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The Gazette

Volume XV, Number XXXVII

September 21 - September 27, 2006

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People In The News



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Dr. Pamela Moore graduated from the University of Missouri in Kansas City in 1992. Barnes-Jewish Hospital at Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri She was appointed Chief Resident at Barnes-Jewish Hospital at Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri from 95-96 and was also the Associate Director of its Residents Internal Medicine Clinic until 1998. That same year, she relocated to Plano, Texas to open her private practice. Dr. Moore serves as the Chief of Staff for Medical Center Hospital of Plano, and was noted as one of the "Best Doctors in Dallas" in D Magazine in 2003 and 2004.

Visit Passport Health location at 9850 N Central Expressway Suite 218, Dallas, Texas or log onto www.passporthealthdfw.com.

State Senator Royce West

joins the Richards family, Texas and America in mourning the loss of Ann Richards, Texas 45th and first elected female governor. Ms. Richards succumbed Wednesday evening to a battle with esophageal cancer. Senator West says that Gov. Richards' style set her apart from other modern political leaders.

"Gov. Richards had many memorable and wonderful attributes that served her well in her various pursuits," said Senator West. "She was courageous, caring, candid, forthcoming and just a genuine person. She had this quality that made people gravitate toward her. And people believed - when speaking with her - that their concerns became hers."

"During the earlier years of Gov. Richard's political and professional careers, Texas and America's challenge to be more inclusive of women and minorities in leadership roles were even more pronounced than what exists today," said Senator West. "Ann Richards was up-front and unrelenting in her efforts to shatter the glass ceiling for those under-represented constituencies who were ready to meet opportunity."

Even her political rivals must acknowledge that Texas and America are the better for her contributions.



Dr. Carole M. Berotte Joseph became the first Haitian American to head a U.S. college when she was recently inaugurated as the fourth president of Massachusetts Bay Community College (MassBay) in Wellesley Hills, MA and its first woman president since its inception.

Dr. Berotte Joseph joins an elite and select group of just 49 African-American women nationwide serving as college and university presidents.

African-American women presidents make up a scant 1.4% of all college presidents.

"My goal is to create a dynamic environment for students with the best faculty and the highest level of support services," says Dr. Berotte Joseph.

Dr. Berotte Joseph emigrated to the United States as a young girl with her family from Haiti, during the years of the Duvalier dictatorship.

Dr. Berotte Joseph developed an interest in education and languages. She earned her Bachelor's Degree in Spanish and Education from the York College of the City University of New York, a Master's degree in bilingual education from Fordham University, and a Ph.D. in bilingual education and sociolinguistics from New York University. She is multilingual and speaks French, Spanish, English and Haitian Creole.

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Captain Ed Drain Named Assistant Plano Police Chief



Plano Police Chief Greg Rushin and new Assistant Police Chief Ed Drain

Captain Ed Drain, a 12-year veteran of the Plano Police Department, was named Plano's new Assistant Police Chief, in conjunction with a promotion ceremony that saw three additional members of the Police team rise through the ranks.

Lieutenant Dan Curtis was promoted to Captain; Sergeant Brad Fortune to Lieutenant and Officer Ron Flanagan to Sergeant in a September 8, 2006 ceremony held in the Toler Room of the Plano Police station.

"We are very lucky to have capable employees to step up and take on the new challenges and greater responsibilities associated with increased rank," Plano Police Chief Greg Rushin told a standing room only audience. "The four individuals we are promoting today have worked very hard to earn these promotions and they really deserve them."

Filling the position of Assistant Police Chief,

following the retirement of former Assistant Chief Steve Nagy in early September, Captain Ed Drain brings 12 years of service with the Plano Police Department to the position, as well as an impressive military background.

Prior to his Police service, Captain Drain spent 11 years on active duty as an Army Officer. A member of the Army Reserves, he was called back to active duty in 2004, serving a one-year tour of duty in Iraq before being released to return to work at the Department. During his career with Plano he has been a patrol officer, Emergency Response team member, Bomb Squad team member, Patrol Sergeant, Administrative Lieutenant and Support Service Division Captain. In addition to holding a BS degree in Criminal Justice from UTA and an MBA from Amberton University, he holds both Master Peace Officer and Instructor certifications from

Ed Drain Page 8

City Manager Appoints New Director Of Homeland Security

City Manager Tom Muehlenbeck is pleased to announce the appointment of S. Shane Stovall as Plano's new Director of Homeland Security. Stovall, currently Project Manager, in the Emergency Management and Homeland Security Business Unit, for General Physics Corporation (Tampa, Florida), will begin his new duties in Plano on October 16, 2006.

Stovall holds the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) certification as a Certified Emergency Manager (CEM), as well as the Florida Emergency Preparedness

Association's certification as a Florida Professional Emergency Manager (FPEM). His educational background includes a B.S. in Emergency Administration and Planning from the University of North Texas.

"We are very pleased to be able to attract someone with Shane's experience and credentials to our Office of

Plano Homeland Security Page 8

ViewPoint Bank Plano Balloon Festival

This year's Plano Balloon festival will begin at 4:00pm Friday, September 22nd at Oak Point Park, 2801 E. Spring Creek Parkway, Plano, Texas 75074. This weekend event offers something for everyone; Entertainment on the Clear Channel Main Stage and my 27 Community Stage, Saturday Evening Spectacular Fireworks Show presented by Verizon FiOS, Special Kids Art Activities in our Free 'Kids Korner', Inflatable Rides and Rock Climbing Wall in the FOX 4 Kids Fun Zone and of course



Worth Metroplex's most proven family events and Texas' largest balloon event, The 2006 ViewPoint Bank Plano Balloon Festival has a tremendous amount to offer its advertisers, sponsors and the community.

Over the past twenty-six years the Festival has:

- Attracted weekend crowds in excess of 100,000 people as one of the largest events in the metroplex, with strong family and above average income demographics.

- Expanded from five ballooning events to a full weekend of activities including performing arts stages, children's hands-on activi-

Plano Balloon Festival Page 9



Black Academy Celebrates 30th Anniversary With Red Carpet Weekend



Curtis King, founder and director The Black Academy of Arts and Letters

By: Paul Hailey
Vision has been called the art of seeing the invisible.

With its 30th Anniversary Black Tie and Red Carpet Opening Season Gala this weekend, Dallas Black Academy of Arts and Letters director and founder Curtis King will see the culmination of

a dream that began at his kitchen table with \$250 and a vision.

The development of The Black Academy of Arts and Letters (TBAAL) did not happen overnight, and is intertwined with the development of its founder.

Black Academy Celebrates Page 7

Protests Target Violence In Darfur

AP
With thousands of people gathered in Central Park to protest the violence in the war-torn Darfur region of Sudan, one speaker likened the destruction there to the Holocaust.

"This genocide was preventable, and we did not act," former Canadian justice minister Irwin Cotler told the crowd Sunday. "Just as we are not acting today in Darfur. Let us resolve that we will never again be indifferent to evil. We will speak and act."

Protests across the world came on the eve of a U.N. Security Council meeting on Sudan, which was scheduled to take place just before this year's U.N. General Assembly speeches. President Bush also is headed to the United Nations to address a host of global issues



Demonstrators shout slogans, hold up their fists and make peace signs during a Save Darfur Coalition rally in New York's Central Park on Sunday. Demonstrators called on the United Nations peacekeeping force to be immediately deployed to the Darfur region to stop the genocide.

facing his administration.

Events for the "Global Day Darfur Protest Page 6

Judge Blocks Omaha School Race-Division Law



Nebraska State Senator Ernie Chambers

AP
Measure would have divided city into racially identifiable school districts

A judge on Monday blocked the implementation of a law that would divide the Omaha school district into three racially identifiable districts.

The law, passed in April and set to take effect in 2008, would have split the Omaha Public Schools into one mostly black

district, one largely Hispanic and one predominantly white. It also would have forced 11 school districts in two counties to share resources, including state funding, as part of a "learning community."

Douglas County District Judge Michael Coffey ordered a temporary injunction blocking implementation of the law, which was aimed at solving a dispute over school boundaries after the district tried to take over some suburban schools. The injunction will remain in effect while the lawsuit is decided unless the court decides to lift it sooner.

