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March 23-29, 2006

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50¢

Worth More!

1302 Avenue Q
Lubbock, Texas 79401
Phone (806) 762-3612



New survey reveals minority women are unaware of heart disease treatment

SOUTHWEST COLLECTION
Texas Tech University
LUBBOCK, TEXAS 79401

Awareness gap greatest in minority groups

MIAMI /PRNewswire/ - A new survey finds that women are often unaware and ill informed of what to do after they or a loved one has been diagnosed with heart disease. Findings show that while a majority of women over 35 (73 percent) believe that they know how to prevent the deadly disease, only slightly more than half (55 percent) feel they understand how to treat the condition. Even more alarming is that the survey finds Hispanic and African American women - both of whom are considered high-risk groups for heart disease - are more than twice as likely than Caucasian women to say they did not know any treatments for the disease at all.

The survey was conducted by the "Healthy From The Heart" campaign, sponsored by Cordis Corporation, the medical device company that develops the CYPHER(R) Sirolimus-eluting Coronary Stent, and the National Women's Health Resource Center (NWHRC). The campaign, designed to encourage women to learn more about coronary artery disease treatment options, is launching with the help of Academy Award-winning actress Rita Moreno. Women can take the first step to learn about treatment options by logging on to



www.healthywomen.org and downloading an educational brochure at the start of 2006. The Healthy From The Heart bilingual brochure will also be made available in hospitals nationwide. "Being diagnosed with coronary artery disease can be a frightening experience, wrought with complex medical terms and overwhelming amounts of information. The Healthy From The Heart campaign will empower women to face heart disease with knowledge instead of fear, and help them realize that there are treatment options available that

can help them lead active lives well into their later years," says Ms. Moreno.

Heart disease affects over eight million women in the United States, killing 500,000 each year. In fact, more women than men have died of heart disease since 1984. African American and Hispanic women are at particularly high risk for the disease. According to recent studies, African American women are 29 percent more likely to die of the disease than Caucasian women. Furthermore, almost one-third of deaths among Hispanic women

can be attributed to the condition. In recent years, campaigns conducted by the American Heart Association and The National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute have heightened heart disease awareness, but have focused on prevention and not treatment.

"Women in the U.S. are finally understanding that heart disease does not discriminate, affecting both men and women, all age groups and all races. However, we are learning that many women are still unfamiliar with treatment options and are not as informed as they should be given the

prevalence of this disease in our country," said Elizabeth Battaglino Cahill, Executive Director and Director of Marketing and Consumer Affairs for the NWHRC.

"Through the Healthy From The Heart campaign, women will gain the information and confidence they need to talk to their doctor."

Dr. Cindy Grines, Director, Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory, William Beaumont Hospital, in Royal Oak, Michigan confirms that a diagnosis of heart disease can be easily treated under the care of a doctor. "Women must realize that education is the key to conquering the threat of coronary artery disease. Talking openly and honestly with a doctor will help women find the best option for treating the condition once they have been diagnosed. There are a variety of treatment options now available, ranging from the minimally invasive placement of a drug-eluting stent to the more invasive bypass surgery."

The Healthy From The Heart survey polled 1,979 women, ages 35 and older via telephone, and was conducted by International Communications Research from July to August 2005. Multiple waves of the survey were fielded to collect the appropriate sample sizes for each population. The margin of error ranges from +/- 3.57 to +/- 5.88 percentage points

Community Meetings

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

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

Fioroni claims second "Man of the Year" award

March 21, 2006 - The Central Hockey League announced their 05/06 CHL "Man of the Year" award and for a second consecutive season the honor was handed to Lubbock Cotton Kings forward Paul Fioroni.

The award is presented annually to the CHL player adjudged to have best exemplified strong leadership qualities on and off the ice, while making significant and noteworthy humanitarian contributions to his community.

