



Southwest Digest

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A newspaper for the 21st century representing the Black, color, multi-cultural ideas and ideals since 1972
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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 1111 Parkway Community Center, 405 MLK Blvd., 806-771-1815
- Lubbock Area Client Council meets on the 2nd Saturday, 1:00pm at the Patterson Branch Library
- Hub City Kiwanis meets every Tuesday, 7:00pm, 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 V. Lowhouse Court
- Forgotten West Riders meets on the 1st & 3rd Mondays, 7:00 pm, Patterson Library
- East Lubbock Chapter AARP meets every 1st Thursday at 1:30 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 3rd Thursday at 6:00 pm, 1303 East 24th St. (outreach center-party house)
- West Texas Native American Association Fat 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 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 Parkway Neighborhood Center.

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
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Fax: (806) 741-0000
email us at: swdigest@shglobal.net

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La. Deaths at 423; Facility Owners Charged

In a day of reckoning across battered New Orleans, the owners of a nursing home were charged in the deaths of dozens of patients killed by Hurricane Katrina's floodwaters, the death toll in Louisiana jumped to 423, and the mayor warned that the city is broke.

Mayor C. Ray Nagin said the city was working "frantically" with banking and federal officials to secure lines of credit through the end of the year, but for now, it is unable to make its next payroll.

Amid the discouraging news, there were also clear signs of progress on many fronts: The New Orleans airport reopened to commercial flights, the port resumed operations, and the mayor said dry sections of the ravaged city — including the French Quarter and the central business district — could be reopened during the daytime as early as Monday, provided the Environmental Protection Agency finds the air is safe.

"We're out of nuclear-crisis mode and into normal, day-to-day crisis mode," Nagin said.

Entergy-New Orleans said it had restored power to 75 percent of the 1.1 million customers that were out at the height of the storm. And Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said most of the military's search and rescue work was complete.

President Bush also put a final word on what he had called the "blame game" among politicians, saying: "I take responsibility" for the government's failures in dealing with the hurricane.

The death toll from Hurricane Katrina climbed more than 50 percent in a single day Tuesday to 423, including last week's grisly discovery of 34 dead patients and staff members at St. Rita's nursing home in the town of Chalmette in hard-hit St. Bernard Parish.

In the nursing home case, Louisiana Attorney General Charles Fott charged the husband-and-wife owners of St. Rita's with 34 counts of negligent homicide for not doing more to save their elderly patients.

"The pathetic thing in this case was that they were asked if they wanted to move them and they did not," Fott said. "They were warned repeatedly that this storm was coming. In effect, their inaction resulted



Hurricane Katrina evacuees look out from a departing school bus on September 8 outside the Reliant Center in Houston, Texas. The crippled city of New Orleans appealed to US President George W. Bush for urgent financial aid to help it reopen its schools and rebuild its shattered education system.

in the deaths of these people."

Salvador A. Mangano and his wife, Mable, were released on \$50,000 bond each.

Their attorney, Jim Cobb, said his clients were innocent.

Cobb said they followed the nursing home's evacuation plan that had been filed with officials, and he blamed the St. Bernard Parish officials for not ensuring the plan was proceeding.

"They sat and waited for a mandatory evacuation order from the officials of St. Bernard Parish that never came," he said.

Cobb said the Manganos were forced to make a difficult decision as the hurricane approached: evacuate the patients, many of them elderly and on feeding tubes, or keep them comfortable at the home through the storm.

"If you pull that trigger too soon (on evacuation) those people are going to die," Cobb said.

Tammy Daigle, a nurse who worked at the home, also said the owners had been worried about trying to evacuate some residents of the home who they knew wouldn't survive the move.

Tom Rodrigue, whose mother was among the dead, was still angry and near tears.

"She deserved the chance, you know, to be rescued instead of having to drown like a rat," he told CNN.

In addition to St. Rita's, the attorney general said he is investigating the discovery of more than 40 corpses at flooded-out Memorial Medical Center in New Orleans. A hospital official said the 106-degree heat inside the hospital as the patients waited for days to be evacuated probably contributed to the deaths.

Even though the airport and waterfront were running at just a fraction of their capacity, the symbolic importance was not lost on a city that only days before had all but collapsed into looting and desperation.

"From a commercial and psychological standpoint, this is five stars," port president Gary LaGrange said between an outgoing barge shipment of auto parts to Alabama and the arrival of a ship carrying coffee and wood from Argentina, Brazil and Mexico. "This shows the people of New Orleans their city is back in business."

Some experts had predicted it

would take up to six months to get the port operating again after the hurricane damaged terminals and knocked out the electricity to operate cranes. A backlog of vessels had formed along the Mississippi River, waiting to load and unload cargo.

The Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport, which escaped widespread damage from Katrina but was reserved for humanitarian flights in the storm's aftermath, received its first commercial arrival, a flight with about two dozen emergency workers and returning residents.

"Welcome home," airport director Roy Williams said as he greeted the passengers. "We're glad to see you."

Airport officials hope to be up to 60 flights a day within the week and back to full operation of 350 flights a day in six months. Before Katrina hit, the airport was on pace for a record 10 million passengers this year.

During a tour of hurricane-stricken Mississippi, U.S. Transportation Secretary Norman Y. Mineta pronounced Katrina the worst disaster for transportation in U.S. history and estimated the damage to bridges and



Mable Mangano and her husband, Salvador Mangano Sr., owners of St. Rita's Nursing Home have been charged with negligent homicide in the deaths of 34 people.

highways - including broken and disjointed stretches of vital Interstate 10 - at \$3 billion.

The Army Corps of Engineers reported significant progress running the operation to pump out flooded areas of New Orleans and neighboring parishes.

Col. Duane Gapiński estimated that half of the flooded area or less was still under water, and at the rate of 8 billion to 9 billion gallons a day, the city was on target to be almost completely drained by Oct. 8.

The mayor said more than 40 pumping stations were operating in the city, including the city's biggest pump.

"That will change the world as we know it," he said.

Amid the encouraging signs from the streets, there were promises from the White House and the Federal Emergency Management Agency to learn from their mistakes and intensify efforts to help the victims.

In Washington, Bush said "I take responsibility" for the government's failures in dealing with the hurricane, and he said the disaster raised questions about the nation's ability to respond to natural disasters as well as terrorist attacks.

"Are we capable of dealing with a severe attack? That's a very important question and it's in the national interest that we find out what went on so we can better respond," the president said.

The new acting director of FEMA, R. David Paulson, also promised to get thousands of evacuees out of shelters and into temporary housing.

"We're going to move on and get them the help they need," Paulson said in his first public statements since taking over the job.

During BET Telethon, former President Clinton expresses concern with government response to Hurricane Katrina

Clinton Says Congress should consider "reorganizing" FEMA with "qualified" director



Clinton

NEW YORK, Sept. 10 /PRNewswire/ — In a surprise call-in guest appearance during last night's S.O.S. (SAVING OURSELVES): THE BET RELIEF TELETHON for Hurricane Katrina, former President Bill Clinton expressed his thoughts about the controversy surrounding the response by federal relief agencies to the tragedy. The focus of Mr. Clinton's comments was the structure and leadership of the Federal Emergency Management Agency

(FEMA).

