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## People In The News



MON-The Gazette is proud to congratulate Garland resident Gwen Daniels as the recipient of "double honor" from the National Association of Negro Business & Professional Women's Club, Inc.

On Saturday, April 29, Gwen will be awarded the 2006 Margaret Gilbert Volunteer Service Award at the Annual V. Alyce Foster Trailblazer Awards Luncheon.

of South Dallas Business & Professional Women's Club at the Wyndham Anatole Hotel, Dallas. Gwen has also been selected for the 2006 National Volunteer Service Award, presented at the 71st Annual National Convention on Saturday, July 29, in Long Beach, California.

"My family and I, as well as my church, the Garland NAACP and my co-workers

at Blue Cross Blue Shield are ecstatic about this milestone," she said. "Never in a thousand years did I think that across the United States and its territorial waters,

I would be named the recipient of the national award. All glory goes to God!"

A 26 year member of Kaiser Street Baptist Church, Gwen is on the American Cancer Society speaker's circuit, Co-chair of the Mabel Meshack White Black American Community Connection, Chairperson, Garland NAACP Freedom Fund Committee and Chairperson, Garland NAACP African American History Month Celebration.

Author Eric Jerome Dickey will appear in Dallas on Tuesday, April 25 for a spoken word and book signing event for his new novel Chasing Destiny. The event will be held at Black Images Book Bazaar, 230 Wynwood Village, Dallas at 6 p.m.



Eric Jerome Dickey was born in Memphis, Tennessee, and attended the University of Memphis (the former Memphis State), in 1983, he moved to Los Angeles to pursue a career in engineering.

After landing a job in the aerospace industry working as a software developer, Dickey's artistic talents surfaced, inspiring him to become an actor and a stand-up comedian. In the early 1990s Dickey found himself "downsized," but took this as an opportunity to embark on a writing career.

Eric Jerome Dickey has gone on to write over fifteen novels and has featured in many publications, including Essence magazine, USA Today and The Los Angeles Times, and his novels have appeared on the bestseller lists of the "Blackboard," The Wall Street Journal and The New York Times.

For more info on the book signing event, call 214-943-0142.



Ebony magazine's annual 100+ Most Influential Black Americans report lauds Barbara Thomas, president and CEO of the National Black MBA Association (NBMBAA) as one of the nation's top organization leaders.

"I am honored and humbled to be regarded as one of the country's most influential organization leaders by Ebony magazine," says Thomas. "However, this recognition really reflects and reiterates the NBMBAA's continued commitment to African Americans in the business world as well as our ongoing partnerships within the community and our nation's colleges and universities."

Thomas leads NBMBAA (www.nbmbaa.org), the country's largest minority business professional organization. Ms. Thomas also spearheaded the creation of the NBMBAA's Student Empowerment Relief Fund (SERF) which is providing scholarship money to students displaced by Hurricane Katrina.

In its 36th year, the NBMBAA has more than 6,000 members and 39 chapters across the country and represents more than 100,000 black MBA graduates. The group's 2006 annual conference and career fair, the nation's largest employment and networking event, will be held in Atlanta, September 26th through October 1st.

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## Grassroots Groups Gear Up For Saturday's Vote In New Orleans

By: Hazel Trice Edney - NNPA

After weeks of candidate debates, a march for voting rights, several voting rights lawsuits and a week of pre-election voting, grassroots groups are stepping up their outreach to displaced New Orleans voters leading up to this Saturday's election.

"I think the turnout is going to be a surprise. You take a look at what has happened in early vote as well as absentee ballots that have been sent in, they seem to be above what election officials had anticipated," says displaced New Orleans community activist, Vincent Sylvain, New Orleans' coordinator of the Rebuild Hope Now Campaign of the National Coalition on Black Civic Participation.

At the beginning of this week, more than



Candidates for New Orleans mayor Ron Forman, left, and Mayor Ray Nagin sit on the set before a nationally televised debate in New Orleans on Monday

10,500 voters had cast early ballots in 10 Louisiana communities. In addition, 15,000 voters had requested absentee ballots; about 3,000 have been returned.

New Orleans Elections Page 10

## The Covenant With Black America Climbs To #1 On The New York Times Book Review

The Covenant with Black America, a collection of essays by African Americans that examines issues such as education, health care and judicial disparities, has jumped to #1 on the New York Times' list of nonfiction, paperback books (as of April 23, 2006).

With an introduction by media personality Tavis Smiley, the book has appeared on the bestseller list for five consecutive weeks. Smiley spearheaded The Covenant project and edited the text. Popularity of the book has been spurred primarily by talk radio and

word of mouth.

"Black America has spoken and the message is, 'We care



about the state of our families, access to education, jobs and health care," said Smiley.

"This text provides the research and background on how to improve Black America. Now we look forward to the conversations

The Covenant Page 9

## Plano's Oak Point Amphitheater Opens To Much Fanfare



By: Lakisha Hughes

Plano's new Oak Point Amphitheater, flanked by a picturesque landscape at 2801 E. Spring Creek Parkway, officially opened at 8

p.m. on Friday, April 14. Austin-based Country-Western band the Derailers opened the venue by setting the tone of the evening which resembled more of a down-home Texas festival rather than an ordinary outdoor concert.

The 1,000 person, \$2.5 million outdoor theatre is a venue for quality special events, concerts, festivals and theatre productions that you won't have to

Plano's Amphitheater Page 8

## Dallas District Attorney Investigating Election Violation In Garland

**Alleged Violation Involves Councilman's Wife, Election Judge**

By: Paul Hailey

The Dallas County District Attorney is currently investigating whether an election violation occurred during the Garland Republican Primary Runoff Election on Tuesday, April 11, 2006.

The violation concerns the posting of a flyer on voting booths that criticized some candidates and supported others in the upcoming Garland City Council elections. By pointing out the candidate's strengths and weaknesses, the flyers were an obvious attempt to influence voters in the polling place, a violation of the law prohibiting political propaganda and campaigning in a polling place. According to the Texas Election code: "A person commits an offense if the person indicates to a voter in a polling place by



Randall Dunning, Garland District 8 Councilman word, sign, or gesture how the person desires the voter to vote or not vote."

Election Violation Page 5

## Plano's Mayoral Candidates Square Off In Polite Manner At Forum



Mayoral competitors Ken Lambert and Mayor Pat Evans squared off at the first lunch debate sponsored by the Plano Rotary Club and Plano Chamber of Commerce moderated by Gray Mayes

By: Paul Hailey

Plano's two mayoral candidates squared off for the first time recently at a candidate lunch forum sponsored by the Plano Chamber of Commerce and Plano Rotary club. There were no pointed arguments or friction between Mayor Pat Evans and challenger Ken Lambert as they remained polite, agreed on several points, and shook hands afterward. The forum was the first of several that are scheduled prior to the May 13 election and was followed by an evening forum organized by the Plano Homeowners Council.

Former Mayor Pro Tem Ken Lambert did attempt to draw contrast between him and Mayor Evans on the issue of Plano's aging infrastructure. He emphasized his experience as a former Plano city engineer, city manager and City Council member make him more qualified to facilitate Plano's change from a high growth to maturing city.

"With many Plano buildings older than 30 years old, the city continues to decline. I have the knowledge of city government and the experience to lead the community in the next decade

Mayoral Candidates Page 9

## 2 Duke Players Arrested On Rape Charges



From left, Durham Mayor Bill Bell, Duke President Richard Brodhead and North Carolina Central University Chancellor James Ammons listen to questions during a press conference at North Carolina Central University in Durham, N.C.

AP Two Duke University lacrosse players were arrested on rape charges Tuesday in a scandal that has rocked one of America's elite campuses and raised explosive questions of race, class and the privileged status of college athletes.

The two players — both graduates of Northern prep schools — were promptly booked and

released on bail. District Attorney Mike Nifong said a third player could also be arrested but has yet to be firmly identified.

"It is important that we not only bring the assailants to justice, but also that we lift the cloud of suspicion from those team members who were not involved in the assault,"

Duke Players Arrested Page 6

## Plano Geared Up For 1st Annual Regional Warrant Roundup

The City of Plano will be participating in the 1st Annual Regional Warrant Roundup beginning Monday, April 24 through Sunday, April 30. To date, approximately 44 jurisdictions in the North Texas area are involved in this recovery endeavor, meaning that individuals with outstanding Plano warrants may be arrested by any neighboring authority taking part in this joint effort.

During the warrant roundup week, law enforce-

ment officers from the North Texas Region will canvas the area to arrest individuals with outstanding warrants. Those with outstanding Plano warrants can avoid arrest by contacting the Plano Municipal Court before April 24th to make payment(s).

Plano Court Administrator Vicki Smith says, "A fine is punishment for certain misdemeanor violations, and lack of compliance in

Plano Warrant Roundup Page 4



# AKA Regional Conference

Since its inception in 1924, South Central Region of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority has attracted some of the most prominent African-American women in the country. Spanning across the states of Texas, Arkansas, and Louisiana, Alpha Kappa Alpha focuses on issues within the black community. On April 6-9 Alpha Kappa Alpha hosted its

74th annual Regional Conference at the Hilton Anatole Hotel in Dallas. The conference was designed to address the concerns and interest of African-Americans, present Chapter and Individual awards, and strengthen the bonds of sisterhood. The conference also offered seminars, Basile training, the celebration of Diamond, Golden, and Silver Sorors, and a health fair. The con-

ference health fair allowed attendees to get their blood pressure and blood sugar checked with free health consultations provided by organizations such as the Diabetic Association, American Heart Association, AIDS Arm, Sickle Cell Anemia Foundation, North Texas Imaging, Cataract Institute and Bridge Breast Awareness.

The highlight of the conference

was the AKApollo Talent Show night where the best of the best in the South Central Region performed, including Step Teams, singers, dancers, poets, and entertainers. The conference closed with an ecumenical service with Rev. Yolanda Herron-Palmore of Houston as the speaker.



Sisters of Alpha Kappa Alpha socializing during the reception.



Rodney Thompson supplied jazz tunes on his piano.



Saxophonist Thom Brownlee Jr. provided soulful sounds for entertainment.



Tanisha Fuller-Felix and Marjorie White of San Antonio.



Alison Riddle-Fletcher of Baltimore, MD



Vicky Wesley of Austin, TX

The Black Academy of Arts and Letters Presents

## SPLIT ENDS



When has your hair betrayed you, saved your life or set you free? Find out in this humorous and fearless show which explores true life accounts of how women of African descent's hair has been and continues to be both burden and liberation, barrier and connection and cross and salvation. A solo performance by VENUS OPAL REESE is a show that'll keep you talking about hair for days!

