

# North Dallas Gazette

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## Garland Offers Temporary Employment

From staff reports

A new Temporary Staffing Pool program will help the City of Garland save money, while continuing to be a source of short-term employment opportunities: two important actions in the midst of

a nationwide economic downturn.

The City has created two temporary staffing pools one which consists of former/retired City of Garland employees and another for the general citizenry. These temporary staffing pools will help

various City Departments fulfill their goals to deliver both cost effective and efficient services to citizens while maintaining timely and responsive operations. The work performed by temporary employees may be seasonal, part-time, or intermit-

tent. Work assignments may range from general labor to technical to administrative to professional, depending on the various needs identified by the department.

See TEMP Page 13

## Chris Brown Faces Two Felony Charges

(AP) Chris Brown has been charged with two felonies stemming from an argument with his girlfriend, Rihanna, court documents show.

Brown is expected to be arraigned Thursday afternoon on charges of assault likely to cause great bodily injury and

making criminal threats. The 19-year-old R&B singer remains free on US\$50,000 bail.

The felony complaint handed down in court Thursday morning identifies Brown's alleged victim only as "Robyn F." Rihanna's real name is Robyn Rihanna Fenty.



If convicted, the possible sentence ranges anywhere from probation to four years and eight

months in state prison, said district attorney's spokeswoman Sandi Gibbons.

Los Angeles police arrested Brown Feb. 8 and booked him on suspicion of making criminal threats. Police said at the

See CHRIS BROWN, Page 15

## Plano Mother and Son Act in World Premiere Theater Production

A few nights a week, Kelley Settles serves her son more than just a hot plate of food. She feeds him his lines to an upcoming world premiere of the play entitled If By Chance which opens March 6, 2009 at Bishop Arts Theater at 215 S. Tyler Street Dallas, TX.

Plano resident Kelley and her 11-year-old son Malcolm Underwood play



central characters in this theatrical production providing an intellectually piercing look at self hatred and a young man's struggle with being his bi-racial identity.

Playwright Donnie Wilson swings open the door for discussions to long held only privately in the

hearts and homes of African-American for generations.

Wilson's If By Chance was inspired by society's preoccupation with President Barack Obama's ethnicity. President Obama,

See PRODUCTION, Page 13

COVER STORY

## Housing Group is Rebuilding Homes, Lives



See BUILDERS OF HOPE, Page 9



Cox gives you promise on her first release in six years

For more information see pg. 10  
[www.northdallasgazette.com](http://www.northdallasgazette.com)

COMMENTARY

## Hope in Unlikeley Places: Citizen Solutions

BY ELEANOR  
LECAIN  
American Forum

In his address to Congress, President Barack Obama acknowledged that hope is found in unlikely places; now he can tap into people in those unlikely places to renew America.

People expect the president to solve an array of formidable challenges like creating good-

paying jobs, providing health care, strengthening energy independence, and improving public schools.

Fortunately, the president can draw on the experience of the most accomplished Americans, not only the well-known wise men and women selected for the Cabinet, but regular people who solved these problems

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## People In The News...



Donna Green-Goodman



Dr. Maya Angelou



Susan Summons

See Page 2



## Donna Green-Goodman

*Editor's Note: Each week in March NDG will feature Dr. Green-Goodman's Cookin' Up Good Health Recipes. See page 4.*

Lifestyle is probably the most under-prescribed medical treatment for chronic disease. Yet, when prescribed and faithfully applied it is the most powerful medical treatment available and has no negative side effects. Donna Green-Goodman, MPH has a story to tell. You may have read part of her story in Essence magazine, seen her recipes in Message magazine,

read her devotionals in the Women of Color Devotional Bible, or have a copy of her book Somethin To Shout About! (Orion Enterprises, 1999). She will help you discover how some simple lifestyle principles and her faith in God helped her to recover her own health and could be the key to your own successful health recovery. Her latest release "The Cookin' Up Good Health Collection" includes a cookbook and a 2-Volume Cooking DVD. (Still Shoutin', 2008)

Donna Green-Goodman graduated from Oakwood University with a degree in Home Economics-emphasis nutrition. She received the Master of Public Health in Health Education and Promotion from the Loma Linda University School of Public Health. Donna's professional career includes working for the GA Cooperative Extension Service, Morehouse School of Medicine, Morris College, SC-Department of Health and Environmental Control, the GA Division of Public Health-Office of Nutrition, GA Office of Minority Health and her own alma mater Oakwood

University where she is currently adjunct faculty teaching nutrition, vegetarian cuisine and health promotion classes. She has also conducted a variety of health education lectures, interviews, and food demonstrations for a large number of health organizations, including the American Heart Association, Association of Black Cardiologists, National Medical Association, National Black Leadership Initiative on Cancer, American Cancer Society, a variety of media and the faith community. Recently, she has joined the Susan G. Komen Circle for the Cure® Circle of Promise



Campaign as a National Ambassador.

From 1998-2006 she and her husband operated Lifestyle Principles, Inc., a Lifestyle for Better Health Center in Decatur, GA that

taught people how to improve their health and overcome chronic disease. They watched hundreds come to a clearer understanding of how lifestyle choices impact health by not only preventing disease but reversing it as well. Donna believes that lifestyle changes are vital for health and well being and that people are more likely to change when they see us practicing what we preach.

When not conducting health seminars or cooking classes, Donna spends time with her first love-her family – husband of 24 years Eddie and son Edward, IV (Ivey) a junior at Oakwood University.

## Dr. Maya Angelou

Dr. Maya Angelou is a remarkable Renaissance woman who is hailed as one of the great voices of contemporary literature. As a poet, educator, historian, best-selling author, actress, playwright, civil-rights activist, producer and director, she continues to travel the world, spreading her legendary wisdom. Within the rhythm of her poetry and elegance of her prose lies Angelou's unique power to

help readers of every orientation span the lines of race - and Angelou captivates audiences through the vigor and sheer beauty of her words and lyrics.

Dr. Angelou has published a new book, Letter to my Daughter that reveals her path to living well and living a life with meaning by sharing life lessons with the daughter she never had but sees all around her. Letter to my Daughter received the

2009 Literary Non Fiction Award by the NAACP - Outstanding Literary Work - Non Fiction.

Dr. Angelou was a member of the Harlem Writers Guild in the late 1950s. She was active in the Civil Rights movement, and served as Northern Coordinator of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Southern Christian Leadership Conference. King's assassination inspired her to write her first autobiography.

Since 1991, Angelou has taught at Wake Forest



University in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, as recipient of the first lifetime Reynolds Professorship of

American Studies. In 1993, she 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 in 1961. Since the 1990s, Angelou has had a busy career on the lecture circuit, making about 80 appearances a year. Angelou has been highly honored for her body of work, including being awarded over 30 honorary degrees.

Born in St. Louis, she was raised in Stamps, Arkansas,

and then went to San Francisco. She lives in Harlem, NY, and Winston-Salem, NC. In addition to her bestselling autobiographies, she is the author of several poetry collections, including Shall Not Be Moved and Shaker, Why Don't You Sing?; and a number of books for young readers, including Kofi and His Magic; My Painted House, My Friendly Chicken and Me; and the Maya's World series.

Source: Wikipedia

## Susan Summons

Susan Summons, "the motivator" is a nationally acclaimed sports educator, hall of fame coach and player, professor, master teacher, author and motivational speaker. Recently, Summons became the first community college sports educator and first African American woman in this venue to be named one of the "TOP 100 Most Influential Sports Educators in America" as presented by the Institute for International Sport, "a brilliant speaker and motivator" announced the Institute.

Summons, an associate professor in Biology Health & Wellness Department at Miami Dade College-Kendall and women's basketball coach often teaches student life

skills and boast a 93% graduation and placement rate of students to universities, one of the highest in the nation. Summons is an electric, talented, energetic, powerful, entertaining and charismatic speaker.

Summons is often described by her colleagues as "an electric inspirational motivator and trainer". "Her voice motivates you to get up and take action". She is a Master Teacher who coaches, inspires and motivates at all levels of success. Summons became the first African American woman at the community college level to serve as an Assistant Coach for the U.S. Olympic Sports Festival Team (Bronze Medal), a Floor Coach at the USA World



Championship Trials, and an Assistant Coach for the USA National European Select Team Tour (Israel, France).

Summons, has been described as "eloquent and inspirational message should be heard by as many student athletes, coaches, and parents as possible, the Institute announced." Susan is the Founder & President of Susan Summons Motivational

Enterprises, which provides motivational speaking, speech writing, and success coaching service. Summons is also the Founder & CEO of Best of the Rest Stars, Inc. a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that host a motivational summer basketball, education and wellness academy and sports festival for girls and boys.

Summons shows people how to lead and succeed with confidence. Summons helps clients to discover the power within to change their life. Summons speeches, seminars and presentations will have you standing on your feet with an increase in performance, in your life and in your personal growth.

Summons dazzles ,connects, empowers her audiences using anecdotes and her life experiences. Her professional charismatic,

electric, fun and entertaining approach creates a comfortable atmosphere

that motivates her audience to think outside of the box and find the winner within

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## THE TRUTH CLINIC

# President Obama's Trump Card – The Citizen

President Barack Obama, just 40 days into his presidency, has revealed to Americans the boldness and breadth of the change he campaigned on. The \$787 billion dollar stimulus legislation and the \$3.6 trillion budget proposal outline policy emphasizing jobs, education, energy and economic equity that marks the biggest ideological shift in Washington since the Reagan administration.

Political battle lines were drawn almost immediately as the new President took control over the reordering of federal priorities to address the realities of the trillion-dollar deficit, the financial meltdown, and the economic recession he inherited.

Republicans, still shocked by Obama's November victory, are thumbing through Newt Gingrich's 1993 playbook looking for tips on how to undermine President Obama's political momentum. Representative Eric Cantor of Virginia, the Republican House Whip, said he had studied Mr. Gingrich's years in power and had been in regular touch with him for advice on solidifying Republican resistance to the President's initiatives.

