

North Dallas Gazette



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Tuskegee Airman Lands in North Texas

By **Jacquinnette Murphy**

The City of Allen's history is a little richer now since Tuskegee Airman, Dr. Calvin J Spann, Sr., has relocated to North Texas. He is one of the

first 450 African American fighter pilots in the country to fly with the Army Air Core, now known as the United States Air Force, during World War II.

At 83 years of age,

Spann is still serving his community on the ground by sharing his story of courage and endurance during his training and wartime tour of duty through the Calvin J.

See TUSKEGEE, page 7



Restaurateur Offers up Desire To Serve

By **Tessa Howington**

"I wanted to be a mechanical engineer." Mr. Riad Al-Yatim responds when asked what he wanted to be when he grew up. So how did he end up as a cook and restaurant owner? "I don't really know," he adds, shrugging his shoulders.

What he will say is that "living in the Holy Land,

where we get tourists from all over the world, made me interested in the hospitality industry as a whole." And that he loves "the idea of serving people."

And he has been serving people well for over 25 years.

His most recent venture, Ms. Mary's Southern Cuisine, in Carrollton, Texas, is a "new challenge" for him.



Ms. Mary's has been in Carrollton around five years, but Al-Yatim bought the restaurant and took it over about 15 months ago. He says not much has

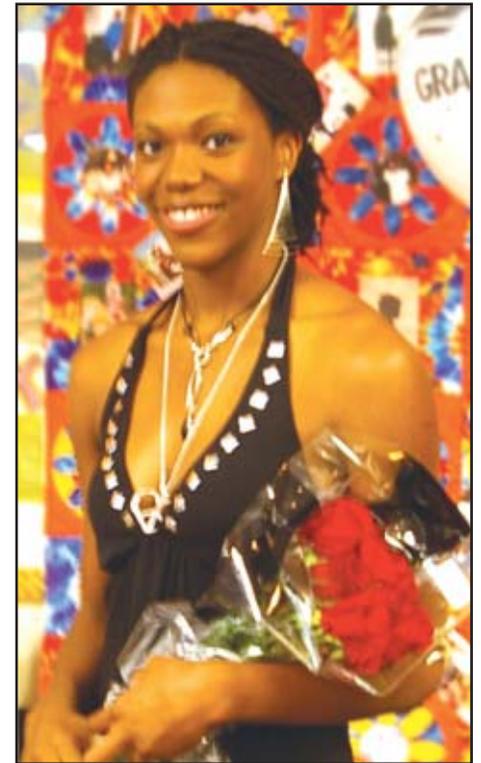
changed; he has added a few things and bigger portions. Most of the recipes are the same as when Ms. Mary, the original owner, cooked and ran the restaurant, but he will admit that he has brought in a few items reflecting his own personal experience.

While southern style cooking perhaps is new to

See DESIRE TO SERVE, page 5

Cover Story Page 9

The Star Performance



See THE STAR PERFORMANCE, page 9

Blackonomics

Is It Too Late for Black People?

By **James Clingman**
NNPA Columnist

For a precious few individual Black folks, it's definitely not too late; they are doing just fine. No matter what the economy brings, I am sure most of them will continue to be financially secure.

Of course we have some who, despite their tremendous wealth and fame, will continue to purchase all the "bling" they can possibly possess and end up broke in a few years, a la Mike Tyson

and several others I could name. But, as many of my readers know, I have always been about collective economic empowerment rather than that of individuals, which is the reason for my question: "Is it too late?"

Although I truly hope and pray it is not too late for Black people to make a serious move toward collective economic empowerment, the closer I look at our situation in this country the more doubtful I become of a positive outcome. I am

See BLACKONOMICS, page 12

The Spirit, Rituals of the Holy Month

The first of a two-part series on Ramadan

By **Mike Ghouse**
Dallas, Texas

From the moment we are born to the last rites of our life and every moment in-between we follow rituals, though some may deny it. Whether we go to the

gym, eat our food, go to sleep, wear clothes, drive some place, in our intimate moments, going to the mall or picking that phone up, every turn and every significant moment of the day is a ritual.

Rituals signify the milestones of our daily life.

Every turn and every significant moment of the day is a ritual. It is an unwritten way of measuring our progression; a memory pattern to bring discipline to our actions.

Discipline is necessary to do things on time, managing personal relation-

ships, driving to a destination or keeping within budget to achieve the goals; the result is worth the discipline to most people. When joyous, whether we are a theist or not, we have to express that sentiment, otherwise

See RAMADAN, page 12

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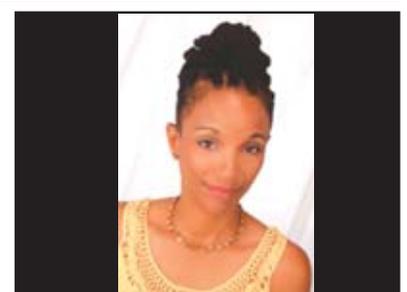
People In The News...



Maasi Smith



Patti Rose



Elon Bomani

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Patti Rose

Dr. Patti Rose is an energetic, dynamic and highly sought after national and international speaker who has given keynote addresses, conference presentations and workshops, based on invitations and abstract acceptances, at venues such as the American Public Health Association (APHA), International Health Conferences in Nairobi Kenya, Barcelona, Spain, Paris, France, Aruba, N.A., St. Thomas, V.I., Puerto Rico, U.S. and many national college, university, hospital, community health center and other settings.

Her training and life experiences lend her uniquely to expertise in the areas of health care administration and diversity/cultural competency. She received her Bachelor's Degree from LeMoyne College in Syracuse, New York. Subsequently, she acquired her Master's Degree (MPH) in Health Services Administration from the Yale University School of Public Health followed by her Doctorate from Columbia University Teachers College where she obtained a Doctorate (Ed.D) in Health

Education.

Dr. Rose's passion is to travel the globe to understand the world beyond where she currently resides, in Miami, FL (born and raised in Queens, NY) and to share her knowledge of various cultures, globalism and diversity with all whom she encounters through lectures, teaching and speaking engagements. She has traveled to Fiji, Africa (South Africa, Kenya, Senegal and the Cape Verde Islands), Sri Lanka, Japan, Europe (Spain, Italy, Portugal and the Netherlands), the Caribbean (Jamaica, Tortola, St. Thomas, Barbados) Haiti, Aruba, N.A, Latin and Central America (Honduras,

Nicaragua, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic) and beyond. Her focus has been primarily the African Diaspora throughout her travels. She currently has a specific and intense concern for the people of Darfur, Sudan in Africa for which she has given several presentations toward educating audiences about this most pressing issue.

Dr. Rose is a published author of a book entitled *In Search of Serenity*, published by Third World Press of Chicago in 1993. She also has several published articles including a piece in the *Harvard Journal of Minority Public Health*, which focused on Teenage

Pregnancy in the Black community. Her newly released publication which will be available in the Fall of 2007 as a required workbook for graduate level health service administration students at Barry University is entitled *Financial Management and Accounting Tools for Health Service Administrators*. She also developed a DVD entitled "Cultural Competency: A Public Health Imperative" through her consultation for a project directed through the Alumni Office of the Yale University School of Public Health.

Dr. Rose has been married for 22 years and is the



mother of two college students with a daughter at the University of Florida and a son at Yale University. The most important aspect of her life is her family and she enjoys traveling, Middle Eastern and African dance, writing and reading.

Elon Bomani

Elon Bomani is a self-made millionaire who has developed into a dynamic sought after public speaker—her rags to real estate riches story will astound you. This single mom went from homeless to over a million net worth in a matter of 1 and 1/2 years starting with just \$36 in her checking account and a dream.

Bomani is owner and founder of Papyrus Publishing, an innovative publishing company dedicated to writing books that will educate, empower and inspire individuals to fulfill their greatest dreams beyond their imagination. The core of the self-help, how to books deal with wealth, health and spiritual subjects.

In addition to owning Papyrus Publishing, Elon Bomani is CEO and Founder of Bomani's Village Enterprises, LLC., a real estate investment firm. Her most recent business venture is the creation of an innovative holistic, natural living e-business for women, www.thedynamicdiva.com. Her goal is to inspire women to become more healthy, wealthy, and wise.

Bomani is a popular inspirational speaker. She speaks annually before government agencies, colleges, corporations and non-profit organizations.

She has been featured on



KXTV Channel 10, the Sacramento Bee Newspaper and KJHL radio in Los Angeles, California and other media outlets. She has spoken before the Black United Fund and sponsored an event supported by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation about holistic health issues concerning the African American community in general, and black women health specifically.

Bomani is a self-proclaimed Conscious Capitalist who recently authored her new releases *Dynamic Diva Dollars and Wealth Chants* and *Make Some Miracles with MSM and Good Debt Riches* (gooddebtriches.com).

She has a B.A. in political Science from Rutgers University and a Masters in Natural Health from Clayton College of Natural Healing.

