

North Dallas Gazette

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Local Tea Party members monitoring Austin Efforts to elect Rep. Paxton as House Speaker fail

By Tonya Whitaker
NDG Staff Writer

Individual freedom. Limited government. Personal responsibility. Constitutional adherence. National sovereignty.

These are the core principles of the Texas Tea



Katrina Pierson of Garland, Texas
Tea Party Leader

Party.

When the 82nd Texas legislature convened in Austin on Jan. 11, the Texas Tea Party's influence became evident in the mirage of Texas politics.

The Texas Tea Party Caucus (TTPC) and the

Texas Tea Party Advisory Board have ties to the Dallas area. Of the 50-plus state representatives and state senators who are part of the TTPC, Representatives Jodie Laubenberg of Parker, Angie Chen But-

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Credit Fix and Debt Elimination Scams

By Texas Attorney
General Greg Abbott

A new year often brings new resolutions, and Texans with mounting consumer debt or bad credit ratings may be tempted by services that promise quick fixes to a bad credit prob-

lem. Unfortunately, there are no easy ways to remedy low credit scores. If a credit repair or debt relief offer sounds too good to be true it usually is.

Rebuilding a good credit rating takes time and good financial management. Legitimate credit

counseling services and debt repayment plans can offer long-term, practical solutions to debt management. It is critical, though, that debtors distinguish between lawful assistance programs and fraudulent

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Plano MLK Celebration Committee adds new events and locations to 2011 commemoration

(NDG Wire) The Plano Martin Luther King (MLK) Celebration Committee will honor the legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on January 15-16 and January 20. The 2011 theme is "Illuminating the Legacy." This theme commemorates the vision and mission of this great



historic leader according to Earnest Burke, MLK Committee Co-Chair.

On Saturday, January 15 at 8:30 a.m., the public is invited to South Fork Hotel, located at 1600 Central Expressway for the

Power Breakfast sponsored by Collin College. A textbook scholarship drawing will be held for Collin County Community College students.

"We are encouraging students, especially our college students, to be more involved

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COVER STORY

Dr. King and the 1955-1956 Montgomery Bus Boycott



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Comedian Earthquake
performing at Addison Improv

For more information see pg. 10
www.northdallasgazette.com

COMMENTARY

A Tragedy and My Apology

By Julianne Malveaux

(NNPA) My cell phone pinged on Saturday to say I had a message. I was in the middle of lunch and chose to ignore it. When I picked it up a couple of hours later, I felt the same sickness that millions did, learning that Arizona Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords was shot in an assassination attempt. Television news bubbled over with the news, with fact, spin, and interpretation. Would all 435 members of Congress

need ramped up security? Was hate speech the basis of this shooting?

I even saw Neil Boortz, the peripatetic Atlanta lawyer and talk show host suggest that President Barack and First Lady Michelle Obama had been guilty of some of the same hate speech that the right has been accused of. Please.

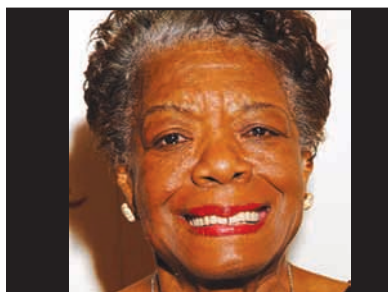
The talk about hate speech, however, is important and I'm going to own my part of it, and apolo-

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People In The News...



Dr. Maya Angelou



Joyce James



Hon. Glenda A. Hatchett

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Dr. Maya Angelou

The renowned Dr. Maya Angelou will be making signing copies of her second and latest cooking book, *Great Food, All Day Long* on Friday, January 14 at the Barnes & Noble Lincoln Park located on Northwest Highway and North Central Expressway.

Born Marguerite Ann Johnson on April 4, 1928, has been called "America's most visible black female autobiographer" by scholar Joanne M. Braxton. She is

best known for her series of six autobiographical volumes, which focus on her childhood and early adult experiences. The first and most highly acclaimed, *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* (1969), tells of her first 17 years. It brought her international recognition, and was nominated for a National Book Award. She was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize for her 1971 volume of poetry, *Just Give Me a Cool Drink of Water*

Fore I Diiie.

In 1993, Angelou recited her poem "On the Pulse of Morning" at President Bill Clinton's inauguration, the first poet to make an inaugural recitation since Robert Frost at John F. Kennedy's inauguration in 1961. In 1995, she was recognized for having the longest-running record (two years) on The *New York Times* Paperback Nonfiction Bestseller List.

Her screenplay *Georgia, Georgia* (1972) is the first screenplay by an African American woman



ever to be produced on film. She speaks six languages fluently, studied Modern Dance with the legendary

Martha Graham, danced with Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater on television, and is an accomplished singer and actor.

The author of more than 30 bestselling titles, Angelou is also a three-time Grammy winner, recipient of the Presidential Medal of Arts in 2000 and the Lincoln Medal in 2008, and a host of other awards and nominations too numerous to list. She's been given nearly 40 honorary degrees from uni-

versities all across the U.S.

While teaching at the University of Ghana's School of Music and Drama, Angelou met Malcolm X and was to have worked with him upon her return to the U.S. in 1964. She was also appointed as Northern Coordinator for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Her public life has led her to serve on two presidential committees.

Great Food, All Day Long was released on December 14.

Joyce James

(TPA) Executive Commissioner Tom Suehs has selected Joyce James to head a new enterprise initiative to ensure equity across all health and human services agencies and programs.

"No other state has made this type of commitment toward ensuring equity in health and human services," James said.

"Texas is again a first, and I am truly honored and

thankful to be a part of the next chapter of the Texas story."

James, who previously served as deputy commissioner at DFPS, took over as head of the new Center for Elimination of Disproportionality and Disparities on Sept. 1.

"At the heart of all our programs and services, we're about people," Suehs said. "And we want to make



sure that every person is treated with respect and dignity. Joyce has been a pio-

neer in helping improve equity in our protective services programs, and we want to put that same focus on all our services."

James has received several awards for her efforts to address disproportionality in the child welfare system in Texas. She also served on several legislatively created task forces, including the Council on Children and Families and the Task Force for Children with Special Needs, and on the executive committee of the National

Association of Public Child Welfare Administrators.

"This work is so important to me personally and professionally," James said. "I can honestly say that there is no other work I would rather do, and I feel I owe it to the children, youth, families and other vulnerable clients we serve to be a voice that says in human services there is also equity in services."

DFPS Commissioner Anne Heiligenstein praised James for making Texas a

national model for addressing disparities in the child welfare system.

"Joyce is recognized nationwide as a pioneer in addressing disproportionality in child welfare and she is very passionate about this work," Heiligenstein said. "I can think of no one better than Joyce for this important assignment. Though I am saddened that DFPS is losing her, I am thrilled that this important work will be continued and expanded on at the enterprise level."

Hon. Glenda A. Hatchett

By Judge Glenda A. Hatchett



Although Dr. King is no longer with us, his spirit and dream live on.

On January 17, 2011, we will mark the 25th anniversary of the Martin Luther King, Jr. federal holiday. It is a milestone that provides us with an opportunity to honor his legacy.

The Martin Luther King, Jr. federal holiday is also recognized as a national day of service. A time when we can impact our communities

the most and transform Dr. King's life and teachings into community action that helps solve social problems.

As we embark on this 17th annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service, please take time to reflect on how we can make his dream a reality for African American children in foster care.

Each year, according to a U.S. Department of Health and Human Services report on adoption and foster care, more than 450,000 children enter the foster care system in the United States. Today in America over 152,000 African American children are in foster care. They represent nearly one-third of all children in foster care, where more than 50 percent are boys.

Dr. King once said that "life's most persistent and urgent question is: What are you doing for others?" How can we continue to make the dream a reality for African

American children in foster care?

One way that we can start is by becoming involved with the National Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Association, a nonprofit organization that I support because it has been proven to work for children in foster care.

CASA is a national network of trained community volunteers who are appointed by judges to watch over and advocate for the safety and wellbeing of abused and neglected children. It fulfills society's most sacred obligation, by making sure a qualified, compassionate adult will fight for and protect a child's best interest when and where it matters most. Research shows children with a caring CASA volunteer by their sides are significantly more likely to find safe, permanent homes. Less than 10 percent of children who have had a CASA volunteer return to the foster care sys-

tem.

Today, more than 70,000 CASA volunteers serve more than 230,000 abused and neglected children through 1,055 program offices across the U.S. However, only 12 percent of these volunteers are African American.

As Georgia's first African American Chief Presiding Judge and head of one of the largest juvenile court systems in the country, I saw countless children from all walks of life enter and exit the foster care system.

These children are more than just statistics, they are our future, and need someone to be that constant anchor in their lives. Our children need to do more than simply survive – they need to thrive and be given the tools to do so.

Become a CASA volunteer today and help a child in need. A CASA volunteer must be at least 21 years of age and successfully pass a

background check; participate in an in-depth 30-hour volunteer training class; communicate effectively both verbally and in writing; and commit to staying with a case until the child finds a

safe, permanent home.

As Martin Luther King Jr. once said, "everybody can be great ... because anybody can serve. You don't

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There is an option for those who completed deferred adjudication

By Texas Senator
Royce West

The number is in the hundreds I'd say, if asked how many people have contacted my office or spoken to me personally saying, 'I was told that if I completed deferred, I wouldn't have a criminal record.' Their problem is twofold. Texas law allows public access to criminal history records. Secondly, technology and an entire industry are now in place that didn't exist when deferred adjudication was created 35 years ago.

To refresh, deferred adjudication is a judicial option available to defendants, prosecutors and the courts in criminal cases. Rather than accepting "straight" probation which carries a conviction, defendants may be offered the chance to have the case dismissed upon successful completion of court-or-

dered supervision. There is no conviction.