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## Around The Town

### Ongoing

#### Sankofa Unplugged!

Come experience the nation's best Open Mic Experience. Musicians, Poets, Actors, be ready to "Bring the heat" to the Sankofa stageSankofa Arts Cafe & Bar1906-1908 Martin L. King, Jr. Blvd Dallas. Every Saturday 9:00 p.m. 214-421-0013, [www.myspace.com/sankofakre](http://www.myspace.com/sankofakre)

**Mesquite Community Theatre** presents "Housekeeper". This play has biting humor and wit. Directed by Rick Tuma. For reservations or information 972-216-8126.

**Teen Reaching Teens, Inc.** and Teen Graffiti Magazine presents free computer training. Courses offered Wednesday and Friday, 4:30-5:30 p.m. and Saturday 12:30-3:30 p.m. Call 972-496-9457. Through April 30.

**Drums Not Guns** will hold drumming sessions from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. the second and fourth Saturdays of the month thru mid-May at Old Settlers Park Recreation Center, 1201 E. Louisiana St. Call 214-641-0782 for information.

**Alpha Beta Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi** a social service cultural sorority meets the second Monday of each month in members

home in Frisco, McKinney, and the Plano area. Call 972-473-9089.

**Assistance League of Greater Collin County** meets the third Wednesday of each month. Visit [www.assistance-league-gcc.org](http://www.assistance-league-gcc.org).

**Allen Symphony Chorus** is recruiting singers for its April 29 performance. Rehearsals are from 7:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m., Thursdays, Choir Room Ereckson Middle School, 450 Tatum Dr. For information call 972-359-0656.

**A free legal clinic** is offered for residents who meet low income guidelines, 6:00 p.m., second Thursday of each month, First United Methodist Church, 601 S. Greenville Ave. Applicants must be Collin County residents and income eligible. Call 1-800-906-3045.

**The Frisco Housing Authority** is offering tenant-based rental assistance to 22 eligible families and individuals for rental housing in Frisco. Call 972-377-3031 for information.

**The Women's Museum** shows "Apron Chronicles: A Patchwork of American Recollections. Features storytelling, photography and vintage fashion. Call 214-915-0871 for information. Exhibit runs thru May 14

**Diaries of a Barfoot Diva:** And Other Tales and Stories from the Ghetto a New Musical Jubilee Theatre, 506 Main Street in Fort Worth, 8 pm \$12 - \$25, 817-338-4411 Through April 23.

April 20

### Comedian

**Tommy Davidson**, April 20-23. Addison Improv, 4980 Beltline Rd., Addison. Call 972-404-8501.

**The first ever Cash America Quarterback Bowl** presented by Autoflex Leasing is Thursday at Reunion Arena. KTCK, 1310 am the Ticket, the official radio station of the Dallas Cowboys will host the first ever QB Bowl between Troy Aikman's Team Musers and Roger Staubach's Team Hardline. All Tickets are \$13. Call 972.785.4900, [www.the ticket.com](http://www.the ticket.com).

### April 21

**Urban Arts Festival**, April 21-23 The festival is the first of its kind for the Dallas and will showcase contemporary visual and performing arts. Dallas native Erykah Badu is serving as the festival's honorary chair. Visit [www.urbanartsfest.com](http://www.urbanartsfest.com) or call (214) 485-7012.

**BET's Comievew/Def Comedy Jam** comedian, Hope Flood, is hosting LOVE WITHOUT A LIMIT from 10:00 PM to 2:00 AM at Club Aqua, 4140 Lemmon Avenue, Dallas. LOVE WITHOUT A LIMIT is a "meet and greet" to support and encourage women and men who have a loved-one on lockdown, by bringing them together to share their similar circumstances with each other.

**The Dallas Black Chamber of Commerce** invites you to attend the Ninth Annual Excellence in Education Scholarship Luncheon Recognizing Outstanding

Performance in Education. Registration: 11:00am / Program & Luncheon: 12:00 noon, Dallas Convention Center, 650 South Griffin Street, Dallas. Call (214) 421-5200 or visit [www.dbcc.org](http://www.dbcc.org)

### April 22

**Plano Police Department's Super Safety Saturday.** Plano Police Department's Crime Prevention Unit will be joined Fire and Public Safety Communications (911) personnel. In addition to the safety information displays, PPD will perform VIN etching & HEAT registration on vehicles, pass out gun locks, and offer child fingerprinting and identifications. Target Retail Store, at Park and the Tollway, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Call 972-941-2431.

**Singing Diva's of DFW.** The Irving Black Arts Council presents "Singing Diva's of DFW". This concert event will feature three dynamic local artists -Ardina Lockhart, Bregget Rideau and T.K. For more information call 972-206-0774.

**History Alive!** Come see and experience the rich culture of Texas History at Farmers Branch Historical Park at 2540 Farmers Branch Lane, Farmers Branch. Admission is \$2 per person. Open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information call 972-406-0184.

### April 23

**Mesquite NAACP ACT-SO** presents "Sounds of Flavor" benefit concert. The concert will be held at the Granville Arts Center, 300 N. Fifth St., Garland, 6:30 p.m. The concert will feature

local artist Angela Blair and proceeds will go toward sending ACT-SO Competition winners to the National Competition in Washington, DC this summer. ACT-SO is a yearlong enrichment program designed to recruit, stimulate, improve and encourage high academic and cultural achievement among African-American high school students. Call 972-288-0281 or visit [www.mesquitenaaacp.org](http://www.mesquitenaaacp.org).

**Blues Jam.** Every Sunday The Pigeon Hole holds a blues jam session with local musicians.123 W. Irving Blvd, Irving. Call 972-259-4912.

### A Celebration of Improving Life in Collin County.

Lakeside Market is hosting a weekend-long family event honoring the Junior League of Plano's 30-years of service. On Sunday, join us for "Kids in the Kitchen" and learn healthy cooking techniques from Central Market and participate in a fun and interactive exhibit provided by Children's Medical Center. Lakeside market is located on the corner of Preston and Lorimar in Plano. For more information call 972-769-0557.

### April 25

**Political Forum.** The Garland Branch of the NAACP will be holding a political forum starting at 6:45 p.m. at the Women's Building, 713 Austin Street, Garland. For more information call 972-414-7804.

**Volunteer of the Year Awards Luncheon.** A celebration of all the outstanding volun-

teers from throughout Collin County. Plano Centre, 2000 East Spring Creek Parkway, 11:30-1 p.m. For more information contact the Volunteer Center of North Texas at 214-826-6767 or visit [www.volunteer northtexas.org](http://www.volunteer northtexas.org).

**Free Health Care Seminars.** The Nicholson Memorial Library System and Baylor Medical Center at Garland are co-sponsors of free seminars at the Central Library. The seminars begin at noon and end at 1 p.m. Reservations are required; call 1-800-422-9567.

### April 27

**Estate Planning Seminar** Free 90-minute program will be presented by Dallas Estate Planning Attorney, Richard P. Johnson who is Board Certified in Estate Planning and Probate Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization. Admissions is FREE. For reservations call: Karen at (972) 497-1010 or email [Karen@RichardJohnsonLaw.com](mailto:Karen@RichardJohnsonLaw.com)

### April 28

**The Boy Scouts of America** Whitney M. Young, Jr. Awards Luncheon. Featured speaker is Lt. Russel Honore' . Fairmont Hotel, 12 Noon. Contact David Tyson for additional info at [dctyson@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dctyson@sbcglobal.net) or 972-644-0454.

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# Proud To Be An Active Partner In The Community





**Paul Hailey**

Ten days ago, a crowd estimated at between 350,000 to 500,000 people in white shirts marched in downtown Dallas to protest more stringent immigration laws being considered in Congress.

It took a few days for the full impact of what I had witnessed to completely register with me. Half a million people protesting? In Dallas, Texas? Peacefully and without incident?

Two things immediately come to my mind in reviewing the protest. The first is that this had to be as Jim Schutze of the *Dallas Observer* termed it—"the single most significant political event in the history of the city of Dallas." Bigger than the Klan rallies of the 1930's, bigger than the crowd that gathered downtown on the day John Kennedy was shot, bigger than any of the civil rights rallies of the 1960's. In fact, Dallas has only seen that many people downtown during the Cowboy Superbowl parades of the 90's. Not only did the event have a massive turnout, the march was meticulously and flawlessly organized by Latino leaders, just like student walk-outs and similar marches across the country have been.

The second thing that struck me is that no local or area elected officials have jumped on the bandwagon of the protestors, or even commented on their efforts. None.

Mayor Laura Miller, (yet again displaying her knack for doing and saying the wrong thing), told the *Dallas Morning News* that she didn't attend the rally because it concerned a national, not a Dallas issue. Huh? I'm not a political analyst, but even I can see this is ridiculous logic. Half a million people march right up to city hall in your backyard and it's not a local issue?

Consider then, that local or

## Immigration Protests: Have We Awakened A Sleeping Giant?

not, it is about to become a political issue with immense consequences.

Mobilization of Hispanics on the immigration issue is only a prelude to what is about to happen locally and nationally on a political level. The new "majority minority" is here, they are organized, and they are angry. And they are preparing to vote.

"Today we march, tomorrow we vote" isn't just an empty slogan," says Dr. Susan Gonzalez Baker, director of the Center for Mexican-American Studies at UT-Arlington.

Voter registration is the natural extension of the protest spirit. And we're not just talking about illegals.

"Those 500,000 who marched are not all illegal immigrants or legal residents, who can't vote," said Dr. Gonzalez Baker. She also conjectured that legal immigrants haven't voted in the past due national pride keeping them tied to Mexico, as well as Mexican politics long being dominated by one party so the right of voting held less value. That condition is rapidly changing.

"I think Latino immigrants have seen...voting really matters in the United States," she said.

Political involvement breeds more political involvement. Following the Million Man March in 1995, two million more black males voted in 1996. The potential for Hispanics change the face of U.S. Congress in the 2008 elections is staggering. Between 1998 and 2002, Hispanic registration increased 20 percent and voting increased 10 percent. At that rate, Hispanic turnout could match black turnout this year.

This new Hispanic political clout will also change the face of local and state races. In Texas, U.S. Representative Pete Sessions is in a district that voted over 60% for George Bush in 2004. That same district is over 40 percent Hispanic, with a history of anemic turnout in the Hispanic community. How does Sessions view his

reelection chances without George Bush's coattails and a politically mobilized Hispanic population? The same is true all over the state. There is now no county in the state of Texas without at least a 20 percent Hispanic population.

In 2004, Hispanics got sucked into the gay-marriage hysteria and voted over 45 percent Republican. That's not happening in 2008.

For the practical political lesson, one only has to look at Dade County, Florida. Nearly thirty years ago, 30 percent of Miami-Dade residents were Hispanics, yet there were essentially no Hispanic local or state officeholders from the county. The rift between the Republican, Cuban population and the local white, Democratic majority touched off a wave of voter registration and candidacies in the Hispanic community that changed South Florida politics completely.

