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# The Gazette

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## People In The News



Former Dallas Cowboys defensive back Everson Walls (right) has shown the true spirit of giving this holiday season by announcing his decision to donate one of his kidneys to former teammate Ron Springs (left).

Springs - the former Cowboys fullback - has suffered from kidney failure resulting from diabetes for the last three years. He has already had a foot amputated, and his hands can barely open.

The Springs family said they had searched for a donor for years.

"Everson has done the greatest thing anybody ever could do for me," Springs said.

Walls' gesture left some of his other former teammates in awe. "He's made a lot of great plays, but I don't think he's ever made a bigger play than this right here today," former teammate Tony Hill said.

"I'm not just doing it for Ron, and I've said this publicly before. I'm doing it for his wife, Adrian, his kids, Erin and Ashley, and even for that big-mouth son of his," Walls joked.

The surgery is not guaranteed to work, but the Springs family said they at least want to raise awareness about organ donation.

The first things you notice about Clarence Boyd, truck driver, Sustainability and Environmental Services, might be his infectious smile and the mischievous twinkle in his eye; however, beneath this light-hearted demeanor is an unflappable dedication and pride.

"I'm dependable and the job is always done, every time, all the time," said Boyd. "I maintain my equipment, complete my route on time, and then I help everyone else with theirs."

Employed with the City of Plano for 25 years, his duties have included driving a landscape collection truck, manual collection, automated service, and training new employees on the manual side-load trucks.

"He was very good and everyone knew when you finished training with Clarence you were ready for a route," said Mike Wallace, supervisor. "He was so efficient on his route that he could do push-ups between stops, not just once or twice, but all day."

Known for his sophisticated fashion sense and smooth moves on the dance floor, Boyd's priorities are simple when it comes to planning for the future. "I already have my Cadillac, but I guess I'd like to have the Cadillac without the payments."



Dale Earnhardt, Inc., recently announced the appointment of Max Siegel as President of Global Operations. The Zomba Label Group/Sony/BMG executive will oversee marketing, promotion, sales, sponsorship and distribution for all Dale Earnhardt, Inc. properties.

"I am honored by this opportunity, and though I have enjoyed great success in the music business, I am thrilled to join this dynamic organization," said Max Siegel. "Dale Earnhardt, Inc. is a company with strong core values and a legacy of excellence in sports and in business, and I look forward to winning more championships with them and working to further cement Dale Earnhardt, Inc. as the leader in the motorsports and entertainment industry."

With an extraordinary track record as an accomplished sports and entertainment attorney, Max Siegel is one of the most influential executives in the entertainment industry. Siegel most recently held dual positions as Senior Vice President of Sony/BMG's Zomba Label Group and President of Zomba Gospel, the largest Gospel music company in the world. Siegel was also on the executive team that produced pop stars like Britney Spears, Usher, Justin Timberlake, and R. Kelly.

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## FEMA Vows To Restore Aid Soon To Evacuees



**Judge urges agency to get families housing before Christmas**

By: Patty Reinert

FEMA officials promised a federal judge Monday that they will try to restart a housing assistance program for thousands of Texas-based hurricane evacuees later this week, although legal obstacles may prevent the agency from making back payments for rent denied since August.

By the end of the week, the agency plans to start sending letters to about 4,200 evacuees of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita to explain why the housing aid was denied in the first place and what can be done to reinstate it.

It was still unclear how soon families would begin receiving payments, estimated at \$750 a month. But U.S. District Judge Richard J. Leon urged the agency to work with Houston and other Texas cities to speed the process.

"Maybe we can get this thing jump-started

and get these people a roof over their heads before Christmas," he said.

Timing is critical, Leon said, because many families are on the street, and even if aid is restored promptly, the federal housing assistance program is set to expire at the end of February unless Congress or President Bush takes action to extend it.

Leon, who ordered the Federal Emergency Management Agency to restore the housing assistance nearly three weeks ago, and last week accused the agency of stalling, said he was satisfied that FEMA officials are taking his orders seriously — even as they appeal them in a higher court.

During a nearly two-hour hearing Monday afternoon, four FEMA witnesses testified about their efforts to comply with Leon's orders.

"We work tirelessly. We may make mistakes, but we're not a bunch of people sitting around dragging our feet," said Brian Verbarg, chief of FEMA's National Processing Service

FEMA Vows Aid Soon Page 6

## How Much Do You Know About Kwanzaa?



harvest" in the African language Kiswahili, has gained tremendous acceptance. Since its founding in 1966 by Dr. Maulana Karenga, Kwanzaa has come to be observed by more than 18 million people worldwide, as reported by the New York Times. When establishing Kwanzaa in 1966,

Kwanzaa is a unique African American celebration with focus on the traditional African values of family, community responsibility, commerce, and self-improvement. Kwanzaa is neither political nor religious and despite some misconceptions, is not a substitute for Christmas. It is simply a time of reaffirming African-American people, their ancestors and culture. Kwanzaa, which means "first fruits of the

Dr. Karenga included an additional "a" to the end of the spelling to reflect the difference between the African American celebration (kwanzaa) and the Motherland spelling (kwanza).

Kwanzaa is based on the Nguzo Saba (seven guiding principles), one for each day of the observance, and is celebrated from December 26th

Kwanzaa Page 8

## Appeals Panel Bars Reparation Claims



**Descendants barred from pursuing payments from companies, panel rules**

AP  
A federal appeals court on Wednesday rejected most claims by slave descendants that they deserve reparations from some of the nation's biggest insurers, banks and transportation companies.

The three-judge panel of the 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals affirmed a lower court ruling that slave descendants have no standing to sue for reparations based on injustices

suffered by ancestors and that the statute of limitations ran out more than a century ago.

But the panel did keep alive a smaller portion of the suit, claiming that major U.S. corporations may be guilty of consumer fraud if they hid past ties to slavery from their customers.

The opinion, written by Judge Richard A. Posner, said that "statutes of limitations would be toothless" if descendants could collect damages for wrongs against their ancestors.

"A person whose ancestor had been wronged a thousand years ago could sue on the ground that it was a continuing wrong and he is one of the

Reparation Claims Page 6

## Keep Plano Beautiful Announces T-Shirt Design Winner: "Cleaner Means Greener - Don't Litter"

Keep Plano Beautiful (KPB) announced Jay Purohit, fourth grader, Skaggs Elementary School, the winner of the 2007 Great American Cleanup™

T-shirt design contest. Plano Mayor Pat Evans honored Purohit during a presentation prior to the December 11 City Council meeting at the Plano Municipal Center.

The contest was held during the month of September and included Plano students ranging from Kindergarten to fifth grade. The children created a design celebrating the theme, "Cleaner Means Greener - Don't Litter". Held in conjunction with the Plano Public Library System and PISD Environmental



Clubs, children were encouraged to visit any public library or school environmental club to pickup an entry form and discover inspiration through a

Keep Plano Beautiful Page 9

## Food, Basic Aid Not Reaching Darfur Region Despite World's Biggest Humanitarian Effort

AP  
Food and other basic relief is not reaching thousands in the war-torn Darfur region of Sudan, despite what the United Nations calls the world's biggest humanitarian effort.

Over a dozen aid workers have also been slain in recent months, and spiraling violence has forced many to pull out. Seventy-four World Food Program vehicles have been attacked and one driver has been killed since a peace treaty was signed in May between Khartoum and one of several rebel factions in Darfur. Other rebels rejected the deal.

Violence has been increasing and last month, in the worst looting yet, Arab tribal fighters known as janjaweed ripped apart a WFP warehouse and took 800 tons of food in the rebel stronghold of Bir Maza as government forces assaulted the town.

Over 200 U.N. and aid workers have had to



WFP food aid reaches Darfur refugees sheltering at Breidjing refugee camp in Chad.

leave remote outposts and refugee camps and some of the region's main towns — like the North Darfur capital of El Fasher, which last week was also looted by janjaweed.

Meanwhile, some 200 World Food Program trucks are being blocked by the government

Food Not Reaching Darfur Page 8

## AEGON Direct Mail Builds Habitat House #25 In Plano

Habitat for Humanity of South Collin County dedicated the 25th home built by the ministry on Sunday, December 17th. AEGON Direct Mail, a supporter of Habitat since the early days of the affiliate sponsored the home for a Hurricane Katrina family.

The Glapion family received the keys to their new home in a ceremony Sunday afternoon, which took place at the Douglass Community Center in Plano. The ceremony featured a presentation describing the history of Habitat in Plano and the future of the affiliate. Appreciation awards were



given to many of the core volunteers and key advocates of Habitat in Plano and South Collin County. The constant support and dedication of the Habitat volunteers on the building crew and various committees provides the foundation that helps provide decent affordable housing for deserving families in South

AEGON Builds House Page 3



# National Forum For Black Public Administrators



Keynote Speaker State Senator Rodney Ellis



John Ware, President, 21st Century Group and former Dallas City Manager, Dr. Gleniece Robinson Brazelton, Director, City of Fort Worth Libraries, Ted Benavides, CEO of Consulting Services Division, Waters Consulting Group and former Dallas City Manager.



Chapter Founder Honorees Bob Terrell, Vernell Sturns, and Roderick Bremby.

The National Forum for Black Public Administrators of the North Texas Chapter held their 20th Anniversary Celebration and

Awards Gala on Friday December 8, in Arlington, Texas. State Senator Rodney Ellis was the keynote speaker for the

evening. The theme for the event was "Saluting Our Trailblazers and Celebrating 20 Years of Excellence in North Texas". NFBPA - North Texas Chapter

## Students Receive Early Christmas Presents - Scholarships!



Top row (l-r): Chelsea A. Upshaw, Markeith Sanders, Dustin Perry, and Collin Green. Second row: Maria G. Perez, Jaime Mitchell, Keri Hoepfner, Christopher Cox, and James Cross. Third row: Summer Fain, Renee Warren, Enely Aguillon, and Rosa L. Garcia. Fourth row: Philip Murray, Leticia Castañeda, Julie Free, and Laci LeCroy. Not pictured: Harvie Eady, Chondra Ellington, and Amy Parker.

Eastfield College recently received 26 - \$1,000 scholarships for current Eastfield students who are committing to Texas A&M University - Commerce and will be attending in spring 2007.

The scholarships were a collaborative effort of the financial aid and admissions office at Eastfield and TAMU Commerce. The administrators collaborating on this were Dr. Joy Black, Eastfield Vice President of Student Services, and Enrollment Management and Dr. Yvette Underdue Murph, Assistant Vice President

Enrollment and Marketing. Eastfield College, one of the seven Dallas County Community Colleges, is located at 3737 Motley Drive in Mesquite, just north of I-30.

## Need Free PR Advice?

How? Just ask Jeff Crilley, an Emmy Award Winning TV Reporter in Dallas, to teach you how at your next business function. Jeff will teach you how at your next business function. Jeff will speak for free and share valuable information from his book, Free Publicity. Jeff's book can be ordered online at [www.jeffcrilley.com](http://www.jeffcrilley.com).

