

Texas Tech University
Southwest Collection
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Lubbock, Tx 79409-1041



Merry Christmas!



Southwest Digest

December 25 - January 1, 2003

VOL. XXIX, No. 12

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Local News

Photographs of "An American Tribute" To be Displayed by American State Bank

"Oh say, does that Star Spangled Banner yet wave...?" The answer especially in Lubbock, is "Yes!" More than 3,400 Star Spangled Banners waved in Lubbock this past September as American State Bank hosted a spectacular display called "An American Tribute." Thousands of visitors saw the flags here in conjunction with the anniversary of Nine/Eleven and untold thousands more watched statewide and nationwide news coverage of the event, but the viewing isn't over yet.

American State received a flood of pictures taken by local photographers and has decided to put a selection of them on display. The bank's senior vice president for marketing, Susie Moore, says, "We had so much good community involvement with An American Tribute that we just can't let the memories and the images fade." She adds that the exhibit of flag photographs, depicting everything from aerial views of the so-called "Healing Field" to a bride in her white gown among the banners, will serve as a complement to the opening of the Lubbock Veterans Memorial.

The dozens of color photographs will be seen in American State Bank lobbies on this schedule:

- The ASB branch at 6601 and Indiana December 22 to 29
- The ASB branch at 4th and Vicksburg December 29 to January 5
- And at the main bank, 1401 and Avenue Q, January 5 to January 12

The public is cordially invited

John E. Hall Named Executive Director North 61 East Lubbock Re-Development Project

Last Thursday afternoon, December 18, 2003, scores of Lubbockites meet the new Executive Director of the North and East Lubbock Redevelopment Project during a news conference at the County Line Pavilion. He is John E. Hall.

Speakers at the news conference were Mayor Marc McDougal, Mayor Pro Tem Victor Hernandez and City Councilman T. J. Patterson.



Gary Lawrence, who served a chair of the North and East Lubbock Redevelopment Committee, served as master of ceremonies for this historic occasion.

Earlier in the day in city council meeting, Mr. Hall's contract was approved by the Lubbock Council, and will fill the position until the Community Development Corporation is formed.

"The first action I took when

I became mayor was to form the North and East Lubbock Redevelopment Committee," Mayor McDougal said. "We have the cream of the crop on the Committee, and they, in turn, found the cream of the crop for our Executive Director."

All North and East Lubbock Redevelopment Committee members who interviewed candidates voted for Hall unanimously from among 35 applicants. He comes to Lubbock from Dallas where he served as the Deputy Director of the South Fair Community Development Corporation since 2002. Hall spent approximately two years as the Director of Non-profit Development for the

Upper Manhattan Empowerment Zone in New York.

Hall served as the Associate Director for The Samaritan Center in Syracuse, N. Y. in 1999, and was a banking officer for Bank of America for five years.

A native of Wichita Falls, Texas, Hall received a Bachelor of Arts in French in 1993 from the University of Michigan and a Master of Public Administration in 2000 from Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, Syracuse University.

"North and East Lubbock is ripe for growth and development," said Mayor McDougal. "With John E. Hall to lead the way, we are sure to see more exciting events happen in the near future."

"This is what we have been waiting for, a quarterback," said Mr. Lawrence.

"I am excited about this opportunity," said Mr. Hall.

"I will work to see that there will be some outstanding opportunities for the citizens in North and East Lubbock," he continued.

Hello & Welcome to Experience Works!

Anesha Majeed, formerly Annie Thomas - Class of '66 - Dunbar High (Go Panthers!), is a native of Lubbock who after graduation from high school moved with her mother and other family members to Denver, Colorado, where she resided for the next thirty years. She returned (home) to Lubbock in the year 2000. Anesha has been a part of Experience Works since February 2003 as an Intake Specialist. Her past years of experience in the clerical field is an asset to her current position. Her duties at Experience Works are to assess new applicants, determine their eligibility, and help construct a plan for their enrollment in Experience Works Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP), a national training and employment service that brings opportunity to disadvantaged older workers. The program was established in 1965 as Green Thumb and renamed Experience Works in 2002. SCSEP is funded under Title V of the Older Americans Act by the U. S. Dept. of Labor. Based on their interests and goals, eligible applicants (who are 55 years of age or older and who meet Dept. of Labor low income guidelines) are set up with a training plan. Training can be short-term or a more extended training at a 501c3 non-profit or government agencies known as Host Agencies. The Host

Agency provides day-to-day supervision & training. The trainees' wage is paid by Experience Works. The training is designed to enable the participant to become job ready for unsubsidized employment. Upon completion of participant's training, Anesha and other assistants will job search via computer, newspaper ads, and contact with local employers to locate available jobs for each individual.

Experience Works allowed Anesha the opportunity to return to work after a long period of inactivity (3 years) due to major surgery. She feels very lucky to have found this position at a time when so many businesses are closing their doors, leaving workers literally out in the cold. In addition to having worked 5 years for the City & County of Denver, and prior to her surgery, Anesha had previously owned her own business (The East Colfax Story Newspaper), and has future aspirations to start the same type business in Lubbock. Being in the 55 and older age category herself, Anesha feels that she can understand the concerns of this group and she really enjoys working with them. She feels that this

age group is the "cream of the crop" and she has never seen so many proud and determined people. America's population is aging, but work knows no age and experience is in demand. The goal of the Experience Works SCSEP is to provide participants with the training, experience, supportive services and information they need to improve their lives, gain self-sufficiency, realize their goals, and obtain permanent employment.

Other services of Experience Works include Geezer.Com - an e-commerce Web site that provides senior artisans and crafters a nationwide market for their unique, handcrafted goods, and a wonderful place for ANY-ONE to shop!

Lubbock area seniors (age



55 or older) interested in obtaining new job training or assistance in finding employment may call (806) 765-5038 ext. 248, 202 or 220. We'll be happy to serve you. Experience Works is an EQE.

Fewer Lawyers for Poor in 2004

More than 1,000 Low-Income Families Will Not Receive Civil Legal Aid due to Reduction in Funds

Facing reduction in revenues and rising expenses, Legal Aid of Northwest Texas said Monday that it will have to reduce the number of staff attorney positions in 2004. The Texas non profit that has provided urgent civil legal aid since the 50's, has 76 full time staff attorneys and 8 part-time telephone intake attorneys, with offices throughout North West Texas in Amarillo, Abilene, Lubbock, Midland, Odessa, Denton, San Angelo, Fort Worth, McKinney and Dallas. There are over 900,000 people living in the 114 counties served by Legal Aid of Northwest Texas.

