

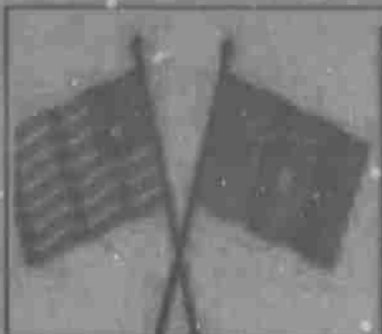


GOD BLESS AMERICA

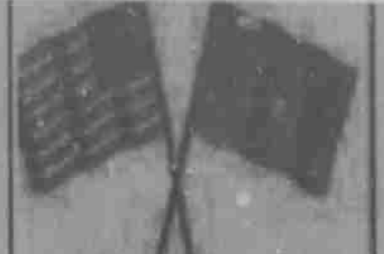
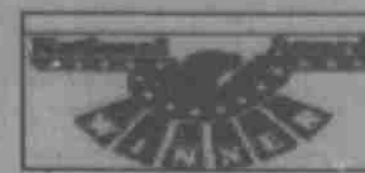
Southwest Digest

"A newspaper for 21st Century representing the Black Community's Ideas and Ideals since 1977"

Thursday, November 5, 2009
Vol. XXXII No. 9



75 cent



Community Meetings

- * African American Chamber of Commerce, Lubbock meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month, from 12:00 - 1:00 pm at the Chatman Hill Restaurant, 512 East 23rd Street.
- * Lubbock Area Client Council meets on the 2nd Saturday, 1:00 pm at the Patterson Branch Library, 1836 Parkway Drive.
- * Hub City Kiwanis meets every Tuesday evening, 1708 Avenue G.
- * Dunbar Alumni Association meets 2nd Saturdays, 4:00 pm.
- * Booker T. Washington American Legion, Post 808, meets every 2nd Tuesday at 7:30 pm, American Legion Building in Yellowhouse Canyon.
- * Forgotten West Riders meets on the 1st & 3rd Mondays, 7:00 pm, Patterson Branch Library.
- * East Lubbock Chapter AARP meets every 1st Thursday at 1:00 pm, Mae Simmons Senior Citizens 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 1:00 pm at the Dunbar Manhattan Heights Neighborhood Outreach Center, 1301 E. 24th Street.
- * West Texas Native American Association Pot Luck Supper meets on alternating months prior to meeting, meetings held on 2nd Saturdays of each month at 7:00 pm 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 Chapter of 100 Black Men of West Texas meets 3rd Monday evenings at 7:00 pm at Parkway Neighborhood Center.
- * The Parkway & Cherry-Point Neighborhood Association meets the 3rd Tuesday evenings, 7:30 pm at Hunt Elementary School.
- * Chatman Hill Neighborhood Association meets 2nd Thursday of every month at 6:00 pm at Hles 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
902 East 28th Street
Lubbock, Texas 79404
(806) 762-3612

Fax: (806) 762-4605

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swdigest@sbcbglobal.net
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Classifieds Page 7

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Read What's Happening in
Black Community of Lubbock.

Congresswoman Maxine Waters Honored for Her Work on Behalf of Women, Children and Minorities



Congresswoman Waters receives an award from Rachel Ashburn Mallory, granddaughter of the namesake of the J. Ashburn Jr. Youth Center, in Columbus, OH.

Columbus, OH - Congresswoman Maxine Waters (D-CA) was recognized for her tireless work on behalf of women, children and minorities, receiving the Speaker's Award from the J. Ashburn Jr. Youth Center in Columbus, Ohio on Sunday. Prior to delivering the keynote address to an audience which included the Center's staff and supporters, as well as children it serves, the Congresswoman toured the state-of-the-art center and reviewed some of the activities and programs provided.

"Community centers such as the Ashburn Center have their finger on the pulse of the communities that they work in," said Congresswoman Waters. "Combating poor home environments, drug and alcohol problems, truancy and dropouts and teen pregnancy and unemployment are major challenges, and through the totality of its work the Center is a resource and a place of support for the youth of the Hilltop Community of Columbus."

Congresswoman Waters shared memories of her youth and cited the importance of hav-

ing a safe, nurturing, fun place serving children. "Growing up in St. Louis my friends, family and I relied heavily on our local community center as a place of learning, recreation, and social cohesion," she said. "I am so pleased I was able to come to the Ashburn Center to see how a community center effectively serves area children with limited resources, and I am confident that this Center is poised to continue to serve Hilltop for years to come."

The Center supports programming for 500 children a week between the ages of 5 and 13. Most children are African-American or Hispanic, come from a single parent household and are considered low-income. Additionally, staff members run pre-school services and also volunteer their time to work with at-risk high school-age students.

Activities for children include learning Native American, African-American, and Hispanic-American history, working on computers in the labs, using the library, playing chess, and participating in general and organized recreational activities.

The J. Ashburn Jr. Youth Center was built in 1962 and according to its website has "consistently provided structured programs and supportive activities that meet the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of youth." In the late 1990s the Center embarked on a \$3 million upgrade to its facilities, an impressive feat given its annual operating budget of less than \$250,000, which mostly comes from its status as a United Way Agency and through private donations. Notable individuals who grew up at the Center include CNN contributor Joe Johns, Milwaukee Bucks basketball player Mike Redd and Paul Teylor, a successful businessman and close friend of Congresswoman Waters.

"I am encouraged by the dedicated staff, eager children, and modern facilities that I've seen today. This community center is providing the children with a foundation from which to build their academic, professional and personal lives," said Congresswoman Waters.

Matadors Will Play Borger Friday Night

The Estacado High School Matadors will travel to play Borger High School Bulldogs on Friday night, November 6, 2009, at 7:00 p. m. for District 3-A, 1A Title.

skills and many other pre-kindergarten skills. Educators assess children's progress periodically to help them plan activities to help children meet the next mild stone. The center provides breakfast, lunch, snack and all the baby formula and food.

Vanda ELC is open Monday-Friday, 6:30a.m.-6p.m. For more information on Vanda or childcare fees call Jackie Rutherford at 806-765-9981.

Fee Discounts a Part of Vanda Early Learning Centers 30th Anniversary Celebration

The Early Learning Centers of Lubbock is celebrating 30 years of service at the Vanda ELC site. As a part of the celebration Early Learning Centers is offering new families who enroll at Vanda now through the end of the year, additional discounts on their weekly fees. Early Learning Centers' fees are always based on household income and they have special funding through Child Care Services.

"Early learning experiences are crucial to the growth and development of young children," said Joanne Cotter, Executive Director of the Early Learning Centers. "We are proud to be a part of educating the children of Lubbock."

Vanda Early Learning Center opened in 1979 as Lubbock Day Nursery #4. In 1987 The Lubbock Day Care Association name was changed to Early Learning Centers of Lubbock and Lubbock Day Nursery #4 became Vanda Early Learning Center. Sara Ziolkowski, center director at Vanda ELC said, "A lot of families have been helped in these 30 years and I am so proud to be a part of helping

them now."

