



The Lincoln Echo



We Pick
'Em, U
Name 'Em
See Pg. 7

Volume 14 Issue 7

September

2006 50 CENTS

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL REUNION



The 2006 Lincoln High School Reunion was held July 27, through July 31. Lincolnites and former Fort Smithians from across the USA assembled in Fort Smith for this festive event. The second annual LHSAA Golf tournament was the kick-off event Thursday morning and an exciting, PGA type tournament was played. Although the competition was fierce, Will (Tiger) Davis triumphed of all with a dazzling display of shots and putting skills James (Vijay) Richardson finished second.

Thursday night the first round of the first annual Bid Whist and Domino championship tournament was played while the rest of the crowd jammed with The Candy man, ate finger food and renewed old acquaintances. Friday started with a well-attended gala brunch given by Fort Smith Mayor Ray Baker who let everyone know LIFE IS WORTH LIVING IN FORT SMITH, ARKANSAS.

Friday night a Jazz combo played quiet music as the eating and reacquaintencing continued.

Saturday morning the LHSAA had a cancer walk, organized by William Whitley, to honor the late Francis Whitley and all cancer survivors. This event produced some stirring oratory by Dibble Sneed, Eugene Johnson, and William Whitley. \$540.00 was raised and donated to the Fort Smith Cancer House By LHSAA in the name of Francis Whitley. At 11 o'clock a.m. buses from the Choctaw Casino and a caravan of cars went to Pocola, Oklahoma for food and games. The casino gave each alumni \$10 to play with and charged \$3.50 for the luncheon buffet.

The classes of 1956 and 57 gave a great program Saturday night with speaker Don McGill delivering a stellar speech and three new people being inducted into our hall of honor. The new inductees were Mrs. Rizetta Davis, Mr.

Lawrence Wood, Sr. and Mrs. Mamie Josenburgher. CAB-BAGEHEAD AND THE SCREAMING RADISHES, a local band, put the icing on the cake with a knockout performance that had the crowd dancing the night away.

The reunion was capped with Sunday's picnic and the crowning of the Bid Whist and Domino Champions. George McGill made sure fun was had by all with his hilarious performance as play by play man and chief signifier at these events. Leo Good and Herbert Lee were crowned domino champions. Garland Bray and James (pee wee) Christian, under protest due to suspicious behavior, were named Bid Whist champions.

If you were not here you missed one heck of a time. If you were here you had a ball and are now planning on 2008 the reunion.

The classes of 1958 and 1959 are the hosts for reunion 2008. Ya'll come.

ART BURTON SIGNS BOOKS & GIVES A LITTLE HISTORY LESSON

Art Burton, author and history professor at South Suburban College in South Holland, ILL. appeared August 13th at the Fort Smith Public Library to discuss and sign his new book Black Gun, Silver Star. Black Gun, Silver Star is Burton's latest and most extensive account of Bass Reeves. Bass Reeves was one of the few African American U.S. deputy marshals of the American West. Reeves worked under the jurisdiction of federal judge Isaac C. Parker in Fort Smith, Arkansas. Reeves, who farmed and raised horses, lived in Van Buren,

Arkansas with his wife and family. Mr. Burton's book may be purchased at all major bookstores. Burton also portrayed George Winston, a bailiff



in Parkers court, at two of three re-enactments of Reeves murder trail in Judge Parker's restored courtroom at the Historic Sites visitors center.

The trail re-enactments served as fundraisers for the Bass Reeves Stature Project. These funds will be used to place a life size monument to Bass Reeves on the grounds of the Fort Smith National Historic Site.

The kickoff for the statue fundraising campaign, is the Rotary Sponsored Gridiron "06" September 30, 2006 and Craig Pair, President of Control Technologies, INC., serves as committee chair. For more information visit our website www.fort-smithrotary.org and for tickets visit www.ticket-bound.com or call 479-788-9380.

WADE POOL RECIEVES EISENHOWER AWARD

In November 1994, Wade M. Poole founded Edu-Safe International as a national merit ranking of 7 out of the top 10 students who received multi-year funding nationwide for his proposed dissertation research titled, Interactive Frameworks for Immersive Research, Support and Training, (I-FIRST). His research will address the uses of possible solutions through technology for the digital divide that exists between Prime Contractors and Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBEs) in the



highway construction industry. Currently, Wade is pursuing a Ph.D. in Applied Science in the Applied Computing option at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock where he is seeking to assist the Department of Transportation- Research and Innovative Technology Administration (RITA) in integrating emerging technologies that will improve our nation's transportation system in the future. Congratulations Wade from all of us at The Lincoln Echo.

SOON HOWARD CONTINUES TO ACHIEVE

Soon-Im Chon Howard is not your ordinary 9th grader. Soon-Im was ranked Number one out of two hundred forty in her graduating class last year.

While in her 8th grade year Soon received straight A's in every class, every semester. She has taken three honors courses and passed them all with flying colors.

Soon also got a little jump on life by taking the non-required Honors Algebra I course. The course is not required to pass the 8th grade, but it allows her to have an advancement in high school by starting

with one credit towards graduation.

Not only is she intelli-

gent, but she is also very active. She participates in the girls Volley Ball team and plays the flute in the Van Buren Butterfield Junior High School

with one credit towards graduation. Her future is already on her mind; when asked

what her goals in life are, she will proudly tell you that she wants to become a general surgeon or work in some position where she can help find cures for diseases.

Soon is the daughter of Thomas and Chon Howard of Van Buren.

The Lincoln Echo wishes Soon-Im only the best and congratulate her on her early success now and in the future.

Keep up the great work Soon from everyone at The Lincoln Echo.



LHSAA REUNION REGISTRATION

Local registration for the 2006 Lincoln High School reunion can be done after the regular meeting, the second Sunday of the month, at

the McGill walk-in Center. You are invited to attend our meetings and you don't have to be a graduate of Lincoln High School to attend or join

the association. There is plenty of work to be done and I'm sure you want the visitors to feel special. Your help will be appreciated.

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POTPOURRI

DAHELI HALL ON THE RISE

Becoming known nationwide, Deheli Hall is taking no time on her already successful career. With a Bachelors and masters of fine arts, this young beauty is on her way to the red carpet with her talent in film, theater, and writing. Deheli has already made her mark in the independent film industry with two films for the HBO Short Film Award. Her first film, The Memo, was a finalist for the reward in 2004 and is currently being broadcast on HBO

(check local listings for times). Among her works are the One-woman show



Crazy Bitch, that she wrote and performed last year. She will also be submitting her second short film Mandingo in a Box to the HBO Short Film Award. at this year's

American Black Film Festival. But don't expect to get a hold of any time soon. She's currently working on a musical on the Haitian immigrant experience, called Refugee as well as her first documentary, Peace Process. This anti-gang violence piece was made possible through a grant from the Black Hollywood Education & Resource Center. We wish Deheli the best on her career and we'll see we'll see you in theaters.

The Lincoln Echo Staff



Hi! I'm

MARTHA STEWART

I would like to have your vote for

SEBASTIAN COUNTY ASSESSOR

**I PROMISE TO BRING BACK
HARD WORK
INTEGRITY
HONESTY
FAIR ASSESSMENTS FOR ALL TAXPAYERS**

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email: mstewartassessor@yahoo.com

**Your Vote
Will Not
be taken for
Granted.**



Helm

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

VOTE MICHAEL HELM

State Representative District 65

Experienced Leadership

Downtown Rotary Club of Fort Smith

presents

The Gridiron 2006

"GRIDIRON '06"

What a joke!

"Life's Worth Laughing in Fort Smith, AR"

"YOU WON'T BELIEVE IT!"

Someone actually thought this was funny.

Saturday,

Sept. 30,

Fort Smith Convention Center **2006**

Cocktail Soiree 6:30pm

Show 8pm

"THE BEST THING TO HAPPEN TO FORT SMITH"

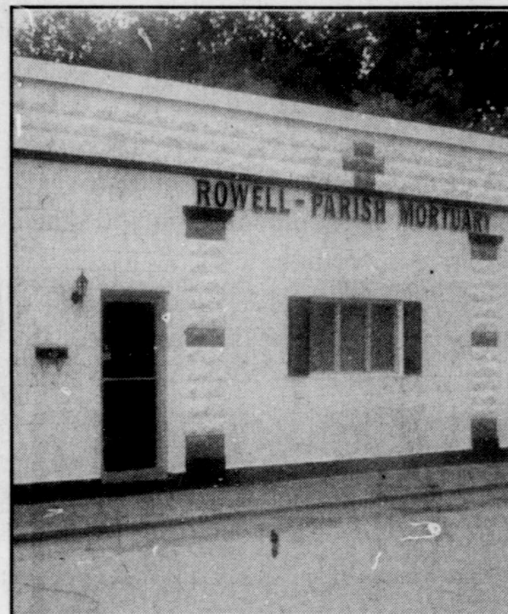
Was the two year break since the last Gridiron?

For Tickets:

www.ticketbound.com
or call 479.788.9380

For More Information:
www.fortsmithrotary.org

Benefiting
U.S. Deputy Marshall Bass Reeves
Statue Project



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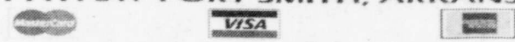
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Dine In or Carry-Out

WHAT'S GOING ON

WHAT'S GOING ON ?

By Allene Stafford

Movies in the Park
Chronicles of Narnia will be performed at Harley A. Wilson Park Friday, August 25th, 2006 8:30 p.m. Arrive early for **free school supply giveaway**. Hot dogs, popcorn, soda with movie concessions available **Free**. For more info please call 479 785 4225.

