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Southwest Digest

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The Mark Twain of America
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to Freedom

A newspaper for the first century, representing the Black community's ideas and ideals since 1977.
January 4 - 10, 2007

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Dr. Lydia Jackson Waters to deliver citywide sermon for Martin Luther King Celebration



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 2nd Tuesday 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/Manhattan Heights Neighborhood Association meets every 1st Thursday at 6:00 pm and every 4th Thursday at 7:00 pm at the Dunbar-Manhattan Heights Neighborhood Office each Center at 1301 East 24th St.
- 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 at 7:00 pm
- West Texas Native American Association meets 2nd Saturday each month at Groves Library, 5520 19th Street, 7:30 pm.
- 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 Hunt Elementary.
- Chatman Hill Neighborhood Association meets the 2nd Thursday of every month at 6:00 pm, at Hies Elementary Cafeteria.
- Estacado High School Alumni & Faculty Class Reunion meetings are held the second and third Sundays at the Patterson Library, 1836 Parkway Drive, beginning at 7:00 p.m. All Estacado Alumni & Faculty are invited for the 40th All Class Reunion.

The Martin Luther King Commemorative Council of Lubbock, Inc. will sponsor its 36th Annual Celebration January 12 thru 15, 2007. This year's theme is "From Whence We Come! Where Do We Go From Here? Answer The Call!"

Dr. Lydia Jackson Waters, a former resident of Lubbock, will be the speaker for the Citywide Celebration on Sunday afternoon, January 13th, at the Lakeridge United Methodist Church, 4701 82nd Street, beginning at 5:00 p. m.

Dr. Waters is a retired Pastor of the Crossroads/Nija Panda United Methodist Church of Compton, California.

Dr. Waters was born and educated in Texas. Her undergraduate studies were done at Texas Tech University. Her graduate studies were done both at Southern Methodist University/Perkins School of Theology in Dallas and the Claremont School of Theology in Claremont, California. She graduated from the Claremont School of Theology with a Master of Divinity Degree and received the Doctor of Divinity from the Southern California School of Ministry.

Pastor Waters has a diverse background. Prior to her full-time pastorate, she was active in the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960 and 70's,



Dr. Lydia Jackson Waters

being among the first eight African American students who integrated Texas Tech University in Lubbock, and being the first African American female, in North Texas, to 'robe up' as a

ministerial candidate, mentored by Dr. Zan Holmes, Jr. She was also a member of the Domestic Peace Corp in Harlem, New York. Prior to leaving Texas in 1984, she was a Human

Development Consultant for the Foundation for Educational Skills, and an Account Executive for the Public Broadcasting System (PBS), Channel 13 in Dallas.

In 1984, Dr. Waters moved to the California-Pacific Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. In her conference, Dr. Waters has been a member of the Board of Ordained Ministry, Chairperson of Ethnic Scholarships and Recruitment for the Board of Ordained Ministry, member of the Episcopacy Committee and Long Beach District Chairperson for Urban Ministries. Rev. Waters is a Church Growth Consultant with the General Board of Global Ministries and she was elected National President of the Black Clergywomen of the United Methodist Church for terms.

After pasturing a circuit of four churches and a circuit of two churches in Texas, Rev. Waters was appointed to Crossroads/Nija Panda United Methodist Church in Compton, California in 1985. She enjoyed a long term pastorate of nineteen years at Crossroads. Under her leadership the church grew; spiritually, numerically, financially, and programmatically; from 50 members to 800 members. In those nineteen years as a successful merger was conducted, a new sanctuary was acquired and paid for and the

congregation purchased a new parsonage. The church also completed a half-million dollar building project that includes classrooms, administrative offices and a fellowship/training hall. Crossroads/Nija Panda was named among the twenty-five churches chosen as Resource Centers for the General Conference initiative, "Strengthening the Black Church for the twenty-first Century."

Dr. Waters retired from full-time pastorate ministry in the summer of 2005 and now lives in Trophy Club, Texas. She is a sought after preacher, church consultant, and workshop leader across the nation. She is the mother of three children, ages 38, 36 and 22; the grandmother of six.

The Martin Luther King Commemorative Banquet will be held Friday night, January 12th at the McIntruff Center UMC, 602 Indiana Avenue, beginning at 6:30 p.m. Speaker of the evening will be Dr. Gladys Whitten.

Saturday evening, January 13th, the Youth and Young Adult Night will be held at Alderson Middle School, 219 Walnut Avenue, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

The celebration will climax on Monday evening, January 15th, with an Old Time Gospel Night at Mt. Gilead Baptist Church, 2512 Fir Avenue, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Will Smith scores another "happy" movie hit

Not even a dragon or the world's most-beloved spider could deny Will Smith another first-place finish at the box office.

Sony's father-son drama "The Pursuit of Happyness," starring Smith and his own son, Jaden Christopher Syre Smith, debuted as the No. 1 movie with \$27 million, according to studio estimates Sunday.

Smith's latest topped 20th Century Fox's dragon fantasy "Eragon," which opened in second place with \$23.45 million, and Paramount's children's tale "Charlotte's Web," which premiered a distant third with \$12 million.

The previous weekend's No. 1 movie, Mel Gibson's Mayan saga "Apocalypto," fell to sixth place with \$7.7 million, raising its 10-day total to \$27.9 million. The story of a struggling dad who becomes homeless along with his young son, "Pursuit of Happyness" joins a long line of No. 1 openings for Smith, including the action tales "Independence Day" and "I, Robot."

"Audiences around the world love him," said Rory Bruer, head of distribution at Sony, whose past hits with Smith include the "Men in Black" flicks and last year's romantic comedy "Hitch."

"Everyone who sees Will Smith or meets Will Smith feels like he could be their best friend," Bruer said. "He has that type of charisma that resonates throughout whatever room he's in."

Combining live action and computer animation, "Charlotte's Web" had a soft opening despite an all-star voice cast including Julia Roberts, Robert Redford and Oprah Winfrey in E.B. White's classic about a spider that befriends a lonely pig.

Don Harris, executive vice president of distribution at Paramount, said the studio hopes "Charlotte's Web" will follow the pattern of other pre-Christmas family releases such as "Stuart Little" and "The Prince of Egypt," which opened in the same range but held on through the holidays to become hits.

"The movie has every chance to get to \$100 million off of this opening," Harris said.

Paramount's musical "Dreamgirls" starring Jamie Foxx, Beyonce Knowles, Eddie Murphy and Jennifer Hudson in an adaptation of the stage hit, opened to big numbers at three theaters in New York, Los Angeles and San Francisco.

Premiering with reserved seating and special programs at a premium ticket price of \$25, the



Will Smith and his son Jaden portray a real life father and son in their new movie, Pursuit of Happyness. Will Smith has been nominated for a Golden Globe for his role.

film took in \$360,000, a healthy start to its nationwide release on Christmas.

George Clooney and Steven Soderbergh's latest collaboration, "The Good German," debuted solidly with \$78,572 at five theaters. Clooney stars with Cate Blanchett and Tobey Maguire in a black-and-white tale of murder and intrigue in Berlin just after World War II.

Overall business was off, with the top 12 movies taking in \$112.3 million, down 8.3 percent compared to the same weekend last year, when two blockbusters - "King Kong" and "The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe" - were Nos. 1 and 2.

This weekend's holdover films retained strong audiences, though, a sign that many current movies may have a long shelf life, said Paul Dergarabedian, president of box-office tracker Media By Numbers.

