

Chatman Hills Corner

By Doris Reynolds

If you want to do something different this time of the year, and you are a youth, you may enter through February 1, 2006, a youth photography contest. This contest is designed to present new images of people, places and objects in East Lubbock.

It is called the "Take Pride in the East Side Campaign" and it is open to young people 10 through 14 years of age who live in Lubbock County. The top 40 photographs submitted will be displayed in various city locations in 2006, and photographers will compete for scholarships and other prizes.

For more information, call either 767-2704 or 762-8606 and request contest entry forms. Entry forms may also be picked up at city community centers.

The "Bridging the Gap Gospel Explosion '06" will take place at the Mt. Gilead Baptist Church, 2512 Fir Avenue, January 1st; January 4th thru 6th; and a "Hallelujah Hoops" set for the Theodore Phea Boys and Girls Club, 1801 East 24th Street, on Saturday evening, January 9th.

There will be various speakers including: Pastor Kenneth Lawrence, who will deliver the "First Frit Worship

Service" message on January 1st. Psalmists include Minister Gary Bunton, Chantell Stubblefield, and Brenda Roberts. Other speakers are Evangelist Tracey Spies, Elder J. W. T. Spies and Pastor B. F. Roberts.

Rev. J. Jerome Johnson is pastor of Mt. Gilead Baptist Church.

Many citizens are talking about the delicious fruit sacks given by Post 808 of the Booker T. Washington American Legion on Sunday evening, December 18th, at the post. Scores of young people were present and enjoyed the gift.

The Christmas decoration in the Chatman Hill area was outstanding this year. If you get an opportunity, let those who decorated their property this year know it was outstanding and let's continue next year. It's just good to see these kinds of activities in our community taking place. It sure did add much to the East Side of Lubbock.

Continue to pray for those in our community who are on the sick and shut-in list this week. As we go into another year, let us all be thankful no

matter our station in life. We all know God is able. If you know of someone who is shut-in, let them know you are thinking of them. Your precious prayers mean so much to those who are ill.

Let us not forget those who have lost loved ones who were funeralized this week. Among them include the family of Sister Alma Faye Rainwater and the family of Sister Leonard Lynn Mae Williams. Let them know that God is able.

As we look forward to another year, let's be thankful of all the good we received in the year 2005. Let us be in hope of an outstanding 2006. This writer is wishing all of you the very best, and may you have a very prosperous 2006.

If this column can be of service for you in the year 2006, please advise. As we have made known in the past, we'd love to apprise the community of what you, your family, your church or your organization is doing.

Have a Happy New Year! Be very careful while driving to and from your job this week as school is still out, and our precious little children are still having a joyous time.

In Remembrance

Alma Faye Rainwater
Funeral services for a long-time resident, Alma Faye

Rainwater, were held Tuesday afternoon, December 27, 2005, at the Central Lubbock Church of Christ.

Ossie Curry Funeral Home of Lubbock was in charge of arrangements.

Mrs. Rainwater passed away here on Thursday, December 22, 2005.

She is survived by her husband, Ed Rainwater; sons: D. Wayne Jackson of Tahmina, Oklahoma, and Gerald P. Jackson of Lubbock; daughters: Linda Monroe and Tina Rainwater, both of Lubbock, and

Ronia White of Dallas, and sisters: Farlee Smith of Alameda, California and Marjorie Harris of Lubbock.

Leonard Lynn Mae Williams
Funeral services for Leonard Lynn Mae Williams were held

Tuesday afternoon, December 27, 2005, at the Greater St. Mark Baptist Church with Dr. Leon Armstead, pastor, officiating.

Burial was held in the City of Lubbock Cemetery under the direction of Cavillo Funeral Home of Lubbock.

She passed away Monday, December 19, 2005, at Covenant Medical Center.

Bridging The Gap Gospel Explosion coming in '06

The Bridging the Gap Gospel Explosion '06 will be held Sunday evening, January 1, 2006, at the Mt. Gilead Baptist Church with Pastor Kenneth Lawrence as guest speaker. This will be the First Frit Worship Service, beginning at 5:30 p. m.

Beginning January 4th through 6th, several ministers will be speaking. The schedule include: Wednesday, January 4th, Minister Gary Bunton, psalmist;

Evangelist Tracey Spies, speaker; Thursday, January 5th, Chantell Stubblefield, psalmist; Elder J. W. T. Spies, evangelist; and Friday, January 6th, Brenda Roberts, psalmist; and Pastor B. F. Roberts, speaker.

There will be a program called "Hallelujah Hoops" set for Saturday evening, January 9, 2006, at the Ted Phea Boys and Girls Club, 1801 East 24th Street, beginning at 7:00 p.m.

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At Alderson Middle School, it's definitely the season of giving

As Alderson Middle School students about throwing a football and they will tell you about their experiences with Cody Hodges, Texas Tech's quarterback. The group of students enrolled in Communities in Schools at Alderson was afforded an opportunity to build a memorable relationship, improve their social skills, and plot out their academic dreams through one on one mentoring. CIS taps into community resources and bring those resources to the school. The community and business volunteers that partner with CIS provide one on one relationships and encouragement that is vital to students' success. Through the mentoring relationship Cody has forged, the Alderson stu-

dents were granted an opportunity to tour Texas Tech's campus, hosted by Jimmy Henderson, CHAMPS life Skills Coordinator and the Cotton Bowl bound quarterback. Finally, the students toured the athletic training facility and football stadium where they got a hands-on view of sports medicine. Each CIS student who participated in this campaign towards academic success showed academic progress over the last 6 weeks and were eligible to have their name entered into a drawing for an autographed football from the TTU Football squad. Recipients of the footballs were: Ja' Kefee Faulk, Sammy Faulk, Cory Sullivan, and Quincy Walton.

With the Christmas season upon us and the spirit of giving abounding, the Alderson students could not let the kind deeds of Mr. Hodges go without an expression of gratitude. The students sent Cody off to the Cotton Bowl with Christmas cards and well wishes as Texas Tech faces Alabama in the Cotton Bowl on January 2, 2006. The students also gave Cody a lasting memory of his own. Cody received autographed pictures from the students or soon to be doctors, engineers, and educators. Who knows? When these kids grow up and do monumental things around the world, Cody, perhaps will be sitting back in his recliner smiling at the success of the Alderson students he personally mentored.

