

God Bless America!

Southwest Digest

50¢

Worth More!

802 E 28th Street
Lubbock, Texas 79404
Phone (806) 762-3612

A newspaper for the 21st century, representing the Black community's ideas and ideals since 1977.

November 29, 2007

VOL. XXX, No. 9

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THEY SUPPORT YOU!



The Black Press of America
Lighting the road
to Freedom



Community Meetings

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

- African American Chamber of Commerce, Lubbock meets on the 3rd Monday of each month, from 5:30-6:30pm at the Parkway Community Center, 405 MLK Blvd., 806-771-1815
- Lubbock Area Client Council meets on the 2nd Saturday, 1:30pm at the Patterson Branch Library
- Hub City Kiwanis meets every Tuesday, 7:00pm, 1708 Avenue G
- Dunbar Alumni Association meets 2nd Saturdays, 4:00 pm
- Booker T. Washington American Legion Post 808 meets every 2nd Tuesday at 7:30pm, American Legion Building in Yellowhouse Canyon
- Forgotten West Riders meets on the 1st & 3rd Mondays, 7:00 pm, Patterson Library
- East Lubbock Chapter AARP meets every 1st Thursday at 1:00 pm, Mae Simmons Community Center
- Lubbock Chapter of Black Alumni meets every 3rd Tuesday, 5:30 pm, TIU Market Alumni Center
- Dunbar/Manhattan Heights Neighborhood Association meets every 1st Thursday at 6:00 pm and every 4th Thursday at 7:00 pm at the Dunbar-Manhattan Heights Neighborhood Outreach Center at 1301 East 24th St.
- West Texas Native American Association Pot Luck Supper meets on alternating months prior to meeting, meetings held on 2nd Saturday of each month at 7:00 pm, Educational presentations and demonstrations.
- Texas Nineteenth 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.
- Chairman Hill Neighborhood Association meets the 2nd Thursday of every month at 6:00 pm, at Iles Elementary Cafeteria.

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

Southwest Digest
Community Meetings
1302 Avenue Q
Lubbock, TX 79401

Fax: (806) 741-0800

email us at:
swdigest@sbcglobal.net

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Estacado Matadors' Blue On A Big Roll!



Estacado Matadors' Blue On A Big Roll!

Oh baby, the magic is back! For the first time in over a decade the Matador football team has advanced into post season play. The last time an Estacado football team was involved in the competition after the regular season schedule was in 1992 when the Matadors advanced to the state semifinals. Several teams have attempted to break the curse, but failed to do so. Some Matador faithful have wondered if there was a mysterious curse hovering over the team, or if the blue magic had lost its luster. Although many ideas have circulated about the struggles the team has faced, all of the doubts and worries were destroyed with a resounding answer. No, there is no curse or loss of blue magic this year, but a renewed sense of dedication. Friday night's victory over Dumas proved the intense amount of heart, desire and character the mighty Matadors truly have.

Friday night's game against Dumas showcased the potential Estacado has showcased throughout the entire season. In many games the offense either turned in an outstanding performance while the defense struggled or the offensive game struggled while the defense kept the team alive. The bi-district game in Dumas showcased the full strength of the Matador football team, an electrifying offense and a dominating defense.

This year's Matador squad has had to overcome several seasons of change. A number of head coaches, team member changes, fighting the naysayers, and a host of other challenges could have created opportunities for another season of defeat and rejection, but not this year. "Dedication, hard work and an intense desire to win has vaulted this year's Matador team into a world most of the players have hoped and dreamed about since their playing days in junior high.

However, the players have not



Snapshots of those Mighty Estacado High School Matadors who is on a roll!!

Estacado Matadors' Blue On A Big Roll!

accomplished team success on their own. The support and optimistic outlook of this year's varsity coaching staff solidified the team's expectations, victory and nothing less. Head Coach Danny Servance came from Permian faced with high expectations and if allowed what some would consider almost insurmountable odds of success. Servance however had other things in mind for his young squad, victory. He has presented each game whether it was a victory or loss as an opportunity for growth and success the following Friday night. Servance summed it up best for the Lubbock Avalanche-Journal after Friday's victory over Dumas. "Our kids are resilient and they fight and just don't know how to quit."

The majority of senior players have been together since the seventh grade either at Dunbar or Alderson Junior Highs. The intense connection between not only the players, but the varsity coaching staff has attributed to the team's bond. Varsity defensive line coach Danny Douglas has had a large number of the senior players since their seventh grade playing days at Dunbar Junior High. "Seeing these guys accomplish a dream they have had as a group of athletes since their first day in junior high athletics makes all the hard work, blood, sweat and tears over the past six years worth it!" stated Douglas.

On Saturday the football team has the chance to carry on an unbelievable season and keep their championship dreams alive. Win or lose, this season can only be described as a magical Matador season. Congratulations not only to the players, but to the coaches who have dedicated the last several months to developing a winning team.

Go Mats, Go! We Believe in You!
We Support Your Efforts!

Estacado Matadors Capture Lions Club VFW Tournament in Pampa



PAMPA - Those fighting Estacado High School Matadors, with Jamar Johnson hitting 29 points, captured the Lions Club VFW Tournament by defeating Fort Worth Poly Tech by a score of 25-00 last Saturday, November 24, 2007.

Attorney Willie Gary Victorious In \$300 Million Lottery Trial



Attorney Willie Gary along with his son Sekou Gary and Attorney Manuel Socias hold up a copy of the winning lottery ticket owned by Abraham Shakespeare after the "not guilty" verdict was announced at the Polk County Courthouse.

Gary and Team Win Fight on Behalf of their Client, Abraham Shakespeare.

After he was called a Liar and a Thief by Co-Worker Who Publicly Accused him of Stealing a \$30 Million Winning Lottery Ticket

Stuart, FL (October 22, 2007) - Prominent attorney Willie E. Gary of the Florida-based law firm of Gary, Williams, Finney, Lewis, Watson and Sperafdo P.L., along with his son Sekou Gary of the Gary Legal Group in Miami, Florida, received a jury verdict of "not guilty" in a week-long trial over a lottery ticket dispute. The jury decided that Gary's client, Abraham Shakespeare, is innocent of the charges filed against him by his co-worker, Michael Ford. Shakespeare was called a "liar and thief" by the co-worker, who publicly accused him of stealing a \$30 million winning lottery ticket. The jury deliberated for just over an hour before they returned a not-guilty verdict for Gary's client.

The five-day trial took place this past week in the Polk County Courthouse after Michael Ford filed a lawsuit contending that Shakespeare stole a winning lottery ticket from his wallet while the two made a delivery in their work truck. However, Shakespeare contended that Ford had previously admitted to purchasing two quick pick lotto tickets for him during a stop the two made at a convenience store.

"I am pleased that justice prevailed and that Mr. Shakespeare was found innocent," commented Gary. "This lawsuit was about greed. The plaintiff manufactured a story and a plan to try to take advantage of my client," said Gary.

Gary is no stranger to seeking justice. He is noted for winning a

\$240 million jury verdict in Orange County against the Walt Disney Corporation for his clients who alleged Disney stole their idea for a sports theme park. Also, Gary was awarded \$18.28 million against the media conglomerate Gannett Company for the false portrayal of their client in a series of newspaper articles. In 2001, a jury awarded Gary a \$139.6 million verdict for the Maris Distributing Company against Anheuser Busch. In addition,

100 Black Men West Texas Inc.

The 100 Black Men of West Texas Inc. is proud to announce the Annual Scholarship Gala for 2007. The gala is a scholarship fund raising event for local high school seniors.

The event will be held Saturday December 29, 2007 at The Hillcrest Country Club, 4011 N. Boston, Lubbock, Texas beginning with a social hour at 6pm. A delicious dinner buffet will start at 7 pm. For your listening and dancing pleasure live entertainment by local rhythm and blues band, Elevated Soul is provided from 9 pm-1am. There will also be a very special performance by a popular "mystery" artist. DJ tunes will be provided during dinner and band intermissions. Attire is semi-formal. Other treats include door prizes and a cash bar.

