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# The Gazette

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SERVING PLANO, DALLAS, RICHARDSON, GARLAND, ALLEN, MCKINNEY AND MESQUITE

Volume XI, Number XVI

"North Dallas' Weekly Paper of Choice"

April 18-April 24, 2002



## On the Homefront:

Lights! Camera! Fashion! The African American Museum is seeking energetic and enthusiastic children age's eight (8) to twelve (12) who are interested in having fun at the Museum's innovative summer Camp. The African American Museum Camp is sponsored in part by Read for Texas and the Warrior Group. For information call Bridgette Donaldson 214-565-9026, ext. 314.

Friday, April 26-Sunday April 28-The Plano Parks and Recreation Department is teaming up with PK Thrills at Possum Kingdom Lake for an outdoor experience that includes hiking on Cliff lines, Kayaking on the clear waters of the lake and mountain biking along incredible creek beds amidst the West Texas Cedar and Mesquite. After the Triadventure enjoy camping for a fee of \$120. A pre-trip meeting is scheduled Monday April 22 from 7:00pm-8pm.

April is National Prevention of Animal Cruelty Month. SPCA of Texas & Humane Society of Greater Dallas join forces to stamp out animal cruelty. They ask that you be kind to animals and if you witness or hear about animal cruelty, please report it. For more information call SPCA of Texas Rescue & Investigations Department 1-888-ANIMALS ext. 120 or Humane Society of Greater Dallas Cruelty Investigation Division (214) 343-3666 or (214) 325-9004.

"A Thrill Ride for Your Mind" presented by the Plano Forum and Dr. Pepper/Seven Up Inc. This event is for anyone seeking a day of world-class speakers focused on increasing the cultural, economic and educational perspective of all participants—a day you and yours will not forget. Friday, May 10, 2002 at the Plano Centre, 2000 E. Spring Creek Parkway, Plano Texas. For more information call 972-941-7200. Tickets must be purchased by May 1, 2002.

"WIN A COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP" Texas comptroller Carole Keeton Rylander encourages school children to draw a picture of "What I Want to Be After College".

The Texas tomorrow fund Poster Contest is open to all Texas students enrolled in elementary or middle/junior high school. For more information, go to the Texas Tomorrow Fund web site at [www.texastomorrowfund.org](http://www.texastomorrowfund.org). The contest entry deadline is Friday, April 12. Winners will be announced in May.

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## REPARATION EFFORT JUST BEGINNING

Memphis — It may become the most divisive issue in the nation: the unsettling question of compensating African Americans for the atrocity and the legacy of slavery.

But, for now, as the debate finds a national platform with the filing of class-action lawsuits, supporters and critics of reparations agree on this much: The landmark suits, targeting companies with links to the slave trade, come burdened with a virtually unconquerable mountain of legal obstacles.

And they agree on this too: With all the fanfare accompanying the suits' filing, the slim prospects for their legal success may be thoroughly irrelevant.

Instead, lawyers and academics say, the suits should be seen as the first and almost certainly not the most significant salvo in a battle that will reach far beyond the marble walls of the federal courthouse in New York.

The new lawsuits seek money from companies, including Aetna and Fleet Bank that participated in or profited from the slave. Dozens of other companies may be named.

In the months ahead, other teams of lawyers, including some of the most prominent litigators in the nation, will meet to craft far larger reparation suits aimed at federal and state governments, and possibly universities

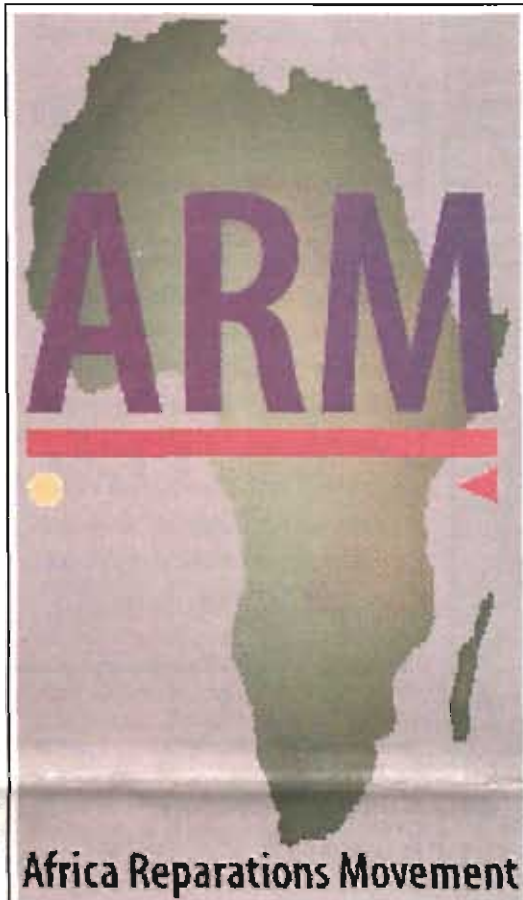
and private individuals. And the suits are just one arena in a coordinated campaign that ultimately will involve appeals too

weapon that has, obviously a big chamber. Pires has joined with other high-profile lawyers, including Johnnie Cochran and Harvard University's Charles Ogletree to form the Reparations Coordinating Committee, which plans to bring its own lawsuit around the end of the year. Pires sees the current lawsuits as a "prelude" that gives lawyers in future cases a chance to gauge press reaction and public response.

And others say all of the litigation may serve only to raise public consciousness and build support for congressional action or voluntary payments by companies." The larger point is not whether the claims survive or not, but whether they generate constructive societal discussion about the role commercial entities played in the slave trade," said Laura Dickinson, a University of Connecticut Law School associate professor who teaches a unit on reparations.

"It is certainly much sounder right now on a moral or cultural level than on a technical, legal level," said Rendleman, an expert in restitution issues. That moral argument is infused in the nearly identical lawsuits filed this month. In compelling

See Reparation page 6



Congress, the White House and the American people.

Alexander Pires Jr., a Washington D.C. lawyer who won a \$1 billion settlement in 1999 for Black farmers harmed by discrimination in federal farm loans stated, "I guess you could call it Round One from a

## Colin Powell Treads The Middle East Mine Field

By James W. Breedlove

Secretary of State Colin Powell has been thrust into the Middle East mine field and is expected to traverse it without a certified map of where the mines are located. The odds of success are definitely stacked against him. Prior Bush Mideast emissaries General Anthony Zinni and Vice-President Dick Cheney failed to bring Prime Minister Sharon and Chairman Arafat to the peace negotiation table.

Powell has three major hurdles to overcome. The long standing personal animosity and distrust between Arafat and Sharon, the deteriorating united international support for Bush's Terrorism policy, and the Administration's previous concentration on Iraq over Middle East peace.

Both the Arab nations and the Israelis are testing the Administration's resolve. The rapid changes in Mideast geopolitical events has just about rendered Bush's "either with us or against us" doctrine meaningless. Both the Mideast antagonists and the international community have seen that the tough talk of the President can be ignored without suffering consequences.

The political knots that Powell seeks to unravel are indeed complex and Bush has not made the task easier by delaying using the prestige of the presidency to push for

peace. It remains to be seen if the reluctance by the Bush Administration to get involved in the Israeli Palestinian conflict and the apparent green light given Sharon to fight his war contributed to the escalating mayhem and deaths suffered by both sides. America's delay permitted both the Palestinians and the Israelis to play brinkmanship with the end result being more killing and more tension on both sides. The Israelis insist their war is against terrorism. Palestinians say they are fighting against Israeli occupation.

Dr. Lev Grinberg, director of the Humphrey Institute for social Research at the Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel discusses the underlying nature of the conflict in his article "The Arrogance of Occupation" published in the March issue of the Middle East Policy Council Journal.

In describing the emotional toll and the historical perspective of both Israelis and Palestinians he states, "the superficial thinking, which simplifies complex political situations and the personification of historical conflicts, is the result of a conscious propaganda campaign and the unconscious effect of uneven power relations. Israel has been the occupier of the Palestinians during the past 35 years. As often occurs, the ruling side in a con-

See Collin Powell page 6

## Senate OKs Voting Systems

By NICK ANDERSON

A nearly unanimous Senate approved a landmark \$3.5-billion bill Thursday that would require states to upgrade flawed and often-antiquated voting systems in response to the 2000 election debacle.

The 99 to 1 vote, providing a bipartisan coda to the bitter partisan conflict, appeared to ensure that some form of the legislation would become law before the next presidential election.

The Senate bill would authorize the \$3.5 billion over five years to help state and local agencies meet new standards for voting systems, replace outdated ballot-counting machinery, improve access to polling places for the disabled and take other steps to bolster voter participation and prevent fraud.

The House passed its own voting reform bill in December, authorizing \$2.65 billion in federal aid over three years. Sponsors from both parties are optimistic the two versions can be quickly reconciled.

President Bush, who emerged victorious from the 2000 Florida recount that spotlighted many of the problems the legislation aims to fix, is encouraging lawmakers to reach agreement. His budget recommends \$1.2 billion for voting reform over the next three years.

"I commend the Senate for passing an election reform bill and bringing us a step closer to enacting legislation this year,"

Bush said in a statement. He also urged lawmakers to "respect the primacy of state and local governments" as they craft a compromise.

A key difference between the two chambers is that the House bill gives states leeway to craft their own improvements in the election process, while the Senate version requires certain changes.

But the margin of passage in the Senate and the positive reactions of several House members to the action made clear that consensus on election reform is rapidly developing.

