

The Truth Clinic

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MON
Minority Opportunity News, Inc.

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Compromising
American
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The Gazette

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People In The News



Dewayne Gibson has strong commitments to his art as a poet and to the youth of his community.

Both commitments were evident this past summer when he taught a creative writing class called History the Write Way! to 2nd through 4th grade students. Dewayne taught elementary school students there are several ways to preserve history: writing it, recording it, capturing history in art, talking about it, and photography. His class stressed the importance of capturing, to preserve memories, and to document our lives, our milestones and our challenges. As a photographer and a writer, Mr. Gibson understands how crucial it is to capture history in the making and to preserve it.

In addition to his role as VP of Marketing with MON-The Gazette, the Odessa native and Baylor graduate is also a recognized author, poet, and photographer. His two books include The Hoods of Life and Black Wax aka Poet Preacher Candlemaker.

Random Thoughts: Open Mic Poetry with BlackWax aka Dewayne Gibson will be held on Tuesday, January 10th from 6-8 p.m. at the MLK Jr. Library, 2922 MLK Blvd. For more info call 214-670-0344.

At a town hall style meeting Jan. 18, New Orleans City Councilmember Oliver M. Thomas, Jr. will address citizens of New Orleans living in the Dallas Fort Worth area. The event, the first since Hurricane Katrina with a city council member available to speak to New Orleans citizens, will take place at Brookhaven College's Ellison Miles Geotechnology Institute from 6:30-9 p.m. Several community agencies will be on hand with information about their services during this same time.

Councilman Thomas will give a "State of the City" address and answer questions from audience members.

Thomas has served on the council since 1994. He has served on numerous council committees and various community and public service boards. For his civic and community efforts, Thomas has received several honors, including the Legislator of the Year Award from the Alliance for Good Government and the Jefferson Award for Community Service from WDSU-TV.

The meeting is co-sponsored by the Muslim Students Association, Amnesty International, Teacher Academy Education Club and the Black Student Organization. For additional information, e-mail Lamont Slater, school alliance associate, or call 972-860-4283.



AT&T, Inc. has awarded its top honor for excellence among women managers and leaders to long-time Dallas employee Paula Day Caldwell for her significant contributions to the company and ongoing community activities.

Ms. Caldwell is the recipient of the company's 2005 Catherine B. Cleary "Woman of the Year" Award, named after the first woman to serve on AT&T's board of directors.

Paula Caldwell is responsible for leading a customer service maintenance organization that supports some of AT&T's largest business customers. Her team includes operations in Dallas, Denver, Richmond, Va., and Pleasanton, Calif. After college, she began her career with Southwestern Bell and has since held various positions in sales and customer service operations, all in Dallas.

In addition to her work at AT&T, Ms. Caldwell was selected for her community involvement work. She serves as vice president on the board of directors for the Sickle Cell Disease Association of Dallas. As a founding member of The Alliance of Black Telecommunications Employees Dallas chapter, she continues to mentor new leaders to sustain chapter leadership.

Following Hurricane Katrina, Ms. Caldwell established a phone bank to help connect parents and students of New Orleans-based Dillard and Xavier Universities. The program handled more than 4,000 calls on its first day of operation.

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Strayhorn To Run For Governor As Independent



Carole Keeton Strayhorn abandoned the Republican primary last week, saying she will challenge Gov. Rick Perry as an independent who can mend "a culture of political division" in Austin.

"Rick Perry has divided us, not united us," Mrs. Strayhorn said. "He is not the strong leader Texas needs to bring us together to fix our problems."

The Republican comptroller's last-minute decision capped weeks of speculation and promised a lively, free-wheeling contest with as many as four candidates on the ballot in November. Perry aides dismissed it as the desperate stunt of a flailing candidate.

By running as an independent, Mrs. Strayhorn avoids an almost certain loss to Mr. Perry in the March 7 GOP primary. Her aides hope that the more moderate general-election voters in November will be receptive to her cross-party appeal.

Standing in front of her old elementary school with her husband and three grand-

Strayhorn As Independent Page 4

Civil Rights Leader's Children Split On Sale Of King Center



Bernice King and Martin Luther King III

By: Errin Haines

Two children of Martin Luther King Jr. recently announced they would fight any sale of the Martin

Luther King Center for Nonviolent Social Change to the National Park Service, pitting them against their two younger siblings.

Bernice King said she and Martin Luther King III believe the sale, which the center's board voted to pursue earlier this month, would compromise the center's independent voice.

"Our father challenged our nation. He challenged the use of violence. If the King Center is

Sale Of King Center Page 8

Urban League To Oppose Any Plan To Close New Orleans Neighborhoods

By: Michelle Roberts

The National Urban League and likely other civil rights groups would oppose any New Orleans rebuilding plan that would do away with the neighborhoods most heavily damaged by Hurricane Katrina, the league's president said Saturday.

Marc Morial, a former New Orleans mayor, said he was concerned about suggestions that officials focus on rebuilding the least damaged neighborhoods and that some devastated areas could be turned into marshland or open space.

Supporters of those concepts say they would allow for flood control and would avoid large tracts of blight between rebuilt sections.

Detractors fear that would wipe out neighborhoods where generations of families have lived.

Decency, a respect for those who have suffered, fundamentally requires that everyone be



Former New Orleans Mayor; Marc Morial

given the chance to retain their property," Morial told about 250 people gathered at an east-

Urban League Opposes Page 5

Collin Gets Funding To Help Homeless

By: Jennifer Emily

Collin County received its first grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to help the chronically homeless, according to the leader of the county's homeless task force.

The money - nearly \$500,000 - was more than the county expected to receive, said Stacy Brown, who leads the Collin County Homeward Bound Task Force, also known as the county's homeless coalition.

"It's a good start to help us deal with our homeless," said Ms. Brown, Plano's community development director. "It's a difficult thing to be aware of and think about because of the affluence that surrounds us."

The funds will support Hope's Door, a domestic violence shelter, and Life Path, which serves homeless people who are mentally ill.

HUD awarded \$334,944 to Life Path and \$137,010 to Hope's Door for use over the next two years.

The money is part of \$1.33 billion given nationwide to programs that aid about 172,000 homeless people in the U.S.

Collin County commissioner Jerry Hoagland said he agrees

Collin Gets Funding Page 8

MLK Events Around The City



Garland Branch NAACP at 2005 MLK Parade

The North Texas Region Will Feature A Myriad Of Events Commemorating The Birthday Of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Scheduled Events Include:

Thursday, January 12
14th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Oratory Competition presented by Gardere Wynne Sewell LLP,

10:30 a.m. Dallas First Baptist Church, 1707 San Jacinto St. Elementary school children compete in the final round of speech competitions honoring the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The theme "If Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Were Alive Today, What Would He Say

MLK Events Page 5

Plano ISD Invites Community To Attend "A Symphony Of Brotherhood" Program On January 19

The Plano Independent School District will salute the work and ideals of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and celebrate diversity in the community at a program at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 19, in Collinwood Hall at Plano Centre, 2000 E. Spring Creek Parkway in Plano. This year's music, dramatic presentations and artwork will highlight the theme "A Symphony of Brotherhood."

Students, staff, parents, and other citizens are invited to attend the 75-minute program which will be inspirational as well as entertaining for all ages. There is no admission charge.

Several hundred Plano ISD students from the youngest learners through senior high students will be featured. A special tribute will honor the late John Hightower, who worked for many years as an educator



John Hightower

in Plano ISD and was an integral part of the coordination of this annual program.

Dr. Doug Otto, superintendent of schools, Louise W. Davis, principal of Memorial Elementary School, and Whitney O'Banner, a student at Plano Senior High School, will serve as masters of ceremonies.

Plano ISD Invites Page 3

Nigeria To Free Half Its Inmates

Nigeria Is To Set Free About Half Of All Prisoners To Reduce Overcrowding.

Up to 25,000 people, including the sick, the elderly and those with HIV will be freed, said Justice Minister Bayo Ojo.

Those who have been awaiting trial for longer than the sentences they face and those whose case files have been lost by the authorities will also benefit.

Correspondents say many people wait up to 10 years, often in awful conditions, for their case to come to trial.

Human rights groups say death rates are unacceptably high for inmates who endure overcrowded and unsanitary conditions.

"The issue of awaiting-trial



Some 65% of those in Nigeria's prisons have not been convicted.

inmates has become an endemic problem in Nigeria... The conditions of the prisons are just too terrible. The conditions negate the essence of prison which is to reform," Mr Ojo said.

There are currently some 40,444 inmates held in 227 prisons across Nigeria.

Some 65% of these are awaiting trial.

Freed Nigerian Inmates Page 9

Collin Honors Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Vision

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s vision will be celebrated at a Collin County Community College District leadership



Florence Shapiro, Texas state senator

breakfast.

Collin County Community College District (Collin) will host its annual power leadership breakfast in honor of the

civil rights leader at 7:45 a.m., Monday, Jan. 16, at the Spring Creek Campus Conference Center, 2800 E. Spring Creek Parkway in Plano.

The breakfast and program are free and open to the public.

This year's celebration theme at Collin is "Educating All, Embracing the Dream" and the overall theme is "His Vision, Our Mission."

The breakfast will feature community leaders answering questions from the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. breakfast committee.

The panelists will include: Florence Shapiro, Texas state senator; Pat Evans, Plano mayor; Ron Harris, Collin County judge; Duncan Webb, Plano Independent School District Board president; John A. Roach Sr., district attorney; Stacey Arias, Collin board trustee; and

Harry LaRosiliere, Plano city councilman.

"The Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Power Leadership Breakfast has become a wonderful event for all of our citizens and leaders to honor this great man through his ideas and principles by educating all and embracing the dream," Evelyn McKnight, co-chair of the breakfast committee, said of the event.

In addition, the breakfast will undergo a change of format as "table captains" will help facilitate discussion among the attendees. Captains will be elected officials and community leaders including Dr. Douglas Otto, Plano Independent School District superintendent; Tom Muehlenbeck, Plano city manager; and Greg Rushin, Plano police chief.

The breakfast will be followed by the annual Teen

Extravaganza at 10:30 a.m. in the John Anthony Theatre on the Spring Creek Campus.

Breakfast Committee Co-



Harry LaRosiliere, Plano city councilman

Chair Steve Hardy said the event is an excellent opportunity for the community and its leaders to unite and discuss issues.