Coffey criticized the district breakup because no other dis-

Omaha Schools Page 6

NAACP Garland Holds Freedom Fund Banquet

Photos By: LaQuisha Hosley
The Garland Branch of the NAACP held its 16th Annual Freedom Fund Banquet on September 16th at the Radisson Hotel in Richardson. The theme of this year's banquet was "Preparing Our Youth and Passing the Baton". The event featured a silent auctions and presentation of the Communications Award, Minority Business Award,

Community Service Award and Education Award. Honorees were The Garland City Press, Ms. Jaqueline LaGrone, Dr. Joyce Kyle Miller, and Ms. Carolyn I. Primm, respectively. Pastor Leonard O. Leach Sr. of the Mount Hebron Baptist Church delivered the Keynote address.
For more pictures of the event visit our website at www.MonTheGazette.com



Freedom Fund Honoree processional, led by Sasha Hampton.



Garland NAACP Youth Council members serving as ushers for the event.



Freedom Fund Chairperson Gwen Daniels dines with Youth Council members.



Honoree introduction by Youth Council President Sasha Hampton.



City of Garland employee Chastity Wilson enjoys the banquet.



Judge Faith Johnson greets patrons



MC Carol Blakes addresses the crowd during the banquet.



Garland ISD boardmember Linda Griffin.



Garland ISD Superintendent Curtis Caldwell and Garland Mayor Bob Day.



Garland NAACP President B.J. Williams greets attendees.

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Community Volunteer. He and his wife of 29 years Jan live with their rescue dog Katie, sponsor a park, and are active in their church and community. Republican. 972-243-5908.

Phot. Ad. Paid for by Judge Bruce Woody campaign, Denise Flores, Treasurer

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Around The Town

Ongoing
Sankofa Unplugged! Come experience the nation's best Open Mic Experience. Musicians, Poets, Actors, be ready to "Bring the heat" to the Sankofa stage Sankofa Arts Cafe & Bar 1906-1908 Martin L. King, Jr. Blvd Dallas. Every Saturday 9:00 p.m. Call 214-421-0013 or visit, www.myspace.com/sankofakrew

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

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

Alpha Beta Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi a social service cultural sorority meets the second Monday of each month in members home in Frisco, McKinney, and the Plano area. Call 972-473-9089.

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

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

A free legal clinic is offered

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Swing Time Magazine presents

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

September 22
Plano Chamber All Star Business Interchange
Join us for an "All Star Business Interchange" Friday, September 22nd at SMU-in-Legacy. Come dressed in your favorite sports attire, or support your favorite team.

Referees Aaron Jameson and Lynn Barrett will be blowing the whistle on the last meeting at SMU-in-Legacy for 2006. Friday, September 22nd will be the last meeting of the year at SMU-in-Legacy, 5228 Tennyson Parkway, Bldg 3, Room 103!

September 22-24
ViewPoint Bank Plano Balloon Festival at Oak Point Park

Join us for the 27th annual Plano Balloon Festival. Gracing the skies over Plano will be 75 hot air balloons, on the Festival site attendee's will be entertained by the concerts and community acts, the Kids Fun Zone, and tantalizing food vendors. This year adding to the celebration is a street dance on Friday night featuring hoopedolphins and our spectacular fireworks on Saturday night.

For more information contact Jo Via at (972) 867-7566 or visit www.planoballoonfest.org

September 23
The Black Academy of Arts and Letters 30th Anniversary Black Tie and Red Carpet Gala. Dallas Convention Center. Call 214-743-2400 or 214-373-8000.

Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson's Community Appreciation Day Valuing America's cultural diversity
Baylor Tom Landry Fitness Center, 411 N. Washington Street
12pm-3pm FREE
alani.mundie@mail.house.gov 214-922-8885

1st Annual Tony B Foundation Family Reunion 10am - 6pm
Admission \$10 Bahama Beach Water Park 1895 Campfire Circle Dallas TX 75232 (214) 331-4900. Trip giveaways every hour to Walt Disney World, Bahamas, Las Vegas Live Entertainment Hot Old School & New School Live Mix with DJ Steve Nice. Proceeds will also benefit United Negro College Fund Women's Haven Battered Women's Shelter.

Women in Business Expo & Trade Show 2006 held at the Plano Station, located just east of the Downtown Plano DART Station.

Come enjoy a day connecting with others to grow your dreams, businesses and creative projects and to celebrate our big ideas, entrepreneurial spirits and creative talents.

Admission is Free. Free parking available Haggard Park, Eastside Village Apartment Garage and Municipal Center.

For more information contact Gail Morse at 972-535-6852 or visit www.womenaboutbix.com/northdallas.htm

September 26
Plano West Senior High Orchestras Concert
5601 W. Parker Road in Plano
Plano West Orchestras 7:30 pm
FREE
jwallac@psd.edu 469-752-9842

Tate Distinguished Lecture Series: The Linda and Mitch Hart Lecture
Legendary newsmen Ted Koppel and Tom Brokaw, with David Gergen (News analyst and former White House adviser)
McFarlin Auditorium
Southern Methodist University 8pm
214-768-8283 View WEBSITE

September 27
10th Annual Celebration of Enterprise Business Expo is Collin County's largest business expo. Plano Centre, 2000 E. Spring Creek Parkway. Awards luncheon attended by top executives from Collin County, Richardson and North Dallas awaiting the announcement of this year's Celebration of Enterprise winners; Business Expo where approximately 120 exhibitors will be on hand to demonstrate their products. Admission to the Expo is open to the public and Free. For more information, nomination form, exhibit space or luncheon tickets contact Inside Collin County Business at 972-612-2425 or visit www.celebrationofenterprise.com

September 28
The National Association of Black Social Workers will hold its Southwest Regional Conference Sept. 28-29, 2006, at the Holiday Inn Select Love Field in Dallas. For more information call 972-898-2628 or log onto www.nabsw.org.

Grant Writing USA workshop in Carrollton
Bill Priest Campus of El Centro College bobarnold@dccc.edu

September 29
Diversity Conference
To provide a forum for addressing race, culture and religious issues in the

workplace and community with workable solutions that are relevant to the Dallas/Ft. Worth areas.
2900 Live Oak Street
The Bridge Into The 21st Century, Inc. 8:30 am - 2:30 pm
\$35.00
diversityworks@aol.com 214-467-0393

September 30
Reggae artist performing a music tribute to the legendary Bob Marley. Reggae artist to perform will be Tunde Obazee and Tribute Jam, Cultura, and Aton
Sons of Hermann Hall 3414 Elm Street
KNON Radio doors 8 pm live music 9 pm 10 dollar donation. Supports knon Community Radio gm@knon.org 214-828-9500

October 17
India Arie at Nokia Theater. Tickets go on sale September 8th. To purchase tickets, contact Ticketmaster online at Ticketmaster.com or by phone at 214-373-8000 or 972-647-5700.

October 21
Irving NAACP 6th Annual Freedom Fund Banquet
7:00 P.M.
Sheraton Grand Hotel - DFW Airport
4440 W. Carpenter Freeway Highway 114 & Esters Irving, Texas
Theme: Voting our Values Valuing our Votes
Keynote Speaker: Senator Royce West
Person of Ceremony: Lynne Haze, 94.5KSoul
For Information Call: 214-607-7990 or 972-259-3909

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Paul Hailey

"Power is what calls the shots, and power is a white male game."

Ann Richards

It occurred to me the other day that about once in every generation there is a white politician that captures the heart of the black electorate. For my grandmother's generation it was Franklin Roosevelt, for my parents it was John F. Kennedy, and for my generation it has been Bill Clinton. Black people felt a natural connection to these politicians because they seemed generally interested in the plight of minorities, and in the case of Clinton, could actually identify with trying to succeed against the odds.

On a more local level, former Texas Governor Ann Richards evoked the same kind of feelings from black people. Her passing this week reminded us how much of a voice she was for those who live outside the positions of power in the state of Texas.

I'm going to miss Ann Richards.

I moved to Texas in 1989, and in 1990 I witnessed one of the most interesting political races I have ever seen—Ann Richards versus Clayton Williams for governor. Williams was the perfect cartoon of the Texas 'good ol' boy', complete with veiled racist and sexist comments delivered with a twang and a wink. Richards ran representing "New Texas", and had a campaign staff and a message that included the black and brown people of Texas.

"Her central message of the New Texas to the good ol' boys was never 'Move out' but 'Just move over.' And so, move over they did," said former Dallas mayor Ron Kirk, who Richards appointed chairman of the state General Services com-

Ann Richards: One Of Us

mission in 1991 and later secretary of state.

"Ann Richards understood and embraced the notion that this state of Texas that we love so much cannot be the Texas that we dreamed of until all God's children got to play," Kirk said. "And that meant all of us."