Describing the legislation's magnitude, some senators compared it to a 1993 law that sought to expand voter participation by allowing registration at state motor vehicle offices and to a 1965 law protecting the voting rights of minorities.

Sen. Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) said the bill would make "our election systems more accurate, more accessible and more honest."

Others said the bill's proposed federal funding was unprecedented. "This is the first time that I know of that we've actually stepped up and written a check" to help states fix voting problems, said Sen. Christopher J. Dodd (D-Conn.).

Still, the measure would not necessarily repair every flaw, real or perceived, in an election system largely under control of a patchwork of 50 state and thou-

See Voting Systems page 4

## Traficant guilty of bribery, racketeering

The jury of 10 women and two men convicted the congressman on all counts against him, covering charges of taking bribes, filing false tax returns, racketeering, and forcing his aides to perform chores at his farm in Ohio and on his houseboat in Washington.

The verdict followed four days of deliberations. The nine-term maverick Democrat represented himself in court throughout the trial, even though he is not an attorney.

Traficant kept his head down as the jury's decision was read. He then said flatly, "I accept your verdict." He will remain free on bond until his sentencing on June 27. He faces a total of up to 63 years in prison on all charges if sentenced consecutively, though U.S. District Judge Lesley Wells is not expected to order consecutive sentences.

He also faces possible expulsion from the House of Representatives. After the verdict, the House Committee on Standards of Official Conduct announced it would meet to consider initiating disciplinary proceedings against Traficant, though it did not say when.

House Minority Leader Dick Gephardt, D-Missouri,

issued a statement saying a member of Congress who breaks the law and commits bribery "strikes at the heart of representative

didn't get a lawyer when a lot of us told him he had to get a lawyer, and I imagine he'll fight to retain his seat."

Traficant has bucked the Democratic leadership in recent years and supported Rep. Dennis Hastert, a Republican, as speaker of the House. Democratic leaders stripped him of his committee assignments as a result.

He represents the 17th Congressional District, which centers around his hometown of Youngstown and includes parts of three counties in northeast Ohio's Mahoning Valley.

Even before the trial, his political future was clouded by the Ohio legislature's reapportionment of his district. State lawmakers made major changes to the boundaries of the 17th District — or, as Traficant put it, "They tore the district apart."

Traficant had said he would run for re-election as an independent.

'Beam me up'

The 60-year-old congressman made a name for himself with his colorful one-minute speeches on the floor of the House — usually punctuated by a cry of "Beam me up." His Web site features Traficant swinging a two-by-four emblazoned with

See Traficant page 6



government." He advised Traficant to step down from office.

"In light of the gravity of the charges outlined in the guilty verdict against Mr. Traficant, I think the prudent course of action would be an immediate resignation," Gephardt said.

Colleague predicts fight for seat on leaving the courthouse Thursday, Traficant profanely rejected Gephardt's call for his resignation. One of his colleagues said he expected him to appeal Thursday's verdict and predicted he would not give up his seat readily.

"I've known him for eight years," said Rep. Steven LaTourette, R-Ohio. "He's a fighter. He fought this trial. He





## 2001 Juneteenth queens

From left to right is Miss Juneteenth - Kendra Miles, Young Miss Juneteenth - Tiffany Mason, Teen Miss Juneteenth - Monica Williams, Little Miss Juneteenth Amber Demmark and Young Miss Juneteenth - Dominique Howard. The City of Greenville's Annual Miss Juneteenth Pageant is underway and your child could be the next crowned royalty to represent the City of Greenville as Mr/Miss Juneteenth. Cut out this application and send it in by 5/1/02. Send to: Juneteenth Committee - c/o Theresa Thrash - 4409 Wesley Street, Greenville, Tx 75401. You may live in the surrounding towns around Greenville. There is no charge. Pageant will be held June 14/15, 2002.

Name of Contestant: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

For more information call 903-455-8378 or fax application to 903-455-1229

## Does Your Marriage Need A Little Romance?

Best-selling author Francis Ray will be featured April 19 at 7 p.m. at the Love Clinic held at St. Paul United Methodist Church, 1816 Routh St., speaking on "Love Is A House." This Love Clinic will focus on the ups and downs of marriage and help married people revive and nurture their love. Married couples of all age categories are invited to attend this free seminar.

"The combination of Francis Ray and the Love Clinic will be an explosion of excellence for the married community," Dr. Patterson said. "Francis brilliantly writes about the highs and lows of love and the Love Clinic seeks to minister to people in the highs and lows of love too. This will be a memorable night."

Ray is recognized as one of America's premier romance writers. She has authored over 15 novels, one in which was made into the BET-TV movie,

"Incognito" and Ray will present her latest novel, "I Know Who

Holds Tomorrow," at the Clinic. A native of Texas, Ray lives in Dallas with her husband and daughter.

In addition to a presentation from Ray, participants will hear from a panel of married couples and receive a Love Clinic prescription for blessed marriages.

The Love Clinic is a relationship-repair series that offers godly solutions to common problems. Launched in 1995, the ministry has grown to include a best-selling book, college tours, summer camps and a website. Dr. Sheron C. Patterson founded the Love Clinic to aid the hurts of Christian people.

For more information, please call 214-922-0000.



### Historical Novel

I am writing a history of some African-Americans in Plano and Collin county.

Because it is history, it will include some people who are already deceased.

We are especially interested in African-Americans who were born in the county, also outstanding African-Americans who have excelled in any field: sports, the arts, philanthropy, etc., who were in collin county at any time. Please include anyone over ninety years old regardless of field of endeavor.

I would be glad to interview you personally, or you may send me the information by mail, telephone or e-mail.

Mail to: Mae Lois Ricks  
P.O. Box 861659  
Plano, Texas 75086  
Telephone: 972-423-3322  
E-mail: mricmac@netscape.net



TXU Energy's Gerald Gotcher addresses attendees of the TPA Houston reception at Harlon's Bayou Blues Restaurant.

## TPA Members Welcome TXU Energy to Houston

Houston - The Texas Publishers Association (TPA) recently held a reception for TXU Energy at Harlon's Bayou blues restaurant in downtown Houston. The reception was held to welcome TXU, a community partner of the Texas Publishers Association, to the Houston market. Since electricity deregulation began this past January, customers will be able to choose their electricity provider in many areas in Texas. TXU Energy was represented by Gerald Gotcher, director of public advocacy and Tim Van Kite, TXU

Houston-area representative. TPA members and affiliates present include Ted Pruitt, TPA government affairs chairman and publisher of La Vida News - Houston and Fort Worth; William Hadnott and Johnnetta Norberg of La Vida News - Houston; Publisher Lenora Carter and General Manager Henrietta Smith of the Houston Forward Times; Publisher Bede Emuka of the African News - Houston. Dr. Theodore Lee, publisher of the Dallas Post Tribune; and Thurman Jones, publisher of Plano's MON - The Gazette were also in attendance.

Other attendees included Carl Davis from Councilman Michael Berry's office; Constable Reuben Davis; and Judge Blackman.

TXU Energy has been a community partner of the Texas Publishers Association for three years. As part of the partnership, TXU sponsors an annual scholarship contest in North Texas. The program grants five \$2,500 scholarships annually to essay contest winners. The winners are presented each year at a concert event sponsored at Six Flags - Arlington, Texas.

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## The Judicial Branch

This week we take a look at our Judicial Branch as we step into Judicial Proceedings. It is so important that we notice the "justice face" of our country's system. Hopefully after reading this week's Edition, you will understand the interworkings a bit more.

Many people are surprised to learn that there isn't a single "court system" in the United States. Every state has its own court system to handle cases that involve disputes or crimes that arise within the state. The federal government also has a court system to handle cases that involve disputes or issues governed by federal laws or the U.S. Constitution. Since the beginning of our country, several pieces of legislation have been passed in efforts to mold our proceedings; below is the first.

The First Landmark Judicial Legislation: Article III of the U.S. Constitution grants the Congress authority to establish federal courts and to define much of their jurisdiction. Since 1789, Congress has created various types of courts, established judicial circuits and redrawn their boundaries, and provided administrative support agencies for the judiciary. It also has defined federal jurisdiction within the limits set by the Constitution and provided for the rules and procedures used in federal courts.

Article III, Constitution of the United States

During the early days of the Federal Convention in 1787, the delegates agreed that their plan

for a new government would include a national judiciary. Article III of the Constitution drafted that summer established a Supreme Court and left for the Congress to determine whether other federal courts would be part of the new nation's judiciary. The provision for tenure during good behavior and a prohibition on reductions in salary assured the judges of the Supreme Court and other judges authorized to exercise the judicial power of the United States an independence that the Constitution denied the legislators and president. The constitutional outline of the judiciary, far briefer than the articles defining the legislative and executive branches, offered a general description of the federal courts' jurisdiction. Article III was more specific in its protection of several rights and liberties, such as the guarantee of trial by jury in criminal cases and freedom from bills of attainder or vague charges of treason.

Other articles of the Constitution also shaped the structure and operation of the federal judiciary. According to Article II, the president would appoint judges with the approval of the Senate. In Article I, the enumerated powers of the Congress included the authority "to constitute Tribunals inferior to the Supreme Court."

Although Article III made no mention of a chief justice, the provision in Article I for the chief justice to preside in the impeachment trial of a president indicated the delegates' assumption

that the Supreme Court would include one leadership position. Article VI required all judges, like state and federal legislators and executives, to be bound by oath to support the Constitution.