Fioroni, a 29 year-old sixth-year Cotton King, founded the 24 Foundation two seasons ago and each season it has not only contributed to the club in need, but it has helped save lives. The 24 Foundation raised over \$30,000 for South Plains area frisks in need last season and this season it has raised over \$20,000 through various fundraising efforts that will continue into the off season. The prime focus of the funds raised this season by the 24 Foundation aimed at three areas of emphasis. All three areas were directed towards children, with two of the areas directed towards children

with medical needs. Jayde Garcia, a two year-old daughter of Chris and Lori Garcia, has a mutated gene called Factor V Leiden, which forced her to encounter a stroke at birth. The stroke caused brain

damage, which is requiring extensive therapy and preferred treatment at UAB Civitan International Research Clinic in Birmingham, Alabama. The 24 Foundation has raised funds to assist in the travel for Jayde's treatment. Another child with a medical concern the 24 Foundation aided is two year-old Canon Perkins. The son of Drew and Chandra Perkins, Canon was diagnosed with a glycogen storage disease type-4 and required a liver transplant. The third emphasis for the 24 Foundation this season was to assist the Lubbock Youth Minor Hockey Program with funds to assist ice availability and equipment needs for financially challenged youth individuals.

The 24 Foundation obtained donations through a myriad of fundraising programs, including \$1 "24 Foundation - Giving Back"

wristbands. The primary events conducted by the 24 Foundation were a Casino Night and a Bowl-A-Rama. Other activities included a special jersey auction and an ongoing raffle for a new truck through All-American Chevrolet and Frontier Dodge.

The honor for Fioroni is his second in consecutive seasons and it stands as the third time in the last four seasons that a Kings member has received the award in the last four years. Anthony Donskov was the first Kings member to receive the honor. Donskov founded the league-wide "Caps for Courage" program to assist ailing children with cancer during the 02/03 season.

The Kings are finishing their season this week. Friday, they will be in Oklahoma City before the home finale Saturday against Odessa. Ticket information for the final home game of the season is available by contacting the Cotton Kings office at (806) 747-7825. Additional Kings info can be found online at www.cottonkings.com.



Fioroni



Garcia



Perkins

Rock 'em, sock 'em!



Paul Fioroni, captain of the Lubbock Cotton Kings, displays his signature move, after a fight against a player from Oklahoma City. Fioroni is known for his guns up "salute" to the crowd after each fight, and his posture was even memorialized with a collective bobblehead last season. Fioroni served five minutes in the penalty box for his fight.

On April 16, there will be a live drawing for the new truck, on KLBK, Channel 13. Extra time has been allowed to make sure everyone can get their entries in. Fioroni said, "You can't find better odds in any lottery. The tickets may be more expensive than you're used to, but the odds are great, and you'll be helping out children in need."

Former LISD Athletics Director Ragus to be honored



LUBBOCK, Texas - Pete Ragus, former Athletic Director of the Lubbock Independent

School District, will receive The Outstanding Contribution to Amateur Football Award at the Scholar-Athlete Awards Banquet hosted by the Texas Tech Chapter of the National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame on April 17.

Ragus headed the LISD athletic program from 1964 to 1988. During that time the program tripled in size and won 11 state team championships and 208 district team titles. In 1998, the LISD new aquatic center was named The Pete Ragus Aquatic Center.

A native of Campbell, California, Ragus was a three-

year letterman in football and track at Abilene Christian. After six years as an assistant coach at Stamford and Corpus Christi Miller, he was promoted to head football coach at Miller in 1958. He compiled a 57-13-1 record and won the 1960 Class 4A state championship. It was the first Texas state championship squad to feature three ethnic groups.

Past honors include Texas High School Coach of the Year in 1960, Texas High School Coaches Assn. Hall of Honor in 1974, Texas High School Athletic Director Assn. Hall of Honor in 1984, Coastal Bend Coaches Assn. Hall of Fame in 1989, Abilene Christian Sports

Hall of Fame in 1991 and a new gymnasium bearing his name in Corpus Christi in 2003.

Past Top Contributor Award winners were Louis Kelley, Greg Sherwood, Wes Welker, and Jack Dale.

The Scholar-Athlete Awards Banquet will be held at the McInturff Center at LMC starting at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$40 each or \$300 for a reserved table of eight. Other awards being extended will be The Outstanding Football Official Award and 20 high school football Scholar-Athlete Awards.

For ticket reservations, contact Texas Tech. External Operations at (806) 742-1195.

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For ticket reservations, contact Texas Tech. External Operations at (806) 742-1195.

If you find mistakes in this publication, please consider that they are there for a reason. We publish something for everyone, and some people are always looking for mistakes.

Southwest Digest
Community Meetings
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American Legion Post 808 commended

Alfred Caviel, Commander of American Legion Post 808, received a letter of thanks from Thomas L. Brock, National Commander of the American Legion, thanking Post 808 for the generous contribution to the Legion family members whose suffering and loss has been

eased because of grants made possible for them.

