

North Dallas Gazette



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McKinney settles lawsuit with hotel, events and retail center development

(NDG Wire) McKinney Mayor Brian Loughmiller announced this week the global settlement of the city's two-year dispute with O&S Holdings, the California developer which defaulted in the development of the hotel/events center and retail complex once

known as "Bridge Street" on the McKinney Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) property at U.S. 75 and the Sam Rayburn Tollway (S.H. 121). The dispute involved a lawsuit over the MEDC termination of the development agreement with O&S at Bridge Street

(now called "Gateway") and a related entity's bankruptcy that had stalled the construction of the hotel/events center since fall 2008. Mayor Loughmiller explained that the city and the McKinney Community Development Corporation (MCDC) actually obtained control of the

hotel site in November 2010. "The city and MCDC successfully implemented a plan which resulted in full ownership of the hotel site and all of the improvements funded by the bankrupt developer. The acquisition

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\$100,000 Donated For Legal Services To The Poor

On November 18, Lisa Blue Baron, of the Baron & Blue Foundation, announced her gift of \$100,000 to the Dallas Bar Association's 2011 Equal Access to Justice Campaign benefiting the Dallas Volunteer Attorney Program (DVAP). Blue Baron has made this—the single, largest donation in the 16-year history of the

campaign—in memory of the Honorable Merrill Hartman. Judge Hartman, the founder of legal clinics for the poor and a pro bono advocate for nearly 30 years, died on October 15, 2010.

"Judge Merrill Hartman was my close friend and mentor," said Blue Baron. "Whether it was at lunch, a party or at his assisted living,

the conversation was always on helping others and projects for the less fortunate. Judge Hartman taught me many valuable lessons, but the three most important were the value of giving back, a positive attitude and a belief that anything is possible. I miss and think of my

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Lisa Blue Baron

Hop on the Homemade Foods Gift Trend — but keep safety tips in mind

It could be a nostalgia trip, a cost calculation, or maybe just a growing awareness that nothing says "Christmas spirit" more than a gift from the heart — or better yet, the kitchen. One of the hottest holiday gift trends is home-

preserved foods such as jelly, salsa, canned vegetables, jerky, artisan cheese and smoked meat.

It's great to see Texans rediscovering these traditional arts while also reminding ourselves what the holidays were like before

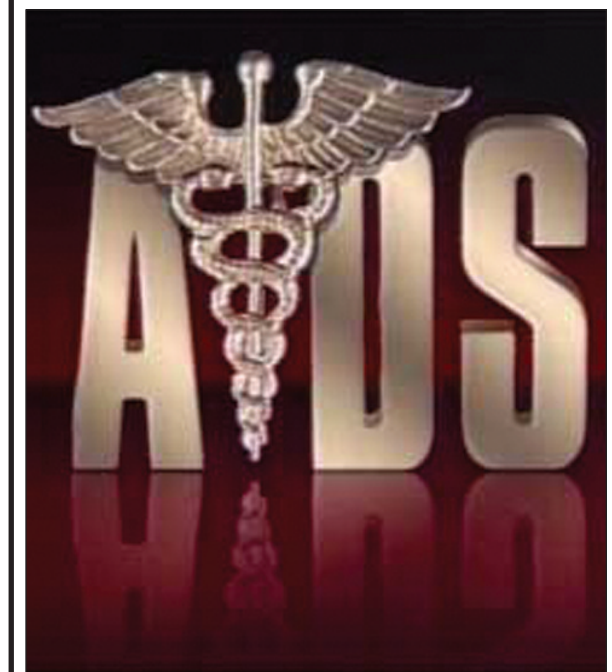
mega-malls and Amazon.com. But as we're bringing heart and soul back to the season, health experts remind us to use care so spoilage, unpleasant taste and appearance — even food poisoning — don't come along for the

ride. Here's how.

Just because you grew those green tomatoes and cucumbers in your home garden or hunted all weekend to bag that wild hog, that doesn't mean they'll

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The High Financial Cost of HIV/AIDS in the Black Community



See WOMEN, Page 9

Wikileaks — Proceed with Caution

By Rev. Al Sharpton (NNPA) Taken at face value, the latest Wikileaks release is in one word - disturbing. Leaked confidential information regarding international relations and sensitive global issues, these 250,000 documents have reshaped the dynamic of diplomacy perhaps like never before. The diplomatic cables touch on everything like Guantanamo Bay, predator drone attacks in Yemen, officials in Afghanistan, Russian, and

Italian relations, Pakistani nuclear fuel, North Korea, Iran, Zimbabwe and much much more. But although we'd like to believe all of this classified information without question, we must take a moment and dig a little deeper.

Diplomatic relations are never an easy task for any government to manage. There are areas of key interest, volatile regions, and shifting nuances in an ever-changing world. But when private

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People In The News...



Jane Akowuah



Kimmy Huynh



Lateefah Simon

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Jane Akowuah

This fall, UT Dallas welcomed the first group of students to enroll in the University under a scholarship program designed to encourage diversity.

