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God Bless America

Southwest Digest

A news paper for 21st century representing the Black community ideal and ideals since 1971

December 24, 2008

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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 the Parkway Community Center, 405 MLK Blvd., 806-771-1815

Lubbock Area Client Council meets on the 2nd Saturday, 1:00pm at the Patterson Branch Library

Hub City Kiwanis meets every Tuesday, 7:00pm, 1708 Avenue G

Dunbar Alumni Association meets 2nd Saturdays, 4:00 pm

Booker T. Washington American Legion Post 508 meets every 2nd Tuesday at 7:30pm, American Legion Building in Yellowhouse Canyon

Forgotten West Riders meets on the 1st & 3rd Mondays, 7:00 pm, Patterson Library

East Lubbock Chapter AARP meets every 1st Thursday at 1:00 pm, Mae Simmons Community Center

Lubbock Chapter of Black Alumni meets every 3rd Tuesday, 5:30 pm, TTU Market Alumni Center

Dunbar/Manhattan Heights Neighborhood Association meets every 1st Thursday at 6:00 pm and every 4th Thursday at 7:00 pm at the Dunbar-Manhattan Heights Neighborhood Outreach Center at 1301 East 24th St.

West Texas Native American Association Pot Luck Supper meets on alternating months prior to meeting, meetings held on 2nd Saturday of each month at 7:00 pm, Educational presentations and demonstrations.

Texas Juneteenth Cultural & Historical Commission - Lubbock Affiliate meets at Patterson Branch Library every 3rd Thursday at 7:00 pm

West Texas Native American Association meets 2nd Saturday each month at Groves Library, 5520 19th Street, 7:30 p.m.

West Texas Chapter of 100 Black Men meets the 3rd Monday evening at 7:00 pm at the Parkway Neighborhood Center.

The Parkway & Cherry-Point Neighborhood Association meets the 3rd Tuesday evening of each month at 7:30 pm at Hunt Elementary.

Chatman Hill Neighborhood Association meets the 2nd Thursday of every month at 6:00 pm, at Iles Elementary Cafeteria.

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

Southwest Digest
Community Meetings
1302 Avenue Q
Lubbock, TX 79401
Fax: (806) 762-4605

email us at:
swdigest@yahoo.com
swdigest@abeglobal.net

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DUET SINGING - Warren Davis, left, and Lauren Patterson are shown singing during their Christmas program at the Bethlehem Baptist Church in Mansfield, Texas on Saturday evening, December 13, 2008.

Lauren is the daughter of Rev. & Mrs. T. J. Patterson, Jr. and grand-daughter of Mr. & Mrs. T. J. Patterson of Lubbock.

Officials: Obama to select Ron Kirk, Rep. Solis



Ron Kirk

President-elect Obama's plan to nominate former Dallas Mayor Ron Kirk to be his U.S. trade representative is a worry for organized labor.

The news comes shortly after it was learned that Obama plans to nominate Rep. Hilda Solis (D-Calif.) to be his secretary of labor, a decision immediately hailed by unions.

A senior Democratic official confirmed the nominations. They could come as soon as Friday.

Kirk is a worry for labor because he does not have a record of criticizing trade deals, according to Thea Lee, a lobbyist for the AFL-CIO.

"We want someone who will take trade in a different direction," said Lee. "He doesn't have much of a record. That's a concern."

Kirk, a former Senate candidate, has spoken out in favor of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and permanent normal trade relations with China. Labor unions believe NAFTA and the China trade legislation have cost the U.S. thousands of jobs.

In contrast, business appears optimistic about Kirk. Bill Lane, a lobbyist for Caterpillar, said

Kirk gets the value of trade because he is a border-state mayor.

"As a Texas mayor, he clearly understands the importance of trade," Lane said.

Thursday's announcements amounted to a mixed bag for labor, which was thrilled by the Solis nomination but is worried about Kirk.

It also could be seen as a shift in fortune since Obama had been poised to nominate Rep. Xavier Becerra (D-Calif.) as his trade representative. Becerra voted against a controversial trade agreement with Central American countries and has said he regretted his vote for the North American Free Trade Agreement.

Becerra pulled out of the running for the trade post this week, telling La Opinion that he decided to stay in Congress because trade was not going to be a high priority for Obama.

Business and labor sources said that by effectively replacing Becerra with Kirk, Obama replaced what was seen as a known commodity with an unknown.

Kirk could have a full plate if he wins confirmation.

The Bush administration has negotiated trade deals with Colombia, Panama and South Korea, but the Democratic Congress has raised objections to all three. Obama will inherit the three deals when he takes office.

Kirk would also be faced with a global round of World Trade Organization talks launched two months after the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks. Those negotiations have sputtered, but could take on a new urgency as the world economy weakens.

Georgia Judge Jails Muslim Woman Over Head Scarf

ATLANTA - A Muslim woman arrested for refusing to take off her head scarf at a courthouse security checkpoint said Wednesday that she felt her human and civil rights were violated. A judge ordered Lisa Valentine, 40, to serve 10 days in jail for contempt of court, said police in Douglasville, a city of about 20,000 people on Atlanta's west suburban outskirts.

Valentine violated a court policy that prohibits people from wearing any headgear in court, police said after they



arrested her Tuesday.

Kelley Jackson, a spokeswoman for Georgia Attorney General Thurbert Baker, said state law doesn't permit or prohibit head scarfs.

Continue on Page 8

Lubbock Group Asks For Help From Black Churches!

Twenty members of the newly organized Lubbock For Economic Progress met last Saturday morning, December 20, 2008, at the Chatman Hill Restaurant, 512 East 23rd Street.

LaCarl Richardson, vice president, presided over the meeting which included valuable information about what it could do to better stabilize the East Lubbock community.

Donnell Hooper, who coordinated a recent Town Hall meeting which was sponsored by his organization, Bridging Lives Across Cultures, Communities, Covenants & Creeds - Boldly, Realistically, Intelligently, Consciously Concerned And Committed! (B.L.A.C.C.C. - B.R.I.C.C.C.), gave an overview of what the town hall meeting was all about.

"It's a shame when we can drive west on 82nd Street and see a tremendous difference between east and west Lubbock. There is no doubt about it, there are two Lubbocks!" said Hooper.

The group voted to invite local Black pastors and their priest officer to come hear what they are addressing in the community about the need to help East Lubbock.

With the pastors speaking from the pulpits, we will be able to raise monies to do something for ourselves," says Hooper.

Hillary Hutchinson, who worked with Hooper, encouraged the need to support the local travel agency owned by Sonia Fair. "Working together, things will happen."

A meeting will be held Saturday morning, January 17, 2009, inviting the local Black pastors to come and meet, beginning at 10:00 a.m. at Chatman Hill Restaurant. It is the feeling of the organization as many Pastors as possible will be in attendance.

"We feel this is very important for this meeting to take place with our leaders from the various churches as they speak to many people each Sunday morning. We need to them know we can make something happen if we are all on the same page," continued Hooper.

Another member, Rodney Moore, spoke about the concern for the Black community to know how to spend their money. "We need some kind of a con-

World-renowned African Children's Choir Performing in Lubbock



Vancouver, Canada - The internationally acclaimed African Children's Choir will be performing in Lubbock on Wednesday, January 7th, 2009!

The acclaimed African Children's Choir has been performing community concerts across North America and around the world for 24 years, raising awareness of the plight of Africa's most vulnerable, but also showing the beauty, dignity and potential of each African child.

Founder Ray Barnett says, "The needs among African children are so great because of war and the AIDS pandemic sweeping across that continent yet these children are so full of joy. They truly are ambassadors of hope to

Many of the children in the choir have lost one or both parents to poverty and disease, yet in spite of the tragedies that have marred these young lives the children radiate hope. They demonstrate the potential for a better life for themselves and the millions of other children on a continent in turmoil.

