



JUDGE RESIGNS FROM BENCH!

LeSure Tells Governor She'll Quit March 1; Appears To Be Part of Plea Deal; Her Arraignment Is March 2

Clarion-Call-Voiced Singer Dead

She's Amongst Her Generation's Greatest Singers

By RACHEL S. JONES
Special to the Chronicle

LOS ANGELES—Whitney Houston, the multimillion-selling singer who emerged in the 1980's as one of her generation's greatest rhythm & blues voices, only to deteriorate through years of cocaine use and an abusive marriage, died on Saturday in Beverly Hills, Calif.

She was 48.

Her death came as the music industry descended on Los Angeles for the annual celebration of the Grammy Awards. She was to have attended a pre-Grammy party Saturday night being hosted by Clive Davis, the founder of Arista Records, who had been her pop mentor.

Miss Houston was found in her room at the Beverly Hilton hotel and paramedics were unable to revive her, the authorities said. She was pronounced dead at 3:55 p.m. The cause of death is under

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Whitney Houston helped pave the way to pop success for other singers, but confessed to battling demons of addiction.

Uncertainty On Status Of Her Husband

By W. ORLANDO PIERCE
Special to the Chronicle

Oklahoma County District Judge Tammy Bass LeSure submitted a succinct, two-sentence letter of resignation to the governor on Friday.

Apparently a part of a plea deal made with prosecutors, Judge LeSure told Gov. Mary Fallin in a letter that she would resign effective March 1, and thanked "the citizens for allowing me to serve my 13 years."

The judge, her husband and another woman had been involved in a preliminary hearing that got underway last month.

The hearing was being held to determine if prosecutors had enough evidence to go to trial.

After four days of the hearing had elapsed (during which prosecutors indicated they would call as many as 20 witnesses), the hearing was interrupted when the defendants and prosecutors began to plea-bargain.

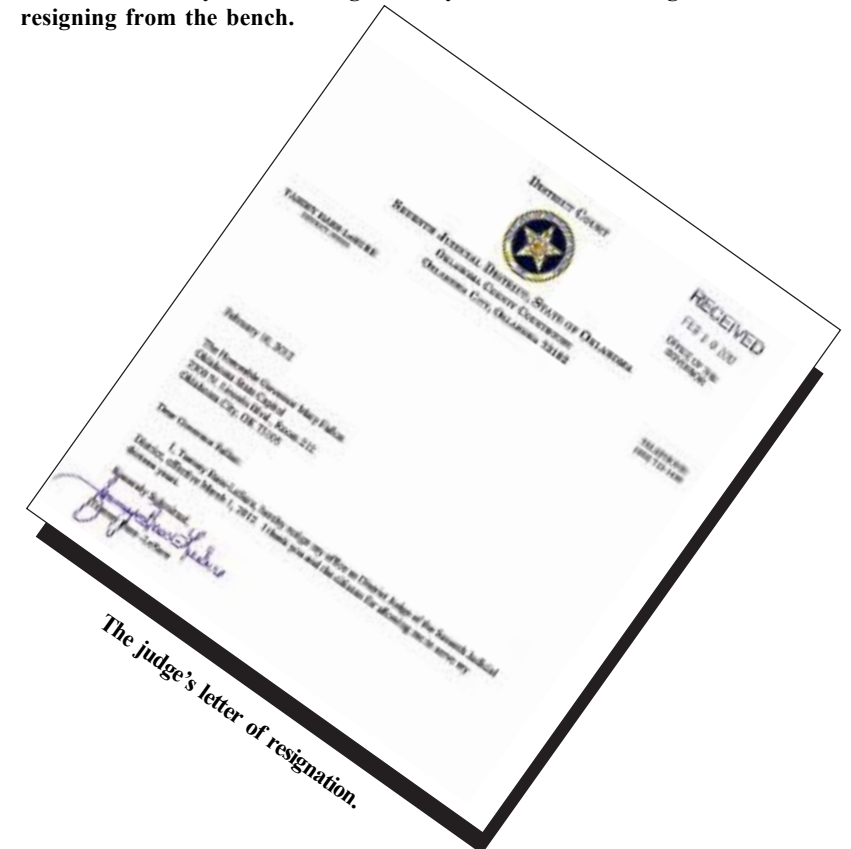
The 44-year-old judge was accused of giving twins she had adopted to her bailiff's sister and of lying on adoption records.

Judge LeSure is facing nearly 40 felony counts of fraud, conspiracy and perjury. Her husband, Karlos LeSure, 47, faces four felony charges.

Ravonda L. Edwards, the third defendant in last month's pre-



Oklahoma County District Judge Tammy Bass LeSure leaving her office after resigning from the bench.



liminary hearing and the sister of the judge's bailiff, is facing six felony counts.

According to prosecutors,

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Shannon Forecasts Noisy, Though Productive Session

Lawton Republican Legislator Set to Become Speaker in 2013

By ROBERT E. BARNES
Special to the Chronicle

Speaker-Designate T.W. Shannon (Rep., Lawton) expects a noisy but productive legislative session this year.

Some of that noise might turn out to be caused by anticipated efforts by social conservatives to undermine the authority of the leadership in the State House.

State Rep. Shannon was named speaker-designate last year with the support of those far rightwing conservatives, and he defeated the legislator supported for the post by the speaker.

"Some of it is paranoia," State Rep. Shannon said in an interview with *The Oklahoman* regarding speculation about troublemaking.

"Frankly, we've all pledged to support the speaker," the speaker-designate said.

"There will be times that we disagree with any speaker," State Rep. Shannon continued. "That's part of it. But Republicans pull together when it's time to do it."

State Rep. Shannon said he and

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Speaker-Designate T.W. Shannon said he expects this legislative session to be noisy, as well as productive.



The annual teacher recruitment fair of the Oklahoma City Public School System will be held earlier this year than previously.

March 6

Teacher Recruitment Fair To Be Held Earlier Than Usual

By JOHN W. SIMMS
Special to the Chronicle

The annual teacher recruitment fair of the Oklahoma City Public School System will begin at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, March 6, it was announced.

The event will be held at U.S. Grant High School, 5016 S. Pennsylvania Ave.

Holding the recruitment fair this year three weeks earlier than usual will

provide certain advantages, the superintendent said.

"This really gives our district an advantage in terms of meeting, interviewing and hiring the best and brightest teachers," Supt. Karl Springer said.

"We are taking bold steps to reform education," he said, "including changing the school calendar and implementing programs that have a positive effect on our students."

"Of course, we need qualified

teachers who believe in our students," he continued, "and who want to work in an urban setting and to be a part of our plan for success."

With the recruitment fair, the district hopes to help fill teaching vacancies, hire additional pre-kindergarten teachers and employ coaches for the district's athletic department.

There is a need for athletic

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