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People In The News



Dallas-born actress Regina Taylor has forged parallel careers in acting and playwriting. Best known for her work as actor, notably portraying Lilly Harper on "I'll Fly Away", her plays include *Escape from Paradise*, *Watermelon Rinds*, *Inside the Belly of the Beast*, *Mudtrack*, and *Love Poem*. Ms. Taylor comes to Dallas to direct her play *Crowns* in a run beginning on October 11th in the Dallas Theater Center's Kalita Humphreys Theater.

Ms. Taylor began developing the piece almost seven years ago, has directed *Crowns* to sold-out houses at some of the biggest theaters in the country, but never in her hometown. Project collaborators include many local talents, such as actors Liz Mikel and M. Denise Lee and Associate Director René Moreno. Taylor also continues her collaboration with Broadway choreographer Dianne McIntyre, with whom she has worked on previous productions of *Crowns*.

Taylor adapted *Crowns* from the book by Michael Cunningham and Craig Marberry, which features a collection of black-and-white photographs of African-American women in their hats, with personal stories from each woman.

"It's a great pleasure to be able to bring *Crowns* to Dallas, Texas where I was born," Taylor said. "It is very much dedicated to my mother, to the women in my family, to the women in my community and in my church."

Crowns opens October 11th at the Kalita Humphreys Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. at Blackburn, Dallas. For tickets and showtimes call 214-522-8499 or visit www.dallas-theater-center.org.

Prolific local artist Francis Ray will sign copies of her new novel *Any Rich Man Will Do* at Black Images Book Bazaar in Dallas on Saturday, October 8th at 2 p.m.

Ms. Ray's titles consistently make best-seller lists such as *Blackboard and Essence Magazine*. *INCOGNITO*, her sixth title, was the first made-for-TV movie for BET. She has written thirty titles to date which have sold close to 2 million copies combined.

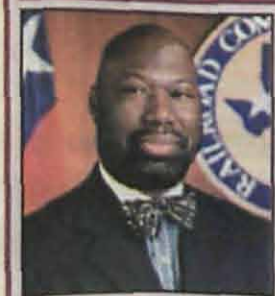
She began as an avid reader of novels like *Sydney Sheldon*, but was frustrated by endings where the protagonist, who had usually suffered a great deal, didn't prevail.

"I liked the concept of hardworking men and women who worked through their problems without resorting to drugs or criminal activity. They were sensual, yet monogamous. That was what my parents were doing. That's what I did in my own marriage."

Her new interest in romances with a twist led her to attend a support group for romance writers. It took her four years to get a short story published. In 1994, Kensington Publishing launched *Arabesque*, a line of books targeted to African-Americans, and her book *Forever Yours* was published.

Writing allows me to create my own world where the good guys win and the bad guys get theirs," she says. "In writing, I'm the kindhearted master."

Black Images Book Bazaar is located at 230 Wynnewood Village, Dallas. Call 214-943-0142 for more info or visit www.BlackImages.com.



Gov. Rick Perry has appointed Railroad Commissioner Michael Williams to head the state's long-term relief efforts for the thousands of evacuees who streamed into Texas to escape the ravages of Hurricane Katrina.

Perry said that Williams, an Arlington businessman and former high-ranking official in President George H.W. Bush's administration before joining the Texas Railroad Commission in 1999, was "perfectly suited" for the assignment.

"He has tremendous experience, not only in state government, but also working with members of the business community and numerous charitable organizations," Perry said.

Michael L. Williams was initially appointed to the Texas Railroad Commission by former Governor George W. Bush in December 1998 to serve the unexpired term of Carole Keeton Rylander.

He is the first African American in Texas history to hold an executive statewide elected post and is the highest ranking African American in Texas state government.

He served as Special Assistant to Attorney General Richard Thornburgh at the U.S. Department of Justice. He is also a former federal prosecutor from 1984-1988 and a former assistant district attorney in his hometown of Midland, Texas.

The son of public school teachers, Williams earned a bachelor's, master's and law degree from the University of Southern California.

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North Texas Muslims Reach Out To Hurricane Victims



Members of the North Texas Muslim Task Force: (Left to Right) Rashidah Floyd, Hazim Mandavia, Faizal Ghori with daughter Sana, Naisimul Haque, Munaf Mandavia, and Wahaj Mandavia

By: Gwen Elder

It has been said that one's character should not be judged when times are good, but in adversity. When Hurricane Katrina hit parts of Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama over two

weeks ago, it was called the worst natural disaster that has happened in this country. Even though the disaster had a horrendous affect on property and lives, the best in humanity reached out and wrapped its arms around the survivors. It has seemed that people from all parts of the country and all walks of life have dug deep and been willing to help the victims.

One such group offering aid is the North Texas Muslim Task Force. The task force consists of several different Muslim organizations. They include: Islamic Relief, Baitulmaal, Amowd Foundation, Islamic Association of North Texas, Islamic Center of Irving and the Islamic Associations of Carrollton, Plano, Tarrant County and Arlington.

NT Muslims Reach Out Page 2

Passions High at War Protests in D.C.

Spirits were high during weekend rallies in the nation's capital, but that's where the similarities ended, as one demonstration supported and the other opposed the war in Iraq.

The anti-war rally, held Saturday at the western edge of the National Mall, drew a crowd of 100,000 or more. Lasting a marathon 12 hours, it featured folk singer Joan Baez and Cindy Sheehan, the California mother whose 24-year-old son, Casey, was killed in Iraq last year.

Protesters also marched past the White House, the first time demonstrators have been allowed to do so since the 1995 Oklahoma City bombings.

When Sheehan took the stage Saturday, she won a roar of approval from the crowd. She drew thou-

sands of demonstrators and attracted wide media attention during a 26-day vigil outside the vacationing President Bush's Texas ranch last month.

"Shame on you," Sheehan admonished, directing that portion of her remarks to members of Congress who backed Bush on the invasion of Iraq. "How many more of other people's children are you willing to sacrifice?"

She led the crowd in chanting, "Not one more."

Speakers from the stage attacked President Bush's policies head on, but he was not at the White House to hear it. He spent

War Protests in D.C. Page 3

Perry Defends Waiver In Doomed Bus Trip

By: Scott Farwell

Texas Gov. Rick Perry on Sunday defended his decision to sign a waiver allowing a bus with an expired registration to transport elderly residents fleeing Hurricane Rita from the Houston area to Dallas.

Twenty-four people died early Friday near Wilmer when a fire spread from the bus's brakes into the cabin, where it ignited several oxygen tanks. It was the worst bus accident in Texas since 1952.

Sunday morning on NBC's *Meet the Press* and later on CNN's *Late Edition with Wolf Blitzer*, Mr. Perry said the exceptions he granted for motor carriers did not put people in danger.

Tim Russert, host of *Meet the Press*, cited a



story that revealed the doomed bus's registration expired in July.

"You signed a waiver to allow buses like that to go back on the road for the evacuation. Any regrets?" Mr. Russert asked.

"Well, we didn't sign any

Perry Defends Waiver Page 7

Plano Begins Moving Evacuees into Housing

Over the weekend, the City of Plano closed all of its faith-based shelters that were housing Katrina evacuees. The evacuees were moved into longer-term housing in the form of apartments in the Plano area.

Later today the City of Plano's efforts to coordinate evacuee housing will get another boost. More than 90 families are expected to be moved from hotels and private residences into short-term lease apartments. City officials have secured approximately 600 housing units with the assistance of the Plano Housing Authority.

As contracts are finalized, families are matched with faith-based organizations that have volunteered to move the families and to provide them with basic household items and

furniture. The faith-based organizations will get their first glimpse of the families they will help assimilate to life in Plano later today during the first round of matching.

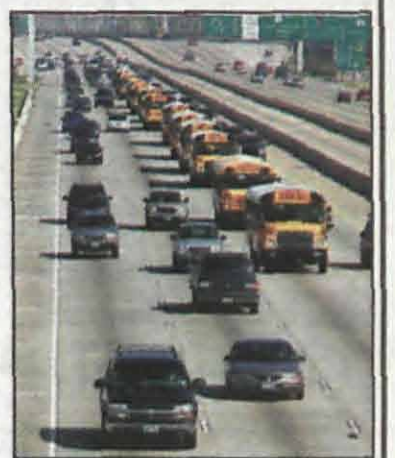
Last Friday, the City of Plano suspended its registration of evacuees with more than 2,500 processed. Those who did not get registered in Plano are being referred to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), (800) 621-3362 or www.fema.gov, and the American Red Cross, (800) 975-7585.

Houston Residents Return After Rita Exodus

The nation's fourth-largest city began flickering back to life Sunday after Hurricane Rita: Airports bustled, businesses reopened and traffic moved easily over freeways. Officials dispatched buses to bring back thousands of evacuees from shelters.

On Monday, more and more traffic lights were working properly and a long line of customers waited outside a downtown Starbucks as it reopened for the first time. Customers sat outdoors with their drinks despite hot, humid weather.

Sunday was the first day of a staggered re-entry plan drawn up by authorities hoping to avoid a rerun of the pre-storm evacuation, when stranded Houstonians and abandoned cars littered freeways after helpless drivers burned through gas in the gridlock. Rita had spared Houston severe dam-



Residents return to Houston freeways on Monday

age by veering east toward the Louisiana-Texas state line when it hit early Saturday.

