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# The Gazette

A Division of



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Volume XI, Number II

"North Dallas' Weekly Paper of Choice"

January 10-January 17, 2002



### On the Homefront:

The City of Plano Parks and Recreation Department has contracted with Planet Kidz, a youth entertainment program, to provide activities at Carpenter Park (6701 Coit Rd.) and Oak Point Recreation Center (6000 Jupiter Rd.) for youth grades 3 through 8. Planet Kidz happens on Saturday nights from 7-11:30 p.m. offering fun and excitement in a safe and secure environment. Admission is only \$8 per person. A Plano police officer will be on duty at each location for the safety of the youth. For more information, call the Carpenter Park Recreation Center at 972-208-8087 or the Oak Point Center at 972-941-7540.

The Plano Metropolitan Ballet (PMB) will bring to life "Alice In Wonderland" on the stage of Plano East High School on January 11th and 12th. Tickets for "Alice In Wonderland" are \$9.00 and can be purchased from Gotta Dance at 121 Spring Creek Pkwy in Plano or by calling 972-517-5799. Performance times are Friday, January 11th at 7 p.m., and Saturday, January 12th at 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. Group rates are available.

January 12th, The Harrington Library in Plano is having a beginners Internet class at 9 a.m. Registration is required, but the class is free. For more information, call 972-964-4200.

Quad C Theatre at Collin County Community College is seeking five male actors and two female actors for its production of Side Man. The open call audition will be held from 7-10 p.m. January 15th at John Anthony Theatre on Jupiter Rd., which is located between Spring Creek Pkwy and Parker Rd. in Plano. Please prepare a one-minute monologue from any contemporary drama in the style of the play. For more information, contact Brad Baker at 972-881-5679 or email him at bbaker@cccd.edu.

The Women's Division will meet January 16 for lunch at Gleneagles Country Club. Networking begins at 11:30 a.m. If you are interested in meeting other dynamic women and men doing business in and around Plano, come to the luncheon. Women, men, Plano Chamber of Commerce members, guests and non-member visitors are welcome. Reservations are required. Payment is expected in full at the luncheon. Call the Chamber at 972-424-7547 to reserve your spot and for more information.

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## Comerica Bank - reinvesting in the communities in which it serves

By Lakeesha Joe

Investing in the communities in which we live and do business is considered

serves and participates in various civic, community, and economic development activities and partnerships in Dallas and Tarrant counties,

ers. Comerica Bank-Texas has also done several projects for Dallas County through the CRA. One such



extremely important for the livelihood of the community. Well, banks that do business in your communities are encouraged to invest in the community through the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA).

The Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) was established by Congress in 1977 (revised in May 1995) to encourage depository institutions to help meet the credit needs of the communities in which they operate, including low and moderate-income communities.

Comerica Bank-Texas is one such bank that is reinvesting in the communities in which it does business through the CRA initiative. Comerica Bank-Texas says that they are very committed to serving the needs of the entire community. Comerica Bank-Texas

Houston, and Austin.

For those of you who have not heard of the CRA, you may be wondering what types of things are being done by Comerica Bank-Texas to reinvest in your community. Currently, in Dallas County, Comerica Bank-Texas provides services to several economic development, community service and non-profit organizations that, in turn, provide services to low to moderate-income communities.

Some of the services that Comerica Bank-Texas is providing in Dallas County include financial technical assistance, serving on a board of directors or finance committees, assisting non-profit housing groups to create housing for low to moderate income families, and providing technical assistance to small business own-

project is the Exxon Mobil Green Team project in which Comerica partnered with the City of Dallas, the Exxon Mobil Foundation, a local housing nonprofit organization, and local students to provide new affordable homes for four families in South Dallas.

The Business Assistance Center is another project brought on through the CRA. Comerica Bank-Texas again partnered with the City of Dallas and five local non-profit organizations to sponsor and participate in the Business Assistance Centers program. Comerica Bank-Texas provides the technical assistance (review business plans, look at financial statements, provide expert advice, and assist in loan documentation preparation) to businesses.

See Comerica page 6

## DJ Antonio Johnson of Heaven 97 in Greenville

The Kuumba Heritage Newspaper will be celebrating eight years of being a part of the minority newspapers across Texas and the United States, known as The Free Press.

The highlight of this Anniversary Banquet is to start the beginning of an annual presentation of three \$500 scholarships to be given to students and to honor the Contributions of individuals, companies and organizations that have supported the agenda of the minority news. These are those who contribute toward making it possible to keep an avenue of freedom of Speech open to all Americans. The program will be done in the atmosphere of a "roast" of Ms. Theresa Thrash, Publisher of The newspaper. Master of Ceremony will be the very popular Mr. Antonio Johnson of Heaven 97 Gospel radio station KHVN (Heaven 97). Antonio is known in the area for doing Gospel comedy. Also Assisting in MC will be Mr. Ivory Moore the ex-mayor of Commerce, Texas. Keynote Speaker will be the Past President of The Texas Publishers Association of Minority Newspapers, Mr.

Thurman Jones. Mr. Jones is also the Publisher of the MON Gazette Newspaper in Plano, Texas. Some of the people to be on hand to "roast" will be Pam Hardaway on behalf of Senator Cains office, Mayor Byron Chitwood, William Smith GISD Superintendent, Ed Thatcher City Manager, Reverend M. Jolla of St. John Missionary Church. Reverend Otis Winkley of Bethlehem Church, Sue Ann Harting ex-Mayor of Greenville, Wolfe City Mayor Robert Lewis, Michael Nelson - Chairman of the Cultural Diversity Committee, Dr. Robert Deuell, and others.

The Theme of the Banquet will be "We are in this together-Reflecting Diversity in a Multicultural Society". Join the Kuumba supporters who will be out for the evening to The Publisher. Please call Mr. Willie Hobdy at 903-455-8738 or fax 903-455-1229. The program starts at 6:30 pm at Greenville High School Cafeteria, Saturday, January 12th. Pre-sale tickets are \$20. \$35 Couples. At the door tickets will be \$25 each.



DJ Antonio Johnson

## Silent determination makes renaming a street, a certainty

by Anthony Jones

There are about 240,000 residents in the City of Plano; half of them could care less if a street were to be named after Martin Luther King. However, in the silent determination of the words, "I have a dream," many of those residents in the caring-half continue an effort that is similar to the attempts of a group wanting to memorialize Sojourner Truth in Florence, Mass.

According to Monica Green, the fund-raising consultant for the Sojourner Truth Memorial Statue Committee, their efforts began nine years ago with the knowledge that the group had to develop support in the community for sculpture exhibit. Truth, who was a woman's rights activist and an abolitionist, lived in Florence from 1843-52.

"She came here to join a utopian community, the Northampton Association for Education and Industry, which was a primarily white group that had fairly radical



values," Green said. "They were known for refusing to differentiate on race or religious beliefs - Sojourner developed her voice and began speaking out on women's rights and the abolition of slavery."

Through the association she met and worked with abolitionists such as William

Lloyd Garrison, Frederick Douglass and Olive Gilbert. Her dictated memoirs were published in 1850 as, "The Narrative of Sojourner Truth: A Bondswoman of Olden."

"Ours has been a relatively grass roots effort," said Green, who has worked with the statue committee about 3 years. "We had to raise \$100,000 - and we received another \$100,000 from the state in 1997."

Jimmy Dismuke, who heads the Martin Luther King Street Renaming Committee in Plano, explained their effort "was not a financial thing."

"All the city had to do is order 'x' amount of road signs," Dismuke said. "But the council ended up passing a resolution that the city was not going to rename any more streets after a national figure unless it's for safety reasons," which he says, temporarily stymied the

## From Her Eyes

For a moment the world ceased rotation. The scream from her mother resounded throughout the auditorium as Victoria's tears blurred the stage. She relied on family to finance her excursion with fate as their time and love paid for the moment the spotlight engulfed her frame and a title was attached to her

name. The tiara, arm full of roses, and accompanying parade down the catwalk, however, were poor compensation for that which she had slaved. Her tears only appeared when she was awarded the proud scream of her mother who cheered repeatedly from off stage: "Go, Victoria baby. Go."



