

The Truth Clinic

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Fifty Cents

Killing The Messenger-Ignoring The Message

Page 3



PISD Honors MLK

Page 2



UPN 21 To Air Local Black History Month Program

Page 7

The Gazette

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People In The News



The Allen Group, a major developer of industrial and office properties across the western United States, has announced Leslie Jutzi to direct the governmental affairs and community relations efforts on behalf of the Company's Texas operations, particularly The Dallas Logistics Hub.

Ms. Jutzi comes to The Allen Group from the City of Dallas, where she was Project Manager for the City's Dallas NAFTA Trade Corridor Project. During her tenure with Dallas, the City executed and implemented historic international trade agreements with the Mexican Ports of Manzanillo, Topolobampo, and Lazaro Cardenas.

Before her service with the City of Dallas, Jutzi worked in the private sector as a lobbyist and attorney. She handled a variety of issues, including corporate, transportation, environmental, security and real estate transactions ranging from \$25 million to \$5 billion.

Ms. Jutzi is a graduate of Michigan State University where she received a B.A. in International Relations. She is also a licensed attorney in the State of Illinois and holds an Energy & Environmental Law Certificate from Chicago-Kent College of Law. She resides in Grand Prairie, Texas with her husband and their daughter.

Actress/civil rights advocate Yolanda King is a featured speaker at the 9th Annual Equity and Diversity Conference at the University of North Texas February 22-24.

Ms. King will close the conference with a presentation titled "Open My Eyes, Open My Soul; Discovering the Power of Diversity." The speech is based on her 2004 book of the same name, and focuses on the importance of embracing diversity and our common humanity.

Yolanda King is the eldest child of Coretta Scott King and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. She frequently speaks before Fortune 500 corporations, religious and civic events, educational and professional conferences, and colleges and universities across the country. She has portrayed Rosa Parks in the NBC-TV movie "King," Dr. Betty Shabazz in the film, "Death of a Prophet" with Morgan Freeman; and Medgar Evers' daughter, Reena, in "Ghosts of Mississippi." King's most recent theatrical production is "Achieving the Dream," in which she plays several characters in the movement for civil and human rights.

The theme of this year's conference is "The Power of Inclusion." It is presented by UNT's Division of Equity and Diversity with the support of American Airlines. For complete conference and registration information, visit <http://www.unt.edu/edo/cwp&c.htm>.



Actor, author and director Avery Brooks will be in Dallas on Saturday, February 4th as part of the 2006 DCCCD African American Read-In.

The idea for an African American Read-In originated with Dr. Jerrie Scott, faculty member at the University of Memphis and a member of the Black Caucus of the National Council of Teachers of English. The event's purpose is to make literacy a significant part of Black History Month. Since 2000, the caucus has documented a cumulative total of more than 1 million persons who have participated in read-ins held across the country.

This year the African American Read-In will celebrate seven years of reading as well as the legacy of Ossie Davis through presentations and a locally-written production titled "A Prince Came Out of Egypt: A Tribute to Ossie Davis." The 2006 DCCCD African American Read-In will be held from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Majestic Theatre in Dallas. The program is free and open to the general public - families in particular, and children ages 8 and older. Seating is limited, however, and usually fills early because parents, youngsters and friends traditionally flock to the event.

Visit www.readin.dcccd.edu for more details.

INSIDE

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

Both Sides March On Roe Anniversary

33 years after Supreme Court ruling, abortion debate continues



(AP) Thousands of abortion opponents shouldering signs with slogans such as "Peace Begins in the Womb" marched in protest of the 33-year-old Roe v. Wade decision, while abortion rights supporters along the march route waved clothes hangers and shouted "Bigots go home."

The dueling protests -- marking Sunday's anniversary of the Supreme Court decision -- reflected growing tension at a time the makeup

of the high court is about to change, with Justice Sandra Day O'Connor's retirement.

"It's a crucial time," said abortion rights supporter Carol Norris, 43, who joined the protest in San Francisco, California, Saturday. "We have (Judge Samuel) Alito poised to be on the Supreme Court, and he's clearly an anti-choice person."

On the other side, college student Laura Arnold, 20, of Pleasanton, California, marched with her mother opposing abortion, saying: "We're here to stand up for the babies that don't have a voice."

"I know so many girls who did it and they are hurting every day of their life," Arnold said.

Roe Anniversary Page 8

Collin County Commissioners Court To Present Third Annual State Of The County Address "Partnerships In Progress"

On behalf of Collin County government, the Commissioners Court will present the third annual State of the County address at 10 a.m. on Thursday, January 26th at the Spring Creek campus conference room of Collin County Community College. This year's theme is "Partnerships In Progress."

"This year, we felt it was important to discuss all the partnerships we have formed to create change and improve the quality of life for residents of Collin County," says Collin County Judge Ron Harris. The Commissioners Court will focus on partnerships in transportation, technology, health care and public safety.

Transportation

"Partnerships are the foundation for any successful transportation project," says Collin County Commissioner Jack Hatchell (Precinct 4). "With Collin County's city, state and regional partners, 2006 was a monumental year for the continued development of our road infrastructure." During the address, the Commissioners Court will discuss the development of S.H. 121, U.S. 75 HOV lanes, pass-through

Partnerships In Progress Page 4

African American Health Issues To Be Explored At Legislative Summit

One of the highlights of the upcoming African American Legislative Summit will be a full day of panels and presentations devoted to health care and health-related issues with the focus directed at Texas' African American population. Hosts, State Senator Royce West (D-Dallas) and State Senator Rodney Ellis (D-Houston) extend an invitation to join them in Austin for this informative, statewide conference.

The 7th biennial African American Legislative Summit will take place beginning Thursday, February 9, 2006 and continuing through the Saturday night, February 11, closing banquet. The Summit's first day will feature discussions of health-related topics as coordinated by the Texas Department of State Health



State Senator Royce West (D-Dallas)

Health Issues Page 5

North Texas Municipal Water District Initiates Stage 2 Of Water Conservation And Drought Contingency Plan

City of Plano Water Use Prohibitions in Effect

Due to continuing drought conditions resulting in the decline of water levels at North Texas Municipal Water District (NTMWD) water supply reservoirs, the NTMWD has initiated Stage 2 of their Water Conservation and Drought Contingency Plan, requesting a two percent (2%) reduction of water use by Member Cities.

To achieve this goal, the City is initiating the following:

- Excessive water run-off from irrigation is prohibited.
- Washing or hosing down of buildings, side-

walks and driveways is prohibited.

• Citizens and businesses are asked to voluntarily curtail the washing or rinsing of motor vehicles, boats, trailers and other mobile vehicles and equipment on premises. The use of commercial car washes, many of which use recycled water and high-pressure systems, is recommended as a more efficient and conservation-sensitive method.

Water Conservation Page 9

New Plano Police Captain Personifies Excellence

By: Paul Hailey

"Diversity is the one true thing we all have in common. Celebrate it every day."

-Anonymous

The City of Plano Police Department recently displayed a celebration of diversity by the promotion of Eddie "Ed" Drain from lieutenant to the position of captain. The promotion by Police Chief Gregory Rushin makes Captain Drain the first African-American to serve as Plano Police Captain. With humility consistent with his personality, Captain Drain downplayed this important "first" for the City of Plano.

"I was also the highest-ranking African-American officer in the department as a lieutenant and as a sergeant, so I'm accus-



Police Captain Ed Drain and Plano Police Chief Gregory Rushin

tomed to the situation by now," said Captain Drain.

Captain Drain is a native of Longview, Texas and an 11-

Plano Police Captain Page 10

U.S. Faces Moment Of Truth On Darfur



By: Ann-Louise Colgan

The Bush Administration will face a unique opportunity in February to end the genocide in Darfur when the United States takes over the presidency of the United Nations (UN) Security Council.

The need for international intervention in Darfur is clear. More than 400,000 people have been killed and 2.5 million have been forced out of their homes since the government-sponsored genocide began in 2003. In recent months, there has

been a spike in violence, and humanitarian organizations face increasing risks to their operations. There is a growing consensus around the need for a robust international protection force in Darfur to stop the violence, provide security to humanitarian efforts, facilitate peace talks and support the voluntary return of displaced people to their land.

There are two steps to achieving an immediate international intervention in Darfur

Moment Of Truth Page 6

More Than Half Of The 109th Congress Receives A Failing Grade On Mid-Term NAACP Civil Rights Legislative Report Card

Majority of U.S. House and Senate continue to vote against 'bread & butter' key civil rights issues.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) reported this week that over 50% of the members of both the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives were graded "F" on the NAACP's key civil rights agenda reflected in votes taken during the first session of the 109th Congress. The voting session ran from January 4 through December 22, 2005. The legislative report card cites 233 of the 435 voting House Members and 52 of the 100

Senators received an "F" grade.

Bruce S. Gordon, NAACP President and CEO, said, "Since 1914 the NAACP Legislative Report Card has served as a non-partisan assessment of how the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives vote on the core civil rights issues. It provides an evaluation of how well each member of Congress worked to advance an agenda that would strengthen and enforce policies that secure every American's right to full first class citizenship."

109th Congress Fails Page 5

Plano Independent School District Honors Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. And Diversity



Superintendent Dr. Doug Otto pays tribute to John Hightower.



Plano Sr. High students present "Portraits of Performers" (Bill Cosby w/ Billie Holiday in background).



Program emcees Plano Sr. High Student Whitney O'Banner and Louise W. Davis, Memorial Elementary Principal.



Diversity in Leadership Award Winner, Magda Levy (with plaque), with (L-R) Duncan Webb, Pres. Plano Board of Trustees; Michelle Parks, Multi-ethnic Committee Chair, Rob Stewart, Diversity Programs Director.



2nd grade winner, Sarah Dubois, reads her student letter to MLK.



The Plano Children's Chorale performing "Siyahamaba".

More than 1,000 students, parents, educators and community leaders celebrated the ideals of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. during a tribute on Thursday, January 19th at Collinwood Hall, Plano Centre. Plano students read original letters and performed theatrically and musically in honor of the civil rights leader.

The Chairwoman of the Plano ISD MLK Tribute Planning Committee for 2006 was Dr. Myrtle Hightower, retired Plano ISD Counselor.

Opening music was provided by the Shepton High School String Quartet. Mayor Pat Evans, Louise Davis, Principal of Memorial Elementary School and Whitney O'Banner a student at Plano Senior High well-

MLK Tribute Committee Chairwoman Dr. Myrtle Hightower watches as students read their letters to MLK.

comed the attendees.

A tribute to activist and civic leader John Hightower, who

passed in 2005 was presented by PISD Superintendent, Dr. Doug Otto.

Following the tribute a Parade of Nations presented by students from Plano ISD Middle Schools were accompanied by the Plano Senior High School Wind Ensemble.

The closing activities included a Student Art Contest Video and the Plano Children's Chorale singing "Siyahamaba."

Plano Mayor Pat Evans greets the audience.

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Around The Town

Ongoing

Urinetown the Musical plays at the Addison Theater Centre, located at 15650 Addison Rd. Performance times are Wednesdays and Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays at 8:00 p.m. Call 972-450-6230 for information.

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

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

The Collin County Historical Society and History Museum presents the Civil War Exhibit, 105 North Chestnut St. @ Virginia (McKinney) Call 972-542-9457. Exhibit runs January 15-April 30, 2006.