The children charm audiences with their radiant smiles, beautiful voices and boundless energy. A mixture of traditional African songs and dances, well-

summer training program to open our eyes on what's important for the Black community," said Moore.

Speaking with enthusiasm was Bobby Walker who gave an idea on how to raise some money for East Lubbock. "If 1,000 Black men would put up \$1,000 we could raise \$100,000 which could serve as seed monies for some development in East Lubbock," he said.

"We have much to do and we can make some things happen if we keep heading the right direction, and working together," said LaCarl Richardson.

loved children's favorites and familiar gospel songs have concert-goers clapping, cheering and singing along.

There is no admission charge for the concert. A free-will offering will be taken.

See the Choir on Wednesday, January 7th, 2009: 7:00 pm at Calvary Baptist Church, 5301 82nd St, Lubbock.

The Choir is committed to helping these children physically, spiritually, emotionally and academically, giving each child an opportunity to reach their God-given potential.

When their tour is over the children in the Choir will return to Uganda to attend a boarding school operated by Music for Life, the parent organization of the African Children's Choir. The children will be supported until the children have completed post-secondary school.

The African Children's Choir is currently providing care and education for several thousand underprivileged children throughout Africa. For more information on the African Children's Choir please visit our website at www.africanchildrenschoir.com or email us at info@africanchildrenschoir.com

The group agree to stay within their mission statement and do somethings which will enhance East Lubbock.

"There is so much we can do if we would only keep focused on what we want to do," said Eddie P. Richardson.

"You'd be surprised about the amount of money our Black Churches raise and spend. If you'd just look, it lets know we can make somethings happen," said R. J. Givens, who was the eldest person in the meeting. "I've seen so much, and I am looking for a change," said Givens.

Hooper reminded the group of an upcoming Youth Summit which is scheduled for January 24, 2009. "I have visited with local principals and educators about this Youth Summit and they are very excited about this upcoming event," said Hooper.

"We just want to work with these young people and let them know of the many opportunities available for them in Lubbock and throughout the world," said Hooper.

If there are any young men and women who are interested in the growth and development of east Lubbock are asked to attend these upcoming meetings.

"Just think of what we can do if we would only try and do it together," said Hutchinson. "The New Year can be an outstanding one for all of us if we would just stay together and move in the right direction," continued Hutchinson.

Supt. David Haynes is president, but was unable to attend.

Living History!



Hodges Elementary instructor Shirley Green, left, is shown above with nationally acclaimed Native American speaker Eldreda Douma. Ms. Green is a fourth grade teacher and the Social Studies Curriculum Liaison for Hodges Elementary.

As liaison, her responsibilities include sharing information with staff and teachers, advocating for the campus and bringing social studies alive in the classroom.

The Lubbock Roots Historical Arts Council is a participant in LISD's Partners in Education Program with both Iles and Hodges; as such, the Council seeks to create opportunities for these two campuses throughout the year.

Chatman Hills Corner

By Doris Reynolds

Important news about Lubbock Public Schools. January 6 - Registration for online classes opens and runs through January 16. A total of 15 classes are available and any high school student with internet access and a computer including those from outside the Lubbock Independent School District.

For more information, contact Nancy Sharp at 766-1062. Online contact Tracy Clanton-Smith at 766-1132.

Also on January 6, registra-

tion for South Plains College classes for adults at Estacado High School from 6 - 7 p.m. in the Library at 1504 E. Itasca.

In addition to the classes being offered for college credit, workforce development and dual credit classes will also be available.

On January 8, Mid-term commencement exercises begin at 7:30 p.m. at Monterey High School at 3211 47th Street. A total of 59 students from all LISD high school campuses are

currently scheduled to graduate. Dr. Douglas Karr, adjunct professor of finance at Wayland Baptist University, and Lubbock Christian University will be the commencement speaker.

City of Lubbock offices will be closed Thursday, December 25 and Friday, December 26, 2008, in observance of the Christmas holidays.

Emergency services will continue without interruption.

Let us continue to pray for those who are sick and shut-in. This is a very good gesture to do over these Christmas and New Years Holidays. It could have very well been one of us, but God knows what He is doing!

Also, there are those among us who have lost loved ones, let us not forget them. Again, God is able!

Have a Merry Christmas and remember the reason for the season. Just think of where the Lord has brought you and your family.

And those in the various congregations.

Scripture For The Week: Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity. It is like the precious oil upon the head. Running down on the beard of Aaron. Running down on the edge of his garments. It is like the dew of Hermon. Descending upon the mountains of Zion. For there the Lord commanded the blessing life forevermore. Psalm 133:1-3.

FASHION FUN

by Shirley Robertson

Christmas Fashions

Are you looking for something special or something different? You should visit us. If it's in style, we have it... leg warmers, arm warmers, leggings of all colors, even jean leggings! Casual tops and

dressy tops, beautiful colorful sunny tops, just in time for the holidays. Dresses galore, you have to see it to believe it. Skinny, flare jeans, and denim sets. Wigs, girdles and much much more!

Junior and Plus sizes. ALSO MEN COLORFUL T-SHIRTS UP TO 5X ... YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT YOU WILL FIND! THE LOWEST

www.southwestdigest.com

PRICES IN TOWN! *** Merry Christmas & Happy New Years!

The Biggest Loser Club

We would like to announce the "Biggest Loser Club" that we will be sponsored jointly by Good Shepherd Family Worship Center and the Theodore Phea Boys and Girls Club. As many of you know the country has become more overweight thus creating health issues that deal with adults and children as well.

This is an effort to get people in East Lubbock to get off the couch in order to exercise and eat properly. If we don't do anything right now we are going to create a generation of children that are overweight with health problems as well such as heart disease and diabetes.

Starting on January 5, 2009

at the Theodore Phea Boys and Girls Club, you may stop by between the hours of 3pm and 7 pm in order to sign up. There is no sign up fee, but a willingness to loose weight in order to get healthy. You will be required to come to the Boys and Girls Club at least 3 times a week and walk for 30 minutes around the gym. You will also receive health tips, dieting tips and tips on preparing healthy meals.

The contest will go from

January through May and whoever has lost the most weight will win the grand prize of \$500.00 So lets sign up and start the process of becoming healthy. This is an adult only program, no one under the age of 18 may participate.

Dr. Robert L. McKenzie
Unit Director
Theodore Phea Boys and Girls Club

New Light Baptist Church News

On Sunday morning, December 21, 2008, church service begun at New Light Baptist Church, 3013 Idalou Road, where Rev. Kenneth Jackson is the proud pastor.

Sunday School started at 9:45a.m. Brother Chiles taught the lesson entitled: "The Gift Of Kept Promises". Sister Gloria Lee is the Secretary of Sunday School. The Sunday School is very pleased with what she is doing

Morning worship begun at 11:00a.m. with the devoted Praise Team leading the way. Rev. L. C. Lee lead the pulpit devotion. The Senior Choir marched in singing "O I Want To See Him".

The responsive reading was read by Rev. Lee and it Psalm 138:1-8. The altar prayer was led by Rev. Jackson as the choir was singing "My Soul Loves Jesus".

Sis. Rochelette Hood read the morning announcements and reminds us of the upcoming events that would be taking

place. Fellowship period was held for about 5 minutes and then the offering was taken up.

The Senior Choir sang "Go Tell It On The Mountain" and "Jesus'. Amazing Grace."

Rev. Jackson sermon was entitled: "What's In God's Corn Crib" His scripture text was taken from Isaiah 9:6; Luke 2:9-14. After the sermon, the choir sang " Silent Night."

The invitation to discipleship was extended. There were several who came for prayer.

