

## Everyday People with Jesse Simon



### Dorothy Blaylock honored with surprise birthday party by family and friends

**HOUSTON-** Dorothy Harp-Blaylock was honored with a surprise evening of fun and celebration, recognizing her 70th birthday, hosted by her four children, Darrell, Gerald, Zanthia and Derek, at The 5th Ward Multi-Service Center, 3804 Market Street, Houston, Texas. Dorothy's husband, Carrington (Moody) Blaylock, passed away when the eldest of the four children, was only seven years old. Dorothy had to take a stand and raised her children to be productive citizens.

The program included: Creative Praise Dance; Shenique Hatter, Salutation; Joyce Thompson, Words of Expression; Derek D. Blaylock, and a Special Presentation to Remember; by Speaker and Writer, Carla M. Brown. Benediction and blessing of food, Rev. Dr. Lewis Jackson Sr., Pastor of Mt. Vernon UMC. Happy 3 scores and 10, Dorothy, we're wishing you many more!

Some guest in attendance included: Derek Blaylock, Marissa Diaz, Yolanda Rusher, Errol Thompson (Maryland), Shelia Blaylock, Bria Blaylock, Dorothy Blaylock, (baby) Ethan Thompson (Maryland), Jamal Blaylock, Zanthia Taylor, Mary Shipp (California), Claudette Blaylock, Joyce Thompson (Maryland), and Amirah Rusher. ★



### First annual Orange and White Football Camp for boys and girls

**AUSTIN-** Limas Sweed (Pittsburgh Steelers), Michael Griffin (Tennessee Titans) Marcus Griffin (Minnesota Vikings) and NFL friends will host their first annual Orange and White Football camp on July 19, 2008 at Reagan High School, 7104 Berkman Drive, from 10:00am-12:30pm and 1:30-4:30pm. The Orange and White Football Camp provides boys and girls, 8-17, a chance to be coached by the best the NFL has to offer.

In addition to the NFL players, high school, middle school and youth program coaches will also be present. Campers will receive proper supervision, small group instruction and maximum repetition. The camp will emphasize on fundamentals, form, technique and different aspects of each position and promotes sportsmanship. At the end of the day, campers will participate in brief talks with players on key issues facing youth today. The "player talks" follow an open forum format, allowing for questions, group discussion and the opportunity to share personal experiences. Campers will receive a camp T-shirt and an autographed photo from the hosts.

For more information and registration, please visit the Web site at [www.orangeandwhitefootballcamp.com](http://www.orangeandwhitefootballcamp.com). ★

### Book Release Party for Author Marc Bazaldua

**HOUSTON-** Acres Homes native, Marc Bazaldua, author of *Thanks to Prison.....Operation State Boots to Gucci Boots*, will host a book release party at Grooves Restaurant & Lounge, 2300 Pierce St., on Sunday, July 27th, starting at 8:00 p.m. Dress to impress! There will be professional photographers present, in addition a film crew will be on hand to film footage for a DVD. Come meet, greet, and party with author, Marc Bazaldua.

For more information regarding the book release, [www.marcbazaldua.com](http://www.marcbazaldua.com). ★

### Miss Black Texas USA Scholarship Pageant

**HOUSTON-** The Miss Black Texas USA Scholarship Pageant is looking for women ages 18-27 to compete for a \$3,000 scholarship and the 2009 title of Miss Black Texas USA. Teens ages 14-17 are also welcome to participate, competing for a \$1,500 scholarship and the Miss Black Teen Texas USA title.

For more information on deadlines and application details, please call (713) 320-5611 or visit the Web site at [www.blackpageant.com](http://www.blackpageant.com). ★

### Why it's called the Music "Business"

**KENNY LOVE**  
African-American News&Issues

Artists of all types and kinds have, historically and long, held on tightly to their nature of not desiring to become involved in the "business" of their careers. This is so for musicians, but also so for fine artists, actors, and other similar entertainment vocations. Their reasons vary for their lack of desire to become involved in the business aspect of their chosen art, however, many (if not most) have seemed (and claimed) to feel that doing so tends to, in part, sacrifice their creativity aspect.

As an offside example, consider how better a singer who also plays an instrument to accompany his or her vocals will likely sound if he or she were to solely concentrate on either the voice or the instrument. Put in this context, it is easier to understand why artists feel this way. However, and also historically, when artists have elected to forego learning the "business" of their art, they have very often become the proverbial lamb slaughter for Music industry wolves.

And, there exists no shortage of nightmarish tales to support this effect and its horrific result of musical artists being taken advantage of financially because they were clueless and unaware of the mechanics of the music industry. Interestingly, as a result of technology (primarily, the Internet) having now forced a re-direction in the way Music is now marketed, promoted, publicized, and distributed, along with a new glut of available outlets, options, and resources that have all but assassinated the "wolves" known as major record labels, musicians, ironically, find themselves forced to manage and maintain the business of their careers. And, while more musicians are gradually coming to

accept this as a necessary evil, more than a few are coming to the revelation kicking and screaming, primarily, due to a continually false perception of discomfort in taking on this aspect.