Plenty of businesses remained closed Sunday, with windows taped or boarded up, as employees who scattered during Rita's

Houston Returns Page 3

The Cost of Kindness

By: Paul Halley

The remarkable thing about old adages, ("early to bed, early to rise", "a penny saved is a penny earned") is that they are usually true. As the warm feelings associated with helping those in need start to get a little frayed around the edges, Hurricane Katrina evacuees are beginning to see the start of familiarity breeding contempt from Texans.

Channel 8 News ran a story Tuesday night on the plight of New Orleans evacuee Danielle Morgan and five year old daughter Daisy. Ms. Morgan is trying to find permanent housing so she and her daughter can move out of the shelter at Reunion Arena. She visited the Timber Creek Apartments on Skillman Avenue in search of an available unit and was told the complex was full. Then, in a scene reminiscent of Mike Wallace and "60 Minutes", the Channel 8 producer called the complex and was told there were plenty of apartments available. The message was clear.

Welcome to Texas, Danielle. Over 225,000 people from

Louisiana fled to Texas in the wake of Katrina, with an estimated 65,000 expected to permanently relocate to North Texas.

The immediate question facing local and state officials is: how does a state with 25 million residents of its own deal a quarter million new residents from Louisiana without alienating Texans?

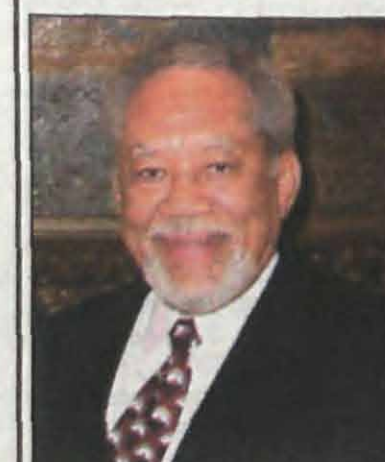
The government estimates that almost half a million jobs were lost to the hurricane. In New Orleans, almost 70 percent of the population was black and nearly a quarter lived below the poverty line.

Efforts to get jobs for the displaced have been extraordinary. The Texas Workforce Commission received \$75 million this month from the U.S. Department of Labor to provide job assistance to Katrina evacuees. Over 200 employers participated in the TWC job fair held in Dallas in early September, with 300 job offers extended on site.

Local residents that were look-

The Cost of Kindness Page 3

National Conference of Black Mayors Receives \$125 Million From US Bancorp



Roosevelt Dorn, NCBM President and Mayor of Inglewood, CA

US Bancorp Community Development Corporation (USBCDC) and the National Conference of Black Mayors (NCBM) have joined forces to provide monetary resources to over 50 cities affected by Hurricane Katrina, as part of the

Community Renewal Act of 2000 and the CDFI New Market Tax Credit Program.

"We felt the most effective way to respond to the devastation and destruction caused by Hurricane Katrina is to make a sustainable impact by preserving and rebuilding residential and commercial entities on behalf of the mayors we represent and their citizens," said Mayor Roosevelt Dorn, NCBM President and Mayor of Inglewood, California.

"The best method for us to accomplish our goal is through our Community Development Entity (CDE) by leveraging New Market Tax Credits," added Vanessa R. Williams, NCBM Executive Director.

"This New Market Tax Credit allocation will be used in Louisiana and in other blighted areas of Mississippi and Alabama

NCBM Grant Page 4

Louis Farrakhan Visits Dallas

By: Paul Hailey
"Step up or die."

During his September 21st Dallas appearances Minister Louis Farrakhan issued these words as a challenge issued to the Black community. His speeches emphasized concepts of empowerment, unity and discipleship as components of an overall strategy to elevate and develop black people. The Minister appeared in Dallas as part of his 23-city tour to address the objectives for the Millions More Movement, October 14-16 in Washington D.C.

The Dallas Local Organizing Committee (DLOC), hosted a press conference for Minister Farrakhan at St. Paul United Methodist Church and a rally at St. Luke United Methodist Church. The Director of the DLOC is Reverend Charles L. Stovall, Pastor of St. Paul United Methodist.

Pastor Stovall commented on the seriousness of problems which face our people.

"This is no joke," the Pastor said. "We have a deficit in terms of justice, education, economics and everything that brings meaning to life.

It's important for those of good will to come together. The Millions More Movement has galvanized some of the brightest minds in the country."

In recent months Minister Farrakhan has stressed the Millions More Movement objectives extend considerably beyond being a march, or even a 10 year anniversary of the Million Man March. The objectives are a larger process aimed at reversing "social engineering" that has plagued our communities (how has it plagued our communities?)

On October 16, 1995, 1.8 million Black men gathered at the nation's capital in a spirit of atonement and reconciliation.

"On that day, the world witnessed what they never expected to see from Black men in America," the Minister remarked. "We asked for God's forgiveness that He might empower, forgive and bless us to be better men, husbands and fathers."

Minister Farrakhan stated that after the Million Man March, over 25,000 orphans found homes, 1.7 million more Black men exercised their right to vote and membership increased in several Black organ-

izations(which ones?).

"Marches are not movements. What we need is a movement," he insisted. "We need an ongoing, sustained, consistent, concerted, divinely inspired movement to uplift the poorest and the most downtrodden among us."

"We at the Millions More Movement are determined to re-engineer the social condition of our people for we are engineers as well", the Minister said.

Minister Farrakhan repeatedly underscored the importance of spirituality in our development as a people.

"I know that you are here because you are seeking something. Everybody has the capacity of being a child of God. God has called us to this moment. By whatever name you call Him, we could not be in here together if He had not called us. He called us to serve His purpose, not only to free our people from their suffering," Minister Farrakhan declared.

"Discipleship and movement go hand-in-hand", he continued. "The best way to lift Jesus is to follow him in His footsteps. So many people want the goal—but want to run from the cross. God wants us to deny the evil

that we enjoy doing."

The Minister also spoke of the link between fear and freedom.

"It is fear that keeps you bound—it keeps our people unproductive. We will never be free as a people if we fear man as we should fear God. You don't realize you are already dead—you are just waiting to die a second death."

The Millions More Movement will feature a memorial service for Hurricane Katrina, and a showcase of U.S. soldiers killed in Iraq. Anti-war activist Cindy Sheehan (whose son was slain in Iraq) is also scheduled to speak at the event.

For more information on the Millions More Movement, visit www.mmmDallas.org.



NT Muslims Reach Out Page 1

To date, the NTMTF has raised almost 2 million dollars for hurricane relief. Their goal is to raise 10 million dollars for hurricane and other relief efforts primarily through pledges.

Faisal Ghorri, a spokesperson for the group stated that in addition to money, "We drove two eighteen wheeler trucks to Baton Rouge, Louisiana three days after Katrina hit. Inside the trailers were water and other supplies which were distributed to various shelters. We attempted to go to New Orleans, but they weren't allowing anyone in at the time."

When asked why his organization is offering so much help Ghorri stated, "Because our situation is better, we wanted to provide relief services for the victims. This is a humanitarian effort. Our services are open to everyone." He has personally picked up families from Dallas shelters and helped

them relocate to housing in Richardson.

According to published reports, some area shelters and organizations have been stretched to the limit in what services they can provide to the victims. In direct contrast, the NTMTF stands ready to assist by offering food, shelter, clothing, medical, furniture and monetary aid. They even have space available for 500 people who need temporary shelter, according to Ghorri.

The worst in Mother Nature has brought out the best in humanity. The North Texas Muslim Task Force is but one of many who have exhibited the best in humanity.

If you need assistance or know someone who needs help you can visit the North Texas Muslim Task Force at 840 Abrams Rd., 972-231-5698. Or visit their website at www.dallasrelief.com.

Collin County "Helping to Heal" Concert Rescheduled for October 16

The 'Helping to Heal' concert benefiting hurricane relief efforts throughout Collin County is rescheduled for Sunday, October 16. The time and location remains the same. The concert will begin at 7 p.m. at Pizza Hut Park, which is located on the northeast corner of the North Dallas Parkway and F.M. 720/Main Street, in Frisco. Gates open at 5:30 p.m.

The communities of Allen, Frisco, Plano and McKinney began orchestrating the concert more than two weeks ago with the goal of raising \$500,000 to benefit The American Red Cross — and help hurricane evacuees, who have relocated to Collin

County.

The concert was originally scheduled for September 24; however, the threat of severe weather prompted organizers to postpone those plans.

The Vocal Majority Chorus, America's Premier Pops Chorus, will headline the "Helping to Heal" benefit concert. It will also feature high school choirs from Frisco, McKinney and Plano. A jazz band, from Collin County Community College, will greet guests as they enter the new 20,000-seat stadium. The concert will conclude with a fireworks finale.

Tickets are \$10 for general admission and will be available starting Saturday, September 17 at

10 a.m. through Ticketmaster online at www.ticketmaster.com or by calling 214-373-8000 or 972-647-5700. The convenience fee will be donated back to the event. Tickets will also be available through the school districts in Allen, Frisco, McKinney and Plano, beginning Monday, September 19.

Tickets can also be purchased at the Pizza Hut Park box office on the day of the concert, starting at 11 a.m.