Sis. Ann Mosley acknowledged all the visitors that were present. Immediately after services, a Christmas celebration was held where a delicious dinner was held and gifts were exchanged with one another.

No weekly meeting are schedule this week due to the Christmas activities.

Pray for not only the leaders of our country but also for those in our surrounding coun-

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



Meet the Pastors of the Church of the Blessed. The Church is located at 1809 34th Street. They invite those looking for a Church Home to come and visit with their congregation. The number of baptisms is 40. The Church of The Blessed is still visiting the Lubbock County Jail with it's Jail Ministry where there were 24 saved and continuing. Prayer at the Lubbock County Jail is held at 5:00 a. m. Monday through Friday. Saturday evenings English Services begins at 7:00 p. m.

YOUR INVITATION TO A NEW BLESSING!

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

Church of the Blessed

Church of the Blessed
1809 34th
Lubbock, TX 79411

LUBBOCK SENIOR CENTER HOSTS ANNUAL NEW YEAR'S EVE GALA

The Lubbock Senior Center will host its annual New Year's Eve Gala on December 31, 2008, from 6:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. Tickets are \$15 per person and include a dinner, dancing and party favors. To bring in the New Year, black-eyed peas and cornbread will be served at midnight. This year's event is open to anyone over age 21. Enjoy party hats, favors and dancing to live music until midnight to the tunes of The West Texas Express. Participants should wear their party best for an evening full of fun, food and dancing.

Tickets will be sold in advanced only and can be purchased at the Lubbock Senior Center on Page 4

CHATMAN HILL RESTAURANT & CATERING FORMERLY 'THUNDERBIRD'

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Registration will be from 6 to 7 p.m. on Jan. 6.

Courses include Art Appreciation, English, Government, U.S. History, College Algebra, Psychology, Chemistry, Business and Professional Speech, Reading and Human Development.

For more information contact Jim Walker, 806.716.2340
1504 E. Itasca Street

www.southplainscollege.edu

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2202 SOUTHEAST DRIVE
806.744.7552
FAX No. 806.741.0208

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

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

Pastor Sonja J.B. Scott

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

Lubbock's First Branderized Inaugural Ball Hosted by The Lubbock Juneteenth Celebration Committee "A New Birth of Freedom"

Lubbock's Branderized Inaugural Ball
7pm - 11pm

Club Bar - Branderized Stage at 8pm
Tickets - \$25 per person \$40 per couple
Tables Available

Live Music by The
Who Available a Great Variety Keep Out of the Sun Dance
Ask for Branderized Ball

For More Information Contact
Tanya Johnson @ 282.2790 or Kathleen McWilliams @ 787.4512

Professional Entertainment
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Church News

FROM THE DESK OF PARSON D. A. SMITH "Sick And Tired Of Conservative Bigots"

The Washington Post carried a story dated 12/20/08 stating President-elect Barack Obama wrapped up his Cabinet appointments Friday, meeting his ambitious holiday deadline by assembling a team full of outside personalities with overlapping jurisdictions and nominees who are known more for pragmatism than for strong leaning on the issues they will oversee.

The story continued saying in Chicago, the president-elect announces his picks to lead the Department of Labor and Transportation, the Small Business Administration and the office of trade representative. The announcement of the labor nominee, Rep. Hilda Solis, D-Calif., the daughter of a union family who has a strongly pro-labor voting record, came as a relief to some liberals who had grown anxious about Obama's commitment to organize labor's agenda. "She's an inspired choice from working-class background, who represented a working-class district with middle-class sensibilities," said AFL-CIO legislative director Bill Samuels.

But many of Obama's other picks reflect his apparent preference for practical-minded centrists who have straddled big policy debates rather than staking out the strongest pro-reform positions. Their reputations as moderates have won Obama

plaudits from even some Republicans, but the choices offer relatively few clues to his plans in certain key areas.

The report continues saying, the Cabinet nominees are a fairly diverse lot. There are five women, if one includes (Lisa) Jackson and Susan Rice, the nominee for U.N. ambassador, whose positions Obama considers Cabinet rank. There are three Latinos, four blacks two Republicans-Defense Secretary Robert Gates and Ray LaHood, a retiring Illinois congressman who was named to be secretary of transportation.

On the flip side of this positive story, Manya A. Brachear of McClatchy Newspapers writes "Evangelicals fear losing power under Obama Rule."

Brachear writes "He not in office yet, but conservative evangelical Christians are already worried that Barack Obama's rise to the White House will threaten their freedom to live according to the Bible and profess it as the literal word of God.

If evangelicals don't act now, prayer in schools and on the airwaves would give way during the Obama administration to pornography and same-sex marriage, some predict. "We've seen what we feel is a clear rise in hostility among our institutions - political instructions and media," said Craig Parshall of

the National Religious Broadcasters, a Virginia group.

Manya writes these conservative evangelicals who has a great deal of access to the Bush administration and influenced its policies on abortion and other issues worry, that Obama's commitment to listen to the concerns of evangelicals comes with caveats on issues such as same-sex marriage and hiring gays and lesbians. They fear he would favor religious organizations like his own liberal denominations, the United Church of Christ, which was the first mainline Protestant church to condone equal marriage rights for couples regardless of gender.

This writer as with many other people of sound judgment takes issue with the views of the religious right bigots. It appears that these groups pick and chooses which part of the Bible they want to apply. These people who are supposed to be God-like choose based on which outside group of their limit thinking they would like to hate next. First, they emphasized slavery which my fore-parents had to bear base on their brand of the Bible. It was alright for them to bastardize black families however, if a white woman becomes pregnant by a black man she had better abort the pregnancy. It is hard to put trust in a group who's mind is always in the gutter and

Continued on Page 8

We Thank God for Jesus !"No Happy Birthday For Jesus!"

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

Isaiah 9:6a -- For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called wonderful.

Even the churches have taken this scripture, about a Jesus being born, but then made it a Christmas game; playing and mocking; God's only son!!!

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

Jesus said, "Go and teach; what I have command unto you".

The churches wants to bring in Jesus' birthday; and who ask them to???

John 10:1-5 -- Jesus said, verily, verily, I say unto you, he that enters not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbs up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. A stranger they will not follow, but will flee from them: for they know not the voice of strangers.

The church tells of Jesus; 2000 years ago he was wrapped in swaddling clothes.

The birth is half the story; he also had to die for man soul, to bring him to salvation!!!

John 3:16 -- Jesus said, for god so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believe in him,

should not perish, but have everlasting life.

The church begin to play a game; giving gifts, showing love and how to give.

And as time went on, the un-godly took over; and the real reason disappeared!!!

****Jesus is no longer the reason for the season--its-- SSSS****

When the un-godly took over Christmas, and put Santa Claus and, reindeers in the sky.

Now the story of the birth of Jesus is mixed in with a lie!!!

Romans 1:18, 20, 2 -- For the wrath of god is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth (the church) in unrighteousness. Being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and godhead; so they are without excuse, and changed the glory of the incorruptible god into an image made like to corruptible man (Santa Clause). From biers, and four footed beasts (reindeers), and creeping things.

The un-godly celebrates Christmas with trees, praying and doping and X-mas lights.

And will get mad at you, if you tell them it's suppose to be about Jesus Christ!!!

1 John 2:15 -- Love not the world, neither the things that are

in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the father is not in him.

(When you know it's not about God's business; the world wants in on it. Even Easter and rabbits laying eggs;

It's a lie and not the truth, but the church will go along with the devil and his ways!!!)

John 10:10 -- Jesus said, the thief come not, but to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and have it more abundantly (richly).

The un-godly have made Christmas, the most hateful, meanest, kill ingest, and miserable season.

It started out ok; but the church went along; with the un-godly reasons--SSS!!!

**** Now it's money season--now it called happy holidays!!!!

Many families will have a party; then it will turn into a domestic agreement.