Jeff recently spoke at Denton Good Samaritan Village at a Marketing Plus North networking meeting for anyone who does business within the 50+ Housing/Services community. Denton Good

Samaritan Village is a Continuing Care Retirement Community covering the full range of care services and housing from twin homes and apartments to assisted living and nursing home care.

Call Denton Good Samaritan Village at 940-383-6347 today for a complimentary lunch with tour and/or if you need assistance in contacting Jeff Crilley.



Katrina McPherson, Denton Good Samaritan Village; Robert Phillips, Liquidity International, Inc.; Emory Smith, Amedisys Home Health Care; Jeff Crilley; author of Free Publicity and Emmy Award Winning Reporter; Virginia McDaniel, Denton Good Samaritan Village.

honored their founders of the organization: Retired City Manager of Fort Worth, Bob Terrell, former Senior Vice President, Administration, for Harris Methodist Health Plan, Inc., Vernell Sturns and current Secretary of Kansas Department of Health and Environment,

Roderick Bremby. Recipients of the Marks of Excellence Award included two former City Managers of Dallas: Ted Benevides, John Ware, former Longview City Manager, Rickey Childers and Glenice Robinson-Brazelton, Director of Fort Worth Public Library.

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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.

For info call 214-421-0013. [www.myspace.com/sankofakrew](http://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.assistanceleague-gcc.org](http://www.assistanceleague-gcc.org).

"EVOLVE," a social networking opportunity for women, meets from 7:30 to 9 p.m. the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month at the northwest corner of Park

Boulevard and Coit Road, Suite 202. Call 972-267-4452.

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

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

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

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](http://www.theyundraeshow.com)

December 14- December 23 Dallas Symphony Orchestra

Presents Hope! A Christmas Celebration

Meyerson Symphony Center, Dallas, 7:30 pm and 2:30 p.m. matinee on Saturdays and Sundays. For more info call 214-692-0203 or visit [www.DallasSymphony.com](http://www.DallasSymphony.com)

### December 20

Santa Claus Toy Project Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center 2922 Martin Luther King J Dallas, TX 75215 (214) 421-2460

### December 22

Black Nativity Jubilee Theatre, 506 Main St. in Fort Worth Jubilee Theatre 8 pm \$25 817-338-4411

Congolese Soukous Music: Dany Engobo, Les Corurs Brises, DJ Ash, Emman Legrand & The Emmanettes Africa Rythms and Top Africa Productions once again bring you the gurus in Soukous/Ndombolo - African Music to North Texas, this time presenting Paris-based Congolese artist Dany Engobo and Les Corurs Brises (The Broken Hearts) Sons of Hermann Hall, 3414 Elm Street 9 pm \$20 advance; \$25 at door 214-747-4422

### December 26

Kwanzaa: The Community Explosion The 3 night event celebrating our community and the principles of Kwanzaa. ant located at 416 E. Pleasant Run Road in Cedar Hill. For more information contact 972-291-9874.

### December 27

Al Green and Etta James

Coming live to Dallas, Al Green and Etta James live at the Nokia Theatre located at 1001 Performance, Grand Prairie beginning at 8 p.m. For more information please call 214-373-8000.

Kwanzaa (Kuhichagulia/Self-determination): Kwanzaa for Kids! 612 E. Jefferson The Act of Change, Inc. 12 pm - 2 pm 214-372-3500

### December 28

Holiday Craft Fun @ The Women's Museum Kwanzaa & Three Kings Day craft activities including yarn weavings, still life, shoe drawings and other crafts. 3800 Parry Avenue

The Women's Museum: An Institute for the Future 4 pm FREE denita.powell@thewomensmuseum.org 214-915-0890

Kwanzaa (Ujima/Collective Work & Responsibility): Kwanzaa for Kids! 612 E. Jefferson The Act of Change, Inc. 12 pm - 2 pm 214-372-3500

### December 29

Sisters in the Light, Inc., with a Kwanzaa observance, drumming, poetry and a better health presentation, will be held from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the Act of Change, Inc., 3200 Lancaster Road., Ste. 320. For more information and tickets, call 214-552-6618.

### December 30

The Temptation and The Four Tops Live at the Nokia Theatre located at 1001 Performance, Grand

Prairie beginning at 8 p.m. For more information please call 214-373-8000.

### December 30

#### New Year's Eve Celebrations

at Campbell Center in Richardson A Family event where you can bring in your kids, enjoy Indian buffet, BYOB, dance while the kids enjoy activities at the kids corner. Also featuring a comedy act and belly dancing, and Arabic music, along with Indian, Bhangra, Lounge, Techno, Hip hop, Retro, Remixes and more!! 521 West Campbell Center in Richardson 4Visions 8:30 pm to 2 am \$35 for Singles and \$60 for couples, \$15 for ages 3-14 and \$10 for 3 and under. moody@4visions.com 214-563-1506

Kwanzaa (Nia/Purpose): The Young Pioneers Pan African Connection 6 pm - 8 pm 214-943-82

### January 1

Kwanzaa (Imani/Faith): Karimu Feast 5400 Ramey Ave. #114 Pan African Connection 2 pm - 5 pm 817-925-7961

### January 6

Literary Voices Series; Voices Of Poetry #3 Black Academy of Arts and Letters, Dallas Convention Center 8 pm \$10 tbaal@airmail.net 214-743-2440

### January 11

Martin Luther King Jr. Oratory Competition presented by Gardere Wynne Sewell LLP DISD Elementary school children compete in the final round of

speech competitions honoring the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The theme "If You Could Share Your Dream With Dr. King, What Would It Be?" will motivate and inspire all ages. Winners receive a savings bond and other recognition from Gardere Wynne Sewell LLP.

First Baptist Church Criswell Center, 1707 San Jacinto St. Gardere Wynne Sewell LLP 11:30 pm FREE jmeeske@gardere.com 214-999-4178

### January 13

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Celebration 2:32 PM, 2922 Martin Luther King J Dallas, TX 75215 (214) 421-2460

### January 14

#### 24 Annual Black Music And The Civil Right Movement Concert

A Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday, 14 at 7:30 p.m. Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center Downtown Dallas Arts District 2501 Flora Street \$25, \$15, \$10. This moving performance dramatizes the Civil Rights Movement in film footage, narration and music performed by TBAAL's 200 Voice Concert Choir. The concert features famed and special guest artist Kelly Price. Hosted by Iola Johnson. Conceived and produced by Curtis King. Conducted by John Mark Tatum and Pat Kesse.

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# Proud To Be An Active Partner In The Community





**Paul Hailey**

I was just minding my own business, living my life, when a friend of mine slapped me upside the head with the topic for this column.

"Why don't you write about the Miss USA controversy? What's going on is not right and looks like its racial."

My initial reaction was, huh? Miss USA? I can't recall a single minute of my life when I was ever concerned about Miss USA and I certainly had no idea what was going on now.

The whole thing in one big whatever moment for me—I simply don't care.

So I started reading everything I could and what I discovered was a tale involving alcohol, underage drinking, drugs, race, Donald Trump and Rosie O'Donnell? How could I resist writing about that?

Here's the story: the current Miss USA, Tara Conner won the title in April and immediately moved to New York City from Kentucky. The firestorm hit recently when media reports surfaced that she had spotted around town drinking heavily, complete with rumors of alleged cocaine use. Did I mention that Conner only turned 21 on Monday?

Enter Donald Trump, who for some strange reason actually co-owns the Miss University Organization pageant with NBC. Instead of stripping Conner of her title as many expected, Trump announced Tuesday that she would remain Miss USA.

"She left a small town in Kentucky, and she was telling me that she got caught up in the whirlwind of New York," Trump said at a news conference. "It's a story that has happened many times before to many women and many men who came to the Big Apple."

## I Don't Care About Miss USA

They wanted their slice of the Big Apple, and they found out it wasn't so easy," he said.

I'm not so sure I understand Donald's point. It's somehow ok to drink and allegedly take drugs while underage if you are caught up in the whirlwind of New York? And if that happens, you should continue in your role of Miss USA, remaining a role model for young girls all over the country?

Oh, and we haven't even got to the juicy part yet.

The juicy part is that if Trump had decided to strip Tara Conner of the Miss USA title, Tamiko Nash who was Miss California and first runner-up would have become Miss USA. Forget whether we are ready for Barack Obama to be the first black president, is this country ready to handle a Miss USA named Tamiko?

In 1993 Kenya Moore was crowned Miss USA, the second African-American to hold the title. When she held the title, she enjoyed the constant presence of a chaperone. She commented on Trump's decision.

"What the crown stands for is a woman who holds a certain moral standard, who is an inspiration to young girls, who is a role model. Why give her this chance at this stage? Perhaps let her build her life and redeem

herself on her own time — I don't think while she's Miss USA."

I still don't care about Miss USA, but this situation reinforced some things I already know. There is no way a black Miss USA would have retained her title if the media reported she had engaged in public drinking and alleged drug use. That's appalling in today's world, but it's just the way things are in the USA.

And to answer the question I posted above, I don't think this country is really ready for a Miss USA named Tamiko. In the same way they weren't ready for Vanessa Williams as Miss America in 1983. Remember that?

While I don't particularly care about Miss USA, I do care about role models and the signals we send our youth. Eliminate any racial components of this issue and I think Trump did the wrong thing. By not stripping Conner, he sent a message to young girls that there are no consequences for bad behavior. That it's ok to do your thing, and then when you get caught, go to rehab and all is forgiven. We should all care about that.

Paul Hailey can be reached at phailey@MonTheGazette.com



## Universal Access, Student Loan Debt And Pell Grants "The College Crisis"

By: Pat Williams

It was just about this time of year 35 years ago, when the United States Congress passed into law a peculiarly American idea—every person should have access to a college or university.

That 1972 federal law, initially named Basic Grants and later Pell Grants, has during this one-third of a century awarded more than \$100 billion to more than 30 million college-bound students.

Pell Grants represented a significant departure from the earlier higher education acts with money provided directly to moderate-income students for the purpose of tuition, books, and services at the college of their choice.

Pell Grants were initially intended for families whose young people attended college full time. During the decades since, students are beyond the traditional families of the 1950s, 60s, 70s. Many of today's students have their own families, work part time, are enrolled not only in four-year institutions, but also in two-year or vocational programs.

The Pell Grant program has not only had policy changes throughout the years but politics at the national level have also influenced the awarding of the grants. During the early 1970s and despite President Nixon's statements in favor of Pell Grants, his Office of Education refused to release the \$122 million dollars appropriated by Congress. In the late 1970s, under Presidents Ford and

Carter, Pell Grants were at their dollar value peak, covering almost 80% of college costs.

The 1980s and 90s, however, were a different story. Budget tightening by the Reagan administration fell heavily on moderate income college students. Purchasing power fell and with increasing numbers of low income people, Pell Grant eligibility was stretched too thin. In the 1990s President Clinton ordered the largest dollar increase in Pell Grant history, but even that boost left the grants' purchasing far below its peak in the 1970s.

Both trends and projections verify the difficulty that now faces college students. Throughout America, state support for college assistance has been declining, with public spending per-student, that is FTE, at an all time low.

