

North Dallas Gazette

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Rare Words Spell Success for 2 at UT Dallas Bees



Lorenzo Johnson

Winners in Contests Hosted by University Advance to Televised Competition

The words mynheer and gavelkind may not be used often, but they were the keys to winning the 2009 Dallas County public and private spelling bees.

The top spellers from the contests move on to the televised regional bee on March 21.

Adit Vidyashankar, a student from Newton Academy in Coppell, won the contest for private-school students on Feb. 12. He correctly spelled myn-

heer, a title used before the name of a Dutch or Dutch-speaking man.

The runner-up in the private-schools contest was Hannah Harris from Irving's Universal Academy. A total of 45

See SPELLING, Page 6

A Shift in Education Goals Could Put More Texans to Work

By Susan Combs,
Texas Comptroller

Vern Huriburt, a production manager at Raytheon in McKinney, knows the value of career-technical education and how it can foster a quality work force. He also knows that schools sometimes

fail to encourage students in developing in-demand career skills.

"Numerous students are getting lost in the shuffle," Huriburt said. "We have a young man here who works in our warehouse moving boxes. He asked, 'What do I have to do to be a machinist?'"

Never in high school was it proposed to take machining."

The scenario Huriburt describes is not unique. The Metroplex area — and Texas as a whole — stands to reap significant economic rewards if we shift some of our education policies from the tradition-

al emphasis on four-year colleges and direct more attention, money and research toward work force training opportunities offered by community and technical colleges.

Community and technical college graduates

See GOALS, Page 12

2009 Career Futures Initiatives Job Expo and Career Fest

State Representative Barbara Mallory Caraway and Dallas Independent School Board Trustee (DISD) Lew Blackburn will host the 2nd Annual Career Futures Initiative Job Expo and Career Fest on Saturday April 4, 2009. This event provides high

school students with an opportunity to meet representatives from profit and not-for-profit businesses offering paid summer internships.

The "2009 Career Futures Initiatives Job Expo and Career Fest" will be held from 8:30am -

2pm at the Bill J. Priest Institute, 1402 Corinth St., Dallas. The "Career Futures Initiative," created for incoming juniors through graduating seniors in high school aged 16 to 18, is a combination of the ideas and efforts of Rep. Mallory Caraway and

Dallas ISD Trustee Lew Blackburn.

The initiative was created to help raise the success rates of Dallas ISD students and is dedicated to increasing students'

See CAREER, Page 13

COVER STORY

Study: Children of Imprisoned Parents Suffer Adverse, Long-lasting Impact



See IMPRISONED PARENTS, Page 9



Mary Mary takes us to new heights on their new release.

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

COMMENTARY

High Cost Lenders Profit from Desperate Times

BY REBECCA
LIGHTSEY
Texas Lone Star Forum

As more businesses close and unemployment lines lengthen, a virtually unregulated sector of the Texas economy continues to rake in huge profits by providing high-cost payday and auto title loan services that often drag desperate families deeper into financial crisis.

A provider of such

loans recently reported record-breaking annual revenues topping \$1 billion and a net income of \$81 million.

So how do small-dollar loan companies make this kind of profit in the middle of the nation's worst economic crisis since the Great Depression?

In Texas, the answer is

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People In The News...



Denise Hill



Rep. Yvonne Davis



Stephanie D. Wilson

See Page 2

Denise Hill

Known as "The Gospel Lady," Denise Hill is a veteran of the Christian entertainment and gospel radio industries. She is also the founder and owner of Purpose Press Publishing, where she's determined to run her life and company solely based on transparent Christian principles. Born and raised in the suburbs of Washington, DC, Denise attended Bowie State University in Bowie, Maryland, where she graduated Magna Cum Laude with a

Bachelors of Science degree in Communications Media.

She continued her studies at Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin where she received her Master of Arts degree in Electronic Broadcast Communications.

Denise began her professional career at gospel radio station WYCB 1340-AM where she served as Midday Host, Morning Show Producer, co-host, as well as Programming Assistant and Promotions Director. Her

charisma, humor and professionalism compelled WKYS 93.9-FM to come knocking on Denise's door. In August of 1999 she began as the personality of "Sunday Morning Worship and Praise" and was quickly rated among the top Washington, DC Sunday morning gospel programs. It was while at WKYS that Denise garnered the nickname, "The Gospel Lady."

Currently, as President of World Harvest Communications and General Manager for WKMB 1070 AM in Plainfield, New Jersey. Her youthful energy and mass

appeal are vital ingredients in moving gospel music as well as inspirational media and entertainment to the next level.

Recently, Denise published her first book entitled, "Inside: What No One Is Telling the Independent Gospel Artist" through her literary agency, Purpose Press Publishing. "Inside"... is laced with many years of Denise's experiences in life and expertise in the Gospel industry.

Beginning in February '09, Denise will serve as a contributing writer for



GospelCity.com, the largest urban Gospel portal in the world, where she'll write three columns, "Ask Denise", which is based on her new book, another will be a lifestyle column and lastly a

blog for women.

Denise is the founder of The Hannah Women's Network, a community organization offering networking, resources, and support to women ready to discover and walk in their purpose. Denise is also a teacher. She returned to her undergraduate alma mater, Bowie State University, to teach various broadcast communication courses as an Adjunct Professor. She has served as an instructor at Prince George's Community College and Connecticut School of Broadcasting.

Rep. Yvonne Davis

Rep. Yvonne Davis, newly appointed chair of the House Committee on Urban

Affairs, outlined the framework of the committee's agenda for the 81st Legislative Session during the committee's organizational meeting on Thursday, February 26th.

"To meet the critical challenges facing our state and municipalities, the House Committee on Urban Affairs must aggressively accelerate our

approach to addressing the needs of our citizens,"

Chairwoman Davis stated. "The current fiscal realities have placed constraints on state and local budgets. We can no longer address issues in isolation, we must take a critical look from the entire State's perspective. With limited local and state dollars, it is critical that our local and state governments work as strategic partners to maximize the total impact of new available federal dol-



lars in order to increase the benefits from the limited resources," continued Chairwoman Davis.

To facilitate Legislators' understanding

of the conditions of our municipalities /communities, mayors representing a diverse snapshot of the State have been invited to testify before the committee in a public hearing scheduled for Thursday, March 5th. The mayors have been asked to provide the committee with an overview of the "state of their city".

"Our city's mayors are on the frontline, facing issues such as infrastructure needs, pension and health benefit cost, affordable housing and the affect

that our state's changing demographics have on their tax base. Their input is critical to ensure that meaningful legislation is drafted and implemented that truly addresses the needs of citizens" Chairwoman Davis stated.

Mayors from Arlington, Austin, Corpus Christi, Dallas, Desoto, El Paso, Fort Worth, Galveston Houston, Plano, Round Rock, San Antonio, Katy, Irving, Brownsville and Grand Prairie have been invited to testify before the House

Committee on Urban Affairs. The committee is scheduled to convene at 10:30 a.m. or upon final adjournment of the House in Room E2.028 of the Capitol Extension.

The House Committee on Urban Affairs considers all bills pertaining to the powers of municipalities and other units of local government. In addition, the committee oversees the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs which regulates state and federal affordable housing programs.

Stephanie D. Wilson

After graduating from Harvard in 1988, Stephanie D. Wilson worked as a Loads and Dynamics engineer for Titan IV. Wilson was responsible for performing coupled loads analyses for the launch vehicle and payloads dur-



ing flight events. Wilson left Martin Marietta in

1990 to attend graduate school at the University of Texas. Her research focused on the control and modeling of large, flexible space structures. Following the completion of her graduate work, she began working for the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California. As a member of the Attitude and Articulation Control Subsystem for the Galileo spacecraft, Wilson was responsible for assessing attitude controller performance, science platform pointing accuracy, antenna pointing accuracy and spin rate accuracy. She worked in the areas of sequence development and testing as well.

Selected by NASA in

April 1996, Wilson reported to the Johnson Space Center in August 1996. She was initially assigned technical duties in the Astronaut Office Space Station Operations Branch to work with Space Station payload displays and procedures. Following her work in Mission Control, Wilson was assigned technical duties in the Astronaut Office Shuttle Operations Branch involving the Space Shuttle Main Engines, External Tank and Solid Rocket Boosters. A veteran of two space flights, STS-121 in 2006, and STS-120 in 2007, Wilson has logged over 28 days in space. Wilson is assigned to the crew of STS-131, targeted for launch in February 2010.