To request a free subscription to her bi-weekly E-zine, *The Dynamic Diva*, visit www.thedynamicdi-

Maasi J. Smith

Dr. Maasi J. Smith is the founder and director of Rittenhouse Foot and Ankle Associates. The doors of his private practice opened in 2002 in Philadelphia's historic Rittenhouse Square, where he developed his complete natural foot care line, Dr. Smith's Foot Care. In addition to his practice, Dr. Smith is affiliated with the American Podiatric Medical Association, Pennsylvania Podiatric Medical Association, American Professional Wound Care Association and The American Board of Lower Extremity Surgery.

A native of Essex County, New Jersey, Dr. Smith graduated from Irvington High School in 1988, furthering his education at Hampton University in Virginia. As a Biology/Pre-Med major it was not until his third year at Hampton that Dr. Smith developed an interest in podiatry and decided to pursue a career in podiatric medicine. After finishing Hampton University in 1992, he attended Temple University's School of Podiatric Medicine where he became an active participant in the Student National Podiatric



Medical Association, as well as other student organizations.

He found success by combining natural ingredients such as soy, aloe, vitamin E and tea tree oil, as opposed to the prescription formulas which usually include harsh chemical ingredients. This combination of soy, aloe and vitamin E is what makes Dr. Smith's foot cream so unique. His other products including a deodorizing foot wash, a nail and skin fungus treatment and a foot soak are all derived from natural ingredients. The response to his products was so positive that he began mass production in 2006. Dr. Smith used television to showcase his foot care products and has been featured on CBS, Fox, WMCN, as well as print and radio. Presently Dr. Smith offers his writings

as an expert, as well as using speaking engagements to promote foot health.

Dr. Smith's success in podiatry stems from his educational approach to medicine. Dr. Smith works extremely hard to educate his patients and promote the importance of foot health, whether in his office or through his website, www.mybadfeet.com. On a local level, he provides informational seminars to local senior centers and takes the time to mentor local students on a variety of issues.

Dr. Smith also offers his office to podiatry students as a place to learn and a basic understanding of private practice. In his spare time, Dr. Smith enjoys playing chess and writing fiction. He began writing short stories as a way to tame his active imagination, and then his writing became more than a hobby.

In 2001, Dr. Smith's Novel was self-published. "Mischiefmakers" received 4 of 5 stars from Amazon readers and was praised by several book clubs.

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Malveaux: Financing the Go-Go

By Julianne Malveaux
NNPA Columnist

Every time Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson opens up his mouth, I stagger. First he said he was willing to bail out Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac to the tune of about \$100 billion apiece. Then he said that AIG needed an \$85 billion bailout. The latest? The Bush administration is asking for \$700 billion to bail out investment bankers.

If you add it up, it's \$985 billion, or nearly a trillion dollars. We are increasing our national debt at a time when it is already bloated from the war in Iraq and from the bloated spending policies of the Bush Administration. We are increasing debt and skirting trouble at a time there are political operatives describing the economy as healthy and robust.

It is amazing how quickly leaders have turned on a dime. One wonders if the timing of this is connected with a need for Treasury Secretary Paulson to make sure that his colleagues are adequately compensated as we move ahead. To be sure, the new

President, McCain or Obama, will have his hands full because of this chicanery that represents little more than "chickens coming home to roost".

Is there a choice? I am hoping that Democratic legislators will view the Bush proposals most critically. There ought always be a choice. The financial guru Suze Orman was on Larry King saying this is the best thing that happened to America.

She asked why the intervention had taken so long. Someone who needs a job might ask the same question. Why does intervention take so long? Someone whose mortgage in foreclosure, who is still not clearly helped by the proposed Bush bailout, might also ask why it has taken so long. Some folk have already lost homes and been displaced, and there is no relief for them.

A man called Suze Orman while she was on Larry King to say he'd been fiscally responsible, so why should his tax dollars bail out banks. She chided him, telling him that we have to bail out these banks to avoid a depression. She was

among those who talked about the horrible things that might happen to our economy if the insured Treasury does not step in. She is right, but she is also wrong. Right. If no one steps in, it is likely that we will have catastrophic consequences. But she is among those not thinking this matter fully through. Shouldn't those who gained from the go-go of crazy finances now pay for it? Or will they walk away with their profits, leaving taxpayers holding the bag! Why should highly paid banking execs get the money they are "entitled" to, while millions of taxpayers shoulder the burden and pay up.

The past decade has been a financial go-go for profit takers. They have enjoyed the benefit of relaxed regulation, and now, all of us are paying for it. They have developed new financial instruments, derivatives, adjustable mortgages, and anything that allowed them to strip excess profits from the process, and their exploitation of systems has pushed stock prices upwards.

They have targeted lower income markets, including minority markets, and sparked a

financial literacy movement with their flagrant disregard for differences in financial acumen. And they've chuckled to the bank all the way. Now, with markets on the verge of collapse, they are putting their hands out and asking all of us to finance the go-go. And we are willing to do it.

Everyone says they want to look forward, and that's because looking backwards is more than painful. If we look back, we will find that there are a few who will lose some dollars this year and next, but they were paid enough to float through this crisis. Meanwhile, there are millions of Americans - with as many as 3.5 million slated for foreclosure - who don't have the go-go cushion many have. We may need to bail out economic bad actors, but must we also finance the go-go? At the very minimum, those who led bankrupt institutions should forfeit pay in the name of the millions who will never be made whole.

Dr. Julianne Malveaux, an economist, is president of Bennett College for Women. You may reach her at presoffice@bennett.edu

Where Do You Want To Go Today?

Publisher's Office:
Phone: (972) 516-2992
Fax: (972) 509-9058
publisher@northdallasgazette.com

Sales Department:
Phone: (972) 606-7498
Fax: (972) 509-9058
opportunity@northdallasgazette.com

Editorial Department:
Phone: (972) 516-2992
Fax: (972) 516-4197
editor@northdallasgazette.com

Website: www.NorthDallasGazette.com

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Chairman Emeritus Jim Bochum	Assignment Editor 972-606-3890
Published By Minority Opportunity News, Inc.	Assistant Editor Ruth Ferguson
Assistant To Publisher Rosie Roberts	Publicist Cheryl Jackson
Office Manager	Contributing Writers
Production	Jesse Williams
Special Projects Manager Edward Dewayne "Preacher Boy" Gibson, Jr.	Arlinda Arriga
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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 formally Minority Opportunity News, was founded July, 1991, by Jim Bochum and Thurman R. Jones

Ask Pastor A

Question: "I love the Lord, but I'm not sure if I'll go to heaven."
(Read: Ephesians 2:8-9, Romans 10:9-10, John 10:27-29)

Answer: You have addressed a very controversial yet common question among theologians and Christians alike. The issue really boils down to whether, as a Believer, are we saved by faith (in Jesus) or by works (what we do or don't do).

It is clear in scripture that we have a relationship with God based on placing our faith in Jesus. The primary issue has to do with if we have genuinely met this single and foremost requirement. If we have confessed Jesus as our Lord, we are saved as it written in Romans

10:9-10, never to be lost. By placing our faith in Jesus, we have met the first aspect of our salvation in which theologians call justification.

Justification has to do with our position under Christ and not our condition compared to Christ. This aspect of salvation is a once in a lifetime event.

For most, we trust in Christ but rarely do our lives line up with Christ. Therefore, we should understand the second aspect of salvation theologians call sanctification.

Unlike the one time event of our justification, sanctification is a lifetime process. This aspect of salvation is when God conforms our lives into the image of His Son though life's circumstances, trials, and even pain. This process is made easier when we surrender our lives to Christ in total obedience.

All we have to remember is that God gave us eternal life for an eternity.

Liberia Axes Two From Major Iron Ore Project

NNPA – In line with efforts to attract new investment while stamping out corruption, bribery and 'external influences,' Liberia announced last week it was ruling out bids from South Africa's Delta Mining Consolidated and India's Tata Steel from a \$1.5 billion iron ore project.

The West African state cited alleged "acts of violation" by the two companies. The companies deny the charge.

Africa's first elected female head of state, President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, has vowed zero tolerance for corruption as she seeks to rebuild her country after a 1989-2003 civil war. Iron ore reserves, estimated at 3.4 billion tons are the largest in Africa and seventh in the world.

Both companies were initially on the short list but questions emerged about the

selection process. Separately, Arcelor Mittal, the world's largest steelmaker, is developing a huge, high-quality iron ore body in northwest Liberia. Before its civil war, Liberia was the world's fifth largest producer of iron ore.

Nigeria Faces Rebel Threat of "Oil War"

NNPA – In a daring attack they called "Hurricane Barbarossa," Nigerian militants in the oil-rich Niger Delta region have destroyed a Royal Dutch Shell Oil pipeline in an escalation of their "oil war" on the government and Western firms.

By dawn, destroyed oil flow stations, gun boats, burst pipelines, dead and injured soldiers trailed in the aftermath of the "hurricane".

The Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND) is in its third day of heavy fighting with security forces. Destruction of the pipeline was con-

firmed by a Shell spokesman.

"The operation will continue until the government of Nigeria appreciates that the solution to peace in the Niger Delta is justice, respect and dialogue. This military style bullying belongs to the past 50 years when the Niger Delta people responded only with their mouths, pens and placards," wrote a MEND representative on the Saharareporters website.

The attacks appeared to follow aerial and marine bombings of a MEND position in Rivers state of Nigeria on Sept 13 by the armed forces of Nigeria. Bakana is in Rivers State, the heart of the oil region.