Public spending shortfalls in education are bad for this country because they effectively both limit college admissions and quality of the school's offerings. Young people from families who are in the top 20% of incomes receive 80% of college degrees. Those students from families earning in the bottom 20% of incomes will get only 5% of the college degrees. The gap between the poor and the better-off is growing and lack of a college degree is one of the reasons.

Both unemployment rates and earnings data demonstrate the importance of education. Unemployment is three times higher for those who drop out of high school than it is for those

with a bachelor's degree. Median earning for those with a master's degree is \$62,000 per year in America; it is half of that for those who only finish high school.

An obvious difficulty for today's college students is student loan debt—it is a crushing burden on the shoulders of today's students and tomorrow's professionals. More than 30 years ago, Pell Grants were created precisely to help moderate income families pay for their student's college costs. For a number of reasons, including the lack of political will on the part of presidents and the Congress, the purchasing power of Pell Grants has fallen by two-thirds and so our students have no choice but to accept the burdening loans.

President Bush and the next Congress could begin to dramatically change the reliance on loans by significantly increasing Pell Grants, which as the name says, are grants—not loans. For the price of just two weeks of the cost of Iraq, they could almost double the Pell Grant program and free up our college graduates to spend their incomes in ways that improve both their lives and the economy.

Pat Williams served nine terms as a U.S. Representative from Montana. After his retirement, he returned to Montana and is teaching at The University of Montana where he also serves as a Senior Fellow at the Center for the Rocky Mountain West.

## Run, Obama, Run

By: Ron Walters - NNPA Columnist

The specter grows that finds Senator Barack Obama being turned into a national phenomenon, drawing huge crowds of people wanting to touch the hem of his garment and catch the verbal morsels that fall from his lips wherever he goes. So massive has been this response that it has sparked a political culture of speculation about his chances of running for president in 2008, especially as he travels to places like the testing ground of New Hampshire.

What people find attractive about Barack is first, his background, a White mother and Kenyan father, his early residences in Hawaii, Indonesia, Kansas — all giving off the scent of a multi-racialism in his growing up. Then, there is his degree from Harvard Law School and his role as the first Black editor of the Harvard Law Review, traditionally suggesting high intelligence, that he used in establishing a political career in state level politics, making a sound record of accomplishment. Finally, there are the intangibles of charisma, the earnestness in his voice, the self-deprecating, even folksy style and easily likable smile. These are telegenic qualities that fit well in a media where personal appeal is the stuff of political allure. It may even trump concerns about his limited political experience.

So, Barack has attracted the curious, selling out halls in a rock-star fashion, eliciting the "run-Barack-run" chant heard then Rev. Jesse Jackson was also making up his mind about getting into the race for president in 1984. But this chant is not coming from Blacks. Therein is the difference. Race and politics are in this equation, covered up right now by the hype, but positioned to bolt to the surface at

the right moment. That is why the savvy Obama began his speech in New Hampshire recently saying that he was "suspicious of the hype."

Obama is as aware of any one of the lingering fictitiousness of public opinion polls when it comes to assessing White support for Black candidates. When Tom Bradley, the Black mayor of Los Angeles, barely lost a race for governor in 1982, a pattern was observed: he received high poll numbers, but a low final vote from Whites. The same thing happened to David Dinkins when he ran for mayor of New York City, and Doug Wilder when he ran for governor of Virginia, creating a belief among analysts that the true level of support by White voters for Black candidates is much less than believed.

What political scientists know is that context is important in judging White support for Blacks. This was seen in the recent election where Deval Patrick was elected governor of Massachusetts, an overwhelmingly white state. But in the background, as in every state, was an explosive vote against the current administration, amounting to more than 60 percent in some national polls, for its handling of the war in Iraq. Context may also configure the politics of 2008.

In my most recent book, *Freedom Is Not Enough*, I create a "Jackson Model" for Black candidates running for president and compare it to the campaigns of Carol Moseley Braun and Rev. Al Sharpton in the 2004 elections. But there is a distinct difference when Black candidates runs from a progressive base of Black, women, low-income, civil-rights challenged, etc. voters or whether he or she positions the campaign toward a moderate electorate. As a poten-

tial candidate already favored by the White mainstream and running second in polls to Hilary Clinton at this writing, the prospect is great that Obama would run toward the main body of the electorate that is to the right of Blacks.

This raises the question of where his base will be. He may well attract Black voters as a base, who will give him some issue slack because of the view that he may just be the first genuine Black candidate to win the presidency. But there is great resentment among some Blacks over the rightward drift of the Democratic Party, and if he adds to that, he could be in trouble with Black voters.

I think that Barack Obama should run for president, especially since he doesn't loose politically. Even if he loses the nomination fight, it heightens his leadership profile in national politics and virtually ensures his Senate re-election in 2010. Right now, Obama's true political value is unknown because of the curiosity factor. In the 2000 election, Alan Keyes, Obama's 2004 opponent for his Senate seat in Illinois, drew large crowds to hear him speak, but few he attracted few votes. Separating the entertainment factor from a political judgment may well be Obama's most trying chore in making up his mind. Of course, if he finds a creative way to use it, that will be all to the good.

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

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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





## American Achievement Corp. Partners With TSTC Waco For A \$1,029,159 Job-Training Grant

The Capital Area, Dallas and Upper Rio Grande area workforces will benefit from a \$1,029,159 job-training grant that the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) administers. American Achievement Corp., which has facilities in Austin, Dallas and El Paso, has partnered with Texas State Technical College (TSTC) Waco for the grant.

The grant will be used to

create and upgrade more than 1,400 engineering, IT technician, supervisor, clerk, administration and manager jobs, among others. Upon completion of training, workers will earn average hourly wages between \$10 and \$17.72.

"Our Skills Development Fund grants serve everyone well," said Commissioner Representing Labor Ronny Congleton. "Workers get the

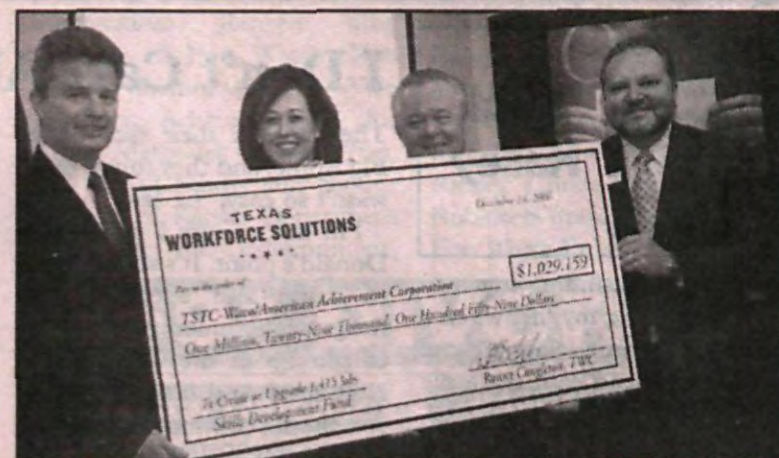
specialized training they need to fill jobs that already exist, and the community benefits from a more highly skilled workforce."

In Fiscal Year 2005, Skills Development Fund grants created or upgraded 12,247 jobs. The jobs paid an average hourly wage of \$17.01. The grants totaled \$8.6 million and assisted 95 Texas employers with their customized training

needs. The Legislature has appropriated \$40.4 million to the Skills Development Fund for the 2006-07 biennium.

Employers seeking more information about the Skills Development Fund may visit the TWC Web site at [www.tx-asworkforce.org](http://www.tx-asworkforce.org).

American Achievement Corp. contact: Ann Broome at (512) 440-2468 or [ann.broome@cbi-rings.com](mailto:ann.broome@cbi-rings.com)



In this photo released by the Texas Workforce Commission, Commissioner Ronny Congleton, third from left, presents a Skills Development Grant check for \$1,029,159 to American Achievement Corp. CEO Don Perenti, far left, Austin Chamber of Commerce General Manager Susan Davenport, second from left, and TSTC President Elton E. Stucky, Jr., far right. (Texas Workforce Commission Photo/Helena Putnam)

## Small Business Development Center Names Winner In Business Plan Competition

Brian Gresham, a Collin County entrepreneur, has won the New Venture Award in the North Texas Business Plan Competition hosted by the International Small Business Development Center (SBDC) in Dallas.

He beat out 19 other companies to win the award, which comes with a prize package that includes \$1,000 of seed money. The package also includes software, a subscription to the

Dallas Business Journal and a website starter package.

Gresham is opening a franchised gaming company called Play N Trade. Play N Trade is a store where gamers can buy new and used video games and DVDs.

"We were delighted to work with Brian on his business plan," Collin SBDC Director Lynn Ellis said. "Every day, Collin SBDC provides state-of-the-art business plan consulting to max-

imize the potential for every business idea. We take pride in guiding our clients to be as successful as they can be."

Gresham is a client of the Collin SBDC, and counselor Mike Daley assisted him in preparing his business plan for the Dallas competition. The Collin SBDC is a partnership between the U.S. Small Business Administration, the State of Texas, and Collin County Community College

District. Through this partnership, one-on-one, confidential consulting is provided at no charge. No cost workshops and seminars are scheduled on topics that are essential to business success.

For more information, call Ellis at 972.985.3770.

Collin County Community College District (Collin) serves more than 41,000 credit and continuing education students annually and offers more than

100 degree and certificate programs. The only public college in the county, Collin is a partner to business, government and industry, providing customized training and work force development.

## Which Of These Fastest Growing Careers Is Right For You?

You've had enough of your job. It's time to reach higher, earn more and be fulfilled in your profession. Lucky for you, some of the fastest growing jobs offer excitement, prosperity and the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of others. Acquire the knowledge and skills in high demand in these industries, and you'll be a degree closer to making your dreams a reality.

**Which field most captivates you?**

### Education

With about one in four Americans enrolled in educational institutions, educational services is the second largest industry, accounting for about 12.7 million jobs. Most teaching positions -- which constitute almost half of all educational services jobs -- require at least a bachelor's degree. Some require a master's or doctoral degree, which can also be obtained online or in a traditional program.

### Nursing

It's time to help others and help yourself by exploring a career in health care, specifically nursing. With almost 500,000 health care establish-

ments across the country, professionals who can fuse human compassion with advanced medical technology are in great demand. From cleansing a child's scraped knee and caring for the terminally ill to working side by side with doctors and surgeons, professionals like yourself work hard to improve



the lives of those around them and are recognized accordingly. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, nursing is among the top 10 occupations with the largest estimated job growth. Choosing an educational program that fits your life is an excellent prescription for advancement in this flourishing industry.

### Information Technology

If you're driven by the digital

world, why not capitalize on your cyber-savviness? With fast-growing fields such as Web design and development, systems engineers, and database management, you can connect to a career opportunity that is exciting, cutting-edge and creative.

One stepping stone to an IT degree that many are taking advantage of is certificate programs. In fact, computer systems design and related services industry is cited by the Bureau of Labor Statistics as one of the top 10 fastest growing industries in the economy, adding more than 600,000 jobs between 2002 and 2012.