Legal Aid of Northwest Texas, the only comprehensive civil legal aid program in Northwest Texas, relies heavily upon federal and state funding. Contributions from the public, and in particular the legal community, provide a small percentage of its funding.

Jesse L. Gaines, Chief Executive Officer said, "The help we provide families makes a world of difference. For them, access to legal aid can mean the support from an absent parent, a decent home, adequate nutrition and health care, relief from violence, access to education and vocational skills. For the work-

ing poor, we can help preserve employment by making the difference between remaining productive and independent or joining the ranks of the dependent poor."

While accustomed to dealing with sporadic government funding, 2004 will be particularly difficult due to the loss of major grant funding of civil legal aid for victims of domestic violence, "With half a million dollars less to use for victims of domestic violence, our offices in Dallas, Ft. Worth, Abilene, McKinney and Wichita Falls will have unfilled staff attorney positions," said Jonathan Vickery, Chief Operating Officer. "We will have at least 10 fewer staff attorneys through attrition in 2004."

Mr. Gaines stated that the Board of Directors had no choice but to approve a budget for 2004 that provided for less staff than in 2003. Clients receive legal aid for a wide range of legal issues including domestic violence, eviction and foreclosures, benefits, employment, and consumer fraud. "The majority of our clients are low wage single heads of households with small children. More than 70% of our clients are women," Gaines concluded.

More Than 500 Attend American Legion Christmas Party

More than 500 boys, girls and parents were in attendance of the Annual Christmas Party of Booker T. Washington, Post 808 American Legion last Sunday evening, December 21, 2003, in Yellowhouse Canyon.

"We look forward to this annual event, and to see the smiles on the faces of all these boys and girls is worthwhile," said Alfred Caviel, Commander. "We will come

back next year and continue to do what we have been doing for many years," he continued.

The big event was the entrance of Santa Claus. The house, filled with excited children, cheered for his arrival. He gave candies and gum to those who were awaiting his arrival. It was a good feeling, and those present showed their appreciation with a loud "Santa!"

The First Progressive Baptist Choir sung several selections. Young Mark Sanders read a paper about Christmas, Vanessa Carter, who appeared on the Fort Worth Bowl singing the National Anthem this week and a member of Greater St. Luke Baptist Church, sung several Christmas songs.

In a word, it was Great!



CHRISTMAS WONDERLAND-Children and their parents flocked to the Parkway Library for the special event with Santa on Tuesday during the Show-A-Book with a Club program. 128 people attended. On Wednesday morning their were 52 in attendance.

A VISIT FROM SANTA CLAUSE-On December 16 and 17, Santa Claus came down from the North Pole and visited children at the Parkway Branch Library. Councilman T.J. Patterson, shown here, donated the Santa suit on Tuesday and Larry Mitchell, assistant principal at Abilene Academy, stayed Santa on Wednesday. Santa read to the children and handed out goodie bags filled with fruit, nuts and candy.

Community Meetings

- Lubbock Area Chamber of Commerce Second Saturday, 1:00 pm • Mae Simmons Community Center • Hub City Kiwanis, Every Tuesday Night, 7:00pm, 1708 Avenue Q • Dunbar Alumni Association 2nd Saturday 4pm • Booker T. Washington American Legion Post 808 2nd Tuesday - 7:30 • Houston West Riders, First & Third Monday, 7:00 pm, T. J. Patterson Library • East Lubbock Chapter AARP, Every 1st Thursday at 1 pm, Mae Simmons Community Center, Oak and 8th St. • Lubbock Chapter of Black Alumni 3rd Tuesday, 5:30 pm, 111 Market Center • Dunbar Embroidery League • Neighborhood Association, Meet Every Third Thursday 6:00 pm (301 East 26th Street) (on which contemporary history is being held) • National American Association for Lack Sufferers on alternating months, relay meetings, readings held on second Sunday of each month at 7:00 pm. • Lubbock area professionals and demonstrators • Texas Jungles with Cultural & Historical Commission Lubbock Chapter Meets at Parkway Branch Library 3rd Tuesday, 7 pm • West Texas Native American Association meets 2nd Saturday each month at Green Library, 5520 19th Street, 7:30 • West Texas Chapter of 100 Black Men meets the 3rd Monday evening at 7:00 pm, at the Parkway Neighborhood Center • The Parkway Quilting & Cherry-Pom Neighborhood Association meets the 3rd Tuesday evening of each month at 7:30 pm, at Parkway Neighborhood Center.

We would like to publish your monthly meetings. If you would like for an announcement to appear in this paper, please get it to us in writing by mailing it to:

Community Meetings C/O: Southwest Digest
P.O. Box 2553
Lubbock, Texas 79408
or bring it by the Southwest Digest office at 902 East 23rd Street

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Fashion Fun

by Shirley Roberson

Dancing, Black Silk Shirts

It's young at heart and free spirited. This beautiful shirt dances, even when you are standing still. Designer, Mary Adams was focusing generously on detail.... The entire shirt is covered with rhinestones, crystal clear rhinestones... HOW GREAT IS THAT !!!
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liance of stones. This shirt possesses endless possibilities...
Dress it up or dress it down with your favorite pant skirt.
Looks great with jeans!!!
Remember ladies, this is a anytime, anywhere shirt.....
Not just for the Holidays
ENJOY AT YOUR FINER DEPT. STORES



Fashion. Just for the fun of it
Fashion Tip.. Always wear a smile

Community Coalition Seeks Volunteers for Upcoming Tax-Help Season

Since 1999, the City of Lubbock has been involved in the Tree City USA program. This program recognizes cities that are dedicated to planting and maintaining trees in our urban communities. With this in mind, the City of Lubbock created the Trees Across Texas program. Each year, the City of Lubbock has a symbolic tree exchange with another Tree City USA member in Texas. Each city plants a tree indigenous to the habitat of the partner city.

The first Texas city to participate with Lubbock was the City of Lubbock. A lighted image of the first tree planted in Lubbock in the Trees

Across Texas program on Arbor Day 2000 was dedicated at the Lubbock International Airport Terminal on Monday, December 1, at 1:30 p.m.

Participating in the dedication were Councilman T. J. Patterson and Dr. A. E. Quest, Jr., who played an important role in the Trees Across Texas program. Dr. Quest and his late wife, Audrey, have been long-time supporters of Lubbock's parks, and they established the A. E. (Gene) Quest Memorial Grove, a grove of

over eighty trees, located at the Buddy Holly Recreation Area off of North University on Canyon Lakes Drive.

As part of the dedication, Dr. Gerald Dolter, Texas Tech University School of Music, sang a song entitled, "Oh Lord, Look What Thou Hath Done," composed by the late Dr. Houston Bright, Texas A&M School of Music, with words written by Dr. Quest.

