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People In The News



Voters of Dallas County elected the first African American District Attorney after Republican Rule for over twenty years. Craig Watkins celebrated the victory at the Adams Mark Hotel with supporters. He states "It's a new day in Dallas County, Republicans have held us too long."

Senator Royce West, Democrat from Dallas was one of the first to celebrate with Watkins stating, "Democrats have been on the outside looking in, we now have the leadership of the country."

Mr. Watkins will lead an office that frequently has come under fire for handling criminal cases with minority defendants. It is still unknown how Mr. Watkins' leadership may change the outlook of justice in minority communities and if cases will be handled any differently. Most Republican officeholders were swept from power in the Dallas County by several of Watkins allies in Tuesday's historic elections.

Watkins vowed to defend clients "by any means necessary" and added: "I enjoy manipulating the Government; most times the cases they bring against my clients are weak and unsubstantiated."

"I can't tell you how much change we're going to do," says Watkins.

Ms. Pat Williams becomes the first African-American woman to be named Postmaster of Dallas, the 9th largest city in the nation in terms of Postal operations.



As Dallas Postmaster, Ms. Williams assumes responsibility for the daily operations of 44 stations and branches in the Dallas City ZIP Code area.

Ms. Williams began her career in 1981 and has served in a number of supervisory and management roles in both Mail Processing and Customer Service. Ms. Williams is a graduate of the USPS Advanced Leadership Program (ALP) and holds a Bachelors degree in Political Science from Prairie View A & M University.

"I am honored to be the new Dallas Postmaster and excited about our future," she said. "The customer commitment of Dallas City employees is unprecedented. We believe that our customers deserve exceptional service. Through teamwork, commitment and our pursuit of excellence, we believe that will become a consistent reality."

The official installation ceremony for Postmaster Williams will be held on Thursday, Nov. 16, 2006, 1:00 PM, at the Dallas Arboretum, Rosine Hall, 8617 Garland Rd., Dallas.



Dallas Independent School District Trustee Ron Price was presented the Founders Award for Excellence in Education recently, at the Sixth Annual Summit of the National African American School Board Member Council in Virginia Beach, VA.

"I am truly honored to receive this award from such a prestigious organization," said Price. "It is most rewarding that I am able to assist in the success of students locally and nationally." The Founders Award for Excellence in Education is given in recognition of leadership in education.

Ron Price was first elected to the Board of Trustees in May 1997. He was the first employee to win a board seat while still an employee of the district. Mr. Price was a former instructor at Pearl C. Anderson Learning Center.

Price also serves as president of the Texas Caucus of Black School Board Members, the National Association of African American School Board Members and represents Dallas ISD on the Texas Association of School Boards. He is past president of the National Caucus of Young School Board Members and the Metroplex African American School Board Members Association.

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Bush Leads King Groundbreaking Ceremony



National Council of Negro Women President Dorothy Height, center, is assisted by former Amb. Andrew Young, during the ground breaking ceremony for the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial on the National Mall in Washington Monday. From left, civil rights leader Rep. John Lewis, D-Ga., Young, former Labor Secretary Alexis Herman, singer Gladys Knight, Martin Luther King Jr.'s sister Christine King Farris, and Darryl R. Matthews, President of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity

Martin Luther King Jr. belongs among American icons like Thomas Jefferson and Abraham Lincoln, national leaders said Monday at the ceremonial groundbreaking for a King memorial.

"We give Martin Luther King his rightful place among the many Americans honored on

the National Mall," President Bush told a crowd of about 5,000.

King's memorial, he said, "will unite the men who declared the promise of America and defended the promise of America with the man who redeemed the promise of America."

The King memorial, slated to open in the spring of 2008, will be the first monument for a civilian and black leader on the large park at Washington's core. It is also probably among the last monuments on the Mall following a 2003 vote in Congress to sharply limit development of the parkland.

The stage in front of the crowd was filled with King's fellow civil rights leaders such as Jesse Jackson, celebrities like Oprah Winfrey, politicians including Illinois Sen. Barack Obama, and three of King's

King Ceremony Page 6

Plano Initiates City Service Prioritization Study

It's your money; it's your Plano; so you decide.

To continue providing services in a manner consistent with what Plano citizens are accustomed, the City of Plano has developed a "Service Prioritization Study." Data for the study will be collected with an online and telephone "Where should the money go?" survey, beginning Wednesday, Nov. 15, 2006. The intent of this survey is two-fold: to educate Plano citizens on how efficiently City funds are utilized in providing services and to gauge citizen opinions on the value of services.

The survey will be available at www.plano.gov and can be accessed online at all Plano libraries. Some citizens will be called by National Service Research, the company

assisting the City of Plano with the random telephone survey. Survey responses will be collected through Wednesday, Dec. 6, 2006. Then sometime in January, the results will be posted. Only two responses per valid residential address will be accepted for the survey. The survey has been structured to gather as much information as possible in the shortest amount of time. The City respects and appreciates the time given to answer the survey.

Plano residents are encouraged to participate.

City Of Plano Study Page 7

Date Set For Plano Parks And Recreation Christmas Crafts Fair

Here is your chance to get a head start on your holiday shopping! The 28th Annual City of Plano Christmas Crafts Fair will be held on Saturday, November 18 (10am - 5pm) and on Sunday, November 19 (from 12pm - 5pm) at the Plano Centre, 2000 East Spring Creek Parkway.

There will be a wide variety of handmade/homemade holiday items such as Santa figurines, wreaths and tree ornaments along with handmade items ranging from wooden toys to blown-glass art for your home. Guests can purchase many edible gift items including a variety of freshly roasted nuts, toffee, salsas and dips. Children's clothes, scarves, appliquéd fashions and personalized items will also be available. With over 80 booths to choose from, many crafters from last year's show will be returning, while first-time vendors offer new unique treasures for holiday home fashions.

One of the many popular booths at the Plano Christmas Crafts Fair is Hip Hip for Gray which provides Collin County seniors an outlet for selling a variety of crafts - hand-crafted quilts, hand-painted items, tree skirts, ornaments and floral arrangements.



Admission is FREE, so come to the 28th Annual Plano Parks and Recreation Christmas Crafts Fair. You're bound to find something special! For more information on this event or other Plano Parks and Recreation events, please contact the Administrative Office at 972-941-7250 or visit the website at www.planoparks.org

NTTA Board Approves Toll Rate Increase

New Rates to take effect by September 2007

The North Texas Tollway Authority (NTTA) Board of Directors took action today to begin the process of increasing

process begun in 2005 to evaluate and maximize the financial capabilities of the NTTA to assist TxDOT and the region in meeting the large projected transportation funding shortfall.



Beginning in September 2007, toll rates will increase on the DNT and the President George Bush Turnpike (PGBT). TollTag customers, who currently pay 60 cents at the main toll plazas, will pay 70 cents. Cash customers who currently pay 75 cents will pay \$1.

toll rates on NTTA owned and operated roads. During their regularly scheduled monthly meeting, held today at The Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, the NTTA Board passed a resolution implementing toll rate increases for the Dallas North Tollway and the President George Bush Turnpike. The adoption of the rate resolution completes the next stage of the

The differential between a TollTag and cash transaction will increase the savings to the TollTag customer and better reflect the real costs of cash collection. Implementation of the rate increase on the DNT Wycliff Main Plaza will be postponed until the construction is complete in 2008.

Toll Rate Increase Page 7

Collin County Health Care Services Flu Shot Hours



2006, from 4pm to 7pm. Health Care Services is located at 825 N. McDonald Street in McKinney.

Medicare, Medicaid and CHIP are accepted; otherwise the cost for the adult vaccination is \$25.

According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), 5% to 20% of our population gets it, more than 200,000 people are hospitalized from its complications and, sadly, about 36,000 persons annually die from it. It's influenza...the common flu.

Collin County Health Care Services is offering flu vaccinations to adults and children Monday through Friday from 8am to 11am and from 1pm to 4pm. Hours will be extended on Tuesday, November 21,

The cost for the children's vaccine is based on a sliding scale fee, but the amount will not exceed \$14 per dose. Cash and checks will be accepted.

The flu is a contagious respiratory illness caused by influenza viruses. Some persons, such as older people, young children and people with certain health conditions are at high risk for serious flu complications, with vaccination strongly encouraged.

Collin County Flu Shots Page 6

U.N. Pledges \$77M For Darfur Forces

AP The United Nations said Monday it has pledged about \$77 million in personnel and equipment to help the overwhelmed African Union force in Darfur as Sudan blocks the world body from sending its own peacekeepers to the war-torn region.