Redskins safety Sean Taylor dies a day after being shot at this home

MIAMI (AP) -- Pro Bowl safety Sean Taylor died Tuesday after he was shot in his home by an apparent intruder, leaving the Washington Redskins in mourning for a teammate who seemed to have reordered his life since becoming a father.

The 24-year-old player died at Jackson Memorial Hospital, where he had been airlifted after the shooting early Monday.

"It is with deep regret that a young man had to come to his end so soon," father Pedro Taylor said in a statement on behalf of the family. "Many of his fans loved him because the way he played football. Many of his opponents feared him the way he approached the game. Others misunderstood him, many appreciated him and his family loved him."

A string of mourners, including Taylor's father, visited the player's home and embraced outside. Authorities entered the home, but it was unclear what they were doing.

NFL commissioner Roger Goodell said the league will honor Taylor's memory at its games this weekend.

This is a terrible tragedy involving the loss of a young man who leaves behind many people struggling to understand it," he said in a statement.

Taylor's No. 21 will be painted in a grass parking area leading into Redskins Park in Ashburn,

tion, Gary was given a half-billion dollar verdict in Jackson, Mississippi against the Loewen Group, a large Canadian funeral home chain.

WE SUPPORT ESTACADO MATADORS!!

100 Black Men West Texas Inc.

manance by a popular "mystery" artist. DJ tunes will be provided during dinner and band intermissions. Attire is semi-formal. Other treats include door prizes and a cash bar.

Come and enjoy a special evening while investing in the future of our local youth for a ticket price of only \$40 per person.

This will truly be a night to remember. Tickets can be obtained by contacting: Greg Ricks @773-3252, Chris Snead @438-5843, Dr. Charles Henry @721-3991 or any other member of The 100 Black Men of West Texas, Inc.



Sean Taylor

Va. In addition, No. 21 will also be painted in front of the Redskins Hall of Fame store.

Fans already began a makeshift memorial by laying flowers on a field near the front entrance to the practice facility. Several people paid respects at Taylor's parking space.

"This is the worst imaginable tragedy," Redskins owner Daniel Snyder said. "Our thoughts and prayers are with Sean's family."

Redskins teammate Clinton Portis also played with Taylor at the University of Miami. He had sensed a new maturity in his close friend.

"It's hard to expect a man to grow up overnight," Portis said. "But ever since he had his child, it was like a new Sean, and everybody around here knew it. He was always smiling, always happy, always talking about his child." Continued on Page 8

Chatman Hills Corner

By Doris Reynolds

Let us support the upcoming "First Lady" Musical at the New Light Baptist Church. That "First Lady" is Sister Sudall Cavanaugh and will be honored Sunday afternoon, December 2, 2007, beginning at 3:30 p. m. at the New Light Baptist Church, 3015 Idalou Road.

The public is invited to attend this program.

The officers of the Women Missionary Society of the Bethel African Methodist Episcopal were installed last Sunday morning, November 25, 2007, with Rev. Sonia J. Beaty, pastor, presiding.

Those officers installed were: Sister Elurd Devenport, president; Sister Terri Gilmore, vice presi-

dent; Sister Patricia Walker, secretary; Sister Patricia Page, assistant secretary; Ann Britt, treasurer; Sister Ponzietta Davis, parliamentarian; and Young People Directors, Sister Reganie Sylvester and Sister Lisa Rollinson.

"We have a great work ahead of us, and with all of us working together, we can do it," says Sister Devenport.

If you are fan of the Harlem Globetrotters, then you have an opportunity to see them tonight, Thursday evening, beginning at 7:00 p. m. at the United Spirit Arena.

For more information, call 770-2000 or (800) 736-1288 for

details.

Let us continue to pray for our sick and shut-in citizens of Lubbock and entire state as well as nation.

Also, let us not forget those who lost love ones as well.

Remind us all that God is able!

This column would like to report your upcoming Christmas Holiday activities. So if you have any pictures or announcements, please advise this column by sending it to: Holiday Happenings, Southwest Digest, P. O. Box 2553, Lubbock, Texas 79408. Let us know today! Okay?

those who sick and shut-in not only in our congregation, but throughout our community as well.

Visitors are always welcome to come and be a part of our services at anytime.

Sunday afternoon, December 2, 2007, at 3:30 p. m. a Musical will be held in honor of Sister Sudall Cavanaugh

December 21, 2007, the African American Christmas Banquet will be held at the KoKo Inn on 50th Street and Avenue Q. Tickets are \$18.00 each.

New Light Baptist Church News

Sunday morning, November 25, 2007, church services were well attended at the New Light Baptist Church.

Services began with Sunday School at 9:45 a. m. with Superintendent Sister Linda Green and teacher, Brother David Chiles as well as other members were present. The subject of the lesson was "Make Up Your Mind." The lesson text was Matthew 7:13-29. A question for all of us to ask is: "Have You Decided To Follow Jesus?"

The morning worship hour got started at 11:00 a. m. with the praise team leading in the devo-

tion. The Senior Choir sang two uplifting songs: "Standing In The Need," and "Walk With Me."

Rev. Elijah Austin delivered the sermon of the hour. His subject is "The Best Is Yet To Come." His scripture was Isaiah 54:1-2. What a magnificent time we had in the Lord.

Let us remember to pray for

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The staff of the Chatman Hill Restaurant would like to thank the community for their support.

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BETHEL AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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Sunday Services
Intercessory Prayer 8:30 am
Church School 9:30 am
Morning Worship 11:00 am

Wednesday Services
Bible Study 12:00 Noon and 6:00 pm

Rev. Sonia J. Beaty

"GOD OUR FATHER, CHRIST OUR REDEEMER, MAN OUR BROTHER"

Proud Members of The Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church



A very proud lady of her efforts with the Sunday School Department of the Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church is Mrs. Ruby Donaldson, Superintendent.



These ladies, who are sisters in the Cage Family, are Sisters Ollie Coleman, Buelah Winters and Lovie Cage. They are shown with their pastor, Rev. Sonia J. Beaty, center.



These ladies, who are sisters, enjoy singing in the Chancelor Choir of Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church. They are, standing, Lovie Cage; seating: (left to right) Ollie Coleman and Buelah Winters. Their brother, Tommie Cage, sings in the same choir.

Shoppers to choose personal, affordable gifts this year SHOES, SHOE GIFT CARDS AND ACCESSORIES ARE THE NEW 'IT' GIFTS

(Charlotte, NC) The holidays are just around the corner, which could only mean one thing: time for shopping. And buyers across the country say there's something new registering on the shopping radar: shoes and footwear accessories have cropped up in the past few years as an increasingly growing area of gift giving.

From the traditional comfy slippers or glamorous boots to

FASHION FUN
by Shirley Robinson

Sequined Tunic Dress



Classical geometric and floral motifs are woven with copper and silvertone sequins to create this breathtaking tunic style dress. Wear it alone, or over your favorite jeans, with a pair of glittery heels to convey a look of confidence and regal beauty.

Full length sleeves and flirtatious tie neckline, with fully lined bodice and skirt. Exotic sparkle and luxe fabric make this style a breeze. Sexy, sassy, this dress is to die for!

AT YOUR BETTER DEPT. STORE...SOUTH PLAINS MALL.

Fashion tip...always wear a smile

Fashion...just for the fun of it!

sophisticated heels or high-tech running shoes, there's a new trend of giving footwear, according to Jan Mauldin, Rack Room Shoes director of marketing.

"Right now, what our customers are telling us is that they want to give something personal, useful and thoughtful. A nice pair of shoes or a gift card for shoes often fits this bill perfectly," says Mauldin.