Wilhelmina Rod Run
This event takes place Saturday, August 26th, 2006 at the **Queen Wilhelmina State Park**, in Mena, Arkansas. Included will be a modified Hot Rod Display. Admission is to be announced. Please call 479 394 2863.

Fort Smith Art Center
There will be an art display on Sunday, August 27th,

2006 from 1-4 p.m. which will include **Ty Brunson** from Dover, **Sam King** from Fayetteville and **Gina O'Connor** from Clarksville. Light refreshments and a musical program will enhance the opening. The exhibit will close on September 23, 2006. The works of **Bill Brazelton** and **Anne Sayers** of the Photographic Alliance will be shown also. This exhibit will close on Saturday, September 23th, 2006. **The Fort Smith Art Center is open Tuesday- Saturday, 9:30 - 4:30. Admission is always free.**

Fort Smith Library
Author James Moulton will be available to visit and book sign on Sunday, August 27th, 2006 at the main branch of the Fort Smith library located on Rogers Avenue. Books will be for sale and refreshments

will be served. This event is Free. 479 646 3945 is the number to call for more information.



Christ For The World
Christ For The World International invites everyone to attend **It's Time For A Revolution** Monday, Labor Day Campmeeting 2006, which begins Thursday night August 31st and continues through Monday night September 4th with service times at 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. daily (Monday at 6:00 p.m.). Speakers will include

Apostle Bobby Hogan, Dr. Gwen Shaw, Prophetess Teresa Hogan, Prophetess Serita Wright, Pastor Euel Bilderback, Prophetess Glenda Hrapoff, and Prophet Isaiah Thompson. Campmeeting will be at the new home of **Christ For The World Church International Church** located at 4510 Towson Avenue (formerly the Phoenix Village Baptist Church). For more information, please call 479 649 5970.

Phillis Wheatley Federated Club
The sixth annual **Tablescapes, salad buffet (luncheon) & fashion show** will be held Saturday, September 9, 2006, 11:00 a.m. The place is the **Riverfront Pavilion, Harry E. Kelly Park** in Fort Smith. There will be beautifully decorated tables, wonderful-

ly delicious salads, fashion statements and much, much more! Donation is \$15:00 Table viewing 11:00 - 11:30 a.m. For tickets or more information, please call 474-2154 or 782 - 8358.

Quinn Chapel AME Church is having our Church anniversary 140yrs

Date Sunday Sept 10th, 2006
Time 4pm
Speaker Pastor Mack Jackson from First Baptist, Vian OK.
This will be our kick off fundraiser for the 72,000.00 Historical Restoration Grant we were awarded.
This is a matching fund grant and we are in the process of trying to raise our share, so we can restore Quinn Chapel to its original beauty. We are asking the Fort

Smith Community to help us we need you!
If you would like to help and can't right now, please mail donations to PO Box 8004 Ft. Smith, AR 72902

AAWC
The Northwest Region of Arkansas Association of Women's Clubs invites you to it's third annual **Fish Fry**, Saturday, September 16th, 2006 at the **Mt. Zion C.M.E. Church** located at 910 North 7th Street. The time: 10:30 - 2:00 p.m. Donation: \$6:50. For more information, please call **Club Presidents** or 782 4629.

To spread the word of your club events or other happenings in What's Going On, please call Allene 479 783 6830, fax 783 6840, e-mail linconews1@sbcglobal.net Or write to me: P.O. Box 771 Fort Smith, AR 72902



Assessor Becky Yandell is launching a campaign to promote Act 79 through out Sebastian County. Act 79 is an act passed by legislators of the state of Arkansas giving owner occupants of real estate up to \$300 credit off their taxes each

year and it also freezes the tax bill of senior citizens who own their own home after age 65, if there are no future additions to the home, or unless we have a millage rate increase. Mrs. Yandell plans to distribute tickets through out

Sebastian County to remind homeowners to call her to make sure they have their Homestead Credits and Tax Freeze. To find out call the Assesor, Becky Yandell at Fort Smith, 784-1516 or Greenwood @ 966-7045

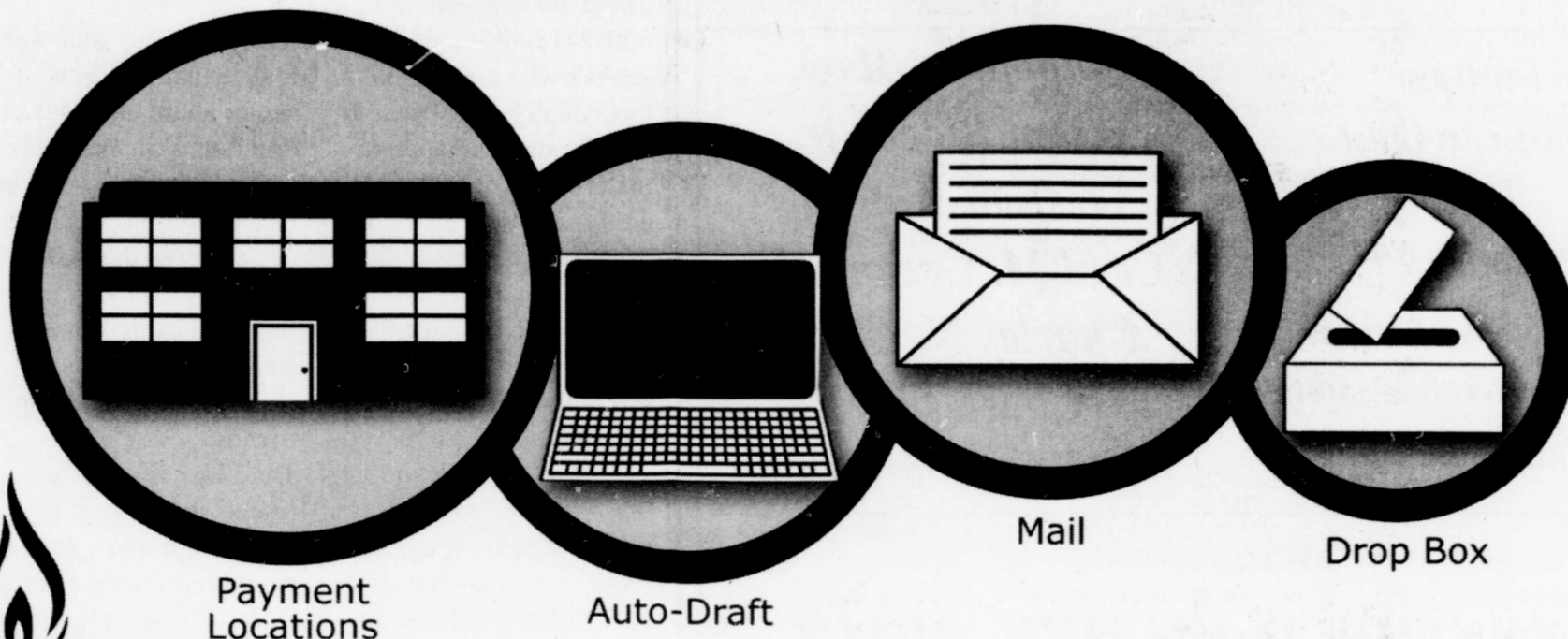
We're Closing Our Doors and Opening Yours!

Effective
SEPTEMBER 1st

The AOG office at 115 North 12th Street in downtown Fort Smith will be closed to the public.

Instead, you'll have **more convenient locations** to choose from. And with more choices than ever, it'll be *easier* than ever to pay your gas bill.

Choose your way to pay with AOG:



To learn more about our payment locations - and the one nearest you - **Visit us at aogc.com or call 479-784-2000.**

EDITORIALS

Page 4

Poe's Thoughts

INTEGRATION, DESEGREGATION OR EQUALITY ?

By Napoleon Black

Integration - The bringing of different racial or ethnic groups into free and equal association.

Desegregation - To abolish the separation of races by law.

Equality - Having the same political, social and economic rights.

Brown VS. Topeka Board of Education and the Civil Rights

Movement were fought to abolish segregation and separate but equal. The outcome of these acts was 1. Segregation in schools, public facilities, some jobs, some housing, some defacto segregation and the old American way of life were changed.

2. Black History was reduced to being taught one month per year at most schools.

3. White women were declared minorities.

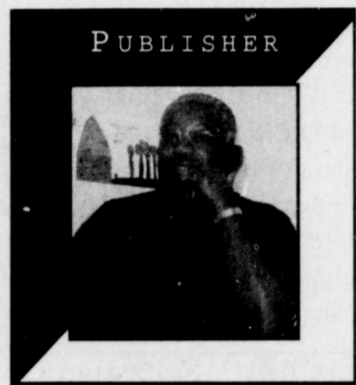
4. The village that had been crucial in the development and raising of Black children was destroyed.

Did the hands that picked cotton and endured untold horrors do so to enable their children to raise a generation unscarred by any vestige

of knowledge and values imparted in the home? Did the people who endured degradation, both physical and mental, to help their children surpass them economically and educationally suffer in vain?

The home is the genesis of thought, behavior, speech and value patterns. There is no substitute for quality time spent with children.

Babies having babies, vocabularies so limited cursing must be used for self expression, and no



respect for self or others are all by-products of a lack of discipline and home training. Is this a result of integration? Desegregation? Equality? The cause is a lack of home training and exposure, at an early age to adult problems and situations. Some Blacks disregarded their heritage and upbringing to integrate.