STS-121 (July 4-17, 2006), was a return-to-

flight test mission and assembly flight to the International Space Station. During the 13-day flight the crew of Space Shuttle Discovery tested new equipment and procedures that increase the safety of space shuttles, repaired a rail car on the International Space Station and produced never-before-seen, high-resolution images of the Shuttle during and after its July 4 launch. Wilson supported robotic arm operations for vehicle inspection, multi-purpose logistics module installation and EVAs and was responsible for the transfer of more than 28,000 pounds of supplies and equipment to the ISS. The crew also performed maintenance on the space station and delivered a new Expedition 13 crew mem-

ber to the station. The mission was accom-

plished in 306 hours, 37 minutes and 54 seconds.

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TRUTH CLINIC

The Emasculation of Michael Steele

If the current media buzz is correct the Republican National Committee's newly elected chairman, Michael Steele, is about to join the exclusive club of used and abused token blacks that Republicans have emasculated.

The feud between black Michael Steele and white powerhouse Rush Limbaugh so soon after Steele's election is causing people to wonder who really runs the GOP. What is the fuss all about?

The Republican National Committee, in an attempt to stop the party's headlong skid into oblivion, recently elected Michael Steele as their party chairman. It wasn't an easy task. With five candidates vying for the position it took a total of six excruciating rounds of voting to finally anoint a chairman.

On the sixth and final ballot Michael Steele beats Katon Dawson by a vote of 91 to 77.

It is noted that the RNC charter states that a candidate must receive a simple majority of the 168 (85) votes from committee

members in order to win the chairmanship. The RNC committee that elected Michael Steele as chairman had only three black members which seriously undermines the viability of the Republican initiative on outreach and diversity.

So the question arises: Why would the Republican hierarchy stand by and let this divisive infighting go on between the newly elected RNC Chairman and arch-conservative Rush Limbaugh at this critical stage in reviving the party?

It appears that Steele in doing his flip-flop over first bashing Limbaugh and then apologizing has managed to put himself in a losing position. Not only has he angered the huge GOP base that is loyal to Limbaugh but he also has disappointed the Republican change advocates who believe that a new GOP is necessary but are fearful of Rush.

Was Steele's election as head of the GOP national committee just a sham? Perhaps, since the Republican track record is one of indulgence instead

of inclusion when it comes to elevating blacks. The travails of former Republican tokens HUD Secretary Sam Pierce, Congressman J. C. Watts, and Secretary of State Colin Powell are indicative of what is in store for Michael Steele if he remains unmanageable.

The reality of GOP inclusion is that when exceptional blacks are elevated to "leadership" status they are expected to be robots that carry the GOP promise of inclusion and diversity to minorities and not be policy makers. If the anointed ones do not fall in line then they are quickly stripped of their positions.

Chairman Steele, is the face of Republicanism that you want to be representative of your tenure as the RNC's HNHC that of a self proclaimed drug addict who prances around looking like the modern day version of a gluttonous Humpty Dumpty that delights in delivering rude and obnoxious diatribes but whines like a stuck pig when called to task?

If you still have one ounce of manhood left and

a shred of integrity in your heart you should not resign. Do not make it easy for the Limbaugh zealots to declare victory. Force the RNC members who elected you to take a stand on whether their votes were real or patronizing. Take responsibility for your remarks and rescind your apology.

If you resign because of the contrived allegations being circulated then you will validate that the demagogue being characterized as the Republican Party's de facto leader is indeed the Party's actual leader.

Stop talking so much and do your job. You were elected as Chairman because the RNC was desperate for change. The best thing you can do at this time is to get to work, hire a competent staff, and implement the change needed to regain voter appeal. Your leadership and effectiveness will be proven by election results and not by dignifying the venom of Rush Limbaugh.

James W. Breedlove

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

Voting Rights Bill Stalled In The House

BY HILARY O. SHELTON, NAACP

Legislation that passed the U.S. Senate (S. 160, the District of Columbia House Voting Rights Act) two weeks ago to give the residents of the District of Columbia voting representation in Congress is currently stalled in the House over the issues of gun violence and self-rule. Specifically, just prior to final passage by the Senate, and amendment was adopted which would override all of the city's gun violence prevention laws. Many of these laws have

been in place for almost 30 years and were enacted through the democratic process by the residents of the District of Columbia. They affect only D.C. residents who have consistently supported laws to ban handguns bought after 1976, require that registered firearms bought before 1976 must be kept unloaded and disassembled, or with the trigger locked and outlawed assault weapons altogether.

In addition to our strong support of H.R. 157 the District of Columbia House Voting Rights Act (the House companion to S. 160) the NAACP also

strongly opposes any move to repeal the District's self-enacted gun safety measures.

While some may disagree with these laws, it is clear that they were enacted democratically by officials who were duly elected by the citizens of the District of Columbia and that they continue to enjoy the support of the majority of the people who live under them. The mayor and the city council, all of whom were acting on behalf of their constituents, drafted, debated and finally enacted this legislation as a means of protecting their constituents, their families,

and law enforcement officers. The fact that these laws have remained on the books for more than 28 years is significant; the people of the District of Columbia, faced with unacceptably high rates of death by firearm (169 in DC in 2001) and the huge human and economic costs associated with gun violence (the closing of DC General hospital, which was overwhelmed by uninsured citizens coming in with gunshot wounds) have continued to support a variety of gun control laws to stem the tide of violence.

See VOTING RIGHTS, Page 15

Arrest of President of Sudan Sparks Flurry of Debates

(NNPA) – The possible arrest of Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir on war-crimes charges has unleashed a furious debate in the western press and among Africans.

Nobel Peace Prize winner Desmond Tutu, in a New York Times editorial this week, called it “shameful” that so many African leaders have rallied around al-Bashir who faces a possible arrest warrant over alleged war crimes in Darfur from the International Criminal

Court.

“Because the victims in Sudan are African, African leaders should be the staunchest supporters of efforts to see perpetrators brought to account,” wrote Tutu.

“Yet rather than stand by those who have suffered in Darfur, African leaders have so far rallied behind the man responsible for turning that corner of Africa into a graveyard.”

An opposing view appeared in the Times by Franklin Graham of the

Billy Graham Evangelistic Association. “I want to see justice served, but my desire for peace in Sudan is stronger,” he wrote. “...Given all the warring factions in Sudan, there is no guarantee that (al-Bashir’s) replacement would be better...Ultimately justice will be served by a power higher than the International Criminal Court. In the meantime, justice without peace would be a hollow victory.”

Al-Bashir, himself, at a mass rally in Khartoum on Sunday, blasted the ICC arrest threat. “Where was international justice during the invasions of Iraq and Afghanistan, the bombing of Gaza, and the crimes committed in the prisons of Guantánamo and Abu Ghraib?” he asked rhetorically.

If the warrant is granted and an arrest carried out, al-Bashir would become the first sitting head of state to be brought before the ICC since the court opened in 2002.

New Play Captures Courage of Women in Time of War

(NNPA) – African American playwright Lynn Nottage finds the courage and character of women living amidst war and the ever-present threat of sexual violence in her new play “Ruined,” now playing in a theatre in New York.

Based on interviews with victims of rape and mutilation from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Nottage produced a work of drama that tells

of the suffering of victims but also their efforts to rebuild their lives.

“Most of them were incredibly traumatized and yet they still found the strength to tell their stories,” Nottage said in an interview with The New York Times. “As painful as it was, I felt this urgency for them to recount every comment...At times I wanted to close my ears and stop listening. But I think they

really wanted to go on record, very much in the way that Holocaust survivors feel it’s incumbent on them to bear witness. They wanted the world to hear their stories.”

Ruined has been called “heart-wrenching,” “riveting,” “beautiful and hideous” by theatre critics. It features Congolese-rumba music composed by Zairean-born Dominic Kanza, with lyrics by Nottage.

Despite the ongoing violence, Nottage said she has hope for the Congolese women she met, “if other countries in the region come together to commit to the healing of Congo. If that’s able to happen, I do think there’s hope.”