Fourteen freshmen and six transfer students earned the scholarships, which were created by the Office of the President and the Office of Diversity and Community Engagement (ODCE).

The scholarship is for full-time students who have a record of academic excellence in high school or com-

munity college and are preparing to enter their first semester at UT Dallas. Each student receives \$2,500 per year for a maximum of eight semesters of undergraduate study.

"This scholarship comes with the commitment of staff in the Office of Diversity and Community Engagement to help ensure the success of each scholarship recipient," said Dr. Magaly Spector, vice president for diversity and community engagement. "Staff members from our of-

fice provide academic and personal guidance to each of our recipients to help ensure a smooth transition to UT Dallas and continued success while here."

Not only do the students receive monetary assistance, they form a cohort of like-minded scholars and are mentored by UT Dallas staff. Freshmen take the required Critical Thinking and Communication (RHET 1101) course as a group, which helps them connect to the UT Dallas campus together. Each recipient meets with an ODCE staff member every three weeks for an academic

check-up to discuss grades and progress toward their desired degree. The students also participate in ODCE events.

James Merritts, a freshman in the Erik Jonsson School of Engineering and Computer Science, set his sights on UT Dallas in October 2009 after attending a STEM Saturday program. He wants to complete graduate school and then perhaps teach physics.

"The scholarship program has allowed me to meet new people," he said. "Spending time at Office of Diversity and Community



from Ghana, says the scholarship "has given me peace."

"Without it, I would have had to postpone my transfer to UT Dallas to another year," she said.

ODCE is now accepting

Engagement events has given me the opportunity to tell others about my experience as a Comet."

Jane Akowuah, a transfer student from the Dallas County Community College District who originally is

applications for the 2011-12 Diversity Scholarship Program. Details and application forms are available online. For more information, contact Director of Community Engagement Raul Hinojosa.

Kimmy Huynh

Sunglass Hut announced last week their final round of contestants in the Full Time Fabulous blogger search - a nationwide contest that offers the opportunity to win the ultimate dream job as a jet-setting style blogger for SunglassHut.com.

Texas resident, Kimmy Huynh, was selected from hundreds of applicants as a top ten finalist, under consideration for the coveted position. The top contestants

were chosen by a panel of judges based on a number of variables, including their 60-second videos, which have been viewed on YouTube more than 124,000 times, and voted on by over 70,000 people.

The Irving resident studied at Southern Methodist University in Dallas and currently works as marketing and public relations professional. As an enthusiastic fashion blogger, Huynh en-



joys writing for her own blog - Fabulush.net. Huynh has a strong internet following, and as a result, won the Full Time Fabulous popular vote

and has over 1,380 Twitter followers.

As the blogger for Sunglass Hut, the Full Time Fabulous winner will gain access to the heart of style and fashion. For one year, the Full Time Fabulous blogger will live in a chic, fully-furnished apartment in New York, attend high profile fashion week events, receive a generous clothing allowance, and socialize with designers, models and celebrities.

In addition to providing \$100,000 in compensation,

Sunglass Hut will cover all travel related expenses.

Huynh, along with the other nine finalists, will be flown to New York City in early December to be interviewed by a select panel of judges comprised of fashion heavyweights, including internationally recognized fashion bloggers Bryan Boy of Bryanboy.com and Wendy Lam of Nitrolicious.com. The finalists will be tasked to demonstrate their blogging skills over a four week period - December 1, 2010 through Decem-

ber 31, 2010 - during which the panel of judges will determine the perfect individual for the job. The winner will be announced on or about January 10, 2011 and their first assignment will begin with coverage of New York Fashion Week in February 2011.

Huynh's 60 second video submission can be viewed online at: <http://www.fulltimefabulous.com/video/view.aspx?vid=Y3HG9I7MgVw>

Please visit www.fulltimefabulous.com for the Official Rules and updates.

Lateefah Simon



Caroline Kennedy presented the seventh annual John F. Kennedy New Frontier Awards to Lateefah Simon, Executive Director of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights of the San Francisco Bay Area, and Hector Balderas, New Mexico State Auditor.

MacArthur Fellow Lateefah Simon is part of a new wave of African American civil rights and commu-

nity leaders. She was appointed Executive Director of the Lawyers' Committee in January 2009. Since then, Simon has led the Lawyers' Committee through its first strategic planning process in more than 10 years, realigning the organization's direct service, policy advocacy and litigation work to assist low-income immigrant communities and communities of color.

Born and raised in San Francisco's Western Addition neighborhood, Simon has advocated tirelessly on behalf of communities of color, youth and women since her teenage years. At age 15, she joined the Center for Young Women's Development (CYWD), first as a volunteer and then as a staff member, working to provide homeless, low-in-

come and incarcerated young women with the tools they needed to transform and rebuild their lives.

At 19, Simon was appointed Executive Director of CYWD, becoming one of the youngest leaders of a social service agency in the country. During her 11-year tenure, CYWD grew into an organization with a \$1.2 million budget, serving approximately 3,500 women per year and hiring more than 250 women. Simon soon became a nationally recognized advocate for juvenile and criminal justice reform, and also focused her organizing efforts around poverty, reproductive and immigrant rights and GLBT issues.

