of the 403,000 black-white couples in 2006 involved black husbands.

Meanwhile, psychological barriers have discouraged black women from crossing racial lines.

"Black women are socialized to stick by their men," explained Kellina Craig-Henderson, a Howard University psychology professor who studied 15 black women dating interracially.

She said modern black women agonize over breaking male-female bonds forged in slavery and strengthened through the Jim Crow era.

"It may be even more of an issue for educated black women who have a sense of the histori-

cal realities of this country, where black women often were abused at the hands of white men," Craig-Henderson said.

Jones remembered being troubled when a white man politely approached her around 1990. Her stance softened years later, after a sobering party experience.

"All the black men literally pushed (us) out the way to talk to the blondes," said Jones, who soon declared, "I'm going to date whoever."

Black men and women have openly feuded before.

"To a certain degree, black people are sick of each other," Alexander said. "It would be better for black men and black women to open their options."

But Ayo Handy-Kendy, creator of Black Love Day, argues blacks are simply reacting to messages linking success with whiteness. She referred to a string of successful athletes with white partners, including golfer Tiger Woods.

"They normally rejected their culture and they went to the acceptable standard of success - a white woman," said Handy-Kendy, who thought it ironic high-achieving black women were mimicking the behavior.

Back in Virginia, Jones feels life is too short to ponder race when it comes to love.

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Wednesday
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