Political change is always exciting. One in three people in Texas and California are of Hispanic origin. The Hispanic population of Dallas is 40 percent and growing, while Hispanic voter turnout in city elections is in the low single digits. All you have to look at is the composition of the Dallas ISD School Board, which is becoming more Hispanic-just like the school district itself.

It's been said that the most revolutionary thing a people can do to facilitate change is to vote. I have a hard time believing that the folks who so effectively planned and executed immigration law protests involving over 2 million people in the past few weeks are going to disappear during election time. They are here, and they're not going anywhere. And unless black people learn to forge a new coalition of common interests with Hispanics on a local, state and national level, we will find ourselves being governed by brown people that aren't us.

Paul Hailey can be reached at editor@MonTheGazette.com

## McKinney, DeLay And Distraction



**By: Margaret Kimberley**

The corporate media and the American political system have a relationship that can only be described as corrupt. The media long ago rendered themselves incapable of informing the public of anything important or providing any meaningful analysis. They no longer even bother to hide their bias in favor of right wing politics and corporate interests.

The conflict of interest was made obvious when Congresswoman Cynthia McKinney became involved in an incident with a Capitol Hill police officer. At the same time, Republican House majority leader Tom DeLay, indicted for conspiracy and money laundering, announced that he would not run for re-election.

Cynthia McKinney hadn't gotten into a shoving match with a cop, she would have to have been invented. The media would have had to tell us more about Katie Couric's move to CBS, celebrity gossip, or a runaway bride, anything to distract us from Republican criminality.

DeLay continued his snake-like ways until the very end. He stayed in a race he was likely to lose because campaign funds can also be used to pay for legal fees. Tom will have to pay plenty for his lawyers, hence the eleventh hour announcement that he was bowing out.

He couldn't go out with any class, of course. After whining that he was being picked on for being a Christian, the indicted DeLay said that McKinney should face an ethics charge and called her a racist.

There was worse to come. On the same day that McKinney apol-

ogized for pushing, shoving, or slapping, Tom DeLay sent a goon squad to push, shove and slap little old ladies or anyone else who attended a press conference for Nick Lampson, a Democrat running for the vacated seat. DeLay's campaign manager sent an email beseeching supporters, "Let's give Lampson a parting shot that wrecks his press conference."

CNN never aired the footage showing DeLay's goons. They did repeatedly air footage of a confrontation between a McKinney staffer and a reporter.

Cynthia McKinney isn't a crook. You wouldn't know that from the vitriolic press coverage she received. Even liberals took their pot shots. She has passionately spoken against the occupation of Iraq. She didn't lie to Congress or the United Nations about WMD and she hasn't profited from the destruction of a nation and the deaths of its people. She didn't shoot a lawyer with a shotgun and then dispatch a private citizen to make the announcement. Only Vice Presidents get to do that.

The other members of the Congressional Black Caucus were silent while McKinney twisted in the wind by herself. They should have long ago defended her right to retain her seniority in the House. They could have pointed out that unlike DeLay, she and her staff won't be modeling orange jump suits. If all else failed, they could have just pointed out the wrong doing of Republicans. Instead they said nothing at all.

It is hard to crawl out on a limb when your party makes itself irrelevant, but silence doesn't help. The limb only gets weaker and weaker.

If there was any doubt that the fix was in, Chris Matthews, host of MSNBC's *Hardball*, proved that even disgraced, criminal Republicans are the masters and the media are the lackeys. Matthews interviewed DeLay and was caught with his pants down during a commercial break.

MATTHEWS: Hey thank you for calling me. It was a good thing

for me, mostly.

DELAY: Oh really.

MATTHEWS: Oh of course it was. We got on the air as fast as we could.... [...]

MATTHEWS: Shannon [DeLay aide] told me, she called me, she said 'don't worry - he's not calling in to complain'...

MATTHEWS: Have you seen this new focus group stuff on the candidates?

DELAY: No I haven't.

MATTHEWS: It's great stuff. I'll send it to you - it's great - yeah it's great stuff. Hillary, John Kerry. All these guys, all these Democrats, and how they do. And, uh, Frank Luntz did it...

DELAY: who I like....

MATTHEWS: ...and Hillary did not do well. Kerry did well.

DELAY: You're kidding.

MATTHEWS: I am NOT kidding. They didn't like Edwards - they thought he was a rich lawyer, pretending to care about poor people...

DELAY: Too slick. Too slick.

MATTHEWS: ...and Hillary was a know-it-all.

DELAY: Nothing worse than a woman know-it-all. [...]

MATTHEWS: Thanks. I owe you one. I owe you two - today and last night.

DELAY: No you don't.

MATTHEWS: No, I do.

DELAY: I appreciate it.

Chris Matthews and the rest of his colleagues are whores who go after the best paying clients. Even a Republican on his way out office and possibly into a jail cell is the most sought after john in town.

While Matthews confessed to being in the thrall of Republican pollsters and crooks, McKinney had to apologize when Republicans threatened to bring her before a grand jury. She unintentionally became the media distraction that took Republican corruption off the front page.

Margaret Kimberley is a freelance writer living in New York City. You can read more of Ms. Kimberley's writings at [freedomriders.blogspot.com](http://freedomriders.blogspot.com).

## Imping Weeds In The Bushes

**By: Sean Gonsalves**

With news of our virtuous, straight-talking president being linked to the CIA leak case, there will undoubtedly be renewed calls for impeachment.

So, naturally, as a word columnist, I started looking into the etymology of the word in my Webster's Dictionary of Word Origins. There was no entry for impeach or impeachment. Curiously, there was an entry for "imp." The word usually refers to either a small demon or a mischievous child. But, according to Webster's, the word is rooted (pun intended) in the field of horticulture, taken apparently from two Latin verbs: putare (to trim, or prune) and imputare (to graft into or on).

Webster's says it wasn't until the 14th century that "imp" was put to metaphorical use, meaning offspring or child. A century later imp took on negative connotations, and in 1753 Edmund Spenser popularized it as a pejorative term in a poem called "A Long Story."

"Thereabouts there lurk'd/ A wicked Imp they call a Poet, Who prowld the country far and near/ Bewitch'd the children of the peasants..."

A self-described moderate conservative reader sends me chiding but thoughtful notes from time to time. Though he's a distinguished poet, he's not a wicked imp. Recently, he sent me a news clip about how liberals tend to have fewer children than conservatives, which seems strange to me because I was raised in a family with conservative values. I was nurtured in a church that preached a conservative theology and I attended private Catholic school for most of my school life. I also have three children. And what about all those "welfare queens" pop-

ping out illegitimate babies faster than Dick Cheney's pheasant-hunting gun can target a friend's face?

Anyway, the article goes on to imply that if the trend continues, conservatives will outnumber liberals in the not-too-distant future, as if political ideology is biologically determined. It also assumes conservatives don't already outnumber liberals, which many conservatives claim.

There may be a nugget of truth to this kind of neo-wishful thinking, but then again, I've come to know more than a few former conservatives who've gradually changed their minds, in part because they realized family values and having a personal relationship with the "truth, the life and the way" have nothing to do with remaining silent in the face of usury, debt slavery, "benign neglect" of the poor (as Katrina unveiled), or justifying wars of choice, manipulating available intelligence, using torture, illegal spying on U.S. citizens, and the obvious ongoing cover-up in connection with the outing of Valerie Plame.

If a war correspondent reports on anything other than "mission accomplished" there are cries of treason coming from conservative quarters. Where's all the loose-lips-sinks-ships hand-wringing over the Plame affair? Maybe this is overstating the case but, conservative or liberal, isn't it obvious what's happened in Iraq? After imposing 13 years of sanctions on the Iraqi civilian population, which killed 500,000 children under the age of 5, we launched a pre-emptive invasion in which thousands more were killed, based on fabricated intelligence. Then, somehow, most "informed" Americans believed we would

be welcomed as liberators and that the war would be paid with Iraqi oil.

Meanwhile, bin Laden, seeking a way to impose an intolerant Islamicism across the Arab world, decided to bait the U.S. into invading the most secular and westernized Arab nation on the planet, which alienated our allies, causing (perhaps) irreparable damage to U.S. credibility, dividing the country and plunging the nation into debt.

That's why we can't simply say, let's stop debating the past. The past is still with us because now, not only has bin Laden yet to be captured, but his followers are getting real-world battle experience in Iraq; to say nothing of the fact that because we removed Saddam and installed a Shia-dominated government over a bitterly sectarian Iraq, a civil war has been unleashed in which we are seen as killing Sunnis on behalf of Shias, who happen to be intimately tied to a nuclear-producing Islamicist Iranian government Bush calls part of the "axis of evil."

I can picture bin Laden thanking Allah that the U.S. invaded Iraq with plans to "stay the course."

That's why the we-have-to-stay-in-Iraq argument is so shortsighted and dangerous. It's also why war critics keep harping the U.S. military presence in Iraq as precisely what's fanning the flames of the insurgency" the exact opposite of our stated goals.

It boggles the mind, but impeachment only leaves us with Cheney. We need another way to imp the weeds in the bushes.

Sean Gonsalves is a Cape Cod Times staff reporter and a syndicated columnist.

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

While you ponder that thought we would like to announce that Minority Opportunity News, Inc., formerly a Dallas based renaissance community tabloid, founded in 1991, has relocated to Plano, Texas and changed our name to MON-The Gazette. In addition to moving our offices to Plano, our editorial coverage has also shifted to encompass Dallas' Northern Corridor. The Northern Corridor is clearly the fastest growing region in Texas, if not in America. MON-The Gazette believes that the engine to continue this growth is the airport expansion in McKinney, which is the largest and most visible of many area opportunities. As always, and true to tradition, MON-The Gazette will be there carving a world of opportunity for those seeking to provide quality services. Should you dare to expand your quest for economic parity outside the southern region or just want to know what is going on up north-

**Think of MON-The Gazette as your paper of opportunity!**

MON-The Gazette formally Minority Opportunity News, was founded July, 1991, by Jim Bochum and Thurman R. Jones





# Black-Farmers Settlement Assessed

Seven years since a landmark settlement between the U.S. Department of Agriculture and black farmers, Congress is sorting out what went right, what went wrong and whether to intervene.

The watchdog arm of Congress issued a report yesterday totaling the winners, the losers and the tens of thousands who got shut out from relief under the 1999 settlement of a class-action lawsuit over discrimination in loans and other credit programs.

Activists on behalf of more than 71,000 farmers or family members who sought unsuccessfully to file claims late under the settlement and weren't even considered for payments said they hope the Government Accountability Office study will help prod Congress to re-open those cases.

"Based on all these findings, it's reason for Congress to expedite a fix -- to fix this mess," said John W. Boyd Jr. of Baskerville, Va., president of the National Black Farmers Association. "Here we are seven years later,

and this report is saying how messed up this thing is."

