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Jimmy C. Bochum Scholarship awarded

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LULAC and NAACP must find a way to work together

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# The Gazette

A Division of **MON** Minority Opportunity News, Inc.

SERVING PLANO, DALLAS, RICHARDSON, ALLEN, MCKINNEY AND FRISCO

Volume X, Number XVII

"The Paper of Choice"

September 1-15, 2001

## Changing a street name takes a collaboration of individuals

By Anthony Jones

A simple snap of the fingers and to the chagrin of many residents, State Highway 190 was renamed George Bush Tollway, and with a nod and a wink the Plano City Council changed the name Carpenter to Legacy, but on the dual-naming of Avenue K, Plano will have to wait.

Since May, when the Martin Luther King Street Committee began petitioning the Plano City Council to first rename Parker Road the issue has been delayed. As the historical significance of Parker Road surfaced

the MLK Street Committee met with city officials and entered a compromise on a dual-name for Avenue K, but again the council decided to delay the matter for additional public input during their meeting Monday.

For a while, it seemed that the council would vote to dual-name Avenue K for the slain civic rights leader.

Councilman Phil Dyer (Place 3) who said before the meeting, that he expected to receive input from numerous citizens as the council had done on Aug. 13, "but I do not think that the council would take final action during the meeting."

However, Dyer motioned to approve the dual-naming and a second came from Councilwoman Pat Evans (Place 2). Evans told the council she did not think a dual-name would have a financial impact on the businesses located on Avenue K.

However, based on public comment from those who said they were not aware of the change in streets - a discussion

was opened following their motions by Councilmen Rick Neudorff (Place 4) and John Roach (Place 7). Roach and

"This is a great day for us, it takes your courage."

Johnson also mentioned there have been a number of streets in Plano that have had their names' changed or are dual-named.

"I know one day they will be proud to put the new name on their stationary," Johnson added. "Vote yes for dual-naming."

Plano resident Earl Simpkins asked the council to do the right thing and said it was for the betterment of the community.

Martin Jackson, a business owner on Avenue K, told the council Avenue K already has four names and it's known as Plano Road everywhere but in the City of Plano.

"Ultimately, the business owner have to write the check," Jackson said. "If you do go ahead with this a lot of business owners don't know this is going on."

Likewise, David Allison, a 20-year Plano resident, told the council street names in Plano should honor local heroes and renaming Avenue K would involve a cost for businesses.

Jane Garrison of Garrison Garden Center said the name change would present a private tax for businesses, "there's a lot involved, \$250 for checks and it's confusing to our customers. Garrison called on the council to reject dual-naming the avenue.

Rev. Johnson explained that dual-naming the street would exhibit to the state and to the country that there is unity in the community.

Reggie Jackson, an MLK committee member, told the council the committee had worked hard to present Parker Road for renaming, which had later been rejected by the committee because of the street's historical significance.

"We have left Parker and we're asking for Avenue K," Jackson said. "It's time for a change. We want to look good in Plano with a street to honor Martin Luther King. It's time to recognize these national leaders."

"We hoped there would be no family members named after Avenue K, Jackson added, explaining the committee as well as members of the community are not interested in a park or a plaque, he said: "We did not come asking for a plaque. We can buy a plaque. We don't want a park. We're not a park committee. We're a street committee."

William Harris said the dual-naming would be a blessing to Plano as well as the United

dual-naming. "It's not about Dr. Martin Luther King's honor," Roach added. "We are not against it. We are public officials and we have a responsibility to listen to everybody on this."

Roach suggested the city council could have a policy in place after two or three public hearings. "No one knows how to effect a change," he added.

Evans voiced her concerns saying, "We can't do this every week dragging it out." Evans also explained the dual-name for Avenue K has not been ruled out.

Before the meeting Evans said there will be continuing discussion on the subject and there have been a number of sugges-

tions of ways to honor Dr. Martin Luther King, including roads, parks and bridges.

Councilman Ken Lambert (Place 8) told The Gazette the vast majority of the e-mails has received regarding this matter have been in objection to changing the street name.

Plano Mayor Jeran Akers said he expects to find a way to honor Dr. Martin Luther King, "I do not know what that will be."

Because of her support for renaming State Highway 190 to George Bush Tollway, State Senator Florence Shapiro was contacted for comments on the dual-naming. Last week representatives from her office said they would provide comment. However, Wednesday her spokesperson said she was busy arranging her daughter's wedding and could not comment.



T.J. Johnson, Local Attorney

States. But he also said, "let's use a little common sense"

The council has not said "no" to the dual-naming of Avenue K, Councilman Dyer said after the presentation, "they just want to slow down and form a policy. They are laying the foundation for many years to come."

Roach called the meeting "very productive," and explained that the current consensus is to notify residents and businesses about a public hearing on the



Isiah Joshua, Jr., Pastor of Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church, speaks at MLK street public hearing.

Neudorff pointed out that there was not sufficient notice given to residents for the Avenue K renaming.

The discussion then led to the formation of an "ethnic bicultural ad hoc advisory committee," that will further study the issue.

Fred Moses, a business owner and an MLK Committee's spokesman explained the city could have established a policy during the meeting.

"I think we're really a little disappointed that the council has not moved forward because we've spent a lot of positive time with them and we thought we had addressed all the issues," Moses added.

During the meeting T.J. Johnson, a Plano resident addressed the council soliciting their approval and encouraging their support for the dual-naming.

"Show this state, this nation, this world we live for mutual respect," Johnson said.

## NAACP and LULAC look to Richardson for new chapters

By: Bruce Craig

Richardson residents have no NAACP local chapter or a local LULAC chapter although Richardson has a growing population of African Americans and Hispanics. Most of the surrounding suburbs of Dallas have local chapters of these particular organizations.

Some people believe there is not a critical need for a local NAACP chapter in Richardson. "There's not that many blacks in Richardson," says Sylvester Hooks, owner of Hooks Vacuum Repair on Main St.

"Richardson is an old, quiet town and my business

has been here for almost 10 years. I had a shop in Oklahoma, before coming here, that was broken into several times. That shop was in a black neighborhood. I haven't been broken into once here," Mr. Hooks said. "But I do believe that blacks need to work together."

Anna Hooks, wife of Mr. Hooks says, "an NAACP chapter would be good for networking."

LULAC, (League of United Latin American Citizens) may not be very well



Sylvester Hooks, owner of Hooks vacuum repair

known in the Hispanic community in Richardson says Carlos Morales, Manager of Café Mexico on Central Expressway. "LULAC is not pushing enough to get in Richardson," he says. There needs to be a better effort to get the word out because "a lot of Spanish speaking people don't know." He also believes there needs to be a coalition between African Americans and Hispanics to improve neighborhood conditions in black and Hispanic neighborhoods.