Furthermore, says Mauldin, some customers select athletic shoes or gift cards for them because they want to give health-promoting gifts. They are looking for something more lasting than a spa gift certificate and more affordable than a treadmill.

"Accessories are big for this reason, too, and, of course, they're fun stocking stuffers," says Mauldin. "There are sneaker balls that work as fresheners for shoes, gel heel pads, foot cushions and accessories aimed to help feet feel happier and shoes fit better... these are great gifts because many people don't think to buy them for themselves but they sincerely appreciate getting them."

Accessories and gift cards, of course, are especially easy gifts because they satisfy everyone on your list whether it's the mail carrier, your mother or the teens on your list that like to shop for themselves, says Mauldin.

"The good news for our customers is that Rack Room Shoes is value oriented. We have all the latest shoe styles and at a fraction of the price you might pay elsewhere," says Mauldin. "We're affordable enough so you can buy for everyone on the list this year and still have money left over to treat yourself."

Rack Room Shoes, based in Charlotte, NC, is a member of the Deichmann Shoe Company headquartered in Europe, which is the largest privately owned shoe retailer in the world.

SPECIAL

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Church News



From the Desk of Parson D.A. Smith
Crooked Preachers

To my readers, please note the ending paragraph of last week's article was not printed. The whole reason for the article was summed up in the last paragraph. The caption (the heading especially of an article or document) should not have been "Lying, Thieving Preachers!! It should have been "Lying, Thieving, Preachers?" Thieving is not an English word. The word "thieve" functioning as a verb mean to steal or rob. The inflected form is "thieving."

The unprinted ending should have been "While preachers are human and subject to error, we should never defraud people of their money. My theology may not be what you want to hear or believe. I believe and I am convinced that God has a special place in hell for those preachers who take advantage of people!"

To add validity to my argument there is a story printed in the "Associate Press" by Eric Gorski concerning Richard Roberts, the son of Oral Roberts who resigned as president of the Oral Roberts University facing accusations that he misspent school funds to support a lavish lifestyle and ordered an accountant to help hide improper and illegal financial wrongdoing.

In fact, part of the story reads "Back in 1963, when evangelist Oral Roberts built a university on Tulsa's southern outskirts and put his name on it, he believed he was taking orders from God. At the

center of campus, he built a 200 foot steel and glass prayer tower that looks like a spaceship and is topped with a flickering gas flame representing the Holy Spirit.

Roberts's vision was to educate 'the whole man' in mind, body and spirit. That meant a world-class facility, mandatory chapel attendance, body-fat measurements and citations for public displays of affection.

Times have changed at Oral Roberts University. The once-rigid dress code has been loosened so much that, one student puts it, aside from the lack of guys wearing earrings, the campus could be Oklahoma State.

Oral Roberts, now 89, recently returned from semiretirement to try to quell a scandal that has shaken the university.

To ORU's 5300 deeply religious students, the events of recent weeks have brought an unexpected test, one that cause them to choose between questioning or defending the administration. 'I'm sure there is corruption everywhere,' said freshman Ben Connors, one of number of people interviewed before the resignation. 'But if you're holding students to such a high standard, making them sign an honor code and live by these strict principles, I expect the administration to be living an even stricter set of principles. To see something like this, it feels empty, like an elaborate masquerade party.'

There seems to be no shame on the part of many preachers to defraud their congregation or their religious institution. These religious crooks smear the name of those preachers who are doing all in their might to obey the will of God and draw people to Christ. One expects a dope dealer to be slick and conniving because that is his game in the world to make fast and illegal money. He knows he should have an attorney on retainer at all times for sooner or later he or she is going to have to face the District Attorney and a grand jury. The slicker he or she is, the longer they will avoid arrest and prosecution.

The preacher who plays the game of the Dope Dealer will ultimately face the Supreme Justice of the universe. Again, my theology may be controversial. However, I believe that a lying, conniving, thieving preacher who steals from widows and orphans and those who put their trust as well as their families will have a special place in a burning hell. Not only will they have a special place in hell, but I also believe they will feel some of hell's fire while they are still alive. They may run, however, they cannot hide!

ATTEND CHURCH ON SUNDAY MORNINGS!



We Thank God for Jesus
"The Sisters Are Preachers"

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

Matthew 20:1 - Jesus said, the Kingdom of Heaven is like unto a man that is an householder (Landowner), which out early in the morning to hire laborers into his vineyard.

The **John 3:16** is the message. We're suppose to be telling a dying world. Preaching and teaching the word of God to every man, woman, boy and girl!

Matthew 28:19 - Jesus said, go you therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the father, and the son, and of the Holy Ghost.

Now some Brother Preacher think men are the only one been called out the great commission Jesus gave said to go was to us all!!!

Matthew 20:4 - Jesus said, unto them (Women also), go you also into the vineyard, and whatsoever is right, I will give you, and they went their way.

Many Brothers are blind by the command of the Apostle Paul. But there is a greater than Paul. Jesus gave a command to all.

Mark 3:35 - Jesus said, for whatsoever shall do the will of God, the same is my Brother, my Sister and my Mother.

*** Are The Sisters Doing God's Will? ***

(My Brother Preachers, I he tuing you missed is Paul who was talking about something the law said. We're not under the law. Read I Corinthians 14:34, the law said).

I Corinthians 14:33 - For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace as in all the churches of the saints.

Now Brother Preacher, we don't know if God called you, but you're a Preacher. We don't know if God called the Sister, but look at the souls she is reaching!!!

Acts 21:8-9 - The next day, we who were of Paul's company departed, and came unto Caesarean, and we entered into the house of Phippi the evangelist which was one of these, and board with him, and the same man had four daughters, virgins, which did prophesy.

*** They Were Preachers!!! ***

Jesus said, pray to the Lord of the Harvest. Send workers are getting late. But Brother Preacher, you like the Scribes and Pharisees, murmuring with hate!!!!

I Corinthians 11:4-5a - Every man praying of prophesying having his head covered. Dishonors his head, but every woman who prays of prophecies

with her head uncovered dishonors her head.

(So my Brother Preachers, the man and the woman are both praying and prophesying. She's doing God's will as well as the Brothers and in the Church!!!)

Luke 12:42-43 - Jesus said, who then are the faithful and wise stewards who is his Lord shall make ruler over his household to give them their portion of meat in due season? Blessed is that servant who his Lord when he comes shall find doing.

My Brother Preachers with all the trouble in the Churches riches about the gold. You don't read about the Sister Preachers and money. They want souls!!!

(The Government is checking into some of the money. Preachers now like Creflo Dollar, Benny Hinn, Kenneth and Gloria Copeland, David and Joyce Meyer, Rudy and Paula White, and Bishop Eddie Long and many, many more. Some Preachers even have Rolls-Royces and jet planes!!!)

*** Yes, The Preachers Will Rob God!!! ***

Jesus said, everyone who said unto me, Lord, Lord will not enter His Kingdom. That goes for many Preachers, Brothers or Sisters. Heaven is not for everyone!!!

St. Matthew's Baptist Church News

Church services were well attended last Sunday morning, November 25, 2007, at the St. Matthew Baptist Church, 2020 East 14th Street, where the proud pastor is Rev. Edward Canady.

Services got underway with

Sunday School at 11:10 a.m. with Superintendent Sister Luella Harris in charge. It was another wonderful lesson. The lesson was taught by Sister Nina Davis, and was reviewed by Pastor Canady. The subject was

"Leaving A Legacy." The scripture text was Genesis 48:11-19. It was a lesson about family. There was much discussion about this lesson and brought about much positive discussion.

The morning worship services began with devotion at 11:15 a.m. with Deacon Edward Williams and Brother Gerald Jackson in charge.

The St. Matthew Baptist Church Choir sang out of their hearts and souls again. What a wonderful time all in singing God's praises.