The report, combined with black farmers' plans to rally in Washington next week, "ought to help open the eyes of some Congresspeople," said Gary Grant of Tillery, N.C., president of the Black Farmers and Agriculturalists Association.

Of about 22,400 claims decided by January of this year,



14,300, or 64 percent, were approved for payments and benefits to black farmers totaling more than \$900 million, the GAO said.

Meanwhile, 8,100 claims, or 36 percent, were denied, the federal agency said.

When a federal judge handled the case, he estimated that 15,000 to 20,000 black farmers might

qualify under the settlement. Yet five to six times more people ultimately submitted claims, including nearly 74,000 that were late, the GAO said.

When officials monitoring the settlement initiated reviews requested by individual black farmers of decisions on their claims, the farmers prevailed in more than 90 percent of 1,344 cases reviewed, according to the GAO.

The GAO suggested that the USDA might consider establishing an ombudsman to address civil-rights issues.

In 2004, a House of Representatives panel was told that many black farmers didn't submit timely claims because the settlement was not well advertised. A fix, to allow those farmers who filed late to have their claims heard on merits, was discussed but not enacted.

"This issue remains an ongoing oversight interest of the committee," a spokesman for the House Judiciary Committee, Jeff

Lungren, said yesterday.

Rep. Robert C. Scott, D-3rd District, was among lawmakers requesting the report.

The independent government report, Scott said, "re-emphasizes the fact that an overwhelming number of people were not notified [about the settlement] and are losing their case on a technicality," Scott said yesterday.

Rep. Bennie Thompson, D-Miss., said the report "highlights the enormous obstacle placed between the nation's black farmers and justice. Not only have farmers been kept from farm programs through USDA, but they have also been kept from court-ordered redress."

USDA spokesman Ed Loyd said the Agriculture Department's office of assistant secretary for civil rights performs the role an ombudsman might fill.

Vernon B. Parker, the first person to hold that civil-rights post, was sworn in April 2003 and announced his resignation in December. Loyd said an effort is under way to find a replacement quickly.

## Plano Warrant Roundup Page 1

paying court fines and fees calls into questions the authority and effectiveness of the court and the justice system. A warrant roundup is a way for courts to take appropriate responsibility for the enforcement of its orders by holding individuals accountable, and sending a message to a defendant to take care of their business."

After area Court Administrators met in early March, they concluded that a warrant roundup would be an excellent tool to get closure on outstanding cases and kick off a Collections and Compliance Program. Senate Bill No. 1863, passed in the last legislative session, mandates cities with populations over 100,000

implement a Collections and Compliance Program effective April 1, 2006.

Persons wishing to see if they have an outstanding warrant in Plano may check the Plano Police Department website at [www.planopolice.org](http://www.planopolice.org) or the Plano Municipal Court website at [www.plano.gov/citations/](http://www.plano.gov/citations/). If unable to visit the Municipal Court location, warrants may be disposed of with a credit card payment by phone through Government Payment Services (GPS) at 888-604-7888. Defendants will need the warrant number and the total amount due on the warrant when calling GPS. Partial payments will not clear a warrant.

Later, Smith will gather the Regional Warrant Roundup data from participating juris-

dictions, and provide each with a copy of the final results after May 1, 2006. Each jurisdiction

is committing resources at whatever level available to coordinate local efforts.

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## Black-Owned Businesses Grow At High Rate

The number of businesses owned by black entrepreneurs grew more than four times the national rate for all businesses from 1997 to 2002, the federal government said Tuesday.

Black entrepreneurs owned 1.2 million businesses in 2002, an increase of 45 percent from 1997, according to a report by the Census Bureau.

"It's encouraging to see not just the number but the sales and receipts of black-owned businesses are growing at such a robust rate, confirming that these firms are among the fastest-growing segments of our economy," Census Bureau Director Louis Kincannon said in a statement.

Revenues from black-owned businesses increased by 25 percent during the period, to about \$89 billion.

The report is the third in a series of Census Bureau reports on businesses owned by women, Hispanics and blacks. Together, the reports show that the three groups are underrepresented in business ownership but are narrowing the gap with white men.

From 1997 to 2002:

- The number of all U.S. businesses grew by 10 percent, to about 23 million.
- The number of female-owned firms grew by 20 percent, to 6.5 million.

• The number of Hispanic-owned businesses grew by 31 percent, to nearly 1.6 million.

Overall, black entrepreneurs owned 5 percent of U.S. businesses in 2002, Hispanics owned about 7 percent, and women of all races and ethnicities owned 28 percent, according to the Census Bureau.

The overwhelming majority of black-owned businesses were small - 92 percent had no employees other than the owners. By comparison, about three-fourths of all U.S. businesses have no employees.

"I'm proud," said Harry Alford, president and CEO of the National Black Chamber of Commerce. "We're the fastest-growing segment."

Alford said black entrepreneurs have been helped by improved education levels and increased incomes among black consumers and business owners.

Blacks as a group still trail whites in education and income, but they have made gains in the past half-century. In 1950, only 14 percent of black adults had high school diplomas, compared with 36 percent of whites, according to the Census Bureau. The gap narrowed by 2000, when 72 percent of black adults had at least a high school diploma, compared with 84 percent of whites.

"We've got the first generation of significantly educated people," Alford said. "There's a black middle class like never before."

The report is based on administrative records and a survey of 2.4 million businesses. The Census Bureau defines black-owned businesses as private companies in which blacks hold at least 51 percent of stock or interest. The report does not classify public companies, with publicly traded stock, because they can be owned by many stockholders of unknown races and ethnicities.

Black-owned businesses are not concentrated in any sector. The largest sector was health care and social assistance, with 246,000 black-owned firms. The second largest was other services, such as personal services, repair and maintenance, with 210,000 firms.

However, in some states, black-owned firms are concentrated in urban areas. About 80 percent of all black-owned businesses in Illinois were in Cook County, home to Chicago. Los Angeles County was home to nearly half the black-owned firms in California.

New York state had the most black-owned firms, with 129,324. It was followed by California, Florida, Georgia and Texas.

## Abbott Signs Johnson For Health Initiative

Abbott Laboratories Inc. has signed on a celebrity - Magic Johnson - as part of its efforts in HIV/AIDS research.

The health care products maker announced Friday that it is teaming with the retired basketball superstar to address health disparities in minority communities through a multi-year, nationwide education effort.

Abbott, which makes drugs used to fight AIDS and other diseases, said it will join with Johnson and his foundation to create educational platforms in cities with a high prevalence of HIV infection. Johnson, who is infected with HIV, established the Magic Johnson Foundation in 1991 to raise funds for community-based organizations dealing with HIV/AIDS education and prevention programs.

Under the partnership, Johnson will share his story of living with HIV and free, confidential HIV testing and counseling will be offered. Those attending testing events also can have their blood pressure, peak flow levels and glucose levels checked during a 10-city tour beginning Monday in Chicago.

"Minority communities are faced with challenging health obstacles as a result

of social and cultural factors - but we can change that," Johnson said in a statement released by Abbott. "I am thrilled to be teaming up with Abbott to make a difference and build awareness among vulnerable populations about health risks to which they may be socially disadvantaged, to share my personal story, and to have an open dialogue about important health facts that must not be overlooked."



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### Election Violation Page 1

The flyers were posted by Karen Dunning, wife of District 8 Councilman, Randall Dunning, with the approval of Election Judge Jay Pierce.

The flyers in question were discovered when Garland District 2 Plan Commissioner Goldie Locke entered a voting booth during the Republican Primary on April 11. Ms. Locke noticed the flyers critiquing candidates in the City Council election attached to both sides of the voting booth. When exiting the booth, Ms. Locke was stunned to see Election Judge Jay Pierce at a table with a copy of flyer in plain view.

"I was so shocked when I walked into that voting booth," said Ms. Locke. "At first I thought it was some kind of instructions. Then I looked at the top of the flyer and saw the word 'look'. I began to read and noticed that it was all political propaganda. As I walked out the booth I noticed that every one of the booths had the same flyer attached to the inside. I asked the young man who was acting as the election judge what it was and if I could have a copy. He said yes, and I picked up what appeared to be the last one."

After leaving the polling place, Ms. Locke went to see her longtime friend, former Garland Councilwoman Annie Dickson. Ms. Dickson faxed to the flyer to the Dallas County Sheriff's Office. Ms. Locke also went to the home of current Councilwoman Terri Dunn, who immediately took the flyer to Garland City Hall.

Ms. Dunn described the scene at City Hall.

"When I got down to City Hall I saw a Sheriff's car sitting by the door with someone in there. I talked with the Sheriff and his deputy asking what they were going to do about it. I followed the Sheriff's investigator inside while he talked with Jay Pierce, the election judge. When the Sheriff asked him what time he received the information (flyers), he said 'about 11 a.m.'. The investigator asked him who gave him the flyers and he said 'Karen Dunning'."

According to Ms. Dunn, Pierce went on to say "She brought the flyers down here and asked if she could display the flyers since it was about the next election, and I said she could. They were handing them

out inside the building as the people left the election area."

Karen Dunning admits she put up the flyers with the consent of the election judge.

"Yes, I did take the flyers to City Hall. The election judge said the people needed to know about the election and he put them up," she said. I checked with the election judge and he said that in prior elections he had called downtown and they had said that as long as it did not pertain to the current election it was okay."

Not according to Bruce Sherbet, Dallas County Elections Administrator.

"The posting that was put in the voting booths was allowed by the election judge, Jay Pierce. It was a very negative posting and should not have been allowed. The flyer gave information about people in the upcoming city council elections. It was a violation, because nothing, absolutely nothing is supposed to be posted in the election booth. It was a very poor judgment call on the part of the election judge. I can tell you right now that the District Attorney is looking into the allegations to see if there was an election violation."

Mr. Sherbet also indicated Mr. Pierce would not be recommended for future elections.

"Since election judges are recommended by my office, our recommendations are sent on for the Dallas County Commissioners who make the final selection. This year we will probably not recommend that Mr. Pierce be selected as an election judge. Ranette (Garland's City Secretary) has contacted us and until this is settled we will be watching other elections very closely in Garland."

Ms. Dunning also expressed regret over the incident.

"The flyer did get a lot more notoriety than I had thought," said Dunning. "They have sent copies to everyone. We had whited out something and I see that they uncovered that. I'm really sorry they did that because it will hurt someone I really care about."

The election violations add further confusion to a city council election that has been the source of controversy for months in Garland. Members of council districts 1, 2, 4 and 5 had maintained they were elected for 3 years; therefore their terms were not up until 2007. However,

members of the group called "Let Us Vote" objected and pushed the issue through to the Fifth District Court of Appeals for resolution. The court ruled in favor of the "Let Us Vote" group and mandated elections be held by June 17th. A special meeting of the Garland City Council voted on March 28 to hold an election on June 17th.

