



2006 Awesome Arts Festival

Page 6



Mary Daffin Named Managing Partner At Major Texas Law Firm

Page 5



Braxton Juggles Motherhood With Music

Page 7

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People In The News



Tyron Stucks McFarlan, Jr., of Columbia, SC, is the new Ringmaster in the 135th edition of Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey which will be Dallas on July 29.

McFarlan completed advanced training while attending college when he joined the Army National Guard at the age of 16.

He desired to be a lawyer after he graduated from University of South Carolina with a degree in criminal justice.

As a man who has experienced military life, musical theater and the tasks of a father, McFarlan never dreamed that he would be a part of the circus.

But, his true passion steered him in a different direction towards music.

"Whatever is truly inside you is going to come out – sooner or later," McFarlan said.

He played trumpet in high school where he discovered his talent for singing and performing.

He performed in several local musical theatrical performances including Ragtime, Smokey Joe's Café and Jesus Christ Superstar.

It was McFarlan's agent that pushed him to audition for The Greatest Show on Earth as their new Ringmaster.

"I don't ever deny myself an opportunity to do something new, and I'm so glad that I seized this one," he said.

Stephanie Wilson, of Boston, Mass., is the second black woman in space since Dr. Mae Jemison in 1992. The shuttle Discovery was launched on Independence Day.

Wilson graduated from Harvard with a bachelor's degree in engineering science and got her master's degree in aerospace engineering from the University of Texas. Aboard the shuttle she took her Bible and several items from her alma mater as good luck charms for their mission.

Currently, Wilson is assigned to the crew of STS-121, a return-to-flight test mission and assembly flight to the International Space Station.

Wilson was selected by NASA in April 1996 to report to the Johnson Space Center in Houston later the same year. After two years of training and evaluation she is a qualified mission specialist for flight assignments.

"I just love it. I think it's a great adventure," Wilson told TV reporters. "There is so much to learn. Humans have always had a quest for knowledge and thirst to explore and I have that same bug. I always knew I wanted to be an astronaut."



The National Education Association awarded Tom Joyner its 2006 Friend of Education Award during its Annual Meeting and Representative Assembly from June 30 – July 5.

Joyner was selected due to his constant commitment and dedication to quality public schools.

The Friend of Education Award is the highest honor of the NEA and "recognizes a person or organization whose leadership, acts or support have significantly contributed to the improvement of American public education."



The Tom Joyner Foundation was established in 1998 to help students at Historically Black Colleges and Universities and has raised over \$35 million.

In January 2005, NEA and the Tom Joyner Foundation partnered to help minority teachers become fully certified by paying for examination fees, offering specialized workshops, coursework, materials and individual tutoring.

"We started this foundation for the sole purpose of helping students to stay in school," said Joyner, whose nationally syndicated four-hour, drive-time radio show is the nation's leading morning entertainment show. "We've never lost sight of that goal, as well as the need to make sure that teachers have the skills they need to prepare our students to help them pursue their dreams."

INSIDE

People In The News	1
Community Spotlight	2
Community Calendar	2
Op-Ed	3
Business Service Directory	5
Education	6
Arts & Entertainment	7
Career Opportunities	8
Sister Tarpley	9
Church Happenings	9
Church Directory	4, 9 & 10

Voting Our Values, Valuing Our Votes

97th Annual Convention Opens July 15 In The Nation's Capital

Several thousand delegates and visitors from around the nation are expected to attend the 97th Annual National Association for the Advancement of Colored People National Convention, July 15-20 at the Washington, D.C. Convention Center. This marks the seventh time the NAACP has held its annual convention in the nation's capital. The theme of this year's convention is "Voting Our Values, Valuing Our Votes."

NAACP President and CEO Bruce S. Gordon said: "I look forward to my first convention as President and CEO of this great organization. African Americans have made great strides in this country, but there are still civil rights battles to be fought. The attempt by some members of Congress to stall a vote on extending the Voting Rights Act of 1965 is just one example of why the NAACP must continue to exist and to prosper."

NAACP National Board of Directors Chairman Julian Bond said: "Our annual conventions bring together committed civil rights activists from across the nation to re-charge their batteries and to learn new techniques in fighting old evils. We'll stress the importance of valuing our votes and will leave Washington determined to vote our values."

Convention highlights include the historic re-presentation of "The Great Tablet" at John Brown's Fort at Harper's Ferry in West, Virginia; daily tours to the African American Civil Rights Museum; a health symposium on HIV/AIDS; keynote addresses by Julian Bond and Bruce S. Gordon; the celebration of the 70th anniversary of the NAACP Youth and



Senator Barack Obama

College Division; a legislative session on the "Voting Rights Act Reauthorization;" Continuing Legal Education and health workshops and the Spingarn Awards Dinner honoring Dr. Benjamin S. Carson.

Roslyn Brock, Vice Chair, NAACP National Board of Directors and Chairman of the Convention Planning Committee, said: "The NAACP Board Convention Planning Committee looks forward to welcoming delegates and friends to the 97th Annual NAACP Convention. This year's theme speaks to the many heartaches, the tears and blood that were shed in the fight for full citizenship rights."

Voting Values Page 4

The McKinney Chamber Of Commerce

At a time of unprecedented challenges facing our nation, local communities, businesses, social services and families, leadership is essential. Citizenship McKinney is committed to educating and developing future leaders to ensure that our community and surrounding areas have this leadership. Join this leadership journey as it enters its 19th year!

Beginning in August Citizenship McKinney will begin its 19th year with a new class of participants.

Spanning ten months from August through May, the program offers an educational experience designed to develop an awareness of the City of McKinney and its relationship with the Metroplex, and provides personal leadership

training. Beginning with a 2-day retreat in August that focuses on individual and community leadership skills, the class then meets once a month to examine specific aspects of the community such as area government, education, heritage & the arts, health care, economic development, the criminal justice system and diversity & inclusion.

Eligibility

Candidates must live and/or work in McKinney or its incorporated extraterritorial

McKinney Chamber Page 9

Emmitt Smith Among Speakers At Plano Youth Sports Summit

Leading authorities and speakers will convene in Plano on Wednesday, July 19th to discuss with coaches, parents, high school and college athletes how to incorporate character and values into sports programs. Noted speakers include Floyd Keith, executive director of the Black Coaches Association, Rochelle Taylor, President, National Youth Sports Corporation former basketball stars Nancy Lieberman and Rolando Blackman and Jerry Barlow of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes among others.

The Youth Sports Summit sponsored by The Open Doors Foundation, will be held at the Plano Civic Centre, 200 E. Spring Creek Parkway, from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. The event is open to the public. Registration fee of \$50 will cover lunch, six workshops and admission to an exhibition area that will have representatives from clothing stores, recreational equipment, energy products, fitness centers, sports organizations and nonprofits.

The summit is being offered through the foundation's The Academies of Excellence, a public charity that is financially supported by the organization. Open Doors was founded five years ago by Werner Scott, chief executive officer of Advantage Marketing Group, a sports



marketing and business enterprise development firm, and Emmitt Smith, Dallas Cowboy legend. The mission is to provide underserved youth with educational opportunities, career and life-altering experiences.

"We want to help develop young people to be better citizens," said Ira J. Hadnot, inter-

Youth Sports Summit Page 6

First Black Woman Wears Crown

By: Joy Donovan
American Idol's loss is the Miss Texas Scholarship Pageant's gain.

Miss Frisco, Shilah Phillips, who was unsuccessful in her bid to win the popular reality TV show this year, was crowned Miss Texas on Saturday night at the Will Rogers Memorial Center Theater.

"I'm very excited about it because I have reality TV experience," the 24-year-old said moments after being crowned. "I was actually kicked off American Idol, so I'm looking forward to Miss America."

Her new title comes with a \$10,000 prize and the chance to compete for the Miss America crown. In addition to being the first African-American Miss Texas, she will be the first to participate in a reality version of the traditional Miss America Pageant.

Miss America contestants will be filmed in a group living



Shilah Phillips being crowned as Miss Texas 2006

situation, and the program will be broadcast on the CMT network in January with viewers getting a chance to vote for finalists. The Miss America Pageant, which began in 1921 in Atlantic City, was switched to Las Vegas for the first time last year.

Miss Texas Page 6

Out Of Africa

By: Erin Evans
What event took place just over a year ago, on July 2, 2005, that an estimated 3 billion people across the world in 10 different locations participated in? Can't remember?

Two words. Live 8.

Musicians from all over the world performed in the eight countries involved with the Group of Eight (G-8) and South Africa. G-8 includes the United States, Japan, Germany, Britain, France, Italy, Canada and Russia.

"Live 8 was, and remains a brilliant moment but what is more important is the brilliant movement of which it was a part," said Bono on the Live 8 Web site. "This gives the poorest of the poor real political muscle for the first time."

Over 30 million people submitted their names for the Live 8 list that was submitted to Tony Blair, the chairman of G-8, in



support of the movement to end poverty.

Now, after the G-8 summit in St. Petersburg on July 6, a report was released about the G-8's progress, commitment in some cases, has been not only lackluster, but somewhat non-existent.

On aid commitments to Africa, France is the only G-8 country on track. The U.S., U.K. and Italy have increased

Out Of Africa Page 4

Community Leaders To Be Honored At Urban League Gala

Former Dallas Mayor Ron Kirk, Dr. Vonciel Jones Hill and Countrywide Banking will be honored at the 2006 Urban League Annual Gala on Saturday, August 12 at the Anatole Hilton Hotel, 2201 Stemmons Freeway at 7:00 p.m.

"The honorees embody these words by the late Whitney M. Young Jr., Executive Director of the National Urban League from 1961 to 1971," said Dr. Beverly Mitchell Brooks, President and CEO of the Urban League, "that this nation has always had the music of harmony, the song of equality, running through its dreams...it never played that melody because it wanted to use only the white keys...it's time for it to start using the full keyboard of human resources



Vonciel Jones Hill

to bring peace, harmony and justice to this divided land."

"Our honorees have a history of accomplishments in their businesses, which is exemplary," said Dr. Brooks, "but they continue to set high standards through their vol-

Urban League Gala Page 8

Champion Mortgage Saves Customers Time And Money

Rita Myer's husband had died and she needed help. She was cash poor and need to refinance her house.

She found herself dealing with a young man from California. He sent an appraiser who presented her with a bill for \$350. His appraisal was far below the value of the house.

Then contract papers from that nice young man she had met on the internet arrived in the mail. The contract included several pages. Rita was shocked to see that the costs, including closing, added up to more than \$15,000.

Janice Montgomery was approaching retirement age. She has been divorced for years and was worried that when she retired her income would not be enough for her to maintain her lifestyle. She decided to buy a small apartment complex. She met a man who claimed he represented investors from

Louisiana who would be more than willing to provide financing for her at a low interest rate. He also claimed to be a minister. After several conference

calls with a "broker", she wrote the minister a check for \$700, which was supposed to be his fee for arranging the financing. She never heard from him again.

Both women were finally referred to Keevin Dailey, Branch Manager of Champion Mortgage, who solved their problems. "Keevin told me up front exactly what the charges would be," Rita says. "They were reasonable. Everything went very smoothly. He obtained a good interest rate for me and had the whole thing

resolved within two weeks."

Janice was happy to report that Keevin also helped her obtain financing on a fourplex. It was an older building and the

advertising budgets and that many of these companies charge excessive fees.

Dailey says the best advice he can give anyone is to know who they're dealing with.

Champion Mortgage is in good standing with the Texas Department of Savings and Mortgage Lending as well as the Better Business Bureau.

"There are a lot of people who have had financial issues to deal with which have damaged their credit," Keevin adds. "Often they assume the prospect of buying or refinancing a home is hopeless. I want to assure them that usually it's not. For the most part, we can help them work those problems out."