That is not the way of Jesus Christ, and it not right!!!

1 John 4:7 -- Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that is born of God, and knows God. He that loves not knows not God; for God is love. (If it is Jesus' birthday; will there be presents for Jesus? Will there be even some talking about Jesus?)

Continue Page 5

St. Matthew's Baptist Church News

Church services were well attended last Sunday mornings at the St. Matthew Baptist Church, 2020 East 14th Street, where the proud pastor is Rev. Edward Canady. It was a very exciting day as all members were full of inspiration.

Services got underway with the Sunday School beginning at 10:10 a. m. with Superintendent Sister Shirley Davis in charge. The subject of the morning lesson was "The Gifts of Kept Promises." The scripture text

was Luke 2:8-20.

This lesson reminded us of the true meaning of Christmas.

The Key Verse was: "And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them."

The morning worship hour got off with the morning devotion led by Deacon Edward Williams and Sister Ethel Williams. The spirit was very high.

The St. Matthew Baptist Church Choir - sung out of their hearts and souls. What a blessing this choir is to all of us at St. Matthew.

Pastor delivered a very timely sermon entitled "The reason Christ Came." His scripture text was Matthew 2:5-10 and Luke 2:10-11.

It was a very inspiring sermon for all in attendance. Hopefully, this word will be taken to others in the Lubbock community.

Let us remember those who are sick and shut-in. There are many among us who are on the sick and shut-in list. Among them include Sister Betty Titus. Your precious prayers are most appreciative.

If you get an opportunity, if you know of someone who is shut-in, why not give them a telephone message or a visit. It will mean so much.

St. Matthew Baptist Church was host to the monthly meeting

of the Federation of Choirs. It was well attended, and all had a shouting good time in the Lord.

Thought For The Week: "Knowing that God loves us comes by faith; feeling he loves us comes from our relationship with him."

As we always make known each week, if you do not have a Church Home, then come and visit with us at the St. Matthew Baptist Church. You will be

glad you did so. Our doors are always open for you!

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour which is Christ the Lord."

We are still looking for a musician. If there is anyone interested, then give Pastor Canady a call at 744-2445.

Have a Merry, Merry Christmas, and let us not forget why we are celebrating!

Outreach Prayer Breakfast

Christmas Bible Verses Bible Verses for Your Christmas Celebrations

Are you looking for Bible verses to read on Christmas Day? Perhaps you're planning a Christmas family devotional, or just looking for Bible verses about Christmas to place on your Christmas cards. To help you find just the right words, this collection of Christmas Bible verses is arranged according to various themes and Bible events surrounding the Christmas story and the birth of Jesus.

If presents and wrapping paper, mistletoe and Santa Clause are all stealing your vision away from the true reason for this season, take a few minutes to meditate on these Christmas Bible verses and make Christ the central focus of your Christmas this year.

The Birth of Jesus Matthew 1:18-25

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth

to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel"--which means, "God with us."

When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus. (KJV)

Luke 2:1-14

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to his own town to register.

So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them,

and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and say-

ing, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests." (KJV)

The Visit of the Shepherds Luke 2:15-20

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby,

who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.

But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told. (KJV)

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Tony Brewer

Obsequies

Randal Thornton

Funeral services were held Tuesday morning, December 23, 2008, at the Christ Temple COGIC with Supt. David Haynes, pastor, officiating.

Burial was held in Peaceful Gardens Memorial Park in Woodrow under the direction of Griffin Mortuary & Funeral Home of Lubbock.

He passed away Thursday, December 18, 2008, at the University Medical Center.

He was born October 27, 2008, to the parentage of Jesse and Helen Thornton in Littlefield. He worked as a chef and he enjoyed his family and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents and two brothers, Ricky Thornton and DeAndre Thornton



He leaves to mourn his memory his wife, Ruthie; one son, Joshua Cobbs; step-father, Jesse Craddock; his siblings: Larry Freeman, Sharon Thornton, Gregory Thornton, Rosalind Alexander, Bobby Wayne WSillard, and Keith Thornton, and a host of other relatives and friends.

Death of Sean LeVert prompts new jail drug policy



Gerald LeVert, left, Sean LeVert, center, and Marc Gordon, pose in this May 15, 1989 file photo. Thirty-nine-year-old Sean LeVert died March 30, 2008, at Lutheran Hospital in Cleveland

The death of R&B singer Sean LeVert in Cleveland has led to a proposed new policy that provides more flexibility in giving inmates their anti-anxiety medication.

The member of the 1980s R&B trio LeVert and son of lead O'Jays singer Eddie LeVert died March 30 after becoming ill at the Cuyahoga County jail in Cleveland.

The jail administrator and a jail doctor proposed the change to allow inmates to get their prescribed medication as soon as their prescriptions are verified.

LeVert's widow, Angela Lowe, filed a wrongful death lawsuit in June accusing jail officials of neglecting his medical needs.

The lawsuit says LeVert was not given the prescription Xanax that he had brought to the jail when he started serving a sentence for failure to pay child support.

www.southwestdigest.com
Freedom Rider: Gay Rights and Black America

"It wasn't possible for black votes to have single handedly provided the margin of victory" for California's ban on gay marriage. "A majority of whites, Latinos and Asians all voted for" Proposition 8, and "those black voters who approved of Proposition 8 did so for the same reasons that people of other races did." Black political behavior on this issue and many others is also rooted in unique conditions of African American life, such as chronic high unemployment and mass Black incarceration. If society does not allow honest and sensitive discussion of African American problems, Blacks should not be expected to be paragons of correctness.

by BAR editor and senior columnist Margaret Kimberley

Did Sharpton Seal the Deal for Caroline Kennedy?

The instant that Caroline Kennedy faintly hinted that she was interested in Hillary Clinton's possibly soon vacant senate seat she got pounded. Kennedy was take your pick, just an inexperienced part time education consultant, an Obama shoulder rubber, a Park Avenue dilettante, and her senate bid was nothing more than a crass and naked grab to cash in her JFK blood tie. The point in the attacks was that she was a political novice using her famed name to vault over a pack of far more worthy, seasoned, and political dues paying elected officials to get the seat. None of the other presumed more

deserving candidates would need OJT in the senate seat. Kennedy would.

The attacks, rightly or wrongly, stung, and Kennedy quickly looked around the political landscape to find the right someone to burnish her admittedly paper thin political resume. The someone she latched onto was the Reverend Al Sharpton. This brought a fresh volley of criticism of Kennedy for picking Sharpton. He is to some critics the wrong someone to give her the needed political luster.

City Offices Closed For Christmas Holidays

City of Lubbock offices will be closed Thursday, December 25 and Friday, December 26, 2008, in observance of the Christmas holidays.

Emergency services will continue without interruption.

New Year's Gala

Continued from Page 2

Center located at 2001 19th Street. Hours of operation are Mondays and Wednesdays-Fridays from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Tuesdays from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. For information, contact 767-2710.

- Classifieds -
- \$115 queen size ortho pillow top mattress & foundation set. NEW!!! warr. 806-438-0081.
- California King orthopedic mattress set. BRAND NEW. \$250. 806-43 8-0081.
- DOUBLE/FULL orthopedic mattress set in plastic. NEW!!! \$105. 806-549-3110.
- ELECTRIC ADJUSTABLE bed & queen foam mattress. NEW!!! \$975. 806-549-3110.
- ADJUSTABLE BED & queen mattress. \$975. NEW. Warranty. 806-549-3110.
- 100% leather 5 pc. SOFA, loveseat, table set. Warranty. NEW. BOXED. \$650. 806-549-3110.
- Couch, loveseat, table set, neutral chenille. NEW still boxed!! \$550. 806-549-3110.
- Dinette set and chairs, stone top. BRAND NEW!!! medium brown. \$275. 806-549-3110.
- CHERRY DINING table, leaf, chairs. Still boxed!!! NEW!!! \$399. 806-549-3110.
- CHERRY double pedestal table, chairs, lighted china cabinet, NEW!!! \$1,390. 806-549-3110.
- SLEIGH bedrm set, complete 6-pc. NEW, BOXED. \$599. All sizes!! 806-549-3110.
- 4 POSTER oak complete bedroom set. NEW from mfg. \$575. 806-549-3110.
- CHERRY VICTORIAN sleigh bed for guest room. STILL BOXED!! \$250. 806-549-3110.