Their children demonstrate what neglect does. A neck filled with bling and an absence of personal substance seem to be the norm for half of today's youth. Are these problems the result of people so busy trying to assimilate that basic child rearing 101, as taught by the immediate family, the church, the school and the community, was forgotten? Our past should be the foundation of our present existence and the inspiration for our future.

The Montgomery bus boycott lasted one year and twenty days. Churches and community organization came together to achieve the desired result. This is an example of the village at work for our present generation.

The entire period of civil unrest was about equality. If equality is achieved, integration will occur and desegregation, defacto or any kind, will be abolished. But since we are dealing with human beings, there has to be legal enforcement of these inalienable rights. My question to you; integration, desegregation or equality?

KB & D Peace.

ALLEN'S PEARLS

TRAVELERS

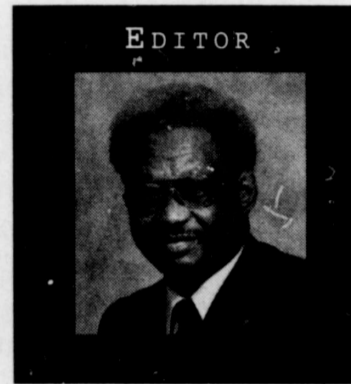
By Allen Black, Jr.

Z Hail, hail, the gang all came to the 2006 Lincoln High School Alumni Reunion, and except for a few who had trouble finding registration sites, all had a great time. Some visited familiar sites and many took the trip to the Choctaw Casino and had a blast. Enjoyed most of all was the ability to reminisce about the good old days.

About the same time our guests were traveling home, a big old bus was departing Bentonville, Arkansas, to see how much damage its passengers could wreak upon Walmart. Most of the riders were union members and supporters. Of course, they were backed by powerful members of the civil rights movement and the Democrat party. The participation of the latter groups is possibly based upon the support they received during the

grand moments of the movement and the unfailing voter turnout for the Democrat Party during that same period.

So there will be no misunderstanding, neither of the protagonists has purchased one column inch of advertisement from this



newspaper. Should either choose to do so, we would be pleased. Not a word in this missive, however, would be changed. The bus riders, visiting 35 cities, will do their best to bring pressure on Walmart to unionize or die. One can't blame them for trying, but it's a lost cause. Shoppers know the difference between Walmart

and Neiman-Marcus. The unions have caused Walmart to raise wages and improve health benefits, but lines are long at employment desks at the company. The problem with politicians, however, is that they are using flawed facts. There comes a time to give it up.

Also traveling was King George the W to the NAACP Convention for the first time during his reign. Received courteously, he even got a standing ovation for promising to sign the extension of the Voting Rights Act. Safe, huh? Then His Highness traveled back to Washington to cast his first veto. This was against any more funding for stem cell research. His rationale was that stem cells were potential babies. Our leader really, seriously needs to go to school. And pay attention while there.

New Approaches to Preventing Senior Abuse

By U.S. Senator Blanche Lincoln

As a child growing up, I can remember the times that my family and I cared for my grandparents. I not only saw this type of arrangement in my own family, but I also saw it in so many families throughout my community. Caring for elderly family members just seemed like a natural way of life for us. Unfortunately, not every elderly person has that kind of care and many of them suffer from neglect and abuse. That's why I introduced the Elder Justice Act in Congress, a bill that was passed in the Senate Finance Committee just last week.

There are between 500,000 and five million seniors who are abused in this country every year. It is estimated that approximately 84% of all cases are never even reported. What we do know is that abuse and neglect shorten the victim's life, often triggering a downward spiral and shattering an otherwise productive, self-sufficient older person's life. With 78.2 million baby boomers aging, this problem will continue to grow if left unaddressed. There are three main types of elder abuse: abuse and neglect in homes and domestic settings; abuse and neglect in institutions

and other types of residential care; and financial fraud and exploitation. Instances of abuse and neglect can be physical, sexual, emotional or psychological or can involve



neglect, self-neglect and financial exploitation. People who live in poverty are not the only victims. We only need to look at the case of Ms. Brooke Astor whose millions have not protected her from alleged neglect at the hands of her son.

Many Americans do not realize that incidents of senior abuse and neglect don't only occur in nursing homes. Many seniors face conditions of abuse or neglect in their own homes, not only from professional caregivers, but sometimes from spouses, children, or trusted family friends. The Elder Justice Act represents my attempt to fight senior abuse in our nation, providing national leadership as well as resources for prevention through both social services and law enforcement. An essential step in preventing acts of abuse is

having accurate information about the nature of the problem. The Elder Justice Act develops pilot tests and incentive grants that will enable us to collect and disseminate data about elder abuse. The Elder Justice Act also will make it easier to coordinate public and private efforts to combat elder abuse. Federal officials responsible for combating elder abuse will work together and make recommendations for coordinating federal, state, and local activities. In addition, the act will help develop expertise in geriatrics and help to ensure that nursing homes are adequately staffed.

It's important to remember that conditions of abuse and neglect are not the norm in most of our nation's nursing homes or in private settings where seniors reside. In most cases, our seniors receive care from competent, committed professionals or family members who work hard, often with limited resources, to offer the best possible care. But, where an elderly person does not have a loving support system to protect them, we as Americans believe that we have an obligation to make their quality of life better. And the Elder Justice Act is one important step in realizing that goal.

General Information

News

the Lincoln Echo welcomes submissions of news materials and will endeavor to publish all such items at the earliest possible opportunity. We will not accept any stories or news articles containing profanity, racial slurs or unsubstantiated statements. We will however, accept a thoughtful discussion of all issues in "The Letters to the Editor" section. The opinions expressed on the editorial page are those of The Lincoln Echo, all other opinions are those of the artist or columnist.

Correction Policy

The Lincoln Echo will print corrections of any errors published in the newspaper. The correction will be made as soon as possible after it has been brought to the attention of the Echo Staff. (479) 783-6830.

THE LINCOLN ECHO

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Community Newspaper

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Inspiration:

KENNETH & DeVAUGHN BLACK

"The Voice That Brings the Community Together"

Established June, 1992

OPINIONS

Page 5

AN EDUCATORS POINT OF VIEW

A New School Year Means Change for Many

Benny L. Gooden, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools
Fort Smith Public Schools

The opening of a new school year marks changes for more than 13,000 students who attend the Fort Smith Public Schools. Most students will make new acquaintances as they enter new classes and schools. They will also encounter new teachers who will build upon the learning experiences they have previously been presented.

For many students, the changes of a new school year will be significant as they make the transition to a new campus or school level. For more than 1000 of our youngest students, kindergarten will begin the process of formal classroom experiences. These early impressions will help shape the next dozen years of schooling in a positive way. Other young children will experience the increasing rigor of primary and intermediate classes as they begin a new grade level in one of nineteen elementary schools. Each of these schools will afford them opportunities to develop the literacy skills of reading, writing and speaking and the mathematics tools to equip them for further learning. The many other

daily experiences will help students learn to interact with children and adults as they acquire knowledge in a wide range of disciplines.

Junior high school is a challenging time. For parents, it brings the realization that children are growing up and



asserting their independence. For students it presents new challenges and choices at the same time their bodies are developing and their emotions bring feelings about which they may be uncertain. In order to smooth this transition for parents and students, all Fort Smith junior high schools have designed a series of events titled "Transition to Success." Students will be given opportunities to acquaint them with their new experiences in a setting which will avoid the anxiety which comes with major change at a time when they are sometimes ill-at-ease about themselves*personally and

educationally. Parents will be afforded the opportunity to ask questions to ease their fears about this toughest time in many children's lives. Each parent has been contacted and additional information is available at all junior high schools.

For high school students comes the realization that in only a few short years the ceremonial end of the K-12 years will arrive. High school is a time of preparation and planning. Preparation comes by enrolling in an array of rigorous courses to prepare for graduation and beyond. Planning involves students and their parents working with school personnel to chart a course which will lead students to their ultimate lifetime goals. This planning includes taking the correct courses, attending school regularly and preparing in every way for higher education or work. When these components are complete, students have a much better chance of success.

Public schools provide great preparation for life. The changes students experience at all levels help prepare them for what they will encounter as adults. Have a great school year!

THE RAY WILLIS REPORT

REMEMBER CATCHER

By: Ray E. Willis
Lincoln High School
Class of 1965

(Date Line: Las Vegas, NV)
The annals of U.S. history are replete with instances of lynching, mob violence and killings centered on accusations of the rape of white women by black men. In 1923, ironically the same year as the Rosewood, Florida race riots recounted in a major motion picture, blacks were driven from the small town of Catcher, Arkansas, after two black men were charged with raping and killing a white woman. Catcher is located five miles southeast of Van Buren. To escape mob vengeance, blacks hurriedly left Catcher for good, taking little more than the clothes on their backs. They walked several miles to Fort Smith, where many took up permanent residence in the area now known as Midland Heights.

The Catcher incident is a very personal one for my family, and me because my Great Uncle, the late William "Son" Bettis, was a central figure in this racial tragedy. Uncle Bettis and two other blacks were initially arrested. Two of them were charged, many believe unjustly, with raping and killing a 25-year old white woman named Effie Mitchell Latimer, who was beaten and shot to death. It's the stuff race-based lynching, killings and riots were made of during that era. A black man rapes and kills a white woman, prompting frontier justice by marauding vigilantes to avenge the crime and send a chilling message of fear to blacks everywhere in the process.