CHATMAN HILLS CORNER

by Clarissa Jay

Many churches were filled with members and friends last Sunday morning as we approach the Christmas Holiday Season. This writer hopes we will keep Christ in Christmas as we celebrate this year. The birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ is what Christmas is all about. Let us not forget all of that. Think about why he came and died for all of us.

This column still has room for those of you who may have news about some family news or reunions. Or a story about something happening in your church. Pictures of your organization will be good news as well.

This column is for anyone who has something the community needs to know about. If you want to get it to this column, then send it to: Southwest Digest, The Chatman Hill Corner, P. O. Box 2553, Lubbock, Texas 79408. Let us hear from you.

Church members of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Seventh Day Adventist Church, East 25th Street and MLK Blvd., visited residents of the Bender Terrace Nursing Home, 4510 27th Street, on Saturday afternoon, December 13, 2003. The residents were excited about their visit.

James Roberts is pastor, Raymond Loggins is elder.

The Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church Youth Choir did some caroling last week at several nursing homes. The young people enjoyed doing this, and want to continue doing these kinds of things. Hope, these young people will continue giving back to the community. Also, other church youth groups will do same. These kinds of efforts can be done all year long.

Let us not forget those who are sick and shut in the community. Among those who are sick include: Leon Bunion, a patient at Lakeside Covenant System, ICU; Brother Harry Stokley, a patient at Covenant Health System, room 871-S; Sister Pearlean McDaniel, patient at University Medical Center, ICU; Sister Joan Y. Ervin, Sister Mattie Beaty, and Sister Helen Skief, a patient at Covenant Health System Lakeside. Keep in mind that God is able!

Several families lost loved ones last week. Among them is the Fulton Berry who lost his mother; and the former pastor of St. John Baptist Church, Rev. James E. Moore.

Services were well attended last Sunday morning at the New Hope Baptist Church, 2002 Birch Avenue, the "Church Where The People Really Care," and Rev. Billy R. Moton is pastor.

Morning services began with Meditation and Prayer. The Praise Team came forward with a spirit filled hour of praising. What a wonderful time!

The morning scripture was read by Rev. Cheryl Martin. Rev. Charles Wilson offered the morning prayer.

After several selections by the New Hope Choir, Pastor Moton delivered the sermon of the hour. His subject was "Team Work Will Bring Us To Mature Unity, Faith and Love." His scripture text was Ephesians 4:13. It was another inspirational message, and gave all present food for thought during the coming week. Praise God for Pastor Moton!

This writer, who has been under the weather for a little while, wants to take this time and wish each of you a Merry Christmas. May each of you follow the "right Star" during this Christmas season. Let us not forget why we celebrate at this time of the year.

May God continue to bless each of you is our prayer!

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Charles "HOP" Hobby graduated from the former Dunbar Senior High School in 1970. After graduating from high school, he attended the United States Air Force and served his country for three years. He attended college studying Family Studies. He became a counselor for ten years for the State of Texas. Charles is currently employed with Gene Messer Ford as a certified sales consultant, allowing him to sale thirteen different models of cars located in Amarillo, Dallas and Lubbock. Charles says, "Regardless of your financial status, I will get you in a car." "You don't have to walk." Drop by Gene Messer Ford and give Charles the challenge to get you in a car of your choice.



CHURCH DIRECTORY



WE THANK GOD FOR JESUS
 "XMAS FOR CHRIST OF MERCHANDISE"

1 JOHN 2:15, LOVE NOT THE WORLD, NEITHER THE THINGS THAT ARE IN THE WORLD. IF ANY MAN LOVE THE WORLD, THE LOVE OF THE FATHER IS NOT IN HIM.

AS THE WOMAN BOUGHT STAMPS AT THE POST OFFICE, JUST THE OTHER DAY, A FROWN OF DEEP MADNESS, CAME OVER THE SMILE, THAT WAS ON HER FACE.

SHE LOOKED AT THE POSTED STAMPS: MARY HOLDING BABY JESUS, SHE SAID, THEY'RE PUTTING RELIGION IN XMAS. I JUST DON'T BELIEVE IT.

MARK 7:7, JESUS SAID, HOWBEIT IN VAIN DO THEY WORSHIP ME, TEACHING FOR DOCTRINES OF THE COMMANDMENTS OF MEN.

(YOU KNOW MANY PLAY THIS XMAS GAME, TRYING TO SAY HOW MUCH I LOVE YOU, AND WILL

SPEND BIG MONEY, TRYING TO PROVE THAT LIE, BUYING PRESENTS, TREES, TOYS, PUTTING UP LIGHTS, PARTYING AND DRINKING; IS NOT GOD'S BUSINESS; IT THE BUSINESS OF MAN, BUT THE CHURCH WANT TO WIN THE WORLD. IF THERE WAS A BIRTHDAY PARTY, WHO DO YOU BUY A GIFT FOR? GOD'S BUSINESS IS SAVIN' SOULS NOT MAKING FRIENDS!

THE CHURCH WANT TO WIN THE WORLD'S APPROVAL: SO THEY PLAY THE GAME, BUT WHEN YOU MIX SANTA: THE LIAR; IN GOD'S BUSINESS; IT SHAME, SHAME, SHAME!!!

*****THE CHURCHES ARE ROBBING GOD*****

JOHN 15:18,19, JESUS SAID, IF THE WORLD HATE YOU, YE KNOW THAT IT HATED ME BEFORE IT HATED YOU. IF YOU WERE OF THE WORLD THE WORLD LOVE HIS OWN; BUT BECAUSE YOU ARE NOT OF THE WORLD, BUT I HAVE CHOSEN YOU OUT OF THE WORLD, THEREFORE THE WORLD HATES YOU.

THAT IS ANOTHER TRICK OF THE DEVIL: CELEBRATING JESUS' BIRTHDAY; THE BIRTH IS NOT AS IMPORTANT AS THE DEATH; THAT SHOULD BE THE BIGGEST DAY.

(IF JESUS LIVED ON 10 MILLIONS YEARS; AND DON'T DIE; IT IS OF NO GOOD TO ANYONE. —I THANK

THAT'S RIGHT; IF HE DON'T DIE FOR THE SIN'S OF THE WORLD, HE IS GOOD FOR NOTHING!!!)

JESUS DIES FOR THE WORLD AND ALL THEIR SIN; AND THE WORLD BELIEVED HIM NOT, PEOPLE LIE TO THE CHILDREN; SAYING, SANTA GAVE THE TOYS YOU GOT!!!