Maybe its because she was a former teacher and understood the importance of inclusion; or perhaps because she was a recovering alcoholic who understood what it was like to hit bottom; whatever the reason, Ann Richards knew how to relate to those on the outside.

Ms. Richards talked about being on the outside in her autobiography, *Straight From the Heart*. In the book, she reflected on growing up poor and encountering sexism and racism as she traveled through the male dominated world of Texas politics.

"Even though no one told me, there were certain things that you know, and the world knew, that women and girls couldn't do. Running government was one of them. That didn't mean you didn't study or learn about it, it just meant that it didn't apply to you. Any group—blacks, Hispanics, Asians, females—knows that. You know what

you're allowed to do and what you're not."

Another trait that made Ann Richards so likable was her wit. The woman had a knack for saying something funny and quotable. A few of her gems:

"I've got a lot of cracks about my hair, mostly from men who don't have any."

"If you give us the chance, we can perform. After all, Ginger Rogers did everything that Fred Astaire did. She just did it backwards and in high heels."

"You can put lipstick and earrings on a hog and call it Monique, but it's still a pig."

And on future President George W. Bush:

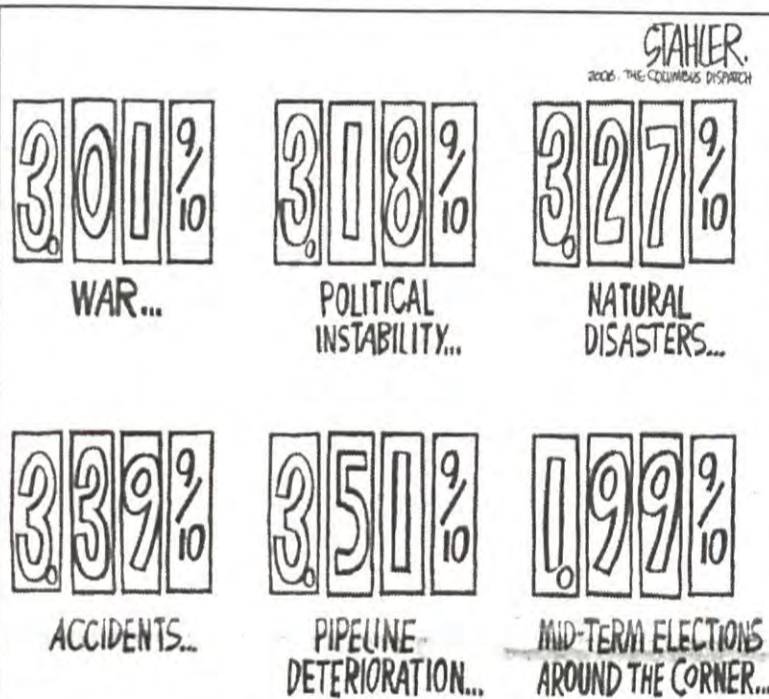
"Poor George, he can't help it. He was born with a silver foot in his mouth."

Through it all, Ms. Richards never forgot why she was in politics.

"I do not want my tombstone to read, 'She kept a really clean house.' I think I'd like them to remember me by saying, 'She opened government to everyone.'"

Words like that are what made Ann Richards not one of them, but one of us.

Paul Hailey can be reached at editor@MonTheGazette.com



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The American Nightmare: The Working Poor

By: Rep. John Lewis (D-Ga.)

What happened to the American dream? The belief that through hard work families can give their children a more comfortable life than generations before them. We work harder today than ever before with less to show for our accomplishments.

Though the economy has recovered from the recent recession, the benefits of that recovery have mainly profited the rich. And for the first time in decades, economic recovery has not offered much hope to the average American.

The State of Working America, developed by the Economic Policy Institute (EPI), reports that technological advances enable working Americans to be more productive than at any time in history. In fact, productivity has risen by 33 percent over the last decade. Worker harder, make more money, right? Wrong. Since 2001, when profit for some industries has been greater than ever before, wages either remain unchanged or fell, says EPI, after adjusting for inflation.

For families who live in major urban areas—Atlanta, New York, San Francisco, Chicago, Houston, or Washington, D.C.—the cost of living, including prices for gasoline, food, and housing have gone up or remain high, but EPI's report reveals that the typical man trying to lift his family up is managing hourly wages that are 5 percent lower than they were in 1979.

Add to that the trend in government and private industry to shift risk from corporate America on to the backs of working families, requiring them to absorb half the rise in cost of employer-provided health insurance premiums. And, millions of Americans work who have no health benefits at all. According to the Census Bureau, Georgia was one of eight states where the numbers of uninsured have climbed in the past two years,

along with the rate of poverty, and maybe these statistics explain why.

Where can average Americans find some relief? It's hard to say. Finding a better paying job won't work. Job creation is slow, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Americans no longer compete only among themselves; today they vie with workers in a worldwide labor market who can survive much more cheaply in their economies than Americans can. How about getting more education? That usually makes workers more marketable. But the EPI report says only about 27 percent of American jobs even require a college education, and that rate is expected to increase very little in the next 15 years. Plus federal support for student aid has been cut by this Congress, essentially to finance the war.

So how are America's families surviving? Credit cards finance many of their day-to-day expenses. The EPI reveals that the average family's debt is 130 percent of their personal disposable income. About a quarter of low-income households had debts that exceeded 40 percent of their income.

If the bills pile up too high, those families can't even declare bankruptcy. The House and Senate majority pushed through revised bankruptcy laws that make it difficult for the average citizen to get out of debt. Meanwhile, corporate America has been allowed to balance their budgets at the expense of employees, imposing wage freezes or cuts, baling out of pensions and health insurance premiums so they can reach their profit projections. Don't look to the federal government for an example either. It has run up the largest deficit in history, with no end in sight.

In 1965, a CEO made 24 times the pay of the average worker in his company, according to the EPI report. Today the average CEO makes 262 times

the pay of his or her average worker. That employee's wages have risen only 7.2 percent since 1992, while CEO compensation has risen over 186 percent. The top fifth of our economy controls 84 percent of the wealth in this country, and the average net worth of the top 1 percent of Americans is \$15 million. Compare that to 30 percent of all American households, tens of millions of Americans, who have an average net worth less than \$10,000.

A series of tax cuts for the rich promoted by the White House and the current congressional majority have fueled this divide, and they are still pushing for one more, an estate tax cut. Even the richest of the rich—Warren Buffet, Bill Gates, and David Rockefeller Sr.—think this adds insult to injury for the common man and woman. Maybe they would agree with what one leader said when government policy was designed to offer more hope to average Americans. "If a free society cannot help the many who are poor," said President John Kennedy, "it cannot save the few who are rich."

Where is the compassion in our economic policy, the concern for humanity that is the duty of government? If government does not protect the interests of the people it represents, then who will? The values of "personal responsibility" lauded by this administration are really code words that mean every man and woman for themselves. And if Hurricane Katrina demonstrates this government's concern for the least among us, we better hope that the proverbial financial "levee" does not break. I have no doubt that our economy will survive, but it won't be pretty.

Lewis is the ranking member of the Oversight Subcommittee of the Ways and Means Committee.

Hillary Clinton Isn't The Answer To Democratic Woes

By: George E. Curry -

NNPA Columnist

It's astounding that New York Sen. Hillary Clinton is considered a front-runner to capture the 2008 Democratic nomination for president. After losing year after year with weak, northern nominees, one would think that the Party would have learned its lesson by now. Evidently, it hasn't. The only way Democrats have been able to win 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue in nearly a half century has been by nominating a Southerner. That's right, a Bubba. You don't have to be a rocket or social scientist to figure that out. In fact, you don't even have to be a scientist.

Look at the record. Since John F. Kennedy, a U.S. Senator from Massachusetts, was elected in 1960, the only Democrats elected president have been his vice president, Lyndon B. Johnson of Texas; Jimmy Carter of Georgia and Bill Clinton of Arkansas. In the case of Clinton and Vice President Al Gore, it was technically a Double-Bubba ticket, with two Southerners heading the ticket. Actually, it was more like 1.5 Bubbas; though Gore claims Tennessee as his home, he grew up in Washington, D.C. as the son of a United States senator.

Yet, Democrats seem lost when trying to pick a candidate for president. They can't find their butts with both hands, a map and an OnStar navigation system. They are clueless and, in many instances, spineless. A poll released two weeks ago by the Pew Research Center for The People & The Press found that Democrats couldn't be better

positioned to win back the White House and retake at least one chamber of Congress.