Another thing that can happen to the unwary consumer occurs when their escrow account is out of balance.

"If these people get behind in their taxes there are companies that will go in and pay their overdue taxes without even

notifying them," Keevin says. "They then double the amount of their house payments, eventually forcing them into foreclosure. Unfortunately, this is legal. I want those people to know that we can usually help them by refinancing their homes."

"I like to help people," Keevin says. "We walk them through the entire transaction and make sure there are no surprises at closing."

If you want someone who

will work for you, give you straight answers, return your phone calls and if needed, come to your home or office call Champion Mortgage. They'll save you time and money and eliminate any reason to worry.

Champion Mortgage is located at 119 W. Virginia Ste. 202 in McKinney Texas.

Call 972-529-2371 or log onto www.championmortg.org, or email kdailey@championmortg.org



loan included enough funds for updating and repairs.

"Texas laws and regulations regarding home loans are different than many other states," Keevin Dailey says. "It's easy to run into problems if you are dealing with an out of state company."

Keevin also adds that some huge national mortgage companies have enormous television

Second Annual John Muhammad Fundraising Banquet Benefiting The Clara Muhammad Academy



A Malik Muhammad, Clara Muhammad Academy School Board Chairman and Ms. Evelyn Akram, Clara Muhammad Academy Principal



Youth Fashion Show Girls (Students of Clara Muhammad Academy)



Ismail Muhammad, I AM Companies



Youth Fashion Show Boys (Students of Clara Muhammad Academy)



Muslim sisters enjoying dinner at Second Annual John Muhammad Fundraising Banquet



Ms. Evelyn Akram

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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 stage Sankofa Arts Cafe & Bar 1906-1908 Martin L. King, Jr. Blvd Dallas. Every Saturday 9:00 p.m.
Call 214-421-0013 or visit, www.myspace.com/sankofakrew

The Collin County Chapter of the American Business Women's Association meets the fourth Tuesday of the month at Eldorado Country Club, 2604 Country Club Drive in McKinney

Free Tenant Legal Workshops are at 6p.m. Tuesdays at Douglass Community Center, 1111 Ave. H in Plano. Call 972-941-7174.

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.assistanceleague-gcc.org.

"EVOLVE," a social networking opportunity for

women, meets from 7:30 to 9 p.m. the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month at the northwest corner of Park Boulevard and Coit Road, Suite 202. Call 972-267-4452.

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.

Free HIV Testing offered by the LaSima Foundation from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. every Thursday at two different locations. For locations and more information, call 214-928-9303.

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

Family Film at the Library at Haggard Library, 2501 Coit Road. Every Friday at 11:30 a.m. Bring out the family for fun and relaxation. For more information call 972-208-8000.

Movie Under the Stars: A New Cinema Experience. Remember the fun you had at the "drive-in movie"? Well it's back, but without the drive-in part. So grab a blanket or low-back chair and come watch a classic family movie under the stars at the Amphitheater at Oak Point Park, 2801 East Spring Creek Pkwy, Plano. For more information call

972-941-7250.

Kumaasi African Ensemble Dance Classes from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. West African dance classes held every Saturday at the South Dallas Cultural Center, 3400 S. Fitzhugh Ave. Contact S-Ankh Rasa at 214-298-5858 for more information.

PHASE, The Potters House Singles Ministry would like to invite all singles to join us for our Soul Food events held every 1st & 3rd Friday in the Youth Sanctuary. For more information, contact the PHASE information line at 214-331-0954 x.1954.

Gallery Exhibition Opening: "Rhythms, Reflections, Relations: The Works of Evita Tezeno" through August 26. Tuesday through Friday 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and Saturdays 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the James E. Kemp Gallery at TBAAL. For more information call 214-743-2440.

Swing Time Magazine presents Friday Night Swing hosted by 94.5's First Lady of Radio Lynne Haze every first Friday at the Castleview Ballroom at the Sterling Hotel in 1055 Regal Road and HWY 183 in Dallas. Admission \$10. Call 972-225-6487 for more information. Swing elegance attire.

July 14

Black Writers Reunion & Conference, held at the Radisson Dallas Hotel & Suites at 2330 West Northwest Highway, offers something to writers of all genres and levels. Workshops include The 1) Craft

of Writing, covering novels, screenplays and more, 2) The Business of Writing & Publishing Tricks of the Publishing Trade: How to Self-Publish & Market Your Own Book, Tapping the Hidden Short Story Market, Getting Into Bookstores & Staying In and more. Visit www.blackwriters.org or contact bwrc@blackwriters.org for more information on schedule and events.

July 15

Dallas NAACP Home Buyer Boot Camp. Workshops on affordable housing, credit counseling, credit repair, overcoming bankruptcies and foreclosures, investing, acquiring funds for down payments and closing cost and much more. Dallas NAACP Office, 4200 S. Fitzhugh at 10 a.m. FREE. Call 214-421-6009 for more information.

2nd Annual CITY House Garage Sale at the CITY House Teen Shelter on 902 E. 16th St. (SE corner of Avenue H and 16th Street next to Haggard Park). Raising funds for vital programs for children, youth, and families in crisis in Collin County. Items for sale include furniture, baby items, children/adult clothing, home décor, kitchen items and more. For details contact Leslie Hayes at 972-424-4626; www.cityhouse.org or lhayescityhouse@earthlink.net.

Raven will be in concert at Six Flags Music Mill in Arlington at 7:00 p.m. Six Flags Over Texas Park Admission is required in addition to the concert admission.

Dallas Black Dance Theatre Performance 7:30 p.m., Mexia High School, Mexia, TX For tickets, call 254-625-0931

July 20

Thomas Brooks presents A WEALTH OF FAMILY: An Adopted Son's International Quest for Heritage, Reunion and Enrichment at Black Images Book Bazaar at 6:00 p.m.

July 21

Desperate for Jesus Women's Conference 2006 at Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship Church. An explosive weekend of music by national recording artist, Mary Alessi, national speaker and author, Beth Moore, and much more! 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. Doors open each day 1 1/2 hour before event. FREE REGISTRATION! For more information contact Carla Robertson at (214) 672-9100 Ext. 1014 or DFJ@ocbfchurch.org

Black Cinematheque: Laughing, Lying & Signifying African American Comedy Film Festival presents their 8th Annual Festival featuring 8 short films at the Black Forest Theater, 1920 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. at 8:00 p.m. \$5 admission. Call 214-426-1683.

July 22

Shandra Love presents When Katrina Stood Down, We Came Running, But Rita Tripped Us at Black Images at 12:00 p.m. Book signing. 230 Wynnewood Village Dallas 75224.

The K104 Driver's Select Summer Jam at the Smirnoff

Music Center, starring Yung Joc, Omarion, Chingy, 8 Ball & MJG, Young Dro, Lyfe Jennings, Fonzworth Bentley with special guest Kanye West, Project Pat, Lloyd Banks, Kelis, Big Tuck, South Boy, Dre, Ice Cube and more added every week! Tickets on sale now at Ticketmaster, or listen to win your way in on K104!

July 29

Kirk Franklin and Smoke Norful live in concert at Six Flags Over Texas Music Mill in Arlington at 8:00 p.m. Six Flags Over Texas Park Admission is required in addition to the concert admission.

Ringling Brothers: Barnum & Bailey's Circus is in town. Several shows on Saturday including 11:30 a.m., 3:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m. On Sunday, July 30 at 1:30 p.m. Tickets available through Ticketmaster.

July 30

Patti LaBelle in concert at Nokia Theatre in Grand Prairie at 8:00 p.m. Featuring Charlie Wilson. Tickets available through Ticketmaster.

August 1

UniverSoul Circus at Southwest Center Mall. Tuesday through Friday at 7:30 p.m. Saturday at noon, 4:30 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. Sunday at 1 p.m., 4 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. 3662 W. Camp Wisdom Road. See you under the big top!

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Proud To Be An Active Partner In The Community



Paul Hailey

My brother and I have had an ongoing argument over the past year or so about the role of the black church in the black community. His position is the black church isn't active enough politically or economically in developing the community that surrounds it; while my position is that the primary role of the church (black or otherwise) is individual spiritual development. It's my opinion that as individuals develop spiritually, they will begin to have a positive influence on their communities, collectively and individually.

This basic difference of opinion describes the heart of the controversy coming out of the National Conference and Revival for Social Justice in the Black Church, held two weeks ago at Friendship West Baptist Church in Dallas.

Speakers at the Conference included Rev. Al Sharpton, Rev. Jesse Jackson, SCLC President Charles Steele, as well as local officials such as Urban League of Greater Dallas President Dr. Beverly Mitchell Brooks and Rev. Sheron Patterson of Highland Hills United Methodist Church.

The controversy surrounds the "calling out" of leaders of Dallas area mega-churches for their lack of activism on social and political issues. You can get the general flavor of the criticism from the pre-event statement issued by Friendship West Baptist Church. Here's an excerpt: "Within the last few decades the Black Church has been devoid of a comprehensive agenda that regards and addresses those issues that affect its African American congregations. In fact, too many of the former citadels to liberation and justice have been reduced to little more than prosperity parlors and have suffered a lethal disconnect from the historical legacy of the Black church and

The Politics Of Religion

its leadership."

The Rev. Al Sharpton was more pointed in his comments as he opened the conference.

"This conference seeks to reconnect Black churches with their heritage, he said. 'You can't get around social policy. We're not giving a pass to anyone. We're not interested in eating with Pharaoh; we're interested in freeing the children of Israel. We don't care that you talk to Bush; we care about what you are saying. You have to raise the dialogue, you have to challenge Bush on the issues.'"

Wow.

It has been said to never discuss politics or religion publicly. They are both emotionally charged subjects that expose our most deep seated criticisms and prejudices and create conversations filled with unresolved conflict. I'm going to break the rules today and talk about both politics and religion in this space.

As a Christian black man, I have some fundamental problems with a more than a few of the statements made in the conference about the state of the black church.

For starters, when did black churches or the black people advance to the level where it became acceptable for us to bash each other publicly? Seems to me if those in attendance have problems with ministers who meet with "Pharaoh" why not confront them privately? What does it say to non-Christians when black ministers openly belittle other black ministers because they don't subscribe to the same methods of accomplishing social or political change? Additionally, what does it say to those who are in social and political positions of power?

It says that black folks still aren't unified in 2006, inside or outside of the church. Winning teams don't discuss team problems outside of the locker room; it creates division and renders the team ineffective.

I also have a problem with the

sources of the criticism. As a wise man said to me: "Be suspicious when someone who lives outside of your community, comes to your community and tells you what's wrong with your community, and then leaves and goes back to their community." What do those people have invested in this community; in this region? Leaders and ministers who are guilty of that tactic come off looking like nothing more than modern day carpet baggers.

Finally, I have to disagree with the criticisms raised from a spiritual perspective. Call me naïve, but I don't believe the God I serve sees a difference between black and white churches, or black and white people for that matter. Our spirits have no color, and I believe we disappoint God when Christians see issues in only black and white terms.

There is no denying that the church (both black and white) was a crucial element of the civil rights struggle and the struggle to end slavery. The organizing and fund-raising abilities of the church were effective tools in those struggles.

But things are different now. An increasing number of black people attend church in one community and live in another.

When you boil it all down, the real purpose of the church has nothing to do with social and political issues. According to the New Testament, the purpose of the church is to preach the gospel to the lost and build the kingdom of God. My bible tells me that there will be injustice, poverty and oppression in this world until Christ comes back. I don't think Christians should be apolitical.