"The Dr. Martin Luther

King, Jr. Power Leadership Breakfast is a great event to honor the memory and ideals of a great leader in a forum that allows us to hear from our elected officials and to learn from

each other," Hardy, the college's continuing education associate vice president, said.

For more information, visit www.planomlk.org or contact Earl Simpkins at 972.422.0012.

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Judge Barefoot Sanders To Receive MLK Justice Award From DBA

Judge Barefoot Sanders, Senior U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of Texas, will be honored by the Dallas Bar Association with the Martin Luther King Jr. Justice Award at a noon luncheon on Monday, January 16 at the Belo Mansion (2101 Ross Avenue in downtown Dallas).

Since 1993, the award has been presented by the DBA to a lawyer whose life and practice uphold the principles of Dr. King. Most notably, Judge Sanders presided over *Tasby v. Estes*, the lawsuit filed in 1970 that led to the desegregation of Dallas' public schools. For more than 20 years, the DISD remained under Judge Sanders' oversight until he declared the system desegregated in 2003. Further, Judge Sanders over-

saw 23 years of litigation resulting in measurable improve-



Judge Barefoot Sanders

ments in the living conditions and treatment of patients at mental health facilities in Texas.

"Judge Sanders is a legend in the Dallas legal community,"

said DBA President Mark K. Sales. "He has had a long and truly distinguished career as a public servant. Importantly, he is well known for his great character, empathy for others, kindness, sense of justice and respect for the rule of law."

Judge Sanders served in the Texas Legislature in the 1950s, and was then appointed by President John F. Kennedy as U.S. Attorney in 1961. He later served in the Justice Department in Washington and was instrumental in the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. After serving as legislative counsel in the White House, Judge Sanders was appointed U.S. District Judge by President Jimmy Carter in 1979.

The MLK award luncheon is open to the public, with a plated lunch costing \$12.75. The

keynote speaker will be Dr. Sheron Patterson, pastor of the Highland Hills United Methodist Church. RSVPs are required to provide adequate seating. For more information contact BAVina@DallasBar.org.



Dr. Sheron Patterson

Around The Town

Ongoing

A New Way to Look at Texas, "African American Museum: Souvenir's From the Earth: Cultures of Soil". December 16-March 12, 2006. Call 214-565-9026 for information.

New York Times Arts 7 Leisure Weekend comes to Dallas. January 5-9

"Something All Our Own" Grant Hill art collection of 46 pieces by African American artists is on display at the Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 N. Harwood St. For more information call 214-922-1200. January 6-April 17

Kings of the Court Basketball Tournament hosted by The Candy Castle II, Larry Johnson Recreation Center, 3700 Dixon Ave. Registration deadline is January 2, 2006. Call 214-670-8495 for information. January 13-15.

25th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Celebration to be held at the MLK Center, 2922 MLK Blvd. For information call 214-670-8418.

The First Baptist Church is again offering "DivorceCare" beginning January 15 and running for 13 weeks. Call 972-727-8241 for information.

The RISD collecting used books new and used videos, CD's for the PTAs'

Used Book Fair. January 17-27.

Pan American Art Gallery opens exhibit entitled "Painted Words", January 19 through February 18, 6:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. The exhibit features works by Wosne Kasorf of Ethiopia and Andres Waissman of Argentina, 3303 Lee Parkway, Ste. 101. Call 214-522-3303.

Free classes available on how to repair credit and prepare to buy a home will be offered from 9:00-3:00 p.m. each second Saturday of the month. The meetings will be held at the Jeffries Street Learning Center, 3001 Grand Ave. in South Dallas. Call 214-426-1834.

Collin County Health Care Services will offer flu shots at a reduced cost beginning December 26. Flu vaccinations are given Monday thru Friday, 8:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m., 825 N. McDonald Street in McKinney. Call 972-548-5578 for information.

The Women's Museum Premieres "Artist Among Us", featuring 10 local women artists' perspective on how art is found in daily life and how communities are affected in which they work. Tuesday-Sunday, Noon to 5:00 p.m. Call 214-915-0871 for information. November 17-January 29, 2006

The Richardson Optimist Club is selling mixed nuts, fudge, etc to raise funds for its youth activities. Contact any Optimist Club member or call 972-233-9597.

At Risk African American,

Latino and Asian women who wish to participate in a study to find ways to increase breast cancer survival are ask to call Kirsten Shelby, 214-648-1919 for information. November 16-

A Free Legal Clinic is offered at 6:00 p.m. the second Thursday of each month at First

United Methodist Church, 601 S. Greenville Ave. Must be Collin County residents and income eligible. Call 1-800-906-3045.

Blue Horizon Chorus, a volunteer chorus seeks seniors to sign at retirement and nursing homes. It meets from 10 a.m.-Noon, Wednesdays at the Mesquite Arts Center, 1572 N. Galloway Ave. Call 214-566-8459.

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

Collin County Health Care Services continues offering flu shots from 8:00-11:00 a.m., Monday-Friday at 825 N. McDonald St., McKinney. Call 972-548-5532 for information.

Spirit of Praise Community and Youth Choir now forming. Participants are needed who sing and play instruments. Practices begin on the 2nd and 4th Sunday. For information call 817-626-7342.

Allen Public Library's Genre Book Club meets at 7:00 p.m. every third Monday in the Library Board Rm., 300 N. Allen Drive. Call 214-509-4906 for information.

Alcoholics Anonymous: Garland Clean Air, a local

Alcoholics Anonymous Chapter, has extended its hours. The group meets at noon Mondays thru Fridays, 11:00 a.m. Saturdays and 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, First Christian Church, 115 S. Glenbrook Drive. Call 972-994-7879.

January 12

14th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Oratory Competition presented by Gadere Wynne Sewell LLP, 10:30 a.m. Dallas First Baptist Church, 1707 San Jacinto St. Call 214-559-4630 for information.

January 13

Celebrating 29 historical years of success, Dallas Black Dance Theatre presents the Tenth Annual Founder's Luncheon, Wyndham Anotole Hotel, 2201 Stemmons Freeway, 11:00 a.m. RSVP by January 9th. Call 214-871-2376 for information.

Garth Fagan Dance Company will perform at the Eisemann Center, 2351 Performance Dr. (Richardson), 8:00 p.m. with Q&A after show. For more information call 972-744-4650.

January 14

Saturday Afternoon Films, films will be shown about Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Civil Rights Movement will be held from noon to 4 p.m. at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Library, 2922 MLK Blvd. For information call 214-670-0344.

A poetry festival honoring MLK will be held at the Hampton-Illinois Library, 2210 W. Illinois Ave. For information call 214-670-7646.

The Annual MLK Birthday Parade, featuring bands, dancers, floats and community organizations will begin at 10:00 a.m. at Dallas City Hall, 1500 Marilla St. For information call 214-670-8355.

Effective Summer Learning Program 2006 Conference, 8:30 a.m., Center for Community Cooperation, 2900 Live Oak. Call 214-235-2352 for information.

A Teen Council meeting where teen representatives meet to discuss upcoming plans for teen programs and events will be held from 2 p.m.-3 p.m. at the Hampton-Illinois Branch Library, 2210 W. Illinois Ave. For information call 214-670-7646.

The city animal shelter of Frisco will sponsor pet adoption, from Noon to 4:00 p.m., at Petco, 1500 Town East Blvd. For information call 972-216-6283 for information.

The Garland Symphony continues its 27th season with a Mozart Concert, 7:00 p.m., Granville Arts center, 300 N. Fifth St. For reservations or information call 972-926-0611.

Spoken Images includes special guest and open mic, 5th Avenue at Abbotsford Court, 14775 Midway Rd., Addison. Call 817-937-8301 for information.

January 15

The January Book Club Meeting of Dallasblack.com will discuss "The Portable Promised Land: Stories" by Toure, Plano. For information www.IvoryWilliams@hotmail.com.

The 23rd Annual Black Music and Civil Rights Movement Concert honoring Martin Luther King, Jr., black Academy of Arts and Letters at the Dallas Convention Center, 650 S. Griffin St., 7:30 p.m. Call 214-743-2440 for more information.

January 16

Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday MLK Celebration, featuring the Wiley College Concert Choir, Irving Arts Center, Carpenter Performance Hall, 3333 N. MacArthur Blvd., 7:00 p.m. For information call 972-252-ARTS or visit www.irvingartscenter.com

January 21

The Literary Voices Roundtable Writer's Breakfast will be held from 10:00 a.m. in Rm. T-203 at the Black Academy of Arts and Letters, 650 S. Griffin. For information call 214-743-2440.

January 22

Path Way to Purpose Program for men and women, The Church in Dallas at Hutchins, 107 North Crockett Rd. Call 1-888-418-0957 for information.

The Mesquite Symphony Orchestra performs Pops and Jazz Concert, 7:30 p.m., Concert Hall at the Mesquite Arts Center, 1527 N. Galloway Ave. Call 972-216-8127.

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THE TRUTH CLINIC

Corruption And Greed Compromising American Politics

By: James W. Breedlove

While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption. (2nd Peter 2:19).

But these, as natural brute beasts, made to be taken and destroyed, speak evil of the things that they understand not; and shall utterly perish in their own corruption. (2nd Peter 2:12).

The Jack Abramoff plea agreement has many in congress and the White House shaking in their boots, running for cover, and desperately trying to return tainted Abramoff money or in a sudden fit of compassion send it to charity. Abramoff's plea agreement stipulates that the lobbyist must provide information and testimony to prosecutors "concerning any matter," that could include his dealings with high ranking members of Congress, the Executive Branch, and their respective staffers as investigators continue to unravel the cozy relationship between politicians and the K Street lobbying mafia.

Even the preliminary media reports indicate that Jack Abramoff was so deeply entrenched in the inner circles of Washington that he and his trusted minions functioned as a virtual fourth branch of government.

This super-lobbyist walked the halls of power and had unfettered access to the key political decision makers for years. Republicans fell all over themselves to get their hands on his seemingly bottomless barrel of cash. When Jack had something to say they all gathered around and listened. He was so sure of his exalted position on the lobbying totem pole that he played sweetheart with Native American tribes to bilk them of their money while referring to them as "monkeys".

The Bush Administration was wide open to Abramoff. The National Journal reported back in 2002, "Last summer, in an effort to raise the visibility of his Indian clients, Abramoff helped arrange a White House get-together on tax issues with President Bush for top

Indian leaders.