The following are excerpts from comments made by Mr. Clinton when BET telethon co-host Steve Harvey asked for his assessment of the government's response to Hurricane Katrina:

BET Telethon Co-Host Steve Harvey: "How do you think that the response to the tragedy could have been handled? If you were in office, what would you have done differently, if anything?"

Former President Bill Clinton: "FEMA was a cabinet-level position when I was in office, and all the departments worked for the FEMA director on the site of any disaster. It

worked better that way. Secondly, the man I appointed to head it — James Lee Witt — was a proven professional who'd dealt with very, very severe natural disasters as the Director of Emergency Management in our home state (Arkansas) where we had the largest tornado death rate in the country. So, I think it was organized well. I think it was led well . . . We always thought faster was better than slower . . . The Congress should, I believe, consider reorganizing FEMA back to the way it was. I think there should be someone who's qualified to be a director. But the most important thing now is to worry about the

people in Louisiana and Mississippi and Alabama . . ."

For the telethon, BET brought together stars of music and entertainment for a primetime event to raise much-needed aid for the victims of Hurricane Katrina. The evening featured a parade of superstar artists and special guests, many with ties to the afflicted areas. Throughout the event simulcast on BET, BET Jazz, BET.com and a host of radio stations across the country, viewers and listeners called a designated toll-free phone number, logged on to BET.com or used special wireless access to make financial pledges to the Red Cross relief efforts.

Foundation for Success set at Alderson Middle School

There's no doubt about it, the foundation of success has been laid at Alderson Middle School. During the Lubbock Independent School District's school wide GOALS Day conference, the model of success was clearly drawn with blueprints that left both students and parents well equipped to build successful futures. GOALS is the acronym for GO for Academic Learning success, an idea truly embraced at Alderson. The school motto is "Alderson, where every action mirrors success."

every student can learn if provided the tools. During the August 29th GOALS Conference, students, accompanied by parents, got a glimpse at how Alderson Middle School will develop students into academic leaders. By being the technology leader and innovator of wireless technology use, students at Alderson will be the forerunners for computer information based learning. This learning will come as a result of Alderson's staff's in-depth training on classroom instructional use with laptops. The students will soon integrate laptops into their academic regimen and model this for other schools.

Conference, the parents saw construction that has taken place on the school building over the summer. Now the rollout of ideas, academic ingenuity, and interactive learning will match the layout that has taken place in the physical building. Students and parents have plans in hand about school expectations, partnerships for success, and a committed and united front to implement their plans. With these cornerstones, one can only imagine the possibilities that lie ahead.

Notice to home delivery customers

If you fail to receive your paper, please call the Digest at (806) 782-3612 and give us your address. Due to the death of our delivery person, WH Pitts, we have had some difficulty getting papers delivered. We are aware of the problem and regret it. Please contact us and we will correct the situation as soon as possible. We apologize for the inconvenience.

The Southwest Digest

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.

Chatman Hills Corner

By Doris Reynolds

The pastor of Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, Rev. Eddie L. Everline, Jr., is attending the Annual Conference of the Northwest Texas Annual Conference held in Fort Worth, Texas at the Wesley Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church, where Bishop Gregory Ingram is presiding.

The Annual Conference will be held through Saturday, September 17, 2005.

The Nurses Ministry of the New Hope Baptist Church will meet Saturday, September 17, 2005, at 4:00 p. m. Minister Cheryl Martin is president.

The Heart of the Plains Kennel Club will be hosting four days of American Kennel Club licensed dog shows and obedience and rally trials at the Lubbock Memorial Civic Center Exhibit Hall on September 29th through October 2nd. For more information, contact Sherrell Guichard-Thomas at 794-1256 or 791-7587.

Let us continue to pray for our sick and shut-in citizens. Among them who are still on the sick list

include Brother Tommy Cagle, a patient at University Medical Center; Brother George Scott, who is ill at home; Owen Rhorne, a resident at Heritage Oaks Center; and many others whom we do not know about at this time. God is able.

Let us not forget about those families who have lost loved ones over the past week. Among them include the family of Sister Nelline Fletcher, mother of James A. "Buster" Tucker; and John Andrew Wallace.

The New Hope Baptist Church sponsors its weekly radio broadcast each Sunday morning over Radio Station KJAK, 92.7 FM, from 11:30 a. m. until 12:30 p. m.

Services were well attended last Sunday morning, September 11, 2005, at the New Hope Baptist Church, 2002 Birch Avenue. It is the "Church Where The People Care." Rev. B. AR. Moton is pastor. If you are looking for a church home, then come and visit the New Hope Baptist Church. The church motto is: "If you have faith enough to believe it, God has power enough to do it."

Services begun with the Meditation and Prayers, and was followed by the Praise Team singing some inspirational selections. Minister Cheryl Martin read the morning scripture, and Minister C. Wilson offered the morning prayer. The Children's Choir sang several selections.

Pastor Moton delivered the morning sermon. His subject was "Neighbor Overcome Your Problems With Prayer." His scripture was Acts 6:4 and I Corinthians 15:7.

Sister Brenda Clipson read the morning announcements. Sister Lottie Barrow welcomed all visitors.

Our hats are off to the "Talk of the Town Beauty Shop" and "E's Barber shop" in their help for some of the Hurricane Katrina evacuees with styling and cutting of their hair. This was a very noble gesture from the Chatman Hill area business.

A special thanks to Jean Richardson, Pamela Sanders, Danelle Ward, Pennie Hastings and Edward Anzley. A luncheon was served afterwards and enjoyed by all. Thanks to Mrs. Florence Lee for the lunch.

BBB cautions donors on hurricane relief appeals

Hurricane Katrina, like all natural disasters, is prompting some people to take advantage of American's eagerness to assist victims, reports the Better Business Bureau Wise Giving Alliance. Donors should be especially alert to these typical post-disaster situations, the Alliance warns:

Phone solicitors may seek contributions allegedly on behalf of well-known relief charities without authorization from those organizations. Some of the calls may be cons trying to acquire credit card or other personal information. Ask the caller to send written information before making a donation decision.

Online giving, increasingly popular, as the tsunami outpouring showed, requires donor alertness. Spam or email messages asking for a contribution may be used in a "phishing" scam, where the messages link to a "false" website that looks like the website of an established relief charity. This could be another ruse for obtaining credit card or other personal information. New charities spring up virtually overnight, promising aid to victims. These groups may have good intentions but lack the means and experience to deliver aid quickly to those in need.

"The BBB Wise Giving Alliance encourages the public to contribute to helpful causes that will assist the families and victims of this hurricane catastrophe," states Art Taylor, President & CEO of the BBB Wise Giving Alliance. "Donors should make certain, however, that the charity is properly registered with appropriate state government agencies, that it describes exactly what it will do to address the needs of victims, and that it is willing to provide written information about its finances and programs."

Donors can visit the www.give.org website to access

detailed evaluative reports on many of the national relief organizations providing assistance," stated Nan Campbell, president of the BBB of the South Plains. "However, for local charities, donors can visit www.charitiesofwesttexas.org where they will also get reports; and we encourage other local disaster relief organizations providing hurricane assistance to register with the BBB so that we can evaluate their efforts in relation to the 20 Standards for Charity Accountability which include governance, finances, fund-raising and solicitations," Campbell stated.