All proceeds from the concert, including sales from concessions and donations, will benefit The American Red Cross, as well as social service agencies throughout

Collin County, which are assisting the cities of Allen, Frisco, Plano and McKinney with Hurricane Katrina Relief Efforts.

Those cities have selected the following agencies to share the proceeds: Allen Community Outreach, Assistance Center of Collin County, Children's Medical Center, Collin County Adult Clinic, Frisco Family Services, God's Food Pantry, Interfaith Disaster Relief of Collin County, Plano Food Bank and the Samaritan Inn.

Personalities from 98.7 KLUV and WFAA TV-8, will emcee the benefit concert.

Onsite parking is free.

Around The Town

On Going

The Dallas Park & Recreation Department Presents "Movies in the Park." Free on Friday's beginning Sept. 2 at the Samuel Grand Amphitheater- Samuel Grand Park 1500 Tension (next to the driving range). A complete listing of movies can be found at www.dallascityhall.com

Receive a free mammogram from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 20, at Saver's Cost Plus, 504 N. O'Connor Road. Women must be ages 35 to 64, not have insurance or funds to pay, and whose last mammogram was more than a year ago. To make an appointment, call (214) 584-2323

A brand new traveling exhibit opens at the Dallas Museum of Natural History "Moneyville Exhibition" from September 24, 2005, through January 8, 2006. The exhibition is sponsored by Chase and The State Fair of Texas. Moneyville uses the fascinating subject of money to build math skills and promote economic literacy in a fun, immersive setting. For more information, or for volunteer opportunities, call the Museum at (214) 421-DINO (3466), ext. 200 or visit the Museum's website at www.dallasdino.org.

Floetry Friday's, every Friday night at Tiki's

Restaurant, 408 S. Harwood (Downtown Dallas near the Farmers Market) doors open at 7:30 p.m. and the show starts at 8:00p.m.

A complimentary dinner buffet will be served until 9:30 p.m. Open Mic 8:00-9:00 p.m. Call to sign up (214) 559-7168.

Help Clean Up Garland Parks and Neighborhoods. The City of Garland invites you to participate in the annual Trash Bash, to clean up Duck Creek, various parks and neighborhoods. For more information call 972-205-3864.

Volunteers are needed! The City of Garland is teaming up with the community to open a full-time donations/distribution center. The Garland Cares Hurricane Relief Center is being established as a response to the devastation on the Gulf Coast following Hurricane Katrina. The Garland Cares Hurricane Relief Center is located at 140 N. Garland Avenue (between Main & State Streets). The Center is also accepting donations of any kind. To receive a volunteer form email: gralandcares@ci.garland.tx.us or call 972-272-6035.

September 30

Evans Seniors Dance-Adults 50 and over enjoy live music, dancing and light refreshments at Evans Recreation Center from 7:00 p.m. -9:30 p.m. Located at 1116 Hillcrest in Mesquite. Admission is \$4 per person. Contact 972-285-6761.

Mesquite Sunrise Rotary Club will be hosting a charity golf tour-

nament at the Flacon Ridge Golf Club, with a shotgun start at 12:30 p.m. followed by dinner and dance.

Crescent City Entertainment presents HBCU Alumni Welcome Reception & Party (Across the Dallas Toll way from the Galleria), from 9p.m. to 2 a.m. The Dallas Crystal Ballroom is located at 13465 Inwood Road Dallas Texas 75244. This special event is designed exclusively for the mature audience in and around the DFW Metroplex & fans visiting for the State Fair Classic Football Game. Arrive early to network, socialize and revel with DFW's finest. Tickets are \$10 before 11p.m. and you must be 23 & Up to attend. Visit www.CrescentCityEntertainment.com for more information.

Evans Senior Dance-Adults 50 and over enjoy live music, dancing and light refreshments at Evans Recreation Center from 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Admission is \$4 per person. Contact 972-285-6761 for more information.

October 1st

Grambling vs. Prairie View A&M, the annual State Fair Classic, will be held at the Cotton Bowl at Fair park, 1300 Robert B. Cullum Blvd. For more information, call 214-943-2893.

October 3

DFW Minority Business Council is hosting the 2005 Golf & Tennis Classic beginning at 10:00 a.m. at the Brookhaven Country Club, 3333 Golfing Green Dr. in Farmers Branch. There will be free golf clinics

weekly prior to the classic, Mondays from 5p.m. to 8p.m. The cost will be: court (1 player +signage) \$150, player \$75 both includes meal.

October 8

Titus Glen & United Voices a group of college students from the University of North Texas and surrounding areas presents: Live Recording "After the Heart of God" at 6:00p.m., at the Fair Park Friendship Center in Dallas, 1321 Rowan Ave. The event is FREE, form ore information call (214) 697-3774.

The East Plano Marching Panther Band Boosters are hosting the 24th Annual Plano east Marching Festival. It will be a day full of precision performances by some of the most exciting marching bands in the state. The bands will perform at Clark Field, and over 25 bands are expected to attend. For more information contact Festival Chairmen Stu and Holly Brown at (972) 527-8498.

The Florence Ranch Homestead Historic Florence Ranch Homestead is open for tours, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., 1424 Barnes Bridge Road. For special tours call 972-216-6468.

DISD will host "Key to Education" College Fair, along with the Dallas Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and several universities, from 8:30a.m. to 2p.m. at the Southern Methodist University. College representatives will be available to talk about the admission process, financial aid help and answer questions

that will ease the students' transition from high school to college. For more information, please call 214-860-2432.

October 10

Teen at Work is a nonprofit organization that prepares youth ages 16-19 for the workplace through career development and job placement assistance. Join us at 9:00 at 1402 Corinth St. Suite 243 in Dallas. Registration is \$50, the event occurs monthly. For more information call 214-565-9763.

October 14

Girls Night Out at the FairWay, located at 4501 E. 14th Street Pecan Hollow Club House from 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. This is going to be a great and fun night for women to relax, eat, drink, laugh and shop only \$20 per person. Register on-line by Monday October 10th at planoparks.org if paying by credit card, or at any Plano Recreation Center. Course code 62315, must be 21 to attend. For more information contact Colette Hall, Recreation Superintendent at 972-941-7274.

October 15

Fall Masquerade: Mother & Son Campout & Lock-in :The City of Plano will host the 3rd annual Mother-Son Dance. The dance is for boys ages 4-10 years and their mothers. Couples are also encouraged to wear their favorite costumes to the Fall Masquerade. There will be dinner and refreshments, and guests will receive a complimentary photo to remember the evening. The dance is \$15 per person. to regis-

ter contact Plano Parks Recreation Center at 972-941-7250 or www.planoparks.org.

Through October 26

The National Minority Supplier Development Council's Annual Conference-The Nation's Benchmark Forum, on minority business development aiding minority business owners in the room where the deals are made. Beginning October 23 through the 26, here in Dallas, corporate purchasing executives, government decision-makers and minority business owners from across the country are expected to convene. Contact: Donna Long (212) 944-2430 for additional info.

October 29

City of Garland hosts the 3rd annual Neighborhood Leadership Conference, "Building Community form the Inside Out." The conference will be held at the Atrium at the Granville Arts Center, 300 N. Fifth Street from 8:00 a.m. to 1:30p.m. The cost is \$20 per person and will feature keynote speaker Tina Z. Moore Owner and Chief Consultant "I Am Pleased Development Center, in Houston. There will be breakfast, lunch and conference materials included in the fee. With 3 paid registrations, fourth person may attend free.

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THE TRUTH CLINIC FEMA's Nightmare Continues In Big Easy's Ninth Ward

By: James W. Breedlove
FEMA's Nightmare
Continues In Big Easy's Ninth
Ward

The Big Easy's Ninth Ward has captured the media spotlight for the last few weeks as the superstar victim of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. As flood waters twice immersed the Ninth Ward under devastating currents the pundits seemed eager to elevate the Ninth, especially the Lower Ninth, from its years of obscurity to overnight celebrity. Tom Joyner, the syndicated host of a popular black radio show, even dubbed Hurricane Katrina the "black folks tsunami".

The Ninth is the latest poster child to illustrate the ill effects of perverse economic and social disparity. It joins a long line of seasoned Black Ghetto veterans from Los Angeles, Detroit, Newark, Chicago, New York, and St. Louis that have previously had their 15 minutes of dubious fame.

Television and press reporters were quick to use adjectives like impoverished, dilapidated, poor, unemployed, and Black to define the third world similarity of the Ninth Ward. Few took the time to pin point the exact location of the Ninth Ward (Almonaster on the West, Lake Pontchartrain on the North, St. Bernard Parish Line on the East, and the Mississippi River on the South) and even fewer placed it in a historical perspective beyond the current gruesome tragedy that was unfolding.

The Ninth Ward is new and unfamiliar not only to the rest of the world, but also to many Americans. It is the New Orleans most do not know; the New Orleans that is 98 per cent African-American; the New Orleans where one third of the people live below the poverty line; the New Orleans that has always been all but abandoned.

Hidden under the façade of its carefully maintained tourist

attractions the Crescent City offers something for everyone: jazz, outdoor cafes, Mardi Gras and other festivals, fine restaurants and museums. There are carriage tours of the French Quarter, streetcar rides in the Garden District and historic areas, riverboat cruises and a variety of nightclubs, galleries, shops and lavish casinos.