In theory, it allows a person who may indeed have violated the law, a chance to consider the consequences of their misstep, show their willingness to comply with the law, and if successful, proceed with their lives without the stigma and ramifications of a criminal conviction.

Each of these callers and a possible two million other Texans who have upheld their agreements through completion of deferred, either has or could come face-to-face with those ramifications. Employers hesitate to hire persons who have criminal records. Apartments may deny residency to applicants. And certain occupational or professional licenses are also at risk.

In 2003, we were able to pass into law SB1477. It allows records of offenses for which the subject has

successfully completed deferred adjudication to be sealed from the public via an order of nondisclosure. The law requires a defendant to petition the courts in the county of the offense to have the record sealed at various junctures after completing probation, depending on the category of the offense. While the records are ordered not to be made public by background check companies, law enforcement, the courts, school districts, cities, counties, certain state agencies, licensing entities and professions maintain access.

A biennial report by the Texas Department of Public Safety, says that 6,775 orders of nondisclosure were issued statewide in 2008 and 2009. Since the law went into effect in September 2003, nearly 21,000 (20,891 as of Dec. 31, 2009) subjects have taken advantage of this provision.

While orders of nondisclosure have been criticized for not going far enough, or covering enough offenses, I would counter that not enough of those who are eligible have taken advantage of the only remedy currently on the books under Texas law.

Before and since SB1477, bills filed that would expunge the records of a completed deferred have not been successful. And no doubt, bills will be filed during the 82nd legislative session will do the same.

I understand the frustrations of those impacted. I have and will continue to work on their behalf to find greater avenues for relief. For example, a company that releases the records of an offense more than 90 days after it has been sealed or expunged is civilly liable and can face state sanc-

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TRAGEDY, continued from Page 1

gize. Years ago (actually in 1992) I made a wisecrack about Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas. Anyone who knows me would see it as a wisecrack, but those who don't saw it as hate speech.

Here's the background. Thomas said he would live to be 120 to stay on the court to frustrate liberals. I replied that the average Black man had a life expectancy of about 65, and that if his wife fed him lots of butter and eggs (if her recent call to Anita Hill is any indication she isn't cooking much these days), ingredients for high cholesterol and heart trouble, he'd die an early death. Conservatives called it a death wish. Death by breakfast, I responded, still in jest. As if someone were standing over Thomas with an Uzi forcing him to eat that butter and eggs. The wisecrack has to be taken even less seriously if Justice Thomas' purported commitment to physical fitness and working out is taken into consideration.

No matter, and no excuses. My comment about Thomas, my wisecrack, was in poor taste. Out of line. Out of order. I am sorry if the words I spoke at all contributed to the climate in which we live, to the vitriol that has poisoned the atmosphere. My apology does not mitigate or reduce my contempt for Clarence Thomas and for his arrogant dismissal of liberals and for the African American community.

If I could do it all over, I'd have wished him the bacon and eggs, or simply made reference to the Black male life expectancy rate and his own hubris, but left out the comment about his early death. The fact is that none of us should joke about death. It just isn't funny.

To be sure, the right has had a great time distorting my words, and they've disseminated them widely. And, anytime a liberal makes an inappropriate comment they take their media machine and work it overtime. These conserva-

tives invoke free speech when pastors pray for President Obama's death from their pulpits (if it were any other president, that pastor might have been looking the FBI in the face). These same conservatives say they aren't racist when they use images of apes to describe the First Family.

These conservatives have both fingerprints and footprints in the poisoned language that poses as free speech. Yet it is true that it takes sticks and twigs, not just logs and trees, to build a fire. Was my comment one of the twigs?

It has taken me nearly two decades and an attempted assassination to understand the damage that my wisecrack might have caused, not to Justice Thomas, but to the public discourse. I hope it won't take our nation two more decades to understand and embrace the notion of speech civility, even for, no, especially for, political opponents.

Every day, and in every

way, I tell my students, faculty, and staff that I value civility. Yet, my comment about Clarence Thomas was not only uncivil, it was ugly and unnecessary. And, it really wasn't that funny. I regret it. I apologize for it. I wish I could take it back.

A dynamic young Congresswoman is fighting for her life, and I am among those who will fall to my knees in prayer for her each day. The assassin who shot her also took out a federal judge, a 9-year-old girl, a Congressional aide, and others. A dozen more were wounded. Scores of lives will never be the same. Even as we pray for Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords, we need to fight to restrict easy access to guns. And, we all need to be reminded to tone it down.

Julianne Malveaux is the 15th President of Bennett College for Women. Her most recent book, *Surviving and Thriving, 365 Facts in Black Economic History*, can be purchased at www.lastwordprod.com.

PARTY, continued from Page 1

ton of Richardson, and Ken Paxton of McKinney have aligned themselves with the caucus. Local Tea Partiers Chuck Molyneaux of Allen and Katrina Pierson of Garland sit on the advisory board.

Paxton said he is an advocate for the Texas Tea Party's agenda because of its deep-rooted connection with the voters.

"The Tea Party Caucus creates better opportunities for conservative legislators to work with the grassroots. I'm proud to be a part of a political movement that stands for smaller government and more individual freedom."

With the state legislature now in session, Pierson said the Tea Party will closely monitor the vote

records of those who were elected to represent the people. Politicians who vote for policies that are against the principles of the U.S. Constitution should be prepared to face the same fate as those who were voted out of office in November. Ross Ramsey of the *Texas Tribune* reported Jan. 10 that Tea Party demonstrators who rallied in Austin wore stickers with "3/6/12" on them, the date of the next Republican primary election.

"Our presence has already changed the landscape of politics in Texas," said Pierson, a graduate of University of Texas at Dallas. "They have to know that we are serious and are not going anywhere anytime soon. We want to be



Fred Moses

ACORN with ethics."

Pierson said the Texas speaker house race is the most important issue on the minds of the Texas Tea Party. However, their call to remove moderate Republican Joe Straus, R-San Antonio failed. On Jan. 11, the House Republican caucus re-elected Straus to a second term as state house speaker with a vote of 132-

15. Three Republican representatives did not vote. According to The *Dallas Morning News*, eight North Texas Republicans, including Laudenberg and Paxton, voted against Straus.

"Division, threats of retribution ... attacks on people's religious beliefs and distortions of people's records have no place in this House," Straus said during his opening speech on Tuesday. The political rhetoric to oust him reportedly included comments related to his Jewish faith.

The Tea Party caucus' endorsements for the post, Paxton and Warren Chisum of Pampa, were not nominated from the floor. Paxton requested his name be removed from consideration early Tuesday morn-

ing.

Fred Moses, chairman of the Collin County Republican Party, said the country needs to get on a better track. The only way this is achievable is by returning to the core principles of the U.S. Constitution.

"We want the country to be run in a conservative trend, that doesn't mean getting rid of (federal) programs. The government has a role; it is a limited role," said Moses, the first black politician to serve in a countywide office in Collin County. "It goes back to living within our means. When you do things that are important to citizens, we are talking about getting within our means."

"There are some things that need to be done about healthcare, but some of the things that are in that healthcare bill are not outlined. We should not have one program that will bankrupt the country. It is un-American not to have choices."

Now that the State House has elected to keep Straus as speaker, Pierson said the caucus will continually press Texas legislators to address many issues that impact Texans' daily lives.

"We have got to get voter ID passed. Texas needs illegal immigration legislation similar to Arizona. They are taking the jobs from the minority community and it needs to stop."

Ace Cash Express donates \$419,743 to March of Dimes

(NDG Wire) ACE Cash Express, Inc., an Irving-headquartered retailer of financial services, has announced a donation of \$419,743 to the March of Dimes in support of programs to improve the health

of all babies.

The donation was made through ACE's annual "Give a Little" campaign where ACE customers are asked to make a donation and ACE associates raise funds so that one day every

baby will be born healthy. ACE's contribution to the March of Dimes this year ranked fifth out of all financial service companies, which included some of the nation's largest banks and financial institutions.

HATCHETT, continued from Page 2

have to have a college degree or make your subject and verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace and a soul generated by love."

For more information about National CASA or the

local CASA program in your area, call 1-800-628-3233 or visit online at www.CASAforchildren.org

Judge Glenda A. Hatchett is a nationally recognized authority on juvenile issues and serves as a national

spokesperson for the National CASA Association. The best-selling author of *Say What You Mean and Mean What You Say!* released her second book, *Dare to Take Charge* in September 2010.

Dallas lawyers provide free legal advice

(NDG Wire) Volunteer attorneys will answer legal questions at no cost from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Wednesday, January 19, via LegalLine, a call-in program sponsored by the Dallas Bar Association. Anonymous lawyers are available to answer questions in many law-related areas ranging from divorce and child support matters, to wills, insurance, employment and criminal law matters.

Residents needing assistance should call LegalLine at (214) 220-7476 from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Wednesday January 19.

Individuals may also receive referrals to local, legal, or social service agencies.

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DFW celebrates the legacy of MLK

Throughout Dallas and surrounding cities many church and civic groups have planned activities to celebrate the legacy of Rev. Martin Luther King. These are just a few of the many events scheduled.

Please share information regarding any upcoming MLK celebration event your organization is hosting on Facebook Fan Page - www.facebook.com/NorthDallasGazette. We also invite you to post your photos on the page afterwards.

January 14-15

The Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center will hold its **29th annual MLK celebration**. A candle lighting ceremony will begin at 7 p.m. at the MLK Jr. Recreation Center, 2901 Pennsylvania Ave. The MLK march/parade will start 10 a.m. on Saturday from Dallas City Hall, 1500 Marilla St. Parade line up begins at 8 a.m. The MLK birthday celebration award banquet will take place Saturday starting at 6:30 with a VIP reception and dinner slated for 7:30 p.m. start. Call 214-670-8418 or visit www.mlkcelebrationdallas.org.