Christmas tree recycling info

The City of Lubbock Solid Waste Services department has announced its Annual Christmas Tree Recycling Campaign. The purpose of the campaign is to reduce the amount of waste taken to the landfill and to provide beneficial reuse of the discarded fresh-cut evergreen Christmas trees. Christmas trees should not be placed in dumpsters or in alleys.

Beginning Monday, December 26, 2005, residents can drop-off their fresh-cut Christmas trees at a City of Lubbock Recycling Drop-off Center.

- Southside, 1631 84th Street
- Northside, 208 Municipal Drive
- Elmwood, 2002 Elmwood Ave.

From December 26th through January 31st, the Recycling Drop-off Centers will accept the trees 24 hours a day. Roll-off containers will be placed outside the gates for easy drop off.

Please remove plastic coverings, all decorations, and bases or tree stands from the fresh-cut trees before taking them to a Recycling Drop-off Center. Trees are ground into mulch, which is available to City of

Lubbock residents at the Recycling Drop-off Centers. For more information on this program or for additional year-round recycling opportunities, please call the Solid Waste Services department, at 775-2482.

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Page 1 Of The A-J

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Name: _____ Grade: _____	Name: _____
Parents name: _____	Relationship to nominee: _____
PARENTS SIGNATURE: _____	Daytime phone: _____
Parents Address: _____	Do you want your nomination to be anonymous? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Daytime phone (parent): _____	Did you include a good quality photo of the child? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
On a separate sheet of paper:	(Photos will be returned only if a self-addressed stamped envelope is included.)
1) briefly tell us about your nominee and	
2) list the accomplishments of your nominee.	
SPOTLIGHT ON KIDS RULES	
1) No purchase necessary. Nominations forms will appear periodically throughout the year in the Avalanche Journal and at Make Kids Count sponsor locations around town. Please also see website at The A-J Information Center, 710 Ave. J.	
2) Nominations forms are to be mailed by Spotlight On Kids, PO Box 491, Lubbock, TX 79405, or can be dropped off at the A-J Information Center, 710 Avenue J.	
3) All information including a representative photo of the child, must be included. Nominations forms, including a representative photo of the child, must be included. Nominations forms, including a representative photo of the child, must be included.	
4) Only one Spotlight On Kids nominee will appear in the A-J each day.	
5) Selection will be made by A-J personnel based on the nominations of subscribers, parents, sponsors and the staff of the journal, including family members, friends, neighbors, community members, and other interested parties.	
6) All nominees agree to allow their names, and any photos to be published in the Avalanche Journal without further compensation.	
7) The Avalanche Journal is not responsible for selection of winners that are awarded, lost, lost, returned, damaged, stolen, incomplete or postage due.	
8) By entering, each nominator or their representative acknowledges acceptance of the rules and agrees to be bound to them.	

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Church News



We Thank God for Jesus America, Too Much is Too Wrong!

Written by Evangelist Billy "B.J." Morrison, III - Your brother in Christ for a long time.

Isaiah 1:4-6 - A sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity. A seed of evildoers. Children who are corrupted. They have forsaken the Lord.

Lord, we know our forefathers prayed and supplicated, giving praise to you. You and you would bless this land and mankind's seed and see them through.

Exodus 20:5 - The Lord said, you shall not bow down yourself to them (idols), nor serve them, for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the third and fourth generation of them that hate me.

America got big headed and proud of the things she thought she did in her own eyes. Lord, we know you was you who blessed America. She is robbing you and that's wrong.

***** Yes, America is Robbing God! *****

Malachi 1:6 - The Lord said, a son honors his father, and a servant his master. If then I be a father, where is mine honor? And if I be a master, where is my fear? Said the Lord of hosts unto you, O Priests (Preachers) who despise my name? And you said, where have we despised your name?

Lord, it was the churches who let the Devil take prayer out of our schools. Now our streets are full of heathens and

I like the question, who is the fool?

Romans 1:21-22 - Because when they (Churches) knew God, they glorified him not as God. Neither were thankful, professing themselves to be wise. They became fools (The Churches).

(When the Devil gave out his rights: Called wrongs: Kill The Parents Rights, Black Rights, Women Rights, Gay Rights, No Christ, No Christmas Rights, No Spunking Rights, Drive By Shooting Rights, KK Rights, White Rights, Condors In Kindergarten Rights, Kill The Family Rights, No Prayer In School Rights, Drugs In Schools Rights, Kill The Teacher And Classmates Rights, Road Rage Rights, Abortion Rights, Shooting Rights, Bomb The Federal Building Rights, Black Suicide Rights, Coming Rights, Dale Rape Rights, and many more of the Devil's Rights!)

Proverbs 12:15 - The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but he that hearken (listens) unto counsel is wise.

God is giving everyone their rights to the cross. Red, Yellow, Black or White, because God loves everybody, as we are all precious to his eyesight!

John 14:6 - Jesus said, I am the way, the truth and the

life. No man comes unto the Father but by me.

If not the Devil gave out to mankind the right of his things of his land America is now full of hate and meanness. I know it is just a matter of time!!

Luke 17:26-27 - Jesus said, as it was in the days of Noah, they did eat, they drank, they married wives; they were given in marriage until the day that Noah entered into the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all.

We have more churches and more churches than any country in this world, but we have the world's most ungrateful, hateful men, women boys and girls!!

Micah 7:2-3a - The good man is perished out of the earth, and there is none upright among men. They all lie in wait for blood. They hunt every man his brother with a net. That they do evil with both hands earnestly.

Lord, the trouble with America is she wants to teach the foreign man. She is nothing but a hypocrite, and she is worse in the land!!

Matthew 13:27 - Jesus said, who (teased) unto you, scribes and Pharisees and hypocrites! For you are like white sepulchers which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead man's bones and all un-cleanness.