The constitutional provisions for the judiciary reflected the conventions' debate on the appointment of judges, the institutional independence of the third branch, and the value of lower federal courts. Many delegates assumed Congress would elect judges, while other wanted the president alone to select the members of the Supreme Court. Madison's original proposal for the Constitution called for the president and members of the Supreme Court to serve on a Council of Revision that would have authority to veto legislation. The most contentious, and finally unresolved, debate concerning the judiciary centered on the proposals for lower federal courts that would operate alongside existing state courts. Supporters of a strong national government wanted a system of lower federal courts with final jurisdiction in many cases, while those who wished to preserve the authority of state governments proposed that the state courts exercise federal jurisdiction on a local level. The debates on the ratification of the Constitution further demonstrated how controversial were the proposals for lower courts and made clear the challenge Congress would face in establishing a national judiciary within a federal system.

## Three years, case out of spotlight

Three years after Jack Kevorkian was sent to prison for the nationally televised injection death of a man with Lou Gehrig's disease, his once highly publicized case has fallen from the spotlight.

The 73-year-old former pathologist, eligible for parole in 2007, is silent on the situation. His attorney, Mayer Morganroth, has stopped Kevorkian's media interviews, saying the case should be heard in the court system instead of in the press.

But Kevorkian's supporters and friends, who take his collect calls and visit him in prison, tell The Oakland Press that he hasn't been forgotten.

"There are days he goes up and down, but he is always hearing from the outside world. He isn't discouraged," said Ruth Holmes, a handwriting and document examiner.

Holmes is compiling letters Kevorkian has received into a book, with the help of Kevorkian's assistant, Pamela Green. It is tentatively titled "Dear Dr. Jack."

Last week, the state Supreme Court released a decision refusing Kevorkian's request for a new trial.

Kevorkian is serving a 10- to 25-year sentence, handed down April 13, 1999, on his second-degree murder conviction in the death of Thomas Youk of Oakland County's Waterford Township.

Youk was shown on CBS' "60 Minutes" getting a lethal dose of potassium chloride from Kevorkian, who argued during his trial that it was a "mercy killing."

Morganroth has vowed to take his most famous client's case to the U.S. Supreme Court, if needed.

"They've already said they want such a case," Morganroth said. "It's pretty tough now for them to say they don't want it."

Morganroth has argued that Kevorkian is entitled to a new trial because he got bad legal advice, even though he insisted on representing himself. Morganroth also challenged the exclusion of testimony from the victim's wife and brother.

Assistant Prosecutor John Skrzynski said the lack of atten-

tion might be the hardest thing for Kevorkian to bear in the time since he was sent to prison.

"I could never figure out what his motives were, though he packaged himself in mercy," Skrzynski said. "But I always felt his real thing was to get attention. He never got anything else."



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See Three Years page 6

## 11th Annual SOKO

DALLAS, TX - April 5, 2002 - The Economic Development Ministry announces the 11th Annual SOKO, to be held Saturday, May 11, 2002 at St. Luke "Community" United Methodist Church, 5710 East R.L. Thornton Freeway, Dallas, TX 75223, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

SOKO means "marketplace," deriving its origin from the Swahili language. As part of African tradition, the marketplace is usually an open outdoor event that includes a variety of festivities. It is a fun-filled day of entertainment for the whole family with an opportunity to patronize African-American and Hispanic merchants.

"We are excited to present this year's SOKO again, on behalf of our Senior Pastor, Zan Wesley Holmes, Jr. As many of you know Pastor Holmes is retiring and this will be his last month as Senior Pastor of St. Luke "Community" United Methodist Church. One of our goals is sending him out with a thunderous united voice by having the most vendors ever to be highlighted at our annual SOKO, in addition to the largest crowd.

SOKO is one of Pastor Holmes vision that brought 50 African-American vendors together in 1993, marketing their products and services. This event resulted in over \$10,000 being circulated back into the community. Thus SOKO was born, and resulted in "teaching our dollars some sense." The Economic Development Ministry has consistently stepped up to the challenge of promoting community-wide economic development and empowerment through SOKO and our Business Directory. Both of these events have been successful in making the community aware of goods and services available through African-American, Hispanic and other entrepreneurs.

Admission is Free and Everyone is invited to come out and participate in this festive event, which features but not limited to Collectible Dolls, Gifts Baskets, Photo Art, Framed Artwork, Custom Designed Greeting Cards, Men Accessories, Children Clothing, Women Clothing, Candles, Herbal Base Massage Oils & Lotions, Hair Care and Beauty

Products. A Free Health Screening, which include High Blood Pressure, Prostate Cancer and Cholesterol. Several games and prizes for children such as Bounce House, Face Painting, a Clown and Balloons. Live Entertainment, including Spoken-Word Poetry, Music and Dance. And yes we will have food vendors, how does Turkey Legs, Sausage on a Stick, Nachos and Barbecue sound to you. We even have a cookie vendor for your sweet tooth. So bring your entire family out for shopping, food and fun.

Special Bonus - Our MANDALA Ministry will have its confirmation ceremony in our main sanctuary. This event promises to be noteworthy. The speaker will be named at a later date.

If you are interested in obtaining a booth or presenting your talent, please contact John Colson, Donald Yarbrough or our Program Ministries Officer.

Vendor and Entertainer registration applications may be obtained from the church or by calling and leaving your name and fax number with John Colson at 214-696-6693.

## Wellness

### Blazing New Trails in Your Life Health Seminar

The Warm Spirit DFW organization is extending an invitation to you to attend a FREE & INFORMATIVE health seminar devoted to WELLNESS, PAMPERING & WARM SPIRIT. This outreach effort will be held on Saturday, April 27, 2002 (1:00 pm - 3:00 pm) at the Christian Church CME Church, Temple of Faith.

Christian Church CME Church, Temple of Faith  
1412 Noel Road  
Dallas, TX 75254  
972-239-1120

The Purpose of the "blazing New Trails in Your Life" seminar is to educate the public on wellness and pampering techniques and products to enhance their

lives. Licensed and experienced wellness and pampering experts will present valuable information.

Our list of presenters include:

#### WELLNESS EXPERTS

Will Walker, McD, CHt  
"Relaxation Techniques"  
A Natural Approach to Wellness

Evelyn M. Young  
"Internal Design"  
The Silent Killers - Diabetes, Stroke & Heart Attack

#### PAMPERING EXPERTS

Rosemary Jenkins, RMT  
"Therapeutic Touch"  
The Benefits & Techniques

Theodore Walker, Jr., RMT  
Massage Demonstration

#### WARM SPIRIT EXPERTS

Mary Dunaway, Independent consultant  
Angela Warr, Independent Consultant  
"Warm Spirit Products for Wellness & Pampering"

Thank you for your support to Warm Spirit DFW as we try to educate the community on the benefits of wellness, pampering and Warm Spirit. Ms. Mary Dunaway and Ms. Angela Warr can be reached at 972-839-4438 and 972-741-3760, respectively to clarify any questions you may have.

## The Gazette

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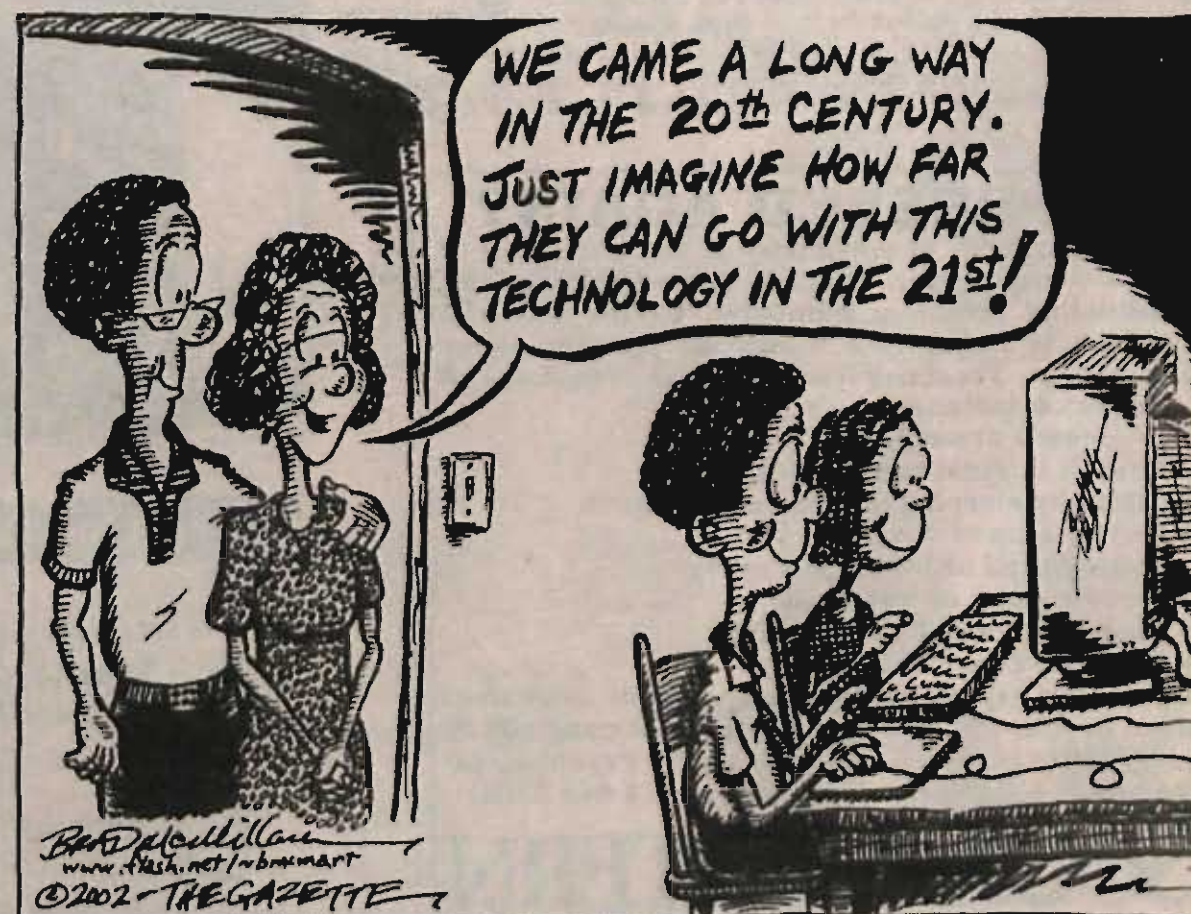
Program Creation and Planning  
Goals Committee

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

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

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

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





## House preparing to debate Medicaid plan, many other issues pending

A plan to restructure the Medicaid health insurance program - and raise the taxes to pay for it - is due before the House this week.