### Business

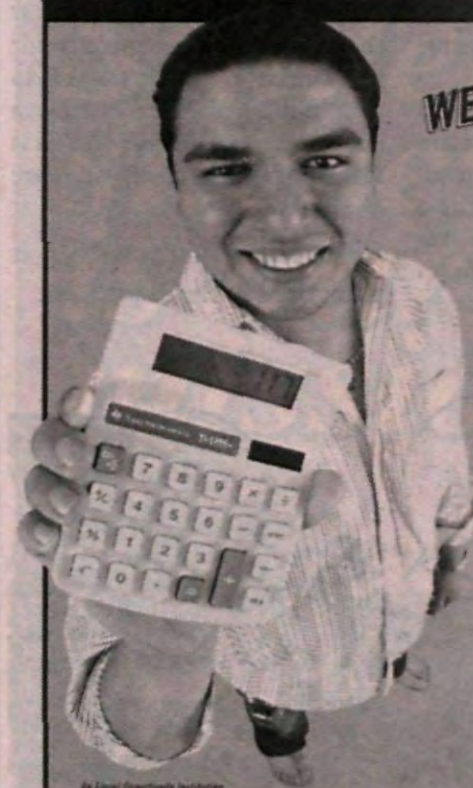
If you're intrigued by all things business -- yes, even beyond 'The Apprentice' -- it's time to make your corporate mark. Power your pursuits with a degree; advanced study is especially impressive in the boardroom of any business. MBA earners are consistently courted by corporate bigwigs, and with some programs offered entirely online, there are more options from which to choose. You can specialize in areas such as accounting, project management, marketing and more.



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## Emmitt Smith Eyeing Fort Worth RE Projects

Smith/Cypress Partners, a real estate development company that's majority owned by former Dallas Cowboys running back Emmitt Smith, is planning its first projects in North Texas.

Smith says Smith/Cypress — a joint venture he formed last year with Cypress Equities, an affiliate of Dallas-based Staubach Retail — is considering two shopping center developments in Fort Worth.

One would be on about 64

acres of raw land in North Fort Worth off Interstate 35W, just south of Texas Motor Speedway. "We've already agreed on the letter of intent, and we're actually working on the contract now," Smith told the Dallas Business Journal at a Dallas charity event Tuesday night.

The company's second potential project is in Southeast Fort Worth. "We have a letter of intent that's been traded over and back and forth, and we're just waiting

on the final OK," Smith said.



"We're going to sign it and go from

there, and then I'll let you know exactly where that site is."

One of the centers would involve 500,000 to 600,000 square feet of retail space, Smith said — at least twice the size of Smith/Cypress' first and only shopping-center project to date, in Phoenix. That 239,000-square-foot center has Mervyn's signed as the anchor tenant and ground leases

in place for many of the pad sites, Smith said.

Smith/Cypress is continuing to evaluate other development projects as well, Smith said. "We have opportunities not only here but also in Phoenix. I'm looking at some other projects that have come up out there in Phoenix," he said. "In fact, I was out there (Monday) looking at a 93-acre parcel. We're looking at some big tracts."

Smith, who is pro football's

all-time leading rusher, recently gained stardom in a new field when he and dance-partner Cheryl Burke won ABC-TV's "Dancing with the Stars" competition. Smith/Cypress hasn't formulated a plan to leverage that success into new development business, Smith said, but it's thinking about it. "I'd like to think in the back of my mind that it has a major benefit, but we have yet to see it thus far," he said.

## How To Buy A Home With Bad Credit

By: Steve Gillman

The worst thing about buying a home with bad credit isn't that it is that difficult. It is the fees and interest rates you'll have to pay for your home mortgage loan. Use the following techniques to repair that credit so that you can lower the rates you'll pay. If you don't have the time to do that, see part two for some other options.

If you have the time to do it, you can fix that bad credit, at least a little. This will not only make it easier to find a lender, but also get you a lower rate. Pay 2% less on that mortgage loan interest rate and you'll save more than \$70,000 in interest over the years (based on a 30-year \$140,000 loan). Here are some ways to fix that bad credit report.

First, see what's on it. To get access for free online, try a search for "free credit report." If you are denied credit based on a report from a local credit reporting agency, you can request a free credit report from that agency within 30 days. How do you fix what you see on the report?

If there is anything to dispute in the report, write a letter to the agency. Explain exactly what is incorrect, and they must investigate. Send copies of cancelled checks or any other documentation by certified mail.



The agency has to (by law) contact the source of the disputed information. If they don't receive confirmation of the debt within 14 days, they have to delete the item, and send you an updated report. You can also demand that they send a corrected report to all creditors who received your credit report in the previous six months. This won't be done automatically, so be

Longer-term, there are other

things you can do to fix your bad credit. Stop charging things on credit cards. Don't have more than five credit cards. Keep balances to less than half the limits on the cards, even if this means transferring debt from one card to another. Stop making your credit score worse, and time alone will help (many items will be removed after seven years).

Buying a home with bad credit doesn't mean you have to accept the high interest rates and fees of sub-prime lenders. You can buy a house in other ways. Here are some of them.

- Seller financing. Some sellers are willing to provide the financing for you to buy their home. Whether in the form of a "contract for sale" or an owner-carried mortgage, you may be able to make payments to the seller instead of the bank - and with no lending fees and lower interest.

- Lease option. If down payment is an issue, look for sellers willing to lease their house to you with an option to buy. Be sure that a portion of the lease payment applies towards the down payment for the home, and that you have enough time to prepare for the purchase. If,

for example, only \$200 of the rent applies towards the down payment, after two years you'll have just a \$4,800 credit. Will that be enough? Will two years be enough time to correct your credit and save any additional money you'll need?

- Reconsider your "bad credit." Limited income or a new job isn't the same as a bad credit score. Most banks won't even look at the income from your new business, for example, making it seem impossible for new business owners to get a loan. However, these days, banks really look at your credit score. If it is decent, you can get "no doc loans," which require no documentation of income.

You don't even need a job for these loans. A decent credit score - and nothing else - can get you up to 95% financing at many places now. Of course, depending on the credit score, the interest rate can be anywhere from 1/2% to 4% higher than conventional loans. Consider paying even higher interest to get a loan without fees if you will be able to refinance at a lower rate in the next year (perhaps once your new business hits that

2-year mark that bankers like to see).

Fortunately, buying a home

with bad credit or even with no provable income, has become easier than ever.

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## IRS Agrees To Give Back Phone Tax Collected In The Past Three Years

When it comes time to prepare and file your tax return, make sure you don't overlook the "federal excise tax refund credit." You claim the credit on line 71 of your form 1040. A similar line will be available if you file the short form 1040A. If you have family or friends who no longer file a tax return and they have their own land phone in their home and have been paying a phone bill for years, make sure they know about this form 1040EZ-T.

"I would encourage everyone to take advantage of this, especially since all you have to do is fill out the line, you don't have to have any documentation or anything," said Bettina Biere, a CPA and tax preparer.

What is this all about? The federal excise tax has been

charge to you on your phone bill for years. It is an old tax that was assessed on your toll calls based on how far the call was being made and how much time you talked on that call. When phone companies began to offer flat fee phone service, challenges to the excise tax ended up in federal courts in several districts of the country. The challenges pointed out that flat fee/rate phone service had nothing to do with the distance and the length of the phone call. Therefore, the excise tax should/could not be assessed.

The IRS has now conceded this argument. Phone companies were given notice to stop assessing the federal excise tax as of Aug. 30. But the challengers of the old law also demanded restitution.

So the IRS has announced that

a one-time credit will be available.

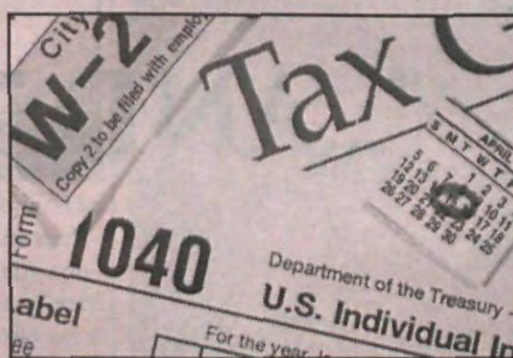
Here's how it works. If you file your return as a single person with just you as a dependent, you get to claim a \$30 credit on line 71 of your 1040.

If you file with a child or a parent as your dependent, you claim \$40. If you file your return as a married couple with no children, you claim \$40.

If you file as married with children, you claim \$50 if one child, \$60 if two children.

The most you can claim is \$60 - unless you have all your phone bills from Feb. 28, 2003 through July 31, 2006, in which case, you can add up the actual tax as it

appears on your bills. Biere doesn't recommend that approach. The difference probably won't be worth the work and in addition, you can't use line 71 on your tax return. You have to complete an additional form (number 8913)



and attach it to your return.

And remember, this is a credit, not a deduction, so the money will be part of your refund or go toward your tax bill.

## EEOC Settles Suit Against Dallas Store

The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission announced that it has settled its sexual harassment lawsuit against a Dallas dollar store.

The suit charged that the manager at "Only \$1" on Buckner Boulevard in Dallas harassed cashier and stocker Rosa Morales by "sexual grop-

ings and touchings, repeated propositioning and lewd displays." The company did not have a procedure for addressing allegations of discrimination, according to the EEOC. The suit also charged that Simran Investments, the company that owned and operated the store, fired Morales for complaining

about the misconduct.

The store is no longer in operation.

Under the consent decree settling the suit, the company has agreed to pay Morales \$20,000 and to undertake corrective measures, should it resume business, including training all personnel regarding the law

against sexual harassment and retaliation, and initiating an anti-sexual harassment policy and complaint procedure. The company also agreed to inform employees of the law and to whom they can complain if they believe they have experienced discriminatory or retaliatory treatment on the job.

## TV One Fastest Growing Network In 2006

Black network in almost 40 million homes

By: Alexis McCombs

TV One, the African American network venture of Radio One was named the fastest growing channel by percentage on cable according to preliminary Nielsen Media Research estimates.

Launched in January 2004, TV One grew by 39% from December 2005 to December 2006, and can now be seen in 33.8 million households.

"This is a promising start for any new cable network," says Mike Paxton, senior analyst with In-Stat, a market research firm.

More established programmers reach between 70 million to 90 million of the 111 million television households that exist in the U.S., he says.

The network has distribution deals with primary investors Comcast Corp. and DirecTV as well as carriage on eight of the top 10 cable and satellite systems including Time Warner, Charter, and Cox.

"We effectively argued how important TV is to the lives of African Americans, the strength of our buying power, and the need for blacks to have numerous [viewing] choices just as other groups do," says TV One

President and CEO Jonathan Rodgers.

In November, TV One had its highest-rated program to date with a 0.8 share from the airing of television premiere of the film Preaching to the Choir, which features Adewale Akinnuoye-Agbaje of Lost and Tichina Arnold of Everybody Hates Chris. "We understand our audience and select programming that allows African Americans to see themselves in a nonnegative light," says Rodgers.