If you are unable to contribute at this time, relief charities will welcome your donation next week and next month. Organizations will be addressing a variety of relief activities in the weeks to come, as the needs of relief victims change. People who want to volunteer for work in disaster areas should note that the relief agencies are depending on volunteers who have disaster experience. However, these charities' offices throughout the country may welcome local volunteers who can help with routine activities. Some have reported that they desperately need more people to man the phone lines, for example.

As with all other disaster relief situations, most relief charities prefer financial contributions rather than donated goods. This enables them to purchase needed items near the disaster relief sites for easier distribution.

Tips to remember when being solicited to give to disaster relief (or any charitable organization):

- ✓ Be wary of appeals that are long on emotion, but short on describing what the charity will do to address the needs of victims and their families.
- ✓ If you contribute, do not give cash. Make a check or money order out to

the name of the charitable organization, not to the individual collecting the donation.

- ✓ Watch out for excessive pressure for on-the-spot donations.
- ✓ Be wary of any request to send a "runner" to pick up your contribution.
- ✓ Do not give your credit card number or other personal information to a telephone solicitor. Ask the caller to provide you with written information on the charity's programs and finances.
- ✓ Do not hesitate to ask for written information that describes the charity's program(s) and finances such as the charity's latest annual report and financial statements. Even newly created organizations should have some basic information available.
- ✓ Be wary of charities that are reluctant to answer reasonable questions about their operations, finances and programs. Ask how much of your gift will be used for the activity mentioned in the appeal and how much will go toward other programs and administrative and fundraising costs.
- ✓ Find out what the charity intends to do with any excess contributions remaining after they have funded activities for the victims and families of the terrorist attacks.
- ✓ Check with organizations before donating goods. If the charity accepts donated items, have they confirmed there is a need for these materials? Ask about arrangements for shipping and distribution.
- ✓ Remember the opportunities to give will continue for quite some time.

South Plains donors are encouraged to contact the BBB 247 at 806.763.0459 or 1.800.687.7890 if any suspicious offers or questions regarding any organization. The Charity Review office can be reached by email at: info@charitiesofwesttexas.org.

FASHION FUN

with Shirley Robinson

Your Jewelry Connection



Jewelry plays an important part in the appearance of any fashion outfit and your options are unlimited. Jewelry is personal and all about freedom, wear as little as you

like or as much as you like, and at a time or all at once. Today's jewelry is designed fashionably fit the mind and body, designed with parts that move and swing when you do. This fall, let your imagination run wild, wild and free. So ladies, go for it! Gold chains, silver chains, bangles, necklaces long or short, keep in mind that with your jewelry you can juggle it, chain it, bunch it, mix it or match it, and remember that choices are high on the fashion list.

Earings are a must, whatever your head desires, butterfly, danglers, shoulder dusters, pierced, clip on, hoop, looped, dainty or bulky, and inset please don't shy away from stones, for special occasions make your earrings unforgettable, with the brilliance of Austrian crystal, clear and remarkable colored stones, colors for your every fashion need. Stock, stones, stones, it's raining and pouring down stones.

FASHION TIP: Always wear a small FASHION - Just for the fun of it!

In Remembrance

Nellrine Fletcher
Funeral services for Nellrine Fletcher were held Monday

morning, September 12, 2005, at the Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church.

Interment was held in Peaceful Gardens

Memorial Park in Woodrow, Texas under the direction of Jackie Warren Funeral Home of Midland, Texas.

Mrs. Fletcher passed away Wednesday, September 7, 2005, at her residence.

She is survived by her son, James A. "Buster" Tucker of Slaton, Texas; a daughter, Annette Hymond of Lubbock, Texas; a sister, Charley Faye Johnson of California; eight grandchildren; sixteen great-grandchildren; and seven great-great-grandchildren.

John Andrew Wallace
Funeral services for John Andrew Wallace were held

Saturday afternoon, September 10, 2005, at the Manhattan Heights Church of Christ.

Interment was held in Peaceful Gardens Memorial Park

in Woodrow, Texas under the direction of Ossie Curry Funeral Home of Lubbock.

He was born September 1, 1948 to Alfonso and Anna

Wallace. He attended Lubbock Christian College and Texas Tech University, and did receive an associate degree in applied science.

Her served in the U. S. Army for four years. For years, he lectured to young people on drugs and also worked for the public

school, state school, and had been active in the Lubbock community.

He is survived by his mother, Anna Wallace of Lubbock, Texas; two daughters, Jarneelah A. Bynum of Grand Prairie, Texas, and Agiselle A. Wallace of Houston, Texas; two sisters, Linda Wallace Peoples of Lubbock, Texas and Patricia A. Fareed of Englewood, California; a brother, Harold W. Wallace of Rowlett, Texas; three granddaughters; and a host of nieces, nephews and friends.

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Church News



From the Desk of Parson D.A. Smith Gestapo Style City Government

Thanks to my many readers who have become part of the weekly thought process of this writer for more than eighteen years. You knowingly and perhaps not even being aware have challenged this writer in countless ways. Thanks Dr. H. Johnson for kind words of inspiration.

Support of the advertisers makes it possible for minority views to be expressed across the vast terra firma of West Texas and other areas of Texas and New Mexico though the printed word.

Last week the City Council of Lubbock approved \$50 million in funding for a George W. Bush Presidential Library building. There were two dissenters, Mayor Marc McDougal and Mayor Pro Tem Tom Martin.

Elliott Blackburn of the Avalanche-Journal reported the Mayor voiced concern that there was not enough time to study how the city would pay the \$50 million, as many city resources were tied up caring for Hurricane Katrina. Mayor McDougal said, "I don't really believe that anyone has had time ... to really look at how you fund

this." Mayor Pro Tem Tom Martin was against dedicating such a large amount of money (\$50 million) without voter approval. He was also concerned that such a large funding would impair other city economic development activities. "There's no free lunch," Martin said.

Mayor McDougal let it be known that the proposal does not change tax rates, but suggested restriction on spending new construction money and limits the city funds for other new services, such as firefighters or police.

This writer's problem and many others are not about having the George W. Bush Presidential Library in Lubbock. This is great for those who expect an economic boom and an intellectual showering. The problem is using public money without voter approval and especially without a clear understanding of who will pay this \$50 million if private donations wane. The thought of putting restriction on spending for police and firefighters for the protection of the citizenry of Lubbock for a George W. Bush

Library sounds like fools, wannabes and kissers ideas. Who do you think will have reduced firefighter and police protection? If the aftermath of Katrina is any indication, one does not have to guess what group of people.

Citizen of Lubbock should be upset over the Gestapo tactics used by the leaders of the community to achieve financial goals that suit their fancy. People who disrespect the citizens of a community should not be in office. We thought Hitler was dead. However, it appears that he is alive and well in Lubbock. These people appear to want to take the citizens money and do what they damn well please without the voice of the voters.

Many black people hate to believe their voices are only counted when it is strife between the ruling factions and their kind. However, the present leadership Gestapo style makes this belief true. The voices of all the voters were not heard.

We encourage the voters of Lubbock to be vigilant. It is more dangerous than you would imagine when it comes to money and power.

Outreach Prayer Breakfast

The members of the Outreach Prayer Breakfast met in the home of Sister Christene Burleson, vice president, last Saturday morning, September 10, 2005, at 9:00 a.m. It was another blessed day! Sister Burleson led the devotion. Sister Elnora Jones read scripture, and Sisters Irma Crawford, Burleson and Jones offered prayers. A solo was sung by Sister Annie Day, entitled "The Greatest Sacrifice Ever Made Was Jesus!"