COOKIN UP GOOD HEALTH

Lasagna

6-8 whole grain lasagna noodles, uncooked
1- 28 ounce jar your favorite spaghetti sauce or 3-4 cups your own spaghetti sauce
½ bag vege burger crumbles
1 pound firm, water packed tofu, drained
1 teaspoon lemon juice
¼ teaspoon salt
1 package vegan mozzarella cheese, that melts, grated
Basil, garlic powder, soy parmesan cheese of your choice.

veggie burger. Lay three uncooked lasagna noodles in the baking dish. Pour in ½ of the meat sauce mix. Add ½ of the crumbled tofu. Sprinkle liberally with basil and garlic. Repeat the layering with remaining ingredients. Cover the top with grated cheese and soy parmesan cheese. Cover and bake at 350 degrees for about 30-40 minutes. Noodles should be tender and cheese melted. Serves 6-8

Spray the bottom of your favorite oblong baking dish with a vegetable spray. In a small bowl, crumble tofu and sprinkle with lemon juice and salt. In another bowl pour spaghetti sauce, ½ jar of water and

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Dallas Stars Offers Half-Priced Tickets to Raise Awareness about Diabetes

American Diabetes Association Alerts Fans about Their Diabetes Risk

On Tuesday, March 24, the American Diabetes Association (ADA) and the Dallas Stars will “Sound the Alert” about diabetes during the Stars vs. Vancouver Canucks game at 7:30 p.m. at the American Airlines Center. Tickets are half-priced, starting at \$15, in honor of the 21st Annual American Diabetes

Alert Day, sponsored by the American Diabetes Association. To reserve tickets, contact Tandace Lureman at 214.387.5542 or send an email to TLureman@DallasStars.com.

Diabetes is a devastating disease that affects nearly 24 million

Americans including 400,000 North Texans and one special Dallas Stars hockey team member – Toby Peterson, who has type 1 diabetes. Nearly one-quarter of those affected by diabetes, or 100,000 are not aware that they have the disease.

In addition, approximately 57 million Americans have pre-diabetes, which means that their blood glucose (sugar) is higher than normal, but not high enough to be classified with diabetes. Without intervention, individuals with pre-diabetes are at a much higher risk for developing type 2 diabetes. The American

Diabetes Association seeks to change the future of diabetes and takes the opportunity of American Diabetes Alert Day to help identify the undiagnosed and those at risk by educating people about diabetes risk factors and warning signs.

To help people better recognize their own risk for type 2 diabetes, the American Diabetes Association will provide the Diabetes Risk Test at the Stars game on March 24. The test requires users to answer simple questions about weight, age, family history and other potential risk factors for diabetes.



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140 DAYS OF OPPORTUNITY

Local Lawmakers Concerned With Youth's Health, Education, Safety

By: Tessa Howington

Since the Legislature's committees are now fully active, politicians in Austin are focusing on gaining support for bills as they come up for consideration. Representatives from the Metroplex were especially busy this past week.

On Monday, March 2, Representative Vicki Truitt, of Keller, presented her bill, House Resolution (HCR) 54 to the House. HCR 54 is generally referred to as the "porn free internet" bill.

The resolution would not change any Texas laws, but, if passed, would put pressure from the Texas Legislature onto the U.S. Congress to pass the Internet Community Ports Act (ICPA).

The ICPA, a bill getting much attention in

Washington D.C. and being endorsed by other states, has yet to be presented to the U.S. Congress. The purpose of the ICPA would limit access to and regulate adult content via the internet; it is aimed at limiting the exposure of children to such content by helping parents monitor and control what content their child will see or be able to find on the web.

If Texas adopts this resolution, the ICPA will gain more momentum to be passed when presented to Congress.

HCR 54 has been referred to the Technology, Economic Development, and Workforce Committee. Some testimony and public hearings were held last week in regards to the resolution, but as of Friday, March 6, HCR 54 was left pending in

committee.

On Thursday, March 5, Dallas Representative Helen Giddings presented her bill, House Bill (HB) 1807. HB 1807 is designed to protect Texans who work in the construction industry and pertains directly to crane operators, inspectors, riggers, and signal persons.

Her bill suggests Texas require these workers to be certified and licensed by the State and by the National Commission for the Certification of Crane Operators (NCCCO). By overseeing the licensing and complying with NCCCO standards, she feels construction sites will become safer work environments.

The bill has been referred to the House's Licensing and Administration Procedures

Committee, and, as of Friday, March 6, is not scheduled for any type of hearings or public testimony.

Carrollton Representative Burt Solomons brought attention to his bill, HB 1310, on Friday. HB 1310 suggests minors have limited access to indoor tanning beds. Specifically, the bill would require a parent's knowledge, consent, and accompaniment, along with a physician's note stating the maximum amount of overall time or number of sessions the

minor is allowed to have. The goal of the bill is to reduce premature skin cancer and protect the health of Texas youth.

HB 1310 was referred to the Public Health Committee and, as of Friday, March 6, not scheduled for any reviews.

Area Senators were also busy this week. Senator John Carona of Dallas announced his bill, Senate Bill (SB) 1256. The bill would create "No-Gang Zones" around places where children frequent, like

schools, parks, youth centers, and playgrounds. SB 1256 purposes harsher penalties for people convicted of involvement in gang activities near these purposed "No-Gang Zones."

As of Friday, March 6, SB 1256 has not been referred to any committee or scheduled to be considered on the Senate floor.

Plano Senator Florence Shapiro also presented two of her bills this week.

On Wednesday, March 4,

See OPPORTUNITY, Page 12

Council Votes to Hold May Election to Determine Fate of Smoking Ordinance

ROWLETT, TX – The Rowlett City Council voted 5-2 today to call a special election in Rowlett on Saturday May 9, 2009 for the purpose of allowing citizens to vote for or against the recently adopted smoking ordinance.

A valid petition to repeal Rowlett's recently adopted smoking ordinance was filed last week with the Rowlett City Secretary's Office leading the City Council to schedule today's special meeting to determine the next steps in the process.

The petition provided the required 521 valid signatures of registered voters in Rowlett leaving the City Council with several options. The Council had a choice of voting to repeal the ordinance, or take it to a public vote.

Since the City of Rowlett did not have an election planned for May 9 because there are no City Council positions up for re-election, the Council

also voted to enter into a joint election contract with Dallas County to conduct the election which is estimated to cost approximately \$12,000.

The meeting was taped and will be rebroadcast on

the City's cable access channel RTN16 in Rowlett and will also be available on the City's on demand video streaming at www.rowlett.com after 1 p.m. on Tuesday, March 10.

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DCCCD, Higher One create partnership to distribute refunds to students

The Dallas County Community College District has announced a recently signed agreement with Higher One, a financial services and payment company focused exclusively on higher education. The agreement will allow Higher One to distribute refunds to more than 64,000 credit students enrolled at the district's seven institutions: Brookhaven College, Cedar Valley College, Eastfield College, El Centro College, Mountain View College, North Lake College and Richland College, along with its virtual campus, the Dallas TeleCollege, which provides distance learning.

"We learned about Higher One through vendor fairs at various conferences," said Kim Green, associate vice chancellor

for business affairs at DCCCD. "Over the years, we also had attended presentations by Higher One clients. We chose Higher One based on the comprehensive level of service that they offer."

DCCCD currently gives students the opportunity to receive their financial aid disbursements either electronically or by paper check. Although the program has been successful, Green cited several reasons for changing the district's method of distribution and for partnering with Higher One.

"Several factors influenced our decision to make a change," explained Green. "First and foremost, this change eliminates the need for us to store sensitive banking information on the district's systems, which we

believe is a clear advantage to both the district and our students. As we learned more about Higher One, we also discovered that students would find a number of benefits when they sign up for a Higher One account, including discounts; the ability for family members to add money to their accounts; and a faster transfer of funds to those accounts."

Under Higher One's program, DCCCD students will receive cards in the mail, beginning in mid-April which they must have in order to select their refund preference. Each student will use the card to sign on to a secure website and then select how he or she would like to receive a refund: 1) direct deposit to a no-minimum-balance, no-monthly-fee, FDIC-

insured checking account, known as the OneAccount, provided by Higher One; 2) an automated clearinghouse, or ACH, to another bank account of the student's choice; or 3) a paper check mailed to the student's address which is on file at the college.

"We expect Higher One to provide faster service and customer support through its call line and web site," said Green. "We also want to use Higher One's service to expand the student base for electronic refunding. We will start with financial aid students and then expand the database to include all students."

DCCCD will begin sending disbursements, also called refunds, through Higher One in May 2009.

COLLEGE CORNER Go On Girl! Book Club Scholarships

The Go On Girl! Book Club is a nationally recognized, not-for-profit organization that supports authors of the Black African Diaspora. They are inviting you to write your way to college money.