January 15

The city of **Carrollton Martin Luther King Jr. Day Parade 2011** scheduled to start at Carrollton City Hall, 1945 E. Jackson Road

in Carrollton. Admission is free.

Life Changing Faith Christian Fellowship, 7185 W. Main St. in Frisco, will sponsor the **Martin Luther King Jr. Legacy Celebration and Essay/Oration scholarship contest** at 10 a.m. Celebration includes music, dance and a special performance of the *I Have a Dream* speech. Light refreshments will be served. Call 214-387-8040.

January 15, 16 and 20

The Plano MLK Celebration Committee has planned several events to honor King. The committee will host at **power breakfast** at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday at Southfork Hotel, 1600 Central Expressway, a **unity walk** from 10:30 to 11:45 a.m., and at 12:45 p.m. a **free luncheon and health fair** at the Douglass Community Center, 1111 Avenue H. At 7 p.m. on Sunday, the **MLK all-community choir** will perform at Christ United Methodist Church, 3101 Coit Road. Rehearsal starts at 4 p.m. at Christ UMC. On Thursday at 7 p.m., the Plano ISD MLK Tribute will be held at the Plano Centre, 2000 Spring Creek Pkwy. www.planomlk.org

January 16

The Black Academy of Arts and Letters will hold the

28th annual black music and Civil Rights movement featuring Chrisette Michele and Ledisi at 7:30 p.m. The event will be held at the Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center in the downtown Dallas Arts District, 2502 Flora St. Admission is \$35, \$25 and \$20. Call 214-743-2400.

January 17

The House of Blues, 2200 N. Lamar St. in Dallas, to host the **third annual MLK Jr. Celebration and Student Art Exhibition** at 10:30 a.m. Event is free with RSVP at 214-978-4880.

The Irving Martin Luther King Jr. celebration will take place at Carpenter Hall in the Irving Arts Center, 3333 N. MacArthur Blvd., starting at 7 p.m. The event is free and will feature a tribute to youth and a performance by the Dallas Black Dance Theatre. Call (972) 721-2501

Legendary Civil Rights attorney Fred Gray and CNN senior analyst Jeffrey Toobin are keynote speakers at the **2011 MLK Symposium**, sponsored by the Dallas Institute of Humanities and Culture. Event will take place at the Winspear Opera House at 7 p.m. Visit www.attpac.org or call 214-880-0202. General Admission is \$20, teachers and students \$10 and \$15 for groups of 10 or greater.

African American Museum and KHVN hosting MLK Celebration

(NDG Wire) The African American Museum's (AAM) on Saturday, January 15 will host the Annual AAM/KHVN Community Forum and Gospel Concert from noon to 4 p.m. The Forum will be broadcast live on KHVN Heaven 97 AM from noon to 2 p.m., followed by the Gospel Concert from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. The evening closes with a live concert from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. featuring the United States Naval Academy Gospel Choir from Annapolis, Maryland. The Dallas Uptown Youth Orchestra will open for the midshipmen. On Monday, January 17 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. the public is invited to celebrate Family Day with fun activities including classes, workshops, art activities, music, African drumming, and dancing.

The Community Forum is a panel discussion focusing on issues relevant to the South Dallas and the DFW metro. The Gospel Concert provides a venue to showcase outstanding, up-and-coming talent from across the DFW area.

The United States Naval Academy Gospel Choir, under the direction of Karla Scott, is an upbeat, inspirational musical ensemble.



Comprised of midshipmen from various places, races and creeds, the Gospel Choir is reflective of the diverse interests and ethnicities within the Brigade of Midshipmen. Their common bond is musical talent and a passion to praise through song.

Throughout the year, the USNA Gospel Choir maintains an active schedule and regularly performs not only at the Naval Academy, but throughout the nation at churches, schools, and community centers. The Choir has taken its message of inspiration, motivation, and exhortation to Atlanta, the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site, Los Angeles, St. Louis, Chicago, Dallas, Houston, New Orleans, De-

troit, San Diego, Key West, Orlando, Miami, Pensacola, and Bermuda, and was seen in President Barack Obama's Inaugural Concert "We Are One" performed on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial for a live audience of over half a million people and an internationally televised audience.

Dallas' Lincoln High School's Maurine F. Bailey Gospel Choir is the opening act. The Choir is named in honor of one its former directors, Maurine F. Bailey, who for many years was a leader on the campus of Lincoln High School as well as in the south Dallas community. There is also a street in the neighborhood named after her. The Maurine F. Bailey Choir has established a tradition of musical excellence and is sought after for performances throughout the school year. They have traveled throughout the US and abroad, presenting concerts as far away as Hawaii and Vienna, Austria.

DART awarded nearly \$18M from FTA

(NDG Wire) Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson announced last week that the Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) System will receive \$17.778 million from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) in advanced funding for the Green Line.

The nearly \$18 million is an early payment towards the Full Funding Grant Agreement (FFGA) between DART and the FTA for the Green Line. The FFGA, which Congresswoman Johnson worked to

secure several years ago, ends in Fiscal Year 2014.

"The recent expansion of DART's Green Line provides increased mobility options from Buckner Station along its Southeast Corridor to New Carrollton/Frankford Station along its Northwestern Corridor," said Congresswoman Johnson. "I am pleased that the Federal Transit Administration recognizes the significance of the Green Line and decided to provide DART nearly \$18 million in advanced funds."

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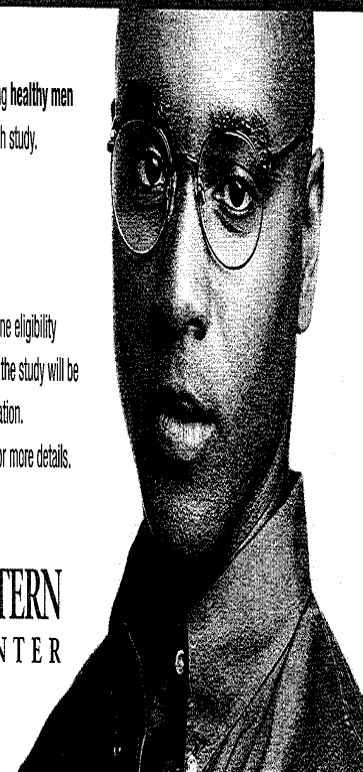
UT Southwestern Medical Center is seeking healthy men to serve as volunteers in a research study.

Volunteers must be:

■ Male ■ Age 21-55

Volunteers will be screened to determine eligibility for this research. Volunteers who complete the study will be paid for their time and participation.
If interested, please call 214-645-6975 for more details.

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Texas Regional Medical Center at Sunnyvale rings in 2011 with new babies

(NDG Wire) Dracen Sanders is only a newborn, but he knows how to command attention. The baby is Texas Regional Medical Center at Sunnyvale's first baby of 2011.

He was born at 7:26 a.m. Jan. 1 at The Women's Center at Sunnyvale, weighing 8 pounds, 2 ounces. His parents are Tawanna Fincher and Delvin Sanders, both of Balch Springs.

"I had two due dates, Jan. 4 and Jan. 11; the way things were progressing, I



Tawanna Fincher and newborn son Dracen Sanders

was really expecting him to come around Christmas or

New Year's," Fincher said. "He will certainly have some big birthday parties over the next few years."

Dracen's birth also is special for TRMC-Sunnyvale because he is the cousin of Arvetta Shirley of

Duncanville, one of the hospital's newborn-nursery nurses.

The first girl for 2011 was Arlette Delgado, whose parents are Elizabeth Huesca and Carlos Delgado, both of Balch Springs. She

was born at 8:31 a.m.

The parents of both New Year's babies received gift baskets full of baby items, such as bottles and pacifiers, from TRMC-Sunnyvale.

NFL legend Ed "Too Tall" Jones helps fight homelessness

(NDG Wire) Verizon will be in area communities every Monday starting through the Super Bowl XLV as part of Verizon's 45 Days to Super Bowl XLV program. NFL Greats Everson Walls, Deion Sanders, Randy White, Chad Hennings, Tony Dorsett and Ed "Too Tall" Jones will volunteer their time at North Texas service organizations to promote education, fitness and community. Verizon will also make a \$1,500 donation to each community organization.

This week features Ed "Too Tall" Jones having



Ed "Too Tall" Jones serves lunch to the homeless

breakfast and meeting with residents at Family Gateway – which provides transitional housing and assistance for families with children.

New judge sworn in for Probate Court Number One



Hon. Brenda Hull Thompson of Plano was sworn in earlier this month as the new judge serving Probate Court Number One. The Democratic is a graduate of Georgetown University Law School, Boston University and University of Maryland. Her law office has served the Dallas community since 1982.

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Every Saturday

Pure Saturdays 2026 Commerce Street 23 & up preferred DJ Steve Nice in The Mixx. Doors open @ 10 p.m. Info text or call 214-810-5483.

Every Tuesday

The Irving Public Library invites families to enjoy stories and music in both English and Spanish. **Family bilingual storytimes** are offered at 11 a.m. Tuesdays at the East Branch Library, 440 S. Nursery Road, and at 7:30 p.m. Thursdays at the Central Library, 801 W. Irving Blvd. For more information, call 972-721-2458.

Ongoing

African American Republican Club of Collin County meets 3rd Tuesday of every month at 7 p.m. (Doors open at 6:30 p.m.) Collin County Republican Party HQ, 8416 Stacy Rd., McKinney. Call Linda Wynn Drain, 214-498-7574 or website www.aarcc.com

Collin County Black Chamber of Commerce, CCBCC General Meetings, 2nd Thursday of every month at 6:30 p.m. Call 469-424-1020 or email: info@CCBlackChamber.org for location.