The Republicans and their right-wing allies are unleashing the same misguided propaganda against the Obama administration that they used to inflict damage on the Clinton administration.

In the case of both Clinton and Obama, the Democrats inherited recessions and huge budget deficits from Republican presidents named Bush. Using similar strategies, congressional Republicans rallied against the economic package of the new President in an attempt to stifle any political traction the newly elected adminis-

tration had garnered.

In a two pronged approach the congressional Republicans attacked the new administration directly while their media allies and covert operatives were busy reviving attack material from the campaigns to sow doubts about the new Democratic presidents and whip up the right-wing base into revolution mode.

However, in the run up to Obama's victory the republican propaganda machine could not over-

of Obama's initiatives to bring the country out of its economic Chernobyl and chart a course for the future may be debatable; the Obama resolve is not.

Obama is a brilliant student of governance. He has an innate feel for the intricacies of reforming what has become a flaccid and ineffective self preserving government that is not of, by, or for the people.

During the campaign Barack Obama often

Obama had the largest grassroots operation in history and his internet-based political engine inspired millions of supporters to build a new coalition of Americans that would propel him to the White House.

But Obama's politics did not consider winning the election as its final goal; the election was about getting the opportunity to solve problems.

His ideas were not poll-driven concessions designed to win instant points in the current political environment. They were a carefully crafted menu of what needed to be done and could be done when supported by a citizenry that believes that our individual destinies are tied together in a common destiny and that government depends not just on the consent of the governed, but on the service of citizens.

Of late, citizen-voters have found it increasingly difficult, if not impossible to comply with Brandeis' citizen precept. Citizens deprived of relevant information cannot participate in their government's decisions or hold their leaders accountable. Without this check, government officials are more likely to make decisions contrary to the public interest, abuse their authority, and engage in corrupt activities.

James Madison warned in 1822, "A popular Government, without popular information, or the means of acquiring it, is but a Prologue to a Farce or a Tragedy; or, perhaps both."

As he steps into the current quagmire President Obama fully understands the implications of Justice Brandeis' quote espousing the importance of the citizen.

Comments or opinions may be sent to the writer at: [jaydubub@swbell.net](mailto:jaydubub@swbell.net)

*...congressional Republicans  
rallied against the economic  
package of the new President in  
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traction the newly elected  
administration had garnered.*

come the multitude of disasters attributable to Bush administration ineptitude and could not generate enough suspicion about Obama to get John McCain elected.

Now, Republicans are stuck with the right-wing media infrastructure that has promoted their conservative based big interests for so long. During the first month of Obama's presidency, normally a honeymoon for a new president, the congressional Republicans fell in line behind Rush Limbaugh's openly declared desire for Obama to fail.

Desperate Republicans have little choice but to bet on the ability of their Right-Wing Machine to conjure doubts and hysteria about Obama's religion, birth, and liberalism while hypocritically touting their new found reverence for the Constitution after eight years of defending Bush's trampling it.

The potential success

expressed his views on the relationship between Americans and their government. Not surprisingly, they were different from those of the other candidates.

His core idea is that citizens are at the center of politics. Campaigning in New Hampshire in 2006, he said, "There's a wonderful saying by Justice Louis Brandeis, that the most important office in a democracy is the office of citizen. All of us have a stake in this government, all of us have responsibilities, and all of us have to step up to the plate."

He illustrated his governance concept in making his campaign maximally participatory by pushing power out into the network of workers and by minimizing the partisan rhetoric. While he is a Democrat he realized that citizens are both liberal and conservative, and they need to work together to solve any serious problems.

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



## Over 1,000 Farms Transferred to the Poor

NNPA

More than 1,000 farms totalling some six million hectares have been transferred to previously disadvantaged Namibians since an agricultural land reform

act was passed in 1995.

"What we want to see on these farms is production and not just occupation," said Leonard Shipumbu, CEO of AgriBank, which is providing loans to the new

landowners with funding from the European Union.

Resettled farmers who farm full-time will have a grace period of three years before they have to start repaying the loan, while part-time resettled farmers

start paying after 12 months.

Still, more than 236,000 land parcels remain to be redistributed in seven of the country's 13 regions, at a cost of around \$7.9 million.

## With Court Short of Funds, Charles Taylor May Go Free

NNPA

The global financial crisis has caught up with the U.N.-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone, which has been prosecuting warlords from the region including former Liberian President Charles Taylor.

The U.N.-backed Court, pursuing those held most responsible for atrocities during the country's 1991-2002 civil war, faces a budget shortfall of more than \$5 million from May, officials said.

"With the economic crisis continuing, to get funds is not

easy ... If we run out, it is now possible the judges will have to release him. That's our real anxiety," Chief Prosecutor Stephen Rapp told Reuters in a phone interview last week.

Taylor is being tried on 11 counts of crimes against humanity and other charges including rape, enslavement and conscripting child soldiers younger than 15. He has denied the charges.

Among the Special Court's accomplishments is making the recruitment of child soldiers, forced marriage and acts of terrorism against civilians a crime under international humanitarian law.

## When to Have That Joint Replacement?

Some minority groups wait too long for surgery, study finds

Hispanic and African-American patients tend to have poorer joint function before undergoing hip or knee replacement surgery, according to a new study presented today at the 2009 Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons (AAOS).

In addition, female patients have less preoperative joint function than male patients across ethnic groups.

"Studies have shown that the timing of joint replacement surgery is an important determinant of outcome," says James Slover, M.D., M.S., an orthopaedic surgeon at New York University Hospital for Joint Diseases. "This means that patients with worse joint function before surgery do not do as well after the surgery."

Researchers reviewed the pre-surgical joint function of more than 3,500 hip and knee replacement patients based on physical exams and questionnaires. This information comprises the functional compo-

nents of the Harris Hip Score and the Knee Society Score, which were used to quantify the functional ability of all the patients. They found:

- Even when adjusted for patient age, Hispanic and African-American patients had worse joint function before the surgery.

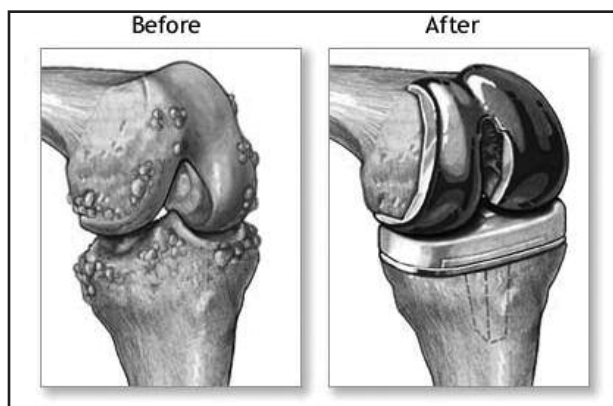
- In particular, Hispanic men had worse function prior to knee and hip replacement than both African-American and Caucasian men.

- Hispanic and African-American women had significantly worse function prior to hip replacement than Caucasian women.

- Women demonstrated lower preoperative hip and knee function when compared with men of the same ethnicity.

The reasons for these disparities, Dr. Slover says, are unclear.

"As a next step, we need to try and understand why certain groups tend to wait longer before having surgery," he says. "Do they have less access to the necessary care? Is it an insurance issue? Is there something in their culture or mindset that makes them



wait longer before pursuing treatment?

We need to know why this occurs, because if it is an issue of outreach and education, we as orthopaedic surgeons can help address the problem and help patients get the appropriate care and treatment."

Joint replacement, also known as arthroplasty, is considered by many to be one of the most successful medical innovations of the 20th century. Total joint replacement is a surgical procedure in which the patient's natural joint is replaced with an artificial one, made of a combination of plastic, metal, and/or ceramic.

The most common reasons for this surgery are pain and stiffness that limit

normal activities such as walking and bending and that cannot be satisfactorily treated with medications or other therapies. Therefore, joint replacement surgery often provides a significantly improved quality of life to patients who would otherwise have to live with severe pain.

More than 400,000 primary total hip and knee replacements are performed each year in the United States, and that number is on the rise -- particularly as the Baby Boomer population continues to age. Because of this trend, it is important to optimize patient outcomes.

Disclosure: Dr. Slover and his co-authors received no compensation for this study.

## COOKIN UP GOOD HEALTH

### Confetti Yellow Rice with Black Beans and Broccoli

Cooked yellow rice (recipe follows)

Olive Oil

½ cup each chopped red and yellow onion

½ cup each chopped red, green, yellow, and orange bell pepper

½ cup Vege chicken broken into pieces

½ cup Vege Sausage broken into pieces

½ cup Vege ham broken into pieces

1 cup chopped broccoli

1 can black beans, rinsed and drained

McKay's NO MSG

Chicken Style seasoning

Garlic powder



Stir-fry red and yellow onion, red, green, yellow, orange bell pepper, vege sausage, ham and, chicken. Add 1 can black beans, rinsed and drained, and 1 cup chopped raw broccoli. Stir until heated through. Add at least 2 cups cooked yellow rice (more if the crowd is bigger) and mix well, adjusting to taste with garlic powder and chicken like seasoning and your favorite seasonings as desired.

Yellow Rice – In a saucepan or skillet, saute a small onion in a small amount of olive oil. Stir in 1 box of instant brown rice, 1-2 teaspoons turmeric, 1-2 bay leaves, 1-2 teaspoons parsley. Add ¾ cups hot water, season to taste with Chicken Like Seasoning or your favorite seasonings. Bring to boil, reduce heat, cover and let simmer till done.

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### The Greater Moore's Chapel, C.O.G.I.C. host its 15th Pastor & Wife Anniversary

Our 2009 Theme is "...Many are Called, But few are Chosen."  
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Elder Willie D. Wilson and Evan. Miss'y Frankie Wilson. Who for 15 years have showed dedication, patience, perseverance, loyalty, faithfulness just to name a few. They are the Greater Moore's Chapel shepherds. Come one, come all to help us celebrate this joyous occasion. In the name of the Father, the Son, and let's not forget the Holy Spirit. Mar. 7th at 7:30 p.m., and Mar. 8th, at 4 p.m.