"Voters are expressing strong and consistent anti-Republican attitudes," the report stated. "The GOP lags well behind the Democratic Party on nearly all major issues, including the economy, Iraq, education, health care, the environment and the budget deficit. And the Republicans have lost ground in recent years even on such traditional strengths as terrorism and improving the nation's morality."

A famous Democrat, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, said: "We have nothing to fear but fear itself." Sen. John Kerry, another loser from Massachusetts, correctly noted that, "Now, we got a president and the only thing he got to sell is fear itself."

The Bush administration may be peddling fear, but fewer Americans are buying it.

"The Republican Party's advantage over the Democratic Party in dealing with the terrorist threat at home — which was as large as 30 points in January 2002 — has declined to nine points in the current survey," the Pew study says. "In addition, the public is increasingly skeptical that the U.S. is prevailing in the war on terrorism."

With the November general election less than two months away, Democrats received some encouraging news about the prospect of recapturing at least the U.S. House of Representatives.

"As in six previous surveys over the past 12 months, voters

by a wide margin say they favor the Democratic congressional candidate in their district (50%-39%)." Pew observed.

Of 17 major issues — such as Iraq, the economy, taxes, health care, budget deficits, employment, crime and immigration — the public favored Democrats on 16 issues. Republicans had the edge in only one area.

"The Republican Party continues to hold a substantial lead in terms of having the 'stronger' political leaders," 43% say the GOP has stronger leaders, compared to 30% who see the Democratic Party's leaders as stronger," the poll found. "This is a narrower margin than in April, when Republicans held a 53% to 26% edge in this area, but still stands out as one of the few Republican advantages going into the election season."

The reason Republicans are perceived as stronger leaders is because, in general, they hold strong, clearly articulated views. They expect and demand Party loyalty. And if one of their members gets out of line, he or she is swiftly punished. Equally important, GOP handlers have been skillful in mischaracterizing their opponents, painting those who raise questions about the U.S. presence in Iraq as traitors and linking the invasion of Iraq to the fight on terrorism.

At the same time, Democrats have been their own worst enemy. They have been timid in challenging

Democratic Woes Page 5

MON The Gazette
Founded 1991
2002 National Winner
A. Philip Randolph Award
For Excellence in Journalism

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MON-The Gazette assumes no responsibility for unsolicited material and reserves the right to edit and make appropriate revisions.

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

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

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

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

Foundation For Community Empowerment Presents "Through The Eyes Of Our Children," A Youth Photojournalism Exhibit At The African American Museum, From September 23 - December 31, 2006

Works of Fair Park/South Dallas students are honest, dignified and poignant;

black-and-white photography and "digital stories" reflect everyday beauty of children's lives

A shotgun house, an elder at the YMCA, a swimmer proudly dis-



Shadow of Fun by Aaries Doss

playing gold medals won at the Senior Games, a community activist sharing her efforts to revitalize the Rose Garden neighborhood.

These are just a few of the images captured by 90 dedicated Fair Park/South Dallas students who spent 12 weeks last spring in a photojournalism workshop called Point of View, learning to express thoughts and feelings about themselves, their community and their world. Sponsored by the Foundation for Community Empowerment (FCE) in partnership with Preservation LINK, Inc., "Through The Eyes of Our Children - Something Beautiful" is a black-and-white photographic exhibit featuring over 100 images and "digital stories."

The exhibit will be on display in the Helen Giddings Solarium at the African American Museum at historic Fair Park from Sept. 23 - Dec. 31, 2006. A community open house will be held Sat., Sept. 23, from noon - 2 p.m. The exhibit and open house are free and open to the public.

"These students have accomplished through

their photography what some adults never achieve - the ability to interpret their community in a realistic light of hope and optimism," said Dr. Harry Robinson, Jr., president and CEO of the African American Museum. "The African American Museum is very proud to bring this special exhibit back to the neighborhood it illustrates so others can be inspired by the works of these very talented kids."

In its third year in DISD's Area 2, the Point of View program encouraged students ages 9 to 17 from five schools in South Dallas to venture into their local YMCAs

and recreation centers, barber shops and small businesses, backyards and homes with the goal of capturing the "everyday beauty" of their community. The participating schools were Lincoln High School, Pearl C. Anderson Middle School, Charles Rice Learning Center, H.S. Thompson Learning Center and Joseph J. Rhoads Learning Center.

"It is a blessing to be part of the solution. We have the responsibility to instill in our children a real sense of pride and self worth," said Herman. "Preservation LINK, Inc. uses the arts as a vehicle of change, and I witnessed the progressive transformations many of these students experienced while engaged in the program. I watched them acknowledge themselves as instruments for positive change in their communities."



Dream Deferred by J.L. Griffin

Point of View and the "Through the Eyes of Our Children - Something Beautiful" exhibition has already been featured in the Dallas Morning News, WFAA-TV's Metro, Fox 4's Good Day Dallas and Insights, and DISD's award-winning program School Zone.

Joseph Dean, an art teacher at H.S. Thompson Learning Center, reports that the project generated "a lot of emotion and excitement. They (the students) have taken it on their own to search for the beauty in their very own community."

The students used digital and 35 mm disposable cameras, short "multimedia digital stories" and their words to illustrate the hope and strength in their surroundings. Engaged in a process that aims to inspire and empower, the students learned how to use critical thinking skills to identify, document and preserve their community's assets. The result is an honest, dignified and often poignant collection of everyday moments in the lives of these children.

"The people in South Dallas make it what it is. The houses don't make it what it is, we make it what it is. If everybody gets together, then we can make it better," said Gabrielle Perkins and Jalina Coleman, two students at Charles Rice Learning Center who were partners during the photojournal-

ism project.

"At FCE, we know what many people in the city who are not familiar with South Dallas never see: That there is great strength and beauty there," said Cecilia Edwards of the Foundation for Community



Shotgun House by Jasmine Oliver

Empowerment. "Our work is founded on the belief that impoverished, neglected neighborhoods are full of overlooked assets; part of our job is to help them understand their own capacity to heal. These students' work is a beautiful example of that."

Point of View is a Preservation LINK photojournalism program sponsored by FCE. Other partners of the project are the Dallas Independent School District (DISD); MIRACLES, an After-School All-Stars program of the

Todd Wagner Foundation; FOX 4 and My 27/KDFI-TV; and the University of Texas at Dallas.

"It was a great experience for the kids and myself as well, because I had the opportunity to give back to the community I came from," said Melanie Brundage, a Lincoln High School graduate who served as a University of Texas-Dallas intern for the program.

FCE seeks to be a catalyst for the revitalization of low-income neighborhoods in Dallas through the empowerment of individuals, organizations, and entire communities. In 2003, FCE received a \$2-million federal grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Children and Families to teach community-based and faith-based organizations in low-income neighborhoods how to effectively compete for private and public resources.

Through various arts-in-education programs, Preservation LINK, Inc. equips children, families and communities with skills that enable them to explore and embrace the possibilities in themselves and the world around them. Preservation LINK, Inc.'s mission is to encourage an appreciation and acknowledgment of

community and culture through literacy, art and technology education. David Herman, Jr., photographer and Executive Director of Preservation LINK, Inc., created the Point of View program along with Director of Programs Shaunquela A. Wilson.

The African American Museum, located at 3536 Grand Avenue at Fair Park (across the parking lot from Music Hall), is the only museum in the Southwestern United States devoted to the preservation and display of African American artistic, cultural and historical materials. It also has one of the largest African American folk art collections in the United States. The African American Museum incorporates a wide variety of visual art forms and historical documents that portray the African American experience in the United States, Southwest, and Dallas.



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Champion Mortgage Ribbon Cutting Ceremony



Champion Mortgage with McKinney Chamber of Commerce Members



Kevin Dailey and the Champion Mortgage Staff

Champion Mortgage recently held a ribbon cutting ceremony in McKinney, attended by members of the McKinney Chamber of Commerce.

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American, D/FW Airport Continue Bid For China Route

American Airlines and Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport are lobbying hard to generate last minute support for a proposed route from D/FW to Beijing.

American Airlines is one of several airlines lobbying for a new route to China that the U.S. Department of Transportation will open up next year.

American Airlines has sent e-mails to AAdvantage members telling them they have two days left to support its new "Gateway to China," providing them with a link to a site set up by the airline where visitors to the Web site can express their support for the proposed Beijing route.