From the Desk of Parson D.A. Smith The Political Ruining of America

The present political environment in the United States is very volatile. The citizens of this country at the present moment are in a precarious political gorge. We are facing the policing powers of the executive branch of government without regard to the "rule of law." We are facing the legislative branch 9mm gun Patriot Act and the judicial branch that appears to bow at the will of the commander-in-chief in lieu of the precedent set in constitutional law.

As a citizen of this great country, I am afraid that if we keep our present course as suggested by the Commander-in-Chief, we are in the making of a new form of "police state" under the disguise of keeping America free from terrorist.

We who are American citizens, tend to forget that some of our leaders in the executive branch want to be absolutist or autocratic rulers who govern outside of the rule of law. Dictators come to power by suspending or misusing the existing constitutions.

As Americans, we overlook history. We often forget that dictators frequently emerge in times of war, or during an economic or social crisis. Benito Mussolini in Italy and Adolf Hitler in Germany are our modern models of dictators.

Classical model dictators were Lucius Cornelius Sulla and Julius Caesar who were given sweeping authority over the citizenry. As such, one should be wary of giving a commander-in-chief the powers to make law without effective restraint by the constitution. One could question whether the

present executive branch of the United States does not have some similar style like that of Idi Amin Dada (I am the Commander-in-Chief).

What should bring nervousness to all American regardless of political persuasions is the unapologetic defense by President Bush of a controversial program to spy on some Americans' international phone calls without court warrants, and vowing to continue it as long as the nation faces "an enemy that wants to kill American citizens." The problem is not with the spying, but with the disregarding of the rule of law.

A USA TODAY article says of this matter, "The question this disclosure raises... is why an administration would skirt existing procedures for engaging in domestic intelligence gathering while showing such blatant disregard for the restraints on presidential power that the Founding Fathers impose. Federal law requires that a court warrant be obtained for domestic spying... Ignoring this law and circumventing this court show an inexcusable lack of respect for the two other branches of government, for the rule of law, and for the individual liberties that our divided form of government was designed to protect."

What is further troubling is how the Commander-in-Chief Gestapo style blasted senators (who were elected by the people of the United States) who blocked reauthorization of the USA Patriot Act. Senators from both parties raised civil liberties concern about the Patriot Act as

well as the domestic spying conducted by the National Security Agency. One of the senators called the spying "inappropriate" and promised hearings.

Do you know that under the Terrorist Information Awareness program of the Department of Justice every time you use a credit card to purchase gasoline, a record of that transaction is sent to TIA, which can track your movement across town or across country? Did you know that if you use your credit card to purchase lunch, it becomes a part of your permanent file along with your credit report, medical records, driving records and even your TV viewing habits?

Should the Commander-in-Chief, George W. Bush follow the "rule of law" and the political brake place on his dictatorial style leadership? Yes! Should there be change in the Patriot Act? Yes!

If the present trend of government does not stop, most middle class Anglo-Americans will feel the wrath of dictatorship and possibly directly governed from Rome through the Judicial Branch and be wearing clothes that do not fit American from China. Hello Conservatives! Do not say I did not tell you!

Please forgive me! I do not want to seem one-sided in the above paragraph. Black Americans understand dictatorship through police powers every day of their life. A practical example: When we see the police while driving, both of our hands automatically become visible on the steering wheel of the vehicle.

Outreach Prayer Breakfast

The members of the Outreach Prayer Breakfast thought you would enjoy reading this week's article.

Jok 1:6-12 - Do you know why there were twelve baskets left over when Jesus fed the five thousand? He told his disciples to gather the left over so they could see for themselves that God is more than enough. There was a full basket for each of the disciples. It shows there is no debt, because God is more than enough!

If you think you're under pressure now, and you die without God, Dear Brother and Sister, there's eternal pressure you will never get out of.

Christ never called us to abed of roses. He called us to the cross. So pick up your cross and follow him daily. Anything you have to hide to do is wrong. If it wasn't wrong, why would you have to hide? Like those rubber bands and paper clips from your job, you stuck in your purse? Why do you lower your voice when you're gossiping?

Here are five fold ministry of the Devil: Disease, Deceive, Divide, Distract and Discourage and Distrust. Are you familiar with any of these?

It's expanding daily, and so is God's. We are almost into another year, Saints! What are your plans? "Just asking!" If you did not pray for your neighbor last year, then plan to do so this new year, 2006. Also, pray for your enemies if you have any.

Let us continue you drive by prayers for everything which has breath. Of course, this includes your neighborhood, your church, our schools, our businesses. Let us not forget to pray for our national leaders, your pastor and ministers. Even those boys and girls and mothers and fathers who may be homeless in our community. Oh, yes, there are those among us in Lubbock who are homeless and hungry. That is why we should be prayerful when we have a roof over our head, food to eat and clothes to wear.

Today, it is them, and tomorrow it could be us.

The members and friends of the Outreach Prayer Breakfast hope each of you had a Merry Christmas as well as a Blessed Christmas, a faith filled Christmas, a God fearing Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Let us not forget those who are sick and shut in. Again, today it may be them, but who knows, tomorrow it could be one of us who may be feeling well today. Don't forget those who have lost loved ones in our community. Remember, God is able!

Sister Dorothy Heald, president; Sister Christene Burleson, vice president; Sister Elnora Jones, teacher and Sister Rosianna Henderson, secretary.

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St. Matthew's Baptist Church News

Last Sunday morning, December 25, 2005, Christmas Day, was another exciting day in the Lord at the St. Matthew Baptist Church, 2020 East 14th Street, where Rev. Edward Canady is the proud pastor.

Services began with Sunday School at 10:15 a. m. with Rev. Canady in charge. The morning lesson was taught and reviewed by Pastor Canady. The subject was "Be Joyful!" Lesson scripture was Isaiah 61:1-2 and St. Luke 2:8-20. The key verse was: "To you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord." St. Luke 2:11.

The morning devotion was led by Brother Vincent Bailey and Deacon Edward Williams. What a spirit filled morning it was for all in attendance. The St. Matthew Baptist Church Choir sang out of their hearts.

