

God Bless America!

Southwest Digest

50¢
Worth More!

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

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

May 1, 2008

VOL. XXX, No. 32

SUPPORT YOUR
ADVERTISERS BECAUSE
THEY SUPPORT YOU!



The Black Print of America
Lighting the road
to Freedom



Community

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

Meetings

- 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 Monday, 1:00pm at the Patterson Branch Library
- Hub City Kiwanis meets every Tuesday, 7:00pm, 1708 Avenue G
- Dunbar Alumni Association meets 2nd Saturdays, 4:00 pm
- Booker T. Washington American Legion Post 808 meets every 2nd Tuesday at 7:30pm, American Legion Building in Yellowhouse Canyon
- Forgotten West Riders meets on the 1st & 3rd Mondays, 7:00 pm, Patterson Library
- East Lubbock Chapter AARP meets every 1st Thursday at 1:00 pm, Mae Simmons Community Center
- Lubbock Chapter of Black Alumni meets every 3rd Tuesday, 5:30 pm, TTU Market Alumni Center
- Dunbar/Manhattan Heights Neighborhood Association meets every 1st Thursday at 6:00 pm and every 4th Thursday at 7:00 pm at the Dunbar-Manhattan Heights Neighborhood 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 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.
- Chattman Hill Neighborhood Association meets the 2nd Thursday of every month at 6:00 pm, at Hill 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
302 East 28th Street
Lubbock, TX 79401

• Fax: (806) 762-3612

email to us:
swdigest@yahoo.com
swdigest@sbcglobal.net

What's Inside...

Fashion Fun.....	Page 2
Chattman Hill.....	Page 2
Church News.....	Page 3
Obituaries.....	Page 3
Editorial.....	Page 4
Classified.....	Page 7

Snipes to be sentenced on tax evasion charges

(CNN) — Actor Wesley Snipes faces up to three years in prison and a fine of \$5 million when he is sentenced Thursday on federal tax evasion charges.

Federal prosecutors last week urged U.S. District Judge William Hodges in Ocala, Florida, to sentence Snipes to the maximum penalty to demonstrate to taxpayers that refusal to pay income taxes carries severe penalties.

Snipes was convicted on three misdemeanor counts of failure to file federal income tax returns.

"This case presents the court with a singular opportunity to deter tax fraud nationwide," the government said in its sentencing recommendation.

Snipes, who has starred in movies such as "Blade," "Major League" and "Murder at 1600," had been charged with felony conspiracy counts for participating in a scheme that rejects the legal foundation of the tax system. However, a jury accepted his argument that he was innocently duped by errant tax advisers and acquitted him on the most serious charges.

"The fact that Snipes was acquitted on two felony charges and convicted 'only' on three misdemeanor counts has been portrayed in the mainstream media as a 'victory' for Snipes," the government document says.

"The troubling implication of such coverage for the millions of average citizens who are aware of this case is that the rich and famous Wesley Snipes has 'gotten



Wesley Snipes was acquitted of the most serious charges against him.

away with it." In the end the criminal conduct of Snipes must not be seen in such a light."

Assistant Attorney General Nathan Hochman, head of the Justice Department's Tax Division, last week promised to beef up the government's efforts to pursue those engaged in a variety of schemes making legal assertions that income taxes are either voluntary or unconstitutional.

"For nearly a decade Snipes has engaged in a campaign of criminal tax conduct combining brazen defiance with insidious concealment," the prosecutors say. "By these means Snipes has escaped paying more than \$15 million in income tax to the IRS

and has pursued an intended fraudulent harm to the United States Treasury of more than \$41 million."

The document says Snipes shipped millions of dollars to accounts in Switzerland, Antigua and the Isle of Man to avoid taxes.

"Given defendant's income, earning capacity, and financial resources, both disclosed and undisclosed, the United States submits that a fine of at least \$5 million is warranted," the sentencing recommendation says.

The 35-page argument for the stiffest possible penalty ends with a dramatic flair. "In the defendant Wesley Snipes, the court is presented with a wealthy, famous and inveterate tax scofflaw. If ever a tax offender was deserving of being held accountable to the maximum extent for his criminal wrongdoing, Snipes is that defendant," it says.

The IRS is also seeking repayment of all taxes and interest through civil court proceedings.

Young Ladies in 1966 at Dunbar High School Future Homemakers of America



Front Row: Marva Bailey, Karen McCowan, Annie Hardeman, Margie Pittman, Jean Demerson, and Mamie Johnson.
Middle Row: Linda Smith, Carolyn Bogus, Erma Washington, Joyce Sneed, Patsy Blanton, and Reva Jones.
Back Row: Barbara Woods, Lucy Cummings, Sharon Denson, Frankie Middleton, Oledia George, Bettie Scott, Sarah Owens, Catherine Walker, LaVern Klencko, and Blitie James.

The Dunbar International Alumni Association Members Are Making Preparation For The Upcoming All Class Reunion July 17 thru 20, 2008! If You Are A Dunbar Graduate or A Former Dunbar Student, Get Involved And Be There! More Next Week!

Before

Present Location

Louise Bishop W. D. Haynes, Sr.

Bishop Haynes On KLLL

Christ Temple COGIC Will Celebrate 58 Years Sunday

This weekend the 58th Church Anniversary of the Christ Temple Church of God in Christ will be held. Supt. W. David Haynes, pastor invites the community to attend. The theme will be "Unity," Psalm 133:1.

Services will be held Friday evening, May 2, 2008, beginning at 7:00 p. m.

Saturday evening, May 3, 2008, the Reunion Banquet will be held at 4:00 p. m. in the David Crockett Fellowship Hall, 2411 Fir Avenue. Tickets are \$15.00 for adults and \$7.50 for children under age 12.

Sunday afternoon, May 4, 2008, the Official Church Anniversary will be held at 3:30 p. m.

Christ Temple COGIC, formerly the Church of God in Christ No. 2, began May 8, 1947. The late Elder R. L. Carrington was pastor, with house to house prayer meetings. Due to the overwhelming blessings of the God all accommodations were exhausted. Brother S. T. Dedrick was able to secure the Community Center for Sunday services.

This membership increased to 100, so the members decided to build the Lord a House. "So built

we the wall, and all the wall was joined together unto half thereof; for the people had a mind to work," Nehemiah 4:6. It was May 7, 1951, the members marched from East 26th and Birch to the present address, 2411 Fir Avenue. There have been three pastors, namely: the late R. L. Carrington, Elder Jackson and the late Bishop W. D. Haynes, Sr.

Bishop Haynes pastored 43 years. During ring his leadership, the Church's name was changed to Christ Temple, meaning Anointed, and the front entrance of the Church and the saying "The Place where the Spirit will meet you and the Saints will greet you." The Church acquired the necessary capital to develop the David Crockett Fellowship Hall, Upper Prayer Room, Choir Room, and additional office space.