Over the past year, this philosophy was communicated in TV One's transit and outdoor marketing campaign that used the

tagline: "I See Black People Living, Loving, Laughing." Shows on the network include Bill Bellamy's Who's Got Jokes and reruns of popular sitcoms including Martin and Good Times.

The key for TV One will be to "prove they can add value to a line-up" and to "cut a deal that is financially attractive," Paxton says. Because News Corp. owns TV One's equity holder, DirecTV and the Fox Channels, a third alternative is to present the network in a bundle package, which requires a carrier to pick up one channel if they want the older, more recognizable ones, he says.



# The Competitive Advantage To Being Black

**How your ethnicity can advance your career.**

By: Sonia Alleyne

Although "diversity" has become the hottest buzzword in business, with an increasing number of corporations making "Best Practices" lists, many black employees in corporate America seem unimpressed with the accolades extolled on their organizations. Even chief diversity officers have confessed that in some organizations employees see them as little more than public relations vehicles for the company. So who actually benefits from diversity? The New York City executive responds, "The corporations — easily."

"Sometimes we worry about being hired just because we're

African American," explains Sharon Hall, a managing director for the executive search firm SpencerStuart in Atlanta. "I would encourage us not to



worry about why you're hired, because the only reason you'll be allowed to stay is if you're doing a good job. So, whatever gets

you a leg in the door is worth it.

Race is just one attribute that can be used to someone's benefit, says Joe Watson, CEO of StrategicHire, a Virginia-based diversity consulting firm.

"It used to be that being African American was always a disadvantage. That has shifted. You still have to deliver results, and expect to deliver at a higher level. You still have to know that your mistakes will be magnified relative to the mistakes of others. You still must be vigilant in your social interactions in the workplace," Watson says. "But if you are all those things, then for the first time in a long, long

time, your ethnicity will be your advantage."

Experts agree that the psychological weight black profession-

al's carry about how they are perceived in an organization is probably the biggest obstacle to why many don't use ethnicity to their advantage. Here are several ways it can be leveraged:

Stop hiding it on your resumé. "We were trained at one time to sanitize our biographies, to remove any trace of ethnicity for fear that we would be removed from the process," says Watson. But today, your resumé should provide a full and total picture of who you are and what you represent. "If you're a member of a certain sorority or fraternity, list it. If you are the president of the black student union, list it. Don't make it hard for people to find you. You can assist recruiters by self-identifying."

Don't be a silent participant. Roldan says many minorities walk into an organization feeling disadvantaged, wondering how

they will be treated and regarded, and underestimating the wealth of knowledge and experience they offer simply because of who they are ethnically and culturally. They should not be afraid to engage colleagues in cultural issues, topics, and concerns that relate to clients, customers, or new markets, or even to further the diversity efforts of the company by mentoring other blacks and bringing in people of color, says Roldan. Watson concurs: "If somebody is from the West Coast and the company is looking at expanding to the West Coast, they usually look at that person and ask 'What do you think?' It's only around race where we don't do that. So people need to stop moving away from providing their expertise relative to markets that they know intimately for fear of being typecast or

pigeonholed as 'the black person.'"

Learn the culture. "We have to understand the rules of a corporation, the rules of engagement, early on," explains Roldan. "Those who have been successful have been able to retain their own identity and learn how to play within the confines of that specific corporate entity — and each corporation is different." Knowing the culture helps employees clearly determine the expectations and values, as well as how to form the most beneficial alliances and how to get recognized for accomplishments. "You have to know corporate politics," continues Roldan. "So if you're a high performer, [you know how] to go about tooting your own horn or have others toot it for you."

## DFW Market Improves For Finance Professionals

Eight percent of Dallas-Fort Worth area chief financial officers expect to hire accounting and finance professionals in the first quarter of 2007, according to the most recent Robert Half International Financial Hiring Index.

According to the survey, 4 percent of area CFOs expect personnel reductions.

"Continued hiring, driven by

business expansion, rising workloads and ongoing compliance initiatives, has created a tight labor market for skilled accounting and finance professionals," said Max Messmer, chairman and CEO of Robert Half International.

The local results reflect a two-quarter rolling average based on the responses of 200 CFOs in the Dallas-Fort Worth area with 20 or more employees.

Reparation Claims Page 1

victims," the court said. It said statutes of limitations could be extended in some cases but not for acts committed 100 years ago.

The panel also said the descendants lacked standing to sue because their links to the slaves were distant.

It said the "causal chain is too long and has too many weak links for a court to be able to find that the defendants' conduct harmed the plaintiffs at all, let alone in an amount that could be estimated without the wildest speculation."

The lawsuit was a consolidation of 10 suits filed around the country and moved to Chicago. Slave descendants claim that big American corporations — including such Wall Street giants as JP Morgan Chase & Co., Aetna Inc. and Bank of America — profited from slavery and should pay. It says the companies insured and transported slaves and even issued loans to slaveholders so they could buy slaves.

U.S. District Judge Charles R. Norgle Sr. had dismissed all the claims. He found that the descendants lacked standing and that the statute of limita-

tions had expired, and that the issue was political and shouldn't be worked out in a court.

While largely upholding Norgle's decision, the appeals court kept alive the consumer protection claims.

Descendants claim they have been injured by buying products from companies that concealed the fact that they or their predecessor companies somehow benefited from slavery.

In allowing the consumer-protection claims, the appeals court said it knew of no law saying a seller has "a general duty to disclose every discreditable fact about himself." But it added that sellers who misrepresent a product, fearing the loss of buyers who would object to it, are guilty of fraud.

Bruce Afran, an attorney for the descendants, said that "we have a very fair chance of prevailing" on the fraud claims.

He said some banks had filed false information with regulators that could be used as evidence in arguing they were guilty of consumer fraud.

Defense attorney Owen C. Pell did not return a message left at his office. Defense attorney Alan S. Madans declined to comment.

FEMA Vows Aid Soon Page 1

Center in Virginia.

Leon agreed and thanked agency workers for their efforts.

"There's no question that FEMA's been working and working hard. Frankly, the court is very pleased," he said.

But Leon pressed FEMA's James Walke to finish by today the work that he originally said would take until Friday to get the program going again.

The judge told Walke to give Texas officials 24 hours to confirm that they will help distribute the housing aid. He scheduled a conference call for Wednesday afternoon to check the status of Walke's work.

FEMA is appealing Leon's ruling to the U.S. District Court of Appeals, asking the court to place Leon's order on hold until the case is resolved.

The higher court could rule as early as this week. If it sides with FEMA, the agency could be in the position of restarting the housing program under Leon's order and then telling Texas officials to halt it again.

Even if the appeals court upholds Leon's order, FEMA must make payments to the evacuees only until the agency

informs them of why their aid was cut off and the evacuees have a chance to appeal. If the evacuees cannot prove they qualify for the aid, it would again be discontinued.

FEMA, which last week estimated that the order would cover 5,479 families in Texas, now puts the number at roughly 4,200, in part because hundreds of families whose assistance was terminated in August have since been reinstated.

FEMA's chief financial officer, Margaret Young, also testified Monday that the agency may not be able to comply with Leon's order that it make retroactive payments to cover the three months that families were denied aid this fall.

Those payments, which would amount to about \$2,250 per family and would total about \$10 million overall, cannot legally be paid directly to evacuees, Young said. Nor could local or state governments be reimbursed by the federal government for rental assistance they did not provide, she said.

If FEMA can't figure out a way to retroactively pay the evacuees, the judge said, perhaps Congress could act to get them the money.

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## Will Smith's 'Pursuit' Pays Off

Not even a dragon or the world's most-beloved spider could deny Will Smith another first-place finish at the box office.

Sony's father-son drama "The Pursuit of Happyness," starring Smith and his own son, Jaden Christopher Syre Smith, debuted as the No. 1 movie with \$27 million, according to studio estimates Sunday.

Smith's latest topped 20th Century Fox's dragon fantasy "Eragon," which opened in second place with \$23.45 million, and Paramount's children's tale "Charlotte's Web," which premiered a distant third with \$12 million. (Watch Smith describe working with his own son.)

The previous weekend's No. 1 movie, Mel Gibson's Mayan saga "Apocalypto," fell to sixth place with \$7.7 million, raising its 10-day total to \$27.9 million.

The story of a struggling dad who becomes homeless along with his young son, "Pursuit of Happyness" joins a long line of No. 1 openings for Smith, including the action tales "Independence Day" and "I, Robot." (Source of "Happyness" is now a millionaire.)

"Audiences around the world love him," said Rory Bruer, head of distribution at Sony, whose past hits with Smith include the "Men in Black" flicks and last year's romantic comedy "Hitch."

"Everyone who sees Will Smith or meets Will Smith feels like he could be their best friend," Bruer said. "He has that type of charisma that resonates throughout whatever room he's in."

Combining live action and computer animation, "Charlotte's Web" had a soft opening despite an all-star voice cast including Julia Roberts,



Robert Redford and Oprah Winfrey in E.B. White's classic about a spider that befriends a lonely pig.

Don Harris, executive vice president of distribution at Paramount, said the studio hopes "Charlotte's Web" will follow the pattern of other pre-Christmas family releases such as "Stuart Little" and "The Prince of Egypt," which opened in the same range but held on through the holidays to become hits.

"The movie has every chance to get to \$100 million off of this opening," Harris said.

Paramount's musical "Dreamgirls," starring Jamie Foxx, Beyoncé Knowles, Eddie Murphy and Jennifer Hudson in an adaptation of the stage hit,

opened to big numbers at three theaters in New York, Los Angeles and San Francisco.

Premiering with reserved seating and special programs at a premium ticket price of \$25, the film took in \$360,000, a healthy start to its nationwide release on Christmas.

George Clooney and Steven Soderbergh's latest collaboration, "The Good German," debuted solidly with \$78,572 at five theaters. Clooney stars with Cate Blanchett and Tobey Maguire in a black-and-white tale of murder and intrigue in Berlin just after World War II.

Overall business was off, with the top 12 movies taking in \$112.3 million, down 8.3 percent compared to the same weekend last year, when two blockbusters -- "King Kong" and "The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe" -- were Nos. 1 and 2.

This weekend's holdover films retained strong audiences, though, a sign that many current movies may have a long shelf life, said Paul Dergarabedian, president of box-office tracker Media By Numbers.

"It's hard to say this is a positive thing that this is a down weekend. But the strength of this weekend has been the holdovers," Dergarabedian said. "There is a lot of depth to the marketplace. It's a direct reflection of audience satisfaction. That's more important I think than beating last year's competition."

American dream, but at the same time you can't let money run you."

Nas closes Hip Hop Is Dead



with a song called Hope. He recognizes that despite its artistic flaws, the commercially successful music still holds plenty of promise. "It's too good of a thing not to be saved," he says. "That's one thing about rap. It's conversations about reality, and as long as there is reality, there is going to be rap."

## There's Oscar Buzz About Ex-"Idol" Jennifer Hudson

By: Nekesa Mumbi Moody  
Last year, Jennifer Hudson's options were running out.