Pastor Canady delivered the morning sermon. His subject was: "Why The Lord Came!" The scripture text was St. Luke 2:11 and St.

Matthew 2:11-12. What an inspiring message presented to the congregation.

Let us not forget to pray for our sick and shut-in members as well as all others. Among them include Sister Luella Harris who is recuperating at her home. Also, Sister Dimple Saunders, a sister-in-law of Sister Shirley Canady.

Watch meeting services will be held at St. Matthew Baptist Church with Rev. Willie Bolton and members of the Bethel Baptist Church. Services will begin at 7:00 p. m. on Saturday night, December 31st. Everyone is welcome to attend this service.

Thought of the Week: "Don't celebrate Christmas without inviting the Guest of Honor."

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Worship - 10:15am
Evening Worship - 5:00pm
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God's Plan for Saving Man
A: Have faith - Romans 1:17
B: Jesus Christ died for our sins - 1 Cor. 15:3
C: We must do God's will and obey him to enter heaven - Matt. 7:21; John 14:23
D: How do we obey him?
E: Have the gospel - Romans 10:17
F: Believe Jesus Christ - the son of God - Mark 16:16
G: Repent of your sins - Luke 13:3
H: Confess - Romans 10:10
I: Be baptized for the forgiveness of your sins - Acts 2:38
J: Be baptized with death - Rom 6:4

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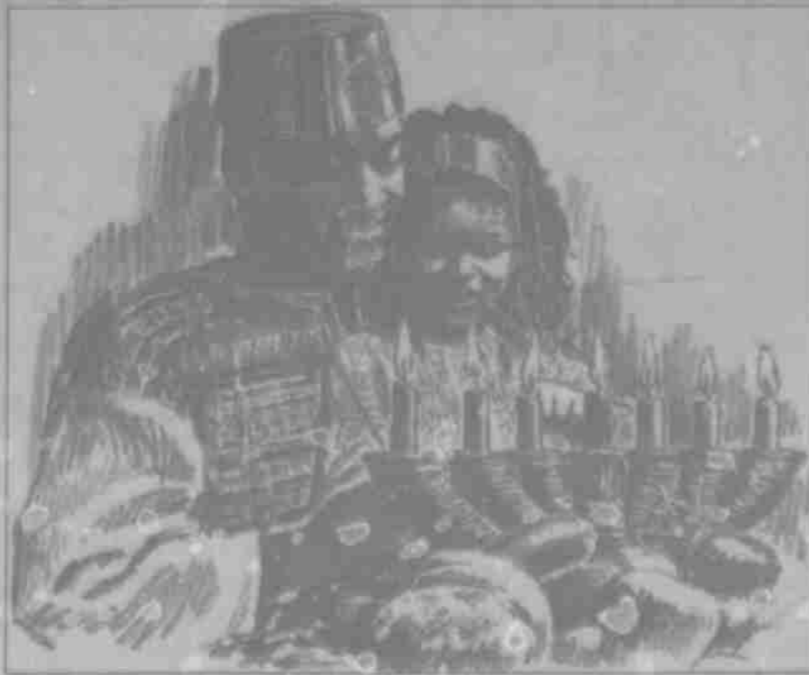
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Many people do not fully understand the meaning of Kwanzaa

From Ecarta Africana

Kwanzaa is a seven-day holiday that begins on Dec. 26 and continues through Jan. 1. The name of the holiday comes from the Swahili words *muhindi ya kwanza*, which mean "first fruits." The holiday's roots are in harvest celebrations that are recorded from the earliest periods of African history. These celebrations bear various names that reflect the languages of the societies that have celebrated them as well as those that still celebrate them, including Punt-Min in ancient Egypt, Umkhosi in Zululand, Incwala in Swaziland, Odwira in Ashantiand, and Odu Ijesa in Yorubaland.

Kwanzaa was created in 1966 in the United States by Maulana Karenga, an activist-scholar who is currently professor and chair of the Department of Black Studies at California State University, Long Beach. Rooted in ancient African history and culture, Kwanzaa was developed in the modern context of African American life and struggle as a reconstructed and expanded African tradition. It emerged during the Black Freedom Movement of the 1960s and thus reflects the movement's concern for self-determination, a "return to the source," and the reaffirmation of African identity and culture. Moreover, Kwanzaa is founded and framed in Kawaida philosophy, which stresses cultural grounding, value orientation, and an ongoing dialogue with African culture - both continental and diasporan - in pursuit of paradigms of human excellence and human possibility.



First celebrated by members and friends of the Organization Us (meaning us African people), which Karenga chairs, Kwanzaa is currently celebrated by an estimated 26 million people on every continent in the world.

As explained in Karenga's "Kwanzaa: A Celebration of Family, Community, and Culture," Kwanzaa is organized around five fundamental kinds of activities that originate from ancient African harvest or first-fruit celebrations. These activities are (1) the ingathering of the people to reinforce the bonds between them, especially the bonds of family, community, and culture; (2) special reverence for the Creator and creation in gratitude for the bountifulness and goodness of the earth and

in commitment to preserve and protect it; (3) commemoration of the past, to fulfill the obligation to remember and honor ancestors and to teach and reaffirm the mission and meaning of African history; (4) recommitment to the highest African cultural values - ethical and spiritual values that bring forth the best of what it means to be African and human; and (5) celebration of the good of life - that is, the good of family, community, and culture; of relationships; of old age and youth; of knowledge and sharing; of work and wonder; and of all things of benefit and blessing.

At the heart of the meaning and activities of Kwanzaa are the Nguzo Saba (the seven principles), which Karenga developed to reaffirm and strengthen family, community, and culture. These principles are umoja

(unity), kujichagulia (self-determination), ujima (collective work and responsibility), ujamaa (cooperative economics), nia (purpose), kuumba (creativity), and imani (faith). Each day of Kwanzaa is dedicated to one of the principles and is organized around activities and discussion to emphasize that principle.