"It's hard to say this is a positive thing that this is a down weekend. But the strength of this weekend has been the holdovers," Dergarabedian said. "There is a lot of depth to the marketplace. It's a direct reflection of audience satisfaction. That's more important I think than beating last year's competition."

Carolyn Traylor to make TV-One television debut

Jackson, MS - TV-One's hit gospel music program, The Gospel of Music with Jeff Majors has aired more than three hundred episodes giving the stage to legendary artists and provided opportunities for rising stars to broaden their horizons; one such star being Carolyn Traylor (Malaco Records).

Traylor, blazing a trail for herself with a powerful voice and show-stopping live performance likened to those of Grammy-winning soul diva Patti LaBelle, will appear on the 2007 season opener of TV-One's Gospel of Music with Jeff Majors on Sunday, January 14, 2007, at 8 pm. Other featured



Traylor

artists on this episode include the late Grammy nominated R & B legend, Gerald Levert in his last television performance. TV-One airs on Dish TV,

Channel 241. For cable listing, check your local cable provider.

Providers of TV-One's The Gospel of Music with Jeff Majors, an Oliver Beach Productions, state, "Carolyn Traylor is incredibly talented. Her performance is soooo powerful. We see stars in her future."

"Carolyn Traylor is a phenomenal vocalist. Malaco Records has high expectations for her sophomore project "There's A Story Behind My Praise and her future," comments Tommy Couch, Sr., President of Malaco Records. B. A. Johnson, Executive Director - Gospel Division state, "There's A Story Behind

My Praise has become one of the most requested songs in many major markets across the nation. Demand is so high we are servicing the single with a 12 x 12 poster to all stations with gospel formats as well as independent programmers to ensure everyone has a copy. There's A Story Behind My

Praise CD release is quickly becoming recognized simply as 54 minutes of pure Gospel power." Industry professionals have dubbed Carolyn Traylor as the 'one to watch' in the new year.

There's A Story Behind My Praise is available in stores or from www.malaco.com

If you have an announcement you want to appear in this paper, there are three ways to get information to us:

Southwest Digest
Community Meetings
902 E. 28th St.
Lubbock, TX 79404

Fax: (806) 762-4605

email us at:
swdigest@shglobal.net

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If you find mistakes in this publication, please remember that the staff of this paper are only human. We publish things for all sorts of events, but unfortunately, some people are always looking for something to criticize.



Chatman Hills Corner

By Doris Reynolds

This writer wants to remind you of the monthly meeting of the Federation of Choirs which meets the fourth Sunday of each month. This month, the St. John Baptist Church, where Rev. Solomon Fields is pastor, is the host church. Federation of Choirs will meet Sunday afternoon, January 28, 2007, beginning at 2:30 p.m. Why not start the year off by attending.

Sister Bennie Sims is president.

The Martin Luther King Commemorative Council of Lubbock will sponsor the 36th Annual Celebration which will get underway Friday evening, January 12, 2007 with the annual banquet. Speaker for the evening will be Dr. Gladys Whitten. This event will be held at the McInturff Center of UMC, 602 Indiana Avenue, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Saturday evening, January 13, 2007, Youth and Young Adult Night will be held at Alderson Middle School, 219 Walnut Avenue, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

The annual Citywide Celebration will be held at Lakeridge United Methodist Church, 4701 82nd Street, Sunday evening, January 14, 2007, beginning at 5:00 p.m. Guest speaker will be Dr. Lydia Jackson-Waters, retired Pastor of

Crossroads/Nija Parda United Methodist Church in Compton, California. Dr. Waters is a graduate of Dunbar High School and Texas Tech University.

Monday evening, January 15, 2007, an Old Time Gospel Night will be held at the Greater St. Luke Baptist Church, 306 East 26th Street, Rev. J. H. Ford, pastor. Services will begin at 8:30 p.m.

The public is invited to attend these services as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. stood tall for all of God's people!

Shelia Harris and daughter, Arya Harris, returned from visiting her son and brother, Rev. Zairous Patterson, in Ontario, California. They were gone from December 23rd until January 1, 2007. Despite the cold and snow, they reported a safe and wonderful trip.

A special congratulations to one of our citizens, Mrs. Mae Phea for being awarded with outstanding Christmas decorations on her residence at 1819 East 24th Street. This presentation was made by Lubbock United Neighborhood Association, LUNA. Oh, yes, Sister Phea we saw what you have done! Congratulations!

Let us not forget those who are on the sick and shut-in list in

our community. You may not be on the list this week, but who knows what the future holds. Just be thankful you are not and continue to pray for those who are sick and shut-in.

Also, let's not forget those families who have lost loved ones. Among those families are the Viva L. Gambles family and the Freddie James Butler, Sr. family. Remember, God is able.

Church services were well attended last Sunday morning, December 31, 2006, at the New Hope Baptist Church, the Church Where The People Really Care. Rev. B. R. Moton is pastor. If you are looking for a church home, then come and visit New Hope.

Services began with Meditation and Prayer. The Praise Team filled our hearts with splendid selections of joy. After the morning scripture and prayer, several selections were sung by the New Hope Choir.

Pastor Moton delivered a powerful sermon entitled "A Change Is Needed!" His scripture text was Ezekiel 36:22-29. It was a most enlightening sermon for all in attendance.

After an invitation to discipleship was extended, the morning announcements were read by Sister Glenda Mooney. Sister Celestine Kyle welcomed all visitors.

In Remembrance

Freddie James Butler, Sr.

Funeral services for Freddie James Butler, Sr. were held Saturday afternoon, December 30, 2006, at the First Progressive Baptist Church with Rev. Homer Avery, pastor, and Rev. Alvin Butler, officiating.

Burial was held in the City of Lubbock Cemetery under the direction of Griffine Mortuary and Funeral Home of Lubbock.

He passed away Tuesday, December 26, 2006, at Southwest Regional Medical Complex.

He was born January 17, 1936 to James and Elnora Butler in Wharton, Texas. Later, he moved to Lubbock with his wife, Pauline Banks Bugler. He was known as the first African American Disc Jockey in Lubbock.

He is survived by seven children: Freddie Butler, Jr., Freddie Lee Butler, Jerry D. Butler, Betty Wilkerson, Carolyn Childress, Cheryl Butler, and Stacey Mitchell, all of Lubbock; a brother, Alvin Butler of Cedar Rapids, Iowa; three sisters, Ina Mae Page,

Amie Dial and Willie Bea Dial, all of Lubbock; 21 grandchildren; 20 great-grandchildren, all of Lubbock.

He is preceded in death by his parents, his wife, and sister, Ester Carry.

Viva L. Gambles

Funeral services for Viva L. Gambles were held Saturday morning, December 29, 2006, at the Agape Temple Church of God in Christ, 4510 Avenue Q, with Bishop William H. Watson, pastor, officiating.

Interment was held in the City of Lubbock Cemetery under the direction of Resthaven Funeral Home of Lubbock.

She passed away on Christmas Eve, December 24, 2006.

She was the first born of the late T. C. and Viola Robinson in Buffalo, Texas on April 13, 1925. She married Samuel Gambles of Hubbard, Texas in 1940. He preceded her in death May 8, 1971. They moved to Lubbock in 1955 and along with other families

established the Ford Memorial Church of God in Christ. She has continued to support the church under the name of Agape Temple Church of God in Christ.

Also preceding her in death include her son, John Lee; three brothers: Fred Henry, T. C. Robinson, Jr., and Jerry Robinson; and seven sisters: Lula Mae Birds, Donnie Lee, Ella Jewel, Urza Mae, Nelda Viola and Viola.