Caroline Kennedy, President of the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation and a member of the Senior Advisory Committee for Har-

vard's Institute of Politics stated, "Lateefah Simon learned firsthand how public service can lift people up from troubled circumstances, and now she is living proof of the power each one of us has to transform the lives of countless others. We honor these two outstanding individuals for all they have given back to our country and for the extraordinary examples they set."

In addition to the MacArthur "Genius" Fellowship, Simon has received numerous awards. She was named "California Woman of the Year" by the California State Assembly in 2005, and also has been recognized by the Ford Foundation, the National Organization for Women, the Women's Foundation of California and Girls, Inc. She was placed on O, The Oprah Magazine's inaugural

"Power List," was recognized as one of 100 emerging or established African American leaders by The

Root in 2009, and celebrated as a "Remarkable Woman" by Lifetime Television in 2010.

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Supporting African American Farmers Helps Black Economic Recovery

By Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr.

(NNPA) The fact that 50 percent of all African Americans still live in the southern region of the United States and the larger share of Black owned businesses are also found laced throughout the south are both important statistics that have to be factored into any realistic plan for the economic recovery of the Black American community. Thus, the current plight and the future of Black farmers along with a renewed emphasis on the redevelopment of African American owned farms throughout the south will have a substantive impact on the future economic state of Black America.

As a southerner from North Carolina, I know firsthand the plight and decades long struggle of African American farmers for equal justice and economic equity in the marketplace. The truth is far too many farms in our commu-

nities have already gone under as a result of the history of systematic racial discrimination that had devastating consequences on the survival of Black farms and farming families. Now, there appears to be a new glimmer of hope for the thousands of African American farmers who have been waiting for some type of compensatory congressional action in their favor.

After many years of legal and legislative debate, both the House and Senate recently passed the Claims Resolution Act of 2010. This bill authorizes the payment of \$1.2 billion to eligible African American farmers in the settlement of discrimination claims filed against the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Our Native American brothers and sisters who are eligible will get \$3.4 billion for past royalties that they are owed for timber, gas, and oil on their land. President Barack Obama is ready to sign this bill that totals \$4.6 billion.

This will be another important milestone of the Obama Administration.

Of course the payments of these claims are not automatic and will still require administrative and court filings to finalize specific payments as a result of President Obama signing the bill. Hopefully the opportunity and resolution that the legislation offers will help to put much needed light of the plight and future potential of Black farmers in America. Dr. John Boyd, President of the National Black Farmers Association stated, "We won... But it's been an uphill battle and the process has not been pretty."

U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack observed that the next steps in the claims process in the wake of the passage of the bill will be "very complicated and detailed."

Majority Whip James Clyburn, D-SC, emphasized, "I have concerns with

language added in the Senate that could have a chilling effect on farmers settling claims. The Senate-added language calls for a 'Neutral Adjudicator' who has the authority to demand additional information from claimants, beyond what was required to qualify for the class action suit. I hope the unprecedented processes laid out in this bill do not become tools for witch hunts and intimidation."

I share Congressman Clyburn's concerns and others should be encouraged to speak out and take action on this issue.

Owning land and developing land as a revenue center are keys to economic sustainability. One of the tragedies of the last 100 years has been million of acres of Black land loss, a lot which was from the loss of Black owned farms. Yet, there are indications that more Americans are now returning to farming as a

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conversations and classified cables are released to the public in such a manner, the task of managing these difficult international relationships takes on an entirely new meaning. For not only is our President and our government exposed here, but leaders and strategic partners around the planet now find their private exchanges with the U.S. available for the world to view with a simple click of the mouse. And, we must ask ourselves, why now?

Every administration in the history of this nation has had to withhold information from the public for a multitude of reasons; to believe otherwise would simply be foolish. But we cannot blindly accept these quarter of a million leaks as 100% factual and true, for that would be just as foolish. Because we do not instantly

believe everything we watch on TV or read in the paper, we cannot unequivocally accept everything in these leaked documents. Much of this information is incomplete and could be dangerous for us, and our strategic allies and informed resources in the field.

Whenever there is any sort of leak, we must proceed with caution and with a keen focus on why these events are transpiring now. During the previous administration, there was more than a fair share of international dilemmas and challenges that faced the United States. With the start of two wars, an escalating threat of terrorism, and increasingly controversial mechanisms for securing intelligence, the Bush administration undoubtedly had countless classified

documents, conversations, and cables that never managed to reach the waves of the World Wide Web.

As people sift through the hundreds of thousands of Wikileaks files during the course of the next few days, weeks, months and perhaps longer, we must remain open to the idea that this may in fact have all transpired because of some sort of hidden agenda. Is this leak released with partial information? Is someone or something maybe working to discredit our President and this nation? Would people have the same reaction if these sorts of leaks were done under George Bush?