That's the last piece of the 2003 general government budget to go before the House and may set in motion the final issues that the Legislature must confront this year before it can seriously consider adjournment.

The House has yet to act on two other budgets that have to pass each year - the list of major state construction and the plan for transportation work. Typically, the House does each of those bills first and then the Senate does its own version.

Some senators are getting impatient and are considering writing their plans first.

The House also has another version of an Act 60 education-funding plan pending that is expected to be acted on this session, but it has been stuck in the Appropriations Committee

while other issues were tackled.

There were still a lot of back-hall discussions going on in the Statehouse about the Act 60 plan. Some lawmakers are concerned about how it will affect poorer constituents because it raises taxes and eliminates the local education property tax sharing pool, a change that benefits wealthier communities.

But the focus this week is likely to be Medicaid and the cigarette tax. The Health and Welfare Committee got the debate started several weeks ago with a plan that would restructure the health insurance plan for the poor in future years. For the time being, the committee recommended increasing the cigarette tax by 67 cents a pack, to \$1.11.

The Appropriations Committee, which is responsible for spending decisions, decided that some of the cuts in Medicaid pharmaceutical assistance recommended by the governor

should be adopted. So it recommended a tax increase of just 36 cents per pack, a recommendation endorsed by the Ways and Means Committee.

That's expected to be the heart of the debate when the House takes up the bill as early as Wednesday. There also is likely to be a lot of discussion about the spending cuts contained in the Medicaid budget.

Besides the pharmaceutical reductions, there also are some cuts recommended in the health insurance itself, including a provision directing that chiropractic care would no longer be covered and neither would be dentures.

Senators are likely to focus again on how to redraw their district lines, which they must do every 10 years. Leaders had planned to get that done and out of committee by last week, but that fell apart and the new goal is to get it finished some time this week.

## The Black Church - Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow

By Belinda G. Alexander

ONCE UPON A TIME as many years and more decades have long passed, a picture of the Black Church was very different - yet - the sense and inner strengthening of empowerment is as critical to the community and congregation today as it was yesterday.

The Black Church has a rich and complex history. With an undeniable identity of its own, the Black Church yesterday and the Black Church today is most easily characterized by its Pastor. The Black Pastor is the spiritual leader of the church and as this leader acts - most often - so does the church and membership. This Pastor and congregation have often been a determining factor and source of growth and change with debate, decision and declaration in the spiritual and political arena.

The spiritual history of each church has a dynamic style and manner of worship. Various modes of leadership and membership often mirror each other as they share common roots of the 'Black Experience'. This is true of many institutions and groups but most prevalent in the church. A reverent reflection into the past of the Black Church makes it impossible to deny a requiem of respect and remembrance for the persons and personalities of preaching pastors of the past and present ministries and members.

A GLANCE BACK

The Black Church and its Pastor have long served to answer a call. When the call came, it was often to that of a renewed soul in need of moving closer to serving the great creator. To answer the call sometimes required the new preacher to establish a place where the worshippers could study the Word and learn to live in God's Will. The first workers and posts for the Civil Rights movement found a shelter and home in the Black church. The community members, teachers, doctors, nurses, lawyers and community leaders found purpose and place in the Black Church. The Black Church served as school, hospital, news source and hall of justice and den of

defense all at some point in American history.

Whether it was from a theological or administrative difference in viewpoint or - with blessing of common growth and expansion - Often, if a Pastor moved, so did a part of the 'church.' While embarking upon this spiritual journey, a group of faithful visionaries would always follow in transition and re-establishment. The fruits of rebirth and regeneration has promoted a development of renewal and empowerment for much of the Black Church, revealed moving inspiration and fiery condemnation of conscience pricking sermons.

OLD TIME RELIGION

As we visualize and venture to glance back at one Sunday morning, years ago, you might see a small congregation eagerly awaiting the Pastor. They stood to join in praise and song, 'calling out the hymnals' - while the old spirit began to warm and soften tired and troubled souls. Collective voices were lifted up in a powerful swelling tide of harmony. As the Pastor called out: "I love the Lord, he heard my cry", everyone repeats in response, "I-I-I lo-o-o-ve the Lord...." This community of elders, deacons, church mothers fathers and children joined together each time the church doors open.

Many years ago, communities were smaller and families where closer and the position of Pastor was reserved for men. The 'father' of the Black Church often served multiple additional roles and responsibilities. Among these positions were included the title of husband, father, custodian, carpenter and spiritual counselor. Historically, the church has served as the center of community, however, that changed over the years as the face of the family changed. Communities are larger and more distant while families are generally smaller and disconnected. The Black Pastors of today have changed but still have some practices that reflect roots in that close church and community of many years ago. It is interesting to do a comparative glance back at the past and closer look at the present.

FASTLY FORWARD

Fast forwarding to the view of today shows a fresh new way as the dynamic praise team leads the congregation in the upbeat musical shout outs to the Lord. The Pastor might even jump up and join in with a Pastor dance and shout. Back in the day, the elders might have objected to such a display of emotion. Today it is usually a good thing when the Pastor can be as 'real' as the community he belongs to.

Many church decisions of yesterday were made within an environment that was small controlling and closed to majority of the congregation. Today a smart Pastor knows that a growing church must be able to meet the needs of community and family. The church is a greatly blessed family when there is such a leader to stand in front and share the message of God. Even if the leader has received worldwide acclaim and admiration - a real pastor never forgets his where home is and how far the church has come. It is important for the church to grow beyond its original walls. Expansion is good when it opens out to compliment and fortify the community and is a working example of its defined doctrine of salvation. The Pastor who leads such a church must take extra precautions not to be 'caught up' in the fanfare of fame or perceived fortune - or become lost to congregational family and the meaning of ministry.

BLESSINGS THAT BLOSSOM

The Pastors of yesterday and today have always required reliable transportation. Healing prayer and Bible wisdom was needed throughout the community and the call kept some pastors on the road to serve congregations in communities that spread out. The days of the traveling preacher should never be forgotten, however, today's Pastors often must serve not only around the country but also in worldwide capacity. Many great preachers have home churches in the community but are respected by worshippers from many different cities. Technology has made it possible

See The Black Church page 6

## Capitol Watch

### National Public Safety Telecommunications Week April 14-20, 2002

The Association of Public Safety Communications Officials (APCO) International is proud to announce April 14-20 as National Public Safety Telecommunications Week. This week is dedicated to public safety telecommunications who aid in providing 9-1-1 emergency assistance to citizens everywhere.

In recognition of this year's Week, APCO will hold a press conference on April 16 in Washington, D.C. to honor emergency communications centers in NY, VA, and PA for the dedication, professionalism and compassion they displayed in response to the tragic events of September 11. Public safety communications professionals from the New York City Fire Department, the Somerset County 9-1-1 Center, and the Arlington County Emergency Communication Center will be present at the event to accept the awards.

Public safety communications

centers throughout the nation will also be holding their own events during this week, as a way of saying "thanks" to their local community public safety telecommunications.

Introduced to Congress by the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials (APCO) International in 1991, National Public Safety Telecommunications Week is the second full week of April of each year.

Every day, millions of people depend on the skill, expertise and commitment of the men and women who work in public safety telecommunications. These individuals help save countless lives by responding to emergency calls, dispatching emergency professionals and equipment and providing moral support to citizens in distress.

By officially recognizing these public safety telecommunications professionals, APCO hopes to awaken public awareness and promote much-needed education

regarding important public safety issues and legislation.

The term "9-1-1" is often associated with rapid emergency response, poise under pressure, aid and compassion in times of distress and critical decision-making within seconds. Many people don't stop to think about these seemingly nameless, faceless individuals until they experience actual emergencies themselves. These professionals make the difference between life and death in many instances.

About APCO International: APCO International is the oldest and largest public safety communications organization in the world and is the only association that handles the entire operational scope of emergency communications. APCO's 15,000 members represent public safety agencies in all 50 states and the District of Columbia, as well as U.S. territories, and 34 other countries.

stood behind senators Thursday to praise their bill. Johnson, who heads the caucus, said she did not believe the identification requirements in the Senate bill would block participation by black or Latino voters. Instead, she praised

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### Voting Systems

#### Jump from Page 1

sands of local agencies. Some experts say that even if the larger Senate funding figure becomes law, more money will be needed to replace poorly functioning machines. Others warn it is impossible to correct every weakness in a system that depends on voters following instructions.

Also, many of the bill's proposed requirements are already the norm in various states.

