

North Dallas Gazette

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Valentine Couples to Learn the Love Language of Dance

From staff reports

On Valentine's Day 2009 couples will get an opportunity to use the art of dance to enhance their communication skills.

That is when DAD'S Publishing House presents The Love Language of Dance Valentine's Day Gala and Benefit. It will be a fun-filled and romantic evening that includes

dinner, dancing, dance lessons plus a unique presentation by author D. A. Davis who will use the art of dancing with his wife Lorita while explaining

See DANCE, Page 11

Steele Becomes First Black GOP Chair

By ALAN KING
Special to the NNPA from the Afro-American Newspapers

Defeating the incumbent party chief and three other challengers after six rounds of balloting, former Maryland Lt. Gov. Michael Steele was elected Friday to chair the

Republican National Committee (RNC), becoming the first African-American to lead the GOP.

Steele takes over a beleaguered GOP as Republicans seek to rebound from back-to-back defeats in national elections that gave

Democrats control of Congress and the White House.

The Washington Post reported that the decision came after a series of ballots that displayed a level of drama rarely seen in national politics.

With the historic elec-

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COVER STORY

Celebrating the Dream



See SCLC MLK DAY CELEBRATION, Page 9



NBA Legend Magic Johnson among Trumpet Awardees

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

COMMENTARY

Better Nutrition Equals Better Education

By KATHLEEN ROGERS
Columnist

Cafeteria food has always been the brunt of kids' jokes. Many of us remember the grilled cheese sandwich that stuck to the plate when you turned it upside down, and the egg soufflé that jiggled when you poked it. But even that is a far cry from what's served now.

In the midst of a growing childhood obesity crisis, school food now means federally subsidized chicken nuggets, low-grade hamburgers, french fries, hot dogs and pizza. "Cooking" usually involves a centralized kitchen similar to a fast food assembly line.

According to Ron Haskins, senior fellow of

See NUTRITION, Page 11

Sorority Hosts 1st Annual Village of Vendors in Collin County

From staff reports

The Collin County Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated will host its 1st annual Village of Vendors on February 7, 2009, at the Holiday Inn Frisco, from 10am to 2pm. This event will highlight

African American vendors in Collin County.

"Often times we tend to seek professional services that are convenient to our lifestyles, to where we work and live, without regards to supporting African American vendors in the area. The Collin County Alumnae Chapter

of Delta Sigma Theta wanted to promote these vendors and show the community that it is possible to patronize with convenience," said Lynell Jones, Collin County Alumnae Chapter member and local service provider.

The Village of Vendors is open to the public and

free to attend. Children are welcome and entertainment will be provided for the kids.

This event is to showcase African American business owners in Collin County to its residents during a vendor fair as well as via advertisement in the "Red Pages."

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People In The News...



Mayor Ronald E. Jones



Prophetess Sonya J. Wells



Lisa Nichols

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Mayor Ronald E. Jones

Mayor Ronald E. Jones stated that he is honored to serve as Mayor of Garland, and will work diligently to earn the opportunity to work for the citizens and businesses of Garland a second term.

During his first term, Jones used his acumen in Parliamentary Procedures and human relations skills to forge a Council that has become one of the most productive and cooperative in the history of Garland. The Council voted unani-

mously to approve the budget during his first budget year. Jones also signed the U. S. Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement and launched the first Garland Goes Green Program. One of Mayor Jones' many goals is Garland to be fully functioning Green by 2022. In addition to the many ordinances and Resolutions passed by this Council, the Mayor worked hard to enhance the quality of life

for neighborhoods and communities; and protect the public welfare.

Jones initiated an unprecedented strategy to personally meet with the CEO's and owners of Garland businesses. The Mayor's Evening In and Mayor's Evening Out has made him most accessible and available to the citizens of Garland.

As an active member of the Regional Transportation Council (RTC), the Mayor helped ensure that the George Bush Toll Way Extension process time tables were met. In May 2008, final

clearance was given to start work on the Eastern extension and to date, all contracts have been let.

In a national economic downturn, the Mayor led the Council in making the appropriate adjustments and navigational changes to keep Garland financially sound.

The Downtown Residential and Retail Mix-use Development is on schedule; two hotels on Hwy. 190 are under construction and one hotel on Harbor Point is being planned. In addition, the new La Quinta Hotel on I-30 has been completed.



Neighborhood Vitality programs continue to progress and the Envision Garland

Initiative which allows citizens to participate in planning Garland's future is moving into the next phase.

In August 2008, CNN Money Magazine named Garland as one of the Top 100 cities in America to live in. Jones also states "I will continue to work with our regional leaders and as Mayor I remain committed to my vision of making Garland "The City of Choice" for businesses to locate and succeed; for people to live and raise their families; where government is open and transparent; and where the arts and education thrive".

Pro. Sonya J. Wells

Prophetess Sonya J. Wells is one of God's chosen vessels for this hour, a servant assigned to usher in the Kingdom of Heaven. She is a Spiritual Coach/Counselor, Motivator and Empowerment Specialist. As a Prophet of God she is anointed to unlock the purposes of God, bring inner healing and deliverance and invoke the will of God in the life of all she reaches. Her greatest passion is to

empower people for Kingdom Purpose!

Prophetess Wells has been serving in ministry over fifteen years. She received her ministry training and license from the Potter House School of Ministry in 2003 and is a Prayer Counselor who is anointed to minister inner healing and deliverance. She received the 2006 Trendsetter's Award from the Christian Women Leadership Development

Program through Heartfelt International Ministries. Sonya recently attended Kingdom University and completed an intensive ministerial training on the Kingdom and church order under Dr. Cindy Trimm in July 2008. In her early years she served various pastors and leaders as an arm-bearer, executive assistant, ministry leader, and other various positions as needed. While serving her church she continued to birth her own ministry while learning the importance of servitude. It was in



1995 that Salvation in Bloom Ministries was birthed and has recently

been changed to Sonya J. Wells International Ministries by the leading of the Lord. She is an ordained and anointed Prophet, Pastor and Teacher; her spiritual covering is Apostle Barbara Wentroble of International Breakthrough Ministries.

Sonya J. Wells International Ministries is an apostolic-prophetic itinerate ministry located in Dallas, Texas. The mission is to usher people into their kingdom purpose; that original place where they are once again walking in

dominion, subduing, multiplying and being fruitful in their life.

Prophetess Sonya J. Wells is a native of Mansfield, Louisiana and has been married to Arthur L. Wells for twenty-one years, currently residing in Garland, Texas. She has three daughters and one granddaughter. This vessel of God moves in the prophetic realm and operates in the governmental authority given to her as a Prophet of God to call people out of darkness and to cry loud and spare not.

Lisa Nichols

Lisa Nichols is a best-selling author, a popular public speaker, a powerful coach, and a charismatic teacher.

She has reached millions, both nationally and internationally with her powerful message of empowerment, service, excellence & gratitude.

Her participation in the self-development phenomenon, The Secret, catapulted her popularity across the globe. Lisa has appeared on the "Oprah Winfrey Show," "Extra," "Larry King Live" and on NBC's Emmy Award-winning show, "Starting Over."

Lisa's powerful message of personal empowerment has helped thousands of people make significant,

positive changes in their lives. Groups from corporate executives to teenagers have been motivated by her inspiring presentations, and she's been honored worldwide for her passion and drive.

In addition, Lisa is the founder of Motivating the Masses and CEO of Motivating the Teen Spirit, LLC. Her transformational workshops impact the lives of 100s of thousands of teens and adults.

Lisa has been honored with many awards in recognition for her empowering work, including the Humanitarian Award from South Africa, the Ambassador of Good Will Award, Emotional literacy award, The Legoland



Foundation's Heart of Learning Award. The Mayor of Henderson, Nevada has proclaimed November 20th as Motivating the Teen Spirit Day.

She is currently engaged in writing a new book, No Matter What. The book will inspire readers with its hon-

est and candid format. Lisa will share her real-life and challenges and defining moments and respond to how she turned breakdowns into breakthroughs. *(How fitting, as she has been coined "The Breakthrough Specialist" by her peers in the industry.) This inspirational memoir plus effective how to will give you the best of both worlds is sure to be a best seller.

Lisa is a dynamic speaker with an extraordinary story and a tremendous ability to touch people's hearts and souls. She is a master at accomplishing unfathomable goals and teaching others to do the same. Lisa is an expert Life and Business Coach and inspires audience to ACTION!

Lisa's new book, "No

Matter What" will be released April 2009.

\$69* DIVORCE

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

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

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THE TRUTH CLINIC

Stimulus Bailouts and Economic Growth

By JAMES W.
BREEDLOVE
The Truth Clinic

As America transitions to the era of Obama the new President seems to have inherited a bedeviled country reminiscent of the 1970s. The country then as now was confronting the debilitating and divisive problems of a gas crisis, an energy crisis, high unemployment, a struggling automobile industry, environmental concerns, a controversial (Vietnam) war, betrayals by political and corporate leaders, and the threat of (Iranian Hostage) terrorism.