Although Harry Hickey who represents district 3 on the Garland City Council is not up for re-election in 2006, he has sided with the four who maintained their terms were not up until 2007.

"I think the court forgot that we are a home ruled city," said Hickey. "I knew in my heart that the folks behind this matter would find some judges favorable to their cause and that's what happened. It's interesting to find that a lot of Republican politicians should be up for the ruling, so what does that tell you? I thought we were working for the citizens and not promoting the Republican Party platform."

Councilwoman Terri Dunn is upset with the negative turn in the election.

"I am out here running because they wanted to vote," said Ms. Dunn. "Is this the type of election they wanted? If this is what they wanted how can they stand up there and call us a liar and a communist. I'm running a clean campaign. I could do a lot of stuff, but that's not what it's all about for me."

Ms. Locke also discovered lines on the flyer that have been

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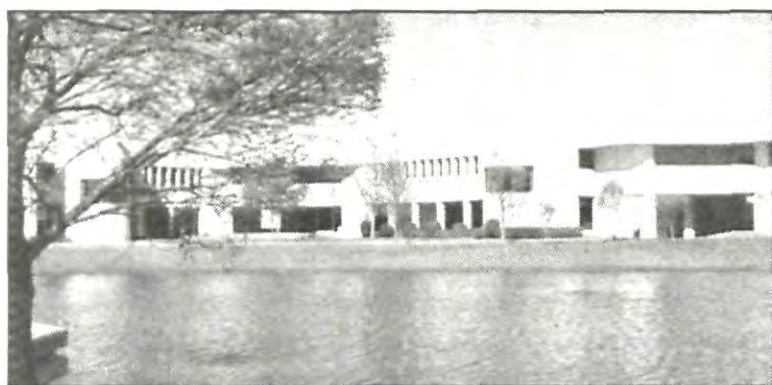
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## Plano East Senior High To Host 25th Anniversary Celebration



students, parents, teachers and staff will be recognized, and a reception in the cafeteria will follow the program.

Current and former students, parents and staff are encouraged to tour the campus after the program. Student organizations will conduct guided tours, and rooms will be set up for optional activities such as meetings with former classmates, parent groups, and staff members.

The Plano East Band, Orchestra, Choir, Cheerleaders, and Drill Team will provide entertainment at various locations around the campus, concluding at 3:30 p.m. with a pep rally by the pond.

Plano East Senior High is making plans to celebrate its 25th Anniversary on Sunday, April 30. The Celebration Program will be held in the gymnasium beginning at 1:30 p.m.

"We will honor the past,

embrace the present, and look forward to the future of Plano East, where we are "still winning with class," said Principal Karen McDonald.

Former Principal Archie McAfee will be the keynote speaker. Current and former

## UNT And Dallas Morning News Offer 10 Scholarships To Mayborn Literary Nonfiction Writers Conference

The Dallas Morning News is offering five minority student scholarships for the Mayborn Literary Nonfiction Writers Conference of the Southwest, sponsored by the University of North Texas' Mayborn Graduate Institute of Journalism.

In addition, UNT faculty and staff members are offering five general scholarships for any high school, college or university student.

The annual conference will take place July 14-16 at the Hilton DFW Lakes Executive Conference Center, located at 1800 Highway 26 East in

Grapevine. The conference is open to anyone interested in exploring the art of nonfiction writing - including narrative storytelling and factual narration. Guest authors, editors and literary agents will present lectures, conduct workshops, offer insights on how to build a career in literary nonfiction publishing and answer questions from conference participants in small and large group sessions during the conference.

The Dallas Morning News minority scholarships will cover the \$150 student conference fee and accommodations at the Hilton DFW Lakes for the nights of July

14 and 15 (Friday and Saturday). The conference fee includes dinner receptions on Friday and Saturday and lunches on Saturday and Sunday. The general scholarships will cover the cost of conference registration.

Scholarship applications can be downloaded at <http://mayborninstitute.unt.edu>. Submit applications to the Mayborn Writers Conference at P.O. Box 311460, Denton, TX, 76203-1460.

Scholarship applications must be postmarked by Thursday, June 15.

For more information about the conference, go to: <http://mayborninstitute.unt.edu>.

## Sofresh Is In The Air At Eastfield's Gallery 219

Gallery 219 at Eastfield College presents EFC SoFresh: Work by Sophomore/Freshmen Art students. Dates for the exhibition are April 21- May 5 with a reception on April 26 from 5 - 8 p.m. This reception is shared by the Eastfield Clay Guild's show and sale in the Library.

This student exhibition is the largest and one of the most exciting shows we have each semester. It is a celebration of the hard work that goes on in the Art Department at Eastfield College. This exhibition will contain a variety of works in an equal variety of media: metals, painting, drawing, ceramics,

photography and sculpture.

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For more information, contact David Willburn at 972-860-7162 or [davidwillburn@dccc.edu](mailto:davidwillburn@dccc.edu). Gallery information can also be found at [www.eastfieldcollege.com/art](http://www.eastfieldcollege.com/art).

Duke Players Arrested Page 1  
Nifong said.

Lawyers for the two men bitterly assailed the district attorney for bringing the charges. Other attorneys for Duke's lacrosse players said the two were not even present at the time the rape is alleged to have occurred.

Reade Seligmann, 20, of Essex Fells, N.J., and Collin Finnerty, 19, of Garden City, N.Y., are accused of attacking a stripper at a team party at an off-campus house on the night of March 13. They were charged with first-degree rape, sexual offense and kidnapping and were released on \$400,000 bail each.

The district attorney would not say what evidence led to the charges. But Seligmann's attorney, Kirk Osborn, said: "Apparently it was a photo-

graphic identification. And we all know how reliable that is."

The case has raised racial tensions and heightened the longstanding town-vs.-gown antagonism between Duke students and middle class, racially mixed Durham. The accuser is black, and all but one of the 47 lacrosse team members are white.

The case has led to the resignation of the coach and the cancellation of the rest of the season.

"Many lives have been touched by this case," said Duke President Richard Brodhead in a statement. "It has brought pain and suffering to all involved, and it deeply challenges our ability to balance judgment with compassion. As the legal process unfolds, we must hope that it brings a speedy resolution and that the truth of the events is fully clarified."

The district attorney has said

that the woman making the allegations, a 27-year-old student and mother of two, was attacked by three men. In a statement, Nifong said he hopes to charge a third person, "but the evidence available to me at this time does not permit that. Investigation into the identity of the third assailant will continue in the hope that he can also be identified with certainty."

Attorneys for the players have demanded Nifong drop the investigation, arguing that DNA tests failed to connect any of the team members to the alleged rape. They have also charged that the accuser was intoxicated and injured when she showed up for the party.

"This is probably the worst miscarriage of justice I've seen in 34 years of practice," said another Seligmann lawyer, Julian Mack.

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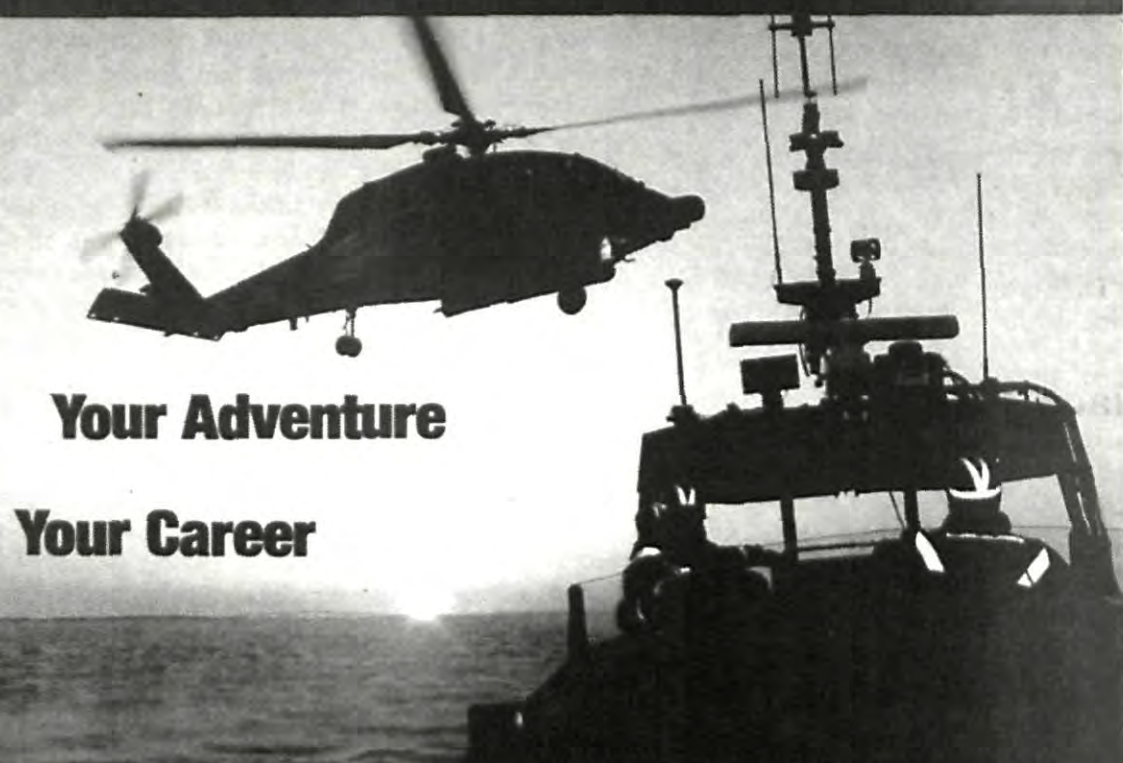
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## Kelly Rowland Gets Personal On Solo LP

Kelly Rowland is attempting to work out some personal thangs on her new album "My Story: Kelly Rowland," due in stores July 11 via Columbia/Sony Urban Music.

The former Destiny's Child member, who pre-viewed the entire CD for members of the media last week, told Billboard that the majority of the songs are about her personal relationships.

"I just went in the studio and just did me, because I think that's when you get your

best product," Rowland, 25, tells Billboard. "That's when it's



just natural. It just flew out of my mouth and came out in lyrics [and] I had great writers involved."

Rowland's second solo effort features writing and production from singer/songwriter Tank, while guest appearances from Snoop Dogg, Shawnna and Remy Ma are still in the works. Rowland is also mulling the idea of adding Houston rappers to the project.

"This album is very different from the last record. It was so alternative and this record is urban," she said. "I wanted to go back to my roots [because] that's where I started and that's what feels natural to me."

## Ashanti, Family 'Not Coping At All' After Cousin's Death



A promoter for the South African concert that was to feature Ashanti Saturday spoke out about her family's

profound grief following the sudden death of the singer's cousin by a drunk driver.

"It has been very traumatic. They are not coping at all," promoter Morris Roda was quoted as saying.