At each evening meal during Kwanzaa, family members light one of seven candles to focus on the principles in a ritual called "lifting up the light of the past." This lifting-up means upholding the Nguzo Saba and all the other life-affirming and enduring principles that reaffirm the good of life, enrich human relations, and support human flourishing. In addition to the miujamaa saba (seven candles), the other basic symbols of Kwanzaa are the mazao (crops), symbolic of African harvest celebrations and of the rewards of productive and collective labor; the mkeka (mat), symbolic of tradition and history and therefore the foundation on which to build; the kinara (candleholder), symbolic of ancestral roots and the parent people, or continental Africans; mihindi (corn), symbolic of children and the future of African people that they embody; the kikombe cha umoja (unity cup), symbolic of the foundational principle and practice of unity that makes all else possible; and zawadi (gifts), symbolic of the labor and love of parents and of the commitments made and kept by children.

There are also two supplemental

symbols: a representation of the Nguzo Saba and the bendera (flag), which contains the colors black, red,

A survey from AOL reveals that out of 8500 people who responded, 35% of those celebrate Kwanzaa.

and green. These colors are symbolic, respectively, of African people, their struggle, and the promise and future that come from their struggle. A central and culminating event of the holiday is the gathering of the community on Dec. 31 for an African karamu (feast). The karamu features libation and other ceremonies that honor ancestors, narratives, poetry, music, dance, and other performances to celebrate the goodness of life, relationships, and cultural grounding.

Kwanzaa ends Jan. 1 with the

Siku ya Tazama! (Day of Meditation), which is dedicated to sober self-assessment and recommitment to the Nguzo Saba and all other African values that reaffirm commitment to the dignity and rights of the human person, the well-being of family and community, the integrity and value of the environment, and the reciprocal solidarity and common interests of humanity. One way that persons conduct this self-assessment is to ask themselves three questions: Who am I? Am I really who I am? Am I all I ought to be? In this way, they measure themselves in the mirror of the best of African culture and history and recommit themselves to standards and practices of human excellence that reflect and support those cultural ideals.

Contributed by Dr. Maulana Ndabuziwa Karenga

Mariah Carey closing in on 50 Cent in year-end charts



Carey

LOS ANGELES (Dec. 28) - Pop songbird Mariah Carey, enjoying one of the music industry's biggest comebacks, is giving rap star 50 Cent a run for his money in a year-end, down-to-the-wire race for best-selling U.S. album of 2005.

As of Christmas Day, 50 Cent stood at No. 1 in the United States with 4.8 million copies of sophomore album "The Massacre" sold since March, according to the latest figures from retail sales tracker Nielsen SoundScan.

Carey was closing in rapidly on the rapper with her latest Grammy-nominated collection, "The Emancipation of Mimi," which has tallied sales of 4.6 million since its release in April, Nielsen SoundScan reported.

At current sales rates, Carey would overtake 50 Cent by year's end. On the latest sales chart, "Mimi" ranked at No. 7 with weekly sales of 191,000 copies, compared with just 21,000 for "Massacre."

Both albums topped the charts in their opening weeks but neither has set a sales benchmark for the

artists. The 2003 major-label debut from 50 Cent, "Get Rich or Die Tryin'," has sold 7.4 million copies to date. Carey's all-time hottest seller was 1995's "Daydream," which notched 7.5 million U.S. copies.

Still, the success of "Mimi" marks a dramatic turnaround for Carey, 35, whose career hit the skids four years ago.

Music giant EMI Group Plc paid Carey nearly \$50 million to buy out her \$80 million contract in January 2002 after the commercial flop of "Glitter," the soundtrack to her film debut and her first release from EMI's Virgin Records.

"Chambralee," the maiden

release under her new record deal with Universal Music's Island Def Jam label, proved a lackluster follow-up.

This year has seen a startling reversal of Carey's fortunes. In addition to robust album sales, "Mimi" garnered Carey eight Grammy Award nominations earlier this month, including nods for album of the year and record of the year for the CD's first single, "We Belong Together."

That ballad ruled the Billboard Hot 100 singles chart for 14 weeks, longer than any other song this year.

Last week, "Don't Forget About Us," the first single from a recent "Mimi" reissue, climbed to the top rung of the singles chart to

move Carey a step closer to the Beatles' all-time record of 20 No. 1 hits.

She is now tied with Elvis Presley at No. 2 on the all-time Hot 100 list with 17 chart-topping singles.

"American Idol" champion Kelly Clarkson is on track to finish the year with the third-biggest album, "Breakaway," which has sold 3.2 million copies to date.

Overall, sales of CDs and digital album downloads are down 8 percent compared with the same period a year ago, while sales of digital singles have jumped to well over 320 million, up 150 percent over last year, according to Nielsen SoundScan.

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Editorials • Comments • Opinions



THIS 'N' THAT

by T.J. Patterson

"HUG YOUR KIDS EVERY CHANCE YOU GET!" THIS N THAT wants to repeat the words spoken by **TONY DUNGY**. Dungy is the head coach of the Indianapolis Colts, and spoke after the funeral services of his eight-year-old son, **JAMES**. Dungy's son apparently took his own life last Thursday, December 22, 2005. Tony Dungy said, **"PARENTS HUG YOUR KIDS EVERY CHANCE YOU GET."** He continued by saying, **"TELL THEM YOU LOVE THEM EVERY CHANCE YOU GET BECAUSE YOU DON'T KNOW WHEN IT'S GOING TO BE THE LAST TIME."** All of the football players from the Colts organization were present, along with other players and coaches from around the NFL. He urged them to continue being who they were, because **"OUR YOUNG BOYS IN THIS COUNTRY... 'THEY NEED TO HEAR FROM YOU! IF ANYTHING, BE BOLDER IN WHO YOU ARE. BECAUSE OUR BOYS'RE GETTING A LOT OF THE WRONG MESSAGES ABOUT WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A MAN IN THIS WORLD. ABOUT HOW YOU SHOULD ACT, AND HOW YOU SHOULD DRESS, AND HOW YOU SHOULD TALK, AND**

HOW YOU SHOULD TREAT PEOPLE.

