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# Southwest Digest

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A newspaper for the 21st century, representing the Black community's ideas and ideals since 1977.  
March 10 - March 16, 2005  
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## Community Meetings

This is a list of what is happening in Lubbock, to help complete the unfinished community-building work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

- African American Chamber of Commerce, Lubbock meets on the 3rd Monday of each month, from 5:30-6:30pm at the Parkway Community Center, 405 MLK Blvd., 806-771-1815
- Lubbock Area Client Council meets on the 2nd Saturday, 1:00pm at the Patterson Branch Library
- Hub City Kiwanis meets every Tuesday, 7:00pm, 1708 Avenue G
- Dunbar Alumni Association meets 2nd Saturdays, 4:00 pm
- Booker T. Washington American Legion Post 808 meets every 3rd Thursday at 7:30pm, American Legion Building in Yellowhouse Canyon
- Forgotten West Riders meets on the 1st & 3rd Mondays, 7:00 pm, Patterson Library
- East Lubbock Chapter AARP meets every 1st Thursday at 1:00 pm, Mae Simmons Community Center
- Lubbock Chapter of Black Alumni meets every 3rd Tuesday, 5:30 pm, TTU Market Alumni Center
- Dunbar/Manhatten Heights Neighborhood Association meets every 3rd Thursday at 6:00 pm 1303 East 24th St. (outreach center/party house)
- West Texas Native American Association Pot Luck Supper meets on alternating months prior to meeting, meetings held on 2nd Saturday of each month at 7:00 pm. Educational presentations and demonstrations.
- Texas Juneteenth Cultural & Historical Commission - Lubbock Affiliate meets at Patterson Branch Library every 3rd Thursday 7:00 pm
- West Texas Native American Association meets 2nd Saturday each month at Groves Library, 5520 19th Street, 7:30 p.m.
- West Texas Chapter of 100 Black Men meets the 3rd Monday evening at 7:00 pm at the Parkway Neighborhood Center.
- The Parkway Guadalupe & Cherry-Point Neighborhood Association meets the 3rd Tuesday evening of each month at 7:30 pm at Parkway Neighborhood Center.

## Welcome home, Sheryl Swoopes!



Photo by L. Scott Mann

Co-publishers of the Southwest Digest, T. J. Patterson, left, and Eddie Richardson, right, are shown welcoming home Sheryl Swoopes, a former All-American in College Basketball and a member of the Houston Comets of the Women National Basketball Association (WNBA) at a press conference Wednesday afternoon, March 2, 2005, at the Trinity Christian Gym. She was presented as a new member of the Lubbock Hawks of the National Women Basketball League (NWBL).

## Arizona businessman ready to become NFL's first black team owner

Courtesy of Jet Magazine  
Poised and proud to become the NFL's first Black owner, Reggie Fowler agreed to a deal to buy the Minnesota Vikings football team.

Published reports have placed the purchase price between \$625 and \$635 million. NFL rules require that 24 of the 32 team owners approve the sale. The owners are scheduled to meet in Hawaii next week.

Fowler, 46, owns Spiral Inc., a Chandler, AZ-based company he founded in 1989 that supplies grocery stores with bags, cups, containers, labels and janitorial supplies. The company also has divisions with a focus on real estate, aviation, manufacturing, agricul-

tural, entertainment and banking industries. Spiral Inc. is currently listed the 11th-largest African-American owned firm.

The Arizona Republic recently reported that Fowler's net worth is estimated at more than \$400 million. Fowler's group includes three limited partners whom he declined to identify, other than that they're based on the East Coast. As the general partner, Fowler is required by NFL rules to put down 30 percent of the cash portion of the purchase.

Current Vikings owner Red McCombs, who paid about \$250 million for the club in 1998, has been trying to sell the team for two years and after intense negotiations with Fowler, McCombs feels the



Arizona businessman Reggie Fowler talks to reporters during a news conference in Eden Prairie, NM, where Minnesota Vikings owner Red McCombs announced the sale of the team to Fowler.

## 16th Annie's Chat and Chew to help Meals on Wheels

For the 16th consecutive year, Lubbock Meals on Wheels is benefitting from "Annie's Chat and Chew". This fundraiser was started by long time volunteer Annie Sanders and is being continued in her memory this year at the Mae Simmons Senior Center,

2004 Oak Avenue, on Saturday March 19, 2005 from 11:00am - 1:00pm. Guests can enjoy some great food while visiting with old friends and remembering a very special woman, Annie Sanders. Donations will be accepted at the door to help fund

## Cotton Kings renew Dashney's contract for two more seasons



Dashney

as head coach and director of hockey operations through the 2006-07 season.

"Chris has done a superb job," said Meseke. "His thoroughness in the recruiting process has given this club a turnaround on the ice that is well above what I expected in his first year as a head coach. He has shown poise, maturity and professionalism while taking a team from last place in the conference last season and turning them into a playoff contender."

Dashney's Cotton Kings squad was first in the Southern Conference on December 19, earning both he and his hockey operations staff representation to the 2005 Dodge CHL All-Star Game in Laredo, TX. The Kings sit third overall in the

conference and the Southwest Division with a 28-20-2 record and 61 points thus far. Last season, the Kings posted a 19-35-10 record with 48 points in 64 games.

"Chris has shown a lot of integrity this season," said Meseke. "He recruited players with similar character traits and work ethic and that has parlayed to our current record."

Dashney sees the big picture, but also knows that both he and his club must focus on the present.

"I am very pleased with the extension," said Dashney. "I am looking forward to being a part of the future of Cotton Kings hockey and the success of the organization. That being said, we have a huge week ahead and focus must remain on the task at

hand."

The Kings have three games this weekend, starting on Thursday at home against San Angelo. On Friday, they travel to San Angelo to play, and they will wrap up their weekend with a Saturday game in Odessa.

After a tough loss on Saturday against Amarillo, the Kings returned home on Sunday and beat the New Mexico Scorpions 4-1.

At this point in the season, every game is vital to the Cotton Kings as the teams in

the Southern Conference battle for a playoff spot.

Paul Fioroni's 24 Foundation will be holding a Casino Extravaganza on Sunday night, March 13. Cost per person is only \$25, and all proceeds will go to benefit Jeremy Green, the Levelland High School senior who was paralyzed at football practice in August.

Come see the Kings deal your cards at the White Knight Limousine building on Sunday, March 13 at 6:00pm. Ages 21 and up, only may attend.

If you have an announcement you want to appear in this paper, please get it to us in writing. You can mail it to:

Community Meetings  
C/O: Southwest Digest  
P.O. Box 2533  
Lubbock, Texas 79408

or bring it by our office:  
Southwest Digest  
1302 Avenue Q  
Lubbock, TX 79401

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IF YOU FIND MISTAKES IN THIS PUBLICATION, PLEASE REACH YOURSELF THAT WE ARE ALL HUMAN. WE TRY TO PUBLISH SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE, AND WE DON'T ALWAYS GET IT RIGHT. WE ASK THAT YOU LOOK AT YOUR OWN LIFE BEFORE CRITICIZING SOMEONE ELSE.



# Chatman Hills Corner

By Doris Reynolds

First, let this writer take this time and thank all of you for your concern during the recent death of my husband, James Austin Williams, who was funeralized in Inglewood, California on Thursday, February 24, 2005. Thanks for all you did for us during this time of grief.