Those who will cherish her memory are: two sisters, Mimmie Mae and Patsy Ruth; a brother, Johnny Robinson; five sons: Samuel, Jr. and Charles, both of Lubbock, Eric of New Iberia, La., Richard of Amarillo, and Steven of Lake Dallas; four daughters: Avis of Dayton, Ohio, Earlene of Longview, Alline of Amarillo and Odessa of Lubbock; 30 grandchildren; 55 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

FASHION FUN
by Shirley Roberson
Fly sleeve blouses

They are hot, hot, hot. Fly sleeve blouses are extremely popular. The cute dainty and innocent designs focus greatly on femininity. It's a young fresh carefree

look that will look great on any woman, regardless of her age. It's all about the sleeve. Ladies there's a lot of action in the sleeve. Loose and free, it totally compliments the exotic feel of the blouse. Different lengths, colors, patterns and styles offer you a very different look. Ladies this magnificent top moves, flatters and flies. What more can you ask for? TAKE A CHANCE, SLIP INTO ONE... AND FLY, FLY, FLY!

FASHION TIP: Always wear a smile! FASHION - Just for the fun of it!

Hosting an exchange student can change lives

World Heritage Student Exchange program, a public benefit organization, is seeking local host families for high school boys and girls from France, Germany, Thailand, Japan, Mexico, Switzerland, Denmark and Italy. Students are already awaiting word of their host family for 2007-2008 academic school year. Host families provide room, board, and guidance for a teenager living thousands of miles from home. Couples, single parents, and families with and without children in the home are all encour-

aged to apply. The exchange students arrive from their home country shortly before school begins fall 2007. Each World Heritage student is fully insured, brings his/her own personal spending money and expects to bear his/her share of household responsibilities, as well as being included in normal family activities and lifestyles. Celebrate the New Year by choosing to host an exchange student. For more information, call Tony Bako at 1-800-888-9040 or visit our website at www.world-heritage.org.

LSO's new production to honor military personnel

The Lubbock Symphony Orchestra's 60th Anniversary Season continues with a salute to servicemen and women with "America At War" which will be Friday and Saturday, January 12 & 13, 2007 at 8 p.m. in the Civic Center Theatre. Sponsored by ARMtech, the CH Foundation, and the Helen Jones Foundation, "America at War" is the fourth concert in the America Series that reflects aspects of American Culture. Veterans and active military wearing their uniform or medals will receive a free ticket to the concert for themselves and one other member of their family.

Veterans and active military may call the Lubbock Symphony Orchestra office at 762-1688 to reserve up to two free tickets to either performance of the "America at War" concert. To pick up the tickets the night of the concert, they should wear their uniform or medals to identify themselves and so they might be further honored during the concert.

In "America at War," conductor Jeffrey Pollock leads the orchestra in music that pays tribute to Americans who have committed their lives to the cause of freedom throughout the history of the nation. The struggles for democracy during the Civil War are revealed through the music and narration of *Lincoln Portrait* by Aaron Copland. The camaraderie of World War II servicemen on leave is recalled in Leonard Bernstein's *On the Town* and their determination emerges in *Command March* by Samuel Barber. Barber's war memorial piece, *Adagio for Strings*, evokes the mournful pride felt for those fallen in the fight. The piece also served as a theme for the Vietnam war film, *Platoon*. Beethoven's Fifth Symphony closes the concert with the famous "Victory" rhythm and conjures the journey from darkness to light, from times of conflict and strife to a time of triumph over adversity.

Conductor Jeffrey Pollock is

in his first season with the Fort Worth (TX) Symphony Orchestra. Before coming as Associate Conductor to Fort Worth, Pollock served as music director of the York Symphony Orchestra in Ontario, Canada.

Jonathan Marks, Interim Dean of the College of Visual and Performing Arts at Texas Tech University, will be narrating Copland's *Lincoln Portrait*. Prior to his appointment as interim dean, Dr. Marks was an associate professor, associate chair, head of acting/directing, and graduate advisor for the Department of Theatre and Dance at Texas Tech University. He continues to serve as the Director of the Texas Tech Ethics Initiative.

Single ticket prices for "America at War" are \$18 and \$32 for adults. Student pricing is also available. For more information or to buy tickets, call (806) 762-1688, visit www.lubbocksymphony.org, or stop by the LSO office at 1313 Broadway, Suite 2 in Lubbock.

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www.JoeArrington.org

The region's most advanced cancer treatment methods

Jack was living in England when his doctor discovered he had a brain tumor. But because of England's socialized medical system, Jack wouldn't be able to get any sort of follow-up care for three months. Afraid to wait that long, Jack called an old friend who worked at the Joe Arrington Cancer Research and Treatment Center (JACC). He recommended that Jack fly to Lubbock as soon as possible. Once he arrived, an expert team of oncologists

confirmed the brain cancer diagnosis. Fortunately, JACC offers the region's most advanced cancer treatment methods. Using some of the newest technology available, JACC oncologists were able to remove all traces of Jack's tumor without making a single incision. Jack was thrilled by the quality of care he received—and touched by the warm welcome he got in the Lone Star State. Today he's cancer-free—and proud to call Texas home.

Jack thought his brain tumor meant the end of the line.

Instead, it heralded a new beginning.



Manhattan Heights Church of Christ
763-0582 - Tyrone N. DuBose, Minister
1702 E. 26th St. (corner of E. 26th St. and Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.)

Sunday:
Bible Class - 9:00am
Worship - 10:15am
Evening Worship - 5:00pm

Wednesday:
Bible Class & Devotional - 7:00pm

God's Plan for Saving Man
All have sinned - Romans 3:23
Jesus Christ died for our sins - 1 Cor. 5:21; Acts 2:38
We must try 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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Church News



We Thank God for Jesus

Jesus Our Yo-Yo

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

Matthew 11:28 - Jesus said, come unto me, all of you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Many people don't know the Lord until big troubles come unto in their lives. Then they come running to the Lord, because they know he will be on their side!!

Matthew 7:21 - Jesus said, not everyone who said unto me, Lord, Lord shall enter into the Kingdom of Heaven, but he that do the will of my Father which is in heaven.

Many people use the Lord as Yo-Yo game. They only call on him when in trouble. Then they come running to Him with tears in their eyes, running on the double!!

Hebrews 4:16 - Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

*** Is God Your Yo-Yo??? ***

Then they cast him away, but when Mother gets hit with cancer, and it's for real. They come running back to the throne room of grace. To God, let's make a deal!!!

Psalms 103:3-4 - (God) who forgives all their iniquities who heals all your diseases who redeems your life from destruction who crowns thee with loving kindness and tender mercies.

After you made your deal and your Mother is healed, then

always you tell the Lord o go, but then your child is hurt. You need help again, and only the Lord's help you know!!!

Hebrews 8:11 - They shall not teach every man his neighbor, and every man his brother. Saying, know the Lord for all shall know me. From the least to the greater.

*** For What Reasons Do You Know The Lord??? ***

Then troubles come again. Your Dad is in the hospital, near death from an auto accident. Now it's double time back to the Lord, looking for God from the place he was last seen!!!

John 11:25 - Jesus said, I am the resurrection and the life. He that believe in me though he were dead, yet shall he live.

Then when we have lost our job, and about lose our Master Card, and home. Look out here we come running again. Back boldly to the grace from throne!!!

Exodus 20:5 - The Lord said, you shall not make unto you any graven image or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that it is in the earth beneath or that is in the water under the earth.