So while there may be politics of religion, there are no politics to the gospel. If you read the words of Jesus, you'll discover that the church is not the building or the bricks—each of us are the church individually.

Paul Hailey can be reached at editor@MonTheGazette.com

Why Blacks Don't Vote Republican

By: Ron Walters
NNPA Columnist

The recent votes in the House of Representatives to block reauthorization of the Voting Rights Act and in the Senate to reject an increase in the Minimum Wage, give powerful voice to the reason why Blacks respond by saying no to Republican candidates. In this case, we see clearly the politics of the economic and social wings of the party at play.

The current Republican Party was created in the Nixon landslide of 1972 when a substantial portion of the South joined it, adding to its growing economic conservatism a group that was deeply conservative on social values. In combined form, it constituted a political rejection of the government's values and spending at that time which produced the War on Poverty, the Great Society program and the changes wrought on society by the civil rights movement.

The Voting Rights Act was perhaps the most successful and important piece of civil rights legislation the country has produced by its empowering effects on the Black community's right to vote. The Southern states enacted and practiced the most oppressive measures that limited that right, and the passage of that Act created a powerful incentive for the White political leadership in the South to switch parties and to fight to regain their ability to rearrange access to the franchise in ways that would have racially discriminatory outcomes.

A recently-released book, "Stealing Democracy" by George Washington University Law Professor, Spencer Overton, indicates that in state after state in the South where Republicans are mostly in political control, they have attempted to enact election requirement

that disproportionately reduce the access of Blacks to the ballot box. A recent example is the passage of onerous ID requirements to register and to vote, but there are many others.

Although the South is by no means the only region where there is an attempt to limit the right of Blacks and Hispanics, in particular, to vote, the ferocity of the opposition to the reauthorization of the Voting Rights Act in the House Republican Caucus is led by politicians from that region. This speaks volumes about the deep and brooding attitudes toward Blacks that persist in the South that are a carry over from that region's dominant participation in slavery, despite the claim that such attitudes no longer exist in the "New South."

The conservative economic wing of the marriage that led to the modern Republican party is vexed over the demand by Democrats in the Senate to increase the minimum wage from \$5.15 to \$7.25, while demanding that the poor work, reducing its real social benefit. The current minimum wage has not been adjusted for nine years, meaning that it now produces \$10,712 of income, raising a person just \$900 over the poverty level, but a family with two children falls \$5,900 below it. In the same period, Congress has voted itself annual increases amounting to \$31,600, and the average CEO makes 821 times that level of wages.

The rejection of the economic wing of the party is based on the canard that if a small business has to pay the minimum wage, it will work to the disadvantage of poor workers because fewer of them will be hired or retained. But there is credible research that rejects that proposition. In this game of "choose your economist," it turns out that you

choose a conservative one, the highest rate of job losses attributable to the minimum wage has been calculated at just 2 percent. But this should be calculated against the enormous off-the-book profits paid on the backs of illegal immigrants.

At a recent convention in Gary, Ind. on the economic condition of the Black community, there was strong support expressed for an increase in the minimum wage. It has been a staple of the demands by groups such as the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, its partner the AFL-CIO, the civil rights community and others.

Why should Blacks vote for a party that rejects legislation that would improve their economic condition and substitute gay-marriage in its place? Blacks have been unusually reliant on measures like the minimum wage and the earned income tax credit because it is a community that is disproportionately poor.

The Republican Party is approaching another moment of truth in its positioning toward groups that need a fair distribution of national opportunity and resources that makes it real. Thinking people should understand that the Southern wing's effect on the Republican Party's decision to reauthorize the Voting Rights Act and their politically powerful small business wing's continued rejection of an increase the minimum wage, makes a mockery of party chairman Ken Mehlman's so-called "outreach" program to minorities.

Moreover, if these attitudes don't change, the record number of Blacks competing statewide on the GOP ticket will go down in defeat.

The Lucrative Business of Jesse Jackson's Leadership

By: Earl Ofari Hutchinson

Judicial Watch is absolutely giddy with delight at the chance to pound Jesse Jackson. They denounce him as a charlatan and scam artist who uses civil rights activism as a cover to shamelessly shake down corporations. In the process, they say, that he and a handful of cronies and even family members have become rich. The revelations about Jackson's business dealings were made during discovery in a civil suit in Los Angeles a few months back. The jury did not find Jackson culpable of any wrongdoing.

But Judicial Watch which bankrolled the legal action got what it wanted, namely dirt on Jackson. Judicial Watch is an unabashed conservative legal attack dog group that specializes in digging up muck on government agencies that abuse their power. But mostly the group hammers liberals and Democrats for their political foibles. If Judicial Watch can malign, impugn, and discredit Jackson as a two bit race hustler, the inference is that other civil rights advocates are also hustlers and con artists that rake in big bucks off of civil rights activism. This, of course, is an overblown slander, and Judicial Watch's hard conservative politics makes it a lousy messenger to sound the warning about corrupt civil rights leaders, but it doesn't totally discredit the message.

Jackson and other top civil rights leaders are mostly middle-class business and professional persons. Their agenda and top down style of leadership is at times remote, distant, and often wildly out of step with the needs of poor and working class blacks. They often approach tough public policy issues such as the astronomical black imprisonment rates, the dreary plight of poor black women, black homelessness, black-on-black crime and violence, the drug crisis, gang

warfare, and school vouchers, with a strange blend of caution, uncertainty, and wariness. They keep counsel only with those black ministers, politicians, and professional and business leaders they consider respectable and legitimate and will blindly march in lockstep with their program.

Mainstream civil rights organizations have transformed civil rights advocacy from the in-your-face activism of years past into a corporate style competitive business in which success is measured by piling up political favors and corporate dollars. The profound shift in the method and style of black leadership began in the 1970s. With the murders of Martin Luther King, Jr. and Malcolm X, the collapse of the traditional civil rights organizations, the destruction and co-optation of militant activist groups, mainstream black leaders, politicians and ministers did a sharp turn. They quickly defined the black agenda as: starting more and better businesses, grabbing more spots in corporations universities, and the professions, electing more Democrats, buying bigger and more expensive homes, taking more luxury vacations, and gaining admission into more country clubs.

They launched a frenzied campaign to establish themselves as the leaders of record for African-Americans. Their reward was more business and construction contracts, foundation grants, corporate contributions to their fundraising campaigns, dinners, banquets, scholarship funds and training programs.

They hold endless meetings, planning sessions, conferences, and confabs in which they back pat and self-stroke themselves with awards, plaques, tributes and testimonials. This enables them to cut front and backroom deals, broker legislation and hatch schemes with politicians and business leaders on behalf of

black communities, and along the way some have parlayed that into a Mother Lode of personal riches.

Their penchant is to pick low risk, high profile glitter issues that get media attention, celebrity endorsements, and political prestige. These issues do not offend governors, mayors, city councilpersons, alderpersons, state and federal officials, corporate leaders and bankers.

This is in stark contrast to the leadership style of Martin Luther King, Jr. and the civil rights leaders of days past. That style was egalitarian, hands-on, and in the trenches. King always kept a careful eye on the needs of poor and working class blacks. He was a selfless leader who never made a nickel from his civil rights activism. He would be appalled at the cash, glitter, and bling fetish of many prominent blacks, and especially, those that are hailed as black America's leading political and civil rights leaders. In fact, he would be aghast at the money squabble that has embroiled his namesake King Center in Atlanta in controversy.

Jackson has fearlessly pushed the envelope the past two decades on many civil rights issues, and more often than not he's been on the side of the angels on these issues. That's what makes Jackson fair game for Judicial Watch's hatchet job. He is and remains black America's top gun civil rights advocate, not to mention its most visible and prominent media and TV camera main man.

Judicial Watch probably got it right about Jackson's civil rights wealth. But that says less about the disgrace of Jackson making profit off of activism, than that activism could be reduced to a business in the first place.

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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 formerly Minority Opportunity News, was founded July, 1991, by Jim Bochum and Thurman R. Jones



"July Is Dallas Park And Recreation Month"

Kick-Off Event Highlights Intergenerational Fun And Fitness

Each year, the month of July is set aside nationwide to celebrate the work recreation professionals across the country do every day. "July is Dallas Park and Recreation Month" provides an opportunity to showcase the parks, recreation facilities and the many programs that are available for all ages. In Dallas, Park and Recreation professionals are encouraging everyone to join their families in intergenerational fun and fitness activities at local City of Dallas Park and Recreation centers and parks to get fit together. The City of Dallas Park and Recreation Department works hard to provide the citizens of Dallas fun and different ways to stay active and physically fit.

The kick off event for this year's "July is Dallas Park and Recreation Month" was held at the Museum of Nature and Science outdoor amphitheater at Dallas' historic Fair Park on

Thursday,

June 29, 2006. Dallas Police Department Deputy Chief Floyd Simpson and Dallas Fire-Rescue



Children from the "Send a Kid to Camp" program played field day style games during the kick off event for "July is Dallas Park and Recreation Month".

Department Public Information Officer Annette Ponce were in

attendance at the event on behalf of their respective departments and joined children from the "Send a Kid to Camp" program in playing field day style games promoting fun and fitness for everyone. The board of the "Get a Move On!" campaign as well as Dallas Park and Recreation Board President C.W. Whitaker were present to show their support for the program. More than 300 children, adults and seniors participated to show that fitness is for everyone - and that Dallas recreation centers have 'something for everyone'.

"With more than 400 parks and 47 recreation centers in the city of Dallas, we are excited to offer intergenerational activities that can be fun for the whole family," said Dallas Park and Recreation Board President C.W. Whitaker.

The event kicked-off with a Jazzercise warm-up and was followed by all community partners, celebrities and dignitaries partner-

ing with the more than 300 children from the "Send A Kid to Camp" program in playing fun and exciting field day style games such as horse shoes, sack races, water balloon toss and more. Sponsors and partners of this year's program include McDonald's D/FW Restaurant Owner/Operators and the "Get a Move On!" board.

The "Get a Move On!" campaign is a new citywide fitness initiative and awareness campaign encouraging Dallas residents to get educated about health and fitness and be active and move for at least thirty minutes every day. The campaign is designed to motivate all of Dallas to have fun and get in shape utilizing the many athletic opportunities offered by the Dallas Park and Recreation Department. The "July is Park and Recreation Month" kick off event will highlight the various fun activities that can help peo-

ple of all ages get their 30 minutes of activity each and every day, which is recommended by experts for healthy living.

McDonald's have 390,000 trayliners in area McDonald restaurants promoting the McDonald's and Dallas Park and Recreation Department "Go Active" initiative, inviting families to be physically active this summer and enjoy all that the neighborhood parks have to offer.

The "July is Dallas Park and Recreation Month" program is designed to highlight the year-round programming and facilities offered by recreation centers across the country. This annual observance highlights the facilities and programs offered by the

Dallas Park and Recreation Department, which include year-round leisure and recreation activities at its more than 400 parks, 47 recreation cen-



Dallas Police Department Deputy Chief Floyd Simpson was in and joined children from the "Send a Kid to Camp" program in playing field day style games.

ters, The Dallas Zoo, Fair Park, Dallas Aquarium at Fair Park and other facilities. For more information on all the programs offered by the City of Dallas Park and Recreation Department, call (214) 670-4100.

\$5.2 Billion Slated For Post-Katrina Housing

The federal government will pay \$4.2 billion into a program to help Louisiana residents rebuild or sell houses severely damaged by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

The Department of Housing and Urban Development also announced it would provide \$1 billion for hurricane-related housing needs in Mississippi, Texas, Alabama and Florida, and called on those states to apply for the additional money.