According to a 2003 story in Roll Call, Abramoff was one of a half-dozen lobbyists who raised over \$100,000 for Bush's 2000 campaign.

Then Jack Abramoff enters plea bargains in Washington, D. C. and Florida and the same friends that were too happy to take his money suddenly don't know the man when queried about their relationship.

Scott McClellan, the White House press secretary, insisted that Bush does not know Abramoff personally. Just like he did not know Ken Lay after the Enron bubble burst.

Throughout the past decade, the Center for Public Integrity has reviewed and monitored the lobbying industry. The Center's Lobby Watch project details who the lobbyists and lobbying firms are, how much they spend and on whom. Their web site is a must for concerned citizens who want to know whose money is inundating their elected officials.

Jack Abramoff is only one of the many well-connected operatives who have sought to reshape the political landscape through the disbursement of money for access. Each year since 1998 the amount of money spent by lobbyists to influence federal lawmakers is double the amount of money spent to elect them.

The Center for Public Integrity reports that in the last six years lobbyists have increased their spending over 46 percent from 1.5 billion to 2.1 billion annually and have spent a cumulative total of almost \$13 billion on wining, dining, entertaining and providing lavish junkets to members of Congress and federal officials responsible for legislation and regulations.

The number of registered lobbyists has more than doubled over the same period from 14,000 to 30,000. More than 2,200 former federal government employees had registered as federal lobbyists between 1998 and 2004 of which nearly 250 are former members of

Congress.

While the Republicans are currently in the spotlight because of the Jack Abramoff/Tom Delay connection the dubious methods used to circumvent campaign finance laws are used by Democrats and Republicans alike.

One of the many vehicles that politicians and lobbyists use to channel forbidden corporate money is the 527 organization, named for the section of the tax code that gives them a tax exemption, that are political nonprofits that can spend money in support of specific issues, but not on behalf of particular candidates.

Corporate funds are given to the 527 non-profit. These funds are then transferred to the National Political Party who then sends the money to the State Campaign offices. Tom Delay is currently under indictment in Texas accused of funneling corporate funds into state elections.

American politics is infested with corrupt and greedy termites (lobbyists and officials) that are undermining, subverting, and degrading the democratic process.

It is nearly impossible, as the many abortive attempts to reform influence peddling and campaign finance has revealed, to have the legislative chickens objectively reform their own hen house. It is time for the American people to step up and be counted to let the politicians know that "we the people" still exist.

In the 2006 mid-term elections the people should send a strong message to the electorate and remind them who they were elected to serve. All incumbent members of congress who are standing for re-election should be sent home by the voters. Yes, some honorable ones would be caught in the "clean up thine house" message. But the new group of elected officials would have a clear understanding that they will be held accountable for decisions that are not in the best interests of the people.

Email Comments to
Politics@MonTheGazette.com

Hang In, And Raise Hell

By: Molly Ivins

The governor of Texas is despicable. Of all the crass pandering, of all the gross political kowtowing to ignorance, we haven't seen anything this rank from Gov. Goodhair since, gee, last fall.

Then, he was trying to draw attention away from his spectacular failure on public schools by convincing Texans that gay marriage was a horrible threat to us all. Now, he's trying to disguise the fact that the schools are in freefall by proposing we teach creationism in biology classes.

The funding of the whole school system is so unfair it has been declared unconstitutional by the Texas Supreme Court. All last year, Perry haplessly called special session after special session, trying to fix the problem, and couldn't get anywhere -- not an iota, not a scintilla of leadership.

Instead of facing the grave crisis that may yet result in the schools being closed down, Perry has blithely gone off on creationism -- teach the little perishes the Earth is 6,000 years old, that people lived at the same time as dinosaurs and who cares if the school building is falling apart?

Perry faced a potential primary challenge from State Comptroller Carole Keeton Strayhorn. The Texas Republican Party is now so completely dominated by the

Christian right, however, that a relative moderate like Strayhorn has no chance against Perry, who has been assiduously kissing the feet, to say the least, of the most extreme elements of the party. So Strayhorn announced she would seek election as an independent, and Perry played the creationism card. Gee, let's all have a big discussion about gays, creationism and covenant marriage -- that'll solve the state's staggering problems with schools and health care.

Meanwhile, it's heartening to note that political nincompoopery is not limited to Texas. A couple of recent quotes out of Washington, D.C., cause the jaw to drop. Our very own Tom DeLay, upon announcing he would quit as majority leader, said: "During my time in Congress, I have always acted in an ethical manner, within the rules of our body and the law of our land. I am fully confident time will bear this out." Good grief, the man was sanctioned three times by the House ethics committee last year alone.

Equally stupefying is the attempted emergence of Newt Gingrich, of all people, as an arbiter of ethics. Gingrich has been going about the media, holding forth on the shortcomings of today's Republicans.

Let's see, that would be the same Newt Gingrich who originally started using the lobby as an arm of the Republican Party, right? Same Gingrich

had the distinction of being the only House speaker to be reprimanded by his colleagues for ethical wrongdoing? Same Gingrich who was accused of misusing nonprofit organizations for political purposes, personally benefiting from political contributions, cutting a sleazy book deal and giving false statements to ethics investigators? Same Gingrich who was fined \$300,000 for said lying? I thought it was that Gingrich.

They must really think we're morons.

On the general subject of political corruption, do not fall into the fatal error of cynicism. You do your country a great disservice by saying things like: "Eh, they're all crooks. Nothing anyone can do about it. Money will always find a way."

The answer is perpetual reform. Fix it, and if corruption comes back again, you just whack back at it again. The system as it is encourages corruption and must be changed. Public campaign financing is the best answer in the long-term -- all this "lobby reform" talk is hopelessly inadequate. Hang in, and raise hell -- this is a heaven-sent opportunity to clean it up. Don't blow the chance with cheap cynicism.

Molly Ivins writes about politics, Texas and other bizarre happenings.

Prejudice: Black Republicans Should Be Able To Live Without Fear

By: Ted Hayes

American blacks who are affiliated with the Republican Party are vigorously vilified by Democrats, especially black Democrats. Uncle Tom, sell-out, Oreo--the list of slurs is long.

But it is not only insults. I am the founder and director of a unique, progressive homeless facility in downtown Los Angeles, known as the Dome Village. Yet the 35 men, women and children and their pets who call the Dome Village home are being "evicted" from privately owned property after 12 1/2 years--apparently on account of my political beliefs and activities. You see, though I am a leading homeless activist, I am also a conservative Republican and a strong supporter of President Bush.

Here's how the situation played out. Recently, I was invited to address a local Republican Women's Club; my landlord read an article in the local paper reporting on the event. Soon after, I received a notice raising the Dome Village rent from \$2,500 a month to \$18,330. Shocked, I inquired as to the seriousness of the change, and the property owner blurted out that the cause of our "eviction" was "because you are Republican." He said that as a Democrat, he was tired of helping me and the Dome Village. In other words, let the homeless be damned.

And people think the Democrats are the party of compassion and tolerance.

Private property should be protected, of course, and I have no intention of causing any trouble for this property owner as we part ways. Whatever he does with his valuable land--it is only a few blocks from the Staples Center--is no concern of mine, and I will not go to court.

Still, I cannot help but be saddened by the whole business. When I founded the



Ted Hayes

Dome Village 12 years ago, we had an understanding that he could ask for his property back at any time for any reason, and I would say "absolutely" without hesitation. Still, his reason was prejudice against Republicans.

We see this across the country. Michael Steele, the lieutenant governor of Maryland and a Republican candidate for the Senate, has been crudely disparaged on racial grounds. A prominent leftist Web site, for instance, depicted him as "Sambo," among other aspersions. When Condoleezza Rice was nominated as secretary of state, she

faced similar treatment: editorial cartoons depicting her as a racial caricature, personalities calling her "Aunt Jemima" on liberal talk radio, and so forth. Clarence Thomas, Ward Connerly, Colin Powell, Thomas Sowell and other black conservatives regularly face similar smears.

These conservatives are attacked not because of the validity or judicious consideration of their views but because those views are supposedly heterodox for American blacks. Yet it is my opinion that many black people in the U.S. are politically and philosophically conservative--and many are in fact actually closeted Republicans, fearful of persecution by friends, business associates, society clubs, schoolmates and even churches.

It is time for American blacks to have a conversation about the phenomenon of Democrats persecuting black Republicans. Why is this happening? What is it that the Democrats don't want black folks to understand about Republicans? What is it that the Democrats don't want black folks to know about Democrats? And how is it that we have come to this point--after having endured so much--where we have ourselves curtailed the freedom of political expression through the threat of retaliatory consequences?

Mr. Hayes is a homeless activist in Los Angeles.

Where Do You Want To Go Today?

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Letter To The Editor

Dear Editor:

During the month of January, I am asking our community to join with me in recognizing the members of the Plano Independent School District Board of Trustees for giving so much of their time and energy to this community.

Plano ISD school board members are those dedicated few who are elected to represent our entire community's educational values. The beauty of public education is that

its opportunities are open to everyone, and it's up to those who lead the schools to ensure all students are given everything they need to achieve and succeed. Among those leaders who are true heroes are our school trustees.

School Board Recognition Month—observed each January—honors this dedication in Plano as well as throughout the area and state. Plano and other districts and communities are organizing celebrations to recognize the

important contributions of school board members.

At a time when we face difficult choices over budgetary priorities, a commitment to education and to children must stand absolutely firm. We have a sacred obligation to put our children's needs first and to make the essential investments that will help them succeed in our increasingly complex society.

Our school board leads the way in this endeavor. By set-

ting high expectations for student achievement, supporting successful teaching and learning, and linking schools with their communities, trustees empower students with the knowledge and skills they need to become productive, responsible citizens.

Please take a moment this month to thank Duncan Webb, Melody Timinsky, Lloyd "Skip" Jenkins, Dr. Allan Bird, Mary Beth King, John Muns, and Brad Shanklin for caring

about the future of our children. We are fortunate to have them as leaders in the Plano Independent School District.

Respectfully,
Dr. Myrtle Hightower
A Friend of Public Education

Strayhorn As Independent Page 1
daughters beside her, Mrs. Strayhorn declared Mr. Perry a failure after five years in office.

"He has given us higher property taxes, bigger government, higher insurance rates, toll roads, has abandoned our border and ignored our broken schools," she said.