For instance, California is among roughly 20 states that allow would-be voters to cast a "provisional" ballot, subject to later verification, even if their names are not listed at a polling station. The bill would require all

states to offer such protections by the 2004 elections.

Sen. Conrad R. Burns (R-Mont.) cast the sole vote against the bill, objecting to what he termed its "one-size-fits-all" approach. Rural states such as his own - where many still vote the old-fashioned way, with pen and paper - won't necessarily benefit from the bill, he said.

The American Civil Liberties Union criticized provisions it said would undermine voting rights, especially an anti-fraud provision to require many voters to prove their identity before they cast a ballot for the first time.

Reps. Carrie P. Meek (D-Fla.) and Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-Texas), members of the Congressional Black Caucus,

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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**





Billie Meador

## Help Boost Your Income- Even When Interest Rates Fall

If you depend on your investments to provide some of your income, you've probably been concerned about falling interest rates over the past couple of years. In fact, rates are now as low as they've been in 14 years - so what's an investor to do?

Actually, you have some pretty good choices. For example, you may want to build a "bond ladder" by investing in bonds with different maturities. You also may want to consider investing in high-quality stocks and mutual funds that have consistently increased dividends.

Let's take a look at both these techniques:

**Building a "bond ladder"**  
- If all your bonds mature at the same time, you could be at a disadvantage if market interest rates are low. Where will you put your money to gain a reasonable income stream? One possibility is to create a bond ladder. By owning a group of bonds that mature at different times, you can help protect yourself from the effects of fluctuating interest rates. If rates are low when some of the bonds in your ladder mature, you'll still have some higher-yielding "runners" working for you. And when rates are high, you can obviously reinvest your bond proceeds at a more favorable rate.

**Buying stocks and mutual funds that consistently increase dividends** - Years ago, stocks generally paid out more dividends than they do today. Now, many companies prefer to reinvest profits into their business, with the hope of becoming more competitive and, ultimately, increasing their share price. And yet, dividends have not disappeared. Over time, if you invest in a company that has steadily increased its dividends, and it continues to do so in the future, you can potentially boost your income. Of course, you must find those types of stocks, as well as those mutual funds that invest in dividend-paying stocks. You can find dividend producers in almost all market sectors. If you're interested in a particular stock, and you wonder what dividends it pays out, look in the company's annual report. If you're looking at mutual funds, try to find ones in the "growth-and-income" category.

Be aware, though, that equities and equity-based mutual funds are subject to market risk, including the potential loss of principal. Above all else, look for quality. Remember, you're not seeking dividends for a one-time payment - you want to increase your flow of income for years to

come. That's why you'll want to invest in only the highest-quality stocks and mutual funds.

These are the types of investments that have continued to raise their dividends over time. A financial professional can help you find those stocks and funds that have good dividend-paying prospects - but keep in mind that these investments do not offer a fixed rate of return and may not distribute dividends in the future.

As you move closer to retirement, it may become more and more important for you to increase your investment income. Also, inflation can have a big effect on your retirement income. If you retire at 65 and live another 20 years, then, even at a modest inflation rate of 3 percent, your cost of living will nearly double. Consequently, you need to make sure your investment income outpaces inflation. So, give some thought to bond ladders and dividend-producing stocks and mutual funds. They can make a big difference to your financial situation.

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

## Thurgood Marshall

Thurgood Marshall is one of the most well known figures in the history of civil rights in America and the first Black Supreme Court Justice. He served on the Court for 24 years until June 28, 1991 when he announced his retirement due to advancing age and deteriorating health. He passed away January 24, 1993.

Before serving on the Supreme Court, Marshall served as legal director of the NAACP. His tenure, from 1940 to 1961, was a pivotal time for the organization, as overturning racial segregation was one of its prime directives. Marshall, along with his mentor Charles Hamilton (who was the first Black lawyer to win a case before the Supreme Court), developed a long-term strategy for eradicating segregation in schools. They first concentrated on graduate and professional schools, believing that White judges would be more likely to sympathize with the ambitious young Blacks in those settings. As the team won more and more cases, they turned toward elementary and high schools.

This culminated in the landmark 1954 decision *Brown v. The Board of Education*, that declared segregation of public schools illegal. By this time, Marshall was an experienced Supreme Court advocate, having already presented many cases before them, including challenges against white-only primary elections and restrictive covenants. He presented each of his cases in what would become his hallmark style: straightforward and plainspoken. When

asked for a definition of "equal" by Justice Frankfurter, Marshall replied, "Equal means getting the same thing, at the same time and in the same place."

President John Kennedy appointed Marshall to the



United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit in 1961. It was not an easy confirmation: a group of Southern senators held up his confirmation for months, and he served initially under a special appointment made during a Congressional recess. Still, from 1961 to 1965, he managed to write 112 opinions on that court, none of which were overturned on appeal. In fact, the Supreme Court eventually adopted several of his dissenting opinions as majority opinions. From 1965 to 1967, he served as Solicitor General under President Johnson. By the time Marshall succeeded Justice Tom Clark on the Supreme Court, he had argued

32 cases before that body, winning 29 of them. President Johnson said at the time that appointing Marshall on the Supreme Court was "the right thing to do, the right time to do it, the right man and the right place."

On the Court, Marshall said little during argument sessions, except to train his sarcasm on lawyers struggling through their arguments or sometimes on a fellow Justice. During a death penalty argument in 1981, Justice Rehnquist suggested that an inmate's repeated appeals had cost the state too much money. Justice Marshall interrupted, "It would have been cheaper to shoot him right after he was arrested, wouldn't it?"

In fact, Marshall is often remembered for his dissents. Of these, one of his best known is a 63-page opinion in *San Antonio School District v. Rodriguez*. The court held, 5-4, that the Constitution's guarantee of equal protection was not violated by the property tax system used in Texas and most other states to finance public education. Marshall accused the majority of "unsupportable acquiescence in a system which deprives children in their earliest years of the chance to reach their full potential as citizens."

His wife, Cecilia, and two sons survive Thurgood Marshall. Thurgood Jr., previously a lawyer on the staff of the Senate Judiciary Committee, is currently the legislative-affairs coordinator for the Office of Vice President. John is a member of the Virginia state police.

## News to know

### Oldest Judges

The oldest serving federal judge was Joseph W. Woodrugh, who was serving as a senior judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit when he died at the age of 104 on October 2, 1977.

The oldest serving active judge was Giles S. Rich, who served on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit until his death at the age of 95 in June 1999.

The oldest serving Supreme Court Justice was Oliver Wendell Holmes, who was 90 years, 10 months when he retired on January 12, 1932.

### Youngest Judges

The youngest federal judge was Thomas Jefferson Boynton, who was 25 when Abraham Lincoln issued him a recess appointment to the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida on October 19, 1863.

The youngest judge appointed to a U.S. court of appeals was William Howard Taft, who was 34 when he was commissioned a judge of the Sixth Circuit court of appeals on March 17, 1892.

The youngest Justice on the Supreme Court was Joseph Story, who was 32 when he received his commission on November 18, 1811.

### Longest Serving Judges

Joseph W. Woodrugh served a record 61 years as a federal judge. He served on the U.S. District Court for the District of Nebraska from 1916 to 1933 and on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit from 1933 until 1977. He took senior status in 1961.

Henry Potter was the longest serving judge on a single court and the longest serving active judge. He served on the U.S. District Courts for North Carolina from 1802 to 1857. He previously served on the U.S. Circuit Court for the Fifth Circuit from May of 1801 until April of 1802.

The longest serving judge on a U.S. court of appeals was Albert B. Maris, who served on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit from June of 1938 until his death in February 1989. Maris, who took senior status in 1958, also served on the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania from 1936 to 1938.

William O. Douglas was the longest serving Supreme Court Justice. He sat on the Court from 1939 to 1975.

### First African American Judges

William Henry Hastie became the first African American to serve as a judge appointed during good behavior when he was

appointed to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit in 1950. Hastie had served a fixed term as judge of the U.S. District Court for the Virgin Islands from 1937 to 1939.

The first African American to serve on U.S. district court as a judge appointed during good behavior was James B. Parsons, who was appointed to the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois in 1961.

Thurgood Marshall was the first African American Justice on the Supreme Court of the United States. He was appointed in 1967. Marshall previously served as a judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit.

### First Women Judges

Florence Allen was the first woman to serve on a U.S. court of appeals. She was appointed to the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit in 1934.

Burnita Shelton Matthews became the first woman to serve on a U.S. district court when Harry Truman issued her a recess appointment to the district court for the District of Columbia in October 1949. The Senate confirmed her nomination in April 1950.

Sandra Day O'Connor was the first woman to serve as a Justice of the Supreme Court of

See News to Know page 6

## Impeachments of Federal Judges

John Pickering, U.S. District Court for the District of New Hampshire.

Impeached by the U.S. House of Representatives on March 2, 1803, on charges of mental instability and intoxication on the bench; Trial in the U.S. Senate, March 3, 1803, to March 12, 1803; Convicted and removed from office on March 12, 1803.

Samuel Chase, Associate Justice, Supreme Court of the United States.

Impeached by the U.S. House of Representatives on March 12, 1804, on charges of arbitrary and oppressive conduct of trials; Trial in the U.S. Senate, November 30, 1804, to March 1, 1805; Acquitted on March 1, 1805.

James H. Peck, U.S. District Court for the District of Missouri.

Impeached by the U.S. House of Representatives on April 24, 1830, on charges of abuse of the contempt power; Trial in the U.S. Senate, April 26, 1830, to January 31, 1831; Acquitted on January 31, 1831.