Louisiana's \$4.2 billion will be added to federal allocations the state had already received to fully fund its more-than-\$9 billion "Road Home" program

for hurricane recovery

"It was clear to me that Louisiana desperately needs this additional funding to implement its plans to bring its citizens back home," Deputy Secretary Roy A.



Work crews deconstruct a house damaged by Hurricane Katrina in the Lower Ninth Ward in New Orleans.

Bernardi said in a joint federal and state press release. "HUD will work very closely with Gov.

Blanco and the Louisiana Recovery Authority to help pave the road home for thousands of residents desperate to rebuild their own lives."

The "Road Home" program is intended to provide Louisiana residents up to \$150,000 to rebuild or sell houses severely damaged by the storms, using grants to cover repair costs above what was covered by insurance policies and FEMA grants.

About 123,000 home owners and owners of about 80,000 apartments are eligible for the program, state officials have said. About 90,000 have already signed up, officials said.

Blanco has said that the Louisiana Recovery Authority expects eligible homeowners to begin getting checks by late summer.

For people who sell their property and can demonstrate contin-

ued permanent residence in the state, the grants cover the difference between a home's pre-storm value and post-storm insurance settlements and FEMA grants.

Owners who take the "sell" option and have moved out of Louisiana state can only get 60 percent of their home's pre-storm value.

Out Of Africa Page 1

aid but are still shy to meet their promise. Germany did not increase aid at all and Canada actually decreased.

According to a statement by the G-8 president, Vladimir Putin, leaders have failed to plan an "ethical and human rights dimension in globalization."

He also states that the core principles decided upon at 2005 Gleneagles Summit have not been touched upon including debt cancellation for 38 of the world's poorest countries, provision of vaccines for the poorest countries, universal access to AIDS treatment by 2010, primary education for the world's children and \$25 billion more aid each year to Africa by 2010.

G-8 will have to take significant steps within the next three years to meet their 2010 deadline to promote globalization and eradicate poverty.

Nigeria - Nigeria plans to launch its first communication satellite in the first quarter of next year, according to Robert Boroffice of the National Space Research and Development Agency (NASRDA) to help overcome its challenges to glob-

alization.

Although the satellite will cost \$6 billion to launch, Boroffice says that \$900 million will be saved by African users for telephone transmitting and data transport service.

Lesotho - Microsoft founder Bill Gates, former U.S. president Bill Clinton and the UN Special Envoy for AIDS in Africa, Stephen Lewis visited the country, where 26 percent lives with the HIV virus, to access new developments.

Gates will meet with South African scientists trying to develop a new TB vaccine and meet with local experts testing gels being developed to protect women from contracting HIV.

Somalia - As the death toll reached 97 in Mogadishu, the Somali capital, a calm settled over the area. After two days of fighting between the Union of Islamic Courts (UIC) and militia loyal, UIC takes hold of several areas previously controlled by the Qeybdiid, who surrendered Monday night. Qeybdiid was a member of the Alliance of the Restoration of Peace and Counter Terrorism left, after its defeat to the UIC in June.

Voting Values Page 1

We cannot and will not be turned back."

Speakers scheduled at this year's convention include Senators Harry Reid, Ted Kennedy, Barack Obama, Hillary Clinton and Sam Brownback; Representatives Mel Watt, Chairman of the Black Congressional Caucus, House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, Representatives Charles B. Rangel, Donald Payne and Robert C. Scott; Judge Greg Mathis, Dr. J. Edward Hill, president, American Bar Association, the Honorable Barbara Masakela, South African Ambassador to the United States and actor Isaiah Washington.

ACT-SO (Academic Cultural Technical Science

Olympics) competitions begin July 14 at the Hyatt Regency, Crystal City and culminate with an awards ceremony on July 16th at the Convention Center.

Habitat for Humanity International will construct a new home inside the Convention Center and present the keys to a family left homeless by Hurricane Katrina. The home will be moved to Houston after the convention.

Founded in 1909, the NAACP is the nation's oldest and largest civil rights organization. Its members throughout the United States and the world are the premier advocates for civil rights in their communities, conducting voter mobilization and monitoring equal opportunity in the public and private sectors.

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A portion of the funding was made possible by a Texas Commission on Environmental Quality supplemental environmental project.

Visit Our Website At www.MONTheGazette.com

New Dream Team: Magic Johnson, Thomas Dortch, Cornel West, And T.D. Jakes

Already it's called the Dream Team of African-American success mentoring: from the best in business, sports, and academia, a heady lineup of national Black leaders, under the aegis of TDJ Enterprises, will open the book on their



Magic Johnson

successes. BEST -- Black Economic Success Training -- is a groundbreaking new seminar scheduled to debut August 11-12 at the Times Union Center in Jacksonville FL.

"I am staggered at this chance to avail sharp minds of our greatest negotiators, business giants, marketing geniuses -- all willing to show what to do and how to do it," said organizer T.D. Jakes, founder and head of TDJ Enterprises. "No matter who you are or what you do, BEST can help you map the route to your life's best."

Author Thomas Shapiro, in "The Hidden Costs of Being

African-American," says that the 750,000 middle-class Blacks in 1965 had, by the mid-1990s, multiplied tenfold to 7.5 million. But he says those gains are undermined by a growing gap in inherited wealth and the "continuing institutional discrimination in homeownership." On the plus side, stats show that between 1997 and 2002, according to the "Survey of Business Owners: Black-Owned Firms: 2002," the number of black-owned businesses in the US rose 45 percent to 1.2 million. Combined revenue increased 25 percent to \$88.8 billion.

"We're building on good news and blasting at the bad. We're doing it with essential knowledge wrapped in real lives of the best of a generation," Jakes said. "Changes come as we take mentoring to a new level."



Dr. Cornel West

BEST initial speakers roster includes:

• Earvin "Magic" Johnson, one of the "50 Greatest Players in NBA History" also has a bulging business portfolio of Burger Kings, a TGI Friday's, Starbucks, movie theaters, 24-Hour Fitness centers, and residential and commercial real estate ventures--all aimed to help revitalize near-downtown neighborhoods. USA Today says he is perhaps the most successful athlete in profitable retirement.

• Dr. Cornel West is, Henry Louis Gates has said, "the pre-eminent African-American intellectual of our time." West entered Harvard at age 17 and finished in three years, magna cum laude. His resume sparkles with Princeton (where he currently heads Religion and African-American Studies), Harvard, Union Theological Seminary, Yale Divinity School, University of Paris, and more. His many groundbreaking books include "Race Matters."

• Thomas Dortch chairs the nationally powerful 100 Black Men of America, a service organization committed to intellectual development and economic empowerment. He is CEO of TWD, Inc., and Atlanta Transportation Systems; a Presidential Citation winner, recipient of the Martin Luther King, Jr., Distinguished Service Award; and founder of the National Black College Alumni Hall of Fame.

• T.D. Jakes heads a multi-million dollar for-profit business

and is CEO/pastor of a 30,000-member church. His many books include the international mega-seller "Woman, Thou Art



Bishop T.D. Jakes

Loosed," also the title of his movie, which has sold 1 million DVDs. His WTAL seminar holds the Georgia Dome attendance record; his music has won Grammy's; his current book, "Mama Made the Difference" is a New York Times bestseller.

BEST conferences are a program of T. D. Jakes' economic empowerment initiative, which includes www.tdjakes.com.

To register for the BEST conference, go to www.tdjakes.com or call 1-866-JAKES22 (1-800-525-3722). BEST conferences are also planned for Charlotte, NC; Washington, D.C.; Atlanta; and Los Angeles.

For information, contact: Nancy Lovell 214-363-7799 nancy@lovel-fairchild.com

Julie Fairchild 214-536-0037 julie@lovel-fairchild.com

Source: BEST Conferences Julie Fairchild, +1-214-536-0037, or julie@lovel-fairchild.com, both for BEST Conferences.

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Picken, Ph.D., executive director of the Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship at the School of Management at the University of Texas at Dallas. He will discuss various opportunities today's businesses face and teach business owners how to evaluate them using an opportunity evaluation checklist.

The seminar will be from

8a.m. - 10a.m., Thursday, July 20 at ViewPoint Bank, 1201 W. 15th St., Plano. Admission is free. Please RSVP by calling 972-801-5775 or send an e-mail to business.banking@viewpointbank.com.

With more than 220,000 members and \$1.5 billion in assets, ViewPoint Bank is federally insured through Federal

Deposit Insurance Corp. (FDIC). The institution was founded in 1952 as Collins Radio Credit Union, and was later named Community Credit Union. In 2005, credit union members voted to change their charter and become ViewPoint Bank. For more information about ViewPoint Bank visit viewpointbank.com.

African American Teen Unemployment Up 11% In June To More Than Six Times National Average

While overall unemployment remains steady at 4.6%, the unemployment rate among African American teens increased by 11% in the month of June to the shockingly high rate of 27.8%, according to the Labor Department's June jobs report. This bleak employment outlook for young African Americans threatens to become much worse as lawmakers return to the Capitol next week

and again take up the debate to raise the minimum wage to \$7.25 an hour, according to the Employment Policies Institute.

While overall teenage unemployment continues to hover around 15%, African American teen unemployment remains more than six times the national rate. This translates into about 244,000 African American teenagers actively seeking employment who are finding it

difficult to secure a job.

Decades of economic research conclude that mandated wage hikes eliminate entry-level jobs, putting particular pressure on minorities and the low skilled. A Cornell University study found that black young adults typically bear almost four times the employment loss of their non-black counterparts after a minimum wage increase. Specifically, they found that a 10% increase in

the minimum wage will result in an 8.5% decrease in employment for black young adults and teenagers.

"Raising the minimum wage is going to make it even harder for young African Americans to get their foot in the door and start gaining lifelong skills that will help them up the ladder of success," said Michael Flynn, Director of Legislative Affairs for the Employment Policies Institute.

African-American Female To Lead Major Texas Law Firm; Mary A. Daffin Named Managing Partner

Mary A. Daffin has been named managing partner of the law firm of Barrett Burke Wilson Castle Daffin & Frappier, LLP. In this role, Ms. Daffin will be responsible for all legal operations of the firm.

"I am very pleased and gratified to accept this responsibility," said Ms. Daffin. "This firm is a national leader in providing specialized legal services to the mortgage industry, and we will continue to expand that role. I hope this also signals our leadership in promoting diversity in the legal profession."

Ms. Daffin joined the firm



at the time of its formation in 1990.

Previously she was a solo

practitioner in Houston for eight years, and prior to forming her practice she served as an Assistant United States Attorney from 1978 to 1982.

She received her law degree cum laude from the Thurgood Marshall School of Law at Texas Southern University, and her undergraduate degree summa cum laude from Alabama State University. Ms. Daffin is active in a number of Texas state bar activities, and was recently appointed as vice president of professional edu-

cation of the bar's bankruptcy section. She is an adjunct professor at Texas Southern, and is an author and frequent speaker on issues related to the mortgage servicing industry, bankruptcies and foreclosures. Ms. Daffin serves on the Judicial Council of the United Methodist Church, and on the board of trustees of the Star of Hope Mission in her hometown of Houston.

Barrett Burke Wilson Castle Daffin & Frappier has 36 attorneys on staff, all in Texas.

Garland George Washington Carver Alumni Reunion

The George Washington Carver School Alumni Association of Garland is planning a reunion for all former students that attended the school. The reunion will take place during the weekend of July 21-23. Lots of exciting activities will take place; including a semi-formal summer bash Saturday night at the Garland Special Events Center, 4999 Naaman Forest

Bldv., Garland, TX 75040 and a special church service on Sunday morning at Sweet Home Missionary Baptist Church, 1019 S. 1st Street, Garland, TX 75040. For ticket and sponsorship information, please contact Josie Walker Murphy @ (214) 770-5724 or by email @ carverallschoolreunion2006@comcast.net or Emma Clark Abner @ (972) 272-7636.