The Early Learning Centers are much more than day care facilities. Three of the centers have been designated Texas School Ready programs by the state of Texas. Each age group has a curriculum and lesson plans. Educators work with infants and toddlers on individualized lesson plans to help each child develop at the pace they are ready for. Preschoolers work with a curriculum that teaches letter sound recognition, alliteration, rhyming, syllabication, math



Vanda Early Learning Center is celebrating its 30th Anniversary. It was opened 1979 as Lubbock Day Nursery #4.



Bidal Aguerro - Publisher

Longtime Publisher, Bidal Aguerro Succumbs

A longtime friend of the Southwest Digest and publisher of the El Editor newspaper, succumbed here Tuesday evening, November 3, 2009, at the Covenant Health System, at approximately 6:30 p. m. He was 60 years of age.

In the early days of publishing the then Lubbock Digest, Bidal was a friend and until death that friendship remained, according to T. J. Patterson, co-publisher. "We had some difficult times in those days, but because of friends like Bidal and wife, Olga, and the help of God, we were able to maintain," continued Patterson.

"Since we didn't have the necessary equipment to type set our publication, Bidal made it possible by letting us use their equipment and was given a key to go and come as we pleased," Patterson said. "There is no doubt about it, he was our friend," continued Patterson.

Eddie P. Richardson, co-publisher, said "Bidal and I paralled each other in many ways over the many years. We both played the saxophone, human rights activists, publisher's, and a long friendship over the years. Bidal, Brother, we will miss you!"

Aguero, publisher of the oldest-running Hispanic newspaper in Texas and a Lubbock civil

rights leader, was fighter of the under dog in Lubbock.

El Editor, although not the first Hispanic publication in Lubbock, was started in 1977. Aguerro initially worked for Gus Medina Sr., who owned La Voz Newspaper.

Aguero founded Commerciantes Organizacion Mexicano Americano, the Mexican American Chamber of Commerce, in 1972. That December, he graduated from Texas Tech with a bachelor's degree in music education. When he left for the University of Wisconsin to earn his master's degree, COMA collapsed. But Aguerro returned in December 1974 and restarted the organization in 1976.

Aguero was also heavily involved in local politics. He helped organize protests for injustices against Mexican Americans. Aguerro was one of a group of Lubbock residents who filed a lawsuit against the Lubbock Independent School District to change its method of electing school trustees so representation would be more fair to non-whites.

He is survived by his wife, Olga, four children and four grandchildren.

At this report, funeral arrangements were being made by his family.

Pre-Thanksgiving Gospel Stage Play Set for Nov. 20 Garland's Plaza Theatre



"Honor Thy Mother Cast"

GARLAND- Playwright Bridgette Monroe's Smash Hit "Honor Thy Mother" opens at Garland's Plaza Theatre on Nov. 20, 2009. The Garland Plaza Theatre is located at 512 W. State Street in downtown Garland. The performance begins at 8:00 p.m.

"Honor Thy Mother" is an electrifying blast from the past.

It is a hilarious, inspirational, gospel stage play that deals with honor, respect and forgiveness. It will have your mind reflecting to back in the day with laughter and tears, as your heart longs for "Big Mama." The play introduces Violet Louise Doyd, played by Mary Humphrey as a grandma who will keep the audience laughing.



Since many of our residents of the Chatman Hill area drive on Martin Luther King Boulevard, MLK Blvd, as you may have observed that as of Monday, November 2, 2009, Allen Butler Construction, under contract with the City of Lubbock, begun a street reconstruction project on Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard. The reconstruction project will take place from Parkway Drive to East Broadway. The existing asphalt paving surface will be removed and new concrete paving will be placed. Martin Luther King Boulevard will be reduced to two lanes during construction. This project is scheduled to take seven months to complete. Drivers are encouraged to use extreme caution and expect minor delays as traffic will be reduced down to one lane in each direction. As always inclement weather and mechanical problems could cause delays.

Rev. Sonia J. Scott, pastor of the Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, is the guest

speaker for the Harvest Festival on Sunday afternoon, November 15, 2009, at the Smith Temple Church, 6508 Avenue P, where the pastor is Rev. D. A. Smith.

Let us continue to pray for those who are on our sick and shut-in list. Among them include Brother Alfred Caviel, who has been ill and is doing nicely at this report. Word comes he has been attending the New Hope Baptist Church where he has joined. Prayer does make a difference, just as Brother Caviel.

Dr. Heenan Johnson, Jr. has been released from the hospital after a brief stay. He is doing nicely at this report.

Ballet Lubbock announces its 31st annual production of The Nutcracker at the Lubbock Memorial Civic Center Theatre. Five (5) performances will be presented for this beloved holiday ballet: **OPENING NIGHT:** Thursday/December 10, 7 p.m. Friday/December 11, 8 p.m. Saturday/December 12, 2 p.m. AND 8 p.m.

FINAL SHOW: Sunday/December 13, 2 p.m.

Tickets can be purchased through all Select-A-Seat outlets, including the main box office at the Lubbock Memorial Civic Center (1501 Mac Davis Lane) and United Supermarkets. Tickets may also be purchased by phone (806.770.2000 local, or online at www.selectaseatlubbock.com.

Activities Set For City of Lubbock Libraries

Book Sale at Mahon Library

The Friends of the Lubbock Public Library will host their annual book sale in the basement of the Mahon Library, 1306 9th Street, on November 6, 7 and 8. Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday, November 6 and Saturday, November 7 and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday, November 8. The sale on Friday is for members of the Friends of the Library—individuals can join at the door for \$10. The sale is open to the public on Saturday and Sunday. For more information, call the library at 775-2835.

Learn to Knit at Groves Branch Library

Come to the Groves Branch Library, 5520 19th Street, and learn the basics of Continental style knitting on Tuesday, November 10 at 6:30 p.m. Bring size 8 knitting needles and worsted weight yarn. For more information, please call the library at 767-3733.

Teen Program Patterson Branch Library

Teens are invited to play Wii Outdoor at the Patterson Branch Library, 1836 Parkway Drive, at 4 p.m. on Thursday, November 12. For more information, call 767-3300.

Teen Book Group Meeting at Groves Branch Library

The BLTs (Book Lovin' Teens) will meet at the Groves Branch Library, 5520 19th Street, on Thursday, November 12 at 4:30 p.m. for an afternoon

FASHION FUN with Shirley Roberson OFF THE SHOULDERS!

Ladies this season is all about feeling beautiful and sexy. Dresses and tops are designed with that one thought in mind, so when you are out shopping, take notice of tops with puffy sleeves that drop off the shoulders, one shoulder or both, long sleeve tops with opened slits from the shoulder to the cuff. Look for dresses with large sexy belts and plunging bust lines (a little or a lot). Loose fitting tops that tapers at the waist are very popular and beautifully sexy. Remember big bold colorful prints goes a long way with sexy.