Our mission is to encourage the literary pursuits of people of African descent. In this vain, since 1993, we have bestowed our coveted "Author of the Year" award and our "New Author of the Year" award on such talents as Octavia Butler, Gloria Naylor, Valerie Wilson Wesley

and Connie Briscoe, just to name a few.

Since 2000, we have been fortunate and honored to also sponsor two additional awards, both monetary, to support up and coming authors - The Unpublished Writer's Award and The Aspiring Writers Educational Scholarship.

Award Amount :
\$500

Deadline:

March 15, 2009

Website/Contact Info:
www.goongirl.org/
events/scholarship

UT DALLAS SPELLING BEES

continued from Page 1

students competed.

Lorenzo D. Johnson, of W.H. Atwell Middle School in Dallas, correctly spelled gavelkind to win the public-schools contest on Feb. 26. The word describes the process of dividing an estate equally among heirs. The runner up was Chibueze Umeakuana of Houston Middle School in Garland. A total of 35 students competed.

It was the first year for UT Dallas to host the Dallas County bees, which have been sponsored by Dallas County Schools for more than 25 years.

The University also is the presenting sponsor

of the 51st annual Dallas Morning News Regional Spelling Bee, which will be broadcast live on WFAA-TV (Channel 8) at 11 a.m., Saturday, March 21. Whataburger is the Busy Bee Sponsor, and Southwest Airlines is the Travel Sponsor for the regional bee.

The winner of the regional bee will compete in the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C., May 26 and 27. The bee is the nation's largest and longest-running educational promotion, administered on a not-for-profit basis by The E.W. Scripps Company and sponsors.

Summer Internship in Washington, DC

Teens looking for work experience and the opportunity to get a look behind the scenes of the US Senate, can apply for intern positions. The Office of the Sergeant at Arms provides operational, security and protocol support and services to the US Senate.

Previous intern placements have included assignments in the senate photo studio, finance, media galleries, and the post office. They are currently accepting resumes and applications from college students seeking full time summer internships.

- Interns must have completed at least one year of college and currently must be enrolled in school.
- Intern assignments



will start in late may and can last until August 24th.

- Internships require a minimum 10 week work commitment
 - Compensation: \$11.50 per hour
 - Deadline: Tuesday March 31, 2009
- Please send Cover Letter/resumes to resumes@saa.senate.gov or fill out an application in Senate Hart Bldg-142



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"If By Chance" Production Underway

"IF BY CHANCE" is Donnie F. Wilson's world premiere play directly inspired by our society's preoccupation with Barack Obama's ethnicity. President Barack Obama, being a bi-racial man, has charged many to question how we think of and label race. Wilson wanted to present a work that would reveal a subtle truth about

the cognitive frames that shape our thinking about the subject. Motivated by a local teenage actor who had bouts of legal troubles before discovering acting, Wilson wrote this piece specifically for the young man.

The combination of his inspiration and motivation resulted in "IF BY CHANCE", a moving

drama about a biracial college student who only wants to be accepted as a member of the human race and not be forced to conform to an identity that society thinks best suits him.

"IF BY CHANCE" is directed by Bill Fountain. Cast: Cameron Law, Perri Camper, Lisa Whitfield, Monique Vazquez, Janis

Roscoe, Alan Jackson, Arnulfo Diaz & Malcolm Underwood. Produced by The MET Theatre, Donnie F. Wilson & Ashley Head.

Bishop Arts Theatre Center is located at 215 S. Tyler Street Dallas, TX 75208. For additional information, visit <http://www.withoutlabels.com> or call (310) 460-9092.



A Forgotten Conservation Method Gets New Life

If you grew up on a farm, or you were a conservation trailblazer, your family may have kept a barrel sitting outside under the eave of your home or a gutter downspout to catch, or "harvest", rainwater.

That storage barrel provided water for plants, animals and even personal use, and was especially valuable between rains or if your primary water source ran low. According to Dotty Woodson, Ed.D., Extension Program Specialist – Water Resources with the Texas A&M Texas AgriLife Extension Service, for centuries people have diverted, collected and stored rainwater for drinking and agriculture. When safe drinking

water became readily available by the turn of a tap, many people abandoned the idea of rainwater harvesting. Dr. Woodson states "because efficient use of landscape irrigation water is increasingly important to Texas, a renewed interest in rainwater harvesting has emerged.

Rainwater collection declined as centralized, reliable water systems developed, providing safe drinking water to most U.S. homes. However, the growing population and a limited supply of ground and surface water, makes increased water conservation a necessity for Texas. Most of us have been conserving water indoors for years. Now, we must look at landscape

water conservation. In many communities, thirty to fifty percent of total water used during the summer is for landscape irrigation. Many irrigation systems are inefficient and require repair. Irrigation controllers are not always set correctly or changed for the different seasons. Rainwater harvesting is an innovative method to capture, divert and store rainwater for later use in the landscape. Harvesting rainwater for landscape irrigation can reduce water bills and reduce demand on the municipal water supply. (For more information about rainwater harvesting, visit on the internet at <http://rainwaterharvesting.tamu.edu>)

In March, the City of Garland and the City of Mesquite will offer their first rainwater harvesting class, taught by Dr. Woodson. The program was developed as a joint project between the two cities in cooperation with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and financed through the Trinity River Basin Environmental Restoration Initiative with

grant funds from Texas AgriLife Research and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. According to Shelley Franklin, Public Education Specialist for Garland Water Utilities, making the decision to partner with the City of Mesquite was easy. "Garland and Mesquite are neighbors and our citizens share many of the same issues and interests with

regard to water conservation. Both cities had been receiving requests for this kind of information. We knew that pooling our facility and staff resources for these classes would enable us to reach more of our citizens." Four classes will be offered, at locations alternating between Garland and Mesquite. Each class will last about two hours and is limited to thirty people.

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The Black Academy of Arts and Letters, Inc. Presents

SAVE ME FROM MY secrets

What You Don't Know CAN Hurt You

THE NEW GOSPEL MUSICAL WRITTEN BY KENDRICK D. YOUNG, IS AN EXPLOSIVE STORY OF LOVE AND BETRAYAL IN A MARRIAGE STRUGGLING TO SURVIVE IN A WORLD TAINTED BY DEMONIC INFLUENCES.

SAVE ME FROM MY SECRETS MAKES A REAL STATEMENT ABOUT LIFE, LOVE, AND THE AGE OLD CONFLICT BETWEEN GOOD AND EVIL.

Tuesday, March 17 thru Sunday, March 22, 2009
At The Black Academy of Arts and Letters,
Dallas Convention Center Theatre Complex

PHOTOGRAPHY: PHOTOS SHOOT: IMAGE PHOTOGRAPHY

PRODUCED BY ZADIA IFE AND KENDRICK D. YOUNG
WRITTEN BY KENDRICK D. YOUNG
DIRECTED BY ZADIA IFE

Ongoing

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

Collin County Black Chamber of Commerce: Monthly Lunch & Learn every 3rd Thursday \$15 for members; \$20 for non-members, 11:00am-1:00pm. At Reel Thing Catfish Cafe, 600 East Main Street - Suite A, Allen, TX 75002. For general information and reservations call 469-424-0120.

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

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

No Limit Network Business Networking Lunch 1st and 3rd Thursday 11:30 am - 12:30 pm every Thursday at Texas Land & Cattle Steak House 3945 N. Central Expressway Plano 75023 Must RSVP at www.TheNoLimitNetwork.com or call Sylvia Williams at 972-898-5882.

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://nbwen.org.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. All performances will take place at 1331 Record Crossing Rd, Dallas, TX 75235.

March 15

2nd Annual St. Patrick's Block Party in the West End - Family friendly St. Patrick's Party with Pet Parade and Costume Contest. Details at www.westendeventsdallas.com

March 18 – April 18

Through Her Lens: Emerging Female Exhibit at Bath House Cultural Center, 521 East Lawther Drive, Dallas (214) 670-8749

March 18

Business Mixer: How to

be Stress-Less & Maintain Your Sanity from 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM at the Center for Community Cooperation 2900 Live Oak Street Dallas, TX 75204

March 21

Paul Taylor Dance Company 8 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 21

Professional Achievers for 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 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.

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 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 26 – April 2

AFI Dallas International Film Festival will feature international films from emerging filmmakers, the latest work from great film masters and unique nightly red carpet gala premieres which include all of our attending filmmakers and stars. Over 200 screenings make it one of the largest film festivals in the South West. www.afidallas.com

March 27

Allen Community Outreach 7th Wine Masters Food & Wine Pairings 7:00 - 10:30 p.m. Heritage Ranch Golf and Country Club. aco-cares.com.