The RISD collecting used books new and used videos, CD's for the PTAs' Used Book Fair. January 17-27.

"Parenting Our Parents," a course discussing issues adults face as their parents age will begin

at 7:00 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 7659 Preston Rd. January 18-February 15.

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

Free classes available on how to repair credit and prepare to buy a home will be offered from 9:00-3:00 p.m. each second Saturday of the month. The meetings will be held at the

Jeffries Street Learning Center, 3001 Grand Ave. in South Dallas. Call 214-426-1834.

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

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

At Risk African American, Latino and Asian women who wish to participate in a study to

find ways to increase breast cancer survival are ask to call Kirsten Shelby, 214-648-1919 for information. November 16-

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

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

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

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

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

January 26

The Collin County government and the Commissioners

Court present the third annual State of the County address, 10:00 a.m., at the Spring Creek campus conference room of Collin County Community College. This year's them is "Partnerships in Progress."

January 27

Trail guide training from Heard Natural Science Museum will be from 1:00 p.m., Carrie Garner's Galleria d'Arte, 100 E. Louisiana St. (McKinney) Call 469-742-9509.

January 28

Methodist Health System will offer free prostate cancer screenings (PSA blood test) 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. at the Wal-Mart in Grand Prairie located at 2225 W. I-20. For dates, times and screening locations call 214-947-4649.

"Saving Lives-Saving Generations" an all family health fair will be held at the Martib Luther King Community Center, 2922 MLK Blvd. (Dallas). Call 214-670-8355 for information.

The Texas College Concert Choir and other Dallas Choirs will perform 6:00p.m., Kirkwood Temple CME Church, 1440 Sunny Glen Drive. Call 214-375-8685 or 214-212-6737.

January 29

Plano Symphony Orchestra presents "Percussion Hits" as part of its Family Symphony Sunday series at 3:00 p.m., Courtyard Theater, 1509 Ave H. Call 972-473-7262 for information.

Plano Children's Theatre

presents **Babes in Arms** 2:15 p.m., 1301 Custer Rd. Ste. 832. Call 972-422-2575 for information.

Plano's annual Very Special Arts Festival is a gift to the children from over two dozen community organizations who staff an array of "make it and take it" craft booths. Plano Centre, 2000 E. Spring Creek Parkway (Spring Creek & Jupiter Roads) Call 972-941-7272 for information.

February Ongoing

Plano Citizen Police Academy is accepting applications for its spring class, which begins Thursday. The free 13 week class meets every Thursday from 7 to 10 p.m. Call 972-941-2135 for information.

A Slave Ship Speaks: The Wreck of the Henrietta Marie, temporary exhibit at the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum. Call 512-936-8746 for information. February 11-April 15

The 7th Bicentennial of African American Legislative Summit will take place at the State Capital building in Austin, Texas. For information call 214-467-0123 or 512-463-0123. February 9-11

February 2

Senior Connection a support group dedicated to older adults looking for a job will meet 10:00 a.m., at the Senior Source, 1215 Skiles Street. (Dallas) Call 214-823-5700 for information.

February 4

Daddy's Little Sweetheart

Dance-fathers and daughters, 4-12 years old will enjoy a special evening together with music and dancing, Plano Center, 2000 E. Spring Creek Parkway. Call 972-941-7250 for information.

New Next Generation requests the pleasure of your company to attend the play "Oh, My Child", 3:00 p.m., St. Luke Life Center, 5710 R L Thornton Rd. Call 972-733-0469 for information.

February 16

Senior Connection offers a job workshop, 10:00 a.m., 1215 Skiles St. (Dallas) Call 214-823-5700 for information.

February 17

The 22nd Annual Quest for Success Awards Luncheon will pay tribute to eight African American business owners from the Dallas/Forth Worth area for their outstanding business achievements and community service, Dallas Convention Center-Ballroom A, 650 South Griffin St., 11:00 a.m. Call 214-421-5200 for information.

National Woman's Heart Day Healthy Fair, 8:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., American Airlines Center, The Concourse, 2500 Victory Ave. Free and open to the public. Call 214-871-3029 for information.

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THE TRUTH CLINIC

Killing The Messenger-Ignoring The Message

By: James W. Breedlove
Two American icons, Hillary Rodham Clinton and Harry Belafonte, recently delivered scathing messages that indicted the Bush Administration on its oppressive management of the House of Representatives and its terrorist actions in Iraq.

This was bad news to the Administration and as has been the custom since the days of Sophocles, four centuries before Christ, the messengers were targeted while the messages were ignored.

Sen. Hillary Clinton speaking at a Martin Luther King Jr. holiday celebration blasted the Bush administration as "one of the worst" in U.S. history and charged that the Republican controlled House of Representatives "has been run like a plantation, and you know what I'm talking about. It has been run in a way so that nobody with a contrary view has had a chance to present legislation, to make an argument, to be heard. We have a culture of corruption, we have cronyism, and we have incompetence."

Her remarks were met with thunderous applause from the mostly black audience at the Canaan Baptist Church of Christ in Harlem because they understood the historical similarity to the slave plantation that was usually run by a white overseer who suppressed any type of self-thought, personal expression, dissent, or right to address the life threatening inequities. Also, the House of Representatives as currently run by the proteges of Tom "the Hammer" Delay make it clear that dissent in any form brings severe repercussions such as loss of chairmanships, ostracism, or even excommunication from the most exclusive club in America.

Harry Belafonte, as part of a thirteen-member African American delegation to Venezuela, called George Bush "the greatest tyrant in the world

and the greatest terrorist in the world."

However, unlike during the time of Sophocles when messengers delivering bad news were literally killed the offensive messengers of today are personally harassed, vilified, discredited, and demonized to affect a functional killing.

The administration in concert with the conservative media and the ever ready cadre of Republican operatives and loyalists moved with lightening speed and revved up the smear engine to emit dirty clouds of personal abuse while ignoring the opportunity to challenge the factual accuracy of either Senator Clinton's or Mr. Belafonte's messages.

Various high-level administration spokespersons lashed out with shallow and transparent declarations that Clinton's plantation reference was "out of bounds", "racially divisive", "ridiculous", and "political race-baiting".

But a quick flashback to 1994 reveals that former "Contract With America" superstar Newt Gingrich, just before his ascension to Speaker of the House, used the same analogy when referring to the House of Representatives.

"I clearly fascinate them," Gingrich said of the Democrats. "I'm much more intense, much more persistent, much more willing to take risks to get it done. Since they think it is their job to run the plantation, it shocks them that I'm willing to lead the slave rebellion."

Harlem born Harry Belafonte, 78, is an icon in Black America, especially among those who remember his committed involvement over the decades in the Black struggle for justice in America.

He too was castigated by the conservative hatchet squads in reaction to his Venezuelan remarks that attempted to belittle him as an over-the-hill singer who doesn't have the brains or right to

speak on world affairs. Some justified extreme sanctions against Belafonte by labeling his statements as treasonous.

Precise definitions of terrorism tend to be relative because views toward particular acts of violence are often subjective and self-serving without a basis in universal objectivity. According to one of the primary accepted working definitions, it is the unconventional use of violence for political gain. It is a strategy of using coordinated attacks that fall outside the laws of commonly understood warfare.

Terrorist attacks are usually characterized as "indiscriminate," "targeting of civilians," or executed "without regard" for human life. The term "terrorism" is often used to depict the violence of an enemy as immoral, wanton, and unjustified.

For example, according to the United States Department of Defense, terrorism is:

"the calculated use of unlawful violence or threat of unlawful violence to inculcate fear; intended to coerce or to intimidate governments or societies in the pursuit of goals that are generally political, religious, or ideological."

When the facts in the reports of all the bi-lateral independent 911 commissions are reviewed against the various definitions of terrorism then George Bush is, if not the current most dangerous tyrant in the world, a definite prime contender. It is his administration that violates international law as a matter of policy, and constantly whittles away at the freedoms of Americans while claiming dictatorial powers. And surely there should be no question in any rational persons' mind that the House of Representatives is operated like a plantation.

No matter what ones political persuasion may be, both Hillary Clinton and Harry Belafonte have hit the proverbial nail of truth right on the head.

Email Comments to
Editor@MonTheGazette.com



Paul Hailey

By: Paul Hailey

During an interview with Mike Wallace on "60 Minutes" last month, Academy Award winning actor Morgan Freeman called Black History month "ridiculous", igniting a firestorm of debate about its observance. Freeman told a visibly shocked Wallace:

"I don't want a Black History month. Black History is American History. There's no white history month."

Since Freeman's statements became public, I have read numerous editorials written by black intellectuals calling for the end of the celebration of black history month. The premise is that Black History month is no longer necessary, and that a 28 day observance both confines and trivializes the historic contributions of African-Americans in this country.

Prior to even thinking about what Freeman was saying, I had to first get over my continued outrage at white people asking black actors, athletes and entertainers what they think about issues that are outside of their areas of expertise. Publicizing the opinions of Morgan Freeman doesn't make him a spokesman for the black race. I don't see anyone seeking out Robert DeNiro for opinions about Iraq, but that's a whole different discussion.

I spent a great deal of time in deep thought and after hours of consternation, I developed a completely intelligent and scholarly response:

Please.

Celebrating Black History

New Orleans: Chocolate, Vanilla or Neapolitan?

By: George E. Curry - NNPA

New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin opened himself up for a torrent of criticism when he declared in a Martin Luther King Day speech that God wants New Orleans to again be a "chocolate city."

In his speech, he said, "It's time for us to come together. It's time for us to rebuild New Orleans - the one that should be a chocolate New Orleans." Nagin added, "This city will be a majority African American city. It's the way God wants it to be. You can't have New Orleans no other way. It wouldn't be New Orleans."

Under fire, Nagin backed away from his comments.

It's easy to criticize Nagin for his choice of words or for professing to speak for God - and many have done just that. But that's the easy way out. What's missing in the discussion about rebuilding New Orleans is a candid exchange about race. Now that the mayor has apologized for calling for the reconstruction of a chocolate city, let's discuss what's being avoided - the issue of race.

Prior to Hurricane Katrina, New Orleans had the fifth-high-

est concentration of African-Americans among major cities, according to the Census Bureau. With 84 percent, Gary, Ind. led the nation in that category, followed by Detroit with 81.6 percent, Birmingham, Ala. at 73.5 percent, Jackson, Miss. with 70.6 percent and New Orleans, with Blacks representing 67.3 percent of the population (the other leading chocolate cities were Baltimore, 64.3 percent, Atlanta, 61.4, Memphis, 61.4, Washington, D.C., 60 percent and Richmond, Va., 57.2).

Mayor Nagin isn't the only person suggesting that New Orleans should maintain its chocolate majority. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Alphonso Jackson, an African-American, predicted that New Orleans will become more vanilla-like. And even those who profess to want a Neapolitan city - similar to the equal stripes of chocolate, vanilla and strawberry in the brick-shaped block of ice cream - know that under current plans, vanilla will become the dominant flavor of the city.

Whatever the final product, race should be openly debated. New Orleans will, in effect, become a planned community and race should be part of that planning. New Orleans, like most major U.S. cities, has a largely segregated public school system that grew out of largely segregated residential patterns. If the city can be revived in a way that leaves no racial group isolated from important resources and services, Hurricane Katrina could be a blessing in disguise.