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~ HAPPY 15TH ANNIVERSARY ~

## 140 DAYS OF OPPORTUNITY

## Legislators Focus on Texans with Disabilities and the State's Foreclosure Rates

By Tessa Howington

During last week's Legislative Session in Austin, both the House and the Senate were hard at work holding various committee meetings and hearing public testimony on many issues. Among them was much discussion about Texans with disabilities

and the state's housing foreclosure rate.

On Tuesday, February 24, the Senate's Health and Human Service Committee heard testimony on Senate Bill (SB) 643. A bill filed by the committee's chair, Senator Jane Nelson, about improving treatment and security for disabled patients in state special

care facilities.

Reports indicate Texas provides care for an estimated 22,000 people with disabilities, and 4,900 of those Texans are in state schools. A study by the U.S. Department of Justice found that in the year 2007, Texas' state schools had a low level of care, and 450 cases of abuse were report-

ed with 53 deaths.

SB 643 would protect patients by requiring more training for institution employees and random drug tests. The bill would also entail yearly audits, reviews of all deaths, and subject all employees to FBI fingerprint and background checks. Additionally, it would cre-

ate a position for a liaison between residents, family members, and the facility.

Nelson said, "The abuse and neglect that has occurred in our state schools is inexcusable. These are people with serious disabilities; they need our protection, they need our oversight and they need our compassion."

Alternatively, on Monday, February 23, Senator Rodney Ellis filed SB 1060 in conjunction with Representative Patrick Rose's House Bill (HB) 1589. SB 1060 and HB 1589 suggests that Texas improve the quality of state schools for dis-

See OPPORTUNITY Page 16

## Upcoming Mother &amp; Daughter Tea

The Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Plano, Texas is hosting a Pearl and Ivy Mother and Daughter Tea on Saturday March 28, 2009 at 2:00 p.m. The event is a part of the Pearl and Ivy Debutante Cotillion, a debutante program for African American girls in Colin County.

The Debutante Cotillion is an annual major youth development and scholar-

ship fundraising program. The program has resulted in over \$14,000 in scholarships to outstanding youth in the area since 2006.

The purpose of the organization is to empower young women between the seventh and twelfth grades in a manner that will enable them to become strong, educated and successful African American women; empowering and enriching their lives.

Other activities of the Pearl and Ivy group include: cultural excursions, mentoring relationships, leadership training, community service projects and etiquette workshops.

The event will be held at the Brookhaven Country Club located at 3333 Golfing Green in Dallas, Texas. For more information call or send a text message to 214-334-7649.

## Johnson Secures Funding For District 30 Projects

Congresswoman Johnson announced award amounts for a number of projects in the 30th Congressional District. Congresswoman Johnson helped secure the funding for the projects in H.R. 1105, the Omnibus Appropriations Act of 2009.

"My first priority in Congress has always been the people of my Congressional District," Congresswoman Johnson said. "Each of these projects will help to make the 30th District an even better place to live and work than it is now."

Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) will receive \$950,000 to procure buses and \$87,974,716 for the Northwest/Southeast Light Rail project. The Dallas Floodway Extension will receive \$13,000,000, and the

Dallas Floodway Study-Upper Trinity River Basin will receive \$574,000.

Additional projects and their funding levels are listed below:

--Dallas Achieves; Math, Science and Technology Initiative to fund DISD academic programs that lead to high academic achievement and college and career readiness; \$1,450,000

--Dallas County Sheriff Intake/Release Project; upgrade to state-of-the-art Automated Fingerprint Identification System; \$100,000

--Phoenix House; expansion of the service delivery system for the increasing number of Dallas area adolescents who are seeking drug treatment, with a focus on

cheese heroin; \$500,000

--International Inland Port of Dallas Employment Training (IIPOD); pilot program to provide job training for employment in the logistics industry, in partnership with the University of North Texas-Dallas, to support the developing International Inland Port of Dallas (IIPOD); \$186,000

--Early Childhood and Family Literacy Programs; expansion of early childhood and family literacy programs to increase academic achievement and literacy rates within the City of Dallas; \$214,000

--Science In the Next Generation; Science Educators Professional Development Project and Science Academy Program; \$219,000

## Founder's Day Program

The National Hook-Up of Black Women, Inc.'s (NHBW) North Central Texas Chapter is hosting Founder's Day on March 14, 2009 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Plano Station.

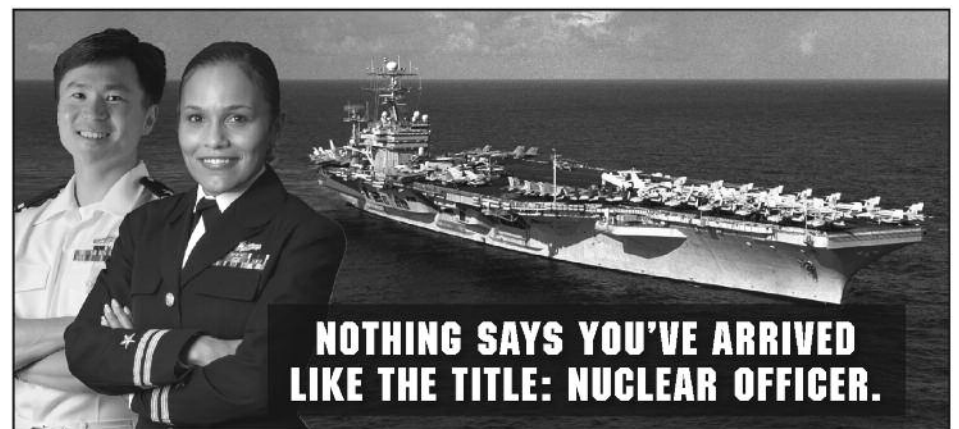
The keynote speaker is First Lady Ilya Golden

of New Covenant Fellowship Church of McKinney, Texas. She will discuss how NHBW is impacting the community through the strength of "Sisterhood & Unity."

The Plano Station is located at 1012 16th Street, Suite 105 in Plano,

Texas. This is adjacent to DART Rail and across from Haggard Park. Visitors are invited to park in the Haggard Park area and walk across the dart rail to the Plano station.

RSVPs are suggested due to limited space. To RSVP, call 214-558-9966.



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## Obama Announces White House Internship Program

(NNPA)

President Barack Obama this week launched the White House Internship Program for his administration and announced that applications are currently being accepted for the summer of 2009.

Those selected to participate in the program will gain valuable job experience and an inside look at the life of White House staff while building leadership skills.

"This program will mentor and cultivate young leaders of today and tomorrow and I'm proud that they will have this opportunity to serve," said President Obama. "I look forward to

working with those that are selected to participate and I want to commend all who apply for their desire to help through public service to forge a brighter future for our country."

In addition to normal office duties, interns will supplement their learning experience by attending a weekly lecture series hosted by senior White House staff, help at White House social events, and volunteer in community service projects.

The 2009 Summer Internship program runs from May 22 to Aug. 14, and the submission deadline is March 22, 2009.

Those interested in applying to the White House

Internship Program must be:

- US Citizens
- Eighteen years of age on or before the first day of the internship.
- Enrolled in a college or university (2-4 year institution) or must have graduated from college in the past two years.

Interns will be placed in a departmental office for their internship.

The following is a list of departments in the Office of the President and the Office of the Vice President where interns could be placed:

White House Department of Scheduling and Advance; The Office of Cabinet Affairs; The White House Communications Department;

The White House Office of Public Liaison and Intergovernmental Affairs; The Office of the First Lady; The White House Office of Legislative Affairs (OLA); The Office of Political Affairs; The Office of Management and Administration; The Office of White House Counsel; The Domestic Policy Council; The White House Office of Presidential Personnel; and the Office of the Vice President.

More information on the White House Internship Program, including application instructions, can be found at: [www.whitehouse.gov/about/internships](http://www.whitehouse.gov/about/internships)

## COLLEGE CORNER Youth Prodigy Program

The Texas Health Resources Youth Prodigy program is designed to attract young people to the nursing field and to alleviate a nursing shortage that will continue to worsen as baby boomers reach retirement.

The program offers education and employment to high school graduates who are interested in pursuing an Associate Degree in Nursing prior to obtaining a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. The program offers paid summer training and part-time job placement. Students work part-time at one of Texas Health's 13 hospitals while attending school, and Texas Health covers the cost of tuition, fees, books and related supplies.

Once students have completed summer training and passed the certification exam, they apply for

part-time positions at Texas Health facilities. These paid, part-time positions afford them the same benefits as any other part-time Texas Health employee.

"This program has been a positive impact on these student's lives and we are happy to see them working towards their goals," said Nan Branch, a Texas Health Career Center Specialist. "Plus, it is mutually beneficial in the sense that it gives these young adults a paid opportunity to start their careers in nursing and Texas Health is cultivating their own care givers to meet future demands for nurses."

To learn more, call 682-236-6162, send an e-mail to [THRYouthProdigy@TexasHealth.org](mailto:THRYouthProdigy@TexasHealth.org) or call Tomeka Fortune at 682-236-7216 or visit <http://www.texashealth.org>

## High Schoolers Talk Technology in Engineering School Tour

From staff reports

High school students visiting UT Dallas for Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day got a lab tour, an introduction to some of the technology behind high-tech toys and a thumbnail sketch of the path that brought one faculty member to her current position as an assistant professor of electrical engineering.

Students from Irma Rangel Young Women's Leadership School in Dallas visited the Erik Jonsson School of Engineering and Computer Science at UT Dallas as part of National Engineers Week.

During their tour of Dr. Rashaunda Henderson's lab, they got a chance to operate two remote-control helicopters while Dr. Henderson explained the difference between one helicopter's infrared system and the other one's radio-frequency system. She urged the students to identify the area of study that they enjoyed the most and then dedicate themselves to mastering it. For her that was electrical engineering, and it took her first to Tuskegee



**Dr. Rashaunda Henderson (far right) gives a tour to students from the Irma Rangel Young Women's Leadership School, with help from one of their teachers (far left) and UT Dallas student Anastasia Kurdia (third from left).**

University in Alabama and then to the University of Michigan, Motorola Inc., Freescale Semiconductor and UT Dallas.

