

# North Dallas Gazette



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## Fannie Mae Moves to Exclude: Bad Credit Scores Could Forever Deny Borrowers Home Loans

By Lisa Loving  
PORTLAND, Ore. (NNPA) - New lending guidelines proposed by the Federal National Mortgage Association - also known as Fannie Mae - would permanently lock out some minority homebuyers by denying loans based on credit scores.

That's the message voiced by hundreds of affordable housing advocates around the nation, who sent an open letter opposing the move to Fannie Mae President Daniel H. Mudd last week.

"As I understand it, and why I signed onto the letter, is that while Fannie

Mae and Freddie Mac have some assistance they provide to homebuyers to make homes more affordable, they're considering a new qualification so that people who have bad credit are not going to qualify for home loans," said Moloy Good, director of the Fair Housing Council of Oregon.

Observers question whether Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac may be solving their snowballing financial problems by reneging on their mission to help lower-income and minority homebuyers achieve the American Dream.

News reports indicate

See Fannie Mae, Page 6

## Former News Executive Picked To Lead NAACP

The NAACP chose 35-year-old activist and former news executive Ben Jealous as its president Saturday, making him the youngest leader in the 99-year history of the nation's largest civil rights organization.

The 64-member board of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People met for eight hours before selecting

Jealous in the early morning. He was formally introduced Saturday afternoon and will take over as president in September.

"I'm excited," Jealous told The Associated Press. "I think that it's a real affirmation that this organization is willing to invest in the future, to invest in the ideas and the leadership of the generation that is currently raising black children in this



AP Photo: Ben Jealous, the newly elected president of the NAACP, makes remarks outside the NAACP headquarters.

country."

Though he is not a politician, minister or civil rights icon, Jealous provides the organization with a young but connected chief familiar with black leadership and social justice issues.

He takes the helm as the NAACP's 17th president just months before the organization's centennial

See Jealous, Page 12

## HUD Repeatedly Dismissed Staff Concerns About Contracts

By Carol D. Leonnig  
Washington Post Staff Writer

The small Texas property-management company had no experience overseeing hundreds of defaulted homes across the country. It did have two former Reagan adminis-

tration officials at the helm and warm relations with senior Republican appointees at the federal housing agency.

During a few weeks in 2004, the three-employee company, Harrington, Moran and Barksdale Inc. (HMBI), went from no

government work to landing \$71 million in contracts with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to oversee the upkeep and sale of defaulted homes. It had previously managed a handful of apartment buildings and development

projects.

The company's meteoric rise -- and HUD's willingness to bend the rules to accommodate it -- surprised veteran agency contracting specialist Gloria Freeman.

"After you've been in the business awhile,

See HUD, Page 12

## Making Sure Everyone's Involved



City of Irving M/WBE Program Administrator Anthony Coleman

See Making, Page 9

Blackonomics

## Who's Got Our Back?

By James Clingman

Having been concerned for many years about the reluctance among politicians, both local and national, to directly cite the economic disparity that still exists between Blacks and Whites in this country, a search of my "keeper" files turned up the following quote: "We could pretend it's not true, but decade after decade of slavery followed by decade after decade of segregation, followed by decade after decade of discrimination has an impact. It has an effect.

If you're African American in this country today you have about - on average - 10 percent of the net worth of white families.

Ten percent - average net worth of [B]lack families is about \$8,000; [while that for] white families is about \$80,000. And let me tell you, we're not moving in the right direction. African American children who were born into middle class families in the 1960's are now living in poverty."

Former presidential candidate, John Edwards, made that

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## People In The News...



Derrick D. Bookings



Karen Bass



Gloria Reed Austin

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## Derrick D. Bookings

Mr. Bookings, Plano Senior High School's Director of Choral Activities, was named one of the Excellence in Teaching Award winners. His thoughts on the matter: *As a teacher, nothing is more exciting than being present at creation, when the clay that we mold begins to breathe. Good teaching requires love - not only the love of teaching your subject, but the love of learning and sharing ideas. It is the love that a teacher*



*feels for those students who walk into our lives, begin to breathe, and then walk out again, that inspires us to*

*become better. I teach because being around students who reach out and take a chance, inevitably begin to breathe, and I find myself quite magically catching my breath with them.*

*Throughout my years of teaching students at various grade levels, several thoughts emerge. My goal has been, and continues to be, to help students experience our world more richly, beyond the everyday, beyond what we experience through textbooks and different*

*methodologies. I hope they never stop wanting more out of life and continue to pursue a life-long passion for learning. I tell my students that from a window you can only see a piece of sky; it's only when you step outside that you realize just how big and wide it really is.*

*There is no more important ability required in a democratic society than that of sharing common goals with others and working together to achieve them. It is when the words of President John*

*F. Kennedy come to fruition that I know my work has had some effect. "I look forward to an America which will reward achievement in the arts as we reward achievement in business or statecraft. I look forward to an America which will steadily raise the standards of artistic accomplishment which will steadily enlarge cultural opportunities for all of our citizens." In my estimation, a performing group is a microcosm of society. In addition to skills related to music reading, self-*

*expression, self-discipline and concentration, performers become interdependent.*

*An old Chinese proverb says, "A teacher for a day is like a parent for a lifetime." My students are my "academic children," and when they grow intellectually I value my part in contributing to that growth. I take great joy in seeing my students develop into reflective practitioners who embrace diversity, think independently and discover how to learn for themselves.*

## Karen Bass

Last week California installed the nation's first black female legislative leader, swearing in Los Angeles Democrat Karen Bass as speaker of the state Assembly.

Bass said at the ceremony that she feels the weight of history on her shoulders.

"If we could only harness the power



*of our common humanity, I don't think there's anything we couldn't*

*do for the people of this state," she said.*

The 54-year-old becomes the 67th speaker, succeeding fellow Los Angeles Democrat Fabian Nunez. He is relinquishing the post at the end of the year because of term limits.

Bass was a physician's assistant before being elected to the Assembly in 2004 and is known for

writing legislation on child welfare and social justice issues. As speaker, she will hold what is regarded as the second most powerful post in state government behind the governor.

Bass takes over the 80-member house as lawmakers are turning their attention to the state budget. Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger will release his

revised spending plan for the coming fiscal year on Wednesday and has estimated a deficit as high as \$20 billion.

Bass will be among leaders who try to broker agreements on the budget and other major policy issues. She will appoint chairs to legislative committees, set staff budgets and largely control what

legislation reaches the Assembly floor.

California's Assembly is the first state legislative body in the nation to be led by a black woman, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures. In Washington state, Rosa Franklin holds the largely honorary title of Senate president pro tem.

## Gloria Reed Austin

Long-time community activist and

executive director of the Renaissance

Cultural Center and the National Cowboys of Color Museum and Hall of Fame, which she also co-founded along with her husband James N. Austin, Jr., two 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations located in Fort



Worth, Texas, is getting some national recognition. After providing many years of community service, Gloria Reed Austin is the focus of a national ad in Essence Magazine. Nominated by her daughter, Tara Reed, Gloria is one of twelve (12) women selected by Clorox®, the makers of Pine-Sol® Cleaners and ABC Radio Networks as having made a significant difference in their communities and will be featured in an article in the May 2008 issue of the Essence magazine and also

received the "Woman Making a Powerful Difference Award."

The editorial focus of Essence magazine is on today's career-minded, independent and sophisticated African American woman. The magazine is dedicated to helping its readers meet their maximum potential through articles stressing career and educational opportunities, investing and money management tips, fashion and beauty ideas and health and fitness trends. In addition, it features information on parenting, home deco-

rating, cultural reviews and profiles

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### Is the sky clearest on the day it is most blue?

While you ponder that thought we would like to announce that Minority Opportunity News, Inc., formerly a Dallas based renaissance community tabloid, founded in 1991, has relocated to Plano, Texas, and changed our name to MON-The Gazette. In addition to moving our offices to Plano, our editorial coverage has also shifted to encompass Dallas' Northern Corridor. The Northern Corridor is clearly the fastest growing region in Texas, if not in America. MON-The Gazette believes that the engine to continue this growth is the airport expansion in McKinney, which is the largest and most visible of many area opportunities. As always, and true to tradition, MON-The Gazette will be there carving a world of opportunity for those seeking to provide quality services. Should you dare to expand your quest for economic parity outside the southern region or just want to know what is going on up north- Think of MON-The Gazette as your paper of opportunity!



The North Dallas Gazette, formerly Minority Opportunity News, was founded July, 1991, by Jim Bochum and Thurman R. Jones

# THE TRUTH CLINIC

## No Honor Comes From a Dishonorable Action

*A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit; neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. (Matt 7:18)*

On April 7, 1965, a beleaguered President Lyndon Johnson gave an address at Johns Hopkins University that rationalized for the American people the nature of the Vietnam conflict, the reasons for the U.S. involvement, and the nation's objectives for the war.

His words seem familiar, and not just because of the similar rhetoric we hear from our current political leaders. Change the name of the country, the date, and the coded names used to identify the enemy and today's Iraq is yesterday's Vietnam.

The sad but real tragedy for America is we are again making the same mistake of couching self-serving arrogant nationalism in Christian virtues yet expecting a different result.