The package includes military and police advisers, communications equipment and tools like night-vision goggles, said Hedi Annabi, the U.N. assistant secretary general for peacekeeping operations. It will be given to the African Union as soon as possible.



Denis Sassou Nguesso, President of the Republic of Congo, addresses the UN General Assembly at the United Nations, in New York. Nguesso said on Tuesday U.N. forces should protect the borders of Chad and Central African Republic, countries into which violence has spilled from neighboring Sudan's Darfur region.

Darfur Forces Page 4

The Plano African American Museum Hosts First Annual Gospel Fest

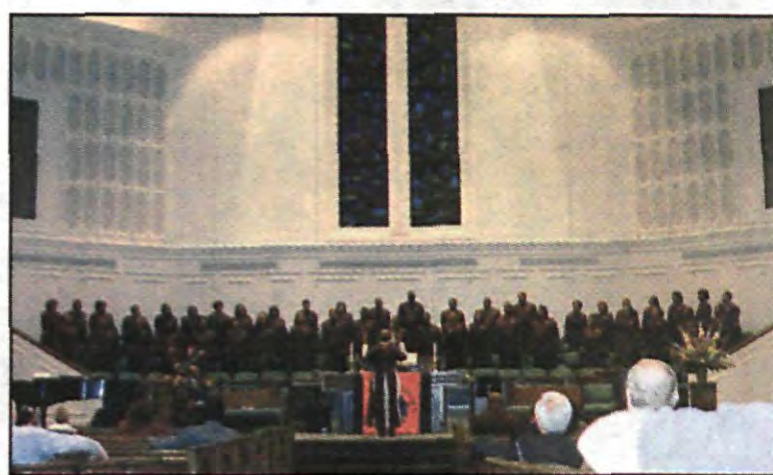
Photos By: LaQuisha Buchanan
The Plano African American Museum hosted their first annual Gospel Fest at the First U.M.C. of Plano. This year's Gospel Fest featured various songs from choirs such as the Shiloh M.B., a workshop choir and the gospel group True Praise. All proceeds will fund activities of The Plano African American Museum.



The Workshop choir sings praises



TJ Johnson and Dr. Myrtle Hightower enjoy the singing



Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church Choir



Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church Choir entertains the crowd



True Praise Gospel Group



Workshop choir Soloist sings from the heart



Area children join in praise



Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church Choir



Singer Vickie Favors delivers solo



Patron enjoys Gospel Fest

2006 "Living Legends" Honored By CCCCCD



Mike Newman, Jean Newman, Fred Moses and Mazzie Moses of Plano; Raymond B. Cooper of Wylie; and (seated) Helen Hall of McKinney. Photo: Nick Young/Collin photographer.

Collin County Community College District (Collin) honored six distinguished community members at the 2006 Living Legends Tribute recently. Hosted by the college and the Collin College Foundation, the event was underwritten by Baylor Regional Medical Center at Plano.

This exclusive series honored community involvement by recognizing local individuals

whose actions profoundly shaped the progress of Collin County. The tribute also paved the way for future leaders through a scholarship endowment fund for outstanding students. In its fourth year, the tribute included six honorees from throughout Collin County.

To view honoree bios, go to <http://foundation.ccccd.org/livinglegends>.

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. For info call 214-421-0013. 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.

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.

Strait Street is the official home of "The Yundrae Show." Every Thursday evening at 7PM, it's the live television taping of "The Yundrae Show!" It's new, it's off the chain, and it's only at Strait Street. Artists, celebrities, who's who, sports icons, and many more. The doors open at 7pm and the show starts at 7:45pm. There are door prizes and giveaways each week. Tickets are \$15 at the door. Check it out at www.theyundraeshow.com

November 15
The Dallas Opera's Nabucco
The Dallas Opera opens their 50th Anniversary Season with new masterpieces with its unforgettable choral pieces. The opera is located at Music Hall at Fair Park, 909 1st Ave. Dallas, 75210. Admission for the opera starts at \$19. For more information please call 214-443-1000 or at www.dallasopera.org.

November 16
Underground Poetry Circus
Come join the next Underground Poetry Circus in celebrating 20 years of Slam Poetry featuring the Godfather of Dallas Slam Poetry, Clebo Rainy with musical guest MO BROWN & Company. Located at The Pub at

UTD, 800 W. Campbell Rd. Richardson, 75080. For more information please call 972-883-6438.

November 17-18
Gospel Extravaganza hosted by Zeta Beta chapter of Phi Beta Sigma Location: 921 Morse Street Denton, TX 76205

11th Annual AKA "IVY" Bowlathon
Come join Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority in their bowlathon at USA Bowl (formerly Don Carter's All Star Lanes) on Saturday from 1 p.m.-4 p.m. located at I-35 & Walnut Hill, Dallas. Sponsored by Alpha Xi Omega chapter.

A tribute to African Revolutionary, Kwame Ture (Stokely Carmichael), will be at the Pan African Connection. For more information please call 214-943-8262.

Shawn Wayans, Addison Improv, 4980 Beltline Road #250, 972-404-8501.

Alabama A&M Alumni Meeting
Calling all AAMU Alumni and friends there is an alumni meeting held Saturday, November 18 the Grand Prairie Library (Main), 901 Conover Drive, Grand Prairie, 75051. Bi-monthly meetings are held on the 3rd Saturday. For more information please call 817-729-3342.

November 18-19
Tried & True Children's Consignment Pre-holiday Toy Sale
This toy sale will include toys, children's books, puzzles, games, video and etc. This sale will be held Saturday from 9 am-5pm and Sunday from noon-5pm. The sale will be held at the Plano Centre, 2000 E. Springcreek Parkway. (Springcreek & Jupiter Rd.) For more information please contact Melissa at 214-946-7946 or www.triedandtrueale.com.

28th Annual City of Plano Parks & Recreation Christmas Crafts Fair

This years craft fair will include angels, tree skirts, ornaments, wreaths, jewelry and much more. The fair will begin Saturday from 10am-5pm and Sunday from noon-5pm. For more info contact the Plano Parks and Recreation Dept. at 972-941-7250 or www.planoparks.org.

Thanksgiving Roundup Chess Tournament
This Thanksgiving chess tournament is open to all children from Kindergarten to 7th grade. Trophies and prizes will be given to top individual scorers and top teams in each division. This tournament will begin Saturday from 9am-4pm. Admission is \$20 to play (\$25 on site) and free to watch. For more information please contact Hermine Baez at 347-731-5861 or email capaspanka@aol.com and also visit bgschess.com.

November 23
Dinner for the Homeless
On Thanksgiving Day will be a day of serving the homeless at the Martin Luther King Community Center located at 2922 MKL Blvd, Dallas. For more information please call 214-670-8414.

November 28
Career Fairs
Its the High Tech and Security Clearance Career Fair that is held from 11am-3pm. For more information please contact Targeted Job Fairs 513-251-1400 or visit the website www.targetedjobfairs.com.

U Don't Know Me The Musical
The Black Academy of Arts and Letters, Inc. presents a musical of the New Generation of Urban Theatre which is about education, struggle, leaders, forgotten, and fatherhood. The musical will be held at The Black Academy of Arts and Letters located at 650 S. Griffin St. Dallas. For more information please call 214-373-8000. This musical will be held from November 28- December 3.

November 29
Stephen Fite Children's Concert

The children's concert has been described as an "interactive celebration of music and learning." This concert is for children ages from 3-7 and its from 10am-11am. Admission is \$4 per seat. For more information contact Melody House at 800-234-9228 or visit melodyhousemusic.com/concerts.asp.

November 30
Mark Curry ,Addison Improv, 4980 Beltline Road #250. For more info call 972-404-8501

December 1
The Dallas Opera's the Barber of Seville

A Night of Mystery: Masquerade Ball & Silent Auction
The Kappa Zeta chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. is pleased to present a masquerade ball and silent auction held at the Radisson Hotel-Dallas located at 6060 N. Central Expwy at 8p.m. The guests are asked to wear After-5 attire and colorful masks. Tickets are \$40 and can be purchased online at <http://www.kappazpb.org/masquerade.html>. The event benefits the March of Dimes and the Stork's Nest Charity Fund of Dallas. For more info email kz75@kappazpb.pair.com.

A comic opera that is perfect holiday production. A fun and light-hearted romp and one of the world's favorite operas, the audience is sure to be dazzled and delighted with the humorous wordplay and sympathetic characters. More information please visit the site www.dallasopera.org.

HIV/AIDS
A 2-day youth drama explosion called HIV/AIDS on the Rise among Children. The 2-day play will be at the Southwest Center Mall on December 1-2. For more information contact Donna Mitchell at 972-218-

9105.
December 7
Aretha Franklin

The Diva herself will be here in Dallas, live at the Nokia Theatre at 8 p.m. located at 1001 Performance, Grand Prairie. For more information please call 214-373-8000.