*** Are Jobs-Cars-Master Cards-Homes-Your Gods??? ***

I had a cousin who was imprisoned downtown at the Lubbock County Jail. He committed a crime, and needed help.

Then he called on God to god his bail!!!

He would call me many times on collect calls, not to talk about the Lord. But he knew he had to talk and pray with me or his business would be void!!!

*** God And Me, We're Not Your Yo-Yos!!! ***

Then when he got out of jail, only his work, and his own thing that will he do. As if to say to the Lord, I am out of jail now, and I don't have time for you!!!

Galatians 6:7-8 - Be not deceived, God is not mocked, for whatsoever a man sow, that shall he also reap. For he that sows to the flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption. But he that sows to the spirit shall of the spirit reap life everlasting.

(He with ears hear! The thing about sowing and reaping. You always get more that you sow. You can take a bucket of corn to the field and plant it. But when you harvest it, you will need a pick-up truck to bring it in. Because you will get 30% or 60% or 100%.)

Mark 4:19-20 - Jesus said, the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in. Choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful. These are they which are sowed on good ground, such as hear the word and receive it and bring forth fruit. Some thirty fold, some sixty, and some one hundred.

From the Desk of Parson D.A. Smith

Looking Back and Looking Forward

Investing in change for the American worker

Several months ago, I express my displeasure of how Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company treated their workers at the Tyler, Texas plant. I also mentioned the effect the closing of the plant in this city of 100,000 would have on the middle class. The closing of the plant has been personal because of relatives and friends and classmates who worked and invested their time, energy and heart in a plant and corporate leadership they trusted as their friend and support for their families.

You may remember how the corporate executives flew to Pounds field in their corporate jet and made a statement to the people of Tyler and the surrounding areas saying they would close the plant. They returned to the jet, taxi down the runway, turn the rear-end of the jet to 1100 Tyler workers sprayed them with an on there way to China fertilizing thoughts and went on back to Ohio.

Thanks to a weak union, they contracted a plan that allows the tire maker to close the Tyler, Texas plant in 2008, provided Goodyear closes a nonunion plant first. The Tyler workers are eligible for buy-outs of up to \$40,000, plus two

years' health benefits. Some workers whose plants will still be in operation are worried about foreign competition. They worry about how they are going to complete against foreign laborers who are making 50 cents an hour. Their new contract has a wage range of \$13 per hour to \$24 per hour and a cut in starting pay for new employees but a protection of pay for current workers.

Let me call things the way they are. If you work in a state like Texas that has a "right to work law" your chances of getting a fair play is slim and none. The EEOC is probably as worthless as a rudder on a bull. The worker is played against each other and the race card is used primarily to keep groups divided so the Neocons and waabees can continued to develop a caste-system exceeding the South African model where only a few will truly rule.

Black and white Americans are stealthily pitted against each other in many and varied ways. An example is illegal immigrants workers are employed to reduce financial and material worth and force white and black American workers to kiss the rear end of Baal because of reduced working wages. The prevailing lying thought: "Americans will

not do certain jobs that illegal aliens will do." I remember that as a boy I shovel fresh cow and horse manure out of stalls and barns to earn money to buy school clothes.

Middle class families who send their children to college find the cost of education has risen to the point that when their children graduate they are deeply in debt with a loan that is so tainted with rules a few miss payments could ruin their life forever. However, it appears that if you are not an American your loan, if there is one, is more than likely forgiven.

Our prayer is that in 2007, American will awaken to the reality that surrounds them and come to grip with the fact that we have lost our focus and are rapidly declining from a superpower to a rank of third world rating. We have left the gate open because of greed and utter stupidity to China and when they pull the economic string and say "Monkey dance and sing 'I feel good'" we will have no choice.

Our prayer is that in 2007 and beyond that, black and white Americans will arise from their stupor, say enough is enough to corporate and political interest, and put America back on track. We need to invest in change for America.

Outreach Prayer Breakfast

The Outreach Prayer Breakfast was organized more than 30 years ago. The first President was Sister Mary Ward.

The second Outreach Prayer Breakfast was organized in Littlefield in 1991. The President is Sister Betty Kemp.

The members are proud to announce that the third Outreach Prayer Breakfast was organized December 16, 2006 in Lubbock. The President is Sister Luella Spence.

The scriptures for these Outreach Prayer Breakfasts are: II Chronicles 7:14 and Mark 11:22-26. We meet once a month, and all that's needed to become a member is to have a good appetite two ways: physically & spiritually, and be present at the locations of meetings at 9:00 a.m. The place and time will appear in this article each month. You are encouraged to offer an input to all meetings. Men and

Women are Welcome! Come and be blessed, and to bless others.

The scripture says: "If my people which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and PRAY, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sins, and will heal their land."

Mark 11:22-26:

And Jesus is answering saith unto them, have Faith in God. For verily I say unto you, that whosoever shall say unto this mountain, be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass, he shall have whatsoever he saith. Therefore, I say unto you, what things so ever ye desire, when ye PRAY, believe that ye receive them and ye shall have them.

And when you stand

PRAYING, forgive. If you have OUGHT against any, that your Father also which is in heaven may FORGIVE you your trespasses. But if you do not forgive, NEITHER WILL YOUR FATHER which is in HEAVEN FORGIVE YOUR TRESPASSES.

Saints, think about these scriptures. Get them down in your spirit. Use them in your life everyday! You see, God is able!

We're hoping each of you had a blessed New Year's!!

The Outreach Prayer Breakfast will be meeting in the home of Rev. & Sister Larry Brooks, 1309 46th Place on Saturday, January 6, 2007. Hope to see you there!

Sister Dorothy Hood, President; Sister Christene Burleson, Vice President; Sister Elnora Jones, Teacher; and Sister Pattie White, Secretary. Sister Patricia, Assistant Secretary.

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St. Matthew's Baptist Church News

Church services were well attended Sunday morning, December 31, 2006, at the St. Matthew Baptist Church, 2020 East 14th Street, where Rev. Edward Canady is the proud pastor.

Services got underway with Sunday School beginning at 10:10 a.m. with Superintendent Sister Luella Harris in charge. The morning lesson was taught by Sister Harris, and reviewed by Pastor Canady. The lesson's subject was "Keeping The Balance." The scripture was Philippians 2:1-11. It was a very informative lesson.

The Mission Society and Senior Choir sung out of their hearts and souls. Indeed, it was a pleasure to hear God's praises in songs.

Rev. Canady delivered a powerful message. His subject was "The God That Answers By Fire, Let Him Be God." His scripture text was 1 King 18:17-24. We just thank God for the word!

Let us continue to pray for our sick and shut in members as well as those of our community and throughout our country. God is able!

Thought For The Week: "Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success." Happy New Year!

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Oprah opens academy for poor girls in South Africa

American talk show host Oprah Winfrey on Tuesday opened a \$40 million school for disadvantaged South African girls which she has paid for out of her own pocket.

The sleekly designed campus, sprawling 52 acres in a sleepy community south of Johannesburg, encompasses classrooms and laboratories equipped with flat screen computers, a yoga studio, beauty salon and well-stocked library.

"When you educate a girl you begin to change the face of a nation," said Winfrey. "The school is going to change the trajectory of their lives."

She said the Oprah Winfrey Leadership Academy for Girls was inspired by her own humble beginnings, struggling to survive with no electricity or running water, and as a former victim of physical and sexual abuse.

Former South African president Nelson Mandela, on hand for the opening celebration, praised Winfrey.