In Johnson's case by the time he gave his Johns Hopkins speech the war to save South Vietnam's independence was already lost. For President Bush, by the time he declared "mission accomplished" on May 1, 2003 the conventional Iraq war was not only still alive but the unanticipated insurgency was just beginning.

Although many in the Johnson administration recognized at that time the fallacy of American dominance as a foundation for continuation of the war Johnson continued to escalate the war while simultaneously talking about a negotiated peace. During a private meeting a perplexed

Johnson confessed to confidants that "the only thing I know to do is more of the same."

Three years after Johnson's speech at Johns Hopkins the war in Vietnam became exactly what the North Vietnamese had claimed: an anti-social war that pitted the US military against the people of Vietnam. Whatever the justification for the original mission, the perceived righteousness of the war changed and it became an unjust war both politically and morally.

President Bush can no more succeed with our current approach in Iraq than LBJ did in Vietnam.

Do the Bush mantras of "We're fighting them there so we don't have to fight them here" and "we must stay the course" sound familiar? Johnson said this about Vietnam, "Let no one think for a moment that retreat from Vietnam would bring an end to conflict. The battle would be renewed in one country and then another. The central lesson is that the appetite of aggression is never satisfied. To withdraw from one battlefield means only to prepare for the next. We must stay in southeast Asia."

And after five disastrous years in Iraq, motivated by a fantasyland of illogic that is shaped by spin doctor slogans and fueled by unbridled triumphalism (the belief that American political and religious doctrine, culture and social system is superior to all others), Bush continues to pursue his campaign as "theologian in

chief" to convince Americans we can achieve victory with honor.

The problem is that even as the President's Christianity based rationalizations for the Iraq war helped maintain his hold on the religious right political base, they caused concerned allies to resist administration efforts to build a consensus for supporting the war.

Even if his contrived weapons of mass destruction had been validated, the total lack of planning for managing post-Hussein Iraq or for effectively implementing military and nonmilitary reconstruction efforts were enough to doom any potential for success in Iraq.

In Vietnam and Iraq, the United States tried to use its superior technology in support of combat missions to destroy insurgent strongholds, only to have the enemy stealthily slip away to nearby safe havens and regroup.

In spite of their best efforts, US forces continually killed and maimed multiple thousands of noncombatants, thereby expanding the pool of supporters, sympathizers, and new recruits for the insurgents.

Then as now, the United States tried to train and equip a domestic armed force capable of providing security. But, with little international support, the insurgents in Vietnam and Iraq were able to portray their fledgling military as pawns of US imperialistic interests.

President Johnson recognized the hope-

lessness of our position in Vietnam well before the failed Tet offensive of 1968 that became a catalyst for public repudiation of the war.

Demonstrations and unrest erupted in the streets and college campuses across America with demands for an immediate end to the unjust war. On March 31, 1968, Johnson announced to a surprised nation that he would not run for re-election.

It fell on President Nixon to manage America's face saving "peace with honor". He summarily declared a US victory and then left South Vietnam to manage its own affairs.

While this should be the model for the Bush administration's exit from Iraq the Republican candidate for president, John McCain, vows to pursue a stay the course policy until achieving "victory with honor". The simple truth is there is no "victory with honor" to be had in Iraq because the war was a dishonorable action from the start.

McCain is embracing a circular illogic that is no doubt rooted in a skewed manifest destiny philosophy similar to Bush's messianic based triumphalism. This alone makes him a questionable candidate to put in charge of America's reconciliation to God and its redemptive search to regain its lost honor as a world superpower.

James W. Breedlove

Comments or opinions may be sent to the writer at:  
[www.truthclinic.com](http://www.truthclinic.com).



# The Southern Area of The Links, Incorporated and The American Heart Association Address Childhood Obesity

Atlanta, GA – The Links, Incorporated and the American Heart Association (AHA) have formed a relationship to educate the African American community about childhood obesity, one of the most serious public health threats facing our nation. Through the efforts of its 75 chapters in seven states and more than 2,500 members, the Southern Area of The Links, Inc. recently announced plans to promote education and awareness, particularly among children.

The two organizations will educate the communities where Links' chapters are located about factors that contribute to obesity, implement programs that promote healthy lifestyles and support key legislations/policies. The AHA will provide resources, including an educational compact disc developed for this partnership. Links' chapters will work collaboratively with their respective AHA staff partners.

According to the Centers for Disease

Control (CDC), childhood obesity is a public health epidemic and poses one of the most urgent threats to the health and well-being of children and their families. Over the past few decades, the obesity rates have spiraled. Today, one of every ten school children in the world is overweight and an estimated 18 million children under the age of five are classified as overweight and the rate of Type II diabetes in children is increasing. Childhood obesity and

diabetes can translate to the early onset of atherosclerosis (hardening of the arteries) that can lead to heart attack and stroke. In addition, children with obesity problems are at heightened risk for a number of other chronic adult conditions, such as hypertension, high cholesterol, asthma and respiratory problems.

"Overweight and obese children become sick more often, may perform poorly in school and experience depression, lack of self-confi-

dence and low self-esteem," says Mary F. Currie, director of the Southern Area. "The Links, Incorporated recognizes the need to address this issue, which disproportionately affects children of African ancestry, particularly in the South."

All chapters in the Southern Area launched the childhood obesity initiative this year. "African Americans are the leading demographic of affected patients in thirteen of fifteen deadly diseases directly related

to obesity," says Dr. Delores Bolden Stamps, chairperson of the Southern Area's Program Committee. "Our mission is to reverse this alarming trend."

Visit [www.healthier-generation.org](http://www.healthier-generation.org) for information about childhood obesity, including a toolkit for middle and high school students who want to make changes in their school's snack and/or beverage choices, or call 1-888-KID-HLTH for Healthy Schools Inquiries.

## U. S. Med Student NYU Designs Network for Ghana Docs

(NNPA) - An online social networking site for doctors in Ghana that will allow medical information sharing in Ghana and New

York has signed up close to 2000 doctors. The project was designed by a U.S. medical student in collaboration with

Ghana Telecom.

Originally planned as a website for patient management serving physicians in Ghana, the idea for a cell phone network came out of a meeting between Brian Levine of New York University and the CEO of the mobile phone division (Onetouch). "I explained to him my idea to unify an entire country's physician base on a single cell phone carrier.

"Later that week, I was overseeing a joint meeting between the Ghana Medical Association and Onetouch in which an

innovative program was created."

As of Jan. 1, 2008, all registered Ghanaian physicians have the ability to call and SMS all other registered Ghanaian physicians free of charge, as well as dial a toll-free

number from their Onetouch handset to speak with a live operator for other physicians' contact information.

The unified network allows information to flow freely from physician to physician, as well as

from other agencies to physicians. "My hope is that Ghanaian physicians will no longer be geographically isolated, regardless of where they practice, because another physician is now only a phone call away," Levine said.

## Zambia to Use Recovered Millions for Women's Health

(NNPA) - Some \$60 million in stolen government funds has been recovered and will be used to build hospital maternity wings, to help improve the health of women and children, a government minister said.

Former President Frederick Chiluba was found guilty last year of diverting over \$40 million to private accounts. Chiluba, who served two terms as Zambia's presi-

dent from 1991 to 2001, is appealing the verdict.

Chiluba is facing a new round of hearings in Lusaka, the capital city. The former President faces six counts of theft by a public servant as are his two co-defendants.

At an Anti Corruption Commission workshop in Lusaka this week, Chief Justice Ernest Sakala said the problem was more widespread in the country despite all-out efforts to curb the scourge.

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# Dallas Symphony Orchestra's 2008 African American Festival

By Pietro Elina

The Dallas Symphony Orchestra announced plans for the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual 2008 African American Festival last Monday. The African American Festival began in 1993 when founder the late Lynn Flynt Shaw decided to institute a celebration that would promote African Americans and their contributions to the classical community. Ericka Flood, the Dallas Symphony Orchestra's Director of Community Engagement assures us that this year's African American festival will be a repeat success of the past 15 years success.

"The festival is homage to African American's and their historical contribu-

tions to classical symphony. The festival allow for an exciting time of integration, where, Dallas and the African American community broaden their classical audiences," Ms. Flood explains. Unexpectedly, this year's Festival will feature collaborations with Flint, Michigan's renowned black composer Jonathan Bailey Holland, and our own community's Dallas Black Dance Theater; who will perform Holland's original, "Primary Movements".

"Oh we are just excited to be able to support our neighbors at the Dallas Black Dance Theatre," says Flood. Proceeds from the African American Festival will be benefiting the Dallas

Black Dance Theatre's Summer Enrichment Program and the Dallas Symphony Orchestra's Young Strings Program.

The Young Strings Program is a unique, nationally recognized program, which promotes musical talent in young African American and Hispanic string players. The student's talent is developed through free lessons and loan instruments and the guidance of volunteer teachers and professionals associated with the Dallas Symphony Orchestra. The Young Strings participants receive personal mentoring, performance opportunities, chamber music instruction, concert tickets and support for summer studies at prestigious

camps and institutions. The program's instrument loan bank provides students with quality instruments if they cannot afford one. On its debut, in 1992, the Young Strings Program served nine students, today; the Young Strings have grown larger than one hundred fifty students from kindergarten through graduate study. The Young Strings is a nationally accredited program has gained recognition from the National Endowment for the Arts, the President's Committee on the Arts and on the Humanities, and the Texas Commission on Arts.