Pastor Canady delivered another powerful message. His subject was "You Answered Right, Do It!" His scripture text was Luke 10:25-28.

Let us not forget our sick and shut-ins. As we always make known, today they are the ones on the list, but tomorrow it could be you or I. Always remember, God is able! Just a little kindness to someone on the sick list and shut-in list will go a mighty long ways, not forget.

Something to ponder: we leave fingerprints on door knobs, on books, on walls, on key boards. Since each person's fingerprints are unique, we leave our identity

on everything we touch. Some supermarkets are even testing a technology that allows customers to pay by fingerprint. Each customer's unique print and bank account number are kept on file so that the only things needed to pay a bill is a scan on their finger.

A woman in the early church left another kind of print - a "heartprint." Dorcas touched many people's lives through her unique gift of sewing and giving away garments. She's described as "full of good works and charitable deeds." We too are to be "zealous for good works". We

each have a unique heartprint that can touch another.

Thought for the Week: "Be what God intends you to be. Don't pretend to be what you are not."

Attend The Church Of Your Choice On Sunday Mornings!

Outreach Prayer Breakfast

The members and friends of the Outreach Prayer Breakfast are hoping and praying that you and yours had a blessed Thanksgiving Holiday. We will continue to do work that pleases God by spreading some sunshine and cheer to those who are down and out.

We realize without prayer, nothing is possible. We live in unbelievable times and we all need the Lord in all we do. We just can't do it without God. James 5:7 says be patient therefore brethren unto the coming of the Lord. He will do what his word says he will do.

People are rebelling against right all over the world. Some are fighting over the rights to kill babies. Some are fighting to legalize drugs. Homosexuals are fighting for their rights. Evil king pins are demanding their rights. School systems are having problems. Judges can't do their job. Police forces can't solve it. Prisons won't solve it. Lawyers can't solve it. Aids are claiming many lives without answers! Doctors can't solve it.

Prayer Warriors, let's get out of the barn yard and realize we are Eagles. In Jesus, our Savior, He's our deliverance. He's the Prince of Peace, the creator of all mankind. He's a rock in a weary land, a bridge over trouble water. He's Alpha and Omega. The first and the last! The beginning and the end. He says in the scripture that every knee must bow, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord!

Let's get right Church! Live right, Saints!

Prayer changes things! II Chronicles 7:14.

Keep praying about all problems. People! Let us not forget our sick and shut in throughout our community as well as those who may live in Texas and the Nation. We are all God's children. Let's not forget that! Let's not forget

those who have elost loved ones as well. Keep smiling and loving each other!

Here is an after thought about Thanksgiving. For centuries, people in many countries have held harvest festivals to celebrate the bounty of the land. In 1863, President Abraham Lincoln established a national holiday in the United States of America as a "day of thanksgiving and praise to our beneficent Father."

Today, some are saying that most holidays have been corrupted by commercialism, while Thanksgiving Day has retained

its intended purpose. There is no doubt about it. Thanksgiving Day is wholly and entirely about gratitude.

No matter what others do, we as followers of Jesus Christ have the privilege and responsibility to extend the spirit of thankfulness to every day of the year. Remember Paul urged the Colossians to keep growing in Christ while overflowing with thankfulness (Col. 2:6-7).

Sister Dorothy Hood, president; Sister Christene Burickson, vice president; and Sister Elnora Jones, teacher.

Stone Hollow VILLAGE

Park Meadows VILLAS

*** RENT SPECIALS ***

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- Kitchen Pantry
- Insulated Windows with Miniblinds
- Abundant Closet Space

1510 E. Cornell St.

2502 Weber Dr.

Obsequies

Alvin James Johnson



Alvin James Johnson

Funeral services were held for Alvin James Johnson, Sr. on Tuesday morning, November 27, 2007, with Rev. Larry Brooks, pastor, officiating.

Interment was held in the City of Lubbock Cemetery under the direction of Griffin Mortuary & Funeral Home.

He passed away Friday, November 23, 2007, at

Covenant Medical Center. He is survived by his wife, Evelyn Johnson; his children: Myrna Russell (Alvin), Louise Moore (Emmitt), Alvin Johnson, Jr., Diane Whitfield (Sandy), Sandra Reed (Jay), Vicki Culppepper (Rodney), Renn Douglas and Geneva Martin (Ricky); his sister, Doris Morrison; three brothers: Jack Johnson, Willie Johnson and William Johnson; 17 grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and host of other relatives and friends.

He was a member of Community Baptist Church. Mr. Johnson was employed at Diamond Plastics for over 37 years.

tea, or alcohol), you need to consciously adjust your diet to accommodate those extra calories," says Purdue University nutrition researcher Richard Mattes, PhD. His research shows that people typically make adjustments to eat fewer calories over the course of a day after eating a solid food like jelly beans, but not after drinking the same amount of calories in a glass of soda.

Sneaky little slim-down tricks

Health magazine went to the top weight-control experts for their No. 1 tips to get the weight off now. Take a look.

Start smart

Begin lunch and dinner with a veggie-rich salad or broth-based soup, says Pennsylvania State University safety expert Barbara Rolls, author of "The Volumetrics Eating Plan." "That lets you fill up first on a big volume of low-calorie food and ends up displacing some of the foods you'll eat next - the choices that are usually higher in calories."

Here's a good salad recipe. Mix 1 1/2 cups of salad greens with 1/4 cup of raw veggies like onions, bell peppers, carrots, broccoli, or cucumbers; drizzle with 2 tablespoons of low-cal bottled dressing.

Sneak a snack

"Ten minutes before each meal, eat some healthy fat (around 70 calories or fewer): a handful of nuts, a few slices of avocado, or a spoonful of peanut butter, for example. That helps activate ghrelin, a hormone that lets you know you're full," says Michael Roizin, MD, co-author with Mehmet Oz, MD, of "You on a Diet: The Owner's Manual for Waist Management."

Try the 3-hour rule

"The secret to losing weight comes down to keeping your metabolism alive and active," according to fitness guru Jorge Cruise, author of "The 3-Hour Diet." How do you do that? By eating every 3 hours, give or take 10 to 20 minutes, he says, which translates to three moderate meals with three snacks (100 calories each) between meals.

Though other experts say there's nothing magic about 3-hour intervals, eating small, frequent, portion-controlled meals and snacks can keep your blood sugar level steady, your energy up, and keep you from overindulging.

Have liquid assets

"If you're going to drink anything with calories (i.e., fruit juice, soda, sweetened coffee and

Detroit Named America's Most Dangerous City

DETROIT - (AP) In another blow to the Motor City's tarnished image, Detroit pushed past St. Louis to become the nation's most dangerous city, according to a private research group's controversial analysis, released Sunday, of annual FBI crime statistics.

The study drew harsh criticism even before it came out. The American Society of Criminology launched a pre-emptive strike Friday, issuing a statement attacking it as "an irresponsible misuse" of crime data.

The 14th annual "City Crime Rankings: Crime in Metropolitan America" was published by CQ Press, a unit of Congressional Quarterly Inc. It is based on the FBI's Sept. 24 crime statistics report.

The report looked at 378 cities with at least 75,000 people based on per-capita rates for homicide, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary and auto theft. Each crime category was considered separately and weighted based on its seriousness, CQ Press said.

Last year's crime leader, St. Louis, fell to No. 2. Another Michigan city, Flint, ranked third, followed by Oakland Calif.; Camden, N.J.; Birmingham, Ala.; North Charleston, S.C.; Memphis, Tenn.; Richmond, Calif.; and Cleveland.

The study ranked Mission Viejo, Calif., as the safest U.S.

city, followed by Clarkstown, N.Y.; Brick Township, N.J.; Amherst, N.Y.; and Sugar Land, Texas.