However, if the unstated plan is to rid the city of its Black majority, then everyone should return to the drawing board.

New Orleans' population approached 500,000 prior to Katrina. The special Bring New Orleans Back Commission places the current population at 144,000. The population is projected to rise to 181,000 by next September and 247,000 by September 2008. The commission says it is hoping to make New Orleans "the best city in the world."

But the commission has not

Month no more confines the history of African Americans than the one day MLK holiday confines the achievements of Dr. Martin Luther King. Or that St. Patrick's Day confines the history of Irish-Americans to March 17th. Want to know how to trivialize African American history? Eliminate Black History Month.

Mr. Freeman and others maintain that in place of Black History Month, black history should be incorporated into the mainstream history of America. Their thought process is that black history can be celebrated every day by its proper inclusion in American history. Mr. Freeman went as far as ask Mike Wallace, "Which month is white history month?" The answer unfortunately, is that every month remains white history month in this country, precisely the reason that Black History month remains relevant and necessary.

Sylvia Cyrus Albritton, executive director of the Association for the Study of African American History, (which originated the observance of what is now Black History Month), observed that the country still has a long way to go in making it's history inclusive.

"We have a mission to research, promote, preserve and disseminate information about the contributions of African Americans in history and their diaspora," she said. "When that mission is complete, maybe celebrations like Black History Month can take a different slant. American history books-and the way it is taught-still do not include the full contribution of African-Americans or other matter."

When Mike Wallace asked Mr. Freeman how we can get rid of racism, he replied: "Stop talking about it. I'm going to stop calling you a white man. And I'm going to ask you to stop calling me a black man. I know you as Mike Wallace. You know me as Morgan Freeman. You wouldn't say 'Well, I know this white guy named Mike Wallace.' You know what I'm sayin'?"

I don't know about you, but I don't have a clue what he's saying. We will not solve racial issues in this country by putting our collective heads in the sand and hoping they will go away. We can't run from our own racial past. Race is America's great taboo. We like to think that we are a society beyond racism, but reality doesn't bear that out. Our society still remains segregated in many ways, from where we live to where we worship.

It's been said that history is written by the victors. Until American history becomes more inclusive of the contributions of all its citizens, Black History Month remains one of the few tangible ways that we can keep our nation's history accurate.

Who needs Black History Month? We all do.

New Orleans Page 8

Where Do You Want To Go Today?

Publisher's Office:

Phone: (972) 516-2992

Fax: (972) 509-9058

Email: publisher@monthegazette.com

Editorial Department:

Phone: (972) 516-2992

Fax: (972) 516-4197

Email: editor@monthegazette.com

Sales Department:

Phone: (972) 509-9049

Fax: (972) 509-9058

Email: opportunity@monthegazette.com

Entertainment Department:

Phone: (972) 509-9049

Email: entertainment@monthegazette.com

Website: www.MonTheGazette.com

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6100 Avenue K, Suite 105 • Plano, Texas 75074

Chairman Emeritus

Jim Bochum

Published By

Minority Opportunity News, Inc.

Assistant to Publisher

Katrina Timmons-McPherson

Production

Robert Booker

Assistant Vice-President Marketing

Edward Detouyne "Preacher Boy" Gibson, Jr.

Account Executive

Faye Cross

Religious/Marketing Editor

Shirley Demus Tarpley

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Cheryl Jackson

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Paul Hailey

Contributing Writers

Lakeisha Joe

Vivian Fullerlove

Paul Hailey

Justin Jones

Ruth Ferguson

Deborah Gaines

Staff Writer

Gwen Elder

Columnist

James Breedlove

Photography

Patrick "PJ" Johnson

Laquisha Hosley

Cartoonist

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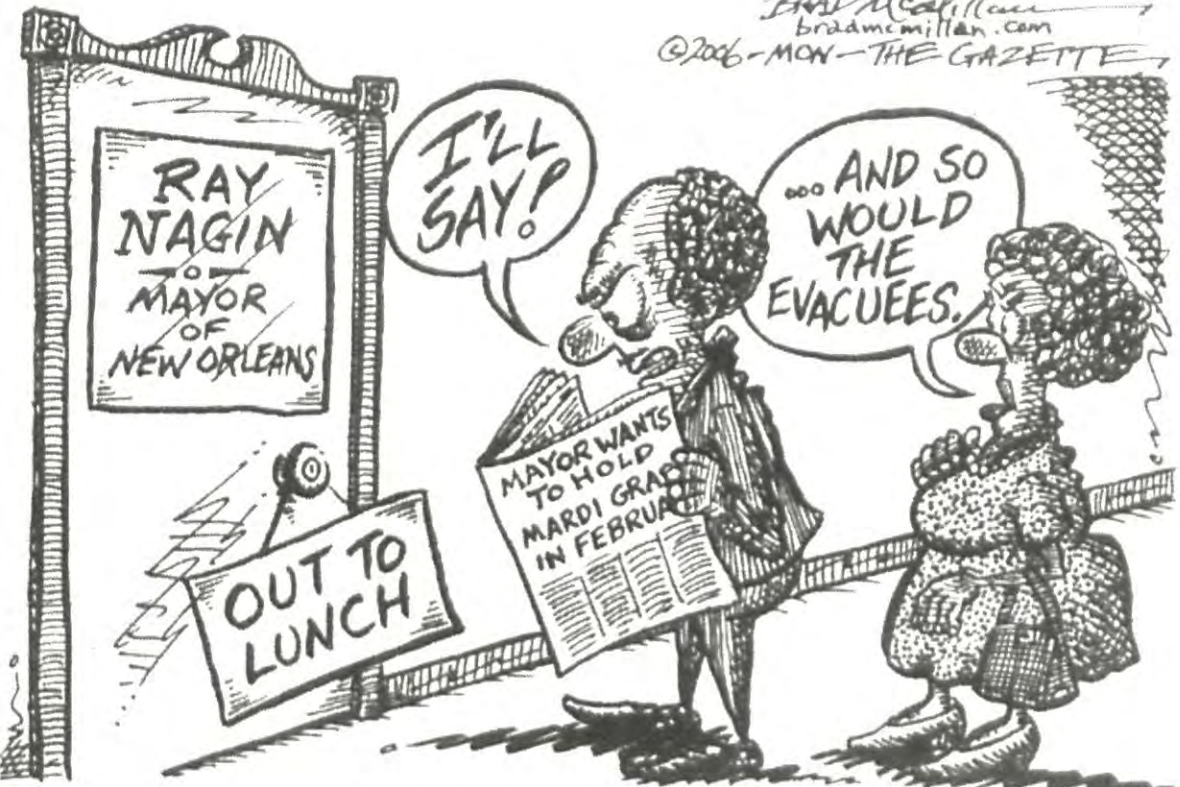
Is the sky clearest on the day it is most blue?

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-

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

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Minority Opportunity News - The Gazette • January 26 - February 01, 2006 • Page 3

Students Boycott Banks Demanding Reparations

Outraged over JP Morgan Chase's refusal to settle a slavery restitution case pending in the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals in Chicago, IL, students, hip hop activists, church leadership, politicians, and reparations organizations called a boycott of the company's student loans -- a business worth over \$9 billion -- on December 5, 2005. The campaign, entitled "One Student" is being coordinated by the Restitution Study Group, a New York non-profit headed by Deadria Farmer-Paellmann, lead plaintiff in the lawsuit. Efforts are underway to educate students on campuses around the United States about the boycott and the slavery reparations cause. The campaign website is located at: www.onestudent.us.

In January, 2005, JP Morgan Chase released a report confirming what advocates already knew -- that extensive evidence exists linking JP Morgan Chase to the enslavement of Africans. The report showed that JP Morgan played a role in the enslavement of over 14,250 Africans. In January of 2005, the bank was forced to reveal its complicity or lose lucrative vendor contracts with the City of Chicago, IL. They reported that the enslaved Africans were used as collateral for loans from the bank.

JP Morgan Chase and its subsidiary, Bank One, are the number one student loan providers in the United States. They control over 15% of this

\$45 billion industry.

"These companies have amassed enormous wealth off the backs of enslaved Africans. They participated in institutionalized terrorism, genocide, rape, torture, and theft of humans. They owe us restitution, but they refuse to pay. They left us no choice but to boycott," said



Deadria Farmer-Paellmann, lead plaintiff in the lawsuit for reparations

Farmer-Paellmann, who launched the movement for corporate restitution for slavery in January 2000 when she exposed that Aetna Inc. wrote life insurance policies on the lives of enslaved Africans with slave owners as the beneficiaries.

In 2002, Farmer-Paellmann filed the landmark reparations case against corporations currently on appeal -- Farmer-Paellmann v. Brown & Williamson, CV 05-3266 or In re African-American Slave

Descendants Litig., No. MDL 1491(N.D. Ill. July 6, 2005). The lawsuit combines allegations of consumer fraud and international human rights law, and demands that a humanitarian trust fund be created to heal the injuries slave descendants suffer from today as a result of slavery -- i.e. urban poverty, inadequate healthcare, and lost housing, employment, educational, and business opportunities.

Farmer-Paellmann is represented by attorneys Carl Mayer and Bruce Afran. Carl Mayer is former Professor at Hofstra Law School and former Special Counsel to New York State Attorney General, Elliott Spitzer. He is a prominent consumer advocate who played a key role in the United States Supreme Court victory for consumers in the case, Nike v. Kasky -- where Nike was sued for making fraudulent statements to consumers about its role in inhumane labor practices in its overseas factories. Bruce Afran is an Adjunct Professor at Rutgers University Law School where he teaches constitutional law. He has won numerous civil rights cases in state and federal courts.

Four other tainted student loan banks are included in the boycott -- Wachovia, Bank One, Bank of America, and Fleetbank. All of them have been confronted with evidence of their role in enslaving Africans but, like JP Morgan

Chase, they refuse to comply with demands to pay restitution.

Students and reparations activists around the country will be on campuses distributing flyers entitled, "Ten Reasons Why Students Should Boycott JP Morgan Chase Student Loans". Activist Threefifths of New Haven, Connecticut is coordinating distributing of the flyers on the campus of the University of New Haven. He said, "the students are eager to learn about reparations, and shocked that banks still exist that enslaved Africans".

Divine Shabazz, a student leader at Southern Connecticut State University, said, "Our campus has 29 different preferred student loan lenders. Four are slavery banks to boycott -- Chase, Bank One, Bank of America, and Wachovia. That leaves 25 better choices for our student loans." He is engaged in active outreach to inform students around the state of

Connecticut.

Another campus where students are doing outreach to their classmates on the boycott is Clark Atlanta University where all student identification cards and campus atm machines are from Wachovia Bank.

Raushana Karriem of All for Reparations and Emancipation (AFRE), is coordinating outreach at Miami Dade College in Florida, one of the largest community colleges in the United States with six campuses and over 163,000 students. Outreach efforts began on the campus on January 13, 2006, and will continue over the next few months as students complete student loan applications for Fall 2006.

Other schools involved where JP Morgan and other tainted banks provide loans and other services are in California, Louisiana, New York, New Jersey, Washington state, Washington, D.C., and North

Carolina.