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Fashion tip...always wear a smile.



Fashion...just for the fun of it. Shop For Holidays!

Texas Bar Foundation Grant Awarded to local CASA Program

CASA of the South Plains, Inc. was awarded a grant from the Texas Bar Foundation for \$2,429 for a period of one year to supply equipment for their new visitation rooms that will open in December of 2009.

Since its inception in 1965, the Texas Bar Foundation has awarded more than \$9 million in grants to law-related programs. Supported by members of the State Bar of Texas, the Texas Bar Foundation is the nation's largest charitably-funded bar foundation.

Amy Paiva, Executive Direc-

tor of CASA of the South Plains, is thrilled to have this opportunity to make improvements to the office so that CASA can implement the program, Eyes for the Children. Amy Paiva stated, "In line with CASA's mission to advocate for the "best interest" of the children served, CASA has recently added two visitation rooms to accommodate the hundreds of children in foster care whose current permanency plan is to "return home."

The grant will allow CASA to purchase camera and audio equipment for two visitations

room at the CASA office. The Eyes for the Children program will also provide live surveillance and the option to record one-hour visitations between children and parents. "With true, consistent and monitored visitations, the CPS workers, CASA workers, attorneys and judges can determine whether home is the right option for the children served," Paiva said.

California." Invited speakers for the 11th Annual National Fatherhood and Families Conference include well-known individuals in social service and government. They include Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, Carmen Nazario, Assistant Secretary of the Administration for Children and Families, Steven Golightly, Director of the L.A. County Child Support Services Department, Judge Mablean Ephraim from Houston, Texas and Jerry Tello from the National Compadres Network.

The Annual National Fatherhood and Families Conferences traditionally have been staged in Phoenix, Arizona where FFC headquarters are located. Over the past decade, the Fatherhood Conference has provided training, education and networking opportunities to well over 5,000 colleagues from all over the U.S., Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, Micro Indonesia, Guam, and as far as Japan and Ghana. Through FFCA's networks this conference has established a National Conference Planning Committee with professional representatives from organizations in San Diego, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Stockton, Salt Lake City, Chicago, Phoenix,

Fathers & Families Coalition of America Announces 11th Annual National Fatherhood and Families Conference in Los Angeles, CA.

Los Angeles, CA (BlackNews.com) - A respected national conference on father and family issues is coming to Los Angeles and Southern California for the first time. Parents, families, social service professionals, community representatives and leaders from all over the country are expected to attend the 11th Annual National Fatherhood and Families Conference at the Westin LAX Hotel in Los Angeles on February, 23-26, 2010.

The National Fatherhood and Families Conference is staged by the non-profit, Fathers and Families Coalition of America, Inc. (FFC). The conference will feature workshops and speakers with helpful information on how improve communities by strengthening and improving programs serving fathers and families. Registration and conference information can be obtained by going to the Fathers and Families website at: www.azffc.org. Registration for the conference is \$375 with reduced registration \$265 if received by November 15. Corporate, government and organizational sponsorship and advertisement packages are still available for the conference by contacting FFCA at 602-254-

5081. This conference brings together professionals from across the country who are on the front lines of working to improve father and family programs," said James Rodriguez, CEO of the Fathers and Families Coalition. "This is a great opportunity to dialogue with and learn from a diverse group of professionals and leaders from social service non-profits, churches, justice and corrections, community based organizations, tribal nations and government agencies. We look forward to staging the conference in Los Angeles and having the special participation of the community in Southern

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Tony Brewer

Church News



From the Desk of Parson D.A. Smith
 Has Lubbock, Tx. Become A Cesspool of
 Racial Bias and Lubbock Ignorance

The slop or swill racial rhetoric that has been uttered from the mouthy cesspools of ignorance, corruption and void of power conservative wing of what was once a major political party is sickening, repugnant and repulsive.

African Americans and President Obama in particular has become the object of ridicule and criticism from pathological liars and other social deviant behavior from Uncle Tom blacks, the conservative leaders: Rush Limbaugh, Glen Beck and other riffraff that fan the flames of racial hatred.

These alleged deviants, scatterbrains, stupid and repulsive "pieces of works" have no place in a wholesome society. What should frighten all Americans is they have begun to believe and partake of the racial hatred soup dipped from the slop jars of racial injustice and cesspools of cultural, education, and racial ignorance.

These conservative primates who live in their own radical world have not in an intellectual sense risen to the state of having

true human traits as it relates to intelligence and basic respect as it relates to humankind. Their behavior appears to be akin to the social behavior of apes and monkeys.

Ralph Ellison wrote: "Life is to be lived, not controlled and humanity is won by continuing to play in face of certain defeat." Ellison life story notes that he had been born to parents who had been slaves. His parents moved from the Deep South to Oklahoma hoping the lives of their child would be fueled with a sense of possibility in this state that was reputed for its freedom. Though the prejudices of Texas and Arkansas soon encroached upon Oklahoma, the open spaces and fighting spirit of the people whom Ellison grew up among did provide him with a relatively unbiased atmosphere.

The story of Ellison life continues with the death of Lewis Ellison, his father in 1917 and left Ida, his mother, Ralph and his younger brother Herbert quite poor. To support the family, Ida worked as a domestic and stewardess at Avery Chapel

African Methodist Episcopal Church. The family moved into the parsonage and Ellison was brought into close contact with the minister's library. His mother encourages Ralph to read by bringing books and magazines home for him from the houses she cleaned. In addition, a black Episcopal priest in the city challenged the white custom of barring blacks from the public library and the custom was overturned. Ellison's horizons were broadened to a world outside his own sheltered life in Oklahoma City, by the many books now available to him in the library. Ellison left Oklahoma and headed to the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama to study music, with the help of a scholarship he had won from the state of Oklahoma.

At Tuskegee, Ellison was introduced to Alain Locke, a New Black thinker, who would lead Ellison to his writing career and his writing of Invisible Man. Ellison succeeded because he was able to rise above the cesspool of racial bias and cultural ignorance of white people of his day!



We Thank God for Jesus

"Here Is Why, The Heatherens Rage!"

Part I
 Written by Evangelist Billy "L.J." Morant, Jr. - Yes, Brother in Christ Jesus always.

ISAIAH 58:1a - Thy Lord said, cry aloud, spare not, lift up your voice like a trumpet, and show my people their transgressions.

REVELATION 2:7a - Jesus said, he that hath an ear, let him hear what the spirit said unto the churches.

The Lord blessed America. She became great and powerful with great wealth. Then she became high minded, and begin to think that she done it herself!!!

Jeremiah 9:23-24 - Thus said the Lord, let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might. Let not the rich man glory in his riches, but let him that glories glory in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the Lord which exercise loving kindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth for these things I delight, said the Lord.