The Third Annual Young Strings Alumni Recital will be held in January of 2009.

This recital will showcase the phenomenal talent of our alumni, and give DSO patrons a chance to hear how Young Strings Alumni are currently doing and where the program has taken them. This is a free performance, but donations toward the Young Strings Alumni Support Fund are graciously accepted. Auditions for the Young Strings program are held once a year in January. For information about the process, email [c.jabr@dalsym.com](mailto:c.jabr@dalsym.com). If you need further information about the program or the audition process, please call the Dallas Symphony's Young Strings Coordinator at 214-871-4083.

The 2008 African American Festival is scheduled for Friday,

June the 20, beginning at 7:30 p.m. at the Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center, 2301 Flora Street, Dallas, Texas 75201. There are plenty of family-friendly activities at the DSO Kids Corner (for ages 4-11) between 6:00 and 7:30 p.m. Arts and crafts, games, an Organ Tour, and an Instrument Petting Zoo are just a few of the available activities. Admission is only \$10 and will fund the enrichment of your community through programs like Dallas Black Dance Theatre and the Young Strings. You may order tickets for the 2008 African American Festival by visiting [www.DallasSymphony.com](http://www.DallasSymphony.com), or by calling 214-692-0203.

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## Education

Fannie Mae, pg 1

that Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac are known to hold a staggering \$5 trillion in mortgage debt, secured by a combined financial cushion of only \$83 billion.

Meanwhile, federal officials and lawmakers are struggling to force the two companies to fully disclose their financial dealings, with mixed results.

Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, were started by Franklin Delano Roosevelt during the Great Depression as a funding engine to ensure that banks had enough money to make home loans to middle income Americans. The companies dominate the secondary mortgage market, meaning that they buy mortgages from banks and other institutions to "replenish" the amount of cash available for more and more mortgages.

While they are semi-privatized agencies of the Federal government, they are not government programs but rather privately-held, with investors who profit from the fees Fannie and Freddie charge to the original mortgage companies by essentially guaranteeing the loans will be repaid whether or not the homebuyers pay them off.

It's a complicated way of making a profit, and critics say Fannie and Freddie capitalize on the complexity of their business dealings to reap massive windfalls - during the sub-prime mortgage boom of the past five years, the two companies have more than doubled their market share, dealing in more than 80 percent of all mortgages resold to investors in the first three months of 2008 alone.

The spike in profits came after Congress in February allowed Fannie and Freddie to increase their loan limits above \$417,000 per home as part of the economic stimulus package, effectively creating what observers call "jumbo loans."

### New Controversy

The minority mortgage lending advocates' mobilization against the proposed new credit score limits comes as Fannie and Freddie face new scrutiny regarding their

operations.

Fannie Mae was expected to release updated financial figures last week, while this week Freddie Mac was expected to do so.

Even as their profits have skyrocketed, a series of scandals has hit the two companies over the past five years. In 2003, Fannie Mae admitted it had understated its earnings by almost \$5 billion, resulting in a \$125 million fine and new financial controls imposed by deferral banking officials.

In 2006 Freddie Mac agreed to pay nearly \$4 million in fines after pleading guilty to improper political contributions.

And media reports surfaced last December indicating that Fannie Mae had lost \$12 billion in the sub-prime mortgage meltdown, touched off by a rise in defaults on loans to higher-risk home buyers.

This week Republicans in Congress and some financial regulators told the New York Times that Fannie and Freddie are closer than ever to defaulting on their \$5 trillion debt load.

And if they default, observers say, taxpayers will very likely have to pay off the debt.

"They could cause an economy-wide meltdown if they got into real trouble and leave the public on the hook for billions," said Sen. Mel Martinez, R-Fla., the former Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

### Minority Lending at Risk

For minority and low-income homebuyers, Fannie and Freddie's financial problems may be solved at their expense sooner rather than later.

The proposed new loan guidelines would, for the first time, create credit score limits preventing anyone with bad credit from mortgage assistance programs.

A statement issued by national fair housing advocate Stella Adams says the proposal would increase the cost of obtaining home loans for people with low credit scores, disproportionately hurting the very communities who need home-buying assistance the most.

Adams says that on the VantageScore credit scor-

ing system, which runs from 501 to 990, 84 percent of African-Americans had credit scores at the lower half of the spectrum, below 745, according to a report by the Federal Reserve Board. Such scores would require home-buyers to pay 40 percent of a home's purchase price as the down payment.

Further, Adams says, the proposed pricing system would identify zip codes where higher fees would be charged for mortgage lending.

Leon Russell of the International Association of Human Rights Agencies, and Mississippi state Sen. Robert L. Jackson, who drafted the open letter to Fannie Mae President Daniel H. Mudd, call the new proposal "tantamount to both ethnic and gender discrimination."

Good, of the Fair Housing Council of Oregon, cites the Alberta Street neighborhood in Northeast Portland as a typical area heavily impacted by racism in home mortgage lending.

"Fannie Mae's mortgage assistance programs could be a way to help longtime residents keep homes in their historic neighborhood," Good said.

"Without this credit requirement it could be a way for people to choose where they want to live despite the higher prices, but using credit scores as the criteria for eligibility will lock a lot of African American families out of the program."

# Teens Reaching Teens, Inc. Now Accepting Applications for its 2008 Educational Scholarships

(DALLAS, TX) Teens Reaching Teens, Incorporated, a 501 c3 organization whose mission is to provide quality community-based programs and services that motivate and empower teens to develop and enhance their educational, social, leadership and professional development skills announces it's 4th Annual Teen Graffiti Educational Scholarship for graduating high school seniors.

Teen Graffiti's Educational Scholarship was founded on the principle that today's youth are tomorrow's leaders. We believe that in order for youth to become strong leaders they must be comfortable with who they are, be well-rounded, possess a strong desire to make a difference in their community and be a positive influence for others. We further believe that involvement in community service and strong academics should be both encouraged and rewarded. With this in mind, through our

scholarship, we provide financial assistance to graduating seniors who challenge themselves to be their best and reward them for their efforts. These scholarships were made possible through funds raised from Teens Reaching Teens and Teen Graffiti Magazine's fundraisers.

These scholarships are open to deserving high school seniors aspiring to attend an accredited U.S. college or university in the Fall 2008 Semester. The scholarship deadline is May 31, 2008. Students interested in applying for these scholarship can review eligibility requirements, download application forms, and explore Teen

Graffiti's website at <http://www.teengraffiti.com> or by writing to Teens Reaching Teens, Inc.; c/o Teen Graffiti's Educational Scholarship; P.O. Box 452721; Garland, Texas 75045-2721.

Applicants are encouraged to submit their applications quickly as the time scale for awarding this year's scholarships are quite short.

For additional information about Teens Reaching Teens, Inc. (<http://www.teensreachingteens.org>); Teen Graffiti Magazine (<http://www.teengraffiti.com>) contact Sharon Jones-Scaife, Executive Director at 972-496-9457 or email [sharonjs@teensreachingteens.org](mailto:sharonjs@teensreachingteens.org).



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**The program is held on Tuesday's and Thursday's, from 6:00 - 7:15 pm, in the clubhouse at Indigo On Forest Apartments, 9669 Forest Lane, Dallas TX 75243.**

**Topics Discussed: Family Values, Juvenile Homes, Alcoholism & Drug Addiction, Teenage Pregnancy & Self Preservation, etc.**

**Lake Highlands Recreation Center 9940 White Rock Trail, Dallas, Texas "Presents" N2NE Basketball and Soccer League. Registration deadline is May 24th 2008. Registration fee: \$25.00 per youth. League starts June 7th -July 31st We are in need of referee's and coaches for our league if you are interested please send your resume to one of the following: Rich\_etta@n2ne-ym.com, penny@n2ne-ym.com, or kdedmon@cokece.com**



**For more information, please contact:  
Founder/CEO - Rich Etta Weathersbee (469) 223-5618  
or VP - Penny Francis (214) 793-7178.**

## NATIONAL BAPTIST CONGRESS

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"Focusing on the Family: Loving and Reclaiming Our Youth"

Proverbs 5:1-2, KJV

*Tuesday • June 10th • 10:00 p.m.*



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St. John Baptist Church  
Grand Prairie, TX

*Wednesday • June 11th • 10:00 p.m.*



**Rev. William T. Glynn, Pastor**  
Mt. Olive Baptist Church  
Fort Worth, TX

*Thursday • June 12th • 10:00 p.m.*



**Rev. A. C. Stapleton, Pastor**  
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**Ongoing**

**African American Republican Club of Collin County** meets 3rd Tuesday of every month at 7:00pm (Doors will open at 6:30 pm) Collin County Republican Party Headquarters 8416 Stacy Road, McKinney Call Fred Moses at 972 618 7027 or fred@tes.com for more information.

**Collin County Black Chamber of Commerce General Meeting** is 2nd Thursday monthly, 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. McKinney Housing Authority 1200 N Tennessee St McKinney 75069 The general public is welcome. For additional information call 469-424-0120.

**Collin County Black Chamber of Commerce Monthly Lunch & Learn** every 3rd Thursday \$15 for members; \$20 for non-members, 11:00am-1:00pm, Ralph and Kacoos - 401 S. Central Expwy, Allen. For general information and reservations call 469-424-0120.