Photo by Maggie Ybarra

From left to right: Charlee Taylor-Hines, Director Ethnic and Urban Marketing, Pepsi-Cola North America; Dawn Hudson, Senior Vice President, Strategy and Marketing, Pepsi-Cola North America; Steven Reinemund, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, PepsiCo; John J. Sarsen, Jr., President and Chief Executive Officer, Association of National Advertisers Inc.

See Silent page 6



## Richie Butler Decides Not to Run for Fifth Congressional Seat

After careful consideration, Richie Butler decides not to run for the Fifth Congressional District being vacated by Congressman Pete Sessions. Citing personal reasons, Butler will remain active in the community and continue his work to promote quality education and community development in the region.

"The open seat was very attractive, and it was a tough decision for me," says Butler. "Several key people

approached me about running for the seat, and our exploratory committee found positive support for my candidacy in the community. Ultimately, the timing did not work for me and my family."

In 1996 Butler was ordained as a minister and is an Associate Pastor with St. Luke "Community" United Methodist Church in Dallas. Butler currently works with Edison Schools, Inc., the country's leading private manager of public schools.

Previously, Butler served as the administrator and project manager of the African American Pastor's Coalition and spearheaded the development of Unity Estates, a housing development in the southern sector of Dallas.

While completing graduate school at Harvard University, Butler began his work in the public sector. He developed and managed statewide political strategy as Deputy Political Director for U.S. Senator John Kerry of

Massachusetts and served as a Community Education Assistant under the Plymouth County District Attorney's Office in Massachusetts.

Butler was the co-founder of the Foundation for the Third Millennium in Dallas, which has sponsored education and humanitarian trips in the U.S. and abroad to Africa. He has developed several inner-city summer programs in Dallas such as "The Summer of Choice" and "A Summer of Hope."

A Mayoral Appointee to the Urban Rehabilitation Standards Board, Butler is a member of the Dallas Felco Federal Credit Union Supervisory Committee, Dallas Urban League Board, State Fair of Texas Chairmen's Taskforce Committee, the Harvard Club of Dallas, and the Real Estate Council. Previously, he served on the Dallas Morals and Values Think Tank and as Chairman of the Advisory Committee at Daniel

"Chappie" James Learning Center.

During Butler's undergraduate years at Southern Methodist University, he was captain and a four-year varsity letterman of the SMU football team. He received numerous honors such as: the College Football Association Good Work Team, Southwest Conference Sportsmanship Award Nominee, SMU Male Athlete of the Year, and the Carr P. Collins Foundation Community Service Award.

## Loitering down the lane of Harvey Martin's life

As 2001 comes to an end and 2002 begins, I felt it pertinent to pay homage to some of heaven's fallen stars: one being one of Dallas' own, Harvey Martin.

Born and raised in Dallas, he was proud to have starred first at South Oak Cliff High School in Dallas, then East Texas State (now known as Texas A&M Commerce), and finally with Dallas Cowboys.

Martin was taken in the third round in the 1973 draft and quickly excelled as a professional athlete. He played 11 seasons becoming known as one of the Cowboys' most popular players in the 1970s and early 80s. Martin set team records with 114 career sacks and 20 sacks alone in 1977, the season The Associated Press coined him defensive player of the year. He also made the Pro Bowl four times and shared the 1978 Super Bowl MVP trophy with Randy White. Tom Landry, former

Cowboys head coach, called him the best pass rusher in Cowboys history.

Martin was known to be a very easygoing guy with a big heart, passionate and caring. "He was always full of joy, always full of happiness," said Mel Renfro, former Cowboys teammate. "He identified with the nickname Beautiful Harvey Martin. He was always upbeat, always encouraging."

Martin underwent major surgery about a year ago and his condition worsened. Nevertheless, on the eve of Christmas, Martin's battle with pancreatic cancer came to an end at Baylor Medical Center in Grapevine making him the first Super Bowl MVP to pass away. He was 51.

"He'll be remembered as one of the great Cowboys of the golden years," former Cowboys president and general manager Tex Schramm said. "He was a great player, one of the first in the group of the

first great pass rushers. He accomplished more than was



anticipated of him."

Martin came into the NFL at a time when defensive ends weren't expected to get many sacks. As a matter of fact, Martin and defensive ends such as Deacon Jones of the Los Angeles Rams brought sacks to the attention of the

sports world. That helped convince coaches to turn the posi-

tion into more of a pass rushing threat than a run-stopper. Teammates always joked with Martin about him never returning a fumble for a touchdown and about him once getting tackled by a quarterback. "It never happened to me," Martin said in an inter-

view with The Dallas Morning News. "(The

closest I came was with a fumble. I got tackled by the quarterback, and everybody laughed at me. Both teams. (But) I killed many a quarterback (and) I felt like I scored when I took their head off."

Since his retiring in 1984, Martin struggled with substance abuse, domestic violence and bankruptcy issues. In 1996, Martin was jailed on domestic violence and cocaine charges. He received probation on both charges and was sent to the Dallas County Judicial Treatment Center.

After eight months, Martin was released and took a job selling chemical products where he was salesman of the year three times. He also made anti-drug speeches to children. In July 1998, he announced in The Dallas Morning News that he had been clean for nearly two years. He also said, "I had such a wonderful life before drugs and alcohol abuse. I've got that life back

now and plan to keep it. Maybe I had to go through what I did to get to this point, to appreciate this life more."

Schramm doesn't believe Martin's trouble with drugs and alcohol will soil Martin's precious memory, which was illustrated at his funeral service with about 1,000 family and friends in attendance. "People are accepting a lot of things today, particularly in that area," said Schramm. "I think that all people who remember Harvey will remember him as the Harvey that was the football player, and not for the drug thing."

John Niland, former teammate and vice president of the chemical company where Martin worked the past five years, believes "this guy was a true champion." "He really loved the Lord, and the Lord did help him turn his life around. We had mothers that prayed for us for a long time, and it worked," said Niland. "It's just a shame for him to have to die to get the recognition he deserved."

## PepsiCo wins ANA Award



From left to right: Charlee Taylor-Hines, Director Ethnic and Urban Marketing, Pepsi-Cola North America; Dawn Hudson, Senior Vice President, Strategy and Marketing, Pepsi-Cola North America; Steven Reinemund, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, PepsiCo; John J. Sarsen, Jr., President and Chief Executive Officer, Association of National Advertisers Inc.

PepsiCo, a winner of the Association of National Advertisers Multicultural Excellence Awards for excellence in Hispanic advertising, receives a \$5000 check for the Thurgood Marshall Scholarship Fund, which will benefit multicultural students studying marketing and advertising. The PepsiCo family of business includes: Frito-Lay, Pepsi-Cola, Quaker, Tropicana and Gatorade.



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## DEPRESSED AGAIN?

The Department of Psychiatry at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center of Dallas is conducting research sponsored by the National Institute of Mental Health on cognitive therapy for depression. **Treatment is free.** The symptoms of depression include:

- Depressed or sad mood
- Loss of interest in activities
- Difficulty sleeping or sleeping too much
- Feeling slowed down
- Feeling tired or having low energy
- Feeling guilty or worthless
- Changes in weight or appetite
- Difficulty concentrating

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.

**SOUTHWESTERN**



## Reflections on Times of Trial

Is 'Time' ever on our side?

The beginning of a New Year is the height of an emotional journey that we as people tend to experience in life times. It is not uncommon for many of us to feel somewhat stressed during the months of November through January. There is an urgency to act and be a certain way even when that might not be what one is truly feeling. During the Holidays, we are conditioned to celebrate and act happy. Many times, we feel that it is our duty as part of the crowd to smile and even fake it. Americans tend to become more stressed and anxious during those final weeks of the year. The New Year is proportionately weighed down with plans to do or accomplish what is often forgotten or put off for the rest of the year. Our New Year plans and resolutions are often unrealistic and based on sensitive emotions and reflections of past disappointments, shortcomings and what we see as failures. There are both positive and negative sides in times of reflection. It is said: "As a man thinketh, so he is." Our energies and mindset tend to show up in the areas we dwell or reflect on.

During the past year, the state of the United States and the events of the world, has greatly affected the way we live each day and look toward the future. As with tragedy such as the Terrorist attacks, people worldwide have been forced to focus on and react to threat of perceived, unseen danger and the uncertain timing of death. For many people life has gone

from being the best of times to what feels like the worst of times. Many questions are being asked:

1) How can one be expected to see goods thing in the midst of such difficult times?