Men's Day At New Birth Baptist Church

New Birth Baptist Church will present their Annual Men's Day Celebration on July 8, July 14 and July 16 entitled "Men of God: Adding To Our Faith and Abounding in the Knowledge of Jesus Christ."

Saturday, July 8 will include a workshop from 9 a.m. to noon with an interactive discussion. On Friday, July 14 metroplex choruses will perform at the Pre-Men's Day Gospel Music

Fest at 7:30 p.m.

Men's Day will take place on Sunday, July 16 with three services. Dr. C.B.T. Smith, Dr. George W. Pryor and Pastor Michael D. Pryor will give sermons at the 7:50 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. services, respectively.

New Birth Baptist Church is located at 444 W. Ledbetter Drive, Dallas, TX 75224. For more information call 214-374-0828.

Awesome Arts Festival 2006 Set For Plano Centre

Celebrate Back-to-School with a day of dance, art, music, live performances and FREE family fun

Awesome Arts Festival is a FREE all day showcase featuring Young Audiences' 2006 roster of artists. The festival is a family-friendly event that features non-stop culturally diverse entertainment such as flamenco dancing, African drumming and improvisational comedy. The event is a great opportunity for parents and

World with Blackbrows the Pirate with Loose Cannon Productions; Stars and Moon Yoga with Lynn Moon; MOVE! Minds Opened, Visions Expanded with Jennifer Laws; Bookmaking with Sheila Cunningham; Nature Reflection Journal with Janet Reynolds; The Intrigue of Afrikan Masks with Kojo.

Teachers, librarians, and parents are also invited to attend FREE educator workshops including: Integrating the Arts

into Your Classroom and Arts Funding for Your School: A Grant Writing Workshop.

Awesome Arts Family Festival '06 kicks off on Saturday, Sept. 9, 2006 from 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.

at the Plano Centre (2000 E

Spring Creek Parkway). Educator workshops have limited availability and begin at 10 a.m. Those interested in attending the educator workshops should RSVP to Amy Gerald at agerald@bigthought.org.

• Awesome Arts Festival promotes the value of arts-in-education programs and helps schools, community centers, libraries, youth groups, etc. plan their arts and cultural program-

ming for the year.

• Creates an environment for parents to realize the value of the arts in a child's.

• A FREE fun event for the whole family.

To learn about sponsorship or volunteer opportunities for Awesome Arts Festival please contact Michelle Rivera at 469-916-9820 or mrivera@bigthought.org.

Please check our website at www.awesomearts.org for the schedule of events and additional information about.



Kids enjoying Kabuki Arts at 2005 Awesome Arts Festival



Children learning at Mexican dance at the Awesome Arts Festival

New Beginning Center Conducting Back-To-School Supplies Drive

New Beginning Center is currently conducting a Back-To-School Supplies Drive benefiting the children and adolescent clients living in domestic violence shelter.

In addition to the standard pencils, pens, crayons, paper, notebooks and backpacks needed to start the school year; New Beginning Center is seeking gift cards to Wal-Mart and Target for the purchase of standardized clothing required by many area

schools.

Individuals, groups and businesses are encouraged to gather supplies and drop them off at New Beginning Center outreach offices at 218 North Tenth Street in Garland.

New Beginning Center was able to provide school supplies for over 400 children in the 2005-06 school year.

New Beginning Center is committed to the mission of fostering an environment of safety, sup-

port and respect for families affected by domestic violence through crisis intervention, counseling, shelter, education, advocacy, and diverse community partnership. The vision of New Beginning Center is to promote social change that will lead to the elimination of domestic violence.

For more information please contact: Dixie Allen, 972-276-0423 x 229 or email dallen@newbeginningcenter.org

CCCCD Marketable Skills Achievement Award In Sports Management

Collin County Community College District (Collin) will offer a new marketable skills achievement award in sports management that can be completed in 12 credit hours. The award will first be offered in fall 2006.

Students enrolled in sports management classes will learn financial management, market-

ing and legal issues associated with the sport and exercise industry.

Classes include foundations of sport and physical activity, introduction to sports management, introduction to recreation resources management and principles of marketing.

Students who complete the award will be prepared to work

in corporate fitness centers, health clubs, college and professional sports organizations, federations and governments, media and many areas of recreation.

Registration for the fall semester begins June 27, and registration for the spring 2007 semester begins Nov. 28.

Applications Accepted For Urban League Youth Program

The Urban League of Greater Dallas is accepting applications for its Urban Youth E_ (Education, Employment and Empowerment) Program. Funded by the Department of Labor and through the National Urban League, the program provides career prepara-

tion to out-of-school and adjudicated youth ages 18-21.

The program offers a variety of opportunities including GED Training, computer/technical training, job readiness training, vocational training, work internships and job placement. It also

provides community service, internships and on-the-job training. All participants will receive a stipend.

Get paid while you learn. For more information about this exciting program, please call Karen Reed at (214) 915-4686.

Youth Sports Summit Page 1

im executive director. "Personal growth through sports can transcend the basketball court, football field, and baseball diamond and hockey arena. Youth sports programs created at the beginning of the 20th century have been eclipsed by the pursuit of big paychecks and fame."

Among the workshop topics are race and sports, coaching and ethics, parents as coaches, faith and sports, success with an attitude, the lifestyle of an athlete and professional athletes who have gotten caught up in stardom and had to rebuild their lives.

Fifty athletes, high school and college students, will have an opportunity to attend the workshop at no charge. Scholarship applications have been mailed to coaches and school district athletic directors.

The Open Doors Foundation has provided more than \$100,000 to other institutions including Feed the Children, The United Negro College Fund, St. Philip's School and Community Center, National Urban League and Education for Excellence.

For more information about the summit, please call 214-265-6555 or e-mail: Irajhdn@aol.com

Miss Texas Page 1

First runner-up to Miss Texas was Miss Woodlands, Molly Hazlett; followed by second runner-up, Miss Southlake, Shea Yarbrough; third runner-up, Miss Houston, Brooke Webster; and fourth runner-up, Miss Plano, Heather Hodges. Others named to the top 10 were Miss Central Texas, Brooks Dennard; Miss Concho Valley, Madison Emert; Miss East Texas, Melissa Griffin; Miss Lufkin, Adrianna Nelson; and Miss Texarkana, Dawn Hughes.

In an era when many of the contestants enter the Miss Texas pageant multiple times before winning, Phillips won on her first try.

"I'm not a pageant girl," she said, though looking the part in an ivory evening gown with a cascade of ruffles, holding the traditional bouquet of yellow roses.

Phillips won both the talent and swimsuit competitions during pageant preliminaries last week. For her talent, she performed I Believe in You and Me, a song by Whitney Houston from the movie soundtrack of The Preacher's Wife.

A former student at Collin County Community College, Phillips lives in Plano and had planned on entering the University of North Texas as a music major, specializing in jazz.

She is the daughter of Janie Nicol of Plano, who recognized her daughter's vocal talent early and had her in the church choir at the age of 3.

"We knew she had it in her, but we didn't know when the world was going to see it," Janie Nicol said while waiting

backstage to congratulate her daughter.

Choosing the new Miss Texas was a panel of judges made up of Mignon Merchant Ball, a former Miss Oklahoma; Amy Parker Cook, Miss Texas 1992; Hugh Copeland, producer and director of the Miss Virginia Pageant; Dinah Day, sports broadcaster and actress; Nathan Gooden, a concert pianist and business executive; Dana Phillips, executive director of the Miss Oregon Scholarship Program; and David Weinck, an actor with TV and film credits.

This is the first year the Miss Texas pageant has been held in conjunction with the Miss Texas Outstanding Teen Pageant. Preliminaries for both pageants were conducted Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday last week, with the teen finalists announced Friday morning.

Named Miss Texas' Outstanding Teen was Miss Southlake, Kendall Morris, a 15-year-old sophomore at Ennis High School. Her talent at playing Liberace's Chopsticks earned her the right to compete at the second Miss America's Outstanding Teen Pageant next month in Orlando, Fla. Megan Miller, a Beaumont native, won the first-ever national teen pageant last year.

Other top five finalists in the teen competition were teens representing Wichita Falls, Erika Hatcher, first runner-up; White Settlement, Lea Ciskowski; Plano, Erin Hunt; and Burleson, Brittany Barnett.

The new Miss Texas replaces Morgan Matlock, who won last year's title representing Fort Worth.

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Arts & Entertainment

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Braxton Juggles Motherhood With Music

By: Oscar Wells Gabriel II

At the start of her recent tour, it had been nearly ten years since Toni Braxton has been in concert. She had a new album and plenty to talk about — but the first thing she mentioned was how fans at her first show in Atlantic City, N.J., almost got more of her than they bargained for.

Braxton said she left the stage for a quickie costume change. But in the eight seconds allotted to swap outfits, she forgot something: her panties. She was about to head back on stage wearing "just pantyhose and a top" when an alert member of the stage crew caught the faux pas.

The incident, and the fact that she seems comfortable telling on herself within the first minute of an interview, gives one the sense that Braxton is, quite literally, comfortable in her skin.

She acknowledges the days are long gone when she can pose nearly nude for Vibe magazine or wear the kind of dress she did at the 2001 Grammys (with a deep, plunging neckline and top half strategically held up by double-sided tape). But at age 38, she's still not shy about wearing clothes that offer a glimpse of thigh here or a little cleavage there — even with her family in the audience.

Braxton is now married to Keri Lewis (former keyboardist for Mint Condition, her current opening act) and they have two children, Denim, 5, and Diezel, 2. Two of her sisters, Tamar and Trina, are working as backup singers and dancers.

What's it like juggling family and stardom?

"Challenging," Braxton says. "It's been hard, I can't deny it, 'cause I'm a real hands-on mom, really involved with my kids and their day-to-day activities."

Now that she's on the road, she laments she "can't be as involved."

Don't tell that to Denim. Braxton and her husband installed cameras in all the rooms of their house, so she can monitor the kids on the Internet when she's away. Sometimes she catches



Denim letting the family dog out of its cage and calls him on the phone to tell him to stop. Because of her surveillance skills, she jokingly says of her son: "He definitely believes in God."

Braxton knows that with many of today's stars at least a decade younger than her, she has to tour to maintain her career. She's known for hits like "Breathe Again," "Seven Whole Days" and "Love Shoulda Brought You Home." But while her fans love her songs, she has mixed emotions about some — like "Seven Whole Days."

"Hated it!" says Braxton. In fact, she says of the sigh after the lyric "seven whole nights": "I did that to be smart." On the other hand, she says while she loved "Another Sad Love Song," Kenneth "Babyface" Edmonds "only thought it was OK" and considered it album filler until it became one of her first hits.

Braxton says she doesn't feel

pressure to keep up with the crop of younger singers who have come along since 1992, when she first hit the scene. While she's added a pinch or two of hip-hop flavor to her music over the years, her style usually appeals to adult contemporary audiences.

Sometimes, a little too much. Braxton says she's often asked to sing at weddings of friends and family members. She usually tells them: "You don't want me to sing at your wedding," because her big hits are what she calls "happy-sad love songs." As she put it, desperate-for-love ballads like "Un-break My Heart" and "Breathe Again" are "not a good sound for your wedding."

Even in "You Mean The World To Me," she notes, she tells her man to give her one good reason to believe all his lies. She credits Babyface with writing lyrics that make heart-break songs sound almost like the kind you might want to hear at your own wedding.