"This is not a distant donation you've made but a project that is clearly close to your heart," Mandela said. "South Africa should take a lesson from you about what personal



commitment means."

American singers Mariah Carey, Tina Turner and Mary J. Blige, comedian Chris Rock, actor Sydney Poitier, and filmmaker Spike Lee attended the star-studded school launch.

FAILING SCHOOLS

"The future is so bright for them it burns my eyes. They want to be presidents and doctors. We don't tell the girls to become anything but their own best self," said Winfrey.

Activists criticize the South African government for neglecting public schools particularly in poor and rural areas where classrooms are often overcrowded and inadequately fund-

ed. High levels of classroom violence, teenage pregnancy and drug abuse exacerbate the poor standard of education.

Winfrey said she hoped a better education could shield South Africa girls from contracting HIV, a disease that affects an estimated 5.5 million of South Africa's 45 million people.

"Girls who are educated are less likely to get HIV/AIDS, and in this country which has such a pandemic, we have to begin to change the pandemic," she said.

While authorities seek to expand a program to waive school fees for some of the

poorest South Africans, many believe that the legacy of apartheid-era laws remain a disadvantage for underprivileged black students.

Private schools are, in large part, reserved for white pupils whose parents can afford tuition payments.

The first batch of 152 mostly black students, chosen from thousands of applicants, will eventually be followed by another 300 girls between Grades 7 and 12, Winfrey said.

Admission criteria mean the family of each girl must earn less than 60,000 rand (\$8,663) annually to get their foot in the door. After that, pupils were hand-picked by Winfrey for displaying strong leadership qualities in interviews.

Tuition and board is free at the residential school.

"Where we live there are lots of gangsters and I want to change all of that," Noxolo Buthelezi, 13, said in her new school uniform - a forest green pleated skirt and jacket and colored white shirt.

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Tim Pearson, Owner

Volunteer Center to hold workshop

The Volunteer Center of Lubbock will conduct a customer service workshop titled Customer Service: It's So Simple! On January 18, 2007 from 1:30 to 4:00 p.m. at the Underwood Center for Arts, located at 511 Avenue K. Registration begins at 1:00 p.m.

This workshop focuses on the fact that all nonprofit organizations have a client or customer base they strive to serve and informs the organizations on how they can better serve their customers.

It's so Simple explores Southwest Airlines' successful customer service philosophy and applies it to the nonprofit sector. This workshop is authentic, about simple values, and outlines how a group can choose to be extraordinary. This interactive session will provide ideas for building a culture of excellent customer service for both internal and external clients, as well as sharing findings as to what customers really want!

Lindsae Snider, Director of Professional Development & Public Relations for Frenship Independent School District, will present this workshop.

The registration deadline is January 11, 2007. The cost of the workshop is \$30 per person for Volunteer Center Agency Partners and \$40 per person for non-agency partners. Contact the Volunteer Center at 747-0551 or visit www.volunteer-lubbock.org to register or for more information.

The Volunteer Center of

Lubbock is a United Way Agency that connects volunteers and empowers nonprofit organizations. In the past year, the Volunteer Center of Lubbock made over 27,000 volunteer referrals in support of more than 350 agencies. The Volunteer Center's Youth Connection programs support youth volunteerism and leadership development. Last year, more than 8,900 youth devoted 109,000 hours to support the work of 150 agencies benefiting 65,000 people.

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Gospel of Prosperity: Does wealth mean you're blessed?

Part One of a Three Part Series on the Black Church

By Angela Bronner, AOL Black Voices

Hip-hop soul legend Mary J. Blige has always let it be known that God was an important part of her life and upbringing. From vignettes on her album to her off-present cross, the born-again Christian insists that God wants her to have nice things. In a recent 'Blender' magazine article, the sometimes downtrodden diva stated:

"My God is a God who wants me to have things. He wants me to bling. He wants me to be the hottest thing on the block. I don't know what kind of God the rest of y'all are serving, but the God I serve says, 'Mary, you need to be the hottest thing this year, and I'm gonna make sure you're doing that.'"

Could Mary J. be a proponent of what many term "The Gospel of Prosperity?"

Though not an organized religion, the prosperity gospel is an increasingly-popular view commonly found in televangelical preachings and in Pentecostal churches; it claims God wants Christians to be successful in every way, especially in their finances. Given face by African-American television ministers such as Creflo Dollar and Rev. Frederick K.C. Price (real names), prosperity proponents state that the true Christian has only to ask for material wealth and it will be granted.

Yet, if a Christian is not enjoying these benefits, then it's because they either have not asked for them or because they have some blockage in their lives which is preventing God from blessing them. Furthermore, some critics of these individual preachers and the movement itself say the only ones becoming prosperous are the ministers themselves. "It's materialism, it's the marketplace, it's also about the black middle class trying to alleviate its conscience about dealing with those who are less fortunate," says minister, author and professor for Africana studies at the University of Pennsylvania, Michael Eric Dyson. "Why didn't we have the Gospel of Prosperity during King's day? All of a sudden, we can track it. The expansion of the black middle class has also created the necessity for a theology that will justify our status."

Dollar, 41, who is not obligated to disclose his finances because his church is tax-exempt, appears to be financially fit. His World Changers megachurch, founded in Atlanta in 1986, now has over 25,000 members with an annual operating budget of over \$80 million. Dollar, who has a multi-million dollar mansion in Atlanta and two Rolls Royces, flies on his private jet every Saturday to New York City, where in October 2004, he started a congregation.

He owns a \$2.5 million Manhattan apartment in the exclusive Time Warner Center, and collects over \$345,000 a month for the New York church, which he says stays there to build it. Before making the physical move to New York, the city was Dollar's largest television market. Packed to the rafters with people of all ages and races, Rev. Dollar's World Changers New York fills Madison Square Garden's Theater each week. Dollar's affable manner, clever witticisms ("I'ma preach a wig off your head tonight!") and clear rules for living based on the Bible make for good television and an even larger congregation.

"To be broke means you lack," shouts Dollar from the stage, filled with a modern choir and five-piece band, including violinist. Overhead hangs a huge "World Changers" banner with people of all colors looking fulfilled. There is also a translator for the hearing impaired.

Dollar always qualifies prosperity as not just material things, but also love, relationships and health. "I'll never be broke another day in my life," he commands the audience to say. "Turn to two

people and say it." Two offerings are taken before the reverend began his main sermon, the audience reflecting an almost game-show like atmosphere, as Dollar asked those who experienced "increase this week" to bring up their offerings. Hundreds of blue envelopes flooded the air as people wave them madly. "If you have experiential increase this week, and would like to make a first offering, we rejoice."

Richard "Ricke" Williams, 24, a film producer from Patterson, New Jersey has been attending World Changers New York services since September, 2005. "I joined that day," says Williams. "It's been great. I've grown a lot as an individual; I'm a different person."

"Prosperity is key, but not necessarily financial prosperity," continues Williams. "[Rev. Dollar] gets in trouble with the media about this, but he wants us to prosper in our soul, health, family, mentally and spiritually. You can have a million dollars but your family is in disarray. You can have money and not be prosperous. Finances is just one part of it."

There are as many Bible verses to support prosperity as there are to skewer it. Dyson, like many critics of the prosperity churches, points out that many prominent Christians and even Jesus himself, was not a rich man. Dollar, however, points to Biblical titans such as Solomon and David, who were wealthy. For every verse that says it's easier for a camel to get through an eye of a needle than for a rich man to get into heaven [Mark 10:25], there is another which states that Jesus came so that "they may have life, and they might have it more abundantly." [John 10:10]

"So now, we have a theology that says that the only way, or the primary way God blesses us is through having a Mercedes or a nice Rolex or some nice diamonds or some nice clothes and a nice place to live," says Dyson. "All that's great, but the question is, is that the unalterable sign of God's blessing? If that's the case, Jesus was the greatest failure as a Christian we've ever seen."