West H. Humphreys, U.S. District Court for the Middle, Eastern, and Western Districts of Tennessee.

Impeached by the U.S. House of Representatives, May 6, 1862, on charges of refusing to hold court and waging war against the

U.S. government; Trial in the U.S. Senate, May 7, 1862, to June 26, 1862; Convicted and removed from office, June 26, 1862.

Mark H. Delahay, U.S. District Court for the District of Kansas.

Impeached by the U.S. House of Representatives, February 28, 1873, on charges of intoxication on the bench; Resigned from office, December 12, 1873, before opening of trial in the U.S. Senate.

Charles Swayne, U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Florida.

Impeached by the U.S. House of Representatives, December 13, 1904, on charges of abuse of contempt power and other misuses of office; Trial in the U.S. Senate, December 14, 1904, to February 27, 1905; Acquitted February 27, 1905.

Robert W. Archbald, U.S. Commerce Court.

Impeached by the U.S. House of Representatives, July 11, 1912, on charges of improper business relationship with litigants; Trial in the U.S. Senate, July 13, 1912, to January 13, 1913; Convicted and removed from office, January 13, 1913.

George W. English, U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Illinois.

Impeached by the U.S. House of Representatives, April 1, 1926,

on charges of abuse of power; resigned office November 4, 1926; Senate Court of Impeachment adjourned to December 13, 1926, when, on request of the House manager, impeachment proceedings were dismissed.

Harold Louderback, U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California.

Impeached by the U.S. House of Representatives, February 24, 1933, on charges of favoritism in the appointment of bankruptcy receivers; Trial in the U.S. Senate, May 15, 1933, to May 24, 1933; Acquitted, May 24, 1933.

Halsted L. Ritter, U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida.

Impeached by the U.S. House of Representatives, March 2, 1936, on charges of favoritism in the appointment of bankruptcy receivers and practicing law while sitting as a judge; Trial in the U.S. Senate, April 6, 1936, to April 17, 1936; Convicted and removed from office, April 17, 1936.

Harry E. Claiborne, U.S. District Court for the District of Nevada.

Impeached by the U.S. House of Representatives, October 9, 1986, on charges of income tax evasion and of remaining on the bench following criminal conviction; Trial in the U.S. Senate,

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## Traficant

### Jump from Page 1

the phrase, "Bingin' away in D.C." In 1983, while a county sheriff, Traficant was brought up on federal bribery charges. During that trial, he also represented himself. That time, however, he was acquitted.

In this case, Traficant has argued that federal prosecutors targeted him because he defeated them in court back then. The trial was marked by periodic outbursts by Traficant, who

railed against prosecutors and Wells.

Prosecutors accused him of accepting gifts and favors from several businessmen in his district, including a convicted felon, in return for interceding on their behalf with federal and state agencies.

He also was accused of using employees from his office to perform work on his farm and boat and requiring them to return a portion of their salaries to him each month. The government alleged that staffers baled hay, maintained horse stalls and performed other chores at

Traficant's farm.

Other charges accused him of underreporting income on his tax returns and asking employees to destroy evidence and provide false testimony after he became aware he was being investigated. He vowed to beat the charges as the trial got under way.

"I'm going to look them right in the eye and go at them," he told CNN in February. "I'm just the son of a truck driver, and I'm going to try and kick their ass."

California could receive under the Senate bill. House sponsors have said the state could receive about \$345 million under their bill.

Unlike the House bill, the Senate version provides no specific funding to replace the punch-card machines that gained notoriety in Florida. States would, however, be able to use grant money under the Senate bill to replace or improve voting machinery.

The House bill also provides states with more general guidelines to combat fraud. For instance, it would simply require states to devise a system to maintain accurate voter registration lists, rather than develop a computerized system.

The scope of the problems plaguing the nation's election system was detailed in a recent study by Caltech and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The study estimated that 6 million votes nationwide are lost each presidential election to machines that don't properly record voter markings, systems that mistakenly omit registered voters from rolls and ballots so confusing that voters accidentally support the wrong candidate.

congregation to world issues and how they relate to the Bible.

Today, a close look at the Black Church reveals a spiritually empowered vision and faith. The dedicated Pastor can lead a congregation to new levels of spiritual success! This church will continue to receive God's good Grace and favor under the guidance of great Pastors and the faith-filled servants according to the Plan of Christian salvation.

"Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good - For his mercy endures forever!"

Psalms 106:1  
The Black Church - Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow - Faith-Filled Blessings in Bloom

## Voting Systems

### Jump from Page 1

the bill as a step forward for minimum standards for voting systems.

Had its provisions been in effect before the 2000 election, Johnson asserted tersely, "the voters would have gotten the president they elected."

But while some Democrats remain resentful about the controversial outcome of the contest between Bush and former Vice President Al Gore, most lawmakers said they hoped enactment of a new law would assuage some of the bitterness.

Indeed, bipartisan calls for change emerged even during the 36-day recount that made "hanging chads" and "butterfly ballots" famous. Afterward, former Presidents Ford and Carter headed a commission that recommended reforms embraced by Bush.

Under the Senate bill, states would have to meet several minimum standards. Among them:

- Voting systems, such as the heavily criticized punch-card ballot machines, would be required to meet a minimal rate of acceptable error. (California is already replacing punch

- cards.)
- All voters would be able to verify their votes before casting a ballot and make changes or obtain a replacement ballot to fix any errors.
- Voters, with some exceptions, would be required to be notified if they chose more than one candidate for an office.

To combat fraud, states also would be required to develop a computerized statewide registration list.

Election officials would be required to check the identity of first-time voters who register by mail. Acceptable identification would include a driver's license, utility bill, bank statement or government document.

In a concession to states such as Washington, Oregon and California, which rely heavily on vote-by-mail programs, the bill would also allow state officials to verify identity by checking a voter's Social Security number.

The provisions of the bill would take effect in phases over the next several years. Some steps would be required before the 2004 elections; others would go into motion starting in 2006.

There was no immediate estimate of how much money

## The Black Church

### Jump from Page 4

for people to receive the same sermon even when they are in different parts of the world. The blessing can be multiplied by the power of technology. Video recording, audio recording, CDs, and Internet can make worshipping a universal experience.

When Christians hold strong and true to the Master's Plan life everyone benefits as a withstanding 'survivor' and victor. This resilience has been necessary to the survival of the Black Church throughout the years. From the times of slaves and servants congregating under the oak trees to the baptism celebrations in cool

crisp rivers and streams - the Black Church has blossomed and bloomed. Each time a bloom was 'swept' into the waters of spiritual growth, the changed was for the good. Even though separated it was carried by the currents of praise and worship until it found new ground to take root and bloom again.

A FAITH-FILLED FUTURE  
The new Black Church leadership is made up of many of the great men and women Preachers who have been called and ordained to deliver the message of Christian Salvation. The new preacher is able to share an enriched verbiage of sermons that maximize and enlighten the

## Reparation

### Jump from Page 1

detail, the 21-page complaints recount the brutality of slavery on American shores, which ensnared at least 8 million Africans from the earliest slave ship in 1619 until the constitutional amendment abolishing slavery in 1865. They describe how slaves built the U.S. Capitol and cleared the forest lands between the Capitol and the White House; how money from the slave trade helped found Brown and Harvard universities; how Blacks cemeteries teem with the bodies of slaves who were worked to death; and how the vestiges of slavery linger in the 21st Century.

The suits argue that companies linked financially to slavery-Hartford-based Aetna, for example, sold life insurance policies on slaves-were "unjustly enriched by the institution and should be held liable for their slavery-related profits."

Owen Pell, a New York lawyer who defended J.P. Morgan in a suit accusing the bank-

ing giant of blocking ware time accounts held by Jews, said the wrongs alleged in the suits need to be resolved by legislators, not judges. "In my view, as a litigator, it should be dismissed before that," he said. "I don't think these claims really state a valid legal theory, so I don't think they should make it anywhere near a trial. The problems Pell sees is that the statutes of limitations generally ran out more than a century ago, slavery was also a law of the land and class certification."

Although Pires is pursuing similar litigation, he says he does so with his eyes open to the challenge. Edward Fagan argues that the statute of limitations will be extended because the plaintiff could not have known until recently about the involvement of specific corporations in the slave trade. In addition, "slavery was a crime against humanity," Fagan said, "and there is no statute of limitations on a crime against humanity."

Thanks to the Tri-State Defender and the Tennessee Tribune

## News to Know

### Jump from Page 5

the United States. She was appointed in 1981.

#### First Hispanic Judge

Reynaldo G. Garza became the first Hispanic federal judge when he was appointed to the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas in 1961. Garza also became the first Hispanic judge on a U.S. Court of Appeals when he was appointed to the Fifth Circuit court of appeals in 1979.

#### First Asian American Judge

Herbert Choy became the first Asian American to serve as a judge on an Article III court when he was appointed to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit in 1971.

## Impeachments

### Jump from Page 5

October 7, 1986, to October 9, 1986; Convicted and removed from office, October 9, 1986.

Alcee L. Hastings, U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida.

## Collin Powell

### Jump from Page 1

flict is unable or unwilling to see the other as an equal, as a people with needs, dreams and dignity."

Dr. Grinberg asks, "Why does the international community, and especially the United States and Europe, remain almost completely indifferent to Arafat's Confinement (in Ramallah)? He intimates that there is a cause-effect relationship between Israeli occupation arrogance and the explosion of new violence that has just about erased any prospects of a peaceful solution of the conflict."