Meanwhile, a 40 man delegation from Japan has been meeting with Nigerian officials to examine investment opportunities in energy, gas, agriculture and car manufacturing. Help is also being sought for the repair of existing refineries and construction of new ones.

Denton Regional Offers Class on Healthy Grieving

Denton Regional Medical Center is pleased to offer a Spiritual Care Seminar on "Facilitating a Healthy Grief Process – Helping Adults and Children". The class will be held on Wednesday, October 8, 2008 from 9:00 am to 11:15 am, and breakfast will be provided.

Seminar speaker is Rodney Bolejack, D.Min, Hospice Chaplain and vice-president for the Texas partnership of End-of-Life Care. Rodney has a Doctorate of Ministry and a Master of Divinity from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He did his chaplain residency at the Baylor University Medical Center in Dallas and is currently a chaplain for American Hospice. He is author of "The Texas Clergy Project: Assisting Clergy and Faith communities in

Caring for the Dying," published by Texas partnership for End-of-Life Care, Austin, TX.

Objectives of the Seminar are to enable participants to better assist those experiencing grief and to provide participants with essential information concerning grieving adults & children.

The class will be held in the Mayhill

Community Room, S. 310B in the Professional Office Building at Denton Regional Medical Center, 3537 S. I-35 E (exit: 462). This class is open to the community for a small fee of \$15. It is being offered free to all hospital staff and 2.25 CEU's will be given. To register for the seminar, please call (940) 384-3091.

Hamilton Park Hosting Health Fair Oct. 25th

Hamilton Park United Methodist invites the local community to an annual health and wellness fair from 10:00am to 2:00pm on Saturday, October 25. The fair will be held at the church located at 11881 Schroeder Road in Dallas, right at Forest and Central. The event is free and open to the public.

During the fair, the public

will have an opportunity to visit with up to 24 health professionals providing screenings, information and educational services. Here's a brief example of some of the screenings; stroke screening, children's immunizations, flu shots, and many more. For more information about the event activities or directions, please call 972-235-4633 # 7.

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DESIRE TO SERVE

Continued from page 1

him, Al-Yatim is not new to a kitchen. He started a hotel management program at Bethlehem University in Israel and also attended school in Norway. During that time he "loved the idea of cooking," and decided to finish at Sheffield Hallam University in England. Afterwards, Al-Yatim worked and owned restaurants in Greece and Israel.

Al-Yatim views Ms. Mary's as an opportunity to continue his education in the service industry. And, as he says "After one year, I can proudly say I do the best smothered pork chops – more than any other 20 year experienced chef!"

Al-Yatim also takes pride in the restaurant's catfish and meatloaf. They seem to be a customer favorite and are one of the most unique dishes because of the "special recipe for the batter" he adds a little Greek seasoning to make it exceptional.

The chocolate cake and the banana pudding are more favorites and he proudly uses only fresh ingredients. He says, we "do good home cooking, everything from scratch and original recipes and we don't use anything frozen or canned."

As a matter of fact, when you order at Ms. Mary's, you will be told that your order will take a little longer than most places as nothing is prepared till you order. Al-Yatim believes that this sets them apart from other restaurants as they are not a fast food place, but a "family type restaurant, with comfort food" and is happy that they are not commercialized, but "more intimate" than other area eateries.

Because of his background, Al-Yatim added a Mediterranean menu to Ms. Mary's, but only for

guests that call 24 hours in advance or order for catering. Al-Yatim also has a daily special, and confesses that it's not always Southern style food, but a mix of all of his experiences. "You never know what I'm going to come up with," he says, and adds, "We just ask people to try us."

Overall, Ms. Mary's goal is to "be a place people can enjoy a good healthy meal and meet new friends." Al-Yatim shares the "hardest part is satisfying every customer." He jokingly adds that eventually he does not "want to work 12 hours a day – maybe 5 or 6."

He says that his inspiration comes from being a "good believer in God," and that "I always have hope . . . that I always believe that good things are coming." In addition, he always tries to be positive and look on the bright side of the matter. His advice to everyone is to "never give up."

Fortunately, his persistence has paid off and good things have already come. Not only is Riad Al-Yatim an accomplished world wide chef, but Ms. Mary's was named the CitySearch.com's Best City Search Winner for Best of Comfort Food of 2007 – 2008. Ms. Mary's also has a strong lunch crowd and a good weekend following.

If you would like to try Ms. Mary's Southern Cuisine, they can be found at 1837 W. Frankford Rd, Suite # 110 in Carrollton, TX, at the intersection of Frankford and I-35E. Additionally, you can find them on the web, along with a complete menu, at www.msmaryscuisine.com. If you would like to call for a reservation, or to request Mediterranean food or catering, they can be reached at (972) 446-9727. They are open Monday – Saturday, 11AM – 8 PM and closed on Sundays and holidays.



Riad Al-Yatim considered a career as a mechanical engineer, but has spent 25 years in the restaurant business.

TXU Energy Announces Customer Assistance In The Aftermath Of Hurricane Ike

With disaster recovery from Hurricane Ike well underway, TXU Energy announced today a series of steps it has taken to help customers with their electricity bills. TXU Energy customers should call 1-866-CALL-TXU to learn more.

"Families are focused on putting their lives back together as soon as possible," said Jim Burke, chief executive officer, TXU Energy. "We want to help by making their electric bill one less thing they have to worry about."

During this time of need, TXU Energy is assisting customers affected by Hurricane Ike by:

- Extending payment due dates;
- Allowing customers to pay 25 percent on the total amount due and defer the balance over five installments;
- Extending special summer customer protections for low-income, the ill and disabled and those age 62 or above in affected areas. The special summer customer protections – which declared a moratorium on disconnections and provided more flexible payment plans – were scheduled to end September

30;

- Waiving late fees;
- Allowing new customers to pay deposits in two installments;

To take advantage of this assistance, TXU Energy customers affected by the storm must call 1-866-CALL-TXU. The assistance is available at least through November 1.

In addition, TXU Energy AidSM – the largest electric bill payment assistance program in the nation – is available to TXU Energy customers who need temporary assistance paying their electric bills. For information on which social service agency provides assistance in their area, customers can call 211 and ask for bill payment assistance.

Previously, TXU Energy – and other companies that are a part of the Energy Future Holdings family of companies – announced \$1 million in relief assistance for the Red Cross and other social service agencies in the area affected by Hurricane Ike. The assistance will help all families impacted by the storm, not just TXU Energy customers..

Plano Animal Services Reports Rabies Positive Bat

On Sept.20, the City of Plano Animal Services received notification a bat on Willow Ross Way in the Willow Bend area had tested positive for Rabies. This is Plano's third rabies positive bat to be reported.

Bats in particular are at a high risk of spreading Rabies. With this in mind, Animal Services would like to offer these helpful tips to prevent Rabies.

1) Do not touch injured, sick or dead bats. Contact Plano Animal Services at (972) 769-4360 for help.

2) If you have had contact with a bat, you may need to seek medical attention as bat bites are not always visible.

3) Teach children to avoid contact with bats.

4) Keep the Rabies vaccinations of family pets current.

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Fall Enrollment at The University of Texas at Austin Reflects Continuing Trend Toward More Diverse Student Population

From staff reports

Enrollment for the fall 2008 semester at The University of Texas at Austin, according to a preliminary analysis, reflects a continuing trend of slight increases in the number of Hispanic, African American and Asian American students.

An enrollment report provided by Kristi Fisher, associate vice provost and director of the Office of Information Management and Analysis, shows enrollment for the semester to be 50,006 students, a decrease of 164 students (0.3 percent) from the fall 2007 semester.

Fisher said the figures are based on 12th class day numbers. Final enrollment figures will be available in October, but there usually is little variation from the preliminary figures, she said.

The report shows the university's population includes 27,234 white, 213 American Indian, 2,194 African American, 7,540 Asian American, 7,935 Hispanic and 4,539 foreign students. There are 351 students for whom ethnicity is not known.

Enrollment increased for Hispanic students by 129 (1.7 percent increase), African American students by 87 (4.1 percent), and

Asian American students by 31 (0.4 percent). It decreased for white students by 410 (1.5 percent), American Indian students by one (0.5 percent) and foreign students by 10 (0.2 percent).

Proportional representation increased for Hispanic students to 15.9 percent this fall semester compared to 15.6 percent in fall 2007, for African American students to 4.4 percent from 4.2 percent and for Asian American students to 15.1 percent from 15.0 percent. The proportional representation for white students decreased to 54.5 percent from 55.1 percent, and remained unchanged for

American Indian students (0.4 percent) and foreign students (9.1 percent). The figure for students for whom ethnicity is not known (0.7 percent) also is unchanged from last year.

About 81 percent of the entering freshman students from Texas high schools were admitted under HB 588 (Top 10 Percent Law), compared to 71 percent in fall 2007.

The number of first-time freshmen this fall semester totals 6,719 students, a decrease of 760 (10.2 percent) from the 7,479 last fall semester. The decrease, according to Dr. Bruce Walker, vice provost and director of admissions, was

partly a planned reduction to accommodate students' need for lab time while new facilities are built to replace a recently demolished lab building. The yield of incoming freshmen also was less this fall than had been projected.