The Ma Jones Missionary Society of the Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, 2202 Southeast Drive, will present their Annual Missionary Day on Sunday afternoon, March 13, 2005, beginning at 3:30 p. m. A panel of Christian women will speak on the theme "Garden of Seed Faith". Also during the program, all in attendance will pause for a "Moment of Reflection". This will be the time to remember those faithful Missionary Sisters who have departed this life between the years 2004-2005.

If you have a deceased Sister to be memorialized, please advise Sister Elurd Devenport at 2109 East 29th Street or call (806) 763-3110.

Sister Bessie Cox is president; Sister Elurd Devenport is program chairman. Rev. Eddie L. Everline, Jr. is pastor.

All are invited to the

Shamrock Brunch on Saturday morning, March 12, 2005, beginning at 10:30 p. m. at the Mt. Gilead Baptist Church, 2512 Fir Avenue. The Gertrude Miller Mission Ministry is sponsoring this program. The theme is "God's Evergreen," Psalm 1:1-6.

The morning will consist of music, round table discussion, praise dancer, solo and other features. All are invited to step into spring, with a bit of Green!

Rev. J. Jerome Johnson is pastor.

Word comes that the Youth Department of Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, 2202 Southeast Drive, will sponsor a "Lock In" on Friday evening, March 11, 2005, beginning at 7:00 p. m. For more information, contact Sister Linda Devaughn at (806) 744-7552.

Let us continue to pray for our sick and shut-in citizens. Today it is them, tomorrow it could be you. Among them include Sister Charlie Bell Pratt who is at home at this report, and Brother W. H. Pitts, Jr. who is a patient at Covenant Health System, room 596.

Among those who have lost loved ones include Minister Mercelle McCutcheon's father

who was funeralized last week. Sister Clara Lawson's brother passed away in California. God is able!

Church services were well attended last Sunday morning, March 6, 2005, at the New Hope Baptist Church, 2002 Birch Avenue. New Hope is the "Church Where The People Really Care," and Rev. B. R. Moton is pastor. If you are looking for a church home, then come and visit New Hope.

Services got underway with Meditation and Prayer. The Praise Team was at its post of duty and inspired all present. Minister McCutcheon read the morning scripture and Minister Martin offered the morning prayer. Several selections were sung by the New Hope Choir.

The morning sermon was delivered by Minister Charles Wilson. His subject was "Deaf Ears, Hear The Voice of God." His scripture text was Revelations 3:20-22. Minister Wilson reminded all of us that the inner ear is very important. He gave three points for all to ponder during the week. They are: (1) Humble yourself; (2) Confess and Believe; and (3) Seek God's Will. It was a very informative message.

# FASHION FUN

By Shirley Robinson

## Hot new fashions that aren't aimed at teens

Too old for hip-hop but you wouldn't be caught dead in a mini-skirt, stretch pants? You're not alone. Style-conscious women 45 and older often have to choose between clothes that are either too frumpy or too teenish. But now, savvy retailers are introducing new lines that not only look good, but are designed for older-than-35 bodies. It's a concept that's really way overdue.

Women 45-54 spend about \$23.3 billion a year on apparel, according to NPD, a market research firm, yet they're largely

ignored by youth-focused retailers.

Now, however, retailers have realized their fashion faux pas. These women, many in their prime earning years, have a greater need for professional and casual clothes.

Many women say that most clothes are too fitted, too draped and too young. Women 35 and over may not want extreme fashion, but they still want style, comfort, fit and quality.

Nondowdy fashions... say what the Gap plans to offer at its new chain of specialty apparel stores



gated to women 35 and older. They'll include several categories of clothes, from weekend wear to office outfits.

Other retailers are following with Gap's example. Look for them

FASHION TIP: Always wear a smile! FASHION - Just for the Fun of It!

## In Remembrance

### ANDREW CARTER, SR.

Funeral services for Andrew Carter, Sr. were held last

Thursday morning, March 3, 2005, at Wesley Memorial Church of God in Christ.

Burial was held in Peaceful Gardens Memorial Park in Woodrow, Texas under the direction of Griffin Mortuary of Lubbock.

Mr. Carter passed away Sunday, February 27, 2005, in the University Medical Center.

### ROBERT LEE JENKINS, SR.

Funeral services for Robert Lee Jenkins, Sr. were held last

Saturday morning, March 5, 2005, at Friendship Holy Baptist Church with Bishop F. R. Mann officiating.

Interment was held in Peaceful Gardens Memorial Park in Woodrow, Texas, under the direction of Ossie Curry Funeral Home of Lubbock.

He passed away Monday, February 28, 2005.

Mr. Jenkins was born March 20, 1923 in Clay Station, Texas, to Nugent and Elizabeth Jenkins. He attended Bryan public schools. He married Dorothy Elaine Parker on November 13, 1944 in Bryan, Texas. He moved to Lubbock, Texas in 1953 from Bryan.

His wife, Dorothy, preceded him in death. He was a man who loved the Salvation Army family, and unselfishly gave his time to help the Salvation Army accomplish their mission.

He is survived by two sons, Robert Lee, Jr. and wife, Gayle, of Lubbock, Texas and Travis Lee and wife, Ester, of Long Beach, California; two daughters, Bobbie Nell Jenkins and Ruthie Jean Ragin and husband, Lee, of Rialto, California; 17 grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren; and a host of nieces, nephews and friends.

### HENRY C. LEE

Funeral services for Henry C. Lee were held last Monday after-

noon, March 7, 2005, at Agape Temple Church of God in Christ. Burial will be held on Saturday, March 12, 2005, in Marianna, Florida.

Mr. Lee passed away Thursday, March 3, 2005, at the age of 55 in Covenant Medical Center.

He is survived by his wife, Libby M. Lee; his mother, Lucy Nickles; and children; Chisa C. Robinson, Charles V. "Tino" Lee, Cheryl Bailey and Fredrick Hall.

### JAMES AUSTIN WILLIAMS

Compton, California - Funeral services were held for James

Austin Williams Thursday morning, February 24, 2005, at the Manchester Chapel of Inglewood Cemetery Mortuary, with Minister

Eric B. Wilson officiating.

Interment was held in Riverside

National Cemetery, Riverside, California, under the direction of Inglewood Cemetery Mortuary.

He was born March 15, 1942 to the parents of Elliott Williams and Willie Mae Fagen in Pittsburgh, Texas. He began his formal education in 1948, and completed high school in May, 1960. Later that year, he moved to California.

In October, 1961, he was drafted in the United States Army. He served his country for four years, and returned to California in February, 1964. In February, 1972, he met a special lady named Doris Jones. They married in December, 1976.

He was employed by Chrysler and General Motors. In 1996, he began working for Hertz Car Rental. He remained a faithful and hard worker until his health failed in October, 2001.

Mr. Williams passed away Thursday, February 17, 2005.

He leaves to cherish his memory: a wife, Doris Faye Williams of Lubbock, Texas; two daughters, Tyesha L. and Mytika T. Williams, a son, LaRon Williams; four sisters, Doris McGhee of Compton, California, Liz Terry and Mary Moton, both of Dallas, Texas and Mattie Pannell of Commerce, California; two brothers-in-law, John Turner of Los Angeles, California and Charley Terry of Dallas, Texas; many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

## The Balm in Gilead organizes prayer for AIDS

NEW YORK, PRNewswire - This week, thousands of faith institutions across the nation are participating in the largest AIDS awareness campaign targeting the African American faith community when the 16th annual national observance of The Black Church Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS began Sunday. Observance goes through Saturday, March 13, 2005.