2) How does a nation find hope in the disintegrating clouds of buildings once filled with thousands of loved ones?

3) How will a world find the way to prosperity from a



global economy steadily failing?

Answers for trying times:

1a) Mankind has always grown stronger and wiser after difficult times. It is in times of trial that we are forced to find a better way to survive and succeed. Hard times are like exercise for our spiritual muscle. The importance of friends, family and faith has been revived. When we are eventually able to appreciate new heights and levels of strength and endurance, life is better than ever before.

2a) For each individual person who died in the 9-11 tragedy, thousands of families and friends are left behind. The brevity of life and the finality of death has never been so recognized and appreciated as it is in the aftermath of tragedy. The nation and world must truly invest the effort to find a solu-

tion that works for mankind as a whole and not individual faiths, financial classes or racial ethnicity. The best tribute to lost loved ones would be for every survivor to live a meaningful life and contribute to making life better for others.

3a) In the midst of news about layoffs, cutbacks, falling businesses and a failing economy—people are discovering hidden happiness. Many people who once worked for large corporations now find entrepreneurial business gives them a better sense of self-sufficiency and success. Those long delayed dreams and buried talents can be a great financial resource when channeled and worked into a business plan.

Examining areas of life trials can be a good thing; however, it can also be damaging to dwell on times of difficulty. If a person focuses on downfalls and disappointments, their life will eventually gravitate toward depression. It is to our benefit to think on the positive possibilities and to dwell on dreams of health, happiness, and the development and fulfillment of personal values. "You must think it and believe it—in order to ever see or be it!" If we reflect wisely and act effectively, success is a reality within our grasp.

When reflection on the past and aspiring to the future, we will find that—

"Time is on your side"—Only when you enjoy your gift of living in the present! Let your Life be a reflection of hope, happiness and fulfillment.



**Ron Shaw**

I had lunch recently with a friend that I've grown to love and respect over the years. Their advice and sage wisdom and counsel have helped me greatly during the course of my life. I should mention that this friend is a 67 year old woman who looks every bit of 45. I ask a lot of questions and do a lot of listening when I'm with those who have proven track records of integrity, honor, and success. I was amazed when she asked me some questions (she always does) concerning what I have learned about God and His word and church and stuff like that. I finally asked, "why do you ask me knowing that I don't have the experience that you have?" I was surprised at her answer. She said, "do you ever wonder why I can maintain such great appearance (and she does look good)?" My response was that I just thought it was because she did have a regular exercise regimen. She said, "not exactly. People start looking old when they stop changing and so I just keep changing". As we continued to talk, I could hear God talking to me about change. That's a subject I get asked to speak on frequently. I'm amazed at how we are always trying to go back to times in our lives when we perceive they were better. Married folks are always trying to recapture the honeymoon or the joy of the wedding. A lot of seniors spend their lives always talking about how things used to be. Now I'm not suggesting by any means that we forget the past. I am suggesting however that we speak more concerning today and tomorrow. Your honeymoon may have been great. Some of your past loves may have been great. But today is where you live and hopefully tomorrow will meet you as well. Therefore, your best days should be now and ahead of you. I was watching a movie once when one character asked

## I JUST KEEP CHANGING! Ephesians 4:23

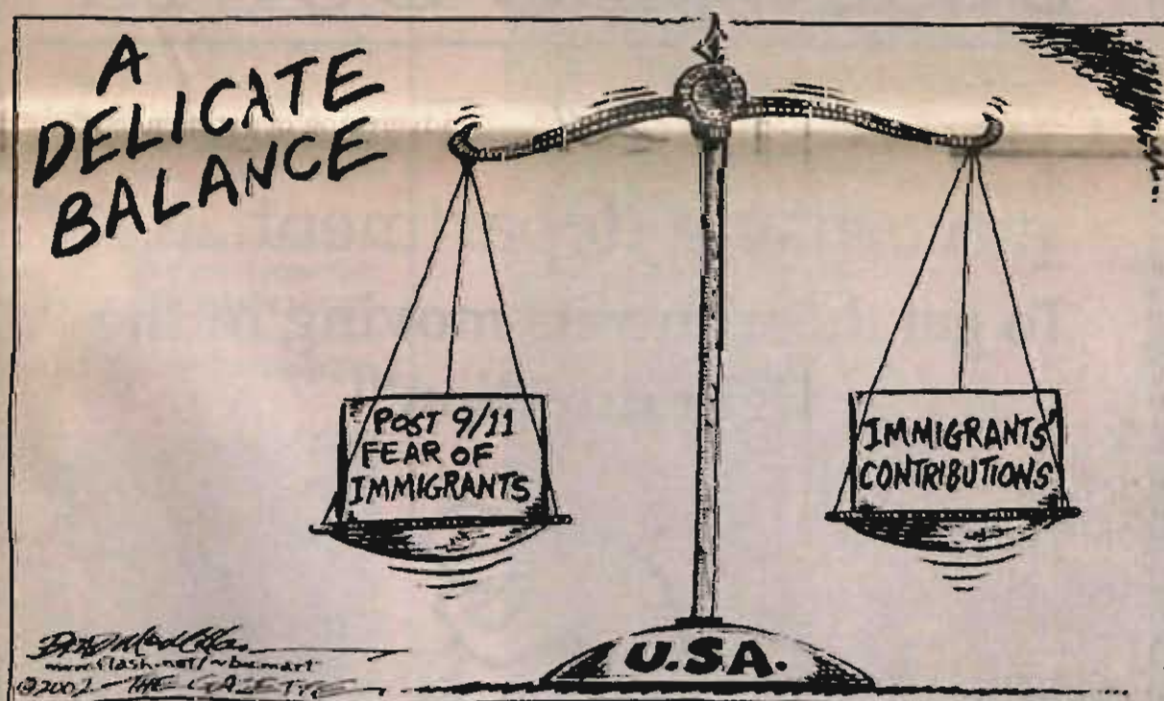
another, "what was the best day of your life?" The character replied, I haven't lived it yet. Everyday is tie". A change is required if we are going to maintain the level of joy that I believe God intended for us to have through Jesus. God doesn't change because He's complete. He doesn't need to become more like us, we need to become more like Him and therefore, it's us that needs constant adjustments.

Our text simply says "Now your attitudes and thoughts must all be constantly changing for the better" (Eph 4:23, TLB)

The decay and atrophy of the attitude is the number one cause of premature death. Medical science tells us that when the mind ceases to relay certain thoughts to the body, the body ceases to produce certain strengths. Just because you may continue to climb chronologically, doesn't mean your attitude should be left at the bottom (or middle) of the mountain where you use to be. Jesus faced this in dealing with the strict Pharisees and legalizers. They were so inflexible and unyielding that he likened their customs and traditions to old wineskins. There are new truths from God's word to learn. He hasn't stopped revealing things unknown to man. Therefore, the way things were, doesn't have to be the way are or the way they will be. A thousand years ago, no one drove high powered automobiles. Did God just put the minerals and raw materials in the earth to build them over the last century? No, the materials have always been here. The knowledge hadn't been discovered yet. Almost a century ago, the head of the U.S. Board of patents suggested that department be closed down because he thought everything that had been invented was all that could be invented. I was recently asked by a good friend at what age I was going to retire. I told them I never plan to. There may be a change or an adjustment in my assignment from God but as for retiring, that's not

in my plans 'cause it's not in His. So I just keep changing. I change my attitude and my behavior consistently. That's how you keep from growing old and decrepit and feeble. When our attitude ceases to change, we stop growing and therefore stop producing those things that demand the body to generate and produce strength. As my friend said, "I just keep changing".

As we embark upon a new year, allow me to suggest several things that will help you. Look at your attitude about people closely. Does it reflect a change over the course of you life or are you still holding on the some time worn, tired, stereotypical, ignorant, ideology about whole groups of people. Some people still think according to the past where ethnic groups are concerned. How unfortunate. Although racism is still very much alive, it's becoming more and more unprofitable for the world's economy. Next, Consider your attitude concerning God, Jesus and His church. Are you still thinking and acting like those who feel the church is irrelevant and preachers are crooks and church people are hypocrites? How tired that is. You may be interested to know that the church has been the one agency that has remained consistently faithful in it's support of the poor, and commitment to improvement of the quality of life for both singles and families. Also churches have increased their influence in communities and people despite a drastic decrease in contributions. Think of it. They are doing more with even less. Finally, consider your attitude about you. What do you really think of yourself? Do you know how God thinks of you and do you know what He has planned for your life? If not, that must change if you are going to make it in this century. Don't get old and stale and dry up. Keep changing and working on your attitude. Go to Church This coming Sunday!