Only a few months ago, America and the governments of the world were genuflecting before their free market economic models as if booming expansion would go on forever. Now they are leaping from one emergency plan to another in a desperate attempt to ward off a new Great Depression.

The ink hasn't even dried on the first of some \$350 billion in economic stimulus checks authorized in the final days of the Bush presidency and already there are congressional negotiations underway for a \$800 billion plus government assistance package that would include huge increases in federal spending on education, aid to states for Medicaid costs, temporary increases in unemployment benefits, and a vast array of public works projects to create jobs.

While the new stimulus bill passed in the House senior Republican senators warned that their party was unlikely to back

Obama's economic stimulus bill without significant changes. About the only change Republicans have come up with is the old worn out one of more and bigger tax cuts designed to benefit big business and the rich. Data has shown conclusively that the larger Bush tax cuts contributed significantly to the record deficits while widening the economic gap between the haves and the have-nots.

But even if tax cuts alone could jump-start a recovery, they couldn't bring about the foundational economic restructuring that Obama says the country desperately needs to bring back long-term growth.

Sustainable economic growth is the only way that the government will potentially be able to pay off its huge debts in a relatively quick and painless fashion; allowing tax revenues to increase without having to raise tax rates.

However, in an analysis of the of the new stimulus proposal by David Leonhardt in the New York Times, there are real concerns that America's economy won't grow enough to pay off its debts and ensure a wide spread rise in living standards similar to that which occurred following World War II.

The reason for this concern is that America's economic bubble has been fueled by two powerful forces that have proven unsustainable; consumer debt based spending and the Wall Street financial boom both of which depended on activities that produced little or no intrinsic

value.

So the question for the Obama administration is: Where will the new and real sources of economic growth come from? What is the new foundation for growth? How can this stagnating economy be transformed and solidified to prevent future crises?

Mancur Olson, in his book, "The Rise and Decline of Nations," gives some insight into how stable, affluent societies get in economic trouble. The historical case studies provide a useful guide to understanding and solving America's current crisis.

Successful countries give rise to powerful interest groups that wield influence and win favor with lawmakers and government regulators that allow the groups to benefit. Not only do they end up with a larger piece of a country's economic pie but their limited focus prevents the pie from growing to its greatest potential.

The parallels Olsen makes between modern-day America and the economic demise in Great Britain following World War II are frightening when analyzing how special interest groups such as home builders and real estate agents, doctors, drug makers and other medical companies lobby and receive special government considerations that benefit them and hurt the larger economy.

The American poster child that best identifies with Olsen's theory is Wall Street. It used an enormous amount of debt leverage to grow to

unprecedented size. Before the stock market crashed last year, finance companies earned 27 percent of the nation's corporate profits, up from about 15 percent during the 1970s and '80s. These profits bought political influence in the form of lower taxes and regulators who didn't ask questions even when forewarned of trouble.

By any standard, the Obama administration faces an imposing task not only to stop the economic hemorrhaging and distribution inequality but to also diminish the dominate role of special interests in the economic model.

The American economy didn't simply grow rapidly in the late 1940s, 1950s and 1960s. It also gave an increasing share of its bounty to the growing middle class. Middle-class incomes soared during those years, while income growth at the very top of the ladder slowed.

If Obama's Washington reforms the rules for the economy in the form of new laws and the effective transfer of money from inefficient programs to efficient ones the effects will be far ranging. The resultant economic stability will influence millions of individual decisions regarding schools people attend, jobs they choose, the medical care they request, and restore confidence in government.

American taxpayers cannot afford to continue endorsing blank checks to bail out private sector ineptness.

Comments or opinions may be sent to the writer at: jaydubub@swbell.net

EDITOR'S NOTE:

The North Dallas Gazette has recently conducted research on Wells Fargo Bank and their lending practices within the minority community. If you would like to offer any special comment regarding your interactions with Wells Fargo Bank – pro or con – please contact our Publisher, Mr. Thurman Jones at publisher@northdallasgazette.com. Please include "Wells Fargo" in the subject line of your email. You may also send any comments to P.O. Box 940226, Plano, Texas 75094-0226.

Mandela Sends Warm Wishes to Obama

From staff reports

President Barack Obama received a personal letter of congratulations from former South African president Nelson Mandela shortly before his inauguration on Jan. 20.

"You will always be in our affection as a young man who dared to dream and to pursue that dream," wrote the aging leader... "the knowledge that you have

such strong personal ties with Africa, we share in that excitement and pride."

He said the inauguration was truly historic, not only for the USA, but for the world, and the election to "this high office" had inspired people as few other events in recent times had done.

"You, Mister President, have brought a new voice of hope that these problems can be addressed and that

we can in fact change the world and make of it a better place," Mandela said.

"We are aware that expectations are high and that the demands on you will be great. We therefore once more wish you and your family strength and fortitude in the challenging days and years that lie ahead."



Nelson Mandela

Garland Health Dept: It's Not Too Late to Get Flu Vaccine

From staff reports

With the height of the Texas flu season approaching, the Garland Health Department wants to remind everyone that getting a flu vaccine and using simple precautions can reduce your risk of getting the flu.

Flu vaccine is available at the clinic, located at 206 Carver St. Monday through Friday 8-11 a.m. and 1-4 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday afternoons are walk-in clinics so the wait may be longer. The cost is \$5 per person. For more information call 972-205-



3370.

- Additional precautions include:
- Washing hands frequently with either soap and water

or an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Cover coughs, sneezes.
- Stay home if you are sick.

Free Dallas Area Resource Guide for Seniors and Baby Boomers

From staff reports

Many seniors and their adult children in the Dallas area are in need of assistance in caring for an elderly parent or loved one, and are unaware of the many resources and local businesses available that can provide help.

The Dallas Seniors' Guide is a free publication that includes listings of the area's senior activity cen-

ters, helpful telephone numbers and websites. The guide also includes information on senior living and health care, in-home care, support groups, a calendar and medical diary. The 2009 edition will be published and mailed in early March, and mailed to homes in Dallas, Collin, and Denton counties.

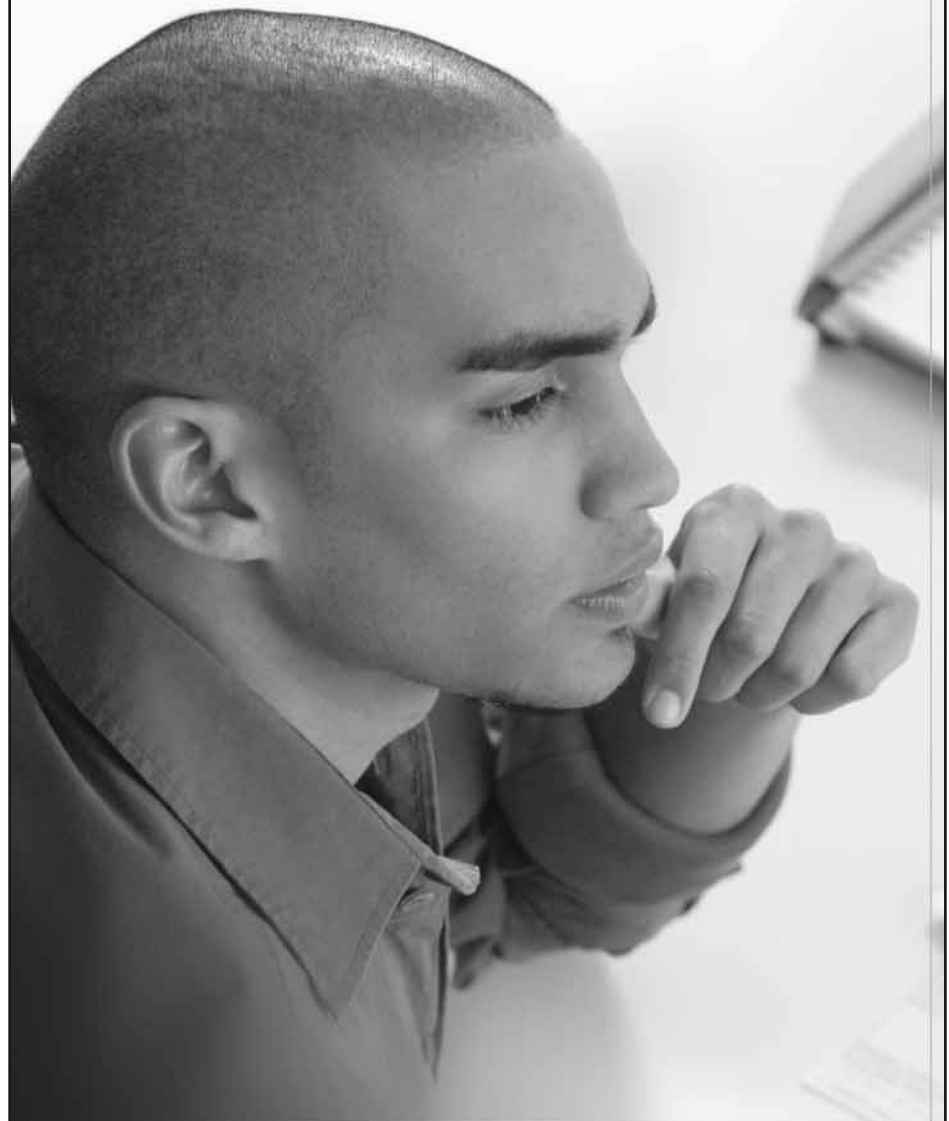
Dallas resident Ann Minnis receives this annual

publication and comments, "I am amazed at the compressed and yet informative articles, list of phone numbers and services offered. Thank you for putting together this very organized and easy to use guide."