- Employment Opportunities -

Texas Tech University Physical Plant is seeking motivated individuals for the following openings:

Tradesman - Carpenter REQ#77607 & #74678

Perform skills in the construction, maintenance, alteration and repair of structures, buildings and build-in components or furnishings. Knowledge and experience with prepping and installation of doors, hinges and locks.

Tradesman - Plumber REQ#73266

Work experience in the installation, repair/maintenance of plumbing systems including: potable water, natural gas, sanitary and storm sewage, fixtures and sub-systems. Knowledge of Uniform Plumbing Code and NEPA standards.

Tradesman - HVAC REQ#76039

Recent experience and three years experience formal training (college or trade school) in refrigeration, EPA certification preferred. Work includes maintenance, troubleshooting and repair of commercial/industrial refrigeration equipment. Knowledge of electrical control circuits necessary.

Tradesman - Electrical REQ# 76689

Safely performs journeymen level electrical skills in the installation, maintenance, and repair of electrical systems with voltages ranging from 24-600 volts, single and three phase motors equipment according to the National Electric Code to ensure the safe and economical usage of electricity.

Tradesman - SteamFitter REQ#76629

Skilled work in the maintenance of journeyman level painter, commercial experience to include methods, practices materials, preparation, and mixing. High knowledge skills in the area of tape, bed, and texture and have experience in wall paper, vinyl's, stripping, and hanging.

Chosen applicant must pass pre-employment physical and criminal history background check. Must have a valid driver's license and insurable to operate a university vehicle.

Please go to <http://jobs.txastech.edu/> to apply



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Have A Safe Holiday? We Pray That All Is Well As You Travel?

You Can't Have A Future Without A Past
Continued from Page 5

disfranchised areas at a disadvantage. This group of Lubbock citizens and children from the old Lubbock group constitutes the majority of Lubbock not the new Lubbock area, also it causes a transportation problem for the less affluent areas. The gate way funds closed book until east Lubbock started questioning it's disbursement.
Closing thought We have not inherited the Earth from our parents; we have borrowed it from our children.

Notice of Opportunity for a Public Hearing

Re: City of Lubbock/Citibus grant applications for the following: Section 5307 Jobs Access Reverse Commute, and New Freedom for fiscal year 2008-2009.

Notice is hereby given that an opportunity for a public hearing will occur on January 12, 2009, at 12 noon at the Citibus Conference Room, 801 Texas Avenue. The purpose of this hearing is to consider financial assistance under the Federal Transit Act of 1964, as amended, for the following programs:

Section 5307 Funds - The total program cost is estimated at \$3,656,250, \$2,925,000 of which will be provided by Federal Transit Administration Section 5307 funds and \$731,250 as local match. This funding will be used for preventive maintenance, non-fixed route ADA services, planning, operating, and capital improvements. Specific projects will include passenger amenities and security upgrades.

Jobs Access Reverse Commute - This program cost is estimated at \$334,786, \$167,393 of which will be provided by the Federal Transit Administration funds and \$167,393 as local match. This funding will be used to provide specific fixed route services.

New Freedom - This program cost is estimated at \$82,298, \$65,838 of which will be provided by Federal Transit Administration funds and \$16,460 as local match. This funding will be used for mobility management.

Interested individuals and agencies may submit evidence and recommendations orally or in writing before 5:00 p.m. on January 9, 2009. Written comments may be addressed to Citibus Planning Department, PO Box 2000, Lubbock, Texas, 79457; emailed to mharvey@citibus.com; or faxed to 806-712-2012. Oral comments may be made by calling 806-712-2003. Written documentation on the above projects is available at the Citibus offices, 801 Texas Avenue.

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SHIGELLOSIS

What is it?

- A diarrheal illness caused by the *Shigella* bacterium that lasts from 4-7 days.
- Some people who are infected may not have any symptoms but are still able to spread the bacteria.

What are the symptoms?

- Diarrhea
- Abdominal Cramping
- Fever
- Nausea
- Vomiting

How is it spread?

- Person-to-person through the unwashed (or improperly washed) hands of an infected person
- Direct contact with person who is infected, or
- By food or drink handled by the person infected

How can it be prevented?

- GOOD HANDWASHING (with soap and water)
 - Before and after eating or handling food
 - Always after using the toilet
 - After infant diaper changes
 - Frequently throughout the day

What should I do if I think I may be infected?

- Call your doctor immediately
- Use good handwashing while you are ill to prevent spreading the illness to your family and/or co-workers.

Editorials • Comments • Opinions

THIS N THAT

by T.J. Patterson

WILL HOST TOWN HALL MEETING! THIS N THAT received an email last Friday, December 19, 2008, from our Lubbock Public Schools Board of Trustees member, MS. VERNITA WOODS-HOLMES, advising she will host a TOWN HALL MEETING soon after the new year... and will advise when there is something in place. TRUSTEE HOLMES advises she "LOOKS FORWARD TO HEARING THE CONCERNS OF THE COMMUNITY." THIS N THAT will advise when the meeting will be held.

PENNY HASTINGS THE BARBER SAYS: "DON'T FORGET the real REASON FOR THE SEASON as we celebrate the BIRTH OF OUR SAVIOR" CONGRATS TO 100 BLACK MEN OF WEST TEXAS! THIS N THAT wants to say CONGRATS

to the 100 BLACK MEN OF WEST TEXAS for their upcoming 14TH ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP GALA which is set for Saturday evening, December 27, 2008 at the Hillcrest Country Club from 7:00 p. m. until 1:00 a. m. It is GREAT to see the leadership of the 100 BLACK MEN OF WEST TEXAS and its president GREG RICKS for the positive programs they sponsor for our young Fellas of the community when they sponsor the ANNUAL KID'S FISHING DERBY which happens in June in Mae Simmons Park. THIS N THAT wishes you the very best in your 14TH ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP GALA 100 BLACK MEN OF WEST TEXAS.

THANKS TO ALL OF YOU!! THIS N THAT wants to take this time and say THANKS to those who helped with the SOUTHWEST DIGEST over the

past 30 years. First of all THE OUTREACH PRAYER BREAKFAST which was the first organization to publish their meetings over 30 years ago. There is PARSON SMITH pastor of Smith Temple Church THANK GOD FOR JESUS with B. J. Morrison, III CHATMAN HILL CORNER with Doris Williams. The ST MATTHEW BAPTIST CHURCH and NEW LIGHT BAPTIST CHURCH. Also Renetta Howard who has been writing IN CINQUE a former Lubbock resident but still writes an article each week from Mississippi. It is just good to know there are those who want to be a part of the SOUTHWEST DIGEST. THIS N THAT is just happy with what has been done over these years. With the help of God things have happened and we are grateful. May God continue to bless all of them!!

THINK ABOUT IT!

"You Can't Have A Future Without A Past"

by Eddie P. Richardson

Last week we talked about some of unfairness of the eastern quadrant of the city of Lubbock. This week, we will take up where we left off and close out this particular subject. The children who lived in the old area of the city, it was reported, many of them could not walk to the soccer field and many of their parents can not drive them; nor can they afford to ride the bus to and fro to and from the fields.