"THEY DON'T ALWAYS GET THE RIGHT MESSAGE, BUT YOU GUYS (COLTS) HAVE THE RIGHT MESSAGE." THIS N THAT would hope all of us who are males would take heed to what Coach Dungy has said, and utilize this wisdom in our community.

GO GET 'EM, RAIDERS! THIS N THAT is backing those **TEXAS TECH RED RAIDERS** when they take on **ALABAMA** in the **COTTON BOWL** in Dallas, on Monday, January 2, 2006. Both teams have identical records of 9-2. Hopefully the Red Raiders will bring home the bacon and bringing their record to 10-2 for the year. **GO GET 'EM, RAIDERS!** Continue to stand tall for Lubbock, Texas!

PENNY HASTINGS THE BARBER SAYS, "A BAD DECISION clears the way for a good one. **INDECISION** paves the way for more **INDECISION."**

DEADLINE IS APPROACHING FOR CONTEST! THIS N THAT has learned that the deadline is approaching for the **TAKE PRIDE IN THE EAST SIDE CAMPAIGN**, which is open for young people, ages 10 thru 14 years of age. The top 40 photographs submitted will be displayed at city loca-

tions beginning in 2006. So, if you are a youth and want to submit a photograph, then call either **767-2704** OR **762-8606** for an application. Hope there are some upcoming photographers in the community.

HAVE A VERY OUTSTANDING NEW YEAR! THIS N THAT is hoping, each of you will have an outstanding **NEW YEAR!** THIS N THAT hopes things will be better for you in the New Year, and that you continue to strive for what you believe is the right thing to do for all of us. As we approach this New Year, **THIS N THAT** is hoping that **EAST LUBBOCK** will continue to flourish and that it will become the area of the city we want it to become. Of course, it takes hard work, and with all of us working together, **EAST LUBBOCK** will continue to grow.

VISIT A SCHOOL! THIS N THAT is hoping many of us will take an opportunity to visit one of our fine Lubbock Independent School District schools in the coming year. It will mean so much for us to go by and let our young people know we appreciate what they are doing. If ever there was a time, it is now, since our young people really need us. So why not go by and let them know we are watching them, and are wishing the very best in the year of 2006.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

In Cinque

by Renetta Howard



We have seen year come and seen years go, but there is not much doubt that '05 is going down in history as one of those that we are glad to see go.



Howard

Some good things happened to all of us and some not so good things as well, but like everything that happens to us, the good is soon forgotten, but we remember the bad things forever.

Many things have taken their toll on Americans in 2005. The senseless war in Iraq just will not come to an end so the troops can come home and live a civil life. Every day, Americans are dying in Iraq and for what? The people of Iraq are killing them, so they are not profiting. Who is profiting from the

deaths of American soldiers in Iraq?

If there is not enough confusion over fighting in Iraq, take a long hard look at the new prescription drug plan recently added to Medicare by a Republican Congress to please President Bush. How many senior citizens eligible for Medicare parts A and B really understand part D? How many insurance companies with prescription drug plans have hopped on the bandwagon? Some hopped up overnight to secure the monthly fees ranging from \$20.00 to \$70.00 per month which makes the average fee about \$45.00 per month. Your income may qualify you for help to pay for the insurance, but if you have fifteen cents over your monthly expenses, you will not qualify for help.

Help has become an almost "dirty" word lately, especially since Katrina

and Wilma breezed through the Gulf Coastal States. Thousands are still homeless after receiving "help" from the federal government. It seems that "help" is still on the way! Over a thousand lives were lost to the damage of the storms and much of the city of New Orleans just washed out to sea. Those individuals with reputable insurance companies will get a chance to start over somewhere. Many, however, choose not to return to their former homes. Things can be secured to replace losses, but they just are not the same as items you have had and cherished over a period of time.

Life is to be cherished. Things and years come and go, but life goes on. We must get "in cinque" and cherish life in 2006, and make it a happy new year and leave as much of 2005 baggage behind us as we can.

Making room at America's inn for God's children

By Marian Wright Edelman

A friend who shared this story described it as "the best sermon" my dear friend and mentor Rev. William Sloane Coffin, Jr. "never preached." It was Christmas Eve and the pews at New York City's Riverside Church were packed. The Christmas pageant was underway and had come to the point at which the innkeeper was to turn away Mary and Joseph with the resounding line, "There's no room at the inn!"



Edelman

Never mind that no figure of scripture actually appears in scripture. We've all imagined him delivering the message of no room, of inhospitality to the baby Jesus and His parents. It seemed the perfect part for Tim, an earnest youth of the congregation who has Down Syndrome. Only one line to remember: "There's no room at the inn!"

He had practiced it again and again with his parents and with the pageant director. He seemed to have mastered it. So there he stood at the altar of the sanctuary, bathrobe costume firmly belted over his broad stomach, as Mary and Joseph made their way down the coterie aisle. They approached him, said their lines as rehearsed, and waited for his reply. Tim's parents, the pageant director, and the whole congregation almost leaned forward as if willing him to remember his line.

"There's no room at the inn!" Tim boomed out, just as rehearsed. But then, as Mary and Joseph turned on cue to travel further, Tim suddenly yelled "Wait!" They turned back, startled, and looked at him in surprise.

"You can stay at my house!" he called. Well, Tim had effectively preached the sermon at Riverside Church that Christmas Eve. Bill Coffin strode to the pulpit, said "Amen," and sat down. It was the best sermon he never preached.

For Christians, another Christmas season has come to a close. People of all faiths are reflecting on things done and left undone during the past year and making resolutions for change in the new one. When, oh when will we indi-

vidually and collectively as congregations, as communities, and as a nation resolve to stop saying to our children, "There's no room at the inn?" When will we, like Tim, start saying, "You can stay at my house?" When will we say to the poor, hungry, and homeless children, "Wait! We'll make a place for you, at America's table of plenty?" How long until we say to children whose parents are working hard every day trying to keep food on the table and a roof over their heads - or whose families were poor before a terrible hurricane struck, and even poorer after they lost everything in the storm - "We will help you escape poverty?" "We'll catch you on our safety net until your family is able to provide for you again?" And when will we ensure that no child is without health coverage?