Dyson continues, "Jesus was a revolutionary. Jesus spoke against the common order of the day. Jesus spoke against the status quo. That Jesus didn't go to the White House to try to curry favor. That Jesus spoke prophesy in ways that made leaders uncomfortable, in fact, they wanted to kill him," he says. "We have to ask the question, what are you doing? Do these ministers speak about racism? Do they speak about sexism or homophobia? Do they talk out against the issues of the day? Yes, people call His name, but they're not preaching His gospel."

"[Dollar] doesn't get paid from the church, but from writing



Jeff Vespa, WireImage.com
Mary J. Blige looks prosperous in a diamond-studded cross and fur. The crooner was recently quoted saying "My God is a God who wants me to have things. He wants me to bling."

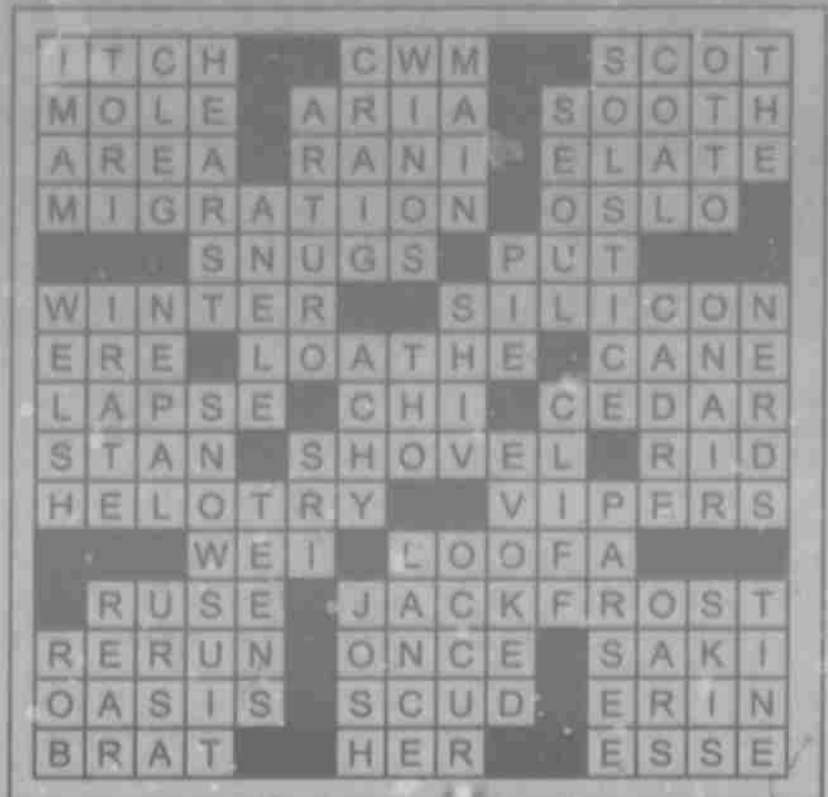
his books, his travels and tape sales," states Williams. "Our tithes and offerings stay in the church to build it. If you think about it, he has a huge flock. I realized that [my offerings] are for God. At the point of giving, you give because you love God."

Williams, who says his finances have not necessarily changed, says his soul has in fact prospered since becoming a member of World Changers, and that eventually, when he can cor-

rectly apply "the system God works on" he will be blessed on the material plane. As for Mary J. Blige's quote, Williams pretty much agrees.

"She's using very worldly words," he qualifies. "But if you think about it, she's recognizing Him. If they always see you broke, and not prospering and depressed, why would they try to understand [Christianity]? I can see why God wants to see her at her best."

Last Week's Crossword Puzzle Answers: Winter



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Editorials • Comments • Opinions



THIS 'N' THAT

by T.J. Patterson

PARENTS & GUARDIANS HAVE ANSWER! THIS N THAT is asking PARENTS & GUARDIANS to get involved with our LUBBOCK PUBLIC SCHOOLS by seeing that our young people STAY IN SCHOOL and do all THEY CAN to see that our young people stay in school and not DROP OUT. The answer, THIS N THAT believes, lies with our PARENTS & GUARDIANS being at their poster of duty that is in the homes, and insist their STUDENTS stay in school. Just think of what would happen as it was in the years past, when parents visited the schools and counseled with young people in the neighborhood to stay in school. As it was in those days, if a parent or guardian didn't have an automobile, they would walk to the school house for PTA meetings because they cared about the welfare of the students. Yes, it kept many young people in school, and the teachers taught the students. If the students were unruly in the classroom, the parents or guardians knew firsthand. THIS N THAT really believes this would put a positive spin on the ATTITUDES of young people on the various campuses. Oh, yes, PARENTS & GUARDIANS, each of you hold the KEY to helping our young people by just being visible in the

Lubbock Public Schools. It appears today when a young person is unruly, they are sent to some discipline class or program, but just think if what would happen if MOTHER DEAR was always seen walking the halls of our Lubbock Public Schools. THIS N THAT is not just dreaming because this the way it was in those days. So, PARENTS & GUARDIANS, remember you have the ANSWER, but will you use what you already have in your hands? Will you become more visible in 2007? Hope so, because these young people really need you!

CONGRATS TO EHS!! THIS N THAT says, "CONGRATS to those ESTACADO HIGH SCHOOL MATADORS for winning the 2006 CAPROCK HOLIDAY TOURNAMENT. This was their first since winning the tournament in 1980. THIS N THAT and many others really appreciate what you did!! Hang in there, and just keep doing what you are doing!! CONGRATS, MATADORS!

PENNY HASTINGS THE BARBER SAYS, "If you make your CHILD glad today, they'll HATE you tomorrow after you have appeased what they have done. On the other hand, if you discipline them today and they

become MAD, then they will LOVE you tomorrow!"

HOW MANY OF YOU KNEW THIS? THIS N THAT asks how many of you knew that just the other day, we celebrated the New Year? But it was JANUARY 1, 1863, when PRESIDENT ABRAHAM LINCOLN issued the EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION which freed Black Slaves in the United States of America. This was some 144 YEARS AGO, but it wasn't until JUNE 19, 1865 that the word got to Texas, and that is why we celebrate JUNETEENTH! So, young Black folks, you have a history that you shouldn't forget. Again, PARENTS & GUARDIANS, there is a lesson in this part of history, and you can teach it.

DEBUTANTE BALL WOULD BE GREAT NEXT DECEMBER! THIS N THAT would love to see the Eta Delta Omega Chapter of the ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY, INC. bring back one of their outstanding programs, THE DEBUTANTE BALL, where young beautiful Black girls are introduced to Society. THIS N THAT would hope this sorority would think about bringing it back. Just think of how many young Black girls would be helped!



Think About It!

Ward Connerly is looking for next target

by Eddie P. Richardson

This week, this writer is reprinting an editorial which ran in the Villager newspaper in Austin, and written by its publisher, Tommy Wyatt, who is a former resident of Lubbock and Dunbar High School graduate.