Thousands have been reached through the Radio Ministry, "Echoes of Faith" over Radio Station KLLL. Many souls were saved and filled with the Holy Ghost.

The ministry of Christ Temple has produced many Preachers, Pastors, Superintendents, **Continue on Page 5**

Ordination & Deacon Service Set At Mt. Olive Baptist Church

Slaton — The Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church will have an Ordination Service for Ministers and Deacons on Sunday afternoon, May 4, 2008.

Those to be ordained are: Rev. C. Devroe, Minister Equilla Peoples-Morgan, Michael Peoples, Sr. Deacon; Clifton C. Peoples, Deacon and Wheeler Smith, Deacon.

Rev. Clifton C. Peoples is pastor. The public is invited.

Rev. C. Devroe

Wheeler Smith Deacon

Clifton C. Peoples, Jr. Deacon

Michael Peoples, Sr. Deacon

AAUUC/TW Says: "Stop The Violence!"

All women of Lubbock are asked to get involved with a program sponsored by the The African American Unified Umbrella Corp./The Way. It is a campaign to "Stop The Violence".

This can be achieved by local churches entering their "Queen" in a Mother's Day Pageant Style Show & Gospel Musical on Saturday afternoon, May 3, 2008, at 3:00 p. m. at The Church of the Blessed, 1809-34th Street, next to the Sonic Drive-Inn.

Each Church is asked to choose a "Queen" to represent their home Church as well as other Churches on the South Plains of Texas.

Entry fee for each "Queen" to represent its Church is \$20.00 and must be paid by Thursday, May 1, 2008.

Tickets are \$5.00 for each adult at the door, and tickets are \$5.00 for a coupled children and teens or \$3.00 each.

The "Queen" should be dressed in her finest Sunday's Best, and will be chosen and selected to reign for one year as Mrs. AAUUC Queen.

All contestants will style and model their own appareals. All will be asked to recite a Biblical Scripture, and elaborate on it for 3 minutes.

All contestants will give their condition of a "Mother".

The event will be video-taped for promotional showings. Each Church may have two entrants.

For more information, call (806) 368-6650.

Chatman Hills Corner

By Doris Reynolds

It is time for those of us who are qualified voters to go to the polls and cast your precious vote. Early voting has begun and will continue through May 6, 2008. This year is the time to elect a mayor and a city councilman for District 2. Remember, your precious vote is so important, so please don't forget to vote!

Cinco De Mayo Celebration Saturday, May 3, 2008 at 2:00pm

Please join us at the Patterson Branch Library as we celebrate Cinco De Mayo with special guest Ballet Folklorico Aztlan de Lubbock Dancers. Refreshments will be served. Sponsored by Friends of the Library.

New Light Baptist Church News

Sunday morning, April 27, 2008, services at the New Light Baptist Church, 3013 Idalou Road, were well attended.

Sunday School got started at 9:45 a. m. with Sister Ambra Jackson teaching the lesson which was entitled "Exploring Humility." Genesis 32:3, 6-12; 33:1-5; 9-11. Sister Gloria Lee is secretary. The question asked was "How can I reflect Godly humility?"

The morning worship services got underway with the devoted Praise Team leading the devotions. The Choir marched in singing "Swing Low, Swing Chariot," and "We've Come A Long Way."

Rev. Kenneth Jackson, pastor, preached "There is A Time For Everything." Ecclesiastes 3:1-12. What a message.

Open Mic Poetry Night is set for May 19, 2008, at the Patterson Branch Library. Sign-up will get underway at 6:30 p. m. Reading will begin at 7:00 p. m. The theme will be "Women/Mothers." Date: May 19, 2008

Left-to-Right Book Discussion

Please join us at the Patterson Branch Library on Saturday, May 24, 2008 at 2:00pm as we discuss "Sin No More" by Kimberla Lawson Roby. We welcome new members or those who would like to drop-in from time to time to discuss the monthly selection. Titles up for discussion are made available for free checkout at the

Continue to pray for our sick and shut in members and citizens of the community.

MLK Blvd. Under Construction

Ronnie Zahn Paving began concrete repair work Monday, April 28 on Martin Luther King Boulevard at Canyon's Lake Drive. This work will be done as part of the 2008 street maintenance program.

The first phase of the repair work will take place on the west side of Martin Luther King Boulevard approximately between East 19th and East 23rd Streets. Traffic will be reduced to one lane on the west side of the street. The work is scheduled to take 7 to 14 days to complete, and alternate routes are advised.

Inclement weather and possible equipment problems could slow progress.

library. For more details, please call Helen Visser-Fitzgerald at 767-3303 or email at: hviser@mail.ci.lubbock.tx.us

Free Adult Computer Classes At Patterson Library

Thursday, May 1, 2008
10:30am Basic PC/Internet
Tuesday, May 6, 2008
7:00pm Basic PC/Internet
Thursday, May 8, 2008
10:30am Microsoft Word
Tuesday, May 13, 2008
7:00pm Microsoft Word
Thursday, May 15, 2008
10:30am Microsoft Excel
Tuesday, May 20, 2008
7:00pm Microsoft Excel
Thursday, May 22, 2008
10:30am Library Orientation
Tuesday, May 27, 2008
7:00pm Library Orientation
Thursday, May 29, 2008

Dunbar Class of 1983 Set Reunion July 5, 2008!

The members of Dunbar High School Class of 1983 are looking for all to get together on July 5, 2008. Please contact Michael Chatman 1-580-512-6153 or Cynthia Lowe-Turner at 1-806-702-4308 (home) or 1-806-549-1328 (cell).

Just think what will happen if we all come together and contact our class members.

The question to ask now is will you help? Dunbar High School made many things happen for the Class of 1983. So, let's get involved and come together in July. We will be looking forward to hearing from all of you. If you are a parent of one of our graduates, please help us make this happen.

FASHION FUN

by Shirley Roberson

HUGE FLORAL PRINTS

Glamour with a casual air. That's right ladies! they are everywhere and they are on everything,

from loose flowing tunics, stretch knit pants, long or short skirts and capri sets. The flower prints are quite large and quite colorful. Head turners for sure!

EASY TO FIND, THEY'RE EVERYWHERE, IN EVERY COLOR

Fashion tip... always wear a



Shirley Roberson

smile! Fashion... just for the fun of it!

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!!