Anyone living in the Dallas area can receive this free guide by contacting Texas Seniors' Guides at 214-257-8872 or by email agriffin@seniorsguide.net

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At Parkland, you'll be the standard-bearer of a remarkable organization. You'll communicate a vision and a focus that rallies teams around the patient. In our system, you'll work with talented professionals living out their dreams and ideals... and live yours in the process. We encourage your pursuit of our bilingual job opportunities within our allied health, office/clerical, professional and technician job categories.

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Parkland is committed to providing tobacco-free facilities and grounds for the safety and health of the staff, patients, and families we serve. Equal Employment Opportunity Employer. Requires Pre-Employment Drug Testing as a Condition of Employment.

Funds Available For Electric Bills Through Urban League

From Staff Reports

Funds from Direct Energy are available

NOW through the Urban League of Greater Dallas for households in Dallas and Tarrant Counties who

have past due electric bills and are 125% below the poverty guidelines (individual whose household

income is \$13,000 up to a family of 8 whose household income is \$44,500).

Participants must have

verification of income, social security cards for all household members, photo identification for all

adult household members and bills for past due electric bills. Call (214) 915-4639 for an appointment.

140 DAYS OF OPPORTUNITY

Budget, Education, Technology, Jobs, Energy on Gov. Agenda

By TESSA HOWINGTON
North Dallas Gazette

On Tuesday, in the 3rd week of session, the Texas Legislature held a joint meeting to hear Governor Rick Perry's State of the State address.

Governor Perry was quick to say that the "state of our state is strong."

Despite economic challenges and projected budget shortfalls, the Governor confirmed that Texas and its citizens are "still in better shape than most other states."

Nevertheless, Governor Perry was very stern in

pointing out that the "greatest challenge facing the state" is the economy crisis. He went on to say that "during this session we can do the most good by working to minimize the impact of the global economic crisis on the people of Texas."

He also challenged the Legislators to never lose touch with Texans; people who work hard, "stretch a paycheck," and raise children. As he describes it, our lawmakers need to "play offense" and make decisions "Texas style:" putting people first while making tough choices.

Perry then presented his legislative agenda. He first suggested that Texas' Legislators should be "bold" to win more jobs for Texas by continuing to institute and support tax relieves for small businesses, create less hassle and regulatory "obstacles" for businesses that want to move to Texas, and learn to invest wisely to create more opportunities for Texans.

The Governor also asked the Legislators to replenish the Emerging Technology Fund, drawing more jobs, ideas, and enterprise to the State. He also

mentioned placing a hold on taxes and regulatory fees for families and businesses, make the property appraising industry more accountable, and upgrade the state's infrastructure to improve transportation, communication, and the delivery and production of energy; hopefully lowering costs for consumers. Diversifying energy

sources and implementing renewable energy and incentives were on his list of ideas for the Legislators as well.

Also in his address, he stressed the need to change and improve the education system. He recommends employing better teachers by improving pay and incentives. He would also like to see improvements in

school accountability, math and science programs, technology programs and use, and opportunities for low income, minorities, and disabled or special needs students.

At a higher level, he proposed that the Texas Grant Program have a larger

See AGENDA, Page 12

NO GAPS IN CHILDREN'S DENTAL BENEFITS.



Did you know Children's Medicaid offers free dental checkups, cleanings, X-rays, fillings, sealants to prevent tooth decay and more?

You'll also get other great health benefits like regular check-ups, plus coverage for hospital care, prescription drugs, eye exams, and glasses. Even rides to and from your appointments if you don't have transportation. Call today or visit our website to apply.

 **Children's Medicaid**
We've got your kids covered.

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1-877-KIDS-NOW

IF YOU'RE ALREADY ON MEDICAID AND NEED A RIDE TO THE DENTIST OR DOCTOR, CALL 1-877-MED-TRIP.

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Special Guest EVAN LYSACEK, Two-time U.S. Champion

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SASHA COHEN • TODD ELDRIDGE • ILIA KULIK • MICHAEL WEISS • SHEN & ZHAO • and MORE

Bank of America is looking for student leaders

From staff reports

Community-minded juniors and seniors are invited to apply for Bank of America's Student Leaders Program.

Students also may be

nominated by their teachers or counselors. Student Leaders have the opportunity to participate in an eight-week paid internship at a nonprofit or charitable organization; attend a week-long Student

Leadership Summit in Washington, DC; and gain valuable civic, social, and business leadership skills.

To nominate a student or apply for the program, go to [www.bankofamerica.com/f](http://www.bankofamerica.com/foundation/index.cfm?template=fd_studentleaders)

oundation/index.cfm?template=fd_studentleaders.

The deadline to apply is Feb. 20. For information, contact Aleta Stampley at (214) 209-2418 or aleta.stampley@bankofamerica.com.

Science & Engineering Apprenticeship program at George Washington University applications due

From staff reports

Applications due: Feb. 27, 2009 - This program places academically talented H.S. Students (at least 16 yrs old, sophomores/juniors) with interest in science & math

in Dept. Of Defense laboratories for an 8-wk period over the summer.

This is an invaluable experience in the world of scientific research, with hands-on exposure to scientific & engineering practices not available in the

HS environment.

It is a paid apprenticeship (\$2,000) and the students are assigned a scientist or engineer as their mentor. To apply online or get more information about the program: <http://WWW.usaeop.Com>.

Students must submit their transcript (minimum GPA 3.0) and teacher recommendation to the program director for consideration and daily transportation is the student's responsibility. Program runs from June 22 - August 14, 2009.

Collin College Schedules Town Meetings

From staff reports

Collin College is seeking community input for its next strategic plan through a series of hall town meetings scheduled in Plano, Farmersville, Celina, Allen, Frisco and McKinney.

"The purpose of the town hall format is to encourage community dialog for our next three-year strategic plan," said Dr. J Robert Collins, who chairs the college's Board of Trustees. "Our community is full of insightful people, so we are eager to hear their hopes for the future of higher education."

The series begins on Jan. 29 and continues through

March 12. A full schedule is below.

Feb. 19, 6:30 p.m. - Farmersville

Farmersville High School, Cafetorium, 499 Hwy 78 N.

Feb. 26, 6:30 p.m. - Celina

First Baptist Church of Celina, Fellowship Hall, 841 N. Preston Road

March 2, 6:30 p.m. - Allen

Allen Public Library, Civic Auditorium, 300 N. Allen Drive

March 4, 6:30 p.m. - Plano

Collin College, Spring Creek Campus, Conference Center, 2800 E. Spring Creek Pkwy.

March 4, 6:30 p.m. - Frisco

Collin College, Preston Ridge Campus, Room LC104, 9700 Wade Blvd.

NEW DATE: March 5, 6:30 p.m. - Frisco

Collin College, Preston Ridge Campus, Room LC104, 9700 Wade Blvd.

March 12, 7:30 a.m. - McKinney

Collin College, Central Park Campus, Conference Center, 2200 W. University Dr.

Running Start for Girls

Running Start is accepting applications for their 2009 Young Woman's Political Leadership Retreat. The program is entirely FREE of charge, and travel scholarships are available to sophomores, juniors and seniors!

Running Start encourages high school girls from across the country to channel their leadership into politics. Participants will meet extraordinary women leaders of diverse backgrounds and learn the importance of having more women in political leadership and running for office. EVEN if the girls are not interested in politics, this is a great program way for them to build self-esteem, practice public speaking and learn to collaborate with other young women.

The program is open to rising sophomores, juniors and seniors in high school, participants will travel to American University, Washington D.C. July 15-19, 2009 (no applications will be accepted after February 16, 2009).

APPLY ONLINE: <http://www.runningstartonline.org/leadership-program/index.php>

COLLEGE CORNER

Jeannette Rankin Scholarship For Women

The Jeannette Rankin Foundation (JRF) raises funds and awards scholarships annually to low-income women thirty five years of age and older who are in an undergraduate or vocational training program and have a vision of how their education will benefit themselves, their families and their communities.

In working towards these ends, JRF continues the legacy of Jeannette Rankin, the first woman elected to Congress and a proponent of peace and women's rights. Since 1978, the foundation has

awarded scholarships to help over 500 women across the United States attend college.

It is the policy of the Jeannette Rankin Foundation to make financial awards without regard to race, creed, religion, color, ancestry, marital status, sexual orientation, national origin, or physical disability.

Deadline:
March 1, 2009

Award Amount:
\$2,000

Website/Contact Info:
www.rankinfoundation.org

Source: Blackstudents.com

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

Thursday,
February 19, 2009



Athletic Sports Complex



Science and Allied Health Building



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Thursday, February 19, 2009

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Mountain View College
DALLAS COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

IT ALL BEGINS HERE.