She said Mr. Perry has "undone the bipartisan spirit" of his predecessor, George W. Bush, and sought to present her independent candidacy as a bid transcending politics.

"Before we were Republicans or Democrats in this state, before we chose sides, we were first and foremost Texans," she said.

Mr. Perry's campaign cast her announcement as a concession speech—public recognition that she could not beat the governor in a primary by offering "empty criticism."

"Carole Strayhorn has not produced a single meaningful reform, only empty promises that she has never kept," said Perry spokesman Robert Black. "Today's action is the type of transparent political opportunism that insults the intelligence of Texas voters and is destined for rejection and failure."

As an independent, Mrs. Strayhorn is bucking history and an electorate that

has become increasingly Republican over the last decade. One candidate has been elected governor of Texas as an independent: Sam Houston.

Just making it onto the ballot won't be easy. Independents must gather tens of thousands of voters' signatures, under rigorous rules and a tight deadline. And she'll be competing for signatures against Kinky Friedman, the author/musician seeking to run as the ultimate outsider.

Still, Mrs. Strayhorn is consistently one of the top vote-getters in Texas, and her strategists believe that Mr. Perry's support is shallow. They believe his weakness can be exploited by an aggressive television campaign that will begin Wednesday with a burst of anti-Perry ads costing \$1 million. The governor also begins airing campaign spots this week.

Mrs. Strayhorn—who has two sons who are top officials with the Bush administration—said she remains a Republican but is putting "partisan politics aside" to make the race.

One son, Scott McClellan, is White House spokesman for President Bush, whom the Perry team is confident will endorse the entire Republican ticket. Mr. McClellan could

not be reached for comment Monday.

Mr. Perry will face token opposition in his primary, while Chris Bell, a former

Houston congressman, and Bob Gammage, a former Texas Supreme Court justice, will vie to become the Democratic challenger.

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Elite News Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade
Monday, January 16 at 10 a.m.
Starts at the corner of MLK Jr. Blvd. and Lamar

From West Transfer Center Route 26 (Frazier Courts) or from Cityplace Station Route 409 (Illinois Station)

African-American Read-In
Saturday, February 4 at the Majestic Theatre (1925 Elm Street), 2 p.m.
www.readin.dcccd.edu
Red or Blue Line to St. Paul Station

DART Service Change
Effective Monday, February 6, 2006
Look for a service change brochure and new schedules on board and at transit centers after January 16.
Visit www.DART.org or call 214.979.1111 for more information.
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National Woman's Heart Day Health Fair
Friday, February 17 at American Airlines Center, 8 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
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Katrina McPherson with daughter Madison

Former MON Staffer Marketing Rep. For McKinney Company

Village of Stone Brooke is pleased to congratulate and welcome Ms. Katrina McPherson as one of their Marketing Representatives. Ms. McPherson has a Bachelor's Degree in Health Care Administration from Idaho State University and has an extensive background in working with the senior population. Additionally, she has newspaper media advertising sales experi-

ence in the N. Dallas corridor, formerly as Assistant to Publisher at MON-The Gazette (and still occasionally provides consultation to MON-The Gazette).

Village of Stone Brooke, located in McKinney, Texas, is a premier active living retirement community for adults over the age of 55. The community broke ground in fall of 2005 and is moving rapidly towards a clubhouse opening in

March 2006.

Village of Stone Brooke is currently taking reservations at their sales office located at 1500 S. Central Expressway, Suite 279, McKinney, Texas 75070, phone: 972-540-6888, website: www.villageofstonebrooke.com. They will relocate their sales office to their property location of 5701 Virginia Parkway, McKinney, TX 75071 when the clubhouse opens.

City Considers Increasing Landing Fees At Love Field

Landing fees at Dallas Love Field may soon increase for the first time since 1997 -- returning to a rate charged as far back as the mid 1980s.

City officials are recommending the fee charged airlines every time they set a plane down be increased from 35 cents to 55 cents.

The increase would take effect March 1. The Dallas City Council will vote Feb. 22 on whether to approve the bump up.

Even at the proposed higher rate, Dallas Love Field's fee is one of the lowest in the nation at similar airports.

The recommendation by Love Field's Aviation Director

Kenneth Gwyn and the city's Chief Financial Officer Dave Cook, came Monday amid criticism about the city-owned airport's finances.

Gwyn reported Monday on the airport's finances during the regularly scheduled meeting of the Dallas City Council's Transportation and Environment Committee.

Some newly elected Dallas City Council members indicated landing fees are too low and that airlines should be paying more. But longtime council member Ed Oakley pointed out that if the city raises landing fees then airlines are going to raise the prices of their tickets.

MLK Events Page 1

About Where We Are?" will motivate and inspire all ages. Free and open to the public.

Friday, January 13

Activist Dick Gregory will speak at the 7th Annual King Celebration sponsored by Mothers Against Teen Violence, 11:30 a.m., Union Station Grand Hall, 300 Reunion Blvd. Call 214-565-0422 for information.

Candle-Lighting Ceremony at 6:30 p.m. to kick off the 25th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Celebration, at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center, 2922 M.L.K. Jr. Blvd, Dallas p.m. For more information call: 214-670-8418.

Saturday, January 14

MLK Celebration Committee presents MLK Parade, downtown Plano, Ave K to Parker Rd., 10:00 a.m.

A MLK Program will be held at Plano City Hall (1520 Ave K) immediately following the parade. The City Hall program will be held in the Council Chambers. Guest speakers and performers will provide the entertainment. They include entertainer and recording artist Doc Gibbs and the Boys and Girls Club Douglass Dancers. Awards will be announced for the Parade entry winners and art from the MLK Art Contest will be displayed.

A free Health Fair will also be held at Plano City Hall following the MLK Parade. Vendors will be set up to provide various health screenings and distribute informative literature. 11:00 a.m.

Free Lunch, 12:00 p.m., Douglas Community Center, Plano

Garland 17th annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. parade and march, hosted by the Garland branch NAACP, will begin at 10 a.m. on Dairy Road at Garden Drive (near Embree Park) in Garland and ends at the Granville Arts Center, 330 N. Fifth St., in downtown Garland.

The Annual MLK Birthday Parade, featuring bands, dancers, floats and community organizations will begin at 10:00 a.m. at Dallas City Hall, 1500 Marilla St. Marchers will proceed to the Martin Luther King, Jr. The parade concludes at the Fair Park. For information call 214-670-8355.

MLK Birthday Celebration Drop In Art Activity at the

African American Museum will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the African American Museum, 3536 Grand Ave. in Fair Park. For more information, call 214-565-9026.

A poetry festival honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. will begin at 3 p.m. at the Hampton-Ilinois Branch Library, 2210 W. Illinois Ave. For more information, call 214-670-7646.

MLK Awards Banquet, Dallas Apparel Mart, 2300 Stemmons Frwy, 7:30 p.m. Keynote speaker The Honorable Kweisi Mfume, former Chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus and former CEO of the NAACP.

25th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Celebration to be held at the MLK Center, 2922 MLK Blvd. For information call 214-670-8418.

January 16

DISD Celebrates Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church, 1819 N. Washington Ave., 7:00 p.m. Call 972-925-8017 for information.

Sunday, January 15

Plano MLK All Community Choir, 7:00 p.m., First United Methodist Church (Spring Creek Pkwy and Parker Rd.) The MLK All Community Choir with a hundred and fifty plus singers from local area churches will provide a grand performance. This very special evening will also include the second annual Department of Homeland Security Naturalization Ceremony where 50 candidates will be sworn in as United States Citizens.

Garland MLK Youth Extravaganza, featuring youth groups performing praise dance, step routines and military style drills, will begin at 4 p.m. at the Granville Arts Center Main Auditorium, 330 N. Fifth St. For more information, please contact the NAACP Garland branch at 972-381-5044, voice box five.

The 23rd Annual Black Music and Civil Rights Movement Concert honoring Martin Luther King, Jr., featuring Lalah Hathaway. Presented by The Black Academy of Arts and Letters. Naomi Bruton Main Stage, Dallas Convention Center, 650 S. Griffin St., 7:30 p.m. Call 214-743-2440 for more information.

Monday, January 16

The 16th annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Power Leadership Breakfast will be held at the Collin College, Spring

Creek Campus Conference Center on Monday January 16, 2006 at 7:45 AM. The full Breakfast is free and open to the public. Following the breakfast is a panel discussion amongst our civic, school, and business leaders addressing pertinent issues in our community.

MLK Day & Dream 5K will be held at the Elm Grove Pavilion, River Legacy Parks, 701 NW Green Oaks Blvd., Arlington. For more information, contact Jeph Abara at 817-265-4578 or e-mail jephaa@yahoo.com.

The MLK Youth Forum will be held on Monday January 16, 2006 at 10:30 AM in the John Anthony Theater at Collin College Spring Creek Campus in Plano, Texas. The Forum will include performances by:

Natalie Jenkins, Plano Senior H.S. - Singer

Shiloh Baptist Church - Mime Team

M.O.E. - Rap Group

Boys and Girls Club - Dancers

The Dr. Martin Luther King Center and the Nonviolent Struggle for Peace & Justice, will hold workshops that will also feature rarely seen photos of Dr. King and Medgar Evers, will be held from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Downtown Dallas Public Library, 1515 Young St., in the Dallas East/West Rooms. For more information, call 214-823-7793

Leader, Scholar, Theologian: The Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., presented by the Dallas Institute of Humanities and Culture Center for Civic Leadership, will begin at

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Urban League Opposes Page 1

ern New Orleans church, where generators were used to power lights and a yellow line marked where flood water sat in the building for weeks following Hurricane Katrina.

The neighborhood remains largely abandoned even four months after the storm struck as residents struggle with enormous piles of once-soaked debris, and utilities remain turned off.

Decisions about whether to rebuild certain areas should be made by the community, not imposed from the top down, Morial said. And if residents are going to be told they can't rebuild, the government should be forced to compensate them, he said.

"For us, it's about equity," Morial said before the speech.

Mayor Ray Nagin has sought to calm fears that some neigh-

borhoods such as the heavily damaged Ninth Ward would be neglected or closed to residential use. His spokeswoman, Sally Forman, said Saturday that it was too early to speculate on a master building plan that has not yet been formally unveiled, much less decided on.

A proposal by the mayor's Bring New Orleans Back Commission is expected to be released on Wednesday.