I've heard the Catcher story since I was a little boy, recounted by my aunt, Pecolia Freeman, my mother, and other relatives as well. A framed portrait of a smiling William Bettis, decked out in suit and tie, is the only physical remembrance of Uncle Bettis, which proudly remains in

my family's possession.

Here's a somewhat sketchy version, much of it according to a July 4, 1999, Southwest Times Record article, which recounted facts surrounding the incident: The victim was said to have been found by a neighbor woman, who told police that before she died, the mortally wounded victim named Son Bettis as



the person who shot her in the back. Uncle Bettis was quickly apprehended, but claimed his innocence and told authorities he was picking cotton at the time of the woman's rape and murder.

That's how the official story goes, but there's another plausible scenario, which paints a completely different picture concerning what likely happened. According to this alternate version, the victim's husband was allegedly having an affair with the same neighbor woman who "found" the mortally wounded woman and who it is believed, fabricated the erroneous story implicating Son Bettis to cover up what really led to the woman's demise. The victim's husband, by the way, was conveniently "out of town" when the incident happened.

As fear descended on the town, and rumors of Lattimer's death spread like wildfire, blacks banded together to seek mutual protection against crazed gunmen seeking frontier justice. Two days later, 11 black men were charged with night riding after they were found holed up in a log cabin with guns and ammunition. According to

this account, the father of one of the black men arrested for Lattimer's rape and murder was killed during the racial disturbance

Meanwhile, Uncle Bettis and Spurgeon Ruck were the only two charged with first-degree murder and criminal assault in the white woman's death. A third person arrested, Johnny Clay, turned state's evidence and became the prosecution's star witness testifying against Bettis and Ruck. Evidence suggests all three, including the star witness and accused were coerced into confession. Accounts of the trial indeed read like a virtual kangaroo court. As for example, jury deliberations in separate trials for both men lasted just 10 and 11 minutes respectively. Both men were summarily found guilty less than 10 days after the woman's death and were scheduled for execution in the electric chair at the State Penitentiary in Little Rock. Luck ran out for Bettis and Ruck, if you can call it that, on the day they were electrocuted, June 27, 1924, one day short of the six-month anniversary of Lattimer's murder.

Pecola Freeman, my aunt, and Son Bettis' daughter, was four years old at the time of the incident. Now 86, and living in Fort Smith, she remembers little about what happened, save for the commotion it caused and the hasty departure of blacks from Catcher and the long walk to eventual safety. In the aftermath of all this, in recent years, I'm told, the families of some blacks who owned property in Catcher have attempted unsuccessfully to get their property back.

So ends a sad chapter in the tortured history of blacks in Catcher. A true story that must be told as part of the legacy of our ancestors who paved the way for us to have a brighter tomorrow. To know is to grow. Until next month.

TO LIVE IS TO SUFFER : TO SURVIVE
IS TO FIND TO FIND SOME MEANING
IN THE SUFFERING

ROBERTA FLACK

GREETINGS FROM THE MAYOR

by Mayor Ray Baker

At long last, bids for the Community Center at Martin Luther King, Jr. Park have been received and a contract is underway. The Board of Directors appropriated additional funds for the center when the cost of building went up.

Now the Parks and Recreation Commission is in the process of naming the facility using the City's Naming Guidelines. Nominations will be accepted until August 16, 2006 at 10:00 A.M.

The Parks and Recreation Commission will consider the names received at the noon meet-

ing on September 11, 2006 at the Creekmore Community Center.

If you wish to submit a name, send a written nomination stating the name you wish to submit for consideration and give the reasons why you are making the nomination. For the name of an individual to be considered, that person must have contributed significantly to the acquisition or development of the facility or to the City.

The nomination must be accompanied by a biographical sketch stating the contributions of the individual. Mail your nominations or hand deliver to the Fort Smith Parks and Recreation office, 3301

South M Street, Fort Smith, Arkansas 72903. The nominations will then be sent to the Parks and Recreation Commission for review and



selection. Once the Parks and Recreation Commission has made a selection, it will be sent to the Board of Directors for their approval.

Also, let me remind you that during the summer and early fall, the Parks and Recreation Department will present movies in the various parks as well as a number of outdoor concerts.

Plans are being made for the dedication of Lake Fort Smith.

If you have suggestions for some of the activities, let the Mayor's Office know.

The dedication of the new lake will come in October. This new Lake Fort Smith is a tremendous project that will provide water to our City and area for the next 50 years.

When you see the finished lake, you will be very proud. Continue to

help in the appearances of properties. We all need to work together to make our City look nice. Litter is also a big problem and we need to all help with fighting the litter problem.

All about our City there are projects underway as we see new buildings going up, roads and drainage projects being addressed as well as improvements to existing businesses.

Very soon projects will be underway to address the many sewer problems about the community. Improvements will be made to the sewer system of our City. Also, design is underway for the new Communication

System in Fort Smith. This will help our Police and Fire Departments in their very important work.

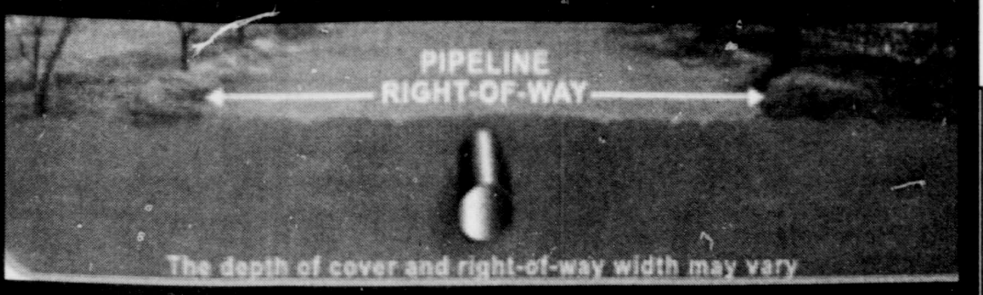
Take time to also note that Sparks Regional Medical Center is in the process of making tremendous improvements and additions to the Medical Center. The front of Sparks will now face Towson Avenue. You can also look for improvements to be made to Towson Avenue.

These are exciting times and each one of you are a part of these times. Together we can continue to help our City provide a good quality of life for all, thus helping to make Life Worth Living in Fort Smith!, Arkansas!

DEPENDABLE

aog

aog
WARNING
GAS PIPE LINE
 ARKANSAS OKLAHOMA GAS CORP.
 IN EMERGENCY
 479-784-2052



BE AWARE

Pipelines in Your Community

Signs located near roads, railroads, waterways & along fence lines & pipeline right-of-ways

marker signs are important to public safety.

Landowners & Right-of-Way

Because pipelines must cross the countryside to deliver products over long distances, the pipeline has many neighbors. The pipeline crosses under creeks and rivers, highways and roads, farmers' fields, parks, and may be close to homes, businesses or other community centers.

Written agreements, or easements, between landowners and pipeline companies allow pipeline companies to construct and maintain pipeline rights-of-way across privately owned property. Most pipelines are buried below ground in a right-of-way. The working space needed during initial construction may be temporarily wider but the permanent right-of-way width varies depending on the easement, the pipeline system, the presence of other nearby utilities and the land use along the right-of-way. Many of the rights-of-way are 50 feet wide, but may be wider or narrower in specific locations.

These rights-of-way are kept clear to allow the pipeline to be safely

operated, aerially surveyed and properly maintained. Pipeline companies are responsible for maintaining their rights-of-way to protect the public and environment, the line itself, and other customers from loss of service. This includes keeping right-of-ways clear from encroachments of any kind including buildings or structures built on top of AOG facilities.

While permanent pipeline markers are located at roads, railways and other intervals along the ROW, these show only the approximate location of the buried pipelines. The depth and location of the pipelines vary within the ROW.

National Pipeline Mapping System (NPMS)

To receive additional information about transmission pipelines that might be located in your community you can access the National Pipeline Mapping System (NPMS) at www.npms.rspa.dot.url. For more information on pipeline safety access AOG's website at www.aogc.com or www.pipeline101.com

Signs of a Natural Gas Pipeline Leak:

Despite AOG's best efforts and government oversight, leaks from pipelines do sometimes happen. The best ways for you to detect a leak in your neighborhood is to use your senses of **sight, smell, and sound**. You may have a leak if:

you **see** dead or discolored vegetation that is otherwise green along a pipeline ROW, or **see** dirt or water blowing near the pipeline ROW.

you **smell** an unusual or pungent, sulfur-like odor along a pipeline ROW.

you **hear** an unusual hissing or roaring sound along a pipeline ROW.

What to do:

- Leave the area immediately.
- Call AOG toll-free at 1-800-842-5690 or 1-479-783-3181 & give the location.
- Warn others to stay away.
- Keep ignition sources away from the area and avoid creating a spark.

How can you tell where a pipeline is located?

The U.S. Department of Transportation requires the use of signs to indicate the location of underground pipelines. Markers like these are located at road, railroad, and navigable waterway crossings. Markers are also posted along the pipeline right-of-way.