The overall enrollment totals decreased for all ethnic groups of first-time freshmen. However, the proportional representation for first-time freshmen, according to the preliminary report, shifted slightly, with white and Hispanic students representing an increased percentage of the first-time freshman population and other eth-

nic/race categories representing a decreased percentage. The figures include white students 52.3 percent (an increase from the 51.3 percent last year), American Indian 0.3 percent (compared to 0.4 percent last year), African American 5.6 percent (compared to 5.8 percent), Asian American 18.6 percent (compared to 19.7 percent), Hispanic 19.9 percent (compared to 19.7 percent) and foreign 3.1 percent (compared to 3.2 percent last year). The figure for students whose ethnicity/race is unknown is 0.1 percent.

Playwright Returns to Dallas

New Work to Premiere at Art Centre Theatre

By Rick A. Elina

Playwright Donnie Wilson is home. His newest play, *If By Chance*, will have its world premiere at The Art Centre Theatre early next year. Sarah VC Henderson, Artistic Director for Teatro delle Muse, the theatre's resident company, announced the selection earlier this week. "This is an exciting piece and we are proud to be part of it. We announced at The Muse Awards last spring that we'd be doing a play that would reach out to the African American community, like *Glass Menagerie* did earlier this year."

Mr. Wilson, originally from Dallas, graduated from Skyline High School and went on to receive his bachelor's degree from the University of North Texas in Radio, TV and Film. After graduating, Donnie went to work

for the National Marrow Donor Program (NMDP), working to find bone marrow donors for leukemia patients who were in need of a bone marrow transplant. "That experience changed my life," he recalls. He learned that he would never be completely fulfilled in life if he were not actively participating in work that benefited the lives of others.

Although his job with the NMDP was rewarding, the lure of film and television was too much to ignore. So in the summer of 1995 he packed his bags and moved to Los Angeles. He immediately began to pursue opportunities with studios and production houses. He took short-term assignments with USA Networks and Hanna-Barbera/ Cartoon Network, performing less than glamorous detail before joining

Rogers and Cowen, Hollywood's biggest name in entertainment public relations.

Mr. Wilson subsequently landed a job with basketball superstar Shaquille O'Neal. "I never intended to make a career of this employment. In fact, I was certain that my tenure would not exceed two years." However, Mr. Wilson had a change of heart when opportunities opened for him to work closely with Mr. O'Neal creating, writing and directing shows for Nickelodeon, ABC, IMAX, etc.

"My biggest break came when I was asked to produce a televised event for the NBA All-Star weekend resulting in two popular shows; the Platinum Comedy Series: Roasting Shaquille O'Neal and Shaq's All Star Comedy Roast 2. I had the opportunity to work with some big names

from both the big and small screen: Jamie Foxx, Queen Latifah, Mo'Nique and Jimmy Kimmel." At the same time, Mr. Wilson was still able to make a difference in the lives of others by planning and directing Shaquille O'Neal's community outreach and charitable initiatives.

Mr. Wilson has always been an aficionado and avid supporter of the performing arts. "My first love has always been theatre. So I decided to combine my experience, talent and connections and merge them with my passion for the arts and the higher purpose of ministering to the needs of others." The xNihilo Project is the result of Mr. Wilson's efforts.

The xNihilo Project is an intervention program for inner-city youth with a mission to help at-risk young people channel their energies into positive outlets using creativity as the vehicle. "I have chosen to use performing arts as the platform because

of its intrinsic ability to powerfully impact people." Mr. Wilson adds, "The xNihilo Project's core values are integrity, dedication to excellence, respect and service to others."

For updates on this exciting project visit TeatrodeleMuse.US.

Rick A. Elina is a playwright based in Plano, Texas and is the Theatre Critic for The North Dallas Gazette.

ATTENTION!!!

Collin County Black Chamber of Commerce

Meeting: **Thursday, October 9, 2008**

Location: **McKinney Housing Authority
1200 N Tennessee St
McKinney, TX**

Time: **6:30 p.m.**

If Interested In Joining
Contact: cbbcsecretary@yahoo.com
469-424-0120 ext. 703
866-377-4002 (toll free)

TUSKEGE...

Continued from page 1

Spann Foundation. The mission of this 501(c) 3 organization is to inform and educate the world about the World War II legends of the Tuskegee Experience and their determination to achieve excellence.

Its initiatives are to promote the legacy while preserving the history of the Tuskegee Airmen.

Spann, who grew up poor in Newark, New Jersey, was a typical teenager that enjoyed reading comic books, not aware that one day there would be books written about him. It was during his senior year in high school that the theme of a cartoonist changed him forever.

"People ask me my source of inspiration to be a pilot and I show them," began Spann pointing to a large replica of an enlarged black-and-white comic strip. "It is called 'Smilin' Jack' by cartoonist Jack Mosley." Spann explained that it was about a pilot who flew around and landed on empty lots to take people up in the air that wanted to experience flying for only a single dollar bill.

With his passion ignited, he completed the needed credits to graduate high school, but could not stay to participate in the graduation ceremony. Instead,

Spann sought out to fulfill his desire to be a pilot by leaving Newark, New Jersey on a Pullman train traveling to Biloxi, Mississippi to join the military.

Segregation in the North was not as prevalent at this time as opposed to South in the 1940s. The closer to destination at Kessler Field; Spann experienced the sting of something very really in America – racism.

"I was on the train and had these meal tickets to eat in the dining car. As we got outside of Washington, DC, I was told the next time that you come to eat, we will have to put a curtain around you," he shared. It was feared that if Spann was seen eating on the train with the other passengers that someone may try to harm him.

Upon his arrival at the military intake point in Mississippi, he was again denied equal opportunity. "I was told that we do not train Blacks here," he recalled. Then, Spann was re-directed to a flight school in Tuskegee, Alabama to be a part of the government-run test project called The Tuskegee Experiment.

The country was in a time of war and some African Americans felt that the opportunity to defend the country would be a



Dr. Calvin J Spann, Sr

chance to gain equal footing as an American citizen. However at the time, they were not allowed to fight because it was assumed that they lacked intelligence, skill, patriotism and courage. Of course, segregation was also a factor, but notable leaders pushed for the development of a pilot program that offered African-Americans the opportunity to defend their country.

"It was called the Experiment because the government thought that it was something that would fail," said Spann. However, the program cadets took this opportunity to prove their skill. "We started with about 120, but we had an extremely high turnover rate of about 80 percent. The instructors would verbally abuse you while instructing and I learned to turn a deaf ear to it," shared Spann as he stated his drive to complete the program. "To prove that they were wrong," he simply stated.

"B.O. Davis, the chief flight commander came back and complained to Congress." Per Spann, this is when the four squadrons - the 99th, 100th, 301st and 302nd - were given the opportunity to make their mark in history.

"The Tuskegee Airman were asked to escort the bombers to their destination and back and then go to their home." He further explained that with the expanded perimeter around the bomber, it lessened the possibility of casualty due to the slower travel of the bomber.

The Tuskegee Airman performed successfully and served until the close of the war in 1946. Spann and his squadron were in Italy. "We thought that we had proved our point. We had an amiable record during the war." However, their joy was short-lived after their return to the States to find that not much had changed on the home front.

"We returned to get jobs as a civilian and none of us did." Spann felt that they would take their resumes and just throw them in the

trash. Although they had risked their lives to save the same country as other cadets, the color of their skin kept them from recognition for more than 61 years.

The strong bond of family saved Spann from being crushed under the hand of discrimination. "My family got behind me and encouraged me to do something else. I returned home and attended Newark College of Engineering." Spann attended school at night and ultimately began a career in pharmaceutical sales at Hoffman-La Roche. He retired in 1988 after 20 years of service.

Bring your family and friends to Skyline Ranch located at 1801 E. Wheatland Road on Sunday September 28 from 2:00 pm to 7:00 p.m. to meet Spann and the historically noted Tuskegee Airmen in the Dallas Fort Worth area.

This event will introduce the community and the youth to living American heroes. You will hear history accounted by those actually lived it. Be sure to attend this once in a lifetime experience for the

whole family. It will be a day of food and fun activities as well as an educational experience that knows no age boundaries.

Special guests include Dana Bowman, a double amputee the Army Golden Knights, who will be jumping out of an aircraft. Also on site will be professional athletes, a live DJ, sporting events, face painting, magic acts, horseback and carriage rides. There will be an emphasis on aviation education along with the presence of US Air Force and Navy personnel, representatives from Bell Helicopter and the Claude R. Platte Future Pilots Flight School. Ticket donation is \$20/pp and \$50 per family of four. Children age 6 and under will enter free. Donations are tax deductible under 501(c) 3 Non-Profit status and will support the programs of the Calvin J. Spann Foundation. YOU CAN ALSO REGISTER TO VOTE. For tickets and information, Contact Calvin or Gwenelle Spann at 888-457-7671. Event Sponsored by American Airlines.

Community Spotlight

Dr. Joyce Miller Visits Richland College

Dr. Joyce Miller visits Richland College to look at possible sites for the 2009 ACT-SO Competition. She canvassed the area with Richland College's room coordinator, Bethany Wright. The 2009 competition, which will be held At Richland College in

2009, promises to be bigger and better than ever.