The New York Times reported Saturday that the commission would propose letting residents go back wherever they wanted for the first year. After that, neighborhoods without enough population could be closed and residents forced to leave.

Forman said the rebuilding proposals were formed with the participation of hundreds of people from diverse backgrounds and residents would be given time to consider any proposals.

El Centro College's Bill J. Priest Campus Introduces New JOBS Training Program

Students wanted: Yes, the Bill J. Priest campus of El Centro College is now looking for people interested in being trained for a variety of well-paying maintenance and construction skills jobs.

Thanks to participation in a Texas self-sufficiency grant, this new Joint Occupations Basic Skills (JOBS) program is kicking off in the first quarter of the new year, says Dr. Les Shelby, Bill J. Priest training director. "Students selected for this grant training program will be applicants interested in getting specific job-related skills

and able to devote 30 hours a week for three months of training at our campus at 1402 Corinth, just south of downtown Dallas."

The Bill J. Priest JOBS program provides broad-based skills necessary for many technical occupations. "Students develop their technical knowledge and secure skills vital for lifelong learning and employability."

Financial aid is available for qualified candidates. After training, students have the skills necessary for entry into jobs such as machinists, welders, electricians,

plumbers and pipe fitters, industrial maintenance and construction workers.

Training courses for JOBS students include human development for the workplace, workplace mathematics, blueprint reading, industrial maintenance technology, introduction to industrial maintenance and job search assistance.

Those interested in the Bill J. Priest JOBS program are urged to call now at 214-860-5900. Find out how JOBS can qualify you for a job.

Plano ISD Education Foundation Plans Ski Plano 2006 To Benefit District Students And Staff

Members of the Plano Independent School District Education Foundation invite you to don your ski sweaters, scarfs and hats and join them at their annual fundraiser, Ski Plano 2006. This year's event will be from 6:30 to 11 p.m. on Saturday, February 4, at

Southfork Ranch, 3700 Hogge Road in Parker.

The evening's activities, expected to raise more than \$150,000 to benefit Plano ISD students and staff, will feature the theme "Snowy Night," a cool evening on the mountaintop. Guests are invited to wear casual winter or après ski attire.

The gala will include hors d'oeuvres, dinner, music by Third

Party, a silent auction, Avalanche Raffle, and Snowball Games. Single tickets are \$100. Table sponsorships are also available. Reservations are due on or before January 27. Contact the Plano ISD Education Foundation office at 469-752-8272 for more information.

AEGON Direct Marketing Services, Inc. is the Aspen Sponsor at the level of \$10,000 and above.

Beaver Creek Sponsors at the \$5,000 level are Ebby Halliday Realtors, Aramark Education, Jacobs Facilities Inc, and SHW Group.

Betty Wright of the Foundation is serving as chairman of Ski Plano for the third year.

Foundation Board members are Judy Drotman, president, Keith D. Braley, vice president, Beth S. Webb, secretary, and Robert E. Robertson, treasurer. Carol Brinegar Hoey is the executive director. Dr. Doug Otto is superintendent of schools.

The purpose of the Foundation is to help ensure that Plano ISD remains an excellent school district. The mission is to support quality education for students by generating and channeling private and corporate resources toward areas of identified need, increasing community involvement and support, and encouraging open communication between the community and schools.

Collin County Children's Advocacy Center And Citi; Thanks For The Mentoring

Collin County Children's Advocacy Center and Citi are proud to announce they will host Collin County's first Mentor Luncheon on February 21, 2006 at the Marriott Legacy Towne Center in Plano. The luncheon will begin an annual tradition of honoring outstanding individuals who have distinguished themselves by enriching their community and/or the lives of others.

Nominations for mentors are currently being accepted. Please

consider this unique opportunity to nominate someone who has had a positive impact on your life, inspired you or served as a mentor for you or someone you know. As you reflect on potential nominees consider all fields that influence the composition of our community and improve the lives of others; economic, civic, faith based, cultural, educational or social service.

To obtain a nomination form please contact Jackie Fleming at jfleming@cacplano.org. All nomi-

nation forms must be received by Wednesday January 18, 2006. Nominees will receive a letter notifying them of their nomination. The Award Selection Committee will review all nominations and select mentors who will receive special recognition at the luncheon. Nominators of selected mentors will be notified.

We look forward to your support as we recognize and honor deserving individuals who share our commitment to improve the lives of others.

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Youth Council Wants To Hear From Peers

The City of Garland's first Youth Council wants input from young people from throughout the City. The Garland Youth Council (GYC) meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 5:15 p.m. Their February 7 meeting will be in the City Council Chamber on the first floor of City Hall, 200 N. Fifth Street in downtown Garland.

The Youth Council invites young people of all ages to attend the meeting and give input about issues impacting Garland's youth.

"The Garland Independent School District makes rules and regulations that affect our lives at school," says GYC Chairperson Sasha Hampton. "But if we're Garland residents, it's the City government that impacts our daily lives.

The Youth Council wants to hear from our peers about issues that the City government should consider."

The GYC is currently considering several topics to present to the City Council as important youth-oriented issues. During the February 7 meeting, young people who attend the meeting will have the opportunity to share their opinions with the panel.

The Garland City Council created the Youth Council last year and solicited applications from young men and women who would be in their junior year in high school for the 2005-06 school year. Each City Council member appointed one person to serve a one year term. The Youth Council's mission is to provide a forum which educates

Garland's youth to the various workings of City business, and allows youth to be a voice to address their particular ideas and concerns. Applications for the 2006-07 Youth Council will be available later this spring. Check the City's website at www.ci.garland.tx.us for updates.

2005-06 Youth Council members are as follows: Sasha Hampton - chair, Chelsea Tresp - vice chair, Brittany Harwood - secretary, Braden Pitcher, Bethanne Carter, Karina Calvillo, Donovan Ervin, Bridget Simmons, and Rediat Teferi. Youth Council agendas are available on the City website under the City Hall tab. Select Boards and Commissions.

Annual Urban Journalism Workshop

The Dallas-Fort Worth Association of Black Communicators is recruiting students for its annual Urban Journalism Workshop, which begins February 4 and ends with a graduation on May 8.

The 10-week program is an intensive, hands-on introduction to reporting and writing for newspapers, radio and television. This year's program will also include a mini-seminar on web sites. A majority of the sessions are held at Lincoln High School, the communications magnet for the Dallas Independent School District.

Lincoln is at 2826 Hatcher Street. Professional journalists from throughout the Metroplex provide instruction for the high school participants.

A newspaper and radio and television broadcasts will be produced as part of the workshop. Participants will visit several media outlets for a first-hand look at how news is produced and distributed. In addition to completing the application, students must write a 100-word essay and a short biography of themselves. Using current events to support your position, write an essay on the

topic: "What is the Role of a Journalist?"

The workshop is open to students in grades 10th, 11th and 12th. Written parental permission is required. Completed applications should be postmarked by January 28th. Send materials to: Urban Journalism Workshop c/o Dallas-Fort Worth Association of Black Communicators, Belo Building, 500 S. Record Street, Lock Box 11, Dallas, Texas, 75202. Applications are available at www.dfwabc.org. Materials can also be e-mailed to president@dfwabc.org.

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Nominees Announced For The 7th Annual Black Reel Awards

Nominations for the 7th Annual Black Reel Awards hosted by the Foundation for the Advancement of African-Americans in Film (FAAAF) were released today and Terrence Howard's award-winning career year continues. Howard received a total of three nominations, including Best Actor (Hustle & Flow), Best Supporting Actor (Crash) and Best Supporting Actor, TV (Lackawanna Blues).

Leading the theatrical category with 6 nominations each are Crash (Lions Gate Films) and Hustle & Flow (Paramount Classics). Roll Bounce (FOX Searchlight) follows with 5 nominations.

In the television category Lackawanna Blues (HBO) leads with 9 nominations. Their Eyes Were Watching God (ABC) follows with 7 nominations and Sometimes in April (HBO) and Miracle Boys (Noggin) both received 5 nominations.

Other multiple nominees included Idris Elba (The Gospel and Sometimes in April), Rosario Dawson (Rent and Sin City) and Tyler Perry (Diary of a

Mad Black Woman).

The winners will be announced at the Black Reel Awards Gala on February 18, 2006 at the National Press Club in Washington, DC. The awards gala will be part of the 2006 BRA Gala Weekend February 15-18, 2006 scheduled to take place in various locations



Rosario Dawson

throughout Washington, D.C.

"We are pleased to announce the nominees for the 7th Annual Black Reel Awards," said Tim Gordon, FAAAF Executive Director and Black Reel Awards founder. "For the seventh year, the Black Reel Awards is extremely

proud to pay tribute to the outstanding achievements of African Americans in cinema. We congratulate all of the nominees."

Nominees for the 7th Annual Black Reel Awards were selected by a panel of national television, radio, print and website film critics. The same panel of film critics, along with past Black Reel Awards nominees will select the winners. The nomination criteria was based on films that were written, directed, produced, executive produced or featured African-Americans.

In its seventh year, awards are being given in 22 categories along with special recognitions highlighting the exceptional accomplishments of individuals in three Special Achievement Awards given by the governing body of the Foundations for the Advancement of African-Americans in Film (FAAAF). They include the Lifetime Achievement, The Mayor's Award and the Vanguard Award for Entertainer of the Year. In 2005, Oscar winner, Jamie Foxx was the first recipient of the Vanguard Award for Entertainer of the Year.

Arrangements Made For Lou Rawls

A public viewing and funeral will be held in Los Angeles this week for Lou Rawls, the legendary soul singer who died of cancer last week.

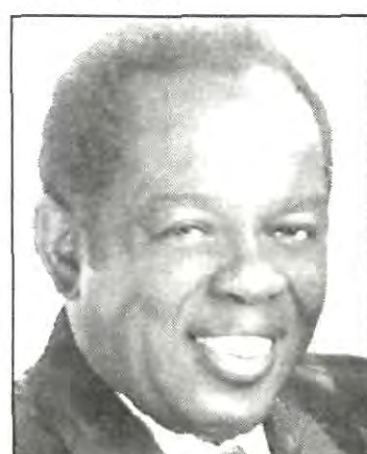
Jesse Jackson will lead last rites and officiate the funeral service, to be held Friday at 11 a.m. at the West Angeles Church of God in Christ (3045 Crenshaw Blvd.) in Los Angeles. Burial will be private.