Organized by The Balm In Gilead, The Black Church Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS is the organization's flagship campaign that works with thousands of faith institutions to champion AIDS awareness, prevention and education in the African American community. "The horrendous HIV/AIDS epidemic among African Americans is growing and who cares?" said Pernessa Seele, Founder and CEO, The Balm In Gilead. "This is the fundamental question that we are asking our religious, civic and political leadership as well as all African Americans today. The answer is, we have to. We must care."

The Balm In Gilead has joined forces with some of the nation's most prominent leaders to help spread the word on HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and awareness. This year's national spokespeople are: Mel Watt, Congressman and Congressional Black Caucus Chair; Dr. Winston Price, President, National Medical Association; George Curry, Publisher, National

Newspapers Publishers Association; Dr. Betty Davis Lewis, President, National Nurses Association and Gospel Singer Bobby Jones.

Since its inception in 1989, The Black Church Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS has engaged Black Churches to become centers for education, compassion and care in the fight against HIV/AIDS. The organization is encouraging Black churches across the United States to host educational workshops, seminars, prayer vigils, or simply distribute information during the Black Church Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS.

Churches are also being encouraged to assist in getting more African Americans to take the HIV test and to give compassionate care and support to persons living with HIV. Today, many churches in both rural and urban African American communities have begun an appropriate response to the AIDS epidemic.

The Balm In Gilead's Faith-Based HIV/AIDS Capacity Building Model has resulted in the development of many congregational-based HIV/AIDS programs.

"It is during this week, that our churches raise the awareness of millions of African Americans about the crisis of AIDS in our community and the role of our churches in fighting HIV/AIDS..."

Congressman Watt said, National Medical Association President Dr. Winston Price, adds,

"We at the National Medical Association will continue to show our support in any way possible in addition to providing literature and the educational programs that we currently sponsor."

Embarking upon its 16th straight year of observance, The Balm In Gilead is specifically turning its focus on educating African American women on their high rate of risk to this disease. In addition, the organization is calling on every Black religious leader to be a voice in this fight and to make HIV/AIDS education and related issues a top priority within their congregations and communities.

According to the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention, AIDS is the leading cause of death among African American women ages 25 to 34. HIV is the leading cause of death for African American men ages 35-44. As reported in the HIV/AIDS Surveillance Report (2002), Vol. 14, African Americans accounted for the majority (54%) of new HIV/AIDS diagnoses in 2002. The rate of AIDS cases among African American adults or adolescents was nearly 11 times greater than that of Whites and nearly three times that of Latinos in 2002.

To find out how your church can get involved in The Black Church Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS, log onto the organization's website at www.balmingilead.org.

## Upcoming Events at the Public Library

Free Adult Vision Screenings at Patterson Branch Library

The Patterson Branch Library, 1836 Parkway Drive, will be holding free vision screenings for adults on Monday, March 14, from 5:00 to 7:00 pm and on Wednesday, March 16 from 1:00 to 3:00 pm. This program is sponsored by the Prevent Blindness Foundation. For more information, please call 767-3300.

Book Discussion at Patterson Branch Library

The Patterson Branch Library, 1836 Parkway Drive, will host a discussion of the book "Luther: The Life and Longing of Luther

Vandross" by Craig Seymour on Saturday, March 19, at 2:00pm. For more information, please call the Patterson Branch Library at 767-3300.

Learn to Accessorize at Patterson Branch Library

The Patterson Branch Library,

1836 Parkway Drive, will present a program on "How to Accessorize Your Wardrobe" on Monday, March 21, at 7:00 pm. Our special guest will be Cindy Fulton of Accessory Touch. For more information, please contact the Patterson Branch Library at 767-3300.

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## Alexander Chapel Church of God in Christ

4510 Ave. P, Lubbock, TX 79412 · Phone 747-0465 · Pastor William H. Watson, III

Pastor William H. Watson, III, Sister Stacy Watson and the A.C. Family would like to extend a heartfelt welcome to come and worship with us.

Weekly order of Services:

- Sunday School - 9:45 am
- Sunday Morning Worship - 11:00 am
- Sunday Evening YPWW - 6:00 pm
- Tuesday Young Adult Study - 7:00 pm
- Wednesday Night Bible Study - 7:00 pm
- Thursday Praise Team & Choir Rehearsal - 7:00 pm

Bus ministry available. For college students, a meal will be provided.

May the God of hope fill you with a joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. - Romans 15:13



# Church News



## From the Desk of Parson D.A. Smith Black Americans and illegal immigration (Part 5)

If nothing is done about the illegal immigration issue in America, this writer sees an economic and political insurgence coming the world has never beheld.

Under Title 8, Section 1325 of the U.S. Code, "Improper Entry by Alien," any citizen of another country other than the United States who:

- Enters or attempts to enter the United States at anytime or place other than as designated by immigration officers; or
- Elopes examination or inspection by immigration officers; or
- Attempts to enter or obtains entry to the United States by a willfully false or misleading representation or the willful concealment of a material fact;

Violations are punishable by criminal fines and imprisonment for up to six months. Repeat offenses can bring up to two years in prison. Additional civil fines may be imposed at the discretion of immigration judges, but civil fines do not negate the criminal sanctions of nature of

the offense. What upset this writer and many Black Americans is millions of Black American males are in prison for crimes they have committed. However, millions upon millions of illegal immigrants enter this country every year, but President Bush and his social misfits politically condone illegal immigration. These people are committing a federal crime.

I have previously written that illegal immigration causes an enormous drain on public funds. A study has found that the taxes paid by immigrants do not cover the cost of services received by them.

Can American keep providing high quality education, health care and retirement security for its own people if the present trend and policies toward illegal immigration continue?

Is it right for illegal immigrants to steal into America and work at substandard wages and working conditions while depressing the wages of American workers and especially

poor whites and black Americans who do not have a high school diploma?

Is it right for illegal immigrants to come to America and strain the education system financially to the point that the states' legislatures will have to rely upon gambling and raising the property taxes of homeowners to pay for the minimum education for children?

The answer to the questions should be a resounding NO! One writer has concluded that "It's time for another showdown between American citizens and their Government. The majority of citizens cannot continue to perilously remain a nameless or faceless number in the latest poll, only to be forgotten or ignored by the 'tyrannous minority'. You have a right to be offended and a responsibility to let your elected representatives know how you feel. Now do something!"

Poor and middle class black and white Americans should stand up against being prostituted and bastardized by the elite through illegal immigration.



## We Thank God for Jesus Praise God, it could be worse

Written by Evangelist Billy "B. J." MacIsaac, III - Your Brother in Christ Jesus always.

PROVERBS 27:20, HELL AND DESTRUCTION ARE NEVER FULL; SO ARE THE EYES OF MAN NEVER SATISFIED.

(AS I LOOK AROUND THIS BLESSED NATION, THERE ARE COMPLAINTS OF MANY MANY KIND. WE NEED TELL THE LORD THANKS; AND WE WOULD HAVE PEACE OF MIND.)

WE GO GROCERIES; FILL 13 SACKS, AT HIGH PRICE AND WE BEGIN TO CURSE, WE SEE PEOPLE HUSTLING TRASHING CANS; THANK GOD IT COULD BE WORSE.

MARK 14:7, JESUS SAID, FOR YOU HAVE THE POOR WITH YOU ALWAYS, AND WHEN SO EVER YOU WILL YOU MAY SO THEM GOOD BUT ME YE HAVE NOT ALWAYS.