CQ Press spokesman Ben

Krasney said details of the weighting system were proprietary. It was compiled by Kathleen O'Leary Morgan and

Continued on Page 8

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Vigilance Against Bigotry and Intolerance Demands a National Rosa Parks Day

By Earl Ofari Hutchinson

Two things will happen within forty eight hours of each other. One is infuriating. The other one should be cause for celebration and uplift. But both tell much about the state of race matters in America. The first is the return of nappy head ho' shock jock, Don Imus to the airwaves. He'll kick off his return to ABC's flagship station, WABC, in New York City with a big townhall of the airwaves style shebang. Two days before Imus's triumphant return, marks the date fifty two years ago, December 1, 1955, that Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat to a white man on a Montgomery, Alabama bus.

Her courageous stand against segregation was a monumental turning point in the civil rights movement. It should have sent the lasting message that the fight against the horror of bigotry, intolerance, and racial hate must never cease. But that message has been lost, strayed, misplaced, or deliberately squashed. Imus's blaze of glory return is a huge sign that intolerance is not only alive and well in the media business, among Imus's legions of fevered fans, but also among many more who cheered him on and ducked, dodged, deflected attention from, or flat out defended his bigoted remarks.

The spate of hanging nooses, the rise in hate crimes nationally, black and Latino gang hate violence in Los Angeles and other cities, and the resurgence of the use of racial epithets and vilification by public and private figures is more glaring evidence that intolerance and bigotry are still alive and kicking.

Re-enter Rosa Parks. What better way to kick back at these twin evils than to declare December 1, Rosa Parks Human Rights Day. Business leaders, school administrators, and elected officials should and could encourage students, workers, and residents to reaffirm in word and

deed their commitment to tolerance and diversity. They in turn would urge others to honor and pay tribute to the spirit and memory of Rosa Parks.

Parks' courageous and long-overdue beat down of Jim Crow segregation staked out the moral high ground for the modern-day civil rights movement. It was classic good versus evil. In the years immediately following her act, gory news scenes of baton-battering racist Southern sheriffs, fire hoses, police dogs and Klan violence unleashed against peaceful black protesters sickened Americans. All except the most rabid racists considered racial segregation immoral and indefensible. Parks and civil rights leaders were hailed as American heroes in the fight for justice. Martin Luther King Jr., who tops the list of those heroes and martyrs, owed a profound debt of gratitude to Parks. The Montgomery bus boycott launched him from obscure preacher to American icon.

Still, as America unraveled in the 1960s in the anarchy of urban riots, campus takeovers and anti-war street battles, the civil rights movement and its leaders fell apart too. Many of them fell victim to their own success. When they broke down the racially restricted doors of corporations, government agencies and universities, middle class blacks, not the poor, were the ones who rushed headlong through those doors. Civil rights organizations and black politicians defined the black agenda in increasingly narrow terms: affirmative action, economic parity, professional advancement and busing replaced battling poverty, reducing unemployment, securing quality education, promoting self-help and gaining greater political empowerment as the goals for all African-Americans.

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A little Jazz goes long way toward helping children

Everybody needs Jazz in their lives - that's what Dela Esqueda, executive director of Guadalupe-Parkway-Sommerville Centers always says.

But Esqueda's not talking about melodies rich with the sounds of the trumpet and snare drum.

She is referring to 23-year-old Jazz Williams, a vital member of the Guadalupe-Parkway-Sommerville staff who is giving back to his community by helping children.

"He's had a lot of challenges, and he's had many reasons to fail, but he's prevailed over all of that," Esqueda said. "Jazz is a wonderful example of the people who come through here."

Williams grew up in Lubbock's Parkway neighborhood.

"I just know what kids are going through," he said. "I haven't had a bad life, but I haven't just had the best life."

Williams said his family didn't have much growing up, but he's thankful he was able to play basketball and football and get through high school.

He said he believes the Parkway Center has played a part in his success.

"Just coming up here just playing sports - we used to go bowling and just do different stuff," he said. "Teens would come up here to stay out of trouble. Just so you wouldn't be on the streets."

Now, Williams works at the Sommerville Centers part time and is a Boy Scout leader for boys in first through sixth grade once a week at both Parkway and Guadalupe.

(Editor's Note: This article was written by Beth Phillips of the Lubbock A-J.)

East Lubbock AARP Will Meet

The East Lubbock Chapter of AARP will meet Thursday afternoon, December 6, 2007, at the

Mae Simmons Senior Citizens Center beginning at 1:00 p. m.

AARP calls for you to come and enjoy snacks while the AARP members style clothes from today to yesterday. You'll laugh until you shed brownie tears.

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The Jesse Pearson Memorial Fund

A fund has been set up to aid in the extreme expenses incurred by the recent tragedy that has befallen the Pearson Family. The Fund will help pay for burial cost as well as other cost that have been inherited during this time.

Please deposit donations into:
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To mail donations Please send to:

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The Pearson Family would like to thank you in advance for your help during this difficult time. We are grateful for all of the cards, Flowers and prayers.

Be Blessed,
The Pearsons

HOW TO USE SCENTED BAIT FOR COLD WATER BASS

By Skeef Reese

After seeing what I have while fishing thousands of days in hundreds of tournaments across the country, I know that scented baits catch more fish. It's no secret, really, and nowadays pretty much every angler uses scented baits to his or her advantage.

This time of year, with the water rapidly cooling in most parts of the country, slowly fishing scented baits are the answer for coaxing lethargic bass into eating. But with the glut of new scented products on the market all vying for your dollars, anglers need to become familiar with the subtleties and limitations of these baits if they hope to catch more fish.

Nearly everyone that uses scented baits has their own ideas and techniques on how best to use them. But before you cast one into your favorite lake or pond, there's one word to keep in mind: slow.

To maximize the effectiveness of scented baits you have to fish the bait very slow. Whether you catch fish for a living or just for fun, you have to have a minimum amount of patience and this is where it will pay off. Because the baits have built-in attractants, many anglers get excited and want to get the bait in the water in as many different places as possible hoping that the increased number of presentations will increase the likelihood of a strike.

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Editorials • Comments • Opinions



THIS N THAT

by T.J. Patterson

COULDN'T KEFF MY MOUTH CLOSE ON T HIS ONE! THIS N T BAT for twenty years had an opportunity of working with the polley making of the City of Lubbock and had decided not to get involved by making any statement..... but just couldn't sit back on this one..... You see in last week's Lubbock City Council meeting an issue was discussed about the funding of the NORTH & EAST LUBBOCK COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION when two councilmembers JOHN LEONARD & TODD KLEIN stated in an article which was ran in the Lubbock Avalanche-Journal Wednesday..... November 21, 2007 which stated they would not fund it next year..... These councilmembers need to look at the history of this organization where the sitting city council committed \$1,000,000.00 for four years..... namely 2004 ... 2005 ... 2006 & 2007..... If calculation is right this should have been the last year for the funding of the \$250,000.00 but the city council voted to only fund \$100,000.00..... When THIS N T THAT read this article he contacted two city councilmen FLOYD PRICE & KLEIN..... Council member Price said he was aware of this action..... and he did approach the councilmen about their decision to only fund the \$100,000.00 and their action in

the upcoming year..... 2008..... He also told THIS N THAT that he (Price) would be making a statement in the SOUTHWEST DIGEST about how he felt about the proceedings..... Also Councilman Klein was contacted by THIS N THAT and was asked why he made the statement in the article "I DON'T INTEND TO FUND IT NEXT YEAR." When asked why he has decided to this he said he was concerned about EAST LUBBOCK and wanted to find a way to help it.... He said at the time he hadn't read the article but would read it and call back..... This he did and said he would be making a statement to the SOUTHWEST DIGEST..... He did state his reasonbut will wait and see what he will send this newspaper for publication..... Now this situation needs to be looked into and better communications is needed to be made so this program NORTH & EAST LUBBOCK DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION can function as any other program in this city..... Those of us in the BLACK COMMUNITY who call ourselves LEADERS or WANT TO BE LEADERS need to STAND UP on this one and let the MAYOR & CITY COUNCIL know how you feel about this program and that it needs to be considered as any other program in the City of Lubbock..... So for those of you may say this is

none of my business you may be correct but someone has to say something about what took place last week at City Hall..... THIS N THAT couldn't keep his mouth close on this one regardless how others may feel..... This program needed and it needs to be given an equitable opportunity to produce..... As it has always been saidEAST LUBBOCK can move to the top of the hill but it will take people like you involved with the efforts..... When information is received from CITY COUNCILMEN FLOYD PRICE & TODD KLEIN it will be published in this newspaper... If nothing is received that too will be made known..... Come on EAST LUBBOCK and get involved with this one..... Really you can't afford to keep your mouth close on this one..... As you can read THIS N THAT opened his mouth!