On Thursday (Jan. 12), a public viewing will be held at Angelus Funeral Home (3875

Crenshaw Blvd.) starting at 3 p.m. The family requests that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the United Negro College Fund, 8260 Willow Oaks Corporate Drive, P.O. Box 10444, Fairfax, VA 22031-8044.

Rawls died of lung cancer Jan. 6 at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center. His last UNCF telethon was taped in September and aired nationally last weekend. The event, which began as "Lou Rawls' Parade of Stars," has raised more than \$200 million

over the years.



Jamie Foxx Tops Charts With Unpredictable



Oscar winner JAMIE FOXX's great start to 2006 has continued - the actor/singer's new album UNPREDICTABLE has kept MARY J BLIGE off the top of the US album charts.

Foxx's smooth R+B record shifted 131,000 copies in its third week on release - just 13,000 more than Blige's former

chart-topper THE BREAKTHROUGH.

Blige crashed in at the top in her debut week, leaving Foxx in her wake, but the RAY star replaced her at number one the following week and has now scored two successive weeks at the top of the Billboard chart.

BET Big On Lil' Kim Reality Series

BET made some noise, literally and figuratively, on the first day of the winter Television Critics Assn. press tour Tuesday with the announcement of three new series, including a reality show focusing on imprisoned rap star Lil' Kim.

Viacom's black-oriented cable channel brought its TCA session to order with a procession of the nine-member drum line of the marching band from Louisiana's Grambling State University, which will be the focus of another new BET reality series, "Season of the Tiger." The third new series, "Meet the Faith," is a Sunday talk show in which religious leaders discuss issues in the news.

"Lil' Kim: Countdown to Lockdown" follows the flamboy-

ant rapper during the two weeks immediately preceding her incarceration in September for perjury. Lil' Kim, whose real name is Kimberly Jones, was sentenced to 366 days in prison following her conviction in March on four counts of perjury in connection with a 2001 shooting incident in New York. "Lil' Kim" will follow the rapper through a whirlwind of performances, recording sessions and visits with friends and family in her final days of freedom.

"Tiger" looks at the lives of five students, including members of the Mighty Tiger Marching Band and the school's football team.

Although "Faith" focuses on news issues, its round-table of religious leaders might blunt recent criticism that BET in

recent years has abandoned religious programming.

The three series are to premiere this year, though specific dates for their arrival have not been determined.



NAACP Image Awards Announces Nominations

Kanye West, Alicia Keys and Mariah Carey earned four nominations each for the NAACP Image Awards, including best song and album, while Terrence Howard had two acting nominations for the films "Hustle & Flow" and "Crash."

"Crash," an ensemble drama weaving multiple story lines over a tumultuous 36-hour stretch in Los Angeles, led movie contenders with six nominations, including best picture and four of the five supporting-actor slots, for Howard, Chris "Ludacris" Bridges, Don Cheadle and Larenz Tate.

Thandie Newton earned a supporting-actress nomination for "Crash."

Howard had a lead-actor nomination for "Hustle & Flow," in which he plays a pimp and drug peddler trying to start a rap-music career. The film also

was nominated for best film.

Other best-picture nominees were "Coach Carter," "Diary of a Mad Black Woman" and "Hitch."

Best-album nominees included Keys ("Alicia Keys Unplugged"),



Mariah Carey

Carey ("The Emancipation of Mimi") and West ("Late Registration"). All three had best-song nominations, Keys for "Unbreakable," Carey for "We Belong Together" and West for

"Diamonds From Sierra Leone."

Kimberly Elise had two nominations, for best movie actress ("Diary of a Mad Black Woman") and actress in a TV drama ("Close to Home").

Other television nominees included Halle Berry for best actress in a movie, miniseries or dramatic special ("Their Eyes Were Watching God"), Dennis Haysbert for best actor in a drama series ("24"), and "The Bernie Mac Show" and "Everybody Hates Chris" for best comedy series.

The 37th annual Image Awards, for achievement by blacks in movies, television, music and literature, will be presented Feb. 25 in Los Angeles, with the ceremony airing on Fox on March 3.

Queen Latifah Becomes First Hip-Hop Artist To Get Walk Of Fame Star

Rapper turned actress, singer, spokeswoman and producer Queen Latifah on Wednesday became the first hip-hop artist crowned with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

"I think the reason I am here is to inspire African-American women who are rappers, full-figured women to know that they can do it too," Latifah, 35, said at the unveiling of the sidewalk's 2,298th star. Family and friends, including actor Terrence Howard, cheered Latifah on.

"Who would have known that in the '70s, when a pink 8-pound baby girl was born, this is where she would be today. She came out screaming, 'Look out world, here I come,'" her mother Rita Owens said.

Honorary Mayor of Hollywood Johnny Grant sent his regards from Guantanamo

Bay, Cuba, where he was delayed after entertaining American troops.

Born Dana Owens, Queen Latifah debuted in 1989 with seminal hip-hop album "All Hail the Queen." Her third album "Black Reign" earned her a



Queen Latifah

Grammy award in 1994. Latifah's leap to television in 1993 with the sitcom "Living Single" widened her appeal. She went on to star in such films as

"Set It Off," "Bringing Down the House" and 2005's "Beauty Shop," which she also produced.

But it was the New Jersey native's stint as soulful prison matron Mama Morton in 2002's "Chicago" that earned her a supporting actress Oscar nomination and brought her singing acclaim.

Her latest release "The Dana Owens Album," a jazzy collection of blues, pop and soul classics, garnered her a Grammy nod last year.

Latifah is also a spokeswoman for CoverGirl and its record label CG Vibes, among other companies.

She co-chairs the Lancelot H. Owens Scholarship Foundation, named for her older brother who was killed while riding a motorcycle she bought for him.

Latifah plays a woman with a terminal illness in the upcoming film "Last Holiday."



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sold to the government, our nation will lose that important legacy of challenge, equality, and independence," she said outside the center.

All four of King's children are board members. Martin Luther King III said yesterday that he was replaced as its chairman by his brother, Dexter King, earlier this year, and that Bernice King was removed as secretary earlier this year.

Their mother, Coretta Scott King, who founded the center shortly after the civil rights leader's death in 1968, is recovering from a stroke she suffered in August and cannot verbally respond to the conflict.

Board members who support the sale, including siblings

Dexter and Yolanda King as well as former UN ambassador Andrew Young, have said the transfer of power would let the family focus less on grounds maintenance and more on King's message of nonviolence.

A Park Service report issued last year estimated that the King Center needed \$11.6 million in repairs. The report cited leaks in the reflective pool, collapsed drainage pipes, and problems with loose and exposed wiring.

The National Park Service owns the King National Historic Site across the street and maintains Historic Ebenezer Baptist Church, where King preached from 1960 to 1968, as well as the King birth home and the visitors' center.

The King Center holds documents from the civil rights move-

ment and the tomb of the Nobel Peace laureate.

Martin Luther King III and Bernice King said yesterday that their mother expressed her opinion on a possible sale earlier this year.

"She felt at some point that it may, in fact, end up with the government, but she never envisioned that in her lifetime," Bernice King said.

Martin Luther King III said yesterday that he had neglected his board duties over the past decade but was ready to step up now.

"The board of directors has been remiss in providing sufficient oversight regarding important governance of operational and program issues," he said. "I take responsibility for my own failure."

list for years."

Life Path will use the money to fund housing for eight Collin County residents who are homeless and mentally ill. The grant will also fund a case manager.

Hope's Door's grant money will pay for four transitional housing units for domestic violence victims and a case manager.

About 1,300 people go through Collin County's shelters a year. The shelters include CITY House, for teenagers; Samaritan Inn and Hope's Door.

Ms. Brown, former director of Samaritan Inn, said the county expects an increase this year because of hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

She said there are 687 apartments still paid for by the city of Plano for hurricane evacuees. Others are living in hotels.

"We need to get them integrated into our city before they become part of the homeless," Ms. Brown said.

This year, the task force found 102 people living in shelters on the night of its count.

Collin Gets Funding Page 1

with helping Hope's Door because it serves domestic violence victims.

But he said the goal of trying to end homelessness is too large. He said the homeless have always been around and always will be.

"If the rationale is to try to stamp out homelessness, I don't think that's ever going to happen," he said.

He said he worries the grants will cause more homeless people to move to Plano. He said many problems in Dallas and other cities can be attributed to the homeless population.

"I'm just fearful we're going to end up with same thing here," he said. "I don't believe it's the government's place to do everything under the sun for people."

Ms. Brown said that Collin County needs to better address the problems of the homeless to avoid trouble down the road. She also said homeless people won't move to Collin County because of these grants.

"Eight units and four units ... people aren't going to be busting down our doors," she said. "They'd be on a waiting

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SCOPE OF WORK: Provide all labor, material, equipment, tools and miscellaneous items necessary to remove and dispose of existing dimmer system and install new complete dimmer system in the Fine Arts Auditorium and Theaters on the Tarleton State University campus as per specifications and drawings.

Actual Installation to be completed between May 2, 2006 and July 2, 2006.

INFORMATION AND BIDDING DOCUMENTS: Obtain from Tarleton State University, Mail Stop T-0600, Tarleton Station, Texas 76402, telephone (254) 968-9611. A Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled to be held January 25, 2006 at 10:00 a.m., Purchasing & Central Receiving Services, 201 St. Felix Street, Room #104, Stephenville, TX 76401. All prospective bidders must attend the Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference in order to measure all quantities and verify all conditions. Contact Aaron Wand at (254) 968-9967 in the Physical Facilities Department located in the Administration Building, for questions concerning the specifications or mandatory pre-bid conference.