**DFW Financially Empowered Women** meet monthly for lunch or dinner and a fun, informative seminar on various financial topics. For more information call 469-952-0809 or [www.meetup.com/378](http://www.meetup.com/378).

**Marriage Prep Class** 1st Saturdays monthly 423 West Wheatland Road Suite 101, Duncanville 75116 \$10 fee for materials. For more info call Karen Duval at 972-709-1180.

**No Limit Network Business Networking Lunch** 1st and 3rd Thursday 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. every Thursday at Texas Land & Cattle Steak House 3945 N. Central Expressway Plano 75023 Must RSVP at [www.TheNoLimitNetwork.com](http://www.TheNoLimitNetwork.com) or call Sylvia Williams at 972-898-5882.

**SHARE! PISD International Exchange Student Program** is in the process of finding new host families to share their hearts and home with an exchange student for the 2008/2009 School Year. For more information on

or how to become a host family, call 1-800-941-3738, or [www.sharesouthwest.org](http://www.sharesouthwest.org).

**Watermarks Invitational Exhibit** runs through April 12th 9:00 am - 8:00 pm Mondays through Thursdays, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm Fridays, and 10:00 am - 2:00 pm Saturdays. FREE Collin College 800 E. Spring Creek Parkway. For more info call 972-881-5873, or visit [www.ccccd.edu](http://www.ccccd.edu).

**The National Business Women Enterprise Network (NBWEN)** hosts monthly lunch and learn workshop and networking event giving members and guests the opportunity to network, build relationships, present information on their business and services, and most importantly, learn different ways to improve upon and grow their business. For more information [www.nbwen.org](http://www.nbwen.org) or [info@nbwen.org](mailto:info@nbwen.org).

**Wit Women Conference** Call join this weekly conference call if you need encouragement, prayer, or inspiration. Dial in Tuesdays 7:00pm - 7:15pm to 218-486-1616, Code 10984 (may change each week).

**May 22**

**"Hope for Humanity"** Movie Presentation and lecture from the movies creator on Thursday, at 7:30 p.m. at the Angelika Film Center (Mockingbird Station).

**May 24**

**Learning Over Lunch: Marketing & Advertising** This meeting focuses on using technology to develop your business. The meeting will be from 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at the Bill J Priest Institute, 1402 Corinth Street, Suite 202A/B, Dallas, 75215. For more information visit [www.nwben.org](http://www.nwben.org).

**May 28**

**Open Casting Call at the Collin Theatre Center** at Collin College for The Comedy of Errors by William Shakespeare between 6:00-9:00 p.m. Please be prepared to perform one Shakespeare monologue in verse, not to exceed 3 minutes. This is a brief and intense rehearsal! Contact Gail Cronauer at 972 881-

5125 or email [gcrnauer@cccd.edu](mailto:gcrnauer@cccd.edu).

**African Stories: Laughter and Wonder with Audrey McClure** Through the interactive dramatization of folktales, Audrey takes students on a journey through Africa, developing an appreciation for its literature, oral traditions, and cultures.

Located at the Park Forest Branch Library, 3421 Forest Lane, at 10:30 a.m. Call 214-670-6333 for more information.

**2008 Mayor's Global Business Awards Luncheon (FW)** 1201 Houston Street in Fort Worth. Fort Worth International Center noon - 2 pm \$55 individual or \$600 table of eight. [fwic@fortworthgov.org](mailto:fwic@fortworthgov.org) 817-392-2666

**May 28 - 29**

**The New Worker's Institute**, presented by the New Beginnings Center, will address topics relevant to the field of domestic violence. The two-day class will last from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. in the Garland Police Department's Multi-Purpose Room, 1891 Forest Lane, Garland, 75042. Enrollment fee for the class is \$25.00 and must be registered by May 12. To register email Becky George at [bgeorge@newbeginningcenter.org](mailto:bgeorge@newbeginningcenter.org), or call 972-276-0423 ext. 229. You may also register online at [www.newbeginningcenter.org](http://www.newbeginningcenter.org).

**May 29**

**Leadership Plano Silver Anniversary Gala** at the Plano Chamber of Commerce, 1200 East 15th Street, Plano 75074. Call 972-424-7547 for more info.

**May 31**

**DFW African Unity Cup** at UT Dallas Soccer Field, Richardson. Admission is \$5, tickets available at the gate. The 3rd place game will take place at 4:00 p.m. The Championship Game will take place at 6:00 p.m.

**Dallas Farmers Market Farm and Flower Festival** features money saving "green" information and useful activities from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. at the Dallas Farmers Market located at 1010 South Pearl Expressway Dallas, 75021. Call Liz Scoggin at 214-939-

2242 for more info.

**Richland College** will be hosting the OSHA 10 Certification Marathon from 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. Classes will be in Spanish and English. There will be sessions for General Industry and Construction. OSHA Certification card and Richland College Certificate received upon completion. For more information please contact Celes L. Oppedahl via email at [celes@dcccd.edu](mailto:celes@dcccd.edu) or by phone at 972-238-6292.

**June 1**

Africa Day at the J. Erik Jonsson Central Library; admission is FREE. Enjoy workshops and crafts from 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. and Taste of Africa Food Festival and Cultural Evening later on at 6:00 p.m. at SMU's Hughes-Trigg Student Center; \$15 for adults, \$5 for children 5 to 10, under 5 FREE.

**June 6 - 7**

**TBAAL Black Academy:** The Roots and Reggae Concert at The Dallas Black Academy of Arts and Letters, featuring Ras Tumba and Ashanti. The concert will be held at the Dallas Convention Center Theatre Complex at 9:00 pm. Tickets will be \$15 and may be purchased through TBAAL. For more information please call 214-943-2442.

**June 7**

**TBAAL Black Academy:** Dancin' Soul program will be held at the Dallas Black Academy of Arts and Letters, Dallas Convention Center Theatre Complex beginning at 8:00 pm. Admission to this event is \$10. For more information please call TBAAL at 214-943-2442.

2008 McKinney Track Attack McKinney's 4th Annual Track Meet will be located at Ron Poe Stadium, with field events starting at 8:00 a.m. and running events beginning at 9:00 a.m. Participants are required to pay a \$2.00 fee, which allows unlimited entry to ALL events. For more details, or for information on McKinney's Track and Field Summer Program, contact Dewayne Dunning at 214-435-4360 or [ddunning@take-it-2-the-](mailto:ddunning@take-it-2-the-)

[next-level.com](http://next-level.com); or contact Larry Thomas at 972-508-0855 or at [lltkbt@yahoo.com](mailto:lltkbt@yahoo.com).

**June 9 - July 11**

Summer Theater Program for children ages 6 to 14. Mondays - Fridays from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon. Bilingual classes that help familiarize the children with both English and Spanish. \$400, for five weeks (includes materials, and enrollment fees) A discount will be offered to families with more than one child and special arrangements can be made for payment. Call 214-689-6492.

**June 13 - 15**

**Dallas City Arts Celebration** The 5th annual CityArts Celebration will showcase the incredible performing, visual and culinary arts which are the fabric of Downtown Dallas. The free festival will take place from 6:00 - 10:00 p.m. Friday, June 13; 11:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m. Saturday, June 14; and from 11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. on Sunday in downtown's Dallas Arts District. This event is completely free and open to the public. For more information email [jmiller@jmillermt.com](mailto:jmiller@jmillermt.com), or call 214-571-1376.

**June 14**

Regional Conference on Domestic Violence Cross Cultural Perspective will be located at UTA's E. H. Hereford, University Center, in the Rio Grande Ballroom, 300 W. First Street in Arlington. The conference will be from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Admission to this event is \$20. Email [mcchs2005@hotmail.com](mailto:mcchs2005@hotmail.com) or call 817-589-9165 for more details.

**RC Hickman Young Photographers Workshop** photography basics for young photographers ages 10 through 18. Classes are \$25.00 and will be located at Mountain View College located at 4849 W. Illinois Avenue in Dallas, 75211 from 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Email [artistelaine@artiststuff.com](mailto:artistelaine@artiststuff.com) or call 972-572-3525 for more info.

**June 16**

Black Wax's Open Mic is

open to all poets or performers, and will be located at the Starbucks at Midway and Spring Valley road in Farmers Branch from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Email [preacher-boypub@yahoo.com](mailto:preacher-boypub@yahoo.com) for more details.

**June 16 - 21**

**Dallas Dazzlers 8th Annual Elite Dance Summer Workshop!** The Dallas Dazzlers Dance Co. will host their 8th Annual Elite Dance Summer Workshop at the Cedar Hill Recreation Center from 3 p.m. - 9 p.m. For only \$55, participants will receive intense dance training in jazz, modern, hip-hop, African and praise dance from Jamie Buis, Christian Motivational Speaker and former Dallas Mavericks Dancer; Regina Tucker, Director of Dance Arts at Friendship West Baptist Church and former Dallas Cowboys Cheerleader; and Michelle Gibson, professional choreographer and performance artist who has appeared as a principal dancer in the films "Interview With The Vampire" and "Ray. Registration ends June 1st. Registration brochures are available at the Cedar Hill Recreation Center located at 310 E. Parkerville Road. Call 469-767-9903 or send an email to [dallasdazzlers214@yahoo.com](mailto:dallasdazzlers214@yahoo.com) for more information.