JOHN 3:17, JESUS SAID, FOR GOD SENT NOT HIS SON INTO THE WORLD TO CONDEMN THE WORLD; BUT THAT THE WORLD THROUGH HIM MIGHT BE SAVED.

JESUS WAS BORN THAT DAY; YOU LET HIM COME LIVE INTO YOUR HEART, THAT IS THE DAY GOD WANT YOU TO CELEBRATE, AND THAT WOULD BE SMART.

(HERE IS WISDOM: THE BIBLE TELLS US IN LUKE 1:26,27, THE ANGEL WAS SENT IN THE SIXTH MONTH, TO MARY AND NINE MONTHS FROM THAT, MAKE THE BIRTH IN MARCH OR APRIL. AND THAT IS A GOOD TIME FOR THE SHEPHERDS TO BE IN THE FIELDS; NOT IN DECEMBER!!!)

THE WISE MEN SHOWED RESPECT; GIVING GIFTS FRANKINCENSE AND GOLD, BUT KING HEROD; LIKE SANTA CLAUS; JESUS' GLORY HAS BEEN STOLE.

MATTHEW 2:16, THEN KING HEROD, WHEN HE SAW THAT HE WAS MOCKED OF THE WISE MEN, WAS EXCEEDING WROTH, AND SENT FORTH, AND SLEW ALL THE CHILDREN THAT WERE IN BETHLEHEM.

NOW AMERICA IS TRYING TO KILL JESUS; LOOK AROUND AND YOU CAN PLAINLY SEE, THE COMMERCIALS OF CARS, TOYS CLOTHES APPLIANCES; BUT NO JESUS ON YOUR TV!!!

1 JOHN 2:15, LOVE NOT THE WORLD, NEITHER THE THINGS THAT ARE IN THE WORLD. IF ANY MAN LOVE THE WORLD, THE LOVE OF THE FATHER IS NOT IN HIM.

WRITTEN BY EVANGELIST-BILLY B.J. MORRISON III YOUR BROTHER IN JESUS CHRIST.



from the Desk of Parson D.A. Smith
 Beware of Your Freedom

Saturday, December 20, 2003, I was driving down 50th street and I notice a sticker on the back of an old Chevrolet Corsia, driven by a Hispanic lady with a car tilted with children that said, "Beware of Your Freedom."

Immediately, I thought of the number of impoverished illegal immigrants who have cross the borders of the United States by the way of Texas, Arizona, and California looking for a new and better life for themselves and their families. My "give a care meter" wanted to move, but when I thought of my Republican friends who put a \$1 billion federal aide package that promises relief to border hospitals, my "give a care meter" did not move. The reason being, our

Republican friends slipped this into the Medicare bill and we are very suspicious that some of their friends are going to prosper more than the illegal immigrants who really need the help, at the expense of our checks being shorted through taxation.

I realize that under federal law, hospitals and doctors must provide emergency care to a patient, regardless of insurance coverage or citizenship, but I am for sending the bill to the Mexican or any other government for the care of its citizens. I wonder what my freedom would be in Mexico, if its citizens are living in conditions of such that they risks their lives to come to America? (This is not the likes of an Eddie Murphy movie.)

The "beware of your freedom" sign should way heavy on all of our hearts and espe-

cially black Americans in Lubbock, Texas. Black Africans sold its fellow citizens into slavery while the slave traders plug them as they "skin and grin." These tribal pieces of inhumane warlords sold out their own people for a "mess of pottage," not realizing they were walking each day on a literal financial gold mine.

Lubbock Blacks "beware of your freedom" for you are walking on a potential gold mine. The road to the mine has been paved by a number of people who have gone on to "glory" and those who now are in the autumn of their lives. Some of these special people I have had the privilege of working with include T.J. Patterson, Rose Wilson, Billy Caviel, Jon Y. Ervin, Eddie Richardson, Emma Jackson, Fulton Berry, Dr. D. Hill and Stephanie Hill.

Countless unnamed others have acted in a supportive role.

We would encourage you as you continue your quest for freedom, not to tie yourself to the anchor of a sinking ship. Jump into the lifeboat of financial freedom, political freedom, social freedom, religious freedom, psychological freedom, health freedom and all of the other freedoms that lead one heavenly. God does not want you to always eat "pork neck bones." He wants you to have "Prime Rib" if it is your desire.

The Outreach Prayer Breakfast

Saints, what do you think about the Lottery? As a Christian, do you think the playing the Lottery is right or wrong? Just thinking. The following article deserves to be re-run.

Here it is: "The Lottery would fall under the category of gambling. Gambling is defined as a game of chance for money or to take a risk in order to gain. The Lottery is designed to offer the fortune of a lifetime in exchange for a small amount of money to give. It advertises the potential for riches if you are willing to give your hard earned money for it. The temptation is to give more money in order that you will increase your chance to win. There are several problems that playing the lottery possess.

As we quote: "Usually supported by those who can least afford it. The poorest are mostly the ones who play the Lottery, trying to get rich with little. The poorest people of our communities have the least disposable income and playing the Lottery will affect what funds they have to support their families. If money is spent on playing the Lottery, then playing the Lottery becomes poor stewardship. Consider the parable of the Steward in St. Luke 12:41-48. Jesus expects us to be good Stewards of the things he entrust us with. Also in I Corinthians 4:1-2, we learn that it is required of a Steward to be faithful.

Second, winning the Lottery would give us the financial resources that would take care of for the rest of our lives. We would have no need to pray for daily bread. As we're instructed to pray in St. Matthew 6:13. God always gives us what we need. He chooses not to afflict us with excessive recourses. Recall the time when the children of Israel were in the wilderness and they needed food. God gave them enough for the days needed. If any amount of manna was gathered for future needs: It was found to be with worms or it was foul; Exodus 16. If we believe God to be faithful then he will take care of all our needs, Matthew 6:24-34. Having excess has the potential of causing us to become dependent upon ourselves and not dependent upon God.

We should do what God has given us ability to do, but with the understanding that it is God who provides our jobs. Our abilities to get the jobs, and blessed with health with which we are able to perform our jobs. The more prosperous we become, the less dependent upon God we have become. This writer suspects it is because we have forgotten who blessed us to succeed. We're not speaking against having riches. In fact, we advocate that riches are obtainable and are not sinful. In themselves, the problem is not possession. Riches are the problem arise when riches

possess us. Riches that have been diligently worked for and not gambled for will be a tool in the hands of a faithful Steward to be used for God.

Then there is one who proclaims. If we win the Lottery, we're going to tithe our winnings to the church. The truth is if you are not tithing now with what you presently have, you probably will not tithe with what you will win in the Lottery. He who is faithful in a little thing is faithful in much. They ought write this down. Somewhere, maybe St. Matthew 25:23; would be a good place to put this.