Dr. Miller is so proud of the quality of applicants who apply each year for the scholarship award and the opportunity to compete on the state and national levels for even bigger awards.



Miller



Wright

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Ongoing
African American Republican Club of Collin County meets 3rd Tuesday of every month at 7 pm (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, 6:30pm - 7:30pm. McKinney Housing Authority 1200 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 nonmembers, 11:00am- 1:00pm. 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.

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 am -

12:30 pm every Thursday at Texas Land & Cattle Steak House 3945 N. Central Expressway Plano 75023 Must RSVP at 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.share-southwest.org.

The National Business Women Enterprise Network (BWE) 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 or info@nbwen.org.

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

September 26 SOLUTIONS - Youth Violence is Real! Now is the time for Real 'SOLUTIONS' 10:30AM at Booker T. Washington High School, 2501 Flora St, Dallas, Tx 75201 No Admission fee but donations appreciated and

pre-registration required. 972-218-1921 or <http://www.vrinc.org/>

September 27 Democratic Party of Collin County will sponsor a "Rock the Vote Block walk" on September 27, 2008, 9am. Block walks begin at locations in Allen and Plano. Choose your location and come by at 9:00 a.m. We will provide the maps, the walk lists, the candidate literature and the water. You provide good walking shoes, sunscreen, hat and enthusiasm! Call 972-578-1483

September 30 - October 19 Oprah Winfrey Presents The Color Purple at Fair Park featuring stars of the Broadway production, Jeannette Bayardelle, Felicia P. Fields and Angela Robinson, along with American Idol alum Latoya London. Tickets are \$25-\$77 at the Box Office or any Ticketmaster. Call 214-631-ARTS.s

October 2-3 National Association of Black Social Workers Southwest Regional Conference at the Holiday Inn Select, 3300 W. Mockingbird Lane, Dallas, Texas. The conference theme is: "Reclaiming Minority Youth:" Are We Listening? Visit NAB-SWDALLAS.COM or Audrey Brown, 214-670-6739 or Abtbinc@aol.com, or Treva McDaniel, 214-915-4610, tmcdaniel@ulgdnc-tx.com.

October 3rd Supreme Warrior Championship (SWC 2 -

Battlegrounds)-Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) SWC is presenting sanctioned cage fighting. Our 10 bout fight card will host some of the most exciting cage fighters in the Dallas / Fort Worth Area. Come watch hometown stars prove their supremacy. Doors open at 6PM, Admission: \$40, Parking: \$15. Sales@swcmma.com or (972) 704-2950 or <http://www.swcmma.com>

October 4th "The 6th Annual Back To The Yard" Grambling State University vs. Prairie View A&M The Official Alumni Post Game Party! Blue Mesa in Addison Village on the Parkway, 5100 Beltline, Dallas, TX 75240 Beltline and the Tollway. Party starts @ 10:30 pm.

October 5 V Events Presents Non-Profit Organization of the 3rd Quarter, AIDS Arms Inc. join AIDS Arms and LifeWalk and LifeBark from 1 p.m. - 5 p.m. for entertainment, food, games, and more. The walk will be held at Lee Park In Dallas, Texas. Registration begins at noon. Visit www.life-walk.org.

October 10 COOL JAZZ @ THE PARK® with Dallas jazz guitarist, Montrose, featuring vocalist Rhonda Nicole at 6 pm on October 10, 2008 in the Christian Life Center of the Hamilton Park United Methodist Church (11881 Schroeder Road, Dallas, Texas).

October 11 Girls Empowerment Luncheon Saturday, October 11, 2008 11am -

2:00pm **Believe IT is Possible** Single Ticket: \$20 girls/parents/individuals of all ages, colors and creeds are invited to attend Doubletree Hotel Dallas Near the Galleria 4099 Valley View Lane - Dallas, TX 75244 (635 & Midway Rd) . For more information please call Leslie@ 214-457-3026

October 23-35 Girls Night: The Musical a tell-It-like-It-Is look at five friends as they re-live their past at the Eisemann Center. Visit <http://www.eisemanncenter.com/tickets/>

October 24 Dallas Black Chamber Of Commerce 82nd Anniversary Awards Banquet Friday, October 24, 2008 Reception-6:00 P.M. / Dinner Program-7:00 P.M. Dallas Convention Center - Ballroom A. Tickets \$60, (214) 421-5200 or log onto the DBCC Website at www.dbcc.org.

October 25 Frisco Arts Gala Supporting all the fine arts In Frisco Funding grants and scholarships at the Westin Stonebriar Resort. Visit <http://www.eisemanncenter.com/tickets/>

Garland Neighborhood Summit Saturday, October 25, 2008 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. The Atrium at the Granville Arts Center 300 N. Fifth Street. The cost is ONLY \$15 for Garland stakeholders and \$20 for those outside of Garland (this includes the continental breakfast and lunch). Registration ends October 20. For more information, call 972-205-3864 or e-mail fcon-

ner@ci.garland.tx.us. You may also register online at play.garland-parks.com.

October 27 Charity Golf Tourney at the Cowboy's Golf Club In Grapevine, Texas. The money raised will provide scholarships for Latino Students In the DFW area. Registration deadline is September 19, 2008. Call 202-296-5400.

November 1 The Boys and Girls Club of Collin County Chrysalis Ball featuring Fan the Flame with LeAnn Rimes at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Frisco, TX. <http://fan-the-flamegala.com/sponsorshiplevels.html>

November 8 "When It Happens", a play about abuse, will be performed at The Plaza Theatre in Garland. Tickets will be \$10.00 presale and \$15.00 at the door; contact Lynda J. at 469-396-6881.

Turning Point Rape Crisis Center Fundraiser Champagne wishes and Caviar dreams at the Westin Stonebriar Resort, Frisco, TX. Visit <http://www.theturning-point.org/>

November 14 Murphy Enterprise Center Leadership Lunch. The University of North Texas College of Administration Luncheon will be held at the Hilton Anatole Hotel, 2201 Stemmons Freeway, Dallas, 75207. Call 214-761-7500

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Proud To Be An Active Partner In The Community

The Star Performance

By Jacquinette Murphy

It takes a village to raise a child, and the incredible accomplishments of Amber L. Ford, the niece of North Dallas Gazette publisher, Thurman Jones, brought the village back to celebrate. Family, friends and supporters gathered at the Radisson Hotel on Mockingbird Lane in Dallas, Texas to commemorate her unstoppable quest of obtaining a college degree. Complete with hugs, smiles and tears, it was a grand scale affair to remember.

The Rolm Room of the hotel was decorated in white with crimson bows and white cloths. The guests were escorted down memory lane with pictures and a tapestry collage of Ford as they entered the celebration. After having an opportunity to record a memo about Ford, guests arrived at their table place, set for a delectable meal suited for a royal family.

Frieda Porter, Ford's aunt, served as the mistress of ceremony and immediately took her opportunity to openly congratulate Ford on her success. "I am as proud of you right now, as I have ever been."

Brandy Jones, cousin of the guest of honor, com-

memorated Ford's journey to success by recalling her early career choices to be an artist and a pediatrician which ultimately took a backseat to her decision to focus on diet and nutrition.

Prior to a musical selection by Ashley Halkmon, Ford's grandmother, Lois Ford-Humphries spoke through her tears of joy while sharing a heartfelt congratulatory tribute. "Life is not measured by the breath we take, but by the moments that take our breath away," she reminded. "This is one of those moments. Amber, I am so proud of you."

Successful communication with God became the focal point as keynote speaker Reverend Rick Jordan gave words of wisdom and encouragement to Ford and her guests.

"He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much."

Luke 16:10 KJV

"Learn to communicate with God and master the S.T.E.P. Concept." Referring to the key points of Specific prayers, Time, Energy, and Place, Jordan emphasized that God should be placed on our appointment books, we should pick a place to talk to God and approach prayer

with energy to produce power.

"If you are going to make it in life, you are going to have to spend time

with God. Prayer goes beyond the world's possibilities."

Jordan went on to describe Ford, her accomplishments and her commitment to others. "Amber is going to be a world-class Christian," he stated referencing the definition given by Rick Warren in his book, Purpose Driven Life. It describes a world-class Christian as one who looks to God to be used in God's service. "They know that they are saved to serve others." He later described Ford as a focused person with a passion for people. "She kept her G.P.A. (grade point average) and worked for the community.

Ford was highly commended for her work to better humanity. While in college, she participated in an array of public service initiatives and spent time working for the Bridge Youth Crisis Center in Fort Worth, Texas. She worked with troubled teens as a youth counselor and participated in a mission trip to Mount Ruidoso, New Mexico, to build a youth center.

Additionally, she worked at the Potter's House Rahab-Ministry for battered women and helped to raise awareness in the Fort Worth community of the need for more youth shelters while assisting at the "Inside Out" Ministry shelter for abused women. In April 2001, Ford raised more than \$12,000 in cash and donations for the group homes & shelters.