Monday evening, the singer flew the body of her cousin, 20-year-old Quinshae Snead, from Johannesburg back to the United States. They had been in the country for only 36 hours when the incident happened.

According to The Star newspaper, Snead offered to drive back to their hotel and retrieve some forgotten items that

Ashanti wanted for the concert.

En route to the hotel, Snead's vehicle was struck from behind by a 17-year-old driver who had stolen his mother's car and was driving drunk without a license. Snead was flung from the vehicle and into the path of an oncoming car. Ashanti's bodyguard, Steven Arendse, was driving the car that carried Snead. He was also thrown from the vehicle and hospitalized, but is expected to recover.

Ashanti's parents, sister and brother had also accompanied her to South Africa.

## Veteran Rapper DMC Calls For Less Violent Rap Lyrics

D12 rapper Proof's death is a tragedy. But why this violence keeps occurring is another tragedy altogether, according to hip-hop pioneer Darryl "DMC" McDaniels, who lamented that rappers getting in violent altercations has become so commonplace that it's expected.

"There's a lot of that going around lately," he said recently at a Saturn auto show/charity bash for the bone marrow donation center DKMS, for which he's a spokesperson. "It's not a good thing. Something has to give."

McDaniels, who lost Run-DMC's DJ Jam Master Jay in 2002, said that while the music doesn't cause crime, it's not helping matters either. Imitating a thug life, even just for image's sake, helps keep the cycle of art-imitating-life-imitating-art on repeat. "Everything that these rappers try to get away from is everything that kills them," he said.

Plus, when it's not about projecting a tough image, it's about bling, which doesn't address or solve any problems either, he said.

"We know what they're doing, what they're wearing, what they're driving, who did what last night in a club, who're they dating. You get a lot of rappers

saying, 'Yo, we got money now, everyone's eating, everything is good, you know what I'm saying?' Well obviously everything isn't good, and I don't know what you're saying, because a lot of rappers aren't saying nothing on records right now."

What DMC would like to see is a little more balance and substance, he said. If hip-hop is the black CNN, as Chuck D once suggested, then make it more well-rounded, more objective, and use the power of communication for more than boasting and posing, which can only cause more problems when rappers start believing their own bluster.

"If you're going to rap about a gun, rap about not using a gun," McDaniels said. "If you're going to rap about a bitch and a ho, let them know there's aunts, grandmothers, good people in the world too. We rap about the kid selling drugs on the corner, but what about the kid flipping burgers at McDonald's so that he can not sell drugs? We laugh at that kid, but that just might be more gangsta than being out on the corner hustling."

Citing Public Enemy, De La Soul, A Tribe Called Quest and



N.W.A, DMC said hip-hop used to be "all relevant and universal" and that a lesson could be learned from the old school: "You've got to say more than one thing. You've got to have more than one image and concept in your music. You're missing the universal concepts that keep another person from shooting another person."

"The only reason I'm saying what I'm saying is that I have experience on my side," he added. "I'm not in jail, I didn't OD, I didn't get shot."

Just in case anyone thinks he's just nostalgic and wants a return to the way hip-hop was back in the day, DMC has a retort ready — he doesn't want it mired in the past, he's more concerned about its future, "so that the younger generation can understand that it's not all about what you see and hear on the records now."

## Ice Cube Defends TV Show 'Black.White'

Rapper/actor Ice Cube has slammed critics of his controversial new race show Black.White, insisting he just wanted to spark a debate. The hip-hop star denies deliberately setting out to upset viewers and hopes the TV program, in which a black family swaps lives and color with a white family, is informative.

He tells AllHipHop.com, "I just wanted to get dialogue and get people talking about race; I wanted the show to reflect that there is still a problem with race relations in America, and that there are many layers dealing with the subject. I really don't care what people say about me, because honestly I am used to it. My intent (is clear) when I say, 'The things aren't to offend anyone, it's to hopefully open the viewer's or the listener's eyes



to see that there are problems out there and to get people to talk about them."

He added, "I think everyone has a racist point of view, and that's why these shows and people addressing the issue head on, whether it be through a record or whatever, is needed to get people talking and dealing with their own selves."

## Black Actors Star In 3 TV Dramas

In a first for Hollywood, black actors have garnered leading roles in three hourlong television dramas, the Chicago Tribune reports.

In the past, black actors and other minorities have been relegated to playing side-kicks, noble bosses, judges, villains or criminals of the week but never the leading man. This year things have changed.

Adrian Lester, a black actor from England, was chosen to play the head of NASA's Jet

Propulsion Lab in the Fox sci-fi pilot "Beyond."

Dennis Haysbert, who played David Palmer in "24" for four seasons, is now the head of a special forces team on CBS's "The Unit."

Over at FX, Andre Braugher heads up a multiracial cast on the acclaimed new drama "Thief."

"It may be insubstantial and soon melt away or it may be the beginning of something significant," Braugher told the Tribune. "My hopes are that it's the beginning of something significant."

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spend a whole paycheck to see. The amphitheater's size is geared to accommodate regional bands and events for the North Texas area. Located adjacent to the Plano Balloon Festival grounds in Oak Point Park and next to Rowlett Creek, Oak Point Amphitheater includes terrace seating around a stage on a hillside which is suitable for blankets and lawn chairs. Also, the amphitheater has state-of-the-art sound and lighting eliminating the problem of groups having to set up

their own stage equipment, which was previously done at Oak Point Park events.

Oak Point Park is the city's largest park and is in the process of a multitude of improvements, which include new hiking and equestrian trails, a 17-acre lake, conservation areas, and group meeting places. City officials highly anticipate Oak Point Amphitheater to generate shows on a regular basis that will turn Plano into an affordable, high profile, live music spot and bring more visibility to Oak Point Park and Nature Preserve.

City of Plano's Park and Recreation Department has already received numerous calls about the new amphitheaters' availability for the summer season. In the coming months, Oak Point Amphitheater will host a multitude of events including a Shakespeare festival, jazz concerts, a chili cook-off, a teen battle of the bands, and the city's own Picnic in the Park.

In keeping with the theme of

affordability, leasing rates are \$500 for four hours and \$1,000 for eight hours, not including security, stage labor, and concessions. The rates are lower for non-profits, such as charities, churches, and benefits. For booking information, contact Creative Arts Manager Jim Wear at 972-941-5202. Event tickets may be purchased in telephoning Plano's Creative Arts office at 972-941-5215.

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##### CONSTRUCTION/MAINTENANCE CONTRACT(S)

Dist/Div: Dallas

Contract 0196-07-026 for CONSTR NEW 6-LN BRG OVER TRINITY RIVER (CALATRAVA) in DALLAS County will be opened on June 08, 2006 at 1:00 pm at the State Office.

The contractor's attention is directed to the fact that a pre-bid conference is optional and prospective bidders do not have to attend in order to bid. The pre-bid conference will be held on **Tuesday, May 16, 2006** from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm at the Hampton Inn Suites off 1700 Rodeo Drive in Mesquite, Texas.

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

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Austin, Texas 78704  
Phone: 512-416-2540

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

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## Church News



### Sister Tarpley

Last week our story stopped with people from around the world ready to bid on rare and priceless art pieces that once belonged to a father and his son. After the death of the son, who died first in a war saving a fellow soldier, and then the father died. Their rare and priceless art was put up for sale. The auctioneer started with a painting of the son that was given to the father by the soldier that the son was carrying to safety when he was killed. The soldier was so grateful that he painted a picture of the son and presented it to the father as a gift. The father was very proud of the picture and counted it as his most valued art piece.

On the platform set the painting of the son. The auctioneer pounded his gavel. "We will start the bidding with this picture of the son. Who will bid for this picture?" There was dead silence; you could hear a pin drop on cotton.

A voice in the back of the room shouted, "We want to see the famous and priceless paintings. Skip this one." But the auctioneer persisted. "Will someone bid for this painting? Who will start the bidding? \$200? Perhaps \$100 as a starting bid for the son? Another voice shouted angrily. "We didn't come to see this painting. We came to see the Van Gogh's, the Rembrandt's. Get on with the real bids!"

## Take My Son! (The Conclusion)

The auctioneer continued. "The son! The son! Who'll take the son?"

Finally, a quiet voice came from the very back of the room. It was the long time gardener of the man and his son. "I'll give \$10 for the painting." You see, being a very



**Picture of The Week**  
Ms. Toi Pearson, a senior at McKinney High School receiving an award from her pastor, Rev. Charles S. Wattleby, Saint Mark MBC in McKinney.

poor man, \$10 was all that he could afford, especially now that his employer was dead, he didn't even know if he would still have a job.

"We have a \$10 bid on the floor, who will bid \$20?" announced the auctioneer. "Give it to him for \$10. Let's see the masters!" \$10 is the bid, won't someone, anyone bid \$20? The crowd was becoming very angry. They didn't want the picture of the son. They wanted the more worthy investments for their collection.

The auctioneer pounded the gavel. The bid is \$10, going once, going twice, sold to the gentleman

for \$10.

A man sitting up front shouted, "Thank God that's over with, now let's get on with the real collection! The real bids—The rare paintings!"

The auctioneer laid down his gravel. "I'm sorry, the auction is over." What! It can't be! What about the famous paintings, the rare works of art?"

"I am sorry said the auctioneer. When I was called to conduct this auction, I was told of a secret stipulation in the will. I was not allowed to reveal that stipulation until this time. Only the painting of the son would be auctioned. Whoever bought that painting would inherit the entire estate, the houses, the land, the cattle, and yachts, everything that you don't see here, and what you see here, including the rare paintings. The man who took the son gets everything!"

—Author Unknown

**Remember, the value of anything is what an individual is willing to give up for it. Jesus willingly gave His life for us. Much like the auctioneer's message, God's message today is: "The Son! The Son! Who'll take the Son?" Easter 2006 is over but it's not too late to, "Take The Son!" Mark 8:36 says, "For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?"**

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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."

### The Covenant Page 1

from readers and the actions they will take to implement positive change."

The Covenant, published by Third World Press, Inc., the nation's oldest independent African American book publisher, is also the first non-fiction book by a Black

publisher to reach and top the best-seller list. Third World Press, Inc. receives all proceeds from this text. The book debuted in the #6 spot in the Times' March 26 edition following its February release.

Covenant with Black America is a national plan of action to address the primary

concerns of African Americans today -- from health to housing, from crime to criminal justice, from education to economic parity. The 254-page book is divided into 10 core chapters outlining key issues.

For more information about The Covenant project or the book, visit <http://www.covenantwithblackamerica.com>.