The White House, Secretary Hillary Clinton, and other officials are now in damage control mode. Diligently reaching out to world leaders, they are

warning and preparing everyone for the reality that some of their most confidential and trusted information is about to go public. Containing the names of informants, journalists, and others who provide necessary information to various governments, the Wikileaks cables will have ramifications for years to come.

Normally, we would have to wait decades to learn of the secrets and intricacies of some of our governmental workings. Thanks to these leaked documents, that opportunity is available in real time and no longer reserved just for historians.

But, remember - proceed with caution - for there could be a hidden agenda in even this, the seemingly transparent one. And who will blow the whistle on that?

Don't Wait – Vaccinate

This year, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is recommending flu vaccination for everyone 6 months of age and older. Even healthy adults 19 through 24 years of age should get vaccinated.

Life can get pretty hectic sometimes. Whether it's school, work, or your social life, you probably think you have other, more important things to do than get vaccinated against the flu. Last season, the flu attacked adults 19-24 years of age much more than usual, which resulted in missed classes, missed work, and far worse—trips to the ER, hospitalization, or even death.

Fortunately, there's a quick and easy way for you to protect yourself, and to keep from spreading the flu to friends and family. Get a flu vaccine. One shot or nasal spray will help protect you against the three strains of virus predicted to cause illness this season—including the 2009 H1N1 strain, which is still circulating.

Most pharmacies, drugstores, and supermarkets offer walk-in clinics that are usually very quick and have convenient hours. In addition, most university clinics offer free or reduced-price flu vaccination for students. But the longer you wait, the longer the lines are likely to be. Flu vaccine is now avail-

able in various locations. So don't wait—vaccinate.

The few minutes it will take you to get a flu vaccine is much shorter than the days you might have to take off from school, work, or both if you get sick with the flu. It takes about two weeks to build immunity against flu, so it's important to act now in order to be fully protected by the time flu outbreaks begin. By immunizing yourself against flu you'll help protect your family, friends, classmates, and co-workers, too.

For more information, visit <http://www.flu.gov>, <http://www.cdc.gov/flu> or call 1-800-CDC-INFO (800-232-4636).

North Suburban Dallas Chapter of Jack and Jill of America, Incorporated to Host Annual Breakfast with Santa

(NDG Wire) Guess who's coming to Breakfast? Santa and his helpers from the North Suburban Dallas Chapter of Jack and Jill of America, Incorporated (NSDJJ).

The NSDJJ will help Santa in bringing Christmas cheer to needy families in the Collin County, North Dallas Community. Each year, pre-selected families are provided gifts from their wish list and are guests at the annual event. To celebrate Santa's arrival, there will be a delicious hot breakfast with pancakes, eggs, bacon, and sausage to

please the jolliest of appetites. In addition, there will be a host of crafts and activities for children.

"We are looking forward to a larger than ever event this year" exclaims Tracey Pugh, Program Coordinator. "We are excited to have the opportunity to impact the lives of several members of our community by providing gifts to our adopted families, having the children write letters of support to our military troops, and so much more!"

Of course, Santa will be available for pictures and to hear what's on your child's

Christmas List.

"The North Suburban Dallas Chapter has been serving the community with our annual Breakfast with Santa since 1991. It is one of the oldest events of its kind in the Collin County and Far North Dallas area by an African American organization. This is a tradition we are extremely proud of" adds Ramona Winrow, Chapter President.

This is the season of giving and sharing and the members of North Suburban Dallas Chapter of Jack

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make luscious canned veggies or smoke-cured ham. If produce lacks sweetness or characteristic flavor, no amount of quaint old-time packaging will put it there. Tough, sinewy raw meat almost always stays that way. Grassy tasting goat milk makes cheese that tastes like...you guessed it.

When your natural ingredients aren't up to snuff, there's no shame in using store-bought equivalents — or in failing to mention this swap-out to your gift recipients.

Overcooking and overprocessing fruits and veggies are two of the most common rookie mistakes by canners and jelly, jam and preserve makers. Too much cooking can cause fruit to come out looking unnaturally dark. And overcooking (or adding too much water) to extract every last drop of juice can backfire by making preserves thin-tasting and jellies too stiff.

That's why you should find well-tested recipes and follow them closely. Another expert tip: Though it's good to avoid undue fussing with ingredients, that doesn't mean you can't use simple, natural additives to improve taste. A bit of lemon juice can correct for lack of acidity. And if your fruit

lacks sweetness, don't hesitate to add sugar if you're cooking without added pectin.

Bacteria — the "good" kind — are essential if you're making cheese or yogurt. Otherwise, you need to minimize bacteria in your homemade foods to avoid spoilage and food poisoning. For home canners, picklers and preservers this means using a hot water-based low temperature Pasteurization process. Equipment and instructions are available at stores that carry

home canning supplies.

Jerky makers, meat smokers and others who handle raw meats must be wary of both bacteria and harmful microorganisms. If you're using venison, boar or other wild game to make jerky, chill the animal's carcass as quickly as possible after it's killed, then freeze until use. Jerky makers also need to treat meat from wild hogs to kill any trichinella parasites. To treat the meat, freeze in portions no more than 6 inches thick at 0°F or lower for at least 30 days.