Students Honor MLK's Legacy by Aiding At-Risk Kids

From staff reports

Alpha Phi Omega fraternity members and volunteers with the UT Dallas Jumpstart program helped prepare a space for a non-profit after-school program as part of a Martin Luther King Day service

project.

The group of 22 volunteers painted a mural and picked up trash around the Heritage Square apartment complex in southwest Dallas, where the program will be housed.

The after-school program, being developed in

conjunction with the non-profit Project Still I Rise Inc., is designed to serve inner-city kids who cannot make it to YMCAs or Dallas city recreation centers.

"Thank you so much to you and your wonderful students for all their

efforts today. What a grand gesture," Joseph O'Brien of the Heritage Square apartments wrote to the volunteers after the project's completion.

The UT Dallas Jumpstart program is part of a national program that pairs at-risk children with

adult volunteers in intensive, yearlong relationships to build literacy, social and emotional skills. UT Dallas and eight other prestigious universities across the country are partnering with Jumpstart for the first time this school year.

Project Still I Rise is a community-based non-profit agency in continuous operation since 2002. The agency's mission is to empower youths for academic and social opportunities through mentoring and leadership development.

1st Class Kids' Ace of Clubs charity fundraiser at TopGolf

From staff reports

"TopGolf is an amazing entertainment experience and the facility and staff are fabulous. Our Ace of Clubs event will be a tremendous night of good food, fun games and great prizes for a very worthy

cause", said Mark Neace, Co-Founder of 1st Class Kids and the event director. "This event will allow us to raise \$40,000 to deliver live educational programs, like 'Chefsville-Kids', to schools, libraries, community centers and clubs"

1st Class Kids' Ace of Clubs charity fundraiser is a fun and unique event. TopGolf's revolutionary technology allows players of all skill levels to compete in fun games where every ball has a chance of scoring points. Participants will enjoy a dinner buffet,

casino play, golf skills challenge, TopGolf membership and game play, raffles, auction items and a premium gift bag.

"Childhood obesity and other health conditions related to poor nutrition and eating habits is a critical problem in our com-

munities. 1st Class Kids is meeting this challenge head on with our 'Food literacy' program called Scott Horwitz, Executive Director of 1st Class Kids. "We teach kids healthy habits, skills and attitudes toward food and nutrition that they will use for the rest

of their lives".

1st Class Kids' Ace of Clubs TopGolf and Casino Night is Friday, March 6th, 2009 from 6-10pm at TopGolf Dallas. 100 % tax deductible event sponsorship and registration is available by visiting www.1stClassKids.org.

Recycle Your Fluorescent Light Bulbs At Elliott's Hardware In Plano

From staff reports

Are you looking for a FREE and responsible way to dispose of spent fluorescent bulbs? Elliott's Hardware in Plano is collecting broken* and unbroken compact fluorescent lamps (CFL), 4-foot fluorescent lamps, U-tube lights and high intensity discharge (HID) lamps for recycling. Elliott's trained staff will box the lamps and ship them to a local

recycling company for safe processing.

Compact fluorescent lamps use sixty to seventy-five percent less energy than incandescent bulbs. "One of the easiest and most effective ways to reduce energy costs at your home or business is to replace your incandescent bulbs with CFLs," says Melissa Baird, Environmental Education Coordinator for the City of Plano.

A small amount of mercury (4 mg or less) is an essential element for the efficient production of light in a CFL. In comparison, a typical watch battery may contain five times that amount, according to energy-efficiency services provider Efficiency Vermont. Coal-fired electricity production is the main source of mercury emissions in the United States. CFLs use

less electricity than incandescent lights; this means that CFLs reduce the amount of mercury released into the environment. No mercury is released when CFLs are intact or in use. You can find this and further information about fluorescent lamps at www.energystar.gov.

Recycling fluorescent lamps is easy! Simply drop off the lamps at Elliott's Hardware, located at 2049 Coit Road in Plano on the northwest corner of Coit and Park Blvd.

Elliott's Hardware is one of the few companies accepting broken CFLs at this time. A broken lamp MUST be sealed in a plastic bag before bringing it to Elliott's Hardware. For information about proper clean-up procedures in the event of a broken CFL, go to the Environmental Protection Agency's Web site at:

<http://www.epa.gov/mercury/spills/index.htm#fluorescent>



North Texas Student Music Educators Presents

Amore

A Night of Musical Dinner Theatre

Friday, Feb. 20 at 5:30 p.m.

at the Good Samaritan Society – Denton Village with performances by UNT College of Music students.

Tickets: \$12

Proceeds benefit the North Texas Student Music Educators

Contact Katrina McPherson at (940) 383-6327 or kmcphe@good-sam.com or Bethany Nickel at bjn0030@unt.edu

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: Monthly Lunch & Learn every 3rd Thursday \$15 for members; \$20 for non-members, 11:00am-1:00pm. At Reel Thing Catfish Cafe, 600 East Main Street - Suite A, Allen, TX 75002. 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 info: 469-942-0809 or meeetup.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 TheNoLimitNetwork.com or call Sylvia Williams at 972-898-5882.

The National Business Women Enterprise Network (NBWEN) Learning Over Lunch Series: Monthly 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 differ-

ent ways to improve upon and grow their business. 4th Saturdays, 11AM-1PM, ReMarkable Affairs Cafe, 2727 LBJ Freeway, Suite 140, Dallas, \$20 for members; \$35 for non-members, \$5 off for early bird registration. Visit <http://nbwenorg.ning.com> for more information. **THIS IS A PREPAID EVENT** so register early!

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).

February 6-7 Ticketstock 2009

Join Sportsradio 1310 The Ticket for two days of Sports, Love, & Fun! And remember what happens at Ticketstock, STAYS at Ticketstock! See six time NBA title winner and legend Kareem Abdul-Jabbar as well as other DFW's favorite sports celebrities. Free event for all! Call 214-526-7400 or visit www.theticket.com

February 6-15

Plano Community Theatre presents, **ACCOMPLICE** by **Rupert Holmes** the weekends of February 6-15. Performances are February 6,7,12,13,14, at 8 p.m. and February 8 and 15 at 6 p.m. Performances will be at 1301 Custer Road, Suite 706. Tickets are \$15. Seniors are \$10. Call (972) 422-2575.

February 8, 15, 22 Chinese Film Festival

Plays at Davis Library, 7501-B Independence Parkway, will feature films on Sunday from 2 to 4 p.m. throughout February. The films are subtitled in English and

FREE to the public.

February 12

Collin County Black Chamber of Commerce **General Membership Meeting** Haggard Library 6:30pm

February 13

Denim & Diamonds Event Benefiting **Programs and Scholarship** 7PM - Midnight Plano Centre Entertainment, Hors d oeuvres, Cash Bar Silent Auction, 50/50 Cash Pot Cost: \$45 (972) 424-0930

February 14

Smucker's Stars on Ice - The world's top skaters are coming to American Airlines Center in America's number one skating tour -- Smucker's Stars on Ice. Visit www.starsonice.com or at www.americanairlines-center.com

February 18-21

Dallas Auto Show For 2009, more than 40 manufacturers from A to V will display more than 700 vehicles. www.dallasautoshow.org

February 19

Collin County Black Chamber of Commerce **Trailblazers Award Luncheon**, 11am to 1pm

February 20 - March 15

Teatro Dallas presents ORINOCO! honoring Mexican playwright Emilio Carballido and directed by Cora Cardona. Performances are Thursdays- Saturdays at 8:15 p.m. and Sundays at 3:00 p.m. Tickets are \$18 for adults and \$15 for students, children and seniors. Tickets can be purchased at

www.TeatroDallas.org. All performances will take place at 1331 Record Crossing Rd, Dallas, TX 75235.

February 21

UNCF's 10th annual Red, Hot & Snazzy Benefit Gala! Featuring national recording artist saxophonist Gerald Albright and singer Toni Redd! Sheraton Hotel Dallas, more info www.uncf.org/dallas or call the UNCF office (972) 234-1007.

February 22

Plano Symphony Sundays Ensemble Concerts: Boomin' Brass 3 p.m. at Courtyard Theatre Call 972-473-7262.

Feb. 22 -Mar. 1, 2009

Sesame Street: Elmo's Green Thumb Join all your favorite friends on an amazing adventure as they help Elmo find a new home for Sunny in the all new Sesame Street Live stage show, "Elmo's Green Thumb". NOKIA Theatre Grand Prairie, www.nokialivedfw.com or visit sesamestreetlive.com

February 22

Krewe of Barkus Parade - Historic Downtown McKinney will feature a parade and costume contest! Humans and their dog escorts are invited to participate. Visit www.downtownmckinney.com or call McKinney Main Street at 972.547.2660.

February 24

IHOP celebrates **National Pancake Day** 7 am to 10 pm and offer each guest a free short stack of buttermilk pancakes. To donate online,

visit www.ihoppancake-day.com.

February 26

The Urban League will host the **2009 Annual Meeting Community Report Luncheon** the theme is The Legacy Continues: Passing the Torch. Call the League office (214) 915.4631 for more information.