In part, the letter stated: "We have a huge challenge in providing emergency assistance to our over 30,000 members in the area impacted by 'Hurricane Katrina, Rita and Wilma' and the after flooding. Your donation plays a

big part in the relief."

Continuing, it read, "I am certain that just knowing your generosity has touched the lives and hearts of so many is thanks enough, but I wanted you to know your unselfish gift from the heart did not go unnoticed. I see in your decision to support

the National Emergency Fund a tangible commitment to 'our devotion to mutual helpfulness.'"

Post 808 received a special gift as a token of appreciation for their contribution to the fund. Commander Brock concluded by saying: "I sincerely

hope you will take great pride in your gift, because you have made a commitment to the future of the Legion family."

Kalayisha Abuḅakr needs the community's help

A fifth grade student at Hodges Elementary School, Kalayisha Abuḅakr, needs your help on an effort she is very excited about.

She has been accepted to participate as a member to the "People to People Student Ambassador Program" to Europe this summer.

The object of the program is to promote international understanding while building leadership skills among American

youth. President Dwight D. Eisenhower founded the organization in 1956.

He believed that if people from different countries could come together in peace and friendship, eventually world countries would have common goals and interests.

Since its beginning, "People to People" has launched many international programs including the popular "Sister Cities, Project Hope and Pen Pals."

In order to reach her goal, Abuḅakr will need your assistance. She is currently seeking financial sponsors to help her with tuition. Any generous support will be greatly appreciated. If you would like to help her by making a contribution to this educational opportunity, you

should contact Mrs. Delores Gardner at (806) 763-3172.

Upon returning from this trip, Abuḅakr plans to share her experience with churches, schools and civic clubs in her community.

Southwest Digest would like to encourage anyone who can, to help, and thank you in advance for supporting Kalayisha. She is one of our local young adult super achievers.



Abuḅakr

Federation of Choirs celebrates 52nd Anniversary

Scores of Lubbockites will be in attendance at the 52nd Anniversary of the Federation of Choirs. The event will be held at the Greater St. Luke Baptist Church, 306 East 26th Street, beginning at 2:30 p.m. Host pastor is Rev. J. H. Ford. Sister Bennie Sims is president.

The Federation of Choirs, which was created in 1954, was the product of the late Sister Sadalia Solomon and Brother Oscar Iles. It brought together eleven choirs on the fourth Sunday of each month at various churches in the city, with each Church Choir singing a

selection.

On the Anniversary Sunday, all would assemble as a mass choir and sing God's.

Over the past years, the annual services have been held at the Greater St. Luke Baptist Church and will be held at this same location this year.

"We are always excited about our annual celebration, and are looking for another full church when we celebrate this coming Sunday," says Sister Sims. "If you want a seat, one had better get there early as the pews are always full," she continues.

Local Deltas sponsor Ebony Fashion Fair on Tuesday

The Lubbock Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. will sponsor the 48th Ebony Fashion Show at the Lubbock Memorial Civic Center on Tuesday evening, March 28, 2006, beginning at

8:00 p.m. Ebony Fashion Fair, the world's largest traveling fashion show, celebrates 48 years with fit to be fabulous! This extraordinary show will reveal new, varied and exciting designs when it makes its appearance in Lubbock.

"Fit To Be Fabulous" features extravagant styles by world famous designers such as Givenchy, Oscar de la

Renta Acra, Christian LaCroix, Jean Louis Scherer and Black designers B. Michael and Tracy Reese. Twelve magnificent models - ten gorgeous women (including the full-figured model) and two handsome men - will showcase the provocative designs.

Not only is Ebony Fashion Fair an exciting and entertaining experience, but also since

its inception in 1958 it has donated more than \$52 million to charitable organizations. Mrs. Eunice W. Johnson, a premier fashion authority, is producer and director.

To advertise in the Southwest Digest, call 762-3612 TODAY!

Pastor Edom welcomes all to attend True Vine Baptist Church



Edom

The proud pastor of the True Vine Baptist Church, Pastor H. Edom, says everyone is welcome to come and visit True Vine. The

church is located at 1310 East 17th Street. Services begin at 10:00 a. m. each Sunday morning.