While America comes to grips with the enormity of the despair, the primarily black population of the previously invisible Ninth Ward already understands the economic and social debilitation from generations of poverty created by caste conscious America. Katrina and Rita weren't the first deadly blows to the Ninth; it suffered extensive damage in the 1927 Mississippi River flood and from Hurricane Betsy in 1965.

Still the Ninth Ward has always been the part of New Orleans that was mired in last place even in the best of times. Its residents, the poorest of the poor, had no political leverage or economic clout. In 1914, the Board of Commissioners of the Port of New Orleans decided to create an artificial waterway connecting the Mississippi river and Lake Pontchartrain.

The Ninth Ward was considered the perfect site because it was virtually uninhabited by anyone capable of stopping industry's monied interests. Between 1918 and 1923, the Industrial Canal was built through the heart of the Ninth Ward, resulting in the divisions known as the Ninth Ward and the Lower Ninth Ward.

Bunny Mathews, writing in Off Beat magazine, had this to say about the unique heart, flavor and soul of the Ninth Ward: "It is a neighborhood where 99-year-old ladies wearing housecoats and hairnets sit on their stoops, making sure that everyone else's business is their business. They own Chihuahuas because, pound for pound, they're the meanest of all canines. To them, Metairie that is just a stones throw away might as well be on the moon.

There is no Uptown seersucker suit pretension around here, no blonde pony tailed joggers with glistening tans and personal CD players, nobody eating Light 'n Fit yogurt. The staff of life in the Ninth Ward is the po-boy, smothered with gravy, hot sauce and Blue Plate mayonnaise, washed down with a cheap brown bag beer.

Half the people are drunk by noon, a quarter suffer from vague but incapacitating diseases, a third would rather endure root canals instead of missing their daily soap operas. Everybody is Catholic or a voodoo practitioner. People from the Ninth Ward don't mind dying either because they've already had so much fun or because they'll try anything once.

Fats Domino, residing in the Lower Ninth Ward, is the area's most famous musician. He could've easily deserted the Ninth Ward for a gated community or country estate, but chose to live in Big Easy's poorest community—a place where murders are as common as the mirliton squash."

President Bush stated, "there is also some deep, persistent poverty in this region. And that poverty has roots in a history of racial discrimination, which cut off generations from the opportunity of America. We have a duty to confront this poverty with bold action."

Government officials have insisted that rescue efforts were not influenced by racial or socioeconomic factors. But because the Ninth was so badly damaged, there has been no serious talk yet of when it might reopen, in contrast to reopenings planned soon in the white business and residential neighborhoods.

It is so easy to forget about people and ignore them for 100 years when you marginalize them and pretend they do not exist. The Ninth was shortchanged in the post Betsy recovery effort. Will it be forgotten again?

Email Comments to
Politics@MonTheGazette.com

Not American Enough Photo IDs Lock Some Citizens Out Of Voting Booths

By: Cynthia Tucker
Universal Press Syndicate

If you live in America's fortunate half — the half whose household earnings are above the median of \$44,000 or so a year — you probably own a house, one or two cars and have health insurance. So it's hard to imagine that some Americans are too poor to have an automobile. And it's simply inconceivable that there are people so disconnected from the mainstream that they have no driver's license or similar ID to allow access to commercial airline flights, checking accounts or voting booths.

Earlier this year, when the GOP-dominated Georgia General Assembly passed a harsh law requiring all voters to have state-issued identification cards, many of its members dismissed criticism that they were unfairly restricting the franchise. They were only seeking to prevent fraud, they said. Besides, what reliable voter doesn't have a driver's license?

A few Atlanta Journal-Constitution letter writers expressed that sentiment, too.

"How does a person get along these days without a picture ID of some sort to cash checks, turn on utilities, drive a car or enroll their children in school?" said one. "I find it hard to believe that such a large number of people don't have any ID to take to the polls."

Said another: "I believe that if a person doesn't have the gumption to get a photo ID, he or she, Republican or Democrat, shouldn't be voting anyway."

Don't touch that ballot, you spineless, ID-less losers!

Perhaps that reader has changed his mind after reading or watching wrenching accounts of the devastation by Hurricane Katrina, which so griev-

ously punished the poor — families so destitute they couldn't buy a bus ticket to get out of town. They certainly didn't have cars, so they had no need for driver's licenses. But they are Americans, too, and they have every right to cast ballots for the candidates of their choice.

When Louisiana adopted a new voter ID requirement in 1997, it acknowledged the possibility of disenfranchising a large number of voters with a law



drawn too rigidly, so it installed a fail-safe. Voters without photo IDs were allowed to sign an affidavit swearing that they weren't lying when they declared themselves to be Mattie Smith or John Jones. That way, their votes can still be counted. Those ballots may be contested, however, by any candidate demanding a recount in a close race.

Georgia, however, dumped its fail-safe mechanism. The old law allowed voters without IDs to sign affidavits attesting to their identities, but that didn't satisfy callous lawmakers determined to restrict the franchise. Its new voter ID law, the most restrictive in the nation, will undoubtedly block from the ballots thousands of poor and elderly

Georgians — solid citizens and regular voters who simply have no driver's license or other state-sponsored ID.

And in its haste, the legislature didn't make it easy for those citizens to get state-sponsored IDs. The newly created Department of Driver Services, responsible for passing out ID cards, is short-staffed. Moreover, only 56 motor vehicle safety licensing branches serve Georgia's 159 counties. While Gov. Sonny Perdue has said he will dispatch specially equipped mobile units to rural areas to dispense IDs, it's unlikely they will reach all Georgians who need them.

So lots of people in Georgia — many elderly, most poor — will simply be locked out of the voting booth. Many of them live in the same small towns in which they were born, and longtime residents (including poll watchers) know who they are. They can walk into a grocery store and cash a Social Security check because they've been using the same grocer for decades. They can depend on a neighbor or church member to take them to their doctor's appointments. They attend a church where they are highly regarded.

In this country, they used to be considered good Americans. Not anymore, not with moves in several states to restrict the franchise to those comfortably in the mainstream. The poor but proud — Native Americans without driver's licenses, black city dwellers without cars, the rural elderly who never learned to drive — are apparently not American enough.

Cynthia Tucker is editorial page editor for The Atlanta Journal-Constitution. She can be reached by e-mail: cynthiat@ajc.com.

The Cost of Kindness Page 1

ing for work before the hurricane are wondering where these jobs were two months ago. Lower skilled workers are especially at risk, given that they already are likely to compete with the large pool of Latino immigrant workers.

New Orleans resident Arthur Evans echoed the feelings of local residents while he was at the Dallas Convention Center Shelter.

"If you came to New Orleans and everybody starting opening all these jobs for people from Dallas, I would be pissed. There's a lot of folks that live here that have been trying to find jobs for a while. It ain't right."

Another area of concern for local residents is schools.

The Texas Education Agency reports that 45,129 Katrina evacuees have enrolled in school statewide. The financially strapped Dallas ISD, has enrolled about 2000 students spread out over 135 schools. This is in on top of the dis-

trict absorbing students from the Wilmer-Hutchins ISD.

The influx has created physical and social challenges for school districts. Some schools have become desperate for space and are considering portable buildings and contingency plans. How long will it take parents to start complaining?

The state expects at least 33,000 evacuee students to finish the school year in Texas with an estimated price tag of \$450 million dollars to Texas taxpayers. A cost which doesn't include the added strain on the education process of larger classroom sizes and increased student to teacher ratios.

There are other potential areas of resentment as well. Dallas County Housing Authority officials are trying to determine how to move evacuees to the top of public housing and shelter lists without pushing back needy Dallas residents that have been on waiting lists for years. Political pundits are

already wrangling with the idea of large numbers of new voters in state and local elections, most of them Democrats.

Friendship West Pastor Frederick Haynes recently articulated the real question for Texas residents.

"The real test of this moment is not what we do today, but when the cameras go away. Are we still going to provide the same kind of support and treat our neighbors in a neighborly fashion?"

Danielle Morgan and her daughter now have a place to live. She has signed a lease at another apartment complex with the help of Cheryl Binnie, a Dallas woman who Danielle calls an angel.

Welcome to Texas, Danielle. There is a cost to kindness, and we should have no hesitation in paying that cost to help the victims of Hurricane Katrina. The cost of kindness is priceless.

Houston Returns Page 1

approach dribbled back home. But employers who rounded up enough workers gamely opened their doors.

"We tried to open Saturday but we couldn't find enough people," Target employee Vernon Green said minutes after the store opened with abbreviated hours. "We're just going day-to-day."

At Pappas Seafood, a sign read, "Come on in, open at 11. Incredible!" The marquee at Kenneally's Irish Pub said: "Rita who?"

A supermarket near downtown had long lines at registers 15 minutes after opening despite a near-empty produce section and depleted packaged meat and dairy aisles.

"I was without power yesterday for about five hours, but now that it's back on, I'm hungry and need some beef," said Yvette Gatling, a 34-year-old lawyer, who got her wish at the meat counter.

On Sunday, only residents of the northwest quadrant of the city were encouraged to return, but cars streamed in elsewhere, sometimes with the complicity of officials.