The Churches at time trusted in God, but then they lost their faith. They started following a man's dreams it has taken over the human race!!!

Romans 1:18; 1-23a - For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who (Churches) hold the truth in unrighteousness. Because that when they (Churches) knew 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 (Churches) became fools, and undid the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man (Martin Luther King).

****** ARE YOU FOLLOWING M. L. KING OR KING JESUS??? ******

Martin L. King wanted rights for his people, those of the Black race.

Mark 16:15-16 - Jesus said, go you into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved. But he that believes not shall be damned.

****** IS AMERICA LIFTING JESUS??? ******

Luke 9:62 - Jesus said, no man having put his hand to the (Gospel) plough, and looking back is fit for the Kingdom of God.

America started giving every man his rights, even if they were wrong. The only rights God wants mankind to have to worship Jesus, who is on God's throne!!!

John 12:32 - Jesus said, and I, if I be lifted up from the earth, I will draw all men unto me. (Just the other day: A 19 year old and her 14 year old Brother. Stuck a Dr. Pepper Bottler up their 10 year old Brother's rectum. She received 15 years and her Brother 10 years. Right here in Lubbock, Texas, their rights were wrong!!! And then a foreigner man, ran his car over his daughter, because she was becoming too much like crazy the Heatherens in America!!!)

America has gone ad now, and they are the product of: We Shall Overcome. There is no love, no joy, no respect, marching against the law is where it

St. Matthew's Baptist Church News

Church services got underway at 10:10 a. m. last Sunday morning, November 1, 2009, at the St. Matthew Baptist, 2020 East 14th Street, where the proud pastor is Rev. Edward Canady.

Sunday School got underway with Superintendent Sister Shirley Davis in charge.

The subject of the morning lesson was "The Beauty of Non-conformity." The scripture text was I Peter 1:13-25. The Unifying Topic was "A Holy People."

The teacher of the morning was Rev. Jimmie Brown. The review was done Pastor Canady.

The morning worship hour began at 11:15 a. m.. The morning devotion was led by Deacon Edward Williams and Brother Gerald Jackson.

The St. Matthew Baptist Church Choir sung out of their hearts and souls. We are all so grateful for our Musician. God is good.

The morning message was entitled "The Door (Jesus Is). The scripture text was John 10:9. The message was delivered by Rev. Perry Clark, pastor of The Narrow Gate Church.

The Song of Inspiration was

"Last Mile of the Way." The morning announcements were read by Sister Shirley Davis.

 The weekly meetings include: Mission meets on Wednesday evening at 6:00 p. m. and Bible Study begins at 7:00 p. m.

Choir Rehearsal begins at 5:00 p. m. on Fridays.

The Ushers meet each Saturday morning at 11:00 a. m.

All who are involved are asked to attend these important meetings.

Let us not forget our sick and shut-in of the Lubbock Community.

When pressure mount because we walk the path of Truth and right, We can rejoice to know that we are pleasing in God's sight.

Thought For The Week:
"The way to have joy in persecution is to find your joy in Jesus."

 "He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant—not of the letter but

of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life." - 2 Corinthians 3:6

 If you are looking for a Church Home, then come and visit with the members and Pastor Canady of St. Matthew Baptist Church. You will be glad you did so. When you visit, bring someone with you. You will be glad you did so. Shall you join us this Sunday morning? Hope you will decide to do so. God continue to bless of you.

GENESIS
 In the beginning, God created

the heavens and the earth. In six days, God created day and night, oceans and sky, dry land and plants, the sun, moon and stars, fish and birds, and land animals. Finally, God created in His own image a man called Adam and a woman called Eve. God looked at all that He had made. It was very good. Then God rested on the seventh day.

God prepared the Garden of Eden as a wonderful place for Adam and Eve to live. In it, God planted every tree that was pleasant and good for food. God told them to eat the fruit of all the trees.

Outreach Prayer Breakfast

The members of the Outreach Prayer Breakfast have been talking about three phrases of Salvation. The scriptures are Ephesian 1:3, 1;2 and 2:6.

Bless be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ.

And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus, salvation of the Lord in all Grace. Salvation can provide love, peace and deliverance. We are saved by the Father. We are saved by the Son and the Holy Spirit. We're adopted and that's why we are persecuted sometimes. Adopted children have to suffer sometimes. If you are not a believer, you don't have salvation. Salvation is a free gift from God to man!

Thought of the Week: "How can we escape so great a Salvation. We have many sick in our communities and cities, but we have God's word of comfort. Like in Mark 11:22-26 says have Faith in God and you can speak to the mountain and it will move! II Chronicles 7:14 - If my people which are called by my name will humble themselves, seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, he will forgive your sins and heal your land. Believe the word of God".

Vice President, Sister Christene Burelson is reported to be doing much better at this report.

Keep praying for her as well as many others who are on the sick and shut in list.

Our monthly meeting will be held in Brother Hezzie

Nichols' residence, 2119 64th Street, on Saturday morning, November 7, 2009, beginning at 9:00 a. m. Bring someone with you, and help us celebrate our Lord Jesus Christ. If you have any questions, call 762-3347.

There Is Recognition of a Fellowship

In marriage, two individuals are in a single relationship. The idea is to build a future together as one family, home, and legacy, forsaking all others.

When we realize and understand our chosen status, we come to know we are part of a bigger fellowship. We are not in it alone, nor is it for us alone. We are set apart to bring glory, recognition, and honor to the one who chose us from the very beginning, and continues to choose us when we face rejection every day. And this fellowship is not intended to rob us of any joy, success, or happiness, but to make such events in our life even fuller (John 10:10).

We also recognize our fellowship with Christ is not exclusive, but actually seeks to include others. So though we hold it sacred and precious, we do not hold it secret, nor do we force it on others. We stand at the ready to tell men about him (I Peter 3:15) and humbly live that we may be an example to them.

There Is Recognition of Our Status

When a bride says, "I do," she goes from Miss or Ms. to Mrs., a notable change in status. In effect, she has been chosen. Her

single status is now behind her.

Our recognition of being chosen by Christ also changes our status; we become a "royal priesthood." It's an interesting term, for when one looks back on the priesthood of God's people, we see through their ordination process how they were consecrated with the blood, dressed for the role, and set apart from the people (Leviticus 8), to instruct them in God's ways.

As a chosen people we are: all called into the priesthood or

ministry of God. Just as the new bride shows off her new wedding ring to announce her new status, or television shows like American Idol use ads and promos to promote an upcoming show, we are all in our new status given permission to declare the praises of him who called (chose) us.

The people in the world around us are stumbling, looking for self-validation, looking to be the chosen, and they need to know that, in Christ Jesus, they

already are chosen. They need to know it's possible to get off the merry-go-round, that they need not be politically correct or a conformist to be accepted. The status they seek has been granted in Christ, that God loves them as if they were the only one who matters (I Peter 2:4).