Minimize bacteria in red meat or poultry by keeping it refrigerated until use and thawing in the refrigerator, not on the counter. Wash your hands with soap before and after handling meats. Don't re-use liquid seasonings used to marinate meats.

Many other excellent tips on food poisoning pre-

vention are on the Texas Department of State Health Services website: www.dshs.state.tx.us. Search on Kitchen Food Safety.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection section (www.fsis.usda.gov) has general and season-specific

food preparation advice of interest to home preservers and cooks in general.

And for advice on every aspect of do-it-yourself food preservation, packaging and shipping, visit the National Center for Home Food Preservation (www.uga.edu/nchfp/index.html).

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Holiday gift drive for single moms

(NDG Wire) Every year, single mothers of small children find themselves sitting alone on Christmas Day with no presents to open. They are glad that their children are happy, but secretly saddened because there is nothing under the tree for them. Gifts For Moms, a nonprofit organization that provides Christmas gifts to single mothers, has kicked off its 2010 gift drive with the hopes of providing more than 700 gifts to single moms in the Dallas-Fort

Worth area.

"This year has been especially tough on single mothers. We have noticed that there are more moms out of work and out of money this year," said Stephanie Ward, Gifts For Moms Founder. "Our goal is to bring a little joy to mothers with a wonderful Christmas gift."

The organization is asking donors visit the website www.gifts4moms.org to review the list of requested gifts, make a cash donation

or purchase a gift card from a department store, restaurant, or movie theater. Gifts For Moms is also accepting new gifts valued at more than \$30 that could be enjoyed by a single mom.

This year, the organization has partnered with local school districts and a few private schools to provide the gifts to school-aged children to be given to their mothers. Organizers want the children to take part in bringing joy to their moms. Last year, the organization



distributed 600 gifts through social service agencies and a Christmas party.

"We are asking the children to write an essay on what they would like to get

their mother for Christmas. The gifts will be delivered to the school and students will wrap the gifts and take them home to their mother," Ward said. "I know what it would mean to a child to give their mother something more than a school-made craft project."

So far, gift suggestions from children have included a pot of gold, a Lexus, an e-reader, along with more traditional suggestions such as house slippers and movie tickets.

Joy Kerr, a single mother

of a 2-year-old daughter, received a gift last year and says she looks forward to the gift drive. "Last year, it was nice to know that I wasn't alone as a single mom who needed help and love ~ and this is just what I got," Kerr said, this year, she is in a better place and expects to spend this holiday season giving to other single moms.

To make a donation, go to the web site www.gifts4moms.org, or call 214.774.2194.

McKinney climbs national safest city rankings

(NDG Wire) According to the CQ Press 2010 Safest Cities Report, McKinney is among the safest cities in the country. McKinney climbed to the 51st safest city in the country, up 15 spots from last year.

"We have worked extremely hard day in and day out to make McKinney an even safer place to live, work and play despite

challenges like a down economy and continued rapid growth. Our officers and detectives work hard at deterring and investigating crime, and this report shows their dedication really pays off," said Police Chief Doug Kowalski.

Overall, of all cities with a population of more than 75,000 McKinney was ranked 51st of the 400



cities across the country measured. The crime rate rankings of the cities and metropolitan areas are calculated using six crime categories: murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, and motor vehicle theft. These categories have been used for determining city crime rate ratings since 1999. The rankings include all cities

of at least 75,000 residents that reported crime data to the FBI in the categories noted for calendar year 2009.

"The McKinney Police Department attributes much of our success to great working partnerships with our City Council and the citizens and businesses of McKinney," said Kowalski.

Envision Garland: Public Hearing Set

(NDG Wire) The City of Garland Plan Commission will host a Public Hearing on the Envision Garland comprehensive plan at their regular meeting on Monday, December 13. The public hearing will allow the public to respond to and make comments on the draft plan document, which is intended to guide the community's physical and economic development for the next twenty years.

The Plan Commission public hearing on Envision Garland will be held at the City Council Chambers at Garland City Hall, 200 North Fifth Street, at 7 p.m. This is the first of a series of public hearings on the plan. Future public hearings will be posted as those dates become available.

The draft plan document will be released for public review prior to the meeting. Copies of the document will be available to the public on the Envision Garland website, at the City Secretary's Office at City Hall, at the Planning Department's Of-

fice at Main Street Municipal Building, and at each branch of the Garland public library.

Residents, business owners, property owners, and other community interests have shared their vision for Garland's future and dis-

cussed the steps the community can take to achieve that vision. The public input process has included a community survey, a community visioning workshop and follow-up workshop series, and other public input events. A series of open house events

were held in November to showcase images and descriptions of the neighbor-

hoods, activity centers, and employment districts of the future. Information on these

events can be found on the project's website, www.EnvisionGarland.org.