March 27 – April 18

Closer performances are Thursday - Saturdays at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$15 for students and seniors at www.EnterStageLeft.org. All performances will take place at Teatro Dallas, 1331 Record Crossing Rd. Dallas, TX 75235.

March 28

Heard Museum & Volunteer McKinney Center 9 - 11 a.m. Take a hike! for your community, see 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.

April 3

Underwater Easter Egg Hunt in the Community Activity Center for kids 3 to 10 years old Hunt for eggs in the indoor pool, eat candy, and enjoy splashing around the pool. The Hunt begins at 5 p.m. with staggered times for different age groups. Cost is \$5 per participant for CAC members and \$6 for non-members. Register at the CAC front desk. Details at: www.flowermound.com

April 8

Richland College Financial Aid Fair 10:00-2:00 in El Paso hallway.

April 14

Newsmakers Breakfast 7:30 - 9 a.m. Personal Finance Hosted by UT Dallas School of Management, visit www.insidetxbiz.com

April 16

Stars of Texas ... Racing Against the Odds 5:00 p.m., Lone Star Park at Grand Prairie. Call 1-

888-DIABETES or email Roxann Pishnick at rpishnick@diabetes.org. Fundraiser for American Diabetes Association.

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

April 18

EarthKind Plant Sale from 8AM – 3PM at 17360 Coit Road, Dallas, TX, contact Gregory Church via phone at 972-548-4232, or via email at gtchurch@ag.tamu.edu or ccmgatx.org.

YMCA's Healthy Kids Day 9 a.m. to Noon at Plano Family YMCA - Legacy Park Visit the website at www.planoyymca.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 that represent multiple African nations and social issues, and will be presented in their original language, with English subtitles. Admission is FREE.

May 4

Comerica Bank Collin 60 at the Marriott Legacy Town Center with VIP reception at 11 a.m. followed by luncheon: Noon-1:30 p.m. Visit www.ComericaCollin60.com

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STUDY:

Children of Imprisoned Parents Suffer Adverse, Long-lasting Impact

BY JAMES WRIGHT

(NNPA) When Lawrence Miller was in jail in Prince George's County for receiving stolen property in June 2007 and in the District's jail for violating probation in September, he missed his friends and close family members with whom he interacted on a daily basis. But the one person he missed the most was his 9-year-old son.

"I had no contact with my son while I was locked up and that really hurt," the 31-year-old D.C. resident said. "His mother, who I say is a friend, would not bring him to the jail in Maryland [Upper Marlboro] or D.C. jail to see me. Because of that, I missed out on some things.

"I did have a chance to write him a letter but that was the extent of the contact. I wish I could have seen him."

Miller is an example of what some social scientists and professionals in public policy say is an increasingly disturbing trend: parents who are incarcerated.

According to a report released Feb. 9 by the D.C.-based Sentencing Project, mass incarceration has had significant and long-lasting impacts

on American society and particularly on communities of color.

"There is a growing awareness that parents who go to prison do not suffer the consequences alone; the children of incarcerated parents often lose contact with their parent and visits are sometimes rare," said Marc Mauer, executive director of The Sentencing Project and co-author of the report, "Incarcerated Parents and their Children: Trends 1991-2007."

Statistics citing data from 1997, 2004 and 2007.

"There is a growing awareness that parents who go to prison do not suffer the consequences alone..."

The report states that in 2007, there were 1.7 million children in the United States with a parent in prison, more than 70 percent of them children of color. The report presents other disturbing statistics such as:

- One in 43 American children has a parent in prison. In terms of race, it

all incarcerated men and women were parents.

- Two-thirds of the incarcerated parent population is non-White.

Studies from government and non-governmental organizations, such as the Children's Defense Fund, have confirmed that 70 percent of Black children are raised by a single parent, overwhelmingly the mother. And the number of mothers who are incarcerated has gone up considerably.

"Children of incarcerated parents are more likely to drop out of school, engage in delinquency and subsequently be incarcerated themselves."

The report says that from 1991 to 2007, the number of incarcerated mothers increased by 122 percent compared to a rise of 76 percent for incarcerated fathers.

While the vast majority of children of male prisoners are living with their mothers, only 37 percent of the children of incarcerated women are living with their fathers, the report said.

In 2004, the report says that more than half of parents housed in a state correctional facility had never had a personal visit from their children and almost half of parents in a federal facility had experienced the same. The report said that a key factor in the limited contact was that the incarcerated parent was generally housed far from home.

In 2004, 62 percent of parents in a state facility and 84 percent of parents in a federal facility were housed more than 100 miles from their place of residence.

While the situation did not apply to Lawrence Miller, it is a problem that has been raised by ex-offender advocates, D.C. Del. Eleanor Holmes



Norton (D) and D.C. Mayor Adrian Fenty (D). They argue that since the closing of the Lorton, Va., facility, District offenders are sent to prisons in some cases thousands of miles away from their families.

These families cannot visit their incarcerated kin when they want because of the cost of travel and lodging involved.

Isaac said he's often observed ex-offenders who have served their time in facilities miles away become personally distant from what were once close family members.

"It seems that when the offender comes home, if that person has not had close contact with family, they become estranged and isolated," he said. "The children may know of them, but not know them personally and they do not bond. The estrangement might lead the offender back into criminal activity."

In its conclusion, the study recommended more family-friendly correctional systems in support of the offender and urged reconsideration of lengthy sentencing policies.

Mauer of The Sentencing Project said public policy should face the ongoing realities of incarceration and how it can be used to keep families together.

"The problems talked about in this report are likely to worsen as maternal incarceration continues to rise," he said. "Awareness of the issue and its implications, along with action to reduce the impact of incarceration on children, is necessary in order to protect and support children when their parents are incarcerated."

Miller said he hated missing the little things, like his son receiving an award for a project at his school's science fair. He also admitted being upset that his mother's boyfriend spent more time with Miller's son than he did when he was in jail.

Nevertheless, Miller said he has a good relationship with his son.

"When I come around he shouts, 'Daddy, Daddy,' and he tells me about his PlayStation games, his little girlfriend, things like that," said Miller. "When I see his face, it is unconditional love."

"Children of incarcerated parents are more likely to drop out of school, engage in delinquency and subsequently be incarcerated themselves."

Children of incarcerated parents are more likely to drop out of school, engage in delinquency and subsequently be incarcerated themselves."

The report was based on statistics released by the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of

is one in 15 Black children, one in 42 Latinos compared to Whites, which is one in 111.

- In 2007, there were 809,800 parents incarcerated in state and federal prisons, an increase of 79 percent since 1991.

- In 2007, 52 percent of



Youth Is Not Wasted on These Talented Young Actors

BY JOHN LAND

At a time in our history when we as a nation are struggling to curb our selfish self-interest in deference to the betterment of the whole and to rally for the common good, we are presented with a tale firmly rooted in the Reagan-era "Me Generation," with its sense of entitlement and weakness for instant gratification. In *This Is Our Youth*, by Kenneth Lonergan, co-produced by Project X and Upstart Productions, we find characters immersed in a self-absorbed, decadent world

that threatens to bring them to a crashing end.

The story revolves around privileged college-aged children of successful parents in New York in 1982, on the precipice of

launching adult lives of either accomplishment or debauchery. When Warren (Drew Wall) has a falling out with his father and leaves home, he takes a stash of his father's cash

with him. With his collection of nostalgic toys in tow, he shows up on the doorstep of his friend Dennis (Matt Fowler), a petty drug dealer whom Warren idolizes.

