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Roundup from the Lone Star Hoods

AUSTIN— Gov. Rick Perry appointed Louis E. Sturns of Fort Worth as judge of the 213th Judicial District Court to serve a term until the next general election. Sturns fills the vacancy created by the retirement of Robert K. Gill. Sturns most recently worked as an attorney in private practice and currently serves on the Public Safety Commission. He is a past member of the Texas Racing Commission. Sturns formerly served as a judge on the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals and in Tarrant County Criminal District Court No. 1 and 2. He is past president of the Tarrant County Bar Association and Tarrant County Black Bar Association.

FT. WORTH— The parents of Roy Alvin Adams Jr. are continuing their fight for justice. Roy was convicted in August 2005 of intoxication manslaughter in the June 12, 2004 death of Grapevine Police Officer Darren Medlin. A blood alcohol content of .11 was determined by the Tarrant County Medical Examiner's lab. During the trial, the media referenced the lab as "experts" and "officials": Since May 2007, the parents have notified the local media numerous times about the "major deficiencies" at the Tarrant County Medical Examiners' Office when the lab handled their son's blood draw and didn't receive a response.

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Was Katrina racist?



A Black United Front is needed to restore the soul of New Orleans.

New Orleans' disaster triggered conspiracy

BUD JOHNSON
African-American News&Issues

SAN ANTONIO— Katrina theologically was "an act of God" Almighty. Yet, made in America Africans' conspiracy theorists lament that evil in high places is conspiring to use a natural disaster to steal the soul of New Orleans. "Chocolate City" notwithstanding, a humbled and chastened Mayor Ray Nagin welcomed Pres. George W. Bush with a hug when he arrived in New Orleans's 9th Ward (to commemorate the second anniversary of Hurricane Katrina's pre-empted strike on a municipality that once was compared to the biblical **Sodom & Gomorrah**), on August 29, 2007.

Thus, participating in a journalistic orgy of misinformation and flawed politically-correct opinions would have violated **African American News&Issues'** prime directive to tell it like it is.

Unquestionably, citizens of good consciences wont to think critical-

ly, realize that annual events aren't breaking news. So, in deference to the free press credo: "Report all news without fear or favor," AAN&I was obligated to monitor and analyze real, or imagined new information germane to Black America. Especially, a new message from President Bush. Surely he would seize the moment to share his master plan for restoring Iraq (a nation of over 27 million people indigenous to a nation that spans 162, 234 miles), to New Orleans's tired, huddled masses that once called the 9th Ward home. "Better days are ahead," Bush said. "We're still paying attention. We understand," the president said according to an August 29, 2007 Associated Press article. Bush even invoked God's amazing grace as he "led a moment of silence at a recovering school in the Lower 9th Ward - a predominantly Black, low-income area that was all but obliterated by the storm."

Even so, one must ponder how he intends to restore a much larger city in a foreign land, when

he has failed miserably to conciliate 354,000 Americans indignant to a city spanning a mere 181 square miles? "The anniversary was a reminder of the desperation that filled New Orleans' flooding neighborhoods in the days after Katrina hit," the article continued. "Protesters, remembering the government's slow response in the storm's immediate aftermath, planned to march from the Lower 9th Ward to Congo Square to spread their message that the government has also failed to help people return." Conversely, a question that's begging to be asked wasn't. Consequently, AAN&I would be remiss (as Black America's strongest editorial voice), to not ask: **Do the haves of New Orleans want the unproductive have nots to return?**

For sure, *Jazz* and *Jambalaya* represent the soul of New Orleans, from a grassroots Black perspective, but if one reads between the lines they'll detect a hidden political agenda to use Katrina to imbue

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James Myart Wins Settlement: Rumors Swirl About DA

MARIO SALAS
African-American News&Issues

SAN ANTONIO— Attorney James Myart won a settlement in the Joseph Fennel case this past week as the City Council of San Antonio caved in to what the community knew was a clear case of SAPD racial abuse. In the settlement that was passed by a City Council vote, Joseph Fennel was awarded \$80,000 out of the taxpayers coffers in what many community observers are calling a shameful blot on the San Antonio (SAPD). Joseph Fennel was taken for a common criminal simply because he was Black and shot at the hands of a SAPD officer.