Many of the children of the children in the new area of town could easily walk to the soccer field or their parents can easily afford to drive them there. The ball fields and soccer field are not the only area of concern, and the concern is not totally racial. It is old vs new Lubbock; not only is east Lubbock over looked and by passed over, just look at 34th Street and other parts of old Lubbock deteriorated as money is poured into new Lubbock.

After all is said and done, finally a look is being taken at down town by the MacDougal group with a premium price. Let's hope and pray a look is given to down town's eastern boundaries and, most of all, some jobs comes to the depressed areas from this face lift project. The Gate Way funds until lately was a closed book except for east Lubbock. Now that the book is open, the mayor and a couple of council members are going full force on eliminating the over crowding out in the country. This writer has for over 40 years supported expansion and growth, but taking care of what you already have before you go out side of what's already there deteriorating and falling a part before you start reaching out to take care of what you already have.

Look Back At Some Events In 2008: Continue on Page 8

In Cinque

by Renetta Howard



Howard

I have been called the 'gift givingest woman I know,' by friends, co-workers and acquaintances. That is because at Christmas time, the child in me emerges. I am the child that 'Christmas Gift' meant just that. It is a time for giving gifts and lifting the spirits of those whom we love, who are near and dear to us as well as our friends, acquaintances and anyone who could use a lift during this most exciting time of the year when we celebrate the birth of the Christ child if we are Christians and events that are germane to whatever religion we are a part of. It may just be a civil holiday, but somehow, people around the world have cause to make merry during this time of the year. It is the selfless gift that makes the New Year happy. We give without expecting something in return, except happiness for the receiver of a gift.

God sent his only child, Jesus Christ to us as his gift to help us to become the loving, kind and generous people that we basically are. We were already good because he made us, but he intended for us to be better as Jesus provided the light for our path to glory through him. "God is good, all the time! He will see us through.

These are times of economic chaos, doom and gloom all around us, but we have so many things to be merry about. We are yet alive and many of us are blessed to see the political miracle of the election and upcoming inauguration of the first United States President of color. We are blessed to know that despite everything, this is going to be a special happy time of the year as we gather to enjoy the food, drink and warmth of this holiday with our friends and families. Some of us will attend special worship services in our local sanctuaries while others of us will volunteer at shelters, food banks, etc. to provide a nourishing holiday meal for the

homeless and helpless, that they too, may benefit from the birth of the Christ child and understand the meaning of Christmas. Sometimes, it takes a period of being without, to fully understand the meaning of the blessings that Christmas brings.

Little children understand and appreciate the gifts and toys that they receive for Christmas, but it is not until they understand the gift of Jesus Christ will they know what Christmas really is. All of us adults need to get 'in cinque' and let the children in us emerge and in the spirit of the Christ child, spread our love and cheer so that it resonates throughout the New Year!

Continue Page 3
Thank God Jesus

Will there be even some talking about Jesus? Will there be anything about the kingdom of God? Will there be a bible study there?)

John 8:31-32, Jesus said, if you continue in my word, then you are my disciples indeed; and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. **** God so love that he gave the gift; will the un-godly accept God's gift, and not try to give a gift; to show how good they are!!!!

Jeremiah 10:23-24, the lord said, 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 glory, glory in this, that he

understands and know me, that I am the lord - Which exercise loving kindness, and judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight in. We thank god for Jesus "No happy birthday for Jesus

Special Notice!

As of the first day of 2009, due to the cost of doing business, the cost more than tripled since we began the Southwest Digest. The U. S. postage is the reason why we are raising the cost to \$60.00 per year.

If you are a present subscriber, it will continue at present rate until it expires. If you renew before the increase, you will add that much more time to your subscription.

We appreciate your business and hope you will continue to support the Southwest Digest.

Regardless, we will continue with the help of God and you!



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Did slaves build the White House?
THE WHITE HOUSE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION
Timelines - African-Americans
1790s
The Information was taken from
WHITE HOUSE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

(Editor's Note: This is one of several articles about the history of The White House. It was published by The White House Historical Association. We thought this would benefit the total community. Ye Ed.)

Part III
Recorded that the city of Washington had 9,029 free blacks and 1,774 slaves. Although free blacks outnumbered slave residents, slave sales were still common, and Washington became a flourishing center for trade in slaves bound for the lands opened by the Louisiana Purchase. The slave pens of traders were located near the Mall and at Lafayette Square within sight of the White House. The trade finally was outlawed by the Compromise of 1850 and abolition of slavery in the District came in 1862.

For free blacks in Washington, D.C. life was better than many places below the Mason-Dixon Line. Formal education was easier to acquire (black-established schools dated to 1807), property ownership was possible, and some government jobs (usually messengers and doorkeeper) were open to blacks. Most found work as laborers, servants, barbers, cooks, maids, and gardeners.

However, municipal codes placed late night curfews on blacks and required them to register and to carry a certificate of freedom. Without this proof a black could be jailed as a runaway slave. The registration certificate was a precious document as it checked the over-zealous slave traders and

Parson Smith
Continued from Page 3

worrying about people's sexuality. People with such thought processes have stolen America blind and has nearly bankrupted the world. The Bible does say "One shall not steal." This includes "bastardization." Sick and tired of conservative bigots. More to come!

HERE'S CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR TO OUR MANY READERS & SUPPORTERS!

kidnappers in the city. Although it was a hard life, free blacks persevered and by the time of the Civil War had established a flourishing African American community.

Read More: Henry Chase, "Black Life in the Capital," American Visions, February-March, 1995, 14-15; Constance Green, The Secret City: A History of Race Relations in the Nation's Capital, Princeton, 1967.

1850s
In the 1850s, African Americans were dismissed from the White House ranks, not to be seen again until after the Civil War. President James Buchanan's household staff was entirely white. Buchanan specified that the new employees were to be British. He believed that people trained in the British system of domestic service would be less of a threat to his privacy and peace of mind. In his view, they were accustomed to big houses and loyalty was part of their ethic. Except for the butler, Pierre Vermeire, who was Belgian, all of the servants living under the Buchanan roof were from

England, Ireland, and Wales. Some of these continued in service during Lincoln's administration.

Read More: William Seale, The President's House, White House Historical Association, 1986. 1860s

During the Lincoln Administration some of Buchanan's British-born domestic staff remained and other workers were brought from Illinois. There were no slaves as servants.

Joining them in the White House, although she was not a member of the staff, was African American Elizabeth Keckley. She was a former slave and a talented seamstress who had bought her freedom and moved to Washington, D.C. where she established a dress-making business. Keckley became Mary Todd Lincoln's seamstress and eventually

ATTEND CHURCH ON SUNDAYS!!

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Bible Class - 9 am All Have Sinned - Rom. 6:23
Worship - 10:15 am We Must Do God's Will And
Evening Worship - 5 pm Obey Him To Enter Heaven
Wednesday: Matthew 7:21; Mark 5:9
Bible Class Devotion - 7 pm

How Do We Obey Him?
Hear The Gospel - Rom. 10:17
Believe Jesus Christ is Son of God - Mark 16:10
Repent Of Your Sins - Luke 13:3
For Transportation Call:
Charles Curtis at 535-7158.
ALL ARE WELCOME! COME AND WORSHIP WITH US!

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

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

PARKS AND RECREATION HOLIDAY YOUTH CAMPS

Parks and Recreation's annual Holiday Camps are now accepting registrations for youth ages 6 to 12 years old. Activities will include arts and crafts, games, and indoor recreation activities. Snacks will be provided, and parents must provide a sack lunch for their children. Register now to save your child a spot!

Holiday Camp at Mae Simmons Community Center
Register at Mae Simmons Community Center, 4020 30th Street, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Monday-Thursday. For more information, call 767-3796.