December 16
The Plano Symphony Orchestra

Honorary host Mayor Mike will be presenting a musical version of "Scrooge" at the Centennial High School Theater. Located at 6901 Coit Road, Frisco beginning at 7 p.m. and the tickets are between \$8-\$35

14th Annual Christmas/Kwanzaa Concert

The concert is a combined event with more than 200 voices from Lincoln, Carter and Madison high schools along with the Townview High School band. The concert will open up with a lobby performance by First Baptist Church Hamilton Park Hand Bell Choir. The concert will be held at 650 S. Griffin St. Dallas and the admission is \$10. For more information please call 214-743-2440.

Christmas Couple's Ball

A classy party for mature couple's (25 and up) and it's a black tie affair with amenities such as a Couple's Contest, Comedy performance and a free lavish buffet from 8-10 p.m. This ball will be held at Holiday Inn Select Ball Room located at 2645 LBJ Freeway, Dallas, 75234. Tickets will be sold at the door or on line at website www.hickspro.com. For more information please call 214-281-1985. This mature event begin at 8 p.m.

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Paul Hailey

Stupidity should hurt.

I'm not talking about ignorance, (which is simply not knowing), but sheer stupidity—which involves uttering a ridiculous response that lacks any hint of perception or common sense.

At the risk of sounding harsh, I believe this accurately describes the recent actions and comments of some citizens of Murphy, Texas after a recent NBC News Dateline investigation in the Collin County suburb.

Dateline partnered with the Internet child predator watchdog group Perverted Justice in setting up a sting operation in Murphy as part of its "To Catch A Predator" series. The four-day sting operation involved the Murphy Police Department and led to the arrest of more than 20 Internet child predators who traveled to Murphy believing they were meeting a 13 or 14-year old child for sex.

In case you haven't seen the popular Dateline series, these idiot perverts come to a house hoping to meet minors; instead, with cameras rolling, they meet with police who arrest them at gunpoint and take them to jail.

Hard to have any problems with that set up, right?

Wrong. This is where the stupidity starts.

After the results of the sting were made public, several Murphy residents voiced their anger and contempt for the Murphy Police Chief Billy Myrick and City Manager Craig Sherwood for cooperating with Dateline. There were calls for both men to be fired, and emotions ran high in a packed meeting in the Murphy City Council chambers on last Saturday.

Sanctimonious soccer moms

Wanna Hear Something Stupid?

and those that agreed with them turned out in droves demanding to know why authorities knowingly "exposed" their families to suspected criminals. The most "rational" arguments made included not being notified of the operation ahead of time and being burdened by having to explain to their small children what was happening.

"It was too close to my family, 20 to 50 feet away," said Michael Smith, who lives across the street from the site of the sting. "It was a very stressful and disturbing week. My son wanted to avoid driving on our street after seeing police activity. The ends were admirable, but the means showed poor judgment."

We didn't know what was going on," said resident Kaylee Smith. "For four days I kept my children indoors and away from windows, I couldn't sleep; I felt like my children were in danger," she said.

What? It should hurt to say something that stupid, I'm referring to steel rods in the ears, head exploding kind of hurt. Are these people from another planet?

Please consider:

It is called a sting because it catches unwitting criminals by surprise. If you announce to everyone what is going to happen beforehand, then, duh...it is no longer a surprise.

And maybe I'm missing something here, but in the United States in 2006 isn't a good idea to tell your children about sexual predators as soon as they can talk?

While I'm at it, if the Murphy

Police and Dateline NBC are exposing and arresting child predators in Murphy, wouldn't that make it the last place a child predator would now want to look for minor children to molest?

What irritates me is the fact some people are angry because they believed that by moving to Murphy they could somehow escape the threat of child predators. That somehow these perverts don't exist in northern Collin County.

Well, I got news for these folks; sexual predators exist in every community.

Just go to the Texas Department of Public Safety Sex Offender Registry (www.records.txdps.state.tx.us) and view the registered pedophiles in the Murphy area. I did. There are over 300 registered offenders within a 20-mile radius of Murphy, Texas, and that only includes the ones that have been caught, convicted and registered.

The Perverted Justice Group (www.perverted-justice.com), said it far better that I ever could in the statement they issued:

"Which are worse — the predators out there trying to rape children they befriend online, or ignorant elitists who enable their attempts by trying to stop law enforcement from dealing with this issue?"

Sadly, child molesters are a reality for every parent and citizen in every community in our country. Believing anything else is just plain stupid.

Paul Hailey can be reached at phailey@MonTheGazette.com



Three 'Commandments' For Democrats

By: Rev. Barbara Reynolds - NNPA

If the Democrats don't flub it, their winning majorities in both houses of Congress will result in one of the largest transferences of political power in recent history with the White House providing icing on the cake in 2008. Or, it could become a short-lived blip and a return to stupidity as usual with the Republicans snatching the power levels back in the next presidential election.

While the Democrats will receive much advice on how to avoid mistakes on the big-ticket items, such as Iraq, Katrina, and health coverage, here are a few principals they should add to their list, if they want to stay in office. Since the nation generally ignores the Ten Commandments, I suggest just three.

#1 Thou Must Not Drag Skunks Into The Living Room.

Once skunks are brought indoors they smell up the place and don't have the decency to leave. In the 2004 election, the Republicans dragged same-sex marriages out of the closet into the living rooms of America as a political strategy to reach certain kinds of Christians. Some misguided Blacks, for example, lost their minds and went running after same-sexers, who might represent less than a tenth of 1 percent of the nation's 300 million population and forgot about the Iraqi war deaths and the billions it drained from funding student tuition, health and housing.

This year, the Republicans didn't want to talk about gay things. They wanted skunk politics to go back into the closet. But they wouldn't. Out popped Republican Rep. Mark Foley, the ex-head of the House's exploited children's committee, who was sending nasty e-mails to male congressional pages.

If that wasn't smelly enough enters Pastor Ted Haggard, who as leader of the National Association of Evangelicals, was over 45,000 churches, the kind who helped make up the Republicans' Party of God. He was an architect of the gay-mar-

riage ban that was on the Colorado ballot. Haggard, pastor of a mega-church in Colorado bragged in a recent Harper's Magazine article that he talked to President Bush every Monday.

Only days before the election, stories swirled around about how Haggard, married and the father of five children, had been having sex with a male prostitute for three years and also regularly bought illicit drugs. Those allegations, most of which the pastor admitted, resulted in his resignation. During the entire mess, the righteous folk in the White House pretended not to know much about Haggard and said little about gays and same sex marriages, hoping the stink would evaporate. But too late. Skunk politics smell long after the offenders are gone, so the Democrats should not drag them into the nation's living rooms.

#2 Thou Shall Not Snatch Up The Carpet.

History provides many examples of how as soon as African-Americans work their way to the top the rules change. There are high expectations that for the first time in history, so many black Democrats will chair powerful committees. John Conyers, Jr. will chair Judiciary, Bennie Thompson, Homeland Security, Alcie Hastings, Intelligence and Charles Rangel, the House Ways & Means.

Can't you imagine how certain folks in high places are shaking in their boots that these brave and honorable men, who have been faithful to the Black and poor, will have their hands on committees with oversight on FBI secrets, how resources are allocated to disaster areas, and what corporations have been stealing billions in no-bid contracts?

Nevertheless those posts are based on seniority and should be engraved in stone. Less certain is that of South Carolinian Rep. James Clyburn, the present Democratic Caucus Chair, who is in line to be majority whip. Rep. Nancy Pelosi, (D.Calif.) who herself made history as the first female speaker of the

House, should help break the color line by throwing her support behind Clyburn to elevate him to his party's third highest leadership spot.

Often the mantra "the Democrats take us for granted and the Republicans ignore us," is heard far too much in African-American circles. For the top spots to remain lily-white or for the rules governing seniority to change would send the wrong message for those who will need the Black vote in 2008.

#3 Thou Shalt Not "Dis" God

Until U.S. Sen. Barack Obama arrived on the scene and began talking about God, it seemed the high-ranking Democrats tried to confine God to the sidelines. So often Christian Democrats grieved over the sins of increasing poverty and the killing of innocent civilians by the thousands in Iraq.

Yet, few high-ranking Democrats voiced concerns that God could not be pleased with the current affairs of state and allowed the Republicans to pass themselves off as the moral voice of the universe. With the help of the media, the Republicans got away with defining Christianity as the province of white male evangelicals.