Angie Rodriguez, Office Manager at Kondos and Kondos Law Offices in

Richardson says about organizing a LULAC chapter in Richardson, "I would support it." She also believes that the reason for there not being a chapter in Richardson is because most of the Hispanic residents in Richardson are laborers and there needs to be someone to take the initiative.

LULAC and the NAACP have been divided in the past on some issues in Dallas, but a positive development has taken place on the state level between the two groups. LULAC district director, Adrian Rodriguez says, "A memorandum of understand-

See NEW page 3

### On the Homefront:

Sponsors Hattie Kelly of Power Pages News and Marvia Shelton of Coldwell Bank invite you to attend a Breakfast Networking Forum September 4th from 8:30 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. The breakfast will be held at the Super 8 motel at White and Central Expressway. Please RSVP with either Hattie Kelly 214-544-2088 or Marvia Shelton 972-562-9914.

The Plano Community Forum will have its general membership meeting September 6th at the Douglass Center from 7-8:30 p.m. For more information please call 972-260-4208.

The "Forward In God: To Finish the Course" Women's Conference and Expo is making its debut as one of the premier multi-cultural women's empowerment conference in the northern sector. The conference will be held September 8th beginning at 10 a.m. and end at 4:30 p.m. at the Renaissance Hotel in Richardson. For more information contact the Living Bible Church office at 469-467-9227 or visit www.forministry.com/75093LWBC.

You are invited to the Plano Chamber of Commerce Quarterly Membership Luncheon on September 14th featuring Jim Sundberg, former Texas Ranger catcher and 3-time American League All-Star. The luncheon will begin at 11:30 a.m. at the Harvey Hotel located at 1600 N. Central Expressway. Members and non-members are invited. Please call 972-422-9884 for more details.

The Plano Community Forum cordially invites you to attend the 19th Annual Awards Banquet themed "Twenty Years of Making a Difference" September 15th. The event will feature Rochelle Brown, Executive Producer of Insights-FOX 4, live entertainment, a silent auction, dinner and awards, and a special raffle for a new Jaguar. For more information please call Evelyn or Carrie at 972-260-4208.

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Dallas Fort Worth LINKS Boxing Gala at the Fairmont

Walter and Debbie Pinkney

Photo by Lott's Photography



(L to R) Vickie Elliott, Aaron Matherson, Shari Lamb, and Rhonda Hunter

Photo by Lott's Photography



(L to R) Calvin Montgomery, Lejuene Embry

Photo by Lott's Photography

Plano City Council's MLK hearing



Reggie Jackson: "Dr. Martin Luther King's work was done in the street, not in some park or monument"



"We are officially requesting Parker and Park Roads be withdrawn from consideration, instead we propose a dual name for Avenue K to be also known as MLK Street"

Jimmy Dismuke, Chairman of Plano's Forum MLK Street Committee



Earl Simpkins urges the Council to respond to the African American Community's request



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If you have experienced these symptoms more than once in your life, are drug free and not currently in psychiatric treatment, please call the Psychosocial Research and Depression Clinic at 214-648-5351.

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## LULAC and NAACP need to work more closely together

African Americans and Hispanics in Richardson are apathetic about the two organizations that have been the life blood of their respective communities. So apathetic, in fact, there is no NAACP chapter or a LULAC council in Richardson, despite the fact that African American and Hispanic populations are growing.

Some think that since the actual population of the two groups is still too small to warrant such groups, that's all the more reason to organize. To give those who may need a strong advocate a place to turn in time of need. Both organizations should at least have a presence. After all, most of the other surrounding suburbs have their own chapters, not content to call on chapters in other cities.

It's true that LULAC and the NAACP have a high profile in discrimination issues, but both groups offer more than

fighting for civil rights. There's education issues, housing issues, economic issues. Also a presence would be beneficial for the youth.

On the state level, LULAC and the NAACP have decided to work together on common issues. A grand idea. Since both minorities do have a lot of common issues. The time has come to put aside past divisions such as the one that exists in Dallas, and work for the common good and enrichment of both groups.

A most excellent plan would be for both groups to form in Richardson and make a pact to coalesce and grow together, work on the same issues together and advance common goals together. But first, some key people must take the initiative on both sides to even organize. Once they organize their separate chapters, then stand side by side as they grow and be a model for all cities everywhere and show that petty bickering between the two only weakens

them both.

On the state level a fine example has been set. They signed a pact to work together on common issues. They worked successfully on legislative issues such as racial profiling and the hate crimes bill. Just imagine what could be accomplished if they grew together in Richardson from the beginning.

There is no benefit to being complacent in Richardson. And it's potentially harmful to be apathetic about starting the organizations. What's the point in waiting for trouble to act? Isn't it better to be prepared with a community presence that would at least deter some future problem? Strategies need to be planned and familiarity with policies in Richardson is necessary as they pertain to the schools, business, employment, etc.

It's time to remember the Dream of Dr. King that all races work together in harmony.

## Open letter to the Plano City Council

By Ben Thomas

Just a few years ago a group of our black citizens were discussing where we are after Dr. Martin Luther King. As I recall there were many positive, progressive and very helpful plans that had been brought forth to advance black America in many fields such as economics, education, health, and respect. In many of these areas we have experienced much resentment. I don't believe that there was a single initiative considered that did not meet with some degree of opposition. Now that is true in most cases when decisions of public interest are made regardless of who, and the committee expected that there would be some degree of opposition here. Also, but we cannot overlook the evidence of fear in this case.

Let me reassure you that it's alright now. Just take a good look at the T.V., newspapers, look all around you and the whole society will tell you that

it alright now. Today you don't have to let the fear of reprisal



interfere with your good judgment.

You have heard and you have seen that there is a national consensus of acceptance. You know, I have heard you talk about and celebrate the acceptance of the diversities, that "one nation" concept, that you pledge tonight. You don't have to fear any more. As

ole glory is reaching higher, the stars and bars are coming down.

You and I, we have crossed the threshold of fear of reprisal into a place of acceptance and recognition so that the "one nation under God" will truly exist. You and I, we are there now. Opposition is there too, but you don't have to fear reprisal, for the "one nation under God" concept was the vision of the founding fathers and is the destiny of this country.

In 1978, an elementary school was named after my father, a few years later one was named after Mr. John Hightower. This past spring, a gym was named for me and we did not have a problem with any of those decisions. The board with the authority just did it.

It's alright now if you just do it! Courageous, decisive leadership is required to use their authority to do that which they feel is right.

## Increase Your Value

2 Tim. 2:20



Ron Shaw

Last week, I was sitting at a restaurant talking with a friend who happens to be in human resources. As we discussed some issues that people desiring to enter the work force are facing, it was revealed to me that most people—including Christians—don't know their value. Therefore, they don't know how to increase and accent it. I believe I can share some information with you that will greatly assist you in this area.