"I am not going to wait for our neighbors to the north to get home

and take a nap before I ask our good people to come home," said John Willy, the top elected official in Brazoria County, along the Gulf Coast south of Houston. "That is ridiculous."

Traffic was bumper-to-bumper on the southbound lanes of Interstate 45 north of Houston on Sunday evening, with a seemingly endless stream of charter buses, cars and sport utility vehicles clogging the highway and adjacent access roads.

Gasoline containers were strapped on the roofs of many vehicles, while officers stationed every few miles were helping stranded drivers.

The city's two main airports, George Bush Intercontinental and the smaller William P. Hobby, resumed service Sunday morning. They were shut down Friday as Rita bore down on the Gulf Coast. Houston-based Continental Airlines was operating 249 flights out of the city, with plans to restore its smaller Continental Express and Continental Connection branches on Monday.

Lights blinked on in hundreds of thousands of homes. CenterPoint

Energy, the main power provider for greater Houston, reported 300,000 customers without electricity Sunday, down from 600,000 a day earlier.

More gas stations opened, with lines of motorists eager to tank up. Frank Mendoza, 64, was mowing grass in front of a building next to a Citgo station where a tanker truck drove up and drivers quickly followed.

"We've got the gas. People just need to be patient," Mendoza said. "I'm thinking of filling up myself, but all I need to do is top off, because I planned ahead." Four 5-gallon gas cans sat in the back of his pickup truck.

Fuel shortages posed perhaps the biggest challenge to the massive exodus ahead of the storm. Cars were marooned on the main freeways out of town, and buses had to deliver evacuees to shelter.

Houston Mayor Bill White urged essential employees to return to work in the city, including people who work at grocery stores and gas stations.

"There is some fuel available in tankers, but they can't deliver it if you're not there," he said.

"I would challenge those guys to go to Baghdad and say that," he said.

Counter-demonstrations occurred on both days, with members of each group shouting at each other. But no violent confrontations between demonstrators were seen.

"No matter what your ideals are, our sons and daughters are fighting for our freedom," said Marilyn Faatz, who drove from New Jersey to attend Sunday's rally. "We are making a mockery out of this. And we need to stand united, but we are not."

War Protests in D.C. Page 1

the day in Colorado and Texas, monitoring hurricane recovery.

In the crowd: young activists, nuns whose anti-war activism dates to Vietnam, parents mourning their children in uniform lost in Iraq, and uncountable families moved for the first time to protest.

On Sunday, a rally supporting the war drew roughly 500 participants, far below the 20,000 expected by event organizers. Held on the eastern edge of the Mall, the rally was over in about three hours.

Speakers included veterans of World War II and the war in Iraq, as

well as family members of soldiers killed in Iraq.

"I would like to say to Cindy Sheehan and her supporters don't be a group of unthinking lemmings. It's not pretty," said Mitzy Kenny of Ridgeley, W.Va., whose husband died in Iraq last year. The anti-war demonstrations "can affect the war in a really negative way. It gives the enemy hope."

Kevin Pannell, a soldier who lost his legs from the knees down in Iraq, told the crowd he was amazed that Saturday's demonstrators were taking for granted their right to free speech.

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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 carving a world of opportunity for those seeking to 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 Gazette formally Minority Opportunity News, was founded July, 1991, by Jim Bochum and Thurman R. Jones



Black Business Owners and Entrepreneurs Must Disaster-Proof Themselves

By: Terrence Evans, President Eccentuate Tech Consulting
As population centers grow, experts admit that Americans will likely witness some kind of natural or man-made disaster that will impact their lives. Within the last few years we have experienced the destructive power of earthquakes, wildfires, floods, and increasingly violent weather. Needless to say, the U.S. is only four years removed from 9/11, and its terrorist enemies almost certainly will strike again in the future. With this knowledge in hand, what are you as a small business owner doing to protect yourself?

If the answer is "nothing," here are a few suggestions on what you can do:

Suggestion #1: Buy a safe
Having a safe in the home or small business now is as essential as owning a paper shredder since they both prevent your personal and business information from getting into the wrong hands. But a safe can not only restrict access to your

most important documents and property, it can also provide protection against fire and water damage. Floppy disks and CDs, which are mostly made of plastic, may not survive the high heat from a fire. Therefore, if you choose to place computer media inside of a safe, make sure that the safe explicitly says it is rated to handle such material. If you work or live in a flood-prone area, make sure your safe is on the highest floor so you do not have to worry as much about potential water damage. Scanner Cost: \$30 - \$200

Suggestion #2: Convert and store your most important records and cherished memories to digital format
We all have financial documents that we need to maintain for safekeeping. We also have accumulated hundreds of photographs and video tapes that span our entire lives: weddings, births, junior playing tee-ball, vacations, graduations, etc. Preserve these records and memories!! Store your wills, old

taxes, deed to your house, and health and insurance papers in that brand spanking new safe you just bought. For redundancy sake, you should also consider scanning these types of documents into digital format and storing the discs in the safe as well.

Scanner Cost: \$50 - \$250
CD-R/DVD-R (100 pk) Cost: \$20 - \$50
Suggestion #3: Backup your computer files
Even without the threat of a disaster striking your business or residence, it makes good sense to establish a regimen of regularly backing up your hard drive. Remember, if your computer is damaged by water, fire, falling debris, or a nasty computer virus, you can lose all or most of your emails, your digital camera files, your spreadsheets, and your Quickbooks files. Believe it or not, you can prevent this without a whole lot of tech know-how or a lot of money. The first thing you need to do is choose the media on which you

want to back up files.

You can either backup to CDs or DVDs, Zip disks, USB drives, or external hard drives. If your home or office has a network running Windows, MacOS, or Linux, you could backup your data to another networked computer. Backing up to an external hard drive or computer is advantageous because it allows you to schedule backups at regular intervals. It is worth noting that you can buy external hard drives that give you backup capability out of the box with no additional software required.

Acronis True Image Cost: \$50
Maxtor OneTouch II 200GB USB External Hard Drive Cost: \$200
IBackup.com 50 GB Plan Cost: \$100/month
Although there is not truly an inexpensive silver bullet that will eliminate the risk of losing information assets due to a disaster, the steps outlined will certainly reduce the risk to a manageable level. If you require additional

details on the solutions described here, call 562-308-1473 or email tevans@eccentuate.com

About Terrence Evans and Eccentuate Technology Consulting
Terrence Evans is President of Eccentuate Technology Consulting (ETC), which is a

business technology solutions provider for small businesses and professionals. ETC, a Long Beach, CA based company, specializes in professional web development, computer consulting, and LAN installation and maintenance. ETC is online at www.eccentuate.com

NCBM Grant Page 1

to rebuild infrastructure and create lost jobs," Williams concluded.

The New Market Tax Credit Program (NMTC) permits taxpayers to receive a credit against Federal Income Taxes for making qualified equity investments in designated CDE's. Substantially all of the qualified Equity Investments must in turn be used by the CDE to provide investments in Low Income Communities. The credit provided to the investor totals 39% of the cost of the investment and is claimed over a seven-year credit allowance peri-

od. Up to \$3.5 billion in tax credits is available under the current round of the NMTC Program, which attracts private-sector capital investment into the nations urban and rural low-income areas.

iCapital Finance, Inc. of Irvine, California is a full-service Investment Bank that has expertise in NMTC and has worked with US Bancorp on other projects including NMTC initiatives in the State of New Jersey. US Bancorp has agreed to assist iCapital with its work in New Market Tax Credits and because of the need in these areas, iCapital requested the

equity commitment from US Bancorp. iCapital is working with NCBM on other ongoing projects as well.

Randall Letcavage, Managing Director of iCapital states, "Over the past five years of the New Market Tax Credit Program there has never been a better use or opportunity for the program. The NCBM understands that for every

dollar of Tax Credits given and the US Bancorp equity commitment we could see another \$4 to \$8 of additional leverage which means a potential of \$700-800 million in future dollars to help recover from this catastrophic damage. iCapital is proud of act as the consultant and play a role in bringing these formidable groups together to help our country in a time of need."

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Mariah Carey Leads American Music Award Nominees

Pop singer Mariah Carey, riding high on the U.S. pop charts with her comeback album, led the field of nominees for the American Music Awards, organizers said on Tuesday.

Carey received four nominations, followed by a trio of acts with three each: punk-rock band Green Day; pop singer Kelly Clarkson; and rapper 50 Cent. Winners will be announced on November 22 during a televised ceremony at the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles.

Carey will compete for favorite female artist and favorite album with "The Emancipation of Mimi" in both the pop/rock and soul/R&B categories.

"Mimi" has sold more than 3 million copies in the United States since its release in April. The single "We Belong Together" recently ended a 14-week run atop Billboard magazine's Hot 100 chart.

Three years ago, Carey was the butt of music industry jokes after her movie and album, both named "Glitter," tanked. Her Virgin Records label hastily dumped her with a \$28 million payoff, and Carey moved to the Island Def Jam label.

Clarkson, the inaugural winner of the reality-TV talent show "American Idol," was also nominated in the pop/rock category for female artist and

album ("Breakaway"). She will also compete for favorite adult contemporary artist.

Green Day will go up against Carey and Clarkson for favorite pop/rock album with the politically themed concept album "American Idiot." The San Francisco Bay area trio was also nominated for favorite pop/rock band and favorite alternative music artist.