The Democrats must make room for other religions than a tiny wing of extremist Christians, who offer the distractions of bedrooms instead of the boardrooms where the major economic and political decisions are made. Not only should progressive African-American Christians find an open door at the White House, but also other representatives of faith traditions that contribute positively to American culture.

Reynolds, the Religion Columnist for the NNPA, is an author of several books, including her latest, "Out of Hell & Living Well." She is a professor at the Howard University School of Communications and the Howard University School of Divinity.

Black Voters Made The Difference

By: Ron Walters - NNPA Columnist

I have to begin this brief review of the 2006 elections with something of a requiem for the fact that the so-called Michigan Civil Rights Initiative passed 56/43 in that state and as a result, affirmative action will be eliminated for higher education, government contracting and other purposes.

It was a heroic fight waged by the forces of United Michigan and the Black community, where the corporate leaders and major politicians all vowed their support of keeping affirmative action. However, Whites in the states voted to eliminate it by 62 percent and Blacks supported it 86 percent. However, Whites constituted 85 percent of the Michigan electorate and Blacks only 11 percent. Although there will be subsequent legal action to retain it in light of the Supreme Court decision last year, Ward Connerly will doubtlessly move on to other states such as Georgia to continue to wreak havoc on this version of civil rights protections.

Otherwise, the election was a source of joy with the election of the second Black governor, Deval Patrick in Massachusetts (56 percent to 35 percent), who was supported by virtually every major group in the state. Nevertheless, there was also the anomaly that ballots ran out in the Black community, in a continuing pattern of disfranchisement problems.

Other Blacks who ran for governor were Republicans who did not fare very well. For example, Lynn Swann in Pennsylvania, lost badly his bid to defeat Ed Rendell, a popular Democratic incumbent governor with only 13 percent of the Black vote, and Ken Blackwell in Ohio suffered a similar fate, also losing badly to

Democrat Ted Strickland. And although Blackwell garnered 20 percent of the Black vote, this was far below his normal level of support that reached 40 percent of the Black vote in previous elections.

In high profile senate races, Harold Ford, Jr. lost his bid in Tennessee to Bob Corker, whose racist ad featuring a White woman asking Ford to come hither was launched when they were running neck-and-neck. But with it, he was able to pull away to victory by evoking the traditional angst of Whites about the relationship between Black males and White women. But because Ford ran such a superlative campaign, he will doubtless be sought as a regional player in the attempt of Democrats to attract Southern regional appeal in the 2008 presidential campaign.

Republican Michael Steele lost his race for the U. S. Senate from Maryland to Democrat Ben Cardin, an election that featured extensive concern for the way in which the Black vote would split. In this election, the racial vote was striking, since Whites voted in the majority for Steele (was well as Republican gubernatorial candidate Bob Ehrlich), but Blacks who constituted 23 percent of the electorate, voted substantially for winning Democratic Senate candidate Ben Cardin 72 percent and gubernatorial candidate Martin O'Malley 84 percent.

Members of the Congressional Black caucus all won re-election and a new member was added to their number from Minnesota. Keith Ellison (Dist 5) who will be the only Black Muslim in the U. S. Congress. He won a strong mandate at 56 percent of the vote and will be the focus of attention

because of the Americans policy and actions in the Middle East.

Otherwise, Bill Jefferson's race was in doubt in Louisiana because of the taint of scandal and the consequent lifting of his committee seat by Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi. Jefferson won 30 percent of the vote, but because he did not capture more than 50 percent, he will have to compete in December 9 runoff. He will be opposed by State Senator Karen Carter, who won 22 percent and was endorsed by the state Democratic Party. Finally, the loss in Colorado by Angie Paccione (4th Dist) to Musgrave the incumbent was in a surprisingly close race.

What this means is that the Black vote was absolutely critical to the Democratic sweep in the Senate and House of Representatives. National exit polls showed that Whites voted 51 percent for Democrats, to 47 percent for Republicans. By contrast, Blacks voted 89 percent for Democrats but only 10 percent in favor of Republicans. This is testimony to the sophistication of Black voters who not only are aware of their interests and vote accordingly, but who also withstood all of the voter suppression schemes to cast their ballots.

Ron Walters is the Distinguished Leadership Scholar, Director of the African American Leadership Scholar, and Professor of Government and Politics at the University of Maryland College Park. His latest books are: White Nationalism, Black Interests (Wayne State University Press); and Freedom Is Not Enough (Rowman and Littlefield Publishers)

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

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

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

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

Marcia Donaldson And Edward Jones, Bridging The Investment Gap



As an Edward Jones Investment representative, Marcia Donaldson is interest-

ed in closing the gap—the investment and wealth gap.

"We in our community tend to not utilize the investment services that are available. We need to do things that bridge the wealth gap," she said.

Ms. Donaldson operates as an Edward Jones Investment Representative in McKinney; she has spent the last nine years in Collin County and has become invested in the community. She specializes in advising consumers on the full slate of investment opportunities offered by Edward Jones. Edward Jones is a full service brokerage company that offers investments and services in areas such as retire-

ment planning, education savings, estate plans and trusts, investment accounts and insurance. JD Powers voted Edward Jones #1 in customer satisfaction.

There's an expression used by Edward Jones employees: The trouble with the future is that it keeps getting closer and closer. Which means, regardless of your current age, income or goals, it's important to begin developing a plan today. At Edward Jones, they like to look at individual needs before anything else.

Marcia Donaldson emphasizes the one-on-one approach that has become an Edward Jones trademark.

"Our philosophy is we deal with people one-on-one, giving them individualized attention," she commented. "One way we accomplish this is by locating our offices in the communities we serve, emphasizing that we have a long-term presence and are not just pushing that latest investment fad."

Ms. Donaldson also has longer-term goals in her mission as an Investment Representative.

"My objective is to match individual's goals to their needs to get them where they want to go. I see my role as helping people choose quality investments, and in educating them on investment strategy."

US Airways Makes Hostile Offer For Delta

US Airways made a hostile \$8 billion bid for Delta Air Lines on Wednesday, ignoring Delta's repeated statements that it isn't interested in a merger. The move could start a stampede of competing bids in a long-predicted industry consolidation.

Analysts said United Airlines' parent company may make its own move to acquire Delta, and takeover bids for Northwest Airlines, which like Delta is being reorganized in bankruptcy court, can't be ruled out.

They also questioned whether US Airways could complete its plan to create the

nation's largest carrier, even after a planned 10 percent cut in capacity, on the compacted timeline it is seeking.

"My main question mark is if the politicians and regulators would allow it to happen, because if it did it would probably set off a trend for industry consolidation," Ray Neidl, an airline analyst with Calyon Securities in New York, said of a Delta-US Airways combination.

It also could lead to higher ticket prices for passengers, industry experts said.

"With a capacity reduction of 10 percent, fares are going nowhere but up," said Robert W. Mann, a Port Washington, N.Y.-based airline consultant.

Delta said its goal remains to be a stand-alone company when

creditors committee when it declined earlier discussions with US Airways. It has yet to file its own plan of reorganization, but has the exclusive right to do so until Feb. 15.

If the deal is completed, the combined airline would operate under the Delta name and serve more than 350 destinations across five continents. The combined company would divest certain assets, including one of the two hourly shuttle services that Delta and US Airways operate between Boston, New York and Washington. US Airways has not decided where the combined company would be based.



it emerges from bankruptcy and that it had the backing of its

National Football Foundation Moving To Las Colinas

After 59 years on the East Coast, the National Football Foundation is moving its headquarters to the Dallas area.

The foundation will relocate to a space within the Waterway

Tower in Las Colinas at the end of December, said NFF President Steve Hatchell. The foundation currently has its headquarters in New Jersey.

Hatchell said the foundation is moving to the area to be more

central to the United States.

"The foundation needs to be border to border and coast to coast," Hatchell said.

The National Football Foundation promotes amateur football throughout the United

States. The NFF oversees the administration and operation of the College Football Hall of Fame and hosts the annual hall of fame awards dinner every December. The foundation has 118 chapter across the country.

New Hospital Company Plans Plano Facility

A new hospital company has begun construction on a \$25 million inpatient rehabilitation hospital in Plano.

Integra Hospital Plano, which is slated to open in April of next year, is the first hospital in a chain of facilities planned by Plano-based hospital management company Integra Hospital Management.

The hospital will provide rehabilitative services that focus on returning patients to their maximum independence. The hospital will have luxury, private suites, offer inpatient and outpatient services and provide state of the art diagnostic imaging. The facility also will contain a model apartment to help patients practice home skills before transitioning

out of the hospital.