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Texas Speaker Of The House Joe Straus To Keynote UNCF'S Annual North Texas Governor's Luncheon

(NDG Wire) Texas Speaker of the House Joe Straus (District 121-San Antonio) will keynote the UNCF (United Negro College Fund) Annual North Texas Governor's Luncheon on Wednesday, December 15, 2010, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel at DFW Airport (Terminal C). Proceeds will support UNCF's schools in Texas and its mission of educating the underserved population.

"It's important that we do what we can to assist students who may have trouble meeting tuition

costs during these challenging economic times, because a college education opens the door to so many more career opportunities," said Diane Stephenson, UNCF's area development director. "Proceeds from this luncheon will support UNCF's efforts to provide resources for our schools and universities and the thousands of Texans who currently attend UNCF institutions."

"For nearly seventy years, UNCF has helped countless students turn their dreams of attending

college into a reality," said Speaker Joe Straus. "I applaud UNCF's unyielding efforts to continue their mission of support for qualified individuals to attend college."

Texas is home to five UNCF schools: Paul Quinn College in Dallas; Texas College in Tyler; Jarvis Christian College in Hawkins; Wiley College in Marshall and Huston-Tillotson University in Austin.

The program will also include remarks from State Senator Royce West, Dallas

Mayor Tom Leppert, Fort Worth Mayor Mike Moncrief and UNCF Executives. There will be a special musical performance by UNCF students of the award winning Texas College Concert Choir. CBS 11 & TXA21 News Anchors Nerissa Knight and Keith Garvin will be co-emcees.

For sponsorship information or to purchase a table or individual tickets, call Diane Stephenson at the UNCF Dallas Area Office at (972) 234-1007 or visit www.uncf.org/dallas.



Joe Straus

Dallas Public Library launches new "Book Hero" site

How would you like to be first in line to get the latest book titles and help the Dallas Public Library expand its collection at the same time? Just become a "Book Hero" by making a donation to cover the discounted cost of the book. Select from a list of current bestsellers or new releases, or just email a title you'd like to purchase to librarycustomersevice@dallaslibrary.org.

The book, DVD, or CD will become part of the li-



brary's permanent collection, and will be held for you to check out. Your tax-deductible gift will allow dozens of library users to read the same book, watch the same movie, or hear the same music as you.

And here are two more reasons to become a Book Hero: you will not have to worry about taking up extra shelf space at home once you finish the book, or wait in line for requested items.

Spring registration under way at Eastfield

Eastfield College officials encourage interested students to avoid long lines by registering now. Returning students may register one of the following ways: On campus with an advisor or program specialist or online at eConnect.dcccd.edu. New students must register in person by seeing an advisor.

If registering through the week for classes isn't conven-

ient, Eastfield College is offering Saturday Registration January 8 and 15 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the C Building, Room 119.

In an effort to provide the most accurate and up-to-date class information, Eastfield College is no longer printing credit or continuing education class schedules. Also, new students can now apply online without the hassle of filling

out a paper application.

Spring credit classes begin January 18; continuing education classes have various start dates throughout the semester.

The Admission office is open Monday - Thursday 8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. and Friday 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

For more information call 972-860-7167 or visit www.eastfieldcollege.edu.

RESEARCH VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

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

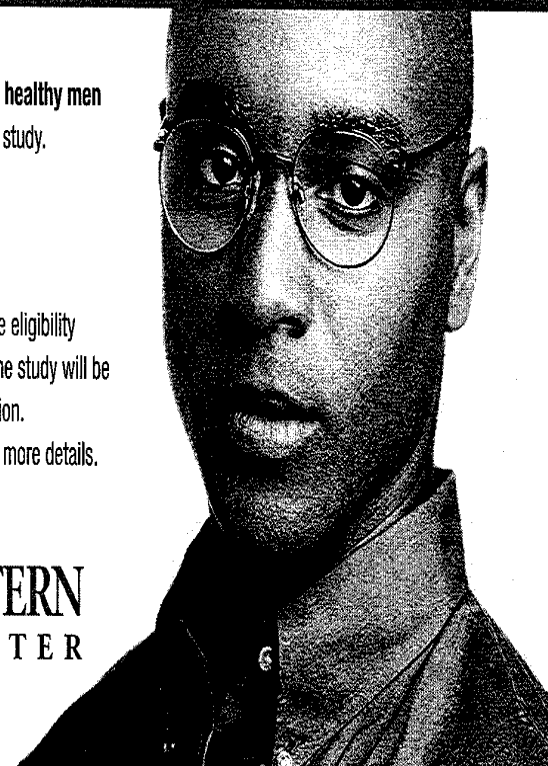
Volunteers must be:

■ Male ■ Age 21-55

Volunteers will be screened to determine eligibility for this research. Volunteers who complete the study will be **paid** for their time and participation.

If interested, please call **214-645-6975** for more details.

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Plano Animal Shelter announces its Home for the Holidays promotion

(NDG Wire) The Plano Animal Shelter is looking for more than a few good families to give permanent homes to the hundreds of adoptable pets they house each day. To help these wonderful animals find a second chance on life, the animal shelter is announcing its Home for the Holidays special adoption event.