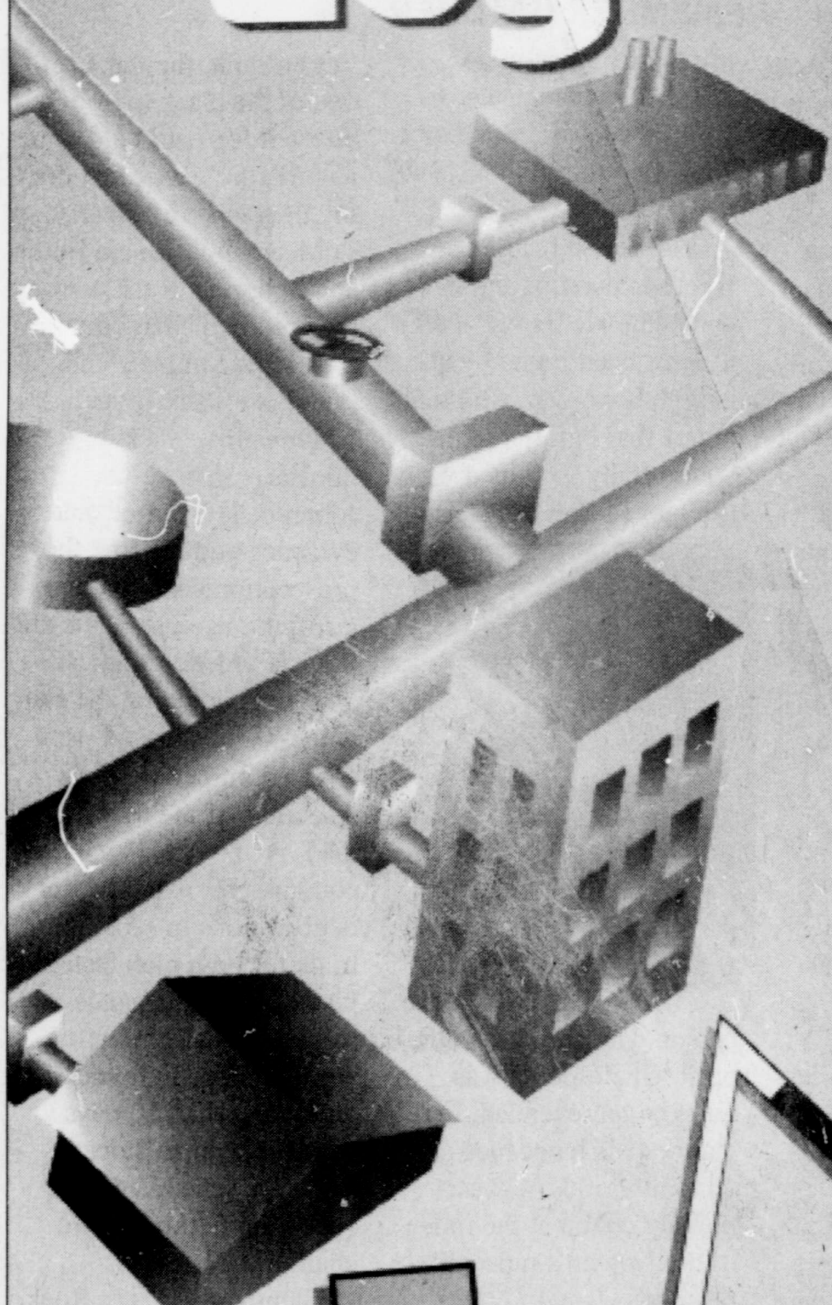
The markers will say "Warning Gas Pipeline" and will have AOG's Name and Phone Number where we can be reached in the event of an emergency.

Are pipeline markers always placed on top of the pipeline?

Markers only indicate the approximate location of the underground pipeline. They are normally not placed directly on top of the pipeline.

It's a federal crime to remove or deface a pipeline marker sign.

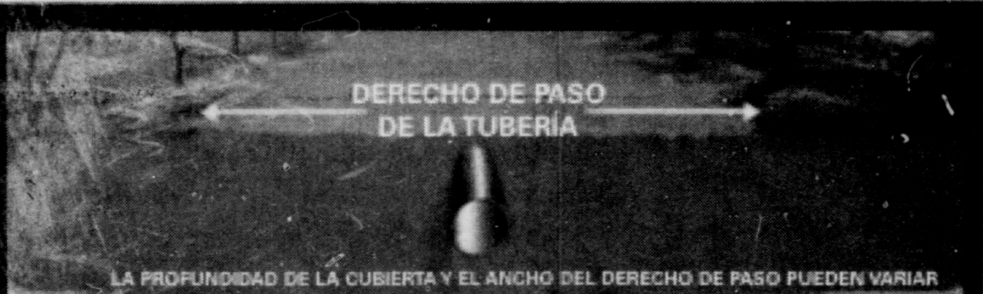
Safety is Everyone's Responsibility. Pipeline



aog
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PIPELINE
 ARKANSAS OKLAHOMA GAS CORP.
 IN EMERGENCY
 CALL COLLECT
 A.E. SMITH 784-2052
 FL SMITH, AOK

Plastic Posts

Pipeline casing vent



ENTÉRESE

Tuberías en su comunidad

¿Cómo puede saber dónde hay una tubería?

El Departamento de Transporte de los Estados Unidos exige la utilización de carteles para indicar la ubicación de tuberías subterráneas. Pueden encontrarse indicadores como éstos en cruces de rutas, vías férreas y vías navegables. También se colocan indicadores a lo largo del derecho de paso de la tubería.

Los indicadores dicen "Advertencia - Tubería de gas" e incluyen el nombre y número telefónico de AOG donde puede contactarnos en caso de emergencia.

¿Siempre se colocan los indicadores en la parte superior de la tubería?

Los indicadores sólo señalan la ubicación aproximada de la tubería subterránea. Normalmente, no se colocan directamente en la parte superior de la tubería.

Sustraer o truncar un cartel indicador de tuberías constituye un delito federal.

La seguridad es responsabilidad de todos. Los carteles indicadores de tuberías son importantes para la seguridad pública.

Propietarios y derechos de paso

Debido a que las tuberías deben cruzar regiones rurales para suministrar productos a grandes distancias, las mismas suelen tener muchos vecinos. La tubería pasa por debajo de arroyos y ríos, autopistas y rutas, campos de agricultores, parques y puede pasar cerca de hogares, empresas u otros centros comunitarios.

Los acuerdos escritos, o servidumbres, entre propietarios de tierras y compañías de tuberías de gas permiten a éstas construir y mantener derechos de paso de tuberías a través de propiedades privadas. La mayoría de las tuberías están enterradas en un derecho de paso. El espacio necesario para trabajar durante la construcción inicial puede ser temporalmente más ancho, pero el ancho permanente del derecho de paso varía según la servidumbre, el sistema de tuberías, la presencia de otros servicios públicos cercanos y el aprovechamiento de la tierra a lo largo del derecho de paso. Muchos de los derechos de paso tienen 50 pies de ancho, pero pueden ser más anchos o más angostos en puntos específicos.

Estos derechos de paso se mantienen libres de obstrucciones para permitir que la tubería pueda ser

operada en forma segura, examinada con facilidad y mantenida en forma adecuada. Las compañías de tuberías de gas son responsables del mantenimiento de sus derechos de paso con el fin de proteger al público y al medio ambiente, a la línea misma y a otros clientes de la pérdida del servicio. Esto incluye mantener los derechos de paso libres de intrusiones de cualquier tipo, incluidos edificios o estructuras construidas sobre las instalaciones de AOG.

Si bien los indicadores de tuberías permanentes se ubican en rutas, vías férreas y otros intervalos a lo largo del derecho de paso (ROW), éstos sólo indican la ubicación aproximada de las tuberías enterradas. La profundidad y ubicación de las tuberías varían dentro del derecho del paso.

Sistema Nacional de Mapeo de Tuberías (NMPS)

Para recibir información adicional sobre tuberías de transmisión que podrían estar ubicadas en su comunidad, usted puede acceder al Sistema Nacional de Mapeo de Tuberías (NMPS) en www.npms.rspa.dot.url. Para obtener más información sobre seguridad de tuberías, ingrese al sitio web de AOG en www.aogc.com o www.pipeline101.com

Señales de filtración de una tubería de gas natural:

A pesar de los grandes esfuerzos de AOG y de la fiscalización del gobierno, a veces se producen filtraciones en las tuberías. La mejor manera de detectar una filtración en su vecindario consiste en utilizar la **vista**, el **olfato**, y el **oído**. Es posible que exista una filtración si:

usted **ve** vegetación muerta o descolorida que debería ser verde a lo largo de un derecho de paso de tubería, o **ve** suciedad o agua en movimiento cerca del derecho de paso de tubería.

huele un olor inusual o acre, similar al azufre, a lo largo de un derecho de paso de tubería.

oye un sonido sibilante o estruendoso a lo largo de un derecho de paso de tubería.

Qué se debe hacer:

- Abandone el área inmediatamente.
- Llame a AOG en forma gratuita al 1-800-842-5690 o al 1-479-783-3181 e informe la ubicación.
- Advierta a otras personas para que se mantengan a distancia.
- Mantenga las fuentes de ignición lejos del área y evite generar chispas.

CONFIABLE
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Carteles ubicados cerca de rutas, vías férreas, vías fluviales y a lo largo de cercos y derechos de paso de tuberías

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Postes de plástico

Conducto de ventilación del revestimiento de la tubería

U NAME 'EM

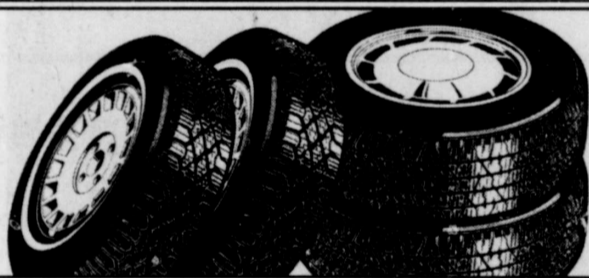
Page 7

U NAME 'EM



name the pictures above and submit them to us. We will publish the titles you picked in our next edition. More pictures will come next month.