Simba Group LLC, a real estate development company based in Plano, is managing the construction of the hospital.

Integra also said Wednesday that it has named its executive team.

David LeBlanc, co-founder of LifeCare Hospitals and former president and CEO of LifeCare, was named chairman; Rick

Richards, founder of Richards Healthcare Inc., where he was president from 1991 to 2006, will serve as CEO; and Cathleen Hernandez, former chief operating officer of Plano-based CareRehab Services, a subsidiary of LifeCare Hospitals, and a former owner and president of Ancillary Solutions, was named chief services officer.

Darfur Faces Page 1

The aid has been offered because of Sudan's refusal to allow a U.N. peacekeeping force in Darfur, Annabi told reporters.

"That (willingness) is not there today (for a United Nations peacekeeping force), so in the meantime we are looking at ways in which we can move forward by reinforcing (the African Union Mission in Sudan) to enable it to go on with its tasks effectively," Annabi said.

The U.N. Department of Peacekeeping Operations in New York said the Sudanese government initially agreed to allow the United Nations to provide the AU troops with a support package worth about \$22 million. Annabi was able to secure the government's agreement to allow the rest of the \$77 million aid package to go through in the last few days.

Annabi, who recently visited Sudan, said he will soon start discussions on another sup-

port package for the AU force, but he did not say how much that would be worth.

Annabi spoke after a meeting of African Union, U.N. and Sudanese officials to discuss the deteriorating situation in Darfur with the AU's mandate due to expire on Dec. 31.

The U.N. Security Council voted in August to send more than 20,000 peacekeepers to Darfur to replace the ill-equipped and underfunded African Union force, but Sudan has rejected this.

The African Union currently has 7,000 troops in the violence-plagued region to monitor a shaky cease-fire signed earlier this year by the government and one rebel faction.

The announcement came as the U.N. reported nearly 40 civilian deaths in the last few days in attacks in Darfur by Arab militiamen — some of whom were backed by Sudanese military vehicles.

U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan and the African Union also have invited representatives

from the five permanent members of the Security Council, several African countries, the League of Arab States and the European Union to discuss the deteriorating situation in Darfur, U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric said.

Dujarric said Annan would attend the meeting Thursday in Ethiopia, as would representatives from Sudan's government.

The African Union's peace and security commissioner Said Djinnit said the organization's peacekeeping mission needed even more donor support. Some pledged millions a few months ago, but little has been received, he said.

"This is a matter of urgency,"

he said. "This ad hoc way of funding the mission is unsustainable."

The African Union force has been unable to curb violence in Darfur, where more than 200,000 people have been killed and 2.5 million displaced since the conflict began in February 2003, when ethnic African tribesmen took up arms against the Arab-led government in Khartoum.

U.N. investigators and rights groups have blamed the worst atrocities on the janjaweed, a pro-government militia that is widely accused of killing villagers and destroying their homes. The government denies supporting the militia.

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Singer Tamia Preps For New Album Release

Four-time Grammy nominee Tamia is set to release her 4th album, *Between Friends*, on Tuesday, November 14 through a new venture between her own imprint, Plus 1 Music Group, and the DVD distribution company Image Entertainment.

"Image Entertainment is thrilled to be working with Tamia on her first independent project," said George Steele of Image Entertainment via a press release. "Our extensive relationships with retail and digital partners enable us to cross-promote Tamia's new album on an unprecedented number of levels."

The soulful chanteuse, who co-wrote the entire album alongside Grammy-winning

producer Rodney "Darkchild" Jerkins and songwriter Shep Crawford, credits her decision to go indie to wanting more cre-



ative control. "When I took a step back from the music scene, I realized how disposable the industry had become and decided to go back into the studio in an effort to create songs that are a reflection of where I am in life

both personally and professionally — a mother, wife, friend, and now, entrepreneur," said Tamia.

As far as the relationship with her production team goes, Tamia says the great chemistry between Jerkins, Crawford and herself is part of the reason why she titled her album *Between Friends*. "I love working as a part of the team," she stated. "Shep and I just clicked. I had that same energy working with Rodney."

"Can't Get Enough," the album's sultry first single, is currently in rotation on urban AC formats across the country and was the #1 added new single to radio stations the week of September 19.

Between Friends hits record stores Tuesday, November 14.

Dallas Movie Screening To Highlight Police Brutality

Black Cinematheque Dallas and the South Dallas Cultural Center in conjunction with the Pan African Connection Bookstore and Resource Center present an award winning film that challenges police brutality, *Every Mothers Son*.

The film will be presented on Friday, November 17 at 8:00 p.m. at the Black Forest Theater, 1920 MLK Blvd., Dallas.

Every Mothers Son is an intimate story of three women who have lost an unarmed child at the hands of the law. The filmmakers follow these three women—a Jewish, West African & Puerto Rican mother—as they navigate the difficult journey from individual

pain to collective action. And, though they are all from very different backgrounds, they come together and learn to organize in their communities and speak out throughout the United States about the need to rethink and reform policing.

The movie will be followed by a discussion led by Mukasa Willie Ricks. One of the greatest grassroots activist produced by the turbulent 1960's in the



(Left to right) Doris Busch Boskey - a Jewish mother - whose son Gary Busch was pepper-sprayed and shot 12 times fatally; Kadiatou Diallo - a West African mother - whose son Amadou Diallo died from 41 police gunshots; Iris Baez - a Puerto Rican mother - whose son Anthony Baez died from a police choke hold.

southern U.S., Mukasa is best known for coining the slogan *BLACK POWER* on the 1966 march from Memphis to Jackson Mississippi.

Nordstrom Sponsors DBDT Holiday Performances For The Community

Nordstrom sponsors Dallas Black Dance Theatre's (DBDT) Behind the Scenes Holiday Performance Series. These FREE community performances will be held November 20-22, 2006, at the Dallas Opera Rehearsal Hall. Performance time is 12:00 noon and will last one hour. Admission is Free, but seating is limited. For reservations, call (214) 871-2390.

"We are grateful for Nordstrom's increased support of our Behind the Scenes Series," states Ann Williams, DBDT Founder/Artistic Director. "Their gift will allow DBDT increased capacity in a larger venue to serve students in the Fair Park community as well as our loyal patrons from down-

town and southern Dallas."

"Tis the season Like None Other! Give thanks and celebrate the seasons with DBDT's intimate performances dedicated to the



community it serves. This showcase provides a unique opportunity for audiences to preview extraordinary dance works performed by the professional

dancers of Dallas Black Dance Theatre, celebrate the holiday season and meet the DBDT dancers and staff personally. DBDT II, the second performing company of Dallas Black Dance Theatre, will be featured during the Wednesday, November 22 performance.

Dallas Black Dance Theatre 30th season sponsors are The Dallas Morning News, WFAA TV-Channel 8, American Airlines, The Dallas Weekly, Downtown Business News, Elite News and El Heraldo News.

Community Promotional Partners are MON-The Gazette, Dallas Post Tribune, The Dallas Examiner, Dallasblack.com, WRR-FM 101.1, DCTV, KERA and Eclipse Magazine.

Singer Gerald Levert Dies At 40



Gerald Levert, the fiery singer of passionate R&B love songs and the son of O'Jays singer Eddie Levert, died on Friday. He was 40.

His label, Atlantic Records, confirmed that Levert died at his home in Cleveland, Ohio.

"All of us at Atlantic are shocked and deeply saddened

by his untimely death. He was one of the greatest voices of our time, who sang with unmatched soulfulness and power, as well as a tremendously gifted composer and an accomplished producer," the statement read.

Levert first gained fame back in 1986, as a member of the R&B trio LeVert, which also included his brother, Sean. They quickly racked up hits like "(Pop, Pop, Pop, Pop) Goes My Mind," "Casanova," and "Baby I'm Ready."

But Gerald Levert's voice — powerful and soulful, almost a carbon-copy of his father's — was always the focal point, and in 1991, he made his solo debut with the album "Private Line," which included a hit duet with his dad, "Baby Hold on to Me."

Levert became known for his sensual, romantic songs, but unlike a Luther Vandross, whose voice and songs were more genteel, Levert's music was explosive and raw — his 2002 album was titled "The G Spot."

His most recent album was 2005's "Voices."

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Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. Celebrates Centennial At Annual Founders' Day Luncheon With Darryl R. Matthews, Sr.

Thirty-second General President Darryl Matthews featured speaker at The University of Texas at Dallas

The DFW Metroplex Area Chapters of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. will host their Annual Founders' Day Luncheon to commemorate the Centennial Celebration of the fraternity's founding. The luncheon will be held on Saturday, December 2, 2006, at 11:00 am at The University of Texas at Dallas, located at 2601 North Floyd Road in Richardson, Texas. The featured speaker, Darryl R. Matthews, Sr., is the 32nd General President of Alpha Phi Alpha.