February 27

North Texas Business Conference: Business Solutions EXPO!

This is the first business conference of its kind for small and medium business. Those attending this business transforming platform will be learning sales, marketing and advertising strategies from experts. www.businesssolutionsexpo.com

February 28

"Business Basics for Entrepreneurs" This class combines financial management and other key business concepts, such as Marketing, Forecasting, Cash Flow, Pricing, and Business Planning. The class will be held 9:00 am to 6:00 pm, , no lunch provided at the Hamilton Park United Methodist Church, 11881 Schroeder Road Dallas, TX 75243. The cost is \$40.00 if paid in advance, \$45.00 at the door, to register visit www.planfund.org or call 214-942-6698.

The Alpha Iota Iota Graduate Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., will present its **18th Annual Talent Hunt**, at 2:00PM, at the Plaza Theatre, Garland, TX. Students from our local schools (9th-12th grade), are invited to participate.

Talents such as interpretive movement, instrumental, poetry, vocalist, and speech will be graded by a panel of judges

For further information, please contact Horace Satisfield, 972 424-0930 or Wayne Powe at 214-906-9079.

March 5-7

Texas Instruments Classical Series at Dallas Symphony Orchestra Single tickets range from \$17 to \$110 and can be purchased by calling 214.692.0203 or DallasSymphony.com.

March 6

The University of Texas at Arlington (UTA) chapter of Keep A Child Alive (KCA), presents **SMASH OUT AIDS Gospel Benefit Concert** on March 6 from 7 -10:30 pm. Created by chapter President Melissa Felix, the concert will promote AIDS Awareness and raise funds for Keep A Child Alive.

March 7

Habitat for Humanity of South Collin County Building Foundations Building Lives Samsung **2009 Gala & Casino Night** at the Richardson Hotel, Campbell & Central at 6:30PM. Sign up for tickets at www.habitat-scc.org/gala/2009

March 11

The Irish Rovers will bring the heart of Ireland to the Meyerson stage with the Dallas Symphony Orchestra just in time for St. Patrick's Day. Single tickets range from \$17 to \$110 and can be purchased by calling 214.692.0203 or visiting DallasSymphony.com.

Sponsored By:



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Proud To Be An Active Partner In The Community

SCLC: Celebrates the Dream

By JACQUINETTE MURPHY

North Dallas Gazette

The Dallas Chapter of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference took big strides to be among those that celebrated the vision and birth of its founder, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on Saturday, January 17. The day of celebration, began as Reverend Bowman and the members of the SCLC arrived at Dallas City Hall to take their place in one of the largest MLK Parades in the City of Dallas.

"The purpose and main objective was to bring the community together and celebrate the birth and dream of Dr. King. This year, we were also celebrating what has happened in America through the election of President Barack Obama, the first African American president of the United States of America," said SCLC President Derrick Bowman.

Full of excitement amid the early morning chill, Bowman, SCLC Chairman Reverend Shannon Little and Secretary Ernestine Lacy along with about 40 young people clad in shirts that displayed the pictures of Dr. King and then president-elect Barack Obama marched through the city streets with pride.

"It was tremendously gratifying to march in the parade this year because the 'dream' that Dr. King saw is being realized, especially in President-Elect Obama. The fight, tears, sweat and the life of Dr. King and so many others who set the stage for such a historical event are now paying off. We are now reaping the dividends from the sacrifices and investments they made," began Mrs. Lacy. "We still have a long way to go before the dream is accomplished in its fullest extent, but I believe Dr. King would be beaming with joy right now! So, it was as if I was marching for



him and saying "Yes" to all that he did."

SCLC KHVN Heaven 97 kicked off with a weekend live edition of its Community Forum hosted by Dr. Robert Ashley, KHVN News Director. This forum allowed the community to hear reflections from the Civil Rights struggle through the eyes of local pioneers such as Marvin Crenshaw, Joyce Foreman, Roy H. Williams, Reverend Derrick Bowman (SCLC) and Glen Lacy (SCLC). He asked the panelists to analyze the current position of Dr. King's dream in regards to its level of fulfillment. The group basically agreed that America has come along way, but the dream is still only partially fulfilled.

The African American Museum became an afternoon concert hall as gospel artists sang, community members praised and reflected on the current milestone marker in the dream that Dr. King had now 46 years ago. The concert opened with Alicia Snipes Sanders singing a rendition of the Battle Hymn republic arranged to say "His Dream Still Lives On." She was followed by J. Jevon Jackson and Spiritual Attitude whose upbeat praise had the audi-



ence on their feet. GF Soldiers took the crowd by storm with spoken word richly tied to the Scripture. Ce Ce Godbolz encouraged the audience to keep their ears toward heaven with her rendition of "We Need A Word from the Lord," James Henderson brought his praise and Rick Bernard James reminded the praisers that God will Show up On Time. James also placed the current events of the country with an audience captivating arrangement of the hymn, "How Great Thou Art." Harmony One wowed the audience with their acapella tunes and Darrell Yancy served as the emcee closing the concert with his classic, "Another Chance." The audience celebrated the goodness of God, the strides

of Dr. King and the inauguration of a new era of change through the 44th President Barack H. Obama and his Administration.

During the concert, SCLC paused to award its 2009 local Trailblazer and Pioneer in the City of Dallas. The Pioneer award was presented to Reverend Dr. CBT Smith, pastor emeritus of the Golden Gate Missionary Baptist Church of Dallas Texas. Smith served as pastor of this congregation for 55 years before retiring in 1997. He is now described as "one of God's gifted servants that exemplifies the impeccable character of a godly man." Asked about his response to the knowledge of receiving this award, Smith stated, "I was happy. I was trying to figure out what



I could have done to be receiving an award, I must have served somebody." Dr. CBT Smith is 93 years age.

The Trailblazer award was given to Marvin Crenshaw, the one of the main forces behind the City of Dallas City Council shift from the 8-3-1 district representation plan to the 14-1 single member district plan. Crenshaw and his team filed a civil rights lawsuit to the federal court to bring a more balanced representation of the Dallas citizens to city hall over 20 years ago. Crenshaw graciously accepted the award. "I was overwhelmed when I found out that I would receive the trailblazers award. It made me feel like everything was worth it. I looked at where are in our country and the celebrating of Dr. King's birthday and then I am being honored on the same day. This kind of places me in a special category. I was hoping that I would be around to see another time when we would rise to power. The receipt of this award, to me, showed the respect for the contribution of all those that are not here with us today," stated Crenshaw.

Celebrating the Dream : A New Day and A New Way, was the inaugural event for

the 2009 calendar of the Dallas Chapter of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. Throughout the year, the organization has planned events to celebrate African American History Month, the Commemoration of the Assassination of Dr. King in April, there are also plans to unveil its youth action group, the scholarship program and more community focused programming.

Per SCLC Dallas President, Reverend Bowman, "We are still committed to building an organization that will address the needs of the greater North Texas Region. We hope to accomplish this by networking with members of the communities to address and combat the forces of racism, poverty, and disempowerment. We will help to build a coalition of volunteers to promote social justice and to stand as a unified voice for the citizens of Dallas and the greater surrounding counties." Stay connected with this group by visiting www.sclcdallas.org or by calling 972-792-0240. The event was sponsored by the North Dallas Gazette, KHVN Heaven 97, and KXTA 21.

Awards Delivers an Impressive Tribute to African American Achievement

From Staff Reports

Many of the best and brightest achievers in the African American community today gathered on the stage of the 17th Annual Trumpet Awards to receive a once-in-life time salute for their dedication, hard work, and remarkable achievements. The star-studded event, often referred to as the "Oscars" for Black America, took place at the Cobb Energy Center in Atlanta (GA) on Sunday, January 25th and was hosted by Sherri Shepherd, co-host of "The View" and Anthony Anderson, star of "Law and Order."

Honorees for the 2009 Trumpet Awards included: Dr. Alvin Crawford, Medicine; Raven-Symoné, the Pinnacle Award; Earvin "Magic" Johnson, the Living Legend Award; Pastor Paula White, the Humanitarian Award; Chief Richard Pennington, Law; Michael Roberts, Business; Johnathan Rodgers, Corporate; Chris Tucker, Entertainment; and Tuskegee Airmen, Heroes.



Johnathan Rodgers and Roland Martin

"This is a great time to be an American and a proud African American," said one of the Tuskegee Airmen after receiving his Trumpet Award. This sentiment was repeated throughout the crowd of more than 2,000 people who gathered to see the parade of celebrities as they moved down the red carpet into the awards ceremony. The Trumpet Awards Creator and Executive Producer Xernona Clayton presented an array of impressive entertainment and paid tribute to African-American achievers in var-

ied fields impressive of endeavor including law, business, medicine, politics, entertainment and public service. Ms. Clayton is the President and CEO of the Trumpet Awards Foundation, Inc. and the innovative spirit who conceived the first Trumpet Awards held in 1993.