Rapper 50 Cent was an unusual entry in the pop/rock category as favorite male artist.



He was also nominated for favorite male artist and favorite album ("The Massacre") in the rap/hip-hop category.

Among the acts with two nominations each were country singers Tim McGraw, Toby Keith and Gretchen Wilson, R&B trio Destiny's Child, R&B singer Fantasia, rapper Eminem, and pop-funk band The Black Eyed Peas.

Nominees are determined by radio airplay and sales data, while the winners are chosen from a poll of 20,000 Americans.

VH-1 Honors Hip-Hop Pioneers In Special Tribute

LL Cool J wore his Kangol hat, Big Daddy Kane broke out the old-school rhymes and dance moves, and Salt 'N' Pepa rapped and sashayed like

back in the day as VH-1 celebrated rap's pioneers at the second annual "Hip-Hop Honors."

"It's something that documents hip-hop history, and I'm glad to be a part of it," said Big Daddy Kane of the evening.

He received the night's biggest ovation Thursday with his sizzling performance of his classic hit "Warm It Up."

The show feted Kane, Ice-T, LL Cool J, Salt 'N' Pepa, Grandmaster Flash and the Furious Five, the late Notorious B.I.G. and the

movie "Boyz n the Hood."

Hip-hop's new generation came out to honor the elders: Nelly, wearing early LL Cool J gear, rapped "I'm Bad," then



performed with Ciara on LL Cool J's sexy smash, "Doin' It"; Kanye West and Ludacris recited Notorious B.I.G.'s hits as his widow, Faith Evans, sang; his mother clapped and Diddy danced in the balcony.

And Snoop Dogg joined Ice-T for a West Coast rap performance of Ice-T's hits.

GSU/PV Weekend Activities

Friday, September 30, 2005, 5:00 pm - Presidential Reception for Dr. Horace Judson The Black Academy of Arts and Letters, 650 S Griffin St, Dallas.

Friday, September 30, 2005 6:30 pm - Pep Rally Featuring GSU Marching Band and cheerleaders. The Black Academy of Arts and Letters, 650 S Griffin St, Dallas.

Friday, September 30, 2005 8:30 pm - 1st annual step show (Entry for both pep rally and step show is \$10 per ticket which pays for both events) You can buy tickets here: The Black Academy of Arts and Letters, 650 S Griffin St, Dallas.

October 1, 2005 - 20th Annual High School Battle of the Bands hosted by GSUNAA Dallas Chapter and South Oak Cliff Band Booster Club will be held at the Jesse Owens Complex located at I-20 and Polk at

8:00am. The ticket prices are \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door.

The State Fair Classic: Grambling Tigers vs Prairie View A&M Panthers, 6 p.m. at the Cotton Bowl.

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Fair Highlights

African Exhibit
Dallas photographer Robert Haas offers a bird's-eye view of Africa in the amazing exhibit, "Through the Eyes of the Gods", an view in the African-American Museum in Fair Park. Hours: 10 am-7 pm each day. Free with Fair admission.

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Fedex Accused Of Discriminating Against Blacks, Hispanics

A federal judge in San Francisco today approved a class action discrimination lawsuit targeting FedEx.

The allegations are that the delivery service paid thousands of current and former

minority employees less than their white counterparts.

The case includes an estimated ten-thousand current and former hourly workers and about one-thousand low-level management employees

in the western states of Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming and parts of Texas.

The suit was brought by eight current and former employees, and seeks an end to the company's alleged discriminatory practices, and also demands (m) millions of dollars in damages.

Hurricane Creates Record Apartment Absorption In Dallas-Fort Worth

The North Texas apartment market has absorbed a whopping 18,000 units since Hurricane Katrina struck the Gulf Coast less than one month ago, according to new statistics from ALN Systems.

The leasing activity has catapulted occupancy more than 3 percent -- from 88.8 percent at the end of August to 92 percent today.

About 64,000 apartment units have been absorbed statewide. The greatest impact was felt in Houston, which absorbed 42,000 units. The unprecedented leasing activity has pushed Houston's apart-

ment occupancy up to 96 percent -- a 9 percent gain over the 87.9 percent recorded at the end of August.

Locally, the Dallas market absorbed about 12,000 units and Fort Worth absorbed 6,000 units during the month of September.

The current 92 percent occupancy is the highest level D-FW has seen since 2001, when it hit 93.5 percent. The market had already been improving in 2005, with 8,500 units absorbed during the first six months of the year -- the highest mid-year gain since 1999. Annual net absorption was 5,950 in 2004; 4,970 in 2003; and just 801 units in 2002.

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In compliance with Dallas Area Rapid Transit's MWBE Program, a Minority and Woman-Owned Business Enterprise (MWBE) participation goal of 32 percent has been proposed for fiscal year 2006. The proposed goal and rationale are available for inspection for the next thirty (30) days from this notice between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. at the address listed below. DART will accept specific comments about the proposed goal for forty-five (45) days from the date of this notice. You may submit your comments to:

Vice President

Diversity and Economic Opportunity Department

P.O. Box 660163

Dallas, TX 75266-7217

Or call (214) 749-2507



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(972) 941-7116

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NTTA

NORTH TEXAS TOLLWAY AUTHORITY

PUBLIC ADVERTISEMENT

The North Texas Tollway Authority (NTTA) will receive sealed bids at 5900 W. Plano Pkwy. Suite 100, Plano, TX 75093, (214) 461-2061, until Thursday, October 27, 2005 at 2:00 pm for the following projects:

Project 02039-DNT-02-CN-EN. Roadway modifications and safety improvements, for 10.69 miles roadway and 0.088 miles bridge, to the northbound Dallas North Tollway from IH-635 to Legacy Drive, for work including grading, drainage, paving, structures, signing, pavement markings, illumination, shoulder rehabilitation and safety enhancements. The engineer's estimate of probable construction cost is approximately \$7,700,000.

Project 02040-DNT-02-CN-EN. Roadway modifications and safety improvements, for 10.51 miles roadway and 0.085 miles bridge, to the southbound Dallas North Tollway from Galleria Road to Legacy Drive, for work including grading, drainage, paving, structures, signing, pavement markings, illumination, shoulder rehabilitation and safety enhancements. The engineer's estimate of probable construction cost is approximately \$9,500,000.

For each project, the bid packet will be available October 4, 2005 at a non-refundable cost of SEVENTY FIVE AND NO/100 (\$75.00). Contact Karen at 214-461-2061 for more information.

The bid packet includes the Proposal book and Plans. Acceptable methods of payment include cashier's check, money order, company check, or personal check. **Cash will not be accepted.** Paper based bids and documents supporting electronic bids shall be submitted in sealed envelopes marked clearly with the project number, company's name, and bid opening date. **No oral, telephoned, or faxed bids will be considered.** Late bids will not be considered and will be returned unopened. All rights reserved.

A Pre-Bid Meeting will be held at 5900 W. Plano Parkway, Suite 200, Plano, TX 75093, (214) 461-2061, on Thursday, October 13, 2005 at 2:00 P.M.

The bid packet may be examined at the NTTA's main office, 5900 West Plano Parkway, Suite 100, Plano TX 75093, prior to purchase. Bid documents may also be examined and downloaded online, at no charge, under the **BusinessView Opportunities** section of the NTTA's home page (<http://www.ntta.org>). If not previously registered with the NTTA, the bidder must register online prior to accessing the bid documents.

Electronic bids may be submitted through the NTTA's electronic bidding software. The NTTA is offering optional training on its electronic bidding process on October 13, 2005 from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. at the NTTA's main office, 5900 West Plano Parkway, Suite 100, Plano TX 75093. Contact Forrest at 214-461-2008 to register for this training.

Church News



Sister Tarpley

One morning on the Joe Bagby Morning Show, KHVN Heaven 97 AM, Radio Personality Floyd Erving, for his "Short Story," read this version of something that I had read a long time ago; and it renewed my spirit. I called Floyd and asked him to email me a copy of this story to share with my readers just in case they haven't heard it; and if you have heard it, it's good to remind you to put all things in perspective. This is something to think about and should cause you to spring into action.

God won't ask what kind of fancy car you drove; He will ask how many people you gave rides to who didn't have transportation. God won't ask the square footage of your home; He will ask how many people you helped who didn't have a home.

God won't ask how many fancy clothes you had in your closet; He will ask how many of those clothes you gave away to the needy. God won't ask what social class you were in; He will ask what kind of "class" you displayed during your trials and tribulations. God won't ask how many material possessions you had; He will ask whether those material possessions dictated your life.

God won't ask what your highest salary was; He will ask if you trampled over any one to obtain that salary. God won't ask how much overtime you worked; He will ask you if you worked overtime for your

What God Won't Ask!

family. God won't ask how many promotions you received; He will ask what you did to promote others.

God won't ask what your job title was; He will ask did you perform your job to the best of your ability. God won't ask how many promotions you took to chase a dollar bill; He will ask how many promotions you refused to advance your family's quality of life. God won't ask how many times you didn't run around on your spouse; He



Picture Of The Week

Sister Tarpley and her precious friend, Phemia Tinner leaving a 7:00 am worship service at First Baptist Church in Richardson, Dr. Gregg Foster, Senior Pastor

will ask how many times you did. God won't ask how many academic degrees you had; He will ask how many people you thanked for helping you to get those degrees. God won't ask what your parents did to help you; He will ask what you did to help your parents. God won't ask what you did to help yourself; He will ask what you did to help others. God won't ask how many friends you had; He will ask how many people you were a friend to.