Through December 23, all adoptions of animals four months of age and older are only \$40. This

represents a 50% savings over the normal cost of \$80 per animal. All animals designated as Very Important Pets (VIPs) are only \$20 during this time.

The adoption fee includes all of the services the shelter provides for each adopted pet: sterilization surgery, permanent identification microchip, vaccinations, and heartworm treatment whenever necessary. In essence, adopters get a great deal on hundreds of



dollars worth of veterinary treatments and get a loving new family member for free.

"The animal shelter's

purpose is to find families for all of our homeless animals," says Animal Services Manager Jamey Cantrell. "The holidays are a time when many people look to adopt a pet and if we can help them find a great friend for a great price, everyone wins! As of today, there are 110 dogs and 174 cats who need new homes and our goal is to find placement for each of them."

The shelter doesn't rec-

ommend pets be adopted as gifts for other adults. "Everyone should be able to choose their own best friend," continued Cantrell, "and we have gift certificates available for those who want to surprise a friend or loved one with a pet but understand they need to be involved in the process of choosing the right one for them." Gift certificates are also only \$40 and will cover the adoption fee of any animal

over four months of age. The gift certificates can be used at a later date so the receiver can wait until the time is right for them to get their new pet.

The shelter is open Tuesday through Friday from 9am to 6pm and from 10am to 4pm on Saturdays and Sundays. Animals in need of new homes can be viewed 24 hours a day by clicking on the "Adoptables" link at www.planoanimalshelter.org.

Holiday help for the caregiver

(Family Features) Mixing holidays and family produces some level of tension for each of us. When you add caring for an aging parent into the mix, those levels can easily skyrocket.

Paula Spencer, author, family life specialist, and senior editor for Caring.com, an online destination that supports family caregivers, says that holi-

days actually present a great time for families to productively discuss critical caregiving issues. And if you're the caregiver, it's a good time to reevaluate your parent's or loved one's needs and share what it has meant to be the caregiver.

"If you feel you're carrying too much of the burden, bring it up with family members," says Spencer.

"They may not realize the reality of what the care requires or how much you're doing. In a calm, quiet moment, explain how you feel and what you see in a matter-of-fact, nonconfrontational way."

Spencer, who served as a caregiver herself, offers these four tips to help your family have meaningful and productive conversations

that result in healthy support and positive actions:

- **Use "I" statements.**

Avoid "you" statements that put others on the defensive, making them less likely to listen and more likely to attack. Shift the focus and put the emphasis on you: "I'm not sure I'm being understood," or "When this happens, I feel like . . ."

- **Be specific.** Think

about specifics that really make things easier on you rather than just telling your sister that you need help caring for Mom. Ask for help with grocery shopping, or have a cousin take Mom to doctor's appointments. You might learn that family members are relieved to learn about specific ways to participate in the caregiving.

- **Focus on your loved**

one. Remember this is about providing the best support you can for your parent or relative. It's not about personal preferences or old family habits. If things get off-track, ask, "How is this helping Dad?"

- **Ask questions to gain understanding.** Don't assume you know what your

See HOLIDAY, Page 15

R&B Duo Recognition set to perform with others at Kwanzaafest



(NDG Wire) R&R Records R&B Duo Recognition, which comprise of cousins Rico Sivad and J-Rod, are set to perform at the 2010 Kwanzaafest event this weekend Saturday, December 11. Kwanzaafest is one of the city of Dallas'

largest free annual events of the year. Kwanzaafest will be held at Fair Park in the Automobile Building located at 1300 Robert B. Cullum Blvd. in Dallas, Texas.

Other entertainers scheduled to perform live at

Kwanzaafest along with Recognition are Jazmine Sullivan, Slim Thug, Jeremih, Dorough, Treal Lee & Prince Rick, Lloyd and many others. Service Broadcasting's radio stations K104FM and KRNB will host the two-day event. The event times are Saturday, 10 a.m. – 7 p.m. and Sunday, December 12 from 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.

In addition to the live entertainment, the event will have a 5K Walk/Run, Healthfest, KidFest and vendors from all across the country. The event is free; however, tickets are required to get into the event. Find all the ticket pick-up locations at www.k104fm.com or at <http://www.john-wileyprice.com/kwanzaa->

See R&B DUO, Page 13



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Every Saturday

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

Every Tuesday

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

Ongoing

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

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

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

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

No Limit Network Business Networking Lunch 1st Thursday at 1 pm in Plano Must RSVP at www.TheNoLimitNetwork.com or 972-

898-5882.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Through December 18

Plano Children's Theatre presents *Annie* through Dec. 18 at 1301 Custer Road suite 706 in Plano. Friday and Saturday shows begin at 7:15 p.m. with Sunday matinees at 2:15 p.m. Tickets are \$7 advance and \$9 at the door. Visit www.planochildrenstheatre.org or call 972-422-

2575 for reservations.