**June 20 - 21**

**TBAAL Black Academy:** Sankofa Muse Cafe Bash at the Dallas Black Academy of Arts and Letters Convention Center Theatre Complex. This event begins at 9:00 pm, and admission costs \$10. For more information please call 214-943-2442.

**June 23**

The Plano Chamber of Commerce is gearing up for its 18th Annual Golf Tournament. The Golf Tournament committee has been meeting every month to make this the biggest and best tournament yet. Sponsored by Capital One, the day will begin with registration and lunch at 11:30 AM and the tee-off will be at 1:00 PM. The tournament will end with awards at 5:30 PM.

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Proud To Be An Active Partner In The Community



# Making Sure Everyone's Involved

By Tessa  
Howington

"To do my duty to God and my country . . . To help other people at all times" are not just lines from the Boy Scout Oath, but also words that Anthony Coleman took to heart and still lives by today.

Anthony Coleman, the Minority and/or Women Business

nesses, and have no idea how to bid against larger firms for city contracts. The M/WBE Program levels the playing field and encourages involvement in the community, no matter how large or small the business.

The City of Irving believes that the "utilization of women owned businesses is a

inexperienced. A "transplant" from Atlanta, Georgia, Anthony recently retired, at 54, from the City of Dallas after 26 years. During that time, he was running similar programs, along with housing and economic development programs, for Dallas. Also, he currently sits on the board of the North Central Texas

city governments and business relations. Besides singing in his church's choir, he enjoys working with children, and has been a participant in the Big Brother Big Sisters of America program. Coleman currently serves as superintendent of his church's, St. Paul A.M.E., school, and coaches his 11-year-old son's soccer team. He also hopes to volunteer at elementary schools in the future, working with young children, especially inner city boys who may not have a positive male role model in their life.

His inspiration to work with children comes from his own experiences. His father died when he was 11, so he knows that growing up without a dad can be difficult. Fortunately, his Scout Master, Jay Fountain, became a role model and somewhat of a surrogate father.

Anthony feels that having that male presence, someone who was a constant and tangible role model, made all the difference in his life. Jay kept him "grounded," and Anthony believes that being able to give that foundation to other children, who may not be fortunate enough to have a father, for whatever reason, is important.

If you think registering your business as a vendor with the City of Irving will help you achieve your goals, Anthony will be happy to help. Feel free to contact his office, Financial Service/Purchasing for the City of Irving, at 972-721-3753, or online at [www.city-ofirving.com](http://www.city-ofirving.com). You, or your business, do not have to be located in Irving. And if you have any other questions, please call and ask, because it "doesn't cost anything to share info."

## Excerpts from Irving's M/WBE Website

Minority and/or Women Owned Business Enterprises are encouraged to participate in Irving's procurement process. The Purchasing Division will provide additional clarification of specifications, assistance with Proposal Forms, and further explanation of procedures to those who request it.

The City of Irving recognizes the certifications of the State of Texas Building and Procurement Commission HUB Program; North Central Texas Regional Certification Agency; and South Central Texas Regional Certification Agency. All companies seeking information concerning certification are urged to contact:

State of Texas HUB Program  
Texas Building and Procurement Commission  
P.O. Box 13047  
Austin TX 78711-3047  
512.463.5872  
<http://www.tbpc.state.tx.us>  
Click on:  
Procurement Resources, How to become a HUB vendor

North Central Texas Regional Certification Agency  
624 Six Flags Drive, #216  
Arlington TX 76011  
817.640.0606  
<http://www.nctrea.org>

South Central Texas Regional Certification Agency  
305 East Euclid  
San Antonio TX 78211  
210.227.4722  
<http://www.sctrca.org>  
Good Faith Effort

(GFE)

On January 11, 2007, the Irving City Council adopted a policy to equitably and conscientiously include Minority- and Women-owned Business Enterprises (M/WBE's) in the City procurement process for all basic goods, services, professional services, and construction solicitations. The City and its contractors shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, or sex in the award and performance of contracts. In consideration of this policy, the City of Irving has implemented the Good Faith Effort (GFE) Program.

M/WBE Participation Program

The GFE Program establishes subcontracting goals for all prospective bidders, proposers, and submit- ters to ensure a reasonable degree of M/WBE participation in City contracts. It is the goal of the City of Irving that a certain percentage of work under each contract be executed by one or more M/WBEs.

The following M/WBE participation goals have been established without consideration for a specific ethnicity or gender:

- ✓ Construction - 30%
- ✓ Architectural & Engineering - 28%
- ✓ Professional Services - 33%
- ✓ Other Services - 20%
- ✓ Goods 10%

*For more information about the City of Irving's M/WBE Program attend the City of Irving Open House 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 29th at the Irving City Hall located at 825 W. Irving Blvd.*



Enterprises (M/WBE) Program Administrator for the City of Irving, assists minority and women owned businesses competing for city business and helping them through the procurement process.

priority." The City wants to give small businesses, especially those that are minority or women owned, a chance to compete with large firms for project bids. The M/WBE Program is a

Certification Agency, which is an organization much like the program he oversees for the City of Irving.

Anthony has led a whole life of service, starting when he joined Boy Scout Troop #652 in Georgia. He eventually became patrol leader and finished an Eagle Scout before going to Georgia State University.

Always being interested in city government, he earned a degree in Urban Administration from GSU. Coleman decided to pursue a profession in community and career development because he wants to "be able to help others achieve their goals." He believes that there is nothing "more rewarding than helping someone else achieve a long term goal."

But Anthony's service extends beyond

way for the city to give back to the local community and help its citizens take pride and interest in city development while also stimulating the local economy.

Anthony has been with the City of Irving for about four weeks. However, he is hardly

***Coleman decided to pursue a profession in community and career development because he wants to "be able to help others achieve their goals." He believes that there is nothing "more rewarding than helping someone else achieve a long term goal."***

Anthony helps a business become registered as a city vendor, helps the business owners learn how to bid on city projects, and how to work with the city to complete a project. Many businesses that are owned by minorities or women are small busi-



# Michael Baisden Returns to TVOne for New Season of Entertainment and Provocative Topics

**"Baisden After Dark" Premieres Saturday, June 21 at 11 PM ET**

SILVER SPRING, MD (May 20, 2008) --- Best-selling author and the top-rated "Bad Boy of Radio," Michael Baisden returns to TV One this summer with a new season of hot topics, dynamic entertainment and compelling guests on his talk/variety series, *Baisden After Dark*, which premieres Saturday, June 21 from 11 PM - midnight ET. Episodes will also repeat The episodes will re-air each week that night at 2 AM, Thursdays at 10 PM and Fridays at 1 AM (all times ET).

Targeted to a "grown and sexy" audience, *Baisden After Dark* explores a wide range of provocative topics with an eclectic mix of celebrity and special guests from the worlds of entertainment, politics, sports and music. Baisden opens each show with a monologue, followed by a celebrity roundtable discussion of one hot topic, ranging from the bold and sexy, to the sublimely serious. This season Baisden will tackle a wider range of subjects, including *From the Playground to the Prison: Why are so Many Men of Color Going to Prison?*, *Obesity: Why Are We So*

*Fat and What Are We Doing About It?*, *Who are The New Civil Rights Leaders?*, *Living Your Dreams: The Price of Success and The New Kings of Hollywood*. And, of course, relationship topics will always be part of the mix, including: *After the Affair: Do You Forgive and Forget? Or Remember?*, *Shacking Up, Do Men Know What They Are Doing In the Bedroom*, and *Are Women Too Picky?* Baisden keeps it lively and engaging by bringing the studio audience into the discussion.

Additional features include a musical and/or comedy guest performance, from guests such as Angie Stone, Broadway star Elizabeth Withers from "The Color Purple" and R&B legend Peabo Bryson, as well as input from Baisden's "Man on the Street," comedian George Wilborn, his radio co-host and grand-prize winner of TV One's "Bill Bellamy's Who's Got Jokes?" comedy competition.

The show also boasts a stellar R&B band, with the legendary funkmaster Morris Day ("Jungle Love") serving as band-leader and sidekick.

In the premiere episode June 21, Michael Baisden discusses the notion, "Why Did I Get Married?" with Grammy nominated singer/song-writer, Tamia, music producer and reality show star, Irv Gotti (Gotti's Way), and spiritual life counselor/inspirational author, Iyanla Vanzant. Special musical guests are R&B icons Midnight Star, and comedian Joe Clair performs.

Prolific talent Baisden is a best-selling author, motivational speaker and host of his own nationally-syndicated radio program, "Love, Lust and Lies," which airs on the ABC Radio Network.

Morris Day, best-known for his iconic 80's hits *Jungle Love* and *The Bird*, has appeared in numerous films, including the cult sensation "Purple Rain" and the Richard Pryor comedy "Moving." Day's television credits include "227," "Eve" and "Da Boom Crew."

*Baisden After Dark* is a FarCor Studios Production. Ralph Farquhar, Dwayne Corbitt and Michael Baisden are executive producers. Carl Craig and Rikki Hughes are producers. Kevin Lightbourne directs.