Her continued giving and her service of compassion to others seems to be inherited from her uncle whose financial support and accountability requirements helped Ford to achieve the success of finishing college. Ford is now an accomplished young lady who still is making a great impact on society and aims to leave the world better than she found it.



Catherine Graham, Thurman Jones and Lavada English

While standing at the podium alongside Ford at the close of the evening, Jones began, "She does not owe me anything, you owe the ones that come behind," He began looking around the room naming his other nieces and grand children implied that Ford's success is a precedent for the younger generation. "I told (God) that if you could allow me to have some measure of success, I would be found trying to giving back," he shared. "When you run a race and you have success, it is an opportunity for us all to enjoy. This is what we are doing today." Jones served as the support beam for Ford providing her with the means to reach her dream.

"I am overwhelmed to see everyone's faces. I am so happy. I do not know what to say. Thank You," stated Ford as she surveyed the audience. She preceded to share her stories of struggle to complete her degree including transportation, enrollment issues, and lack of finances as she appreciated her

uncle for helping her through it all.

"I really appreciate Uncle Thurman. When he found out, he paid for all of my classes." He also helped set her goals for each semester and reviewed her successes at the close of the term. "I had to fax him my grades every semester," she shared.

Ford is an example of Jones' vow to pay it forward and now the mantle has been laid upon her. With family, friends and supporters under her wings, she is perfectly poised to excel to heights unknown. Today, Ford has obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Nutrition from Southwestern Assemblies of God

University in Waxahachie, Texas and is a certified yoga instructor. Her long term goal is to help people live better on the inside and outside. Currently, Ford simply wants to savor the moment. "I am not going to regret the past, nor worry about the future. I just want to be here right now and enjoy the moment."

Her success may have been a surprise to some, but not to Kathy Graham, the maternal grandparent to Ford. "I am proud of Amber. She has always been so strong-willed. A lot of people start a lot of things, but they never complete it. She did this and I am very proud of her." she stated.

Scene photos on page 10

Special guests for a special event.

Family and friends join Amber Ford in celebrating her college graduation.



Amber Ford, Brandy Jones, Frieda Porter, Monique Jennings & Ryan Porter



Friends and family enjoy the evening of celebration.



Rev. Fred & Jackie Redwine.



Stacey Baston, Tiffany Smith, Amber Ford & Damon Evans



Cynthia Yates, Brandy Jones, Frieda Porter, Catherine Graham, Rodney & Amber Ford, Lavada English and Thurman Jones



Elaine Ford-Humphries

WomensNet.net Announces New Amber Grant for Women in Business

Site accepting applications through October 2008

NEW BRAUNFELS, Texas -- The popular WomensNet.net Amber Grant (www.womensnet.net/Amber-Grants/apply.php) is back -- and for women starting small businesses, this year's \$500 grant could make all the difference.

With an application deadline of October 31st, 2008, the WomensNet.net Amber Grant helps cover start-up expenses like buying or upgrading equipment, hiring a Web site designer or advertising.

"Our primary focus is assisting women who are trying to start small home-based or online businesses," explained Josh Prewitt, president of WomensNet.net. "No repayment is required or expected, although WomensNet.net hopes the winner will pass on the kindness by mentoring and helping others along the way."

Founded in 1998 by Melody Wigdahl, WomensNet.net is an online women's business community that exists to help women succeed in small business. The Amber Grant was created in memory of Wigdahl's sister, who died at 19. Wigdahl established the grant to help other women in her sister's name.

Women applying for this period's Amber Grant won't have to wait long to find out whether they've been awarded

the funds: The new Amber Grant winner will be announced on WomensNet.net and in the WomensNet.net newsletter on November 30th, 2008. WomensNet.net is sensitive to women in difficult or dangerous situations who want to change their lives by starting a business; for that reason, the winner can choose to have her name withheld.

"WomensNet.net is a supportive, encouraging environment for women in business and those who hope to become business owners," said Prewitt. "In addition to the Amber Grant, the site offers a wealth of resources and information to women at all stages of business ownership. We invite women to apply for the Amber Grant and take a shot at realizing their dreams."

Women interested in applying for the Amber Grant can do so at womensnet.net/Amber-Grants/apply.php. Only applications received through that page will be considered, and applicants must be members of WomensNet.net (membership is free). Those who have applied for Amber Grants in previous years but did not win must resubmit their applications. To learn more about the Amber Grant or about WomensNet.net, visit www.womensnet.net.

2008 Mazda3's Touring 4-door Review

By Stu Livingston

Even though the Mazda3 may not get the publicity and instant recognition as some of Mazda's other vehicles, the "3" is Mazda's best-selling vehicle. The Mazda3 is competitive on price and leads the compact sedan class on sporty character and driving characteristics.

"The Mazda3 is competitive on price and leads the compact sedan class on sporty character and driving characteristics."

The Mazda3's interior is styled in the contemporary Japanese sport-compact manner, with grippy textured nylon cloth upholstery. There is enough room inside for four adults, or five in a pinch, with good rear seat space. Storage is in useful spaces around the cabin, including the signature Mazda3 lap-top-swallowing locking glove box. There's an upgraded audio systems with an auxiliary input jack for MP3 players and a power



point in the center console. The exterior has crisply-delineated lines and the sporty look is further enhanced by smoked covers for the headlights and taillights, a grille that's colored to match the body, and fog lamps. The Touring trim level adds more style with 17-inch alloy wheels and all-season performance tires. With a 2.3-liter, 16-valve four-cylinder engine, good for 156 horsepower, the Mazda3 sits at the premium end of the compact segment. The transmission is a standard five-speed manual, but an automatic

five-speed is available. Nimble handling, good acceleration, and strong four-wheel disc brakes address safety. The Antilock brakes with electronic brake-force distribution and brake assist are standard in the s model, with dynamic stability and traction control

standard at the Touring level. All Mazda3 models have a sturdy safety cage construction and dual front airbags standard, with front seat-mounted side and ceiling-mounted full-length side curtain airbags available. The Mazda3's fuel economy, at around 25 mpg for enthusiastic mixed city and highway mileage, is good considering the relatively large and powerful engine. Priced around \$20,000, the 2008 Mazda3 is one of the best all-around small sedans.

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Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson Announces Department Of Justice Grant For City Of Dallas

Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson today announced that the U.S. Department of Justice will be releasing \$335,381 for the City of Dallas on September 23. Congresswoman Johnson secured the funds as part of the fiscal year 2008

Commerce, Science and Justice appropriations bill. The Department of Justice is releasing the funds through its Edward Byrne Memorial Discretionary Grants Program. The City of Dallas will use the money for Project Reconnect,

which helps ex-offenders reconnect to their families and community.

"Hundreds of thousands of offenders reenter their communities every year," Congresswoman Johnson said. "Two-thirds of all ex-offenders are arrested for new crimes within a

few years of their release. Ending this cycle is key to reducing crime. Project Reconnect supports non-violent offenders access services and overcome obstacles, thereby enabling them to become responsible members of our North Texas community."

RAMADAN

Continued from page 1

The purpose of each one of them was to bring a balance in our lives and a balance with things that surround us; life and environment.

The Spirit of Ramadan

Every faith is composed of a set of unique rituals to bring discipline and peace to human life. Fasting is one of the five key rituals that Muslims around the world observe.

Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic lunar calendar and is generally observed with a ritual precision; it is an annual training or a refresher. It requires one to abstain from food, drink, intimate relations, ill will, ill talk, ill actions or any temptations from dawn to dusk. One has rise above his or her baser desires. Islam gifts this month to its followers to inculcate such a discipline to bring moderation in their daily lives. Twenty five hundred years ago, Buddha, the enlightened one taught that human suffering is caused by unrestrained desire to own and had recommended a middle path.

Although Ramadan is popularly known in the West for its culinary delicacies and fancy Iftaars (ceremonial breaking of fast at sun down), the spirit and intent of Ramadan lies in a human transformation in a month long inner spiritual journey of finding oneself in tune with spirituality.

God has no need for the hunger or thirst of someone who hurts others, violates their dignity or usurps their rights, said Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). The fasting of the stom-

ach must be matched by the fasting of the limbs. The eyes, ears, tongue, hands and feet all have their respective fasts to undergo. The tongue's temptations, for example - lies, backbiting, slander, vulgarity and senseless argumentation - must be challenged and curbed to maintain the integrity of the fast.

Consciousness of behavior and vigilance over action are the most profound dimensions of fasting: the fasting of the heart focuses on the attachment to the divine. That is when Ramadan really becomes a source of peace and solace, just as Christmas goes beyond the rituals to bring forth kindness, charity and caring.

True fasting is self-purification; and from this, a rich inner life that bring about values such as justice, generosity, patience, kindness, forgiveness, mercy and empathy - values that are indispensable for the success of the community.

Knowing about hunger is different from knowing hunger. Empathy is not an intellectual equation; it is a human experience. Our hardness of heart often springs from our distance from the human condition of others. The poor, sick, disenfranchised, oppressed - we rarely walk a mile in their shoes, not even a few steps. "Rest assured," cautioned one teacher, "if you do not taste what it feels like to be hungry, you will not care for those who are."