Under the leadership of Pastor Edom, he says: "Our Ministry Vision for this church is people will be healed and delivered, set free from all addiction." He con-

cludes by saying: "We pray Families would be put back together in unity as this the will of the Lord."

For more information about True Vine Baptist Church, call (806) 543-8935, cell, or (806) 785-5076, residence.

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Lubbock, Texas 79401

Entries must be received by Monday, March 27, 2006 at 2:00 p.m. Each winning entry good for two tickets to Super Grover Live. One ticket per household. A drawing will be held on Wednesday, March 29, 2006. If your name is drawn, you will receive a phone call indicating you have to pick up your tickets. Winning ticket numbers have already been assigned to a name drawing. Tickets good for March 31, April 1 & 2 performances at Lubbock Municipal Auditorium, Lubbock, Texas.

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Parks and Recreation to Host MEGA Saturdays!

Join Parks and Recreation on Saturday, March 25 for the first in a year-long series of MEGA Saturdays! Visit your local centers throughout the day for fun and exciting activities and classes. Shop at a community garage sale, attend a baby sign language seminar, learn how to cook authentic Mexican food, participate in a babysitting workshop for youth, and much, much more! There's always something fun for everyone in your City of Lubbock Parks!

Hodge Community Center
41st and University 767-3706

Spring Clean Fling - Community Garage Sale!

9:00 am-12:00 Noon (8 am set up). For all ages! Free to shoppers! - \$10 per table rental. Out with the old and in with the new! Clean out your garage and collect your unwanted items for sale at our garage sale event! For \$10, you can rent a 6 foot table to sell house wares, baby clothes, toys, furniture, and more!

Baby Sign Language Seminar
12:00 - 1:00 pm For parents with

a baby under 2 years! Free! This seminar will offer information to parents about the wonderful benefits of using sign language with their toddlers. Sign language can reduce the number of tantrums, increase bonding abilities, and help the child understand communication at a very early age. Examples of signs they can learn are "milk," "cookie" and "thank you!" Registration for future courses will be available.

Legal Clinic: Wills & Estate Planning (Hodges)
10:00 am to 12:00 Noon Adults and Seniors! Free!

It's never too early to start preparing for your future. Planning your will or estate assignments now will prevent legal problems, family disputes, and financial neglect after you are gone. Attorneys from Johnston & Miller Associates will be able to answer questions, assist in planning, and offer advice for such preparations.

Mayer Community Center
30th and Oxford 767-3796

"Super Sitter" Babysitting

Class
9:00 am-3:00 pm Ages 10-15 years old! \$45/youth!
"Super Sitters" teaches youth to become resilient, confident and responsible while caring for young children. Through a combination of mini-lectures, games, demonstrations and hands on experiences, participants will learn skills necessary to become Super Sitters! A maximum of 30 students per class. Pre-Registration required.

Rawlings Community Center
40th and Avenue B 767-2704

Mexican/Tex-Mex Cooking Workshop

10:00 am-12:30 pm Ages 15 and up! \$5/person!

Learn how to cook authentic and traditional Mexican food and then lunch on your recipes in this monthly class! The recipe for March is Arroz Con Pollo or Chicken and Rice!

Mae Simmons Senior Center
E. 23rd and Oak 767-2708

"Ann's Chat and Chew"
11:00 am-1:00 pm Seniors! Donations accepted!

Guest will enjoy great food with good friends while remembering Annie Sanders, founder of this event and a long-time community volunteer. Donations will

help fund the purchase of meals for the homebound by Lubbock Meals on Wheels.

Maggie Trejo Supercenter
3202 Amherst 767-2705

Show and Shine

1:00-5:30 pm All ages! Free!
The Straight Clownin' Car Club and Trejo Supercenter invite car enthusiasts and clubs to bring out their cars for an afternoon of fun! Play pool and dominoes and enjoy refreshments from the concession stand inside the center.

Garden and Arts Center
4215 University 767-3724

Location Photography
9:00 am-Noon Adults \$100/person.

Al Henderson will take students on a photo shoot around Lubbock to photograph various subjects under diverse shooting conditions.

Lubbock Senior Center
2621 19th Street 767-2710

Saturday Movie Madness/Double Feature

10:00 am-4:00 pm 50 and over! The Lubbock Senior Center will host a Movie Madness Day! Movies start at 10:15 am and 1:30 pm with snacks served in between. Come spend the day!