The syndicated television broadcast of the Trumpet Awards run on a cycle between April 4 and May 17. TV One will broadcast the show on April 12 at 8:00 p.m. EST. Presenters for the Trumpet Awards were Gloria Allred, Louis

Gossett, Jr., Lisa Leslie, Holly Robinson Peete, Ambassador Andrew Young, Judge Karen Bass, Teresa Hairston, Roland Martin, Dr. Ian Smith, Tom Joyner, and Fredricka Whitfield. Performers at the Trumpet Awards show include En Vogue, Keisha Cole, Bobby Valentino, Raheem DeVaughn, Dietrick Haddon, Regina Belle and Teena Marie.

Other celebrity guests honored at the Trumpet Awards in a "Promenade of Distinction" were The Honorable Karen Bass, first African-American female Speaker of California State Assembly; Derick Halliman, President/ Founder, Lucid Enterprises LLC; Simmie Knox, Celebrity Portrait Artist; Senator Leroy Johnson, first African-American elected to Senate in the South; Dr. Thomas Mensah,

Inventor/Chemical Engineer, Fiber Optics; Captain William D. Pinkney, Captain of the AMISTAD; Dr. Barbara Ross-Lee, first African-American female Dean of a

U.S. medical school; Alexis Scott, Publisher, Atlanta Daily World; and The Honorable Craig Watkins, first African-American Criminal District Attorney in Texas.

Testimony of the Year



First Lady Tasha Stafford from Fellowship Baptist Church of Allen, with her husband, Senior Pastor W.L. Stafford, Sr. M.Div by her side accepted the Testimony of the Year Award presented by Ms. Susan Woodruff and Dr. Sheron Patterson at the Epitome Awards Program on January 31, 2009.

During "Our History Month," TV One Special Programming – Set your DVR

Believe: The Barack Obama Story – a one-hour documentary chronicling the life of the 44th President of the United States from childhood through his historic election to the Presidency. Hosted by Roland Martin and produced by On The Potomac Productions.

Airdates: Sunday, February 8 – 11PM/ Tuesday, February 10 – 2 PM
Monday, February 16 – 7 AM / Sunday, February 22 – 11A,

Rosewood (HD) - In 1923, a black town in Florida was burned to the ground, its people murdered because of a lie. Some escaped and survived because of the courage and compassion of a few extraordinary people. This film is a dramatization of a 1923 horrific racist lynch mob attack on the African American community.

Airdates: Sunday, February 8 – 12 PM / Monday February 16 – 8 AM
Sunday, February 22 – 2 PM

Alex Haley's Queen - Roots was the towering chronicle tracing seven generations of Alex Haley's mother's family. The other side comes to the screen in Queen, the remarkable history of the paternal side of the author's family. David L. Wolper is executive producer of this acclaimed adaptation of the story Haley was working on when he died. Halle Berry plays Queen, daughter of a slave and a plantation owner. During the turbulent decades of the antebellum South, the Civil War, Reconstruction and beyond, she searches for a home in the two cultures of her heritage-and at times is shunned by both. Rejection and hate are no match for her unconquerable will.

Airdates: Sunday, February 8 – 9-11 PM & 1 AM / Monday February 9 – 9-11 PM & 1 AM
Tuesday, February 10 – 9 PM & 1 AM
Monday, February 16 – Noon (6 Hour President's Day Marathon)



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NUTRITION, continued from Page 1

Economic Studies at the Brookings Institution, "behind the overcooked vegetables and steam-table pizza that American children confront each school day is an industry that rivals defense contractors and media giants in its ability to bring home the federal bacon." That industry is agribusiness -- and, via the National School Lunch Program, it has a chokehold on our kids.

The commodities-driven National School Lunch Program, meant to feed 60 million children healthy food, has instead turned into a major public health threat. The most vulnerable in our society are suffering the most severe consequences, including epidemic levels of obesity, diabetes, heart disease and other illnesses. While we need to be able to include

more children in the School Lunch Program, we also need to be able to feed them higher-quality, more nutritious food, or else we are defeating the purpose of the program.

Over the past three decades, rates of obesity in the U.S. have more than doubled among children ages 2 to 5 and more than tripled among those ages 6 to 11. Today, approximately 9 million U.S. children over the age of 6 are considered obese. America's overweight teens consume an average of 700 to 1,000 calories more than they are required each day.

The National School Lunch Program and its affiliated programs have unmatched size and scope, serving more than 35 million lunches every day in almost every school in the U.S., costing taxpayers

more than \$8.5 billion. Close to 20 million K-12 students receive up to two meals a day, five days a week. The program was recently expanded to include all children enrolled in Head Start and child nutrition programs. The summer food service program feeds 18 million low-income children.

Where does agribusiness come in? Schools participating in the National School Lunch Program receive cash subsidies and commodity foods for each meal served plus bonus commodities from agricultural surplus. The program's authorizing language requires that participating schools serve the most abundant commodities -- mostly milk and meat, with few fruits and vegetables. In fact, the ties between the government

and the commodities industry, aided and abetted by poor nutritional choices by state and local food service officials, trumps federal nutritional guidelines resulting in menu offerings that resemble fast food.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture purchases hundreds of millions of pounds of pork, beef, and other animal products as well as surplus corn and wheat primarily as an economic benefit to agricultural interests. This might have been a defensible idea a century ago, when a third of our population worked as farmers; now, only 2 per-

cent of our workforce is in agriculture. However, to help 2 percent of our citizens, these commodities are donated to the School Lunch Program and other food assistance programs. Unfortunately for our children, many of these foods are unhealthy.

Next year, The Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004, which includes school lunches, will expire and the renewal battle will begin. We must dramatically improve the federal nutrition requirements that guide this program, weaken the ties between the

School Lunch Program and the commodities markets, revolutionize the quality of food in our schools, label the salt, fat, and sugar content of each meal served, and educate school officials, regulators and the American public about the School Lunch Program and its potentially disastrous implications for our children's health.

Significant progress can and must be made in overhauling school lunches. It will take millions of voices to bring about this change. The cost to the next generation is too high for this battle to be lost.

DANCE, from Page 1

communication skills for a healthy relationship.

"I like to use the art of dance to illustrate the elements for a good relationship," Davis said. "When you see two people dancing well together, it looks effortless, however there are rules to the dance that must be communicated between the two so they can move forward gracefully without stepping on each others toes"

Valentine couples will dine and dance to the music of The Cathy Garner Jazz Trio. The Gala will be held February 14, 2009 from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. at the Dallas Sheraton Hotel at 400 N. Olive Street in downtown Dallas, Texas. Novice dancers can get lessons in Swing, Waltz and the Texas Two Step by dance instructors. Proceeds from the Gala will benefit the Friends of the DeSoto Public Library.

The ticket price of \$150.00 for couples and

\$75.00 for singles includes a copy of Davis' new book "Barren Vines and Empty Baskets: Effective Habits for Developing Affective Relationships." Davis will autograph copies of the book at the Gala. "Part of the book focuses on teaching husbands how to nourish the relationship," Davis said. "Many husbands don't understand the emotional makeup of their wives. If he is going to value the relationship he has to understand the emotions she brings to the marriage. It starts with better listening skills."

Davis, the senior pastor at The Intersection Church in DeSoto, Texas has been married for over 20 plus years. He has been surprised at how every time his church has sponsored dance lessons or a dance event at least one couple has remarked how their relationship has improved.

Lester and Gina Berry enjoyed the lessons. "The dance lessons gave us back the lost intimacy we once shared and reconnected us to work as a team," says Gina.

For more information on the Valentine Gala call (972) 663-9490 or log onto www.dadspublishing.com

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THE CITY OF PLANO INVITES YOU TO THE FOLLOWING EVENTS:

17TH ANNUAL COLLIN COUNTY GOVERNMENTAL PURCHASERS FORUM VENDOR FAIR

WHEN:

Wednesday, February 18, 2009
1:30 pm – 4:00 pm (CST)

WHERE:

Collin County Community College
Spring Creek Campus Conference Center
2800 E. Spring Creek Parkway / Plano, TX 75074

15TH ANNUAL BUYERS/VENDOR MIXER – LEARN HOW TO DO BUSINESS WITH PUBLIC ENTITIES

WHEN:

Tuesday, March 10, 2009
2:00 pm – 4:00 pm (CST)

WHERE:

The Atrium at the Grandville Arts Center
300 N. Fifth Street / Garland, TX 75040

AGENDA, continued from Page 5

budget so that more students may be able to enroll in college. He would also like to see a freeze college tuition rates for incoming freshmen for 4 years, so their cost of tuition would not increase while in school. Additionally, he asked that all veterans be able to receive in-state tuition rates and increase funding for community colleges and Texas Workforce Commission's Skills training programs.

Safety, particularly Border Security, an issue regulated and enforced by the Governor's office, was also expanded on by Perry.

He said that border security is a great concern for Texans, and while crime and smuggling has dropped almost 65% since the Governor's office took control of the program 2

years ago, there is still much work to be done and a great deal of concern over foreign gang activity spilling into the state.

Perry blames the lack of federal immigration policy and "Washington's ongoing failure" for the problems the state faces. He asks that the state eliminate "sanctuary cities," hire more officers to patrol the border and enforce immigration laws, implement a Department of Public Safety program to easily identify immigrants and visa violators, and track the citizen status of a person receiving any assistance through state funded services.