For fasting to be truly universal, its ben-

efits must extend beyond the fraternal ties of Muslims and must extend to forging a common humanity with others. Fasting is meant to impart a sense of what it means to be truly human, and its universality is reflected by its observance in Bahai, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Jain, Jewish, Sikh, Zoroastrian and other faiths.

Ramadan will come and go with such stealth that we cannot but be reminded of our mortality. What is it that we value and why? Habits, customs, even obsessive behavior like smoking can be curtailed with relative ease in the face of a higher calling.

The Rituals of Ramadan

It is celebration time when Muslims around the world anxiously wait for the first moon of the ninth Lunar month to appear on the sky. The families gather in their backyard, or get on the nearest hillock or climb on the top of their house and wait for the pencil thin moon on the horizon to appear. It is the same spirit and excitement to watch the fire works on 4th of July and when the moon is sighted, it is like the first day of Christmas, Diwali, Rosh Hashanah, Paryushan or the Jashn, the festivities begin and with that the joyous month of self discipline begins.

Rituals vary in different Muslim cultures, where I am from, it is Chandni Raat, moonlit night festivities, and it is an expression of joy of people coming together. It is almost like the National night out or the last night shopping prior to Christmas.

For 30 days, with small variations in

practices, families rise up early around 4:00 AM. In my tradition, the whole family gathers in the kitchen and participates in cooking the meals and about 5 minutes before the cut-off time, everyone finishes his/her food intake and takes the last sip of the water. Right after that is the Morning Prayer congregation at home or Mosque, then we are free to do what needs to be done.

Through out the day we abstain from food, water and any thing that is detrimental to self-discipline. We pray in the afternoon, late afternoon and then the whole family gathers in Mosque or homes and waits for the sunset to break the fast. It is usually a communal activity rather than an individual act.

When you break the fast it is a healthy practice to eat the appetizer sized items in fruits, vegetable and refreshments. Dates are the

See RAMADAN, page 16



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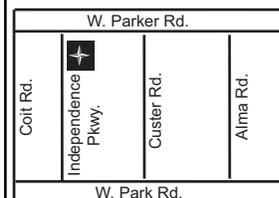
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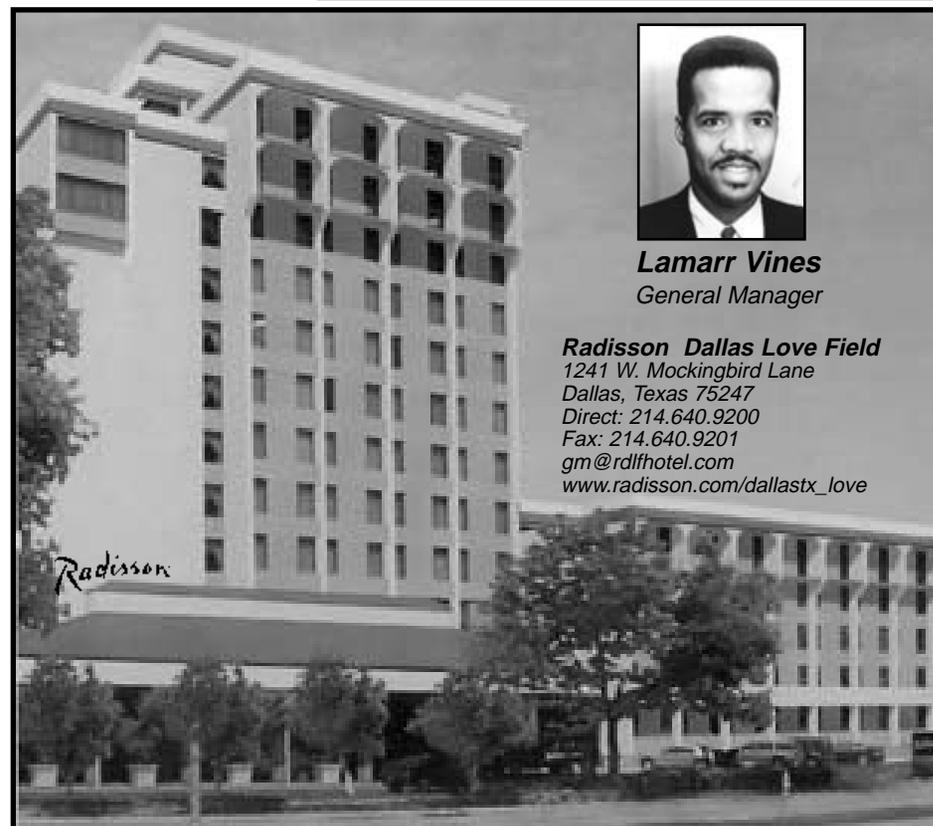
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TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS OF PROPOSED TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION CONTRACTS

Sealed proposals for contracts listed below will be received by TxDOT until the date(s) shown below, and then publicly read.

CONSTRUCTION/MAINTENANCE/BUILDING FACILITIES CONTRACT(S)

Dist/Div: Dallas
Contract 0094-03-094 for U-TURN FROM EB SH 183 TO WB SH 183 in DALLAS County will be opened on October 15, 2008 at 1:00 pm at the State Office. Contract 0095-02-100 for UPGRADE INTERCHANGE, INCL BRIDGE & FRONTAGE RDS in DALLAS County will be opened on October 16, 2008 at 1:00 pm at the State Office. Contract 0918-45-801 for CONSTRUCT CURB RAMPS in DALLAS County will be opened on October 15, 2008 at 1:00 pm at the State Office.

Plans and specifications are available for inspection, along with bidding proposals, and applications for the TxDOT Prequalified Contractor's list, at the applicable State and/or Dist/Div Offices listed below. If applicable, bidders must submit prequalification information to TxDOT at least 10 days prior to the bid date to be eligible to bid on a project. Prequalification materials may be requested from the State Office listed below. Plans for the above contract(s) are available from TxDOT's website at www.txdot.gov and from reproduction companies at the expense of the contractor. NPO: 27670

State Office
Constr./Maint. Division
200 E. Riverside Dr.
Austin, Texas 78704
Phone: 512-416-2540

Dist/Div Office(s)
Dallas District
District Engineer
4777 E. Hwy 80
Mesquite, Texas 75150-6643
Phone: 214-320-6100

Minimum wage rates are set out in bidding documents and the rates will be part of the contract. TxDOT ensures that bidders will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, sex, or national origin.

Church Happenings

AVENUE F CHURCH OF CHRIST

September 28, 2008
Visit our Blood Pressure Clinic after Morning and Evening Worship Services.

October 1, 7 pm - 8 pm
Join us for an hour of Prayer, Praise and Singing as we worship God.

Avenue F Church Of Christ
Brother Ramon Hodridge,
Minister
1026 F Avenue
Plano, TX 75074
972-423-8833

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October 23, 2008
Join us for one of two services for morning worship. One @ 8 am and the other @ 10:30 am.

Eirene Christian Fellowship
Rev. Terrence Autry,
Pastor
701 E. Centennial Blvd.
Richardson, TX 75081

972-991-0200

FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH OF ALLEN

Wednesdays in September & October.
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Fellowship BC of Allen
Rev. W. L. Stafford, Sr.
M. Div., Senior Pastor
1550 Edelweiss is our (Service Location)
200 Belmont Drive (Church Address)
Allen, TX 75013
972-359-9956

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF HAMILTON PARK

Dr. Gregory Foster
Senior Pastor and
Rev. Anthony Foster,
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Richardson, TX 75081
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October 17-19, 2008
Register for our Singles Retreat 2008, we will play, relax, explore and fellow-

ship. Speakers include Brother J.K. Hamilton from Church of Christ at Mountain View and Sister Angela Clay from Greenville Avenue C of C. Theme is "Things We Lost in the Fire."

Greenville Avenue Church of Christ
Brother S.T.W. Gibbs III,
Minister
1013 S. Greenville Avenue
Richardson, TX 75081
972-644-2335

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Hamilton Park UMC
Rev. Harold Dangerfield,
Senior Pastor
11881 Schroeder Road
Dallas, TX 75243
972-235-4633

MOUNT GILEAD BAPTIST CHURCH

September 28, 7:50 am
You're invited to our "133rd Church Anniversary: 1875 - 2008" Service. Breakfast will be served in the L.K. Williams Lower Auditorium @ the church. Rev. W.L.D. Campbell, Pastor of West Mt. Moriah MBC is the speaker.
Morning Worship Celebration is @ 10 am with Dr. Charles Walls, Pastor of New Zion MBC from Jacksonville, TX will bring the message.

Mount Gilead Baptist Church
Rev. Cedric Britt,
Pastor
600 Grove Street

Ft. Worth, TX 76102
817-336-2695

NEW MT. ZION BAPTIST CHURCH OF DALLAS

September 28, 3:00 pm
Join us at Greater New Zion Baptist Church with Rev. Joe Patterson, Senior Pastor and the members.

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

NORTH DALLAS COMMUNITY BIBLE FELLOWSHIP

September 27, 8 am - 12 pm
Join us for Men's Transformation Leadership Seminar.

North Dallas Community Bible Fellowship Church
Dr. Leslie W. Smith,
Senior Pastor
1010-1020 South Sherman Street
Richardson, TX 75081
972-437-3493

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Sunday Worship Service: 11:00 A.M.
Wednesday Night-Community Bible Class: 7:30 P.M.