December 22-23, 7:30 am to 5:30 pm, \$30 per child (2 days)
December 29-31 and January 2, 2008, 7:45 am to 5:30 pm, \$60 per child (4 days)

Holiday Camp at Maxey Community Center
Register at Maxey Community Center, 4020 30th Street, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Monday-Thursday. For more information, call 767-3796.

December 22-23, 7:30 am to 5:30 pm, \$30 per child (2 days)
December 29-31 and January 2, 2008, 7:45 am to 5:30 pm, \$60 per child (4 days)

Holiday Camp at Hodges Community Center
Register Monday-Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Hodges Community Center, 41st and University Ave. For more information, call 767-3706.

December 22-23, 7:30 am to 5:30 pm, \$30 per child (2 days)
December 29-31 and January 2, 2008, 7:45 am to 5:30 pm, \$60 per child (4 days)

Holiday Camp at Mae Simmons Community Center
Register Monday-Thursday from 8:30 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. at Mae Simmons Community/Senior Centers, E. 23rd and Oak Ave. For more information, call 767-2708.

December 22-23, 7:45 am to 5:30 pm, \$14 per child (2 days)
December 29-31 and January 2, 2008, 7:45 am to 5:30 pm, \$28 per child (4 days)

Holiday Camp at Rawlings Community Center
Register Monday-Thursday from 8:30 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. at the Rawlings Community Center.

Covenant Health System to Receive \$100,000 Donation in Toys

Covenant Health System is pleased to announce the Callaway family from Roswell, N.M., will donate toys for the eighth consecutive year to Covenant Children's Hospital. The toys will be delivered to the hospital, located at 3610 21st St., at 1 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 18.

This year marks a new record

40th Street and Avenue B. For more information, call 767-2704.

December 22-23, 7:45 am to 5:30 pm, \$14 per child (2 days)
December 29-31 and January 2, 2008, 7:45 am to 5:30 pm, \$28 per child (4 days)

of \$100,000 worth of donations to Covenant Children's Hospital by the Callaway Family. Each year since 2001, the Callaways and their friends generously donate toys, electronics, pajamas and other supplies to Covenant Children's Hospital in honor of their daughter Lindsey. Lindsey Callaway is remembered as a kind and soft-spoken girl who was just 16 years old

when she died of a brain tumor she fought for three years.

"Every child should have something to look forward to each holiday season, and the

Callaways always find a way to make this happen for our pediatric patients," said Stephanie Thompson, child life specialist at Covenant Children's Hospital.

about black heterosexual attitudes towards gay people. Proposition 8, which defined marriage as being lawful only between men and women, passed by a 52 to 48 percent margin. Much has been made of a CNN exit poll which indicated that more than 70 percent of black Californians voted in favor of the ban.

After the ban was approved, many white gay men and lesbians then proceeded to act, well, white. They blamed black voters exclusively for the proposition's passage. Few of them bothered to investigate whether CNN's poll was an accurate reflection of what happened inside voting booths

across the state or question their ability to form coalitions with others.

If gay activists had bothered to ask these questions, they would have seen pretty quickly that it wasn't possible for black votes to have single handedly provided the margin of victory for the proposition. California's black population has fallen to a mere 6% of the state's total. A quick calculation should have made it clear that the number of eligible black voters in the state could not by themselves have defeated gay marriage rights. Indeed, more thorough research indicated that black support for Proposition 8 was in fact closer to 57 percent. As always, facts count for very little where black

Freedom Rider: Gay Rights and Black America by BAR editor and senior columnist Margaret Kimberley

"They blamed black voters exclusively for the proposition's passage."

The passage of a ban on gay marriage in California has unleashed a flurry of wrong-headed and racist thinking

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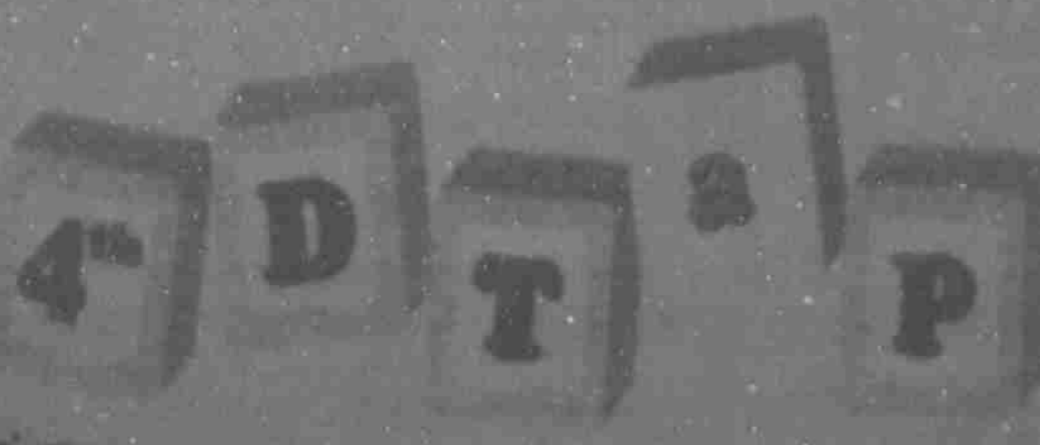
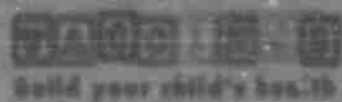


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King of Pop 'in fine health,' Jackson spokesman says

LOS ANGELES, California (CNN) — Michael Jackson's publicist wants you to know that, despite a tabloid report to the contrary, the 50-year-old singer "is in fine health."

The United Kingdom's Sun newspaper started a stir Monday morning when it quoted the author of an upcoming book about Jackson saying he was battling a potentially fatal disease that required a life-saving lung transplant.

Other papers echoed the Sun's thinly-sourced story and the rumor spread quickly through Internet message boards.

By Monday afternoon, Jackson's spokesman issued a response that said "The writer's wild allegations concerning Mr. Jackson's health are a total fabrication."

"Mr. Jackson is in fine health, and finalizing negotiations with a major entertainment company & television network for both a world tour and a series of specials and appearances," said Dr. Tohme Tohme, identified as Jackson's "official and sole spokesperson."

The original report quoted writer Ian Halperin saying Jackson's illness had robbed him of 95-percent of the vision in one eye and that he needed a lung transplant "but may be too weak to go through with it."

Jackson's reclusive lifestyle — and a photo earlier this year of him being pushed in a wheelchair — created a fertile ground for the planting of the rumor.

Tohme suggested Halperin's motive was to get attention for his book about Jackson.

"Concerning this author's allegations, we would hope in the future that legitimate media will not continue to be exploited by such an obvious attempt to promote this unauthorized biography," Tohme said.

Rolling Stone magazine



Michael Jackson's spokesman says reports of the singer's ill health "are a total fabrication."

responded Monday afternoon by denying Halperin ever won that honor, but did note he was on a school newspaper staff in 1985 that collectively received the "College Journalism Award"

You Can't Have A Future Without A Past!

Continued from Page 5

In 2008 the Lubbock City Council broke a record with drama. So much so a program or even a television production

A very diverse group of people from every walk of life civic, social, political, educational, ex-felons, all with one mind set making Lubbock, especially east Lubbock one of the main objectives which will include economic development, building and rebuilding our communities from the inside with the leadership and initiative coming from within the community.

One thing high on the agenda is going back to basics and going back to how the Black community's history of community building with the preachers and/or ministers taking the lead as it was, will, and must be. They control more people on Sunday morning than any other group.

Closing Thought: "If It Is To Be It Is Up To Me!"

from the magazine.

The Sun's report attempted to bolster its source's credibility by calling Halperin "an award-winning investigative journalist" who has "written for respected

Woman pleads guilty in 17-year-old's murder



Rhona Fields stayed in the same house and kept her phone number hoping her son would some day come home.

