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Couple Of The Month

Grace Temple Covenant Church

Pastor & First Lady
Dr. Tommy J. Crosby
&
Ms. Lola M. Crosby

August 13: International Left Handers Day

Have you ever felt singled out for being a "lefty" in school or sports? If you favor your left hand over your right when writing or throwing a baseball, you may actually have, well, the upper hand. Recent studies show that left-handers are quicker than right-handers when processing information and performing certain tasks. Celebrate International Left Handers Day and learn about the advantages of being left-handed.

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SCRIPTURE FOR THE MONTH

Today's Scripture

Walk as children of light.
Ephesians 5:8

Words Of Wisdom

We value the light more fully after we've come through the darkness.

Green's Nominate First All Woman of Color Ticket

Special to TPA from NOKOA The Observer
By Bill Holloway

The United States Green Party Presidential Nominating Convention in Chicago, July 11 - 13th, 2008, produced a never before seen historical event - the first all women-of-color presidential ticket. As Cynthia McKinney and running mate Rosa Clemente took to the stage to accept the nomination, the lights dimmed in Chicago's Symphony Center and John Lennon's song "Power to the People" played as candidates and delegates alike danced in the aisles. "Power to the People" is the theme of Cynthia McKinney's presidential campaign.

After a quick approval vote to accept Cynthia's choice of Rosa Clemente as her running mate as vice president, Pat LaMarche, the party's 2004 vice presidential candidate introduced Rosa Clemente. Clemente is a 35-year-old Bronx-born black Puerto Rican hip-hop activist and journalist with a master's degree from Cornell University. In 2002, Red Eye Magazine named Rosa one of the top 50 Hip Hop Activists to watch for. She has conducted numerous workshops and conference sessions on issues such as African-American and Latino/a Intercultural Relations; Hip-Hop Activism; The History of the Young Lords Party; and Women, Feminism and Hip Hop.

Rosa Clemente electrified the crowd with her acceptance speech which was focused on America's youth, reminding us that "We must remember that youth have always taken risks. From the Soweto uprisings in South Africa. To African-American and Mexicano children in the 50s and 60s who walked out of schools. To the 17, 18 and 19-year old men and women who joined the ranks of the

Student Non-Violent Coordination Committee, the Black Panther party, the American Indian Movement, the Black Liberation Movement, the Young Lords Party - young people have always been the catalyst of change." Ms. Clemente continued, "We must remember our ancestors who broke [the chains of slavery] everywhere around the world, because they knew another world had to be made. The answer is not always yes we can, but We Will Do. Not always yes you can, but You Will Do."

Ms. Clemente admonished the delegates that the Green Party is no longer the alternative, it is the imperative for America today.

David Cobb, Green Party candidate for president in 2004, then introduced Cynthia McKinney, former six-term Congresswoman from Georgia who recently moved to California and joined the Green Party after concluding that the Democrats and Republicans, while "appearing to represent our interests in order to get elected, are actually representing someone else's." Representative McKinney's comments and charge to the party ran the spectrum from the common sense of organic farming to ending the occupation of Iraq, from freeing political prisoners in America to freeing ourselves from the vice-like grip of the American military-industrial complex, from freeing ourselves from foreign oil to retooling our industrial infrastructure to create green jobs, goods, and services. In closing, McKinney asserted that Green values are majoritarian values. We need the Green Party now more than ever.

Representative McKinney's impassioned acceptance speech was an inspired reflection of her experiences as a Georgia state representative where she served with her father as the United State's first father-daughter state legislative team, during which time her son was a toddler growing up crawling below her desk under the dome of the capital. And as a U.S. representative she served on the House Armed Services Committee asking the hard questions on the Trillions of tax dollars missing from the Pentagon budget, addressing allegations of defense contractors marketing in children while continuing to get preferential deals for huge defense contracts, the enormous costs of the Iraq war, and September 11, 2001 information secrecy. Speaking specifically on the issues that effect working people, the poor and the shrinking "middle-class" of America her speech was a refreshing departure from the political rhetoric so commonly used by the candidates of the dominate controlling two parties.

Story continued on page nine



The County Line

By:Commissioner Joe Jaynes

Last year, the North Texas Tollway Authority awarded Collin, Denton, Dallas and Tarrant Counties approximately \$3.2 billion for the contractual right to toll State Highway 121 for the next 50 years. Of this amount, Collin County is to receive about \$1.5 billion.

From Collin County's \$1.5 billion, roughly \$600 million is being used to construct the main lanes of SH 121-a project that is already underway. When completed, the project will consist of six main lanes with overpasses at the intersections and a new interchange at U.S. Highway 75. Most of this project will be completed by early 2010 with the interchange fully built out by early 2012.

The remaining \$900 million will be used for other transportation expansion/widening projects throughout Collin County. Several of these projects are listed below:

" U.S. 75 from Legacy through McKinney and Melissa with completion at the Outer Loop just south of Anna.

" Engineering for the remaining portion of U.S. 75 from Anna to the county line.

" S.H. 289 from F.M. 3537 north to Business 289 in Celina. This will also include an interchange at U.S. 380 and S.H. 289. Much of this project through Frisco is already funded and should be awarded this year.

" U.S. 380 from the Denton County line to Coit Road with an interchange at U.S. 380 and the Dallas North Tollway.

" S.H. 121 North through Melissa from U.S. 75 to the Fannin County line.

" F.M. 455 in Anna from U.S. 75 to S.H. 5.

" Numerous intersection improvements, including Preston Road and the President George Bush Tollway.

" DART Rail feasibility studies including the Cotton Belt line to DFW Airport.

The remaining projects can be found the North Central Council Texas of Governments website at www.nctcog.org/trans/tip/cda/index.asp.

The \$3.2 billion is currently deposited in a Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) account earning about \$350,000 in interest

per day. A major goal for the region is to get those funds and interest out of TxDOT and up to North Texas before the legislature meets in January. Our local legislators are working with us to see that the S.H. 121 funds get to our region for important transportation projects -- and not diverted to other state programs.

In addition to the S.H. 121 funded projects, several other projects are already funded and underway. These projects include Custer Road in McKinney, major rehabilitation projects in Plano and the U.S. 75 and S.H. 380 intersection in McKinney. The expansion of U.S. 380 through Farmersville is scheduled to be awarded at the end of this year and Phase II of the U.S. 380 and U.S. 75 improvements-a tunnel under 380-is also being discussed.

The S.H. 121 funding is critical to Collin County. The Texas Department of Transportation is going through a financial crisis that will be addressed during the 2009 legislative session. While many counties have had to stop major construction projects to see how the TxDOT funding issue will be resolved, Collin County will be able to address our most pressing transportation needs.

(County Commissioner Joe Jaynes' email is jjaynes@collincountytx.gov)

Have a really good summer, be careful in the heat and remember to check on a elderly neighbor