"The Department of Trans-

portation bases its decision on many factors, and one of the most important is the amount of community support," American says in the e-mail. "By signing your name to an online petition you can show your support."

D/FW Airport officials held a news conference Wednesday to discuss a new study of the economic impact of the D/FW-Beijing route.

"This is extremely important to us," said Joe Lopano, D/FW's executive vice president of marketing and terminal management.

The study done by global aviation consulting firm SH&E found that the proposed route would add \$180 million to the Texas

economy each year.

D/FW previously said the route would bring \$120 million to North Texas, but said that estimate was based on calculations from several years ago.

Lopano said during a press conference that the new figure includes the impact on the entire state, not just North Texas. It also takes into account inflation, an increase in visitor spending in North Texas, job creation, trade stimulation and service growth to support the new flight.

Lopano declined to talk about the methodology for the calculations. He said that information will be revealed in the filing, and thus he didn't want to give away details until Monday, the dead-

line for submitting direct exhibits supporting the airline's proposal to the DOT.

The filing is being made by a North Texas consortium comprised of D/FW Airport, the cities of Dallas and Fort Worth and the North Texas Commission.

The new route will take effect March 27.

Other carriers vying for the slot are Houston-based Continental Airlines (NYSE: CAL), which wants to fly from Newark to Shanghai; Northwest Airlines (Pink Sheets: NWACQ), which wants to fly Detroit to Shanghai; and United Airlines (Nasdaq: UUA), which wants to fly Dulles to Beijing.

Gas Prices Continue Decline

Dallas-Fort Worth drivers are continuing to get good news at the pumps, as the price of crude oil continues to decline.

Gas dropped more than 12 cents from last week to about \$2.41 per gallon of regular, self-serve gasoline, according to

AAA Texas' Weekend Gas Watch.

The statewide average price of gas dropped 13 cents to \$2.44 a gallon.

"Several factors contribute to the lowering of retail gasoline prices including lower demand following the end of the summer

driving season, a much calmer hurricane season than previously anticipated and a huge decline in the price of crude oil," said AAA Texas spokeswoman Rose Rougeau. "The price of crude fell below \$64 a barrel this week after reaching a record \$78.40 a

barrel on July 14."

The cheapest gas in Texas this week is in Corpus Christi where prices fell more than 16 cents to \$2.23 a gallon. El Paso has the highest-priced gas at \$2.64, despite dropping nearly 10 cents from last week.

Ex-Im Bank, SBA Broaden Co-Guarantee Program To Help Small Businesses Obtain Larger Working Capital Loans

The Export-Import Bank of the United States (Ex-Im Bank) and the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) have signed an agreement to widen the reach of, and make permanent, a cooperative program that enables U.S. small businesses to sell their products and services in foreign markets.

Ex-Im Bank Chairman and President James H. Lambright and SBA Administrator Steven C. Preston signed a memorandum of understanding at Ex-Im Bank headquarters expanding the two agencies' Co-Guarantee Program for five years, and increasing Ex-Im Bank's potential exposure at any one time under the program to \$50 million. Previously the initiative, launched as a pilot program in 2004, was limited to a total amount of \$45 million during the 2-year test.

The program allows Ex-Im Bank and SBA to co-guarantee loans of up to \$2 million to small business exporters under SBA's Export Working Capital Program. Ex-Im Bank's co-guarantee supplements SBA's guarantee to help small business exporters obtain larger loans than SBA could support alone. Borrowers still are able to work through their existing SBA lenders. Small businesses from Florida to Wisconsin have benefited from the program.

"We are delighted that this program will give even more help to those small businesses that need more capital than they could obtain under the SBA's

program alone," Lambright said. "The program helps Ex-Im Bank fulfill its mission to support U.S. small business exports and American jobs, and answers the Trade Promotion Coordinating Committee's (TPCC) call for Ex-Im Bank and SBA to bring their working capital programs into line to leverage support for small business."

The TPCC is an interagency task force chaired by the Secretary of Commerce charged with implementing a national export strategy to streamline the U.S. government's export promotion and trade finance services.

"The SBA is proud to be a partner with the Ex-Im Bank to back larger loans to small businesses," said SBA Administrator Steven C. Preston. "This initiative allows entrepreneurs a bigger piece of the pie as they enter the global economy in a 21st century marketplace that does not recognize borders."

The SBA U.S. Export Assistance Centers, located in major metropolitan areas throughout the United States, are one-stop shops ready to provide your small or medium-sized business with local export assistance. For more information please visit sba.gov/oit.

Ex-Im Bank this year marks its 72nd year of helping finance the sale of U.S. exports, primarily to emerging markets throughout the world. In fiscal year 2005 Ex-Im Bank authorized nearly \$14 billion in transactions supporting almost \$17.9 billion in U.S. exports. This represented 3,128 transactions, of which 2,617, or over 80%, directly benefited small businesses.

tions since the John F. Kennedy-Lyndon B. Johnson era ended in 1968, Democrats have won only three times, counting Clinton's 1996 re-election victory. With a record like that, even poor students of history should have learned by now.

George E. Curry is editor-in-chief of the NNPA News Service and BlackPressUSA.com. To contact Curry or to book him for a speaking engagement, go to his Web site, www.georgecurry.com.

Democratic Woes Page 3

Bush on the war in Iraq and haven't exemplified courage on simple things; they got caught up trying to label a Christmas tree a "holiday tree." Voters don't want their leaders to be politically correct — they want them to be correct.

And the correct thing for Democrats to do is to nominate a Southerner for president.

In the 10 presidential elec-

African American Republicans

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Did you know?

The Republican Party in Texas was formed by 150 African Americans and 20 Anglos in response to the Democrat party vote to protect & extend slavery.

When the 14th Amendment passed, not even one Democrat in Congress voted for African-American civil rights.

To this day, including the November 7, 2006 election the Republican Party of Texas has consistently embraced diversity in color and culture. The majority of African Americans running in this November's election are Republicans.

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The Lagrant Foundation Receives \$10,000 Grant From GMAC

The Lagrant Foundation recently received a \$10,000 grant from GMAC Financial Services SmartEdge Book Allowance Program to fund book awards for 20 TLF students.

The grant will help 20 current and former TLF applicants off-set the costs of books for the 2006-2007 academic year. Twenty past and present TLF applicants will get a \$500 book allowance for the year.

The GMAC SmartEdge Book Allowance Program is a national program that collaborates with nonprofit organizations to identify recipients for a

donation to help offset the costs of textbooks for post-high school education.



Mr. Kim L. Hunter, Founder/Chairman, The Lagrant Foundation (L) receives a \$10,000 check from James E. Farmer, Retired Vice President, GMAC & Communications Consultant, GMAC

"GMAC has been a long-time supporter of TLF," said Mr. Kim L. Hunter, founder/chairman of

TLF. "We're very happy to receive support from GMAC's SmartEdge program. The assistance will be greatly utilized by our students."

"The Lagrant Foundation has a great program going and GMAC is proud to support such a strong organization dedicated to addressing diversity," said James E. Farmer, Retired Vice President, GMAC & Communications Consultant, GMAC.

Each year The Lagrant Foundation awards scholarships to African American, Native American, Hispanic and Asian undergraduate and graduate students majoring in advertising, marketing and public relations.

RSID National Merit Semifinalists

Richardson Independent School District today announced that 16 seniors have been named National Merit Semifinalists for the 2006-2007 academic year, making them eligible for consideration to receive a National Merit Scholarship.

The students represent some of the top academic performers in the United States. More than 1.5 million juniors in nearly 21,000 high schools entered the 2007 National Merit Program by taking the 2005 PSAT which serves as the initial screen of program entrants. They represent less than one percent of U.S. high school seniors and the highest scoring entrants in each state. The number of semifinalists in a state is proportional to the

state's percentage of the national total of graduating seniors.

"These outstanding students deserve congratulations for a job well done," said Interim Superintendent Patti Kieker. "To be named among the best is a great boost for them in anticipation of their college years ahead. The district is proud of them."

Students enter the National Merit competition by scoring well on PSAT tests, usually taken junior year, and advance in the program based on their skills, accomplishments and subsequent SAT scores. These academically talented high school seniors have an opportunity to continue in the competition for some 8,200 merit scholarships worth more than \$30 million.