God won't ask what you did to

protect your rights; He will ask what you did to protect the rights of others. God won't ask what neighborhood you lived in; He will ask what other neighborhoods you visited. God won't ask how many times you told the truth; He will ask how many times you told a lie.

God won't ask about the color of your skin; He will ask about the color of your heart. God won't ask how many times your deeds matched your words; He will ask how many times they didn't. - Author Unknown

Good things said, and to think about: God is a good God and His ways are perfect. We can eliminate much needless pain and misery from our lives just by following His ways. Even if you were the last person on earth, Jesus Christ still would have died just for you. Prayer is not conquering God's reluctance but taking hold of God's willingness. The task ahead of you is not as great as the power behind you.

Worship is giving your love, thanks, and praise to God; and proving these things by instant, joyful, and whole obedience. Don't wait for God to change your circumstances; make yourself available for Him to change you. Worry is like a rocking chair; it gives you something to do, but it doesn't get you anywhere. **God doesn't use wastebaskets!**

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

Let *MON-The Gazette* help your church accomplish the Prayer of 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."

Perry Defends Waiver Page 1

waivers to allow for any safety standards to be overseen, so the fact of the matter is we were trying to get as many people out of harm's way as we could," Mr. Perry responded. "And that type of registration didn't have anything to do with the safety standards that are required. So if we had to all do it again, [we'd] probably do the same thing because it's important to get people out of harm's way."

On Late Edition, Mr. Perry was asked a similar question about the bus waiver.

"We were very clear: This was to get as many vehicles on the road, to get people out of harm's way," the governor said. "But the safety requirements were absolutely not waived. So the answer to that is no. We needed to get people moved, and we did an extraordinary job of moving 2.5 [million], 3 million people over a 36-hour period of time out of a massive storm."

Investigators from the National Transportation Safety Board continued to analyze the charred remains of the bus Sunday morning at a Dallas County maintenance yard, where it was transported after the accident on Interstate 45.

The bodies of victims in the crash were so badly burned that Dr. Jeffrey Barnard, Dallas County's chief medical examiner, said it could take weeks to identify them.

Church Happenings

COALITION OF CHURCHES IN PRISON MINISTRY

On-Going Mentor Program
Our host church, True Lee Baptist Church, 3907 Bertrand Avenue, Dallas, TX 75210, 214-421-9435 where Rev. Donald Parish is the Pastor, is working with a mentor program for children of parents that are incarcerated. Come or call to find out how to get involved. For more information, please call Carolyn Johnson @ 972-235-6432.

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

COMMUNITY UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF PLANO

Ongoing
Hope Preschool, ages 2-5, has begun registration for the fall of 2005.
For more information about the above event and any upcoming events please call the church @ 972-424-8989

Community UU Church of Plano
Rev. Priscilla Richter, Pastor
2875 East Parker Road
Plano, TX 75074
972-424-8989

COMMUNITY WORLD OUTREACH INTERNATIONAL MINISTRY

October 1, 9:00 am
The public is welcome to our Prayer Breakfast with guest speaker, Lady Tonya Adams and will be at the Golden Gate COGIC at 4801 Wilbarger Street, Fort Worth, TX 76119. For more information, contact Pastor Rachel Killingsworth @ 817-705-0562

October 9, 4:00 pm
You don't want to miss our spirit-filled "Preach Fest" featuring 10 powerful Women of God.

October 16, 4:00 pm
Please join us for our Lay

Women soul-stirring "Preach Fest" featuring 10 powerful Lay Women of God

October 25 - 28, 7:30 pm
The public is invited to our Women Conference with a week of powerful preaching, awesome teachers, and great psalmists. Our theme is "Faith Under Pressure" featuring Pastor Yvonne Bennett from Arlington, TX; Prophetess A'Besa Hodge from Fort Worth, TX; Dr. Sarah King from Memphis, TN; Apostle and Adelia Spencer from West Palm Beach, FL

October 29, 2005
Join us for our spirit-filled and soul-stirring "Faith on the Move" classes. Evangelist Chelyon Brown will minister young ladies up to 22 years old with a theme of "Stand." Dr. Regina Woods minister single ladies with a theme of "Don't Give Up." There will be classes for ladies that have been married 5 years and less by Pastor Mary Williams, and for those married for 6 plus years by Lady Paula Pope, both classes theme will be "One Day, One Step." Mother Varnell Tarpley will minister to senior women with the theme of "Keep On Keeping On;" and at 12 Noon, Dr. Nancy Parks from Dallas, TX with be the guest Speaker with the theme "Faith on the Move."

October 30, 4:00 pm
You don't want to miss the con-

clusion of our Women's Conference 2005 with Overseer Lisa Tarpley speaking on "Faith Under Pressure." See you at the conference!

Community World Outreach International Ministry
Overseer Lisa Tarpley, Servant
526 Compton Avenue
Irving, TX 75061
972-986-5552
1-888-9-Outreach
(Prayer Line)

HOLSEY CHAPEL CME CHURCH

October 8, 8:00 am
Our Christian Youth Fellowship will host a "Golfing For Christ" tournament to be held at the Waterview Golf course in Rowlett, TX.
Sign up deadline is October 1, 2005. Proceeds from the tournament will be used in purchasing a van for the Youth Fellowship group. For more information, please contact Reverend James Oakry @ 972-412-3705 or 972-998-6634.

Holsey Chapel CME Church
Rev. James G. Oakry Jr.
Senior Pastor
709 Quinlan Street
Ennis, TX 75119
972-878-4302

Church Happenings Page 8

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_cme@sbcglobal.net (Email)
Healthy Beginnings Child Development Center - 972-404-1412

COMMUNITY OUTREACH MINISTRY

The Equipping Church, "Serving Together To Transform Lives"
Sunday Service Times
9:00 am - Corporate Prayer
9:30 am - Sunday School
11:00 am - Morning Worship
Wednesday Night
7:00 pm - Teacher's Meeting, Bible Study, & Mid-Week Service
2nd and 4th Tuesday: 7:30 pm - Family Night
526 Compton Avenue • Irving, TX 75061
972-986-5552
1-888-9-Outreach (Prayer Line)
Email: equippingchurch@sbcglobal.net

NORTH DALLAS COMMUNITY BIBLE FELLOWSHIP

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SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES:
8:00 AM • 9:30 AM • 11:30 AM
972-437-3493
1010-1020 South Sherman Street • Richardson, TX 75081
www.ndcbf.org

New Mt. Zion Baptist Church of Dallas

Sunday Service
Morning Worship
7:30 am & 10:30 am
9:00 am Sunday School
Wednesday Service
Prayer Meeting 7:00 pm
Brotherhood 7:00 pm
Missions 7:00 pm
Singles Group 7:00 pm
Bible Study 7:45 pm
Dr. Robert E. Price, Senior Pastor
A Praying Church Family
"Watchmen on the Walls"
214-341-6459 (Phone) • 214-342-8403 (Fax)
9550 Shepard Road
Dallas, TX 75243
www.nmzb.org (Website) • newmzbc@aol.com (Email)
Visit Our Website At www.MONTheGazette.com

St. Andrew Church of God In Christ

Supt. Kenneth D. Davis, Pastor
608 Lakey Street • Denton, TX 76205
940-243-3797 (Metro)
www.standrewcogic.org
standrew@charterinternet.com



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Friday Intercessory Prayer
Early Morning: 6:00 am to 7:00 am • Evening: 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm
Worship Celebrations
1st & 3rd Sundays: . . . 8:30 am Sunday School: . . . 9:30 am
Every Sunday: . . . 10:50 am Evening Worship . . . 7:00 pm

Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church

920 E. 14th Street Plano, TX
Pastor Ishai 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

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Denny D. Davis, Servant

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The Votes Are In!

MON-The Gazette receives 1st Place for "Best Religious Section"

at the 19th Annual African American Texas Publisher's Association Conference. The contest was judged by the University of Texas at Tyler.

New Orleans Police Superintendent Resigns

Police Superintendent Eddie Compass resigned Tuesday after four turbulent weeks in which the police force was hit by desertions and disorganization in Hurricane Katrina's aftermath.

"I served this department for 26 years and have taken it through some of the toughest times of its history. Every man in a leadership position must know when it's time to hand over the reins," Compass said at a news conference. "I'll be going on in another direction that God has for me."

As the city slipped into anarchy during the first few days after Katrina, the 1,700-member police department itself suffered a crisis. Many officers deserted their posts, and some were accused of joining in the looting that broke out. Two officers Compass described as friends committed suicide. Neither Compass nor Mayor Ray Nagin would say whether Compass was pressured to leave.

"It's a sad day in the city of New Orleans when a hero makes a decision like this," said Nagin, who appointed Compass in mid-2002. "He leaves the department in pretty good shape and with a significant amount of leadership."



The mayor named Assistant Superintendent Warren Riley as acting superintendent.