After the past year's events, Perry cited the need for state legislators to create a disaster relief and emergency fund. He asked

Legislators to create a program so Texans do not "rely solely on the federal government and the good intentions of FEMA." He said that we cannot "allow our citizens to shiver in a tent or sweat in the sun as Washington drags its heels on housing and reimbursements."

His agenda also includes a plan to fight obesity in school aged children and provide funding for cancer research. He believes programs like these will not only help Texans be healthy and improve quality of life, but also create more jobs associated with the programs.

Finally, he asked for more "fiscal discipline." He hopes to keep the budget small, reallocate funds and "Spend tax dollars on the express purpose for

which they were collected." Mainly, he wants to shift funding for the Department of Transportation back to the General Revenue fund. Doing so would release income from the gas tax

and allow it to fund improvements on infrastructure, which was what the gas tax was originally designed to do. Perry also asked Legislators not to dip into the "Rainy Day Fund" unless it is a necessary one

time expense.

In response to the Governor's address, many lawmakers filed bills in line with his requests. None have been scheduled to be read or sent to committees yet.

STEELE, continued from Page 1

tion of President Barack Obama serving as the first Black president in America, the Los Angeles Times reported the move as an interesting play to corral minority voters who will be crucial to a Republican comeback.

Two African-Americans campaigned to lead the Republican National Committee.

Steele, the former Maryland lieutenant governor, was the first African-American to win statewide office in Maryland. Four years later, he lost a bid for the U.S. Senate to Benjamin Cardin, a Democrat.

The other African-American who had hoped to lead the Republican Party was Kenneth Blackwell, the former secretary of state of Ohio. A staunch conservative who believes that the party should stand its ground whether Blacks are attracted to it or not, Blackwell has been serving as vice chair of the RNC's platform

committee and was the party's 2006 nominee for governor in Ohio.

Both men ran against several White candidates who included former RNC Chair Mike Duncan; Saul Anuzsis, chair of the Michigan GOP; Katon Dawson, chair of South Carolina Republicans; and Chip Saltsman, a Tennessee party leader who was campaign manager for former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee's presidential bid and who generated controversy when he sent a CD titled "Barack, the Magic Negro" as a Christmas present to RNC members.

Blackwell started with 20 votes after the first round of voting, and he had 15 votes after four rounds. He then dropped his bid for RNC chair and gave an impassioned endorsement of Steele.

Steele won 91 votes out of a possible 168 in the sixth round. A simple majority of 85 was needed, but it took six rounds for Steele to win.

Promising to bring the party to "every corner and every group" in the nation and warning obstructionists to "get ready to get knocked over," Steele said the party of Abraham Lincoln is a conservative party and "we will cede no ground to anyone on principles...It's time for something completely different and we are going to bring it to them," Steele said after his victory. "This is our opportunity. I cannot do this by myself."

"It's time for something completely different...We will make sure that we work hard to make sure those principles, those values that have made us the party of Lincoln are part of the issues, are part of the policies, are part of helping set a new direction for this country," Steele said. "We will cede no ground to anyone on principles and on matters that matter to the people of this country. So my first official act as your new chairman is to end this speech right now."

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if it doesn't feel?

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if it doesn't speak?

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Hawaiian Falls Waterparks Hiring For Summer 2009

From staff reports

Waterparks seek youth 15 years and older, plus

college students and adults for supervisory positions Hawaiian Falls waterparks are now hiring life-

guards, supervisors, ride attendants, cashiers, ticket takers, cooks, housekeeping and maintenance work-

ers for the 2009 summer season. Download application at www.hawaiianfalls.com.

A job fair will be held in Garland, 75040 Garland at the Webb March 10 - 11 - 5 p.m. - Middle School, 1610 8 p.m. and March 28 - 9 Spring Creek Drive, a.m. - 4 p.m.

Restaurant Management Certificates Offered at Eastfield

From staff reports

Is your dream for 2009 to manage a restaurant? Eastfield College can help you realize this dream by offering a Restaurant Management Certificate, teaching you how to manage teams, develop leadership skills and foster positive attitudes.

Sixteen hours of each of the following will apply to towards the certificate (a total of 128 credit hours): Fundamentals of Management; Supervisory Skills; Communications for Managers; Cultural Diversity; Career Development; Team Building; Conflict

Management & Workplace and Customer Service. Topics include recognizing and dealing with customer turnoffs, dissatisfied customers, goals as a manager and adapting to new circumstances in the world of Restaurant Management. Upon completion of the classroom studies, students

will attend 25 hours per week training (internship) at their assigned site. Job placement assistance is available subject to a post internship evaluation. For more information contact Schneil Dunn at 972-860-7077 in the Eastfield College Workforce/Continuing Education Department.

Texas Unemployment Rate Rises to 6.0 Percent

From staff reports

Texas' seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose to 6.0 percent in December, while the U.S. unemployment rate climbed to 7.2 percent. Texas' unemployment rate has consistently remained well below the national rate for the past year. The Texas unemployment rate for December is up from 5.7 percent in November and 4.2 percent a year ago.

Texas' seasonally adjusted nonagricultural employment fell by 25,700 jobs in December. Texas employ-

ers now have added 153,600 jobs in the past 12 months, compared with job losses of 2.6 million nationwide during the same period.

"Our state's economy has been fairly resilient during these months of economic uncertainty, but the national economic storm has reached Texas," said Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) Chairman Tom Pauken. "The challenge we face now is to minimize the impact of the national trends by continuing to promote our strong busi-

ness climate and address the skills needs of Texas employers."

Texas saw broad industry losses in December. Hardest hit were Trade, Transportation, and Utilities and Manufacturing, with losses of 8,100 and 8,000 jobs, respectively. Texas' over-the-year figures fared better with nine of 11 industries posting positive job growth.

"The Texas unemployment rate continued to follow the national unemployment rate's upward trend," said TWC

Commissioner Representing Labor Ronny Congleton. "For the first time since 2004, our state hit the 6.0 percent unemployment mark after record lows of 4.2 percent just a year ago."



Eastfield Offers Phlebotomy Certificate

From staff reports

The 10 week course includes classroom training and Lab with an additional 120 hours clinical externship. The first four weeks of the program will consist of Phlebotomy Essentials - Anatomy & Physiology of the circulatory system; specimen collection, handling, and processing; laboratory operations; methods of Venipuncture (Puncture of a vein, as for drawing blood) and Dermal Puncture (blood collecting techniques) and medical

terminology. Other important topics covered will include lab reports, dipstick urinalysis, oral and written communications, interpersonal relations, use and care of centrifuge, safety and disposal techniques, infection and quality control procedures.

Mastery of these topics will provide the skills required by the American Society of Clinical Pathologist for certification as Certified Phlebotomy Technician.

For more information contact Schneil Dunn at 972-860-7077.

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February 18, Collin County Purchasers Forum

March 10, City of Garland



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Church Happenings

ALLEN COMMUNITY CHURCH

Each Sunday in February, 10:15 am
Join us as we present "The Black Family Making History." On February 1st the message is "Held Back but Not Down." February 8th is Youth Sunday with a surprise musical guest who has just released a gospel CD. On February 15th Pastor Jenkins will preach on "The Blessings of the Black Man." And the conclusion of the series on February 22nd will be a message about "The Power of the Black Woman."

Rev. Dave Jenkins,
Senior Pastor
1501 S. Jupiter Road
Allen, TX 750002
972-390-2746

C.D. DIXON MINISTRIES

February 5 & 6, 7:30 pm
Join us for "The Prophetic Voice Speaks in 2009 with Apostle C.D. Dixon @ God's Tabernacle of Deliverance Event Center, 1020 East Pleasant Run Road, DeSoto, TX 75115.

Apostle C.D. Dixon, Founder
1020 East Pleasant Run Road
DeSoto, TX 75115
214-398-0340

DAYSTAR DELIVERANCE MINISTRIES

February 7, 1:30 - 3 pm
Visit Helen's House to receive, to give, and to fellowship. Give-away of food and household items is open to all those who could use a little

touch.

DayStar Deliverance Ministries
Apostle Minnie Hawthorne-Ewing, Senior Pastor
635 W. Campbell Rd, #210
Richardson, TX 75080
972-480-0200

FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH OF ALLEN "THE SHIP"

ON GOING, 9 am-4 pm Monday-Friday
Prayer Lines for those in need are 972-649-0566 and 972-649-0567.

In February 2009 Wednesdays, 7 pm
Get your praise on, Wednesday Night Live (WNL) @ our main campus, 200 Belmont Drive in Allen. Call the church for details.

February 6, 13, 20, and 29, 7 pm
Mark your calendar for Friday nights in recognition of Black History Month with our Annual "Black History Cinema" at our main campus, 200 Belmont Drive in Allen. Enjoy a FREE movie, receive a Black History overview and enjoy some FREE refreshments. You don't want to miss Friday nights at "The Ship!"