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Tracy Pennartz

Democrat

State Representative — District 65



"I Ask for
Your Vote
on Tuesday,
November 7th!"

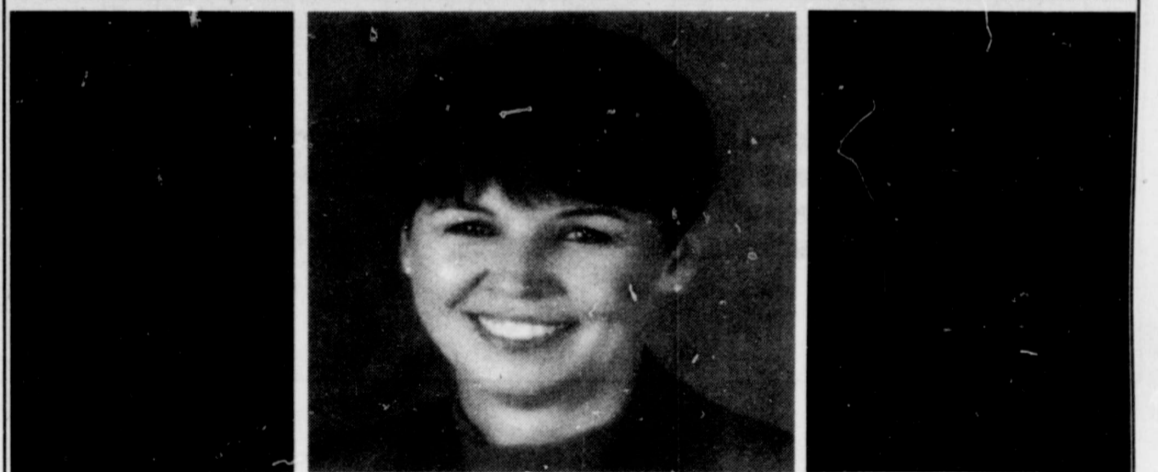
✓ No Grocery Tax

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Vote!*

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WORLD NEWS

Atlantic Get-Away: Ghana boosts tourism & historical adventure

By: Renita Quinn

The Blacks Stars said it all in their first-ever FIFA World Cup appearance this summer. Ghana, West Africa, is ready to score goals on the international playing field and become a number one tourist destination. With over 22 million people, the country is rich with luscious geography, a unique role in world history and some of the friendliest countrymen worldwide.

"It was a trip of a life time," said Cassandra Ward, a program analyst for the federal government. She traveled to the former British colony with a 19-person delegation organized by an African Methodist Episcopal church in early June. At times I was overwhelmed. It is such a beautiful country. The beach is sublime and the city streets are bubbling with symbols of African culture, but the vestiges of the slave trade and poverty are readily evident. So it is a trip that is both invigorating and sad-dening.

Such sentiments may be why Ghana's popularity is fast-growing among travelers from around the world - America, Great Britain, Canada, France. Tourism is one of the nation's top three industries.

northern cities like Tamale, Bolgatanga and Navrongo bring to life images usually seen on television with dirt roads, picturesque huts,



of African American scholar W.E. DuBois. He repatriated to the country and

Kwame Nkrumah Memorial and Mausoleum. Nkrumah is the man who

Bordered by French-speaking Cote d'Ivoire, Togo, and Burkina Faso and lined with the Atlantic Ocean on the southern coastline, once on the ground it is easy to see why people are flocking to the African haven.

The country, 238,540 sq km, is similar in size to the U.S.'s Georgia, which makes a scenic trek across the whole country entirely possible. An ideal combination of traditional villages and metropolitan cities -

and rural living, while the capital city Accra satisfies the needs of the city-dweller with busy streets, school children in uniforms at every turn, numerous markets and vendors, and intriguing historical sites. Accra is the resting place

eventually died there. Much like the Martin Luther King Center in Atlanta, Ga, the DuBois Pan African Center holds the body of the deceased leader. In addition to this monument, a sizeable African American population has followed DuBois's example and live and work in Ghana. Members of the community can often be found meeting and touring at the Center.

A wise explorer will continue to appreciate the city's historical treasures

guided the country to freedom in 1957. The Memorial's green grass, exquisite bronze statues of African horn players, and the cascading water fountain makes this a must-see landmark despite the museum's failing infrastructure.

For a complete snapshot of Nkrumah's stature and contribution, make the roughly 4-hour trek north to Kumasi and tour Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST). Kumasi is also home to the famous Ashanti tribe, which was synonymous to the gold trade in the old world and presents an opportunity to learn about Africans role and resistance to the slave trade dating back to the 1500's

"I learned a lot at each place I visited, but by the time I reached the slave dungeons at Cape Coast and Elmina I'd practically stopped taking pictures to show friends back home," said Edith Glanton, a registered nurse who was also member of the New Bethel AME Church group. "It is really just no way to show people all that Ghana is. I believe it is one of those places people have to see for themselves."

Although the sounds of Ewe, Ga and Twi swirl like drum beats in the air, English is Ghana's official language. A good stock of three to five star accommodations makes maintaining comfort easily achievable. And, while Ghana is not known for its tantalizing cuisine, tasting fufu, banku, and groundnut soup will excite the pallet, even if only for a moment.

Future travelers should be prepared to take their fair share of immunizations, secure a visa and settle in for a long plane ride. Currently, there are no major airline carriers offering direct flights to Ghana, although they have been available in the past.

Apparently, Ghana definitely scored a winning point with Glanton, the 28-year said, "I've already started making my travels plans to go back this year!"



FIREFIGHTER

The City of Fort Smith Civil Service Commission is currently accepting applications for the position of Firefighter. Applicants must be a US Citizen, a minimum of 21 years of age and not have arrived at the age of 32 at time of appointment, possess a high school diploma or GED and have a valid drivers license. Possess normal color discrimination and depth perception and possess uncorrected vision acuity of 20/100 corrected to 20/30. Must not be a convicted felon or convicted of a misdemeanor that involves a crime of theft, violence (including domestic violence) or of illegal drug usage.

Starting pay is \$26,819 annually, plus medical, dental, vision, life and retirement benefits.

Applications may be picked up in the Human Resources Department - 823 Garrison Avenue - Room 310 - Fort Smith, AR or by calling 479-784-2222 for information. Applications will not be accepted after 5:00 p.m., September 1, 2006. Written exam will be administered October 2, 2006.

Equal Opportunity Employer

BOOK DISCUSSION AND SIGNING

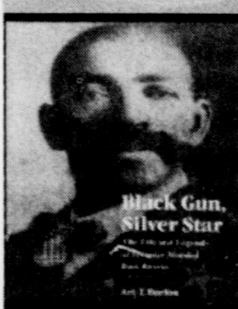
SUNDAY, AUGUST 13TH

2 P.M.

MAIN LIBRARY COMMUNITY ROOM

BOOKS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR SALE AND SIGNING AT THE EVENT

ART T. BURTON



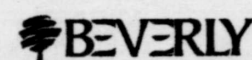
BLACK GUN, SILVER STAR:
THE LIFE AND LEGEND OF FRONTIER MARSHAL BASS REEVES



DON'T MISS THE BASS REEVES NIGHT COURTS AUGUST 11TH, 12TH, AND 13TH AT THE FORT SMITH NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

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Sunday Morning	Sunday School	10:00 AM
Sunday Noon	Worship Service	12:00 PM
Sunday Night	Evening Worship	6:00
Tuesday	Bible Ba	7:00 PM
Wednesay	Choir Practice	6:00
Friday Night	General Service	7:00
Saturday	Y. P. W. W	6:00

EXTRA

New and Renewed Subscribers

F.M. Jones Albuquerque, NM
 Bessie Dreams Wichita KS
 Gary & Karen Gray Ft. Smith, AR
 Wisconsin Historical Society Madison, WI
 William Madison Denver, CO
 Brad Wallace Ft. Smith, AR
 Lois Lofton Johnson Compton, CA
 Margaret Logan Denver, CO
 Sterling Phillips Memphis, TN
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 Ruth A. Smith Magnolia, AR
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 Richard & Preola Briggs Milford, KS
 Rizetta Davis Ft. Smith, AR
 Mayor Ray Baker Ft. Smith, AR
 Carl McGee Kissimmee, FL
 E. Heloise Shields Kansas City, MO
 Cecile Lee Fort Smith, AR
 Michael W. Chaney Detroit, MI
 Patsy Prater Tucson, AZ
 Bobby Dale Brown Compton, CA
 Frederick J. Ransom Ft. Smith, AR

September Obituaries

Joe Melvin "Mex" Massey 71
 Death: July 13, 2006 Fort Worth, Texas
 Funeral: July 22, 2006 Union Baptist Church
 Interment: Laird Cemetery Pocola, Oklahoma

Robert Doyle "Booney" Woods 72
 Death: July 29, 2006 Benton Nursing Home
 Funeral: The body was cremated.

Patrice Annette "Pat" Simpson 48
 Death: August 3, 2006 Fort Smith, Arkansas
 Funeral: August 12, 2006 First Church Of
 God In Christ
 Interment: U.S. Cemetery

Betty Joyce Bullock 47
 Death: August 12, 2006
 Funeral: August 19, 2006 Ninth Street Baptist
 Church
 Interment: Oak Cemetery

DAVIS

CITY DIRECTOR • POSITION 6



Building A Quality Community Together

Joe Davis is a firm believer in responsive leadership for Fort Smith. Together we can make Fort Smith a better city everyday.