BETHEL AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

2202 SOUTHEAST DRIVE
806.744.7552
FAX No. 806.741.0208



Sunday Services

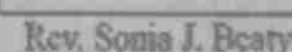
Intercessory Prayer 8:30 am
Church School 9:30 am
Morning Worship 11:00 am

Wednesday Services

Bible Study
12:00 Noon and 6:00 pm



Rev. Sonja J. Scott



Rev. Sonja J. Beatty

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

Senior Superintendent

Texas Tech University Physical Plant Utilities is seeking a Senior Superintendent. Bachelor's degree in Engineering or Engineering Technology preferred. Five years experience in managing and supervising maintenance/operations of boilers, refrigeration chillers, steam turbines and associated machinery in the production and distribution of manufactured utilities. Requires leadership/management ability, must be a capable administrator, skilled in oral and written communication. Must pass a drug screen, and background check. Valid driver's license and insurable to operate a university vehicle. Online application available at <http://jobs.texasstate.edu>. Requisition number 76043. (806) 742-3851 ext 238. Texas Tech University is an Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action/Americans with Disabilities Act Employer.

Meet Pastors Johnny & Pat Perez Of The Church Of The Blessed



Pastors Johnny & Pat Perez

Meet the Pastors of the Church of the Blessed. The Church is located at 1809 34th Street. They invite those looking for a Church Home to come and visit with their congregation. "We are happy of how God is blessing us with our many Church Ministries," says Pastor Johnny Perez. For information, call 747-9430. The Church of The Blessed will be having Outreach at the Clovis Flea Market. Discipleship Classes are held on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 p. m.

YOUR INVITATION TO A NEW BLESSING!

Pastors Johnny & Pat Perez and the family at Church of the Blessed invite you to join them for service this week.

Church of the Blessed

Church of the Blessed

1809 34th

Lubbock, TX 79411

Phone (806) 747-9430

Respectful Lubbock City Council Member

Floyd Price



Working for the people of Lubbock NOT the special interests trying to buy this election!

- Current District 2 Council Member
- Retired Lubbock Police Officer
- Retired Crime Prevention Specialist
- Part-time Lubbock County Deputy Sheriff

Floyd will continue to work to

- Reduce crime throughout the District and City
- Enforce codes to keep our neighborhoods strong
- Economic development in District 2
- Securing long-term solutions to our water problems

Vote Saturday, May 10th
Early Voting April 28- May 6th

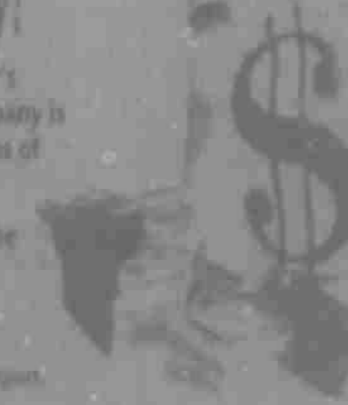
Committee to Elect Floyd Price • Telecuma Tins Betts Campaign Manager • Violet L. Price Treasurer

His opponent took \$8,000 from interests who are in a lawsuit with the City!

Gonzales has taken \$8,000 from Ted Parker, Parker's attorney and Parker's mother - while Parker's company is the main party in the AAC lawsuit involving millions of dollars of taxpayer money.

I need your vote to tell these special interest that the District 2 City Council seat is NOT for sale!

* Contribution will have effect on 2008 campaign finance report.



Church News

From the Desk of Parson D.A. Smith "Deadly Sin of America - Racism"

Tiring to be objective about the future of America in today's political climate seems vain. Some Americans seem hell bent on the idea of a superior race. These creatures of diabolic nature toward other humans who do not look like them are leading America to its ruin.

Carl T. Rowan asks in his book (1996) "The Coming Race War in America-A Wakeup Call": "How do you tell when a civilization is in decline?" He answers: "When a great nation is on the rocks spiritually, morally, racially, and economically?"

Rowan continues with "respect for law and order has declined drastically, except in phony speeches of politicians. The nation's capital is awash with special counsel and special prosecutors, taking testimony from the President, the First Lady, key members of the cabinet and the Congress-all accused or suspected of criminal wrongdoing. The FBI is far short of being trustworthy, its agents and former agents deep in partisan politics. Local police departments reek with corruption, including condoned lawlessness by some policemen. Our prisons bulge with record numbers of young Americans, mostly the fruit

of the drug trade, while the big bumblebees of the crime and drug syndicates peddle their wares with impunity.

Every day our newscasts begin with stories of grisly murders, sexual assaults, grotesque abuses of children, mass killings on the job sites, and worse.

America is sinking in greed. Our workers fear tomorrow and their bosses grab what they can today. A corporate fate can get a \$10 million reward for "downsizing" his firm-that is, putting thousands of employees out of work...public morality has probably never been lower...racism has not been as virulent throughout America since the Civil War, with short fuses burning on a thousand powder kegs."

When reading the former and measuring it against today's environs one is quickly reminded that America has not moved forward very much as it relates to racism. The political race between Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton has opened the wound of festering racism. One might conclude that the Old South, the Dixie-crats of the past are more opened minded toward race than those persons who live in states like Ohio and Pennsylvania. Just maybe that is


why the Koreans and Japanese built automobile plants in the south and states like to those fore-mentioned jobs are going overseas.

It is repulsive to see a former first lady of this great nation who is a Methodist, an attorney and a U. S. Senator stoop to the level of trying to get votes by drinking whiskey and chasing it with beer with the good old white boys of Pennsylvania.

The racial behavior that caused Richard Allen to walk out of St. George Methodist Episcopal Church in 1787 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and form a new denomination in 1816 named as African Methodist Episcopal Church appears not to have gone away. The deadly sin of racism is serpentine and poisonous and like a coral snake striking its victim, nibbling at the very soul.

Rowan also wrote the following: "Sophisticated hate mongers in their heyday...write the nation's bestselling books because they dominate the nation's media-listened-to or most-watched radio and television shows. Limbaugh and others of his ilk have manipulated public opinion in dangerous ways."

Continue on Page 6



We Thank God for Jesus

"Blackslidden America"

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

Deuteronomy 28:15 - It shall come to pass, if you will not listen unto the voice of the Lord your God to observe to all his commandments and the statutes which I command you this day that all these curses shall come upon you, and overtake you.

As all America can now see, there is a curse upon this land. And it is because America doesn't want God to be in command!!

Luke 19:14 - Jesus said, his citizens hated Him (Jesus), and sent a message after him, saying, we will not have this man to reign over us.

As we can see God is taken out many of the places where He is needed. America says, we don't need God. We're a powerful God, and do as we please!!!

Psalms 2:1-4 - Why do the Heathen (America) rage, and the people imagine a vain thing (Dream)? The Kings of the Earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together against the Lord, and against His Anointed (Jesus), saying, let us break our bands asunder, and

cast away their Cords (Commandments) from us. He that sits in the Heavens (God) shall laugh. The Lord shall have them in Derision (Fiducule).

**** God Is Laughing At America!!! ****

America says, we don't even need God in our Public Schools. But look at our children going crazy, like wild animals who are

Romans 1:18-22 - For the wrath of God is revealed from Heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the Truth (The Leaders) in unrighteousness, because that when they know God, they glorified Him not as God, Neither were thankful, but became vain in their Imaginations (Dreamers), and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they become fools.