Richardson ISD's 2006-2007 National Merit Semifinalists are:

- Christina N. Aldridge, Berkner
- Elizabeth R. Biasatti, Pearce
- Odessa P. Hamidi, Pearce
- Christopher C. Irvin, Berkner
- Isabelle C. Jargowsky, Richardson
- Sarah M. Jenevein, Pearce
- Tammy J. Lee, Berkner
- Jenna K. Nolan, Richardson
- Rebecca A. Piroga, Pearce
- Michael V. Sheetz, Richardson
- Luke Shelton, Pearce
- Kathryn P. Strong, Pearce
- Elson Wang, Pearce
- Kendra R. Woodall, Pearce
- Albert Young, Berkner
- Grace D. Yuan, Richardson

DCCCD, Sam Houston State Partnership Gives Students More Options

As students from the Dallas County Community College District finish their associate's degrees, they want to explore more options before they transfer to four-year colleges and universities to pursue a bachelor's degree. A new partnership between DCCCD and Sam Houston State University in Huntsville now provides one more option that they can consider - including both web-based learning and on-campus classes, joint admission to both institutions and a reverse trans-

fer agreement.

Officials from DCCCD and SHSU recently cemented that new partnership with a transfer (or articulation) agreement signing on Thurs., Sept. 14, at the district's downtown Dallas office. Dr. Wright Lassiter, chancellor of DCCCD, and Dr. James Gaertner, president of SHSU, exchanged comments, duplicate documents and "official" pens.

"The Dallas County Community College District is excited to add another partner in higher education. Our agreement

with Sam Houston State University gives us an opportunity to offer our students more



Dr. James Gaertner, president, Sam Houston State University (Huntsville, Texas); right - Dr. Wright Lassiter, chancellor, Dallas County Community College District.

options for their educational and professional growth," said Lassiter. "We welcome Sam Houston State University as a partner with our district, and we look forward to the additional opportunities for our students that this agreement will provide."

"We also welcome DCCCD students to SHSU's family, and we look forward to working with them as they pursue their bachelor's degrees," said Gaertner. "We know that community college students from DCCCD and elsewhere do as well as or better than our 'native' students who started at SHSU as freshmen. They are dedicated students who have already proven their determination to earn a college degree."

DCCCD and SHSU officials anticipate that they will complete more than 30 online transfer

agreements linked to more than 40 bachelor's degree programs at Sam Houston. Those agreements will maximize the amount of course work that students have completed for their associate's degrees from DCCCD that can be applied to those SHSU bachelor's degrees. Students and counselors also will be able to access information about the agreements on the home pages of both institutions' websites at www.dcccd.edu or www.shsu.edu.

Omaha Schools Page 1

tricts in the state would have been subject to such a plan.

"The court can find no reasonable basis for creating a clas-

sification of one in this instance," Coffey said.

Coffey also said the learning community board's voting structure would violate the Nebraska

Constitution because a large district's vote would count the same as a small district. The board was set to hold its first meeting Tuesday.

The injunction was in response to a lawsuit by the Chicano Awareness Center, a Latino outreach group, and five parents of children in Omaha public

schools. The NAACP has also sued over the law, saying it violates the U.S. Supreme Court's 1954 ruling outlawing school segregation.

The 45,000-student Omaha school system is 46 percent white, 31 percent black, 20 percent Hispanic, and 3 percent Asian or American Indian.

Darfur Protest Page 1

for Darfur" were held Sunday in four dozen cities worldwide to show support for Darfur's people and pressure the Sudanese government to protect its civilians and end the conflict.

Thousands of people demonstrated in New York City, religious leaders gathered outside Downing Street in London to pray for a resolution and a candlelight vigil was held in Cambodia to remember Darfur victims.

In a counter demonstration, about 150 people in Khartoum, Sudan, marched to the United Nations' offices to protest the proposed deployment of U.N. peacekeepers in Darfur.

At least 200,000 people have been killed in Darfur and more than 2 million have fled their homes since 2003, when ethnic African tribes revolted against the Arab-led government. The government is accused of unleashing brutal Arab militia-men known as janjaweed in the remote western province.

A May peace agreement signed by the government and one of the major rebel groups was supposed to help end the conflict. Instead, it has sparked months of fighting between rival rebel factions that has added to the toll.

Sudan's government has rejected a U.N. plan to send peacekeeping troops to Darfur to replace the largely ineffective African Union peacekeeping force, whose mandate expires at the end of this month.

"People have to stand with the oppressed against their oppressors and urge their leaders to extend any political leverage or capital that they have over the government of Sudan," said Omer Ismail of the Washington-based Darfur Peace and Development humanitarian aid organization.

U.S. Rep Chris Smith, R-N.J., said the people of Darfur have "had atrocities imposed upon them that no human being would have to face."

Speaking in New York's Central Park in front of a

crowd police estimated at 20,000, Smith said that China, which has major oil interests in Sudan, should "put its economic interests in Sudan aside and say enough is enough."

Christian, Muslim and Jewish leaders in London evoked the 1994 genocide in Rwanda, where more than 500,000 people were slaughtered. The leaders were met by Baroness Amos, leader of the House of Lords, who warned that the world must not once again turn a blind eye to an unfolding crisis in Africa.

"We do not want to see a

repeat of what happened in Rwanda when the world community turned its face away," she said.

The gathering followed a march from the Sudanese Embassy by hundreds of protesters wearing the light blue berets of the U.N. to represent their call for a U.N. force in the area.

Amos said the U.K. government would call for sanctions and the investigation of human rights abuses by the International Criminal Court.

In Phnom Penh, Cambodia,

still haunted by memories of the brutal Khmer Rouge regime's rule in which some 1.7 million were killed in the late 1970s, protesters held a candlelight vigil in a local mosque.

Ly Sok Kheang said he feared the international community was repeating the same mistakes from Cambodia.

He said, "As far as the genocide in Cambodia is concerned,

for over three years the state committed killings of its own people while the international community, including the United Nations, failed to intervene to stop it."

A Book Worth Waiting For:

"Black City of Gold, The Legend of Black Wall Street"

--By Jay Jay Wilson

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Release Date: September 9, 2006



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Guard To Stay In New Orleans Through '06

AP National Guard troops and state police will patrol the city through December, Gov. Kathleen Blanco said Saturday at a summit of law enforcement officials and crime experts called to address a spate of killings marring the recovery from Hurricane Katrina.

"Crime has no role in recovery," Blanco said. "It limits our ability to recover."

Police are on pace to recover as many illegal firearms this year as they did in the two previous years — even though half as many people live in the city now, said Robert Browning, an agent with the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco,

Firearms and Explosives.

But in a positive sign, court and prison repairs should be done next month, an official said, which means the city's crippled criminal justice system will be able to process its influx of suspects more efficiently.

The summit opened hours after an early morning killing brought the city's homicide count for the year to 100.

New Orleans, with a pre-Katrina population of 455,000, had virtually no crime in the months after the storm hit on Aug. 29, 2005, when the city was largely empty.

That changed as the evacuees started returning. In April murders began occur-

ring regularly, sometimes in groups. The current population is uncertain, though various estimates put it at



New Orleans Police Superintendent Warren Riley speaks at the New Orleans Crime Prevention Roundtable in New Orleans on Saturday

200,000 to 250,000.

Guard members and state police were sent to New Orleans shortly after what police called one of the city's

worst acts of violence in 10 years: the fatal shooting of five teenagers in mid-June.

Over Labor Day weekend, four people died in 13 shootings in the New Orleans area.

The Guard members and state troopers have helped bolster a police department whose membership fell after the storm by more than 200 to about 1,420. Blanco said the cost to the state will be about \$14 million.

On Saturday, the governor called the use of troops and state police a stopgap measure to help safeguard the city while other means to deal with crime are developed.

The summit shows the city will no longer tolerate crime, Mayor Ray Nagin said.

"Any crime committed with a gun should be charged at the highest possible count, attempted murder at a minimum," Nagin said. "And all those crimes must be expedited, put to the front of the line and prosecuted."

The city also needs to crack down on illegal firearms, Browning said. In 2004 and '05, police recovered about 1,800 illegal firearms per year, he said.

"So far they this year they have recovered 1,300," Browning said. "Which is on track to remove the same number with half the population."

Also Saturday, former state Attorney General Richard Ieyoub, head of a commission Nagin set up to examine criminal justice, said renovations of the criminal court and parish prison should be completed next month.

Twelve criminal court judges are now sharing seven courtrooms, and so only seven can hear cases at any time. And each can handle no more than six cases a day because the sheriff's department can't transport and provide security for more.

"Once we have the building back, all of us can hold court every day," Judge Calvin Johnson said.

