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Minority Opportunity News, Inc.

# The Gazette

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## People In The News



The Tom Joyner Foundation has joined in the Paul Quinn College Campaign 135, a \$2.4 million fund-raising effort that will run throughout 2007.

The Tom Joyner Foundation has pledged a matching grant to Paul Quinn College of \$250,000. The foundation has also selected Paul Quinn College as the College of the Month for April 2007. Since 1998, the Tom Joyner Foundation has raised more than \$55 million helping more than 14,000 students at historically black colleges and universities.

The fund-raising effort commemorates 135 years since the college was founded in 1872 in Waco. The campaign organizers will ask 135 corporations, civic groups and faith-based entities to reach out to 135 of their constituents or members to give \$1 a day for 135 days.

In addition to the matching grant from the Tom Joyner Foundation, Paul Quinn has received a matching grant of \$132,000 from the United Negro College Fund.

The Paul Quinn College Dallas Alumni Chapter added to the fund last week, raising \$30,000 during a Season of Giving event at the African American Museum in Fair Park. For more info call 214-302-3510.

Dallas Black Dance Theatre (DBDT) will celebrate its Eleventh Annual Founder's Luncheon at the Hilton Anatole on January 12, 2007, at 12:00 p.m. Among the honorees will be community leader Barbara Lord Watkins. Mrs. Watkins is being recognized for her support of Dallas Black Dance Theatre and her leadership in the city of Dallas.

"I am pleased to recognize Barbara Lord Watkins during the Founder's Luncheon," states Ann Williams, DBDT Founder and Artistic Director. "She has not only made personal contributions to DBDT, but her support as a past chairperson of this luncheon and her continued promotion of DBDT in the community has helped us to reach this historic milestone of 30 years."

Barbara Lord Watkins is the President Emeritus for the Parkland Foundation. In 2005, she retired as the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Parkland Foundation. Her extensive community activities includes membership and affiliations with KERA - Board of Directors, The Senior Source and Advisory Board for the Archives of Women of the Southwest.

Tickets are \$50 and can be purchased by calling (214) 871-2390.



Mocha Sisters Organization, Inc. will host its first annual Mocha Sisters Mardi Gras Scholarship Banquet at Paul Quinn College (Dallas, Texas) on February 24, 2006. The celebration will feature Tim Brown, NFL veteran and Heisman trophy winner as Master of Ceremony.

Entertainment will include various musical guests, spoken word artists, as well as special theatrical and dance performances to celebrate Black History Month. Mocha Sisters Mardi Gras will also present community awards to local community leaders and host a silent auction filled with specialty items from the Dallas Mavericks, Dallas Cowboys and more.

Mocha Sisters Organization, Inc. was founded October 9, 2004 by Ladi Mallam. It started with a phone conversation discussion with Deirdre Kelly, a native of Jackson, Mississippi giving the concept of the name of the organization.

Mocha Sisters Organization, Inc. is a non profit organization with its national headquarters in Lewisville, Texas. MSO promotes health, wellness, community awareness, unity, business and networking skills amongst women of color.

Mocha Sisters Mardi Gras provides funding for the MSO Scholarship Fund which provides college scholarships for African American, female, high school seniors.

For more info visit [www.mochasisters.org/mochasisters-mardigras.htm](http://www.mochasisters.org/mochasisters-mardigras.htm) or call 877-512-0771.

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## Gerald Ford Remembered For Post-Watergate Leadership



Democrats and Republicans on Wednesday remembered the late former President Gerald R. Ford as a man who led the nation out of the dark days of the Watergate scandal.

Ford, 93, "died peacefully" Tuesday evening at his home in Rancho Mirage, California, his widow, Betty Ford, said in a statement. An official cause of death was not announced.

"His life was filled with love of God, his family and his country," she said.

Although funeral arrangements have not been announced, U.S. Capitol Police officers said they were told to prepare for Ford's casket to come to Washington's Capitol Rotunda on Saturday, according to The Associated Press, and a service at the city's National Cathedral was expected Tuesday.

In a brief address to the nation, President Bush called Ford a "great man" who was a "true gentleman."

Ford replaced President Richard Nixon, who resigned in 1974 during a scandal surrounding

the burglary of Democratic Party offices at the Watergate Hotel.

"He assumed power in a period of great division and turmoil," Bush said. "For a nation that needed healing and for an office that needed a calm and steady hand, Gerald Ford came along when we needed him most."

In Ford's honor, Bush ordered U.S. flags at all federal government buildings to fly at half-staff for 30 days.

Bush's remarks followed those of the man who defeated Ford in the 1976 presidential race, Jimmy Carter, who said Ford "frequently rose above politics by emphasizing the need for bipartisanship and seeking common ground on issues critical to our nation."

"I will always cherish the personal friendship we shared," said the former Georgia governor.

Incoming House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-California, said Ford "assumed office during one of the greatest times of challenge for our nation and provided Americans with the

Gerald Ford Remembered Page 8

## Plano Christens New Fire Station

The City of Plano and the Plano Fire Department will host a dedication ceremony and open house for the newest Plano fire station on Saturday, January 6, 2007 from 9:00 am to 11:00 am.

Located at 4800 Los Rios Boulevard, Plano Fire Station 11 supports the northeast part of Plano, east of Highway 75 and Spring Creek Parkway. The station was designed with input from a committee of fire department personnel who studied existing fire stations across the north Texas area.

Plano Fire Station 11 will house a fire engine staffed with four fire department personnel: a Fire Captain, a Fire Apparatus Operator, and two Fire Rescue Specialists.



New Plano Fire Station Page 9

## Rice: Iraq 'Worth The Investment'

U.S. is ready to elect black president, secretary of state says

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice told The Associated Press on Thursday that Iraq is "worth the investment" in American lives and dollars and said the U.S. can still win a conflict that has been more difficult than she expected.

In an interview at the State Department, the nation's highest-ranking black government official also said the United States is ready to elect a black president.

Rice was asked whether an additional \$100 billion the Pentagon wants for the Iraq and Afghan wars might amount to throwing good money after bad in Iraq. President Bush and Congress have already provided more than \$500 billion for the two conflicts and worldwide efforts against terrorism, including more than \$350 billion for Iraq.

"I don't think it's a matter of money," Rice said. "Along the way there have been plenty of markers that show that this is a country that is worth the investment, because once it emerges as a country that is a stabilizing factor you will have a very different kind of Middle East."

The top U.S. diplomat made the remarks as



Rice On Iraq Page 3

## NAACP Garland 18th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade And March



Street to Highway 66 (Avenue B)

West (Left) on Highway 66 (Avenue B) to Fifth Street

North (Right) on Fifth Street to Austin Street

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Garland, Texas branch will host its 18th annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. parade and march on Saturday, January 13, 2007, beginning at 10:00 a.m.

**Parade Route**  
Parade starts on Dairy Road @ Garden Drive (near Embree Park), Garland, Texas

It proceeds north on Dairy Road to Highway 66 (Avenue D)

West (Left) on Highway 66 (Avenue D) to First Street

North (Right) on First

Parade ends at the Granville Arts Center, 330 North Fifth Street, downtown Garland

**2007 Theme & Grand Marshals**

The 2007 theme is "Recognizing Our Clergy on MLK Day." Grand marshals for the 18th annual parade and march will be: Reverend D. L. Wilson, pastor of Sweet Home Missionary Baptist Church in Garland and Reverend Charles E. Franklin, pastor of St. Luke African Methodist Episcopal Church in Garland.

Garland MLK Parade Page 5

## Plano Police Department Receives TX DOT DWI Grant



The Plano Police Department has received a grant from the Texas Department of Transportation for the enforcement of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs. This Impaired Driving Mobilization Grant will provide funds from December 22, 2006 through September 3, 2007 and will complement the current initiatives routinely exercised by the Plano Police Department.

This TX DOT grant will target the four specific time periods throughout the year when impaired driving is most prevalent.

These time periods begin just prior to and end just after the Winter Holidays in 2006, Spring Break, Independence Day, and Labor Day in 2007.

The specially funded officers augmented by our regular patrol officers, along with highway safety strategies, will hopefully prevent many of the injuries caused by impaired driving. With this heightened level of enforcement, violators are more likely than ever to be pulled over and arrested for DWI during these timeframes.

The Plano Police Department would like remind everyone that they should buckle up, drive sober, and obey the speed limits and traffic laws. Impaired driving is one of America's deadliest problems. In 2004 alone more than 15,000 people died in highway crashes involving a driver or motorcycle operator

DWI Grant Page 5

## Duke Rape Charges Dismissed

Prosecutors dropped rape charges Friday against three Duke University lacrosse players accused of attacking a stripper at a team party, but the three still face kidnapping and sexual offense charges that could bring them 24 years in prison.

"Some people have said, 'Is the case over?'" said defense attorney Joseph Cheshire. "The case quite clearly is not over."

According to court papers filed Friday by Dunham County District Attorney Mike Nifong, the accused told a prosecution investigator on Thursday that she now does not know if she was penetrated during the alleged attack.

"Apparently, for the first time



... attorneys from the district attorney's office talked to the accused," Cheshire said at a news conference held at his office in Raleigh. "Why are they investigating the case now after they've brought it for months?"