Super Grover ready for action in Lubbock



Calling all super heroes! Super Grover needs your help! Come discover what it takes to get your inner hero ready for action when this brand-new VEE Corporation production zooms into a city near you! Join Elmo, Zoe, Rosita, Telly Monster and Zoe's pet rock Rocco for Sesame Street Live "Super Grover! Ready for Action!"

When Super Grover loses his superpowers, Sesame Street needs a hero! Never fear, your favorite Sesame Muppet friends are here. Get set to join The Fabulous Five, a new team of Sesame heroes, as they work to put the "super" back in Super Grover. Teaching lessons of healthy habits through song and dance, your favorite Sesame Street friends will explore exercise, nutrition, sleep/energy and hygiene - all in a quest to get Super Grover ready for action.

This all-new Sesame Street

Live show features an array of popular (and healthy!) songs, many of them renditions of tunes that parents will remember and kids will love: "Old MacDonald," "Splish Splash," "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star" and "Sunny Days." Like television's Sesame Street, each Sesame Street Live production features timeless lessons for all ages. Through the razzle-dazzle of this full-blown Broadway-quality show, the production will teach children some great healthy habits that they can use long after the show ends. Adults will appreciate the universal appeal of Sesame Street Live, the high-tech stagecraft and cleverly written scripts.

THE CAST

Bert, Big Bird, Ernie, Elmo, Oscar, Grover, Cookie Monster, Zoe, Rosita, Count Von Count, Telly, Baby Bear, Prairie Dawn, Roxy Marie, Lulu and Honker.

Martinez to run for school board

Christy Martinez, an active member of the Lubbock community, has thrown her hat into the ring for the Lubbock Independent School District board of trustees at-large seat.

Martinez, 38, has been a working member of the PTA for ten years.

"The children are the main reason that I am seeking this office. We must do everything in our power to sustain public education and reassure our children the value of an education... and teachers their value being educators."

Martinez said that recent talks around the closing of O.L. Slaton led her to decide that parents should play a more active role in decisions impacting public schools, as well as creating retention programs, and maintaining magnet school and gifted and talented programs.

Martinez and her husband Frank Garcia have a daughter Amaris who attends junior high in LISD.

Martinez a Lubbock High School and Texas Tech graduate, is involved in numerous boards in the community and in

her church.

Martinez, a part time freelance writer and consultant, says that her flexibility will allow her to dedicate necessary time to meet the needs of the school board and her constituency.



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Covenant Health System



Editorials • Comments • Opinions



THIS 'N' THAT

by T.J. Patterson

PRIMARY ELECTIONS OVER, CITY ELECTIONS NEXT! THIS N THAT want you to know the DEMOCRAT & REPUBLICAN PRIMARIES are over until come this November when the General Election will take place..... But now is the time to gear up for the upcoming **MAYORAL ELECTION**. As well as the three city council positions and the **LUBBOCK INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEE** election. These elections will be held in May, 2006, and if you are not a registered voter, now is the time to become a qualified voter, so that you will be ready to go to the polls in May. Just keep in mind, **YOUR PRECIOUS VOTE** is so important, and you must use it. You just can't just talk about voting, **YOU** must go to the **POLLS**, and vote for the person you think will make a positive contribution to your city, and will represent the masses of people. So let's get ready, because the next time to vote is not far away. Anyway, those of you who did go and vote in the past primary elections, it was good you did so, and hopefully, you will continue to do the same.

PENNY HASTINGS THE BARBER SAYS, "In the BEGINNING, we make our HABITS, But in the END, our habits MAKE US!"

CONGRATS TO RUBEN REYES! THIS N THAT Wants to say "CONGRATS" To a graduate of Dunbar High School, **RUBEN GONZALES REYES**, who was appointed by Governor Rick Perry last week to become the judge of the 72ND JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT,

which serves both Lubbock and Crosby County. He will serve until the next general election, which will be in November. **THIS N THAT** is sure he will seek election to this post as he will make a very positive contribution. Reyes is a Law partner at Huiley, Reyes and Guinn, where he practices family and civil law. He is a member of the Lubbock County Bar Association, and the State Bar of Texas family law section. He also serves on the board of directors of LEARN, INC. and is a member of the Lubbock Economic Development Alliance (LEDA). Reyes received a bachelor's degree from Yale University, and a law degree from Baylor University. **CONGRATS** to this young man as he continues to serve Lubbock.