An expert on radio-frequency integrated circuits like the ones in cellphones, Dr. Henderson is pursuing research regarding the design and fabrication of microwave circuits and components for wireless applications.

During their visit, the Irma Rangel students also saw several other parts of campus, including the Arts & Technology (ATEC) Motion Capture Lab, where Dr. Midori Kitagawa showed the group how animators capture human movement.

Animators, and particularly video game developers, rely on motion capture research because it can produce highly accurate and realistic movement results in a short amount of time. The girls also saw some animations produced in the ATEC program.

The girls also heard remarks from both UT Dallas President David Daniel and the University's vice president for diversity and community engagement, Dr. Magaly Spector.

"Our first Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day was a tremendous success," Dr. Spector said. "This community outreach program provided us a great opportunity to bring togeth-

er female engineering students and faculty from UT Dallas and professionals from the Texas Instruments Women's Initiative to encourage young women to consider careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics."

The University's first Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day was a joint project of the Galerstein Women's Center, the Erik Jonsson School of Engineering and Computer Science, the Arts & Technology Program of the School of Arts & Humanities and the Office of Diversity and Community Engagement, with the support of numerous student groups.

## Garland Youth Council Applications Being Accepted

The Garland City Council wants to hear from the city's youth and invites young people to apply to serve on the Garland Youth Council. The Youth Council's mission is to provide a forum, which educates Garland's youth to the various workings of City business, and allows youth to voice ideas and concerns.

Garland residents who will be in grades 9-12 during the 2009-10 school year are eligible to apply. Each applicant should submit a completed standard Boards and Commissions application, the GYC Letter of Agreement, two letters of reference, and an essay explaining why he or she wants to be a part of the Youth Council. All applications should be submitted by May 29, 2009 to Dorothy White, Public & Media

Affairs Manager, 200 N Fifth Street, Garland, TX 75040.

Applicants should plan to attend at least one Youth Council meeting. Regular meetings are set for the first Tuesday of each month, with committee meetings scheduled by the committee members themselves. Meeting agendas and locations are available at [www.garlandyouthcouncil.org](http://www.garlandyouthcouncil.org). The Mayor and each of Garland's eight City Council members will select two applicants to serve a one-year term.

Applications are available at Garland City Hall, 200 N. Fifth Street, in the City Secretary's office and [www.garlandyouthcouncil.org](http://www.garlandyouthcouncil.org). For additional information, contact Dorothy White at 972-205-2879 or [dwhite@ci.garland.tx.us](mailto:dwhite@ci.garland.tx.us).



# President Obama is Greeted by Canada's First Governor General of Canada

The first foreign head of state to greet President Barack Obama during his first foreign trip was Canadian Governor General Michaëlle Jean last month. Jean is Canada's first black Governor General.

The Governor General of Canada is the vice-regal or viceroy representative in Canada of the Queen of Canada, who is the head of state. A viceroy is a royal official who governs a country in the name of and as representative of the monarch.

The Prime Minister of Canada is currently

Stephen Harper. The prime minister is appointed by the Governor General, who is now Michaëlle Jean, but to ensure the continuity of a stable government, this person must have the confidence of the House of Commons to lead the government.

Canada is one of sixteen British Commonwealth realms, all of which share the British monarch as their royal leader. The monarch appoints the Governor General on the advice of the Canadian Prime Minister, who is the Canadian Head of

Government, after which the Governor General maintains direct contact with the British monarch. There is no specific term.

The Prime Minister of Canada is the primary Minister of the Crown, chairman of the Cabinet, and thus head of government of Canada. The office is not outlined in any of the documents that constitute the written portion of the constitution of Canada and executive authority is formally vested in the Canadian sovereign and exercised on his or her behalf by the Governor General.



*President Barack Obama and Canadian Governor General Michaëlle Jean chat during a meeting following his arrival in Ottawa, Canada, Thursday, Feb. 19, 2009.*

## EarthTalk™ From the Editors of E/The Environmental Magazine

**Dear EarthTalk: What is the “green cities” movement?**

**-- John Moulton, Greenwich, CT**

Best described as a loose association of cities focused on sustainability, the emerging “green cities movement” encompasses thousands of urban areas around the world all striving to lessen their environmental impacts by reducing waste, expanding recycling, lowering emissions, increasing housing density while expanding open space, and encouraging the development of sustainable local businesses.

Perhaps the archetypal green city is Curitiba, Brazil. When architect and urban

planner Jamie Lerner became mayor in 1972, he quickly closed six blocks of the city's central business district to cars, delighting residents and business owners alike. Today the pedestrian-free zone is three times larger and serves as the heart of the bustling metropolis. Lerner also put in place a high-tech bus system, greatly reducing traffic, energy usage and pollution; the move also encouraged density around transit hubs and thus preserved open space in other areas that would have likely turned into suburbia. Today the bus system still goes strong, and three-quarters of the city's 2.2 million residents rely on it every day.

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[mglendavis@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mglendavis@sbcglobal.net)



## GREEN LINE TO GREENER WALLETS

The new Green Line will give even more area residents the opportunity to leave their car in the garage and ride DART instead. It's a greener solution, one that makes for cleaner air and more money in your wallet. Mark your calendars: Phase one with service to Fair Park, Deep Ellum and other great destinations opens this September!



214.979.1111  
[www.DART.org](http://www.DART.org)



**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](mailto: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 [meeet-up.com/378](http://meeet-up.com/378).

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

**No Limit Network Business Networking Lunch** 1st and 3rd Thursday 11:30 am - 12:30 pm every Thursday at Texas Land & Cattle Steak House 3945 N. Central Expressway Plano 75023 Must RSVP at [www.TheNoLimitNetwork.com](http://www.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 different 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 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](http://www.TeatroDallas.org). All performances will take place at 1331 Record Crossing Rd, Dallas, TX 75235.

**March 7 The 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](http://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 by visiting on the web at [www.DallasSymphony.com](http://www.DallasSymphony.com).

**March 10 City of Garland Hosts Vendor/Buyer Mixer, 2 – 4 p.m.** Vendor Education 3:30 – 4 p.m. at the Granville Arts Center, The Atrium 300 N. Fifth Street Garland, 972-205-2415.

**American Career Fairs Professional and Diversity Career Fair** 10AM – 2PM Meet the hiring managers ready to hire on the spot. Free Admission, Free Parking Contact Bill Mueller at 817-685-9850 or email [bill@ineedajob.com](mailto:bill@ineedajob.com) or [www.ineedajob.com](http://www.ineedajob.com).

**March 12 -14 Black Women's Film Festival** South Dallas Cultural Center, 3400 S Fitzhugh Ave marilyn.clark@sbcglobal.net 214-426-1683

**March 13 The Garland Symphony Orchestra** Highlights Paris! Granville Performing Arts Center, 300 N. Fifth St in Garland 8 pm \$15, \$25 and \$35 [info@garlandsymphony.org](mailto:info@garlandsymphony.org) or g 972-926-0611

**March 14, May 30, and Nov. 14 The Modern Victory Gardens: Vegetable Gardening Educational Series** 9 am to noon at Texas Discovery Gardens at Fair Park. Join a growing trend! See how to create a bountiful organic community or backyard vegetable garden. Registration required. \$25; \$20 for garden members

**March 18 BUSINESS MIXER: HOW TO BE STRESS-**

**LESS & MAINTAIN YOUR SANITY** from 6 pm to 8 pm at the Center for Community Cooperation, 2900 Live Oak Street in Dallas, TX 75204.

**March 21 Professional Achievers for Community Excellence is hosting a YARD SALE & BAKE SALE** to raise money for scholarships from 7:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at Keller Springs Baptist Church, 3227 Keller Springs Rd., Carrollton.

**March 21 Paul Taylor Dance Company** 8:00 p.m. Eisemann Center Hill Performance Hall Call Mary Frazier 972-599-3145 for info.

**Life in the Soil Garden Walk Texas Discovery Gardens at Fair Park,,** 10-11a.m. The key to gardening success is to start from the ground up. Join Michael Bosco with Soils Alive as we show you what to do for your soil type. Free with paid Garden admission. Age 12+

**March 20-22 Past American Idol** contestants sing some of their favorite tunes from the hit TV show alongside the Dallas Symphony Orchestra – live for two nights. From the soulful singing of Kimberley Locke, to the Southern charm of Diana DeGarmo, to tunes from Chikezie Eze and David Hernandez, this evening of song will have everyone jumping to their feet in excitement. Single tickets range from \$17 to \$110 214.692.0203 or [www.DallasSymphony.com](http://www.DallasSymphony.com).

**March 23 “An Evening of Jazz” - Rowlett High School Jazz Band I**, directed by Phil Alvarado, and Jazz Band II, directed by Kevin Rainey will be joined by the West Mesquite High Jazz Band at 7:30 p.m. at Plaza Theater in Garland. Admission is free.

**March 24 LEAN tools can transform Health Care organizations.** Learn how at an Executive Briefing for Health Care Professions at 9:00 A.M. The briefing will be held at the Bill Priest Institute, 1402 Corinth St. in Dallas. Call the LEAN Institute of El Centro College at 214.860.5934 for more information. The event is free to the public.

**March 27 – April 18 Closer performances** are Thursday - Saturdays at 8:00 p.m. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$15 for students and seniors at [www.EnterStageLeft.org](http://www.EnterStageLeft.org). All performances will take place at Teatro Dallas, 1331 Record Crossing Rd. Dallas, TX 75235.

**Allen Community Outreach 7th Wine Masters Food & Wine Pairings** 7:00 - 10:30 p.m. Heritage Ranch Golf and Country Club. [aco-cares.com](http://aco-cares.com) for info.

**March 28 Heard Museum & Volunteer** McKinney Center 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. Take a hike! for your community, see [heardmuseum.org](http://heardmuseum.org) for info.