Rev. W. L. Stafford, Sr.
M. Div., Senior Pastor
1550 Edelweiss
(Service Location)
200 Belmont Drive
(Church Address)
Allen, TX 75013
972-359-9956

FELLOWSHIP OF BELIEVERS MINISTRIES

February 14, 10:30 am To 4:00 pm

Don't miss our Marriage Conference 2009 "Hell in My House, Heaven in My Heart" @ The Holiday Inn Suites, 2287 Northwest Hwy, Dallas, TX 75220. Theme: A Match Made in Heaven with Elder Olivia Stith from Norfolk, VA. Book title "If God is My Lover Then Why is My Bed so Cold." Registration deadline is February 6th, call Minister Sheaniqua Batty @ 214-780-7856 for registration fees, directions and seminar sessions.

Bishop Gregory D. Crawford
Founder & Senior Pastor
3121 Nandina Drive
Dallas, TX 75241
214-780-7856

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Dr. C. Paul McBride
Senior Pastor
4396 Main Street
The Colony, TX 75056
972-625-8186

OASIS WORSHIP WORSHIP CENTER

March 28-29, 2009
Join us for our Women's Fellowship @ the Courtyard by Marriott, 2280 Valley View Lane in Irving, TX. Theme: "Who Art Thou." Registration is required in advance. Speakers are Apostle L. Williams, First Lady Lore Taylor from Converse, TX and Scripture Fellowship Church. There will also be mini-speakers from the D-FW area and church choirs. Topic: "Guidelines to Building Successful Relationships." Casual attire is acceptable.

Loretta Williams,
Founder

WALK OF FAITH MINISTRIES

February 13-14, 2009
Join us for our Travailing for Soul Summit 2009 @ the Hampton Inn and Suites, 1311 E. Centre Park Blvd., DeSoto,

TX. Service on Friday, 02-13-2009 is @ 7:30 pm. On Saturday, February 14, Seminar Classes from 9:30 am to 12 Noon; Worship & Prayer Service is from 3:30 pm to 5 pm; and Lunch and Fashion show from 12:30 pm to 2:30 pm with the Cedar Hills High School Modeling Club, a Special Soloist and Praise Dance Teams. Even Worship Service starts @ 6 pm.

Summit speakers include Apostle Delonor Lawrence from God Explosive Ministries and Prophetess Syneth Hassell from Cathedral of Christ Holy Temple. For information call 469-364-2445.

Pastor Deborah Jackson
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Dallas, TX 75232
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Hill Chapel
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1113 Ave. I, Plano, TX 75074 (972) 423-4090
Rev. Clarence J. Ford, Jr., Pastor

Sunday School: 9:30 A.M.
Sunday Worship Service: 11:00 A.M.
Wednesday Night-Community Bible Class: 7:30 P.M.





Sister Tarpley

It is said that the road to success begins with education. My ancestors stressed this, my father emphasized this, and I in turn stressed this to my son Jarrell and daughter Minister Sheila Tarpley Lott. Education was so important to my grandfather, Deacon David N. Demus in Freestone County and my great grandfather, Mr. Wiley Baker in Limestone County that each started a school in their respective counties for Black children with their own money and paid the teachers salaries.

I mention this because my friend, Esther Levy Dugay, said to me as we were hugging our good-bys for a 2nd time in the same month, Hurricane Ike had caused a mandatory evacuation from the City of Port Arthur when she lives. Esther said, "Shirley, you know that in 2009 our friendship will have lasted 50 years through college graduation, marriages, children born, deaths, visits, vacations, our children graduating from colleges, etc.?" In August 1959, we met at Prairie View A & M in Prairie View, TX, a

Historical Black College and University (HBCU), for Freshman Orientation.

While Esther and her family were driving back to Port Arthur, I thought how wonderful that we have been friends so long. I said to myself that if God delayed His coming back and we are living, in 2009, we are going to celebrate our friendship, I typed a tentative schedule for us to celebrate once a month, either in Port Arthur or the Dallas area.

When Esther called me to tell me that God had blessed them to return home safely and that they found their property with minimum damages, we thanked God for blessing them and their property through the hurricane, then I told her of my idea. Esther loved it.

I told her that I knew that there would be many individuals that shared a friendship for more than 50 years but how many of them have stopped to thank God for their friendship and to celebrate it. I looked on the Internet to see if I could find a card that would say, "Happy 50th Year Friendship Anniversary" I could not find one. There were many that said, "Friends, Friendship and wedding Anniversaries, but

BLACK HISTORY MONTH



Ms. Esther Dugay and Sister Tarpley, they are celebrating 50 Years of Friendship in 2009.

not Friendship Anniversaries.

The weekend of January 15 through January 18, 2009, I drove to Port Arthur and our celebrations for 2009 began.

In celebration of Black History Month, I thought it would be a good idea to start my column for the 1st Thursday, with Esther and me. After all, we met at Prairie View, a HBCU. It has long been recognized that churches and schools have played a major role in the Black community.

Famous Black leaders such as Educator Booker T. Washington; Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall; Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., a Nobel Peace

Prize winner; Ronald McNair, Space Shuttle Astronaut and a magna cum laude are graduates of a HBCU school. Mary McLeod Bethune, who started Bethune-Cookman University said the same thing. Many Black leaders, mentors, and role models of today graduated from a HBCU school; each received a quality education. The importance of an education cannot be over-stated.

As I shared my idea with others, I have been given ideas on how to celebrate the friendship anniversary year. Ms. Ruth Ferguson, Editor and Ms. Delores Murray, Assignment Editor for North Dallas Gazette

were full of ideas especially.

When I visited Fellowship Baptist Church of Allen for their great Women's Conference 2009, I learned that Pastor W.L. Allen Sr., M.Div. and Pastor Cheryl Coleman from Philadelphia, PA have been friends for 10 years this year.

Ms. Betty Rainwater

Kelly and Ms. Nancy Rainwater Williams have a friend of 53 years. They suggested that when Esther comes to Carrollton we celebrate all friendships with a big party. I love this idea and so does Esther.

Call or email me to share your friendships and I will make a list and print it in the future.



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Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday ... 9:00 am - 6:00 pm
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
Website: www.dallasmtpisgah.org

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3901 Frisco Avenue
Irving, TX 75061
Church 972-710-8421 Fax 972-986-6590
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(8 am & 11 am)	12 pm: Bible Study
9:45 am: Sunday School	7 pm: Prayer
6:00 pm: Baptist Training Union	7:30 pm: Bible Study

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Sunday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Early Morning Worship-8:00 a.m. Sunday School Classes-9:30 a.m. Morning Worship-11:00 a.m.	Early Bird Bible Study - 6:00 p.m.	Morning Bible Study - 9:30 a.m. Prayer Meeting and Evening Bible Study - 7:30 p.m.

"The Church with a Vision"

Black History Events Around Town

From staff reports

January 20, 2009, the date of the inauguration of President Barack Obama, is now a date our country will celebrate among the accomplishments of African Americans during our annual observation of Black History Month. Yet we while we celebrate, we also must remain diligent in the work to be done. Check this page each month in February to learn more about events happening around town to observe and serve during Black History Month.

Dallas Chapter

Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) Meeting will be held Thursday, February 12, 2009 at 7:00pm at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center on MLK Jr Blvd in South Dallas.

My Remembers Buffet dinner and lecture by Eddie Stimpson, Jr. ("Sarge")

"Sarge", as most people know him, was born in Plano in 1929 and lived on a farm while growing up. He returned to farming in Collin County after his retirement from a 21 year career in the US Army.

The dinner and lecture

will be held at The Pantry Restaurant, 214 E. Louisiana, McKinney, TX at 7 p.m. The cost is \$25, to purchase tickets call 972-542-9457.

The South Dallas Cultural Center celebrates Black History Month with a wonderful artistic lineup that will feature its latest

residential partner - The Soul Children's Theater.

The Soul Children's Theater will kick off its Inaugural season with a highly poetic play that captures the scope of black history from Africa to America. Its entitled "Don't You Want To Be Free?" by Langston


Hughes. It premieres Thursday, February 5th - 7th @ 7:30 pm and February 8th @ 3:00pm at the South Dallas Cultural Center, located at 3400 S. Fitzhugh Ave. The admission prices are \$10 for adults, \$7 for students and senior citizen.

The Irving Black Arts Council will present "The Forgotten Soldier: The Perils, the Triumphs, the

Legacy," in the main gallery at 3333 N. MacArthur Blvd. through March 2. The exhibit is free. Visit www.irvingarts-center.com or call 972-252-7558.

The Carrollton Public Library will present a read-in at 5:30 p.m. Feb 10 at the Josey Ranch Lake Library at 1700 Keller Springs Road. The event is free. Call 972-466-4800.

Join us for our sermon series: **The Black Family Making History**



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ALLEN COMMUNITY Church

Sunday School.....9:30am
Morning Worship.....10:45am
Prayer/Bible Study.....7:00pm (Wed)

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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

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Pastor Rickie G. Rash
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Pastor Isiah Joshua, Jr.

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Sunday	9:45AM Sunday School
Monday	7PM Youth, Brotherhood, Mission & Young Adult Ministries
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Wednesday	7PM Mid-Week Service
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Sunday School
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Wednesday Night Service
8:00 pm






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