## Ison-Newsome Gets Her Day in Court: Texas High Court Rules Lawsuit Will Continue Against DISD

The Supreme Court of Texas recently ruled that Ison-Newsome may continue her lawsuit filed in 1997, which charges the district with slander and conspiracy. The ruling brings the case — and the saga involving former DISD

Superintendent Yvonne Gonzalez — back into the limelight.

"This ruling is a welcome sign to our client that allegations of such a serious nature will be considered by the court system," says William A. Brewer III of Bickel & Brewer Storefront and Ison-Newsome's lead attorney. "It has been four years, but the wheels of justice never stopped turning."

Brewer says Ison-

Newsome's lawsuit charges school officials with intentional torts of slander, civil conspiracy and intentional infliction of emotional distress. Ison-Newsome filed the lawsuit after Gonzalez, allegedly attempting to deflect media attention related to her own activities, ordered a press conference to publicly suggest that Ison-Newsome was being investigated for the misuse of school district funds.

see Ison-Newton Page 8

## The Gazette

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Jim Bochum

Publisher

Thurman R. Jones

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### NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS OF PROPOSED TEXAS HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT CONTRACTS

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

#### CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE CONTRACT(S)

District (S) North  
Contract 0002-45-B for BRIDGE AND APPROACHES in TARRANT County will

be opened on February 06, 2002 at 1:00 pm at the State Office.  
Contract 1330-01-052 for WIDENING AND CONTINUING LEFT TURN LANE in TARRANT

County will be opened on February 05, 2002 at 1:00 pm at the State Office.

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 may submit prequalification information to TxDOT at least 10 days prior to the date that they are to be eligible to bid on a project. Prequalification materials may be requested from the State Office listed below. Bidding for the above contract(s) are available from TxDOT's website at: [www.tdot.state.tx.us](http://www.tdot.state.tx.us) and from reproduction companies at the expense of the contractor.

NPD: 5670

State Office

Construction Division

200 E. Riverside Dr.

Austin, Texas 78704

Phone: 823-416-2540

District Office(s)

Fort Worth District

District Engineer

2501 Southwest LP820

Ft Worth, Texas 76133

Phone: 817-370-6500

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 the grounds of race, color, sex, or national origin.



## You & Your Money



**Billie Meador**

### Financial Focus: Take steps to Avoid Costly Credit Card Debt

It's a good idea to limit your credit card debt as much as possible. This type of debt typically carries a high interest rate and is not tax-deductible. There can be advantages, however, to using plastic, particularly in those instances when it's best not to carry much cash. But now, more than ever, you need to use credit responsibly.

Why? Because credit card issuers are bumping up their late fees and becoming more aggressive about imposing penalty interest rates. With some cards, only one late payment can trigger the late fee and then a new, higher rate. Plus, credit card companies are shortening or eliminating their grace periods, which previously allowed you a few days past the due date for a payment to arrive before you'd incur a late fee.

In short, it's clear that you should minimize credit card balances when possible. Your best bet is to keep just one card, use it only in cases of emergency and pay it off each month, so that you'll avoid interest of finance charges. In fact,

paying off your high interest credit card debt may be one of the smartest financial moves you can make. After all, you could be paying interest rates of 18 percent - or more - on some credit card debt. Unless you can find an investment that returns more than that which is unlikely - you'll make better use of your money by paying down that debt.

Of course, your best credit card debt-reduction strategy is to avoid getting into debt in the first place. And one of the best ways of doing that is to build a "cash cushion" over time. By setting up monthly automatic payments into a liquid vehicle, such as a money market account, you'll be able to accumulate funds you can draw on to make major purchases - the type of purchases that might otherwise send you reeling into the "plastic trap."

Still, because your money market account is so liquid, you'll have to fight the temptation to constantly dip into it for everyday or "impulse" purchases. Remember what this account is there for: to help you stay out of debt.

You can also find other options to racking up credit card debt. One

popular choice is a home equity loan. This type of loan typically carries a much lower interest rate than those of credit cards, and your interest payments are usually tax-deductible. Plus, you can use the money for whatever you want: home improvements, college payments, whatever.

However, before you take out a home equity loan, there are a couple of things you must keep in mind. First, you're using your home as collateral for a loan. If you default, you could lose your house - so make absolutely sure you can handle the payments before you sign on the dotted line. Second, taking out a home equity loan is a major decision - so consult your tax and investment professionals for guidance.

By taking the appropriate steps, and by disciplining your spending habits, you can avoid falling into expensive credit card debt. And that's a tumble you never want to take.

*Billie Meador is an Investment Representative for Edward Jones. She can be reached at 972-208-5688 or toll free 888-758-0950.*

## Capitol Watch

### Top Jury Verdicts

Summary of Lawyers Weekly USA's annual list of the top jury verdicts. What's interesting about this year's list is large verdicts dropped off dramatically after September 11th. Also, personal injury lawsuits seem to be coming back. Another interesting highlight is juries in Texas, Florida, New York and California each had two of the largest verdicts.

**Terrorist Attacks Limit Large Verdicts in 2001**

**Phillip Morris \$3.5 Billion Verdict Tops List; More Personal Injury Awards**

The September 11 terrorist attacks impacted courts throughout the country, significantly reducing the number of large verdicts awards in 2001, according to Lawyers Weekly USA. The legal newspaper's annual roundup of the top individual lawsuit jury awards found there was a substantial decline in large lawsuit awards after September 11.

The year's top 10 verdicts - which totaled \$5.7 billion - could have been significantly higher if not for the events of Sept. 11, according to this week's edition of Lawyers Weekly USA. Just one of the 10 largest jury awards of the year was handed down after the September terrorist attacks.

A record \$3 billion verdict against cigarette maker Philip Morris was the largest jury award by far in 2001, according to the Lawyers Weekly USA's annual survey of lawsuits filed by individual plaintiffs. The multi-billion-dollar California verdict, which came in the case of cancer-stricken smoker, was three times larger than the number two verdict this year and more

than all of the 10 largest awards of 2000 combined.

In contrast, the largest jury award to a plaintiff in a contested lawsuit in 2000 was a \$265 million award in a medical malpractice suit.

"In a typical year, the last four months of the year yield three or four of the largest awards," noted attorney Paul J. Martinek, editor-in-chief of Lawyers Weekly USA. "The fact that there was only one top 10 awards this year in that time



period suggests that a number of big-money trials were delayed until 2002."

Juries in California, Texas, Florida, and New York each awarded two of the top verdicts. The past year also marked something of the "return" of the big personal-injury verdict, Martinek noted.

"In 2000, there were only three \$100-million plus jury awards in 'conventional' personal-injury suits," Martinek said. "This year, there were six personal-injury awards that topped \$100 million."

Lawyers Weekly USA's survey only includes verdicts handed down by juries in cases filed by individual plaintiffs. Class actions and business-against-business litigation are not included.

Lawyers Weekly USA's Top 10 Jury Awards of 2001:

Philip Morris Inc. (California)

Product liability action over cigarette smoking

2. \$1.06 billion - Grefer, et al. v. Alpha Technical, et al. (Louisiana)

Environmental contamination suit

Top 10 Lawsuits -2-

3. \$480 million - Cassoult, et al. v. Cessna Aircraft Co. (Florida)

Products liability lawsuit over crash of private plane

4. \$312.8 million - Fuqua v. Horizon/CMS Healthcare Corp. (Texas)

Wrongful death suit against nursing home

5. \$256 million - Jenkins, et al. v. Ranger Construction Inc. (Florida)

Wrongful death action over motor vehicle accident

6. \$116 million - X-IT Products LLC v. Walter Kidde Portable Equipment Inc. (Virginia)

Suit over theft of intellectual property

7. \$114.9 million - McCord v. St. Mary's Hospital of Brooklyn, et al. (New York)

Medical malpractice suit involving care of pregnant mother

8. \$108.2 million - Brittingham v. Brittingham (Texas)

Inheritance dispute

9. \$107.8 million - Ballinas v. New York City Health and Hospitals Corp., et al. (New York)

Medical malpractice suit over delivery of brain-damaged infant

10. \$94.5 million - Border Business Park, Inc. v. City of San Diego (California)

Breach of real estate development agreement.