Plano Homeland Security Page 1

Homeland Security," stated City Manager Tom Muehlenbeck. "He has vast experience in emergency preparedness and planning and served in the Charlotte County, Florida Office of Emergency Management as Emergency Coordinator, Plans and Operations Supervisor, and Emergency Planner."

Stovall is trained in the Incident Command System (ICS) and the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and has extensive disaster experience serving in a variety of roles: (Hurricane Charley/ Volunteer (2005); Tropical Storm Gabrielle / Emergency Coordinator (2001); Flooding in Sweetwater, Florida / State Emergency Response Team

(2000); Florida Wildfires / State Emergency Response Team (1998); Oklahoma City Bombing/Volunteer (1995); and the Lancaster, Texas F4 Tornado/Volunteer (1994), to

name a few).

In his most recent position with General Physics Corporation, Stovall supervised four staff members and managed planning, training, and

exercise projects for the Homeland Security and Emergency Management Business Unit. He has been active in the Florida Emergency Preparedness Association for

ten (10) years and has served as the Association Secretary for the last two years. He also helped to found the Certification Commission in 1998.

Ed Drain Page 1

the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement.

"This is certainly an honor to serve at this capacity in a Department like this," said Assistant Chief Drain after being "pinned" by wife Linda. "When I was a patrol officer working on deep nights I was very proud to work for this organization and if I was still a patrol officer working on deep nights I'd be very proud to work for this organization. To be appointed Assistant Chief is just an amazing honor."

Assistant Chief Drain cited the addition of a fourth Captain as a positive step in enabling the department to be more proactive in addressing crime issues and placed technology enhancements as a major communications priority. He also reflected on the quality of the department and the "amazing things we've done like Accreditation and low crime rates."

"I also want to thank Steve Nagy," he said. "Steve was a friend of mine. He was my boss, he was my mentor. I had

the opportunity to work for him for two and a half years up in the Chief's office and then work for him directly again as a Captain. I'm going to miss his leadership, and I just hope that I can continue the fine tradition that he has set in helping to lead this Department."

Family members were invited to participate in the promotion ceremony, a tradition in the department. "It isn't just the officers who sacrifice (for the job), it's also the families," said Chief Rushin. "There are a lot of missed meals, working weekends, midnight shifts...a lot of sacrifices. And because the families share in the sacrifices we want to make sure they share in the successes as well."

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MON-The Gazette, (An African American Weekly Newspaper located in Plano, TX) is seeking a bright, energetic person for the position of Assignment Editor. The Assignment Editor will be responsible for the assignment of stories to correspondents, columnists, photographers and freelancers for publication. The Assignment Editor will oversee the timely submission of copy and photos, and will be responsible for the preparation of a weekly status sheet. This position will serve as a point of contact for writers on the Editorial staff, and will be responsible for maintaining the Editorial staff directory. The Assignment Editor will have input in developing the Editorial Calendar. This position will report directly to the Publisher.

Interested parties should call 972-606-3891 in order to schedule an interview for this position.

Church News



Sister Tarpley

In light of some recent tragedies around the Metroplex; the 5th Anniversary of 9/11/2001; Hurricane disasters anniversaries; some individuals were not able to say their last good-bye. I thought, "What would I do if I knew it was my last time to see or talk to a loved one?" A friend and I discussed how words and actions are important; once words are spoken or an action done neither can be recalled; and they will not be forgotten, you must however, learn to forgive.

If I only knew it would be the last time that I'd see you fall asleep, I would tuck you in more tightly and pray the Lord, your soul to keep.

If I only knew it would be the last time that I'll see you walk out the door, I would give you a hug and kiss and call you back for one more.

If I only knew it would be the last time that I'd hear your voice lifted up in praise, I would video tape each action and word, so I could play them back again.

If I only knew it would be the last time, I could spare an extra minute or two to stop and say "I love you," instead of assuming, "You would KNOW that I do!"

If I only knew it would be the last time that I would be there to share your day... well I'm sure you'll have so many more, so I can let just this one slip away.

For surely there's always tomorrow to make up for an

If I Only Knew

oversight, and we always get a second chance to make everything just right.

There will always be another day to say "I love you," and certainly there's another chance to say our, "Is there anything I can do?"

But just in case I might be wrong, and today is all I get, I'd like to say how much I love you; and I hope that we never forget; tomorrow



Picture of The Week
Gospel Recording Artist Vickie Winans and Sister Tarpley @ an appearance for Women Praying For Christ Gala, Dr. Angela S. King D.D. Founder/President

row is not promised to anyone, young or old alike; and today may be the last chance you get to hold your loved one tight.

If you're waiting for tomorrow, why not do it today? For if tomorrow never comes, you'll surely regret the day, that you didn't take that extra time for a smile, a hug, or a kiss that you were too busy to give someone, and it turned out to be their one last wish.

Hold your loved ones close today, and whisper in their ear, tell them how much you love them and

that you'll always hold them dear.

Take time to say, "I'm sorry." "Please forgive me." "Thank you." or "It's okay." And if tomorrow never comes, you'll have no regrets about today.

One Word Counts: A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver. (Proverbs 25:11)

Consider the "infamous" statements listed below. Notice that they all could be corrected by changing or inserting only one word!

"Everything that can be invented has been invented." Charles Duell, Director, U.S. Patent Office in 1899.

"Who wants to hear actors talk?" H.M. Warner, Warner Brothers Pictures, © 1927.

"Sensible and responsible women do not want to vote." Grover Cleveland in 1905.

"There is no likelihood man can ever tap the power of the atom." Robert Millikan, Nobel prize winner in physics in 1923.

"Heavier-than-air flying machines are impossible." Lord Kelvin, President, Royal Society, © 1895.

The difference between the right word and the almost right word is the difference between lightning and the lightning bug.

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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."

Plano Balloon Festival Page 1

ties and more.

- Received wide coverage in all media, especially radio, television, and newspaper including national coverage.
- Been designated as the Balloon Capital of Texas and honored by support from

Federal, State, and Local government figures and agencies such as:

- Governor of Texas
- The Federal Aviation Administration
- Mayor and City Council of Plano
- Plano Parks and Recreation Board

- Plano Convention and Visitors Bureau
- Plano Fire Department's "Learn Not to Burn" Program

- Raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for over twenty nonprofit organizations through community involvement in the Festival.

Church Happenings

BEN WASHINGTON BAPTIST CHURCH

September 23, 6 pm

We invite you to join us as we celebrate our Fall Church Service with a Pre-Anniversary Musical. You don't want to miss this Holy Spirit night in Worshiping God.

September 24, 8 am and 11 am

You are in for a treat if you worship with us and hear at least one of these dynamic preachers in the Metroplex in our "Ole Time Church Service. Featured guest speaker is Rev. Wayne Stafford, Senior Pastor, Fellowship Baptist Church of Allen in Allen, TX at 8:00 am; and Rev. Albert K. Haynes, Senior Pastor, Bethany Missionary Baptist Church in Dallas, TX at 11:00 am

September 27 - 29, 7 pm

Join us for our nightly Revival with Evangelist Roy Brackins, Pastor of Grace Tabernacle Baptist Church in Ft. Worth, TX

October 1, 8 am and 11 am

Don't miss the culmination of our 65th Church Anniversary Services with featured guest speaker, Rev. Roy Brackins, Pastor of Grace Tabernacle Baptist Church in Ft. Worth, TX in our 8:00 am Service and Rev. Robert Castle, Pastor, Mt. Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church in Wichita Falls, TX.

Ben Washington BC,
Rev./Dr. Joseph R. Sheppard,
Senior Pastor
3901 Frisco Avenue
Irving, TX 75061
972-790-8421

CONCORD BAPTIST CHURCH

September 28, 9 am to 12 Noon

The public is invited to a "Lessons Learned Roundtable Meeting" from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, with invited guest panelist: The Federal; the State of Texas and the City of Dallas Emergency Management Agencies; Friendship West Baptist Church; Dallas County Health & Human Resources Services, Apartment Associ-

ations; Dallas Housing Authority; Metro Care; Housing Urban Development; Southwestern Bell; Social Security; Department of Public Safety; Media; and Texas Work Source. Ms. Martha Blaine, Executive Director of Community Council of Greater Dallas will be the facilitator.

For more information contact Ms. Edna Pemberton @ 214-573-6620.