Jennifer Hudson arrives at last Monday's premiere of "Dreamgirls." The musical also stars Jamie Foxx and Beyoncé.

Her 15 minutes of "American Idol" fame were waning. She was without the recording contract she so desired. She had no manager to guide her. And she was spending her days in a recording studio with "random producers," singing songs for an audience yet to be determined.

Hudson began to think that her dreams of stardom might be fading -- and that she was wasting her time.

"I'm in there like, 'What's the point? Why am I even doing this? Who gonna hear it? Are they even going to care?'" Hudson remembers thinking.

"I just didn't give up," she says. "I knew it was something in store, but I just didn't know when."

It only took a few months for her to find out what that something would be: the pivotal role of the temperamental, tragic Effie White in the long-awaited movie production of the '80s Broadway musical "Dreamgirls," loosely based on Diana Ross and the Supremes.

Though the film stars heavyweights like Academy Award-winner Jamie Foxx, Eddie Murphy and Beyoncé, it's the 25-year-old Hudson, making her feature film debut, who has

become the movie's revelation, with a performance that's sparking Oscar talk.

"I can't believe my name is even mentioned in the same breath as that," Hudson says. "There's so much excitement going on but I just have to say, 'You know what? That's not here yet.' It's beautiful to hear these things ... [but] you don't want to get your hopes up too high."

Hudson had a similar attitude when she got the offer to audition for the role. She wasn't on a shortlist of candidates for Effie, but a very long one -- about 800 names long. Unknowns from across the nation vied for the opportunity to play the big-voiced, hefty lead singer who gets shunted aside for the petite, pretty backup.

She also had some competition -- her "American Idol" competition, Fantasia, who won the crown the year Hudson was kicked off by viewers.

But Hudson didn't let the pressure bother her. She hired an acting coach the moment she got the audition and practiced her lines every night with her boyfriend. She eventually won the filmmakers over -- and continued to do so once she landed the role.

When Condon told her she needed to bring out her inner witch to channel Effie's difficult side, she stopped being sweet Jennifer on the set and became a diva. When others would sing during rehearsals, she'd remain silent, because as Effie says: "I don't do backup."

More voluptuous than heavy, she also added considerable pounds to her 5-foot-9 frame for

the role. And when it came time to perfect the dance steps, Hudson worked overtime to get her act in Beyoncé-like form.

"That was the most challenging part for me across the board, hands down, because I'm not a dancer at all. I don't care how many times I do it, I will never get used to it."

But she hardly seems like she's struggling on screen. She not only holds her own with the big names, she overtakes them with her sassy, heartbreaking portrayal.

"She doesn't have any acting training," Condon says, "but she is as powerful and in touch with her emotions when she acts as when she sings."

Foxx was among those in awe of her performance -- Hudson remembers being pulled aside by the Oscar-winner and Murphy after the film was over and getting their seal of approval.

Foxx says, "I think she realized the opportunity of it. She realized if she gets this right, she had to know her life is going to change."

It already has -- Arista Records signed her to a recording contract. And though she became a TV star for a few months in the whirlwind of "Idol," she laughs heartily when asked if her initial brush with fame was much different from the current attention.

"On 'Idol,' I didn't have a personal makeup artist and a stylist and hairdresser and a publicist -- that makeup artist was 11 other people's makeup artist, OK?" she says. "Here, it's a whole new world, it's different. I mean, 'Idol' gave us a taste, a taste, a sample of it. This, I get the whole plate. I got a buffet!"

## Who Killed Hip-Hop? Nas Launches Investigation

By: Steve Jones

The way Nas sees it, the industry has sucked the life out of rap music with an overemphasis on moneymaking and thug imagery. He hopes his new Hip Hop Is Dead helps restore its dulled spirit.

"Everybody forgot the fun and the art of the game, so that now people don't know what it is anymore," Nas says. "We forgot that it's about more than just money."

Nas takes it upon himself to remind people of hip-hop's roots and point out money is now a stronger motivator than artistic integrity. His 1994 debut, Illmatic, which chronicled his life growing up in New York's Queensbridge projects, is considered by many the best rap album ever. Offerings such as 2001's Stillmatic and 2002's God's Son have ensured his street credibility has remained

intact. He remains one of hip-hop's most insightful thinkers and revered lyricists.

This album is his first for Def Jam, the record label now run by former rival Jay-Z. Their reconciliation after famously beefing for years and Nas' subsequent signing have made the album, which features Kanye West, Snoop Dogg, The Game and Nas' wife, R&B star Kelis, one of the year's most anticipated.

Their fiery social commentary, Black Republican, is just one of the highlights on a disc that finds Nas (Nasir Jones, 33) often waxing nostalgic about the days before rap became big business. He also seeks to inspire artists out of a collective rut. Nas has been criticized for glorifying the same bling he often rails against.

But he says there really is no contradiction: "You've got to enjoy your life and live the

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All Nations UMC  
3415 E. 14th  
Christmas Eve 6 pm  
December 31  
Watch Night 10:50 pm

**DALLAS**  
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5:00 pm\* with St. Paul UMC  
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Crest-Moore-King UMC  
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Dec. 24, Combined Service  
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**Owenwood Foundry UMC**  
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Dec. 24, 10:30 am  
Dec. 31, 8:00 pm

**Hamilton Park UMC**  
11881 Schroeder Rd.  
Christmas Eve 6:30 pm\*  
Dec. 31, 10:30 pm

**Highland Hills UMC**  
6006 Flagstaff at Simpson  
Christmas Day 10 am  
Dec. 31 • Watch Night  
10:00 pm • Midnight

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December 31  
Kwanza Feast 7:00 pm  
Watch Night 10:00 pm

**St. Paul UMC**  
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Christmas Eve Worship  
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5:00 pm  
Dec. 31 Watch Night  
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to January 1st.

Umoja (oo-MO-jah) Unity stresses the importance of togetherness for the family and the community, which is reflected in the African saying, "I am We," or "I am because We are."

Kujichagulia (koo-gee-chagoo-LEE-yah) Self-Determination requires that we define our common interests and make decisions that are in the best interest of our family and community.

Ujima (oo-GEE-mah) Collective Work and

Responsibility reminds us of our obligation to the past, present and future, and that we have a role to play in the community, society, and world.

Ujamaa (oo-JAH-mah) Cooperative economics emphasizes our collective economic strength and encourages us to meet common needs through mutual support.

Nia (NEE-yah) Purpose encourages us to look within ourselves and to set personal goals that are beneficial to the community.

Kuumba (koo-OOM-bah) Creativity makes use of our cre-

ative energies to build and maintain a strong and vibrant community.

Imani (ee-MAH-nee) Faith focuses on honoring the best of our traditions, draws upon the best in ourselves, and helps us strive for a higher level of life for humankind, by affirming our self-worth and confidence in our ability to succeed and triumph in righteous struggle.

Celebrating Kwanzaa As it is always better to get an early start, I suggest that you begin the first week in December by making a check list for the fol-

lowing items: A Kinara (candle holder); Mkeka (placemat preferably made of straw); Mazao (crops, i.e., fruits and vegetables); Vibunzi/Muhindi (ears of corn to reflect the number of children in the household); Kikombe cha umoja (communal unity cup); Mishumaa saba (seven candles, one black, three red, and three green); and Zawadi (gifts that are enriching).

It is important that the Kinara not be confused with the menorah.\* The Kinara holds seven candles to reflect the seven principles which are

the foundation of Kwanzaa. If you don't have a Kinara and don't know where to get one, it is suggested that you use "kuumba" (creativity) and make one. A 2x4 or a piece of driftwood will do just fine, and screw-in candle holders can be purchased in most hardware stores. The Mkeka (place mat) shouldn't present a problem. While straw is suggested because it is traditional, cloth makes an adequate substitute. If cloth is used, one with an African print is preferred. The other symbols are easy to come by and war-

rant no further discussion other than to caution against placing the Mazao (crops) in a cornucopia which is Western. A plain straw basket or a bowl will do just fine. One last note, even households without any children should place an ear of corn on the place mat to symbolize the African concept of social parenthood. All seven symbols are creatively placed on top of the place mat, i.e., the symbols should be attractively arranged as they form the Kwanzaa centerpiece.

#### Food Not Reaching Darfur Page 1

from reaching Darfur, said Kenro Oshidari, the Sudan director for the U.N. agency.

Janjaweed are not the only dangers. Three water engineers working with the U.N. Children's Fund were killed in June by refugees who thought they came to poison a well rather than fix it. Nine others were abducted in October and five are still being held, said UNICEF spokesman Edward Carwardine.

"Security is our most serious impediment throughout Darfur," he said.

The U.N. has called the Darfur conflict the world's worst humanitarian crisis. More than 200,000 people have been killed and more than 2.5 million driven from their homes in the three-year fight between the government and ethnic African rebels. The government is accused of unleashing the janjaweed to help put down the revolt, and the militia is accused of widespread atrocities against civilians.

The U.N. Human Rights Council held an emergency meeting Tuesday in Geneva to assess just how bad the crisis has become in Darfur.

"Food security is one of the most basic human rights, and it's constantly being challenged in Darfur," said Oshidari.

The WFP is the sole source of food for some 1.8 million people in Darfur, who without the U.N.'s help would starve because they fear marauding militias will kill or rape them if they leave the refugee camps to cultivate their fields. The WFP provides part of the dietary needs for nearly a million more people.

But it now cannot reach some 100,000 others -- a number that fluctuates widely as lines of combat change -- who are in desperate need, leaving them to rely on their own resources to find food. A few months ago, as many as 470,000 people were out of reach.

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Nearly 1 million tons of food have been delivered to Darfur, at a cost of more than \$1 billion dollars since April 2004. Some 15,000 Sudanese and international aid workers have been mobilized for the effort, which has created the longest supply line in Africa, with trucks going 1,800 miles -- a third on unpaved roads -- from a Red Sea port to the West Darfur town of El Geneina near the Chadian border.

WFP officials say they have brought the malnutrition rate below emergency levels in Darfur since 2005.

But two years ago, the WFP could freely access all of Darfur, a vast, landlocked region of western Sudan that is nearly the size of Texas.

"Now we have to fly by helicopter" to many locations

because of dangerous roads, Oshidari said.

The magnitude of the relief can be measured at the WFP's transit warehouse, a set of industrial-sized buildings on the outskirts of Khartoum.

Early Tuesday morning, workers busily unloaded 100 pound bags of rice from massive trailer trucks, each of which can carry more than 80 tons of food. The supplies were to be put on smaller trucks that can navigate the unpaved roads out to Darfur.

"Today isn't a busy day, we only have 1,000 tons to handle," said Lemma Bayissa, a WFP logistician. "At times, we've had to work until midnight to get all the bags through," he said, pointing at the sacks from the US Agency for International Development -- which provides

half of the food for Darfur.

Aid agencies warn yet another peril could be looming: donor fatigue.

The WFP had to reduce food rations this year because it was

lacking cash. Though Oshidari is confident international donors will provide most of the \$685 million needed for 2007, he wonders what will come next.