In 1967, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. also delivered a Christmas Eve sermon. In "A Christmas Sermon on Peace," given at Ebenezer Baptist Church on his last Christmas Eve, Dr. King reminded us one of the things "we must be concerned about if we are to have peace on earth and good will toward men is the nonviolent affirmation of the sacredness of all human life. Every man is somebody because he is a child of God, made in His image, and therefore must be respected as such." He also reflected on

the "I Have A Dream" speech he had given at the March on Washington four years earlier, and how he had already begun seeing his dream turning into a nightmare as he watched current events unfolding. However, Dr. King refused to give up his conviction that our nation could change. "I still have a dream today that one day justice will roll down like water, and righteousness like a mighty stream. I still have a dream that in all of our state houses and city halls men will be elected to go there who will do justly and mercy and walk humbly with their God. With this faith we will be able to speed up the day when there will be peace on earth and good will toward men."

Is the day of good will toward all still coming? As Christians, celebrate the miracle of the incarnation - the belief that God actually came to live among us as a child - I also hope we can honor Him by raising a mighty voice for justice and protection for all the children who are sacred and made in God's image but left behind in poverty and hopelessness. As we end the holy season of Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa, look ahead to Eid al-Adha, and enter the time of year of new beginnings, let us repent and reaffirm our commitment to building a nation where all children find room in our inn.

There's nothing new about domestic spying

By Earl Ofari Hutchinson, BlackNews.com Columnist

The big puzzle is why anyone is shocked that President Bush eavesdropped on Americans. The National Security Agency for decades has routinely monitored the phone calls and telegrams of thousands of Americans. The rationale has always been the same, and Bush said it again in defending his spying, that it was done to protect Americans from foreign threat or attack. The named targets in the past have been Muslim extremists, Communists, peace activists, black radicals, civil rights leaders, and drug peddlers.

Even before President Harry Truman established the NSA in a Cold War era directive in 1952, government cryptologists jumped in the domestic spy hunt with Operation Shamrock. That was a super secret operation that forced private telegraphic companies to turn over the telegraphic correspondence of Americans to the government. The NSA kicked its spy campaign into high gear in the 1960s. The FBI demanded that the NSA monitor anti-war activists, civil rights leaders, and drug peddlers. The Senate Select Committee that investigated government domestic spying in 1976 pried open a tiny public window into the scope of NSA spying. But the agency slammed the window shut fast when it refused to cough up documents to the committee that would tell more about its surveillance of Americans. The NSA claimed that disclosure would compromise national security. The few feeble Congressional attempts over the years to probe NSA domestic spying have gone nowhere. Even though rumors swirled that NSA eyes were riveted on more than a few Americans, Congressional investigators showed no stomach to fight the NSA's entrenched code of silence.

There was a huge warning sign in 2002 that government agencies would jump deeper into the domestic spy business. President Bush scrapped the old 1970s guidelines that banned FBI spying on domestic organizations. The directive gave the FBI carte blanche authority to surveil, and plant agents in churches, mosques, and political groups, and ransack the Internet to hunt for potential subversives, without the need or requirement to show probable cause of criminal wrongdoing. The revised Bush administration spy guidelines, along with the anti-terrorist provisions of the Patriot Act, also gave local agents even wider discretion to determine what groups or individuals they can investigate and what tactics they can use to investigate them. The FBI wasted little time in flexing its new found intelligence muscle. It mounted a secret campaign to monitor and harass Iraq war protesters in Washington D.C. and San Francisco in October 2003.

Another sign that government domestic spying was back in full swing came during Condoleezza Rice's finger point at the FBI in her testimony before the 9/11 Commission in 2004. Rice blamed the FBI for allegedly failing to follow up on its investigation of Al-Qaeda operatives in the United States U.S. prior to the September 11 terror attacks. That increased the clamor for an independent domestic spy agency. FBI Director Robert Mueller made an impassioned plea against a separate agency, and the reason was simple. Domestic spying was an established fact that the FBI, and the NSA had long been engaged in it.

The September 11 terror attacks, and the heat Bush administration took for its towering intelligence lapses, gave Bush the excuse to plunge even deeper into domestic spying. But Bush also recognized that if word got out about NSA domestic spying, it would ignite a firestorm of protest. Fortunately it did. Despite Bush's weak, and self-serving national security excuse that it thwarted potential terrorist attacks, none of which is verifiable, the Supreme Court, the NSA's

own mandate, and past executive order, explicitly bar domestic spying without court authorization. The exception is if there is a grave and imminent terror threat. That's the shaky legal dodge that Bush used to justify domestic spying.

Bush, and his defenders, discount the monumental threat and damage that spying on Americans poses to civil liberties. But it can't and shouldn't be shrugged off. During the debate over the creation of a domestic spy agency in 2002, even proponents recognized the potential threat of such an agency to civil liberties. As a safeguard they recommended that the agency not have expanded wiretap and surveillance powers or law enforcement authority, and that the Senate and House intelligence committees have strict oversight over its activities.

These supposed fail-safe measures were hardly ironclad safeguards against abuses, but they understood that domestic spying is a civil liberties nightmare minefield if it has blown up and wreaked havoc on American's lives in the past. The FBI is the prime example. During the 1950s and 1960s, FBI director J. Edgar Hoover kicked FBI domestic spying into high gear. FBI agents compiled secret dossiers, illegally wiretapped, used undercover plants, and agent provocateurs, sent poison pen letters, and staged black bag jobs against black activists and anti-war groups. Bush's claim that domestic spying poses no risk to civil liberties is laughable. Congress should demand that Bush and the NSA come clean on domestic spying, and then promptly end it.

Earl Ofari Hutchinson is a columnist for BlackNews.com, an author and political analyst.

Letter Policy

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BY KEITH WRIGHT

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Evolution was 2005's top scientific breakthrough

WASHINGTON - Two days after a U.S. judge struck down the teaching of intelligent design theory in a Pennsylvania public school, the journal Science on Thursday proclaimed evolution the breakthrough of 2005.