FENNY HASTINGS THE BARBER SAID: "IN OUR CHANGING WORLD we can always depend on our UNCHANGING GOD!"

LET US HEAR FROM YOU! THIS N THAT would appreciate any comments on the comments of this week's comment on the need for the issue about the NORTH & EAST LUBBOCK DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION discussion last week at City Hall..... Let us hear from you via mail telephone or email..... Will be waiting to hear!!



Think About It!

The Black-Oriented Press Enabling Others To Reach Back

by Eddie P. Richardson

At periodic intervals, we all need to reflect upon the unique, urgent and momentous task that our Black-oriented press is performing as our undeniably greatest community building a link of communications today. It was well deserved, but has not always been accorded. This distinction since **Freedom's Journal**, the first Black oriented newspaper in America. As this and future articles during this series will unfold and remind us. The intricate uplifting and enlightening role or purpose of our **Black-oriented Press** can best serve the equitable growth, security and fulfillment needs of America. As a whole, only when (in tandem with our community organization organizations) it is interwoven into every growth producing fact of the Black Americans.

No where has this been more evident than in the Initiative taken by the Black Press some years ago to combat the awesome and devastating dilemma of illiteracy plaguing almost half of our Black youth and young

adults. Without the **Black-Oriented Press**, support pport of our community organizations, the entire future of Black America - which rest in the hands of these young people could be doomed to that of a permanent burdensome and dispensable millstone around the neck of America as a whole.

Long before this nation's on's enslaved Black Americans could afford to openly pursue reading or writing literacy. There the beginnings of a deep, longstanding and heroic history of helping others learn. These efforts had to be both daring and courageous because the penalty of "book learning." Among slaves far too often meant unthinkable forms of torturer or even death and in keeping with the attitude of many American slaveholders toward Blacks. This had to be. The basis for his posture was the unmercifully felt need to perpetuate the dehumanizing form of enslavement as a means of economic gain.

This urge was so overwhelming and absolute that the relent-

less and inhuman efforts to demean, debase and reduce an entire race of people to nothingness have no counterpart in the annals of American history.

The **Black Oriented Press** from its earliest days over 17 years ago has been aware of the seemingly rapacious and continuing urge of a significant, but now quantitatively lessening - part of white America to subject Afro Americans to unconscionable and often violent indignities. This economic and socially-motivated attitude resulted in a bitter and devastating Civil War that now, long after its consequences st ill divide and demean this great country.

Continue next week
Closing Thought: "There is little hope for us until we become tough-minded enough to break loose from the shackles of prejudice, half truths, and downright ignorance."

30th Local Women's Annual Set Here

The 30th Local Women's Annual will be held November 30, 2007, at 7:00 p. m. at the Christ Temple COGIC. The theme will be: "Holy Women Blessed and Highly Favored." Luke 1:28, 3 & 42.

Supt. W. D. Haynes is pastor. Be blessed and attend.

Participate in your Local Government. Your Input is so Important! Let your representative know that you stand ready to work in any situation!

Estacado's Journalism Department has Yearbooks, both past and present for sales. Please contact Ms. Kimberlee Douglas for more information. Estacado High School needs your support.

In Cinque

by Renetta Howard



Howard

It seems that the treatment of animals and the method in which they die has become a national concern. It all seemed to have exploded at the time when the football star, Michael Vick was accused of being the financial backbone of a dog fighting enterprise which was head-quartered at his home while he made decisions about actions and transactions in some remote place. Once the activities were discovered by law authorities, Vick was named as the chief proprietor. He finally admitted to his part in the dog fighting

venture and was blamed for his 'inhumane' methods of putting dogs to death. It appears that the concern for the way the animal died is more important than the fact that dog fighting is illegal.

When is death humane? This is a question for which I would love to hear the answer. It was not long ago that an autistic young girl was given recognition for engineering what has been called a humane way to slaughter cattle for human consumption. We are talking about steak. Some people like it so rare until you wonder if they stabbed it in the kitchen. How many people wonder, to themselves, before they eat the steak if the animal died in a humane way? Will the way in which an animal dies decide if it is going to heaven or hell? The Bible states in one commandment that "Thou shalt not kill." There is no mention of dogs or other animals except man. As a matter of fact, the killing of animals for human consumption is throughout

the Bible. Fighting among men is also historically recorded in the Bible. Man was pitted against animals in the Roman era and there continues to be fights between man and some animal, especially the bull in Spain and Mexico. The bull often dies, but sometime he is the victor. Can we call the death of a bull or a bull-fighter humane? Men fight men for great sums of money and sometimes they die as a result. Is this humane? Are the people who pay large sums of money to watch men or women maul each other, humane? Where do we draw the line? Dogs may be man's best friend in the world of lower animals, and they too, do not deserve to be mistreated, but what about people? Do they deserve to be beaten, or killed for money in some sports arena? Certainly we

can sleep better at night if it were a dog that died, rather than your friend or kin. There is no way to make death humane even on the battlefield during war times. War kills and that is not humane.

Most recently there is a protest about the way convicted criminals on death row are put to death. There is speculation for a more humane way to put the death row inmate to death. Death is death and there is no way to end life humanely. There may be a humane way to put the dead animal away once it is dead. The body has its own way of shutting down and whenever it starts, the brain takes charge and renders itself unconscious and oblivious to pain. After that, nothing matters anymore, to humans or any animal. Let us get 'in cinque' and figure out how to stop all of the needless killing, especially of our young people being sent off to war for no humane reason.

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

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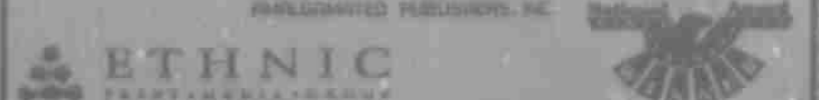
People will react to that which is precise, and we will publish these articles as precisely and factually as is humanly possible. We will also give credit and respect to those who are doing good things for the Lubbock Area and the people. We will be critical of those who are not doing as they have said they would, and this, we think, is fair.

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

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

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

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Subscriptions are \$20 a year or \$35 for 2 years.



Letter Policy

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

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

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

You can also email us at: swdigest@abglobal.net or fax your letter to: (806) 741-0000.

"Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that.
Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that." - Martin Luther King, Jr.

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Each One Reach One Gospel Fest Coming! Soon!

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.

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Sean Taylor Dies From Shooting

Continued on Page 1

Two bouquets were left by a palm tree outside a front gate of the home. Beside the mailbox, an untouched newspaper lay with news of Taylor's shooting.

Taylor's death comes nearly a year after Broncos cornerback Darrent Williams was killed in a drive-by shooting following an argument at a Denver nightclub on Jan. 1. University of Miami defensive lineman Bryan Pata was shot to death in November 2006 several miles from Taylor's home in an unsolved killing.