Supporters of the boycott effort include: Artists & Activists United for Peace; Caucasians United for Reparations and Emancipation (CURE); Louisiana Center Against Poverty; Louisianans for Reparations; Queen Mother Dr. Delois Blakely, Community Mayor of Harlem; Charles Barron, NYC Councilman; Bill Perkins, NYC Councilman; National Black United Front; National Reparations Convention; N'COBRA Clark-Atlanta University - Atlanta, GA; National Coalition for Reparations and Economic Wealth - Los Angeles, CA; New Future Foundation; Orlando Green, NY Co-Chair of National Hip Hop Political Convention; Divine Shabazz, Southern Connecticut State University
Contact: 917-365-3007
Lawsuit Contact: 609-462-7979

Unique Classes Designed Especially For Seniors

Seniors Active In Learning (SAIL), sponsored by Collin County Community College, is now accepting registrants for the spring semester. Anyone 50 years of age or older, regardless of where they live, may register for SAIL classes at any time during the semester. All classes are held at the Courtyard Center for Professional and Economic Development, 4800 Preston Park Blvd. in Plano.

SAIL classes begin January 23. The spring schedule may be found on the Internet at www.ccccd.edu/ce. Scroll down the right-hand side, click on "Seniors Active in

Learning," and choose "Download SAIL Publications." Call 972.985.3788 to request a catalog.

A one-year, membership fee of \$25 is required to register for SAIL classes. Tuition is \$50 per semester for unlimited courses. Registration is available throughout the semester by mail, fax, phone or in-person at the SAIL office.

SAIL offers an array of classes including history, literature, art, health and current events. Some of the new classes for spring include: Blame It on the Media, The Mythology of Modern Texas, Afternoon at the Opera, Ten Biomarkers of

Aging, Driving Up the Cattle Trails, Locating Your Hard-to-Find Ancestors, and Hot Current Controversies in Science and Ethics.

The SAIL Roundup, a semi-annual back to school gathering, will be held on January 10 from 1 - 2:30 p.m. in Room B409. Visit friends, greet new members, meet the instructors and pick up a copy of the schedule. Late registration will begin on that date and will continue throughout the semester by phone, mail or walk-in.

For more information about SAIL, please call 972.985.3788 or visit the website at www.ccccd.edu/ce.

Partnerships In Progress Page 1

financing and additional transportation and infrastructural issues.

Technology

"Through partnerships, Collin County is improving functions and processes that assist and enhance residents' interactions with government," says Collin County Commissioner Jerry Hoagland (Precinct 2). The county has a fiber network in all facilities. Wireless Internet service is available to visitors in both courthouses. And, the county now has a radio system that reaches all volunteer fire departments to improve communications.

Health Care

In early 2005, the Commissioners Court created an Indigent Health Care Task Force to evaluate and make recommendations regarding the county's

indigent health care program.

"This task force is comprised of 25 county residents who have dedicated their time and energy over the past year to study and propose informed, comprehensive recommendations," says Collin County Commissioner Phyllis Cole (Precinct 1). The task force is expected to conclude meetings this spring.

During the address, the Commissioners Court will also discuss Collin County Health Care Services vaccinations, outreach and grants.

Public Safety


"Hurricanes Katrina and Rita tested Collin County's emergency preparedness skills," says Judge Harris. "We will discuss the way these emergencies affected Collin County. We will also talk about a new fusion center under development, as well as new technologies that help us

reach out to our residents in times of emergency."

Partnerships for Citizens

"Collin County is enhancing economic development and promoting new construction growth," says Collin County Commissioner Joe Jaynes (Precinct 3). "Residents can see it through our Tax Increment Financing initiatives, through our roads and through our development."

The State of the County address is open to the public, but reservations are requested. Persons interested in attending should call 972-548-4631 or email tmalone@collincountytexas.gov by Monday, January 23rd so an appropriate number of seats may be reserved. Commissioners Court members will be available for individual questions following the presentation.



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NAVY

Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin To Deliver Keynote Address At Black Enterprise Women Of Power Summit

Black Enterprise magazine has announced Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin as the keynote speaker for the Women of Power Summit hosted by State Farm on Thursday, Feb. 2, 2006, at the Arizona Biltmore Resort & Spa in Phoenix. The keynote will help kick off the inaugural Women of Power Summit, a professional leadership conference designed exclusively for women executives of color. Nearly 500 professional women from across the country are expected to attend.

Shirley Franklin made history in 2002 when she became the 58th mayor of the City of Atlanta in 2002. A first-time candidate for public office,

Mayor Franklin was elected as the city's first woman mayor and the first African American



woman to serve as mayor of a major southern city. She was re-elected to a second term on Nov. 8, 2005. Since her inauguration

in 2002, Mayor Franklin has worked to build a "Best Class" city by strengthening existing frameworks, implementing progressive changes, and making the tough decisions necessary to improve Atlanta. In 2005, Black Enterprise named Atlanta the "Best City for African Americans to Live, Work, and Play."

We are very excited to have Mayor Franklin as the keynote speaker of the Women of Power Summit", says Allison Jones-Maitland, Senior Director, Black Enterprise Events. "Mayor Franklin represents all that a woman of power is: a courageous and confident leader who understands the importance of reaching back and helping oth-

ers in the community."

Additional Women of Power Summit speakers will include: Iman, CEO, IMAN Cosmetics, Fragrances, and Skincare; Renetta McCann, CEO, The Americas Starcom MediaVest Group; Lisa Price, CEO, Carol's Daughter, Inc.; Debra Langford, Executive Director-Strategic Sourcing & Talent Management, Time Warner Inc.; Kim Nelson, Vice President, General Mills, Inc., President, Snacks Unlimited; and Dr. Johnnetta Cole, President, Bennett College for Women.

For more information about the Women of Power Summit, visit www.blackenterprise.com/wps or call (800) 910-8805.

Southwest Beefs Up New Orleans Flights For Mardi Gras

Southwest Airlines on Tuesday said that it will add 36 round-trip flights in and out of New Orleans for Mardi Gras.

The Dallas-based low-cost carrier said the added departures represent nearly 5,000 more seats for tourists taking part in Mardi Gras celebrations.

Between Dallas and New Orleans, Southwest will add an additional round-trip flight on Feb. 24 and 25 and March 3 and 4. Southwest (NYSE: LUV) already operates three daily flights between Dallas and New Orleans.

Mardi Gras, French for Fat Tuesday, falls on the day before Ash Wednesday, the start of the Christian liturgical season of Lent. In 2006, Mardi Gras falls on Feb. 28.

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retirement income.

Feb. 7
6:30-8 p.m.
ViewPoint Bank
1201 W. 15th St., Plano
RSVP 972-578-5000, ext. 7411 or judy.torres@viewpointbank.com

Student Loan Kickoff
Let ViewPoint Bank and LoanSTAR guide you through the paperwork necessary to obtain a government grant

and/or student loan. And, everyone who attends will be entered in a drawing for a \$200 scholarship!

Feb. 9
6:30-8:30 p.m.
ViewPoint Bank
1201 W. 15th St., Plano
RSVP 972-578-5000, ext. 6335 or jennifer.baker@viewpointbank.com

Home Equity and Debt Consolidation

You hear all the time about using your home equity to consolidate debt, but how exactly does it work? Learn the ins and outs of your home equity options at this free seminar.

Feb. 18
9-11:30 a.m.
ViewPoint Bank
1201 W. 15th St., Plano
RSVP 972-578-5000, ext. 3132 or karen.green@viewpointbank.com

Albertson's Accepts Superval Bid

By: Nicole Garrison-Sprenger
Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal

After about two months of tumultuous negotiations, the board of grocery chain Albertson's Inc. confirmed it will sell to a consortium that includes Minneapolis wholesaler and retailer Supervalu Inc.

Still subject to shareholder approval, the \$9.6 billion deal will give Albertson's shareholders \$20.35 in cash and a fixed exchange ratio of 0.182 shares

of Supervalu stock for each Albertson's share. That brings the total value per share to about \$26.29.

The purchasing consortium consists of Eden Prairie-based Supervalu (NYSE: SVU); CVS Corp. of Woonsocket, Rhode Island; New York-based investment fund Cerberus Capital Management and Hyde Park, N.Y.-based real estate investment company Kimco Realty.

The deal will triple Supervalu's retail operations,

making it the second-largest grocer in the U.S. with 2,656 stores. That takes into consideration the divestiture of some of its holdings, including the sale of 26 Cub stores in the Chicago area.

Albertson's operates 109 stores in the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

The company is expected to have combined sales of \$44 billion.

The acquired brand names are: Acme Markets, Bristol

Farms; Jewel-Osco, Shaw's Supermarkets, Star Markets and Albertson's. The deal also includes the combined grocery-pharmacy stores under the Jewel and Sav-On franchises.

The consortium made a \$9.6 billion offer for Boise, Idaho-based Albertson's (NYSE: ABS) in December, but the grocery chain's board rejected the bid. The new deal reportedly includes a revised structure intended to ease antitrust concerns.

Cuban To Buy Ownership Stake In Immediatek

A company headed by Dallas Mavericks owner Mark Cuban is buying a 95 percent stake in Immediatek for \$3 million, or 68 cents a share, according to a regulatory filing Tuesday.

Richardson-based Immediatek (Pink Sheets: ITEK) provides software that allows customers to legally download music over the Internet. The company's subsidiary, Disclive Inc., makes CD-

R recordings available for sale immediately following a concert.

Under the deal, Radical Holdings L.P., which Cuban heads, will buy about 4.4 million shares of Immediatek's convertible preferred stock.

Money from the sale will be used to pay debts and liabilities and be used for working capital. Any remaining will be used to pay a special dividend, with

\$300,000 set aside until the first anniversary of the closing date to satisfy any other liabilities that may arise.

Cuban is president of Radical Management L.L.C., which indirectly wholly owns Radical Holdings L.P.

Prior to his purchase of the Mavericks, Cuban co-founded Broadcast.com, the leading provider of multimedia and

streaming on the Internet, in 1995, selling it to Yahoo! in July of 1999. Before Broadcast.com, Cuban co-founded MicroSolutions, a leading National Systems Integrator, in 1983, and later sold it to CompuServe.

Today, in addition to his ownership of the Mavericks, Cuban is an active investor in leading and cutting-edge technologies and continues to be a sought-after speaker.

Health Issues Page 1

Services - Office for the Elimination of Health Disparities. All workshops and presentations will take place in the State Capital Building - Capital Extension.

"In 2003, the Legislature passed into law a massive bill that completely overhauled the public health care delivery system in Texas," said Senator West. "And while that implementation is near completion, problems that affect the health of children, the elderly and others who depend on public resources continue to present

themselves on a daily basis.

"Most Texans don't know that an African American, Albert Hawkins, heads one of the state's largest and most vital agencies," Senator West added. "Throughout the day, Health and Human Services Commission officials will lead discussions aimed at providing our citizens with what could be life-saving information."

Despite numerous medical and scientific advances, disparities in access and treatment still persist for minorities in Texas. African Americans have higher incidences of cancer than other

racial or ethnic groups, particularly as it relates to colorectal, cervical and prostate cancers. African American males have higher rates of lung cancer than whites and Hispanics. And African American female breast cancer mortality rates also exceed those of other races. Black infant mortality, diabetes and how family structure plays a role in health concerns are all topics that will be explored at the Summit.