## Wellness

### New technique available to eliminate snoring

People who suffer from unbearable snoring now have less expensive, painless treatment options to choose from at Methodist Medical Center.

Craig Schwimmer, M.D. and Rajiv Pandit, M.D., specialists in Ear, Nose and Throat, Head and Neck Surgery, now offer patients minimally invasive procedures that can be done in their offices that will greatly reduce or eliminate snoring.

One of the newest techniques is called injection snoreplasty, in which a solution is injected into the soft palate, which causes the soft tissue of the upper palate to become firm, thus improving airflow through the mouth.

"The soft tissue of the upper palate moves during snoring, causing the sound we all hear," said Dr. Schwimmer. "So by making the upper palate stiffer, the tissue will move less, and snoring is reduced."

Habitual snorers, and those

who must endure their nighttime cacophonies, have long assumed nothing could be done for this condition. Those who study snoring say the actual number of those who snore is mostly underreported. Conservative estimates are that 30% of women and 40% of men snore, and that number increases with increasing age, according to Dr. Pandit.

Snoring has been linked to increases in blood pressure, heart attack and stroke risk, as well as decreases in sexual activity. Basically, snorers and their partners are very unhappy people.

The secret to snore therapy is changing the structure of the mouth, which changes the normal airflow through the mouth during sleep. Snoreplasty is relatively painless, inexpensive and quick when compared to traditional surgery.

"From start to finish, the snoreplasty procedure takes me

about 15 minutes to complete in my office," said Dr. Schwimmer.

Other therapies include the use of radio frequencies, lasers or traditional surgery to remove or reshape tissue in the mouth and throat, all done on an outpatient basis.

Methodist Medical Center and Charlton Methodist Hospital are part of the non-profit Methodist Hospitals of Dallas (MHD) system. In addition to the two hospitals, MHD has four Methodist Family Health Centers and a Foundation. The MHD health-care system is affiliated by covenant with the North Texas Conference of The United Methodist Church. MHD has served North Texas since 1927 as a leader in providing compassionate healthcare.

Employees interested in a good night's sleep may contact Drs. Schwimmer and Pandit at 214-941-7610 for more information.

### Breast Check-Ups

• Women age 50 or older should have a complete physical every year, including a breast exam and mammogram.

• Free breast exams and mammograms are available to women age 50-64 who have no medical insurance, are not

enrolled in Medicare Part B or on Medicaid and meet the following income guidelines:

Family Size	Annual Maximum	Monthly Maximum	Weekly Maximum
1 Person	\$17,180	\$1,432	\$330
2 People	\$23,220	\$1,936	\$446
3 People	\$29,260	\$2,438	\$562
4 People	\$35,300	\$2,942	\$678
5 People	\$41,340	\$3,446	\$796
6 People	\$47,380	\$3,948	\$912
7 People	\$53,420	\$4,452	\$1,028
8 People	\$59,460	\$4,956	\$1,144

Call 214-648-4939, leave your information message and you will be contacted regarding an appointment.

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## Ben Thomas relives the early days of Plano

Ben Thomas' contributions have earned him the unofficial title of mayor and a 9,300-sq. ft. gymnasium named in his honor. Born and raised in Plano, the 78-year-old has a unique perspective of the city.

Thomas has always thought Plano to be a tremendous city. After finishing Plano Colored School, he left for work with a civilian post WWII program. He returned to Plano and was commissioned to write a historical overview of 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 African-Americans in the area at that time. As WWI began more blacks from East Texas and Louisiana journeyed to Plano's rich farming community, one of Texas' best-kept secrets.

The Douglass Community, scattered houses along 13th and 14th streets, grew out of the old community of Plano. During WWI whites began moving into the newer neighborhoods and blacks began moving from the small settlement of Kendrick's (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 the 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 how to integrate Plano Schools. "Desegregating the city was pretty easy and we didn't have many problems because Plano people were good," recalls Thomas.

His father, namesake of the J.L. Thomas Elementary School, and many other progressive Plano community leaders forged Thomas' guiding principles.



Ben Thomas ples early in life.

Thomas says the Douglass neighborhood was a viable place to live and work during the 1940s, 50s, and 60s. While blacks worked as maids, share croppers, 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 that 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!" recalls Thomas. It was a community

full of people striving to overcome and be successful.

As Thomas brings his stroll down memory lane to a close, he notices the difference in the attitude of the people of Plano today and yesterday. "The attitude of people reflect that we still have to overcome. We have a different people now than back in the Jim Crow days. We are colder and meaner in spirit," says Thomas. However, he still feels that there is hope and the "whole nation needs to take a good look at itself just like Plano." Thomas said he would like to see the black community take responsibility for whatever progress Plano will make in the future and not wait for someone else to do it.

## The Love Clinic - The House that Love Built

Scholarly, graceful, trail-blazer and inspiring are just a few words that linger in the ambiance of the well accomplished, Dr. Sheron C. Patterson. Welcomed into the open arms of St. Paul United Methodist Church, Dr. Patterson, the first African-American woman to be ordained in the North Texas region of the United Methodist Church, has made this historic site her new pastoring home.

Not only can Dr. Patterson be seen at St. Paul touching the lives of those in her congregation, but also she can be heard on KRNB 105.7 FM co-hosting gospel music/relationship radio programs on Sunday mornings. On a weekly basis, she shares her relationship expertise with twenty-five cities on "Love Doctor" broadcast on the syndicated ABC radio format REJOICE and her column in The Dallas Examiner. She has also been featured on Black Entertainment Television (BET), in JET magazine and is the author of five books.

All the feats of this

Christian relationship specialist have earned her a place of honor in the national Women's Museum located in Dallas, Texas.

Through toiling as a United Methodist pastor, Dr.



Patterson noticed the increasing levels of social problems resulting from destructive relationships between men and women; married couples and singles, children and even grandparents thus creating the Love Clinic in 1995. Designed to heal hearts and homes, the series combines gospel music, Christian theater and Christian comedy to

give attendants a faith-based remedy to social problems. "For too long the church has been a place of shame or a place where you were too embarrassed to admit you had problems. Jesus Christ was about pulling back the walls of deception and telling it like it really is and that's what we do. We have successfully helped people to understand that before you can fix it, you have to face it," says Dr. Patterson.

Now in its sixth successful year, Patterson's Love Clinic has gained a lot of support including State Farm Insurance's. "They saw how influential the Love Clinic was in penetrating the African-American community (and decided) they wanted to join in and help me do even more," says Patterson. Thanks to State Farm's support, the Love Clinic is now able to do seven clinics at seven churches, three summer camps and a closing end of the year banquet in January. Most importantly, the Love Clinic is raising funds at each church to build a habitat for humanity house that will be called the House that Love Built.



From left: Macy's; Ben Thomas and wife Frances

## The St. Mark Men's Day Program

The St. Mark Missionary Baptist Church, 1301 Wilcox, McKinney, TX, Annual Men's Day Program will be held on Sunday, January 20th at 3:30 p.m. The guest speaker will be Darrell Wilson, Pastor of Sweet Home Baptist Church in Garland, Texas. The program is free and open to the public. Visit the website at [www.stmark-baptist.com](http://www.stmark-baptist.com) or call the church office at 972-542-1178 for additional information.

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## Looking in the mirror through the eyes of John A. Carlton

By Brandy Jones

He's been all over the world, seen many people and places, and is still alive at 94 to tell the tales of a mature art director's experiences. His sketches have illustrated events and faces of the 20th century and on television stations around the globe. He's brought to life events such as the 1932 kidnapping of the 20-month-old son of famed American aviator Charles Lindbergh and the historic astronaut John Glenn when he became the first American to orbit the earth in 1962. John A. Carlton, former art director for The Associated Press, the world's largest news gathering organization, still possesses absolute artistic skills of a lifetime.

A native of Stamps, Arkansas, Carlton says he has always loved to draw and paint. "I won my first art prize in high school," he said. "It was a picture of Arkansas."