WHEN THE HEAT WAVE COMES, AND THE TEMP GETS 98; WE WANT TO CURSE, SOME PLACES HAVE TEMPS 113 DEGREES; THANK GOD IT COULD BE WORSE.

PSALMS 118:23-24, THIS IS THE LORD'S DOING; IT IS MARVELLOUS IN OUR EYES. THIS IS THE DAY THE HATH MADE; WE WILL REJOICE AND BE GLAD IN

IT WE GO TO THE STORE, FULL ON THE DOOR, HARD TO OPEN AND WE CURSE, THE MAN IN A WHEEL-CHAIR; TRYING TO GET IN; THANK GOD COULD BE WORSE.

PSALMS 105:1-5, O GIVE THANKS UNTO THE LORD; CALL UPON HIS NAME; MAKE KNOWN HIS DEEDS AMONG THE PEOPLE, SING UNTO HIM, SING PSALMS UNTO HIM; TALK YOU OF ALL HIS WONDROUS WORKS. GLORY YOU IN HIS HOLY NAME; LET THE HEART OF THEM REJOICE THAT SEEK THE LORD, SEEK THE LORD, AND HIS STRENGTH; SEEK HIS FACE EVERMORE. REMEMBER HIS MARVELLOUS WORKS THAT HE HATH DONE, HIS WONDERS, AND THE JUDGMENT OF HIS MOUTH.

YOU GET YOUR CARS FENDER BENT; AND OUT LOUD YOU BEGAN CURSE, AND SEE THE CARS THAT'S BEEN TOTALED OUT; THANK GOD COULD BE WORSE.

1 CHRONICLES 16:34, O GIVE THANKS UNTO THE LORD; FOR HE IS GOOD; FOR HIS MERCY ENDURETH FOR EVER.

WE STOMP OUR TOE THE PAIN IS GREAT; OUT LOUD WE BEGAN CURSE, WE SEE THE MAN WITH NO FEET AT ALL; THANK GOD IT COULD BE WORSE.

THE WIND IS 60 MPH, PUT SAND IN OUR HOUSES AND WE BEGAN CURSE, WE'VE FORGOTTEN ABOUT THE 1970 WINDS; THANK GOD IT COULD BE WORSE.

IT RAINED 3 DAYS; GOT ONLY 7 INCHES; AND WE BEGAN CURSE, SEE HOMES FLOODING IN OTHER STATES; THANK GOD IT COULD BE WORSE.

PSALM 19:1, THE HEAVENS DECLEAR THE GLORY OF GOD; AND THE FIRMAMENT SHOW HIS HANDIWORK.

THE MAN SAY HIS CAR IS BROKEN; I HAVE TO RIDE THE CITIBUS; AND HE CURSE, MANY CITIES DON'T HAVE A BUS SYSTEM; THANK GOD IT COULD BE WORSE.

1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-19, REJOICE EVERMORE. PRAY WITHOUT CEASING IN EVERY THING GIVE THANKS; FOR THIS IS THE WILL OF GOD IN CHRIST JESUS CONCERNING YOU. QUENCH NOT THE SPIRIT.

## Outreach Prayer Breakfast

Members and friends of the Outreach Prayer Breakfast met last Saturday morning, March 5, 2005, in the home of Sister Elnora Jones at 9:00 a. m. The morning devotion was led by Sister Christene Burleson, Sister Irma Crawford, and Sister Mittie Wallace. This was truly a blessed morning. The morning scripture lesson was taught by Sister Jones. Her subject was "Vines and Branches." Her scripture text was St. John 15.

### "Vines And Branches" - St. John 15

"In the true vine, and my Father is the gardner, he cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit. Whil's every branch that does bear fruit, he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean, because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself, it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

In the vine, you are the branch-

es if a man remain in me and I in him. He will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers. Such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my word remains in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you.

This is to my Father's glory that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my Disciples. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit. Fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. This is my command: Love each other.

Jesus said, 'I'm the true vine.' If you're not connected to the vine, you can't bear fruit. You're cleansed through the word. We must be sure our names are in the Lamb Book of Life.

Sometimes we do a lot of unnecessary running, trying to convince others, but just be sure you love your Sisters and Brothers, especially those of the

### Household of Faith!

Thanks, Sister Jones for this lesson. May God continually bless you in all that you do in teaching the word of God.

The outreach prayer Breakfast was invited to attend the Littlefield Outreach Prayer Breakfast Group last Sunday. We were unable to attend, but we prayed for you to have had a tremendous meeting in the Lord. Hope you had a successful meeting. Sister Betty Kemp, may God bless you with many more years with the Prayer Breakfast in Littlefield, Texas.

Let us keep those drive by prayers going, Saints. Let us do it for our schools, community, churches and leaders. Be sure you're loving your Brothers and Sisters.

For those of you who are not feeling well today, read St. Mark 11:22-26 and II Chronicles 7:14. Let go and let God! We're praying for each of you.

Sister Dorothy Hood, president; Sister Christene Burleson, vice president; Sister Elnora Jones, teacher; and Sister Rosiana Henderson, secretary.

## St. Matthew's Baptist Church News

Last Sunday morning, March 6, 2005, church services begun with Sunday School, beginning at 10:15 a. m. with Superintendent Sister Luella Harris in charge. The morning lesson was taught by Sister Nina Davis, and reviewed by Pastor Edward Canady. Pastor Canady did a wonderful job bringing out some key points about the morning lesson.

The morning worship hour begun at 11:15 a. m. The morning

devotion was led by Deacon Edward Williams. The St. Matthew Baptist Choir sung out of their hearts and souls. What a time we had praising the Lord.

The morning message was delivered by Pastor Canady. His subject was "give God The Fruit of His Vineyards." His scripture text was St. Mark 12:1-8. What a wonderful sermon!

The St. Matthew Baptist Church Anniversary will begin Thursday evening, march 10th,

and Friday evening, March 11th, beginning at 7:00 p. m. The Anniversary Services will close out on Sunday afternoon, March 13th, beginning at 3:00 p. m. Everyone is invited to attend.

Our sick and shut in list include Sister Lola Byrd, Sister Katy Bolden and Sister Betty Titus. Your precious prayers are always appreciated.

Thought of the Week: "If God doesn't remove an obstacle, He'll help you find a way around it."

## Pilgrim Baptist Church celebrates 26th anniversary

Pilgrim Baptist Church, 6111 19th Street, will celebrate their 26th church anniversary, Sunday March 13, 2005 at 3:30 pm. Reverend Wilburn G. Tanner is the pastor of Pilgrim Baptist Church.

The theme is "Halleluiah! Give God the highest praise!" Acts 2:47.

Guest speaker will be

Reverend Homer Avery, pastor of First Progressive Baptist Church of Lubbock.

The members of Pilgrim

Baptist Church extend an invitation to friends and former members to come and help them celebrate this blessed event.

## GRIFFIN MORTUARY FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

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Or call us at (806) 762-3612. We want to hear from you!





# Gallup survey connects friendship, food and faith

LOVELAND, Colo. - A new study commissioned by Group Publishing, Inc. and conducted by the Gallup Organization provides a direct link between human friendships and spiritual maturity. Research shows that people with close friendships in their church are very satisfied with their congregation, less likely to leave their place of worship, and have a strong friendship with God.

"Church members who have a best friend at church are 21 percent more likely to report attending church at least once a week and 26 percent more likely to report having a strong, more active faith in God," said Michael D. Lindsay, Sociology Research Affiliate at Princeton University. "Respondents with a best friend at church were also more likely to say their faith is involved in every aspect of their lives and that they have a close friendship with God."