Continuing in our quoting: "Here then is the understanding we have of the Lottery. It is not good Stewardship. It promotes self-confidence and not God-confidence. It eliminates or diminishes our faith in God: Whatever is not from faith is sin. Romans 14:23. When you play the Lottery, Saints, do you quickly put your tickets away before someone you know. Look over your shoulder. What is your opinion of the Lottery? Have a blessed Holiday, People! On your way shopping, pray for people. It's a Precious Gift. It doesn't cost much, but results are priceless.

Sister Dorothy Hood, president; Sister Christene Burleson, Vice president; and Sister Elnora Jones, teacher.

St. Matthew Baptist Church News

Last Sunday morning, December 21, 2003, began at 10:00 a. m. with Sunday School. The Sunday School lesson was taught by Rev. Sister Nina Davis. The review was done by Pastor Edward Canady. What a beautiful lesson as he brought words of encouragement. Thanks, Pastor Canady for a job well done.

The morning worship hour began at 11:00 a. m. Rev. Sister Nina Davis delivered the morning message. Her subject was "Lord, You Said ASK!" Her scripture text was St. Matthew 7:7-11. It was a wonderful message.

After the morning services, a beautiful Christmas program was held. The theme was the "Advent Candles."

There was a fellowship with members. Snacks and exchanging of Christmas gifts were done. What a wonderful time of the year when we all come together in the name of Jesus.

Thought of the Week: "You don't need to know where you are going if you let God do the leading."

The Senior Choir of St. Matthew Baptist Church will sponsor their Annual program on Sunday, January 11, 2004, beginning at 3:00 p. m. The theme will be "Come, Let Us Sing Unto The Lord."

Everyone is invited to attend. Sister Barbara Johnson is president.

Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church

2202 Southeast Drive
 806-744-7552

Pastor's study 806-741-0208
 dpobethel@aol.com

Intercessory Prayer 8:30am

Church School 9:30am

Morning Worship 10:50am

Evening Worship 6:00pm

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12:00 Noon and 6:00pm



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Pastor: Danny R. Poe

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Merry Christmas
 and A
 Happy New Year!

In Remembrance...



Leslie "Shawn" Dobbins

Funeral services for Leslie "Shawn" Dobbins were held last Saturday afternoon, December 20, 2003, at Divine Love Baptist Church with the Rev. Kenneth Burns, pastor,

officiating.

Burial was held in Peaceful Gardens Memorial Park in Woodrow, Texas under the direction of Calvillo Funeral Home of Lubbock.

Mr. Dobbins died here last Sunday, December 14, 2003.

He was born July 26, 1972, in North Little Rock, Ark. He married Jennifer Johns on February 11, 2000, in Lubbock. He moved to Lubbock from Commerce, Texas. He was a Meter Technician for Erwin

Measurements.

He is survived by his wife, Jennifer Dobbins of Lubbock, Texas; his father, Lea Lee Dobbins of North Little Rock, Ark.; a brother, Adrian Harshaw of North Little Rock, Ark.; uncles: Harold Wayne Williams and Rev. Roosevelt Dobbins; an aunt; Estelle Johnson; all of North Little Rock, Ark.; and special friends: Randolph McGill of Alabama, Henry Milton of Arlington, Texas and Darcus Williams of Dallas, Texas.



Mattie Elva McGee

Funeral services for Mattie Elva McGee on Wednesday, December 17, 2003, at the Parkway Drive Church of Christ.

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

Ms. McGee passed away on Thursday, December 11, 2003.

She was born to Roosevelt Carroll and Elva Johnson on March 23, 1930. She was reared and received her education in Caldwell, Texas. Both parents preceded her in death.

She met and married Willie

Bishop McGee in 1952, and to this union a child was born. Both were faithful members of the 20th and Birch Street Church of Christ.

Her husband preceded her in death as was her brother, Roosevelt V. Carroll.

A well-known citizen, she was known as "Aunt Mattie", "Miss Mattie", and "Mattie Mae" to many of her family and friends.

A woman of exemplary character, Mattie organized and implemented many programs such as the Ladies Lectureship Program at 20th and Birch Church of Christ, which she coordinated for 25 years. In addition, she was the Sunday School program coordinator for many years. She was active in the American Women's Auxiliary (AWA), which is a professional business organization, and she was a licensed key-punch operator.

She leaves to cherish her memory: a son, Kenneth Arlee Jackson and Dean Moore.

Honorary pallbearers were Deacons of St. John Baptist Church.

He was born August 13, 1918 to Elijah Moore and Victoria Smith Moore. He grew and developed into a wonderful and patient son, brother, husband, father, and grandfather.

Rev. Moore passed away on Tuesday, December 16, 2003.

He accepted Christ at an early age and married Mollie Shipp in Winona, Texas on December 17, 1938. Six children were born to this union.

The Moore family moved to Olton, Texas in 1941.

While in Olton, Rev. Moore and Sister Moore established a church and school, Bohner Chapel Baptist Church in 1954. Rev. Moore pastored Bohner Chapel for fourteen

Wayne McGee of Lubbock, Texas; a brother, J. W. Carroll, of Lubbock, Texas; her extended family Homer Hensley and wife, Lynn, Linda Little, Lisa Land and husband, Darrell, and Rick Hensley and wife, Melinda; 14 grandchildren: Adrian Rainwater and wife, Gloria, Charles McGee and wife, Kirn, Christopher Hensley, Dawson Land, Dillon Land, Homer Hensley, IV and wife, Amanda, Jaime McGee and wife, Christy, Jarrod McMinn and wife, Suzette, Jason Little and wife, Reyna, Jennifer Hensley, Kristin Howell, Lauren Hensley, Shawna Little and Shelly Little, eight great-grandchildren: Adrian Rainwater, Jr., Christopher McGee, Harrison Hensley, Kaela McGee, Harrison Hensley, Kaela McGee, Kennedy McMinn, Naisha Rainwater, Stephen Rainwater, and Tanner McMinn.

years, and after moving to Lubbock in 1968, he became pastor of First Faith Baptist Church for two years.

The family later moved their membership to St. John Baptist Church where Rev. Moore was the pastor for twenty-one years until 1993.

His parents, wife, three brothers and three sisters preceded him in death.

He is survived by two sons; Henry R. Moore of San Antonio, Texas and James O'Hara Moore of Fort Worth, Texas; four daughters: Joan Ray of Los Angeles, California, Iva Stewart of Dallas, Texas and Betty Vann and Connie Williams, both of Lubbock, Texas; a brother, Alvin Moore of San Antonio, Texas; a sister, Ardella Stinson of Dallas, Texas; nine grandchildren, fifteen great-grandchildren, and five great-great-grandchildren.