It is important to know that value is determined by the needs and demands of the market. The Christian who is a competent positive employee, which the Bible tells us to be, is in great demand. The Christian should be one who exemplifies Christ in the work place. He or she is faithful, submissive, loyal, and consistent. Unfortunately, this is a rare commodity in the work place. The owner also determines value. The owner declares what his product is worth and what he or she is willing to sell it for. We are vessels that contain a heavenly treasure. It's

the treasure that makes the vessel not the vessel that makes the treasure. We are valuable because of what God has invested in us. Think about it; the dream, the talent and the gift He has invested in you is what makes you valuable. Otherwise, we are shallow common commodities in the human market.

"In a large house there are articles not only of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay; some are for noble purposes and some for ignoble." 2 Timothy 2:20

The text says a great house has a variety of things each different in their worth or value. Verse 21 goes on to say that if a man purge himself from some things, he shall increase his value. To increase your value, you must increase the knowledge of the treasure in you. As I stated before, it's what's in you that makes you valuable. You must expose more of what's in you. A person can look good on the outside and get by. However, a person who is gifted and talented inside can go further.

Some positive things you can do to increase your value are:

(1) Realize that God has gifted all of us. You must reaffirm to yourself the fact that God hasn't omitted

you from the gift pool.

(2) You and only you can increase your value and if you don't do it, it won't be done. Stop looking to others to determine your value.

(3) You must get more of the treasure in you out of you. The more we put the Word of God into practice in our daily lives, the more the treasure inside of us comes out. It's not how much of the Bible you know that makes you more valuable. Instead, it's how much of it you practice. The more like Jesus you are in your home, work place, church, around your friends and around you co-workers, the more valuable you are in each setting.

I also recommend the "A.E.I.O.U. Principle".

\* Attitude. Possess an uncommonly good attitude. Think on the right things.

\* Encouragement. We are to encourage one another in the things of God.

\* Initiative. Do more than what is expected.

\* Offering. You must be a giver.

\* Understanding. Happy is the man who finds wisdom and who gains understanding.

## The 2nd Annual Jimmy L. Bochum Journalism Scholarship

By Brandy Jones  
MON-The Gazette always has and always will strive to promote economic development in the areas of education, housing, business opportunities and careers in the community by providing information and discussion that invite readers down the path of opportunity.

In continuing with our constant effort to be of assistance to the community, The Gazette applauds and presents to you Arica Jefferson, the 2001 Jimmy L. Bochum Journalism Scholarship recipient.

The Jimmy L. Bochum Journalism Scholarship was set up in honor of MON-The



Arica Jefferson, the 2001 Jimmy L. Bochum Journalism Scholarship recipient, with her family.

Gazette's Chairman Emeritus. Jefferson was handpicked by the education committee at St. Luke Methodist Church who felt she was the best candi-

date. Jefferson received \$2,000 to aid in the financial obligation she has to the University of Houston where she now attends. Jefferson was very pleased to receive the scholarship but not as pleased as her mother Phyllis Jefferson. "Our son is attending Florida A & M and this will help tremendously (speaking that my husband and I) have two children in college at once," says Mrs. Jefferson.

Last year's recipient was Janelle Gray who currently attends Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, Texas.

## NEW from page 1

ing to work together on common issues" has been agreed upon. He says it's important for the groups to coalesce. An example of how working together brings about positive results for both communities, is their recent push for legislation on racial profiling and the hate crimes bill.

Working together in Richardson could not be more enriching. Mr. Rodriguez says he would be excited to have a LULAC council in the city and that

more information about the group and services they offer could be disseminated to Richardson citizens, if a chapter was formed.

According to Mr. Rodriguez, it takes 10 people to start a LULAC chapter. Information about starting a chapter is also on their website at WWW.LULAC.ORG.

Denise Upchurch, president of the Mesquite NAACP says she knows of no plans to start a Richardson chapter but explains, "it takes 50 peo-

ple to start an adult chapter and 25 to start a youth council." She also indicated that for more information persons can call the Mesquite chapter or the National office. Information can also be obtained from their website at WWW.NAACP.ORG.

Ms. Upchurch says that the Mesquite NAACP has worked together with LULAC on common issues and believes that cooperation is necessary to achieve common goals.

**The Gazette**  
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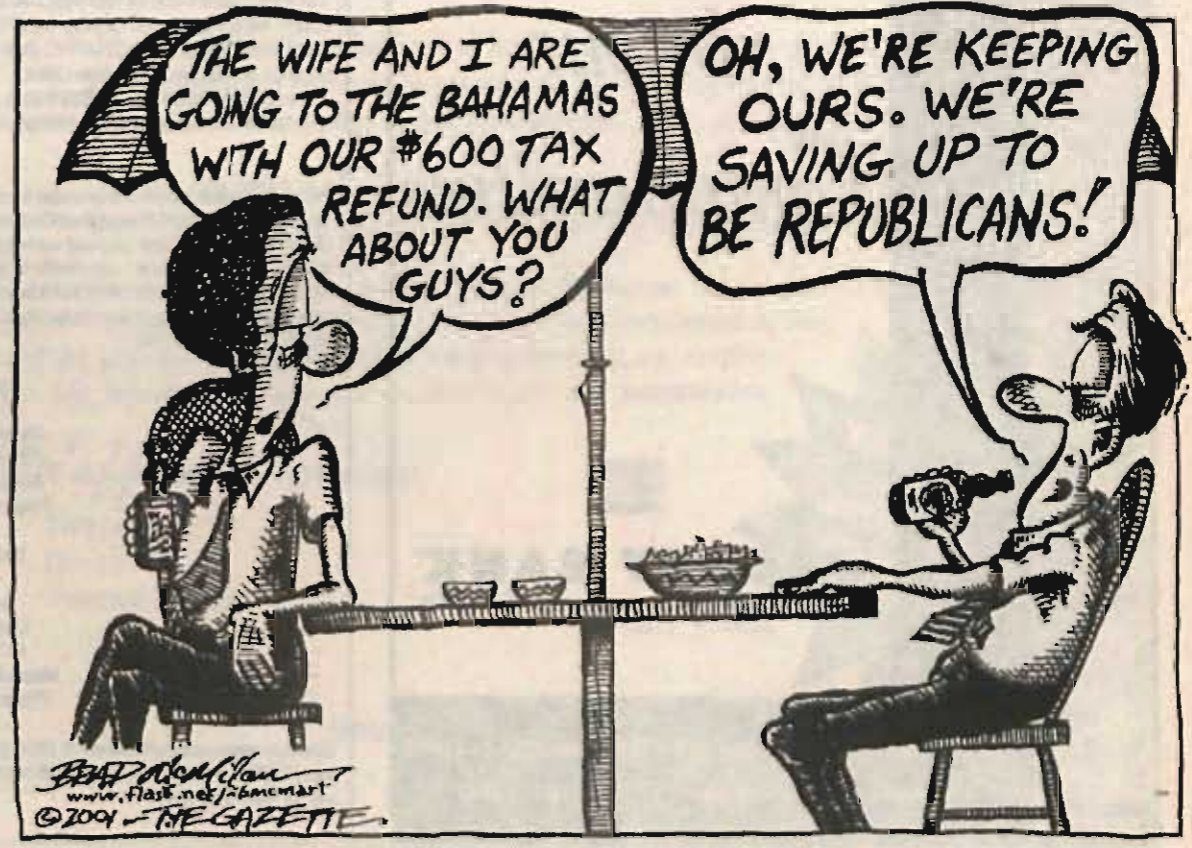
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## Achievement of Excellence Awarded to the City of Allen

By Lakeesha Joe

The City of Allen's Purchasing Department was created in December of last year and it is already being awarded the 2001 Achievement of Excellence in Procurement for its organizational excellence in public procurement.