(America wanted her Rights, but they're wrong and from the Devil - Abortion Rights, Kill The Abortion Doctors Rights, Road Rage Rights, No Prayer In Schools Rights, Drugs In School Rights, Drive By Shooting

Rights, Child Molestation Rights, Condoms In Kindergarten, Rights, Kill The Teachers An Students Rights, Kill The Wife And Children Rights, Kill The Grandparents Rights, No Love In The Family Rights, Suicide Rights and many more).

*** Have You Seen America's And Her Rights???

When America left God, she wanted to be FREE to do her own thing. Now she's killing, raping, disrespecting, cheating, stealing.... Shame, Shame, Shame!!!

Even in the White House there is no man that is honest, and holds the truth. They're liars, back stabbers, cut throats, whore mongers. They work for you!!!

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

Continue on Page 6

St. Matthew's Baptist Church News

Again, our Church Services at the St. Matthew Baptist Church, 2020 East 14th Street, were well attended, where the pastor is the Rev. Edward Canady.

If you are looking for a Church Home, come and visit on any Sunday morning.

Church services got underway with Sunday School, beginning at 10:45 a. m., on last Sunday morning. Pastor Canady was in charge

as our Superintendent, Sister Luella Harris, is still in rehab. Let us keep her in our prayers.

The subject of the morning lesson was "Intercession In Crisis." The scripture was Daniel 9:1-7; 17-19. The main thought was Daniel 9:17.

The lesson was taught by Sister Shirley Canady. She did an outstanding job. Pastor Canady reviewed the morning lesson.

The morning devotion got underway at 11:15 a. m. with Deacon Edward Williams and Sister Ethel Williams presided. The spirit was very high with continuing in prayer by Sister Shirley Jackson and Sister Annie Stanley.

The St. Matthew Baptist Church Choir sang out of their hearts and souls. What a blessing, we have at St. Matthew Baptist Church!

Pastor Canady delivered a

dynamic sermon. His subject was "Lord, I'm Pleading For Forgiveness and Thy Mercy." His scripture text was Psalm 51:11. It was another wonderful message.

Let us remember those who are sick and shut-in. Among them include Sister Bernice Hameed and Sister Luella Harris.

Remember all who are sick and shut-in. Just think, today, it may be then, and tomorrow, it could be you or I.

God is good all the time! And all the time, God is good!

Let my hands perform His bidding,
Let my feet run in His ways,
Let my eyes see Jesus only,
Let my lips speak forth His praises.

Remember this: Let us be reminded that wealth, fame, or monetary success do not bring happiness, in spite of what some people are prone to believe. Material possessions and professional success can never satisfy our deepest longings, and all of

us, regardless of our social or economic standing, need the Lord Jesus Christ. As Christians we have the privilege and responsibility to recognize this need in those around us and to share with them our faith in

Christ.

Thought for the Week: "Only one life, twill soon be past; only what's done for Christ will last."

May God continue to bless each of you!

Outreach Prayer Breakfast

The members and friends of the Outreach Prayer Breakfast want all of you to know that there is Warfare Praying, Saints! This why first we need to know your enemy!

We're engaged in a war with Satan. Satan is the true source of all evil and its resulting conflicts. (Psalm 109, Zechariah 3:1-2; Matthew 4:1-10).

We're engaged with an age old enemy, Satan only operates through individuals, institutions, systems, and circumstances. We're engaging in one who is totally set on our complete destruction.

Satan will employ any means, and go to any length necessary to accomplish our destruction.

We're engaging an enemy that will be ultimately and eternally stopped only by our Lord Jesus. Expect Satan to fight and wage war with all that is right and good, until his doom, that's already declared. It's finalized. (Rev. 20:1-3).

"Let's Pray"

Dear Lord, we stand against the powers of Satan in our life today. We declare him powerless over us, because we're children of the King. We're born again by your Spirit. We are forgiven, because we're covered with the Blood of Jesus. So, Satan, we stand against you in Jesus' name. You have no authority in our life. We pray for all who are not well today in many ways. Please meet their needs. We pray that the best man be elected to run this nation, and your world. For it is in Your Name, we pray. AMEN

What About This: A young man on a Sunday afternoon visited a member of his church. Near her home he noticed a number of luxury automobiles parked in front of a compound surrounded by a ten-foot walls with barbed wire on top. The young man, curiously asked, "What is that compound?"

And why are so many expensive vehicles parked in front?"

The young lady answered, "That is a drug rehabilitation center. Most of those undergoing treatment are from wealthy prominent families."

She was reminded that wealth, fame, or monetary success do not bring happiness, in spite of what some people are prone to believe. Material possessions and professional success can never satisfy our deepest longings, and all of us, regardless of our social or economic standing, need the Lord Jesus Christ. As Christians, we have the privilege and responsibility to recognize this need to those around us and to share with them our faith in Christ.

This let us know there are many in our community who are in need, and no matter how well we've done in life, we can't forget their plight.

As John 15:5 states, "Jesus said, 'Apart from me you can do nothing.'"

The members and friends of the Outreach Prayer Breakfast will meet Saturday morning, May 3, 2008, beginning at 9:30 a. m. in the home of Sister Christene Burleson, 2409 East 9th Street.

If you have never attended one of these inspiring meetings, why not do so this coming Saturday morning. You'll be glad you chose to do so. There is valuable information at each meeting. This information can be used during the coming week.

So come and join us this week. If you have any questions, call 762-3347


Thought of the Week: "Saints, don't let the Devil ride. If you let him ride, he will try to drive."

Don't forget your drive by prayers as you drive to and fro this week. Pray for your Church,



Neighborhood, Schools, Grocery Stores and other places of shopping. God is able!

Thanks for reading, Saints! If you have questions, please advise. Sister Dorothy Hood, president; Sister Christene Burleson, vice president; and Sister Elnora Jones, teacher.

See you next week! God is on our side, and let's not forget that! He loves all of us!



PRECISION BODY WORKS INC.

Three Locations To Better Serve You!!

1302 98th Street
Lubbock, Texas 79423

3440 West Loop
Lubbock, Texas 79407

6201 Genoa Avenue
Lubbock, Texas 79424

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Insurance Approved! Pick up and delivery. We will bring your vehicle home to you clean when repaired.

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FAST PROFESSIONAL FRIENDLY SERVICE

"If You Wreck It, We Will Fix It!"

"We Take Care Of All Vehicles From Smallest To The Largest!"

"Let Us Work For You!"

Obsequies

Estella Ayers

Funeral services for Estella Ayers were held last Friday morning, April 25, 2008, at Christ Temple Church of God in Christ with Supt. W. D. Haynes, pastor, officiating.

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

She passed away Monday, April 21, 2008, at her residence.