Thom Schultz, CEO of Group Publishing, said the research also connects faith and food. According to survey results, 77 percent of highly sat-

isfied members have eaten a meal with people in their congregation (who are not members of their family) at some point over the last year. Only 55 percent of somewhat satisfied or dissatisfied members have shared a meal together. Hence, mealtime fellowship appears strongly correlated with together report regularly spending time in prayer and worship daily compared to 49 percent who have not eaten meals with other church members.

"This study asked church members important faith questions that have never been asked before," survey researcher George Gallup said. "The connections we've discovered between human friendships, spiritual maturity, church satisfaction and even feelings of intimacy with God are absolutely remarkable. Senior pastors, youth ministers, and children's workers will all benefit from the powerful information this study has produced."

An analysis of research findings from Gallup has been compiled with ministry applica-

tion ideas. Group Publishing is a new book titled *Friendship: Creating a Culture of Connectivity in Your Church*. "This new resource will provide church leaders with information on churchgoers' thoughts and attitudes," Schultz said, "and it will also empower them with activities to help nurture long-term friendships in their church."

Each year, Group Publishing gives a portion of its profits to churches. This year, Group is offering research findings and analysis compiled in *Friendship: Creating a Culture of Connectivity in Your Church*. The free resource, valued at \$29.99, includes research data, handouts, a CD, and a 90-minute training session for church-wide use. Pastors and church leaders may request a free copy for their church by calling (800) 747-6060 ext. 1324 or by visiting [www.group.com/giveback](http://www.group.com/giveback).

## Gallup Survey Findings

84% of respondents who are very satisfied with their church say the leaders in their church care for them as a person. That figure drops to 36% among those only somewhat satisfied.

Church members with church friendships that extend beyond weekly worship services are 26% more likely to report that their colleagues, friends, and neighbors would say that they, the church members, love God.

Church members who worship with a best friend are 14% more likely to describe their spiritual life as a friendship with God.

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Evening Worship - 5:00pm  
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Bible Class & Devotional - 7:00pm

**God's Plan for Saving Man**  
All have sinned - Romans 3:23  
Jesus Christ died for our sins - 2 Cor. 5:21; Acts 2:38  
We must do God's will and obey him to enter heaven - Matt. 7:21; Heb 5:9  
How do we obey him?  
Hear the gospel - Romans 10:17  
Believe Jesus Christ is the son of God - Mark 16:16  
Repent of your sins - Luke 13:3  
Confess - Romans 10:10  
Be baptized for the forgiveness of your sins - Acts 2:38  
Be faithful until death - Rev 2:10

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- \*Thursday, March 10 • 1340AM  
7:05 vs. San Angelo
- Friday, March 11 • 790AM  
7:05 @ San Angelo
- Saturday, March 12 • 1340AM  
7:00 @ Odessa
- Wednesday, March 16 • 1340AM  
8:05 @ Colorado
- \*Friday, March 18 • 790AM  
7:05 vs. Colorado
- \*Saturday, March 19  
7:05 vs. New Mexico
- Sunday, March 20  
6:00 @ Amarillo

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\*denotes home game


## Spring Revival

### March 14-17, 2005

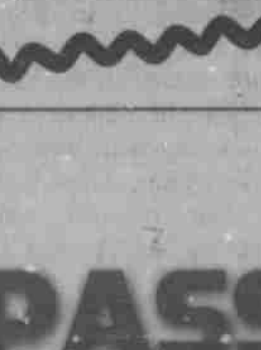
Mt. Olive First Missionary Baptist Church - Rev. C. C. Peoples, Pastor



Rev. Sammie Mc Williams  
March 14 and 15 at 7:30pm



Rev. E.L. Harris  
Ministry: Accepting calling into ministry 9 months ago. Has served at St. James for 30+ years in many capacities.



Dr. J.C. Givens, Jr., Ph.D.  
March 16 at 7:30pm

Assistant Professor of Religion  
Coordinator of Religion Programs  
Wayland Baptist University - Lubbock Campus

## Here's Your Child's Chance To Win \$10,000 For College!

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4-8 Year Olds  
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Lubbock, TX 79408


**Hurry, entry deadline is April 1, 2005!**

**SCHOLARSHIP GIVEAWAY RULES**

- 1) The Lubbock Avalanche-Journal, as part of its Make Kids Count project, will provide a \$10,000 U.S. Savings Bond to the winning child who meets all eligibility requirements as listed below.
- 2) The contest is open to all children born between January 1, 1997, and December 31, 2001, to parents who are U.S. citizens and residents of the Lubbock-Avalanche-Journal's home newspaper delivery area, which includes 36 counties in West Texas and five counties in Eastern New Mexico.
- 3) Employees of The A-J, of Morris Communication Corporation and their immediate families are not eligible to participate.
- 4) No purchase is necessary.
- 5) Official entry forms will appear regularly in The Avalanche-Journal through March 29, 2005, or can be obtained at The A-J Information Center, 710 Ave. J, Lubbock, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.
- 6) A copy of a legal birth certificate and a reproducible photograph of the child must accompany each entry form. Also, entry forms must be completed in their entirety. Only one entry per baby will be accepted.
- 7) Deadline for entry is 2 p.m. Friday, April 1. Entries received after April 1 will not be accepted. Entries can be mailed to MAKE KIDS COUNT SCHOLARSHIP GIVEAWAY, PO Box 491, Lubbock 79408, or dropped off at The A-J Information Center.
- 8) All contestants agree to allow their names, pertinent birth information and photographs to be published in The Avalanche-Journal without further compensation.
- 9) The Avalanche-Journal is not responsible for submitted entries that are forwarded, lost, misdirected, damaged, legible, incomplete or postage due.
- 10) Contest winner will be determined through a series of random drawings. From the total number of entries, 64 names will be drawn as finalists. These 64 names will be held (32, 16, 8, 4, 2, 1) weekly until the winner is announced on Monday, May 30, 2005.
- 11) In addition to the \$10,000 U.S. Savings Bond awarded to the winner, The A-J will present a \$5,000 Savings Bond to the runner-up; \$1,000 Saving Bonds to the other two quarterfinalists; \$500 Saving Bonds to the other four semifinalists who make the round of eight; and \$100 Saving Bonds to the other eight entries who make the round of 16. All Savings Bonds will be issued in the names of the winning child on the conclusion of the contest.
- 12) The Lubbock Avalanche-Journal may adopt or amend rules and regulations governing the procedures for choosing, dispersing and supervising the awards.
- 13) By entering, each contestant or their representative acknowledges acceptance of the rules and agrees to be bound to them.
- 14) Decisions of the contest organizers are final.



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Parents Name \_\_\_\_\_

Parents Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Date Of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ Home phone \_\_\_\_\_

Grandparents Name \_\_\_\_\_

Grandparents Name \_\_\_\_\_

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# Black poet captures hearts and minds of the Iraq war with passionate word play

Riverdale, Maryland (BlackNews.com) - No one wants to read about war being hell, and works criticizing the Bush Administration are now littering the shelves by the hun-

dreds. Thoughtfully, Jesse Sharpe's, *Hurry Home* (War Chronicles) puts a poetic finger on the pulse of America. Smothering the men and women who put their lives on the lines during wartime are the loved ones who pray for their safe return home. Sometimes they are angry, sometimes they are sad, and sometimes, as *Hurry Home* (War Chronicles) accurately captures, loving hearts and minds are fully confused and torn apart about the right and wrong of the war. The one common thread however, is that regardless of their position on the war, they all want the soldiers to *Hurry Home*:

*Hurry home it has become harder to distinguish between the right and wrong of this war when you were here everything was so copasetic*

poems that has the reader feeling the hurt of separation, *Hurry Home* (War Chronicles) does not dwell in this despair and agony. The chapter, *Emergence*, is a brief, but powerful collection of poems that express the freedom and strength that comes from rediscovery and love of self. Yes, it is a wonderful feeling to be loved, and to love strongly for another, but it is an even greater power to love yourself enough that regardless of the circumstances you will be able to live through it, learn from it, and enjoy life.