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SCHOLARSHIP GIVEAWAY RULES

- 1) The Lubbock Avalanche-Journal, as part of its Make Kids Count project, will provide a \$10,000 U.S. Savings Bond to the winning child who meets all eligibility requirements as listed below.
- 2) The contest is open to all children born between January 1, 2001, and January 2, 2004, to parents (or parent) who are U.S. citizens and residents of The Avalanche-Journal's home newspaper delivery area, which includes 36 counties in West Texas and the counties in Eastern New Mexico.
- 3) Employees of The A-J and Morris Communications Corporation and their immediate families are not eligible to participate.
- 4) No purchase is necessary.
- 5) Official entry forms will appear regularly in the Avalanche-Journal through Jan. 1, 2004, or can be obtained at The A-J Information Counter, 710 Ave. J, Lubbock, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.
- 6) A copy of a legal birth certificate and a reproducible photograph of the child must accompany each entry form. Also, entry forms must be completed in full entirety. Only one entry per baby will be accepted.
- 7) Deadline for entry is 2 p.m. Friday, January 2, 2004. Entries received after January 2 will not be accepted. Entries can be mailed to MAKE KIDS COUNT SCHOLARSHIP GIVEAWAY, PO Box 491, Lubbock 79408, or dropped off at The A-J Information Counter.
- 8) All contestants agree to allow their names, pertinent birth information and photographs to be published in The Avalanche-Journal without further compensation.
- 9) The Avalanche-Journal is not responsible for submitted entries that are lost, misdirected, damaged, illegible, incomplete or postage due.
- 10) Contest winner will be determined through a series of random drawings. From the total number of entries, 64 names will be drawn to finish. Those 64 names will be held (32, 16, 8, 4, 2, 1) weekly until the winner is announced on Tuesday Feb. 24, 2004.
- 11) In addition to the \$10,000 U.S. Savings Bond awarded to the winner, The A-J will present a \$5,000 Savings Bond to the runner-up, \$1,000 Savings Bonds to the other two quarterfinalists, \$500 Savings Bonds to the other four entries who make the round of eight, and \$100 Savings Bonds to the other eight entries who make the round of 16. All Savings Bonds will be issued in the names of the winning children after conclusion of the contest.
- 12) The Lubbock Avalanche-Journal may adopt or amend rules and regulations governing the procedures for claiming, dispersing and supervising the award.
- 13) By entering, each contestant or their representative acknowledges acceptance of the rules and agrees to be bound to them.
- 14) Decisions of the contest organizers are final.

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Parents Signature	
Child's Date Of Birth	Address
City	State Zip Code Home phone
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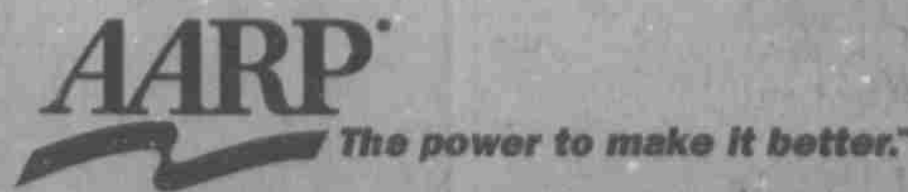
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What the new prescription drug benefit will do for you.
No sound bites. No spin. No politics. Just the facts.

Congress has just voted to add a prescription drug benefit to Medicare. While the benefit isn't perfect, it's an important step forward that we can build on in the future. Here are some important ways that older Americans and their families will be helped by this benefit:

1. **It protects traditional Medicare:**
Nothing in the legislation undermines traditional fee-for-service Medicare. And anyone can stay in it if they choose.
2. **All Medicare beneficiaries will have access to drug coverage:**
This is a guaranteed drug plan for all beneficiaries, regardless of where they live.
3. **This new drug benefit is voluntary:**
People can elect to keep any existing coverage they have, and no one will be forced to enroll in the new program.
4. **It helps those who need it most:**
The new benefit provides for comprehensive drug coverage for people with low incomes, at minimal cost to them.
5. **It protects those with the highest drug costs:**
After a beneficiary reaches the \$3,600 out-of-pocket limit, the federal government will pay for 95% of prescription drug costs.
6. **It protects retiree coverage:**
The legislation provides financial incentives for employers (both public and private) so that people who already have good private coverage will not lose it.
7. **It provides new preventive services:**
The legislation provides for new coordinated chronic disease management, preventive screening for heart disease and an introductory physical exam.
8. **Discount card:**
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Editorials • Comments • Opinions



We're Going Backwards Fast?

by Eddie P. Richardson

It seems as just yesterday when the new century arrived upon us, now just look as we are about to enter the fourth year already. 2004 is upon us!

As we enter 2004, we should get rid of all of our negativity, and improve on our positivity, and just move on with a bang! Now that we are in the Christmas Season, we must remember why we, especially Christians, we celebrate Christmas. Not Xmas, but CHRISTMAS, and as Christians something to think about. The first five

letters of Christmas and Christian spell out Christ — not merchants, not parties, not entertainment, but Christ. If the one who possess Christ should especially give the holiday honor and respect. Not disrespect. Think about it. You need to find a team and play on it, because you are or you are not.

During this time of year, here are a few words, us to check our character: a man does not carry a gun, because he is not afraid; a man supports his family; because he cares; a man does not a gun, because he has no fear nor malice in his heart; most of all, a man does not carry a gun, because it does not prove his masculinity, his character

does that!

We hear a lot of religious talk and misquoted scriptures. But let's face it, as for me, personally, this writer would rather see a sermon than hear one. So that means what you do speaks so loud, one can't hear a word you say.

Thought For the Week: "We would worry less about what others think of us if we realized how seldom they do!"

Have a blessed Merry Christmas, and a Happy and Prosperous New Year! Nuff Sed! Why not?



In Cinque

by Renetta W. Howard

Somehow and only God knows what is really going on in this world as the announcement came that Saddam Hussein had been found and captured. For some reason, it does not appear that anyone is upset, unusually happy or sad. One notorious, infamous person has been located and plans to try him in a court of law for injustices to humanity are currently being made. This may all be well and good. But what is wrong with the picture?