Since its founding on December 4, 1906, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. has supplied voice and vision to the struggle of African-Americans

and people of color around the world. The visionary founders, known as the "Jewels" of the Fraternity, are Henry Arthur



Callis, Charles Henry Chapman, Eugene Kinckle Jones, George Biddle Kelley, Nathaniel Allison Murray, Robert Harold Ogle, and Vertner Woodson Tandy.

The Fraternity initially served as a study and support group for minority students who faced racial prejudice, both educationally and socially, at Cornell University. The Jewel founders and early leaders of the Fraternity succeeded in laying a firm foundation for Alpha Phi Alpha's principles of scholarship, fellowship, good character, and the uplifting of humanity.

"The Centennial Celebration marks an enormous milestone in the life of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.," explained Edwin L. Spivey, Texas District Area 1 Director for Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity. "We are pleased to have the General President, Darryl Matthews, in Texas celebrating this occasion with us."

About Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

Alpha Phi Alpha, the first

intercollegiate Greek-letter fraternity established for African-Americans, was founded in 1906 at Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y. by seven college men who recognized the need for a strong bond of brotherhood among African descendants in this country. The Fraternity develops leaders and promotes brotherhood and academic excellence while providing service and advocacy for its communities. Well-known political leaders and members of Alpha Phi Alpha include W.E.B. DuBois, Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., Thurgood Marshall, Maynard Jackson, Cornel West, Andrew Young, David Dinkins, Charles Rangel, Edward Brooke, Marc Morial, Bobby Scott and Kwame Kilpatrick. To learn more about Alpha Phi Alpha, visit the fraternity's web site at www.alphaphialpha.net.

Mesquite, Dallas County To Re-Open Military Parkway

A Salute To The Historic Entry Corridor

Officials from the city of Mesquite and Dallas County will participate in a grand re-opening of the historic Military Parkway located in Mesquite. The ceremony will take place on Friday, November 17, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. The event will be held at First State Bank, 917 Military Parkway, Mesquite, Texas 75149.

Attending will be Dallas County Commissioner Mike Cantrell, Mesquite Mayor Mike Anderson, Diane Wright, president of the 4B Quality of Life Board of Directors, Minister Steve Bailey of the Mesquite Church of Christ and other County and City officials.

Military Parkway, from Interstate Highway 635 to Carmack Street, was reconstructed from a two-lane asphalt roadway to a three-lane concrete

street with an improved drainage system, two new bridges over major creeks and the replacement of the existing water main, sidewalks and street lighting. The improvements incorporate several features to improve the overall aesthetics of the roadway and bridges such as use of extensive paverstone treatments in four locations, decorative bridge rails as preparation for future gateway and park improvements.

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Collin County Flu Shots Page 1

The CDC advises flu viruses spread mainly from person to person through coughing or sneezing of people with influenza. Sometimes people may become infected by touching something with flu viruses on it and then touching their mouth or nose. A healthy adult can infect others up to a day before their own symptoms develop and up to 5 days after becoming sick.

The single best way to prevent the flu is to get a flu vac-

nation each year. About two weeks after vaccination, antibodies develop that protect against influenza virus infection. Flu vaccines will not protect against flu-like illnesses caused by non-influenza viruses.

October or November is the best time to get vaccinated, but getting vaccinated in December or even later can still be beneficial. Most influenza activity occurs in January or later, with flu season lasting as late as May.

People considered "high risk" include children aged 6 months

until after their 5th birthday, pregnant women, persons age 50 and older, people of any age with certain chronic medical conditions and people living in nursing or long-term care facilities. People who live with, or care for those considered "high risk" should also get vaccinated.

Persons who have a severe allergy to chicken eggs, have had a severe reaction to an influenza vaccination in the past, are less than six months of age or who have a moderate or severe illness with fever should check with a

physician or inquire at Collin County Health Care Services before considering vaccination.

Foremost in preventing "catching the flu" is washing your hands often and avoiding touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Avoid close contact with people who are sick and keep your distance from others if you fall ill to protect them from getting sick as well (including staying home from work, school and errands, if possible.) Drink plenty of liquids to keep your system flushed and in top condition.

Always cover your mouth with a tissue (not your hands) when you sneeze or cough and replace with a clean tissue.

If you have questions about flu shots provided by Collin County Health Care Services contact them at 972-548-5500 (McKinney) or 972-424-1460 (Metro).

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AA / EOE / ADA

King Ceremony Page 1

children. A gospel choir sang, and Maya Angelou read poetry. Children read essays they had written about King.

Clinton, who signed legislation in 1996 authorizing the memorial, received a standing ovation from the largely black crowd. He told the crowd of King's commitment to nonviolence and social justice causes such as ending poverty, saying those goals still have not yet been achieved.

"If he were here, he would remind us that the time to do right remains," Clinton said.

The memorial will occupy a four-acre plot on the banks of the Tidal Basin, near the Potomac River. The Jefferson Memorial is across the Tidal Basin, while the Lincoln Memorial lies to the northwest, near the river.

The design is based in part on King's 1963 "I Have a Dream" speech. Before repeating the "Let freedom ring" refrain, King told the crowd, "We will be able to hew out of the mountain of despair a stone of hope."

Visitors will pass through an entryway cut through a massive stone symbolizing the mountain of despair and once inside, will come upon the missing section marking the stone of hope, bearing a carved profile of King. It will be ringed with walls chiseled with King's words that may eventually be the base for a waterfall.

Obama, who has said he is considering a presidential run in 2008, spoke shortly after Bush. He imagined bringing his two young children to the memorial when it is completed and passing through the mountain of despair.

"He never did live to see the promised land from that mountaintop," Obama said. "But he pointed the way for us."

Winfrey credited King and other civil rights leaders with making it possible for her to build her talk show empire.

"It's because of them that I can be heard," she said. "I do not take that for granted, not for one breath."

The memorial was first conceived in 1983 by members of King's fraternity, Alpha Phi Alpha. But it has been beset by delays and fundraising issues — the memorial's foundation still has only \$70 million of the estimated \$100 million construction cost.

Eugene Williams, a Washington resident and an Alpha Phi Alpha member, said he believed the rest of the money will be found now that people know the memorial will be built.

"Absolutely, it's coming forth," he said of funding. "This is a monument to the fact that no other person in history has done

what King has done."

In a seat nearby, Carolyn Jackson of Philadelphia recalled how as an 18-year-old in 1963 she was among the vast crowd who heard King's "I Have a Dream" speech during the March on Washington. With much of the civil rights struggle still ahead, Jackson didn't imag-

ine at the time she would be back on the National Mall again because of King.

But she was back despite the cold and rainy weather, and this time not at a memorial borrowed from another leader.

"It's a full circle for black people in this country," Jackson said.

Legal Notifications

Contact Marketing to advertise in our career opportunity section 972-606-7498 Fax or Email copy for quote: Fax: 972-509-9058; Email: opportunity@monthegazette.com

NTTA

NORTH TEXAS TOLLWAY AUTHORITY PUBLIC ADVERTISEMENT

The North Texas Tollway Authority will receive sealed proposals at 5900 W. Plano Pkwy. Suite 100, Plano, TX 75093, (214) 461-2049, until Thursday, December 7, 2006 at 2:00 p.m. for the following project:

Project: 02127 - Facility Management System Phase I. Generally consists of design and installation of a single computerized facility management controls system allowing control and diagnostics of HVAC and lighting at Main Lane Plaza 3, Main Lane Plaza 7, Gleneagles Phase II building (5910 W. Plano Parkway), and the ramp plazas on the President George Bush Turnpike from Preston Road east to North Garland Road. The system will communicate over a native BACnet® controller network, will be expandable to add additional facilities, and will utilize the existing NTTA Ethernet fiber-based network. Bid packet cost is \$50 and will be available Tuesday, November 14th. PLEASE NOTE: THERE WILL BE A MANDATORY PRE-BID MEETING ON November 28th AT 1:00 P.M. AT THE NTTA MAIN OFFICES IN PLANO. Contact Sherry at (214) 461-2049 for more information.

Bid packets include plans (if any), specifications, and quantities. Cost of the bid packet is non-refundable. Acceptable methods of payment include cashier's check, money order, company check, or personal check. Cash will not be accepted. Bid packets may also be examined at the NTTA offices. **In order to bid, you must purchase a bid packet from the NTTA.** Bids shall be submitted in sealed envelopes marked clearly with the project number, company's name, and bid opening date. No oral, telephoned, or faxed bids will be considered. Late bids will not be considered and will be returned unopened. To register online to do business with the NTTA, go to www.ntta.org click the "Business" link, and then on "Register". Electronic bidding information is also available online at the NTTA's Internet Home Page at www.ntta.org, under "Working With Us", "E-Bidding Opportunities", and "All Open Bidding Opportunities" links. All rights reserved.