He fears the crisis could just

drag on, with aid workers in Darfur barely helping people survive.

"A political solution has to be found," he said. "Or donors will tire."

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**Certified Firefighter/Paramedic:** Annual Salary: \$46,334, Closing Date: 01/26/2007. MQ's: Certified Firefighter/Paramedic or Certified Firefighter currently attending paramedic school. Be at least 18 years of age by the date of the written examination. Be a high school graduate or have obtained a G.E.D. Be subjected to a search of records to disclose a criminal record. Have no felony convictions, or misdemeanor convictions of such a number that would indicate a habitual law violator. Possess a valid driver's license with good driving record as defined by City policy. Have visual acuity needed to discern traffic signs and house numbers from approximately 50 feet, often in dim light. Be able to distinguish between the colors red, yellow, and green. Special Requirements: Must pass written test. **Test Date: Friday, February 2, 2007 and Saturday, February 3, 2007, Test Time: 9:00 a.m.** Test Site: Lewisville Church of Christ at 901 College Parkway.

APPLY: On line at: www.cityoflewisville.com or at Human Resources Department; 151 W. Church/P.O. Box 299002 Lewisville, TX 75029-9002; (972) 219-3450 Job Line: (972) 219-5000 code 1346; Fax: (972) 219-5005

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

**Bombero Certificado/Paramedico:** Sueldo Anual \$46,334 Se cierra el: 01/26/07. MQ: Bombero Certificado/Paramedico o Bombero Certificado actualmente atendiendo la escuela de paramedicos. Tiene que tener 18 años de edad para la fecha del examen escrito. Ser graduado de secundaria (High School) o haber obtenido un G.E.D. Sera sugetado a una investigacion de expedientes para divulgar antecedentes penales. No tener ninguna conviccion de crimen, o convicciones de delito menor de tal numero que indicaria ser un violador habitual de la ley. Poseer una licencia de conductor valida con buen expediente de conductor segun definido por la poliza de la Ciudad. Tener una vision buena que se necesita para distinguir senales de trafico y numeros de casa de aproximadamente 50 pies. Distinguir entre los colores rojo, amarillo, y verde. **Requisitos Especiales: Debe pasar la prueba escrita. La prueba es el: 02/02/2007 and 02/03/2007, a las: 9:00 A.M.** El sitio: Iglesia de Cristo de Lewisville at 901 College Parkway.

APLIQUE: En el internet: www.cityoflewisville.com o en el Departamento de los Recursos Humanos 151 W. Church/P.O. Box 299002 Lewisville, TX 75029-9002; (972) 219-3450 Job Line: (972) 219-5000 code 1346; Fax: (972) 219-5005

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER



## Church News



### Sister Tarpley

December 25th is the official birth of Jesus, our Lord and Savior in the United States. Do you really know HIM?

HE is the: **Salt of the Earth**, Matthew 5:13; **Light of the World**, Matthew 5:14; **Son of GOD**, John 1:12; **True Vine**, John 15:1, 5; **Righteous and Holy**, Ephesians 4:24; He was tempted by the devil, just as we are, Hebrews 5:15.

HE is King of the Jews and Israel; King of the Heavens; King of Kings; King of Glory; King of all Ages; King of Righteousness; and Sovereign King. Jesus is a friend to all; HE is the Beginning and the End. He heals the sick; He is the key to knowledge; HE is strong and powerful; He defends the feeble. HIS yoke is easy and HIS burdens are light. There is no fault in HIM. HE is the doorway to deliverance; the Highway to Heaven. HIS mercy is everlasting. He is the Savior of Mankind; HE is the centerpiece of civilization and HE cares for you!

**TRUST:** Due to a heavy fog, a pilot was experiencing difficulty in landing. The Traffic Controller decided to bring him in by radar. As he begins to receive directions for landing, he remembered a tall pole in the flight path, in panic, he appealed to the control tower. The reply was blunt, "You obey instructions, and we'll take care of

## Happy Birthday Jesus!

obstructions!" Do you hesitate to obey God's Word because of problems and difficulties? HE is more than able, capable and willing to deal with your problems and difficulties, give them to HIM!

**Something to ponder: I WAS DRUGGED** - A friend read that a methadone lab had been found in an adjoining county; and asked this question, "Why didn't we



**Picture of The Week**  
Mr. & Mrs. Henry (Nicolia) Bryant, Jr., Financial Advisor at MetLife at Hill Chapel's Luncheon & Fashion Show at Gleneagles Country Club in Plano

have a huge drug problem when we were growing up?" After thinking about it for a few moments I realized that most of us did have a very serious "DRUG" problem growing up.

We were "DRUG" to church every Sunday morning and Wednesday nights. We were "DRUG" to church for weddings and funerals. We were "DRUG" to family gatherings, PTA meeting, and community socials no matter the weather.

We were "DRUG" by our ears when we were disrespectful to adults. We were "DRUG" to the woodshed when we disobeyed our

parents, told a lie, brought home a bad report card, did not speak with respect, spoke ill of the teacher or the preacher, or if we didn't put forth our best effort in everything that was asked of us.

We were "DRUG" to the kitchen sink to have our mouths washed out with soap if we uttered a profane four-letter word. We were "DRUG" out to pull weeds in Mom's garden and flower beds and to mow Dad's grass.

We were "DRUG" to homes of family, friends, and neighbors to help some poor soul who had no one to mow the yard, repair the clothesline, or chop some firewood; and, if our parents had known that we took a single dime as a tip for this kindness, they would have "DRUG" us back to the woodshed and made us apologize.

Oh, by the way, those "DRUGS" are still in our veins; they still affect our behavior in everything we do, say, and think. They are stronger than cocaine, crack, or heroin. If today's children had this kind of "DRUG" problem, while growing up, America would probably be a better place! Author Unknown

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."

2,500 t-shirts, which will be worn by volunteers participating in this year's Great American Cleanup™ on April 14.

The 2007 Great American Cleanup™, sponsored by Keep Plano Beautiful, celebrates its 22nd year in keeping Plano cleaner and greener. The event represents the largest citywide

cleanup initiative of the year and depends on volunteers to collaborate in picking up litter. Areas of emphasis include roadways, neighborhoods, creeks, parks, and playgrounds. Working cooperatively instills a shared sense of responsibility in keeping Plano a clean and healthy community.

## Church Happenings

### COALITION OF CHURCHES IN PRISON MINISTRY

On-Going Mentor Program

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

For more information, donations, and volunteering, please call Carolyn Johnson @ 972-235-6432.

Coalition of Churches  
In Prison Ministry  
Rev. Isaac Johnson,  
Coordinator  
P. O. Box 225863  
Dallas, TX 75222-5863  
972-235-6432 or 214-632-6519

### FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH OF ALLEN

January 7, 8:30 am and 11:00 am

We welcome you to join us at one of two worship services, starting the first Sunday in 2007 for our new Sunday Worship hours.

January 26, 7 pm

Women Justified By Faith presents, "Holy Women of God" at our 3rd Annual Women's Conference. Our first guest speaker will be Rev. Marilyn Price, Pastor of God's Refuge Church in Dallas.

January 27, 9 am to 1 pm

You will be pleased and spiritually fed as we honor GOD with a Praise Dance by Sister Brittany Thomas from Little Bethel Baptist Church. Rev. Lisa Autry, Co-Founder of Eirene Christian Fellowship in Richardson, TX, will speak on, "A Woman Transformed: The Woman at the Well." Minister Veronica Perry, Co-Pastor of True Image Ministry in Dallas, TX, will speak on, "Women Working and Worshiping: Mary and Martha." Our own First Lady Tasha Stafford, will speak on, "A Woman of Courage: Queen Esther."

January 28, 11 am

Our guest speaker for the conclusion of our conference will be Minister Cheryl Coleman, Pastor of St. Paul AME Church in Harrington, Delaware. Don't miss this Spirit-Filled Conference!

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

### FELLOWSHIP OF BELIEVERS MINISTRIES (FOBCC)

December 31, 10 pm

Your presence is wanted as we host "Watch Night Service" @ Holiness COGIC, 2026 Calypso Street, Dallas, TX 75212. Theme: The Return on the Investment." For more information call Pastor Debra Jackson @ 214-476-8188.

Fellowship of Believers Ministries  
Bishop Gregory Crawford  
Founder and Senior Pastor  
501 Wynnewood Village, #423  
Dallas, TX 75224  
214-372-3624

### FRIENDSHIP-WEST BAPTIST CHURCH

December 22, 7 pm

We are hosting a FREE Singles Unplugged Friday Night. Theme: "Dancing with the Stars." Every second Friday of the month opportunities are for singles to make a connection to be edified and encouraged, away from clubs, bars, and non-Christian environments. Local rappers, singers, bands, musicians, comedians, and poets will showcase their talents.

For more information, call 972-228-7233.

### Friendship-West Baptist Church

Dr. Frederick Haynes, III  
Senior Pastor  
2020 West Wheatland Road  
Dallas, TX 75232  
972-228-5200

### MT. OLIVE CHURCH OF PLANO

December 31, 8 pm

Please join us for the culmination of a Blessed 2006 Journey, a live CD/DVD recording of the "Spence and My Family" and "The Secret to Overcoming The B.L.U.E.S." This is a wonderful way to end 2006 and to usher in 2007!

For more information, please call 214-207-6505 or 214-284-8202

### Mt. Olive Church of Plano

Rev. Sam Fenceroy,  
Senior Pastor  
740 Avenue F Suite 303  
Plano, TX 75074  
972-633-5511

### SIXTH AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH

December 29 - 30, 7:30 pm

You are invited to our "Joint Year-End Revival with Pastors, Rev. D. R. Watson, The New Cornerstone Baptist Church, 1808 W. 10th Avenue in Corsicana; and our own Bishop K. D.

Davis, Sr., The Sixth Avenue Baptist Church, 125 South 5th Street in Corsicana.

December 31, 10 pm

Please join us as we celebrate the End-of-the-Year Service with Elder G. R. Moore, Pilgrim Rest Primitive Baptist Church, 1009 South 5th Street in Corsicana.

For more information on the above events, please call 903-874-4873.

### Sixth Avenue Baptist Church

Bishop K. D. Davis,  
Overseer & Pastor  
Rev. H. P. Williams,  
Associate Pastor  
125 South 5th Street  
Corsicana, TX 75110  
903-874-4873

### WOMEN PRAYING FOR CHRIST MINISTRIES, INC.

January 5, 2007, 11 pm to 6 am

Join us for a "Mighty Move From God" at a (Women's Only) FREE Prayer Shut-In & Breakfast Program; theme: A Call for the Wailing Women, Jeremiah 9:17-20. We will have Speakers & Prayer Warriors every hour, including: Dr. Angela King; Evangelist Patsy Cole; Pastor Tamara Thomas; First Lady Sharisse Bright; Lady Karlene Gains; Minister Tuala Williams; Evangelist Carolyn Thompson; Susan Battle; First Lady Ann McGilvery; Evangelist Donna Wortham-Kwadwo; Prophet Joan Crockett; and Mary Humphrey. The Word by: Robyn Jimenez, Board Member for Women Praying for Christ Ministries.