Months ago, a manhunt was on for Hussein after he refused to vacate his office as president of Iraq. He stayed in power until his country was invaded by enemy forces; enemy forces from foreign lands, not his own land. Once invaded, he went into hiding, and rightly so, as he was running for his life. In the interim, the lives of his sons were taken as his daughters fled to other countries for asylum. A manhunt remained until he was finally found, photographed and DNA tested to make sure he was whom he was supposed to be. Where is the United Nations? Somehow Koffi

Anan has not figured into this picture. Once again, one country still holds the reigns of the fate of Saddam Hussein and the oil and rebuilding of Iraq. Surprise! The United States and President George Bush are still at the helm of these operations.

Great Britain, the country which strongly supported the United States in the invasion of Iraq has stated that it does not have any plans to be involved in the plans to try Saddam Hussein in any court of law. Following the invasion of Iraq, the British parliament criticized the actions that they had taken until it now appears that Mr. Bush's visit to Great Britain has been for naught. Mr. Bush has also stated that contracts for rebuilding Iraq will only be awarded to coun-

tries which supported the U. S. invasion of Iraq. Has the United States taken the leadership role of the United Nations?

This is the season that we celebrate the advent or prayer before Christmas. We need to pray for all of the leaders of this world, good and bad ones and pray for strength for the United Nations to invoke the laws which it has to help to bring some semblance of peace to this world, that we may all celebrate the birth of Christ and any other religious leader at this time of year. The United Nations was created to make and keep peace in the world, and it is time for us to encourage it to do its job. It meets in New York City, New York and it needs to hear from citizens around the world.

THIS N THAT

HE WAS A GOOD CITIZEN! THIS N THAT ... had an opportunity to serve our city with ... B. C. "PECK" MCMINN ... who served for three terms as ... MAYOR OF LUBBOCK ... a very interesting person ... and did an outstanding job for this city... He will be missed ... and this city is a much better city because this man came this way ... and did serve his fellow man... Thanks a bunch ... B. C. "PECK" MCMINN ... for making a difference in our city...

WELCOME, COACH LEAF! THIS N THAT ... wants to take this opportunity ... welcome the new coach of Estacado High School Matadors ... He is "COACH BUSTER LEAF" ... who became the new coach as of last Friday morning when a press conference was held to make this announcement... He is replacing ... COACH DAVID MOODY ... who retired several weeks ago... THIS N THAT ... along with...the community ... says ... WELCOME, COACH LEAF! If there is anything this newspaper can do ... please advise... THIS N THAT ... remembers when a man by the name of ... JIMMY KEELING ... in 1968 ... came and ... the rest is history...

MATADORS LOOKING GOOD ON COURT! THIS N THAT ... is Still encouraging those ESTACADO HIGH SCHOOL MATADORS ... to keep the pace as seen so far on the basketball court... Keep doing what you are doing ... and keep the defense going ... As your coach said: "WE WANT TO PLAY HARD AND WHEN YOU'RE PLAYING DEFENSE, WELL, IS A BEAUTY TO WATCH!" THANKS, COACH TIM THOMAS ... for the job all of you are doing this year...

NORTH & EAST LUBBOCK ON MOVE WITH EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR! THIS N THAT ... is glad to see the hiring of the first ... EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ... for the North and East Lubbock Redevelopment Project... The director is ... JOHN E. HALL, III... a native of Wichita Falls, Texas ... and has done some very good work as deputy director with the ... SOUTH FAIR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION ... in Dallas, Texas... THIS N THAT ... is asking all concern citizens of these areas to ... GET INVOLVED ... with this special project ... and even invite this new director ... to come and visit with you ... your church or organization when he begins come January 1, 2004... THIS N THAT ... wishes this young man the very best... Welcome to Lubbock ... JOHN E. HALL, III.

PENNY HASTINGS THE BARBER SAYS: As we celebrate ... CHRISTMAS ... this week don't forget the reason for the season... The birth of our ... LORD, JESUS CHRIST!

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MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL OF YOU! THIS N THAT ... wants to take this time and wish all of you ... A MERRY CHRISTMAS ... and may each of you REMEMBER WHY WE CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS! THIS N THAT ... wants each of you to be extremely careful over the holiday season... And don't forget those who are ... HOMELESS!

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THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

Compiled and Edited by Dr. Michael Ward
The Month of December

It Happened in the Month of December

1803 - 200 Years Ago

* Tuesday, December 20, 1803: The Louisiana Purchase was completed, formally transferring the land from France to the United States. Often described as the greatest real estate deal in history, the United States paid France \$15 million for the Louisiana Territory, 828,000 square miles of land west of the Mississippi River. Some accounts list the purchase price as \$27 million, but this figure probably includes projections of interest on the partial deferred payment. The lands acquired stretched from the Mississippi River to the Rocky Mountains and from the Gulf of Mexico to the Canadian border. The Louisiana Purchase nearly doubled the size of the United States, making it one of the largest nations in the world. Thirteen states were carved from the Louisiana Territory. There is now documentation for that fact that Emperor Napoleon was forced to sell the territory for such a low price because he faced renewed war with England and he needed funds to support his suppression of the rebellion in Hispaniola, where Haitian slaves under Toussaint L'Ouverture had seized power.

1903 - 100 Years Ago

* Tuesday, December 1, 1903: the first western film, "The Great Train Robbery" was released. Produced by the inventor Thomas Edison, the silent film was based on Butch Cassidy's real-life robbery of a train in Wyoming in 1900. The movie lasted 11 minutes and was sandwiched between two

stage acts in a New York theatre. It is considered the father of the American western movie.

* Wednesday, December 16, 1903: The Majestic Theatre in New York City became the first in the US to hire female ushers.
* Wednesday, December 30, 1903: A fire caused by an electric lamp killed 602 people in Chicago's Iroquois Theatre. Newly-opened despite known safety violations, and advertised as "absolutely fireproof," the theatre held a standing-room-only crowd of 1900 people, mostly women and children, for the afternoon matinee of "Mr. Bluebeard." The death toll was greater than that of the Great Chicago Fire in 1871. Following the tragedy, several regulations and laws were put in place throughout the United States, including requirements for clearly marked exits, exit doors which opened outward, and fire drills for ushers and theatre personnel.

* Sunday, December 17, 1903: At 10:35 AM, the first sustained motorized aircraft flight took place. Wilbur and Orville Wright took turns piloting their flying machine in Kill Devil Hills, North Carolina. The first flight that morning lasted just twelve seconds and covered only 120 feet. The fourth and final flight of the day soared for 852 feet, with Wilbur remaining airborne for 57 seconds. Kitty Hawk, NC is the locale often associated with the historic first piloted flight of a heavier-than-air machine, but the true location was Kill Devil Hills. It was to Kitty Hawk, four miles away, that the Wright brothers walked to send a telegram to their father back home in Dayton, OH reporting their success at flying "average speed through air thirty-one miles..."