# Seussical the Musical - It's Fun-tusical



by  
**Rick  
Elina**

Fun-tusical is a word that makes perfect sense after you've sat and listened to 80 minutes of song and dance based on the classic stories of Dr. Seuss. Only in the world of Seuss could such a ridiculously coined term have such a perfectly reasonable connotation. What other word could so completely describe the Seussical brand of fun, specially packaged for the young as well as the young at heart. The Teatro delle Muse production of *Seussical the Musical* will bring you back to that special time, no matter how long ago, when you dared to believe that a cat could wear a hat and an elephant could hear a Who.

Column Award winner Sarah VC Henderson takes a huge risk in directing 24 actors ranging in age from 4 to 16. The risk pays off. The charm of every single actor is infectious. After all, a person's a person, no matter how small.

The talented cast is anchored by Cam Wenrich in the role of everyone's favorite feline, the Cat in the Hat.

The Cat is introduced when JoJo, a small boy, played by a lovely little girl (Hope Henderson), stumbles upon a rather odd looking hat. JoJo begins the show by asking,

"What is that?" The question sets into motion one of the underlying themes of the musical. Curiosity lends itself to thinking outside the box. That's quite an appropriate axiom for anything Seuss.

Immediately Mr. Wenrich and Ms. Henderson launch into song and dance. When Ms. Henderson later sings from a bathtub, you might wonder if it's possible that such a strong voice can come from such a small person. Yes, it's possible. Anything's possible, as she sings a song of the same title. Be forewarned, you'll be singing the same song to yourself long after the show ends.

Ms. Henderson's diminutive stature plays well against Horton (Mitchell Montgomery), a large and sensitive elephant. Mr. Montgomery is mostly on the mark as the protective pachyderm trying to convince everyone that people can actually live on a speck of dust. Horton's biggest ally is Gertrude McFuzz (Alexis Henderson). Ms. Henderson, no relation to

the former Ms. Henderson, possesses one of the purest voices in the cast. Gertrude's nemesis, the vampish Mayzie LaBird (Jennifer Sims) can hold her own vocally, as well. Leading the Whoville chorus is the Mayor (Brendan Legas). Mr. Legas has quite an impressive voice for a relative newcomer.

The artful set design by Ash Robbins fully complements the colorful costumes designed by Vee Henderson. Choreography by Brittany Stene and Brittany Lavera works well with this cast given such a wide diversity of ages.

The measure of a good show is directly proportional to how long one remembers it after the curtain falls. Rest assured, this adorable cast will stay with you longer than a plate a green eggs and ham.

*Seussical the Musical* runs this weekend only, May 23, 24 and 25 at the Art Centre Theatre, Plano Texas. Call 972.424.MUSE (6873) or visit [MuseTheatre.com](http://MuseTheatre.com) for more details.

*Rick A. Elina is a playwright based in Plano, Texas and is the Theatre critic for The North Dallas Gazette. He can be reached at: [rickaelina@aol.com](mailto:rickaelina@aol.com).*

## Living Green is to Inspire YOU to Live a More Planet-Friendly Lifestyle.

BlackMenInAmerica.com has partnered with The Valder Beebe Show to help us learn more about "living green" states Gary Johnson, founder of BlackMenInAmerica.com. Join the Living Green team on a journey of discovery in learning about living a more environmentally friendly life; and perhaps teach them also along the way. Going green does not mean more sacrifices; it means "changing the way you look at things -

so that the thing you look at will change," according to Valder Beebe, founder and author of Living Green and host of The Valder Beebe Show ([ValderBeebeShow.com](http://ValderBeebeShow.com)).

What does living green mean to you? It's not about preaching to consumers; it is about Living Green and going green to leave the earth a better planet for our children, grandchildren and generations to come. It's about making a dif-

ference in using the earth's resources wisely; giving back; recycling, reusing and re-purposing items that we need to sustain us. To sum it up, living green means to "leave as small a footprint of damage as possible." Beebe's Living Green is dedicated to providing solutions, information and how-to's to "recycle, reuse, renew and Live Green" for YOU and the planet.

Join The Valder Beebe Show and Black Men In America as they

address Living and Going Green for your home, finances, family, work, beauty, health, shopping, transportation, the environment, electronics, the planet and much more from the perspective of making your life and the planet a better place to live.

Living Green is 20 web interactive. Send your ideas of what you are doing to Live and Go Green living-green@blackmeninamerica.com. Listen to the pod cast of

celebrity interviews who educate with values and beliefs that are the motivators for the actions and behaviors to live and go green. Future products; subscribe to Living Green newsletter to read and hear practical how-to advice on socially-responsible creating community, building eco-urban cities, green building, composting, recycled and organic products and foods, eco-tourism, green building, alternative healthcare, renewable

and solar energy, carbon credits, hybrid cars and new alternative ways of thinking by people who are walking the walk into the 21st century. You will be able to blog and purchase green affordable products, as we all learn about living green to be a part of the movement.

May 1st the Living Green, Going Green site [www.blackmeninamerica.com/green.htm](http://www.blackmeninamerica.com/green.htm) went live. Join us and be a part of the movement of Living Green.



Who's, pg 1

statement during his recent campaign and to my knowledge is the only candidate, prior to and since the campaign began, who has spoken specifically on behalf of Black people in his country.

It is intriguing that the current campaign has moved to a point where the candidates are vying to see who supports Israel the most. They are so busy pledging their allegiance to persons of the Jewish religious persuasion, committing their (and our) unwavering support to the extent that we will go to war and "obliterate" any country that attacks Israel.

Hillary suggested she would wipe out Iran if it made a move on Israel; Obama described Israel as our most important ally and said he would respond with force if that country was attacked; and McCain, along with his sidekick, Joe Lieberman, turns an old 1960's hit into a theme song for more war, singing, "Bomb, bomb, bomb, Iran," all in an effort to assure the Israelis that we've got their back. From that backdrop I have wondered why there is little or no mention of the candidates' support for Black people in this country. Who's got our back, y'all?

The rationale for Obama not being able to mention Black folks in his speeches, unless it is mitigated by the negative

side of Black life in America, is understandable. He cannot get elected by 13% of the population, many of whom don't even bother to cast a vote anyway. Hillary and McCain are a different story. Although the so-called Black vote is so important to a Democrat being elected, it is and has been taken for granted. The Republicans, of course, have all but written off the so-called Black vote; it's obvious judging from the way they shun our institutions. That kinda puts us in a political pickle, as they say; it's a real conundrum for Black people in America. Who's got our back?

It is rational and reasonable to suggest that Black people, having been in this country as long as Whites have, and having created much of the wealth of the United States, should be so well positioned that we have some priority when it comes to maintaining our allegiance to the U.S.

It is reasonable to think that any political candidate, especially the ones running for President, would at least acknowledge the contributions made by Black people and speak out boldly, about the injustice against Blacks that has continued for centuries, just as U.S. Representative Thaddeus Stevens did in 1867 when he called for reparations for formerly enslaved Africans. In the current campaign, we

cannot even get an honorable mention.

It's all about our support for Israel. I wonder if we would go to war if Ghana is attacked. Why didn't we go to war when the slaughter of 900,000 Tutsis was taking place in Rwanda? Who's got our backs?

The answers are obvious to most of us; those answers reflect the underbelly of this country, still grounded in racial animus and a racial hierarchy that has been sustained "by any means necessary." The answers point to the fact that our backs are still exposed, politically, socially, and economically, and we are still taking lashes from an overseer who is constantly telling us our name is "Toby" not Kunta Kinte.

We have been and continue to be fodder for accusations and innuendo that depicts us as "hating" America, even though we fought and gave our lives to maintain its status in the world. After all we have done for this country we still can't even get an honorable mention from folks running for President.

Edwards' comments about the disparity that

exists between Blacks and whites were, indeed, a step in the right direction. Of course, we need more than mere rhetoric, but his relatively bold words do set the stage for forward movement.

I don't know about you, but I am so tired of being treated like a non-people, and even more than that, I am tired of us allowing others to treat us that way. Albert Einstein said, "The world is a dangerous place to live; not because of the people who are evil, but because of the people who don't do anything about it." What are we going to do about all of the adverse issues we face in this country?

While I appreciate John Edwards pointing out that gross economic disparity (Who knows? Maybe he will be Obama's Vice-President), I also know the answer to the question: "Who's got our back?" The government of this nation has shown us since Thaddeus Stevens' plea for reparations that it does not have our back. Thus, it is way past time not only for us to admit that, but also for us to answer loudly and clearly, "We've got our own back!"

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HUD, pg 1

you get to know the signs - "This is a friend; let's help him out," she said in an interview. Not long after Freeman complained to her supervisors, she was asked to return to her previous policy job.

Federal investigators are still sorting through HUD contract awards to friends of Secretary Alphonso Jackson, who resigned last month amid a criminal probe. But some career staff members and agency observers say problems in the agency's contracting process run much deeper than Jackson and involve officials who promoted certain companies while rebuffing concerns about their performance and qualifications.

The contract awards that staff members questioned took place within programs, heavily promoted by Jackson, to help small, minority-owned businesses get a bigger share of the roughly \$1 billion in public contracts HUD awards each year. During Jackson's tenure, the proportion of contracts awarded to small black and Hispanic-owned

businesses, including under the Section 8(a) program, rose from 6 percent to nearly 35 percent. The proportion of contracts open to full competition decreased from 71 percent to 33 percent, federal records show.