As they hash through plots to try to spin the cash into a profit overnight--with a measure of partying thrown in--before returning it, their plans quickly begin to go awry. Dennis, abu-

sive and drug-addled, dominates over the more self-conscious Warren, engulfing them in friction. Into the mix steps Jessica (Barrett Nash), whom

See ACTORS, Page 12



Mary Mary takes us to new heights

The Pulse of Entertainment
BY EUNICE MOSELEY

On the newest Gospel release from Mary Mary, "The Sound," on Columbia Records sisters Erica Campbell and Tina Campbell take Contemporary Gospel to yet another level. In the new CD, currently in stores, you will hear Gospel lyrics and messages on top of tracks (and vocal styles) of Pop, Hip-Hop, Rock, R&B, Urban and even one with a Broadway musical flavor to it.

life than Sunday morning church music," Tina said about their cutting edge Gospel sound. "That's not what works best when you

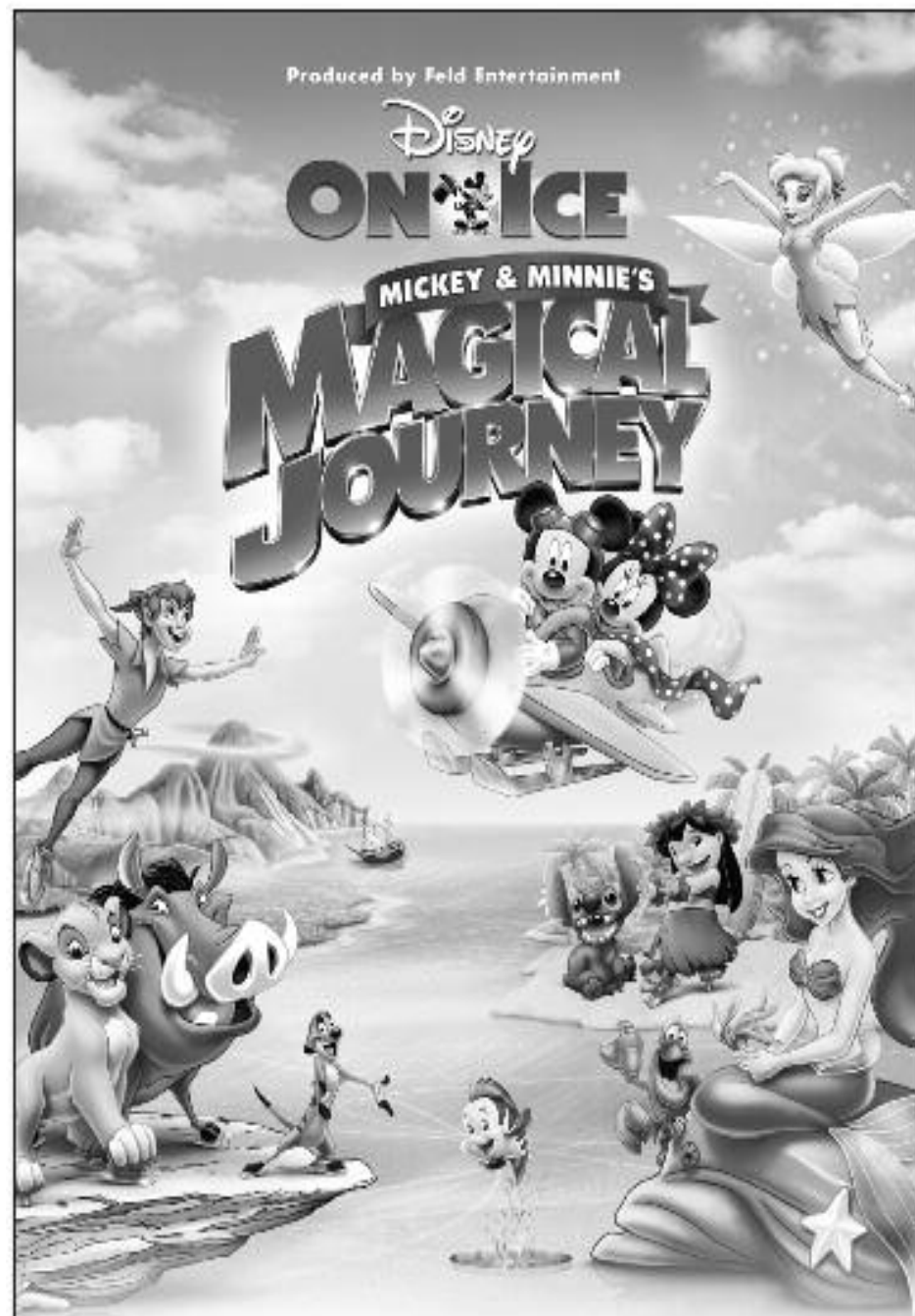


are driving in your car. People love God so much..."

the best-selling Gospel acts in the business today. The Inglewood, California singers have garnered a Grammy Award for Best Contemporary Gospel Album; three Dove Awards; six Stellar Awards; a Soul Train Award, and an American Music Award for Contemporary Inspirational Music. The sisters have already carved a name for themselves in the Gospel music history books along side other contemporaries such as Kirk Franklin.

Mary Mary is one of

See MARY MARY, Page 15



MAR. 18* - 22



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MAR. 26* - 29



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

Dallas Young Artists 2009 Summer Camp

Registration is currently underway for the third annual Dallas Young Artists 2009 Summer Camp, in conjunction with the Garland Summer Musicals. There are 50 spaces available at a cost of \$550 for the

June 8-26 camp, running 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Monday thru Friday at the Plaza Theatre and Granville Arts Center.

Students must have completed third grade up through twelfth grade to participate. The camp is designed to instruct acting, vocal production, movement, set design, make-up, and audition skills. All

of this will culminate in a professional performance at the end of the camp. This year's production is *The King & I*, by Rodgers and Hammerstein.

Performances are June 26 and 27 at 7:30 p.m. and June 27 and 28 at 2:30 p.m.

The Dallas Young Artists instructors are Mark Mullino, Vonda Bowling, Terry Tuck and Neely Dickson. Intern auditions for this year's camp will be on April 15 at the Plaza Theatre. E-mail Vonda Bowling to schedule audition at bowlingv@greenhill.org.

Texas Comptroller's Office Schedules March Tax Help Seminars

A steady economy, growing work force and friendly business climate attract more businesses to the Lone Star state every day. Texas Comptroller Susan Combs' office regularly presents free taxpayer seminars throughout the state to help new and existing business owners under-

stand their state tax responsibilities.

Three seminars will take place throughout March at various locations across the state. A complete list of locations, dates and times is available at www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/seminars.html.

At the seminars, tax-

payers can learn about sales tax forms, filing and paying taxes electronically, taxable goods and services, e-services to help taxpayers manage their accounts online, the Comptroller's e-mail subscription service that alerts taxpayers when new tax information is posted online, and the array

of other services and information available from the Comptroller's office to assist taxpayers. Comptroller representatives will answer questions and provide assistance to attendees.

"A strong and diverse business community is the key to Texas' economic

strength," Combs said. "We are committed to assisting Texas businesses by making taxes simpler, smarter, faster and, above all, transparent. We owe it to our taxpayers to provide the best customer service possible."

For more information about the seminar in your

area, call the Comptroller's field office in your area.

Those who are unable to attend the seminars can call the Comptroller's toll-free tax assistance line at (800) 252-5555. Tax forms and tax information can also be found on the Comptroller's Web site, www.window.state.tx.us.

Who Is Surviving This Financial Meltdown?

BY DURK DUGAN

(AN) At a time when all we hear about is yet another giant financial institution's meltdown, a good question is who is surviving and actually doing well in this climate.

Here are some examples sent in to me from various sources.

- A California based web design and internet marketing company specializing in quality products for attorneys is reporting sales are booming.

- A business consulting company reports they have grown more in the last two months than they did in the previous two years.

- Tutoring businesses in

both Texas and California are reporting sales are thriving.

- Local community colleges in many areas are reporting that enrollment and attendance are up.

- Dating and relationship services – DatingToRelating.com reports that it has grown from 600,000 visitors a

month to over 1,000,000 visitors a month in the last six months.

What can a company do to grow despite the economic recession?

"Automate and increase the efficiency of your sales force," says Charlene Kalk of Artfield Investments, a consulting investment banking firm.

Though the investment banking community has been hit hard by the recession, Artfield Investments reports they have recently quadrupled their new leads in.

"We are using a combination of automated lead gathering and customer

relations management software," says Charlene.

Artfield Investments is now helping all its new and existing clients develop similar systems to expand their businesses. For more information, visit www.ArtfieldInvestments.com.

Job Losses Continue to Soar, Blacks at 13.4 Percent

By Dorothy Rowley (NNPA) – "Astounding" is how President Obama, speaking March 6 in Columbus, Ohio, characterized the nation's new Unemployment figures - a staggering 8.1 percent, the highest since 1983 as employers pick up the pace of layoffs.

Just as disconcerting is the sharp rise in unemployment among African-Americans - a whopping 13.4 percent in February. The last time the Black monthly unemployment rate was so high was in February 1994, as the nation was digging out of a recession, according to the Labor Department.

The latest figures continue to show job losses are large and widespread across nearly all major industry sectors. In January, the overall national unemployment rate was 7.6 percent. For Blacks, it was 12.6 percent.