Finally, there is, *War Chronicles*, a chapter that makes a biting commentary on the current war in Iraq. Steering away from being preachy, as the person awaits the return of their loved one, they not only strengthen their love to be reunited, but also question the legitimacy of the war, as well as its ironies and contradictions. Whereas the previous chapters

make no reference to the war, and the poems could be about any longing for an estranged lover, (*War Chronicles*) is passionately defiant, speculative, and thought-provoking of the war in Iraq. Boldly, some quietly have you understanding, such as this particular one:

*one after another in different cities reporting on different skirmishes embedded journalists all read from the same declassified memo if I am to be pampered with propaganda I'd much rather it come from the enemy or better yet, the love that spills knowingly from your lips*

*Hurry home secrets are starting to babble out as if I had been given sodium pentothal would be nice to be interrogated by you*

*Hurry Home* (War Chronicles) can be ordered at any major bookstore or online at [www.lulu.com/kemit](http://www.lulu.com/kemit). Jesse Sharpe is also the author of *My Afri-Bett Learning Book*, an African-centered activity book for children, utilizing poetry. If you want to feel the heartbeat of America, and maybe are one of those lovers who wait impatiently for the end of this war, *Hurry Home* (War Chronicles) is a must read.



Bookcover for *Hurry Home* (War Chronicles)

Through a collection of love

## Chrysler Group's Ralph Gilles receives 'Black Engineer of the Year' President's Award for two new vehicle designs

BALTIMORE, March 2 /PRNewswire/ - Ralph Gilles, Chrysler Group Director of Product Design, was presented with the President's Award at the "Black Engineer of the Year" awards ceremony held Saturday, Feb. 19 at the Baltimore Convention Center. Gilles, who lead the design team of the award-winning Chrysler 300, joins a premiere group of individuals honored for their outstanding talents and managerial contributions. Gilles has been with the Chrysler Group since 1992, when he served as the primary interior designer for the Dodge Viper GTS/R, Dodge ESX2 and Jeep(R) Jeepster concept vehicles, as

well as the production versions of the 2003 Dodge Viper and 2002 Jeep Liberty. In his current position, Gilles directed the design team of two of Chrysler Group's most popular 2005 vehicles, the Dodge Magnum and Chrysler 300. A graduate of the Center for Creative Studies in Detroit, Gilles also earned a Master's degree in Business Administration from Michigan State University. In addition to his work schedule, Gilles is also a part-time instructor at the College for Creative Studies (formerly the Center for Creative Studies). "One of the Chrysler Group's greatest strengths is a diverse workforce of individuals who

weave their talents into the fabric of this company and the communities they represent," said Tom LaSorda, Chrysler Group Chief Operating Officer. "Ralph Gilles has done exactly that with his passion and talent for design." Since 1999, eight Chrysler Group designers and engineers have been recipients of the prestigious awards presented at the event. Earlier this week, several other Chrysler Group employees received honors for their contributions in the engineering field, including Kristalyn S. Mack, Plant Vehicle Engineer, Vehicle Development; Kilolo S. Gause, Product Engineer; and Camille Davis, Industrial

Engineer, Manufacturing. The "Black Engineer of the Year" Award Conference is the nation's largest career and professional development conference for African-American executives, professionals, and college and high school students. More than 10,000 African-American professionals participate in the three-day event, which includes a career fair, workshops and a black-tie awards ceremony.

### Share Your Recipes!

Do you have some great recipes you would like to share with your friends, neighbors and community members? Send it to us and we will publish it in an upcoming issue of the Southwest Digest!

You can get recipes to us in various ways. Send it to us by mail: **Recipes c/o: Southwest Digest P.O. Box 2553 Lubbock, Texas 79408**

Bring it by our office: **Southwest Digest 1302 Avenue Q Lubbock, TX 79401**

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White Knight's Ballroom  
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Sunday, March 13, 6-11 p.m.  
\$25 Entry Fee\*

No RSVP Required - Just Show Up!  
Cotton Kings Players Will Be Casino Gaming Table Operators and Dealers

\*All Proceeds Go to the 24 Foundation to Support Jeremy Green. Must be 21 years or older to play.

### Join us for the heart matters Breakfast Club

Because our hearts matter, Covenant Heart Institute invites you to attend our "Heart Matters" Breakfast Club. Our goal is to bring people together who are affected by matters of the heart, either personally or through a family member or friend. We hope you will come and be encouraged to share your feelings, ideas and knowledge with others who understand the issues of coping with heart matters.

Friday, March 25, 2005  
9:00 - 10:00 a.m.

### Deep Vein Thrombosis (DVT): What You Need To Know About Blood Clots

Presented by Jose Cruz, M.D.  
Hematologist/Oncologist with the Joe Arrington Cancer Center

Covenant Medical Center-Lakeside  
4000 24th Street  
Arnett Room, 6th floor

Refreshments will be provided. The Heart Matters Breakfast Club is open to the public and free of charge.

Covenant Heart Institute  
Lubbock, Texas

Please call (806) 725-1650 for more information.

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In addition to our Program, we also have a Monthly Support Group.

"Snacking... A Good or Bad Idea?"

Presented by: Kelli Pechall, MS, RD, LD, CDE, BC-ADM

When: Monday, March 14, 2005 beginning at 6:00 p.m.

Where: Knippling Education Center  
Located atop Covenant Medical Center's West Parking Garage (6th Floor)  
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No reservation required. FREE to the public.

For program enrollment, call: (806) 725-5460  
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# Editorials • Comments • Opinions



by Dorothy R. Leavell

## Think About It! Religion, spirituality and warfare

by Eddie P. Richardson

[Editors note: After reading this article in my friend, Dorothy Leavell's paper, The Chicago Crusader, I decided to dedicate my space to it this week.]

How is it that the more people, especially people in high places, talk about religion, the more saber-rattling occurs? The answer lies in the fact that the term "religion" does not necessarily equate to "spirituality". Religion, the one thing that should unite all humanity under the idea of Godhood is one of the most divisive forces in existence. This is one of the most compelling reasons for keeping church and state separated.

We must not forget that the United States of America came into existence because certain people wanted freedom of religion - they did not want anyone, especially the government, telling them who or how to worship. Today, the Bush administration uses religion as a weapon to determine who is or is not living life as "God" deems they should. In other words, many right wing Republicans are taking it upon themselves to protect God!

At the risk of sounding trite, God does not need protection. It is us who need protection from people that would force their particular brand of religion down the throats of the rest of us.

Think on this - many of the wars being fought around the world today are being fought in the name of religion. The war in Iraq is basically a religious war.



This Jihad, or holy war, has pitted Islam against Christianity. But wait - it doesn't stop there. In a fractured Iraq, the little wars continue with Shiite Muslims opposing Sunni Muslims.