Friday morning, Senator West, Senator Ellis and other state officials will officially welcome attendees to the African

109th Congress Fails Page 1

The report card shows that of the 100 voting Senators, three received a "D", four received a "C" and twelve Senators received a "B". The remaining 29 voted in support of the NAACP's grassroots based civil rights priorities 90% or more of the time, thus receiving an "A" grade.

In the House of Representatives, seven members received a "D" grade, while 58 of the Representatives received a "C" or a "B" grade. The remaining 133 of the Representatives received an "A" grade for supporting key civil rights initiatives 90 to

100% of the time. Votes in both the Senate and House were cast, among others, on education, healthcare, criminal justice, housing, environmental justice, civil liberties and the budget. Four members received "incompletes" as they did not serve the entire first session.

Hilary Shelton, Director, NAACP Washington Bureau, said, "We are extremely disappointed that the full Congress does not demonstrate a stronger commitment to a comprehensive civil rights agenda that protects all Americans' civil rights, regardless of race, gender, ethnicity, national origin or religious affiliation."

"The NAACP's report card is updated and distributed twice in each Congress and each Congress is two years long," said Shelton. "Congress has the chance, and frankly the obligation, to strengthen and advance America's civil rights laws. These bills reflect policies that, if implemented, would work to improve America's public schools, repair the criminal justice system, increase opportunities to attend college, bring integrity to the confirmation of federal judges that respect the rule of the law in a diverse nation and improve the quality of life for millions of Americans."

The full report card is available at the NAACP website at www.naacp.org. The final report card for the 109th Congress will be issued at the end of the second session when Congress adjourns in the fall of 2006.

Founded in 1909, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is the nation's oldest and largest civil rights organization. Its adult and youth members throughout the United States and the world are the premier advocates for civil rights in their communities and monitor equal opportunity in the public and private sectors.

Texas Black Publishers Meet In Dallas

Members of the Texas Publishers Association (TPA), an association of African American owned newspapers, met recently in Lancaster, Texas to begin preparation for their annual convention which will take place in Austin on March 30 - April 1, 2006 at the Austin Airport Hilton. Farrah Gray, the 21-year-old self-made millionaire will be the keynote speaker at the association's annual convention.

Following the meeting, Enterprise Rent-A-Car sponsored a luncheon that featured a community forum and diversity workshop that was presented by Enterprise Rent-A-Car group relations manager Robert McRae. Started in 1957, Enterprise Rent-A-Car grossed \$8.2 billion in revenue

last year (2005) and was named "Largest college recruiter in the United States" as reported by *Black Collegian* magazine in 2004. It is the largest rental car company in North America with more than 6,500 offices and noted for its outstanding service that includes picking up customers at no extra cost.

The secret to the company's success has been its investment in its employees, McRae told the leaders of Texas' Black Press. "Our philosophy has been to empower our employees to make decisions about their work and career," said McRae. "We believe strongly in promoting from within, investing in

employee training and development and rewarding employee initiative and capabilities with

together on strengthening and empowering our businesses and the communities we serve, it's a true blessing for newspapers across the state of Texas," said TPA president Will Hobdy.

The group has recognized the partnership and alliance Enterprise Rent-A-Car has with the *Dallas Weekly*, one of about eight DFW metro black owned publications that target the African American community. The two have worked closely in promotions that are very innovative and not necessarily focused on advertising, but rather reinforcing and enhancing the image Enterprise employees have about the company.

"Working with black media allows us to give back to the communities where Enterprise customers and employees live and work," said McRae.

The monthly TPA luncheons take place in various cities across Texas.

About The Texas Publishers Association

The Texas Publishers Association is the trade organization of the Black press of Texas. Twenty-two African Americans publication from across the state comprise the active membership. The Texas Publisher's Association is the voice of Black Texas provided an Afrocentric perspective to millions of Texas citizens of every race, nationality and creed. As our great state and nation work on keeping America strong it is imperative for the readers of Black newspa-

pers to know whether cultural progress or regressive trends keeps Black Texans in a position of being political and economic afterthoughts. As business leaders in our respective communities, the publishers of Texas' Black newspapers want to be in a position to tell our readers how these positive and negative trends affect them.

Member publications include the Smith County Herald, Texas Informer, East Texas Review, Dallas Examiner, Dallas Post Tribune, Corsicana Examiner, Our Texas Magazine, MON-The Gazette, Power Pages, The Kuumba Heritage News, African Herald, Nokia-The Observer, The Villager, San Antonio Observer, San Antonio Register, Houston Style Magazine and African Digest.



Robert McRae of Enterprise Rent-A-Car and Will Hobdy, president of TPA

increased levels of responsibility and earning potential."

"Any time you can get the best of the best to come in and break bread with you and share ideas on how we can best work

Congress Vet Watts Joins CNN As Contributor

By: Anthony Crupi

CNN has tapped Republican operative and former U.S. Congressman J.C. Watts Jr. to join the news network as a regular contributor.

Watts, who served four terms in the House as a representative of Oklahoma's 4th Congressional District, will appear on a number of CNN programs, providing political

and policy analysis from a conservative perspective.

"J.C. is one of the most respected and effective conservative communicators in the nation's capital," said CNN/U.S. president Jon Klein. "We are glad to welcome him to the CNN team and look forward to his insightful contributions to our network."

A CNN spokesperson said

Wednesday that the network will continue adding commentators to its roster in the lead-up to the 2006 mid-term elections.

Watts is only the latest in a succession of conservatives who have provided analysis on CNN, following in the footsteps of former Crossfire pundit Tucker Carlson, Capital Gang regular and National Review editor Kate O'Beirne and syndicated colum-

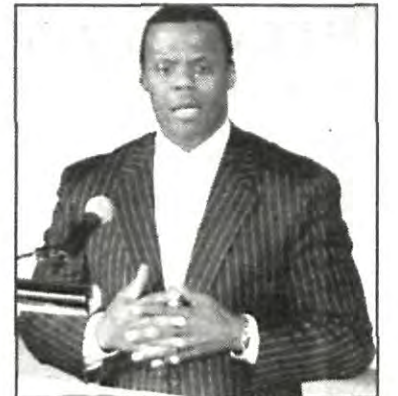
nist Robert Novak.

Earlier this month, CNN hired former Education Secretary and drug czar Bill Bennett as a regular commentator after his contract with Fox News Channel expired.

As chairman of the J.C. Watts Companies, Watts advises clients on communications strategies as well as business development issues and public affairs. He also

advises or serves as a corporate director for a number of major companies, including Clear Channel Communications and NASCAR.

Watts first came into national prominence in the early 1980s as the starting quarterback for the University of Oklahoma, leading the Sooners to consecutive Orange Bowl victories in 1980 and 1981.



Moment Of Truth Page 1

and the U.S. will be uniquely positioned to seek UN action on these steps next month:

First, the UN must build on the force that is already there. The African Union mission in Darfur must be "re-hatted" with blue helmets as a UN operation, with a strong mandate from the international community to protect civilians. Since the AU troops are already in Darfur, this authorization from the UN would take effect immediately, retaining

the AU troops' valuable experience on the ground and saving time pending the deployment of a larger international force. In addition, putting UN blue helmets on the AU would provide them with international authority and backing, which could offer an important boost to the troops themselves and help increase the confidence of civilians in Darfur in their operation.

Second, the international community must reinforce the African Union mission with a larger force. The total force

needed in Darfur is at least 20,000 troops, based either on the ratio of peacekeeping troops to population or on the ratio of peacekeeping troops to hostile forces.

An international intervention force must be deployed to Darfur immediately to build upon the AU and provide protection to the people of Darfur. The deployment of a UN intervention force must follow swiftly upon the "re-hatting" of the African Union, and may ultimately supplant the AU mission

in Darfur.

The United States must provide leadership within the UN to ensure these steps are taken now. The U.S. is the only government to have publicly acknowledged that genocide is taking place in Darfur. This provides it with a unique obligation to obtain international action on this crisis. The U.S. has authored previous UN resolutions on Darfur, has provided financial support for humanitarian efforts, and offered diplomatic support for peace talks. But these limited

actions cannot substitute for assertive international leadership to provide actual protection to the people of Darfur.

The Bush administration faces growing public and Congressional pressure for action to stop the genocide in Darfur. Next month as President of the Security Council, the administration will have a unique opportunity to achieve a UN resolution to "re-hat" the AU mission and to authorize a broader UN intervention force in Darfur. These two steps are critical to the suc-

cess of the African Union in Darfur, and they are essential to save the lives of millions of vulnerable people, who urgently need international protection.

February is the make or break month for U.S. action to stop this crime against humanity.

Ann-Louise Colgan is Director of Policy Analysis and Communications at Africa Action, the oldest Africa advocacy organization in the U.S., and a Foreign Policy In Focus analyst.



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Arts & Entertainment

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Donald Lawrence Wins Big At Gospel Awards

Gospel vocalist Donald Lawrence's "I Speak Life" album captured seven awards Saturday at the 21st Annual Stellar Gospel Music Awards at the Grand Ole Opry House.

Aretha Franklin was on hand to present the Song of the Year award for Lawrence's recording of "Healed," written by Jonathan Nelson.

Lawrence took the Artist of the Year and Producer of the Year awards. Because "I Speak Life" was released as a guest star-packed album under the name "Donald Lawrence & Co.," those involved also

earned awards for Contemporary Group/Duo of the Year and CD of the Year.



Newcomer J. Moss took the male vocalist, new artist and contemporary male vocalist awards.

Pleased with the win, Moss dedicated his victory "to God, who let me know that he is not to be put inside a box."

The show, which honors the achievements of blacks in gospel music, was hosted by Vickie Winans, Israel Houghton and Donnie McClurkin.

Artists paid tribute to the Winans Family of gospel stars, who were honored with the James Cleveland lifetime achievement award.

T-Boz Opens Boutique In Texas

Tionne "T-Boz" Watkins, lead singer of the multi-platinum group TLC and her partner celebrity stylist Tara Rowntree, recently opened Chase's Closet, a high-end children's boutique in the exclusive River Oaks neighborhood of Houston, TX. that oozes southern beauty and charm and is inspired by sunny California and urban New York chic. Now they are introducing <http://www.chasescloset.com> for parents everywhere!

Named after Tionne's four-year old daughter Chase Rolison, the boutique Tionne and Tara have taken extra care to ensure that Chase's Closet carries clothing lines that are unique and one of a kind. They carry lines

such as D&G Junior, Hulabaloo, Ms Blumarine, Moschino, Ralph Lauren, Lil Punk, Childish, Von Dutch Baby & many more. Customers can also find match-



ing Mommy and Me lines & mommy gifts.

Open only a short time Chase's Closet was just nominated for

best KIDS & BABY Store by H magazine. T-Boz open Chase's closet for her love of fashion and children and believes children should be little proteges of their parents. In her search for the hottest children's clothes for her daughter, she realized she was going "broke" dressing her little baby girl. So, she decided to open a store for her where she could share her love for children's fashion with others like her.

Chase's Closet is located @ 2003 West Gray, Houston, TX 77019, 713.630.2902 or 1-866-254-9904, and for an immediate view or to purchase items log onto www.chasescloset.com.

UPN 21 To Air Black History Month Programs

UPN 21 will air two special programs on January 29, 2006 in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Black History Month.