Bureau of Labor Statistics indicate the

Black unemployment rate has traditionally far exceeded that of other ethnic groups, especially Whites whose joblessness is normally half that of African-Americans.

Reasons for the disparity cited by experts include a gap in education between Blacks and Whites, mar-

which maintains Black unemployment data dating back to 1972, also states that the Black jobless rate reached its lowest level on record in April 2000, when it dropped to 7.0 percent.

While the agency's latest figures highlight a growing gender gap between Black men and

Institute's Race, Ethnicity and Economy Program reported recently that Blacks are typically impacted by recessions and that it comes as no surprise that there is a significant increase in Black unemployment during such times.

Program Director Algernon Austin offered in a recent Chicago Sun article that lack of job opportunities for Blacks ultimately trickles down to teens, making it doubly hard for them to find work, particularly with summer on the horizon.

"We really want teens to work," Austin said. "Getting job experience now really helps people in their employment."

The jobless rate for teens in general is just over 21 percent.

However, Austin noted that the rate among Black teens has already surpassed 38 percent and that the figure could be as high as

See JOB LOSSES, Page 12



Menika Bright, of Conway, S.C. gestures as she recalls how many jobs she has applied for in the last year.

(AP Photo)

ginal ties by African-American households to the labor market and a failure by policy-makers to equate Black unemployment to a crisis needing urgent attention.

The BLS Web site,

women in the workforce, it also shows that the unemployment rate for Black men in February was 16.3 percent compared to 10.8 percent for Black women.

The Washington, D.C.-based Economic Policy

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JOB LOSSES, continued from Page 11

44 percent for teens still looking for work.

"The really sad and troubling part of this is most likely these aren't the peak numbers," Austin says in the article, suggesting that the peak will come in a year's time, "unless the stimulus comes in and works."

The latest figures continue to show job losses are widespread across nearly all major industry sectors. Construction and manufacturing jobs have been among the hardest hit, a continuing concern for such groups as the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists.

The organization peri-

odically blasted the Bush era, saying unemployment among African-Americans had become so dismal during his administration that it was well on its way to becoming a socially explosive issue, mainly because a growing segment of the Black community, including its youth, had begun to feel permanently disconnected from the economy.

Now, with President Obama at the helm, his administration maintains he has made a considerable thrust at providing job training programs in inner cities where the largest populations of African-Americans tend to reside, as well as an increase in gov-

ernment jobs through the recently enacted \$787 billion economic recovery plan.

"The president is going to do his job but needs to get the word out [to city and state agency heads about] how high the stakes are," Obama senior adviser Valerie Jarrett said last week during a teleconference with Black journalists.

Meanwhile, even as Obama's recovery strategy was created to save more than 3 million jobs, the country continues to lose jobs quickly, with 651,000 lost in February, and keeping the administration racing to keep up.

ACTORS, continued from Page 10

Warren hopes to woo, and the scheming becomes all the more complicated.

These youths have a keen awareness of the gravity of the choices they are making and a yearning to rise above their short-sighted, fun-loving, in-the-moment mentality, yet they seem largely baffled at how to break free of the trajectory they have already set themselves on. Will they be able to escape the inertia of their youth-driven passions, or are they doomed to crash and burn before their time? As the stakes are height-

ened and the tables are turned, who will prevail? This well-written script keeps us guessing to the end.

All three actors deliver strong performances, exploring lingering teen angst and trepidation about the future with poignancy. Adeptly directed by Rene Moreno, the play carries us through a range of emotions as each character struggles to find a new path.

The relatively new Upstart Productions, in collaboration with Project X, has scored a technically slick hit

with This Is Our Youth, also worth taking in for its blast-from-the-past '80s milieu.

This Is Our Youth continues through March 22 at the Green Zone theatre space, 161 Riveredge, in Dallas. For more information and to purchase tickets, go to the internet at www.UpstartTheater.com. Please note: this production includes adult language and situations that may not be appropriate for young children.

John Mallory Land is a free-lance writer based in Dallas.

EDUCATION GOALS, continued from Page 5

add fuel to Texas' economic engine and provide skills that keep our cities moving, building and thriving. The Tarrant County College District and Dallas County Community College District serve more than a quarter of Texas' entire population. Together, they provide more than 150 applied science degree and certificate programs, as well as numerous continuing education courses for skills enhancement

and contract training programs for employers.

In 2007, more than 80 percent of all Texas jobs did not require a bachelor's degree. Neither did nearly 44 percent of the jobs paying wages above the state average. The U.S. Department of Education estimates about 80 percent of the fastest growing occupations in the near future will require some postsecondary training, but not a bachelor's degree.

In my office's recent Texas Works report, we detail strategies for developing our work force in ways that dovetail with future labor needs. One way to do that is to ensure high school students have multiple pathways to graduation by allowing greater flexibility in Texas graduation requirements and grade point average calculation standards, which can otherwise prevent or discourage high school students

from enrolling in career and technology courses.

In addition to policy changes, we need to strengthen Texas' work force. Establishing a \$25 million fund to support community and technical colleges offering career-technical education will be invaluable to schools facing startup costs associated with purchasing equipment and outfitting state-of-the-art training facilities.

Without an adequate

supply of skilled workers, Texas' ability to attract and retain new businesses will suffer. We also jeopardize the future financial well being of many young Texans by focusing on only one "ideal" route beyond high school. By bolstering our state's sometimes overlooked educational assets, Texas can stand ready to greet future work force developments not as chal-

lenges, but as opportunities.

Texas Comptroller Susan Combs recently released Texas Works, an in-depth study of the emerging gap between the demand for skilled workers and the state's ability to supply them. The report is available online at www.window.state.tx.us/specialrpt/workforce/.

OPPORTUNITY, continued from Page 5

she presented SB 175 to the Senate Committee for Higher Education; Shapiro is also the chair of that committee. SB 175 would limit the number of freshmen a university can accept under Texas Top 10% Rule.

The Top 10% Rule, passed in 1997, guarantees any applicant to a university admission if the student finished high school within the top 10% of their class. Universities are now finding most incoming freshman classes are primarily

admitted under the Top 10% Rule. Without a cap, freshman classes fill faster and lack diversity, ultimately taking away from the students' university experience and learning opportunities.

Additionally, since they are required to accept all top 10% applicants many universities are becoming limited on space.

After hearing testimony from various University of Texas officials, SB 175 was passed by the Senate

Higher Education Committee to the Senate floor for further review.

On Thursday, March 5, Shapiro also presented SB 3. SB 3 purposes overhauling the accountability of public school systems. She suggests eliminating the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills, or TAKS test, and base accountability on a two tiered ranking system – accreditation and overall district distinction. The accreditation tier would consist of student achieve-

ment, college preparedness, and workforce skills and readiness at the time of graduation, and district distinction would consist of student achievements, fine arts programs and opportunities, and general language skills and programs.

SB 3 will be heard by the Senate Education Committee later in session.

More committee meetings and bill presentations are scheduled this week for both the House and the Senate.

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

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Greater Moore's Chapel, C.O.G.I.C.,
306 North Cedar Dr., Allen, TX 75002, call: 972-727-9693
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CAREER, continued from Page 1

and comprehension in science, math, engineering, and social networking by giving students the opportunity to work in the real business world.

Representative Mallory Caraway said "when I did the research, I found that the high schools in my State House District are underperforming because of the challenges they face in math, science, reading. I believe that society will benefit if our students can get practical experience in the subjects are most critical to their success. It is even more important that we partner with businesses, and corporations during the critical economic times to ensure that students are college and workforce ready."

The event will also feature valuable workshops for the teens including Financial Literacy for Teens presented by Comerica Bank, Résumé Writing, Teen Dating

Violence, Healthy Eating, Appropriate Work Attire, college recruiters and more. At press time, participants included El Centro College,

Workforce Solutions of Greater Dallas, South Texas Dental, Trinary Media, Wal-Mart and 5 branches of the Armed Forces.

DISD School Board Trustee Lew Blackburn said he "is excited to present the Career Fair again this year and is "incredibly proud and

happy with the student results from last year's event."

In the Career Fest's inaugural year, 25 students were

placed in internships and Representative Mallory Caraway is optimistic that even more students will benefit this year.



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Call 214-3713581 for details on the two events above.