In light of all of this, don't forget that one of the saddest ongoing wars on the planet is that between the Palestinians and the Jews. Those individuals that carved out the state of Israel have done so on the authority of their God. They have killed, snatched land and oppressed indigenous people in the name of God.

When looking at what mankind has done in the name of religion, it is feasible to conclude that religion is not the only thing that we humans need - we need a healthy dose of spirituality. We need the understanding that we are, indeed, our brothers' (and sisters') keepers, no matter what religion they may embrace, for the simple reason that we all inhabit this little blue-green ball in space called Earth.

Spirituality encourages cooperation; spirituality recognizes the interdependence of all living things and seeks not to coerce anything or anyone into a particular belief system. Spirituality is the root of true love.

It is not possible to have true spirituality residing side by side with the kind of greed that we witness on a daily basis by people who profess to be religious! The same people, in colonial America, who professed to be religious, killed off Native Americans and enslaved Blacks.

What we need today is spiritual understanding.

## THIS N THAT

**SHERYL SWOOPES WANTS TO GIVE BACK TO COMMUNITY! THIS N THAT** ... was glad to see one of our former young ladies ...

**SHERYL SWOOPES** ... A former Lady Red Raider and an All American ... as well as a Women National Basketball Association (WNBA) star and Olympic Gold Medal Winner ... return home to join the ... **LUBBOCK HAWKS BASKETBALL TEAM** ... Last week, she is an inspiration to all of us ... and to hear her say she wanted to ... **GIVE SOMETHING BACK... THIS N THAT** ... spoke with her briefly about what she wanted to do ... and if we sit back ... And see what she will do ... For one thing ... She will perhaps have ... me basketball camps ... but ... **THIS N THAT** ... Believes she will do more ... No matter what she does ... it will be well received ... as she is still one of us ... She is a dynamic professional basketball player ... who has grown tremendously on and off the basketball court ... Thanks for coming back home ... **SHERYL SWOOPES!** ... There is no doubt about it ... You will give something back ... Oh, by the way ... in her debut last week, she scored ... **20 POINTS** ... and the Hawks defeated the Colorado Chill ... by a score of ... **89-78!**

**DON'T FORGET SISTER ANNIE SANDERS' CHAT & CHEW! THIS N THAT** ... Wants to invite as many of you who will to ... **GIVE A DONATION** ... In memory of a dedicated citizen ... **SISTER ANNIE SANDERS** ... Who worked untiringly in her church and community for many years ... Because of her dedication to ... **LUBBOCK MEALS ON**

**WHEELS** ... An annual ... "ANNIE'S CHAT & CHEW" has been set up in her honor. This year's event will be held **SATURDAY, MARCH 19, 2005**, from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. ... at the Mae Simmons Senior Citizens Center ... 2004 Oak Avenue ... This event will benefit the Lubbock Meals on Wheels ... Donations ... will be accepted at the door ... Keep in mind ... Lubbock Meals on Wheels ... Make sure our homebound citizens ... are served with a needy meal ... Will you help? Hope so!

**THANKS, CITY OF LUBBOCK! THIS N THAT** ... Has noticed that the corner of ... **GLOBE AVENUE & EAST 24TH STREET** ... is looking much better ... because of the hard work by the Street Department ... **THIS N THAT** ... wants you to know that we see what you have done and are doing in our community ... It is just good sometimes ... to let those know we appreciate what they are doing ... **THANKS!**

**VERY INTERESTING, STATE REP. JONES! THIS N THAT** ... Observed that ... **STATE REPRESENTATIVE DELWIN JONES** ... has made an announcement that he will seek another term in the State Representative office next year ... After serving more than 24 years ... And is high on the seniority list ... Many voters don't understand the importance of seniority ... but believe it ... It is very important ... It could be that ... **STATE REP. JONES** ... has heard that there are some high **PUBLIC** ... profile citizens who want his seat ... Very good move, State Rep. Jones ... It's never hard when you are on the offensive ... and not defending your record all the time ... Should

be a very interesting year ... that is ... 2005!

**ANOTHER INTERESTING RACE! THIS N THAT** ... remembers clearly last summer when sitting city councilman ... **TCM MARTIN** ... who also serves as mayor pro tem ... stated that he was going to take a shot at the mayor's post in 2006 ... But since that time ... after a highly visible Lubbock citizen ... **DAVID MILLER** ... has announced with vigor ... he will seek this post ... Now ... Brother Martin says he will wait until this summer to make up his mind ... **THIS N THAT** ... suggests that if you study 'ong ... then you study wrong ... Better make up your mind soon, Tom Martin ... Anyway ... this race too ... will be a very interesting one ... With all the press ... **BROTHER MARTIN** ... is receiving these days ... as well as Brother Gary Boren ... will that be enough to receive a vote of confidence from the Lubbock voters ... Really ... it will take more than publicity ... **THIS N THAT** ... really believes this mayor's race will be determined by ... **PEOPLE OF COLOR!** ... What do you think ... **TOM MARTIN?**

**PENNY HASTINGS THE BARBER SAYS: "YOU CAN'T SPEAK A KIND WORD too soon ... For you never know how soon it will be TOO LATE!"**

**HAVE YOU VISITED A PUBLIC SCHOOL? THIS N THAT** is still encouraging those who will ... to go and visit a ... **PUBLIC SCHOOL** ... as soon as you can ... Did you know that it is not long before our children ... Will take their annual spring break ... Better get busy seeing that our kids are learning.

computer use and can teach you about that, but will be vague on most anything else. We need experts in the area of subject matter which can be taught through the use of a computer.

Businesses complain that students are not ready for the workforce when they leave high school and college. If this is the case, industry needs to set up guidelines for us in elementary, high school and college by which education can be relevant to what industry wants. As a matter of fact, the school board should definitely have members of industry as a part of its makeup. It is time to get "in cinque" and for a change, plan on education with a plan which will be of some significance rather than changing strategy because it seems better than what you are doing. Do what is needed to bring education up to par with what is expected and needed in the work world today.

## Strengthening and securing Social Security: Four Pillars to Retirement

[Editor's Note: This is the second of three columns on the upcoming Social Security issue which will be debated on Capitol Hill in Washington, D. C. later this month. The author of these columns is George Scott, retired educator and a Community Volunteer for AARP.]

### 'Four Pillars To Retirement'

There are four pillars to retirement security and only one that is risk free - Social Security. The others pillars are pensions and savings; continued earnings; and health insurance.

But, less than half of working Americans have a pension plan where they work. Personal savings are at an all-time low.

The average older American now spends nearly a third of his or her income on health care. And although many older Americans are having to work longer, age discrimination and a weak job market limit what they can earn.

The fact is, Social Security supplies nearly half of the income for many older Americans. The percentages are even higher among minority populations. And for one-third of beneficiaries, especially older women, Social Security is all that stands between them and a life of abject poverty.

The first thing we need to know is that Social Security is strong. Instead of a major overhaul, it needs fine-tuning to make sure it remains strong.

While it is true that in 2018, Social Security will begin paying out more that it takes in, the Trust Fund will be large enough to pay 100 percent of promised benefits through 2042. After that, if no changes were made, there would still be enough Social Security money coming in to pay about 70 percent of all benefits for decades beyond.

But, by making sensible changes now, we can honor our obligations to all generations, both present and future.

Here are two examples among many suggested by experts that could strengthen Social Security for the future:

First, the current maximum wage subject to Social Security payments in 2005. Raising that cap to \$140,000 - phased-in over 10 years - would lower Social Security's projected shortfall by 43 percent.