DFW Financially Empowered Women meet monthly for lunch or dinner and a fun, informative seminar on various financial topics. Info: 469-942-0809 or meetup.com/378.

Group Business Seminars at 4907 Spring Avenue, Dallas, 11:30 a.m. 12:30 p.m.; 3rd Friday of the month 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. for those interested in starting your own business, it is a Brown Bag Lunch with Free Parking

No Limit Network Business Networking Lunch 1st Thursday at 1 pm in Plano Must RSVP at

www.TheNoLimitNetwork.com or 972-898-5882.

The National Business Women Enterprise Network (NBWEN) Learning Over Lunch Series: 4th Saturdays, 11am-1pm, Remarkable Affairs Cafe, 2727 LBJ Fwy., Suite 140, Dallas. \$20 for members; \$35 for non-members, \$5 off for early bird registration. <http://nbwenorg.ning.com>.

North Dallas Texas Democratic Women Regular Meetings 4th Thursday, 6:45 p.m. Northaven United Methodist Church, 11211 Preston Rd (between Forest & Royal Lanes).

Target Second Saturdays at Latino Cultural Center On the second Saturday of every month family-friendly activities celebrating Latino arts and culture. Come in for one hour, or stay the whole day.

Business Empowerment Sessions. Learn to grow a successful small business. 1st Thursday of each month at Christian Chapel Temple of Faith, 14120 Noel Rd., Dallas. Call 214-942-6698 for details.

How to start a business. Free sessions on getting started the right way. Sessions held the last Monday of each month. Call The PLAN Fund for details 214-942-6698.

Through Jan. 23

AT&T Performance Arts Center presents **Young Frankenstein** at the Winspear Opera House. Tickets start at \$65 and are available at www.attpac.org

January 14-16

Riverdance is slated for Verizon Theatre at Grand Prairie. Tickets start at \$10. www.verizontheatre.com

January 15

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Garland, Texas Branch will host its 22nd Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade and March beginning at 10:00 a.m. The parade starts on Dairy Road @ Garden Drive (near Embree Park), Garland.

14th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Parade through Carrollton at 10 a.m. The parade will start on Jamestown Street (behind Carrollton City Hall) and proceed west to Josey Lane; south on Josey to Keller Springs; east on Keller Springs to Kelly Boulevard; south on Kelly Boulevard to end at Ted Polk Middle School (2001 Kelly Boulevard). The parade is sponsored by Christ Community Connections, in partnership with the City of Carrollton. Info: 972-242-0933

Science Fair Kickoff with Science Safari Susan Campbell, founder of Science Safari, will lead a fun, idea-filled, free session designed to spark lots of scientific thinking for children ages 6-12 at Josey Ranch Lake Library (1700 Keller Springs Road) at 2 p.m. Children will learn how their questions about the world can turn into successful science fair projects. Info: cityofcarrollton.com/library or 972-466-4800.

Comedian Chris Tucker at Music Hall at Fair Park, 901 1st Ave. in Dallas, at 6:30 p.m. Tickets available at <http://orders.tickettriangle.com/ResultsTicket.aspx?eventid=1527497&event=Chris+Tucker>

January 17

The **15th Annual Fort Worth Cowboys of Color Invitational Rodeo** is scheduled for 2:00 p.m., at the his-

toric Will Rogers Coliseum during the Fort Worth Stock Show.

Teen Night Out for teens ages 12-15 will have a fun-filled evening riding the DART Light Rail from Carrollton to Dallas' Historic West End to enjoy dinner at the Spaghetti Warehouse, before returning to Carrollton. The \$19 fee includes the round-trip rail fare, dinner and gratuity. Outing begins at 4:45 p.m. Info: cityofcarrollton.com/signup-now.

The House of Blues, 2200 N. Lamar St. in Dallas, to host the **third annual MLK Jr. Celebration and Student Art Exhibition** at 10:30 a.m. Event is free with RSVP at 214-978-4880.

January 17

The City of Irving's annual Martin Luther King Jr. observance will be held at 7 p.m. in Carpenter Hall at the Irving Arts Center, 3333 N. MacArthur Blvd. The theme for this year's celebration is A Message of Hope. The free event will feature a tribute to youth and a performance by the Dallas Black Dance Theatre. Admission is free. For more information, call 972-721-2501.

January 17 & 20

Public Input Meetings: Residents will have the opportunity to provide input to city staff and project architects on the new South Irving Library at community input meetings scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Jan. 17 and 20 at the Central Library, 801 W. Irving Blvd. The new library will replace the existing Central Library location, which is slated to open late 2012. For more information, call 972-721-2606.

January 21 - 30

The Plano Children's Theatre, 1301 Custer Road Suite 706 in Plano, will present

several productions of **Godspell**. www.planochildrenstheatre.org

January 25

Seeking Common Good in the Midst of Growing Diversity featuring T.D. Jakes, Chief Pastor, The Potter's House; at the SMU Tate Series Tickets to individual lectures may be ordered online at smu.edu/tate or by calling 214/SMU-TATE 214-768-8283).

January 27

Greater Irving-Las Colinas Chamber's State of the City Address at the Irving Convention Center at Las Colinas, info: irvingchamber.com or 214-217-8484.

The **2011 Irving State of the City dinner** is set for the Irving Convention Center at Las Colinas, 500 W. Las Colinas Blvd. Info: www.irvingchamber.com or 214-217-8473.

January 28

M.I.N.G.L.E. Football Edition is a professional networking luncheon featuring a panel of former NFL players turned entrepreneur, January 28, 2011 from 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. You can register online for \$40-\$50 at www.themarketinglady.com/events. The event will be held at Studio Movie Grill 11170 N Central Expressway in Dallas.

January 29

Comedian Kevin Hart's Laugh at My Pain slated for Verizon Theatre in Grand Prairie. www.verizontheatre.com

January 29-30

Sci-Fi Expo celebrating **Women of Sci-Fi** is slated for Saturday and Sunday in the Plano Convention Center, 2000 E. Spring Creek Pkwy., from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday. General admission tickets

are \$10 per day, and \$20 for the Priority Pass, good for both days. Children ages 10 and younger are admitted free to the convention when accompanied by a paid adult. Parking is free. www.scifiexpo.com

January 30

The Plano Symphony Orchestra will present **Gone With the Winds**, begins at 3 p.m. at the Courtyard Theatre, 1509 Avenue H, in historic downtown Plano, and will feature the woodwind section of the Plano Symphony Orchestra. Pre-concert lobby activities begin at 2 p.m. and include the Instrument Petting Zoo and arts and craft. Tickets for the event range from \$7 to \$11. Info: 972-473-7262 or visit www.plano-symphony.org.

February 4

The **20th annual Super Bowl Gospel Celebration** is slated for Music Hall at Fair Park, 909 First Ave. in Dallas at 7:30 p.m. superbowlgospel.com

Super First Friday for Super Bowl XLV weekend in downtown Dallas to take place at the Magnolia Hotel, 1401 Commerce, starts at 8 p.m. Ladies 23 and older and men 25 older will be admitted. www.superfirstfriday.com

February 6

P. Diddy Live Grand Finale Tour at the Palladium Ballroom is scheduled. DJs include Go DJ HI C and MC Qua on the Serato and Mic. The show is for ages 21 and older. Buy tickets at www.aeglive.com.

February 12

UNCF's 12th annual **Red Hot & Snazzy Benefit Gala** details at www.uncf.org/dallas.

Dallas Contemporary member's preview of new exhibit from artist Michel Verjux.

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Proud To Be An Active Partner In The Community

Dr. King and the 1955-1956 Montgomery Bus Boycott

A year long boycott begins a life of peaceful protest and service

By Charlene Crowell

(NNPA) Although America's Declaration of Independence and Constitution are premised on the princi-

met a ministerial colleague who would become his life-long deputy – Rev. Dr. Ralph Abernathy.

Explaining the notable differences in Montgomery's

In neither of these instances was the Montgomery NAACP prompted to action or protest. The local chapter seemed to feel that the back-grounds of the student and

Nixon. A Pullman porter by trade, Nixon aided the release of Mrs. Parks on a \$100.00 bond. Her trial was set for December 5.

The following day, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. received a phone call from Nixon. As he recounted the events of the previous evening, Nixon told Dr. King, "We have taken this thing too long already. We got to boycott the buses, make it clear to the white folks that we ain't taking this type of treatment any longer." Dr. King agreed and offered Dexter Avenue Baptist Church as a meeting place for community leaders. By consensus, they would decide the best course of action. Almost 50 ministers and civic leaders attended the meeting. They agreed that the bus boycott would begin on the following Monday, December 5th, the same day as Mrs. Parks' trial. Some 52,000 flyers were printed and distributed to announce the boycott.

The now-famous Montgomery boycott actually borrowed some of its strategy from an earlier, but little-known, effort. In 1953, Rev. T. J. Jemison, then secretary of the National Baptist Convention, organized a bus boycott in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. After local Louisiana officials banned the use of cut-rate and unlicensed taxi service, Jemison organized a car pool to provide alternative transportation. That effort lasted only two weeks.

On December 5, 1955, Dr. King, the newly-appointed president of the Montgomery Improvement Association (MIA), delivered his first speech on the bus boycott. An overflow crowd of thousands at Holt Street Baptist spilled out of the church and into the streets. Outdoor loudspeakers were set up to enable all in attendance to hear the first address of, the young and emerging leader.