 A report is forthcoming about our meeting we will have this week. Hopefully, if you are unable to attend this week, you will consider joining us in future meetings. If you have any questions, call 762-3347. We will be glad to have you join us at any

time.

 What does it mean to be holy? Does it mean a person is weird? Perfect? Spiritual? Super religious? Holy is a word that brings different images to mind for different people... not all of them positive. But a Christian is called to be holy. The apostle Peter writes, "But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: 'Be holy, because I am holy'" (I Peter 1:15, 16).

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

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Obsequies

Raymond Eugene Ellis

Celebration of Life services for Raymond Eugene Ellis were held Saturday, October 31, 2009 at Hope Deliverance COGIC.

Interment followed at the City of Lubbock Cemetery under the direction of Griffin Mortuary & Funeral Home of Lubbock.

Ellis, 76, of Lubbock, departed this life on Saturday, Oct. 24, 2009, at his home in Lubbock, Texas.

Ellis was born to the parentage of Ben and Frances Ellis on Nov. 23, 1932. He was preceded in death by his parents; one son, Rodney Eugene Ellis; five brothers, Sherwood Ellis (Rosie), Jim Ellis (Lucille), Fred Ellis, Ben Calvin Ellis and Archie Ellis; and four sisters, Fannie Mae Davis, Ohree Ellis, Ina Ellis and Martha Ellis Smith.

On November 18, 1960, he married Betty L. Davis and this union three children were born, Jacqueline J. Ellis, and a set of twins, Roderick Eugene Ellis and Rodney Eugene Ellis, whom he affectionately called "Tiger" and "Dynamite".

He attended school at Pine Hill Baptist Church in Kanawha, Texas, and graduated from Detroit High School in Detroit, Texas. After moving from Kanawha, Texas, he later moved to Idabel, Okla., Fresno, Calif.,



Lamesa, Texas and finally made his home in Lubbock, Texas.

He worked at Baldrige Bakery and Texas Cream Donuts, until his retirement. After his retirement, he did yard work. He loved hunting, and cooking was also one of his favorite things to do.

He leaves to cherish his life, love and memories, his loving wife of over 49 years, Betty Ellis one of his twin sons, Roderick Eugene Ellis; one daughter, Jacqueline J. Ellis; two grandchildren, Elizabeth Ellis and Cleveland Ellis; two brothers, Roger Jones (Mercury) and Will Ellis (Pearl); and one sister, Emma Hardaway. He also leaves to mourn, a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives and many friends who will truly miss him.

Curtis Harris

Celebration of Life services were held for Curtis Harris last Saturday, October 31, 2009 at Greater St. Luke Missionary Baptist Church, with Rev. J. H. Ford, pastor, officiating.

Interment will follow at Peaceful Gardens Memorial Park under the direction of Griffin Mortuary & Funeral Home of Lubbock.

Harris, 69, of Lubbock, passed away at Covenant Medical Center on Saturday, Oct. 24, 2009.

He was the son of Grady, Sr. and Ozia Harris. He was born on Feb. 1, 1940 in Queen City, Texas. Curtis was employed by Frito Lay where he retired. Curtis had numerous safety and people choice awards. Curtis united with the Greater St. Luke Missionary Baptist Church in the



early 80s.

He leaves to cherish his memory, his wife, Rhonda Harris; special granddaughter, Kaila Jackson; four sons, Archie, Tony, Kenny and Kevin; six daughters, Audrey, Barbara, Kanasha, Candra, Lisa and

Rita Kay Garner Medlock

Funeral services for Rita Kay Garner Medlock were held last Saturday October 31, 2009 at Rising Star Baptist Church with Rev. Hiawatha Cuiver, pastor, officiating.

Interment I followed at the City of Lubbock Cemetery under the direction of Griffin Mortuary & Funeral Home of Lubbock.

Medlock, 53, of Lubbock, passed away on Tuesday, October 27, 2009 at University Medical Center.

She was the daughter of the late Melvin Garner and Oze Garner, born in Lubbock, Texas on November 9, 1955. Rita was employed with Citibus of Lubbock since 1997. She was a faithful member of Rising Star Missionary Baptist Church for several years.

Left to cherish the precious memories of her life are, her sisters, Varlean Reed (Robert Reed, Sr.) and Marilyn Garner; daughters, Angela Y. Clark, Anjana D. Bibbs and Paula K. Bibbs; nine grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and a host of nieces, nephews, great-nieces and nephews, and other relatives and friends.



Left to cherish the precious memories of her life are, her sisters, Varlean Reed (Robert Reed, Sr.) and Marilyn Garner; daughters, Angela Y. Clark, Anjana D. Bibbs and Paula K. Bibbs; nine grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and a host of nieces, nephews, great-nieces and nephews, and other relatives and friends.

Nettie B. Harlin

Celebration of Life Services were held for Mrs. Nettie B. Harlin last Friday, October 30, 2009 at Hope Deliverance COGIC with Elder Charles Tanner, pastor.

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

Mrs. Harlin, 64, of Lubbock, passed away Thursday, October 15, 2009 at Covenant Medical Center.

Mrs. Harlin was born December 27, 1944 to the parentage of the late Mr. Howard and Mrs. Lorine Sheffield, Sr. in Henderson. She moved to Lubbock in 1970. She started to work for University of Manor for 35 years. She leaves to cherish her memory, one son, Melvin Ray Thomas; four daughters, Vivian Talbert (Kenneth), Tina Caviel (John), Lisa Carol Cruz (Tony), and Osa B. Mosley (Dewey); two brothers, Julius Sheffield (Carolyn) and Willie Sheffield (Mary Ann); one sister, Irene Springer; seven grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; and a host of other relatives and friends.



Thank God For Jesus
Continued from Page 3

from!!!
(The Bible said, blessed are the peace makers; then curse the lawbreakers! Here is wisdom. The police is called out for the lawbreakers. The National Guard are called out for the lawbreakers. Police dogs are called out for the lawbreakers. Christians are not to be called lawbreakers!!!)

I Peter 2:13-16 -- Submit yourself (Christians) to every ordinance of men for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king (President). As supreme or unto governors as unto them that sent (Police) by him for the punishment of evildoers (Marchers), and for the praise of them (Christians) that do well. For so is the will of God.

Faye; three brothers, Grady, Robert and Tommy; three sisters, Dorothy, Grace and Clemmie; and a host of other relatives and friends.