Sister Earnestine Fraizer taught the morning scripture lesson. Her subject was "How Long Before Christ's Return?"

While the Holy Bible has a great amount to say about "The Return Of Jesus Christ" it does not provide a specific date of that event. No one knows when Christ is going to return. The Scriptures do however plainly state that the Messiah will return right after the completion of the miraculous 3 1/2 year / 42 month / 1,260 day ministry of His "two witnesses." When they first appear "with power", Christ's return will be 3 years and 6 months away. Those who recognize the two witnesses the two witnesses (as stated in the Scriptures below, a great many people in every nation on earth are not going to recognize them for what they are) will then know that their Judgment is at hand.

The Two Witnesses
The two witnesses will be the greatest human Prophets that have ever lived. Much of their ministry will be the partial fulfillment of "this Gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached in all the world for witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come." (Matthew 24:14 KJV), while it will be an angel that

complete the prophecy at Christ's return, after the martyrdom (which proves that the two witnesses will be physical humans) of the two witnesses I. E. I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting Gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people." Revelation 16 KJV.

The Countdown to The Return Of Jesus Christ actually began the moment that He left. Since then, each passing day is one day closer to that great event. Many people through history have speculated and made precise predictions of when it will happen, and one after another they were proven wrong because they were unaware of, or chose to ignore, that the Messiah clearly said that no one, no human, no angel, not even Jesus Christ Himself, no one except the Father knows when it will happen (Matthew 24:36). The Bible does however provide a very simple clue of when Christ's return will be exactly 3 years and 6 months away - the beginning of the ministry of the two witnesses.

"Can ye not discern the signs of the times?"

With regard to the return of the Messiah, when He returns, many are not going to recognize Him as the Messiah this time "His people" are those who profess to be Christian. There are a vast number of misled and deceived Christian-professing people (who are misled and deceived because they follow philosophies and political agendas of a man, rather than what is plainly written in the Word of God for all to read, and obey, for themselves who are going to make

this happen:
"The world today has been brainwashed into ways of evil, "the god of this world (Satan) hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious Gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them." (2 Corinthians 4:4 KJV). But brain "washing" is not what Satan has actually done. "Washing makes something clean; Satan has "brainwashed" the minds of humanity with filth, so that humans want to do evil.

The good news is that a new world is coming, after Satan is put away at the time of The Return of Jesus Christ (Revelation 20:1-3), when humanity is going to be brainwashed, but in a Godly way that will bring about a purity of mind and body. God is going to wash all of humanity with "living waters," the Holy Spirit, "and it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out My Spirit upon all flesh." Acts 2:17 KJV).

Even the most righteous Christians are still living in a world of Satan's influence. It's the people who strive the hardest to obey God that Satan spends the most effort on.

Continue next week.
Thanks, Sister Fraizer for that spirit filled Word. We thank our guest for worshipping with us on last Saturday morning. Do come again! Do hope each of you enjoyed reading this report. Let us hear from you. We're looking forward to seeing each of you.

Sister Dorothy Hood, president; Sister Christene Burleson, vice president; Sister Elnora Jones, teacher; and Sister Rosiana Henderson, secretary.



We Thank God for Jesus The wrath of God is upon America, part 2

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

Revelation 2:17a - Jesus said, he that hath an ear, let him hear what the spirit said unto the Churches.

God send the Evangelist Katrina to America to drop her to her knees again. America was wild with hate from her rights, not loving her fellowman!

Matthew 22:37-39 - Jesus said, you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment, and the second is like unto it, you shall love your neighbor as yourself.

Look around America; today she is now in prayer, and showing how she can love. God had to get America's attention to call on Him. He is yet up above!

Isaiah 55:6a - Seek the Lord while He may be found. Call you upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his ways, and the unrighteous man his thoughts, and let him return unto the Lord.

*** Or God Will Make You? Return ***

The Lord had to get America's attention doing 9-11. It was for a CAUSE, but America didn't stay out on her knees long. For her was it was just a pause!

Isaiah 1:5-6 - The Lord said, should stricken anymore?

You will revolt more and more. The whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint from the sole of the foot even unto the head. There is no soundness in it, but wounds, bruises, and sores. They have not been closed, neither bound up, neither mollified with ointment.

*** You Say, God Bless America, But Drop Off The 'B' And it's God Less America ***

Isaiah 12:6-8 - The Lord said, howl you, for the day of the Lord is at hand. It shall come as destruction from the Almighty. Therefore, shall all hands be faint, and every man's heart shall melt, and they shall be afraid. Pains and sorrow shall be as a woman that travails. They shall be amazed one at another. Their faces shall be as flames.

As America got proud and forgot about the ways God had blessed her. Thinking she was a God herself, and didn't need the true God and His care!

Psalms 2:1-5 - Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together against the Lord, and against his anointed. Saying, let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us. He that sits in the heavens shall laugh.

The Lord shall have them in displeasures (mockings) peak to them in his wrath and vex them in his sore displeasure.

Lord, blessed a poem called, 'Lord, We Forgot To Remember Not To Forget.' It was about the blessings and promises of God. But how sad, we did forget!

Deuteronomy 6:10 -12a - When the Lord, your God, shall have brought you in the land which He promised to your Father's with houses full of gold things, which you filled not, and wells digged not, vineyards and olive trees which you planted not. When you shall have eaten and be full, then beware lest you forget the Lord. (In 1983, the Lord blessed me to write the poem, 'Lord, We'll Reap What We've Sowed,' and another one called 'America, Too Much Is Too WRONG.' And another one, 'The Glory Of The Lord Is Gone,' and another, 'The Church Is Weak Like Sarson,' and 'Cold Hearted America.' Another one, 'America Is Dunned', Part One and part Two. There is another poem authored by this writer called 'Crying To America To Change Her Ways, Repent Before It Is Too Late!')

*** Church, It's Repenting Time, God Is Waiting On You!***

St. Matthew's Baptist Church News

Sunday morning, September 11, 2005, was another great day in the Lord at St. Matthew Baptist Church, 2020 East 14th Street, where Rev. Edward Canady is pastor.

The morning services begun with Sunday school, beginning at 10:00 a.m. with Superintendent Sister Luella Harris in charge. The morning lesson was taught by Sister Luella Harris, and reviewed

by Pastor Canady. The subject of the lesson was "Sharing Community." It was a most wonderful and inspiring lesson.

The morning worship hour began at 11:15 a.m. Brother Gerald Jackson and Sister Barbara Johnson led the morning devotional services.

The St. Matthew Baptist Church Senior Choir sang out of their souls. It is truly great to hear

God's praises in songs and hymns.

Pastor Canady delivered the morning message. His subject was "Go Tell It!" His scripture text was St. Mark 5:17-19. We thank God for our pastor, Rev. Edward Canady!

Thought For The Week: "Conversion is the Miracle of a moment; becoming like Christ is the work of a lifetime."

Musicians, singers needed for Mass Choir musical

The Greater St. Luke Missionary Baptist Church and Pastor J. H. Foré is asking for your participation in the Mass Musical set for Monday evening, October 17, 2005, beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Musicians, choir members and any member who desires to sing in the Mass Choir are asked to make plans to participate and be a part of this momentous occasion.