The 23rd Annual Black Music and The Civil Rights Movement Concert: A Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. will air from 7 to 8:30 p.m. This program, created by the Black Academy of Arts & Letters (TBAAL), was developed to highlight the music which influenced and developed out of the Civil Rights Movement. This year's event features national recording artist Lalah Hathaway, oldest daughter of classic soul artist

Donny Hathaway and classically-trained vocalist Eulaulah Hathaway. The broadcast will be hosted by UPN 21's Iola Johnson and is sponsored by the North Texas Chevy Dealers.

The Gospel Superfest 6th Annual Salute to Black History will air from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. This family-friendly program is hosted by Clifton Davis and is filled with music, dance, interviews and memorable performances by the top names in gospel and R&B, including Melba Moore, Ruben Studdard, the Winans family and more.

In addition to the above, UPN 21 and sister station CBS 11 will air various 15-second features



Lalah Hathaway

during February in honor of Black History Month. The vignettes are sponsored by the Metroplex.

L.A. To Pay \$1.1M To Slain Rapper's Family

A federal judge has ordered the city to pay \$1.1 million in legal costs to the family of slain rapper Notorious B.I.G. as sanctions for intentionally withholding evidence during the family's civil lawsuit trial.

U.S. District Judge Florence-Marie Cooper's ruling Friday didn't give the family the \$2 million originally sought, but she left open the possibility of an additional \$300,000.

"It's pretty clear from the ruling that the judge understands this is a significant and difficult case," said Perry Sanders, an attorney for the rapper's family.

Christopher Wallace, or Notorious B.I.G., was shot and killed March 9, 1997, after a party at the Petersen Automotive Museum in Los Angeles. The killing has not been solved.

Cooper declared a mistrial last summer in the family's civil

lawsuit after finding that a police detective hid statements linking the killing to former LAPD Officers David Mack and Rafael Perez. She also ordered the city to pay the slain rapper's family's legal costs.

The plaintiffs had been trying to show that Mack, a convicted bank robber, orchestrated Wallace's killing with the help of college friend on behalf of Death Row Records chief Marion "Suge" Knight. All three have denied involvement.

Attorneys for the family received an anonymous tip from a former officer that a department informant had tied Perez and Mack to the killing. Detective Steven Katz claimed he had overlooked a transcript of the remarks in his desk.

But Cooper ruled that Katz and perhaps others concealed the information, which could have bolstered the family's con-

tention that Mack was involved in the killing. A retrial is set to begin later this year.

"We were disappointed with the order," said Jonathan Diamond, spokesman for City Atty. Rocky Delgadillo, whose office defended the city. "We believe the officer's conduct was inadvertent, and we will prevail at trial on the merits of the case."



Voletta Wallace, the mother of slain rapper Notorious B.I.G.

UPN, WB To Go Dark; New Network Created

The UPN and WB television networks are being unplugged to make way for a new network called The CW, their owners said Tuesday.

CBS Corp. (NYSE: CBS) and Warner Bros. Entertainment will each own half of The CW, which will launch in September.

In North Texas, that means KTXA-TV (Channel 21), which carries UPN's programming, will lose its prime-time weeknight shows and become

a CBS-owned independent station.

KDAF-TV (Channel 33) -- slated to become The CW in the Dallas market -- will air those programs as well as the WB lineup it currently carries.

WB shows attracted female viewers aged 18-34, while UPN targets urban and male viewers ages 18-49.

UPN's current prime-time shows, including the critically-hailed "Everybody Hates Chris," "Girlfriends" and "Eve,"

will move to The WB, whose prime-time lineup includes "Gilmore Girls," "Smallville," "Everwood," "Supernatural," "Reba" and reality show "Beauty and the Geek."

The station will be able to model its new programming after KCAL-TV (Channel 9), a CBS-owned independent station in Los Angeles, which carries the same blend of sports, news and informational programming KTXA-TV is looking at.

Soul Legend Wilson Pickett Dies At 64

Soul legend Wilson Pickett, best known for songs like "In The Midnight Hour" and "Mustang Sally" died of a heart attack. He was 64.

"He was in hospital very near his home in Virginia," his manager Margo Lewis told AFP.

"He'd been ill for a while and was forced in 2005 to take a hiatus from performing," Lewis said.

Born in Alabama, Pickett moved to Detroit as a teenager and joined the Falcons, a group which also included another future soul star Eddie Floyd, singing on their 1962 gospel-inspired R and B hit "I Found a Love."

By 1965, he had signed a solo deal with Atlantic, scoring a chart hit with "In the Midnight Hour," which he co-wrote and cut at the famed Stax studio in Memphis.

That success launched a

string of raucous hits by Pickett, whose gleeful swagger and raw sexuality earned him the nickname "The Wicked Pickett."

Among the soul classics he recorded at the time were "Mustang Sally," "Funky Broadway" and his biggest hit of all, "Land of 1,000 Dances" which reached number six on the pop charts.

Pickett's last big hit was "Fire and Water" in 1972, after which his career went into something of a slump although he continued to perform to enthusiastic audiences.

A revival of sorts followed the release of the hugely popular 1991 movie "The Commitments," which followed the fortunes of a budding soul band in Dublin, Ireland, and featured several of Pickett's hits as well as a sub-plot in which the band's manager sought to arrange a performance with the

soul veteran.

"He was always in demand," Lewis said. "He last performed at the end of 2004."

Pickett was inducted into the Rock and Roll hall of Fame in 1991. His last studio album, "It's Harder Now," was released in 1999 to favourable reviews.

He is survived by four children.



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Gary Huddleston, Kroger's Director Dallas Consumer Affairs and Dallas Mayor Laura Miller (Left).



On Kroger's MLK Float are Gary Huddleston (Right); Delva King (Far Right), The King Group, Inc.; Derrick O'Conner (Middle), Kroger; Shontel Thierry (Left), The King Group, Inc.

Kroger Food Store was a major sponsor for the 20th Annual Elite News Martin Luther King Jr. (MLK) Parade. The "Kick-Off" Breakfast on the morning of the parade and refreshments for the participating band members after the parade was hosted proudly by Kroger.

This is the second largest parade in the country, honoring the legacy of Dr. King. This

year's MLK Parade consisted of over 250 entries and the esteemed gospel great, Fred Hammond was the Grand Marshal for the parade. Other Marshals for the parade included Governor Rick Perry and Senator Royce West.

For more information regarding this event, please contact The King Group, Inc., at (214) 720-9046.

Grand Jury To Probe New Orleans Police

(AP) A Louisiana grand jury will investigate several controversies involving police in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, including the theft of cars from a Cadillac dealership and the shooting deaths of two men suspected of firing on contractors.

The grand jury will be the first impaneled here since Hurricane Katrina hit on Aug. 29. District Attorney Eddie Jordan, whose offices were flooded in the storm, announced the investigations Wednesday from his temporary headquarters in a former nightclub.

More than 200 vehicles - including 88 new Cadillacs and Chevrolets - were taken

from a dealership amid the chaos after the hurricane hit. New Orleans police have acknowledged that some of the cars were taken by officers to replace flooded police cars.

In October, two civilians were arrested in the case and on Friday a federal grand jury indicted a former officer on charges of stealing a pickup truck from the dealership.

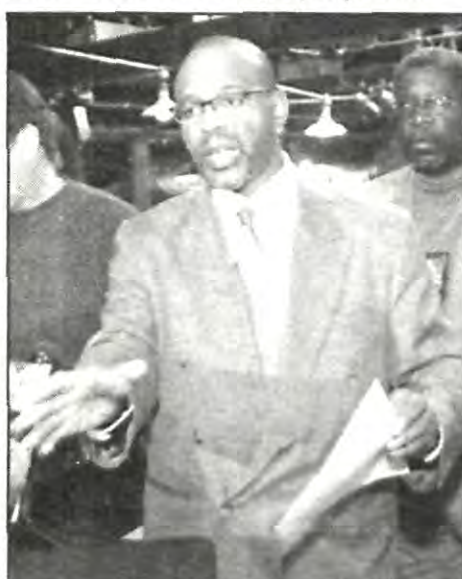
The police shooting case has been surrounded by confusion. On Sept. 4, police said five people were shot to death by officers after opening fire on a group of contractors on a bridge in New Orleans. But the number was later revised down to two, and questions have been raised about whether those

killed were involved in any wrongdoing.

The grand jury also will look at evidence in a case involving a police chief and police officer from the small town of Mermentau who were accused of looting after Katrina. And it will examine allegations of possible malfeasance involving a Port of New Orleans official who dismissed about 60 port security officers who could have helped protect a mall and taken part in rescue efforts.

Jordan said the grand jury will probably also look into the deaths of patients at hospitals during

Katrina and investigate whether the levees and floodwalls that broke were improperly built.



New Orleans District Attorney Eddie Jordan

Garland Seeks Input For Use Of Federal Funding

The City of Garland has scheduled four meetings to receive public input about the use of federal grant funds expected to total about 3 million dollars. The City of Garland currently receives three federal grants from the

Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The City of Garland will host four public meetings to receive citizen comments regarding the Annual Action Plan. These meetings will be held:

• Thursday, January 26, 2006

Walnut Creek Library
3319 Edgewood Dr
7:00 p.m.
• Tuesday, January 31, 2006
South Branch Public Library
4845 Broadway
7:00 p.m.
• Wednesday, February 1,

2006
Bluebonnet Room
800 Main Street
1:30 p.m.
All Garland residents are encouraged to attend. For more info contact Elaine Emmert at (972) 205-2452.

New Orleans Page 3

helped its image by recommending a four-month moratorium on rebuilding the most damaged neighborhoods, most of them Black. The commission says a determination must be made to allow reconstruction or tear down these areas and allow others to redevelop them.

On January 22, the New York Times carried a candid headline: "In New Orleans, Smaller May Mean Whiter." That kind of candor and directness needs to be injected into the discussions about the new New Orleans.

"The city, nearly 70 percent African-American before Hurricane Katrina, has lost some of its largest black neighborhoods to the deluge, and many fear it will never be a

predominantly black city again, as it has been since the 1970's," the New York Times article observed.

It continued, "Indeed, race has become a subtext for just about every contentious decision the city faces: where to put FEMA trailers; which neighborhoods to rebuild; how the troubled school system should be reorganized; when elections should be held. Many blacks see threats to their political domination in reconstruction plans that do not give them what they once had. But many whites see an opportunity to restore a broken city they fled decades ago."

It's an opportunity for Blacks and Whites to come together and determine what will be best for the city. But they can't do that by ignoring the elephant in the room - race.

Roe Anniversary Page 1

The Supreme Court handed down its decision in Roe v. Wade on January 22, 1973, and abortion has been legal in the United States ever since. But efforts to restrict or outlaw the procedure have been just as enduring; 34 states have passed laws requiring parents either to be notified or to give consent when their underage daughters seek abortions.

"Abortion rights have been slowly whittled away while we haven't even been looking," said Kitty Striker, 22, who decorated her hair with small coat hanger replicas for the protest. "That's what's so shocking and so scary to me."

Many abortion opponents said they were heartened by President Bush's choice of Alito to replace O'Connor, a moderate who was often the court's swing vote.

Alito's refusal during his confirmation hearings to agree with assertions by Democrats that Roe v. Wade was "settled law" upset abortion rights activists.

The largest abortion demon-

stration was expected Monday in Washington, D.C., where anti-abortion activists planned to converge on the mall to hear speakers supporting their cause and march on the Congress and Supreme Court.