Wide-ranging research published this year, including a study that showed a mere 4 percent difference between human and chimpanzee DNA, built on Charles Darwin's landmark 1859 work "The Origin of Species" and the idea of natural selection, the journal's editors wrote.

"Amid this outpouring of results, 2005 stands out as a banner year for uncovering the intricacies of how evolution actually proceeds," they wrote.

"Ironically, also this year, some segments of American society fought to dilute the teaching of even the basic facts of evolution."

The journal's editor in chief, Don Kennedy, acknowledged this was a reference to the rise of the theory of intelligent design, which holds that some aspects of nature are so complex that they must be the work of an unnamed creator rather than the result of random natural selection, as Darwin argued.

Opponents, including many scientists, argue it is a thinly disguised version of creationism -- a belief that the world was created by God as described in the Book of Genesis -- which the

U.S. Supreme Court has ruled may not be taught in public schools.

"I think what arouses the ire of scientists (about intelligent design) is ... the notion that it belongs in the same universe as scientific analysis," Kennedy said in a telephone interview.

"It's a hypothesis that's not testable, and one of the important recognition factors for science and scientific ideas is the notion of testability, that you can go out and do an experiment and learn from it and change your idea," said Kennedy. "That's just not possible with a notion that's as much a belief in spirituality as intelligent design is."

Intelligent design theory

came under review in two U.S. states this year, with a federal judge in Pennsylvania on Tuesday banning the teaching of intelligent design as an alternative to evolution in the Dover Area School District.

In Kansas, the state Board of Education approved public school standards that cast doubt on evolutionary theory.

Kennedy said Science picked evolution as the year's

biggest breakthrough in part because it was a "hot topic," but stressed there was a wealth of research that justified the choice.

Other breakthroughs in the journal's Top 10 include research in planetary exploration, the molecular biology of flowers, the violent ways of neutron stars, the relationship between genetics and abnormal human behavior, the new field

of cosmochemistry, a protein that controls the flow of potassium ions to cells, fresh evidence of global warming, an engineering approach to molecular biology and superconductivity.

Areas to watch for in 2006, according to Science, include the avian flu, ultra-high-energy cosmic rays and the possible sighting of the ivory-billed woodpecker, long presumed extinct but rediscovered in 2004.

Doc makes candid comments on HIV vaccine

WASHINGTON - In an unusually candid admission, the federal chief of AIDS research says he believes drug companies don't have an incentive to create a vaccine for the HIV and are likely to wait to profit from it after the government develops one.

And that means the government has had to spend more time focusing on the processes that drug companies ordinarily follow in developing new medicines and bringing them to market.

"We had to spend some time and energy paying attention to those aspects of development because the private side isn't picking it up," Dr. Edmund Tramont testified in a deposition in a recent employment lawsuit obtained by The Associated Press.

Tramont is head of the AIDS research division of the National Institutes of Health, and he predicted in his testimony that the government will eventually create a vaccine. He testified in July in the whistleblower case of Dr. Jonathan Lishbein.

"If we look at the vaccine, HIV vaccine, we're going to have an HIV vaccine. It's not going to be made by a company," Tramont said. "They're dropping out like flies because there's no real incentive for them to do it. We have to do it."

"They will eventually - if it works, they won't have to make

that big investment. And they can make it and sell it and make a profit," he said.

An official of the group representing the country's major drug companies took sharp exception to Tramont's comments.

"That is simply not true. America's pharmaceutical research companies are firmly committed to HIV/AIDS vaccine research and development with 15 potential vaccines in development today," said Ken Johnson, senior vice president of PhRMA, the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America.

"Vaccine research is crucial to controlling the AIDS pandemic and our companies are well aware of the need to succeed in this vital area of science," Johnson said.

In an e-mail response to comment, Tramont said the HIV vaccine mirrors the history of other vaccines. "It is not just a HIV vaccine - it's all vaccines - that is why there was/is a shortage of flu vaccines," Tramont wrote.

The quest for an AIDS vaccine has been one of science's biggest disappointments despite billions of dollars and years of research. Part of the dilemma is that such a vaccine must work through the very immune system that AIDS compromises.

The failure in the last couple years of one of the more promising vaccine candidates has bred some frustration.

The United Nations' top HIV/AIDS official acknowledged earlier this year at a conference that it was no longer realistic to hope that the world will meet its goal of halting and reversing the spread of the pandemic by 2012. A British delegate to that conference predicted it might take 20 years before such a vaccine is created.

The International AIDS Vaccines Initiative, a not-for-profit group that is pushing for an AIDS vaccine, said there are more than 30 vaccine candidates being tested mostly on a small scale in 19 countries, but it acknowledges many are pursuing a similar theory of science that may prove futile.

"If the hypothesis is proven incorrect, the pipeline of candidates now in trials will be rendered mostly irrelevant. Strong alternative hypotheses have been largely neglected," the group said.

IAVI estimates total annual spending on an AIDS vaccine is \$682 million.

"This represents less than 1% of total spending on all health product development," IAVI said. "Private sector efforts amount to just \$100 million annually. This is mainly due to the lack of incentives for the private sector to invest in an AIDS vaccine - the science is difficult, and the developing countries that need a vaccine most are least able to pay."

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Stone Hollow Villas of Lubbock

Units available in February.
Call 806-744-2700 to get on the waiting list.



Development Location:
Stone Hollow Villas will be located at 1510 East Cornell Street, just south of Estacado High School.

Rental Information:

The community will contain 140 units, some of which will be:

- * One bedroom, one bath units of approximately 770 square feet
- * Two bedroom, two bath units of approximately 1060 square feet
- * Three bedroom, two bath units of approximately 1,400 square feet

* Tenants will be responsible for their own water, electricity, gas, telephone, and cable television.

Project Amenities:

The community will be elegant in appearance, functional in layout, and will provide tenants with first performance leasing with controlled guest access, a playground/picnic area, and a furnished community building containing a computer room, exercise and activities room and a community laundry facility. A wide range of potential services for the tenant is being considered.

Development Owner: LHV, Stone Hollow, LP (A Texas Limited Partnership)
1708 Avenue G, Lubbock, TX, 79408

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