Your musicians will give further information and directions to

the time and dates of the upcoming rehearsals.

For more information, please contact Bro. Thomas Payton at (806) 763-8316 or (806) 241-2436.

This information comes as greetings from The Missionary General Baptist Convention of Texas, Dr. G.V. Clark, President.



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Commentary: A dialogue on racism

David Wilson of Chicago, Ill. — Listen to all the crap talk about racism, and our government not caring enough for a certain "race" to help more in this time of need. The government didn't move fast enough? How about the people that sat there and said come and get me, Katrina! (Not those who had no way to leave, but all the THOUSANDS that just refused ... and THEN complains that they weren't rescued fast or well enough.) You cannot compare this storm and its devastation that was predicted for weeks to 911.

All you are doing is teaching YOUR children to be racist, as you most certainly are, and to use this EXCUSE to blame everyone else for their wrong doings, their misfortunes, and their shortcomings. You are teaching YOUR children to be weak and dependent, to feel cheated and unloved, to under-achieve and not believe. YOU are doing this to the African American children of this world. I pray that not one of them fall into the trap you are so comfortably caught in.

John Wiseman of Lubbock, Texas — David, I truly don't think that the Blacks were not the only ones that refused to leave. Who sat there and said come and get me Katrina! The poor people, black and white with no insurance, that knew if they left, the looters would come and take what little they had. The old people that figured this would be just like the other storms. As far as teaching kids to be racist, you have got to be kidding me. If the kids watch the news and I will go back or when the first election of "W" was rigged, remember? So were you teach-

ing your kids that it's okay to cheat to win? I am lost as to how this would make a kid under achieve, feel weak or unloved.

David Miller of Chicago, Ill. — I never meant Blacks were the only ones not to leave. My only point in stating that part of my post was that people are comparing the hurricane to 911 as well as the government's reaction to both. Whites, too, are saying where is my government now? I understand the poor, old, or sick that could not leave, but the able who stayed to muscle it out ... and now complain that they are not being saved fast enough, a sad lesson learned.

I don't like that racism is always the first thing people scream in hard times. Yes, the cry of racism is abundant. Have you seen all the posts stating that had it been in another region of the country our government would be acting more swiftly on the rescue and recovery, and would have had water, food, and clothing waiting for those of some other race. Please, I have noticed an outpouring of brotherly love by the American people of all races. In times of trouble is when we all come together the most. We are all humans helping each other. This is a disastrous event. It won't just be OK and be over in a day. And yes, African Americans are treated with less affection, care, and worth by their own government and local officials. They inadvertently are being taught to pull that "race card" as others like to put it. Now racism is the reason, the excuse, the culprit, for the problem at hand, and all their future problems as well.

(Editor's Note: This is a

dialogue, via internet, with a Chicago, Ill. Who is also an local African American, John African American. More next Wiseman, and David Miller of week).

Manhattan Heights Church of Christ
763-0582 - Tyrone N. DuBois, Minister
1702 E. 26th St. (corner of E. 26th St. and Martin Luther King, Jr Blvd.)

Sunday:
Bible Class - 9:00am
Worship - 10:15am
Evening Worship - 5:00pm

Wednesday:
Bible Class & Devotional - 7:00pm

God - Plan for Saving Man
All have sinned - Romans 3:23
Jesus Christ died for our sins - 1 Cor. 2:21, Acts 2:24
We must do God's will and obey Him to enter heaven - Matt. 23:1, Heb 5:9
How do we obey Him?
Fear the Lord - Romans 10:17
Believe Jesus Christ is the son of God - Mark 16:7
Repent of your sins - Luke 13:3
Confess - Romans 10:10
Be baptized for the forgiveness of your sins - Acts 2:38
Be faithful until death - Rev 2:10

The Board of Commissioners of The Housing Authority of The City of Lubbock has approved the opening of the Public Housing waiting list. Applications for one bedroom will be accepted starting Tuesday and Thursdays from 7:30 am to 11:30 am and 1:00 pm until 3:30 pm. Application forms can be picked up at the Housing Authority's Central Management office located at 1708 Ave. G, Lubbock, Texas. They must be filled out completely. Your application must be returned by you in person on either of the above listed days and times.

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Boosting confidence in child passenger safety

Effective September 1, 2005 a new law in Texas will require every child under the age of 5 or 3 feet tall to ride in a child safety seat. Current law in Texas applies to children under the age of 4 or 3 feet tall. This means that children who may already be out of car seats will have to use an age/size appropriate booster seat.

The reason for the new law is due to national statistics that show that 83 percent of children between the ages of 3 and 8, who should be using car seats or belt-positioning booster seats, are being inappropriately graduated to an adult seat belt. Placing a child in a lap/shoulder belt before they are big enough can actually cause injury instead of preventing it.

between the neck and the arm?

- Is the lap belt as low as possible, touching the thighs?
- Can the child stay seated like this for the whole trip?

If the answer is no to any of these questions, he/she should be using a booster seat.

Graco Children's Products, headquartered in Exton, Pennsylvania, is an industry leader in the design and manufacture of juvenile products. Graco is a proven innovator in the development of car seats, automatic baby swings, strollers, highchairs, portable playards, mobile and stationary activity centers, jumpers, carriers and travel systems. www.gracobaby.com

"In order to make a child feel good about riding in a booster seat, manufacturers are now offering seats that are more personalized with fabrics that appeal to boys and girls specifically," said Carol Helminski, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Certified Installation Specialist and Child Safety Coordinator for Graco Children's Products Inc. "If a child enjoys the booster seat that they ride in, it will make the process much easier on parents and less discouraging for children."

For parents of children now legally required to ride in booster seats, or who are ready to move their children into a booster seat, Graco Children's Products provides the following tips:

- Explain to your child from an early age that when he/she is older, a booster seat will still be needed.
- Allow your child to be part of the decision making process by letting him/her help in selecting his/her booster seat.
- Check your child's weight and height to ensure that he/she is placed in the proper size safety seat.
- When it's time to graduate to a booster seat, demonstrate to your child how the new seat will offer better protection than an adult seat belt.
- Remember that a child's age does not necessarily determine whether or not they should be in a booster seat. The easiest way to know if he/she needs to be in a booster seat is to ask these five simple questions:
 - Does the child sit all the way back against the auto seat?
 - Do the child's knees bend comfortably at the edge of the auto seat?
 - Does the belt cross the shoulder

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Entry Fee: \$125.00 (includes green fee, half cart, range balls, lunch and dinner)

Deadline: Sept. 16th, 2005 @ 1 p.m. (no registration will be accepted after this time.)