Compass, 47, was appointed by Nagin in 2002. He graduated from the FBI Academy in Quantico, Virginia, and holds graduate degrees from Loyola University and the Senior Management Institute at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School.

Earlier in the day Tuesday, the department said that about 250 police officers — roughly 15 percent of the force — could face discipline for leaving their posts without permission during Katrina and its aftermath. Each case will be investigated to determine whether the officer was truly a deserter or had legitimate reasons to be absent, Riley said.

"Everything will be done on a case-by-case basis. The worst thing we could do is take disciplinary action."

Tuesday marked the second day of the official reopening of New Orleans, which had been pushed back last week when Hurricane Rita threatened. Nagin welcomed residents back to the Algiers neighborhood on Monday but imposed a curfew and warned of limited services.

Nagin also invited business owners in the central business district, the French Quarter and the Uptown section to inspect their property and clean up. But he gave no timetable for reopening those parts of the city to residents.

Church Happenings

Church Happenings Page 7

MT. OLIVE CHURCH OF PLANO (MOCOP)

October 26 - 28, 7:15 pm Nightly Attention! Attention! Our Women of The Word Ministries invites you to be a part of our very exciting 2005 Vision Summit Conference. Our theme is: "One Race Unto God." We are looking for you!

Mt. Olive Church of Plano (MOCOP)

Rev. Sam Fenceroy, Senior Pastor
740 Avenue F, Suite 303
Plano, TX 75074
972-633-5511

NEW LIFE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH OF HAMILTON PARK

October 1, 5:00 pm
The public is invited to our MEJ Musical for our Pastor & First Lady Appreciation. For more information please call 972-671-1096

October 8 and 15, 8:00 am Until
We are having a "Hugh Church Garage Sale" at the church; you don't want to miss this. I will see you there! Come early for great buys.

New Life Fellowship Church of Hamilton Park

Bishop Miller E. Johnson, Jr.
Senior Pastor
8219 Bunche Drive
Dallas, TX 75243
972-671-1096

NORTH DALLAS COMMUNITY BIBLE FELLOWSHIP IN RICHARDSON

On-Going Mentor Program
Operation Oasis sponsors a program that assists youth that are at-risk, and ex-offenders returning to society. The program's goals are to change lives

of the formerly incarcerated person, to increase safety, and to spiritually fortify our communities.

For more details about this wonderful project, please contact Juanita Lee, Administrative Assistant at 972-437-3801 or call Toll Free at 1-800-370-Oasis (376-2747)

North Dallas Community Bible

Fellowship in Richardson
Dr. Leslie W. Smith,
Senior Pastor
1010-1020 South Sherman
Street
Richardson, TX 75081
972-437-3493

PILGRIM REST MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

October 6 - 8, 2005
Living in Faith Everyday Ministries (L.I.F.E) presents a Singles Conference entitled, "The True Meaning - The True Need" Our featured guest speaker will be Rev. Beverly Baul, Executive Director of the Tulsa Christian Singles Ministry. Other Conference speakers will be Dr. C. W. Wallace, Pastor Marcus King, Rev. Roger Russell, and Sister Jacki Robinson.

Please join us for a blessed weekend of discovering the meaning and need for living as a single Christian. For more information and registration please call the church @ 214-823-7308

Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church

Dr. C. W. Wallace, Senior Pastor
1819 Washington Avenue
Dallas, TX 75204
214-823-7308

RHEMA LIFE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

Tuesdays, 7:00 pm

Please join us and bring a friend as we study Women of The Word in our Truth on Tuesday Bible Study Night.

Rhema Life Fellowship Church

Reverend James W. Thomas,
Pastor
3801 Avenue K
Plano, TX 75074
469-467-7575

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Dr. Rickie G. Rush, Pastor
7710 South Westmoreland
Dallas, TX 75237
972-572-IBOC (4262)

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For more information and registration, please call 214-544-1886.

Trinity Prayer Chapel

Rev. Reynolds Wood,
Senior Pastor
P. O. Box 650
Service Location is:
406 N. Tennessee
McKinney, TX 75069
Dallas, TX 75251
214-544-1886

Black Firms Seek Contracts After Katrina

By: Latif Lewis

As expected, the Congressional Black Caucus' 35th Annual Legislative Conference focused much of its attention on the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. As most of the panelists agreed, Katrina highlighted the disparities that exist between the African American community and other populations, but this is certainly not a revelation.

Long before Katrina, the CBC realized that "The disparity gap had to be the key demise of the African American community if we did not take hold of it in the 21st century," remarked Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee (D-Texas) and co-chair of the CBC 35th Annual Legislative Conference.

To close this gap, CBC members urge constituents to be proactive in helping to influence policy-making decisions and discussed several key issues critical to closing the gap.

Members also suggested that increasing and building African

American-owned firms would create more employment opportunities in minority communities. At the conference's Minority Business Exchange, minority firms met with decision makers at government agencies and private sector firms to discuss contract opportunities. However, at other sessions, some African Americans lashed out at policies that they say are preventing or diminishing the efficacy of achieving those goals, particularly in the region affected by Katrina.

The government has already awarded Katrina-related contracts to a subsidiary of Halliburton Co., the firm that was formerly headed by Vice President Dick Cheney. Halliburton has come under fire for being awarded contracts to aid in the rebuilding of Iraq, in which it is estimated to have received more than half of the money awarded to 77 private contractors, according to a study presented Rep. Henry Waxman (D-Calif.)

To add more fuel to the fire, in an

effort to reduce reconstruction costs President Bush has waived the Davis-Bacon Act. The Act mandates that contractors, working on federally funded construction projects, pay workers the prevailing wage of the region they are working in. The president's suspension of the Act allows contractors to pay workers below the prevailing wage.



Send your church announcements to religion@monthegazette.com or fax to 972-516-4197 c/o Church Happenings. Deadlines are Fridays before publication date. (MON-The Gazette is published each Thursday.)

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Christian Methodist Episcopal Church

1113 Ave. I, Plano, TX 75074 (972) 423-4090

Rev. Clarence J. Ford, Jr., Pastor

Sunday School: 9:30 A.M.

Sunday Worship Service: 11:00 A.M.

Wednesday Night: 7:30 P.M.

Community Bible Class:



The Inspiring Body of Christ Church
7710 S. Westmoreland Rd.
Dallas Texas 75237
Phone: 972-572-4262 Fax: 972-709-3888
Sunday Services: 7:30 am, 10:00 am, 12:30 pm
Monday School: 7pm
Men's Fellowship: Friday 7:00pm
Website: www.ibocjoy.org



BETHANY MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

SUNDAY ACTIVITIES

8:30 am - Sunday School • 10:00 am - Worship Services

MONDAY

6:30 pm - Missions • 7:00 pm - Brotherhood

WEDNESDAY

6:00 pm - Teacher's Meeting

7:00 pm - Prayer & Midweek Lesson

SATURDAY

10:00 am thru 1:00 pm Youth Activities

6710 Webster Avenue • Dallas, TX 75209

214-352-3552 (Phone) • 214-352-6793 (Fax)

abethany@sbcglobal.net (Email)

Saint Mark Missionary Baptist Church

1308 Wilcox Street, McKinney TX
Pastor Charles S. Wattley



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

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

Friendly Fellowship with A Family Focus
For More Information Call

972.542.6178

www.saintmarkbc.com

stmarkmissionary@aol.com



Little Flock Baptist Church

Pastor Louis E. Laurent

Internet Broadcast: www.krgm.com

(Mon - Fri @ 12 Noon)

A Place Where a "Taste of the Word" is Guaranteed

Sunday School..... 9:30 am

Sunday Morning Worship 10:45 am

Sunday Night Service 6:30 pm

Tuesday Night Brotherhood 7:00 pm

Wednesday Prayer Meeting/Bible Study.... 7:00 pm

704 E. Aimee Street • P.O. Box 903 • Forney, Texas 75126

Phone: 214-325-7021

Fax: 214-371-8922 or 214-372-2135

Email: thewordcuts@yahoo.com



New Life Fellowship of Hamilton Park

8219 Bunche Drive • Dallas, TX 75243

972-671-1096

Bishop Miller E. Johnson Jr., Senior Pastor

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

Sunday Morning Bible School 9:15 a.m.

Morning Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

Evening Worship (Agape Hour) First Sunday 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday Night Prayer Meeting and Evening Bible Study 7:15 p.m.

OPEN BIBLE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH



Sunday Services
9:00 am - Prayer Ministry
9:30 am - Sunday School
10:45 am - Morning Worship & Children's Church
Tuesday Service
7:00 pm - Bible Study

Our Hearts,
Our Arms and
Our Doors
Are Always
Open to YOU!

2701 Briarwood Drive • Plano, TX 75074

972-422-4248

Friendship Baptist Church

Dr. C. Paul McBride, Pastor



Schedule of Services:

Sunday

Early Morning Worship

8:00 a.m.

Sunday School Classes

9:30 a.m.

Morning Worship

11:00 a.m.

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

Tuesday

Early Bird Bible Study 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday

Morning Bible Study 9:30 a.m.

Prayer Meeting and 7:30 p.m.

Evening Bible Study

4396 Main Street

The Colony, Texas 75056

(972) 625-8186

website: www.fbc-online.net

"The Church with a Vision"