No DNA evidence has ever

Rape Chrges Dismissed Page 8



KELIS, R&B star, genre buster

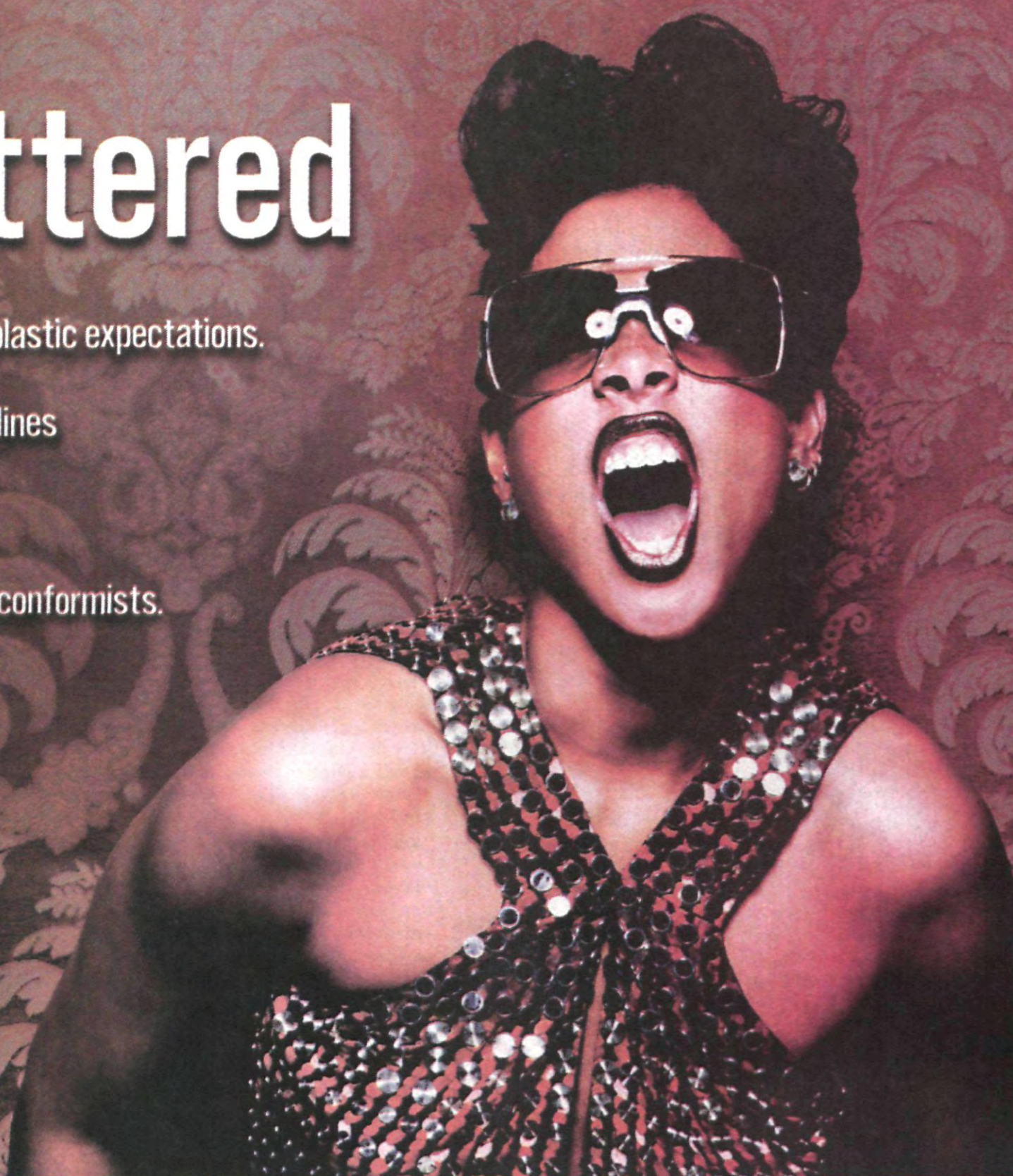
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**Paul Hailey**

Ever read a book you enjoyed so much that you didn't want to read the last chapter?

Me too.

Black Images Book Bazaar, the oldest black bookstore in Texas is closing its doors on Saturday for the final time. I've been a long-time patron of Black Images and like so many other bookworms in Dallas County, I'm sad to see the nearly 30 year-old Oak Cliff institution shut down.

But this closing, like so many things in life, has a deeper significance. After considerable thought I have to wonder: what does the closing of Black Images say about the state of the black culture in Dallas County in 2007?

And beyond that, in this new millennium should this closing come as any surprise?

The first thing to understand about the Black Images Book Bazaar is that it is a rarity. The enterprise started and maintained by friends Emma Rodgers and Ashira Toshiwe is virtually without peers among black bookstores across the country. From its start as a mail-order business in 1977, Black Images has demonstrated an ambition beyond just selling books; the institution aspired to higher goals of enlightening the community and providing exposure to black authors.

Paul Coates, publisher of Black Classic Press in Baltimore, said last week that Black Images is one of fewer than 10 of its kind in the United States and that number is in jeopardy. According to Target Market News, a publication that focuses on the black consumer, African Americans spent \$356 million on books in 2000. By contrast, in 2004, the black community

## Black Images Book Bazaar: The End Of A Glorious Chapter

spent \$257 million on books.

The entire country is moving away from traditional purchases of literature. The Internet, with blogs and on-line book sales has cut into the business of book-sellers of every type. We have become a nation of impatient people with too many options to read a book from cover to cover. We have too many channels on our televisions, too many songs on our iPods to quiet ourselves long enough to absorb the written word.

The beauty of Black Images was that it was as much a social and political venue as it was a retail venue. There was a parade of national figures that came through those doors on book tours to impart social consciousness that couldn't be found anywhere else in town. Michael Eric Dyson, Rosa Parks, Cornel West, Terry McMillan, Ellis Cose, Walter Mosely and others have spoke to audiences at Black Images about issues of black social culture. And that is the void that is going to be missed-not the books. We can buy the books anywhere.

It wasn't the books alone that drew me to Black Images, it was the authors, it was the book clubs, it was the discussions.

"Unfortunately, it is a travesty," said Dallas County Commissioner John Wiley Price. "It has been an oasis for

those of us who have tried to drive the issue of consciousness, accountability and responsibility in the community. It has been one of the staples of the community."

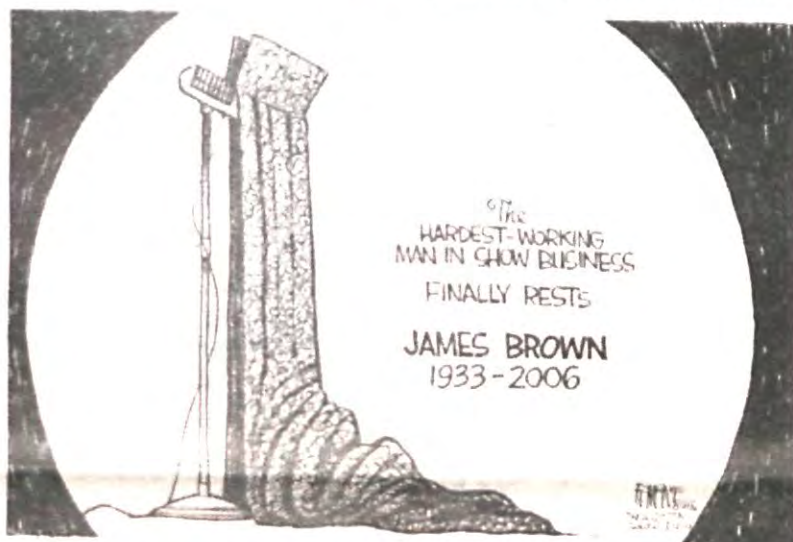
Black Images Book Bazaar and stores like it are becoming a thing of the past, and sadly, I'm not surprised. The challenge is for us to create, find and support similar venues to continue the tradition of discussion on issues of consciousness, accountability and responsibility in the black community. Like everything else in this millennium from DVRs to youtube.com, we will have to discover non-traditional methods to deliver traditional messages.

Not an easy task.

Ms. Rodgers and Ms. Toshiwe are planning to continue to sell books through their website, (www.blackimages.com), and also plan to host literary events around town. But the feeling of walking through and browsing a selection of books written by and about black people may never happen again in Dallas, or anywhere else.

To Ms. Rodgers and Ms. Toshiwe-we thank you for providing us with such glorious chapter in Dallas black culture.

Paul Hailey can be reached at [phailey@MonTheGazette.com](mailto:phailey@MonTheGazette.com)



## Plano Police Chief Comments On Red Light Cameras

In our December 7th issue, *MON-the Gazette* ran an editorial called "Red Light Irony In Plano" concerning the rate of accidents following the installation of red light cameras throughout Plano. Below is a response to the editorial by Plano Police Chief Greg Rushin.

After reading your editorial on the Plano Automated Red Light Camera Enforcement Program I wanted to take a moment to clarify a few issues. The Red Light Camera Program is an effort to increase traffic safety in our community. This program is, and always has been, about safety.

The most common concern of Plano residents is traffic safety. When I attend neighborhood round tables and various other community meetings the number one question I am asked is, "what is the city doing about speeders and red light runners?"

In 2005 the City of Plano experienced a 60% increase in fatality crashes, a 7.8% increase in total crashes, a 15.3% increase in red light crashes, and a 2.5% increase in injury crashes. As a result of this trend the Plano Police Department increased its traffic safety efforts.

The Plano Police Department utilizes a three-pronged approach to traffic safety; strict enforcement, education, and a partnership with the community. We have increased our enforcement efforts by utilizing more manpower to conduct high visibility traffic enforcement. We also participate in the Texas Department of Transportation's Special Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) grant. This program is designed to increase resources directed at speeding and red light running. In addition to the STEP program and the High Visibility Enforcement Unit, we have placed a greater emphasis on officer enforcement efforts, especially while conducting traffic crash investigations. We believe this increase in enforcement, coupled with the implementation of the Automated Red Light Camera Enforcement Program, has had a significant impact on traffic safety in our community.

Through November of 2006 the City of Plano has seen a 50% reduction in fatality crashes, a 9.5% reduction in red light crashes, and a 5.3% reduction in injury crashes.

In your editorial you stated overall crashes at our four Automated Red Light Camera Enforcement intersections have increased. This is not accurate. Since this program began in March of 2006 we have seen about a 50% decrease in intersection crashes at the four intersections. This includes a 47% reduction in the number of red light crashes. Although it is true that rear-end crashes at these

four intersections has increased by more than 50%, total intersection crashes have decreased. Although the percentage seems high, actual numbers are low. In 2005 we investigated 13 rear-end crashes at these four intersections. In 2006 these numbers increased to 20 rear-end crashes.