Israeli and Palestinian actions during the past two weeks seem to imply that the United States may not be trusted as an "honest broker" by either party. This diminishing credibility following the Camp David Summit (1999) was a

## Three Years

### Jump from Page 3

Madison's original proposal for the Constitution called for the president and members of the Supreme Court to serve on a Council of Revision that would have authority to veto legislation. The most contentious, and finally unresolved, debate concerning

Dick Wong became the first Asian American to serve on an Article III district court when he was appointed to the district court for the District of Hawaii in 1975.

#### First Native American Judge

Frank Seay became the first Native American federal judge when he was appointed to the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Oklahoma in 1979.

#### First federal judge to be elected President

William Howard Taft in 1908 became the first and only former federal judge to be elected President. Taft served as judge of the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit from 1892 to 1900. Taft also became the only former

President to serve on a federal court when he became Chief Justice of the United States in 1921.

#### First federal judge elevated to the Supreme Court of the U.S.

Robert Trimble served as judge of the U.S. District Court in Kentucky from 1817 to 1826 when he became the first federal judge to be nominated and confirmed as a justice of the Supreme Court. He served only two years before he died at the age of 51. A total of 31 Supreme Court justices have previously served as a federal judge. With the appointment of Harry Blackmun in 1971, the Supreme Court for the first time had a majority of justices with experience on the lower federal courts.

Impeached by the U.S. House of Representatives, August 3, 1988, on charges of perjury and conspiring to solicit a bribe; Trial in the U.S. Senate, October 18, 1989, to October 20, 1989; Convicted and removed from office, October 20, 1989.

Walter L. Nixon, U.S. District

Court for the Southern District of Mississippi.

Impeached by the U.S. House of Representatives, May 10, 1989, on charges of perjury before a federal grand jury; Trial in the U.S. Senate, November 1, 1989, to November 3, 1989; Convicted and removed from office, November 3, 1989.

central point in the deterioration of the peace process, mainly because the Oslo Accord (1993) and Camp David was based on the Palestinian hope that the United States would serve as an unbiased broker.

Dr. Grinberg argues that the arrogant discourse that localizes terrorism to Arafat prevents the emergence of significant peace forces in Israel and Palestine that could lead a new peace and anti-violence movement. "The absence of an Israeli peace movement, political forces and leadership is deeply connected to the carte blanche given by international diplomacy to Sharon which justifies the targeted assassinations, and the confinement of Arafat and the destruction of his political force. Without external pressure on Sharon, no significant internal Israeli force can be generated to arrest the arrogant discourse of

occupation....Unless we, the Israelis, cast off our arrogant mode of thinking and our position as an occupying power, the present cycle of bloodshed can only intensify, with Arafat or even more so - in his absence."

The universal question is has America's influence and the President's credibility been undermined to the extent that it is impossible to constructively impact the peace process? If this Administration wants to be a serious player in world politics and not an impotent bystander then the President must understand that changing world dynamics do not permit immutable policies. The world is watching to see if the United States will live in the real world of what is or the abstract world of what should be.

Comments or opinions may be sent to the writer at: jaydubub@swbell.net

the judiciary centered on the proposals for lower federal courts that would operate alongside existing state courts. Supporters of a strong national government wanted a system of lower federal courts with final jurisdiction in many cases, while those who wished to preserve the authority of state governments proposed

that the state courts exercise federal jurisdiction on a local level. The debates on the ratification of the Constitution further demonstrated how controversial were the proposals for lower courts and made clear the challenge Congress would face in establishing a national judiciary within a federal system.

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**LEGAL NOTICE:** Sealed bids for "Sandpiper/ Driftwood Windows" Bid Number 2-0015 will be received at the Office of the Purchasing Director, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, 6300 Ocean Drive, University Service Building, Room 120D, Corpus Christi, Texas until 2:00 p.m. o'clock, May 6, 2002 and then at said room publicly opened and read aloud. There will be a **mandatory prebid** meeting on **April 29, 2002** at 10:00 a.m. in the University Services Center, Room 113. Bid packages may be obtained from the Office of the Purchasing Director, Texas A&M-Corpus Christi or call 361-825-5767. Texas A&M Corpus Christi reserves the right to waive any and all bids; however, no bid can be accepted after the closing hour as advertised. Minority businesses are invited and encouraged to bid.

## "Building Your Financial Foundation with Bonds

Billie G. Meador, Jerry Anderson, Marcus Orr and Jesse Brown investment representatives with the financial-services firm Edward Jones, invites the public to attend a seminar on "Building Your Financial Foundation with Bonds". The seminar will begin at 12:00 Noon on Wednesday, April 24 at the Plano Senior Center, 401 West 16th Street, Plano. The registration fee is \$5.00. For more information or to register, call the Plano Senior Center at 972-941-7155.

Edward Jones investment representatives often host or instruct seminars and courses on various financial topics. If you are interested in a particular topic and would like to inquire about future course scheduling, call Billie G. Meador at

her office (972-208-5688).

Edward Jones, the only major financial-services firm advising individual investors exclusively, traces its roots to 1871 and currently serves nearly 5 million clients. The firm offers its clients a variety of investments including certificates of deposit, taxable and non-taxable bonds, stocks and mutual funds.

The largest firm in the nation in terms of branch offices, Edward Jones currently has more than 8,200 offices in the United States and, through its affiliates, in Canada and the United Kingdom. Plans call for expansion to 10,000 offices by 2003.

The Edward Jones interactive Web site is located at [www.edward-jones.com](http://www.edward-jones.com).



# Arts & Entertainment

## "Little Red"

By Brandy Jones

A Repertory Company Theatre, also known as RCT, will present "Little Red", a 50s style rock 'n' roll musical based on the story of "Little Red Riding Hood." The performance will take place April 24-27, 2002 at the RCT Theatre located at 2100 Promenade Center #2176 in Richardson.

The message Little Red's mother gives her is timeless and should be taken seriously. "Stay on the main road, don't take any shortcuts and don't stop and talk to strangers!" says Little Red's mother. Will Little Red take heed?



This adaptation of the story by Charles Perrault takes the charm of the original and adds a modern twist for today's audience. The musical includes songs like "Baby Gonna Rock 'n' Roll," "Can't See the Forest for the Trees," "I Fell for You," and the title song, "Little Red."

Show times are Wednesday 9:30 a.m., Thursday 9:30 a.m., Friday 9:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. and Saturday 2 p.m. Tickets are \$6 for general admission and can be purchased by phoning 972-690-5029.

## CCCCD TALENT SHOW

Collin County Community College District's Dance and Choral programs along with Student Activities will have a talent show, 7 p.m., Friday, May 3 in the John Anthony Theatre at the Spring Creek Campus, 2800 E. Spring Creek Parkway in Plano.

Talent show participants include students and staff members of CCCC. Tickets are \$3 and only available at the door. Proceeds from the event will benefit excellence in the arts.

For more information, please call 972-548-6508.



## BLOCKBUSTER® Hit List™

These are the Top 10 Renting Video Titles at U.S. BLOCKBUSTER® stores for the week ending April 14, 2002.

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  2. TRAINING DAY
  3. SERENDIPITY
  4. BANDITS
  5. THIRTEEN GHOSTS
  6. K-PAX
  7. RIDING IN CARS WITH BOYS
  8. DON'T SAY A WORD
  9. MULHOLLAND DRIVE
  10. JOY RIDE

- DVD
1. SPY GAME
  2. SERENDIPITY
  3. BANDITS
  4. TRAINING DAY
  5. THIRTEEN GHOSTS
  6. K-PAX
  7. RIDING IN CARS WITH BOYS
  8. ZOO LANDER
  9. JOY RIDE
  10. DON'T SAY A WORD

These are the Top 10 Selling Video Titles at U.S. BLOCKBUSTER® stores for the week ending April 14, 2002.

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  2. SHREK
  3. CINDERELLA II
  4. RUGRATS MOVIE COLLECTION
  5. THE MUMMY
  6. THIRTEEN GHOSTS
  7. AMERICAN PIE
  8. CATS & DOGS
  9. SMOOBY-DOO: GREATEST MYSTERIES
  10. EXIT WOUNDS

- DVD
1. SPY GAME
  2. TRAINING DAY
  3. SERENDIPITY
  4. BANDITS
  5. THE ONE
  6. MULHOLLAND DRIVE
  7. THE FAST AND THE FURIOUS
  8. BLUE STREAK
  9. THIRTEEN GHOSTS
  10. SHREK

These are the rental New Releases hitting the streets on Tuesday, April 23, 2002. Titles also available for rent on DVD are indicated with \*

- BEHIND ENEMY LINES\*  
NOVOCANE\*  
BARE WITNESS  
ACCEPTABLE RISK  
DRACULA: THE DARK PRINCE  
MY FIRST MISTER  
RANDOM ACTS OF VIOLENCE  
JUSTICE LEAGUE

- THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE: THOMAS' FAN FAVORITE  
ADVENTURES  
METROPOLIS  
HAPPENSTANCE (subtitled)  
THE LEARNING CURVE  
ASOKA  
TART  
DEAD & ROTTING

## Bass Performanc Hall

### April, 2002 Events

#### NANCI GRIFFITH

presented by  
Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra  
Thursday, April 18, 2002 - 8:00 pm  
Friday, April 19, 2002 - 8:00 pm  
Saturday, April 20, 2002 - 8:00 pm  
Sunday, April 21, 2002 - 2:00 pm  
Tickets: 817-665-6000