She was born July 22, 1944 in Longview. She attended school in Lamesa, and continued her education in nursing.

She married Lois Henry Ayers in 1972. He preceded her in death.

Mrs. Ayers was a faithful member of One Way Church of God in Christ, Superintendent of Sunday School, and an evangelist missionary. She opened a homeless ministry in 2002 to help the



needy.

She is survived by three sons: Joe L. Burton (Keifi), Terry McGee (Connie) and Anthony Ayers; two daughters, Regina K. Jackson and Vicki Hastings (Stephen); two sisters, Carrie Richard and Doris Skief; 11 grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; and a host of nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, cousins, and dear friends.

"Setting Priorities"

Haggai 1:1-10, 12-15

1 - In the second year of Darius the king, in the sixth month, in the first day of the month, came the word of the Lord by Haggai the prophet unto Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Josedech, the high priest, saying,

2 - Thus speaketh the Lord of hosts, saying, This people say, The time is not come, for time that the Lord's house should be built.

3 - Then came the word of the Lord by Haggai the prophet, say-

ing,

4 - Is it time for you, O ye, to dwell in your ceiled houses, and this house lie waste?

5 - Now therefore thus saith the Lord of hosts: Consider your ways.

6 - Ye have sown much, and bring in little; ye eat, but have not enough; ye drink, but ye are not filled with drink; ye clothe you, but there is none warm; and ye that earneth wages, earneth wages to put it into a bag with holes.

7 - Thus saith the Lord of hosts: Consider your ways.

8 - Go up to the mountain, and bring wood, and build the house; and I will take pleasure in it, and I

will be glorified, saith the Lord.

9 - Ye looked for much, and lo, it came to little; and when ye brought it home, I did blow upon it. Why? saith the Lord of hosts. Because of mine house that is waste, and ye run every man into his own house.

10 - Therefore the heaven over you is stayed from dew, and the earth is stayed from her fruit.

Attend Sunday School this week. It is a good lesson!

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National Infant Immunization Week

April 19-26, 2008 is National Infant Immunization Week.

Are your children protected against vaccine-preventable diseases?



Children need shots at: 2, 4, 6, 12-15 months
4-6 years
11-14 years

Don't hesitate! Get your children immunized and protect them from vaccine-preventable diseases!

To locate a provider call the City of Lubbock Health Department at 775-3090



When Your Heart is Breaking

by Tom Norvell

Submitted by Z. Patterson

Question: "Can you die of a broken heart?"

Answer: "I don't know, but there are times when your heart is breaking that you wish you could die! It would be easier than enduring the pain."

Some hearts break because of unfulfilled love. Some hearts break due to unfulfilled dreams. Some hearts break because of the loss of a child, the loss of a parent, the loss of a friend, or the loss of a mate. Some hearts break when others are hurting and there is nothing that can be done to help them or to ease their pain. Jesus expressed this as described by Matthew, "When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd" (Matthew 9:36).

When your heart is breaking, you want help. You long for relief. You long for someone who can fix it. Ron Peitzman's little children's book, "Mr. Bell's Fix It Shop," is the story of Mr. Bell, a man who could fix just about anything. "Even a broken heart."

In Michael Card's song, "I Will Not Walk Away," these words speak the thoughts of a broken heart:

Don't read me pointless poems friend.

Don't diagnose, Don't descend.

Though you may be right to disagree.

I need someone to weep with me.

When your heart is breaking, that is what we want, isn't it? We want to know that someone can fix this. When it cannot be fixed, we want to know that someone is there to weep with us. We don't always want explanations, even though we may ask for them. We don't need another book to read, or another famous quote, or another story that proves "You are not the only one who has ever had a broken heart." We need someone to weep with us. We need someone to comfort us. He binds up the brokenhearted.

Job had that from his three friends... for a while.

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Community Shocker: 3 NYPD Detectives Acquitted in 50-Shot Killing



NEW YORK, NY (AP) Three detectives were acquitted of all charges Friday in the 50-shot killing of an unarmed groom-to-be on his wedding day, a case that put the NYPD at the center of another dispute involving allegations of excessive firepower.

Justice Arthur Cooperman delivered the verdict in a Queens courtroom packed with spectators, including victim Sean Bell's fiancée and parents, and at least 200 people gathered outside the building.

The verdict provoked an outpouring of emotions: Bell's fiancée immediately walked out of the room. His mother cried. Outside the courthouse, which was surrounded by scores of police officers, many in the crowd began weeping as news of the verdict said. Others were enraged, swearing and screaming "Murderers! Murderers!" or "KKK!"

Bell, a 23-year-old black man, was killed in a hail of gunfire outside a seedy strip club in Queens on Nov. 25, 2006 - his wedding day - as he was leaving his bachelor party with two friends.

Officers Michael Oliver, 36, and Gerard Isnora, 29, stood trial for manslaughter while Officer Marc Cooper, 40, was charged only with reckless endangerment. Two other shooters weren't charged. Oliver squeezed off 31 shots; Isnora fired 11 rounds; and Cooper shot four times.

The officers, complaining that pretrial publicity had unfairly painted them as cold-blooded killers, opted to have the judge decide the case rather than a jury. The judge indicated that the

police officers' version of events was more credible than the victims' version. "The people have not proved beyond a reasonable doubt that each defendant was not justified" in firing, he said.

A conviction on manslaughter could have brought up to 25 years in prison; the penalty for reckless endangerment, a misdemeanor, is a year behind bars.

The case brought back painful memories of other NYPD shootings, such as the 1999 shooting of Amadou Diallo - an African immigrant who was gunned down in a hail of 41 bullets by police officers who mistook his wallet for a gun. The acquittal of the officers in that case created a storm of protest, with hundreds arrested after taking to the streets in demonstration.

The mood surrounding this case has been muted by comparison, although Bell's fiancée, parents and their supporters, including the Rev. Al Sharpton, have held rallies demanding that the officers - two of whom are black - be held accountable.

Still, a phalanx of police officers, some uniformed and some in the department's community affairs polo shirts, was stationed outside the courthouse Friday. The building was ringed by metal barricades. Some in the crowd wore buttons with Bell's picture or held signs saying "Justice for Sean Bell." After the verdict was read, some in the crowd approached officers but were held back; the jostling quickly died down.

After the verdict, Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly acknowledged that some people were disappointed with the acquit-

als. "We don't anticipate violence, but we are prepared for any contingency," he said.

The nearly two-month trial was marked by deeply divergent accounts of the night.

The defense painted the victims as drunken thugs who the officers believed were armed and dangerous. Prosecutors sought to convince the judge that the victims had been minding their own business, and that the officers were inept, trigger-happy aggressors.