- Board of Directors 2001-2004
- Fort Smith Planning Commission
- Director of Corporate Facilities and Quality Awareness, ABF
- Fort Smith Resident (22 yrs.)
- Boy Scout Leader (19 yrs.)
- Grand Avenue Baptist Church
- Leadership Fort Smith
- Citizens Police Academy
- River Front Task Force
- UA Fort Smith Athletic Booster

Endorsed by Ben Shipley - Current City Director Position 6 and Velvet Medlock - City Director Ward 2

You are encouraged to contact Joe with any questions or concerns you may have ... before the election and after at JoeDavis001@gmail.com


Paid for by the Joe Davis election committee.

SETEMBER BIRTHDAYS	Jr.	Alston	Cottrell	Easterling
1	6	Jacobi Alston	Robin Dodson	Beverly Mays
Cambria Tolbert	Arlessia Davis	Andre J. Clark	Gwendolyn Lovelace	
2	8	Alvin King	Frances L. Clark	27
Kaitlyn Jones	Angela Williams	Nathaniel Deas	K. Natasha Green	Richard Briggs
Javana N. Thompson	Betty Laster	Sharon Willis	Chris Chapple, Jr.	Henry Mitchell, Sr.
4	9	Lillian Driver		Natasha Parish
Sharon Hill	Shayna Rouser	Carl Jones	24	28
Loretta Matlock	Gail Davis	Jeffrey A. Brown	Kayleigh Sterling	Lalara Black
Reginald Deas	10	Kenneth Broomfield 11	Geoffrey Deas	30
5	12	Abigail		Juanita Ware Spicer
Brunson Evans,	E. Maelean	William R. Cowan		
		Wayne		



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LOCATION IN	PROPERTY NAME	TELEPHONE
ARKANSAS		
Berryville	Heritage Park Apartments	(870)423-1051
Bull Shoals	Lakewind Apartments	(870)445-4960
Bull Shoals	Merriwood Apartments	(870)445-4980
Cabot	Woodland Station Apartments	(501)605-8291
Calico Rock	Calico Pines Apartments	(870)297-4844
Colt	Colt Senior Citizen Apartments	(870)633-5222
Cotter	Cotter Crossing Senior Citizen	(870)435-2881
Cotter	Walnut Lane Apartments	(870)435-2881
Eureka Springs	Victoria Woods Apartments	(479)253-7266
Fayetteville	Jenning Mills Apartments	(479)442-4132
Fayetteville	Nantucket Apartments	(479)442-4132
Gassville	Summerhill Apartments	(870)435-6040
Green Forest	Gardengate Apartments	(870)438-6739
Harrison	Autumn Place Apartments	(870)741-5524
Harrison	Autumn Village Apartments	(870)741-5524
Harrison	Big Cedar Apartments	(870)741-3069
Harrison	Big Oaks Apartments	(870)741-5524
Harrison	Maple Church Apartments	(870)743-3880
Harrison	Twin Oaks Apartments	(870)741-5524
Jasper	Buffalo River Village	(870)446-2650
Jasper	Grandview Apartments	(870)446-2406
Jasper	River Bend Apartments	(870)446-2650
Lowell	Lowell Senior Citizen	(479)659-5383
Lowell	Robinson Apartments	(479)659-5383
Lowell	Robinson Park Apartments	(479)659-5383
Mountain Home	Cardinal Apartments	(870)425-8085
Mountain Home	Keystone Apartments	(870)424-3042
Mountain Home	Mountain Station Apartments	(870)425-3376
Mountain Home	Park Place Apartments	(870)425-7169
Mountain Home	Park West Apartments	(870)508-6675
Mountain Home	Promenade Apartments	(870)425-4191
Mountain Home	Shadow Brook Apartments	(870)424-4929
Mountain Home	Southern Heights Apartments	(870)425-4191
Mountain View	Mountain Lodge Apartments	(870)269-8646
Mountain View	Pebble Creek Apartments	(870)269-8778
Norfolk	Norfolk Villas	(870)498-7498
Norfolk	River Valley Apartments	(870)489-7498
Norfolk	Wolf River Lodge	(870)489-7468
Rogers	Autumnwood Point Apartments	(479)638-2741
Rogers	Indian Creek Apartments	(479)638-2741
Springdale	Mill Creek Apartments	(479)927-8790
Western Grove	Western Grove Manor	(870)428-5828
Western Grove	Western Grove Villas	(870)428-5828
Yellville	Stonehill Apartments	(870)449-5206

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DECISIONS

REPUBLICANS 33 - DEMOCRATS 0

By: Samuel J. Vance

Tell me if you have heard the following statement? It doesn't matter who I vote for or even if I vote because nothing is going to change. OK try this one the Republicans and Democrats are bought and paid for by the same people. Statements like these have been repeated so often that they have created their own belief system. They are the rationale for not voting and not caring about what happens when people do not vote. This belief, like so many others, has become its own reward because a low voter turnout means that nothing else is going to change.

This mentality is multi-faceted and therefore is subject to manifest itself in various ways. One of those ways is the concept that black people should look at both parties and see what each one has to offer. The father of Congressman J.C. Watts

(the only black republican at the time and the former House G.O.P. Conference Chairman) said it best when he said that "A black person voting for a republican was like a chicken voting for Colonial Sanders".

I agree with that one wholeheartedly except for one point - the chickens brain is about the size of a marble. What's your excuse? When you think about it the KFC relationship with the chicken is actually very similar to the republican relationship with black America. A chicken can be consumed after it has been baked, broiled, boiled, etc. Blacks are being consumed by racial profiling, a minimum wage that does not rise as inflation rises, artificial housing shortages that were generated by the broken, false promises of the 1960s and 1970s Urban Renewal Programs that initiated the wholesale destruction of housing in hundreds of black neigh-

borhoods across the country, and the overall too little too late Katrinaicide of Black America.

With so much going on in our country it is not less important that we vote - to the contrary! - It is more important that we vote! It is equally important that we understand that we must vote for those that vote for us.

On July 13th, 2006 the U. S. House of Representatives renewed the 1965 Voting Rights Act by a vote of 390 to 33. The 33 opposed votes came from the Republican party. If you are at all shocked by this you need to wake up and smell more than just coffee. I watched part of the proceedings on C-Span and once again white politicians from the south stood and gave their reasons for America to not have a Voting Rights Act.

The faces from the 1960s may have changed but the rhetoric remained the same. There was however one particular change

in the faces that I saw that I found quite reassuring. And that was the fact that this time the Voting Rights Act was also being championed by a sizeable number of black politicians under the umbrella of the Congressional Black Caucus.

The Congressional Black Caucus is approximately 10% of the House of Representatives and it is for this reason (open among others) that I felt very privileged to be able to speak to Congressman Mel Watt. He is the current chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus and he widened my views about democrats and black America. He pointed out that the Voting Rights Act was just one of the many good examples of the differences between the two parties. The Congress spends money through Appropriations Bills. He named education, health care, housing and Medicaid. He said "It's about spending priorities".

We also talked about the priorities of the Executive Branch. His comment on that was "Look at the eight years of spending with Clinton". He lamented the fact that republicans couldn't find the money for things like health care and housing but Bush could lead the fight for tax breaks for the rich. This was being done as the deficit skyrocketed. His expert opinion and my common sense both agreed that "Our deficit spending can't be sustained over time".

I should interject at this point that my father was the first person to point out to me that the difference between the two parties was that the republicans spend our money from the top down, and the democrats spend our nation's money from the bottom up.

President Reagan confirmed my father's wisdom, many years later, by what he called "the trickle-down effect".

Interestingly enough people like Ronald Reagan, Jesse Helms and Strom Thurmond were all democrats at one time.

They, like so many dozens, of other prominent white democrats left the party as the Civil Rights Movement progressed. Over and over again whether we are talking about spending priorities, civil liberties - like pulled over while driving while black - or the fact that not one democrat voted against the Voting Rights Act. The choice seems to be so crystal clear.

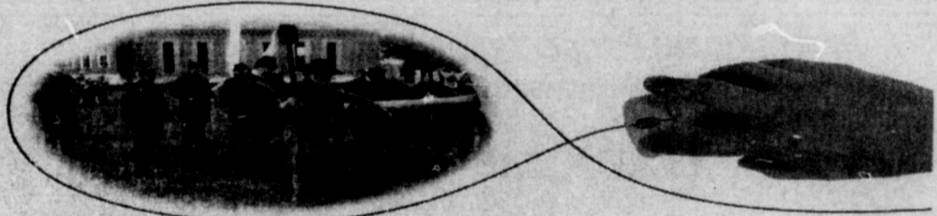
I had the opportunity to speak to Howard Gancman who is the Press Secretary for Dianne Feinstein about her statement on the Senate floor favoring the renewal of the Voting Rights Act. And she said "that the Voting Rights Act is an extremely monumental piece of legislation for our nation. It is very important that it moves forward and our president signs it".

I couldn't have said it better myself!