**Conservation in Action – Texas Discovery Gardens** at Fair Park, 11a.m. – 3p.m. ‘Green’ your family! The first 500

attendees get free hot dogs, popcorn, T-shirts and other cool stuff! This family fair is sponsored by the City of Dallas, University of North Texas and Texas Discovery Gardens. Free admission

**Christian World Hands of Praise** presents “Praise in Motion” at 5:00 p.m. at the Granville Arts Center. Tickets are \$10 at the door, 214-727-9784 or 214-460-1802.

**Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Founders Day** 11:30 AM at Hilton Dallas Lincoln Centre.

**April 8 Richland College Hosting a Financial Aid Fair** 10:00-2:00 in El Paso hallway.

**April 16-May 9 Garland Civic Theater season finale “Sweeney Todd”** at the Granville Arts Center. Evening performances are at 7:30 p.m. on April 16, 23, 30 & May 7 at 8:00 p.m. on April 17, 18, 24, 25, May 1, 2, 8, and 9. Matinees run April 19, 26, May 3 and May 9 beginning at 2:30 p.m. [www.garlandcivictheatre.org](http://www.garlandcivictheatre.org)

**April 18 EarthKind Plant Sale** from 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM at 17360 Coit Road, Dallas, TX, contact Gregory Church 972-5448-4232. [gtchurch@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:gtchurch@ag.tamu.edu) or [ccmgatx.org](http://ccmgatx.org).

**April 25 African Film Festival** is part of the African Unity Festival at SMU's Meadows School of the Arts, from 1p.m. to 5 p.m. Four films will be shown. Admission is FREE.

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# Proud To Be An Active Partner In The Community



# Affordable housing organization taking the lead in building homes, restructuring lives

**GORDON JACKSON**  
Special Contributor  
to NDG

It may be one of the greatest turn-a-rounds of an inner city community in the country. House by house, block by block, West Dallas is changing, distinctly for the better.

A lot of determination and grit by several community and housing organizations and churches have served as the catalyst for the neighborhood's illuminating revitalization. Builders of Hope (BOH) is included among those groups.

"It's all going uphill. We've been in the valley; now we're going to the mountaintop," said Patrick Crawford, a new homebuyer and West Dallas resident.

Bordered by Interstate 30 on the south, Loop 12/Walton Walker Road on the west, Interstate 35 on the east and the Trinity River on the north, West Dallas was once slated as one of the country's poorest and most blighted neighborhoods in the nation. Jobs were scarce and crime was high. Several lead smelter plants located in the area once polluted the air and poisoned many who lived near them.

West Dallas was once one of the heavily African American and Hispanic sectors of the city suffering from discrimination and racially-based negative perceptions that kept development out for several decades.

Over the past decade, modern-day and attractive housing units, both public and private, both single- and multi-family, have replaced barrack-like projects complexes, once eyesores to the community's look and feel.

"At the present time,

the big improvement is the homes themselves, knowing that economic development would come," said Rev. Arrvel Wilson, pastor of West Dallas Community Church. A staple in the West Dallas Community, Wilson's church also runs the West Dallas Community Development Inc. and the West Dallas Community School. "I also see the hope of new jobs coming as you bring in new businesses."

Wilson further credits Builders of Hope Community Development

Community Development Corporation in 1998. Henry and the board of directors changed the name to Builders of Hope CDC in 2002. Starting with building a couple of homes, the organization has boomed to their current major project, a 72-unit single family subdivision in West Dallas' Eagle Ford community.

Now, the next step: bringing in homebuyers. But it's the kind of new home owners BOH is targeting: many of the same West Dallas and other low-

mortgage lender and a credit management specialist who helps the prospect set a budget.

"A person can say they want to buy a home but may have never thought it out completely. This gives them a comprehensive education process. Even if they may not qualify at that time, they're a better person for it."

The quality of the home is also important, something BOH has taken very seriously. Comparing with other companies, Mardenborough said:

talking about solid brick."

Patrick and Antoinette Crawford share those sentiments. They were both raised in West Dallas, but had moved out of the neighborhood.

"We did everything on this side (of town)," Antoinette said. "We were always coming back out here. Our church is out here so it only made sense for us to be here and do everything in the community."

They went to Builders of Hope, with whom Patrick was already familiar, having formerly worked with the organization in their youth programs. Despite not qualifying in their first application, the Crawfords persisted.

Finally, they were approved and began a rigorous but successful three-month process. Last month, they, along with daughters Xyondria, 2 and Daja, 7 months, moved into their \$125,000 three-bedroom, two-bath home in Eagle Ford, complete with a one-car garage and spacious backyard. Their total loan package included grants that covered their down payment and closing costs. They have returned to their home community, more excited than ever to strive and make West Dallas a better place to live and work, in their own way.

"When someone purchases a home, there's a responsibility that comes with it," Mardenborough explained. "So, yes, they want to perform better at their jobs, make sure they do all the necessary things to keep their homes. They become better citizens and try not to do ignorant things to lose the home."

"This helps the entire community and city. You help someone get into a

home you're building communities and relationships with other individuals. They tend to look out for each other, wanting to help each other out. It's a rippling effect."

The Eagle Ford community is in West Dallas' southwest corner, near where I-30 and Loop 12 intersects. Pinnacle Park, a 900-acre major retail and business district, along with Pinnacle Pointe, across the highway, are all short distances from the community.

The community's newest jewel – a brand new Mattie Nash/ Myrtle Davis Recreation Center – is highly anticipated. The 21,000 square foot facility will feature a NCAA regulation basketball court, weight room, multipurpose room and computer lab. Construction is scheduled to begin this month to be completed in one year.

All such amenities are working together, complementing BOH's initiatives to not just build homes, but quality lives.

"The affordable market is still the best market to be in," said Mardenborough. "Because, if you properly educate the buyers and how to keep their homes, what they need to do with the upkeeps and follow throughs, they'll commit to it."

"They'll say now I have a home; I don't have to rent and pay someone else's mortgage. When I close the door, I know it's mine, I can live there as long as I want."

Builders of Hope will hold a First-Time Homebuyers Workshop in March 14, at their Model Home, at 4114 Chippewa Drive in Dallas. For more information, call 214-915-9522 or, to register, email willardm@buildersofhopecdc.com.



Corporation, who got in the fight from the beginning. Its founder, Norman Henry, first started making changes through Voices of Hope Ministries in 1982, helping youths and their families with resources and life skills to fight and overcome the community's ills from poverty.

"His passion and drive came from helping kids," said Willard Mardenborough, BOH's Community Sales Manager. "There was a lack of homes and the ones there wasn't sufficient or in good condition."

That's when Voices of Hope Ministries transformed into Voice of Hope

to moderate-income residents who still believe there's such a thing as quality inner city. They include the single parent and blue-collar worker, often a renter all of their life.

BOH's goal: transform them into homeowners.

"It's not all about selling a home, it's about someone building a community relationship, someone working with one goal of helping someone else," said Mardenborough.

A free BOH First-time Homebuyers seminar covers every inch of ground of what it takes to be a homeowner. Several skilled professionals are brought in, such as a tax specialist,

"Usually they build affordable homes, but the quality is lacking."

High-energy efficient homes, with solar boards and solar decking in place, are some of the extra steps taken by BOH, according to Mardenborough. Their homes also use more lumber per inch than other builders with higher grades of windows, insulation and air conditioning standards.

"The thing is to see someone who thought they could never get a quality home and to see their faces when they sign over the documents and they get the keys to their home," Mardenborough said. "And it's not a tacky home, we're



The Pulse of Entertainment

## Deborah Cox gives wonderful promise on her first R&B CD release in six years

BY EUNICE MOSELEY

Before there was Alicia Keys and Mario, there was Deborah Cox, the "discovery" of Clive Davis when he was at his Arista Records label. Cox was a background singer for Celine Dion when Clive took her under his wing. Thirteen years later after her self titled debut in 1995, which included the hit she co-wrote, "Sentimental," Deborah releases her first R&B CD in six years on DECO Recording/Image Entertainment titled "The Promise."

"Last year's album was a tribute to Dinah Washington, it received a Grammy nomination," powerhouse vocalist/songwriter Deborah Cox said about her tribute CD off the DECCA label when asked about the long period between albums. "I wanted to mix it up a bit...don't want them bored," she went on to say about her new CD, "The Promise."

Bored you will not be on "The Promise" which can be considered a party album for Cox - who co-wrote the entire album - and enlisted the help of hit makers Jimmy

Jam and Terry Lewis, John Legend and of course her childhood sweet heart, business partner and husband Lascelles Stephens (just to name a few).

"I had so much flexibility," Deborah said about producing an album on a label she owns. "I have to micro-manage...manager every aspect...It is an insult when corporate people get in the way of creativity. People want to be part of the success... (they) can get in the way."

But Cox says of the hard work of having your own

label is all worth it when you have a product you are totally satisfied with and one that she (and husband) will reap most of the benefits on. Deborah is a multi-platinum selling artist whose second album "One Wish" in 1998 achieved platinum status giving her fans the hits "We Can't Be Friends" and "No Body is Suppose to Be Here," which was the number one single for 14 consecutive weeks. In 2002 she released "The Morning After" on Clive Davis' J Records.

Deborah went on to

become an actress appearing in the films "Love Come Down" and "A Good Man is Hard to Find" starring Golden Brooks and Darrin Dewitt Henson, as well as an episode of "Nash Bridges." She went on to tour in musicals such as David Talbert's "Love on Layaway" and Tim Rice and Elton Johns' "Aida."

The beautiful title track, "The Promise," is written by John Legend and co-produced by Cox.

"That song amplifies where I am right now as a mother, wife, friend, sis-

ter..." Deborah said about the powerful selection. "I heard the song two years ago and kept that song...its special...a song to sing to a loved one."

Aside from the title track my favorite cuts on "The Promise" CD are "All Over Me," co-written by Cox and Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis, a sexy number; "Where Do We Go From Here," which she co-wrote, has a Pop dance feel to it; "Love is not Made in Words," a cute Pop/R&B song, and "Beautiful U R," which is a "hot" Pop dance number.