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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, January 26, 2006 at 2:00pm for the following projects:

Project 02002-DNT-A-CN-EN; Reconstruction and widening of approximately 0.882 miles of the Dallas North Tollway (DNT) from Knight/Maple Avenue to Lemmon Avenue including the replacement of the Cedar Springs Bridge in Dallas, Texas. Project includes +/- 58,300 SY of concrete pavement reconstruction, +/- 6,000 LF storm sewer installation, +/- 23,400 SF of retaining walls, widening of the existing bridges over Wycliff Ave. and Knight/Maple Ave., illumination, signalization, signage, and pavement markings. Project also includes the reconstruction of Main Lane Plaza #1 (w/o canopy) and one new Operations Building, including site grading, drainage, paving, structures, mechanical, and electrical. The Engineer's estimate of probable construction cost is +/- \$25,300,000. **Bid packet will be available January 3, 2006 at a cost of \$150.00.** Contact Karen at 214-461-2061 for more information. A **Mandatory Pre-Bid Meeting** will be held at 5900 W. Plano Parkway, Suite 200, Plano, TX 75093, (214) 461-2061, on **Thursday, January 12, 2006 at 2:00 P.M.**

Project 02038-DNT-01-CN-EN; Reconstruction of approximately 0.433 miles of the Dallas North Tollway (DNT) from south of Oak Lawn Avenue to Maple/Knight Avenue including the replacement of the DNT Bridge over Oak Lawn Avenue in Dallas, Texas. Project also includes the reconstruction of approximately 0.447 miles of Oak Lawn Ave. from I.H. 35E Frontage Road to Maple Ave. Project includes +/- 49,900 SY of concrete pavement reconstruction, +/- 6,300 LF storm sewer installation, +/- 44,200 SF of retaining walls, illumination, signalization, signage, and pavement markings. The Engineer's estimate of probable construction cost is +/- \$15,108,000. **Bid packet will be available on January 3, 2006 at a cost of \$100.00.** Contact Karen at 214-461-2061 for more information. A **Mandatory Pre-Bid Meeting** will be held at 5900 W. Plano Parkway, Suite 200, Plano, TX 75093, (214) 461-2061, on **Thursday, January 12, 2006 at 4:00 P.M.**

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.

The bid packets 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 January 12, 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

Things to think about for 2006

I was asked to see some daffodils before they are over with for the summer. Since it was a long drive from where I lived; I reluctantly promised to go see the daffodils the next Tuesday. As luck would have it, the next Tuesday was a cold and rainy day. I said, "forget the daffodils; the road is almost invisible in the clouds and fog." However, my friend wouldn't let me rest. "You will never forgive yourself if you miss this experience," she said. I unenthusiastically decided to keep my promise and go see the daffodils.

We turned onto a small gravel road and saw a small church. On the far side of the church, a hand-lettered sign read, "Daffodil Garden." We got out and followed a path to the garden. Turning a corner of the path I looked up and gasped. Before us was a glorious sight. It looked as though someone had taken a great vat of different colored paints and poured it down over the mountain peak and slopes. The flowers were planted in majestic, swirling patterns of ribbons and swaths of deep orange, white, lemon, yellows, salmon pink, saffron, and butter yellow. Each different colored variety was planted as a group so that it swirled and flowed like its own river with its own unique hue. Who did this? I asked. "It's

The Daffodil Principle

just one woman," was the answer. "The woman lives on the property." That's her home." I looked at a well kept frame house that looked small and modest in the midst of all that glory. Walking to the house, we saw a poster that read, "Answers to the Questions I know You Are Asking."



Picture of The Week
Warren Brooks, Radio Personality and Program Director for Heaven 97 KHVN 97.0AM @ one of his many speaking engagements

The first answer was, "50,000 bulbs." The second answer was, "One at a time, by one woman. Two hands, two feet, and very little brain." The third answer was, "Began in 1958."

There it was, The **Daffodil Principle**. That was a life changing experience. I thought of this woman whom I had never met, who, more than forty-seven years before, had begun with one bulb at a time—to bring her vision of beauty and joy to an obscure mountain top. Just planting one bulb at a time, year after year, this unknown woman

had forever changed the world in which she lived. She had created something of beauty and inspiration.

One of the greatest principles of celebration is leaning to move toward our goals and desires one step at a time, often one small step and learning to love the doing, learning to use the accumulation of time. When we multiply tiny pieces of time with small increments of daily effort, we too will find we can accomplish magnificent things. We can change the world. -- Unknown

TWO WAYS: To every soul there is a "high" way and a "low." The "high" soul climbs the "high" way; the "low" soul gropes the "low." In between, on the misty flats, the rest drift to and fro. Every man decide which way his soul shall go. --John Oxenham

This New Year Dear God: Help me be kinder; help me be blinder to the faults of those about me. Help me praise more. Help me, when I am weary, be more cherry. Help me serve better, those that I am striving for. Help me be braver, when temptation bids me waver. Help me strive harder, to be all that I should be. Help me be meeker, with my brother who is weaker, Help me think more of my neighbor and less of me.

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."

Freed Nigerian Inmates Page 1

The government will build six "half-way houses" to provide those being freed with education and training, Mr

Ojo said.

"By the time the process is completed, we hope to have reduced the inmates to between 15,000 and 20,000," Mr Ojo

told a news conference.

To facilitate the releases, a new chief prison inspector is also set to be named, with responsibility for improving prison conditions.

Church Happenings

CORNERSTONE BAPTIST CHURCH

January 29 - February 12, 2006

We will host "Live Action Revival Ministries" a ministry dedicated to living and teaching practical and daily application of the Word of God. Included in this two-week crusade are nightly musical presentations by the nationally recognized Life Action Singers; family seminars; young adult seminars; an informal discussion time for teenagers; a youth seminar called "rEvolution;" Dynamite Club for boys and girls in grades 2-6; and Happiness Club, a sparkly group of 4 and 5 year olds and first graders. For more information please contact Veronica Griffith @ 817-468-0083.

Cornerstone Baptist Church
Rev. Wm. Dwight McKissic, Sr.
Senior Pastor
5415 Matlock Road
Arlington, TX 76018
817-468-0083

EBENEZER WORSHIP CENTER

On Mondays Starting January 2006
Please join us each Monday for our Women of Power and Men of Power Services

Ebenezer Worship Center
Rev. Cecil T. Smith, II, Pastor
14000 Preston Road
Dallas, TX 75254
972-980-0977

FAITH & POWER MINISTRIES

January 16, 23, 30, 2006

@ 7:30 pm each Monday

Jabez Prayer Network will have a "Spiritual Warfare Boot Camp Workshop" sponsored by Dr. Shirley Clark; the public is welcomed to join us. For additional information, please call 972-285-2331.

Faith & Power Ministries
Apostle James Turknett, Pastor
2120 North St. Augustine Road
@ Bruton Road, Suite 126
Dallas, TX 75217
972-329-1358

FELLOWSHIP OF BELIEVERS MINISTRIES

January 18-21, 2006

@ 7:30 pm Nightly

We cordially invite you to a "West Dallas in Revival" @ Holiness

COGIC, 2026 Calypso Street, in West Dallas, Elder Danny Choice, Pastor, 214-747-0193. Our speakers will be Pastor Deborah N. Jackson, Fellowship of Believers Ministries; Pastor Michael L. Hodge, The Way of Truth Church; Pastor Danny Choice, Holiness COGIC; and Bishop Gregory D. Crawford, Fellowship of Believers Ministries.

February 10-11, 2006

"Hell in My House, Heaven in My Heart" Marriage Conference 2006 hosted by Fellowship of Believers International Church Association. Speakers will be Pastor Lorenzo Price, Mount Olive Baptist Church, Galion, LA; Pastor James Steed, Faith Tabernacle of the Holy Spirit, Atlanta, GA; and Host Conference Speaker, Bishop Gregory D. Crawford, Fellowship of Believers Ministries, Dallas, TX.

For more information about the above events, contact Minister Dana Blair, Church Secretary @ 214-575-8224

Fellowship of Believers Ministries
Bishop Gregory Crawford
Founder and Senior Pastor
3911 S. Lancaster Road
Dallas, TX 75216
214-372-3624

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

February 18, 7:00 pm

You are invited to participate in South Collin County's 2006 Building Foundations/Building Lives Gala @ the Marriott at Legacy Town Center. We will have a live auction and a silent auction followed by dinner and dancing to the music of the Rodney Booth Band. Auction items include: Exciting trips to Hawaii, England and California; Air travel via a balloon or "Move About The Country" with Southwest Airlines; a 4-night stay at the acclaimed Kona Village Resort in Hawaii; a venture to London for a weekend at the world-famous Lanesborough Hotel; local restaurant experiences; sports memorabilia, celebrity items and more. For detail information and ticket prices, please call Scott Blair @ 214-405-3134

Habitat for Humanity - South Collin County
Scott Blair, Development Committee Chairman
P.O. Box 868117
Plano, TX 75086-8117
214-405-3134

HOPEWELL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

January 22, 10:45 am

You are cordially invited to our Annual Friends and Family Day activities. Please join us; we hope to see you there!

Hopewell Missionary Baptist Church
Rev. Michael R. Hubbard, Sr., Pastor
5144 Dolphin Road
Dallas, TX 75223
214-823-1018

KELLER SPRINGS BAPTIST CHURCH

January 18, 2006 and each

Wednesday @ 7:00 pm

Join us for our Prayer and Praise Service followed by our Corporate Bible Study night that is lead by Pastor Sanders. There are special classes for the youth and children.

Starting January 16, 2006,

9:30 am - 10:45 am

Feeling disconnected? Plug into an Adult Bible Fellowship group; please join us on Sunday morning starting January 16th. For more information please call the church @ 972-735-8077

Keller Springs Baptist Church
Rev. Larry Sanders, Pastor
3227 Keller Springs Road
Carrollton, TX 75006
972-735-8122

NEW LIFE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

Join Us at Our New Worship Location:

"New Service Times"

Sunday Life Bible School - Sundays @ 9:00 am
Sunday Life Worship Service - Sundays @ 10:00 am
Life In The Word Prayer & Bible Study - Wednesdays @ 7:00 pm
For more information, please call 972-671-1096.

New Life Fellowship Church
Bishop Miller E. Johnson, Jr.
Senior Pastor
New Worship Location:
Wyndham Garden Hotel-Park Central
8051 LBJ Freeway
Dallas, TX 75251
972-671-1096

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 940466
Plano, TX 75094-0466
972-671-1096

Church Happenings Page 10

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

FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH OF ALLEN



Pastor W.L. Stafford Sr., M.Div

"A Ministry that is on the Move for Christ"

Sunday School 9:30 am
Sunday Morning Worship/Children's Church 11:00 am
Wednesday Prayer/Bible Study 7:00 pm
2nd & 4th Monday "Youth for Christ" 7:00 pm

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

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Phone 972-359-9956 • www.fbcfallen.org

*If you need a ride to worship with us, please call the church.



NORTH DALLAS COMMUNITY BIBLE FELLOWSHIP

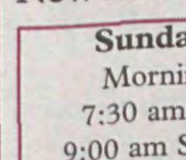
"A Spiritual Oasis for a Thirsty World" Isaiah 55:1

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

972-437-3493

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

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

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) • newmzbcb@aol.com (Email)



Ben Washington Baptist Church, Inc.