1953 - 50 Years Ago

* Wednesday, December 16, 1953: The first White House presidential news conference was held, as President Dwight D. Eisenhower answered questions from 161 reporters.

1978 - 25 Years Ago

* Sunday, December 3, 1978: William Grant Still, world-renown African American composer died in Los Angeles, CA, at age 83. Considered the dean of black classical composers, his works included "Afro-American Symphony" in 1930.
* Wednesday, December 13, 1978: The Susan B. Anthony dollar, the first US coin to honor a woman, was issued.

1993 - 10 Years Ago

* Thursday, December 2, 1993: The Dow-Jones stock market index hit a record 3702.11. Today the average is greater than 10,000. The Dow-Jones Industrial Average (DJIA) is commonly considered a measure of the strength and value of the stock market, with a higher number indicating more robust activity.

* Wednesday, December 22, 1993: Singer Michael Jackson, fighting back against child molestation allegations, issued a video statement in which he said he was "totally innocent of any wrongdoing."

* Thursday, December 30, 1993: The Vatican, seat of the Roman Catholic Church authority, formally recognized the state of Israel. The state of Israel was established in May 1948 when the United Nations, over Arab objections, partitioned Palestine into Arab and Jewish states. Now, more than 50 years later many countries in the world still have not granted diplomatic recognition to Israel.

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Smokie Norful LIMITED EDITION



Imagine that you are a new Gospel recording artist whose major-label debut project was released just 16 short months ago. Since that time, your name is on the lips of every Gospel Music fan. You are hand picked by none other than Kirk Franklin to join him on tour. Your first single becomes the biggest song the year at Gospel radio while also making its presence felt on Urban radio. Your peers name you the Best New Artist and Male Vocalist of the Year at the Stellar Awards and to top it all off, after 14 months of release, your debut CD enjoys a five-week run at #1 on the Billboard Gospel Chart. As surreal as it may seem, this is a reality for Smokie Norful.

A relative newcomer to the Gospel industry nearly two years ago when EMI Gospel first introduced him at the Gospel Music Workshop of America in Minneapolis, today you would now be hard-pressed to find a Gospel Music fan that doesn't know who Smokie Norful is. It has indeed been a whirlwind experience for Norful, whose debut release, I Need You Now has broken through the four walls of the church and burst onto the national scene, winning him accolades at every turn.

As both record sales and demands on his time increase, Smokie wanted to find a way to reach out and extend his gratitude to all those who have supported him, encouraged him and of course, purchased his music. The result is Smokie Norful LIMITED EDITION, an 8-track EP that bridges his best-selling debut, I Need You Now, with his forthcoming

full-length sophomore project, due out in 2004. "To everyone that has supported my ministry and has been a blessing to my family," says Smokie, "I say 'thank you' with this special project."

Consisting primarily of new live recordings of some of his most popular songs as well as a few added surprises, Smokie Norful LIMITED EDITION is a "next level" project that brings to the forefront Smokie's undeniable ability to captivate and engage any audience. Live arrangements of favorites such as "Still Say Thank You", "Praise Him" and "It's All About You" explode with a newfound energy.

Also included is a newly recorded, breathtaking rendition of the Christmas classic, "O Holy Night". As an added bonus, the LIMITED EDITION CD features enhanced content whereby fans can view the "I Need You Now" music video on their computer. True to its name, Smokie Norful LIMITED EDITION will only be available from now until the release of Smokie's next studio album, making it an instant collector's item.

With the inclusion of a new live rendition of "He's All I Need" (written by Smokie and originally recorded by Chicago's Thompson Community Singers) and a new extended, live version of the hit song "I Need You Now" (recorded at T.D. Jakes' Manpower 2003 Conference in Atlanta, Smokie Norful LIMITED EDITION brings the musical virtuoso full circle as he simultaneously embodies where Gospel Music has been and where it is going.

Strayhorn Gives Texans Good News for the Holidays

State Sales Tax Revenue Up for Third Month in a Row

(AUSTIN)—"State sales tax revenue is up for the third month in a row," Texas Comptroller Carole Keeton Strayhorn said today. "The last time state sales tax revenue increased three months in a row was July-September 2001, before 9-11."

"November sales tax revenue is up 4.3 percent compared to November 2002. This is the largest growth since August 2001, before the terrorists' attacks," she said. The state received \$1.36 billion in sales tax revenue in November.

"This is great news, considering the state had an historic, unfortunate first of two years of declining sales tax revenue in fiscal years 2002 and 2003," Strayhorn said.

"Last December, the Grinch stole Christmas," Strayhorn said. "We were seeing declining sales tax revenue at both the state and the local level, and tough economic times were also taking a toll on other revenue sources. This year, the Grinch isn't going to steal Christmas. State sales tax revenue is up and overall, local taxing entities will receive more sales tax this calendar year than they took in last calendar year."

Local sales tax revenue is up for the sixth consecutive month, the Comptroller reported as she sent Texas cities, counties, transit systems and special purpose taxing districts their final sales tax allocations for calendar year 2003. Strayhorn sent local sales tax allocations totaling \$306.6 million. December sales tax allocations to local governments are up 4.9 percent compared to

December 2002 and local sales tax allocations for calendar year 2003 are up 0.7 percent compared to last year.

Strayhorn sent sales tax payments of \$208.9 million to Texas cities, up 6.2 percent compared to December 2002. For calendar year 2003, city sales tax allocations are up 1.9 percent compared to 2002. Texas counties received December sales tax payments of \$17.7 million, up 5 percent compared to one year ago. Counties' sales tax allocations for 2003 are 1.7 percent higher than 2002.

Eighty-one special purpose taxing districts around the state received \$8.2 million in sales tax, up 3 percent compared to last December. For the calendar year, sales tax allocations to special purpose districts are up 1.9 percent compared to 2002. Texas' six metropolitan transit authorities and two city transit systems received \$71.8 million in December sales tax allocations, up 1.8 percent compared to a year ago. Transit systems are the only local taxing entities that saw their overall sales tax revenue decline in 2003—down 2.9 percent compared to 2002.

State sales tax revenue for November, and December sales tax allocations to local governments represent sales made in October and reported to the Comptroller in November.

The Comptroller's next local sales tax allocation will be made on Friday, Jan. 9.

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Season's Greetings

from



Lubbock County Commissioner
Gilbert Flores

"Wishing Each of You A Merry Christmas and a Happy Prosperous 2004!"

VOTE TO RE-ELECT GILBERT FLORES
LUBBOCK COUNTY COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 3.
A MAN WITH A PROVEN RECORD AND BEST CANDIDATE!

Adv. Authorized by Gilbert Flores Campaign