"It's a very prestigious award," said Herb Miller, Purchasing Agent for the city of Allen. "Twenty-five thousand government agencies were eligible for the award, but only 46 met the criteria."

The Achievement of Excellence in Procurement program is an award designed to recognize organizational excellence in public procurement. The annual award is earned by those organizations, public or nonprofit, that demonstrate excellence by obtaining a high score based on standardized criteria. The criteria is designed to measure innovation, professionalism, productivity, and leadership attributes of the procurement organization.

"Criteria is everything from the organization's website and purchasing manual to code of ethics," said Miller. You have to constantly improve your organization each year to win the award."

In order to receive consideration for the award, jurisdictions are required to submit a detailed application with supporting documentation.

The award program was created in 1995 by the National Purchasing Institute's board of directors to recognize organizational excellence in public and nonprofit procurement, encourage development of excellence, and encourage continued excellence. The California Association of Public Purchasing Officers (CAPPO), the National Association of Purchasing Management (NAPM), and the National Purchasing Institute (NPI) sponsor the award.

NPI considers the Achievement of Excellence in Procurement to be an important award because national and regional professional associations recognize an organization's excellence. The program also encourages the development of excellence.

According to Miller, the mission of the Purchasing Division for the City of Allen is to assist all departments in planning and maintaining the city's financial health by establishing a uniform procedure for obtaining goods and services in an effective and timely manner in accordance with generally accepted purchasing procedures and legally mandated procurement standards.

The purchasing department purchases everything that is necessary to run the city. The city of Allen's purchasing division purchases equipment, supplies, and services.

According to Miller, Allen's Purchasing Department is responsible for the procurement of items required to operate and maintain the city.

Herb Miller, who began Allen's Purchasing Division last December, was previously employed with DFW Airport as a Purchasing Agent. Miller also worked with the city of Plano's Purchasing Department for eight years, during which time, Plano also won the Achievement of Excellence in Procurement Award. Mr. Miller is a Contract Compliance Administrator, Certified Public Purchasing Officer, and a Certified Professional Public Buyer.

There is no predetermined number on how many jurisdictions can achieve the award. The award is received by all organizations that achieve a score of 100 on a rating of standardized criteria.

In 1998, the Achievement of Excellence Award was presented to twenty-four organizations. In 1999, thirty procurement organizations achieved the excellence award. In 2000 forty-eight organizations achieved the excellence award.

All sizes of organizations have been successful in the past at winning the excellence award. Various types of jurisdictions have won. Counties, cities, school districts, states, special districts, and universities are eligible.

Recent local winners of the excellence award also include Denton County, City of Plano, and the City of Grand Prairie.



John Dudley

The parents of children heading off to school this month may be breathing a sigh of relief. Meanwhile, the parents of young adults heading off to college are reaching into their wallets. In 2000, according to the College Board Annual Survey of Colleges 2001, the average one-year cost, including in-state tuition, room, and board, to attend a state college was \$8,086. Costs jump to \$21,339 for a private university. Adjust those costs for inflation and multiply by four years and by the number of children in your family, and the total outlay can be staggering.

For many people, paying these costs require saving in advance, using cash flow during the years of college attendance and in many cases, the use of loans to create an extended payment period. Grants and scholarships are also available through schools, the government, and many independent sources. Eligibility varies by program. Whatever your strategy is, the sooner you start saving, the better.

**Custodial Accounts.** Uniform Gifts to Minors (UGMA) or Uniform Transfers to Minors (UTMA) accounts are popular education savings options and offer certain tax advantages. Once the child is 14 or older, the income that these accounts earn is taxed to the child in his/her bracket, which is usually considerably lower than the parents'.

However, a gift to a UGMA/UTMA account is irrevocable; meaning the money belongs to the child and control goes to the child at the age of majority (which varies by state). A custodian cannot change his/her mind and take the money back. And because the custodial account belongs to the child, the balance in the account can reduce the ability to qualify for financial aid, loans, or certain scholarships.

Thanks to the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001, two other tax-advantaged savings vehicles—Education IRAs and Qualified State Tuition Programs—have become more attractive.

**Education IRA.** The Education IRA, created by the Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997 (TRA 97), allows qualified families to invest up to \$500 per year, per child under age 18. Earnings on Education IRAs accumulate tax-free as long as

the money is used for qualified education expenses. The Education IRA was designed as a tax-advantaged vehicle for education savings, but the \$500 maximum annual contribution limit has done very little to help families put aside enough to cover their expenses.

The Economic Growth and Tax Relief Act of 2001 makes Education IRAs more beneficial by increasing the maximum annual contribution limit to \$2,000 beginning in 2002. In addition, starting in 2002, qualified distributions will include withdrawals made to cover elementary and secondary school expenses, as well as tuition for private and religious schools.

**Qualified State Tuition Programs.** These plans, better known as 529 plans, are state-sponsored investment programs that have special tax status under Section 529 of the Internal Revenue Code. These plans usually include both a pre-paid tuition program and a savings-account plan. 529 plans offer investors professionally managed tax-advantaged portfolios to help meet rising college expenses. Currently, contributions in these plans grow tax-deferred and withdrawals are taxed to the student when made for the payment of qualified education expenses. Proceeds can be used at any accredited post-secondary school in the United States.

Anyone may contribute on behalf of a child—including parents, grandparents, other relatives and family friends—regardless of income or state residency. Maximum contributions vary from state to state, but typically exceed \$125,000. With the high contribution maximums and no income restrictions for participation, these plans have become a very popular tax-advantaged savings vehicle. Starting in 2002, the popularity of these plans will increase even more, because qualified withdrawals from 529 plans will be free of Federal income tax, although state income taxes may still apply.

Unlike custodial accounts, the account owner retains control over distributions from the account and the asset is considered a parental asset for financial-aid purposes. If the child decides not to attend college, the account owner still controls withdrawals and is free to change beneficiaries (any new beneficiary must be related to

## Back to School —Plan Now and Pay Later

the original beneficiary), leave the assets in the plan for later use, or withdraw the assets. The earnings portion of any non-qualified withdrawals is generally taxed at the owner's tax rate and is subject to a 10% penalty. If the child wins a scholarship, the owner will be refunded the scholarship amount without penalty. Earnings in the account representing capital gains will be taxed as ordinary income when withdrawn. Taxes due may be higher than if the assets were held outside the account. The election of certain beneficiaries may be a taxable event. Starting in 2002, first cousins will be included in the definition of family members and their election will not result in a taxable event.