While a master at singing about broken hearts, it was a physical problem with her heart that gave her a scare recently. Just after her second child was born, she returned to work on the Broadway show "Aida." She came down with a case of pericarditis, an inflammation of the heart caused by a virus. Though she now dismisses the scare as just "a big ol' mess," she says when she heard the problem involved her heart, she thought about the movie "Beaches" — and feared she'd be like the Barbara Hershey character, who dies.

Now she paces herself while on tour. Every once and again she might feel a little flutter, but she declares herself "100 percent fine."

Braugher, Woodward, Rhimes' 'Anatomy' Get Emmy Nods

The Shonda Rhimes-created ABC drama "Grey's Anatomy" picked up 11 Emmy nominations last week, while Andre Braugher and Alfre Woodward earned acting nods for their respective roles in FX's "Thief" and ABC's "Desperate Housewives."

"Anatomy's" tally — which included a best drama nod and supporting actress recognition for co-star Chandra Wilson — was second only to Fox's "24," which received 12 nominations, including best drama and best actor for star Keifer Sutherland. Other best drama nominees are NBC's "The West Wing," HBO's "Six Feet Under" and FX's "Rescue Me."

"I'm so happy for our show," Wilson told the Associated Press from Italy, where she's on a promotional visit. "My family is here, so I got hugs right away, and the cast is here, so we're hugging on

each other. Maybe we can go have a really expensive dinner."

Meanwhile, "Thief's" Braugher was recognized for his work on FX's freshman drama, where he starred as the leader of a criminal outfit plotting an elaborate heist. He joins fellow nominees Charles Dance (PBS' "Bleak House:



Alfre Woodward

Masterpiece Theater"), Ben Kingsley (HBO's "Mrs. Harris") and Jon Voight (CBS' "Pope John Paul II") Donald Southerland (Lifetime's "Human Trafficking") in the category Outstanding Lead

Actor in a Mini Series.

In a shocker, none of the five leading "Desperate Housewives" received nominations this year. However, Alfre Woodward earned an Outstanding Supporting Actress nod for playing their disturbed neighbor, Betty Applewhite. She'll face nominees Cheryl Hines (HBO's "Curb Your Enthusiasm"), Jaime Pressly (NBC's "My Name is Earl"), Elizabeth Perkins (Showtime's "Weeds") and Megan Mullally (NBC's "Will & Grace").

The Emmy Awards are scheduled to air Aug. 27 on NBC, with Conan O'Brien as host of the Shrine Auditorium ceremony. The awards, traditionally held in September at the start of the TV season, were moved up because of NBC's addition of Sunday-night football to its schedule.

New Tyler Perry DVD Releases Explode Onto Video Charts With 3.6 Million Units Sold In Opening Week

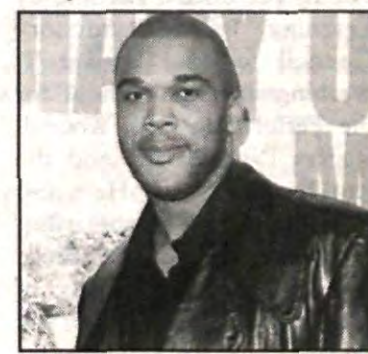
The Tyler Perry franchise is proving to be as unstoppable as Madea, the character he has portrayed so famously on the stage and screen. The DVD debut of Perry's theatrical film Madea's Family Reunion combined forces with the DVD's of Perry's stage shows Madea Goes To Jail and Why Did I Get Married to account for 3.6 million units sold in their opening week, with all three titles debuting in the top 10, it was announced today by Lionsgate President Steve Beeks.

Debuting on home video and DVD on June 27th, Madea's Family Reunion alone sold over two million units in the United States in its first week. The title, along with DVD's of the stage

productions of Madea Goes to Jail and Why Did I Get Married, occupied three spots on this week's top DVD charts, bringing to six the total number of Tyler Perry DVD releases to debut in the top 10 for Lionsgate. Madea's Family Reunion debuted at number one at the domestic theatrical box office on its way to grossing \$63 million in domestic box office. Tyler Perry's two theatrical films for Lionsgate have grossed a combined \$113 million at the North American box office.

Since making his film debut with Diary Of A Mad Black Woman, Tyler Perry has become a multimedia phenomenon with a roster of hugely successful film, stage, television, and book projects. He recently

completed his two-year sold-out tour of "Madea Goes to Jail," the stage show he wrote, produced, scored and starred in. Perry's first book, Don't Make a



Black Woman Take Off Her Earrings: Madea's Uninhibited Commentaries on Life and Love debuted at #1 on the New York Times' hardcover nonfiction bestseller list.

The Newest Princess Of R&B In BET's Docu-Drama, Keyshia Cole: The Way It Is

BET and Interscope A&M Records join forces this summer to debut its newest reality venture, Keyshia Cole: The Way It Is. This six-part series



chronicles the turbulent past and promising future of one of R&B's true success stories. Starting in Keyshia's hometown, we discover how the singer escaped the pressures of the inner city, and later

returned to sell out venues and headline her own cross-country tour at the tender age of 21. Scheduled to premiere on BET on Wednesday, July 12, the show presents intimate details of the star's upbringing and how her struggles were the inspiration behind her music and new found status.

In this candid look into the life of Keyshia Cole, stories pour from the singer as she discusses her mother's battles with drug addiction and the childhood spent in and out of foster care. The premiere episode, set in Oakland, focuses on her return back home since beginning her tour some months prior. As Keyshia reflects on this whirlwind time, she must deal with the events that ripped her family apart, current family issues and her own personal struggles. Viewers will take interest as the singer engages in touching

reunions, drama-filled interviews and Keyshia's no nonsense business attitude as she cements her standing in the entertainment industry and forms her own music label.

"It's simple — her passion stems from her complicated past," said Reginald Hudlin, President of Entertainment, BET. "Not a modern day Cinderella tale, but the story of a survivor with all the love and talent in the world. I defy anyone to watch the first 15 minutes of this show and not be hooked."

"I'm thrilled that Byron Phillips and Reginald Hudlin have validated Keyshia Cole as a real life character that truly belongs in the fabric of the BET Network," commented Ron Fair, who signed Keyshia Cole while President of A&M Records and produced her platinum debut album, The Way It Is.

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Survey Shows Blacks Continue To Decline In TV News Nationwide; NABJ Concerned About Trend

The National Association of Black Journalists is troubled about the latest national survey results showing that the percentage of blacks in local television news continues to decline.

The 2006 Radio and Television News Directors/Ball State University report also showed blacks increased slightly in radio news, although the overall representation on minorities in radio newsrooms plummeted by more than 8 percent in the past decade.

Overall, the survey showed an

increase in minority journalists in TV newsrooms, with journalists of color representing 22.2 percent of the TV news workforce, up a full percent from 2005. The growth came almost entirely from an increase in Hispanics and Asian Americans. Those increases more than offset a 0.8 percent drop in African Americans. Minorities account for 33.6 percent of the U.S. population.

"While we would hope to see an increase across the board among all underrepresented groups, clearly the numbers show that's

not the case," said NABJ President Bryan Monroe. "As stations seek to diversify their news staffs, such progress should not come at the expense of African Americans. Fair and accurate coverage of African American communities must remain a priority."

There was growth in the number of African American television news directors. Blacks were the largest group of minority news directors at non-Hispanic TV stations at 4.2 percent.

An area of great concern is the

lack of growth among black general managers, said Ciara. The survey showed that 93 percent of general managers of TV stations were white, and four out of five were men - virtually unchanged in the past year.

This topic and others will be featured at the National Association of Black Journalists 31st Annual Convention and Career Fair August 16-20 at the Indiana Convention Center. The convention is expected to attract more than 3,000 attendees nationwide. It is the largest pro-

fessional gathering devoted to black journalists in the nation. In addition to a discussion with Ball State University's Bob Papper and other journalists about the RTNDA survey, other convention sessions will look at black entrepreneurship and the current state of network news, featuring executives from the major television networks.

The convention will also feature the nation's largest journalism career fair along with specialized workshops, plenary session with other national figures, pro-

fessional development breakfasts targeted to various journalism disciplines, a Hall of Fame banquet, a gospel brunch, media receptions, and much more for veteran, up-and-coming and future journalists.

An advocacy group established in 1975 in Washington, D.C., NABJ is the largest organization of journalists of color in the nation, with nearly 4,000 members, and provides educational, career development and support to black journalists worldwide.

Urban League Gala Page 1

unteerism and community service.

Kirk will receive the Whitney M. Young, Jr. award for his long-time support of the Urban League movement and its mission.

He is a partner at the law firm, Vinson & Elkins LLP, specializing in public finance and public policy. Kirk served as Mayor of the City of Dallas and Texas Secretary of State and has over 20 years of experience as legislative counsel for numerous public and private entities. In addition to his extraordinary professional career he remains involved in a wide range of community and civic activities. He serves on numerous Boards of Directors and Advisory Boards including Brinker International, Dean Foods, Pet Smart, Earning by Learning, Business Advisory Council for the Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing Arts; Woodall Rogers Park Project and the Real Estate Council. He is also active in his firm's Scholarship Program which funds college scholarships for students of color who are interested in law careers.

Dr. Hill will receive the President's Award for her advocacy and leadership on behalf of the less fortunate citizens in the Dallas Community. She is in private practice in her Law Office and specializes in general civil practice with emphasis on municipal law, wills, probate and guardianships. She has over twenty years of legal experience and has served in a various positions including Interim Municipal Judge for the City of The Colony, District Court Administrator for Dallas County, Municipal Court Judge for the City of Dallas and Staff Attorney for the Public Utility Commission of Texas. Her remarkable career extends beyond the legal world. In addition to her law degree which she received from the University of Texas at

Austin, Dr. Hill also has a Masters of Arts degree from Rice University, a Masters of Library Science degree from Atlanta University and a Masters of Divinity degree from the Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University. She is Senior Pastor at Mt. Zion African Methodist Episcopal Church. She is also a candidate for the Dallas City Council, District 5.

Countrywide Financial Corporation will receive the Buddy J. Minyard Award for their outstanding corporate partnership and support of the Urban League. They support Urban League programs that benefit low-to-moderate income individuals and families and help revitalize economically distressed areas including financial education focusing on home ownership education.

Founded in 1969 and based in Calabasas, CA, Countrywide Financial Corporation is a member of the S&P 500 and Fortune 500. Through its family of companies, Countrywide provides mortgage banking and diversified financial services in domestic and international markets. Mortgage banking businesses include loan production and servicing principally through Countrywide Home Loans, Inc., which originates, purchases, securitizes, sells, and services primarily prime-quality loans.

The entertainment for this year's gala is soul vocalist Jeffrey Osborne. For ticket information call (214) 915-4600.

The mission of the Urban League is to enable African Americans and others to secure economic self-reliance, parity, power and civil rights. Through its services, which include education, employment, health, housing, seniors and technology training, the League creates positive choices for residents throughout Dallas County.

"We continue to believe in the words of Whitney M. Young Jr., that "every man is my brother and each man's burden my own: where poverty exists all are

poorer; where hatred flourishes all are corrupted; where injustice reigns, all are unequal," said Dr. Brooks.

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NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS OF PROPOSED TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (TxDOT) CONTRACTS

Sealed proposals for contracts listed below will be received by TxDOT until the date(s) shown below, and then publicly read.