Make checks payable to: Kango Golf Association

Mail Entry Fee: Ossie Curry
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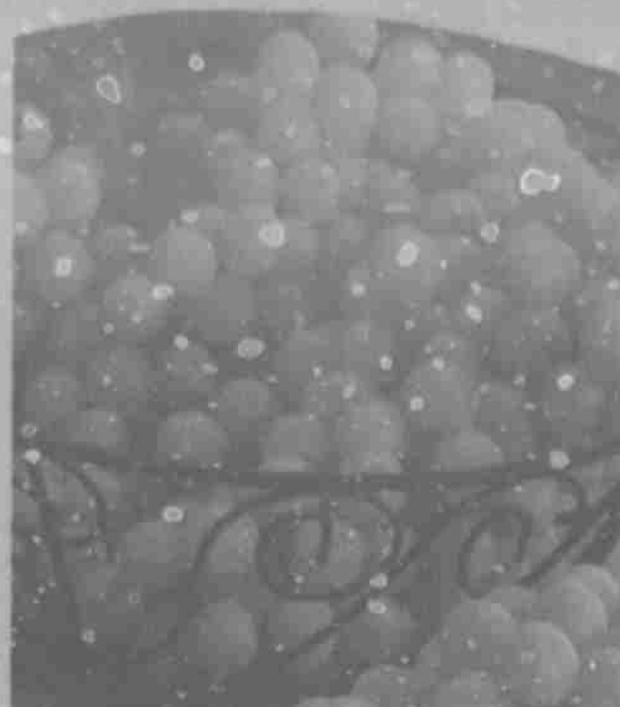
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Editorials • Comments • Opinions



THIS N THAT

VERY PROUD TO SEE NBA INVOLVED! THIS N THAT had an opportunity of seeing some **BLACK PROFESSIONAL BASKETBALL PLAYERS**, who are members of the **NATIONAL BASKETBALL LEAGUE (NBA)**, as they all played in a benefit for the victims of **HURRICANE KATRINA** at the Toyota Arena in Houston, Texas last Sunday evening, September 11th. It made **THIS N THAT** very proud to see these men doing something and wanting to do something to help others in need. Seeing the eyes of those little people who were rubbing shoulders with some of their idols in the NBA, and they were there for a very special fundraiser for the Hurricane Katrina victims. Not only the NBA players, but the **HARLEM GLOBETROTTERS** were also present and did put their money where their mouths are, as they pledged **\$200,000** with **\$100,000** going to Habitat for Humanity, **\$50,000** for the Salvation Army and American Red Cross and **\$50,000** for scholarships for young people to attend a college or a university. Even **THIS N THAT** was overjoyed with these special efforts, and it made one very proud, especially seeing what these **BLACK PROFESSIONALS** were doing to help those in distress. So when people speak negatively about our **BLACK PROFESSIONAL ATHLETES**, why not apprise them of what took place in Houston last Sunday night. Also, the **NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE (NFL)** has pledged **\$1million** to help in this special effort. Let us take this time and thank each of you for what you have done, and will continue to

do, to help our American Citizens. **THANKS TO CHARLES BARKLEY FOR \$1million PLEDGE! THIS N THAT** was also elated to hear from the mouth of **CHARLES BARKLEY**, a former NBA player and now an analyst on **TNT**, his pledge of **\$1million** to the Hurricane Katrina victims. **THIS N THAT** wants to thank you, Brother Barkley. Barkley once played for the Phoenix Suns and the Philadelphia 76'ers where he was an outstanding star. Not only can he talk, he shows compassion for others. **PENNY HASTINGS THE BARBER SAYS, "MAKE SURE YOU KNOW WHAT YOU are praying for. YOU just might get it."** **CONGRATS TO THE ST. LUKE BAPTIST CHURCH! THIS N THAT** is glad to see the efforts of the **GREATER ST. LUKE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH**, where the pastor is **Rev. J. H. Ford**, who will coordinate the **MISSIONARY GENERAL BAPTIST CHURCH CONVENTION OF TEXAS**. **Dr. G.V. Clark** is president of the organization. The convention will take place in October 2005. It has been ten years since this convention has been in Lubbock, and now it's back here again. Thousands of visitors will be in our city. At the present time, participants are needed for the **MASS CHOIR**, which will sing on Monday evening, October 17, 2005 at 7:00 p. m. For more information, contact **BROTHER THOMAS PAYTON** at (806) 763-8316 or (806) 241-2436. **ALDERSON MIDDLE SCHOOL ON MOVE! THIS N THAT** is very excited about the

new direction of **ALDERSON MIDDLE SCHOOL**, which is making strides under the leadership of their principal, **GEORGE LOPEZ, JR.**, and the administrative staff. All of this has come about because of in depth training on classroom instructional use of laptops for all students. In very near future, **LAPTOP COMPUTERS** will be integrated into their academic regimen and model this for other schools. **THIS N THAT** has learned that the **GOALS CONFERENCE** this past summer has involved **PARENTS** into the process. Hopefully, they will buy into this new effort at Alderson Middle School, and other schools will benefit from this example being set by Alderson. **CONGRATS, ALDERSON MIDDLE SCHOOL** for becoming a pacesetter!

LET'S VISIT OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS! THIS N THAT is still asking all of you who are concerned about the development of our young people, to visit our **PUBLIC SCHOOLS** during the new school year. This is a **VERY GOOD THING** to do, and our young people will really benefit from our visits. So will you visit a public school in the very near future? Hope so! If you have an opportunity to do so, call the principal in advance, and ask if you can eat lunch with the young people. Now this should be an outstanding opportunity for the student and you! We at Southwest Digest would love to hear your story if you would share it with us. Set an example for these young people and the rest of the community. There is nothing more precious than our young people.



Think About It! The changes at City Hall

by Eddie P. Richardson

Lately, there has been an apparent mass change at Lubbock City Hall, beginning with the sudden resignation of a very high profile city manager, Lou Fox, who, in this writer's opinion, is one of the top city managers in the United States of America. He and former mayor of San Antonio, Henry Cisneros, brought the Alamo City from a basic barrio to one of the major cities in America. This was done by the utilization of the infrastructure to develop the world known River Walk, a tourist showcase in San Antonio.

Fox, we learned, came out of retirement to work for the City of Lubbock, but as of last week, it has been reported he will be leaving on Friday, September 15, 2005. His replacement has been made without being posted or advertised. This is highly unusual, but this is the new Lubbock.

What about our future leaders... young people? Is our City Council now anti-youth, people, who are our future? It appears so, since they have apparently abandoned the

Youth Commission, which has not met for several months. It is not disbanded, but it apparently has no structure. The Japan Ambassador program, according to our information, had been placed on the chopping block this year. We learned that one of the city councilpersons, had compassion, thoughtfulness, and foresightedness, to make a difference, and save the project.

That was not the councilman that might come to mind, the one who has been on the Lubbock School Board, and even served as president of the board. In the case of the Japan Ambassador program, it was reported that that particular councilman had said the young people could not bring a Toyota Plant or some similar industry to Lubbock, implying that unless it brings business to Lubbock, it is not worth supporting. Now, this is a hell of a way to deal with our young people. The person who fought for our young people was our friend, Councilwoman Phyllis Jones. Floyd Price and Linda DeLeon, where you at? Where

you at?

The buzzword around the South Plains and even the state of Texas is what happened to Lubbock recently. Lubbock, in the past, has had three presidents of the Texas Municipal League (TML), namely; Alan Henry, Joan Baker and T. J. Patterson. This group fights for over 1,000 cities and towns in Texas. Lou Fox was a big supporter of TML. The word across Texas is, Lubbock is on the move after all this time. Now, why the pull away from the Texas Municipal League and the National League of Cities? Does Lubbock want to re-isolate herself from the rest of the state, being located West of I-35, because of a couple of egos on the council? It appears as though they have the attitude of "we don't need anybody else". As "it will be our way or no way". That attitude can't win citizens. Need to think about this come election time!