None of the officers took the witness stand in his own defense. Instead, Cooperman heard transcripts of the officers testifying before a grand jury, saying they believed they had good reason to use deadly force. The judge also heard testimony from Bell's two injured companions, who insisted the maelstrom erupted without warning.

Both sides were consistent on one point: The utter chaos surrounding the last moments of Bell's life.

"It happened so quick," Isnora said in his grand jury testimony. "It was like the last thing I ever wanted to do."

Bell's companions - Trent Benefield and Joseph Guzman - also offered dramatic testimony about the episode. Benefield and Guzman were both wounded; Guzman still has four bullets lodged in his body.

Referring to Isnora, Guzman said, "This dude is shooting like he's crazy, like he's out of his mind."

The victims and shooters were set on a fateful collision course by a pair of innocuous decisions: Bell's to have a last-minute bachelor party at Kalua Cabaret, and the undercover detectives' to investigate reports of prostitution at the club.

As the club closed around 4 a.m., Sanchez and Isnora claimed they overheard Bell and his friends first flirt with women, then taunt a stranger who responded by putting his right hand in his pocket as if he had a gun. Guzman, they testified, said, "Yo, go get my gun" - something Bell's friends denied.

Isnora said he decided to arm himself, call for backup - "It's getting hot," he told his supervisor - and tail Bell, Guzman and

Lubbock District 2 debate centers on neglect

Neglect of East Lubbock neighborhoods was the focus of debate Monday evening among candidates for the District 2 City Council seat.

The candidates each explained why they thought they were the best to boost development of the district. But incumbent Floyd Price and candidate Armando Gonzales continued to talk about the other's perceived shortcomings, taking shots at what the other has and hasn't done.

Yet all three - Price, Gonzales and Gilbert Salinas - agreed focus needs to be placed on the most neglected areas of the city, specifically East Lubbock, which forms the largest part of District 2.

When asked what the candidates thought were the top capital needs not addressed by the City Council all narrowed securing water and District 2 revitalization, including bringing businesses to the district and focusing on infrastructure.

"District 2 has a lot of infrastructure problems," Price said, talking specifically about vacant lots and dirt streets. He thinks one way to help the district is

including those issues in a bond package later this year.

Gonzales said an equitable share of city funds needs to be directed to repairing and paving the worst streets in Lubbock, with many of those located in East Lubbock. Gonzales also said the district needs more red lights in certain areas.

Candidate Gilbert Salinas said the streets and alleys in East Lubbock are "long overdue" for care. He also mentioned health issues and the need for more funding of the health department as well as the need for more EMS stations and police officers.

"There's been very little progress (in District 2)," Salinas said, though he did see some positive changes in the past few years, including a handful of streets paved and new Little League baseball fields.

Price defended his post. He pointed to several new homes and businesses in the district, and while he admitted more needs to be done, he blamed several decades of neglect.

"I'm passionate about progress and inclusiveness of District 2," Price said.

Gonzales adamantly disagreed with Price taking credit for the progress, saying any credit should be given to Price's predecessor - T.J. Patterson

Christ Temple's 58th Anniversary

Continued from Page 1

Teachers, Missionaries, Singers, and other gifted persons.

Under this leadership, students from the Republic of Panama were educated at the Mary & Mac Private School. Christ Temple has been noted for how the Spirit is felt when entering and worshipping God during the service.

Bishop Haynes was very instrumental in putting Christ Temple on the map. Bishop Haynes received many Awards and Recognition for his outstanding work during his Ministry, including an Auxiliary Bishop. He was identified by his song, "Oh, Jesus Is Coming."

The present Pastor, Supt. W. David Haynes, son of Bishop Haynes. Since his tenure as Pastor, the Church has completed the Parking Lot, Church Decorum has been improved, New chairs updated office equipment, improvement of the Music Department.

Christ Temple has a Jeremiah 3:15 Pastor. He echoes Psalm 47:1.

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David Miller raised your taxes and still overran the budget nearly one million dollars. Tom Martin helped rescue LP&L from financial ruin without raising your taxes.

David Miller's red light camera flip flop has this year's budget already half a million dollars short. Tom Martin's common-sense leadership created the private/public partnership that developed Milwaukee Ave. without raising taxes.

David Miller is a "tax and spend" mayor. Tom Martin lowered the tax rate 3 years in a row and froze property taxes for seniors.

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Early voting has started - vote early!

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Karen, Tom & Clancy

Armando Gonzales

FOR CITY COUNCIL—DISTRICT 2

Do you want a friend at City Hall or do you want more excuses?



Armando Gonzales says...

Until District 2 gets its fair share of city services, we can never call ourselves a "model city."



Floyd Price says...

"Knowing something needs to be done and you can't do it."

Lubbockonline.com

Armando Gonzales won't say "It can't be done."

Early voting for District 2 will be held April 28 through May 6
Election Day is May 10

If you want something done, -vote for ARMANDO GONZALES!

Editorials • Comments • Opinions

THIS N THAT

by T.J. Patterson

YOUR VOTE IS VERY IMPORTANT! THIS N THAT is hoping you will use your **PRECIOUS VOTE** and go to the polls and vote for the person you believe will make the better **MAYOR** and **CITY COUNCILMAN**, **DISTRICT 2** Don't sit back at home and forget to go and vote..... Those persons seeking the Lubbock City Council post are **FLOYD PRICE** who is the incumbent **ARAMANDO GONZALES & GILBERT SALINAS**..... Hopefully there will be more movement in the **EAST LUBBOCK COMMUNITY** as we begin to take care of this much needed area of East Lubbock..... Our young people really need us to stand up and do the right thing By electing someone who will **STAND UP FOR EAST LUBBOCK**..... If you are happy with the way things are..... then vote your convictions But if you are not happy with the way things have gone then do what you think is best for you to do..... But for goodness sake please **VOTE** As early voting has begun and will continue until **MAY 6, 2008!** So don't be a lazy person or a person with an excuse because your **PRE-**

CIOS VOTE is so important! **WILL YOU VOTE?** **NOT MUCH TALK ABOUT DISTRICT TWO! THIS N THAT** has been watching the **DEBATE BY THE DISTRICT FOUR CANDIDATES** for Lubbock City Council and it appears as though they are **SHY** About speaking about **EAST LUBBOCK**..... Hope these candidates when the one is elected there will be interest in seeing something happen in East Lubbock..... Perhaps **THIS N THAT** is sensitive about things happening in **EAST LUBBOCK**..... As it has been the opinion of **THIS N THAT** there needs to be more hands on approach for things to happen in **EAST LUBBOCK**..... As the old folks would always say if you don't ask for anything you will not receive anything..... So if others are not speaking in a **POSITIVE MANNER** Then why don't you become a **COMMITTEE OF ONE** and tell the real story about East Lubbock.....

PENNY HASTINGS THE BARBER SAYS: "PRAY until you can **LOVE** The most troublesome **PEOPLE** In your life."