Along with the settlement were comments by Mayor Phil Hardberger that it was a horrible inci-

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Local Civil Rights lawyer accuses DA Susan Reed of selective prosecution.

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Quote of the Week

"The world is a severe schoolmaster, for its frowns are less dangerous than its smiles and flatteries, and it is a difficult task to keep in the path of wisdom."

Phillis Wheatley

Precious memories are still fresh in the minds and hearts of those who celebrated the long and productive life of Mae Elizabeth (Clay) Kelly on September 23, 2006 at Ross Mortuary Chapel, 3618 Lyons Ave. However, the brief order of service officiated by Pastor Dennis Francis left an untold story that ideally would enlighten and delight active pallbearers: Tommy Graham, Terry Bee, Dana Vaughns, Reggie Robinson, Craig Robinson and Jimmy Bernard. Surely, honorary pallbearers: LeRoy Boyd, Alvin Robinson, William Sloan, Jack Dempsey, Ernest Alonzo and Eric Alonzo will testify that Mae Elizabeth, who was affectionately called "Liza," was a living historian who was justly proud of her roots.

Insofar as Liza was born to Gene and Amelia Dillard Clay on Feb. 22, 1917, in the small hamlet of Gloster, Louisiana, she was always proud to share the history of great Black Louisianans. Her favorite was Daniel Louis "Sacthmo" Armstrong (August 4, 1901-July 6, 1971), who grew up

MAE "LIZA" KELLY



February 22, 1917 - September 16, 2006

in a New Orleans orphanage to become one of the world's greatest musicians, and an even greater ambassador for the land of the free. For sure, Liza's knowledge of Louisiana's well known Black personalities such as the great gospel singer Mahalia Jackson (born in New Orleans on Oct. 26, 1911 to a poor Black laundress and Baptist preacher) impressed those she regaled with her total recall memories from her own past. Nevertheless, her knowledge of the less-

er known Black history makers from the Louisiana of her era was truly amazing.

In fact, Liza was a contemporary of Morris Francis Xavier Jeff, Sr., who was born in Morgan City, Louisiana. Jeff became a great educator and is best known for establishing the recreational and educational programs in New Orleans that Katrina wiped out two years ago. Jeff grew up in New Orleans where his parents moved when he was a small child, but started his teaching career in 1937 Lake Charles. He is remembered so fondly in New Orleans, however, because he gave up a comfortable life in 1940 to commit himself to its city's kids. History records that he even dug ditches to finance his dream. Meanwhile, if you knew that Israel Meyer Augustine, Jr. (the first African American judge) was born in New Orleans on Nov. 16, 1924, you are as history literate as Liza was.

She often heard Augustine speak proudly of Homer Plessey, the Louisiana shoemaker who wrote an indelible page in America's his-

tory.

African American law students, in fact, are required to revisit the 1887 U. S. Supreme Court's *Plessey v. Ferguson* landmark ruling that challenged discrimination on trains as part of their course. Even so, Liza was more likely to glorify the younger generation that became famous during an era that she was blossoming into adulthood. And, much like her heroes, Liza served God and mankind well enough for Him to call her home on Sept. 15, 2006 with a "Well done my good and faithful servant" commendation. She leaves to cherish her memories, one son, LeRoy Boyd; a daughter-in-law, Deloris Boyd; one granddaughter, La Tonya Fluces; one step grandson, Jack Dempsey (Diane); four step granddaughters: Lizzie, Marie, Sylvia (Dana), and Armett; one great granddaughter, Deloris Fluces; one great grandson, Acielliott Fluces, Jr.; nine step great grandkids, 15 great-great grandkids; two nephews, Alvin Robinson and William Sloan; and a host of other relatives and friends. ★