## African Film Festival is Second Event in African Unity Festival 2009

DFW International Community Alliance is hosting the region's first African Film Festival as part of the African Unity Festival. The film screening is the second event in the five-weekend festival, and will be held on Saturday, April 25, at SMU's Meadows School of the Arts, from 1p.m. to 5 p.m.

Four films will be shown that represent multiple African nations and social issues, and will be presented in their original language, with English subtitles. Admission is FREE. The African Film Festival is supported by SMU's Meadows School of the Arts.

Following is the list of films scheduled for African Film Festival 2009. For more information, call our office at

972-661-2764

**1:00 pm - "God grew tired of us" - Sudan** award winner at the 2006 Sundance Film Festival

Directed by Christopher Quinn

An uplifting documentary that follows the resettlement in the United States of three young men uprooted as children by the civil war in Sudan. Capturing their wonder at things Westerners take for granted, this documentary paints an intimate portrait of strangers in a strange land and makes you proud of what America offers to the rest of the world and worried that it can't keep its promises. 90 min

**2:30 pm PANEL DISCUSSION** on Refugees and Adjustment to Cultural Differences in USA

**3:00 pm - "War Dance" - Uganda** nominated for a 2008 Academy Award

Directed by Sean Fine and Andrea Nix

Set in civil war-ravaged Northern Uganda, this extraordinary film follows the lives of three youngsters who attend school in a refugee camp and find hope through a rich tradition of song and dance. Over the course of three months, the film's creative team observes the three youngsters as they prepare for the event and gain their confidence enough to have them discuss the horrors they have experienced and express their individual fears, hopes, and dreams. 107 min

**1:00 pm - "Angels in the Dust" - South Africa** nominated for a 2009

Academy Award

Directed by Louise Hogarth

The inspiring story of a courageous, loving South African woman who abandons a life of luxury to open a home and school for 500

orphaned children who are suffering from AIDS. For a nation overwhelmed by an epidemic of HIV/AIDS, orphans, rape, violence, and apartheid's ugly legacy, the film offers a pathway of hope and shows that one person

can create change and be a noble model for the future. 95 min

**2:30 pm PANEL DISCUSSION** on AIDS in Africa

3:00 pm film selection pending

## Take Your Show Out of the Shower

Think you're ready to step into the spotlight? Garnier Fructis, the official hair care sponsor of American Idol, has launched a nationwide contest. Anyone over the age of 18 is invited to rock their style by showcasing their favorite song.

Fully clothed contestants are asked to perform up to 1 minute of a selected tune and upload their video submissions to the web. Entrants are

encouraged to let their personality shine and will be judged on their originality, style and creativity. Deadline for entries is March 16th 2009.

Semi-finalists will be selected and their videos will be uploaded to the [garnier.com/idol](http://garnier.com/idol) website by April 1st, where their videos can be reviewed and voted on through April 30th. The semi-finalist with the most

votes wins the grand prize which will be posted on the [garnier.com/idol](http://garnier.com/idol) website on or about May 15th 2009.

The grand prize winner and a guest will be flown to Los Angeles and attend the American Idol 2009 season finale, receive \$5,000 cash, and a fabulous hair style makeover.

For more information on the contest, how to enter or vote, go to [garnier.com/idol](http://garnier.com/idol).





## Study Shows Disconnect between African American Attitudes and Actions When It Comes to Personal Financial Planning

TAVIS SMILEY AND NATIONWIDE INSURANCE RELEASE NEW SURVEY RESULTS

(BLACK PR WIRE)

African Americans are more optimistic about their financial future over the next year than the general population, but the majority of those responding acknowledge they don't have a financial game plan and many don't know where to start. A new survey of 1,200 participants commissioned by The Smiley Group and Nationwide Insurance shows 58 percent of African Americans expect their household situation to be better a year from now, compared to only 30 percent of the general population sharing similar optimism.

While African Americans say they think their financial situation will improve in the next year, most of those surveyed indicated they are not taking deliberate actions to better their financial circumstances:

- Less than half say they are proactive about their financial future
- in 4 say they do not have a written financial plan
- 1 in 3 say they do not know where to start when it comes to personal financial planning

African Americans are more confident than their general population peers in their ability to make sav-

ings and investment decisions (52 percent vs. 43 percent), but are also more likely to indicate they are struggling with credit card debt (38 percent vs. 32 percent).

On saving for college, nearly half of all survey participants with children under 21 said they are very or extremely worried about being able to afford a college education for their children, while only about one in 20 of all survey participants say they actually have a college savings plan. Only 3 percent say saving for education is the most important goal.

"It's one thing to be positive, but it's another to be practical, proactive and prepared to weather this difficult economic climate," said Tavis Smiley. "This survey reveals the critical need for an honest assessment of our financial status so that we can be sure that we are taking the steps necessary to safeguard the future for ourselves, our families and the next generation."

The study also reports that nearly nine out of 10 African Americans acknowledge they do not have a professional financial advisor, because they don't think they need one or think they can't afford one.

Of those who aren't actively avoiding the topic, African Americans reported that they are talking to their children about financial matters. Three out of four parents with children under 21 say they have discussed saving money with their children, and three-fifths have done so within the past month. One out of four have discussed saving money in the past six months. However, of those participants with children in school, eight out of 10 acknowledge they have not researched if their school teaches about saving money.

"Exposing our children and young adults to basic information about finances and personal financial planning will have a profound effect on how the next generation spends, saves and invests," said

Barnhardt. "The current economic environment will leave a permanent impression on 17- to 25-year-olds. The Great Depression created a generation of risk-averse spendthrifts. The 80s and 90s created a generation of hungry consumers with a high tolerance for risk. The deep downturn we're now in will likely influence not only financial habits, but also the shape of public policy and the types of financial products the market offers."

"We've got to be a part of the national dialogue about how to get beyond this economic crisis," adds Smiley. "The more we are all empowered with information, tools and resources, the more we all can contribute to making America as good as its promise."

## Old Gold — To Save or to Sell?

(Family Features)

If you're thinking about selling old or broken jewelry, there are some things you should know.

Gold is usually purchased in grams, though some buyers may use "pennyweight" instead. A reputable company will price items separately so that price per gram can be easily checked. Make sure that the items are truly gold and sil-

ver with a magnet. If a piece reacts to the magnet, it contains an iron alloy, which means it is plated, not solid.

Look for a mark. Most gold is marked 10k, 14k, 18k, 417, 585 or 750, and sterling silver pieces are marked .925 or Sterling. Marks can be very tiny, so use a magnifying glass or jeweler's loupe.

According to the Better Business Bureau, consumers should only sell gold or silver in the presence of the buyer.

## Garland Hosts Vendor/Buyer Mixer

The City of Garland is hosting a Vendors/Buyer Mixer on March 10 at 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Vendors are invited to this Come-And-Go mixer to meet buyers from various area government agencies and learn more about how to do business with these entities.

A Vendor Education briefing will be held from 3:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Both events will be held at the Granville Arts Center in the Atrium, located at 300 N. Fifth Street in Garland, Texas.

The following agencies will have representatives present: City of Garland, Garland I.S.D., Garland Chamber of Commerce, City of Frisco, City of Mesquite, City of Rockwall, City of Rowlett, and North Central Texas Regional Certification Agency.

This is the 15th year for our outreach event. All current and perspective vendors are invited to stop by and meet the Buyers for local governmental agencies.

For more information, call 972-205-2415 (City of Garland Purchasing Department).

## AIR CONDITIONER PARTS

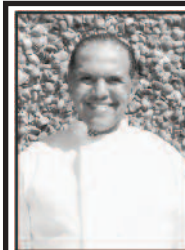
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# ATTENTION!!!

## Collin County Black Chamber of Commerce

Meeting: **Thursday, March 12, 2009**

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

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

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



# CITIZEN, continued from Page 1

their own communities.

Just about any problem anywhere has been solved by someone somewhere. The challenge is to identify these solutions, incorporate them into national policies, and help states and local communities put proven solutions into practice.

As a former state senator President Obama knows he can find solutions in surprising places -- for instance:

• **IN EDUCATION** -- Urban schools have dropout rates of up to 50 percent and college-bound rates of only 10 percent. Yet, Deborah Meier founded Central Park East, a public high school in Harlem where 90 percent of students graduate, and 90 percent of graduates attend college.

• **IN CRIME** -- Two million people in prison costs about \$50 billion a year, plus the cost of building prisons and wasted lives. Despite the expense, over 70 percent of released inmates commit crimes again and return to jail. But at Delancey Street rehabilitation center in San Francisco, criminals and drug addicts turn their lives around and become productive citizens. There's no cost to taxpayers since the center is financed by businesses run as training programs by the residents.

• **IN HEALTH AND SCIENCE** -- About one million people have autism and severe problems with language and social interaction. Yet, The Son-Rise Program in Sheffield, Massachusetts has helped hundreds of families enable children and adults with autism to improve in all areas of learning and communication, sometimes experiencing dramatic improvement.

Solutions like these are all over the country. But currently there is no systematic way to identify and build on best practices in the social sector.

Successful business innovations are often adopted by other companies, but that's rarer for social innovations.

A White House Office for Solutions would be a clearinghouse for projects that are already working in fields such as education, prison reform, environment, and energy. It would provide a vital link between the creativity of the American people and the government.

The White House Office for Solutions would launch a nationwide treasure hunt inviting citizens to find the best of what's working in their area. For example, educators can report on the best schools. People in community safety groups can report on the best ways to reduce crime.

Citizens become Solution Scouts, discovering breakthrough solutions and reporting them to the White House Office for Solutions. The Office would vet the recommended programs, sending the best to the appropriate federal agency.

Solutions would be made available to the public and elected officials nationwide through a website and regional confer-

ences. For example, successful models of education would become available to governors, mayors, teachers and parents. In this way, a breakthrough anywhere can become a breakthrough everywhere.

By building on what works, we can dramatically improve the quality of life for millions of people and for billions of dollars less than we currently spend.

Just imagine: If even 10 percent of current prisoners were enrolled in a Delancey Street-styled rehabilitation center, we could help 200,000 people leave a life of crime and drugs and become productive members of society. And for \$5 billion dollars less than we would have spent annually. Likewise, if just 10 percent of people with autism had access to programs like The Son-Rise Program, we could help about 170,000 people and their families nationwide experience dramatically better results for less than half of the current treatment cost.