With little time to prepare his remarks, Dr. King's spell-binding oratory and Baptist cadence captured the spirit of an angry Montgomery Black community. "There comes a time my friends, when people get tired of being thrown across the

abyss of humiliation, where they experience the bleakness of nagging despair. There comes a time when people get tired of being pushed out of the glittering sunlight of life's July, and left standing amidst the piercing chill of an Alpine November."

"I want it to be known", King continued, "that we're going to work with grim and bold determination – to gain justice on the buses in this city. And, we are not wrong. We are not wrong in what we are doing. If we are wrong – the Supreme Court of this nation is wrong. If we are wrong – God Almighty is wrong! And, we are determined here in Montgomery to work and fight until justice rolls down like water and righteousness like a mighty stream!"

A series of negotiating sessions began in early December as well. The protesters had three specific goals:

- Treat Negroes with greater courtesy;
- Hire Negro drivers for Negro routes; and
- Desegregate bus seats.

proposed to be divided three ways among savings account, charity donations, and gifts to the MIA.

By January 1956, Montgomery's bus company advised city commissioners that the loss of revenues had led to the likelihood of bankruptcy. In reaction, the mayor and White Citizens Council called for White residents to stop using their private cars and ride city buses instead. When fare revenues did not improve, a fare hike was approved.

That same month, the city's daily paper, the *Montgomery Advertiser* began running news reports on the bus boycott. The first article, printed January 10 suggested that a White Lutheran minister was responsible for nearly 350 daily care rides and raising \$7,000 to support the ongoing protest. However a follow-up report on January 19 appeared with the headline, "Rev. King is Boycott Boss".

On a tip from Carl Rowan, one of the few Black journalists of that time, Dr. King was alerted in late Janu-



ples of democracy, the historical treatment of America's citizens of color is replete with racial dichotomies. Even today, the vestiges of slavery, Civil War, Reconstruction, segregationist Jim Crow laws to the more recent federal laws for voting rights, fair housing, and community reinvestment - have yet to assure succeeding generations of African-Americans all of the freedoms afforded a citizen of the United States.

As our nation again marks an annual tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, now is a timely moment to recall how a youthful but principled leader emerged at a time when this nation was directly challenged to honor its promises of citizenship. Neither age nor long-standing community roots were required to effect meaningful and lasting change. Today's youth need to know and adults need to be reminded that it was at the young age of 25 that Dr. King began what would become his first successful and peaceful protest: the year-long Montgomery bus boycott.

In the fall of 1954, Dr. King began his service as pastor to Dexter Avenue Baptist Church. Shortly after his arrival in Montgomery, he

Black churches, Rev. Abernathy advised King, "At my church, you may talk about Jesus. You may preach about Jesus from the pulpit. But at Dexter, they would prefer that you not mention his name."

Despite this advice, Dr. King pursued innovative ideas for his pastorate. At his first sermon at Dexter Avenue, he presented two dozen written recommendations that would reorganize the church's committees and bank accounts. The list also included a requirement for every member of Dexter to be a registered voter. In 1954, less than five percent of Alabama Negroes were registered to vote.

With his recommendations accepted, the church moved forward with the formal installation services that took place on October 31, 1954.

A few months later on March 2, 1955, Claudette Colvin, a student at Montgomery's Booker T. Washington High School was arrested by city police for refusing to give up a bus seat to a White passenger. Later that year another Black female, Mary Louise Smith, was also arrested for the same offense.

Ms. Smith would not withstand scrutiny of White prosecutors.

In those days in Alabama, the first 10 seats on Montgomery buses were always reserved for Whites. If the White section filled up, the colored section was made smaller.

But, on Thursday evening, December 1, 1955, Rosa Parks, a local seamstress and secretary of the Montgomery NAACP decided to ride home on the Cleveland Avenue bus from her job at a downtown Montgomery department store. When the white section filled up, the bus driver asked four Blacks to move. Three other Black passengers complied with the order. Rosa Parks refused, and the driver called the police.

Twelve years earlier, Mrs. Parks was evicted by the same driver on another bus.

Recalling the events of that day, Mrs. Parks said, "I didn't consider myself breaking any segregation laws. I just felt resigned to give what I could to protest against the way I was being treated." The one phone call she was allowed from jail led to the response of another local NAACP official, E. D.



ing.

In response, white negotiators insisted on racially segregated seating and active negotiations soon stalled.

With the Christmas shopping season fast approaching, Dr. King proposed that instead of traditional gift shopping, Montgomery Negroes should rally to the original meaning of the season and refuse to shop at all. Monies set aside for gifts was

ary to a Sunday news article that was to announce the end the boycott. The article was to claim that Negroes would return to the buses the following business day. Dr. King advised Rowan that he knew of nothing in that regard.

For more than a year, Montgomery's 30,000 Black residents walked, hitchhiked,

See KING, Page 15

'Round DFW

By Tonya Whitaker
NDG Staff Writer

Ave. in Fort Worth. Tickets are \$16 and include admis-



January 17
The Fort Worth Cowboys of Color Invitational Rodeo is scheduled for 2 p.m. at the Will Rogers Coliseum, 3401 W. Lancaster

sion to the stock show, mid-way and rodeo. www.cowboysofcolor.org

Jan. 21-Jan. 30
The Plano Children's The-

atre, 1301 Custer Road Suite 706 in Plano will present *Godspell*. www.planochildrenstheatre.org

Jan. 21-Feb. 27
The Dallas Children's Theatre presents *The True Story of the 3 Little Pigs* at the Rosewood Center for Family Arts, 5938 Skillman St. in Dallas. Friday shows begin at 7:30 p.m., Saturday and Sunday shows at 1:30 and 4:40 p.m. Tickets start at \$14. www.dct.org

January 23
The Eisemann Center, 2351 Performance Drive in Richardson, presents The Bernstein Bears in *Family*

Matters, the Musical at 2:30 p.m. in the Hill Performance Hall. Tickets range from \$11-\$21. Call 972-744-4650 or visit www.eisemanncenter.com.

January 27-30; February 2-6
The NFL Experience coincides with Super Bowl XLV at the Dallas Convention Center, 650 Griffin St. in Dallas. Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$20 for children 12 years and younger. www.superbowl.com

January 28
Cirque du Soleil will open with its latest big top touring production, **OVO**. OVO

will perform for a limited engagement under the trademark blue-and-yellow Grand Chapiteau (Big Top) at the Dr Pepper Arena in Frisco. Tickets start at \$27. www.cirquedusoleil.com/en/shows/ovo/tickets/frisco.aspx

January 28-30
Funnyman **Earthquake** will make stop at the Addison Improv, 4980 Beltline Road #250 in Dallas. Tickets are \$22.

January 29
Comedian **Kevin Hart's Laugh at My Pain** slated for Verizon Theatre in Grand Prairie. verizontheatre.com



Earthquake

Read more entertainment online at www.northdallasgazette.com. Submit entertainment announcements to assignmenteditor@northdallasgazette.com

Gazette Gossip

By Tonya Whitaker
NDG Staff Writer

Editor's Note: Same hot news as *Have You Heard*, just a new title for this weekly feature. We hope you enjoy *Gazette Gossip* each week here where we share tidbits and then read more at our website www.northdallasgazette.com.

She got no style

This is why you should never go into business with kin folk. **Katrise Jones**, a cousin of rapper **Lil Kim**, recently opened up Salon Se Swa in Charlotte, N.C. visit

www.northdallasgazette.com to see why the biz was cut short.



Lil Kim

Not much of a pioneer
In the 30-year history of **BET**, the groundbreaking station **FINALLY** has original situation comedies, *The Game*

and *Let's Stay Together*. I always found it strange that BET had not captured the 18-to-40-year old African American audience while TBS and VH1 have successfully gained the viewership with *Tyler Perry's House of Payne*, *Meet the Browns* and *Are We There Yet?* and popular reality shows such as VH1's *Basketball Wives* and *Brandy and Ray-J: A Family Business*. Let's see how successful BET can duplicate TBS' success with the young black audience.

Things that make you go hmmm

The "wonderful" image of

black love painted annually by *Ebony* is back. Last year for the magazine's Black Love edition, *Atlanta Housewife* star **Kandi Burruss** was featured with her deceased fiancé, A.J. Jewell. Not much black love going on there if



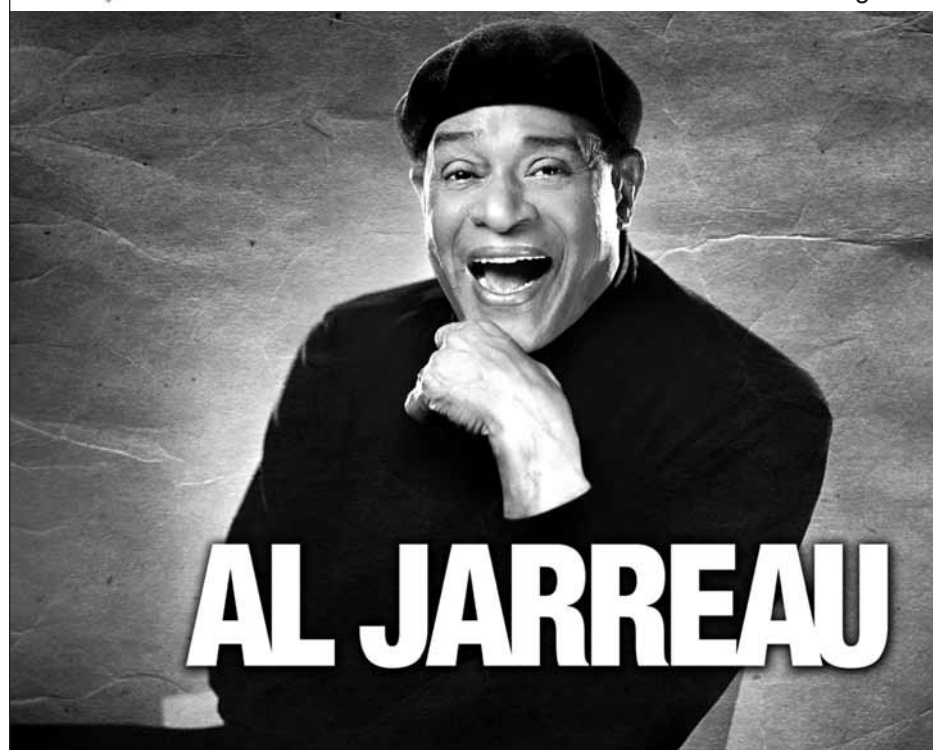
Alicia Keys

the man is **DEAD**. This year, singer **Alicia Keys** and record producer Swizz Beatz are recognized. Also included in the issue is a survey that concludes that 9 percent of married men have cheated on their partner. Oops!