CONSTRUCTION/MAINTENANCE/ BUILDING FACILITIES CONTRACT(S)

Dist/Div: Fort Worth
Contract 0008-04-043 for LANDSCAPING in TARRANT County will be opened on August 08, 2006 at 1:00 pm at the State Office.
Contract 0008-13-203 for in TARRANT County will be opened on August 08, 2006 at 1:00 pm at the State Office.
Contract 0008-13-208 for RECONSTRUCT FR FROM FLEXIBLE PAVEMENT TO CONCRETE in TARRANT County will be opened on August 09, 2006 at 1:00 pm at the State Office.
Contract 0081-12-019 for GRADING, STRUCTURE & PAVEMENT in TARRANT County will be opened on August 08, 2006 at 1:00 pm at the State Office.
Contract 0747-04-058 for INSTALL RAISED MEDIAN in TARRANT County will be opened on August 09, 2006 at 1:00 pm at the State Office.
Contract 0902-48-662 for CLEANING STRUCTURES in TARRANT County will be opened on August 09, 2006 at 1:00 pm at the State Office.

Plans and specifications are available for inspection, along with bidding proposals, and applications for the TxDOT Prequalified Contractor's list, at the applicable State and/or Dist/Div Offices listed below. If applicable, bidders must submit prequalification information to TxDOT at least 10 days prior to the bid date to be eligible to bid on a project. Prequalification materials may be requested from the State Office listed below. Plans for the above contract(s) are available from TxDOT's website at www.dot.state.tx.us and from reproduction companies at the expense of the contractor. NPO: 20671

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Austin, Texas 78704
Phone: 512-416-2540

Dist/Div Office(s)
Fort Worth District
District Engineer
2501 Southwest LP820
Ft Worth, Texas 76133
Phone: 817-370-6500

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

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Church News

Values, Traditions And Family Reunions



Sister Tarpley

Having attended three family reunions this year: My maternal side, the Baker-Smith Reunion; my paternal side, the Demus Reunion; and the paternal side of my aunt, the High Family Reunion; I think of our ancestors; and an old Yoruba proverb that states, "The young cannot teach tradition to the old" (elderly.)

Our children are our hope and our future; at a family reunion, is a good time to teach family values and traditions. Not only do we need to provide our children with the tools they will require to live productive and healthy lives, they also need to know why they think as they do; why their beliefs are what they are; and why they look as they do.

Family achievements and involvement can inspire many, and some may never realize it. Traditions are handed down to us; at the same time, we must realize that it also starts with us. Our obligation is clear: We must strive to do our best, to challenge and to dedicate ourselves to the vision and tenacity it takes to create a better world for future generations of our family and other people. Then we can expect no less from other family members.

When we help to create a better world, we will have learned to appreciate the values and traditions that were handed down to us. However, usually we don't realize until we are adults—and I know with children and grandchildren of our own—the extent our forefathers sacrificed for us; how hard they worked and the number of hours they devoted to our develop-

ment.

When we study family history through older parents, aunts, uncles, cousins, brother and sisters, we cannot begin to fathom the amount of



Picture of The Week

Cedric D. Roberson, standing beside his Baker-Smith Family Farm Historical Marker, the first Black family recorded at Texas State Capitol with over 100 years of continuous farm ownership in Mexico, TX in Limestone County.

effort our ancestors exerted and the cruelty they endured and over which they triumphed. But we can learn and appreciate the path our ancestors left for us to follow. We can learn that we are who we are because of whom they were. We can learn that "self-help is the best help" because when we help ourselves, we empower ourselves. We become active, not passive, and our efforts generate the energy to do more. There is an old saying that, "Blood is thicker than water," how true that saying is, "Blood" flows down through genera-

tions and each family member shares in the characteristics, values and traits of that family.

It is a good thing to get alone with elderly family members, especially when you can do it one-on-one, the wealth of information will inspire you to new heights. I am thankful to my Uncle Charlie Baker from Mexia, TX and my two Aunts (Jessie Baker Green from Clovis, NM and Eva Joyce High Baker from Mexia) for spending long hours on the phone and one-on-one with me sharing family history and stories that I have been able to backup with copies of original paperwork from courthouses, churches, and family Bibles. Even attending reunions, like I do, if you will only listen as others talk, you will be surprised how much you learn about things that happened in the past; you learn that each generation makes their own mistakes and we can profit from their mistakes.

Knowledge gained at a family reunion of the effort required to carry us this distance should propel us in the right direction and help us bear up "under our own burdens". When we continue the struggle of a good education, owning property, doing the best we can with our lives, it is the best way we have of saying, "Thank You" to those who struggled for us; and pass on family history, values and traditions.

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

Fax: 972-516-4197

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

McKinney Chamber Page 1
jurisdiction.

Attendance is expected at all sessions and the overnight retreat in August is mandatory. Classes meet the first Thursday of each month, September through May, 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. Candidates must be willing to commit to these time require-

ments and, if applicable, have the full support of their employer or sponsoring organization.

Tuition Tuition for the program is \$750, but can be reduced to \$650 with discounts. An enrollment deposit of \$300 must accompany the application, refundable to individuals not selected as participants in

Citizenship McKinney

Citizenship McKinney applications are available at the McKinney Chamber of Commerce office or on the website at www.mckinneytx.org.

Deadline to submit an application is July 19.

Questions? Contact Deb Fitzgerald at 972-542-0163 or dfitzgerald@mckinneytx.org for more information.

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 11:00 am
Wednesday Prayer/Bible Study 7:00 pm
2nd & 4th Monday ("Youth for Christ") 7:00 pm

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

200 Belmont Drive • Allen, Texas • 75013

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

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



NORTH DALLAS COMMUNITY BIBLE FELLOWSHIP

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

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES:

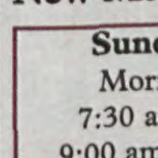
8:00 AM • 9:30 AM • 11:30 AM

972-437-3493

1010-1020 South Sherman Street • Richardson, TX 75081

www.ndcbf.org

New Mt. Zion Baptist Church of Dallas



Sunday Service

Morning Worship

7:30 am & 10:30 am

9:00 am Sunday School

Wednesday Service

Prayer Meeting 7:00 pm

Brotherhood 7:00 pm

Missions 7:00 pm

Singles Group 7:00 pm

Bible Study 7:45 pm

Dr. Robert E. Price, Senior Pastor

A Praying Church Family

"Watchmen on the Walls"

214-341-6459 (Phone) • 214-342-8403 (Fax)

9550 Shepard Road

Dallas, TX 75243

www.nmzb.org (Website) • newmzb@aol.com (Email)

Visit Our Website At www.MONTheGazette.com

Church Happenings

AVENUE F CHURCH OF CHRIST

July 19-21, 7:30 pm and
July 22 & 23, 8 am & 10:45 am

FREE Homecoming Week Festivities '06, including a Health Fair, Block Party and Musical. For information, call Tawanda @ 469-671-1929.

Avenue F C of C

Brother Craig Christman, Minister

Brother Emery Tease,

Associate Minister

1026 Avenue F

Plano, TX 75074

972-423-8833

CORNERSTONE BAPTIST CHURCH

July 14-16, 2006

Family Fest '06: "Building Family From The Inside Out!" Speakers: Rev. Dwight McKissic; Dr. Rickie Rush; Bishop Donald Green; Kay Coles James; Rev. Wanda Davis; Rev. T.L. Rogers; Theresa McFadden; Danny Nash; LaVon Minor; Weatherman Greg Fields; Stephen Brown. Artists: CeCe Winans; Israel & New Breed; T-Bone and Jonathan Slocumb.

For information on day and evening sessions, and the nominal charges for luncheons, youth and children events call 817-468-0083, Ext 203 or 206.

Cornerstone Baptist Church

Rev. W. Dwight McKissic, Sr.

Senior Pastor

5415 Matlock Road

Arlington, TX 76018

817-468-0083

EBENEZER WORSHIP CENTER

July 28 - 29, 2006

Women of Power Conference @ the Amerisuites Hotel, 5229 Spring Valley in Dallas, TX. Registration includes breakfast and dinner, hotel stay for one night, a host of seminars, and awesome speakers. For more information and registration, contact Jacqueline Smith @ 972-868-4911

Ebenezer Worship Center

Rev. Cecil T. Smith, II

Senior Pastor

14000 Preston Road

Dallas, TX 75254

972-980-0977

FELLOWSHIP OF BELIEVERS MINISTRIES (FBOCC)

July 16, 11 am

Bishop Crawford will speak at the Not Our Will (NOW) Ministries for Sunday Morning Service @ the Super 8 Motel, 1305 S. Stemmons Freeway, Lewisville, TX 75067.

For more information contact Minister Rudolph Urquhart @ 469-525-0145

Fellowship of Believers Ministries

Bishop Gregory Crawford

Founder and Senior Pastor

3911 S. Lancaster Road

Dallas, TX 75216

214-372-3624

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF HAMILTON PARK

July 28, 7 pm

Our Singles Ministry is hosting a Christian Comedy Show @ the Family Life Center. July 14th is the last day to get tickets. For information, please call the church.

First Baptist

Church of Hamilton Park

Dr. Gregory Foster, Senior Pastor

Rev. Anthony Foster, Co-Pastor

300 East Phillips Street

Richardson, TX 75081

972-235-4235

HILL CHAPEL CME CHURCH

July 28 & 29, 2006

"Just Between Sisters Women's Ministry" Retreat @ Marriott Addison Quorum, 14901 Dallas Parkway, Dallas TX 75254. Speakers are: First Lady Billye McNeil & Minister Cheryl Bell from Christian Chapel Temple of Faith in Dallas, and Pastor Ouida Lee from United Methodist of the Disciple in DeSoto. Theme: Called, Committed, Changing, Matthew 4:18-20, Psalm 37:5-6, 2 Corinthians 5:17

For registration information, please call the church @ 972-423-4090.

Hill Chapel CME Church

Rev. Clarence Ford, Pastor

1113 Avenue I

Plano, TX 75074

972-423-4090

MUNGER PLACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

July 17-21, 6 pm to 8 pm

All children, youth and adults please join us for our VBS. Theme: Adventure of The Treasurer Seeker—Exploring God's Promise. For more information, call 214-823-9929

Munger Place UMC

Rev. L. Charles Stovall, Pastor

5200 Bryan Street

Dallas, TX 75206

214-823-9929

THE NEW NEXT GENERATION

July 21, 7 pm and July 22, 3 pm & 7 pm

"The Cry of Rachel-Today" a Christian play, @ the Corsicana Place Theater, 110 W. 6th Street, Corsicana, TX 75110. Don't miss our special guest's surprise appearance! Donations are \$15 or \$10 for special groups.

For more information, please call 972-820-8880

The New Next Generation

Rosie McGee, Founder/Director

18352 Dallas Parkway, Suite 136-217

Dallas, TX 75287

972-306-3300

TRUE HOLINESS GOSPEL CHURCH

July 22, 10 am - 2 pm

3rd Annual "Intimate Issues" session. There will be food, fellowship, and door prizes.

Panel guests will be Pastor Tony Williams, Prevailing Rock Church of Compassion; Pastor Barry Samples, True Holiness Gospel Church; Pastor Dorothy Waffler, Garland Congregation Revival Tabernacle; Bishop Gregory Crawford, Fellowship of Believers Ministries; and Elder James McCrary of Greater El Bethel C.O.G.I.C. Theme: "Take the Delusion Out of It." 2 Timothy 2:15-16; James 5:19-20.

For more information and ticket prices, call Sis. Kairsha Leslie @ 469-951-8931 or Sis. Venus Manning @ 214-372-4391.

True Holiness Gospel Church

Apostle Mary E. Gaston, Shepherd

2421 Exeter Avenue

Dallas, TX 75216

214-374-1170

WEST IRVING CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST

Saturday, July 15, 7:30 am - 12 Noon

"A Walk for Deliverance" @ the Lively Park, 909 N. O'Connor in Irving, TX. Lifting Hands, Inc. is sponsoring this 5K (3.1 Miles) Walk Fundraiser that will provide resources for those needing help with utility bills, food, shelter, and other needs. For a day of fun bring your church, family and friends. There will be face painting, a craft table, Bible drill and more... Call the church for Registrations Fees for adults and children under 12.