Since then, Carlton's skills have flourished. From memory after meeting historic figures or from photographs, Carlton recalls sketching prominent figures such as World War II Gen. George Patton, Cuban communist leader Fidel Castro, and President John F. Kennedy. "When a picture wasn't available to go with a story, I had to make an illustration," Carlton said. "You couldn't always have people pose for a portrait, so you often had to draw from what you'd seen or

from a photograph."

After graduating from Florida Southern College in 1930, he got a job making previews or "trailers" for programs at Radio City Music Hall in New York City, which was apparently what got the attention of AP. "I started with AP in 1932 and worked for the organization for 38 years," Carlton said. "My illustrations have been published through 92 AP bureaus worldwide. Illustrations were transmitted by telephone line at a rate of an inch per minute."

Many of Carlton's sketches were done in pencil or charcoal. However, most are monochromatic, but some are in color like the ones of Chinese political and military leaders and American astronauts.

Besides portraits, he's sketched Buckingham Palace in great detail, Augusta National golf course and complicated illustrations of space projects. He says it "takes a lot of brain power" to visualize concepts such as NASA space programs.

Carlton said he got to know Mamie Eisenhower, wife of President Eisenhower, "pretty well" during the span of his career and even presented the couple with a sketch he fashioned for them. He's also friends with golf legend Jack Nicklaus and attended a birthday party for President Richard Nixon. Several of his works are displayed at the Newseum in Arlington, Va., a

museum dedicated to news media.

One of his most prized possessions is a print immortalizing the World War II battle of Iwo Jima. The photograph depicts half a dozen marines raising the United States flag on a hill on the Pacific island. "When I saw Joe Rosenthal's picture, I told him it was a good photograph, and I'd like to have a copy," Carlton said.

In more recent days, instead of sketching world leaders or historic events, Carlton spends his days in a rustic house in the country near Hodges. "Working at my drawing table helps me pass the time," Carlton said.

Meanwhile, Carlton decorated the nursery at Hodges United Methodist Church with watercolor paintings of animals and has done other works depicting New England landscaped and churches. He also does other things to keep himself busy. "I make birthday and Christmas cards for friends, and I like to do them ahead of time because I often send out 50 at a time," he said. He even decorates the outside of the envelopes.

Carlton has lived a long, successful life and he attributes his longevity and artistic talent to years of travel and "drinking lots of water."

Carlton is a widower with two sons and a daughter and lives with one of his sons, Ken and daughter-in-law Donna.

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You may be thinking, who keeps track of the things that banks are doing for the betterment of its community. Well, you guessed it, the government. The CRA requires that each insured depository institution's record in helping meet the credit needs of its entire community be evaluated periodically. That record is taken into account in considering an institution's application for deposit facilities, including merges and acquisitions. CRA evalua-

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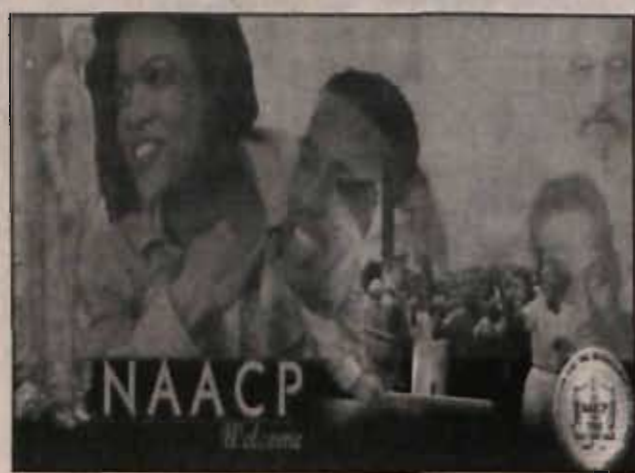
Comerica Bank-Texas says that they have received an overwhelmingly positive response to their statewide CRA efforts from the communities in which they serve.

## Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade and March

NAACP-Garland Branch will host its 13th annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade and March on Saturday, January 19th, beginning at 10 a.m. with the theme "Honoring the Rainbow Dream." The parade starts at Beverly Dr. and Dairy Rd. A commemorative program will be held at the

immediately following the parade. The MLK

Handley Elementary School Choir will perform. Winners of the MLK float contest will be announced and local automobile dealerships will be honored for their loyal and continuous sponsorship of MLK day. A special Drill Team Competition will be held on Sunday, January 20th, at PAC, beginning at 4 p.m. For more information, please contact Gwen Daniels, Parade Coordinator, at 972-381-5044.



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Jump from Page 1

committee's efforts.

Rep. Brian McCall (R-Dist. 66), who was a joint author on a resolution that that would have closed the House of Representatives in observance of Martin Luther King Day, explained the renaming was a city affair, "cities all over this nation have done it."

"Unfortunately, it did not pass," McCall said of the House closure legislation. "We're going to try again this session. He was truly an American hero."

McCall was elected in a special election in July 1991, and reelected in 1992, 1994, 1996, and 1998. Rep. McCall currently serves as vice-chair of The Ways and Means Committee and is a member of the Calendars and State Affairs Committees.

Early voting has begun for the March 12 Primary Election and according to the Collin County Elections Department, Plano businessman Fred Moses has entered the District 66 race. Moses was instrumental in the debate, supporting the renaming as well as a member of the MLK Street Renaming Committee.

According to Dismuke, the Plano City Council had received 80-100 anti-renaming e-mails and none in support of the renaming.

"But that's a lie," Dismuke said. "The resolution was a slap in the face. It makes you question 'what does a public meeting mean?'" People are waiting and determined to change that resolution."

Dismuke pointed to city council members who had been posturing during the hearing process and called their actions a "political ploy," explaining, "We're trying to get a coalition going for the next election."

And, referring to future City of Plano-sponsored Martin Luther King celebrations, he asked: "Why should I participate in MLK celebration with city officials who smile in your face but cannot allocate a street to honor the man they're celebrating?"

Green told The Gazette, that back in 1993 the Rev. Peter Ayvazian began the statue effort in response to the Rodney King incident.

"He (Ayvazian) wanted to engage this community in an anti-racism effort," Green said. "Many considered Sojourner Truth one of the greatest African-Americans of the century."

"She was very religious and had begun functioning as an itinerant preacher and she found a lot of support for her views in Florence," Green explained. "She published a narrative and purchased a home here."

On April 1, 2001, Thomas Jay Warren from Colorado was selected to create the statue of Sojourner Truth, Green added. The statue depicts the educational needs of Florence, showing Truth as a mature woman, easily recognizable to schoolchildren in her role as an orator and champion of justice, freedom, and equal rights."

Warren, who was born in Mississippi in 1958, studied sculpture as a presidential scholar at Mississippi College. The selection process for a sculptor also drew fire because Warren was selected from a group that included five women.

The Northampton Board of Public Works in Florence approved the small triangular park at the intersection of Pine and Park Streets in Florence as the site for the memorial. The board gave its approval at a meeting on Jan. 26, 2001, two weeks after a public hearing at which most of the 25 people present voiced support for the statue.

Under her given name, Isabella Baumfree, Truth was sold several times and suffered many hardships under slavery. However, according to biographical records, her mother endowed her with a profound Christian faith that carried her through the trials she endured her entire life.

Forced to submit to the will of her third master, John Dumont, Isabella married an older slave named Thomas. Thomas and Isabella had five children. She stayed on the Dumont farm until a few months before the State of New York ended slavery in 1828, according to biographical records.

Dumont had promised Isabella freedom a year before the state emancipation but he reneged on his promise and Isabella ran away with her infant son.

Eventually, Isabella settled in New York City, working as a domestic for several religious communities, including one, known as the "Kingdom of Matthias," that became involved in a scandal of adultery and murder.

In 1843, Isabella was inspired by a spiritual reve-

lation that changed her life. She changed her name to Sojourner Truth and began taking long walks through Long Island and Connecticut, preaching, "God's truth and plan for salvation," as noted in biographical records.

She would sometimes repeat, 'Our Father in heaven,' in her Low Dutch, as taught her by her mother; after that, all was from the suggestions of her own rude mind. She related to God, in minute detail, all her troubles and sufferings, inquiring, as she proceeded, 'Do you think that's right, God?' and closed by begging to be delivered from the evil, whatever it might be.