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Evening Worship-5:p.m. We Must Do God Will
Wednesday:
Bible Class Devotion-7:00p.m. Obey Him To Enter Heaven
Matthew 7:21, Mark: 3-9
How Do We Obey Him?
Herning The Gospel-Rom. 10:17
Believe-Heb 11:6
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Editorials • Comments • Opinions

THIS 'N' THAT

by T.J. Patterson

LISD NEEDS OUR HELP ON THE NEED FOR SEX EDUCATION! THIS N THAT after reading a front page article in the **LUBBOCK AVALANCHE-JOURNAL** last Sunday's edition **AGREES** that the Lubbock Independent School District (LISD) as well other School Districts about **SEX EDUCATION** Lubbock County according to the Texas Department of State Health Services rank: **FOURTH IN TEXAS** when it comes to **PREGNANCIES** for girls ages 13 thru 17.... In Lubbock County there were **304 PREGNANCIES** in 2008.... It was also reported that **SIX LUBBOCK TEENAGE GIRLS** on average become pregnant.... each week...Not only is **TEENAGE PREGNANCY** a problem but Lubbock County has reported an apparent problem with **CHLAMYDIA, GONORRHEA & SYPHILIS**..... These numbers reflect in Lubbock County the following: **CHLAMYDIA** 1,4965 cases per 100,000; **GONORRHEA** 456 per 100,000 and **SYPHILIS** 12.5 per 100,000.... According to **LYNN HALEY** lead health teacher at the Lubbock Independent School District **"WE HAVE (THE STUDENTS) FOR ONE OR ONE-AND-HALF HOURS (PER CLASS) AND THEY GO HOME AND INTO THE COMMUNITY."** **THAT N THAT** agrees with what she says as it is the responsibility of

the **FAMILY** to do what they can to rear their children as they should.... **THIS N THAT** remembers when the family was there for their childrenand it appears as though we have fallen off Also back in the day even the Church was involved in such issues but it appears as though that has ceased in the Black Community as it was once.... Anyway there is no need to blame anyone.... It is just a **WAKE UP CALL** for all of us.... These are our **YOUNG PEOPLE** and we need to do what we can to overcome this problem whether it be **TEENAGE PREGNANCY OR STD'S!** Our young people need us now so let 's not let them down! Oh by the way when was the last time you visited one of our public schools? Just asking! **PENNY HASTINGS THE BARBER SAYS: "A TRUE FRIEND** never gets in **YOUR WAY** unless you happen **TO BE GOING DOWN!"** **STILL WAITING TO HEAR FROM YOU, SISTER VERNITA HOLMES! THIS N THAT** as well as many others are still waiting to hear when there will be a **DISTRICT TWO TOWN HALL MEETING** called by our District Two Representative **SISTER VERNITA HOLMES** to discuss what is happening in the **LUBBOCK INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT**.... It would be an opportunity to report what has happened since the meeting last February when parents

were concerned about the paving of the **PARKING LOT** on the campus of Estacado High School..... Present at that meeting was **GORDON WILKERSON** president of the LISD Board of Trustees He was in on the discussion.... It would be great if he was invited the **DISTRICT TOWN HALL MEETING**.... Let us know when & where Sister Holmes!
WHAT ABOUT MORE DRUG MARCHES? THIS N THAT has been asked about doing more **DRUG MARCHES** in our community.... First of all are there those in the community who want to get involved in this kind of an activity At one time these marches did some good but are there those who want to get involved again.... Let's hear from you just give us a call.... at (806) 762-3612!
CONGRATULATIONS TO THOSE MATADORS! THIS N THAT wishes those **ESTACADO HIGH SCHOOL MATADORS** very best as they travel to play **THE BORGER HIGH SCHOOL BULLDOGS** on Friday November 6, 2009 beginning at 7:00 p.m.This game will determine the **3-A, 1A DISTRICT**..... and our **SUPPORT** is needed from all of us.... So let's just travel to **BORGER** and let them know you are an **ESTACADO HIGH SCHOOL MATADOR SUPPORTER!** **THIS N THAT** says **CONGRATS MATS!**



THINK ABOUT IT!

Looking for the right things in the wrong places

We have role models in our community but, many of them are overlooked, because in this day and time, we have a misplaced value system because our value systems has been misguided and misplaced with things and not values. We have exchanged morals for things, even good, well brought up, well reared kids will try to hide their up bringing to fit in with the group or crowd trying to be a part of. What they are not trying to impress the wrong crowd with the wrong values bowing to be a part of the wrong crowd bowing to peer pressure.

In this electric, superhighway, digital age we live in today, morals, descentancy, respect for self and others is square, old fashioned, outdated, and out of

style. The in thing now is to be a part of what homies do to fit in and be a part of the group, no matter how wrong it may be by disrespecting self and others. To respect homies no matter how wrong it may be or what the consequences may be but deep down within knowing, it is wrong doing what we think is impressive to our homies.

The underlining factor is, in most cases, the goose that laid the golden egg is really not the lost homies who need help themselves. It could be the entertainer, the sports figure, the celebrity, the movie star, or the high profile, high visible, low moral high finance individual. When all the time the goose that laid the golden egg is in your own back yard in some cases,

parents, the teacher, the preacher, the cafe/ia worker, the neighbor who had a menial job sent their kids to college, the people down the street who work in and for the community. Even the people around you who live a good wholesome life, the low profile people who impress you daily with their deeds and actions; the neighborhood people who you listen to, respect, admire, and believe in what they say and do should be your role models, someone you can see, hear, and feel and not someone far away that you probably will never see when all the while the goose that laid the golden egg is in your own back yard. Think about it! Reach out and touch and thank them for what they have done for you!

P.L.A.Y.A.S. PEOPLE LIVING ACCORDING (to) YOUR ASPIRATION (to) SUCCEED

By donnell ASKARI hooper

There is a great need for the people in East Lubbock, Texas to confront the man and the woman in the mirrors of our homes and check that person for abandoning or doing nothing for the abandonment of the legacies of the True P.L.A.Y.A.S. of our community. Some of these True P.L.A.Y.A.S. are still living and many of them are dead and gone. These P.L.A.Y.A.S. laid the foundation for us to continue to build on that foundation so that our houses would be homes, our businesses economic emperments, our communities real estate investments and worthy inheritances for our children generation after generation. What has gone wrong? I'll tell you. Far to many of us have become **BLOW UP DOLLS** and **BELOW THE WAIST**



CLONES!!!! Far to many of us have reverted back to being just **CAVE MEN** AND **CAVE WOMEN** don't want nothing but a few rocks! Far to many of us have become **UNOFFICIAL JUDGES** sentencing us to a live of **HARD KNOCKS**. Far to many of us have given up on us

and sold us out to the lie that we are nothing but a bunch of useless **NIIG%!**, **WHITE TR%#!**, AND **WETB@#!**! I'm her to tell you all, that we are in the position **RIGHT NOW** to improve our condition of living in our city on our own! I know how just like those living among us who are feeding us these lies that things won't get any better in east Lubbock Texas! Our children have right to inherit more than what is being produced in our communities now. Success is our now!!!! Let's calm it. **AS SOON AS WE PUT ALL THE RIGHT P.L.A.Y.A.S. TOGETHER WE WILL BE AN UNBEATABLE TEAM !!!! THAT END WILL JUSTIFY THE MEANS.**

There is still a great need for the people of East Lubbock!