HUD spokesman Jereon Brown said limiting competition on some contracts was critical to helping "minnows" in the small-business community grow into "whales."

"Nothing is more American than giving the little guy a chance to shine," he said. "The 8(a) program is good for business, good for innovation, good for the agency and, ultimately, good for America."

A Washington Post examination of HUD's contracts shows that HMBI and two other companies won hundreds of millions of dollars in contracts under Jackson while career contracting staff repeatedly raised questions.

HMBI, of Fort Worth, was led by Republicans with significant HUD experience. Chief executive Maurice Barksdale was an assis-

See HUD, Page 15

Jealous, pg 1

anniversary and as the group looks to boost its coffers.

"There are a small number of groups to whom all black people in this country owe a debt of gratitude, and the NAACP is one of them," Jealous said. "There is work that is undone. ... The need continues and our children continue to be at great risk in this country."

Jealous succeeds Bruce Gordon, who resigned abruptly in March 2007. Gordon left after 19 months, citing clashes with board members over management style and the NAACP's mission as his reasons for leaving. Dennis Courtland Hayes had been serving as interim president and chief executive officer.

Jealous was born in Pacific Grove, Calif., and educated at Columbia University and Oxford University, where he was a Rhodes Scholar.

He began his professional life in 1991 with the NAACP, where he worked as a community organizer with the Legal Defense Fund working on issues of health care access in Harlem. His family boasts five generations of NAACP membership.

During the mid 1990s, Jealous was managing editor of the Jackson Advocate, Mississippi's oldest black newspaper.

From 1999 to 2002, Jealous led the country's largest group of black community newspapers as exec-

utive director of the National Newspaper Publishers Association.

Jealous left the Publishers Association to direct its U.S. Human Rights Program, for which he successfully lobbied for federal legislation against prison rape, public disapproval of racial profiling after Sept. 11, and exposure of widespread sentencing of children to life in prison without the possibility of parole.

Since 2005, Jealous has served as president of the Rosenberg Foundation, a private institution that supports civil and human rights advocacy. His experiences caught the attention of the NAACP's search committee, and Jealous said mentors encouraged him to take the job.

"Like all black people in this country, I am deeply grateful for what the NAACP has accomplished in the 20th century, and I want to make sure it's as strong and as powerful in the 21st century," he said. "If I thought that I could help rebuild, if I thought that I could help bring in more funds and give direction to the national staff and increase morale, I needed to take it very seriously, and that's what I've done."

Despite his own successes, Jealous said that blacks in America still have a hard row to hoe, and that the gains of recent decades have created a false sense of progress.

"Those of us who are 45

and younger were told, 'The struggle has been won. Go out and flourish. Don't worry about the movement,'" he said.

Among his plans for the group are strengthening its online presence to connect with activists, mobilize public opinion and build a database for tracking racial discrimination and hate crimes; ensuring high voter turnout among blacks in the November election; pushing an aggressive civil rights agenda, regardless of the makeup of the Congress or White House; and retooling the national office to make it more effective at helping local branches affect change in their communities.

He said he does not see expect to have the challenges with NAACP leadership of which his predecessor complained.

"I was raised in the civil rights movement," Jealous said. "I don't see anything special here that would be a challenge that I haven't confronted and dealt effectively with before. These are my people."

What Jealous lacks in oratorical appeal, he makes up for as an administrator - skills he honed during his tenure with the Publishers Association, said the Rev. Joseph Lowery. And his foundation experience could help with fundraising - especially as the NAACP looks to raise \$100 million in conjunction with its 100th anniversary in February.

Jealous said having the energy of a 35-year-old will

be an asset to the organization.

"It means having somebody who is impatient and outraged that race is still a factor in our society," he said.

He added that he can attract 25- to 50-year-olds - the missing demographic among most chapters - back to the organization. And he said he is eager to work with other groups to push his agenda.

"This is the century when white people will become a minority in this country," he said. "What that means is right now, we need to have a clear picture of where we're headed and work together diligently with Latinos, Native Americans, Asians and progressive white groups as if our collective future depends on it. I'm committed to that."

It's a tall order that isn't likely to happen overnight, but Jealous - whose resume doesn't reflect a record of longevity - said he's ready to settle in for the long haul. He has spent much of his life in California but has roots in Baltimore, where the NAACP is based. His mother was born in Baltimore, and his parents met while teaching at a junior high school in the city.

"As a black child growing up in this country, there was no higher ambition possible than to lead the NAACP," he said. "No one should be concerned about me going anywhere too soon."

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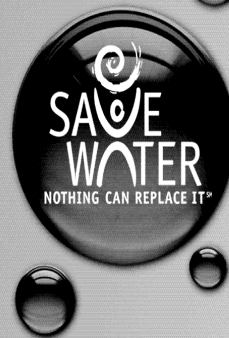
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Representatives from DCCCD are hosting the district's annual adjunct faculty recruitment fair to find those potential part-time instructors who can share their expertise and their first-hand knowledge with students who want to learn. The event will be held on Sat., May 31, at Cedar Valley College, located at 3030 N. Dallas Ave. in Lancaster. The fair is free and open to the general public; it starts at 10 a.m. and ends at 2 p.m. in the gymnasium. Participants should bring a minimum of 8 to 10 copies of their resumes, plus their col-

lege transcripts, and they will be asked to fill out an adjunct faculty recruitment form.

Recruiters are seeking adjunct faculty who are interested in teaching at one of DCCCD's seven colleges: Brookhaven, Cedar Valley, Eastfield, El Centro, Mountain View, North Lake or Richland. Each of the district's institutions is individually accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, and DCCCD serves more than 64,000 credit students each semester. The Dallas TeleCollege, based at DCCCD's LeCroy Center for Educational Telecommunications, also needs adjunct faculty who can teach distance learning courses.

Persons interested in teaching college credit courses part time for DCCCD must have a master's degree with 18 graduate hours in that teaching field or a bachelor's degree in a technical area, such as automotive technology or electronics. Others who would like to teach and/or develop non-credit or continuing education courses must have demonstra-

ble teaching skills and competencies for the course that will be taught or developed.

For more information, contact Toni Scott in the DCCCD office of human resources at (214) 860-2401, [tscott@dcccd.edu](mailto:tscott@dcccd.edu), or Gaston Banks at Cedar Valley College, (972) 860-8224, [gbanks@dcccd.edu](mailto:gbanks@dcccd.edu). Details are available online at [www.dcccd.edu/adjunctfair](http://www.dcccd.edu/adjunctfair).

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## Church Happenings

### AVENUE F CHURCH OF CHRIST

May 31, 8 am - 12:30 pm

You are invited to our Ladies Day Program "Save Our Sisters" with guest speaker Marsha Minglton from Greenville Avenue C of C in Richardson. It is now time to "Save, Revive, Shield, Preserve and Trust." Please R.S.V.P. by May 18th. For information or directions call Sis. Cheryl Morgan @ 469-744-4277.

**Avenue F Church of Christ**  
Brother Ramon Hodridge,  
Senior Minister  
1026 "F" Avenue  
Plano, TX 75074  
972-423-8833

### CONCORD BAPTIST CHURCH

June 6, 7 pm

Come to our Gospel Under the Stars Praise Concert featuring Fred Hammond.

**Concord Baptist Church**  
Rev. Bryan Carter,  
Senior Pastor  
6808 Pastor Bailey Drive  
Dallas, TX 75237  
214-331-8522

### DFW INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY ALLIANCE

May 31, 4 pm

The DFW Unity Cup

Championship Games will be held @ Lake Highlands North Field #1, 9300 Church Road, Dallas, TX 75238. Tickets are \$5, children under 10 are FREE

June 1, 1 pm - 5 pm

Join us for Africa Day @ J. Erik Jonsson Central Library with interactive workshops for children, African Arts & Crafts, and cultural booths. It is FREE to all!

June 1, 6 pm

You are invited to a "Taste of Africa Food Festival and Cultural Evening" @ SMU's Hughes-Trigg Student Center. There will be dishes from 12 African countries, parade of nations, DFW Africa Unity Cup awards, African DJ and regional music for dancing. Tickets available online or at the door are \$5 for adults; \$5 for children 5 to 10; FREE for children under 5 years old.

**DFW International Community Alliance**  
Anne Marie Weiss,  
President  
12800 Hillcrest Road  
Suite A211  
Dallas, TX 75230  
972-661-2764

### FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF HAMILTON PARK (FIRST CHURCH)

May 31, 7 am

Don't miss our annual Golf Tournament.

June 8, 6 pm

You're invited to our Voices of Hope, Sonshine Choir Annual Concert.

**First Baptist Church of Hamilton Park (First Church)**  
Dr. Gregory Foster  
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Rev. Anthony Foster,  
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### FRIENDSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH THE COLONY

May 25, 2008

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**Friendship Baptist Church, The Colony**  
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### GOD'S MAN INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES

May 30 - 31, 2008

Join us for our Women's Prayer Retreat, a time of Prayer, Praise and Worship @ the Radisson Dallas Love Field, 1241 W. Mockingbird Lane, Dallas, TX 75247 for a 2 days & 1 night event. Call Sandra Richardson @ 214-

951-6309 for registration fees, directions or information.