Doctors had been encouraged late Monday when Taylor squeezed a nurse's hand, according to Vinny Cerrato, the Redskins' vice president of football operations. But family friend Richard Sharpstein said he was told Taylor never regained consciousness after being taken to the hospital, and he wasn't sure how he had squeezed the nurse's hand. He said Taylor's father told him the death occurred about 5:30 a.m. Maybe he was trying to say goodbye or something," Sharpstein said.

Taylor, the fifth overall pick in the 2004 NFL draft following an All-American season at Miami, was shot early Monday in the upper leg, damaging the key femoral artery and causing significant blood loss.

Trauma experts said a serious wound to this large artery, leading from the abdomen through the upper thigh, is among the most difficult to fix and can quickly drain the body of blood. Too long a blood loss prevents oxygen from reaching the brain and vital organs.

"According to a preliminary investigation, it appears that the victim was shot inside the home by an intruder," Miami-Dade County police said in a statement. "We do not have a subject description at this time."

The attack came just eight days after an intruder was reported at Taylor's home. Officers were sent to the home about 1:45 a.m. Monday after Taylor's girlfriend called 911.

Sharpstein said Taylor's girlfriend told him the couple was awakened by loud noises, and Taylor grabbed a machete he keeps in the bedroom for protection. Someone then broke through the bedroom door and fired two shots, one missing and one hitting Taylor, Sharpstein said. Taylor's 1-year-old daughter, Jackie, was also in the house, but neither she nor Taylor's girlfriend was injured.

Police found signs of forced entry, but have not determined if they were caused Monday or during the previous burglary.

The shooting happened in the pale yellow house Taylor bought two years ago. In last week's break-in, police said someone pried open a front window, rifled through drawers and left a kitchen knife on a

bed. Taylor started as a running back and defensive back at Gulliver Prep in Miami. His father is police chief of Florida City.

A private man with a small inner circle, Taylor rarely granted interviews. But, behind the scenes, Taylor was described as personable and smart.

After Taylor was drafted, problems soon began. Taylor fired his agent, then skipped part of the NFL's mandatory rookie symposium, drawing a \$25,000 fine. Driving home late from a party during the season, he was pulled over and charged with drunken driving. The case was dismissed in court, but by then it had become a month-long distraction for the Redskins.

Taylor also was fined at least seven times for late hits, uniform violations and other infractions over his first three seasons, including a \$17,000 penalty for spitting in the face of an opponent during a 2006 playoff game.

Taylor endured a yearlong legal battle after he was accused in 2005 of brandishing a gun at a man during a fight over allegedly stolen all-terrain vehicles near Taylor's home. He eventually pleaded no contest to two misdemeanors and was sentenced to 18 months' probation.

Taylor said the end of the assault case was like "a gray cloud" being lifted. It was also around the time that his daughter was born, and teammates noticed a change.

On the field, Taylor's play was often erratic. Assistant coach Gregg Williams frequently called Taylor the best athlete he'd ever coached, but nearly every big play was mitigated by a blown assignment. Taylor led the NFL in missed tackles in 2006 yet made the Pro Bowl because of his reputation as one of the hardest hitters in the league.

This year, however, Taylor was allowed to play a true free safety position, using his speed and power to chase down passes and crush would-be receivers. His five interceptions tie for the league lead in the NFC, even though he missed the last two games because of a sprained knee.

"I just take this job very seriously," Taylor said in a rare group interview during training camp. "It's almost like, you play a kid's game for a king's ransom. And if you don't take it serious enough, eventually one day you're going to say, 'Oh, I could have done this, I could have done that.'"

"So I just say, 'I'm healthy right now, I'm going into my fourth year, and why not do the best that I can?' And that's whatever it is, whether it's eating right or training myself right, whether it's studying harder, whatever I can do to better myself."

Associated Press Writer Jessica Gresko in Miami and AP Sports Writer Joseph White in Ashburn, Va., contributed to this report.

Poll: Residents believe city's crime rate increasing Police chief says city's crime actually decreasing



Chief Claude Jones

A 19-year-old is shot to death at a Central Lubbock convenience store.

A week later, a 73-year-old man is stabbed to death in the garage of his Southwest Lubbock home after offering a bottle of water to a stranger.

A few weeks later, a drive-by shooting claims the life of a 15-year-old in East Lubbock.

July 2007 was a month many in Lubbock would like to forget.

But the random violence of July is still in the minds of people, many of whom believe Lubbock is experiencing a crime wave.

Crime has increased tremendously," said Mike Turner, 33, who has lived in and around Lubbock his entire life. "Lubbock used to feel like a safe Southern town. Not anymore. I just don't feel safe in this town."

Turner was one of 578 people who participated in an unscientific online poll conducted last month by The Avalanche-Journal.

Eighty-eight percent of respondents, including Turner, said they believe crime has increased in Lubbock. At first glance, statistics show that the peoples' fear is rooted in truth.

In the past five years, Lubbock has averaged 13.4 murders a year.

As of today, there have been 13 murders in Lubbock this year.

About the poll

- After several high-profile murders in Lubbock in July, editors at The Avalanche-Journal decided to conduct an online poll asking Lubbock residents what they think of the city's crime rate.

- The unscientific poll was available on the Avalanche-Journal's Web site Aug. 14-17.

- More than 575 people participated in the poll, with 88 percent saying they believed crime had increased in the city.

- The highest percentage of respondents, 30 percent, live in the southwest portion of the city in the zip codes 79424 and 79423.

- Fifty-one percent of those who took the poll were men.

- Thirty-one percent of respondents were between the age of 25-34 - the highest of any age category. The next highest category were 35-44 year olds, who made up 26 percent of respondents.

- Three percent of respondents were older than 65, the smallest percentage of any age group reported. AJ Online Poll results

- 578 people took part in the poll.

where members will follow the same sacred paths as the founders. In what is being hailed as an "emotional visit," members will also rededicate themselves to the powerful concept of service that represents the sorority's core mission. Among those who will return to their roots include five former international presidents, and high-profile members like Actress Phylicia Rashad; The Honorable Peggy Quince, Florida Supreme Court Judge; and 102-year old Mrs. Hazel Hainsworth Young, a retired educator from the Houston public schools and one of the Sorority's most senior members.



Soro. Barbara McKinzie

In reflecting on Alpha Kappa Alpha's remarkable 100-year odyssey and the host of commemorative events being mounted by the sorority in 2008, McKinzie declared, "The prevailing message of this celebration is that Alpha Chapter members continue to accomplish the goals established by the founding members and continue to live up to the Sorority's credo: 'to provide service to all mankind.' It is a foundation of service that has withstood the test of time because our founding mothers had a profound vision of the impact African-American women could achieve through the vessel of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority."

This nostalgic pilgrimage home to Alpha chapter, will feature A Walk Through History

- 88 percent of people believe crime has increased in Lubbock.

- 69 percent of people said they feel safe in their home.

- 60 percent of people say they feel safe in their neighborhood.

- 71 percent of people say they do not feel safe in areas of town where they do not live.

And federal Bureau of Justice Statistics numbers show Lubbock has the third highest violent-crime rate among all Texas cities with a population of more than 100,000 - just behind Dallas and Houston.

But that doesn't mean Lubbock is experiencing a crime spree, Lubbock Police Chief Claude Jones said.

"Lubbock is safe," said Jones, who dismisses the Bureau of Justice Statistics numbers as unreliable and blames local media for spreading paranoia and fear among the public.

By the numbers
Crime is actually decreasing in Lubbock, said Jones.

Part I crimes, which include murder, aggravated assault, rape, robbery, burglary, theft and arson, were down 2.5 percent during the first six months of 2007, Jones said.

And arrests in Lubbock were up 27 percent during the first half of 2007.

"The fact that we're adding officers and making arrests is helping to reduce crime in Lubbock," Jones said.

As violent as July may seem, there have been months recently with either an equal number or more murders.

In February, for example, three people also were killed in Lubbock.

In March 2003, four people were murdered in Lubbock. Four murders also were reported in October 2004, with four murders again in December 2006.