The White House Office for Solutions would have broad appeal among Democrats, Republicans, Independents and others, moving us beyond parti-

san ship to partnership. It would give substance to our yearning for change, and give all citizens an opportunity to help our country.

LeCain is a solutions to social problems, and a former Washington, DC-based speaker and writer, the Massachusetts Assistant Secretary of State. Copyright (C) 2009 by the American Forum. 2/09

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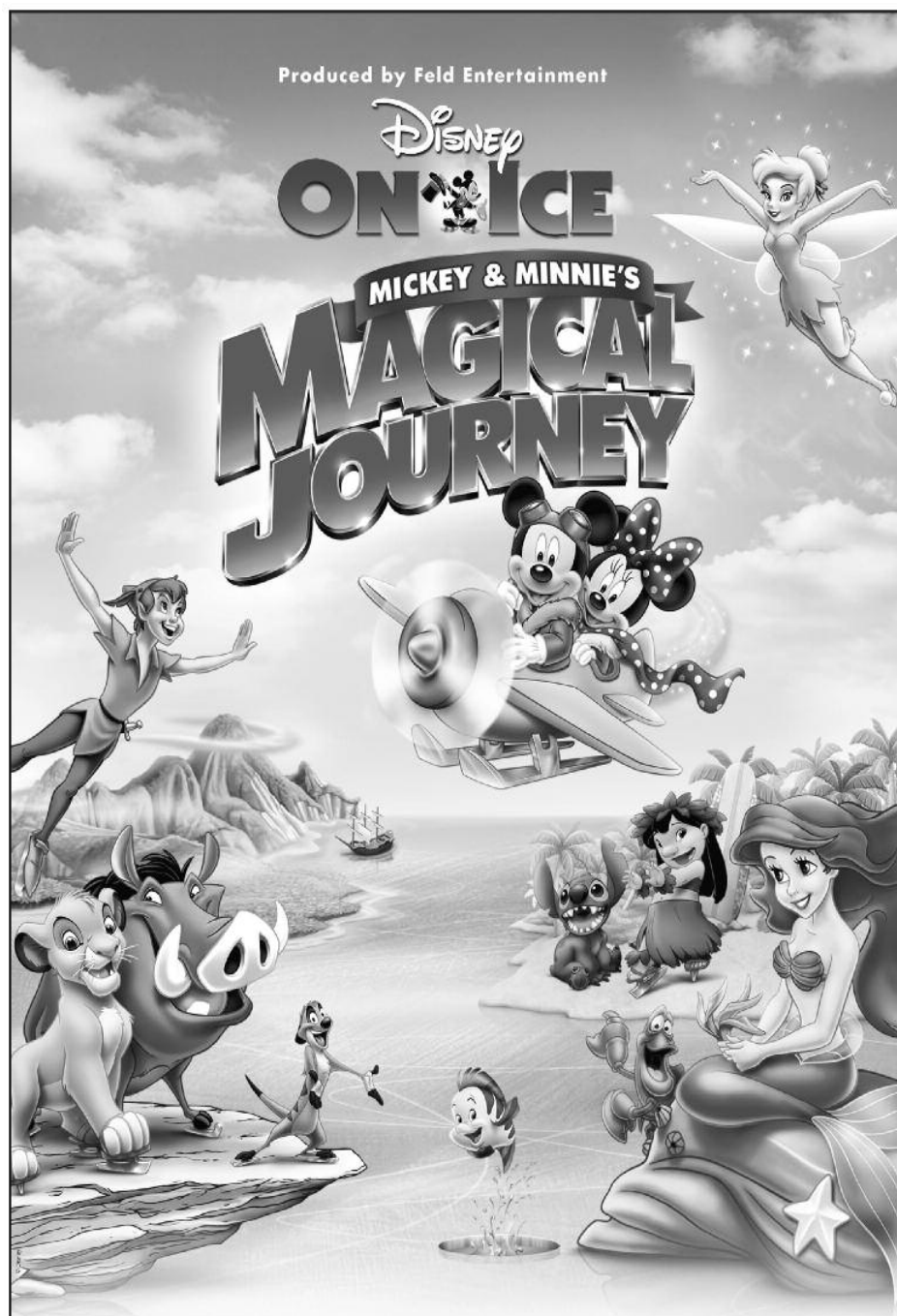


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**26\* - 29**



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Arena Box Offices or call **1-800-745-3000** Toll Free

Groups call 1-866-248-8740 ext. 103 Toll Free



## PRODUCTION, continued from Page 1

being a bi-racial man, has challenged many to question how Americans think of and label race. Wilson wanted to present a work revealing a subtle truth about the cognitive frames shaping our thinking on the subject.

"I believe in unveiling things shroud in secrecy and putting them on the table for everyone to discuss, and the issues of self-hatred and racial identity have been tucked away far

too long."

Malcolm, a six-grader at Plano's Huffines Elementary plays the young Chance Davenport who is bi-racial and the main character in deep conflict with his mother and himself. Quite the opposite of Malcolm, who is very close to his mother, both of them enjoy working together. Kelley and Malcolm have preformed together in other theater productions in Los Angeles

and at a church production in Dallas.

Kelley said the two of them began working together when she could not find babysitters so Malcolm attended auditions with her. She soon discovered, "He's a ham." Malcolm was bitten by the acting bug when he was two years old and has been passionate about it every since. It is the only thing that keeps him from running track and skate

boarding, his other passions.

Kelley plays both a doctor and a waitress in the play. If By Chance, she said is content rich with a riveting plot requiring the duo to go deep to reach the depth of the their characters.

"I love this script," Kelley said. "The quality of the writing and acting is what I enjoy the most."

If By Chance is directed by Bill Fountain. The cast includes Cameron Law, Perri

Camper, Lisa Whitfield, Monique Vazquez, Janis Roscoe, Alan Jackson, Arnulfo Diaz & Malcolm Underwood. The play is produced by The MET Theatre.

If By Chance opens Friday, March 6th, at 8:00 PM in the Bishop Arts Theatre Center in Oak Cliff. Previews begin Thursday March 5th at 7:30 PM. The play run begins Friday, Saturday and Sunday March 5th through March 5th.

Thursday performances begin at 7:30 PM, Saturday and Sunday matinee performances at 3 PM. Friday and Saturday performances at 8 PM. Ticket prices: \$15 online, \$20 at the door.

Bishop Arts Theatre Center is located at 215 S. Tyler Street Dallas, TX 75208. If you would like additional information, or to purchase tickets visit the website at [www.withoutlabels.com](http://www.withoutlabels.com) or ll (310) 460-9092.

## TEMP, continued from Page 1

City Manager Bill Dollar says, "This program is a win-win for City government efficiency and citizens in need of employment opportunities. We will see an immediate cost savings by minimizing fees paid to temporary employment agencies."

"The Retiree Temporary Staffing Pool is beneficial in that it reduces the transition time from initial hire to work productivity as training time is minimized. We have heard from many of our recent retirees that they are interested in part-time employment opportunities," says Priscilla Wilson, Senior Managing Director Human Resources.

Temporary employees may receive benefits ranging from competitive pay based on their skills and experience, payment at time and a half when working on a scheduled City holiday and priority consideration when full-time positions become available.

Retired City employees who return in a temporary capacity may receive benefits that include competitive compensation, up to 4 hours of holiday pay for standard holidays that occur during a scheduled work week and the ability to earn "flex dollars" toward payment of retiree health insurance premi-

ums. Retirees will enjoy these benefits without having an adverse impact on their pension payments.

"I think it's beneficial for everyone involved," says Loren Smith, who retired from the City's IT department in 2007 after 26 years of service. "Retirees bring with them valuable knowledge and experience and at the same time benefit from the opportunity to earn extra income. That can make a tremendous difference in a tough economy."

To apply, candidates may go to the City of Garland website [www.ci.garland.tx.us](http://www.ci.garland.tx.us) and complete an on-line application for either the retiree temp pool or the general temp pool found in the job opportunities/job listing. Approved applications will be added to the pool and candidates may be contacted as City departments have needs.

For more information, email [hrrecruitment@ci.garland.tx.us](mailto:hrrecruitment@ci.garland.tx.us) or call 972-205-2475.

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## Church Happenings

### CALVARY PHILADELPHIA MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

March 15, 4 pm

You are invited to our  
Spring Musical at the  
church in Oak Cliff.

March 29, 3:30 pm

Join us as we honor  
Evangelist Shirley  
Stevenson, our Minister of  
Music, on her birthday.  
Call 214-3713581 for  
details on the two events  
above.

Rev. J.H. Moore, Jr. Pastor  
4703 Sunnyvale Street  
Dallas, TX 75216  
214-371-3581

### C.D. DIXON MINISTRIES

March 19 & 20, 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 DELIVER- ANCE MINISTRIES

This Saturday,

March 7, 1:30 - 3 pm

Visit Helen's House to  
receive, to give, and to fel-  
lowship. 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

### DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY'S NORTH DALLAS ALUMNAE CHAPTER

Now through April 18, 2009  
In conjunction with the  
Delta Sorority, the IRS,  
United Way, and the City of  
Dallas, FREE tax prepara-  
tion will be offered to tax-  
payers with \$40,000 or less  
income in 2008, or any sen-  
ior citizen, each Saturday in  
February, March and April  
@ the Willie B. Johnson  
Recreation Center, 12225  
Willowdell Drive in the  
Hamilton Park Community  
from 9:30 am to 2 pm. You  
must bring a photo I.D.; a  
W-2 Form for 2008; Form  
1099; a copy Social  
Security card; and any other  
information concerning  
their income and expenses  
for the year of 2008.

Carolyn Matthews,  
Chapter President  
P.O. Box 8306004  
Richardson, TX 75083-  
001

214-452-7835

(Voice Mail and Fax)

### 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 March 2009

Wednesdays, 7 pm

Get your praise on,  
Wednesday Night Live  
(WNL) @ our main cam-  
pus, 200 Belmont Drive in  
Allen. Call the church for  
details.