In Michigan, a group of pastors and ministry leaders used the anniversary Sunday to launch a new anti-abortion organization, Michigan Chooses Life. One goal is to support efforts to get a measure on the 2006 ballot that would change the state constitution to legally define a person as existing at the moment of conception. The American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan has said that even if the measure did succeed, it would be challenged in court.

At the San Francisco protest, Archbishop Michael Regan of St. Michael's Orthodox Church in Concord, California, said it was important to show how mixed public opinion is on abortion, even in liberal cities like San Francisco.

"You do get the impression that there isn't anyone here for the right to life, but look around," he said.

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Church News



Sister Tarpley

Elder Philip White, my Pastor, preaches that you must, "Submit yourself therefore unto God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you." (St. James 4:7)

Dr. Rickie Rush, Pastor of The Inspiring Body of Christ Church tells his members that we are in a "Spiritual Warfare;" and "Satan Wants to Kill You!" This is posted in huge letters in the sanctuary. Pastor Rush and his members have done, and continues to do activities (church members dress in camouflage outfits, the church has been decorated in camouflage gear, a play (The Diary of Adam and Eve), trips to Six Flags, etc.) pertaining to "Spiritual Warfare" to name a few.

Mankind's fight has always been with the devil. He persuaded Eve to taste the 'forbidden fruit' and Eve persuaded Adam to do likewise. The devil has even persuaded some folks that he doesn't really exist or that we have plenty of time.

Don't be fooled by Satan's lies and deceptions, this gives him a greater advantage over you. The devil is real and so are demonic spirits.

Jesus had to deal with the devil; there are confrontations recorded in the Bible between Jesus and the devil. In every example, Jesus resisted the devil with, "The Word of God." The illustrations that Jesus left for us should be applied in our everyday life. As Christians, we should know God's Word; otherwise we are

Resisting The Devil

easy prey to the devil. Some Christians have tried other methods to cast the devil out, but it didn't work. Counseling has its place, but usually the source of the problem is a demonic spirit that must be cast out using the Word of God. Christians must be taught how to resist the devil when temptation comes.



Picture of The Week
(L to R) Phemia Tinner, Mother Helen Clement, and Frankie Mae McFadden, these three beautiful ladies were celebrating God's goodness to them.

Resisting the devil requires a strong effort. Jarrell, my son, was a "standout" football player and received all kinds of awards in high school playing defense for his school. He was one of 11 players responsible for stopping the 'offense' of their opposing team. Jarrell and his team mates used everything in their rule book to keep the other team from scoring. This applies to our spirituality also. Christians must use the Word of God as their defense to resist the devil.

To resist means to stand against. We must stay away from environments that are not godly; they make our temptations greater. Christians are less likely to be tempted by worldly things, if they avoid being around too many secular events and "forsake not to assemble themselves with other Christians at godly events."

The devil can be resisted with **Songs of praise** (1 Chronicles 16:9.) **Meditating on God's Word** (Psalm 1:2) **Thinking on wholesome things** (Philippians 4:8); and least we forget, **Living Holy** (Romans 1:1-2.)

The devil has power, the Bible says that he is the "prince of the air" Jesus has 'all power'. At the cross Jesus conquered 'hell and the grave.' Jesus has given us His power to use, through the Holy Spirit. Jesus told us that one of the actions of a believer is to cast out devils. (St. Mark 16:17)

Christians, in older times, sang song that reflected victory; Elder White, says that we don't like to sing those old songs too much; we like to get our songs 'off' the air, instead of 'out' of the air. The right type of music can help cast the devil out, but the wrong type of music can invite the devil in. That's why Christians should be conscious of what they listen to; certain types of music are not spiritually healthy.

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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."

CORNERSTONE BAPTIST CHURCH

January 29 - February 12, 2006
We will host "Live Action Revival Ministries" a ministry dedicated to living and teaching practical and daily application of the Word of God. Included in this two-week crusade are nightly musical presentations by the nationally recognized Life Action Singers; family seminars; young adult seminars; an informal discussion time for teenagers; a youth seminar called "rEvolution;" Dynamite Club for boys and girls in grades 2-6; and Happiness Club, a sparkly group of 4 and 5 year olds and first graders. For more information please contact Veronica Griffith @ 817-468-0083.

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Rev. Wm. Dwight McKissic, Sr.
Senior Pastor
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DAYSPPRINGS FAMILY CHURCH

February 10, 7:30 pm
Please join us for the official release of Gospel's latest Praise & Worship Singer, Pastor Sean Reed. The CD is titled, "The Next Dimension of Worship." Special guests will be Gospel Recording Artist, Pastor Darrell Blair and Gospel Comedian Jason Earls. For more information about admission fee and directions, please call the church @ 972-399-7729.

Daysprings Family Church
Elder Kevin Dickerson, Pastor
618 North Beltline Road
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972-399-7729

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January 26, 2006
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"New Service Times"
Sunday School @ 10:00 am
Sunday Worship Service @ 11:00 am
Wednesday Nights @ 7:00 pm
For more information, please call 972-480-0200

DayStar Deliverance Ministries
Bishop Minnie Hawthorne Ewing, Pastor
635 W. Campbell Road, Suite 201
Richardson, TX 75080
972-480-0200

EBENEZER WORSHIP CENTER

January 30, 2006
Please join us each Monday for our Women of Power and Men of Power Services. For more details, please call the church.

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

FAITH & POWER MINISTRIES

January 30, 7:30 pm
Jabez Prayer Network will have a "Spiritual Warfare Boot Camp Workshop"

Church Happenings

sponsored by Dr. Shirley Clark; the public is welcomed to join us. For additional information, please call 972-285-2331.

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

FELLOWSHIP OF BELIEVERS MINISTRIES

February 10-11, 2006
"Hell in My House, Heaven in My Heart"
Marriage Conference 2006 hosted by Fellowship of Believers International Church Association. Speakers will be Pastor Lorenzo Price, Mount Olive Baptist Church, Galion, LA; Pastor James Steed, Faith Tabernacle of the Holy Spirit, Atlanta, GA; and Host Conference Speaker, Bishop Gregory D. Crawford, Fellowship of Believers Ministries, Dallas, TX.

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

Fellowship of Believers Ministries

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

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

February 18, 7:00 pm
You are invited to participate in South Collin County's 2006 Building Foundations/Building Lives Gala @ the Marriott at Legacy Town Center. We will have a live auction and a silent auction followed by dinner and dancing to the music of the Rodney Booth Band. Auction items include: Exciting trips to Hawaii, England and California; Air travel via a balloon or "Move About The Country" with Southwest Airlines; a 4-night stay at the acclaimed Kona Village Resort in Hawaii; a venture to London for a weekend at the world-famous Lanesborough Hotel; local restaurant experiences; sports memorabilia, celebrity items and more. For detail information and ticket prices, please call Scott Blair @ 214-405-3134

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KELLER SPRINGS BAPTIST CHURCH

January 26, 2006, 9:30 am - 10:45 am
Feeling disconnected? Plug into an Adult Bible Fellowship group; please join us on Sunday morning starting January 16th. For more information please call the church @ 972-735-8077

February 10-11, 2006
Please join us at our 2006 Marriage Retreat being held @ Embassy Suites Hotel, Spring Valley & Dallas Parkway. Our theme is, "Growing Your Marriage Through Christ. For more information call 972-735-8077.

Keller Springs Baptist Church
Rev. Larry Sanders, Pastor

3227 Keller Springs Road
Carrollton, TX 75006
972-735-8122

LOVE CHAPEL CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST

February 5, 4:00 pm
Please join us for our District Musical that will kick-off Starlight District's Winter Budget Conference @ Greater Holmes Street COGIC, 2505 East Ledbetter Drive, Dallas, TX 75216, 214-372-9401, Elder James Rannels, Pastor; and Elder Nathiel Wells, District Superintendent.

February 7 - 9, @ 7:00 pm
Our Winter Budget Conference will continue @ Greater Holmes Street COGIC; Elder James Rannels is the pastor. The public is invited to join us for these Spirit-Filled Services. This is a Conference that you don't want to miss.

Love Chapel COGIC
Elder Philip White, Pastor
and Starlight District Member
2003 Morris Street
Dallas, TX 75212
214-638-1857

NEW LIFE

FELLOWSHIP CHURCH
Join Us at Our New Worship Location:
"New Service Times"
Sunday Life Bible School - Sundays @ 9:00 am
Sunday Life Worship Service - Sundays @ 10:00 am
Life In The Word Prayer & Bible Study - Wednesdays @ 7:00 pm
For more information, please call 972-671-1096

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

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

NORTH DALLAS COMMUNITY BIBLE FELLOWSHIP IN RICHARDSON

On-Going Mentor Program
Operation Oasis sponsors a program that assists youth that are at-risk, and ex-offenders returning to society. The program's goals are to change lives of the formerly incarcerated person, to increase safety, and to spiritually fortify our communities.

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

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

Church Happenings Page 10

Church Directory

Temple of Faith Christian Chapel C.M.E. Church



"Where Jesus is the Main Attraction"

Sunday Worship Experience - 8:00 am & 10:45 am
Wednesday Bible Study - 12:00 Noon & 7:00 pm

14120 Noel Road • Dallas, TX 75254

972-239-1120 (Office) • 972-239-5925 (Fax)

templeoffaith_cme@sbcglobal.net (Email)

Healthy Beginnings Child Development Center - 972-404-1412

FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH OF ALLEN



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

"A Ministry that is on the Move for Christ"

Sunday School 9:30 am

Sunday Morning Worship/Children's Church 11:00 am

Wednesday Prayer/Bible Study 7:00 pm

2nd & 4th Monday "Youth for Christ" 7:00 pm

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

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

Dr. Leslie W. Smith,
Senior Pastor

New Mt. Zion Baptist Church of Dallas

Sunday Service
Morning Worship
7:30 am & 10:30 am
9:00 am Sunday School

Wednesday Service
Prayer Meeting 7:00 pm
Brotherhood 7:00 pm
Missions 7:00 pm
Singles Group 7:00 pm
Bible Study 7:45 pm



Dr. Robert E. Price,
Senior Pastor

A Praying Church Family
"Watchmen on the Walls"

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

9550 Shepard Road

Dallas, TX 75243

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

Visit Our Website At www.MONTTheGazette.com

Ben Washington Baptist Church, Inc.

3901 Frisco Avenue

Irving, TX 75061

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

Email: church@bwbccirving.org

Web: bwbccirving.org



Dr. Joseph R. Sheppard, Pastor



"THE CHURCH WITH AN OPEN BIBLE"

Sunday Worship Services

8:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

9:45 a.m. Sunday School

6:00 p.m. Baptist Training Union

Wednesday

12:00 p.m. Bible Study

7:00 p.m. Prayer Hour

7:30 p.m. Bible Study

Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church

920 E. 14th Street Plano, TX

Pastor Isiah Joshua, Jr.



Pastor Isiah Joshua, Jr.