"Perhaps more than any other popular vocalist alive, he embodies the notion of the voice as a pure instrument. Jarreau is considered by many to be the greatest jazz singer alive."

— *TIME Magazine*



Sat., Jan. 15, 2011 at 8:00 PM
www.eisemanncenter.com • 972.744.4650



The Dallas Morning News
dallasnews.com

2351 Performance Dr. • Richardson, TX 75082

Miles Austin hosting secret party this weekend

(NDG Wire) As part of Verizon's 45 Days to Super Bowl XLV, NFL star Miles Austin is hosting a NFL Playoff Game Party at a secret location somewhere in Dallas or Fort Worth.

Austin will start tweeting Wednesday. He will unveil the location just hours before the event. Once there, fans get to hang out with Miles, have free food and drinks and a chance to win two tickets to Super Bowl XLV.

Fans can follow Mile's Austin at <http://twitter.com/MilesAustinIII>

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Real Estate professionals invited to join RESA

The Dallas Chapter of the Real Estate Staging Association (RESA) invites all professional stagers, real estate agents and industry related professionals in the Metroplex to join its rapidly growing organization in 2011.

Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex Realtors are welcome to join the RESA-Dallas Chapter for FREE! This offer is for full time non-staging Realtors and agents only. No membership dues required to enjoy the

benefits of the RESA Dallas Chapter meetings however lunch is on your own.

"Membership in RESA not only provides credibility to your business, it creates an excellent network of professionals that share common values and business practices," 2011 RESA Dallas chapter President Karen Eubank said.

"Monthly meetings are structured to engage and support our members by provid-

ing insight and information they might not find elsewhere. At each meeting RESA Dallas hosts a speaker that appeals to home stagers as well as Realtors and industry affiliates."

RESA Dallas provides peer-to-peer support for all chapter members, promoting education to real estate agents, homeowners and the general public regarding the value and benefits of home staging. The Dallas chapter has a dedicated membership working to grow

visibility and credibility of the home staging profession

within the Metroplex.

For more information on

RESA visit www.RealEstateStagingAssociation.com.

ATMOS Energy supports Sci-Tech Discovery Center for Kids Zone

Sci-Tech Discovery Center offers more Mind-Stretching Fun© in the Atmos Energy Kid Zone

(NDG Wire) Sci-Tech Discovery Center welcomes corporate partners who embrace Mind-Stretching Fun© - those like Atmos Energy. Since opening full-time in October 2010, Sci-Tech Discovery Center has provided more than 13,000 visitors hands-on discovery experiences designed to instill a love of science, technology and math. The center hopes to inspire the next generation of scientists, engineers, innovators and educators. Atmos Energy recognizes the importance

of creative learning environments and became a sponsor of the Kid Zone which is named in their honor.

"Atmos Energy is committed to supporting and helping to improve education in the communities we serve. Sci-Tech Discovery Center in Frisco is a great community partner for us as their mission seeks to inspire youth to learn and advance their skills in the essential areas of science, math and technology. We are thrilled to partner with Sci-Tech Discovery Center

as we both embark on this journey of making a difference in learning and education for our future generations," explains Miriam Raphael, manager of public affairs.

"The partnership with Atmos Energy is a fun and interactive collaboration that epitomizes what Sci-Tech is all about: engaging children in science and technology, making it accessible and providing fun learning opportunities," states Erica Yaeger, executive director of Sci-Tech Discovery Center.

MLK, continued from Page 1

and participate in this MLK Celebration kickoff event. We also want to encourage our city officials & community support to attend", says Evelyn McKnight, chair of the Power Breakfast Committee. This is an new event for the Plano organization.

Serving as Grand Marshall is the Honorable Phil Dyer the Mayor City of Plano. Dyer will lead The Power Walk for Unity at 10:30 a.m. The public is invited to gather at the DART Rail Parker Road Station North Parking Lot located at 2600 Archerwood St.

The Unity Walk will end at the Plano Municipal Building and at 11:45 a.m. the City Hall Program will start in Council Chambers located at 1520 K Ave. Plano. Rev. Gary Mueller, Senior Pastor, First

United Methodist Church Plano will deliver the keynote speech and musical performances will be provided by Doc Gibbs.

The Saturday festivities finale starts at 12:45 p.m. at the Douglass Community Center located at 1111 Avenue H with the popular Free Luncheon and Health Fair sponsored by Chick-Fil-A, Dr. Pepper and Frito-Lay, featuring over twenty professional vendors and entertainment.

The celebration continues on Sunday, January 16 at 7 p.m. with the MLK All Community Choir Event. A musical tribute to Dr. King will be held at Christ United Methodist Church (Christ UMC), where Rev. Don Underwood is the Senior Pastor and Pat Messick is the Director of Music Min-

istries. Christ UMC is located at 3101 Coit Rd.

Members of the community are invited to join the MLK All Community Choir by attending the rehearsal on Sunday, January 16 at 4 p.m. also at Christ UMC. Dinner for the choir is sponsored by Schlotsky's.

Finally, on Thursday, January 20 at 7 p.m., the Plano Independent School District (PISD) MLK Tribute is slated for the Plano Centre located at 2000 Spring Creek Pkwy. The community is invited to a diversity tribute to Dr. King provided by the PISD students.

For more information about each activity visit www.planomlk.org or contact Brenda McDonald at 972-740-3969 or bmcDonald@planoha.org.

Five Murphy employees win annual accolades

(NDG Wire) Every year, the City of Murphy administrative department hosts a dinner to recognize city employees who dedicate themselves to providing the finest service possible to the city's residents. The dinner is capped with an award ceremony that singles out employees who have ex-

celled in their job performance during 2010, according to City Manager James Fisher.

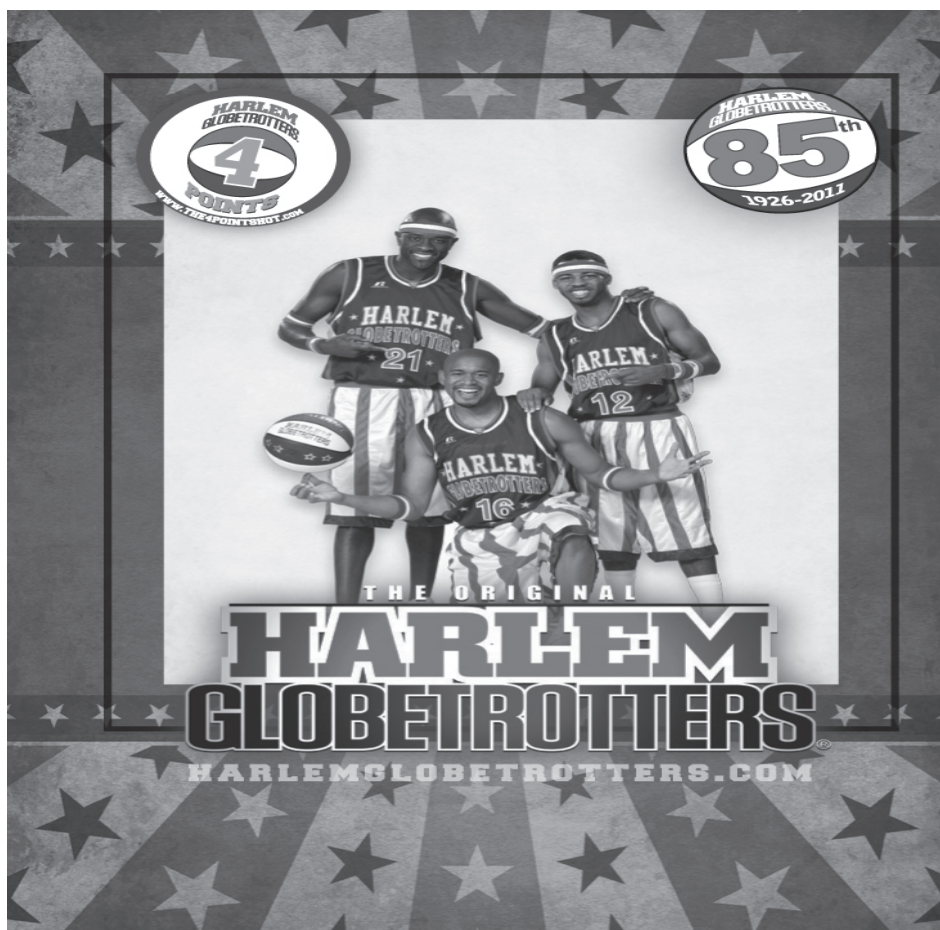
This year, five employees were highlighted for their service over and above their specific job descriptions.

Specifically, recognition in the form of Employee of the Year, Rising Stars Award and

City Manager Award were conferred on the five employees.