LET'S KEEP TALKING ABOUT BANK OR BRANCH BANK IN EAST LUBBOCK! THIS N THAT is hoping many of you who reside in **EAST LUBBOCK** will keep talking up the need for a **BANK OR BRANCH-BANK** in East Lubbock..... The time is right and this area of the city needs some kind of a catalyst to move East Lubbock to another level..... As it has been too long since there has been such timing as this..... So as many of you who reside in East Lubbock need to get involved and see that there such a great need..... Of course **THIS N THAT** is happy over what the **WELLS FARGO BANK** with a unit at the United Supermarket and the first ATM by **PLAIN-SCAPITAL BANK** at the corner of Parkway Drive & MLK Blvd..... **THIS N THAT** is hoping something will be done in the near future Really If Lubbock is to continue to grow There must be an equitable posture of all areas of the City of Lubbock..... **THIS N THAT** is praying for something to happen!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, BOBBIE! THIS N THAT wants to say **HAPPY BIRTHDAY**.

Think About It!

"More Jubilee Biblical Black History"

by Eddie P. Richardson

As we wrote in our first Black History issue, we referred to the Holy Bible King James Version the African American Jubilee edition on now as in Biblical days things are the same. The supplementary material, presents a way for African Americans to see how they are inextricably connected to the ancient world of the Bible; it allows to fully understand the inter-relatedness of biblical stories and their own rich heritage by critically examining the elements of place, people, culture and story. This culturally-relevant edition of the Bible invites readers to reconnect with the historic struggle their ancestors whose lives were fashioned Jubilee laws and it reminds them that despite dispersion, historical dislocation, and disenfranchisement, Gods enabling Spirit has been present all the time.

The supplementary material is designed to encourage readers, especially those of this generation to read and in some cases reread the Bible in light of their own cultural and social locations. As readers bring their own experiences to Biblical text and interact with the various stories, remarkable similes will emerge between the issues they face today and those of the ancient world. Issues of race, gender, oppression, exploitation, prejudice, and xenophobia are all addressed in the Bible, God is God who is God of all wisdom and all knowledge, reconciled those issues Christ and has provided, through Scriptures, guidance for our life in a faith community.

Check Mail/Compose Search Mail: Search Mail/Search the Web

Thank God For Jesus

Continued from Page 3
for a reward, and the great man. He utters his mischievous desire. So they wrap it up.
*** Trusting in The Flesh Of Mankind!!!***
America thinks either Mrs. Clinton, or Mr. Obama, or Mr. McCain can make things right. But she's only dreaming again, and the end of troubles is not in sight!!!

Deuteronomy 28:16-20a - Cursed shall you be in the city, and cursed shall you be in the fields, Cursed shall you be in the basket and the store, Cursed shall be the fruit of your body, and the fruit of the land. The increase of your cattle, and the flock of your sheep. Cursed shall you be when you come in, and cursed shall you be when you go out. The Lord shall send upon you cursing.

Little League's okay to play on that field. We have two new fields and MLK no longer has use for that field, why should it sit idle and become an eyesore from a lack of use.

We must keep in mind, recreation facilities are controlled by the City and any and all can be used by any and all, at anytime.

Also, attendance at the new field in the Thunderbird area is not showing support for the youth that are playing. There are two new fields there and attendance is inadequate to support the financial requirements of the MLK League. Entry is free, however, revenues generated from the concession is the main source of revenue to keep the league operational. Umpires, balls, field maintenance are expenses of each game. Registration fees went towards initial purchases, i.e. uniforms, League Fee, etc.

Your financial, as well as Continue on Page

Letters to the Editor

Enjoys Reading Southwest Digest

Dear sir,
I am a senior white citizen in Lubbock, Texas who read your paper this morning in the Lubbock Newspaper. I really liked the articles and messages in it. I am a born again Christian Literary Minister of the Gospel and have written many very short articles similar to Sunday School lessons as God has ordained me to do. I simply mailed them out to anyone who was interested in receiving them. They have strange titles such as, "Sounds of Eternity"; "Riding the Waves" and etc. If you would like to publish any of these let me know and I will send them to you either via e-mail or by slow mail. The format may change if I send them by e-mail.

I love all people of all colors

and creeds and all things that our God has created. I would like to take the paper by mail but I can't afford the subscription prices. Hopefully I will continue to receive this paper in the Lubbock newspaper. I will be reading all the articles in it you can be sure.

Thank you so very much for the Christian articles in it and the messages which this nation really does need in these latter days.

Your friend in Christ,
Elmer Musick

Martin Little League Needs Our Help!

To put to rest the concerns of some about non-community teams playing on the old baseball field at Mac Simmons Park. The ball field for those teams have not been completed. They asked and received MLK

Parson Smith

Continued from Page 3
This same vein of racism is perpetuated today and unless America gets a grip on racism the official language will not be English or Spanish, but more than likely Chinese.

up our own minds without letting the news stations making decisions for us.

VOTE MAY 10TH!!

In Cinque

by Renetta Howard



Howard

In this technological world, we all want to know the news. Of course, we like to hear good news, but too often that is not the case. It certainly is not the case when we hear the daily count of the soldiers and other persons killed in the line of duty in a war zone. It is shocking to hear the news of people killed in going about their daily duties in a civilized country where no war has been declared. Sometimes it appears that all we hear on the news, is bad news.

If we are not listening to the news about the killings around the world, then we hear the television personnel telling us who is winning the elections in various

places before the election takes place, based on a poll, so they say, it appears that what they are really saying is who they want you to vote for and in many instances, people who listen to the television, do what they are told to do. The television, and especially the twenty-four/seven stations, are manipulating the elections based on what the candidates say during their speeches. They are great at picking apart minute statements and words to cause the candidates to attempt to defend themselves or make an explanation which suits the telecasters.

Barack Obama did an excellent job of explaining his relationship to Rev. Jeremiah Wright and the internet have had a field day every since interviewing Rev. Wright and following his every engagement, televising his speeches and showing excerpts on the television on a daily basis. Who is running for President: Barack Obama or Rev. Jeremiah Wright? Whose campaign is this? Why do we not see Monica Lewinski explaining why

Hillary Clinton is still with Bill Clinton? Why has John McCain not explained his tendency to go back and forth with an issue depending on whom he is speaking?

Why do we, normal, intelligent Americans need to have the television news commentators tell us what a political candidate or officer of the government has said after he finishes a speech. If we heard it, we understood what was said. Why does the commentator have to explain it to us as if we are not capable of understanding a speech? Is this because they want us to hear, see and feel what they see, hear and feel? They want us to understand what they understand in the way in which they understand.

When they ask us to e-mail them comments or place blogs on websites, they really do not want to know what we think or feel. They want something that they can use to further agitate an already agitated situation; a statement or the name of someone whom they can interview or have talk about what they think we the listening audience wants to hear. We must get 'in cinque' and make

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.