This is fair because higher wage earners have recently benefited from substantial tax cuts and other subsidies for their investment and retirement accounts.

Second, Social Security's Trust Fund investments could be diversified to increase the likelihood of higher returns.

Today, the Trust Fund can only be invested in special Treasury bonds, similar to the Treasury certificates of deposit that you or I can buy. These are

safe investments, but they have a modest rate of return - currently about 6%.

Investing some of these funds in a broad stock index and, as most other pension systems do, could yield higher returns. This would spread the risk across the whole population and all generations, unlike private accounts.

Administrative costs would be far less than for millions of personal accounts. Diversifying investment in this way could lower the expected shortfall by 15 percent.

Taken together, these two reasonable steps would lower Social Security's shortfall by more than half - and that is just for starters. There are other steps, short of gambling with risky private accounts that could strengthen the program even more.

Final Column next week: "Concepts of Private Accounts."

## In Cinque

by Renetta Howard

It is time for us as Americans to re-evaluate our educational systems in the various states. It appears that our children are not mastering the subject matter put before them to learn.

Technology has thrown traditional education into an informal jlg. Traditional teaching methods are no longer making the grade. Our teachers are not coming out of college prepared to work with today's youth.

Today's youth can spill off all of the words to a rap song without giving it a thought. Most of these "songs" cannot be understood by the average person over thirty years old. Our youth can also sit in front of a computer and do things with one that the average person over thirty years old cannot do or understand. These children have been being taught by television long before they enter school and they are not ready to sit down and learn to write their name and attempt to put letters together to make the spoken world. They already know how to speak and do not see the need to learn to read, write or do arithmetic. There are computers that can do all of that for them. There is a computer now that will write what they say; no need to type in anything. The written word just does not mean a lot to them, yet very few computer programs for anything except Reading has been available to young students. There are a few Mathematics programs available, but most of the available programs teach a few lessons, but are not available for a semester of class work.

Computer class work is available for teaching a computer usage class and that is usually where the teaching stops. Subject matter computer programs are basically enrichment programs, but not basic curriculum programs; therefore, the average Computer Science college major is acquainted with programs related to

computer use and can teach you about that, but will be vague on most anything else. We need experts in the area of subject matter which can be taught through the use of a computer.

Businesses complain that students are not ready for the workforce when they leave high school and college. If this is the case, industry needs to set up guidelines for us in elementary, high school and college by which education can be relevant to what industry

wants. As a matter of fact, the school board should definitely have members of industry as a part of its makeup. It is time to get "in cinque" and for a change, plan on education with a plan which will be of some significance rather than changing strategy because it seems better than what you are doing. Do what is needed to bring education up to par with what is expected and needed in the work world today.

The Southwest Digest is an independent newspaper serving the Lubbock, West Texas, South Plains of Texas and Eastern New Mexico areas printing the news impartially supporting what it believes to be right without opposing what it believes to be wrong without regard to party politics.

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# West Texas Dust: Just dirt or a health risk?

by Dr. Nick C. Parker

A lot has been said about the dust bowl days of the 1930's. William Faulkner's *Grapes of Wrath* painted a vivid picture of those fleeing the devastation of the dust bowl and the Great Depression. Today, in Lubbock, Texas, we still have the occasional sand storm. Some storms are so dark that they block out the sun; the streetlights turn on in midday. But is all of this "dirt" in the air really sand?

I renovated a house built in 1934 in the South Overton Park neighborhood of Lubbock. It was remodeled with one addition in the 1950's and again with another addition in the 1960's. During the renovation I removed 10 gallons of dirt from each 48 square ft. of attic space constructed in 1934. The addition built in the 1950's did not have enough dirt in 48 sq. ft. that it could be

measured in a gallon bucket.

What was this "dirt"? Was it sand and clay (inorganic compounds) or was it hazardous organic compounds? Mold, leaf litter, cotton lint, cotton stalks, cattle manure and any other living, or dead, plants or animals, or their waste products, are organic compounds.

When the wind blows in West Texas, the dirt moves. The National Arbor Day Foundation reports from the Cooperative Extension Service that an acre of topsoil can contain "about 900 pounds of earthworms, 2,400 pounds of fungi, 1,500 pounds of bacteria, 133 pounds of protozoa, and 890 pounds of insects and other arthropods". Now, when the "dirt" blows in from a cotton field in West Texas, how much of the "dirt" is inorganic sand or clay and how much is an organic product?

Few of us are allergic to sand or clay but many of us are allergic to pollen, plants, animal, mold, and other organic compounds.

When the "dirt" blows it streams into older houses and creeps and seeps into even new and tightly built houses and buildings.

Heating and air conditioning units with forced air circulation pick up this fine dust and deposit it on coils, in ducts, on grills, on walls, ceilings, floors, and furniture. The bulk, probably more than 99%, of this material is often organic.

Mold, mildew, and mushrooms are all fungi. Mold spores are one of the most common and abundant particles in air. We are almost constantly breathing in mold and mold spores. Most people tolerate mold and mold spore at low levels. However, high efficiency particulate arrestors, commonly called HEPA filters, may concentrate mold on the filter surfaces of forced-air heating and cooling systems. Mold produces, and releases, gaseous compounds called mycotoxins. These toxic compounds pass through the filters and are circulated by the

forced-air system. Some air cleaning technologies such as activated charcoal filters will absorb and remove gaseous compounds such as mycotoxins. However, activated charcoal, like a cup, can only hold so much material and then it fills up and the mycotoxins spill through.

Technologies using ultraviolet lights and light-activated reactors can not only kill mold, and mold spores, but will also destroy mycotoxins.

With 1,500 pounds of bacteria per acre of topsoil, a large component of the West Texas "dirt" is bacteria. Most bacteria are harmless and some are even essential in healthy people. However, others such as the coliform bacteria (*Escherichia coli*) are found in the gut of warm-blooded animals. *E. coli* presents a human health hazard when they contaminate food or become airborne and are taken in by breathing.

An article in the Journal of the American Medical Association in

November, 2003, reported that 23 people were treated in a hospital after visiting a county fair in Ohio. Initially, it was thought that the patients suffered from food poisoning. After further investigation, their illness was attributed to airborne *E. coli* of the O157 strain from an animal show barn. Six individuals were hospitalized and two suffered kidney failure. Seven months after close of the fair, viable *E. coli* was found in dust on the rafters of the show barn. *E. coli* has been known to survive in the environment for over 10 months. It presents a long-term and on-going health risk.

Machines are available that can kill airborne bacteria, such as *E. coli*, and reduce health hazards from airborne "dirt". These machines are available as stand-alone, self-contained units, or as units coupled to forced-air heating and cooling systems. Some indoor air quality machines not only protect your health, they also remove

odors, smoke, and dust to protect your prized possessions and make breathing easier.

Dr. Nick C. Parker, President, American Air Scrubbers, Inc. is also Chief Scientist for Global Scientific, Inc., and Chief Scientist for Global Green Power. He's a retired federal employee with 32 years of service including research scientist and laboratory director for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and research scientist with the U.S. Geological Survey. For 15 years as a federal scientist, he was assigned to Texas Tech University as a professor where he was leader of the Texas Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit. Today, he is professor emeritus in the Department of Biology, Texas Tech University. Dr. Parker, a member of numerous professional organizations, has over 150 scientific publications, and is recognized both nationally and internationally. He can be e-mailed at parker@americanairscrubbers.com

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