Recognized as Employee of the Year was Customer Service Specialist Teresa Thompson. In her nomination packet, Thompson was cited

See MURPHY, Page 13



2 Exciting Games!

Sat., Jan. 29 • 1:00pm

Sun., Jan. 30 • 2:00pm



On sale now at
American Airlines Center Box Office,
www.Ticketmaster.com
or by phone 800.745.3000

ticketmaster

Campbell's

Howard Johnson

Grayhound

Transitions

CREDIT, continued from Page 1

schemes that attempt to take advantage of struggling debtors.

Unfortunately, many fraudulently debt elimination and credit repair scams charge customers hefty fees for "quick fixes" that never materialize. The Office of the Attorney General (OAG) has aggressively cracked down on these unlawful scams.

Our Consumer Protection and Public Health Division recently stopped two Austin-based operations from falsely claiming they could remove "negative" items from clients' credit reports. Only inaccurate or obsolete items can be legally removed from a debtor's credit report, while items that reflect negatively on a person's credit must remain on the report until they expire with the passage of a set amount of time. The defendants in those cases, Austin Credit Doctor and America's Credit Doctor, charged customers several hundred dollars in advance fees for their unlawful credit repair services.

Texans with inaccurate or obsolete information on their credit reports can work directly with credit reporting companies to remove information that should not be included. No one should pay a credit repair service to remove those easily remedied items for them.

A related scheme, debt elimination scams, falsely promise to eliminate consumer debt within just a few short months.

Too often, these scams charge large, up-front fees and then fail to deliver any valuable services to customers. For example, the OAG stopped a fraudulent debt elimination operation that falsely promised to quickly and completely eliminate customer's debt.

To become enrolled in the program, customers were required to wire a one-time \$5,000 deposit to an unidentified bank." The scam's operators claimed the bank would initiate a debt elimination process

and use the deposit to defray the costs of that process. Once all the customer's cumulative debt reached \$100 million, the bank promised to make loans that would pay off individual customers debts.

However, the \$5,000 fee was actually deposited to an account that our investigators traced to Panama. The operation's owner never offered any evidence that a "bank" even existed. In truth, the scam was simply trying to cash in on the vulnerability of overwhelmed debtors. As a result, the already struggling customers lost their \$5,000 deposits.

Legitimate financial assistance is available to customers facing seemingly impossible debt. Texans with problems paying their debts should immediately contact their creditors and seek alternate payment arrangements. Creditors are generally willing to negotiate terms directly with customers, so a debt management company is frequently unnecessary. Debtors should ask whether alternate arrangements would affect their credit history. Even if creditors reduce the payments and give debtors more time to pay a debt, doing so may show up for several years on debtors' credit reports.

Texans seeking debt management services should do their research before hiring one of these

firms. It's important to check with the Better Business Bureau and even the OAG to see whether other customers have filed complaints. It may also prove helpful to consult with an attorney about debt relief options. Ultimately, creditors must decide whether to accept a debtor's restructuring offer. Even if the creditor accepts the offer, the debtor may face credit and tax-related implications.

Texans should also keep in mind that under new provisions of the Federal Trade Commission's (FTC) Telemarketing Sales Rule, debt relief service companies are prohibited from charging advance fees. Debt relief service companies can only charge customers after they have successfully reduced, settled or otherwise negotiated the terms of at least one of the customer's debts.

Additionally, any debt settlement fees must be clearly detailed in a formal written contract between the company and the customer and must be proportionate to the amount of debt at issue. Both the FTC and the Texas Attorney General's Office have authority to enforce the new rule.

There are seldom quick fixes to a negative credit history if it reflects legitimate debts the consumer failed to repay. The key to rebuilding credit is to manage debt and to consistently pay bills on time.

DEFERRED, continued from Page 3

tions.

Another bill I authored gives a person who has had a record sealed the right to not disclose the offense on a job application. And since last session, most state agencies can no longer automatically deny a license

because an applicant accepted deferred. For the fourth time, I have also filed a bill that will give the governor the power to pardon a person who received deferred adjudication.

A fact to consider for those who feel betrayed by

deferred adjudication is that at the least, some measure of relief exists. Persons who have been incarcerated or even accepted probation can only hope for a pardon. This is also an issue that I plan to address in coming months.

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Kohl's Department Stores' Wylie hosting a job fair to fill 130 positions

(NDG Wire) Kohl's Department Stores opens its Wylie store in March and local job seekers are encouraged to apply for approximately 130 new positions that will be created. Kohl's, which has been recognized by BusinessWeek as one of the "Best Places to Launch a Career," is currently hiring.

A job fair is scheduled for January 16-20. Applicants should visit www.kohlscares.com or call 1-877-639-5645 to schedule an interview

and to obtain additional information regarding time and location.

For new stores, Kohl's needs associates for customer service, department service, cash register operation, early morning stocking, truck unloading and evening signage/pricing updates. Kohl's associates receive competitive compensation, great benefits, an Employee Stock Ownership Plan and immediate merchandise discounts.

The job fairs will be held at the

Hilton Garden Inn Dallas/Richardson, 1001 West President Bush Turnpike in Richardson. They are scheduled for:

Sunday, January 16 10:45 a.m. – 6:15 p.m.

Monday, January 17 10:45 a.m. – 6:15 p.m.

Tuesday, January 18 12:15 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, January 19 8:45 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Thursday, January 20 8:45 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

MURPHY, continued from Page 11

for her outstanding level of service to customers and employees. Receiving the Rising Stars Awards were Public Works Supervisor Raymond McGuire and Code Enforcement officer David Gensler. McGuire's nomination included a reference to the fact that he accepted a challenging assignment and has performed very well. Gensler's nomination included references to his positive attitude, friendly manner and prompt response to requests. Rising Star winners are automatically enrolled in the 21st Century Leadership Program.

City Manager Award winners included IT Manager

Wendle Medford and MPD Police Officer Kris Riebschlager. These individuals were singled out for their leadership quali-

ties and potential for growth within the city structure.

"We offer our congratulations to each winner, and thank

them for their outstanding performance. Our city is better because of their dedicated service," said Fisher.



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Every Wednesday
Join us for Bible Study at 10:30 a.m.; and for Prayer, Praise, Songs, Fellowship, Bible Study and Worship at 7 p.m.

January 20, 12 Noon
Come to a "Between Jobs Support Group" meeting at the Christian Works for Children, 6320 LBJ Freeway, Dallas, TX 75240. Call 972-960-9981 to register.

**January 30, After
Worship Services**
Come for our Worship Services and stay for our FREE Blood Pressure Clinic.

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972-423-8833
www.avefchurchofchrist.org

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**Pastor Minnie
Hawthorne-Ewing**
635 W. Campbell Road
Suite 210
Richardson, TX 75080
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**EIRENE CHRISTIAN
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Wednesdays, 7:45 p.m.

You're invited to our Midweek Bible Study.

February 6, 4 p.m.
Join us for Super Sunday Celebration! Our 12th Anniversary Big Game Party at the Studio Movie Grill, 11170 Central Expressway. Call the church for tickets and details or RSVP at BigGameParty@eireneecf.org

Pastor Autry
701 E. Centennial Blvd.
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CENTER CHURCH IN
ALLEN "The Ship"**

On Going,
9 a.m.-1 p.m.
Monday – Friday
Prayer Lines for those in need are 972-649-0566 and 972-649-0567 or they may be submitted via email to: prayerline@theship3c.org

On Going, 7 p.m.
Wednesday Night Live at our main campus on Belmont Drive.

February 6, 4:30 p.m.
Join us for food, fun and fellowship at our Super Bowl Party at our main campus on Belmont Drive.

February 12, 7 p.m.
FCCC Marriage Takes 3 Sweetheart Banquet will be held at the Southfork Hotel in Plano. Attire is Semi-formal. Call 972-359-9956 for tickets and details.

**Rev. W. L. Stafford, Sr.,
M.Div.**
Senior Pastor

**305 N. Alder Drive, in
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200 W. Belmont Drive
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972-359-9956
www.theship3c.org

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
OF HAMILTON PARK
"First Church"**

January 16, 7 p.m.
Our Music Ministry presents TBAAL Black Music/Civil Rights Concert at the Morton Myerson Symphony Center in Dallas. Call the church for details.

On Going,
Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m.
Let your children join us for fun, fellowship and Bible learning at our Annie Pearl Foster Children Center in Room 238.

**Dr. Gregory Foster,
Senior Pastor**
300 Phillips Street
Richardson, TX 75081
972-235-4235
www.fbchp.org

**MT. PISGAH
MISSIONARY
BAPTIST CHURCH
"The Rock"**

January 14, 6 p.m.
Join us for our Mentoring Disenfranchised Men and Women Forum.

January 29, 3 p.m.
Come to our book discussion group on Light Bread at the Bachman Lake Branch Library for ages 18 and above.

On Going
Each Wednesday
Join us at: Every Man's Battle class, Its Tough Being a Woman class and Understanding Spiritual Gifts class.

Pastor Robert Townsend
11611 Webb Chapel Road
Dallas, TX 75229
972-241-6151
www.dallasmtpisgah.org

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OF DALLAS**

January 29
Come to our Youth Ministry's 4th Annual Parent and Youth Conference as they present, It's Not JUST My Child - It's Me Too! The 2011 Theme: "Press Toward the Mark" in **Philippians 3:13 & 14.**

On Going
You are invited to visit our Job Resource Center on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 12 Noon in our Computer Training Room in the Educational Building.

On Going
Let your child or children attend TTS (Test Taking Skills) for math classes for TAKS (5th – 12th Grades) and special TTS for math Class (5th – 8th Grades.) Call 214-235-3190 or 214-541-8292 for time, place and other details.