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Church News



Sister Tarpley

In keeping with the holidays, the last part of 2006 and the early part of 2007: Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Years, and Valentine's Day, "Help For Stressful Situations."

A turn involves two things. It involves turning from one direction to another direction: Turning from something or someone and towards something or someone. The essence of the turn of a Christian is to turn from what this world has to offer for comfort and turn towards God.

Who do you turn to when life poisons your cup of tea? Who do you turn to when sickness stands in your room?

Who do you turn to when trouble finds your unlisted telephone number? Who do you turn to when death knocks on your door and sits at your table? **Do you turn to the Lord?** The Songwriter wrote, "Where Could I Go, but to the Lord?"

To turn to the Lord, we must turn from the world, 1 Thessalonians 1:9. Do things have more value in your life than God? A car, a house, a person, or money. Anything that gets more attention than GOD is your god! We must

Who Do You Turn To?

turn from darkness. We are being called from darkness into His marvelous light. 1 Peter 2:9.

Someone asked, "How do I get in the light and stay in it? 1 John 1:7 says, "If we walk in the Light as He is in the light then we have fellowship one with another." The only way to stay in the church (the place where the Light is being spread) is to go there. You must fellowship in the

Company, HE'S got a better idea. **God is Like...** a Coke, HE'S the real thing. **God is Like...** Hallmark Cards, HE cares enough to send HIS very best. **God is Like...** Tide, HE gets the stains out that others leave behind. **God is Like...** General Electric; HE brings good things to life. **God is Like...** Sears, HE has everything. **God is Like...** Alka-Seltzer,

Try HIM, you'll like HIM.

God is Like... Scotch Tape, you can't see him, but you know HE'S there. **God is Like...** Delta, HE'S ready when you are. **God is Like...** Allstate, you're in good hands with HIM. **God is Like...** VO-5 Hair Spray, HE holds through all kinds of weather. **God is Like...** Dial Soap, aren't you glad you have HIM. Don't you wish every-

body did? **God is Like...** the Post Office, rain, nor snow, nor sleet, nor ice will keep HIM from HIS appointed destination.

In stressful times, it's a good idea to lean on God.

Email: religion@monthegazette.com
Office: 972-516-4191
Voice Mail: 972-606-3878
Fax: 972-516-4197

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



Picture of The Week

Rev. Fred & Mrs. Pat Conwright, Pastor of Greater Mount Hebron MBC at 2335 56th Street, Dallas. Their choir has been voted as one of nine slots in WFAA, Channel 8's December Gospel Special Contest

House of the Lord, not a club, not a bar, not a casino, not even a dope house; the light is in the House of the Lord. At church people pray, sing, give, share, and they commune. People love and praise God. Get in the light, the marvelous Light. — Greenville Avenue Church Bulletin.

These have been around a while, think about them again: Remember, in stressful times, it's good to know that: God is Like... Bayer Aspirin, HE works miracles. **God is Like...** the Ford

City Of Plano Study Page 1

aged to express their thoughts on critical and valued service areas by logging into the City's Web site, www.plano.gov, and completing the "Where should the money go?" survey.

As this study evolves in future years, citizens will be asked to continue providing input need-

ed to fund and deliver services desired throughout the community. Citizen input remains a key component to planning and decision-making by the City Council and staff. Consequently, it is important citizens indicate how they prefer their tax dollars be spent. The City of Plano strives to ensure its citizens receive the

highest level of service at all times, delivered in the most cost-effective manner. Meeting this goal requires constant attention to service delivery, customer demands, industrial technologies and budget targets. The City leadership believes planning is key to continuing the reputation of excellence Plano has earned.

Church Happenings

FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH OF ALLEN

December 9, 10 am - 2 pm

You are invited to a dynamic and inspired Christian Finance Meeting on Budgeting, Credit Repair & Restoration, First Time Home Buying, and Investments and Retirement Planning; lunch will be served. "But my God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus" Philippians 4:19. Reserve your spot by calling 972-359-9956.

Fellowship Baptist Church of Allen

Rev. W.L. Stafford, Sr., M.Div.
Senior Pastor
200 Belmont Drive
Allen, TX 75013
972-359-9956

FRIENDSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH, THE COLONY

November 18, 10 am to 2 pm
November 19, 8 am & 11 am

You are invited to join us for a fun-filled FREE Christian Networking event. Shop with over 50 vendors; and just in time for the Christmas Holidays. Let's support our own as we taste, touch and feel the various products.

For more information, call Sis. Lynda Reeves @ 214-535-6185.

Friendship Baptist Church

Dr. C. Paul McBride,
Senior Pastor
4396 Main Street
The Colony, TX 75056
972-625-8186

Toll Rate Increase Page 1

Ramp plaza rates vary but will go up an average of a nickel. The new main toll plaza under construction in Frisco on the Dallas North Tollway extension will be \$1.15 for TollTag customers and \$1.45 for cash customers. This rate is higher because it is the single main plaza on the 10-mile extension.

Rates for the Mountain Creek Lake Bridge and the Addison Airport Toll Tunnel will remain unchanged at 50 cents. The new Lewisville Lake Toll Bridge projected to be complete April 2009 will

GRACE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

December 2, 8 am

You are invited to our First Annual Golf Tournament @ Lark Park Golf Course in Lewisville. Registration is \$85 and includes green fees, cart, range balls, lunch and door prizes. For more information, call Kim Teamer @ 972-317-1260.

Grace Missionary Baptist Church

Rev. Maurice A. Floyd, Pastor
1602 College Avenue
Lewisville, TX 75067
972-436-6131

KEEP LAUGHING PRODUCTIONS

November 25, 3:30 and 7:00 pm

We present "Laugh That Turkey Off!" This is a post-Thanksgiving, clean and comedy event for adult fellowship; @ The Plaza Theatre, Downtown Garland, 521 W. State Street, Garland, TX 75040. Comedians include Jason Earls, Ms. Vickie, Linda Stogner, John Lewis, Cleto Rodriguez and Marcus Wiley. Doors will open at 3:00 pm for the Matinee Show and 6:30 pm for the Evening Show. Call 1-866-666-8932 for tickets.

Keep Laughing Productions

Ms. Vickie, Representative
P.O. Box 830423
Richardson, TX 75083-0423
214-995-1499

PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVERS FOR COMMUNITY EXCELLENCE (PACE)

December 1, 7 pm

For a great time and a way to help our community, join us at our Annual

Christmas Gala; @ Brookhaven Country Club - The Grill, 3333 Golfing Green, Farmers Branch, TX 75324. There will be a dinner, dancing, and an auction; proceeds to benefit PACE Community Fund. Festival Attire. For more information and tickets call Lillie Lawrence @ 972-492-2651.

PACE

Patricia Hempstead, President
P.O. Box 112721
Carrollton, TX 75011-2721
972-236-1337

WESTSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH

November 18, 11 am to 3 pm

The community is invited to our Open House to enjoy food, games, entertainment, and tour the Worship Center; there will be representatives of various ministries available to share the myriad of ministries we provide for the entire family.

November 19, 5 pm

Join Mayor Gene Carey of Lewisville, Councilman Rudy Durham of Lewisville, and other dignitaries as we come together for a Worship Center Celebration with keynote speaker Dr. Charles Wade, Director of the Baptist General Convention of TX. Featured also will be our 150 member Mass Choir.

For more information please call the church @ 972-221-5668.