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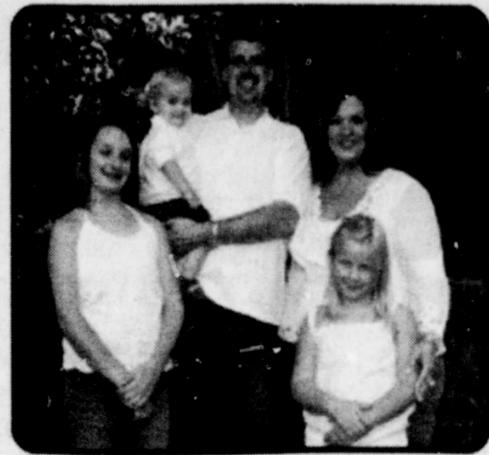


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POLITICS

Page 11

Rep. Boozman's Third District Congressional Report

The recent terror plot uncovered in the United Kingdom has brought the issue of Homeland Security back to the forefront in the lives of Americans and all of us in the Third District of Arkansas.

The threat neutralized by our British allies, the involvement of German investigators, and the arrests in Pakistan of alleged accomplices in the plot brings the true nature of the War on Terror to light - It is truly global. Terrorists still represent a threat to America and our friends; and we must maintain vigilance to protect our homeland.

As I write this column, I

am reminded that today was scheduled to be the day the members of the airplane plot were supposed to wreak their havoc and murder innocent victims flying from London to the United States. One investigator summed up the situation, telling London's Evening Standard: "The bombers were a couple of days from a test, and a few days from doing it."

As we approach the five-year anniversary of 9/11, we must remember those who were lost that day. Additionally, we must remember the victims of senseless terrorist attacks in London, Madrid, and around the world. It is essential that we under-

stand the need to combat future threats and support those who are on the front lines securing our country abroad.

I recently made my fifth



trip to Iraq to visit with our brave servicemen and women who have answered the call to serve our country. Traveling with colleagues from the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, we lis-

tened to what our servicemen and women had to say and let them know how much we support them. I think it is important to visit with the soldiers, give them a pat on the back and remind them that folks back home appreciate their sacrifice to secure for us the freedoms we enjoy every day.

As our men and women return home, my goal is to ensure all veterans have the opportunity to transition successfully into the workforce. I am proud the House of Representatives recently passed The Veterans Small Business and Memorial Affairs Act of 2006 (H.R. 3082), a bill I

authored, which requires the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish annual contracting goals for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to enter into with small businesses that are owned and controlled by veterans and service-disabled veterans. It would also require the VA to maintain a database of eligible small businesses, and to provide them priority in VA contracting.

The legislation also addresses several additional issues. It gives the Secretary of Veterans Affairs permanent authority to furnish a government headstone or marker for veterans interred in

a private cemetery, and retroactively for veterans who died between November 1, 1990 and September 10, 2001. It also authorizes the Secretary to make grants to tribal governments to assist them in establishing, expanding, or improving veterans' cemeteries on trust lands.

Our soldiers and veterans deserve our heartfelt thanks and it is my hope that my friends in the Senate act quickly and pass H.R. 3082 so that our veterans have the ability to enjoy the enhanced business and employment opportunities they so rightfully deserve..

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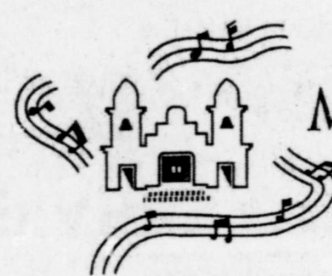
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SPORTS

SPORTS PACE

The Magnificent Seven In The National Football League

by Huel Washington
More than sixty years ago, the defending National Football League champion, Cleveland Rams not only moved West to Los Angeles, their owner Dan Reeves made Kenny Washington, a University of California at Los Angeles running back, the first African American since Fritz Pollard in 1921, to play professional football in the United States on March 21, 1946. Paul Brown, the head coach of the newly formed Cleveland Browns in the All-American Football Conference followed Reeves' lead and added to his roster two of his former players, Bill Willis and Marion Motley, whose careers eventually made them Pro Football Hall of Famers' Willis was at Ohio State under Brown and Motley at Great Lakes. Throughout the next years, African Americans football players from all over this country from Division IA colleges and even Historically Black Universities and Colleges filled the rosters of professional football teams. However, it wasn't until 68 years after Pollard led the Akron Pros in 1921 to an NFL championship game that Los Angeles Raiders general managing partner Al Davis made Art Shell, the first African American NFL head coach of the modern era on October 3, 1989. Shell was dismissed in 1994 by Davis but earlier

this year, he was given the head coaching job in Oakland, the city where he spent most of his professional career on the way to Canton, Ohio Pro Football Hall of Fame and became the seventh African American head coach of the 32 professional teams in the National Football League. The Maryland State University alumnus Shell gave up a soft cushiony job in the New York NFL office to return the difficult task of molding the team which had during his playing days reeked havoc on opponents throughout the league. Shell played offensive tackle on the winning Super Bowl XI, Super Bowl XV, and Super Bowl XVIII teams. His return to the Western Division of the American Football Conference battle for a playoff berth will be met by Kansas City Chief's head coach Herman Edwards, the African American coach of last year's New York Jets, who replaced the retired Dick Vermeil. Edwards, 52, a native of Monmouth, New Jersey, played at the University of California at Berkeley, and spent six years as a Chief assistant in different roles, and was general manager Carl Peterson's first choice to replace Vermeil. Edwards began his coaching career as a member of the NFL Minority Fellowship program which had been founded by the San Francisco 49ers head coach Bill Walsh and owner Eddie DeBartolo.

In the East of the AFC, Marvin Lewis, a 48 year old defensive specialty coach, in 2003 became the ninth head coach of the Cincinnati Bengals, the team Paul Brown founded after being fired by Cleveland's Blanton Collier. Lewis, from McDonald, Pennsylvania, was the defensive coach for the Baltimore Ravens 2001 Super Bowl XXXV win over the New York Giants.

The Idaho State University graduate, Lewis, was the 2003 Rookie of the Year coach in the NFL, and taken a team that had become the laughing stock of the league because of owner Mike Brown's thrifty ventures back into contention as Super Bowl aspirant. The Bengal's in state nemeses, the Cleveland Browns on February 8, 2005 made Romeo Crenel, 59, their head coach, as another defensive specialist had impressed the owners with his coaching skills. Crenel was instrumental in taking the New England Patriots to three out of four Super Bowls. A Lynchburg, Virginia high school standout, Crenel acquired a Masters Degree with his alma mater, Western Kentucky, before moving on the pro coaching ranks and being an assistant on two of the New York Giants Super Bowl wins. He was voted the 2003 Assistant Coach of the Year. As an outstanding Jackson, Michigan high

school quarterback, Tony Dingy, turned down a scholarship to the University of Michigan and enrolled in their perennial rival, the University of Minnesota, and had an outstanding college career. Michigan wanted him to become a defensive back. But after college Dingy signed as a free agent with the Pittsburgh Steelers and played safety for two years including the Steelers Super Bowl XIII game against Dallas. At 25, Dingy became the youngest assistant coach in 1981 and in 1984 became the youngest defensive coordinator. Then his friend, Dennis Green, who he met while at San Francisco, brought him to Minnesota as the Vikings defensive coordinator. Green, currently the head coach of the Arizona Cardinals, is one of the four coaches, others are Bill Walsh, Mike Ditka, and Bill Cowher, to win 15 games in the 16 game regular season. A missed field goal by Gary Anderson in the championship game in 1998 kept Green from becoming the first African American head coach to lead his team to the Super Bowl. Dingy, fired by the Tampa Bay for some reason, 51, has also come close to that record setting honor with the Indianapolis Colts. He has been thwarted by the New England Patriots twice in the past few years. And this year it was the Steelers and a game sav-

ing tackle by Ben Rothlisberger on fumble return that stopped Dugny's bid again. Green, 57, currently with the Arizona Cardinals, left Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, for the University of Iowa, and has been on a coaching merry-go-round since returning to his alma mater in 1972. He was an assistant at Iowa, Dayton and Stanford. Green was an assistant for Walsh at the 49ers before becoming the first African American head coach at Northwestern University in the Big Ten and was named Coach of the Year when the Wildcats won two games in his second season. He became the head coach at Stanford in 1989 and led the Cardinals to the Aloha Bowl in 1991. As the head coach of the Vikings from 1992 to 2001, Green, with assistants Dugny, Brian Billick, current head coach of the Baltimore Ravens, and a few former Niners players, won 107 games in ten seasons. Dugny concentration on defense while at Tampa utilized some the techniques of assistant Lovie Smith, the recent head coach of the Chicago Bears. Leaving Tampa in the change, Smith, 48, landed in St. Louis under Vermeil and the Rams, who won their first ever Super Bowl when Mike Jones tackled the Tennessee Titans Kevin Dyson on the one yard line as time ran out.

The National Football League remembered Dan Reeves choice of Kenny Washington and Woody Strode on the 60th anniversary of their entrance into the league. This year's Magnificent Seven coaches, is another historical occurrence in football that has been received in the same manner as African Americans playing at that time. Nothing like baseball and Jackie Robinson. Not a lot of hoopla. "I only wanted the best players," said Brown about Willis and Motley. He got them. "I made a mistake when I fired Art Shell," said Al Davis. "I have been regretting every year since then." Now, lets see which one of the Magnificent Seven African American NFL head coaches will lead his team to the Super Bowl: Shell, Lewis, Green, Dugny, Crenel, Smith, or Edwards. The world is watching them. Smith, the Gladewater, Texas linebacker, who honed his paying skills at the University of Tulsa, Smith became the Chicago Bears 13th head coach on January 15, 2004, and follows some of the games' outstanding coaches including founder George Halas, a Pro Football original, and former head coach and tight end Mike Dika. Former players in the Hall include Gayle Sayers, Walter Payton, George McAfee, George Musso, and George Connor.

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