One of six people charged with the 2005 murder of 17-year-old Bernard Wilson pleaded guilty on Monday and will serve 29 years in prison for her role in the crime.

It wasn't until officials released a computer-generated image in December 2007 that they were able to identify him.

Wilson's body was found in

WALK CELEBRATION 2009

Praise the Lord everybody!
Again this year, we will be having combined Community choir and also a combined Children's Choir. Because there were so many wonderful Praise Dance Teams last year, this year we will be having a City Wide Dance Team! Preparations have

Rolling Stone magazine." Halperin's biography on his publisher's Web site claimed he was the winner of the "Rolling Stone magazine Award for Investigative Journalism."

December 2005 in the 7800 block of FM 835 near Buffalo Springs Lake. Officials estimate he was killed around April 21, 2005, according to arrest warrants.

It wasn't until officials released a computer-generated image in December 2007 that they were able to identify him.

Wilson's father, Bruce Wilson, saw the computer image and contacted officials, saying he thought it might be his son. A DNA test confirmed

Keyaira Brown, 35, on Monday agreed to just less than 30 years in prison and her attorney issued a statement for her Monday afternoon.

"She has asked me to express her most profound sorrow and regret to the family of Mr. Wilson," wrote Teresia L. DePoyster, Brown's attorney. "She accepts the punishment of the court and understands that she must pay the price for her terrible mistake."

The remaining five cases are still pending.

"Out of the six, there are varying degrees of culpability and we'll deal with each one of them based on the evidence," said Tray Payne, an assistant district attorney

already begun for this great Celebration, there have been wonderful support from the Churches and Community.

If you would like to be a part of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Mass Children's Choir and Youth/Young Adult Mass Choir as well as the City Wide Praise Dancers, the final rehearsals will be as follows:

Friday, January 2 and 9, 2009: Children Choir, 1st thru 5th grade, will practice at 6:30 p. m. at Alderson Middle School.

The Y Youth/Young Adult and Up will meet at 7:30 p. m. at Alderson Middle School.

The City Wide Praise Dance will practice at 12:30 p. m. until 3:00 p. m. on Saturday, January 3 and 10, 2009 at Community Baptist Church.

We are looking forward to a 100 voice choir and a 50 praise dancers.

Let us take this time and thank all Pastors and Churches in advance for their support.

Directress is Minister Equilla Morgan.

Muslim Woman

Continued from Page 1

It's at the discretion of the judge and the sheriff's and is up to the security officers in the court house to enforce their decision," she said.

Valentine, who recently moved to Georgia from New Haven, Conn., said the incident reminded her of stories she'd heard of the civil rights-era South.

"I just felt stripped of my civil, my human rights," she said Wednesday from her home.

She said she was unexpectedly released after the Washington-based Council on American-Islamic Relations urged federal authorities to investigate the incident as well as others in Georgia.

The group cited a report that the same judge removed a woman and her 14-year-old daughter from the courtroom last week because they were wearing Muslim head scarves.

Jail officials declined to say why she was freed and municipal Court Judge Keith Rollins said that "it would not be appropriate" for him to comment on the case.

Last year, a judge in Valdosta

in southern Georgia barred a Muslim woman from entering a courtroom because she would not remove her head scarf. There have been similar cases in other states, including Michigan, where a Muslim woman in Detroit filed a federal lawsuit in February 2007 after a judge dismissed her small-claims court case when she refused to remove a head and face veil.

Valentine's husband, Omar Hall, said his wife was accompanying her nephew to a traffic citation hearing when officials stopped her at the metal detector and told her she would not be allowed in the courtroom with the head scarf, known as a hijab.

Hall said Valentine, an insurance underwriter, told the bailiff that she had been in courtrooms before with the scarf on and that removing it would be a religious violation. When she turned to leave and uttered an expletive, Hall said a bailiff handcuffed her and took her before the judge.

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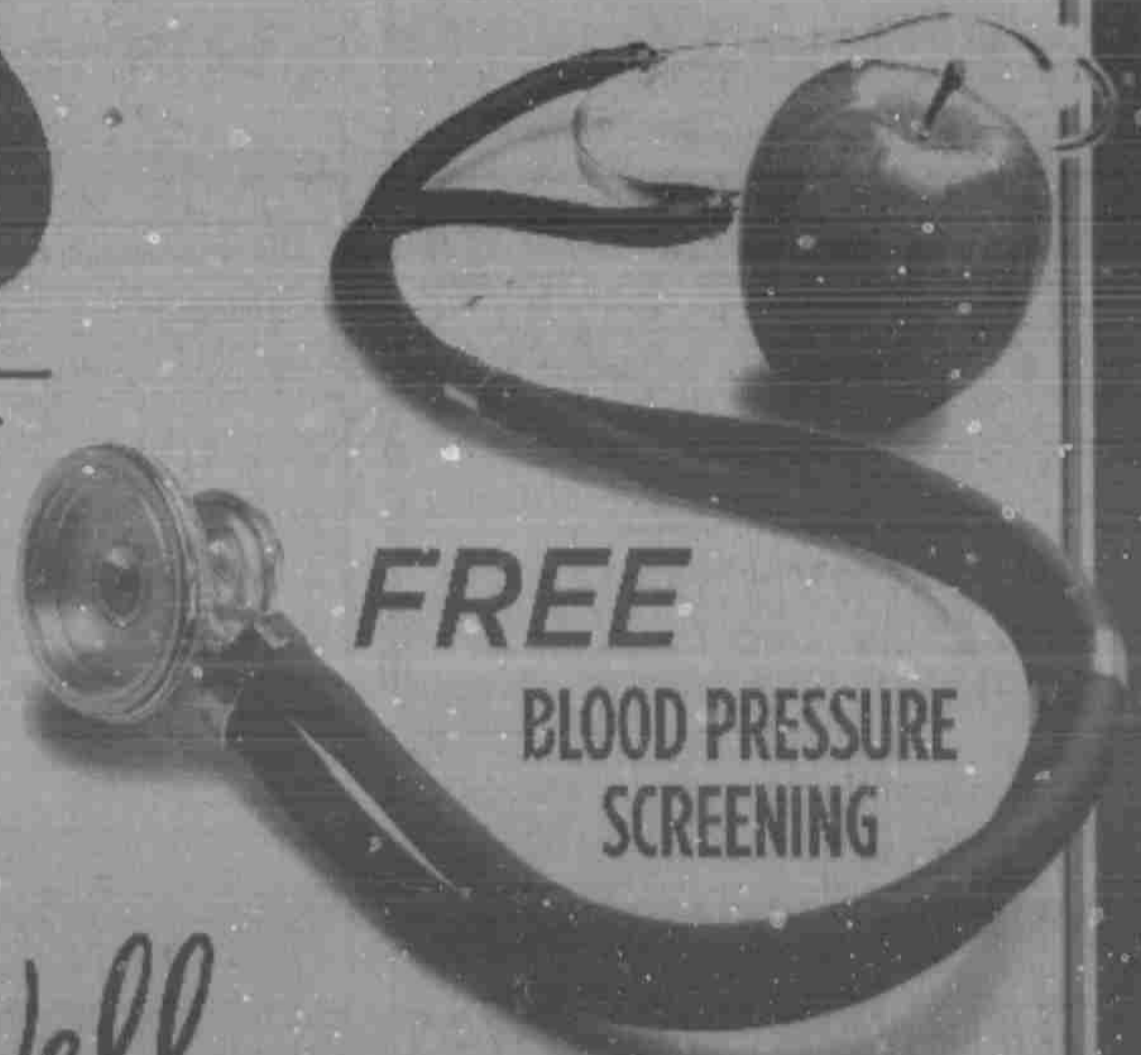
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