Westside Baptist Church

Rev. K.W. Blake, Senior Pastor
900 Bellaire Blvd.
Lewisville, TX 75067
972-221-5668

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
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972-239-1120 (Office) • 972-239-5925 (Fax)
templeoffaith_cme@sbcglobal.net (Email)
Healthy Beginnings Child Development Center - 972-404-1412

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Sunday Morning Worship 10:00 am
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www.ndcbf.org

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Sunday Service
Morning Worship
7:30 am & 10:30 am
9:00 am Sunday School
Wednesday Service
Prayer Meeting 7:00 pm
Brotherhood 7:00 pm
Missions 7:00 pm
Singles Group 7:00 pm
Bible Study 7:45 pm
Dr. Robert E. Price,
Senior Pastor
A Praying Church Family
"Watchmen on the Walls"
214-341-6459 (Phone) • 214-342-8403 (Fax)
9550 Shepard Road
Dallas, TX 75243
www.nmzb.org (Website) • newmzb@aol.com (Email)

Faithway Fellowship Baptist Church
Of Hamilton Park
8219 Bunche Dr. Dallas, TX 75243
Church Office: (972) 792-0239
Pastor's Office: (972) 792-0240
Service Times
Sunday School 9:45AM
Morning Worship 11:00AM
Wednesday Bible Study 7:00PM
PEOPLE OF FAITH WITH A MIND TO WORK

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Email: slamechurch@aol.com
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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
Reverend Charles E. Franklin, Pastor

Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church
920 E. 14th Street Plano, TX
Pastor Isaiah Joshua, Jr.
FANNING THE FLAMES OF OUR FAITH
Sunday Worship Services 8AM & 11AM
Sunday 9:45AM Sunday School
Monday 7PM Youth, Brotherhood, Mission & Young Adult Ministries
Tuesday 7PM Bible Study & Men's Choir
Wednesday 7PM Mid-Week Service
Thursday 7PM Mass Choir
For more information call (972) 423-6695
www.shilohbaptistchurch.org

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Worship Celebration... 11:00 am.
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Wednesday
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www.saintmarkbc.com • stmarkmissionary@aol.com

Local African -American Actress Lands Coveted Roles And Performs Christian Play For Local Churches

Naima Imani Lett will be featured in an Upcoming Paramount Pictures Film and Lifetime Movie Network Original Movie.

Lett's Rise Productions, a Dallas-based and black-owned theatrical and media production company, is proud to announce the recent casting of the company's leading actress and co-founder, Naima Imani Lett in two coveted television and film roles. Lett will be featured in an upcoming Paramount Pictures film and is also set to appear as Jackie Ormond in "Inspector Mom" a Lifetime Movie Network Original Movie, premiering on Saturday, November 18, 2006 at 7 p.m. CST.

"I am extremely excited to have the opportunity to be featured in these nationally recognized roles and hope this will open doors for other local talent," said Naima Imani Lett, actress and co-founder of Lett's Rise Productions.

Lett's featured roles in the upcoming national productions are anticipated. In her role as Jackie Ormond in the upcoming Lifetime Movie Network Original Movie, "Inspector Mom," she plays a young soccer mom and friend of the lead character, Maddie Monroe, who's played by Danica McKeller of the nineties hit, "Wonder Years." Directed by Dallas-resident, Brad Keller, "Inspector Mom" has been described as a 21st

century version of "Murder She Wrote" and will premier on Lifetime this Saturday,



Actress Naima Imani Lett

November 18, 2006 at 7 p.m. CST. Lett will also be featured in an upcoming Paramount Pictures film that is scheduled to premier next year.

When Lett is not shining on

camera, she is busy wowing audiences with her dynamic portrayal of real women dealing with everyday issues in her dramatic one-woman play, "Shattered Silhouettes." This spell bounding drama journeys the complex lives of five biblical women, Leah, Tamar, Jezebel, Eve and Mary and has received rave reviews from an array of award-winning directors and producers. The play's popularity recently earned Lett the distinguished opportunity to perform an excerpt as the opening act for world-renowned jazz saxophonist, Kirk Whalum at the Eisemann Center in Richardson, Texas. "Shattered Silhouettes" is a very popular holiday performance, thus Lett will perform

the same excerpt of the theatrical production for Dallas' Concord Church's Angel Tree celebration on Saturday, December 16, 2006 at 2 p.m. "Shattered Silhouettes" is also available on DVD and can be purchased at a special holiday price of \$15 at www.naimalett.com.

Since early childhood, Lett has captivated audiences with her dynamic talents and acting abilities. Her aspirations of becoming an actress led her to Howard University's Theatre Department in Washington, D.C. where she graduated summa cum laude, earning a bachelor's degree in Fine Arts. Upon graduation, Lett further pursued her acting career at the Tony-award winning

Crossroads Theatre and studied classical theater with the esteemed British American Drama Academy in Oxford, England. She has since written and performed several solo dramas in theaters, universities and conferences nationwide. Represented by the Kim Dawson and Acclaim Talent Agencies, Lett has acted in various roles in film, commercials and industrials, garnering a Best Actress Nomination in Dallas' 2005 EDOC Film Festival. Most recently, Lett became the first graduate to obtain a master's degree in Media and Communications from the prestigious Dallas Theological Seminary.

Parkland Foundation And Foundation For Community Empowerment Receives 2006 Bank Of America Neighborhood Excellence Initiative Awards

Bank Recognizes Dallas Not-for-Profits, Individuals and Students with \$450,000 in unrestricted funds to Improve and Reshape Their Community



Dr. Wright L. Lassiter, Jr. and Laura Whitley

Parkland Foundation and Foundation for Community Empowerment have been selected as the recipients of the 2006 Bank of America Neighborhood Excellence Initiative - Neighborhood Builder award. Each organization will receive \$200,000 of "unrestricted funds" which can be used to cover operating expenses and build program capacity.

"The impetus behind the Neighborhood Excellence Initiative is to increase the impact of our giving by building partnerships with non-profit organizations, recognizing distinguished volunteers and cultivating the next generation of community leaders," explained Laura Whitley, President, Bank of America Dallas. "Bank of America recognizes that each of these groups is essential to sustaining vital neighborhoods and through this program, we strive to support each of these critical

stakeholders and enable even greater community revitalization in Dallas."

The Bank of America Neighborhood Excellence Initiative was developed to identify and then address local priorities for each individual community. "In Dallas, the Foundation for Community Empowerment and Parkland Foundation have shown extraordinary leadership in addressing neighborhood revitalization and affordable healthcare issues that affect our community," added Whitley.

Five Local Heroes also were honored for their achievements and leadership on local issues that contribute significantly to neighborhood vitality. Each recipient will direct a \$5,000 contribution to an eligible non-profit of his or her choice. The local heroes, along with their selected non-profit organizations, are:

- Vikki Martin formed the Claremont Crime Watch group and neighborhood association in the early 1990s. This group has since grown into an umbrella organization for 19 community groups serving nearly 40,000 residents, businesses and churches in the city of Claremont. Martin



Pastor Chris Simmons and Laura Whitley

will direct her NEI contribution to the Ferguson Road Initiative.

- Chris Simmons, a pastor at Cornerstone Baptist Church in Southern Dallas, has focused on serving the needs of his community bringing services to the area that were otherwise unavailable. Simmons has selected Cornerstone Community Development Corp. as the recipient of the \$5,000 NEI contribution.

- Dr. Ron Anderson, a national spokesperson for public health issues and an advocate for the poor and medically underserved, has championed a cause that led to the passage of landmark legislation concerning indigent care in Texas. Dr. Anderson will direct his NEI contribution to the Parkland Foundation

- Susan Hoff has dedicated herself to serving the needs of children throughout Dallas as CEO of the ChildCare Group,

an organization that operates many projects, including early childhood programs serving more than 600 children and their families. Hoff has selected ChildCare Group as the recipient of her donation.

- Dr. Wright L. Lassiter, Jr. has shown unwavering commitment to education and the arts



FCE Representatives with Marcia Page, Dr. Ron Anderson, Laura Whitley

during his time as the president of El Centro College in Dallas and interim chancellor of the Dallas County Community College District. Dr. Lassiter will be donating his NEI funds to Dallas County Community College District Foundation.

The Inspiring Body of Christ Church
7710 S. Westmoreland Rd.
Dallas Texas 75237
Phone: 972-572-4262 Fax: 972-709-3888
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Monday School: 7pm
Men's Fellowship: Friday 7:00pm
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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.

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Monday Service: Men's Group & Women's Group Bible Study @ 6:30 pm
Wednesday Service: Family Bible Study @ 6:30 pm

Keep Laughing Productions Presents
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Post-Thanksgiving Clean, Comedy Performances for Adult Fellowship
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Evening Show: 7:00pm/Doors Open 6:30pm
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Phone: 214.995.1499 Fax: 972.671.6020

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Web: bwbcirving.org
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9:45 a.m. Sunday School
6:00 p.m. Baptist Training Union
Wednesday
12:00 p.m. Bible Study
7:00 p.m. Prayer Hour
7:30 p.m. Bible Study

Friendship Baptist Church
Dr. C. Paul McBride, Pastor
Schedule of Services:
Sunday
Early Morning Worship
8:00 a.m.
Sunday School Classes
9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship
11:00 a.m.
Evening Worship (1st Sunday) 6:00 p.m.
Tuesday
Early Bird Bible Study 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday
Morning Bible Study 9:30 a.m.
Prayer Meeting and
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"