Rear-end crashes tend to be minor, especially in this type of situation. This is because both vehicles are losing energy quickly, reducing the force of impact. Furthermore, advances in occu-



Plano Police Chief, Gregory W. Rushin

pant safety for front and rear collisions have helped reduce the likelihood of injury in this type of crash. On the other hand, red light crashes usually involve a right-angle impact, which tend to be the most severe. This is because at least one of the vehicles is traveling at, or near, the posted speed limit when it collides into the side of the other vehicle. Although safety features for side impacts are increasing, there is only so much an airbag can do when a 2,000 pound vehicle strikes the driver's door at 40 MPH. It is these types of crashes that we are trying to impact. We believe if we can reduce the number of red light violations we will reduce the number of red light and intersection crashes. This will ultimately result in a reduction of injury and fatality crashes. As shown above, our program has been successful in reducing the number of red light and intersection crashes. However, our program has also been successful in reducing the number of red light violations.

Our program began operations on March 1, 2006. By the end of the first month our four cameras captured 2,406 violations. Over the past nine months we have seen a decrease in the number of violations, or exposures to citizens, at these four intersections. During the month of November these four intersections captured 769 violations, a 68% decrease from March. Clearly, people are beginning to comply with the law. As a result our streets are safer than they were a year ago. Your editorial claims these programs are created to generate revenue. I can assure you this was not the intent of the City of Plano. Our City

Ordinance requires all funds collected as a result of this program to be deposited into a traffic safety fund. These funds can only be used to pay the cost of running the program, public traffic or pedestrian safety programs, traffic enforcement, and intersection improvements.

So far we have identified four projects that will be supported by revenue from the red light camera program. The first project is the Safe Streets Program. This program is designed to increase traffic safety in our residential neighborhoods, and involves the installation of traffic calming devices. We are also funding additional DWI enforcement during the Holiday Season. Each year the Police Department provides increased resources for DWI enforcement. Money from the red light camera program has allowed us to increase our usual efforts during the Holiday Season. As a result, through the first three weeks of December more than 100 DWI arrests have been made. This is nearly double the monthly average of DWI arrests in any given month. In addition to the Safe Streets Program we are also in the process of purchasing speed display signs for some of our school zones, and equipment that will allow us to increase our ability to conduct safety inspections on Commercial Motor Vehicles and take dangerous trucks off our roadways.

As I stated above, the goal of this program is to save lives and increase traffic safety. The Plano Police Department, including myself, is dedicated to making our streets a safe place to travel. We will use every means at our disposal to achieve this goal because we think a single life saved is worth the effort. We believe most citizens we serve share this goal, and we are encouraged by their continued support of our efforts. Although I disagree with the some of the facts in your editorial, I appreciate your interest in traffic safety. I am delighted every time I read a newspaper article or watch a news story related to our red light camera program, or other traffic safety topic. Each of these articles helps educate the motoring public about traffic safety, and the existence of red light cameras. As more people become aware of the presence of the cameras the more people will comply with the traffic signals. In the end we all benefit.

If I can answer any questions for you or provide you any additional information, please don't hesitate to contact me. Thanks.

Gregory W. Rushin  
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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



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#### Rice On Iraq Page 1

"I know from the point of view of not just the monetary cost but the sacrifice of American lives a lot has been sacrificed for Iraq, a lot has been invested in Iraq," Rice said.

"We can in fact succeed" Bush would not ask for continued sacrifice and spending "if he didn't believe, and in fact I believe as well, that we can in fact succeed," Rice said.

Rice said the Bush administration should be remembered for far more than the Iraq war. She ticked off foreign policy commitments and accomplishments including increased aid to fight AIDS and malaria in Africa and a peace deal ending two decades of North-South warfare in Sudan.

Rice has repeatedly said she will not run for president, despite high popularity ratings and measurable support in

opinion polls. Rice declined to say whether she would like to see her predecessor, Colin Powell, become a candidate. Powell is a fellow black Republican.

"I'm not going to give Colin any advice and he's not going to give me any advice on this one," Rice said.

Democratic Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., is the most prominent black politician to emerge as a potential candidate for the 2008 presidential race. Rice was asked whether, watching Obama's rise, she thinks Americans are willing to put a black in the White House.

"Yes, I think a black person can be elected president," Rice said.

She said the first successful black candidate will be "judged by all the things that Americans ultimately end up making their decision on: Do I agree with this person? Do I share this person's

basic values? Am I comfortable that this person is going to make decisions when I'm not in the room that are very consequential?"

At the same time, she said, "We should not be naive. Race is still an issue in America. When a person walks into a room, race is evident. It's something that I think is going to be with us for a very, very long time."

North Korea talks

Rice said she has no reason to believe North Korea is serious about dismantling its nuclear weapons. "That's what we're testing" in disarmament talks this week that a Japanese envoy described as deadlocked.

"They're signed on to denuclearization," in an agreement last year that was never implemented. "We'll see whether or not they follow through," Rice said.



# Emmitt Smith Charities Team With Park Place Maserati

Photos By: Marty Perlman  
Park Place Maserati and Emmitt Smith Charities recently teamed up for an exclusive fundraiser at The Mansion on Turtle Creek in Dallas. The event raised more than \$100,000 for Emmitt Smith Charities, which supports academic, physical, and cultural opportunities for disadvantaged children across the country.

Guests encountered a stunning red 2007 Maserati Quattroporte upon arrival. Then, they followed a winding, candlelit path to the Conservatory, which was filled with spectacular floral arrangements by Shane Walker. A harpist serenaded guests as they checked in.

Bachendorf's showcased exquisite Di Modolo jewels and Stanley Korshak presented striking Italian fashions while guests sipped Glenmorangie single Highland malt scotch and enjoyed delectable cuisine prepared by The Mansion's executive chef John Tesar.

Emmitt Smith was surrounded by friends all evening, including his wife and biggest supporter Pat Smith, NFL Hall of Famers Marcus Allen and Ronnie Lott, and former Dallas Cowboys wide receiver and ESPN sportscaster Michael Irvin, and Tampa Bay Buccaneers wide receiver Tim Brown.

The highlight of the evening was the live auction for a fabulous Dream Dance Lesson package, which was held in the Mansion's wine cellar. Starting at \$10,000, the package originally included a private dance lesson for five couples with Emmitt Smith and his Dancing with the Stars partner Cheryl Burke, a private dinner prepared by executive chef John Tesar, and the use of a Maserati for the winner.

Emmitt issued a challenged for five couples to pay \$20,000 each to share the package. Sponsors sweetened the deal to include a room at the Mansion and a bottle of Dom Perignon (donated by Moët Hennessy) for each couple.



2007 Maserati Quattroporte



Lisa & Ken Schnitzer with Pat & Emmitt Smith



Emmitt's assistant Marge Irwin with Sen. Royce West



NFL Hall-of-Famer Marcus Allen hoists the Dancing with the Stars trophy

KLTY-FM radio personality Starlene Stringer interviews Emmitt

## DCHHS Receives Donations To Provide Toys To Client Families

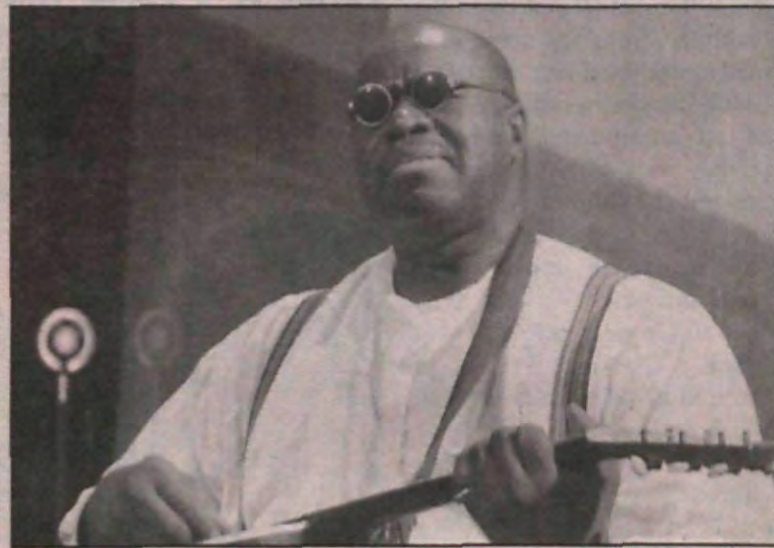


(Left to Right) Zachary Thompson, DCHHS Director, Marva Jones, DCHHS Welfare Supervisor, and Dallas County Commissioner John Wiley Price.

Dallas County Health and Human Services has received a donation of toys, games and gifts from the Dallas/Fort Worth AIIM Chapter. The donation will help to provide Christmas gifts to the children of clients receiving Emergency Assistance from Dallas County Health and Human Services Welfare Division.

AIIM is the international authority on Enterprise Content Management. For over 60 years, AIIM as a non-profit organization has provided assistance to users related to business processes, managing documents, and records. Ben Taylor is the current AIIM Dallas/Fort Worth Chapter President. Sharon Camarillo, who works in the Dallas County District Clerks Office and currently services on the board for the local AIIM chapter, helped to make the donation possible.