Closing Thought of the Week: "Nothing makes you more tolerant of a neighbor's party than being there."

Commentary & Letter regarding evacuees

The following was written by a dedicated citizen of Lubbock who volunteered hours and days and weeks of time to the Red Cross and the evacuees of Hurricane Katrina who came to our city. Bill Curnow has shown himself to be an astute and caring person, and has also been recognized by leaders of the recovery cause for his efforts.

The letter shown here was also published in another local newspaper, but we are including more context surrounding the letter. We hope you can enjoy this and be proud of the volunteers who have dedicated their time and energy to help strangers in need. We will publish more of Mr. Curnow's comments in coming issues. The crisis may have been dealt with, but the goodness of people should never be forgotten.

food, home, faith, respect and race. We were watching the overnight news and talking about the death that hangs over the City of New Orleans when he remarked that he'd travelled all over the world and had never encountered a City more color-blind than Lubbock. He said everyone he's met has seen him as a person first, second, and third. I told him we certainly weren't perfect and that we had our problems, but we were constantly striving to be better people than we were the day before. Perhaps in 25 years, I told him, we will finally be who he sees us as today.

He and his wife left today to reunite with four of his daughters in Atlanta. Of his nine children he's still waiting to hear from one of his sons. I'm going to miss our talks.

He started handing out a piece of paper shortly after 7 this morning. He'd gotten one of the volunteers to help him type up a letter from his family. I don't think he'd mind a bit if I shared his words. The Johnsons flew off to be with family last Tuesday.

We cannot express the kindness you have shown to the people of New Orleans and the surrounding areas. We appreciate all the love and kindness that you have shown us - especially, the Mayor of Lubbock, City Council, State Representatives, Doctors, Nurses, Nursing Assistants, Volunteers, American Red Cross officials, and all the people of Lubbock who have shown the people of New Orleans that the people of Lubbock do truthfully live as one big family. In addition, we appreciate the Lubbock Police Department, the Lubbock Fire Department, EMS Services, all charitable associations, ministers who have given the people of New Orleans all the help and grace to us at this trying time. We wish that we could thank each and every individual personally, and through God's will you all will receive your blessings. Thank you is really not good enough. God bless you, God bless you, and God bless you. Thank you.

Today has been my best and my worst in the last few days. I've met a number of wonderful people this week but one of my favorites is a 71 year old man who stayed in New Orleans with his wife in order to look after his bed-ridden aunt. We've had countless conversations in the middle of the night about family, community,

In great appreciation,
The Johnson family and all the families of New Orleans, LA

To: Our Adopted Family and Neighbors of Lubbock, TX.

In Cinque

by Renetta Howard

How secure are we? How effective is our Homeland Security System? What would be our estimate of effectiveness if we were to use the safety of the thousands of people who have been displaced or died from the natural disaster of Hurricane Katrina?

At this point in time, a good estimate would be that we are not secure. If and when, and there was ample warning by the weather stations that the hurricane was on its way. Therefore, those people who could, did evacuate the areas of the predicted path of the storm. Those people who were for many obvious reasons, sick, infirmed, poor without a mode of transportation or unable to understand the nature of the situation, did not evacuate and therefore were displaced or died.

The death toll has not yet been finalized, as there are still people missing in New Orleans and areas of Mississippi. Shelters are still being erected for the displaced families and individuals as far away as Northwest Texas. Families are being asked to provide shelter for displaced families. Organizations and individuals are being asked to provide food, clothing and other items of necessity for the displaced. Response is gaining momentum, but there is still room for more help. It has come to the point where the

saying, "If the government won't help, Jesus will." can be heard by those in need.

If our government which often responds to disaster areas with food and other essentials after a disaster takes place, continue to respond in this manner, how secure can we be? The World Trade Tower disaster on September 11, a few years ago, seemingly beefed up our talk about homeland security, but not very much has been done to make us feel secure except put us through horrendous searches at the airports and when entering certain buildings. The low flying airplane near the White House a few months ago attest to our weakness.

Buildings such as hospitals and vital government buildings should have been evacuated with vital records when the first sighting of the storm predicting its path to certain

areas was announced. People unable to get themselves out of the path, should have been helped to move at that time, not after disaster struck, causing the military to have to be sent in to patrol and keep peace later. Sending troops to Afghanistan and Iraq has weakened the security here. Our efforts are divided. The old axiom 'Divide and conquer' still holds true. We are ripe for an attack from without, for which there may not be a warning. The current disaster area is but a wake-up call for us to get 'in cinque' and create a homeland security program that works!

CIRCULATION AUDIT BY

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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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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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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@bcglobal.net or fax your letter to (806) 741-0000.

Just Remember: If we didn't treat you folks so badly, you would've never invented the Blues!!

BIFF argues the positives of racism

BY KEITH KNIGHT

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Explosions in Iraq kill 160, injure 570

More than a dozen explosions ripped through the Iraqi capital in rapid succession Wednesday, killing at least 160 people and wounding 570 in a series of attacks that began with a suicide car bombing that targeted laborers assembled to find work for the day. Al-Qaida in Iraq claimed responsibility.

The death toll at hands of insurgents in the capital Wednesday far exceeds the carnage inflicted in any one day since the war began.

Al-Qaida in Iraq linked the attacks to the recent killing of about 200 militants from the city of Tal Afar by U.S. and Iraqi forces.

Before dawn Wednesday, 17 men were killed by insurgents in the village of Taji north of Baghdad, which pushed the death toll in all violence in and around the capital to 169.

Wednesday's deadliest bombing killed at least 112 people and wounded more than 200 in the heavily Shiite neighborhood of Kazimiyah where the day laborers had gathered shortly after dawn.

It was the worst single day of bloodshed since March 2, 2004, when coordinated blasts from suicide bombers, mortars and planted explosives hit Shiite Muslim shrines in Karbala and in Baghdad, killing at least 181 and wounding 573.

The al-Qaida statement posted on a militant Web site declared that "the good news that the battles of revenge for the Sunni people of Tal Afar began yesterday."

Al-Qaida's leader in Iraq, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, purportedly has declared "all out war" on Shiite Muslims, Iraqi troops and the government in audio tape released on the Internet on Wednesday. The speaker on the tape, introduced as al-Zarqawi, also said his militant forces would attack any Iraqi it believes has cooperated with an ongoing U.S.-led offensive in Tal Afar.

"If proven that any of (Iraq's) national guards, police or army are agents of the Crusaders, they will be killed and his house will be demolished or burned — after evacuating all women and children — as a punishment," according to the tape, which surfaced on an Internet site known for carrying extremist Islamist content.