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

### HABITAT FOR HUMANITY OF S. COLLIN COUNTY March 7, 6:30 pm

Join us for a "Building  
Foundations Building Lives  
Samsung 2009 Gala &  
Casino Night @ the  
Radisson Hotel, Campbell  
& Central Expressway in  
Richardson, TX. This will  
be an evening of fun to ben-  
efit a great organization.  
There will be a reception, a

live and silent auction,  
gourmet meal and a casino  
night. Black tie is optional.  
Auction items include hotel  
stays in New York, Hawaii  
and Santa Fe; a two bed-  
room Ocean Reef condo in  
Key Largo for four days.  
Call Scott Blair @ 214-405-  
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### OASIS WORSHIP CENTER OF IRVING 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.  
Scripture Text: Ruth  
Chapter 3.  
Loretta Williams,  
Founder

### SANCTUARY OF PRAISE FELLOWSHIP OF PLANO

March 8, 6 pm

Join us for a One Night  
Revival with Pastor Cedric

Jackson and the Love  
Fellowship Church of  
Dallas. Call Pastor John  
Wilson III for details at  
469-853-2380.  
Rev. John Wilson, III  
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Sunday Morning Services  
8:15AM Story Elementary  
10:45AM Story Elementary  
1550 Edelweiss - Allen, Tx

Wednesday Night Live  
Wed Prayer Service / Bible Study  
7:00 PM  
200 Belmont Dr - Allen, Tx



Pastor W.L. Stafford Sr.  
Lady Tasha Stafford



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Sunday Morning Worship

10:00 am

Wednesday Nights

7:15 pm

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



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Sunday School ..... 9:30AM

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Shaun Rabb, Senior Pastor



# Take Time to Celebrate Texas History in March

BY JERRY PATTERSON,  
Commissioner  
Texas General Land Office

AUSTIN - In Texas, we're surrounded by our history. From businesses that feature images of the Alamo to streets named after Texas heroes, history is a part of our daily lives. It is easy to take it for granted.

For instance, I live in a city called Austin. I work in the Stephen F. Austin building. As Land Commissioner, I preside over the Texas General Land Office Archives, which contain historic documents from Stephen F. Austin himself. His Registro is here, the ledger where he recorded the land grant information for his historic colony. His signature, in English and Spanish, graces countless documents hidden away in the 35 million pieces of paper that make up our collection.

Yet, I rarely pause to remember the influence of this man. That is unfortunate. For so much of what we have today, so many things we enjoy, are due to those that came before us.

Consider the battle that won Texas its independence, San Jacinto. In eighteen minutes, a small ragtag army soundly defeated a well-trained, well-equipped army and later captured its commander-in-chief. That victory on 21 April, 1836 led to the creation of the Republic of Texas. After ten years, the Republic of Texas gave way to the State of Texas, which in part prompted the Mexican War. U.S. victory in the Mexican War brought the southwest into the American fold, opening the western frontier and achieving Manifest Destiny.

Because of 18 minutes in 1836, the United States of America was launched as a world power, making San Jacinto one of the most important battles in world history.

Examples abound. Because of the oil boom ushered in by Spindletop in 1901, Texas helped inaugurate the mass exploration and production of oil. Apart from vastly increasing the wealth of Texas, this gave birth to the modern petrochemical industry and thus changed the world.

Even the future is affected by the past. Texas is now the largest generator of wind energy in the nation. We also lead the nation in the promotion and exploration of offshore wind energy in the Gulf of Mexico. Know who is responsible? Sam Houston. Thanks to Sam Houston, when Texas entered the Union in 1846 we maintained sovereign rights to all submerged lands 10 miles into the Gulf. This decision has earned Texas more than \$6 billion dollars that would have otherwise gone into federal coffers from offshore oil and gas. Lesser coastal states do not have the same provision. So more than 160 years ago, Sam Houston ensured Texas would be the leader for offshore wind energy. It is fitting the first major Gulf wind farm will be built just offshore from the city that bears his name.

Therefore, if you wonder why we celebrate Texas Independence Day, why there is still a Texas History Month, I hope you will remember that Texas is a special place and it is made so because of our history.

Thanks to Texans like Austin, Houston, Juan Seguin and others we can see a bright future, for we stand on the shoulders of giants.

## A Stronger Heart for Reggie

Reggie Hopkins of Mesquite has a heart illness and needs a heart pump in order to survive. Hopkins is self-employed and his health insurance is not a group policy. Therefore, the heart problem that he has is considered preexisting and not covered by this health policy.

The cost of the surgery is \$300,000.00. Hopkins family and friends are seeking to raise \$300,000.00 soon as doctors have indicated his heart is not strong enough to sustain his life without this heart pump.

Victor Reginald Hopkins was born November 15, 1952 in the small town of Cairo Illinois. He overcame many hardships and obstacles to obtain his degree in accounting from the University of Northern Illinois. In 1981, he earned his CPA designation.

This year, Hopkins and his high school sweetheart

Cheryl will celebrate 34 years of marriage. The couple has one son, Dedric and although Dedric is their only child, the couple have invited into their home numerous children from various friends and family members and are currently raising three children.

Hopkins is a leader in his church and volunteers for many inner-city ministries, including serving as the Past Treasurer for the Mesquite branch of the NAACP.

A trust has been created to receive your donations to cover both direct and indirect medical expenses. Anyone interested can make donations at any Chase bank and deposit funds into the Hopkins Fam TR account. Place the last four digits 3173 in the memo section. If you have any questions please contact: Sharon Wash at 972-780-7585 or Gregg Whiteman at 972-274-5635 or 214-417-3813

## CHRIS BROWN, continued from Page 1

time a woman identified Brown as her attacker during an early morning dispute in an upscale Los Angeles neighborhood.

Phone messages left for Brown's lawyer and publicist were not immediately returned

Thursday.

Brown issued a statement a week after the incident saying that he was "sorry and saddened" about the incident. Rihanna also later issued a statement, saying she wouldn't comment on the

alleged beating at the request of authorities. She thanked fans for their support.

Brown's arrest has been a dent in the "Run It!" singer's squeaky-clean image, and compelled sponsors to drop

him or not renew his deals.

The alleged attack also came hours before the couple were scheduled to appear and perform at the Grammy Awards. Both were no-shows for event.

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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](mailto:info@dallasmtpisgah.org)  
Website: [www.dallasmtpisgah.org](http://www.dallasmtpisgah.org)

**Ben Washington Baptist Church, Inc.**  
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Irving, TX 75061  
Church 972-790-8421 Fax 972-986-6590  
Email: [church@bwbctriving.org](mailto:church@bwbctriving.org)  
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6:00 pm: Baptist Training Union	7:30 pm: Bible Study

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website: [www.fbc-online.net](http://www.fbc-online.net)

**Schedule of Services:**

Sunday  
Early Morning Worship-8:00 a.m.  
Sunday School Classes-9:30 a.m.  
Morning Worship-11:00 a.m.

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

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

Dr. C. Paul McBride, Pastor

**"The Church with a Vision"**



# OPPORTUNITY, from Page 5

abled people by developing a ten year plan to increase treatment choices; ideally, the plan should be drafted by the year 2010. These bills propose the plan created include ways to reduce wait time for community-based facilities and treatment, provide more funding for community facilities, and consolidate and close some state facilities.

Ellis commented, "It is about providing current residents and family members of current residents with a choice, and giving them every tool possible to be comfortable with that choice."

The Senate Education Committee also heard testimony about the education of

students with disabilities. Senator Eddie Lucio, Jr.'s bill, SB 100, would provide teachers with better training on how to teach students with autism and other disabilities. If passed, the training would be voluntary, and teachers would be rewarded with a stipend.

"Federal regulations require that students with disabilities be taught in the least restrictive environment," Lucio said. "However, many general education teachers do not have the necessary training to provide appropriate instruction to students with disabilities."

State disabled care was designated as an "emergency

issue" by Governor Rick Perry earlier in the Legislative Session, making it eligible for immediate action. As of Friday, February 27, SB 643 and SB 100 are being reviewed in committee, and SB 1060 and HB 1589 have yet to be read or scheduled for any action or committee reviews.

Also in the Senate, on Wednesday, February 25, the Senate Intergovernmental Relations Committee began looking at the housing market in Texas.

Dr. Jim Gaines, an economist at Texas A&M's Real Estate Center, testified before the committee, "Relatively speaking, Texas has been


doing very, very well, compared to many of the other big states, and particularly to the national level."

He reported Texas foreclosures have decreased since 2007, and the state is currently ranked 24th among all states in foreclosures. Gaines said that the decrease is due to less over inflation than in

most states and that lenders are staying away from risky and interest only loans.

Gaines also told the committee he believes foreclosure rates should continue to decrease, and to ensure that decrease, the Legislature should work to keep Texas' overall economy strong and wait for the national housing crisis to stabilize.

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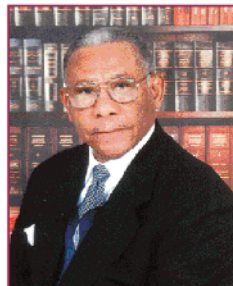
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Women's Ministry 7:00 pm  
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Monday School: 7pm  
Men's Fellowship: Friday 7:00pm



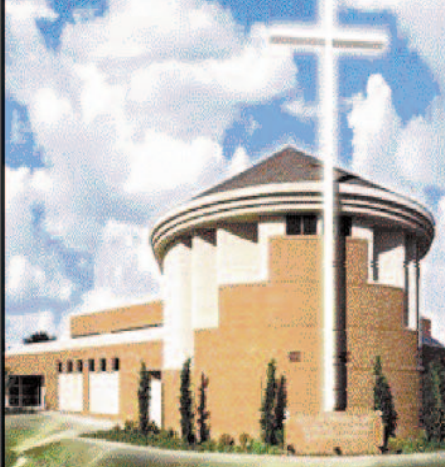
Pastor Richie J. Rusk  
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