To further encourage savings for this important goal, the new law will permit contributions to be made to both the Education IRA and the 529 plan during the same year for the same beneficiary.

For most people, saving for college requires systematic discipline. Start early, be consistent, and you should be able to meet the challenge of college costs. Your First Union Securities

Financial Advisor is ready to help. We can analyze your college funding needs, determine how much you need to save, and recommend appropriate investments to get you there. Many education saving strategies have tax and/or legal implications, so be sure to discuss your situation with your tax and legal advisors before taking action.

*First Union Securities is the trade name under which First Union Corporation provides brokerage services through two registered broker/dealers: First Union Securities, Inc., member NYSE/SIPC, and First Union Securities Financial Network, Inc., member NASD/SIPC. Each broker/dealer is a separate, non-bank affiliate of First Union Corporation. (c) 2001 First Union Securities. SECURITIES ARE NOT FDIC-INSURED/ARE NOT BANK-GUARANTEED/MAY LOSE VALUE. Provided by courtesy of John Dudley, a Financial Advisor with First Union Securities in Dallas, TX. For more information, please call John Dudley at 214-740-3253. First Union Securities, Inc., member New York Stock Exchange and SIPC, is a separate non-bank affiliate of First Union Corporation. (c) 2001 First Union Securities.*

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NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS OF PROPOSED TEXAS HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT CONTRACTS

Sealed proposals for highway improvement contracts will be received by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) until the date(s) shown below, and then publicly read.

CONSTRUCTION / MAINTENANCE CONTRACT(S)

District: Dallas  
Contract 0048-01-056 for REHABILITATE TRINITY RIVER BRIDGE (PHASE I) in DALLAS County will be opened on October 04, 2001 at 1:00 pm at the State Office.  
Contract 0918-00-056 for TRAFFIC SIGNALS in DALLAS County will be opened on October 05, 2001 at 1:00 pm at the State Office.  
Contract 6049-00-001 for SWEEPING & DEBRIS REMOVAL in DALLAS County will be opened on October 04, 2001 at 1:00 pm at the State Office for an estimate of \$1,586,260.00.

Plans and specifications are available for inspection, along with bidding proposals, and applications for the TxDOT Prequalified Contractor's list, at the applicable State and/or District Offices listed below. Bidders must submit prequalification information to TxDOT at least 10 days prior to the bid date to be eligible to bid on a project. Prequalification materials may be requested from the State Office listed below. Plans for the above contract (s) are available from TxDOT's website at www.dot.state.tx.us and from reproduction companies at the expense of the contractor.  
NPO: 4558

State Office  
Construction Division  
200, E. Riverside Dr.  
Austin, Texas 78074  
Phone: 512-416-2540

District Office(s)  
Dallas District  
District Engineer  
4777 E. Hwy 80  
Mesquite, Texas, 75150  
Phone: 214-320-6100

Minimum wage rates are set out in bidding documents and the rates will be part of the contract. TxDOT ensures that bidders will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, sex, or national origin.

## Plano's Douglass Community Rich in History

By Glenda Williams-Goodson  
Gazette Corresponding Writer

Plano is home to part of the Telecom Corridor and reportedly has more college-educated residents living here than anywhere in America. From a population of just over 2,000 in 1950 to around 250,000 today, the city, which began as a small agricultural community has grown rapidly.

While most new businesses have found homes in areas like Legacy Park, Rev. Raymond Jones of the Douglass Community's Holy Temple Church of God in Christ, says there is still much needed in his area. The Douglass Community, located in East Plano, is said to be Plano's oldest neighborhood. Formerly called South End, the community still contains the Plano Colored School, named after former slave, abolitionist and writer Frederick Douglass.

Anita Jones-McNair, superintendent of Plano's Parks and Recreation Department conducted some research on the Douglass Community. "The Douglass Community has been an enclave for African-Americans since the 1890s." Both she and Rev. Jones say the neighborhood has a

close, family feel. "We have long time residents like Ben Thomas and his sister, Norma Faye Williams, who really care about the community. In fact, our gymnasium



Frederick Douglass

has been named after Mr. Thomas to honor his contributions to our community," she says. The new 9,300 sq. ft. gymnasium was dedicated last spring.

Thomas' contributions have earned him the unofficial title of mayor. Born in Plano, the 78-year-old has a unique perspective of the city. After finishing Plano Colored School, he left for work with a civilian post World War II program. He returned to Plano and was commissioned to write a historical overview for the city in 1987. In the book, Plano-

The Early Years, he writes of Andy Drake, an ox driver who came to Plano in 1860 hauling logs from Louisiana. He found few blacks in this area at that time. As World War I began, more blacks from East Texas and Louisiana journeyed to Plano's rich farming community.

The Douglass Community grew out of the old community of Plano. During WW I whites began moving into the neighborhoods and blacks began moving from the small settlement of Kendricks (between 16th and Avenue K) to this area. "Plano grew at a slow, steady pace until the turbulent 1960s. "On Blue Monday, after the Supreme Court said segregation was illegal, five (black) kids decided to integrate Dairy Queen," Thomas says. With problems looming, the call was made to community leaders to plan measures for integration. Thomas was one of the charter members of the Citizens Committee, which later evolved into the Plano Human Relations Commission. The committee was charged with planning to integrate Plano Schools.

His father, namesake of the J.L. Thomas Elementary School, and other progres-

sive Plano community leaders forged Thomas' guiding principle early in life. His sister says that the Douglass neighborhood was a viable place to live and work during the 1940s, 50s and 60s. While blacks worked as maids, sharecroppers, farm hands, preachers and teachers, there were also new business entrepreneurs. "My Dad had a janitorial business which was among many others in the black community. Mr. Calvin Pinkston had veterinarian training so people from all over brought their animals to him. There were carpenters, Mr. John Wallace made charcoal and sold it and Miss Sammie Lee Callin Crump had the first kindergarten in Plano-black or white!" says Williams.

Thomas, Jones-McNair and others have hope that the Douglass Community will once again be a place that young people would want to stay and raise their families. Pastor Jones says partnerships between the churches and the community will build upon the past and thrive during this economic boom.

**Editor's Note:** Given the consideration-taking place about renaming a street in Plano in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, we thought it was interesting to note that precedence was set already in honoring Fredrick Douglass. If the attempt to name a street after Dr. King is successful, this will be the second time a national civil rights leader has been honored in Plano.