## UTD To Hold Blues And Jazz Fest



The first ever Blues and Jazz Festival, will take place Jan. 26-27 at UT Dallas. The event is scheduled to include a concert by famed saxophone player Leroy "Hog" Cooper, a theatrical performance of Blind Lemon Blues, lectures and a panel discussion. More information about the festival is available at [www.ah.utdallas.edu](http://www.ah.utdallas.edu)

cal performance of Blind Lemon Blues, lectures and a panel discussion. More information about the festival is available at [www.ah.utdallas.edu](http://www.ah.utdallas.edu)

### 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.assistance-league-gcc.org](http://www.assistance-league-gcc.org).  
**"EVOLVE,"** a social networking opportunity for women, meets from 7:30 to 9 p.m. the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month at the northwest corner of Park Boulevard and Coit Road, Suite 202. Call 972-267-4452.  
**A free legal clinic** is offered for residents who meet low-income guidelines, 6:00 p.m., second Thursday of each month, First United Methodist Church,

601 S. Greenville Ave. Applicants must be Collin County residents and income eligible. Call 1-800-906-3045.  
**Free HIV Testing** offered by the LaSima Foundation from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. every Thursday at two different locations. For locations and more information, call 214-928-9303.  
**The Frisco Housing Authority** is offering tenant-based rental assistance to 22 eligible families and individuals for rental housing in Frisco. Call 972-377-3031 for information.  
**Kumaasi African Ensemble Dance Classes** from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. West African dance classes held every Saturday at the South Dallas Cultural Center, 3400 S. Fitzhugh Ave. Contact S-Ankh Rasa at 214-298-5858 for more information.  
**Dallas Baptist University-North Leadership Empowerment Luncheon Series** is from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. the first Wednesday of the month at Dallas Baptist University-North, 3211 Internet Blvd., Suite 100. Call 214-333-5777 or e-mail [dbunorth@dbu.edu](mailto:dbunorth@dbu.edu).  
**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)  
**Veterans Helping Veterans** meets at 11:30 a.m. the third and fourth Saturdays of the month at the VFW Post at 3420 Ave. K, Suite 122. Topics include veterans benefits and how to receive free prescription medicine. Seniors welcome. Call 972-612-6939.  
**Experience Works** offers paid

training positions in Collin County for low-income people older than 55 who are unemployed. Representatives will be available between 1:30 and 3 p.m. Wednesday at 820 Jupiter Road, Plano. Call 972-772-9705 or visit [www.experienceworks.com](http://www.experienceworks.com).  
**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 7**  
**Imperial Brass in Concert**  
This concert will include some rarely performed bass pieces such as "Gabriel's Canon a 12," as well as special arrangements by Beethoven, Berlioz and Reed. St. Andrew United Methodist Church, 5801 West Plano Parkway, 2:00 pm. For more information call the Imperial Brass at 214-870-8518, St. Andrew UMC at 214-291-8002, or visit [www.imperialbrass.com](http://www.imperialbrass.com)  
**January 8**  
**Books Sandwiched In**  
Books Sandwiched In" is a new program sponsored by the Friends of the Plano Public Library. Today's book: "The Da Vinci Code" by Dan Brown. The panel discussion will be moderated by reviewer Rev. Kenny Dickson, Associate Minister of Pastoral Care at Custer Road United Methodist Church. Admission: FREE. 12-1:00 pm, Plano Senior

Center 401 West 16th Street  
**January 9**  
**Newcomer Friends of Greater Plano**  
Want some help with your New Year's Resolution to lose weight? Newcomer Friends of Greater Plano invites all women from Plano and surrounding communities to attend on Tuesday, January 9. Cindy Kleckner, Cooper Aerobic Center's dietician, presents "Nutrition You Can Live With". SMU-in-Legacy, 5228 Tennyson Parkway (SE corner of Tennyson & Democracy, W of Preston, Plano. Coffee & Social at 9:30a, Meeting at 10:00am, followed by optional After Meeting Lunch. For more info or to reserve your spot, contact Janet O'Pella at 972 672-4763 or visit [www.newcomerfriends.org](http://www.newcomerfriends.org).  
**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 12**  
**Senior Center: MLK Observance**  
Senior Center's 5th annual observance commemorating the life and achievements of Martin Luther King, Jr. Highlights will include comments and music. A small lunch will be provided for pre-registered attendees. Plano Senior Center, 401 West 16th Street, 10:00 am-12. FREE. Activity #70644. To register for this Parks and Recreation LEISURE Online event, visit [www.planoparks.org](http://www.planoparks.org) or by phone at 972-424-9278.

**January 13**  
**Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Celebration**  
2:32 PM, 2922 Martin Luther King Blvd., Dallas, TX 75215 (214) 421-2460  
**Dallas Area Train Show '07**  
The Dallas Area Train Show will feature large dealer displays and a Swap Meet; also unusual items in all scales! Come enjoy the How-to-Clinics, videos, switching layouts, operating modular train layouts during this 2-day convention; plus more layouts operating throughout the show than at any other train show in the area! In many scales and gauges too! Plano Centre, 2000 East Spring Creek Parkway, 10:00 am-5:00 pm.  
**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 Kessee.

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# The Importance Of Good Credit

A good credit rating is the most valuable thing we have when it comes to financial independence. Sadly, the information in our credit reports is often inaccurate. Surveys have revealed that nearly 80% of all consumer credit reports contain serious errors or mistakes of some kind. This prevents millions of Americans from being able to purchase homes, automobiles, and other consumer goods and services. Additionally, many people are paying high interest rates unnecessarily. This results in an endless cycle of high monthly payments, which many consumers cannot afford. Unable to pay their bills on time, they continue adding negative information to their credit rating. This puts their finances in a downward spiral, which can have a devastating effect on their lives.

VR-Tech Marketing is the marketing division of Third Eye Inc., which is the non-profit organization side, dedicated to providing financial services and solutions to consumers with less than perfect credit and debt problems. VR Tech Marketing Group meets all BBBOnLine Reliability participation and Better Business Bureau membership standards and is authorized to display the BBBOnLine Reliability seal.

Our combined expertise represents over 12 years experience

is helping consumers improve their credit and lower their debt! Bad credit can be costly. Our goal is to save consumers money when buying a



WHO ARE THESE PEOPLE  
WHO ARE THESE PEOPLE

home or car. Just one point added to your interest rate can add up to thousands of dollars in costs for you. Your credit score tells lenders how much interest you should be charged based on risk or your credit history. Would you be willing to invest in Third Eye's low-cost credit restoration program to save tens of thousands of dollars? Don't be a victim of an inaccurate credit score when Third Eye Inc. can help you today!

Because credit reports are sold to almost anyone who requests them, it is important that the information they contain be as accurate and up-to-date as possible. Our Credit Restoration service helps consumers restore their good credit rating and achieve their financial goals. Our proven process is

highly effective in producing results that enable our customers to purchase or refinance a home, buy an automobile or start a business. Our software technology and experienced staff enable us to efficiently process thousands of customers each month while delivering personalized service that is unsurpassed in the industry. Here are some of the features our service offers:

- Individualized dispute letters
- 24/7 online access to view the status of all of your negative accounts.
- Customer Service call center open weekdays from 9:00 AM-5:00PM, EST.
- One time-fee for five full challenge cycles.

How Credit Scores are Used  
In addition to evaluating your risk level for borrowing money, credit scores are increasingly being used to determine employment eligibility, insurance rates, and in some cases the rates you are charged for utilities. Your credit score is one of the most important numbers in your life. Scores range from 300 to 900. The average American credit score is 677. The higher your score, the better the terms of the credit you

will qualify for.  
Below is a breakdown of score ranges and what kind of terms borrowers can expect at various levels:

650 or higher - A score of 650 or above indicates a very good credit profile. People falling into this range will usually be able to obtain credit quickly and at a good interest rate.

620 to 650 - Scores between 620 and 650 are also very good and is the range within which most credit scores fall. However, these consumers may find that potential creditors could require additional documentation for larger loans and the loan process may take longer as a result.

620 or less - This score will mean higher interest rates for borrowers. If credit is granted, the process will take longer and will be on less than ideal terms. Borrowers will pay significantly higher interest rates than those in the 700 or higher credit score range. In some cases, credit may be denied.

We can help you make good credit a reality, not just a dream. Let us show you how today!

We Can Help:  
We provide consumers who are suffering from credit problems the opportunity to achieve their financial dreams. We provide a proven, one-year service to consumers who have been turned down for a mortgage, car loan, credit card, or any type of credit due to credit problems. If

you have been turned down for a loan, would like to lower your interest rates, or simply would like to remove costly inaccuracies from your credit reports, than Third Eye Inc can help!

Why Use A Professional Service?  
This is not a do it yourself service like those found on the internet. It is a high-quality, professional, and personalized one-year service for consumers. Just as many Americans choose to go to a tax professional to have their taxes done to ensure they receive the maximum refund available, the same can be said about credit restoration. Any consumer can choose to do their own credit restoration if they have the time, patience and resources to aggressively work with the CRAs to remove inaccuracies; however, many choose to employ the services of Third Eye Inc.

You pay one price, and will enjoy the peace-of-mind of a money-back guarantee if no inaccurate, erroneous or outdated information is corrected or removed on your credit reports (within one year). Please join us for a free seminar on how "Credit Scores affect you and what you can do to improve your credit scores," on 10:00am Saturday, January 13th 2007 at the Dallas Central Library, 1515 Young Street, Dallas, Texas. RSVP Please feel free to visit our web site at [www.vrimg.com/fiveyear-plan.com](http://www.vrimg.com/fiveyear-plan.com) and or call Angie Bynum or Doc Martin at 1-888-458-8676.

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## Plano Chamber To Hold 61st Annual Meeting

Make plans now to attend the 61st annual meeting of the Plano Chamber of Commerce.

Sponsored by Morgan Stanley held on Friday,

January 19, 2007, at the Plano Centre, this event promises to be a half-day full of premier networking.

The day kick's off with our popular "Business Interchange" meeting at 7:30 a.m. Please bring a dollar and your business cards. Each participant gives a 30-second commercial about his/her business. Over 120 attendees.

At 9:00 a.m. we will officially open the new member trade show

with a ribbon cutting ceremony. Come to meet over 60 new chamber members and explore new business opportunities. No charge to attend or reservations needed.

The annual luncheon will begin at 11:30 a.m. and features the presentation of the annual membership development

awards (Ambassador of the Year, Team Captain of the Year, Top Sales and Goodwill/Spirit award); the passing of the gavel from 2006 Chair Mary Jo Dean to 2007 Chairman Steve Matthews; and the keynote address by Keith Self, Collin County Judge-Elect.

commits fraud, by providing false information to get the loan, for example.

Other reasons for defaults include failing to keep the home in good repair, failing to pay taxes assessed against the home, failing to insure the home or creating a lien with higher priority than the reverse mortgage. Failing to pay a repairman who then creates a vendor's lien is an example of the last circumstance.

In any of these instances, the loan becomes due immediately. The homeowner has the option to repay the balance of the loan or let the lender sell the home to satisfy the debt.

To learn more about reverse mortgages, including specifics of the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) and Fannie Mae varieties, see Harris' article "Reversal of Fortune" in the April 2004 issue of Tierra Grande magazine.

## Reverse Mortgages Provide Seniors Extra Cash

For older Texans feeling the strain of trying to make ends meet, reverse mortgages provide some welcome relief.