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Roxanne Forrester
www.pacedfw.org

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Dr. Charles Wattley
Senior Pastor
1308 Wilcox Street
McKinney TX 75069
972-542-6178
www.saintmarkbc.com

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On Going
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Senior Pastor
920 E. 14th Street
Plano, TX 75074
972-423-6695
www.smbcplano.org

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CHURCH**

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Shaun Rabb, Senior Pastor
9314 Elam Road
Dallas, TX 75217
214-391-3430
www.newlightchurch.com

**WORD OF LIFE
CHURCH OF
GOD IN CHRIST**

On Going
Join us in prayer early in the morning at 6 a.m. on Monday - Friday at 1-661-673-8600, Code # 142219 and please put your phone on mute.

Thursdays, 7 p.m.
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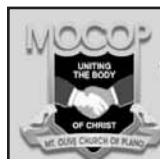
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Sister Tarpley

Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King and Discovering Your African American Ancestors

On January 17, 2011 our nation will celebrate the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. for his contributions to our nation and to the world; and in February 2011 we will celebrate Black History Month. I have heard, as you probably have, "It's the shortest month of the year, why bother to celebrate it." The truth is, a Black man; Mr. Carter G. Woodson (1875-1950) started the celebration. It originated as Negro History Week. I personally believe that it's a great idea.

Black History Month is a time to reflect on our ancestors and contributions that the Black race made not only to the United States of America but also to the world. To me it doesn't matter who, what, when, why, and/or where, just since we celebrate Black History and at the same time honor Dr. King, a great man. Black history is not widely

taught in our public and private schools during the school year. As a retired teacher, my desire is that the true facts of our nation are taught anytime, anyplace and anywhere.

I mention our ancestors, because as the saying goes, you can't know where you are going until you know where you have been. A great time to start gathering facts and stories is not at a family member's funeral but before or during Black History Month.

In January 2003, Mr. Thurman Jones, Publisher of *North Dallas Gazette* asked me to review a book. I found after looking through the book and reading some chapters that *Discovering Your African-American Ancestors: How to Find and Record Your Unique Heritage* by Franklin Carter Smith & Emily Anne Croom (Houston) is a book that

many genealogist need to add to their home libraries.

In completing my son's "baby book," I called upon the wisdom and knowledge of my entire family on both sides. And on the home going of my mother, Mrs. Cedella Baker Demus in 1984, the search and recording of my family history became urgent and very important to me. Since no one else in my family was compiling our family history, I realized that there is no greater gift that I can leave to my heirs and other family members than to research and publish our family history.

I witnessed that after writing *Roots*, Mr. Alex Haley (1921-1992) caused people of every race, creed and color to begin searching all kinds of records to put their family history on paper.

I am reminded of a saying that I picked up some place; the author is unknown to me but if you have a name, please

email, fax or mail it to me so that I may give credit to the individual. "There is something unique about being at a family gathering, you can see a link to the past by watching the young children, perhaps a walk, a smile, a stand, a laugh, or just the way someone hold his or her head. You may see an aunt, uncle, cousin, or another relative in some of the children, especially if that relative has passed away."

You see, a family never really dies. It is like looking into the future and seeing the past at the same time. Precious moments like this would be missed if you failed to attend a family gathering without a just cause.

I challenge you to ask



Four generation of Fielding males; they are a part of my sister, Rose Fielding's family. Sitting from left to right is David, Burton, George and Jorge sitting in his father's lap.

other family members if they haven't found this to be true. One year my sister, Evangelist Ida Eggins, saw the likeness of her granddaughter in an old family picture of some cousins. She just had to have a copy of the picture. Also, two cousins, Jackie & Sharon, found that people were commenting how much

they looked alike and was sure that they were sisters, even though, at that time, they had never met at a family gathering.

Thought for this week: If the roots are deep and strong, the tree need not worry about the wind. *Jeremiah 17:7 & 8 paraphrased.*

KING, continued from Page 9

bicycled, taxied, and used every means of transportation except the city buses. Black taxi companies reduced regular rates to the same 10 cents charged by the bus company. As time went on, cab fares returned to the regular 45 cents.

On February 1, 1956, the Montgomery Improvement Association filed a lawsuit in federal district court. Four months later, on June 2nd, the federal court declared that segregated bus seat-

ing was unconstitutional. Later, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the ruling.

On December 20, 1956, the order to integrate buses was served on Montgomery's officials.

In the year of the boycott, the transit company reportedly lost \$250,000 in revenues. Moreover, the city lost thousands of additional dollars in taxes. Montgomery retail merchants estimated their losses to be in the millions.

The boycott and its success won Dr. King as much widespread appreciation as it did resentment. In a December 1954 letter to his son, Dr. Martin Luther King, Sr. prophetically advised, "You see, young man, you are becoming very popular. As I told you, you must be very much in prayer. Persons like you are the ones the devil turns all of his forces loose to destroy."

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Saturday & Sunday Closed

Contact Info Mt. Pisgah Missionary Baptist Church
11611 Webb Chapel Road • Dallas, TX 75229
Office: 972-241-6151
Email: info@dallasmtpisgah.org
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www.followpeace.org

Two Sunday Worship Services:
8:45am & 11:00am
Wednesday Bible Study
7:30pm

Car Care: A New Year's resolution that pays off

(NDG Wire) In the New Year, why not resolve to perform regular vehicle maintenance? By spending a little time now on preventive maintenance, drivers can save a lot of headaches in the long run and make for a great year on the road in 2011, according to the Car Care Council.

"Many New Year's resolutions go by the wayside pretty quickly," said Rich White, executive director, Car Care Council. "Regular car care is a resolution that will pay off all year, every year. It's relatively simple to implement and the results are demonstrated in a better

performing vehicle and fewer unexpected repairs and breakdowns that can result from vehicle neglect."

The council recommends the following service interval schedule to use when making regular vehicle maintenance part of your New Year's resolution:

- Perform monthly checks of tire pressure and the condition of tires, lights and windshield washer fluid. The vehicle should also be cleaned monthly.

- Every three months or per the owner's manual, check the engine oil and filter, check the levels of other fluids including automatic

transmission, power steering and brake, and check battery and cables, belts and hoses. The exhaust and fuel filter should also be checked at this interval.

- Every six months or 6,000 miles, the chassis lubrication should be checked and windshield wipers should be replaced.

- Every 12 months or 12,000 miles, the brakes, spark plugs, coolant and steering and suspension should be checked.

If the "check engine" light comes on, vehicles should be immediately taken in for service to identify the problem.

The Car Care Council Web site has a Service Interval Schedule for vehicle owners to follow. Drivers should also consult their owner's manual for specific recommendations by the carmaker.

The Car Care Council is the source of information for the "Be Car Care Aware" consumer education campaign promoting the benefits of regular vehicle care, maintenance and repair to consumers. For a copy of the council's Car Care Guide or for more information, visit www.car-care.org.

Holocaust remembrance event

(NDG Wire) Join the Dallas Holocaust Museum/Center for Education and Tolerance on January 27, 2011, as they seek to bring light to the world in remembrance of a dark period of our past.

January 27 marks the anniversary of the liberation

of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi death camp. In 2005, the United Nations General Assembly designated this day as International Holocaust Remembrance Day, an annual day of commemoration to honor the victims of the Holocaust.

Those wishing to participate in a brief candlelight ceremony commemorating IHRD will gather in the Museum starting at 6 p.m. Bring your own Yahrzeit (candle), or they will provide an electric candle. At 6:30, they will go to the site of the future Museum (at the

corner of Houston Street and Pacific Avenue) for a brief memorial. The event is free and open to the public.

The Museum will offer free tours to attendees starting at 4 p.m. For more information, visit our web site at DallasHolocaustMuseum.org.

IBOC
INSPIRING BODY OF CHRIST CHURCH
7701 S. WESTMORELAND RD
DALLAS, TX 75237
972-572-4262 (IBOC)

SERVICE TIMES:
SUNDAY
LIVE ON **KJOL** 7:30 AM
10:30 AM
MONDAY SCHOOL
7:00 PM
FRIDAY
MEN'S FELLOWSHIP
7:00 PM
WWW.IBOCOTX.ORG

RICKIE G. RUSH, PASTOR
INVITED BY:

the mark
pressing forward

Charles S. Wattley
Senior Pastor

SUNDAY
Education Ministries
9:30 a.m.
Worship Celebration
10:45 a.m.

WEDNESDAY
Family Ministries
7:00 p.m.

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NORTH DALLAS COMMUNITY BIBLE FELLOWSHIP
"A Spiritual Oasis for a Thirsty World" Isaiah 55:1

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES:
7:30 AM • 9:30 AM • 11:30 AM

972-437-3493
1010-1020 South Sherman Street • Richardson, TX 75081
www.ndcbf.org

Dr. Leslie W Smith,
Senior Pastor

New Mt. Zion Baptist Church of Dallas

Sunday Service
Morning Worship
7:30 am & 10:30 am
9:00 am Sunday School

Monday Service
Men's Ministry 7:00 pm
Women's Ministry 7:00 pm
Young Adult Ministry 7:00 pm

Wednesday Service
Intercessory Prayer 6:15 pm
Bible Study 7:00 pm

Dr. Robert E. Price, Sr.
Senior Pastor

A Praying Church Family
"Watchmen on the Walls"

214-341-6459 (Phone) • 214-342-8403 (Fax)
9550 Shepard Road
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www.nmzb.org (Website) • newmzbc@aol.com (Email)

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Celebrating 15 Years

2010 Theme:
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Uncompromising Preaching
Unwavering Teaching

Worship Times: 8 and 11 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.
Mid-week: Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.
Children's and Youth Worship Service: Every 3rd, 4th, and 5th, Sunday at 10:45 a.m.
AWANA: Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.
Contact Information: 972-423-6695
www.smbcplano.org

Worship Services
7:30 am & 10:30 am
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.

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