## Electric Competition, Texas-Style

(NAPS)—As Texas prepares for the introduction of competition for retail electric service, some customers may be concerned that Texas might experience some of the same problems that have plagued California. After all, it's hard to ignore the rolling blackouts, higher prices and other problems that have occurred in California. Texas began by transitioning the regulated electric marketplace to a deregulated one in stages, first opening up the state's whole-sale electric market to competition in 1995. This practice encouraged new companies to come in and build generation plants, thereby increasing Texas' electric capacity. Although Texas and California have both experienced tremendous demand for power, Texas has built, or is building, more than 50 new power plants since 1995. During that same period, California has added very little generation to meet customer demand. Texas generates 99 percent of the power it uses. In contrast, California imports up to 25 percent of its power from other states during peak electricity demand. Texas has a lead-time of two to three years to construct new power plants—while California's lead-time is approximately seven years.

Texas' restructuring law allows electric providers to enter into long-term contracts with suppliers, which helps shield customers from price volatility. California did not allow long-term contracts. This forced electric providers there to buy power in the spot market, where they often had to pay an unnaturally high price when demand for electricity was high.

Texas uses a variety of fuel sources to generate its power—natural gas, coal, nuclear energy, wind and water. California relies on hydroelectric power for roughly 25 percent of its genera-

tion capacity, which is great when it rains, but not so great when it doesn't. Above all, Texas' electric restructuring law gives most customers the power to choose their own Retail Electric Provider (REP)—the company that provides their electricity. Customers are now able to choose their electric provider, much like they shop for groceries, a new vehicle, or any number of other products and services. Customers can choose a REP based on what matters most to them—whether that's price, environmentally friendly power generation or a name they know. State legislators allowed cities that own their electric systems, as well as electric cooperatives, to decide for themselves whether they want to give their customers a choice of providers or keep things as they are today. Under competition, the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC) will continue to regulate the transmission and distribution of electricity to ensure that power is delivered as safely and reliably as it is today. And, the PUC will continue to enforce customer protections, just as it does today.

The bottom line is quite simple: Texans now have the power to choose the company that provides their electricity. Over time, that should lead to lower prices, as well as speed the development of new products and services, as competition has done with other deregulated industries. Customers interested in learning more about the differences between Texas and California can call the Texas Electric Choice toll-free answer center 1-866-PWR-4-TEX (866-797-4839) or visit [www.powertochoose.org](http://www.powertochoose.org) for an easy-to-read brochure. Customers also can ask for a list of REPs serving their area and learn how they can start shopping for a new electric provider today.

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## The face of Texas is changing and so are we



Tiffani Price

SBC Communications — the San Antonio-based parent company of Southwestern Bell-Texas — spends more of its dollars with female- and minority-owned suppliers than any other U.S. company, according to a recent survey by *Working Woman* magazine.

In fact, SBC spent \$3.4 billion last year — that's 22 percent of its total purchases — with firms owned by minorities, women or service-disabled veterans.

Here in Texas, Southwestern Bell slightly bested the company average: 22.4 percent of our total purchases were made from minority-, female- and disabled veteran-owned enterprises.

At Southwestern Bell-Texas, supporting supplier diversity is one way we're illustrating our commitment to overall diversity. Through our workforce, our business practices and our community relationships, we're working to honor our differences — of race, gender and religion, as well as perspective, experience and approach.

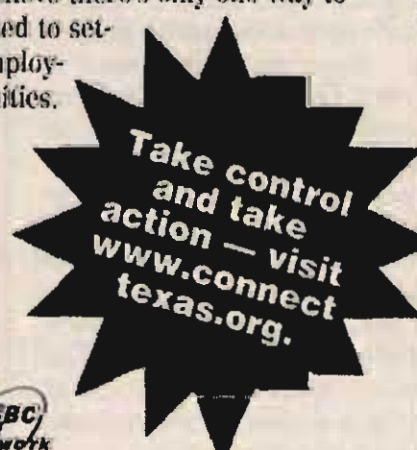
Throughout the territories we serve, Southwestern Bell-Texas and SBC Communications:

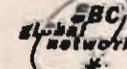
- employ the best people from all backgrounds and viewpoints to provide the products and services that best meet our customers' needs;
- depend upon our vendor base of businesses owned by minorities, women and service-disabled veterans to provide the superior equipment and services that help make us a leading-edge global telecommunications provider; and
- support the efforts of numerous employee-initiated organizations that celebrate diversity, as well as assist many minority initiatives through the SBC Foundation.

Of course, we know there's much more to do. But we believe there's only one way to lead — by example. Which is why we remain fully committed to setting the industry standard through the way we treat our employees, our business partners, our customers and our communities.

*Tiffani Price*

Tiffani Price  
Director  
External Affairs



Southwestern Bell 


**The McKinney Memorial Public Library** has a challenging opportunity for **VOLUNTEERS** with a basic understanding of Windows and the Internet. Volunteers can work a 2 hour shift each week and/or volunteer on an "as needed" basis. Evening and weekend hours available. For more information please contact Shirlene Slater, Volunteer Coordinator at 972-547-7307.

The St. Luke "Economic Development Ministry" is offering business owners a **FREE** listing in the St. Luke "Business Directory 2002". Each business owner will have an opportunity to reach the St. Luke Church Community and the Greater Dallas Community through various distributions and locations. You will also have a chance to advertise in the directory. **An order form must be completed and returned to be listed.** Contact the Church Program Ministries at (214) 887-3908 or leave a message at (972) 497-2523 for more information.

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## Collin County's Largest Bank Opens New Headquarters

(Plano, Texas) — The opening of Legacy Bank of Texas' new headquarters, Legacy Bank Plaza, marks a milestone in the bank's 37-year history. The four-story, 165,000 square-foot building located at the entrance of Legacy Business Park—at the southwest corner of Preston

and active corporate citizen, Legacy Bank has invested in area communities through employee volunteerism as well as financial contributions to civic and charitable agencies. One such endeavor is the bank's annual Fall Classic Golf Tournament which donated



Legacy Bank of Texas New Corporate Headquarters

Road and Legacy Drive—commands a strong architectural presence, as the gateway to the Legacy development.

Legacy's new corporate headquarters is more than just a new building; it is one of the largest projects constructed in Collin County without tax incentives or abatements. Legacy Bank is not only the largest independent bank in Collin County; the bank also has the county's largest market share—larger than banks such as BankOne, Bank of America, Chase and Wells Fargo.

The building is 65% bank occupied or pre-leased, with prime space still available. Designed and built by the SLI Group, this classically styled building features a brick and stone exterior punctuated with balconies and promenade decks. The interior maintains the same upscale design intent with expansive use of natural hardwoods, polished travertine and classical detailing such as domed ceilings. The building has 380 underground parking spaces, as well as 190 surface parking spaces.

The first floor banking center includes a full service lobby with a safe deposit vault, ATM, and a six-lane motor bank with drive-up ATM.