Concord Baptist Church
Rev. Bryan Carter,
Senior Pastor
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MT. PILGRIM FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH

September 24, 3 pm

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THE FAMILY PLACE

September 30, 2006

First Ladies Against Domestic Violence will host the First Ladies Gospel Brunch & Fashion Show with fashions provided by Liz Morgan Women's Apparel @ the Belo Mansion, 2101 Ross Avenue, Dallas, TX 75101. All proceeds will benefit The Family Place. This years Honorees include first ladies: Neisha Strambler-Butler from Union Cathedral; Stephanie Carter from Concord Missionary Baptist Church; Tammy Copeland from Lovers Lane UMC; Tonyeka Drake from Jubilee Community Church; Marsha Gordon from St. Luke Community UMC; Tanesha Hollingshed from North Park CME; and Marian Rabb

from New Light Church.

For ticket prices and more information, please contact Emily Santillan @ 214-443-7717

The Family Place
P. O. Box 7999
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TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

September 30, 8 am to 12 pm

We will host a "Sweet Repeats" Kid's Consignment Sale from 8 am to 12 Noon; and from 12:30 to 2 pm, there will be a half price sale. This is CASH ONLY. Proceeds from the sale will benefit TeenMOPS, Hope's Door of Plano, and other MOPS Group. We are looking for volunteers @ the pre-sale from 7 am to 8 am. Please come and help.

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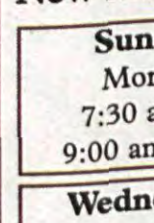
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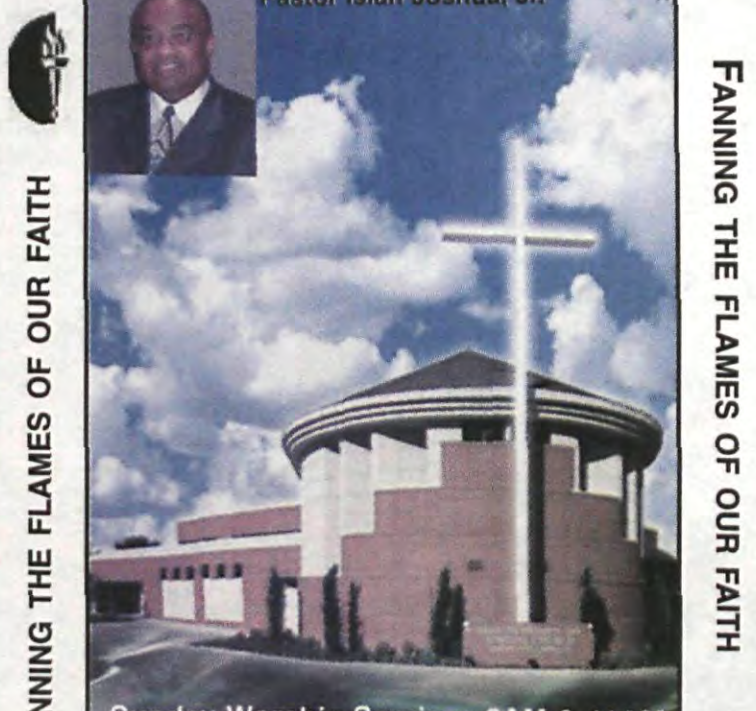


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Few Black Churches Get Funds

Small Percentage Participate in Bush's Faith-Based Initiative

By: Michael A. Fletcher

The Bush administration's faith-based initiative is reaching only a tiny percentage of the nation's black churches, most of which have limited capacity to run social programs, hampering the initiative's promise of empowering those congregations to help the needy, according to a study to be released today.

The national survey of 750 black churches by the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies found that fewer than 3 percent are participating in the program, which funnels at least \$2 billion a year in federal social services spend-

ing to religious organizations.

Despite instances of grants going to political and ideological supporters of President Bush, the survey found that, overall, liberal-leaning churches were more likely to apply for and receive the grants, even though they tend to view the program more skeptically than their conservative counterparts do.

"The thing is that the churches that are most likely to actually do social outreach or social ministry are liberal churches, they are not conservative churches," said David A. Bositis, a senior research associate at the center who conducted the study. "Those churches may have sig-

nificant reservations about the program. But if the money is there, they are going to take it. They are the ones who have the capacity and the infrastructure to get grants and administer them."

While many of the churches surveyed had an interest in assisting those in need and frequently offered small-scale programs such as food pantries or used-clothing giveaways, most had neither the money nor the expertise to do more — or even to seek more resources.

Most of the nation's estimated 50,000 black churches are led by

pastors who work other jobs full

time and have little more than administrative help in running their churches. The survey found

that more than one in four black churches had annual revenue of less than \$100,000 and half had revenue of less than \$250,000. Only 12 percent reported taking in more than \$1 million a year.

Under Bush's initiative, federal departments have worked to make it easier for religious groups to compete for federal grants to operate programs including drug treatment counseling and Head Start. Bush signed executive orders authorizing the initiative in 2002. It allows religious groups to receive federal grants

while exempting them from certain civil rights statutes.

"Some Republican strategists had thought of charitable choice as a way to broaden the appeal for the Republican Party among African Americans," said John C. Green, a senior fellow in religion and American politics at the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life.

Green said many people had asked him whether the Bush administration was being political or sincere in launching the initiative. "I think both," he said. "What you may be seeing in this survey is evidence of the sincere part of the program."



Donald Lawrence & Tri-City Singers Hit The Road One Last Time For "Finale" Tour



Donald Lawrence & the Tri-City Singers

USA Today once referred to them as "one of the most phenomenal choirs out now" and - after 15 years of hits, Grammy nominations and TV appearances - Donald Lawrence & the Tri-City Singers are parting company. However, they are going out on the heels of their most successful CD *Finale Act I & II* (EMI Gospel), which kicks off October 11th in Nashville. The rousing lead single, "The

Blessing of Abraham" has spent an unprecedented 18 weeks in the #1 slot on the Radio & Records magazine gospel singles chart and there's now a tremendous national demand to see the dynamic choir and its charismatic leader in person one last time.

"The choir really wanted to do a tour because they haven't really toured in the past," says Lawrence, who's in demand as a soloist and a producer for artists

ranging from Mary J. Blige to jazz great, Ramsey Lewis. "Also, I want to carry our message of empowerment across the nation...reminding them of their covenant relationship and the promise God has made to us all!"

A renowned perfectionist, Lawrence is staging a seamless production that boasts the choir's biggest hits such as "Oh, Peter" and "The Best is Yet to Come." It also incorporates featured performances by DeWayne Woods and the Murrills, two extraordinary gospel artists with new releases on Lawrence's Quiet Water Entertainment recording label.

Tour is scheduled to come to Dallas on October 14.

For further information on individual dates, log on at www.tricitysingers.com



Donald Lawrence

Keith Ellison May Be First Muslim In U.S. Congress

Keith Ellison, who could become the first Muslim to win a seat in the U.S. Congress, is a former Catholic who says both religions and family roots in the civil rights movement shaped a fiery liberal philosophy.

The chance to make history thrust the 43-year-old lawyer into the spotlight last week when he won the Democratic nomination to run for the U.S. House of Representatives.

Ellison's faith hardly came up in the campaign in a heavily Democratic district but his former ties to controversial Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan were discussed.

Ellison said he had renounced Farrakhan and his group long ago because of their "bigoted

and anti-Semitic ideas." But the issue may not die down.

"They were and are anti-Semitic and I should have come to that conclusion earlier than I did. ... At no time did I ever share their hateful views," he said.



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Wednesday Service: Family Bible Study @ 6:30 pm

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Pastor's Office: (972) 792-0240
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Wednesday Bible Study: 7:00PM
PEOPLE OF FAITH WITH A MIND TO WORK

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

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

Tuesday
7:15 p.m. Bible Study

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

Thursday
7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Reverend Charles E. Franklin, Pastor

The Gasping 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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

New Life Fellowship Church of Rowlett
Bishop Miller E. Johnson, Senior Pastor
New Worship Home
7401 Miller Road • Rowlett, TX 75088
972-463-4964
A Place of New Beginnings... II Corinthians 5:17

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

Ben Washington Baptist Church, Inc.
3901 Frisco Avenue Irving, TX 75061
Church 972-790-8421 Fax 972-986-6590
Email: church@bwbcriving.org
Web: bwbcriving.org
"THE CHURCH WITH AN OPEN BIBLE"

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

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

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

Friendship Baptist Church
Dr. C. Paul McBride, Pastor

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

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

Wednesday
Morning Bible Study 9:30 a.m.
Prayer Meeting and 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"