Reverse mortgages allow homeowners who are 62 or older to tap into the equity they have built up in their homes as a source of additional income.

A reverse mortgage is a mirror image of a regular mortgage: the borrower receives, rather than makes, monthly payments, and the debt increases rather than decreases over the term of the loan.

"Most borrowers use funds from a reverse mortgage to pay off debt or to purchase something they otherwise could not afford," says Dr. Jack C. Harris, research economist with the Real Estate Center at Texas A&M University. "Because these loans are particularly appealing to older homeowners who have substantial equity in their homes, a

reverse mortgage might be defined as the bank pays and granny stays."

With a reverse mortgage, the borrower can choose to receive a lump sum of money at closing or



monthly payments.

If monthly payments are chosen, the principal balance of the loan (the amount owed) increases with each disbursement and interest accrues. The borrower

makes no payments during the loan term. Also, the borrower may pay all origination expenses from loan proceeds.

The term of a reverse mortgage is indefinite. The loan comes due when the borrower no longer needs the home as a residence. In most cases, this is when the borrower dies, chooses to move or enters a health care facility on more than a temporary basis.

The loan is fully repaid when the borrower sells the home. The lender may take the home, which is pledged as collateral, to satisfy the debt but may not take any other assets, no matter how large the loan balance becomes.

A borrower cannot be foreclosed upon for missing a payment, as there are no payments, Harris says. However, it is possible to default on a reverse mortgage contract. A default could precipitate the sale of the home. This could occur if the borrower

## Members Of The National Black McDonald's Operators Association (NBMOA) Gather To Honor The Past, Celebrate The Present And Plan The Future



One of the largest organizations of African-American franchisees holds its annual symposium

Ernie Adair, Chairman and CEO of the National Black McDonald's Operators Association (NBMOA) addressed members of the NBMOA, one of the largest organizations of African American entrepreneurs, at its 2006 symposium held in Nassau, Bahamas. Appropriately titled, "The Legacy

Continues," this year's symposium focused on sharing business knowledge to help increase the growth of black-owned businesses.

Reacting to the social unrest following the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in 1968, McDonald's Corporation and its management team concurred that Black business leaders are better able to address issues and concerns in the community where they live and work.

DWI Grant Page 1  
with a Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) of .01 or

higher. Of those, nearly 13,000 were involved in crashes where the BAC was at or above the

legal limit of .08.  
If you get caught driving impaired, WE WILL NOT

ISSUE WARNINGS! You drink, You drive, YOU WILL GO TO JAIL!

Garland MLK Parade Page 1

The celebration continues with an MLK commemorative program in the main auditorium of the Granville Arts Center immediately following the parade and march. Performances include the MLK Community-wide Youth

Choir, MLK "I Have A Dream" speech by Elder Albert Baker, St. Luke AME Puppet Ministry and the Ida Handley Elementary Choir. The event is open to the public. Admission is free.

**MLK Youth Extravaganza - January 14, 2007 - Granville**

**Arts Center Main Auditorium**

Youth groups from area churches will showcase their spiritual talents in praise dance, step routines and military-style drills on Sunday afternoon in the main auditorium of the Granville Arts Center, beginning at 4:00 p.m. The Youth Extravaganza is open to the public. Admission is free.

For more information on these events, please contact the NAACP Garland branch at 972.381.5044, voice box #5, or visit our Web site at: [www.garlandnaacp.org](http://www.garlandnaacp.org).

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## Garland Youth Council Shares Important Message With Pre-Teens

Each day, more than 10,000 young people between the ages of 12 and 20 take their first drink of an alcoholic beverage. That's why it's important for those who serve as role models to begin talking with kids about the use and abuse of alcohol before they start drinking.

As high school juniors, members of the Garland Youth Council (GYC) recognize that they can influence younger students. During December, GYC members and other high school volunteers conducted Reach Out Now Teach-Ins at



several Garland schools. Their mission was to share important information with 5th and 6th graders about how alcohol negatively impacts the brains and bodies of young people.

"We hope we can make difference for these younger kids and that something we say during these Teach-Ins will stay with them," says GYC Chair Nelly Shora. "We hope this information will help them make good choices."

The Teach-Ins include information about how the brain controls a person's physical coordi-

nation, emotions, decision-making and more. Then the GYC members explained how the use of alcohol can affect those parts of the brain and alter those important functions both temporarily and long-term.

The GYC presenters and the younger students also brainstormed ways to respond to pressure from others to drink. They also discussed ways to share this important information with other friends and family members.

The Teach-Ins were conducted at Toler Elementary School,

Shoreland Elementary School, and Bussey Middle School.

The GYC members who presented the Teach-In programs were Chad Cohen (Trinity Christian Academy), Ariel Cobb (Garland High School), Amena McCallum (Lakeview Centennial), Brittany Harwood (South Garland), Alison Watts (Sachse High School), Tyler Murray (Naaman Forest), Demetrius Sumner (Lakeview Centennial), and Nelly Shora (South Garland). Amber Leff (Naaman Forest) and Travis Blanton (Sachse High School)

also volunteered to present.

More information about the affects of alcohol on adolescents is available at [www.garlandyouthcouncil.org](http://www.garlandyouthcouncil.org). The GYC's mission is to provide a forum, which educates Garland's youth to the various workings of City business, and allows youth to voice ideas and concerns. All youth are encouraged to attend the GYC's monthly meetings. Meeting times and locations are available on the website or by contacting the GYC at [gyc@ci.garland.tx.us](mailto:gyc@ci.garland.tx.us) or 972-205-28.

## Collin Hosts Healthcare Open House

Collin County Community College District (Collin) Continuing Education will host a Healthcare Programs Open House from 6-8 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 8.

Instructors will be on hand to discuss courses and programs including EKG, pharmacy technician, optician training, ophthalmic assistant, medical

office management and medical transcription. Registration and financial aid information will be available.

Attendees will also learn about new offerings including a medical coding certificate series, a rehabilitation aide course and a registered dental assistant course that is approved by the Texas State Board of Dental

Examiners.

The open house will be held in Room A106 of the college's Courtyard Center for Professional and Economic Development at 4800 Preston Park Blvd. in Plano.

For more information, please contact Kelli Albrecht at 972.599.3117 or Carol Luckock at 972.985.3758.

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.

## SMU Celebrates A 50th Anniversary And Breaks Ground On New Practice Facility

As SMU's Moody Coliseum, a Dallas landmark, celebrated its 50th anniversary of ball games and event hosting, the University broke ground Dec. 8 on the new Crum Basketball Center.

The new 13-million, 43,000 square-foot practice facility

will offer SMU's basketball programs a variety of cutting-edge amenities. The facility will include two full-size practice courts; players' locker rooms and lounges; a fully equipped training and rehabilitation room with in-ground hydrotherapy pools; a strength and condition-

ing room; coaches' offices and film editing rooms.

A tunnel will link the center to Moody, which will continue to be the on-campus home to SMU basketball.

The Crum Basketball Center is scheduled to open October 2007.

## The Art Institute Of Dallas Partners With Children's Medical Center: 'Kids Heart The Arts'

The Art Institute of Dallas is hosting its monthly art class at Children's Medical Center of Dallas for "Kids Heart the Arts."

Led by Art Institute students and supervised by faculty and

staff members, these therapeutic art classes are designed to provide the young patients an opportunity to explore their creativity, learn new skills, and offer a welcome distraction from their illness.

The class will be held in the hospital playrooms on December 20 from 6-7:30 pm. Students will lead patients in holiday-themed projects, including ornaments and door hangers for their hospital rooms.

## Plano ISD MLK Tribute Event To Feature Student Performances

Plano ISD invites the community to "United by the Dream," a tribute event to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The program, which is free and open to the public, will be held from 7:00 to

8:15 p.m. on Thursday, January 18, 2007, in Collinwood Hall at Plano Centre, 2000 E. Spring Creek Parkway.

The event will showcase the talent of Plano ISD students

through a Parade of Nations, reading of original letters to Dr. King, student musical performances and presentation of Diversity Leadership Awards and MLK Art Contest Awards.



# Reason #417:

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HIST 1301: US History to 1877  
HIST 1302: US History Since 1877  
PHIL 1301: Introduction to Philosophy  
PSYC 2301: Introduction to Psychology  
PSYC 2314: Developmental Psychology  
SOCI 1301: Introduction to Sociology

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## Fans Pay Tribute To The Late James Brown

AP  
"Godfather of Soul" James Brown remained the hardest working man in show business to the end, telling friends from his hospital bed that he'd be in Times Square on New Year's Eve, even though he had pneumonia.

His heart gave out a few hours later, on Christmas morning.

All Christmas day, famous fans from Mick Jagger to Snoop Dogg to the Rev. Al Sharpton shared memories of their mentor and idol, while lesser known fans left candles on Brown's Hollywood Walk of Fame star in Los Angeles and streamed to his statue in his boyhood hometown of Augusta, piling mementos and flowers at its base.

"Y'all lost the Godfather of Soul, but I lost my father. I know the whole world loved him just as much as we loved him, so we're not mourning by ourselves," Brown's daughter Venisha Brown told The Augusta Chronicle as she stood near the statue, fighting back tears.

The 73-year-old pompadoured dynamo, whose classic singles include "Papa's Got A Brand New Bag" and "I Got You (I Feel Good)," died of heart failure less than two days after he had been hospitalized with pneumonia and only three days after leading his annual holiday toy giveaway in Augusta.

"I ain't got the same energy," Brown had told the New York Post a week earlier as he discussed his planned concert tour, "but I'm sharper."

"Father Time, knowledge

and prayer — I pray a lot," Brown had said. He described himself as "like Will Rogers: I love everybody. So this is not a



hard job for me."

The entertainer with the rough-edged voice and flashy footwork also had diabetes and prostate cancer that was in remission. But he initially seemed fine at the hospital and talked about his New Year's Eve show at B.B. King Blues Club in New York, said his agent, Frank Copsidas.

"Last night, he said, 'I'm going to be there. I'm the hardest working man in show business,'" Copsidas said Monday.