New to Legacy Bank is the Women's Financial Group located on the first floor, adjacent to the bank lobby. This innovative new area specializes in personalized financial services for women.

Whether business owner, entrepreneur, professional, or individual investor, the Women's Financial Group is ready to provide the personal service and financial relationships women need to succeed.

The building also houses the bank's executive offices, commercial real estate, finance, marketing, and human resources areas.

"Because Legacy Park is the premier corporate headquarters destination in America, the decision to build our headquarters here was an easy one," explains Phil Dyer, Legacy Bank of Texas president. "Legacy Bank has always had a special relationship with the communities we serve. We believe our role is to build relationships and make a tangible difference in the quality of life."

Since the bank opened in 1963, Legacy Bank of Texas has grown from \$3.2 million in assets to over \$756 million in assets as of June 2001. In its 37-year history, the bank has expanded to eleven branches serving customers in Allen, Carrollton, Frisco, McKinney, Park Cities and Plano. The bank's former headquarters at 15th and Alma will remain open as a full-service facility.

As a generous, concerned

## State Bar Releases New Statistical Figures: Number of Women Attorneys Has Quadrupled, Minorities Continue to Rise

Austin — The number of women attorneys licensed in Texas has nearly quadrupled since 1982, according to recent reports released by the State Bar of Texas, while the percentage of racial and ethnic minorities has grown 69 percent since 1993.

The State Bar of Texas Department of Research and Analysis annually reports statistical information on the bar association. Over the past two decades the State Bar's membership has increased by 94 percent, according to the "Statistical Profile of the State Bar of Texas Membership (2000-01)." Total active membership of the State Bar as of December 2000 is 67,524.

### Women in the State Bar of Texas

The "Annual Report on the Status of Women in the State Bar of Texas (2000-01)" indicates that there are now 18,400 female attorneys (27 percent of the membership) compared to fewer than 5,000 female attorneys (13 percent) in 1982.

If current trends continue, the State Bar of Texas Department of Research and Analysis projects that women attorneys will account for 34 percent of all State Bar mem-

bers by 2005. A summary of other findings in the report:

\* Women maintain a larger presence among minority attorneys than among non-minority lawyers in Texas.

\* Female attorneys in Texas are younger and have been licensed fewer years than male members of the Bar.

\* Women attorneys are concentrated in urban Texas counties.

\* Women are less likely than men to work in private law practice.

### Racial/Ethnic Minorities in the State Bar of Texas

Since 1993, minority membership has increased 69 percent, compared with 17 percent growth for the general membership. In 1993, minorities comprised 8 percent of attorneys licensed in Texas. According to the "Annual Report on the Status of Racial/Ethnic Minorities in the State Bar of Texas (2000-02)," today 12 percent of Texas attorneys are minorities—6 percent Hispanic/Latino, 3.7 percent African-American/Black, 1.2 percent Asian/Pacific Islander, .3 percent Native American Indian and .9 percent other race/ethnicity.

At least part of the

increase in minority membership is attributable to the continuing influx of women in the legal profession, as the percentage of female attorneys is far higher among minorities than for the State Bar membership overall. While 27 percent of non-minority Texas attorneys are female, women account for 39 percent of minority attorneys. Also mentioned in the report:

\* Minority representation in Texas law schools has increased from 23 to 27 percent between the 1992-93 and 2000-01 academic years.

Minority attorneys have been licensed fewer years than the overall State Bar membership.

\* Minorities comprise nearly one quarter of the Bar's newest members.

\* Minority attorneys in private law practice tend to work for smaller firms than their non-minority counterparts.

The State Bar of Texas is an administrative agency of the Supreme Court of Texas that provides education programs for the legal profession and the public, administers the minimum counting legal education program for attorneys, and manages the attorney discipline system.

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# Arts & Entertainment

## Celebrity shoes for the homeless?

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Shoes donated by Bette Midler, Bridget Fonda and Laurence Fishburne are being auctioned on the Internet to benefit the homeless.

San Francisco-based Zappos.com, an Internet-only shoe store, is conducting the auction to benefit the St. Anthony Foundation.



Brook Schaaf of Zappos said the auction, which ends Sept. 15, may generate "from \$500 to the sky is the limit."

Fonda's burgundy high-heels are from 1992's "Single White Female." Midler donated black pumps from last year's "Isn't She Great." Fishburne contributed sneakers he wore while training for a sequel to the 1999 hit movie "The Matrix."

## Auction of Louis Armstrong's cornet

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — The cornet on which Louis Armstrong learned to play as a child is hitting the Internet auction block.

The horn had been on display at the Louisiana State Museum from the late 1970s until the mid-1990s. It was on loan from owner George Finola, who died in December. The instrument is being sold by his estate.



Sotheby's predicts it will bring up to \$100,000 when it is auctioned on the Internet Oct. 1-15, 2001.

"It's such an important instrument, not just in Armstrong's life but in the history of jazz," said Leila Dunbar of Sotheby's in New York City.

Armstrong learned to play at the Colored Waifs Home, where he was sent after being caught shooting a pistol in the air to celebrate New Year's Eve in 1913. The home's music instructor, Peter Davis, nurtured Armstrong's talent and taught him to play the cornet.

Finola, a musician and jazz fan, bought the cornet from Davis' family in the early 1960s.

## New arts center to honor Tupac

STONE MOUNTAIN, Ga. (AP) — DeKalb County political leaders joined with the family of Tupac Shakur to break ground an arts center honoring the slain rapper.



Organizers expect the Tupac Amaru Center for the Arts to

open in March 2003 in Stone Mountain. Shakur's family has lived in the area for nearly a decade.

The center will feature studio space for the performing arts and a gallery that initially will hang the art of Shakur's fans who have sent their work to his mother, Afeni Shakur.

An adjacent garden will commemorate Shakur, who was shot dead in Las Vegas in 1996, and other victims of violence.

## Billboard Top 20

(Compiled from a national sample of sales reports collected, compiled and provided by SoundScan; radio playlists; and monitored radio by Broadcast Data Systems)

1. "Fallin'," Alicia Keys. J.
2. "I'm Real," Jennifer Lopez (feat. Ja Rule). Epic.
3. "Let Me Blow Ya Mind," Eve (feat. Gwen Stefani). Ruff Ryders.
4. "Hit 'Em Up Style (Oops!)," Blu Cantrell. RedZone.
5. "U Remind Me," Usher. Arista.
6. "Where The Party At," Jagged Edge With Nelly. So So Def.
7. "It's Been Awhile," Staind. Flip/Elektra.
8. "All or Nothing," O-Town. J.
9. "Drops Of Jupiter (Tell Me)," Train. Columbia.
10. "Hanging By A Moment," Lifehouse. DreamWorks.
11. "Peaches & Cream," 112. Bad Boy.
12. "Someone To Call My Lover," Janet. Virgin.
13. "Bootylicious," Destiny's Child. Columbia.
14. "When It's Over," Sugar Ray. Lava/Atlantic.
15. "What Would You Do?," City High. Booga Basement.
16. "Drive," Incubus. Immortal.
17. "Fill Me In," Craig David. Wildstar.
18. "Izzo (H.O.V.A.)," Jay-Z. Roc-A-Fella/Def Jam/IDJMG.
19. "Austin," Blake Shelton. Giant (Nashville)/WRN.
20. "Contagious," The Isley Brothers (feat. Ronald Isley AKA Mr. Biggs). DreamWorks.