## 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



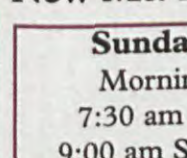
**Pastor W.L. Stafford Sr., M.Div.**  
**"A Ministry that is on the Move for Christ"**  
Sunday School 9:30 am  
Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 am  
Children's Church 11:30 am  
Wednesday Prayer/Bible Study 7:00 pm  
2nd & 4th Monday "Youth for Christ" 7:00 pm

Come experience the Worship Atmosphere at Fellowship, you will never be the same.  
200 Belmont Drive • Allen, Texas • 75013  
Phone 972-359-9956 • [www.fbcfallen.org](http://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**  
1010-1020 South Sherman Street • Richardson, TX 75081  
[www.ndcbf.org](http://www.ndcbf.org)

### New Mt. Zion Baptist Church of Dallas



**Sunday Service**  
Morning Worship  
7:30 am & 10:30 am  
9:00 am Sunday School  
**Wednesday Service**  
Prayer Meeting 7:00 pm  
Brotherhood 7:00 pm  
Missions 7:00 pm  
Singles Group 7:00 pm  
Bible Study 7:45 pm  
**Dr. Robert E. Price,**  
Senior Pastor

**A Praying Church Family**  
**"Watchmen on the Walls"**

214-341-6459 (Phone) • 214-342-8403 (Fax)  
9550 Shepard Road  
Dallas, TX 75243

[www.nmzb.org](http://www.nmzb.org) (Website) • [newmzb@aol.com](mailto:newmzb@aol.com) (Email)

Visit Our Website At [www.MONTheGazette.com](http://www.MONTheGazette.com)

## Church Happenings

### BETHANY MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

April 30, 10:00 am & 3:30 pm

Please join us as we celebrate our Annual Women's Day with our special morning guest, Dr. Beverly Mitchell-Brooks, President and CEO, Dallas Urban League, Dallas, TX. Our afternoon guest is the renowned Rev. Lelious Johnson, Senior Pastor of St. Paul Baptist Church, Dallas, TX. Our theme for the day: "Prayerful Women Build Women," Ephesians 4:11-15

For additional information please call the church @ 214-352-3552.

### Bethany Missionary Baptist Church

Rev. Albert K. Haynes, Senior Pastor  
6710 Webster Street  
Dallas, TX 75209  
214-352-3552

### COALITION OF CHURCHES IN PRISON MINISTRY

On-Going Mentor Program

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

### Coalition of Churches in Prison Ministry

Rev. Isaac Johnson, Coordinator  
P.O. Box 225863  
Dallas, TX 75222-5863  
972-235-6432 or  
214-632-6519

### COMMUNITY INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH MINISTRY

Tonight, April 20, 7:30 pm

Pastor Lisa will be the guest speaker at the Fellowship of Believers International Church Association's National Women of Character Conference 2006. The conference is being held at the Comfort Suites Hotel, 2287 W. Northwest Hwy off of I-35 (behind the Waffle House), Dallas, TX 75220, the hotel phone number is 214-350-4408. Please join us for this Holy Spirit evening of worship and praise.

### Community International Outreach Ministry

Pastor Lisa Tarpley, Overseer  
526 Compton Avenue  
Irving, TX 75061  
972-986-5552

### EARTH'S HEAVENLY WORD MINISTRY (HWM)

Tonight & Tomorrow, April 20 - 21, 7:00 pm

We proudly present our 3rd Annual Conference, "Putting On The Whole Armor of God," Ephesians 6:10-18, to be held at

### Mayoral Candidates Page 1

through a transition," he said during the lunch forum.

Mayor Evans, a two-time incumbent, countered that the city is addressing needs through its capital reserve fund which provides funds for infrastructure improvement and repair.

"This is really not a worry to us," she said. "We will leave no

Church of The Disciples, 220 S. Cockrell Hill Road, DeSoto, TX 75115. We are asking, Who's Playing Dress Up? Our conference starts with the renowned Dr. Shirley K. Clark of the Jabez Prayer Network Ministry, Dallas, TX on Thursday and Pastor Lecora Dove, The Church Within Christian Ministry, Austin, TX on Friday night.

April 22, 9:00 am & 6:30 pm

Please join us for the conclusion of "Putting On The Whole Armor of God" with Bridgette Johnson, Founder/President of Stand In The Gap Intercessory Prayer Ministries, Inc. in Westbury, NY for the morning session and Elder Evelyn Wilson, Founder of EHW International Deliverance Ministry in Desoto, TX.

For more information, registration fee and directions to Church of The Disciples, please call 214-908-8408.

### Earth's Heavenly Word Ministry

A Division of Evelyn Wilson Ministries  
P.O. Box 2079  
DeSoto, TX 75123  
214-908-8408

### EBENEZER WORSHIP CENTER

April 23-25, 7:30 pm

Please join us for our Spring Revival with guest pastor A. L. Bell of the First Baptist Church in Texas City, TX. You don't want to miss this anointed Word from God. We will be looking for you!

### Ebenezer Worship Center

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

### FAITH & POWER MINISTRIES

May 1-5, 7:30 pm

Please join us for our Life Changers Fellowship Conference 2006 at the church. Our theme: A Change is Coming; and our Keynote Speaker is Tim Lynch

May 6, 2006

Don't miss the conclusion of our Life Changers Fellowship Conference 2006 with a banquet at Paul Quinn College in the Isabel and Comer Cottrell Grand Lounge, 3837 Simpson Street, Dallas, TX.

For more information and direction to the church or Paul Quinn College, please call 214-664-9201.

### Faith & Power Ministries,

Apostle James Turknett, Pastor  
2120 North St. Augustine Road  
@ Bruton Road, Suite 126  
Dallas, TX 75227  
972-329-1358

### FAITHWAY FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH OF HAMILTON PARK

April 23 and 30, 2006

Please join us in honoring Pastor Derrick & First Lady Diane Bowman, Sr. for a job well done @ their 4th Annual Pastor's and wife's Anniversary Service. We will celebrate four great years of Ministry at Faithway with our theme: Chosen, Equipped & Committed.

God is blessing us with some anointed preaching and spirit-filled worship and praise services. Our special guest pastors, Dr. Gregg Foster and Pastor Anthony Foster will be accompanied by their members at First Baptist Church of Hamilton Park in Richardson, TX on Sunday April 23, 2006 @ 3:30 pm.

One week later, on Sunday April 30, 2006 @ 4:00 pm our special guests will be Pastor Larry D. Pruitt from Christian Faith Baptist Church in Ft. Worth, TX; Pastor J. E. Curtis from New Jerusalem Baptist church in Tyler, TX; and Pastor E.A. Anderson from Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Fairfield, TX and their congregations. Come and enjoy the great fellowship. We will be looking for you!

For additional information, please call 972-792-0239 or 972-792-0240.

### Faithway Fellowship Baptist Church of Hamilton Park

Rev. Derrick Bowman, Sr.  
Senior Pastor  
8219 Bunche Drive  
Dallas, TX 75243  
972-792-0239

### FELLOWSHIP OF BELIEVERS MINISTRIES

Tonight and Tomorrow,

April 20 - 21, 7:30 pm

The public is invited to join us for our National Women of Character Conference 2006. Our theme is, "He's My Father and I'm His Little Girl." Guest speakers include Pastor and Overseer Lisa Tarpley of Community International Outreach Ministries in Irving, TX on Thursday night, and Pastor Quavelyn Owens from Turning Point Deliverance Ministries in Dallas, TX on Friday night.

April 22, 10:30 am - 4:30 pm

Please join us for our Saturday's seminars with guest speakers Evangelist Sondra Hailey, Mesquite, TX; Pastor D. Jackson, Fellowship of Believers Ministries, Dallas, TX; Co-Pastor Viola Rouwtt, Grace & Mercy Fellowship Church, Dallas, TX; and Evangelist V. Burris, God's Women of Revelation Deliverance. Saturday's lunch is included with the registration fee. Vendors are welcomed.

The three-day conference is being held at the Comfort Suites Hotel, 2287 W. Northwest Hwy off of I-35 (behind the Waffle House), Dallas, TX 75220, the hotel phone number is 214-350-4408.

Church Happenings Page 10

part in our city aging. We will leave no part of our city to age or decay. We're seeing redevelopment like the Home Depot at Parker and Custer replacing aging retail."

Both candidates said they would work to maintain public safety, encourage diversity and attract economic development, although they differed on how to go about attracting that development.

Mr. Lambert reiterated his proposal that Plano create a "dedicated stream" of economic development funds controlled by the city council. He floated his proposal to the city council last year but it was not approved.

"One cent could generate \$2 million," he said. "This would give the council flexibility so that when

Ikea comes along and we have to spend a couple of million dollars to get it done like Frisco did, we can have that choice."

Mayor Evans stated that Plano fosters economic development by leveraging its school system, diversity and quality of life as advantages to compete for businesses.

"We've gone through what surrounding cities have gone through with the struggle of growth," she said. We have low taxes for a city of our size."

Early voting begins May 1. The Collin County League of Women Voters has announced two candidate forums: April 29 at 3:30 p.m., Haggard Library, 2501 Coit Road, and May 3 at 6:30 p.m., Schimelpfenig Library, 5024 Custer Road.

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**Come Celebrate Easter with Family & Friends**  
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on Sunday - April 16, 2006

- Starting at 9:30 am Serving Coffee and Donuts
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**For More Information: 972-238-7927**  
[www.enterthekingdom.org](http://www.enterthekingdom.org)

**Pastor Myron T. Wilson**

**Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church**  
920 E. 14th Street Plano, TX

**Pastor Isaiah Joshua, Jr.**

**FANNING THE FLAMES OF OUR FAITH**

**Sunday Worship Services 8AM & 11AM**

Sunday	9:45AM Sunday School
Monday	7PM Youth, Brotherhood, Mission & Young Adult Ministries
Tuesday	7PM Bible Study & Men's Choir
Wednesday	7PM Mid-Week Service
Thursday	7PM Mass Choir

For more information call (972) 423-6695  
[www.shilohbaptistchurch.org](http://www.shilohbaptistchurch.org)

*Come Share The St. John Experience*

**St. John Baptist Church**

1701 W. Jefferson St., Grand Prairie, Texas 75051  
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.



## NAACP To Challenge The IRS In Federal Court

The NAACP announced today that it is taking steps to challenge the IRS's examination of the organization in federal court later this year.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) announced today that it is taking steps to challenge in federal court the Internal Revenue Service's threat to revoke the NAACP's tax-exempt status because its Chairman, Julian Bond, criticized the Bush administration's policies in a speech in 2004.

NAACP President Bruce S. Gordon said: "We remain concerned that the IRS's decision to audit the NAACP, particularly the timing of the commencement of this audit, was motivated by politics rather than grounded in the federal tax law. Frankly, the way the case has been handled by the IRS to date, including dragging its feet on several outstanding Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests, it seems that the gov-

ernment's strategy is to delay and withhold information in the hope that we'll concede. Well, the NAACP doesn't give up so easily. We must defend the principles at stake and demand better treatment on behalf of the countless organizations in our sector that need clear guidance in this area."