Sister Tarpley

Scriptures For October 2008

Picture of The Week



Johnny Joseph, CEO, Liyah Bar-B-Que & Catering and Bro. Eugene Tinner @ First Church. Other pictures @ www.northdallasgazette.com, on top of 1st page, click on the "Society Gallery" for more pictures.

From the monthly calendar of Full Gospel Holy Temple, Apostle Lobias Murray, Founder/Pastor: A true Christian is one who is "right side up" in an "upside down" world. Romans 8:16-17. Instead of pointing fault-finding fingers, hold out a helping hand. James 5:16; Matthew 7:1. The Bible doctrines are holy; its precepts binding, its histories are true, and its decisions are right. Isaiah 28:10, 13. When it comes to salvation, he who hesitates is often lost! Hebrew 2:3.

Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets. Matthew 7:12. We should live in such a way that our lives will not be a false pattern. Titus 2:7 The only time it is not a sin to be angry is when you get angry at sin. Ephesians 4:26. A proud man is seldom a grateful man for he never thinks he gets as much as he deserves. Proverbs 13:10. The man who walks close to God leaves no room for the devil to come between. 1 John 1:3, 7.

Love worketh no ill to his neighbour; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law. 1 John 4:18. There are no idle rumors. Rumors are always busy. 1 Thessalonians 4:11.

A man who serves God only for money is "spiritually bankrupt." 2 Corinthians 5:14 & 15. The only proper basis for teaching and preaching is the Word of God. Romans 10:14. Happiness is one thing you will have if you give it to others. Psalm 144:15 & John 3:17. When all men forsake us, we have the assurance that the Lord will not forsake us. Psalms 27:10. The thickest clouds often bring the heaviest showers of blessings. Luke 9:34 & 35 and Ezekiel 34:26. One Mediator, the Lord Jesus, has paid what we owed, and what we were unable to pay. 1 John 2:2. Enduring persecution is the hallmark of those who seek to live godly lives. 2 Timothy 3:12.

A smooth sea never made a skillful sailor. 1 Peter 4:12. God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Psalm 46:1. Worry about nothing, pray about everything. Philippians 4:6. Taking one step at a time is the best way to make

progress. Psalm 73:2. God's help is only a prayer away. Psalm 34:5 and Acts 12:5. The mighty God, even the Lord, hath spoken, and called the earth unto the going down thereof. Psalm 50:1. The Bible reveals God's mind, man's state and salvation's way. Psalm 119:9, 105.

The Bible describes the sinner's doom and the believer's happiness. Revelation 21:18 & Romans 6:22. Because we are so prone to forget, the Word of God reminds us of our duties. John 14:26. You can be sure that those who will not listen to the truth will listen to that which is false. 2

Timothy 4:3. Meekness is giving a soft answer to a rough question. Proverbs 15:11. Guard well the tongue; it stretches far, for what you say tells what you are. Psalm 34:13 & Proverb 12:17. Whosoever is willing to follow the Word of the Lord will be sure to be led by the Spirit of God. Romans 8:14.

Christian Wisdom: The man who governs his passions is master of the world. We must either command them, or be enslaved by them. It is better to be a hammer than an anvil (metalworker's hammering block). -St. Dominic.



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Morning Worship-11:00 a.m.

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Wednesday
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RAMADAN

most popular item as it was the practice of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh).

The breaking of fast, also Known as Iftaar has become a community event, where Muslims invite their non-Muslim friends to join in their celebration of that day. President Clinton started the tradition of holding an Iftaar party carried forward by President Bush. It has become a major social event for the politicians just as it is with Diwali, Rosh

Continued from page 12
Hashanah and other festivals.

At the end of 29th or 30th day, depending on the moon sighting, NASA or other tradition, the fasting would come to an end with the celebration. It is a major celebration where literally all Muslims gather in an open space and pray the thanksgiving prayer for having a blessed Ramadan. It is a day one formally forgives and gets forgiven and starts another year with good will. Every one hugs three times; I

am your friend, you are my friend and we are friends.

Though the annual ritual of fasting takes 30 days its true destination is endless. May we always hunger to discover our heart? May we always aspire to find our balance, connect with each other, open our hearts and minds to fellow beings; the joy

that comes with it is ours to keep.

Next week we will conclude our look at Ramadan with a discussion on the Politics of Ramadan.

Mike Ghouse is a Speaker, Thinker and a Writer. He co-chairs the center for interfaith

inquiry of the Memnosyne Foundation, president of the Foundation for Pluralism and is a frequent guest on talk radio and local television network discussing interfaith, political and civic issues.

He is the founding president of World Muslim Congress with a simple theme: Good for Muslims and good for the world.

His comments, news analysis and columns can be found on the Websites and Blogs listed at his personal web site www.MikeGhouse.net. Mike is a Dallasite for nearly three decades and Carrollton is his home town.

He can be reached at MikeGhouse@aol.com

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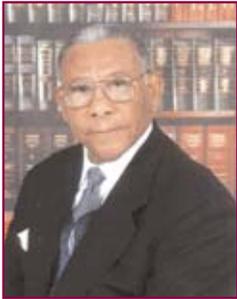
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Sunday Bible Class 9:45 am
Sunday Morning Worship 10:45 am
Men Bible Class 5:00 pm
Women Bible Class 5:00 pm
Evening Worship 6:00 pm
Wednesday Bible Class 7:00 pm
Radio Program @ 7:30 am on KHVN 970 AM Sunday Mornings



Ramon Hodridge, Minister

www.avefchurchofchrist.org

The Inspiring Body of Christ Church

7710 S. Westmoreland Rd.
Dallas Texas 75237
Phone: 972-572-4262 Fax: 972-709-3888

Sunday Services: 7:30 am, 10:00 am, 12:30pm.
Monday School: 7pm
Men's Fellowship: Friday 7:00pm

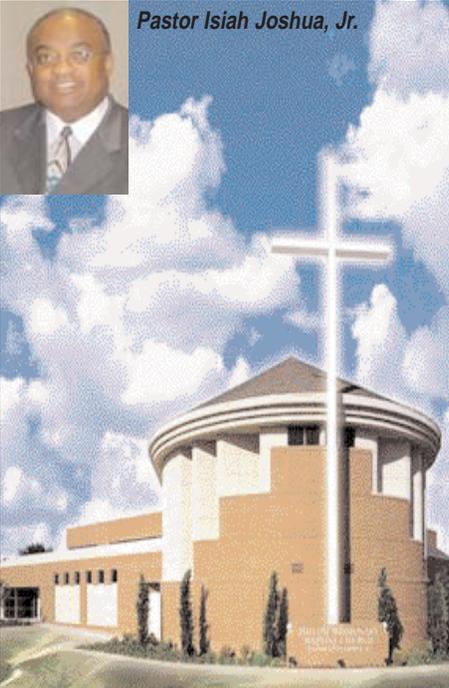


Pastor Rickie J. Rash

Website: www.ibocjoy.org

Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church
920 E. 14th Street Plano, TX

Pastor Isiah Joshua, Jr.



Sunday Worship Services 8AM & 11AM

Sunday	9:45AM Sunday School
Monday	7PM Youth, Brotherhood, Mission & Young Adult Ministries
Tuesday	7PM Bible Study & Men's Choir
Wednesday	7PM Mid-Week Service
Thursday	7PM Mass Choir

For more information call (972) 423-6695
www.shilohbaptistchurch.org

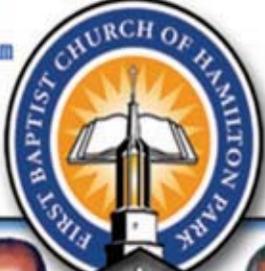
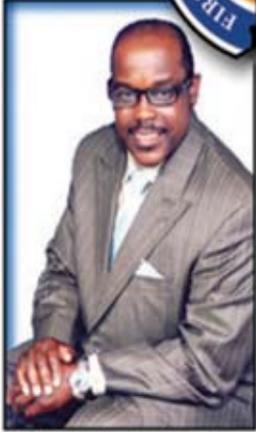
FANNING THE FLAMES OF OUR FAITH

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF HAMILTON PARK

Worship Services
7:30am & 10:30am

Sunday School
9:30 am

Wednesday
Night Service
8:00 pm

Dr. Gregory Foster Senior Pastor



Rev. Anthony Foster Pastor

Our Mission
To fulfill The Great Commission until Christ comes.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF HAMILTON PARK
300 Phillips Street • Richardson, TX 75081 • 972.235.4235 • www.fbchp.org

PromiseLand Television Network Broadcast - KTAQ-TV
"WALKING IN THE WORD"
Weekly 30 minute broadcasts, each Saturday at 5pm and Sunday at 4pm

Saint Mark Missionary Baptist Church

1308 Wilcox Street, McKinney TX
Pastor Charles S. Wattley



Sunday
Education Ministries - 9:30 a.m. • Worship Celebration - 11:00 am.
- Nursery Facilities Available -

Wednesday Family Ministries... 7:00 p.m.

Friendly Fellowship with A Family Focus
For More Information Call 972.542.6178
www.saintmarkbc.com • themark07@yahoo.com