In Cinque

by Renetta Howard

anything can tell you that but the Medicare cost in-



I was watching one of my favorite television shows and there was this scene in which a famous football star wanted to become intimate with his girlfriend at his home. When she realized that he lived with his mother, she told him that she would not be intimate with him under the same roof in which his mother lived. He alleged to her that his mother resided with him, not him with her, as it was his house. Never the less, she left his home stating that he was a 'mama's boy,' while his mother mumbled approval of his actions.

We praise our mother's every year and because of this undying recognition, often well earned, there are still too many mother's who feel that their sons can do no wrong and consequently uphold them in all of their actions. I have personally witnessed incidents of young teenaged girls visiting young teenaged boys in their home while their mothers were at home, and their mothers did not monitor their actions.

When I asked one mother why she permitted her son to have company in a room where he and his girlfriend were alone and out of her sight, her answer was, "If her mother does not care where she is and what she is doing, it is not my concern." I

asked her how would she feel if she found out that her daughter was doing the same thing? She told me that she has told her how to act and she had better not find herself in such a situation or all heaven would break loose!

We wonder where the double standard came from and too often have blamed fathers and other men for these actions. However, if we take a closer look, we find that the real culprit lies in some mothers. Mothers take pride in rearing their daughters to be good girls but feel that boys do not have to be good. They can be wild as long as they stay out of jail. They can be unwed fathers and grandma will help to take care of them and the baby if they like

the baby's mother. The girls bear the baby, the blame and the shame. The boys are free to do it all over again. They feel proud, spreading 'wild oats' and acting pseudo macho. Seldom do we hear of young men being encouraged to do the right thing. We focus on unwed teenage mothers and how to reduce the numbers, but we need to focus on mothers of young men who have no regard for their attitudes toward their sons' actions in their relationships with young ladies. We need to get 'In cinque' and teach the young men the same rules and responsibilities that we teach young ladies and see that they uphold their teachings. A child's well being depends on both of them.

Night Watch Services In Black Community Has History!



Waiting For Watch Services To Begin!

Many of you who live or grew up in Black communities in the United States have probably heard of "Watch Night Services," the gathering of the faithful in church on New Year's Eve.

The service usually begins anywhere from 7 p.m. To 10 p.m. And ends at midnight with the entrance of the New Year.

Continue on Page 6

A Year of Tragedy and Triumph for Jennifer Hudson

CHICAGO (AP) — In the year since three members of her family were brutally killed in Chicago, Grammy and Oscar winner Jennifer Hudson has found ways to heal and start a new life.

And it appears the 28-year-old is happy again.

The actress and singer has gushed over her role as a new mother. She has started going out again, including an appearance at a New York gala just days ago. And she's poured herself into her work, from a gospel-tinged rendition of the national anthem at the Super Bowl months after the slayings to a "VH1 Divas" concert in New York last month.

Now she is set to return to Chicago in a few weeks to film an ABC prime-time special in which she'll share memories of her childhood Christmases in her old neighborhood and the church where she started singing.

It will be a bittersweet journey as she films "Jennifer Hudson: I'll Be Home for Christmas," which is scheduled to air in December.

A year ago, just as her career was really taking off with roles in movies like "Sex and the City" and "The Secret Life of Bees," Hudson had to return home for the worst reason possible.

On Oct. 24, 2008, the bodies of her mother, Darnell Hudson Donelson, 57, and brother, Jason Hudson, 29, were found in the family's home on the city's South Side. The body of her 7-year-old nephew, Julian King, was found days later in a sport utility vehicle on the city's West Side, just over 10 miles away.



Jennifer Hudson

All three had been shot.

Hudson has repeatedly declined to talk about publicly about the killings. She and her publicist declined interview requests from The Associated Press.

"She's heartbroken," said Bob Israel, 40, who was friends with Jason Hudson and lives near the Hudsons' Chicago home. "They were a close-knit family."

William Balfour, the estranged husband of Jennifer Hudson's sister, Julia, was charged with first-degree murder in the killings. Prosecutors alleged Balfour killed them in a jealous rage because he was upset Julia Hudson was dating another man.

Balfour pleaded not guilty and remains jailed. Several calls to his public defender were not returned.

The following days were tumultuous for Jennifer Hudson, including a trip to the Cook County medical examiner's office to identify King's body.

A picture of the cherub-faced boy, nicknamed "Juice Box," was posted on Hudson's MySpace page after the killings and has remained there.

"I want to thank each and every one of you for your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time," she wrote on her MySpace blog. "My sister and I take great comfort and strength from your love and concern."

After the funeral and a star-studded memorial service, Hudson, who won her Oscar in 2007 for her supporting role in "Dreamgirls," spent the next few months away from the public eye.

By February, she had launched back into work, filming a video for "If This Isn't Love," followed by the Super Bowl performance and a Grammy win for best R&B album for her self-titled debut CD.

Hudson, who first gained fame as a finalist on "American Idol" in 2004, returned to Chicago last month to perform "Spotlight" for "The Oprah Winfrey Show."

"It feels good to be home," Hudson told the crowd on Chicago's Magnificent Mile.

The trip garnered the respect of many, including residents in Englewood, one of the city's most troubled neighborhoods where Hudson grew up.

"People look up to her," said Aaron Wright, 38, who lives in Englewood. "Even in tragedy, you still come home and represent where you come from. For her to come back home, that gave everybody else strength."

These days, Jennifer Hudson is focusing on her son, David, named after her fiance Daniel David Onuga.

Hudson recently talked with reporters about her son, saying she's looking forward to seeing "who he becomes, who he takes after, if he'll sing."

1st Cousins Reunion Held in Dallas, Texas

Dallas — Cousins from various places in Texas gathered Friday, October 9, 2009, in the home of a cousin, Kenneth and Alfreda Gilbert, 704 Kristy Lane, Cedar Hill. They were from Lubbock, Fort Worth, Arlington, Garland, Mesquite and Cedar Hill, Texas. All of the cousins surprised Kenneth when he came home from work. Alfreda kept the secret. We all thanked Alfreda for helping to keep the secret to surprise Kenneth.

The menu for the evening was Fish, French Fries, Salad with Trimmings, Tea, Sodas, Bread and Peach Cobbler.

Cooks for the evening were Tammie Stewart, Alfreda Gilbert and Patricia Minter.

The dinner began at 6:30 p. m. with the prayer offered by their cousin, Effie Nelson.

When Kenneth walked through the door, all shouted "Surprise!" He was walking in the house to ask his wife why her car was not in the garage. And as all shouted "Surprise!" his eyes got big, then he started smiling. Effie Nelson, our oldest cousin, was first to hug him, followed by every one hugging and giving out kisses! This is when all the taking of pictures took place. Cousins begin to sit around and having various conversations about how they all grew up. Some watched movies. The kitchen was cleaned up by 9:00 p. m. By 4:30 a. m., all were asleep.