As a protective measure, the NAACP filed a form with the IRS in September (Form 4720) to report and pay the estimated amount of tax related to Bond's speech as if it had constituted campaign intervention. Bond made his remarks during the 2004 NAACP Convention in Philadelphia. The NAACP estimates that it spent a total of \$176.48 to disseminate the speech - including the cost of photocopying, the costs associated with the posting of the speech on the website, and the proportionate share of the costs incurred in providing a link to a live broadcast of the convention. Accordingly, the estimated tax it paid (10%) amounted to just \$17.65.



NAACP President Bruce Gordon

"Neither the NAACP's decision to report this amount, nor the decision to pay the estimated tax, represents an admission by the NAACP of any liability," according to NAACP General Counsel Dennis Courtland Hayes. "The NAACP has now filed a claim for a refund of the \$17.65. If the IRS fails to issue the refund or otherwise respond to our request for a refund within 6 months, the NAACP intends to seek review of the refund claim in federal court."

## New Orleans Elections Page 1

Although people, displaced by Katrina, are spread across the nation, concentrated mostly in other parts of Louisiana, Atlanta, Ga. and Texas, Sylvain says he doesn't believe distance or stratification will stop determined voters.

There had been widespread concern that African-Americans - who made up 63 percent of the New Orleans electorate - might lose political clout because of displacement. However, if the trend for early voting and absentee ballots holds, Blacks will vote in the same proportion that they did prior to Hurricane Katrina, election officials predict.

"This is one situation in which I would not hazard to guess. I wouldn't have a clue," says Ron Walters, University of Maryland political scientist, who is usually brimming with predictions and analysis. However Walters did say that the intricate problems of former New Orleans residents will

play a major role in whether they will participate.

"I would imagine that a lot of them are trying to deal with survival issues, which complicates any judgment about how many will get on a bus and come to New Orleans, even for one day to vote," says Walters.

Of the 22 candidates running, incumbent Mayor Ray Nagin, Lt. Gov. Mitch Landrieu, and Ron Forman, president and chief executive of the Audubon Nature Institute have emerged as leading candidates. It is a forgone conclusion that no candidate will win a majority in Saturday's election, creating a May 20 runoff between the top two contenders.

It is expected that Nagin will end up in a runoff between neither Landrieu or Forman. This has led to an interesting twist, with the two White candidates attacking each other rather than taking on Nagin. Each has raised more than \$1.5 million and TV commercials are expected to become more personal the closer it gets to Election Day.

Katrina has created an unusual predicament for New Orleans voters who have seen their homes and polling places destroyed.

The Louisiana Secretary of States office has organized what is being called "Super Precincts," the consolidation of a number of former polling places into one. In order to clarify questions of voters showing up at their old precincts, he says a person has been stationed at each former precinct in order to give correct information. Workers at Super Precincts will also watch for elderly, pregnant or otherwise disadvantaged people who are standing in long lines.

Meanwhile, the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund has launched a "Pass it On" campaign urging everyone to pass on information about its special booklet to help displaced residents.

Copies of the brochure can be obtained by calling 1-866-OUR VOTE or going to [www.katrinavote.org](http://www.katrinavote.org).

## Church Happenings

### Church Happenings Page 9

#### FELLOWSHIP OF BELIEVERS MINISTRIES

May 5-6, 2006

Fellowship of Believers Ministries and Waxahachie Bible Church presents, "Waxahachie Youth Crusade" @ 621 N. Grand Avenue, Waxahachie, TX 75165, Rev. Bruce Zimmerman is the pastor. Our theme: "Passing The Mantle To The Next Generation." On Friday night @ 7:00 pm, Pastor Bruce Zimmerman will bring the Word of God. On Saturday, 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm, we will have a Corpora prayer in the parking lot of Waxahachie Bible church with games, entertainment, an pie eating contest following the prayer; and on Saturday night @ 7:00 pm, Bishop Gregory D. Crawford will bring the Word of God.

We will have guest singers and musicians each night. Vendors are welcome. For further 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

#### GREATER MT. OLIVE BAPTIST CHURCH IN IRVING

This Weekend, April 21 & 22, 7:00 pm

Co-Pastor Sherry Hanchett and our Women of Destiny Ministry will sponsor a Revival with Prophets, Evangelist and Psalmist Sharon Seay Eiland, member of Revival Center C.O.G.I.C. in Tullahoma, TN. The Revival is being held @ the Dayspring Family Church, 618 N. Beltline Road in Irving, TX.

April 23, 3:00 pm

Please join us for the conclusion of an anointed revival with Prophets Sharon Seay Eiland; she is a mighty vessel being used by God to help the brokenhearted, the rejected, those that are depressed, and the downtrodden.

For more information about the above events, and directions to Dayspring Family Church where the revival will be held, please call the church @ 972-790-6630.

#### Greater Mt. Olive B. C. in Irving

Rev. Joshua Hanchett, Pastor

1120 Luke Street

Irving, TX 75061

972-790-6630

#### GREENVILLE AVENUE CHURCH OF CHRIST

May 6, 8:00 am - 1:30 pm

We are hosting our 21st Annual 2006 Adolescent and Ladies Symposium and all pre-teens and ladies, ages 9 and up are invited, and encouraged to attend. The purpose of the Symposium is to help participants increase their skills in dealing effectively with the issues of today's society from a Biblical perspective.

For more information, please call the church @ 972-644-2335 or FayLisa Jones @ 214-649-0358 (day time) or 469-366-8563 (evenings).

Greenville Avenue Church of Christ

Brother S.T.W. Gibbs, III, Minister

1013 S. Greenville Avenue

Richardson, TX 75081

972-644-2335

#### HAMILTON PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

April 27 - 29, 2006

Please join us as we host our Annual Prayer Summit; there will be anointed spiritual leaders from all over the country that will share in a series of workshops and healing services to empower and impart to God's people about

the power and authority they have through prayer. Our theme for this year's conference is: "Working the Good in You; Living a Successful Life through Prayer."

For more information, please call our Prayer Summit 2006 Response Line @ 972-235-4623, Ext. 32.

#### Hamilton Park UMC

Rev. Harold Dangerfield, Pastor

11881 Schroeder Road

Dallas, TX 75243

972-235-4633

#### HOPEWELL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

Tonight, April 20, 7:00 pm

Please join us for our 2006 Spring Revival with Evangelist H. L. Smith, Pastor of St. Stephen Community Church. Our theme is: "Living a Purposeful Christian Life" found in Ephesians 1:6-12

#### Hopewell MBC

Rev. Michael R. Hubbard, Sr.

Senior Pastor

5144 Dolphin Road

Dallas, TX 75223

214-823-1018

#### 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 1-800-370Oasis (376-2747)

#### North Dallas Community Bible Fellowship in Richardson

Dr. Leslie W. Smith, Senior Pastor

1010-1020 South Sherman Street

Richardson, TX 75081

972-437-3493

#### ST. LUKE "COMMUNITY" UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

April 29, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Please join us for the 15th Annual SOKO African Marketplace. This is a unique opportunity

to support Black businesses and to "teach our dollars some sense!" This will be a festive and fun-filled day for the whole family. There will be numerous vendors selling a wide variety of items including clothing, jewelry, cultural items, delicious food, arts and crafts, face painting, and prize giveaways.

For detail information, please call the church @ 214-821-2970. Rain location will be in the Zan W. Holmes Community Life Center, 6211 E. Grand Avenue, Dallas, TX 75223

#### St. Luke "Community" UMC

Rev. Tyrone Gordon, Senior Pastor

5710 E. R. L. Thornton Freeway

Dallas, TX 75223

214-821-2970

#### THE INSPIRING BODY OF CHRIST CHURCH (IBOC)

Sign Up Now

FREE Computer Training classes by Christian Business Services. For more information and registration, please call Rev. C. Greer @ 214-796-1294 or Email: [cgreer@ibcglobal.net](mailto:cgreer@ibcglobal.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



## Heavenly Gate Funeral Services

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- We offer pre-paid funeral packages
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- Financing Available
- We can meet with you in our office or at your residence

**972-240-2121, phone 24hrs**  
**972-240-3131, Fax**



#### Ben Washington Baptist Church, Inc.

3901 Frisco Avenue

Irving, TX 75061

Church 972-790-8421

Fax 972-986-6390

Email: [church@bwbccirving.org](mailto:church@bwbccirving.org)

Web: [bwbccirving.org](http://bwbccirving.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

## Friendship Baptist Church

Dr. C. Paul McBride, Pastor



#### Schedule of Services:

**Sunday**

Early Morning Worship

8:00 a.m.

Sunday School Classes

9:30 a.m.

Morning Worship

11:00 a.m.

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

#### Tuesday

Early Bird Bible Study 6:00 p.m.

#### Wednesday

Morning Bible Study 9:30 a.m.

Prayer Meeting and 7:30 p.m.

Evening Bible Study

4396 Main Street

The Colony, Texas 75056

(972) 625-8186

website: [www.fbc-online.net](http://www.fbc-online.net)

"The Church with a Vision"

**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

**THE LOVE CHURCH**  
Living Obediently Victoriously Expectantly  
A. Louis Patterson, III • Pastor

**Service Times:**  
Church Unusual  
Sundays @ 9:30AM  
TNL! - Tuesday Night Live  
Tuesdays @ 7:30PM

**Worship Location:**  
Ivy Education Center  
903 W. Parker Road  
Plano, Texas 75023  
(NE Corner of W. Parker Rd and Alma Rd)

**Mailing Address:**  
1409 S. Lamar Street • Ste. 257  
Dallas, Texas 75215  
(214) 761-1175 off.  
[www.thelovechurch.com](http://www.thelovechurch.com)

"Loving The World With The Word!"

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

Pastor Rickie G. Rush

**EBENEZER WORSHIP CENTER**  
"We are Living Stones in God's Temple"

**SUNDAY**  
10:00 am: Sunday School  
11:00 am: Morning Worship

**MONDAY**  
7:00 pm - 8:30 pm: Men of Power and Women of Power

**TUESDAY**  
7:00 pm - 8:00 pm: Bible Study & Worship Service

14000 Preston Road • Dallas, TX 75254 • 972-980-0977 (Church Phone)

**THE MOVE OF GILEAD**  
Jesus Christ, Chief Overseer  
Overseer Craig L. Cobb (First Lady - Meikel Cobb)  
Pastor Manell Carroll, II (First Lady - Maxine Carroll)

Sunday School - 9:30 am  
Morning Worship - 11:15 am  
Wednesday Night Bible Study - 7:30 pm

1016 Pioneer Road • Mesquite, Tx 75149  
972-289-1200 • 972-289-1206 - fax  
[www.TheMoveOfGilead.org](http://www.TheMoveOfGilead.org)

There Are No Limitations To Our Expectations In God

**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.