3901 Frisco Avenue
Irving, TX 75061

Church 972-790-8421 Fax 972-986-6590

Email: church@bwbcirving.org
Web: bwbcirving.org

Dr. Joseph R. Sheppard, Pastor



"THE CHURCH WITH AN OPEN BIBLE"

Sunday Worship Services

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

Wednesday

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

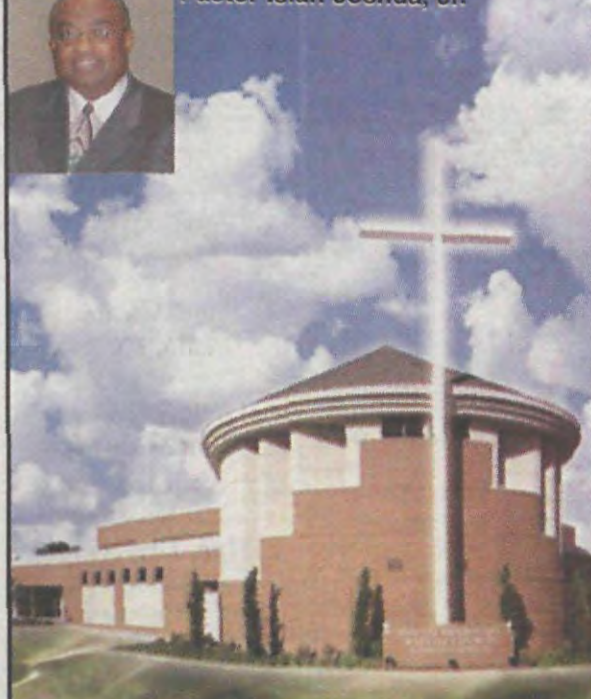
Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church

920 E. 14th Street Plano, TX



Pastor Isiah Joshua, Jr.

FANNING THE FLAMES OF OUR FAITH



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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2805 Market Loop, Suite 300, Southlake, Texas 76092
Denny D. Davis, Servant

One Church - Two Locations

Four Morning Worship Services

7:00 A.M. • 9:00 A.M. • 10:00 A.M. and 11:15 A.M.

I-10, Another Victim Of The Storm, Enjoys A Quick Rebirth

By: John Schwartz

It was one of the most memorable images in the wake of Hurricane Katrina: the twin spans of Interstate 10 over Lake Pontchartrain impossibly broken into pieces, their 260-ton slabs tossed into the water like gigantic mah-jongg tiles by the storm surge.

But amid all the things that have gone wrong on the Gulf Coast, the repair of the crucial highway has gone unusually right, coming in ahead of time and under budget. By cannibalizing one bridge to fix the other, and then using temporary steel spans to fix the first bridge, the State of Louisiana and the contractor were able to open one span in October and plan to have traffic flowing on the other as early as Jan. 6, nearly two weeks ahead of schedule.

With the bridges torn apart, a major artery of transportation joining New Orleans and Slidell was cut off.

I-10 is one of three coast-to-coast interstates that link the entire nation, stretching from Jacksonville to Los Angeles; the broken spans were an affront to the Jack Kerouac sensibility of a vast nation united by its long ribbons of concrete.

Drivers of all kinds are delighted to have their route back; Mike Smid, president of Roadway Express, a major commercial trucking company, said he had assumed there would be east-west backups throughout the winter.

"I would say we're at least six months surprised," Mr. Smid said. "I would characterize it

between exceptional and heroic."

Road damage from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita was widespread across coastal Louisiana and Mississippi. In Congressional testimony in October, Johnny B. Bradberry, the Louisiana transportation secretary, estimated the cost of repairing and replacing the state's damaged roads, bridges, public ports, airports, railroads and other transportation systems at \$5.5 billion.

The work was financed by the



Federal Highway Administration, which advised Louisiana on the project. Norman Y. Mineta, the federal transportation secretary, said through a spokeswoman that the project was "serving as a model for the kinds of efficiencies we should try to achieve in all gulf rebuilding projects."

The winning contractor, Boh Brothers Construction, was working under difficult circumstances; its own offices in New Orleans were damaged by the storm, and the company worked out of temporary quarters in

Baton Rouge. Many of the company's workers had lost their own homes, and hundreds had disappeared, most likely to other cities and other jobs.

Speed was crucial: the company would earn \$75,000 for each day before the deadline that it finished the first span, but would suffer a \$75,000 penalty for each day after Oct. 31 that the work on the first span dragged on.

The initial assessment showed about 400 feet of open or broken pavement on the 5.4-mile bridges. More than 60 of the 65-foot slabs were damaged beyond repair. The eastbound span had suffered the least damage, and in order to move quickly, the company took undamaged slabs from the westbound span and moved them over to the other bridge.

Hurricane Rita set the crews back by the better part of a week, but Boh Brothers still beat the deadline for Phase 1 by 16 days, earning the company a bonus of \$1.1 million, the most it could get, in the process. The cost of that Phase 1 work was about \$31 million - nearly \$20 million less than the state's initial estimate. Since late October, there has been two-way traffic on the single completed bridge.

Congress has appropriated up to \$629 million for a sturdier bridge to replace the 43-year-old twin span; it would broaden the crossing to six lanes from four, with spans that will sit considerably higher than the old bridge. Planning has already begun, Mr. Bradberry said.

"We're blowing and going on that thing," he said.

Church Happenings

Church Happenings Page 9

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 S. Sherman Street
Richardson, TX 75081
972-437-3493

SHIRLEY CLARK INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES

January 16, 23, 30, 2006
@ 7:30 pm each Monday

Jabez Prayer Network will have a "Spiritual Warfare Boot Camp Workshop" sponsored by Dr. Shirley Clark; the public is welcomed to join us. For additional information, please call 972-285-2331.

Shirley Clark International
Ministries
Dr. Shirley K. Clark, CEO
P. O. Box 860794
Plano, TX 75086-0794
972-424-2074

SPIRIT & TRUTH MINISTRIES

January 13, 2006 @ 7:30 pm

It's our First Church Anniversary and we're celebrating in a big way! Please join us for a FREE power-packed weekend full of joy and inspiration. You will be blessed by fantastic music, friendly people and an engaging, and a relevant message. Festivities will include, "Praise Fest '06," featuring Edward Buckley & Unity In Spirit from Oklahoma City, OK.

January 14, 2006 @ 2:00 pm

Join us as we continue to celebrate our 1st Church Anniversary with an Open House with give-aways and door prizes

January 15, 2006 @
10:30 am & 3:00 pm

You are invited to join us for our Morning Worship Service as we praise God for our 1st Church Anniversary. Our 1st Church Anniversary and Installation Service will start at 3:00 pm with guest speaker Elder Robert L. Sample, Pastor of Holy Tabernacle COGIC.

We are saving a seat for you at each exciting event. For further information contact us @ 972-279-1559.

Spirit & Truth Ministries
Elder Quentin D. Draper,
Pastor
2220 Gus Thomasson Road
Bldg A, Suite A
Mesquite, TX 75150
972-279-1559

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FREE Computer Training classes by Christian Business Services. For more information and registration, please call Rev. C. Greer @ 214-796-1294 or Email: ccgreer@sbcglobal.net

Mondays, 7:00 pm

Monday School with Holy Spirit Bible Teachings

The Inspiring Body of Christ Church (IBOC)
Dr. Rickie G. Rush, Pastor
7710 South Westmoreland
Dallas, TX 75237
972-572-IBOC (4262)

TRINITY PRAYER CHAPEL

Sign Up Now

Reynolds Wood Ministries is now conducting FREE GED and ESL Classes, Mentoring Program, and Dance/Ballet/Karate Classes (scholarships are available.)

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

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

Faithway Fellowship Baptist Church
Of Hamilton Park
8219 Bunche Dr. Dallas, TX 75243
Church Office: (972) 792-0239
Pastor's Office: (972) 792-0240

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

PEOPLE OF FAITH WITH A MIND TO WORK

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

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

Saint Mark Missionary Baptist Church
1308 Wilcox Street, McKinney TX
Pastor Charles S. Wattley

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

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

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

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

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

Website: www.ibocjoy.org

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Email: slamechurch@aol.com

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

Tuesday
7:15 p.m. Bible Study

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

Thursday
7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Reverend Charles E. Franklin, Pastor

Word of Life Church * Pastor Morris Dewayne Jackson
4321 N. Beltline Rd. Ste. 100 * Mesquite, TX 75150 * (972) 226-0019
Worship 8am * Sunday School 9:30am * Worship 11am
Wednesday Night Prayer & Bible Study 7PM
"Where Jesus Is Lord and You are always #1"

Gilead On The Mount * Pastor Mancil and First Lady Carroll
1016 Pioneer Road * Mesquite, Tx 75149 972-288-9632
Sunday School 9:30 am * Morning Worship 11:00 am
Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:30 pm
www.gileadonthemount.org
"Apply the BALM of Gilead to the hearts of men."

Little Flock Baptist Church
704 E. Aimee Street * P.O. Box 903 * Forney, Texas 75126
Phone: 214-325-7021
Fax: 214-371-8922 or 214-372-2135

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

Pastor Louis E. Laurent

Internet Broadcast: www.krgm.com (Mon - Fri @ 12 Noon)
A Place Where a "Taste of the Word" is Guaranteed
Email: thewordcuts@yahoo.com

New Life Fellowship Church
New Worship Location:
Wyndham Garden Hotel-Park Central
8051 LBJ Freeway * Dallas, TX 75251
Bishop Miller E. Johnson Jr., Senior Pastor

Mailing Address:
P. O. Box 940466 * Plano, TX 75094-0466
972-671-1096 (Church)

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

Sunday Life Bible School: 9:00 a.m.
Sunday Life Worship Service: 10:00 a.m.
Life In The Word Prayer and Bible Study (Wednesdays): 7:00 p.m.

Mt. Olive Church of Plano
740 Avenue F Plano, TX 75074 972.633.5511
WWW.MOCOP.ORG

Serving the Plano Community for 12 Years

Sunday Worship 8 am & 11 am
Wednesday Night 7:15 pm

Pastors Sam & Gloria Fenceroy

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

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 Evening Bible Study 7:30 p.m.

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