After months of travel, she arrived in Northampton, Mass., and joined the Northampton Association for Education and Industry. Truth eventually added abolitionism and women's suffrage to her oratory, often giving personal testimony about her experiences as a slave. In 1851, Truth spoke at a women's convention in Akron, Ohio, where after the speech, the legendary phrase, and "Ain't I a Woman?" was associated with her.

Records show her determination to help her people was fearless and confident. Truth never withdrew when she was being overlooked during her speeches. She would always discover some way to get attention from the audience. Truth took many risks to achieve her goal of releasing the blacks.

Although some people said she would never accomplish her goal of freeing her people, she did. Many lives including the Northerners', Southerners', and blacks', and whites', were changed because of her influence. Her daring personality, strong will, and bravery helped her make a great and lasting difference in the United States.

According to biographical records, Truth worked tirelessly to aid the newly freed southern slaves when the Civil War ended. She even attempted to petition Congress to give the ex-slaves land in the "New West." Truth continued preaching and lecturing until ill health forced her to retire. She died in November 1883 in Battle Creek, Mich.

Green explained that Truth moved from Florence to Battle Creek where a memorial statue has successfully been erected.

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# Arts & Entertainment

## The WordBand featuring award winning poet, Kalamu ya Salaam Performs

New Orleans spoken word performance band, WordBand will present a stirring evening of original poetry and music January 19th at 8 p.m. The ensemble features New Orleans award winning poet Kalamu ya Salaam, his collaborator and fellow poet Kyesha Brown, vocalist Ginger Tanner and guitarist, Carl LeBlanc.

Salaam, who has served as the Executive Director of the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival, incorporates music into all his performances, believing wholeheartedly in the inter-relatedness of black dialogue and song/music. He is a published author of over seven books of poetry and several produced plays. He most

recently produced a CD of his poetry, My Story, My Song and is currently serving as the poetry editor for QBR: The Black Book Review. The fee for this event is \$5 and will be at South Dallas Cultural Center, 3400 S. Fitzhugh Ave. in Dallas. For more information, call 214-939-2787.

## Dallas Mavericks Concert Series

The Dallas Mavericks 2001-02 Concert Series continues Monday, January 21st, when The Gap Band takes the stage after the Mavs host the New Jersey Nets at American Airlines Center. Tipoff is 2:00 p.m. CT and the concert will begin immediately following the game.

"Hosting a postgame concert is great way to help celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr. Day," said Matt Fitzgerald, senior vice president of marketing/communications for the club. "And the Gap Band, with their well-known funk tunes, will have everyone on their feet dancing."

One of the most influential groups in the history of R&B, Charlie and his brothers Robert and Ronnie Wilson made themselves famous with their non-stop humorous funk grooves. The sons of a Pentecostal minister, the Wilson brothers started performing in 1967 when they formed a group along with Tuck Andress of Tuck and Patti Fame. The Gap Band, named after the black business hub of their native Tulsa, Oklahoma, became the band of choice for visiting musicians.

All January 21st game tickets are good for concert admission. Tickets can be purchased by calling 214-747-MAVS, online at [www.dallasmavericks.com](http://www.dallasmavericks.com), at the American Airlines Center Box Office and Ticketmaster outlets.



## Aurora: Recent works by Beth Ritter-Perry

Dallas artist, Beth Ritter-Perry will exhibit her latest tapestries, drawings and paintings in a show that continues her investigation into the spiritual self. Using traditional African symbolism juxtaposed with her

personal symbolism, Ritter-Perry presents a body of work representing a perfect blend of the past with the present. The exhibition opens January 18th at South Dallas Cultural Center, 3400 S. Fitzhugh Ave.

in Dallas, at 6 p.m. It is free and open to the public. You can also meet the artist January 19th at 2 p.m. The exhibition will run January 18th through March 9th. For more information, call 214-939-2787.

## Workshop

Wednesday, January 16th, from 6-8 p.m. the South Dallas Cultural Center will begin a series of workshops catered to local artists in the DFW area.

The first topic will be "Understanding Recording Contracts." Find out that needs one and what to look for before you sign. A showcase in which each artist will receive a critique and consultation session on per-

formance and presentation follows the workshop. The fee is \$20 a month or \$75 for four months. For more information, call 214-939-2787. The topic for February 13th will be "Publishing Deals."

## "Passin' It On"

Black Cinematheque Dallas will screen the film "Passin' it on" by John Valdez on Friday, January 18th at 8 p.m. at the South Dallas Cultural Center, 3400 S. Fitzhugh Street in Dallas. "Passin' It On" is the true story of Dhoruba Bin Wahad (formerly known as Richard Moore), a Black Panther and revolutionary activist who served 19 years for the 1970 shooting of two New York City police officers. The film describes the indictment, the trial, the evidence the FBI suppressed and eventual acquittal of the codefendants in the "Panther 21." Admission is \$5.00 and tickets can be purchased at the door. For more information, call 214-426-1683.



## African-American Play Festival at the South Dallas Cultural Center

The renaissance is here. Urban hip-hop has infiltrated Dallas Theater with a new wave of artists. Like the jazz invasion of the music industry, this cultural explosion is causing excitement in the theater community and it is here to stay. Blacken Blues Theater's First Annual African-American Play Festival is a showcase of fresh new talent.

The play festival is a forum for upcoming playwrights and performance artists. Come and enjoy the celebration of African-American life with exciting tales of joy and tragedy. Watch stars being born and classics being made on the stage of the South Dallas Cultural Center.

An array of well known African of well known African-American directors will direct works by first time playwrights along with shorts written by Willie Holmes, Che Hill, Robert Helm, and David Jones Butler. Celebrate African-American History month by supporting African-American theater. We invite all races and ethnicities to become part of this Renaissance explosion. The Dallas Renaissance is Blacken Blues Theater.

The African-American Play festival will be held at the South Dallas Cultural Center, Dallas (across from Fair Park) on January 25-26, February 1-2 and 8-9, 2002. For more

information, contact Willie Holmes at 972-788-9280, email [infonow@Blackenblues.com](mailto:infonow@Blackenblues.com), or visit the website at [www.Blackenblues.com](http://www.Blackenblues.com).



## Annual Fashion Show Benefit

Women of Collin County and the north area metroplex will get an opportunity to celebrate Mardi Gras in grand style at the "Exclusively Feminine" luncheon and fashion show, scheduled for Saturday, February 9th from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Doubletree Legacy Hotel in Plano. The 17th annual women-only fund-raiser benefits the Volunteer Center of Collin County, which promotes local volunteerism to support area nonprofit organizations. Participants will get a jump on Mardi Gras festivities by attending the "Exclusively Feminine" event, which will be held before Fat Tuesday. Guests will literally experience the "flavor" of New Orleans from the food to decorations to musical entertainment.

Proceeds from the "Exclusively Feminine" event help fund many of the center's ongoing outreach and community service programs including: Community Service Restitution; Volunteer of the Year Awards Luncheon; and Criminal Background Checks for volunteers, among many others.

Corporate tables of 10 ranges from \$750 to \$3,000, which include a variety of sponsorship benefits. Individual tickets are \$60 and group tables of 10 are available at \$550 each. For more information about "Exclusively Feminine," please call the Volunteer Center of Collin County at 972-422-1050 or visit



Exclusively Feminine committee members gear up for the Mardi Gras-themed event on Saturday, February 9, 2002. From left to right (bottom row) Mariann Duff, Sue Whitehurst, Debbie Price, Sally Magnuson, Lorraine Mattis. From left to right (standing) Patti Alcorn, Traci Duff, Annabelle McLeMore, Cathy Naffel, Gale Duff-Bloom (Event chairman), Phyllis Schuler, Carla Meadows Not shown: Gina buser, Chris Henry, Cissy Oldner, Robin Schuellein, Robin Caldwell

## Explorer



The all-new interior and exterior styling includes all-new headlamps and grille and all-new 16-inch wheel line-up. The interior offers an ergonomic cockpit with an enhanced instrument panel, new seats and trim, plus plenty of storage space.

A brand new independent rear suspension (IRS) adjusts to road conditions and improves driver control even over uneven terrain. The new IRS also allows the optional third-row seat to fold flat into the floor.