Sunday Worship Services 8AM & 11AM

Sunday 9:45AM Sunday School

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

Tuesday 7PM Bible Study & Men's Choir

Wednesday 7PM Mid-Week Service

Thursday 7PM Mass Choir

For more information call (972) 423-6695

www.shilohbaptistchurch.org

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2305 South Business Hwy 121, Suite 138
Lewisville, Texas 75067

Wednesday - Thursday 10:00 am - 7:00 pm

Friday - Saturday 10:00 am - 6:00 pm

Call for Holiday Hours

For more information call 972-956-0030

Or visit our website at:

www.firstlady-fashions.com



The St. John Experience

St. John Baptist Church

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

2805 Market Loop, Suite 300, Southlake, Texas 76092

Denny D. Davis, Servant

One Church - Two Locations

Four Morning Worship Services

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

The Votes
Are In!

MON-The Gazette receives 1st Place for "Best Religious Section"
at the 19th Annual African American Texas Publisher's Association Conference. The contest was judged by the University of Texas at Tyler.

DNA Exonerates Fla. Man After 24 Years

By: Mitch Stacy,
Associated Press Writer

Alan Crotzer stepped into the warm sunlight outside the courthouse Monday and raised his arms to the sky, celebrating his freedom after more than 24 years behind bars for crimes he didn't commit.

A judge freed the 45-year-old Crotzer after DNA testing and other evidence convinced prosecutors he was not involved in the 1981 armed robbery and rapes that led to his 130-year prison sentence.

"It's been a long time coming," said Crotzer, his black hair graying at the temples. "Thank God for this day."

Crotzer walked free more than three years after he wrote to the Innocence Project in New York, a legal clinic that seeks to exonerate inmates through DNA testing.

"Are you ready for what you waited so long to hear?" Circuit Judge J. Rogers Padgett said to Crotzer during

the brief hearing. "Motion granted _ you're a free man." Members of Crotzer's family and other courtroom spectators clapped and cheered as a bailiff removed the shackles from his wrists and ankles.

Prosecutor Mike Sinacore congratulated him. "Trying to fix an error in the system is just as important as trying to convict someone who is guilty," he said.

DNA has been used to clear at least 172 people wrongly convicted of crimes in 31 states since 1989, according to the Innocence Project.

Crotzer and brothers Douglas James and Corlenzo James were convicted of robbing a Tampa family in 1981. Douglas James and Crotzer were also found guilty of kidnapping and raping a 38-year-old woman and her 12-year-old girl at gunpoint.

A victim picked Crotzer out of a photo lineup. But Douglas James says Crotzer is innocent.



He said he and his brother were the rapists and a childhood friend was their accomplice.

Crotzer, who has never held a paying job, said he will go live with a sister in St. Petersburg

and try to find work. His attorneys said they will seek compensation from the state for him.

"There ain't no compensation for what they done to me," said Crotzer, whose mother died while he was in prison. "But I'm not bitter."

Crotzer said he was looking forward to a barbecue with his family, who promised him his favorites _ pork chops and banana pudding. Then, he said, he wanted to take a bath in a real bathtub.

"I want to soak," he said. "I want to get some of this off me."

Plano Police Captain Page 1

year veteran of the Plano Police Department. He graduated from the University of Texas at Arlington with a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice and a Masters of Business Administration. Captain Drain also serves his country as a Lieutenant Colonel in the Army Reserve, and was deployed to active duty in Iraq in 2005 where he was awarded the Bronze Star.

Chief Rushin expressed confidence in the abilities of the newly promoted captain.

"I am very pleased to promote Ed Drain to the rank of

captain," he said. "Captain Drain is a well respected leader, both inside and outside of the department. I believe he will be an exceptional captain. We are really fortunate to have Drain. Working in civil service, you really never know who you are going to get. But he really is an excellent guy."

Captain Drain immediately assumes command of the Support Services Division, which encompasses the Police Training Academy, School Liaison Program, Crime Prevention Unit, Neighborhood Police Officers Unit, Warrant and Court officers, Traffic Unit,

Emergency Services Unit and Homeland Security.

"Support Services is certainly the most operationally diverse division within the department. I plan to deal with it all by setting priorities based on department and division goal," Captain Drain said. "The lieutenants and sergeants in my division know their jobs well, and I will avoid micromanaging their units."

Captain Ed Drain has made a career out of pursuing excellence at all levels. That pursuit has rewarded both he and the Plano Police Department with distinction and diversity.

Church Happenings

Church Happenings Page 9

OASIS INTERDENOMINATIONAL MINISTRIES FELLOWSHIP

January 29, 4:00 pm

You are invited to a Woman 2 Woman Fellowship @ The Super 8 Motel, 4245 W. Airport Freeway, Irving, TX 75062. Our theme is "God's Mighty Women of the Bible." Rev. Angela Cooper is the Program Coordinator, Minister Gloria Lewis is the Mistress of Ceremony, and Apostle Loretta Williams is the Overseer.

Our speakers will be Evangelist Mary Galloway, Evangelist Norvada Stevenson, Shanitha Galloway, and Minister Kelli Moore will be our Worship Leader. All are welcomed to attend. For more information, contact Rev. Angela Cooper @ 214-934-1112 or Apostle Loretta Williams @ 989-859-1660

Oasis Interdenominational Ministries Fellowship

Apostle Loretta Williams

P.O. Box 168034

Irving, TX 75016

989-859-1660

RHONDA HALE MINISTRIES

January 27-29, 2006

Winter Retreat 2006 @ The Hawthorn Suites in Irving, TX. You are invited to attend this retreat and allow God to minister to you and to help you cope, and live a victorious Christian life at home, work, or wherever Christ needs to be exemplified. Our theme is "His Finishing Touch," Philippians 1:6. Speakers will be Ministers Dynna Wilson, Rhonda Hale, and Sonya Wells; Elders Lisa Watkins, Tiffany Harrison, and Timothy Charles Ross. Minister of Music will be William A. Phillips from Indianapolis, IN. Also included will be Team Building Activities, Manicures, Pedicures, Massages, Prayer, Praise and Worship, and Delicious Home Cooking.

For more information about topics, registration deadline, fees, and directions, please call 972-293-6716.

Rhonda Hale Ministries

Rhonda Hale, Founder

P.O. Box 2333

Cedar Hill, TX 75106

972-293-6716

SHIRLEY CLARK INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES

January 30, 7:30 pm

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

Shirley Clark International Ministries

Dr. Shirley K. Clark, CEO

P.O. Box 860794

Plano, TX 75086-0794

972-424-2074

STARLIGHT DISTRICT CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST

February 5, 4:00 pm

Please join us for our District Musical that will kick-off Starlight District's Winter Budget Conference @ Greater Holmes Street COGIC, 2505 East Ledbetter Drive, Dallas, TX 75216, 214-372-9401, Elder James Runnels, Pastor.

February 7-9, @ 7:00 pm

Our Winter Budget Conference will continue @ Greater Holmes Street COGIC; Elder James Runnels is the pastor. The public is invited to join us for these Spirit-Filled Services. This is a Conference that you don't want to miss.

Starlight District

Elder Nathiel Wells,

District Superintendent

135 Pemberton Hill Road

Dallas, TX 75217

214-398-4166

STRONG ARMS CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST

February 5, 4:00 pm

Please join us for our District Musical that will kick-off Starlight District's Winter Budget Conference @ Greater Holmes Street COGIC, 2505 East Ledbetter Drive, Dallas, TX 75216, 214-372-9401, Elder James Runnels, Pastor.

February 7-9, @ 7:00 pm

Our Winter Budget Conference will continue @ Greater Holmes Street COGIC; Elder James Runnels is the pastor. The public is invited to join us for these Spirit-Filled Services. This is a Conference that you don't want to miss.

Strong Arms COGIC

Supt. Nathiel Wells, Pastor

135 Pemberton Hill Road

Dallas, TX 75217

214-398-4166

THE INSPIRING BODY OF CHRIST CHURCH (IBOC)

Sign Up Now

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

Monday, 7:00 pm

Monday School with Holy Spirit Bible Teachings

The Inspiring Body of Christ Church (IBOC)

Dr. Rickie G. Rush, Pastor

7710 South Westmoreland

Dallas, TX 75237

972-572-IBOC(4262)

THE POTTER'S HOUSE OF DALLAS

February 8, 7:00 pm

Our men's ministry, Men Talk, will host its monthly Questions & Answers show with guest speaker First Lady Serita Jakes. She will speak on, "A Man & His Woman" there will also be a discussion on the four areas of C.A.R.E. (Courtship, Affirmation, Relationship & Excitement.) The event is FREE and opened to "Men - from homeless men to millionaires." No registration is required.

The Potter's House of Dallas

Bishop T.D. Jakes, Senior Pastor

6777 W. Kiest Blvd.

Dallas, TX 75236

214-414-0138

TRINITY PRAYER CHAPEL

Sign Up Now

Reynolds Wood Ministries is now conducting FREE GED and ESL Classes, Mentoring Program, and Dance/Ballet/Karate Classes (scholarships are available.) For more information and registration, please call 214-544-1886.

Trinity Prayer Chapel

Rev. Reynolds Wood, Senior Pastor

P.O. Box 650

Dallas, TX 75251

Service Location is:

406 N. Tennessee

McKinney, TX 75069

214-544-1886

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

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

PEOPLE OF FAITH WITH A MIND TO WORK

Hill Chapel
Christian Methodist Episcopal Church
1113 Ave. 1, Plano, TX 75074 (972) 423-4090
Rev. Clarence J. Ford, Jr., Pastor

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Website: www.ibocjoy.org

St. Luke A.M.E. Church (aka - SLAME)
"Where we slam dunk the devil and serve up Jesus"
521 W. Avenue E Garland, TX 75040 972.487.9703
Email: slamechurch@aol.com

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

Thursday
7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Tuesday
7:15 p.m. Bible Study

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

Reverend Charles E. Franklin, Pastor

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

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

Little Flock Baptist Church
704 E. Aimee Street • P.O. Box 9001 • Forney, Texas 75126
Phone: 214-325-7021
Fax: 214-371-8922 or 214-372-2135

Sunday School 9:30 am
Sunday Morning Worship 10:45 am
Sunday Night Service 6:30 pm
Tuesday Night Brotherhood 7:00 pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting/Bible Study 7:00 pm

Pastor Louis E. Laurent

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

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

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

A Place of New Beginnings... II Corinthians 5:17
Sunday Life Bible School 9:00 a.m.
Sunday Life Worship Service 10:00 a.m.
Life In The Word Prayer and Bible Study (Wednesdays) 7:00 p.m.

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

Serving the Plano Community for 12 Years

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

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

OPEN BIBLE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

Sunday Services
9:00 am - Prayer Ministry
9:30 am - Sunday School
10:45 am - Morning Worship & Children's Church

Tuesday Service
7:00 pm - Bible Study

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

2701 Briarwood Drive • Plano, TX 75074
972-422-4248

Friendship Baptist Church
Dr. C. Paul McBride, Pastor

Schedule of Services:
Sunday
Early Morning Worship 8:00 a.m.
Sunday School Classes 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
Evening Worship (1st Sunday) 6:00 p.m.

Tuesday
Early Bird Bible Study 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday
Morning Bible Study 9:30 a.m.
Prayer Meeting and Evening Bible Study 7:30 p.m.

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

Minority Opportunity News -The Gazette 6100 Ave K, Suite 105 (@Spring Creek Parkway) Plano, Texas 75074
Phone: 972.516.2992 Fax: 972.509.9058 Email: Religion@monthegazette.com