Brown was himself to the end, at one point saying, "I'm going away tonight," said friend Charles Bobbit, who was with Brown when he died.

"I didn't want to believe him,"

he said.

A short time later, Brown sighed quietly, closed his eyes and died, Bobbit said.

"His thing was 'I never saw a person that I didn't love.' He was a true humanitarian who loved his country," Bobbit said.

One of the major musical influences of the past 50 years, James Brown was to rhythm and dance music what Bob Dylan was to lyrics.

From Jagger to Michael Jackson, David Bowie to Public Enemy, his rapid-footed dancing, hard-charging beats and heartfelt yet often unintelligible vocals changed the musical landscape.

"He was a whirlwind of energy and precision, and he was always very generous and supportive to me in the early days of the Stones," Jagger said. "His passing is a huge loss to music."

Rapper Snoop Dogg called him "my soul inspiration."

Brown was one of the first artists inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, along with Elvis Presley, Chuck Berry and other founding fathers.

"He made soul music a world music," said Sharpton, who toured with Brown in the 1970s and imitates his hairstyle to this day. "What James Brown was to music in terms of soul and hip-hop, rap, all of that, is what Bach was to classical music."

This is a guy who literally changed the music industry. He put everybody on a different beat, a different style of music. He pioneered it."

Sharpton will officiate at Brown's funeral service, details of which were still incomplete, Copsidas said. Sharpton said Tuesday that he and Brown's daughters planned to view Brown's body Tuesday afternoon at an Augusta funeral home and finalize funeral arrangements.

Brown's daughter-in-law Diane Dean Rouse told The Augusta Chronicle she hoped the funeral would be open to the people of Augusta.

"He would want it open because he would want everybody to get there and because that's who he loved," she said.

Brown won a Grammy for lifetime achievement in 1992, as well as Grammys in 1965 for "Papa's Got a Brand New Bag" (best R&B recording) and for "Living In America" in 1987 (best R&B vocal performance, male.) He had a brief but memorable role on the big screen as a manic preacher in the 1980's movie "The Blues Brothers."

Brown, who lived in Beech Island, S.C., near the Georgia line, also had a turbulent personal life that included charges of abusing drugs and alcohol. After a widely publicized, drug-fueled confrontation with police in 1988 that ended in an interstate car chase, Brown spent 15 months in a South Carolina prison and 10 months in a work release program.

From the 1950s, when Brown had his first R&B hit, "Please, Please, Please" in 1956, through the mid-1970s, Brown went on a

frenzy of cross-country tours, concerts and new songs. He earned the nickname "The Hardest Working Man in Show Business" and often tried to prove it to his fans, said Jay Ross, his lawyer of 15 years.

Brown's stage act was as memorable, and as imitated, as his records, with his twirls and spins and flowing cape, his repeated faints to the floor at the end.

With his tight pants, eye makeup and outrageous hair, Brown set the stage for younger stars such as Jackson and Prince. And the early rap generation overwhelmingly sampled his music and voice as they laid the foundation of hip-hop culture.

His trademark moment of each performance was at the end: A weary, spent Brown begins to leave the stage, a cape thrown over his shoulders, then suddenly stops, shakes the cape off and rushes back to grab the microphone, his voice and feet moving at top speed all over again.

"Disco is James Brown, hip-hop is James Brown, rap is James Brown; you know what I'm saying? You hear all the rappers, 90 percent of their music is me,"

Brown told The AP in 2003.

Brown was born in poverty in Barnwell, S.C., in 1933, and abandoned as a 4 year old to the care of relatives and friends. He grew up in Augusta in an "ill-repute area," as he once called it, learning how to hustle to survive.

By the eighth grade in 1949, Brown had served 3 1/2 years in reform school for breaking into cars. While there, he met Bobby Byrd, whose family took Brown into their home. Byrd also took Brown into his group, the Gospel Starlighters. Soon they changed their name to the Famous Flames and their style to hard R&B.

"He was dramatic to the end — dying on Christmas Day," said the Rev. Jesse Jackson, a friend of Brown's since 1955. "Almost a dramatic, poetic moment. He'll be all over the news all over the world today. He would have it no other way."

Brown is survived by his partner, Tomi Rae Hynie, one of his backup singers, and at least four children — two daughters and sons Daryl and James Brown II, Copsidas said.

## Ciara Tops The Charts With Sophomore Album

Multi-platinum R&B/Pop Sensation Ciara strikes it big with her sophomore album, Ciara: The Evolution (La Face/Zomba Label Group), which lands at #1 on the Billboard 200 today, with sales of 338,447, topping Eminem and Gwen Stefani. Ciara: The Evolution is the follow-up to 2004's Goodies, Ciara's first album, which debuted at #3 with sales of 124,750 in its first week and went on to sell 3 million on the strength of its three megahit singles.

Ciara: The Evolution sprints towards the gold mark on the strength of the first two singles, the get-it-started club banger

"Get Up" (originally released as the single for the Step Up soundtrack) and the sensual ballad, "Promise," produced by Polow Da Don. "Promise," which truly showcases Ciara's evolution and represents her first true ballad to rule the charts, is currently at #3 on the urban charts, and rises from #23 to the top 15 on the Billboard Hot 100 chart. The steamy Diane Martel-directed video is #1 on popular BET countdown show 106th & Park, the #1 overall video for the whole network, the #2 video at MTV, and in heavy rotation at VH1 Soul, MTV Jams, MTV Hits, Music Choice, and was recently an "Ovenfresh" video on FUSE.

Critics and fans alike have been raving for Ciara's "Evolution." USA Today says the new album "shows her versatility as a singer and songwriter" and labels the album "intelligently designed diversification." Ciara "displays significant growth" (People) and the new album "should one, two-step Ciara even closer to superstardom" (Billboard). Ciara "knocks out one potential hit after the other" (New York Newsday) on a "near-perfect dance album" (Details).

Music from Ciara: The Evolution has been featured in performances on Live! With Regis



& Kelly, The Ellen Show, The Late Show with David Letterman, The Late Late Show with Craig Ferguson, MTV's TRL, BET's 106 & Park, the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, and a special broadcast of her December 10th concert at the Nokia Theatre through AOL Music Live!

## Sean 'Diddy' Combs Starts Production On Tv Version Of 'Raisin In The Sun'

Sean "Diddy" Combs is transferring his Broadway experience to the small screen in a new television movie adaptation of Lorraine Hansberry's A Raisin in the Sun.

Production recently started on the three-hour feature in Toronto, Canada. The feature will air on ABC during the 2007 season.

Combs, who received critical acclaim for his portrayal of Walter Lee Jr. in the theatrical version of the drama, will reunite with fellow castmates Phylicia Rashad, Audra McDonald and Sanaa Lathan.

John Stamos for the TV reworking.

Set in the 1950s, A Raisin in the Sun follows a family living and struggling on Chicago's South Side, in a moving portrait of people whose hopes and dreams are constantly deferred.

It was the first play written by an African-American woman to be produced on Broadway.

The play's original cast included Sidney Poitier, Claudia McNeil, Diana Sands, Ruby Dee and Louis Gossett Jr. when it premiered in 1959. A

Columbia Pictures feature version of the production with the same cast followed in 1961.

The drama's latest Broadway run resulted in a Best Actress Tony Award for Rashad, a Best Featured Actress Tony Award for McDonald and a Best Featured



Actress Tony nomination for Lathan.

The ABC film will be produced by Craig Zadan and Neil Meron, the pair that executive produced the Oscar-winning film, Chicago.

Sean Combs' Bad Boy World Wide Entertainment Group and Sony Pictures Television will also serve as executive producers.

Kenny Leon, who received a Drama Desk nomination for Outstanding Director for his

staging of the play on Broadway, will be make his film debut with the movie

The drama's TV adaptation is the latest acting achievement for

Combs, who made his acting debut in the film Made and appeared in Monster's Ball, which starred Halle Berry and Billy Bob Thornton.



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# Virginia Congressman Fears More Muslims Elected

**Rep. Goode 'stands by' letter; groups charge Islamophobia, demand apology**  
AP

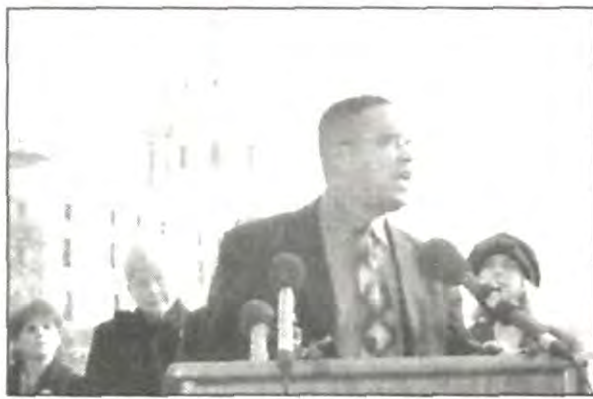
A congressman said Thursday that he will not retract a letter warning that unless immigration is tightened, "many more Muslims will be elected" and use the Quran to take the oath of office.

Republican Rep. Virgil Goode triggered angry responses from a civil rights group and some colleagues with a letter this month to constituents concerned about a decision by Rep.-elect Keith Ellison of Minnesota, the first Muslim elected to Congress, to use the Quran when he is sworn in.

"I will not be putting my hand on the Quran," Goode said at a news conference Thursday at the Franklin County Courthouse.

Goode, who represents Virginia's 5th Congressional

District, said he is receiving more positive comments from constituents than negative.



Rep.-elect Keith Ellison of Minnesota

"One lady told me she thinks I'm doing the right thing on this," he told Fox News. "I wish more people would take a stand and stand up for the principles on which this country was founded."

Goode also told Fox News he wants to limit legal immigration and do away with "diversity visas," which he said let in people "not from European countries" and "some terrorist states."

"Nothing for him to be afraid of"

In his letter, Goode wrote that strict immigration policies are necessary "to preserve the values and beliefs traditional to the United States of America."

"The Muslim representative from Minnesota was elected by the voters of that district and if American citizens don't wake up and adopt the Virgil Goode position on immigration there will likely be many more Muslims elected to office and demanding the use of the Koran," he wrote.