Speakers include: Minister Lucilla Richards, Prayer Garden Ministries, Evanston, IL; Evangelist Easter Stevenson, New Zion Christian Fellowship, Killeen, TX; and Elect Lady Gloria West, Shekinah Glory Ministries, Plano, TX.

**God's Man International Ministries**  
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### MOUNT GILEAD BAPTIST CHURCH

May 25, 10 am

You are invited to our Pastor's 29th Anniversary in our Worship Service with dinner served immediately following.

**Mount Gilead Baptist Church**  
Rev. Cedric D. Britt, D.D.  
Senior Pastor  
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ly Adam's Mark) is the host hotel. Contact Sister Linda Adams if you are interested in attending classes during the Congress @ 214-341-6459.

**New Mount Zion Baptist Church of Dallas**  
Dr. Robert E. Price,  
Senior Pastor  
9550 Shepherd Road  
Dallas, Texas 75243  
214-341-6459

### PRAYER FAST INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES

May 30-31, 2008

Don't miss Prayer Camp 2008 @ Camp Hoblitzelle in Midlothian, Texas, with Prophet Dominique Josué hosting the event. To register, for directions, registration fees and admission to workshops, call 972-576-5387.

**Prayer Fast International Ministries**  
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**Women of Hope In Christ International Church**  
Rev. Andrew Chambers,  
Pastor  
712 W. Pipeline Road,  
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### THE VICTORY INTERNATIONAL CHURCH

May 25, 4 pm

Join Pastor Linda Brown and the Real Woman of God Women's Fellowship. Special guests include Pastors Valerie Tate, Beverley Williams, and Hannah Ellison; the Chimney Rock Praise Team and Psalmist Minister Nicole McClish. Theme is "A Woman and Her Kingdom Assignment." For information call 817-535-7091.

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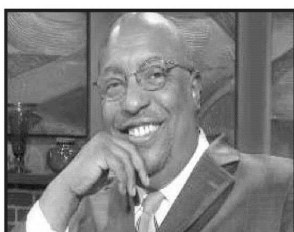
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## Sister Tarpley

Because I am the primary caregiver of my sister, Ms. Billie Daye, who is a resident at the Carrollton Health & Rehab Center, I am more aware of things pertaining to older citizens and those in rehabs centers than ever before.

In 1963, President John F. Kennedy had a meeting with the National Council of Senior Citizens, which served as a prelude to designating May as "Senior Citizens Month." And special thanks to President Jimmy Carter's 1980 designation, what was once called Senior Citizens Month, is now called "Older Americans Month," and has become a very good tradition (in my opinion.)

The 2008 theme is: "Working Together for Strong, Healthy and Supportive Communities." Historically, this has been a time to acknowledge the contributions of past and current older persons to our country, in particular those who defended our country. Every President since JFK has issued a formal proclamation during or before the month of May asking that the entire nation pays tribute in some way to older persons in their communities.

To meet the diverse needs of the growing numbers of older persons in the United States, the Older Americans Act, enacted in 1965, estab-

## May is Older Americans Month

lished the U.S. Administration on Aging within the Department of Health and Human Services. The Older Americans Act started with ten original objectives aimed at preserving the rights and dignity of our nation's older citizens.

Because "Older Americans" represent the

church, our community, and our Nation. You will be surprised how God will richly bless you. "Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,"

**Ephesians 3:20.** You will also experience a warm feeling that you will have for doing something for someone else.

**Things to Ponder:** "The world today is upside down because there is so very love in the home, and in family life. We have no time for each other. Everybody is in such a terrible rush, and so anxious, and the home begins the disruption of the peace of the world." —Mother Teresa.

"Either we are adrift in chaos or we are individuals, created, loved, upheld and placed purposefully, exactly where we are. Can you believe that? Can you trust God for that?" —Elisabeth Elliott.

"Wisdom is the power to see and the inclination to choose the best and highest goal, together with the surest means of attaining it." —J. I. Packer.

"Trust the past to God's mercy, the present to God's love, and the future to God's providence." —St. Augustine of Hippo.

"Weave the unfailing fabric of God's Word through your heart and mind. It will hold strong, even if the rest of life unravels." —Gigi Graham Tchvidjian



Three generations: Sister Tarpley, Minister Sheila Tarpley Lott, and three of her four grandchildren, (L to R) Philip, Tyanna, and David Lott.

finest qualities of our Nation, our Nation is blessed by our seniors. Most of them teach us lessons of the past, set an example for younger generations, and demonstrate the generosity and love for which Americans are known; my challenge to our readers is to look around in your family, your church, your neighborhood, your community, your local nursing home and rehab centers to discover what you can do for not only older Americans, but anyone with physical or mental impairments, older persons residing in rural areas, low income older persons, and especially those who are abused, neglected or exploited.

Let us appreciate our "Older Americans" for their achievements and contributions to our families, our

HUD, pg 12

tant secretary to Reagan-era HUD Secretary Samuel R. Pierce Jr. and became a minor figure in a 1980s political favoritism scandal. Its vice president, Albert Moran, also worked at the agency during the Reagan years.

Listed as having three employees in 2004 when it won its first contract, HMBI has accumulated \$282 million in HUD work, all but \$18.8 million of it in small-business awards. Former and current contract officials said staff members questioned HMBI's qualifications.

Contract specialist Freeman said she first ran into trouble when she insisted that the company follow procedures and post a required bond. She said her supervisor proposed waiving the requirement. Freeman prevailed, and HMBI posted the money.

Tensions mounted again when Freeman objected to a fifth contract award that HMBI was seeking. She and others at HUD feared that the company could not handle more work. Her bosses did not want HMBI to fail or to trigger a Small Business Administration review of the company's abilities, she said. Freeman opposed her bosses' rule-bending efforts to try to avoid that review. Later, she said, she and another official persuaded Barksdale to withdraw the bid.

"At that point, the top procurement people -- Jo Baylor and Annette Hancock -- decided my services would no longer be needed because I was a pain in their neck," she said.

After moving back to the policy job, she retired in 2005.

The contracting success of Drayton, Drayton & Lamar (DDL) fit a similar pattern. Since 2003, it has won \$35 million in information-management contracts. In the previous years, it had received just under \$1 million in HUD work.

When the inspector general investigated Jackson in 2006, an unidentified HUD employee reported concerns that "DDL continues to get contracts despite its poor performance," according to a report.

The employee alleged

that the company had a patron inside HUD's contracting office. DDL President Robert Drayton had socialized with Frank Davis, a close Jackson ally who is now second in command at the office of housing. Davis headed HUD's contract management review board.

Brown said the review board does not make final contract decisions. A review of a sample of DDL's contracts, he said, "did not find any evidence of anything improper."

Drayton said in an interview that his company wins contracts because of its performance.

"I don't think, maybe I'm wrong, that anybody at HUD can just give you a contract," he said. "I don't see how knowing him has been some special help to me."

*Washington Post* Research editor Alice Crites and staff researcher Julie Tate contributed to this report.

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##### Tuesday

Early Bird Bible Study - 6:00 p.m.

##### Wednesday

Morning Bible Study - 9:30 a.m.  
Prayer Meeting and Evening Bible Study - 7:30 p.m.

"The Church with a Vision"



# Keep Young Passengers Safe by Buckling Up Correctly

Have you given your child a hug today? Not the type with your arms, but a hug from a safety belt. All passengers, regardless of age, should use a safety belt while riding in a vehicle. The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) is helping parents make the best choice for keeping their kids safe.

Child safety seats provide protection for small occupants whose bodies are still growing. Restraints are available for children of different ages and sizes.

Even with the right child restraint, the way it is installed and used can have an effect on its performance.

When children outgrow child safety seats, usually at about 40 pounds, many people assume the child is ready for the vehicle's regular safety belt. Not so, say the experts at DSHS. A car's safety belts are designed for adults and do not fit children properly.

"If a child has outgrown a safety seat but is less than 4 feet 9 inches tall, they will need a

booster seat," said Frank Luera, training director of DSHS Safe Riders Traffic Safety program. "It lifts the child so that the seat belt fits correctly."

With a booster seat, the lap belt will be placed low on the child's hips, rather than on the child's belly; the shoulder belt will cross the center of the child's chest; and the child's knees will bend at the edge of the booster seat for better comfort and fit.

A car's safety belts, which are designed to fit adults, won't

fully restrain a child in a crash. Using a booster seat will better protect your child from being thrown from the vehicle, or thrown around inside it, during a crash.

Luera also points out that airbags pose a risk of death or serious injury for children.

"Even in newer vehicles that have airbags with suppression systems, children 12 and under should ride in the back seat," he said. Vehicles with airbags display warning messages regarding this on the sun visors and in

the vehicle owner's manual.

The Texas Department of State Health Services, working with a variety of local community groups, coordinates a statewide child safety seat distribution and education campaign. This program provides child safety seats to low-income families and promotes correct use of safety seats. Low-income families can receive a free child safety seat by attending a one-hour class to learn how to use the seat correctly.

Traffic crashes injure or kill hundreds of young children every year - many of whom are unbuckled or improperly restrained while riding in vehicles. You can keep your child safe by using an approved car seat, booster seat or safety belt consistently and properly.

To find out how to receive a child safety seat, call 1-800-252-8255 or visit the Texas Department of State Health Services website at [www.dshs.state.tx.us/saferiders/distribution.shtm](http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/saferiders/distribution.shtm).

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