## 2002 Ford Explorer Review

Explorer 2002 is the only SUV among major competitors with IRS. IRS provides improved driver control even over uneven terrain. The new



IRS also allows the optional third-row seat to fold flat into the floor. With optional 7-passenger seating and the most third-row head and leg room in its class, you can load up the gang without squeezing them in. Explorer 2002 offers all-new interior and exterior styling including all-new headlamps and grille and all-new 16-inch wheel line-up. The interior offers an ergonomic cockpit with an enhanced instrumental panel, new seats and trim, plus plenty of storage.

## Celebrities Beautify the Heritage School and Kick-Off the 2002 Seventeen/Cover Girl Volunteerism Awards Program

NEW YORK, Aug. 22 /PRNewswire/ — Armed with paint brushes, Queen Latifah and MTV House of Style Host Molly Sims joined more than 40 young volunteers at the Heritage School in New York City today to beautify the school for the upcoming year and to kick off the 2002 Seventeen/Cover Girl Volunteerism Awards.

Incoming freshman received a star-studded welcome as Queen Latifah and Molly Sims helped out at their high school orientation. The super role models helped students paint bright swatches of color on life-size murals to decorate the school.



"Volunteers today gave more than just a fresh coat of paint to a school in need — they gave back to their community, and that's a beautiful thing," said Anne Martin, Manager, Global Cosmetics Marketing for Procter & Gamble Cosmetics. "Today's efforts reinforce Cover Girl's commitment to volunteering and recognizing the extraordinary achievements that young women make in the area of public service."

Now in its fifth year, the Seventeen/Cover Girl Volunteerism Awards recognizes and rewards the accomplishments of young women and showcases the contributions teens around the country are making to their communities. Cover Girl Cosmetics and Seventeen have pledged \$90,000 in cash scholarships and donations to recognize the nation's most outstanding young volunteers.

Young women ages 12 to 21 nationwide can nominate themselves or a friend by submitting an essay to Seventeen Magazine describing their public service achievements. Three top winners will each receive \$10,000 scholarships and \$10,000 donations to the organizations they support. Three second-place winners will be awarded \$5,000 scholarships and \$5,000 donations to the organizations they support. All six young women will be invited to an awards ceremony in Washington, D.C. in Spring 2002. In addition, winners will be featured in Seventeen, and they'll each receive a \$250 shopping spree courtesy of Target.

Contest rules are available in the September issue of Seventeen on newsstands now, and they will also be featured in the October issue and online at <http://www.COVERGIRL.com> and <http://www.Seventeen.com>.

For each bottle of Clean Make-Up purchased at Target stores nationwide between September 15, 2001 and December 15, 2001, Cover Girl will donate \$1 for a total of \$25,000 to Take Charge of Education, a nonprofit program providing support to deserving schools, students and teachers nationwide.

## Around The Town

### Ongoing

The Frisco Fire Department is offering its Citizens Fire Academy (CFA) during daytime and evening hours. The daytime session will be held from 9 a.m. to noon on Thursdays and evening sessions will be from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. now through October 25. CFA classes are held at Central Fire Station, 8860 Tomlin Drive. CFA is designed to give citizens a unique, "inside look" at all areas of Fire Department operations and activities. Contact Trent Schulze for more information at [fire@friscofire.com](mailto:fire@friscofire.com) or at 972-335-5525.

Plano Repertory Theatre (PRT) is proud to present "Floyd Collins"—a new musical based on a true event—an event which both captured the ghoul-ish interest and "aroused the sympathy of a nation" for 18 days. The musical will continue through September 2 at the

Artcentre of Plano, located at 1028 15th Street. For ticket information and showtimes call the PRT box office at 972-422-7460.

### September 4th

Sponsors Hattie Kelly of Power Pages News and Marvia Shelton of Coldwell Bank invite you to attend a Breakfast Networking Forum from 8:30 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. The breakfast will be held at the Super 8 motel at White and Central Expressway. Please RSVP with either Hattie Kelly 214-544-2088 or Marvia Shelton 972-562-9914.

### September 6th

The Plano Community Forum will have its general membership meeting

September 6, 2001 at the Douglass Center from 7-8:30 p.m. For more information please call 972-260-4208.

### September 8th

The "Forward In God: To Finish the Course" Women's Conference and Expo is making its debut as one of the premier multicultural women's empowerment conference in the northern sector. The conference will begin at 10 a.m. and end at 4:30 p.m. at the Renaissance Hotel in Richardson. For more information contact the Living Bible Church office at 469-467-9227 or visit [www.forministry.com/75093LWBC](http://www.forministry.com/75093LWBC).

The Dallas Metroplex Council of Black Alumni

Associations (DMCBAA) is hosting a college fair and forum investigating historically black colleges and universities. The forum will be held at Lakewest Multipurpose Center located at 337 Goldman St. beginning at 10 a.m. and ending at 2 p.m. For more information call 972-412-5169 or visit [dmcbaa@net-zero.net](mailto:dmcbaa@net-zero.net).

### September 14th

You are invited to the Plano Chamber of Commerce Quarterly Membership Luncheon featuring Jim Sundberg, former Texas Ranger catcher and 3-time American League All-Star. The luncheon will begin at 11:30 a.m. at the Harvey Hotel located at 1600 N. Central Expressway. Members and

non-members are invited. Please call 972-422-9884 for more details.

### September 15th

The Plano Community Forum cordially invites you to attend the 19th Annual Awards Banquet themed "Twenty Years of Making a difference" September 15, 2001. The event will feature Rochelle Brown, Executive Producer of Insights-FOX 4, live entertainment, a silent auction, dinner and awards, and a special raffle for a new Jaguar. For more information please call Evelyn or Carrie at 972-260-4208.

You and your beloved pets—stuffed or real—are invited to join the SPCA of Texas as they sew and "fix" stuffed animals and

microchip the real furry family members from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. By fixing stuffed animals, SPCA staff will demonstrate veterinary care and responsible say/neuter concepts to young children and adults. At the same time, real dogs and cats can be microchipped and tagged to make sure they can be reunited with their human companions should they become lost. No appointments are necessary however it's on a first come, first served basis and prices vary. SPCA of Texas Martin Spay/ Neuter Clinic is located on 362 S. Industrial Blvd. in Dallas. Call Anita Edson at 214-651-9611 ext. 143 for more information.

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