Ellison said Thursday that Goode and others had nothing to fear about Muslims.

"They are our nurses, doctors, husbands, wives, kids, who just

want to live and prosper in the American way," Ellison, a Democrat from Minneapolis, said Thursday on CNN when asked what he would say to Goode if they met. "All of us are steadfastly opposed to the same people he's opposed to, which is terrorists, and so there's nothing for him to be afraid of."

Asked whether he thought Goode was a bigot, Ellison said, "I don't know the fellow, and I'd rather just say that he has a lot to learn about Islam. ... I don't want to start any name-calling."

Group demands apology  
Virginia's senior senator, Republican John Warner, said in a statement Thursday that he respects the right of congressional members to freely "exercise the religion of their choice, including those of the Islamic faith utilizing the Quran."

Rep. Rahm Emanuel, an Illinois Democrat who is Jewish, said Thursday that he hoped Goode would meet with Ellison, saying

he would "see what I saw: a good American with good values of a



Republican Rep. Virgil Goode of Virginia

different faith who's trying to do right by the people he represents."

The Council on American-Islamic Relations had asked Goode to apologize, saying the remarks sent "a message of intolerance that is unworthy of anyone elected to public office."

Ellison was born in Detroit and converted to Islam in college.

His decision to use the Quran at his ceremonial swearing-in

next month prompted criticism from conservative talk radio host Dennis Prager. The American-Islamic relations council has called for Prager's removal from the board of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum.

Keith Ellison, 42, moved to Minnesota in 1987 to attend University of Minnesota Law School, where he graduated with a Juris Doctor degree in 1990. Ellison and spouse Kim, a high school mathematics teacher, have lived on the Minneapolis Northside for the past 17 years. They have four children ages 17, 15, 10, and 9.

Ellison represents House District 58B in the Minnesota State Legislature, one of the most economically, racially, and demographically diverse districts in the State. He is a member of the Legislature's Public Safety, Policy and Finance Committees, and Election and Civil Law Committee.

## Rape Charges Dismissed Page 1

linked the three Duke players to their accuser.

Lacking any "scientific or other evidence independent of the victim's testimony" to corroborate that aspect of the case, Nifong wrote, "the State is unable to meet its burden of proof with respect to this offense."

Wade Smith, another defense attorney in the case, called on Nifong to "[D]o the honorable thing. End this case, because there isn't a case to bring."

In comments he gave to The New York Times appearing in

Saturday's edition, Nifong indicated he is pressing ahead with kidnapping and sex charges that carry tough sentences. But Nifong told the Times the "case will go away" if the accuser ever says one of the players she identified didn't attack her.

Nifong says he's "not interested in prosecuting somebody that's innocent." He goes on to say that "until she tells me these are not the right guys, we're prosecuting this case."

Nifong gave the interview to the paper Thursday, before the announcement that the rape case was being dropped.

The accuser, a 28-year-old student at North Carolina Central University, has said three men raped her in a bathroom at a March 13 Duke lacrosse team party where she was hired to perform as a stripper.

The indicted players — Dave Evans, Collin Finnerty and Reade Seligmann — all say they are innocent, and their attorneys have consistently said no sex occurred at the party.

"The only explanation for why the whole case wasn't dropped on the eve of the holiday weekend is that the prosecutor believes he does have decent evi-

dence proving that the woman was sexually assaulted, even if she wasn't raped, and that she was held against her will during her time with the defendants," CBS News legal analyst Andrew Cohen said. "That's a much easier case to prove than rape."

The defense attorneys have repeatedly cited a lack of DNA evidence in the case as proof of their clients' innocence, while Nifong had said he didn't need DNA evidence to win convictions.

Testing also showed that genetic material from several males was found on her under-

garments and body.

CBS affiliate WRAL-TV in Raleigh confirmed last week that the accuser is pregnant and was admitted to University of North Carolina Hospitals. However, she is not due to deliver until February. A judge has ordered a paternity test on the baby she's expecting.

Defense attorneys have said for months that the woman has told several different versions of the alleged assault, and Seligmann's attorney has said she has given investigators at least a dozen different versions of the alleged attack.

The defense also has argued that the woman misidentified her alleged attackers in a photo lineup and they have asked the judge to prevent the accuser from identifying the players from the witness stand.

Cohen, who believes questions about the accuser's credibility make it increasingly unlikely that the case will ultimately go to trial, said that the dismissal of the rape charges is the "beginning of the end."

"This is the time in the prosecution's case when they should be gaining momentum," he said. "Instead, they're losing it."

## Gerald Ford Remembered Page 1

steady leadership and optimism that was his signature."

Democratic Sen. Harry Reid of Nevada, the incoming Senate majority leader, said Ford "was a devoted public servant who led our nation out of one of its darkest hours with grace and bipartisanship."

The nation's major stock markets observed moments of silence Wednesday to honor the former president.

Gerald Ford was the unlikely of presidents, a man brought to power by unprecedented circumstances without seeking the office, at a time when Americans -- reeling from the Watergate scandal -- were disillusioned and weary.

During his famous address to the nation after he assumed office in 1974, he tried to set a tone of reconciliation and renewal, telling his fellow Americans that "our long national nightmare is over."

He announced his decision to pardon Nixon, saying he hoped his act would "shut and seal this book" on Watergate.

His enormously controversial decision to pardon Nixon is widely blamed for costing him his own presidential election victory in the 1976 race, which was one of the closest presidential elections in U.S. history.

At 93, Ford was the nation's oldest surviving former president and the only president and vice president never to be elected to either office.

His death leaves three surviving former presidents: Bill Clinton, 60, George H. W. Bush, 82, and Carter, 82.

The nation's 38th president spent several days in the fall of 2006 at Eisenhower Medical Center in Rancho Mirage for medical tests. In August, he entered the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, for an angioplasty procedure to reduce or eliminate blockages in his coronary arteries. Doctors also implanted a pacemaker to improve his heart performance.

Ford is survived by his wife, Betty, 88; three sons, Michael, Jack and Steven; and a daughter, Susan.

Funeral plans are expected to involve a small private ceremony in Palm Desert, California, and an opportunity

for the public to pay respects there before the body is flown to Washington for a period of public mourning in the capital, according to AP.

Born in Nebraska with a different name

Ford was born Leslie Lynch King on July 14, 1913, in Omaha, Nebraska. When he was just two weeks old, his parents divorced, and his mother moved to Grand Rapids, Michigan, where he grew up. His mother remarried, and he was adopted and renamed after his stepfather, Gerald Rudolph Ford.

Ford was a high school senior when he met his biological father, AP reported. The future president was working in a Greek restaurant, he recalled, when a man came in and stood watching.

"Finally, he walked over and said, 'I'm your father,'" Ford said, according to AP. "Well, that was quite a shock." But he wrote in his memoir that he broke down and cried that night and was left with the image of "a carefree, well-to-do man who didn't really give a damn about the hopes and dreams of his firstborn son," AP reported.

After playing football at the University of Michigan and serving on an aircraft carrier in the Navy during World War II, Ford was elected to the U.S. House in 1948 as a Republican, representing a district that included Grand Rapids, where he grew up. He spent 25 years in Congress, working his way up to minority leader in 1965.

In October 1973, Vice President Spiro Agnew resigned after pleading no contest to tax evasion. Nixon, ensnared in the rising Watergate scandal, asked the well-respected Ford to leave Congress to replace Agnew, and he accepted.

Pardoned President Nixon  
In September 1974, Ford granted Nixon a pardon, sparing the former president the prospect of going to prison. The public and political backlash was angry and bitter, with Ford accused of making a tawdry deal with Nixon to secure the White House for himself.

Ford always denied that any deal had been struck. But the pardon colored the rest of his presidency.

"It was a tough decision," Ford told USA Today in an

interview in 2000. "We needed to get the matter off my desk. ... so I could concentrate on the problems of 260 million Americans and not have to worry about the problems of one man."

Even though he hadn't sought the presidency, Ford decided he wanted to stay in the White House and sought a full term in 1976. It was an uphill battle from the start.

Ford carried 27 states and came within a whisker of beating Carter in the Electoral College. A shift of just 23,000 votes in two states, Ohio and Wisconsin, would have given Ford the win.

After leaving the White House, Ford kept a generally low pro-

file, limiting his appearances largely to golf tournaments and splitting his time between homes in Rancho Mirage and Beaver Creek, Colorado. He built a

presidential library and a museum in Michigan.

According to AP, Ford was the last surviving member of the Warren Commission, the panel

that investigated the 1963 assassination of President John F. Kennedy concluded that Lee Harvey Oswald was the lone assassin.

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## Church News



### Sister Tarpley

2006 will end with "Watch Night Services" at various churches in America in three days. For 100 years or more my ancestors celebrated "Night Watch Services." Later, I did the same, not knowing the meaning of the annual celebration.

This tradition brings warm memories to me. My parents, Mr. Lloyd David & Mrs. Cedella Baker Demus, my siblings and I would visit both sets of grandparents, Deacon David N. & Mother Ida Rutherford Demus and James & Maggie Smith Baker in Mexia, TX during the summer and the Christmas Holidays. At Deacon & Mother Demus home, every Sunday morning everybody in the house would gather in the living room; got on their knees and prayed prior to eating breakfast and going to church; this seemed to strengthen "family unity and love." This was never a tradition in my parent's home in Dallas; I guess because we lived in the "Big City" and not the "Country Town of Mexia;" and everybody seemed to be doing their own thing anyway.

From my cousin, Vickie Terry Byrd and Floyd Erving's "Short Stories" is this history of Watch Night Service. I learned about a tradition that I had been doing since childbirth and the fond memories in the process. I feel honored once again to share this history with my readers.

## Watch Night Services

Perhaps this story will educate and enlighten you, or at the very least bring back loving memories of your past.

Many of you live, or who grew up in Black communities in America have probably heard of "Watch Night Services" (the gathering of Christians in church on New Year's Eve.) Service usually begins anywhere from 7 pm to 10 pm, and ends at midnight with prayer and the New

like New Year's Eve.