Doors will open @ 11 pm and will close @ 12 am for the "Shut-In." They will re-open @ 6 am the next morning for the breakfast. Please DO NOT be late for the opening of the doors at 11 pm. We are calling for and in need of volunteer cooks and singers for this God inspired event. Make somebody's day and call to volunteer your service for God's work.

Everyone must register for the FREE Prayer Shut-In and Breakfast by January 3, 2007. It will be held @ Open Bible Fellowship Church, 2701 Briarwood Drive, Plano, TX 75074; Rev. Donald Bright is the pastor. For more information and to volunteer, please call 214-450-7634.

### Women Praying for Christ Ministries, Inc.

Dr. Angela S. King,  
Founder/President  
P. O. Box 863766  
Plano, TX 75086  
214-450-7634

## Church Directory

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



"Where Jesus is the Main Attraction"

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

14120 Noel Road • Dallas, TX 75254  
972-239-1120 (Office) • 972-239-5925 (Fax)  
templeoffaith\_cme@sbcglobal.net (Email)

Healthy Beginnings Child Development Center - 972-404-1412

### FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH OF ALLEN



Pastor W.L. Stafford Sr., M.Div.  
"A Ministry that is on the Move for Christ"

Sunday School ..... 9:30 am  
Sunday Morning Worship ..... 11:00 am  
Children's Church ..... 11:00 am  
Wednesday Prayer/Bible Study ..... 7:00 pm  
2nd & 4th Monday "Youth for Christ" ..... 7:00 pm

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

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

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



### NORTH DALLAS COMMUNITY BIBLE FELLOWSHIP

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

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES:  
8:00 AM • 9:30 AM • 11:30 AM

972-437-3493

1010-1020 South Sherman Street • Richardson, TX 75081

www.ndcbf.org

### New Mt. Zion Baptist Church of Dallas

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

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



Dr. Robert E. Price,  
Senior Pastor

A Praying Church Family  
"Watchmen on the Walls"

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

9550 Shepard Road

Dallas, TX 75243

www.nmzb.org (Website) • newmzbc@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 ..... 9:45 AM  
Morning Worship ..... 11:00 AM  
Wednesday Bible Study ..... 7:00 PM

PEOPLE OF FAITH WITH A MIND TO WORK

### 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



Reverend Charles E. Franklin, Pastor

Tuesday  
7:15 p.m. Bible Study

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

### Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church

920 E. 14th Street Plano, TX

Pastor Isiah Joshua, Jr.



Sunday Worship Services 8AM & 11AM

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

For more information call (972) 423-6695  
www.shilohbaptistchurch.org

### Mt. Olive Church of Plano

740 Avenue F Plano, TX 75074 972-633-5511

WWW.MOCOP.ORG

Serving the Plano  
Community for 13 Years

Sunday Worship  
10:00 am

Wednesday Night  
7:15 pm



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HEAR PASTOR SAM DAILY ON: "TRUTH MADE SIMPLE"  
KGGP 1040 AM MONDAY - FRIDAY @ 5:25pm - 5:30pm

### 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 am.  
- 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



## Hill Chapel CME Church Luncheon

The Women's Ministries of Hill Chapel CME Church where Rev. Clarence Ford is the Pastor; hosted their Annual Luncheon & Fashion Show at the eloquent Glen Eagle Country Club in Plano, TX. Among the attendees were the Honorable Plano Councilman and wife, Mr. & Mrs. Lee (Pat) Dunlap; Ms. Karla Oliver, Plano I.S.D.; Ms. Trudy Israel; Sister Shirley Demus Tarpley, Religious Editor, MON-The Gazette; and Mr. & Mrs. Henry (Navolia) Bryant, Jr., Financial Adviser with MetLife, who were guests of Dr. Myrtle Hightower, Member of Hill Chapel.

The theme: "Let Us Shine" was a perfect match for the exciting Fashion Show presented by The Dress Barn at



Front Row (L to R) Ms. Trudy Israel, Dr. Myrtle Hightower, and Ms. Karla Oliver.  
Back Row (L to R) Ms. Mazzie Moses, Councilman Lee & Ms. Pat Dunlap

the Allen Premium Outlet Mall in Allen, TX. Joyce Winbush was Mistress of Ceremonies and did a wonderful job; the

Invocation was given by Doris Lewis; with closing remarks by Ms. Nellie W. McGuire, Member of Hill Chapel.

## 2007 Steeple Awards



Dr. Jerome McNeil

On Saturday, February 10, 2007, the 2007 Steeple Awards will be presented by

### Tye Tribbett & G.A. Pick Up Three Grammy Nominations

Columbia Records gospel artists Tye Tribbett & G.A. have generated three Grammy nominations from the strength



of the group's latest collection, the #1 gospel album Victory Live!

Tye Tribbett and G.A. are in the running for the following Grammys: Best Gospel Performance (for "Victory," from Victory Live!); Best Gospel Song (for "Victory," from Victory Live!); and Best

Dallas Prestige and Christian Chapel CME. The ceremony described as Dallas' Most Prestigious Awards event Steeple Night-Gospel Style will take place at Christian Chapel CME Church. Dr. Jerome McNeil, pastor of Christian Chapel CME Church will host the VIP reception and Red Carpet Arrivals. Dr. Shelia Bailey of Concord Missionary Baptist Church will receive the Steeple Living Legend Award for her endless achievements and service to the Dallas Community. She and her late husband of Dr. E.K. Bailey who made a positive impact and



Dr. Shelia Bailey

touched the lives of many in Dallas and throughout the country.

Contemporary R&B Gospel Album (for Victory Live!).

Nominations for the 49th Annual Grammy Awards were announced in Los Angeles Thursday, December 7 by the National Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences. The 49th Annual Grammy Awards will be held on February 11, 2007, at Staples Center in Los Angeles and broadcast live in high definition TV and 5.1 surround sound on CBS from 8pm - 11:30 p.m. (ET/PT). The Grammy nominations are the latest in a series of accolades for Tye Tribbett and G.A. and Victory Live!, which debuted at #1 on the Billboard Current Gospel Sales chart and hit #64 on the Top 200 bestselling albums chart, in June 2006.

In October 2006, Tribbett and his gospel choir picked up six nominations for the 22nd Annual Stellar Awards including Artist of the Year, Male Vocalist of the Year, CD of the Year.

Tye Tribbett will co-host, and perform at, the 22nd Annual Stellar Awards ceremony in Nashville, at the fabled Grand Ole Opry House, on January 13, 2007.

## North Texas Conference United Methodist Ministry Center Nears Completion

By: Dr. Joan Gray Labarr

The new NTC Ministry Center is now a recognizable presence near the intersection of the President George Bush Tollway and Coit Road in Plano. The structure, located on Maple Lawn Drive just north of Central Market, has exterior walls and a roof as construction continues on schedule.

The 18,000 sq. ft. Ministry Center will include facilities for the NTC Mission, Administration, Communications ministries, meeting spaces, the Dallas Area Episcopal Offices, and the Rhymes H. Moncure, Jr. Bishop's Chapel.

Building Committee Chair Rev. Gary Mueller, First UMC, Plano, recently had the opportunity to view the site from the sky, thanks to helicopter pilot Mark Jacobson, a member at Spring Valley UMC, Dallas.

"It was exciting to see the progress that has been made as the Ministry Center takes shape," Rev. Mueller said, noting that one of the big challenges now is raising funds for furnishings and amenities not covered in the \$4.1 million budget for land costs and building. The construction budget voted by the 2005 Annual Conference is \$3.4 million.

H&H Architects of Dallas are architects for the building, which is being constructed by IDEA Construction Company.

David Franck, First UMC, Allen, who serves as Owner's Representative on the Ministry Center project, indicates that the overall construction was approximately 70 percent complete as of Dec. 7. The rock and stucco exterior is 90 percent complete, so the building's appearance is now much as it will be when opened. The interior is 60 percent complete.

Franck explains that the building infrastructure will include

state of the art, fully integrated communications systems. "We are really being careful to be state of the art, but we are also cautious that our systems are totally stable," he explains.

When Bishop Moncure offered his dreams for the Ministry Center at the 2006 Annual Conference, he described it as, "a drawstring to bring us together, one that carries the DNA of every United Methodist in this annual conference."

He also announced that St. Andrew UMC of Plano had pledged to fund the center's foyer

the fall. Among the areas needing funds are:

- The Large Meeting Room on the first floor, estimated cost, \$50,000.

- The Media Center on the second floor, estimated cost, \$50,000.

- The Resource Room on the first floor, estimated cost, \$20,000.

- Courtyard and decorative landscaping, estimated cost, \$75,000.

There are also opportunities to make smaller gifts to purchase individual items needed in the public and ministry areas. Gifts can be made in honor or memory of a loved one, and a book recording all the gifts will be kept in the Ministry Center.

Some important and cost saving gift ideas could include: a Sunday School class or group purchasing some trees; a senior adult group paying for special parking signs; a group or church going together to purchase the lighted signs on the front of the building; and individuals or families purchasing two Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs), first aid kits, or safety and direction signs.

For more information about the Ministry Center or to make a contribution toward its furnishings, please call Rev. Gary Mueller, 972-423-4506. To discuss the furnishings, please call Rev. Marti Soper, Greenland Hills UMC, Dallas, 214-826-2060.



at \$45,000-50,000 in memory of a former staff member, Rev. Leighton Farrell. He added that another family had pledged \$100,000 toward furnishings.

As plans for the interior space were finalized, the Ministry Center Committee agreed to enlarge the space for the Chapel, and add another meeting area near the Episcopal Suite.

Both changes will help achieve the goal of making the facility a center for spiritual and practical needs of the conference.

Brochures describing the Ministry Center as the NTC "Vision for the Future" were distributed at the 2006 North Texas Annual Conference and in a special mailing to all churches later in

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

**Ben Washington Baptist Church, Inc.**  
3901 Frisco Avenue  
Irving, TX 75061  
Church 972-790-8421 Fax 972-986-6590  
Email: [church@bwbcriving.org](mailto:church@bwbcriving.org)  
Web: [bwbcriving.org](http://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

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

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PH 972.991.0200

**PASTOR TERENCE AUTRY**  
MORNING WORSHIP - 10AM  
WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY - 7PM

**Macedonia Ministries**  
702 S. Mill Street • Lewisville, TX 75057  
972-436-2011  
"We Choose Love to Nourish and Cherish One Another"  
John 13:34 & Ephesians 5:28-29  
[www.macedoniaministries.com](http://www.macedoniaministries.com)

**T.J. Denson, Pastor**  
Saturday: Intercessory Prayer @ 7:00 am  
Sunday Services: Sunday School @ 9:30 am • Morning Worship @ 11:00 am  
Monday Services: Men's Group & Women's Group Bible Study @ 6:30 pm  
Wednesday Service: Family Bible Study @ 6:30 pm

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Schools are starting; students are college-bound, and people are joining the workforce. We wish you good health and prosperity. Now do "The Simplicity Plan" for family security and peace of mind.

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