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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.

You may be critical of some things that are written, but, at least you will have the satisfaction of knowing they are truthful and to the point.

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 editorialists are not necessarily the opinions of the publisher/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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"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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Can the GOP Win the Presidency Without Playing the Race Card?

By Gwen Richardson



Gwen Richardson

Houston, TX

(BlackNews.com) - Several weeks ago, I wrote a widely publicized op-ed piece, raising the issue of the 1995 Million Man March and whether or not all Black men who attended would now be barred from seeking higher office. I had no idea whether or not Sen. Barack Obama, the presumptive Democratic presidential nominee, had attended the march, but I understood the twisted mindset of Sean Hannity, Rush Limbaugh and other right-wing talk show hosts and their racist rants. It appears that my comments were prescient.

Hannity of FOX News, apparently dissatisfied that the issue surrounding Rev. Jeremiah Wright did not successfully derail Obama's campaign, is now trying to link the Illinois senator to Nation of Islam Minister Louis Farrakhan via the Million Man March. As it turns out, Obama attended the march, but did not play a prominent role.

The objective of the Million Man March was to make a posi-

itive statement that Black men were responsible, upstanding citizens who take care of their families and were not all criminals as portrayed in the media. It was completely peaceful and attracted one million-plus Black men from all socioeconomic and educational backgrounds. Farrakhan was a catalyst for organizing the event, but the march's success was a result of a nationwide grassroots effort. Through a 1995 interview with a publication called the Chicago Reader, Obama had some very critical things to say about Farrakhan and his approach to issues, as well as a critique of the march.

But these facts are lost on Hannity and his right-wing cohorts because, in their world, facts don't matter. Their real objective is to make racial division the dominant wedge issue of the 2008 presidential campaign. That appears to be the only way Republicans have been able to win national elections because they have been unable to win on the issues.

Take a look at the last 40 years in presidential politics and every Republican victory has had the underlying theme of racial animus. Richard Nixon based his 1968 campaign on his "Southern strategy" of building a conservative majority by exploiting racial and class tensions between White and Black Democrats.

In 1980, Ronald Reagan ran against "Chicago welfare queens" (presumably Black) who were getting a free ride from the government. Reagan, proclaiming

support for states' rights, lauded his campaign in Philadelphia, Mississippi, the site of the 1964 murders of three civil rights workers, Andrew Goodman, James Chaney and Michael Schwerner, with an apparent olive branch to the descendants of those who condoned this horrendous deed.

And who could forget George H.W. Bush's 1968 campaign against Michael Dukakis and the specter of Willie Horton. Horton was a Black man who, while on a prison furlough, raped a White woman while her husband was forced to watch, conjuring up images from the 1915 film Birth of a Nation.

During the presidential primaries in 2000, George W. Bush made a pilgrimage to Bob Jones University, an institution known for its objection to interracial dating among its students, to shore up his redneck bona fides. And 527s, independent political groups, ran an underground campaign during the South Carolina primary insinuating that John McCain had a Black love child when, in fact, he and his wife Cindy had adopted a dark-skinned girl from Bangladesh. In 2004, Bush won re-election based on the anxieties about gay marriage and a potential attack by brown-skinned radical Islamic terrorists.

It appears that, should Obama be the nominee, the GOP themes for 2008 will center around Rev. Jeremiah Wright, Louis Farrakhan, the Million Man March, 1960s radical William Ayres, and whether Obama, as a Black candidate, is sufficiently patriotic.

My personal experience with the GOP was eye-opening, to say the least. Raised in a Democratic household, in my late 20s I had soured on some of the Democrats' issue stances and the fact the party took the Black vote for granted.

As someone who is pro-business and conservative on social issues, I decided to switch my party affiliation in the 1990s and became active in Republican politics. I believed then, and still believe, that Black voters would be better off being involved in both parties so neither could take us for granted.

However, I found that Republicans prefer that Black members of their party be seen and not heard, and were expected to use the party line at all times. My husband I tired of being one of the few Blacks in the room at most Republican events. If other Blacks were present, we were often mistaken for someone else since, of course, all Blacks look alike. There was also an unspoken mandate that Blacks in the Republican Party speak out in opposition of affirmative action programs, although Republicans exert zero energy to combat racial and gender discrimination that still exists.

Any hopes of bringing other Black voters into the party were thwarted by the Republicans' consistent use of the race card, particularly in Senate, Congressional and presidential elections. After a few years of this abysmal treatment, my husband and I decided that the independent route was our best option.

Hopefully, McCain, as the Republican standard bearer, will not stoop to the tactic of fanning the flames of racial division, but other members of his party have already taken a giant leap in this direction. Right-wing talk radio has apparently decided that playing the race card is lucrative, good for ratings and serves as red meat for the more extreme elements of its audience. The 527s will be out in full force with video snippets of Rev. Wright, Farrakhan and anyone else they can use to smear

Obama as a closer subordinate, a potential mole for a radical Black faction, even though his Black work proves he is void of prejudices, open-minded and inclusive.

Guess Who's Birthday Is Today, May 1st?



T. J. & Bobbie Patterson

How many of you know who's birthday it is today? Some of you may say it is Bobbie Gene Bailey-Patterson's birthday. You would be right. She was born May 1st.

She is shown with her husband of nearly fifty years of marriage which is not too far in the future.

If you see her, you ask her what her age is on this birthday?

She is a graduate of Dunbar High School and Paul Quinn College in Waco.

Anyway, this couple is glad to be together. They are parents of three children, two daughters, Avis and Shelia, and T. J., Jr.

They have five grandchildren: Zaireus, Marcus, Asya, T. J., III and Lauren.

Letters to the Editor:
Continued from Page 6
your moral support for the youth is very much needed. Even if you don't have a rel-

T.J. Maxx Donates \$1 Million To Jackets for Jobs, Inc. to Help Stimulate Job Growth in Detroit



Jerome Small, VP/Director of Community Relations, T.J. Maxx; Alison Vaughn, Founder/CEO, Jackets for Jobs, Inc.; Rhea McCauley, niece of Rosa Parks; Motown Recording Artist KEM; Betty Henderson, General Manager, Jackets for Jobs, Inc.

Detroit, MI (BlackNews.com) - Jackets for Jobs, Inc. (JJI), a Detroit-based nonprofit organization founded by Alison Vaughn in 2000, recently received \$1 million from T.J. Maxx, the nation's leading off-price retailer with 850 stores nationwide. The donation is not only an investment in JJI's program to clothe Detroit's unemployed citizens who are seeking jobs, but also funding for an "extreme makeover" to its downtown Detroit location, 455 W. Fort Street.

JJI and T.J. Maxx celebrated the partnership last week with guests that included Motown recording artist KEM and LaShell

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