West Irving COGIC

Elder Andrew Jackson, Jr.

Senior Pastor

3922 Grimes Road

Irving, TX 75061

972-790-8036

WOMEN PRAYING FOR CHRIST MINISTRIES, INC.

July 29, 6 pm

2nd Annual Stepping Out with (P & P) Prayer & Praise Gala with the world renowned Vickie Winans, National Gospel Recording Artist @ the Doubletree Hotel, 4099 Valley View Lane (near the Galleria), Dallas, TX 75244. Our theme is "Guidance in Prayer, 1 John 5:14-15.

Our speaker will be Dr. Gregory Foster, Senior Pastor, First Baptist Church of Hamilton Park Richardson, TX; with Co-Mistresses of Ceremonies, Ms. Lynne Haze of 94.5FM; and Sister Shirley Demus Tarpley, Religious Editor for MON-The Gazette. Formal & Semi-Formal only; tickets are \$50. Don't miss this event! NO TICKETS WILL BE SOLD AT THE DOOR!

For information and tickets please call 214-450-7634.

Women Praying for

Christ Ministries, Inc.

Dr. Angela S. King,

Founder/President

P.O. Box 863766

Plano, TX 75086

214-450-7634

West Irving Church of God in Christ

3922 Grimes Road

Irving, TX 75061

972-790-8036

www.westirvingchurch.org

Special Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord; we have a great challenge before us as we move into the 21st Century. That challenge is to build the Kingdom of God. The command of our Lord remains the same: That we must reach out to the lost and dying world that know not Christ. In a day of victimization, felt needs, and self esteem, it is easy to become focused on ourselves and our problems. But no believer has a problem that even compares to that of one lost without Christ.

Sunday Service Times

9:45 am Sunday School • 10:45 am Morning Worship

6:30 pm Evening Praise

(1st & 3rd) Wednesday Service Time

7:00 pm Bible Training

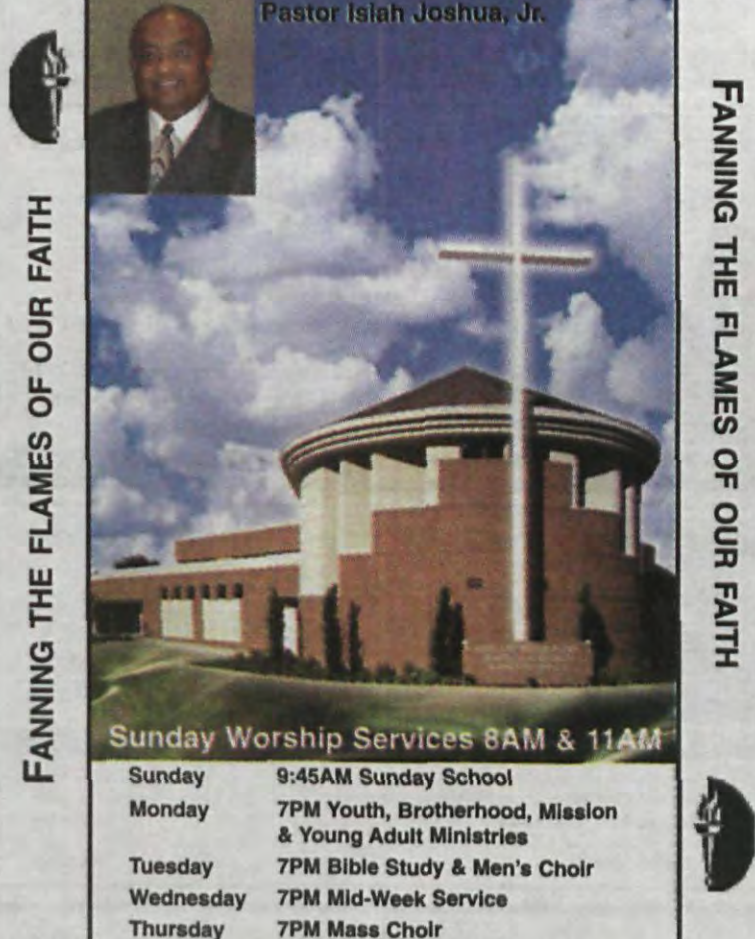
Youth Life Development (1st & 2nd)

Saturday's: 9:00 am Intercessory Prayer

Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church

920 E. 14th Street Plano, TX

Pastor Isiah Joshua, Jr.



FANNING THE FLAMES OF OUR FAITH

FANNING THE FLAMES OF OUR FAITH

Sunday Worship Services 8AM & 11AM

Sunday 9:45AM Sunday School

Monday 7PM Youth, Brotherhood, Mission & Young Adult Ministries

Tuesday 7PM Bible Study & Men's Choir

Wednesday 7PM Mid-Week Service

Thursday 7PM Mass Choir

For more information call (972) 423-6695

www.shilohbaptistchurch.org



Pastor Andrew Jackson & First Lady Sandra G. Jackson

Fresh Manna Ministries, Inc. (FMM)

Apostle Sonia C.

& Pastor John Blackwell, Visionaries

fmmkingshart@aol.com (Email)

www.orgsites.com/tx/fmmkindom/ (Web Site)

972-624-8669

Sunday Worship: 9:00 am

Cornerstone Baptist Family Fest '06

Cornerstone Baptist Church and Heritage & Hope Ministries, Inc. will present Family Fest '06 on July 14-16. Building on the success of Family Fest '05, Rev. Wm. Dwight McKissic, Sr., Senior Pastor of Cornerstone and President of Heritage & Hope Ministries, Inc., said, "Family Fest '06 is the most comprehensive family conference in the D/FW Metroplex."

The conference is designed to equip attendees to "Build Families From the Inside Out." There will be FREE nightly concerts with national recording artists, a dynamic luncheon for men and women with powerful speakers, an exciting family fun night with games, entertainment, bounce houses, contest, food, and much more.

Heritage and Hope Ministries, Inc. will honor three recipients: Bishop Donald Green will receive the Eagle Award; Bro. Lawrence Young will receive the Patriarch Award; and Sis. Alice

2006 Family Fest Schedule

Please note: the schedule listed below is subject to change.

Friday, July 14

8:00 a.m. -

Registration opens

9:00 a.m. - General Session

10:00 a.m. -

Men's & Women's Breakout Session

11:00 a.m. - T-Bone Concert

Option #2 Special Session

12:15 p.m. - Luncheon

One for Men & One for Women

2:15 p.m. - Breakout Sessions

3:30 p.m. - Day Session Ends

7:00 p.m. -

Rickie Rush
Israel Houghton
& New Breed

Saturday, July 15

8:00 a.m. -

Registration Opens

9:00 a.m. - Breakout Sessions for Singles Married Men & Women

10:15 a.m. -

Breakout Sessions

11:45 a.m. - General Session

1:00 p.m. - Day Dismissal

6:00 p.m. - Family Fun Night

7:00 p.m. - Jonathan

Slocumb Comedy

9:00 p.m. - Dismissal

Sunday, July 16

8:45 a.m. -

Sunday Bible Study Fellowship

10:00 a.m. - Worship

1:00 p.m. - Free time

7:00 p.m. -

CeCe Winans Concert



CeCe Winans

Fest '06.

The conference is being held at Cornerstone Baptist Church, 5415 Matlock Road, Arlington, TX 76018. Registration for Friday and Saturday is 8:00 am. Call for information on hotel reservations (ask for the Family Fest Conference Group to get the discounted rate) There is a nominal charge for day classes, luncheons, youth and children's event @ 817-468-0083. Register online @ www.cbc1983.org or Email us: Familyfest@cbc1983.org



Jonathan Slocumb



Dr. Rickie G. Rush

Patterson will receive the Phoebe Award.

Youth in Grades 7-12 should

register for Youth Fest '06 and Children, age 5 and in the 6th grade should register for Kids

Lifting Hands And West Irving COGIC Sponsor 5K Walk

Lifting Hands, Inc. and West Irving C.O.G.I.C. Rev. Andrew Jackson, Jr., Senior Pastor, is sponsoring a 5K (3.11 Mile) Walk! "A Walk for Deliverance" is being held this Saturday, July 15, 2006 @ 7:30 am - 12 Noon. It will convene @ the Lively Park, 909 N. O'Connor in Irving, TX.

This spiritual and physical walk fundraiser is to help those who are lost, stressed, and sick, or want a closer walk with God. How can a walk bring deliverance? First, it helps us walk in the light of God. Most of us

know that stress is the #1 killer of people. It will cause us to forget about God, lose focus on what He has for us. It kills mentally, emo-

tionally, and physically.

What causes stress? Lack of finances, abusive relationships, lack of love, our children, and etc.

will cause stress. **Second**, God's light makes it easier to deal with every situation in our lives. What do we do? Walk! It's one way to enjoy the presence of God and a healthy way to relieve stress. We pray that this spiritual walk will help whoever participates to **avoid reacting to life's problems negatively and pray instead!**

"A Walk for

Deliverance," fundraiser will help in providing resources for those who are in need of assistance with utility bills, food, shelter, and any needs in the local community.

Join Lifting Hands, Inc. and West Irving C.O.G.I.C. for a day of fun; bring church members, family and friends. Some events you will enjoy: face painting, craft table, Bible Drill, and more...

Please visit our church website for details @ www.wesirvingchurch.org. Adults registration fee is only \$20 and for children 12 and under it's only \$10.



Pastor Andrew Jackson & First Lady Sandra G. Jackson

Restland

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. . . Make Sure They are Protected in case of an Emergency.

To help you take care of this important responsibility, we are offering a FREE Simplicity Planner preplanning guide.

Call 972-238-7111 today!

(Don't wait until it's too late to make your final wishes known)

It's Spring Time! Now is the time to clean up, throw out, prioritize and do "The Simplicity Plan" for the security of your loved ones.

THE SIMPLICITY PLAN®



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 Inspiring Body of Christ Church



7710 S. Westmoreland Rd.
Dallas Texas 75237
Phone: 972-572-4262 Fax: 972-709-3888

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

Website: www.ibocjoy.org



Ben Washington Baptist Church, Inc.
3901 Frisco Avenue
Irving, TX 75061
Church 972-790-8421 Fax 972-986-6590

Email: church@bwbcrv.org
Web: bwbcrv.org

"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

THE LOVE CHURCH

Living Obediently Victoriously Expectantly

A. Louis Patterson, III • Pastor

Service Times:
Church Unusual
Sundays @ 9:30AM
TNLI ~ 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

"Loving The World With The Word!"

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 - Melike Cobb)
Pastor Mancel 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

There Are No Limitations To Our Expectations In God



New Life Fellowship Church of Rowlett

New Worship Home

7401 Miller Road • Rowlett, TX 75088

972-463-4964

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

Sunday Life Bible School: 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Life Celebration Worship Service: 10:45 a.m.
First Sunday: Ingredients for Life: 4:00 p.m.
Wednesdays: Life In The Word Prayer and Bible Study: 7:00 p.m.

Friendship Baptist Church

Dr. C. Paul McBride, Pastor



Schedule of Services:

Sunday

Early Morning Worship

8:00 a.m.

Sunday School Classes

9:30 a.m.

Morning Worship

11:00 a.m.

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

Tuesday

Early Bird Bible Study 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday

Morning Bible Study 9:30 a.m.

Prayer Meeting and 7:30 p.m.

Evening Bible Study

4396 Main Street

The Colony, Texas 75056

(972) 625-8186

website: www.fbc-online.net

"The Church with a Vision"