With the optional V8 engine, you've got plenty of power available at your command. Optional all-new, aluminum 4.6L Triton™ V8 delivers 239 horsepower at 4750 rpm and 282 lbs.-ft. of torque at 4000 rpm.

The all-new Explorer 2002 is roomier than ever. With optional 7-passenger seating and the most third-row head and legroom in its class, you can load up the gang without squeezing them in.



## Around The Town

### Ongoing

The Women's Museum: An Institute for the Future announces its winter blockbuster exhibit Alma Thomas: Phantasmagoria, Major Paintings. The works of the legendary abstract artist, will be on display until March 2002. The catalog, Alma Thomas: Phantasmagoria, major Paintings of the 1970's will be available in the museum store. For more information, call 214-915-0861 or visit [www.thewomensmuseum.org](http://www.thewomensmuseum.org).

The Women's Museum will provide free computer training in the Ronya Kozmetsky Institute For the Future, the museum's 20-workstation computer lab. The classes will provide free job-training skills for adult women who are unemployed and for those already employed but wishing to move up to more professional levels. Classes will be held on Tuesday evenings and Sunday afternoons and students can attend one or any number of classes. For more information, contact Wendlyn Alter, Institute Director at 214-915-0868 or [techdirector@thewomensmuseum.org](mailto:techdirector@thewomensmuseum.org).

The City of Plano Parks and Recreation Department has contracted with Planet Kidz, a youth entertainment program, to provide activities at Carpenter Park (6701 Coit Rd.) and Oak Point Recreation Center (6000 Jupiter Rd.) for youth grades 3 through 8. Planet Kidz happens on Saturday nights from 7-11:30 p.m. offering fun and excitement in a safe and secure environ-

ment. Admission is only \$8 per person. A Plano police officer will be on duty at each location for the safety of the youth. For more information, call the Carpenter Park Recreation Center at 972-208-8087 or the Oak Point Center at 972-941-7540.

The Essence Awards will salute excellence in entertainment and the arts in the town that has built hallmark careers: Hollywood. The 15th Annual Awards will take place on May 31st at the Universal Amphitheater in Los Angeles. Starting this month, viewers can also look forward to an exciting interactive component for the Awards. By casting their votes via [essence.com](http://essence.com) or postcard, readers will select who receives the award for "Entertainer of the Year" as part of the Essence Awards Reader's Poll. Once a vote is cast, the reader will automatically be entered to win a trip for two to Hollywood and join the ESSENCE family at The 2002 Essence Awards. More information is available at [essence.com](http://essence.com) or the January 2002 issue of ESSENCE.

The International Library of Poetry has announced that \$58,000 in prizes will be awarded this year in the International Open Poetry Contest. Poets, preferably beginners, are welcome to try to win their share of over 250 prizes. The deadline for the contest is February 28, 2002. The contest is open to everyone and entry is FREE. To enter, send one original poem, any subject and any style to: The

International Library of Poetry, Suite 19913, 1 Poetry Plaza, Owing Mills, MD 21117. The poem should be 20 lines or less, and the poet's name and address should appear on the top of the page. Entries must be postmarked or sent via the Internet by February 28, 2002. Enter online at [www.poetry.com](http://www.poetry.com).

### January 10

The Dallas Mavericks will be playing the New York Knicks at the American Airlines Center at 8 p.m. For more information, call 214-665-4200.

Young Audiences and Pizza Hut presents "Greece Alive" for children in grades K-3rd. This event will be held at Haggard Library in Plano at 4:30 p.m. For more information, call 972-964-4200.

### January 11

The Women's Council of Dallas County, Church Women United in Dallas, and the League of Women's Voters will present a community education program, "Hostile Hallways: peer Abuse Among the Young" from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at King of Glory Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall, 6411 LBJ Freeway in Dallas. For more information, contact Fran McElvaney at 972-233-6146.

### January 11-13

The Plano Metropolitan Ballet (PMB) will bring to life "Alice In Wonderland" on the stage at the Plano East High

School on January 11th and 12th. Tickets for "Alice In Wonderland" are \$9.00 and can be purchased from Gotta Dance at 121 Spring Creek Pkwy in Plano or by calling 972-517-5799. Performance times are Friday, January 11th at 7 p.m., and Saturday, January 12th at 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. Group rates are available.

### January 12

The Dallas Mavericks will be playing the Pacers at the American Airlines Center at 7:30 p.m. For more information, please call 214-665-4200.

The Harrington Library in Plano is having a beginners internet class at 9 a.m. Registration is required, but the class is free. For more information, call 972-964-4200.

### January 14

The Dallas Network of Career Women will host their monthly luncheon January 14th at City Club on the 69th floor of the Bank of America building in Dallas. The speaker for the hour will be Peggy Collins. You must make reservations on or before noon on January 11th by calling 214-855-1509. For more information, log on to [www.dallascareerwomen.org](http://www.dallascareerwomen.org).

The World Wrestling Federation (WWF) will be at the American Airlines Center in Raw is War at 6:30 p.m. For more information, call 214-665-4200.

### January 15

Quad C Theatre at Collin County Community College is seeking five male actors and two female actors for its production of Side Man. The open call audition will be held from 7-10 p.m. January 15th at John Anthony Theatre on Jupiter Rd., which is located between Spring Creek Pkwy and Parker Rd. in Plano. Please prepare a one-minute monologue from any contemporary drama in the style of the play. For more information, contact Brad Baker at 972-881-5679 or email him at [bbaker@cccd.edu](mailto:bbaker@cccd.edu).

Small Talk, a group discussion, will be held at Parr Library in Plano at 10 a.m. For more information, call 972-964-4200.

Senior Center Book Talk will be held at Plano Senior Center at 1 p.m. For more information, call 972-964-4200.

The Harrington Library in Plano is having a Circle of Success Homework Center from 5-6:30 p.m. For more information, call 972-964-4200.

All 6th graders and up are welcomed to participate in Teen Critics Corner at Schimelpfenig Library in Plano at 7 p.m. For more information, call 972-964-4200.

### January 16

The Dallas Stars are playing the Redwings at the American

Airlines Center at 7:00 p.m. For more information, please call 214-665-4200.

The Women's Division will meet January 16 for lunch at Gleneagles Country Club. Networking begins at 11:30 a.m. If you are interested in meeting other dynamic women and men doing business in and around Plano, come to the luncheon. Women, men, Plano Chamber of Commerce members, guests and non-member visitors are welcome.

Reservations are required. Payment is expected in full at the luncheon. Call the Chamber at 972-424-7547 to reserve your spot and for more information.

Circle of Success Homework Center will be held at Harrington Library from 5-6:30 p.m. For more information, call 972-964-4200.

### January 17

The Women's Museum in Dallas will present a four-day festival celebrating and showcasing the early role of women in cinema called Silent Sisters: A Salute to Women In Silent Film. This evening will include a screening of the documentary, "Louise Brooks: Looking for Lula", the film "Pandora's Box", performance by the SMU Meadows Theater Orchestra, and a book signing by Barry Paris, author of Louise Brooks: A Biography. For ticket information, call 214-915-0890.

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### Ison-Newton

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Specifically, school board representatives said that Ison-Newsome was being investigated for expenses that were incurred with regard to the construction of restroom facilities.

Gonzalez allegedly ordered the press conference after a meeting where school board representatives concluded Ison-Newsome had done nothing improper. The public conference was one of many alleged assaults on Ison-Newsome's character that took place in the weeks after Gonzalez vowed, "if I go down, I am bringing Ison-Newsome with me."

Those assaults ultimately lead to the 1997 lawsuit. Now, after withstanding years of legal wrangling, it is finally at the forefront. School officials attempted to have it thrown out,

claiming they were immune from the legal action.

In a previously filed legal proceeding, school officials claimed that "their conduct in this case - even if allegedly motivated by improper purposes - was incident to or within the scope of their duties of their professional positions." Therefore, they claimed they were entitled to immunity.

The court ruling sets the stage for an upcoming trial date. Named defendants in Ison-Newsome's suit are former Associate Superintendent Robert Payton, former Special Assistant to the Superintendent Robby Collins, former Special Assistant to the Superintendent Robert Hinkle, and Executive Director of Media Relations Jon Dahlander. The suit seeks unspecified actual and punitive monetary damages from each of the defendants.

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