Saturday morning, October 10, 2009, everyone was up at 8:00 a. m. Some had their coffee while others had CoCo. Everyone received their drinks and left the kitchen.

Effie Nelson and Tammie Stewart prepared the breakfast. The menu included: Sausages, Bacon, Eggs, Biscuits, Jelly.

As the breakfast was being prepared, Effie, Michelle and Tammie did a 'James Brown' number. All of us sung and danced to the James Brown song "I Got The Feeling. Baby, Baby, Baby, Baby, Baby. I Got The Feeling uh, uh, uh, uh! uh uh uh! Then we laughed at ourselves. Then all were given a 'high five'.

Breakfast was served at 9:45 a. m. Prayer was offered by Bennie Moore, Jr. The kitchen was cleaned up by 11:00 a. m.

After breakfast cafiast, all began taking turns getting dressed. As each of us got dressed, all came down stairs. We sat in a circle as we waited for everyone to get dressed. While we were waiting, we began to listen to music. As the music was playing, we were rocking our heads to the music. Before long, we got up and began dancing. At last, we all dressed! So off to the store were

Alfreda Gilbert, Pat Patricia Minter, Tammie Stewart and Effie Nelson to purchase food for today's events. They left their cousins playing such games as dominoes, spades & Uno.

As the shoppers returned, family members were eating left over Fish & French Fries from Friday night.

Our cooks: Tammie Stewart, Alfreda Gilbert and Patricia Minter, began preparing dinner.

The menu included: Spaghetti, Garlic Buttered Bread, Bar-B-Que Wings, Salad, Yellow Cake, Peach Cobbler and Oat Meal Cookies.

Dinner was served at 6:35 p. m. with prayer offered by Effie Nelson.

The kitchen was cleaned up by 9:00 p. m.

A group picture was taken. All were laughing as it was a very exciting time. Then all split up. The ladies sit around the table and started conversations on various subjects which included the remembering of their childhood and relationships between cousins. They talked about the way their parents were as all remembered them. All laughed and clowned so much until their bodies were hurting. They agreed that laughter is good medicine for our Souls. The men, however, spent their time watching football games.

Finally by 4:00 a. m., everyone were sleeping.

Sunday morning, October 11, 2009, everyone was up and getting ready to depart by 8:00 a. m. Some had breakfast, some drunk coffee only. Everyone took part in cleaning the house before all left. By 9:30 a. m., the whole house was clean! Then the last group picture was taken before departing for home. Prayer was offered and all received kisses, hugs and smiles. All departed by 10:00 a. m. to their various locations.

The 1st Cousins are: Effie Nelson, Velda Gilbert, Valrie Gilbert, Patricia Minter, Elizabeth Gilbert, Tammie Stewart, Lynette Miller, Richard Gilbert, and Thomas Gilbert.

Special Guest: Harmetra Gilbert, Jenifer Gilbert, William Shaw, Bennie Moore, Jr., and Alfreda Gilbert.

Those cousins who couldn't attend, we missed you and love all of you.

We want to thank everyone for coming. A Special Thanks to Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth (Alfreda) Gilbert for their hospitality. Everyone had a happy spirit. Everyone returned home safely!

The food was satisfying and delicious. We had a Beautiful, Joyful, Peaceful Time! We give honor to God.

Family Members, God is still smiling on our Family!

Watch Night Services

Continued from Page 5

Like many others, I always assumed that Watch Night was a fairly standard Christian religious service -- made a bit more Afro centric because that's what happens when elements of Christianity become linked with the Black Church.

Still, it seemed that predominantly White Christian churches did not include Watch Night services on their calendars, but focused instead on Christmas Eve programs.

In fact, there were instances where clergy in mainline denominations wondered aloud about the propriety of linking religious services with a secular holiday like New Year's Eve.

However, there is a reason for the importance of New Year's Eve services in African American congregations.

The Watch Night Services in Black communities that we celebrate today can be traced back to gatherings on December 31, 1862, also known as "Freedom's Eve."

On that night, Blacks came together in churches and private homes all across the nation, anxiously awaiting news that the Emancipation Proclamation actually had become law.

Then, at the stroke of midnight, it was January 1, 1863, and all slaves in the Confederate States were declared legally free.

When the news was received, there were prayers, shouts and songs of joy as people fell to their knees and thanked God. Black folks have gathered in churches annually on New Year's Eve ever since, praising God for bringing us safely through another year.

It's been 145 years since that first Freedom's Eve and many of us were never taught the African American history of Watch Night, but tradition still brings us together.

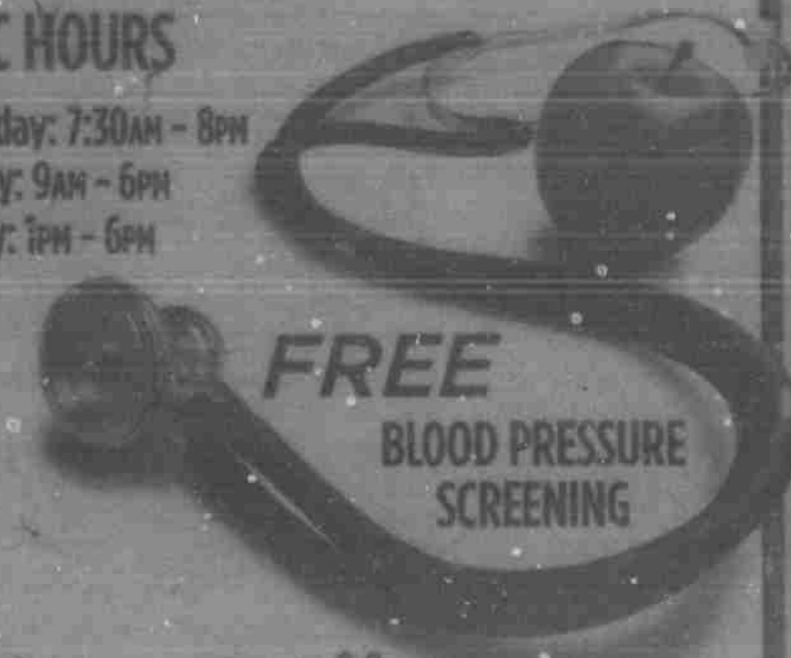
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The Lubbock Housing Authority will conduct a lottery for placement on the Section 8 Waiting List.

Lottery Open date: November 2, 2009
Lottery Close date: November 30, 2009

Lottery cards must be picked up and returned in person to 1708 Crickets Avenue, Lubbock, TX during the Open and Close dates listed above.

Additional information on the lottery is available now at 1708 Crickets Ave or at www.lubbockha.org on the News Releases page.

Elderly or disabled individuals requesting reasonable accommodation in this process should call 805/762-1191 for assistance.

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