This is so puzzling to this writer. Clarence Thomas and even more anti-civil rights and equality foe, Ward Connerly, are both products of the Civil Rights Movement and rode the backs of many who suffered and even died to get us where we are today. As a people why should we be so bitterly against the bridge that brought them over? "ONLY IN AMERICA!" This country gives them the right to make their choice. God Bless America! Here is Ward Connerly's sell out at a high cost, good profit against his own. If he comes to Texas, this writer will personally fight him by any means necessary.

Ward Connerly has made a career of opposing Affirmative-Action programs. He started in California. This year he moved to Michigan.

When the National Newspaper Publishers Association met in Detroit last June, there were several national speakers there trying to

encourage the voters to defeat a proposition on the ballot that would ban Affirmative-Action in the states colleges and universities. The proposition was placed on the ballot by Ward Connerly and his group. They were successful in getting the measure passed in the November 2006 elections.

Connerly has said that he will work on these issues until the day he dies. It is rumored that he now has his sights set on Florida. The tragic thing about Connerly is that he is African American who is getting rich opposing the very issues that made it possible for him to do what he does.

Why is Connerly successful? He is successful because African Americans are playing nice to him. They respect the fact that he has the right to work for his convictions. But, should he feel free to work to overturn the issues that the Black community fought for years for? During the 1960's every community in America was fighting to put laws on the books that would do away with discrimination.

Affirmative laws were passed to reverse past discriminative practices that had gone on against African Americans. These laws

made it mandatory for government agencies to actively seek minorities for jobs and contracts. The laws later moved to other areas of society where it was found that there was history of discrimination. One of the institutions that had a poor record was in higher education. Under the Affirmative Action plan, colleges and universities were making an effort to increase the diversity in their schools.

The Texas plan was thrown out in favor of the "Top Ten" plan which says that any student that finishes in the top 10% of their class would have automatic entry into a Texas university. There are those who feel that this plan is unfair to Anglo students.

We should fight to see that these plans remain in effect. We must also make sure that Texas is not Ward Connerly's next destination."

Closing Thought: "You reap what you sow, Brothers and Sisters! The term is used lightly. We all know you are fighting the hand that feeds; the bridge that brought you over the Civil Rights Movement. Your day will surely come."

In Cinque

by Renetta Howard

A new year, once again. Two thousand seven has arrived and hopefully, it will be what we have looked forward to experiencing. There have been many ups and downs in 2006 and for some of us, much too many downs and not enough ups. We expect a change in 2007. Individuals are looking forward to a change and so is our country for the best.

All of America is looking forward to a progressive and positive Congress to convene and fix what is broken about our country. Positive changes are expected since a different political party is now in charge of the leadership in both the House of Representative and the Senate in Washington D. C. The voters were not happy about many

things which took place in 2006, things which have been brought forward in the last six years in which the Republicans have held the leadership in Congress. The American people have spoken and they want a change.

Congress has a chance to change the downhill movement of this country by putting some emphasis on the justice, domestic tranquility, common defence and the general welfare of the people in order to secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our posterity. We have spent too much money and too many lives on the defense of other countries. It is time that we spend taxpayer, hard earned money on the American taxpayer.

The year, 2007, should be the 'year of the citizens.' It has been said, and hopefully will at some point go into effect, that the minimum wage for Americans will be

increased. It cannot come soon enough and will probably not be increased enough for the average worker. Employers will not like it, but workers will have more buying power as the increase in minimum wages has definitely not kept up with the cost of living on any level. Salaries are another story. There is much to be said for it too. There is still discrimination for various careers, many with the same amount of preparation, yet some never command the high salaries, such as those of public school teachers who stay at the bottom rung of the salary ladder. In addition, they should receive combat pay because they are literally on the front line of violence in America today. It is time to get 'in cinque' and make certain you have your senators and representatives addresses, e-mail and physical, and get in touch with them to keep them aware of what the voters desire.

Tips to avoid getting the flu this winter

(SPM Wire) If you are sick and tired of getting the flu or a really bad cold each year, take heart and follow some practical advice to try to avoid being felled by germs this season.

Flu shots should be your first line of defense, especially if you're at high risk. Vaccines are recommended for young children, pregnant women, seniors and those with chronic medical conditions. However, remember that your immune system takes a few weeks to develop flu-fighting capability.

Here are some other common sense preventative measures from Dr. Jeff Robertson, Chief Medical Officer for Regence, the largest not-

for-profit health insurance carrier in the northwest:

Get enough rest, exercise and eat right. Eat a balanced diet, including plenty of fresh fruits and vegetables. Good nutrition, including foods rich in vitamins A, C and E, helps support a healthy immune system. Examples of such foods include citrus fruits, green vegetables, nuts, carrots and tomatoes. Be sure to drink plenty of fluids.

Keep your distance from people displaying symptoms like sneezing and coughing, Robertson stresses.

Wash hands often. If no sink is available, use alcohol-based hand wipes or sanitizing gel.

"Keep sanitizing gel or alcohol-

based hand-wipes in your car, kids' backpacks, purse or brief case," Robertson says. He also points out that some hand-wipes are not alcohol-based and won't be as effective, so read labels carefully.

USDA offers free one day energy workshop

USDA Rural Development announces a free 1-Day Workshop in San Antonio, Texas. Representatives of USDA Rural Development will be conducting a workshop on renewable energy, and energy efficiency grant and loan programs on Tuesday, January 23, 2007. The purpose of this workshop is to provide information that will assist with the applications process, and answer questions regarding the Section 9006. The event will be held at the U.S.A.E. School of Medicine (in the large auditorium), Brooks City-Base, San Antonio, Texas. To register, go to: <https://www3.epa.state.tx.us/register.nsf/Registration?OpenForm>.

Rural Texas businesses are key players in the state's economy, as they create new jobs and stimulate rural economies. "Our goal is to provide financial assistance to the individuals who live and work in rural communities across Texas," said Bryan Daniel, USDA Rural Development State Director. "Encouraging financial growth in rural Texas ensures their viability for future generations."

System and Energy Efficiency Improvement grant and guaranteed loan program may assist eligible Agriculture producers and rural small businesses with financing to install renewable energy projects or make energy efficiency improvements to existing operations.

USDA Rural Development strives to ensure that rural citizens can participate fully in the global economy by providing technical assistance, funding, and other programs that help rural Americans build strong economies to improve their quality of life. For further information, please contact the Temple State Office at 254-742-9780, or visit us on the web at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/tx/>.

Letter Policy

The editors and publishers of Southwest Digest welcome your letters and encourage you to write to us. Share with us your concerns, praise, gripes and celebrations. It's what we want - to keep our Black community in Lubbock informed and in touch with one another. Your letter doesn't have to address something that's been in our paper, just what's been on your mind. Had an interesting discussion lately? Share it with us!

When you write to us, please provide your name and city so that we may know where you are from and so that our readers may see how far our publication reaches.

You can bring your letter to our office or send it through the mail to: Southwest Digest, Letter to the Editor, 1302 Avenue Q, Lubbock, TX 79401.

You can also email us at swdigest@abcglobal.net or fax your letters to (806) 762-4605.

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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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So, this is our resolution to you. "Feel free at any time to call this office for information concerning this newspaper or any other matter that is of concern to you."

This is not a propaganda sheet made to chastise or vilify. This is a newspaper made to educate and not to agitate.

The opinions expressed by guest columnists or editorials are not necessarily the opinions of the publishers/editors or those of the advertisers. Comments and pictures are welcome but the publishers are not responsible to return articles unless a self-addressed stamped envelope is submitted. All notices must be paid in advance. Story deadline is 5 p.m. on Friday. Advertising deadline is 12:00 pm on Monday, the week of publication.