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In conjunction with the Delta Sorority, the IRS, United Way, and the City of Dallas, FREE tax preparation will be offered to taxpayers with \$40,000 or less income in 2008, or any senior 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,
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St. Philip's School and Community Center Presents The Morning Star Lecture Series March 31, 2009

DALLAS, TX – St. Philip's School and Community Center presents the Morning Star Lecture Series, Tuesday, March 31, at 6:00 p.m. at St. Philip's featuring

Dr. Ronald Rochon, Dean of Education, Associate Vice President of Teacher Education, Buffalo College, Buffalo, New York. Dr. Rochon will share tips regarding Vigilant Parenting In a Viral World.

Dr. Rochon's field work includes strengthen-

ing the relationship between communities and assisting students in examining and deepening their understanding of the ways socio-cultural factors influence American educational thought, theory, and practice.

The Lecture Series is community outreach program free to the public to honor Ms. Sherril English (past principal) of St. Philip's for her commitment to children and education.

The evening will begin

at 5:30 p.m. with a reception. Free childcare will be provided onsite for all attendees with underage children. Space is limited. Visit the website at www.stphilips.1600org to register and receive additional information.

St. Philip's School and Community Center is a private, non-denominational, Pre kindergarten through sixth grade elementary school, building academic excellence, strong self esteem and high character values. In addition, for

more than 30 years, St. Philip's School and Community Center has provided preventive programs twelve months a year for children and their families and for senior citizens in South Dallas, including athletic programs, after-school and cultural programs, the food pantry, and a meals on wheels depot.

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Dallas White Rock Marathon Announces Inaugural "Rock To Victory" Half Marathon

The Dallas White Rock Marathon (DWRM) today provided runners with a little incentive to stick with their New Year's Eve fitness resolutions: the first ever Rock To Victory Spring Half-Marathon, set for March 15th, 2009.

"For the last several years, we've seen a tremendous uptick in registration for the half-marathon during our December race," said Chuck Dannis, president of the Dallas White Rock Marathon. "It seemed like a natural pro-

gression for us to add the Rock to Victory to our race portfolio. We intend to grow this race into a signature, world-class half marathon over the next several years."

The Rock to Victory will follow the same course as the

December Dallas White Rock Marathon half-marathon course, which starts at the American Airlines Center at Victory Park, loops through Turtle Creek and the Park Cities, and finishes on the Katy Trail.

VOTING RIGHTS, from Page 3

So we must now urge the House of Representatives to support H.R. 157, the District of Columbia House Voting Rights Act and to oppose any amendments that would undermine or ignore the democratic will of the residents of the District of Columbia,

especially as they relate to gun violence. Despite the fact that they pay federal taxes, serve on juries and defend our Nation in times of war like most other Americans, the residents of the District of Columbia are barred from having voting representation on the floor of the U.S. House

or Senate.

This classic example of "taxation without representation" is contrary to everything that this nation is founded on. This means that more than half a million people, more than 57% of whom are African American (with Caucasians making up just

over 30% of the population and 8.5% of the residents claiming Hispanic background), are paying money to and dying for a government in which they have no say. It also means that the federal government is receiving and spending \$4 billion without having to account for it.

March Against Domestic Violence Set for March 21

The Sisters ministry of the Antioch Fellowship MBC will be hosting a March Against Domestic Violence and Informational Fair. The event will take place 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, March 21 at the Antioch Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church, 7550 South Hampton Rd., Dallas, TX (near Wheatland Rd. and I-20). The rally will begin at 11:00 a.m. and the march slated to proceed at 11:30 a.m.

According to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, it [Domestic Violence] is defined as the willful intimidation, physical assault, battery, sexual assault, and/or other abusive behavior perpetrated by an intimate part-

ner against another, which may result in death. It is an epidemic affecting individuals regardless of the status quo.

Violence against women, the elderly or children is often accompanied by emotionally abusive and controlling behavior, and thus is part of a systematic pattern of dominance and control. As a ministry, Sisters are seeking to bring awareness to this issue, as well as to offer help to those who are victims and perpetrators.

Registration is not necessary, but volunteers are needed. If your business, group, church, or ministry would like to participate in the march, please email Billie Wiseman-Burden at bwiseman@afmbc.org.

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Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday ... 9:00 am - 6:00 pm
Saturday & Sunday Closed

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

Ben Washington Baptist Church, Inc.
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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.

"The Church with a Vision"

MARY MARY, from Page 1

“(In traditional Gospel) Young people can’t be young,” Tina points out as to why traditional Gospel is not reaching the young population. “...Hold my attention!”

“The Sound” will certainly hold your attention, no matter what your age because the production, creative lyrics, message and vocal ability will keep you listening. I was truly pleased with the cutting edge “sounds” coming from this album. The one that I was utterly impressed with is the title track, “The Sound,” it’s like something you would hear in a Broadway musical in a Rock/Pop selection.

The sister duo, who received their first big break in 1998 with a song placement on the “Prince of Egypt” soundtrack, enlisted the help of their long time producer Warren Campbell (Erica’s husband, not relation to Tina’s husband) who produced Mary Mary’s first two albums that reached RIAA Gold and one, the debut, reaching RIAA Platinum status. Also on the album is David Banner on “Super Friend,” one of my favorites songs on the album which has a Pop sound and Andrae Crouch, Tramaine Hawkins, Walter Hawkins, Dorinda Clark-Cole, Joe Ligon, Karen Clark-Cole,

Rance Allen and Daryl Coley on “It will all be Worth it,” another favorite of mine.

Also check out their “God in me” selection which has a Hip-Hop/R&B flavor and “I Worship You,” a sweet anthem of love for God.

“I want to hear something I enjoy and can dance to,” Erica added about the

selections on their new CD. “(People) over 50, can’t understand...youth can appreciate. We’ve been banging records like this in our church on Youth Records (since they were youth).”

Though I am about 50 years-old myself, I personally can understand their point

of view and I have always been an advocate for “reaching the unsaved on a level that they can understand where you are coming from and what you are trying to tell them.”

“In the life of Jesus He spoke to them in a language they could understand,” Erica pointed out.

Best known for their debut hit, “Shackles (Praise you),” Mary Mary said they believe that there is a “divine” plan by God for everyone. For Mary Mary that plan was to spread his Word by using their contemporary “sound.”

Learn more on the sister duo at www.mary-mary.com.

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The Inspiring Body of Christ Church



Pastor Rickie J. Reed

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

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

Website: www.ibccjoy.org

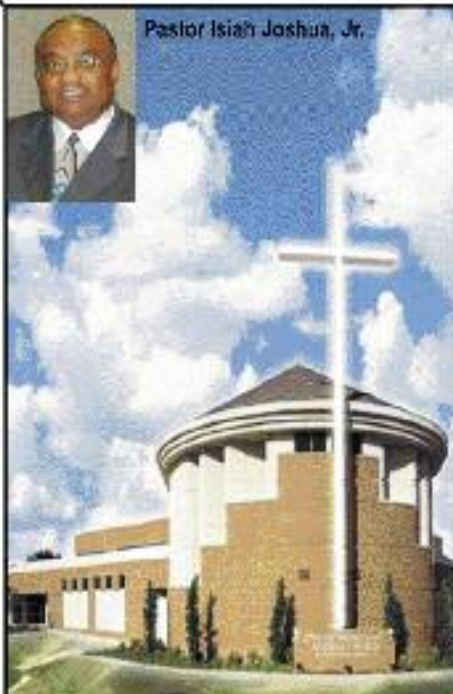
Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church

920 E. 14th Street Plano, TX

Pastor Isiah Joshua, Jr.



FANNING THE FLAMES OF OUR FAITH



FANNING THE FLAMES OF OUR FAITH

Sunday Worship Services 8AM & 11AM

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

For more information call (972) 423-6685
www.shilohbaptistchurch.org

Worship Services
7:30 am & 10:30 am
Sunday School
9:30 am



Wednesday
Night Service
8:00 pm



Dr. Gregory Foster Senior Pastor



Rev. Anthony Foster Pastor

Our Mission

To fulfill The Great Commission until Christ comes.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF HAMILTON PARK

300 Phillips Street • Richardson, TX 75081 • 972.235.4235 • www.fbcjp.org

Promiseland Television Network Broadcast – KITAQ-TV

“WALKING IN THE WORD”

Weekly 30 minute broadcasts, each Saturday at 5pm and Sunday at 4pm



Saint Mark Missionary Baptist Church

1308 Wilcox Street, McKinney TX
Pastor Charles S. Wattley



Sunday

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

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

Friendly Fellowship with A Family Focus

For More Information Call 972.542.6178

www.saintmarkbo.com • themark57@yahoo.com