GOOD NAME TO HONOR! THIS N THAT is happy to know there is an organization which uses one of our late senior citizen's name in an annual effort to support the Lubbock Meals on Wheels. It is the name of **SISTER ANNIE SANDERS**, who worked untiringly as a volunteer in the community and was a hard working member of her church, Greater St. Luke Baptist Church. Every year, a program called "ANNIE'S CHAT AND CHEW" is held at the Mae Simmons Senior Citizens Center, which is located at 2004 Oak Avenue. This year's effort is being held Saturday, March 25th, from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. It is just good to see the name of ANNIE SANDERS being used in a meaningful way. There is no doubt about it; it is a good name to honor.

DELTA BRINGING CLASS TO LUBBOCK AGAIN! THIS N THAT is glad to see the Lubbock Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Society, Inc. again bring the 48th Annual **EBONY FASHION FAIR** to Lubbock on Tuesday night, March 28, 2006 at the Lubbock Memorial Civic Center. The event starts at 8:00 p.m. This year's theme is "Fit TO BE FABULOUS". Funds raised from this event will be used for the **LUELLA SCOTT MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND**, which has been a positive program for young ladies of the community in acquiring a college education. Again, **THIS N THAT** wants to say thanks to these Delta Women for bringing "Class" to our community.

LUBBOCK WOMAN RUNNING AGAINST ISETT! THIS N THAT was advised during the Democratic and Republican Primaries, that a Lubbock woman will challenge the incumbent, **CARL ISETT**, in the General Election in November. She is **PEARLIE MAYFIELD**, who is an educator. Keep her name in mind as the General Election approaches, as her platform is based around education. Both are on the ballot as they had no opponent during the primary election. Should be a very interesting election as anytime the platform is based on education, things will become very informative. More on both candidates in the future.



In Cinque

by Renetta Howard



Howard

It appears to be very clear that eligible Medicare recipients are buying into the Plan D prescription drug program. There are many reasons why, and first among the many reasons is fear due to not having a clear understanding of what the program is about and what one needs to do to be involved. Another reason is that so many different insurance companies with different formularies are involved in the program. According to the news media, 1.4 million of the 8 million eligible seniors have enrolled in the plan.

There are so many seniors eligible to take advantage of the program according to their income, who are eligible for help to pay the premiums of the Plan D programs, but when their assets are taken into consideration, they are not eligible for help to pay the premiums and cannot afford the cost, so they are not joining. So many seniors are falling through the cracks because of assets.

It should stand to reason that when a person is gainfully employed for thirty-five to forty-five years and retire, that they have accumulated a little bit of money, a home and a decent car. However, depending on the amount of income they had while employed and the kind of retirement program which was available to them, the current fixed income may not be enough to purchase Plan D prescription drug insurance. They may not be able to purchase any type of health insurance other than Medicare.

Aside from being financial able to purchase Plan D prescription drug insurance, many seniors just do not understand how the plan works and have not had a thorough explanation from persons eligible to help them. Those who already have some drug coverage with a health plan have been told that what they have is adequate and there is no need to sign up for Plan D. Of course, they are not prohibited from signing up for Plan D, but if

they change and find that Plan D is not what they want, they cannot go back to the plan they had before. This seems to be a universal rule with the health coverage plans which were in existence before Plan D.

Many seniors are barely making it financially if Social Security benefits are all that they have for income. Though they may be eligible for Plan D, many just cannot afford the additional average of \$35.00 per month after the Medicare reduction is taken from their check. Our government needs to get 'in cinque' and overhaul the program so that the average American senior can get prescriptions filled for less than \$25.00 regardless to their station and income in life.

Letter Policy

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

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The Southwest Digest is an independent newspaper serving the Lubbock, West Texas, South Plains of Texas and Eastern New Mexico areas printing the news impartially supporting what it believes to be right without opposing what it believes to be wrong without regard to party politics. Devoted to the industrial, educational, social, political, and economic advancement of African-American people.

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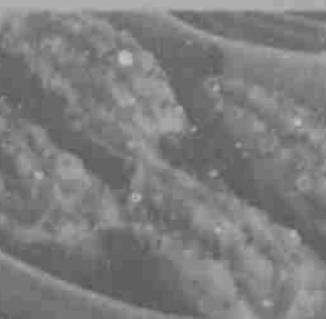
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