Concerning the Bureau of Justice Statistics numbers that place Lubbock's violent crime rate up with Dallas and Houston, Jones and other police officials say those numbers can't be relied upon.

"There is a large tendency for

cities to underreport," said Dale Holton, assistant police chief. "That's why their crime rate is lower."

Residents in some cities also may be reluctant to report crime, a problem Jones said doesn't exist in Lubbock.

A more accurate indication of how dangerous a city is would be to look at the murder rate, which is reported more consistently than the violent crime rate.

Lubbock had 5.2 murders per 100,000 residents in 2005, according to the Bureau of Justice.

Dallas' murder rate in 2005 was 16.4, and Houston came in at 16.3 the same year.

Amarillo - Lubbock's closest neighbor in terms of size and proximity - had a murder rate of 5.4 in 2005.

Not only is Lubbock's murder rate lower than many cities in Texas, it has been generally decreasing over time.

In 2005, Lubbock's murder rate was among its lowest in decades.

"Back in the 1980s we had like 30 homicides a year," Jones said.

In 1986, there were 28 homicides in Lubbock - the most of any year since 1985.

Homicides have been decreasing in most years with the exception of an occasional odd year when they will be unusually high or low.

In 1997, there were six homicides in Lubbock. A year later there were 15.

"Crime in all categories fluctuates," Jones said.

Public perception

So if crime is lower in Lubbock than it has been in the past, why does the public feel the city is experiencing a crime wave?

Diek McGlynn, professor of psychology at Texas Tech University, said public opinion can easily be swayed by just a couple of vivid instances, such as the series of murders in Lubbock last month.

"Those instances that are most vivid are the ones that influence our judgments," McGlynn said.

McGlynn said it's a normal tendency for people to be "overly influenced" by vivid events, even if those assumptions go against logic, such as when statistics prove otherwise.

Others, including the police chief, blame the media for making the public feel crime is out of control in Lubbock.

"Public perception is led by what the media tells people," said Jones, who added local media overemphasizes the negative and typically downplays any positive news.

Jones also agrees the nature of July's "random murders were unusual and likely frightened the public.

"Those were not common types of murders in Lubbock," Jones said.

For whatever reason, residents are scared.

"I think crime has increased dramatically over the past few years," said Camille Powe, who lives near Ransom Canyon and has worked in Lubbock for the past decade. "It seems like the crimes reported recently are more horrific than in the past."

Powe said she believes much of the crime in Lubbock can be attributed to drugs.

She said she also believes the city needs to hire more police.

Others living in and around Lubbock have a different opinion.

Henry Martinez, 47, has lived in Lubbock almost his entire life and thinks the economy is to blame for much of the city's crime.

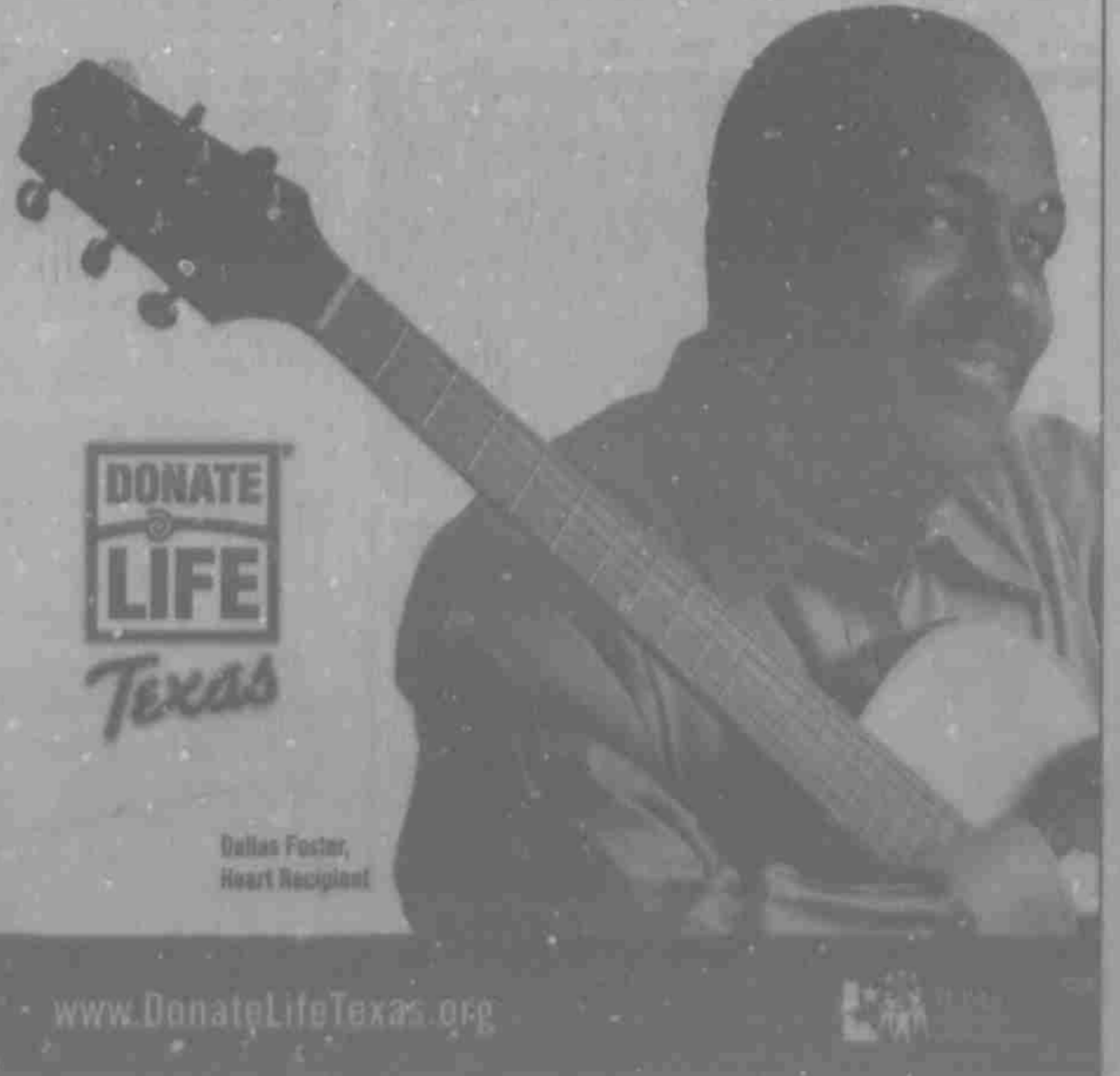
"Every year it's getting worse," Martinez said. "How are people going to survive on \$5.85 an hour when a gallon of gas is \$3 and a gallon of milk is \$4? If there's no jobs, people are going to steal."

(Editor's Note: This article was written by Henri Briceley of the Lubbock Avalanche-Journal. It is very good information for our readers to read about.

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AKA's to Celebrate Centennial in 2008

Chicago, Ill.
(BlackNews.com) - In January 2008, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., becomes the first African-American sorority to reach its 100-year milestone. In commemoration, from January 12-15, thousands of members will make a solemn pilgrimage to their founding Home of Howard University. There, in a series of joyous and solemn tributes, they will salute Alpha chapter on its Centennial and reflect on the journey that took them from nine founding members of Alpha Chapter in 1908 on one campus of Howard University, to 200,000 members in 975 chapters worldwide.

Led by international president Barbara A. McKinzie, members will walk hallowed ground and engage in a series of sentimental rites of passage. They will also pay tribute to the foremothers whose brilliant vision gave life to Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority. They include Ethel Hedgeman Lyle, Anna Easter Brown, Beslah Burke, Lillie Burke, Marjorie Hill, Margaret Flagg Holmes, Lavette Norman, Lucy Stowe and Marie Woolfolk Taylor.