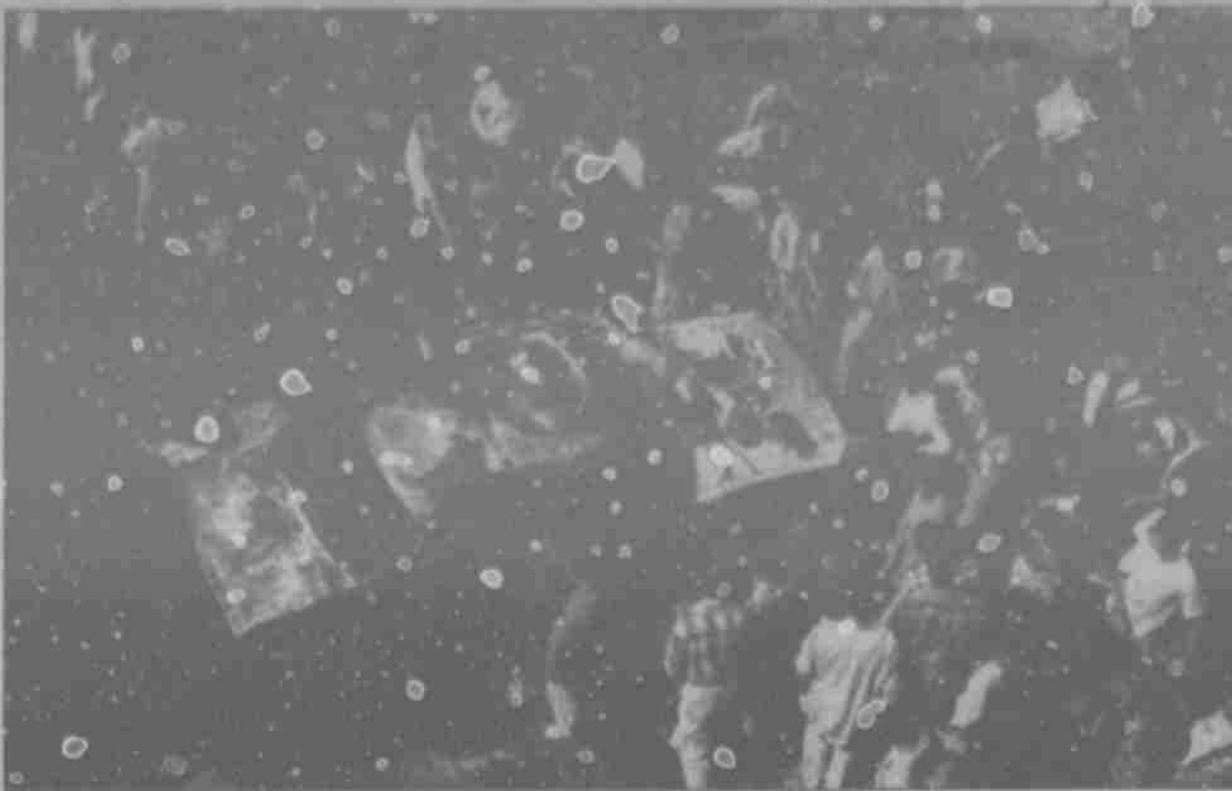
A senior U.S. military official said he believed the bombings were in retaliation for the joint Iraqi-U.S. sweep through Tal Afar.

The wave of bombings, which began shortly after dawn and continued until about 4 p.m., coincided with Iraqi lawmakers announcing the country's draft constitution was in its final form and would be sent to the United Nations for printing and distribution ahead of an Oct. 15 national referendum. Sunni Muslims, who form up the core of the insurgency, have vowed to defeat the basic law.

Prime Minister Ibrahim al-Jaafari, visiting Arab-Americans in suburban Detroit, was quoted by Iraqi television as saying that Iraqi forces had arrested two insurgents in connection with the Kazimiyah bombing, one of them a Palestinian and the other a Libyan. He said the suicide bomber was a Syrian.

At Kazimiyah Hospital, dozens of wounded men lay on stretchers and gurneys, their bandages and

clothes soaked in blood. One older man of an almost 2-week-old off-



Iraqis gather at the explosion site in central Baghdad, Wednesday, Sept. 14, 2005. A suicide car bomber struck as day laborers gathered to find work in a Shiite neighborhood in north Baghdad, killing at least 163 people and wounding 587 in the deadliest of a series of attacks in the Iraqi capital on Wednesday. Al-Qaida in Iraq claimed responsibility for the day's attacks.

man in a traditional Arabi gown and checkered head scarf sat in a plastic chair, his blood-soaked underwear exposed with a trail of dried blood snaking down his legs.

The hospital received 47 dead and 75 wounded, said Dr. Qays Abdul Wahab al-Bustani.

In Kazimiyah's Oruba Square, twisted hulks of vehicles blocked the main street after the suicide attacker drove a small van into the midst of the assembling laborers.

Politicians denounced the attack, with Hussain al-Shahristani, deputy speaker of the National Assembly, calling it "barbaric and gruesome."

The Kazimiyah district also was the site of a bridge stampede involving tens of thousands of Shiite pilgrims on Aug. 31 that killed 950 people.

In the pre-dawn attack in the Sunni village of Taji, about 10 miles north of Baghdad, the 17 men were handcuffed, blindfolded and shot to death by gunmen wearing military uniforms who had searched the area, said police Lt. Waleed al-Hayali.

The dead included one policeman and others who worked as drivers and construction workers for the U.S. military, said al-Hayali.

Most of the violence, however, was concentrated in and around the capital. U.S. forces were the targets of at least three of the attacks. In the most serious, an American military convoy was hit by a car bomb in eastern Baghdad, wounding two U.S. soldiers, the military said.

Hours later, in the northern district of Azamiyah, gunmen opened fire on a police car, killing two top police officials and two officers. Three Iraqi soldiers and four policemen died when a suicide car bomber struck as rescuers arrived to help, said police Capt. Nabil Abdul Kadir.

Another car bomb exploded alongside an Iraqi military convoy in the northern Baghdad district of Shula, killing at least two people, authorities said.

A suicide car bomber attacked a U.S. convoy in central Baghdad just a few hundred yards outside the northern border of the heavily forti-

exchange of heavy machine gun fire rattled for about 10 minutes after that blast, which injured 14 Iraqi police officers and sent columns of black smoke billowing over the city. It was not clear if there were any U.S. casualties.

With the constitution finally going to the printers for distribution ahead of the Oct. 15 referendum, Hussein Al-Shahristani, a leading Shiite lawmaker, said the latest changes included an apparent bow to demands from the Arab League that the country be described as a founding member of the 22-member pan-Arab body and that it was "committed to its charter."

But that amended clause falls short of demands by Sunnis, who wanted the country's Arab identity clearly spelled and mentions of federalism be struck from the document. They argue such language could ultimately lead to the disintegration of the multiethnic nation.

Still, the changes were significant after weeks of discussions on the draft. They included clarifying that water resource management was the federal government's responsibility and that the prime minister would have two deputies in the Cabinet.

U.S. and Iraqi forces continued their offensive on insurgents in Tal Afar and along the Euphrates River valley to the south, striking hard at what officials have said were militants sneaking across the border from Syria.

On Wednesday, two Iraqi troops were seriously wounded in an explosion as they entered a house in Tal Afar that had been previously cleared of threats, authorities said. Also, fierce fighting broke out between suspected militants and Iraqi forces in the Tal Afar district of Kadisiyah.

That operation was a continua-

tion of an almost 2-week-old off-

On Tuesday, U.S. forces launched an attack on the Euphrates River stronghold of Haditha, and residents reported American air strikes in the same region near Qair, also along the Syrian border.

In other violence Wednesday: A mortar shell landed on a civilian vehicle in eastern Baghdad, killing the driver, police said. Charman shot to death, an Iraqi army officer and wounded a man nearby in the southern Qadisiyah district of Baghdad, police Capt. Firas Qiti said. Charman killed a police officer in Rumayth, about 217 miles south of Baghdad.

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