However, there is a reason for the importance of New Year's Eve Services in African American congregations. The Watch Night Services in Black communities can be traced back to gatherings on December 31, 1862, also known as "Freedom's Eve." On that night, Blacks came together in churches and private homes all across the nation, anxiously awaiting the news that the Emancipation Proclamation actually had become law. Then, at the stroke of midnight, it was January 1, 1863; this meant that all slaves in the Confederate States were declared legally FREE. When news was received, there were prayers, shouts and songs of joy as people fell to their knees and thanked God. Black folks have gathered in churches on New Year's Eve since; and there are praises to God for bringing Black families safely through another year.

It's been 143 years since that First Freedom's Eve in TX; many of us were never taught the African America's history of Watch Night, but custom still brings us together at this time every year to celebrate, "how we got over."

**Peace and Blessings in the New Year!**

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**Picture of The Week**  
(L to R): Frances Martin Downing, Mrs. Ruby Combs (Birthday Lady) and Sister Tarpley, celebrating the 90th birthday of Mrs. Combs.

Year. Some people go to church first, before going out to celebrate the New Year. For others, church is their only New Year's Eve celebration. Like some, I always assumed that Watch Night Service was a fairly standard Christian Religious Service - a bit more Afro centric because that's what happens when elements of Christianity become linked with the Black Church. Still, it seemed that predominantly Anglo Christian churches did not include Watch Night Services on their calendars, but focused instead on Christmas Eve Programs. In fact, there were instances where clergy in mainline denominations wondered aloud about the propriety of linking religious services with a secular holiday

### New Plano Fire Station Page 1

Hugo Esparza became Plano's Fire Chief on November 27, 2006. He previously served 31 years with the Fort Worth Fire Department where he was Deputy Chief of the Executive Services Division. Chief Esparza brings with him an

extensive background in the fire service which began in January 1975, and includes firefighting, EMS, HazMat, technical rescue, bomb squad unit, training officer, fire prevention, fire investigations, public fire education, recruiting, and human resources administration.

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## Church Happenings

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Please 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 Worshipping: 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

#### January 19, 7 pm

Start the New Year off with a Blessed event, come and celebrate with us as, Something Out of the Ordinary (SOTO) will present The Legends of Gospel Tour, "The Legacies of Dr. Martin Luther and Mrs. Coretta Scott King." Tickets are \$25 in advance and VIP tickets (includes reserved seating and dinner with the Artists!) are only \$65. A portion of the proceeds from the VIP tickets will be donated to the MLK Center. Featured guest includes: Doc McKenzie & The Hi-Lites; Lee Williams & The Spiritual QCs; Keith "Wonder Boy" Johnson & The Spiritual Voices; and Slim & The Supreme Angels.

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 Sharise 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 services 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

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

templeoffaith\_cme@sbcglobal.net (Email)

Healthy Beginnings Child Development Center - 972-404-1412

### FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH OF ALLEN

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

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Sunday Morning Worship  
Children's Church ..... 11:00 am  
Wednesday Prayer/Bible Study ..... 7:00 pm  
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\*If you need a ride to worship with us, please call the church.

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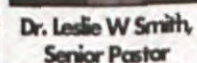
SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES:

8:00 AM • 9:30 AM • 11:30 AM

972-437-3493

1010-1020 South Sherman Street • Richardson, TX 75081

www.ndcbf.org



Dr. Leslie W. Smith,  
Senior Pastor

### New Mt. Zion Baptist Church of Dallas

#### Sunday Service

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

#### Wednesday Service

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



Dr. Robert E. Price,  
Senior Pastor

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Dallas, TX 75243

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

### Faithway Fellowship Baptist Church

Of Hamilton Park

8219 Bunche Dr. Dallas, TX 75243

Church Office: (972) 792-0239

Pastor's Office: (972) 792-0240

#### Service Times

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

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Email: slamechurch@aol.com

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9:45 a.m. Praise & Worship  
10:15 a.m. Worship Experience



Reverend Charles E. Franklin, Pastor

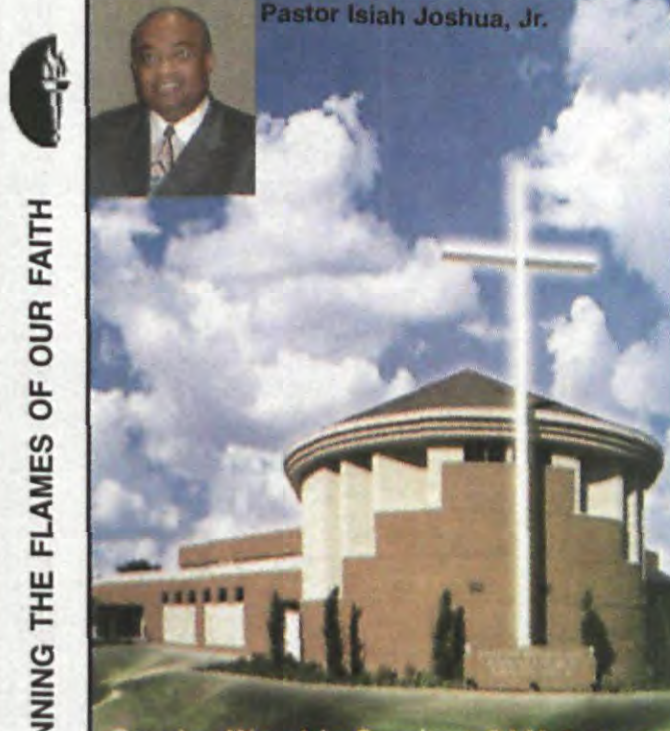
Tuesday  
7:15 p.m. Bible Study

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

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### Saint Mark Missionary Baptist Church

1308 Wilcox Street, McKinney TX

Pastor Charles S. Wattlely



#### Sunday

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

#### Wednesday

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

Friendly Fellowship with A Family Focus

For More Information Call 972.542.6178

www.saintmarkbc.com • stmarkmissionary@aol.com



## Legends Of Gospel Tour Featuring Four Nationally Renowned Quartets Give Special Dallas Performance During MLK Week

**Lee Williams and Keith "Wonderboy" Johnson Among Powerhouse Performers to Appear at Friendship West Baptist Church January 19**

Today, Something out of the Ordinary (SOTO), announced plans to host the Legends of Gospel Tour in Dallas on Friday, Jan. 19 at 7 p.m. at Friendship West Baptist Church, 2020 Wheatland Rd. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the Dallas Martin Luther King Community Center.

The stellar lineup will showcase four nationally acclaimed, award-winning quartets including: Lee Williams and the Spiritual QCs; 2006 Stellar Award Nominee, Keith "Wonderboy" Johnson and the Spiritual Voices; Slim and the

Supreme Angels and Doc McKenzie and the Gospel Highlights.

For the first time ever, these gospel greats will be in concert on the same Dallas stage for an exciting performance that promises not only to entertain, but also to inspire the audience through music and message.

According to Thomas Guillory, President of Something Out of The Ordinary, the concert's emphasis on talented musical quartets represents resurgence in popularity of traditional gospel, soul and R&B music in the Dallas community. "Although today's contemporary gospel artists have made great strides in the industry, many local fans also appreciate the roots of gospel music, which embodies the sound of our featured performers at the upcoming

Legends of Gospel Tour," Guillory said.

Headliner Lee Williams and the Spiritual QCs typify why so

decades, the group made music for little but love of the gospel message and combined it with memorable melodies, sweet harmony and a beat that just refused to let feet sit still. And today, none of that has changed one bit.

This dynamic foursome will be a rousing crowd-pleaser at the Dallas audience as they perform their testimony of love and faith during the Legends of Gospel Tour at Friendship West Baptist Church on January 19.

The group is sure to perform their mega hit "Right On Time," which was an instant radio smash with joyous abandon. "The song's lyrics explain that we think we've got to have some-



Lee Williams and the Spiritual QCs

many fans have rediscovered the sensational music of the gospel quartet. For more than three

## LaLa Jones Reaches Out With Salt Of The Earth

LaLa Jones is making waves in Dallas with her neo-gospel sound. It is hard to tell just by looking at this



lovely lady that she has a voice so strong filled with passion from every verse she

lets roll off her tongue. Often times her sound is greatly compared to the legendary Mahalia Jackson. With her first album Salt of the Earth, La La encompasses stories about daily struggles and rejoices that she has encountered or stories about those who she have come in contact with. She actually comes in contact with so many people daily as an elementary school teacher. LaLa sees firsthand some of the triumphs that children and their parents face day after day. She speaks to children about

issues that are plaguing the community. Whether, it is subjects about AIDS or drugs, LaLa uses her music as her way to reach out to the youth. Her lyrics are easy to follow as she sings over hip-hop style melodies. Listener's can enjoy songs like "Ghetto Gal", "Goddess", "Powder" and "Unconditional Love." Singing about God's grace is what she believes is her ministry and her gift from God. She takes every moment and every opportunity to sing about how God is so awesome in her life. She has spoken as well as sing in a variety of arenas. LaLa uses her voice as a way to inspire people with-

out appearing too preachy. She has performed at Harambee festivals, The Ebony Family Reunion, E. M. Pease Elementary School, Loyola University, Black Forest Theater among many others. She has sponsored anti-drug rallies for children and raised money to help those in Africa with AIDS by calling on local artist to help her. Currently she is working on her second album, which she says, "will be better than the first project." Well, DGC looks forward to her new project. Salt of the Earth can be ordered through CD Baby and picked up at Jokake's Bookstore.

### Nominations Open For Educators Hall Of Fame

Nominations are open for the African American Educators Hall of Fame 2007 Outstanding Trailblazer Award.

Featuring distinguished educators, the Hall of Fame Program is a collaboration of the Dallas Regional National Alliance of Black School Educators and the African American Museum. The committee is looking to recognize educators who have made a significant impact in the lives of the nominees.

For more information or to secure a nomination form, call Verna Mitchell at 214-330-0626. Forms can also be obtained at the African American Museum in Fair Park, the Dallas Post Tribune and the West Dallas Community Center.

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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



### 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.



### 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.



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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@bwbcirving.org](mailto:church@bwbcirving.org)  
Web: [bwbcirving.org](http://bwbcirving.org)

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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.

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