#### BRUCE WOOD DANCE COMPANY, SPRING PERFORMANCE

presented by The Bruce Wood Dance Company  
Monday, April 22, 2002 - 8:00 pm  
Tickets: 817-212-4280

#### FREDERICA VON STADE AND HÅKAN HAGEGÅRD, soloists MIGUEL HARTH-BEDOYA, conductor

presented by  
Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra  
Friday, April 26, 2002 - 7:00 pm  
Tickets: 817-665-6000

#### RANDY TRAVIS

EDUARDO BROWNE, conductor  
presented by  
Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra  
Saturday, April 27, 2002 - 8:00 pm  
Tickets: 817-665-6000

#### Concert featuring JOHN OWINGS and STEPHEN GIRKO

presented by Chamber Music Society of Fort Worth  
Sunday, April 28, 2002 - 2:30 pm  
Tickets: 817-212-4280

#### INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC DEPARTMENT CONCERT

presented by Midlothian Independent School District  
Sunday, April 28, 2002 - 4:00 pm  
Tickets: 817-212-4280

ALFRED BRENDL, piano  
presented by Cliburn Concerts  
Tuesday, April 30, 2002 - 8:00 pm  
Tickets: 817-212-4280

## On Stage at NextStage at Grand Prairie:

April/May/June  
2002

Jeff Foxworthy/  
Blue Collar Comedy  
Saturday,  
April 20

South Pacific -  
The Musical  
April 24-27

Pink  
Party Tour  
May 15

Alanis Morissette  
with Ryan Adams  
May 16

Olga Tanoñ  
May 18

Bonnie Raitt  
Silver Lining Tour  
May 29

Doobie Brothers  
June 6

Lyle Lovett  
June 13

Trisha Yearwood  
June 21

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## Enigma

In 1943 England, Tom Jericho is a code-cracker who has previously broken the Nazis' Enigma Code. But now they've changed the codes, leaving British intelligence scrambling to break them again. Is there a spy among the crew feeding secrets to the Nazis?



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Saffron Burrows  
Kate Winslet  
Jeremy Northam  
Nikolaj Coster-Waldau  
Tom Hollander



## The Scorpion King

Can you smell what The Rock is cooking? The five-time WWF champion takes his recipe for success to the big screen in his first starring vehicle, The Scorpion King, a prequel of sorts to the hit films The Mummy and The Mummy Returns. In this installment, The Rock, as a lowly peasant, witnesses his village destroyed by marauders. Enraged, he deals many furious smack-downs to his enemies on his way to becoming the first pharaoh of Egypt.

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GENE SHALIT, THE TODAY SHOW

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## CCAGW to Congress: Make the Tax Cuts Permanent

'Possible roll-back makes long-term financial planning impossible,' Schatz says

WASHINGTON/PRNewswire/ — The Council for Citizens Against Government Waste (CCAGW), on behalf of its one million members and supporters nationwide, called on Congress to make last year's tax cuts permanent.

"The nation is struggling to emerge from a recession," CCAGW President Tom Schatz said. "Businesses are starting to view the future optimistically again, but they are still reticent. Our economy would be growing more robustly and confidently if last year's tax cuts were accelerated and made permanent. This will enable individuals and businesses to better estimate their future liabilities and therefore make more rational decisions."

"As the various tax reductions go into effect, people will have more take-home pay to spend and invest. Small businesses that pay on the personal

income tax schedule will find their taxes going down too, helping them to be more successful," Schatz added.

"By the time the cuts are fully phased in, 43 million married couples will see their taxes reduced by an average of \$1,700 per year, and those with children will receive an annual tax cut of more than \$1,500. This money will help buy new goods and services and encourage entrepreneurs and investors to take new risks and try new ventures," Schatz continued. "All of this will end in nine years if Congress does not make the cuts permanent. As the expected tax hike approaches, financial advisors and accountants will advise their clients to shelter their money, businesses will stop hiring, and citizens will stop spending, knowing that just around the corner they will face higher taxes. As a result, the economy will be damaged."

"We have also seen what leaving money in Washington will do," Schatz also said. "As just one example, the 2002 Congressional Pig Book chronicled a record 8,341 pork barrel projects, costing taxpayers \$20.1 billion. CCAGW wants Congress to fix these tax problems now so that taxpayers, investors and businesses can focus on growing the economy and not dodging the IRS. We ask that our representatives and senators vote in favor of making last year's tax cuts permanent, and note that this vote will be considered in CCAGW's 2002 Congressional Ratings."

The Council for Citizens Against Government Waste is the lobbying arm of Citizens Against Government Waste, the nation's largest nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to eliminating waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement in government.

### NAACP Garland Branch to Host Economic Empowerment Workshop: How to Do Business (Goods and Services) with the Garland ISD

With over 52,000 students and over 6,000 employees, the Garland Independent School District is BIG business. The budget for fiscal year 2001-2002 totals \$309,202,203.00. The District's Maintenance and Operating Budget is \$255,911,547.00. How can minority-owned businesses gain better access to opportunities to do business for goods and services with the Garland ISD?

The NAACP Garland Branch will sponsor an Economic Empowerment Workshop for minority-owned businesses in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex entitled "How to Do Business (Goods and Services) with the Garland ISD". This workshop will be held as part of the regular monthly Branch meeting at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, April 23, 2002, Women's Activity Center, 713 Austin at Glenbrook Drive, Garland (Downtown), Texas. Guest presenter will be Mr. Mark Booker, Director of Purchasing and Warehouse, Garland Independent School District. This workshop is free and open to the public. For directions or more information, please call the NAACP Garland Branch at (972) 381-544

## St Mark Baptist Church Prayer Seminar

Mark your calendar!

Saturday, April 20th, 2002

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## Around The Town

Mary Ann Durnin's life-time of travel has inspired her enough to share her experiences through art. Now, her watercolors can be seen at a special Plano Municipal Center exhibit during the entire month of April at 1520 K Avenue in Plano. In May Durnin's work will be on display at the Plano Centre, 2000 E. Spring Creek Parkway in Plano.

### APRIL 19

The Dallas Black Chamber of Commerce invites you to attend the 5th Annual Education Luncheon to recognize outstanding performance in education at the Dallas convention Center. Tickets \$25.00 for more information call (214) 421-5200.

Comedian Jerry Seinfeld will perform at the Fair Park Music Hall, Friday, April 19th

at 7pm - 9:30pm. Saturday April 20th at 7:00pm. Admission \$47.50 - \$77.50. For ticket information call 214-373-8000.

### APRIL 23

Senior Financial Preservation Workshop-at 10:30am at the Plano Centre, spring Creek and Jupiter Roads. Information about income taxes, probate and federal and state guidelines to help protect you from nursing home expenses. Admission is free, reservations requested. Please call 1-800-413-4587.

Link & Learn - The Secrets to Win-Win Communication-held at Plano Centre, 2000 E. Spring Creek Parkway from 8:30 to noon. Admission is \$50. Free for college student with ID. For more information call Mary Beth Hoesterey at 972-233-2197.

### APRIL 25

Experience fun and education at one event. The Dallas county Corporate Recycling

Council is sponsoring the 1st Annual Earth expo at the Texas Discovery gardens at Fair Park in Dallas from 10:am-3pm. If you are interested in exhibiting, becoming a sponsor have a question or need additional information call 972-964-4138.

Andrew Litton and Dallas Symphony Orchestra present two Masterpieces by Austrian Composers April 25-28, 2002 at the Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center Ticket prices

For these performances range from \$12.00 to \$100.00. Senior citizens receive a 20% discount on all single ticket purchases. For ticket information call (214) 692-0203.

Computer Training in the Ronya Kozmetsky Institute for the Future at the Women's Museum. For registration call 214-915-0874.

Volunteer of the Year awards Luncheon at the Plano Centre from 11:00 to 1:00pm. A celebration of outstanding volunteers from throughout Collin County. Admission is \$20.00. Contact Volunteer Center of Collin County at 972-422-1050 for more information.

Ethics Class for CPA's-Held at Plano center, 2000 E. Spring Creek Parkway from

### APRIL 26

9am-11am. Basic hour board-approved ethics course. Required every three years. For more information contact Values Based Management, Inc. 214-553-8255.

Wingspan Theatre Company, in cooperation with the Bath House Cultural Center, presents a staged reading of a new entitled-Gem of the Hills- by Valerie Brogan Powell.

Gem of the Hills is a shocking story set in northeast Alabama. Based on a true crime tale of Marie Hilley. The reading will take place at the Bath House Cultural Center, 521 E. Lawther Drive, in Dallas, Texas. For reservations or additional information call 972-505-6218.

### APRIL 27

2002 Soak and Scamper Decathlon- Oak Point Center- Call the Plano Parks & Recreation Department 972-941-7250 for more information.

Towne Lake Arts Festival- Local Artist will gather to display their talents to the general

public at Town Lake Park, 1401 Wilson creek Parkway in McKinney. For more information call Sharon Bilke at 972-529-6474.

Third Annual Scholarship & Outreach Banquet & Silent Auction, Saturday, April 27 at 6pm at the doubletree Hotel, 7120 Dallas Parkway, Plano, Texas. Tickets \$40. per person. Sponsored by Hill Chapel Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, 1113 Avenue I Avenue Plano, Texas 75074 Telephone 972-423-4090.

The Magnolia House at L&M Estates is sponsoring a Conference and Book Debut on Saturday, April 27, at 11:00am-4:00pm 1239 Whispering Oaks, Desoto, Texas call 972-274-3902 for information.

Community Calendar Sponsored by Southwestern Bell Telephone

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