For success to be realized in this area, what musicians require is a blueprint, roadmap, or guideline, much as they required when learning their musical instruments. A blueprint, roadmap, or guideline that directs and provides plans for implanting their musical productions into the psyche of their fans through promotion, publicity, and distribution techniques for success. Very often, a single albeit simple career tip, can evoke powerful results, ultimately, spelling the difference between a short road to success and a long, winding trail to failure.

**Example Tip 1:** Many major/top market radio stations now have forms on their web sites requesting musical artists (regardless of their status) to submit their music directly for review and airplay consideration via the stations' Web site. Up to as recent as a year or so ago, it was incredibly difficult, and (pardon the pun) virtually unheard of for independent recording artists to experience any significant degree of radio airplay.

**Example Tip 2:** Musicians often express to me that they have great difficulty securing print media coverage today outside of their local areas when, just a few short years ago, space was plentiful and up for grabs, regardless of an artist's locational base. Again, this is another example of an industry "game change," in that print space today is more valuable and coveted than ever, and many publications tend to reserve their ink space for either local hometown acts coming up, or for acts that will be performing in their areas. These two important industry changes are vital to musi-

cal artists who are today completely guiding the reins of their success.

*Kenny Love is an 18-year veteran international radio/video promoter and media publicist for musicians, authors and filmmakers. For more details, read his bio info page at <http://www.eartastic.com/kl/KennyLove.html>*

### 2nd Lunch & Learn Event by Black Business Directory

**ADDISON-** The Black Business Directory is proud to announce the 2nd Lunch & Learn Event. The organization is committed to helping businesses and business owners be in the position to let others know what types of services and products they offer by becoming one of their advertisers. And that is why we have begun our Lunch & Learn Series, to allow all of us to do business together and to promote the growth of businesses in the Dallas/Ft. Worth metroplex.

So mark your calendar to be at this spectacular Lunch & Learn Event to be held at Tuesday, July 22, 2008 11:30am-1:30pm @ Holiday Inn 4960 Arapaho Rd. With 50 guests expected, the potential relationships are outstanding! The first Lunch & Learn had powerhouses such as Principal Financial Group, Citibank, New York Life and others.

This event is the perfect avenue to increase your contacts, generate leads and see how advertising with BBD can help your business reach more potential clients and customers. Be sure to bring plenty of business cards. ★

### Deadline nears for church choirs

This summer, Verizon Wireless is challenging church choirs from coast to coast to show off their pipes in the company's first nationwide "How Sweet The Sound" competition. Expanding upon last year's successful "How Sweet The Sound" event in Memphis, Tenn., Verizon Wireless is now giving choirs in 11 cities from coast to coast a chance to compete in the national grand finale for a cash prize of \$25,000 and the title of the best church choir in the U.S.

"We recognize music unites communities and is often a cornerstone element of how people celebrate life," said Mike Lanman, vice president and chief marketing officer for Verizon Wireless. "How Sweet The Sound is much more than a singing competition – it is an opportunity to celebrate the unique ways that music connects people within the community. It is also an opportunity for Verizon Wireless to support the work that churches and other religious organizations do in their communities every day and to give back in a way that will help them expand their ministries."

Verizon Wireless' "How Sweet The Sound" tour will host regional performances in the following U.S. cities:

- September 13: St. Louis
- September 15: Atlanta
- September 18: New York
- September 20: Detroit
- September 23: Philadelphia
- September 26: Washington, D.C.
- September 29: Chicago
- October 2: Memphis, Tenn.
- October 6: Houston
- October 10: Oakland, Calif.
- October 13: Los Angeles

"How Sweet The Sound" invites choirs affiliated with a church or other church organization (as defined by the organization's tax-

exempt ID number) within one of the 11 regions to enter. There are two categories for entry – Small/Medium Choirs, consisting of six to 35 participants, and Large Choirs, consisting of 36 to 100 participants.

Choirs interested in a chance to perform on-stage in their cities must submit an application and a five-minute performance audition video either online at [www.howsweetthesound.com](http://www.howsweetthesound.com) or by mail no later than July 25, 2008. Audition videos will be reviewed by a panel of judges who will select up to 16 choirs from each region. The 16 choirs will be posted on [www.howsweetthesound.com](http://www.howsweetthesound.com) where people can vote for their favorite choir in each of the two categories.

The four choirs in each category per region who receive the highest number of votes will be invited to participate on stage at the event in their community. The choirs will compete in front of local celebrity judges, who will then vote to determine the finalist choirs that will be awarded the \$10,000 cash prize. An overall regional winner will be chosen from the two category winners to head to the grand finale to compete against choirs from across the country for the \$25,000 prize in November.

Additional details will be announced as the selection process gets underway. All details can be found on Monday, June 30 on Verizon Wireless' official How Sweet The Sound Web site at [www.howsweetthesound.com](http://www.howsweetthesound.com).

No purchase is necessary – contest entry ends July 25, 2008, for online entries and must be post-marked by July 21, 2008, and received by July 25, 2008, for mail-in entries. Participants must be 18 years of age or older and legal residents of 50 U.S. and D.C. For official rules, go to [www.howsweetthesound.com](http://www.howsweetthesound.com) or call 800-230-0053. ★