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Three brothers take life's lemons and make lemonade

By Carla Thompson,
Special to AOL Black Voices

Montgomery, Ala.-based Ensemble Beverage Company is a growing and still unknown African-American business, but its owners, three brothers of Omega Psi Phi fraternity, hope that Heritage Lemonade and other assorted flavored drinks will become the beverage of choice for people across the country and

including purchasing equipment for a plant only to discover it did not have running water to a key part of the facility, they began to have limited success. One of their first customers was Calhoun Foods, an Alabama-based black-owned grocery store chain. Barber shops and other small stores also began to carry their product.

Since Ensemble Beverage was a small company with a "zero market-

Doing Business Internationally

"We never thought about doing business internationally," says Smith. But he and his partners knew they needed to take their business to the next level.

Now, they have accounts with Winn Dixie, Albertsons, and Kroger in Atlanta, as well as Calhoun Foods and were selling their juices at state-side military bases and the state's Hyundai plant.

Harris, who is also a PhD candidate, was working in Kuwait and teaching at an American university. There, the idea of supplying American military bases in that country was born. There was one catch, though. According to Smith, the Department of Defense (DOD) must purchase all its supplies from Kuwaiti businesses which in turn supply U.S. bases. So, Ensemble Beverages established a mutually beneficial relationship with a Kuwaiti business which was able to obtain a contract with the Department of Defense.

Everything was set to go until another problem arose. Ensemble Beverage's co-packer changed the size of the bottles used from 16 oz to 10 oz. The Department of Defense wanted the juices in 16 oz bottles.

It was June and the product had to be shipped by August to get to Kuwait by Labor Day. They had to find plan B...and in a hurry. Harris found a business card from a company he met a year prior.

Once again turning obstacles into opportunity, this co-packer, although smaller, had experience shipping goods internationally unlike their previous co-packer.

"We didn't know tariffs," says Smith. "They did everything for us."

A Closer Bond

As the business has grown, so has the friendship between partners.

"He's a true friend. Greater than a brother," says Smith or Harris, with whom he corresponds daily via e-mail. "Obstacles can bring you close together or pull you further apart. We laugh about being happier being broke (but we are having) unbelievable fun in our lives."

Their ideas about what defines success have changed as well.

"At first, we wanted to get rich," says Smith. "Now it's not really about (us) but about generations that come behind (us). (We) want the ability to generate funds and opportunity."

"One pitfall of small and minority businesses is that we don't set specific goals," says Smith. "Goals for profit. (Minority businesses) are in it for making a lot of money. We want

the bling, bling but the Lexus and the BMW are not making money for us."

They still hope to have a factory, and will expand their markets to Philadelphia and Chicago-Albertsons stores. They will also purchase more vending machines/refrigerators to be placed in grocery stores and businesses which can cost approximately \$6000 for each one, including graphics.

With gross revenues of over \$950,000 in 2005, they anticipate becoming profitable in the next two years.

"Now we don't have to take out loans to get stuff," says Smith, who, along with his partners, do not take a salary. "We are still in debt but we are paying down debt. We are not in the black but we are not in the red either." Regardless of how busy his day may be and how many challenges he may face, Smith remains optimistic and

enthusiastic - loving the life of an entrepreneur.

"You wake up in the morning, you may not know what you are

going to eat for lunch, but you know one day you are going to eat like a king," says Smith. "It feels good being a player in your own destiny."



(L to R) Robert Smith, James Harris and Nate Shaw, owners of Ensemble Beverages.

around the world.

Robert Smith, partner and director of marketing, and James Harris, president, are Alabama State University grads. They, along with their partner, Nate Shaw, are trying to make a mark in highly competitive yet rapidly growing industry with their Down Home Country Juices whose flavors include blackberry and watermelon, as well as lemonade.

While it has been widely reported that sales of carbonated beverages have been relatively flat, fruit and fruit flavored drinks were the leading category in new drink launches in November 2005 to January 2006 with 90 percent more beverages released under this category in the same time frame last year," according to ProductScan Online. And according to the most recent figures from Beverage Digest, "Americans spent roughly \$91.4 billion annually on refreshment beverages."

Obstacles to Opportunity

In 2001, James Harris was laid off from his position at Coca-Cola. He didn't have a job but he did have a plan - an old business plan for a beverage company that he developed as part of an MBA class at Auburn University. Smith and Shaw signed on and the three started creating their first flavors.

After a series of fits and starts,

ing budget" the partners had to find more creative ways to penetrate the market and increase sales volume.

As luck would have it, the company was selected as a featured commemorative beverage at Governor Bob Riley's inauguration in 2003, which prompted state-wide press coverage. And as luck would have it - bad luck this time - Ensemble Beverage Company attracted the attention of the state health department and other regulatory agencies. According to Smith, although Ensemble had a business license, they had not registered with those agencies.

"We weren't actually selling bottles at the event," said Smith. "That's what saved us." If they had been, the business would have been shut down.

Subsequently, they filed the appropriate paperwork and established great relationships with the agencies, says Smith, 39. This attracted the attention of a co-packer who assisted them in producing, bottling and shipping their beverages.

"Mastering the art of understanding and solving problems is invaluable. When you are solving problems, you are creating opportunities," says Smith. "Every time there is a problem there is an opportunity in that problem. No don't always mean no. It means find another way," says Smith.

THEME: CHILDHOOD

ACROSS

1. Tiny piece of anything
5. Lightning McQueen in 2006 children's movie
8. Not that
12. Grammy Award winner Braxton
13. Low-down
14. Have a great desire for
15. Shamu
16. 4,840 square yards
17. Pale purple color
18. Before elementary
20. Religious painting
21. Capital of Lombardy
22. A Tan American writer
23. Arrow poison
26. Division lower than clan
30. Lemon's wife
31. Hockey player in Vancouver
34. Kids' building block
35. Hello in 50th state
37. Geological time period
38. Knight's breastplate
39. Stretch on Oscar night
40. Playground favorites
42. Type of brew
43. Hinders
45. They don't fall far from the tree
47. Compass point between northeast and east
48. Small but noticeable part
50. Author of "The Battle Hymn of the Republic"
52. Where children never grow up
56. Deep sleep
57. Albino
58. Composer Stravinsky
59. Separate
60. Soothes skin
61. Type of cabbage
62. "got _____?"
63. Not, prefix
64. Complements yin

DOWN

1. On top
2. Unit named after Torricelli
3. Popular fairytale opening
4. Air pollution
5. Hot winter drink
6. Emeril garnish
7. Film wheel

CROSSWORD													
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8. Beginner's wheels
9. Over an angel
10. Hollywood producer Reitman
11. Short for second
13. Brightly colored flower native to Central American mountains
14. What kids do on monkey bars
19. Approximately, especially of a year
22. Black and white sea bird
23. Embers
24. Not set afire
25. Spacious
26. PET or CAT
27. Longer than 8 1/2" x 11"
28. Nuisance
29. Olfactory organ, pl.
32. Traditionally anchored in the evening
33. Uniform Resource Identifier
36. Done before bed?
38. Turkish money
40. "Monkey _____, monkey do"
41. Reproductive cell
44. Slow and apathetic
46. Insurance contract
48. Yo-Yo Ma's instrument
49. "Par _____" or "Air Mail"
50. Shoshonoin people
51. A gem of hydrated silica
52. Indian flatbread
53. Title for Turkish military leader
54. Lunch time?
55. Medicine
56. "I do not like them, _____-ism"

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