Sanders Family Christmas at the Bath House Cultural Center. More than two dozen Christmas carols and hilarious yuletide stories will have you laughing, clapping and singing along with bluegrass Christmas favorites. Tickets: \$10 - \$16. Info: www.bathhousecultural.com.

Crystal City 1969 Encore presentation of the critically acclaimed production based on the true story of Mexican-American students who walked out of school in Crystal City, Texas in 1969 and into Chicano civil rights history. Tickets: \$10-\$15. Info: www.dallasculture.org/latinocc.

Through December 23

The Dallas Children's Theater presents a new holiday treasure with Kathy Burk's *The Snow Queen* in the Studio Theater at Dallas Children's Theater's Rosewood Center for Family Arts, 5938 Skillman Ave. Friday shows at 7:30 p.m., Saturday and Sunday shows at 4:30 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 21, Wednesday, Dec. 22 and Thursday, Dec. 23 shows at 11:30 a.m. Tickets are \$20 adult and youth section A and \$14 adult and youth section B for Friday shows; \$25 adult and \$23 youth section A and \$20 adult and \$18 youth section B for Saturday and Sunday shows. Saturday and Sunday senior discount \$20 section A, \$16 section B. Saturday/Sunday college student discount \$19 section A, \$14 section B. DCT box office: 214-740-0051. Tickets also available online at www.dct.org

Dallas Children's Theatre presents *Junie B. in Jingle Bells, Batman Smells* at the Rosewood Center for Family Arts, 5938 Skillman St. in Dallas. Performances times are Fridays at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, Nov. 20 at 1:30 p.m.; remaining Saturdays at 1:30 and 4:30 p.m.; Sundays at 1:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m.;

Tuesday and Wednesday, Dec. 21 and 22 at 10 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.; and Thursday, Dec. 23 at 10 a.m. Tickets start at \$14. www.dct.org.

December 9

23rd Annual Leadership Garland Prayer Breakfast Pastor Bryan Jarrett, northplacechurch.com will speak on "The Power of Personal Worth" at The Atrium at the Granville Arts Center, 300 N. Fifth St., Garland from 7:30 a.m. - 9 a.m. \$25 per person/\$250 table of 10; Info: garlandchamber.com or jami.manners@garlandchamber.com

December 10 - 11

The Black Academy of Arts and Letters presents the **18th annual Christmas Kwanzaa concert** at the Naomi Bruton main stage in the Dallas Convention Center Theatre Complex on the corner of Canton and Akard streets in Dallas. More than 300 voices from Dallas Independent School District will highlight the holiday season with hymns, spirituals, gospel and classical music. Friday's concert begins at 10 a.m. Saturday's concert starts at 8 p.m. Admission is \$10. Call the TBAAL box office at 214-743-2400 for tickets.

The Dallas Black Academy of Arts and Letters will present a **Triple Threat Concert Women in Rhythm** featuring female drummers Quita, Tymeshia and Pockett at 9 p.m. at the Clarence Muse Café Theatre of the Dallas Convention Center, corner of Canton and Akard streets in Dallas. Tickets cost \$10. For tickets, call the TBAAL box office at 214-743-2400.

December 11

Carlos Antonio Rovelo, adjunct professor of Art Appreciation and Humanities will present an interactive and bilingual lecture on "La Virgen de Guadalupe throughout the Ages" at the Eastfield College Pleasant Grove Campus on from 11

a.m.-12:30 p.m. in PG203. The campus is located at 802 South Buckner, Dallas, Texas 75217.

Anita N. Martinez Ballet Folklorico to host its annual winter recital from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Southern Methodist University Meadows School of the Arts Caruth Auditorium, 6101 Bishop Blvd. in Dallas. Members from the Dance Academy, Mini-Professional company, Children's Ensemble and Junior Company will portray Mexican beliefs, legends and customs in a series of stirring dance performances. www.anmbf.org

December 15, 20, 22

Turtle Creek Chorale's holiday production *Oh Holy Night* will be held at 8 p.m. each evening at the Morton H. Myerson Symphony Center, 2301 Flora Street, Dallas. Tickets range from \$20-\$65 and may be purchased at the Turtle Creek Chorale office at the Sammons Center for the Arts, 3630 Harry Hines Boulevard, Suite #306, Dallas, Texas 75219, by phone at 214- 526-3214

December 16

An Evening of Spoken Word takes place every third Thursday at the South Dallas Cultural Center, 3400 South Fitzhugh in Dallas. The event is emceed by Fort Worth National Poetry Slam champion Mike Guinn. www.dallasculture.org

December 17

The Carrollton Wind Symphony Christmas Concert is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. at St. Andrew United Methodist Church, 5801 W. Plano Pkwy. in Plano. Special guests are the Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD honor elementary choir. www.carrolltonwindsymphony.org

December 18

Brown Sugar Suite featuring former Floetry songstress Marsha Ambrosius comes to The Door, 3202 Elm St. in

Dallas at 8 p.m. Guests include DEONIS and Paula Campbell. Tickets are \$30 and can be purchased at www.ticketleap.com

Collin County Black Chamber of Commerce will host its **4th Annual Holiday Extravaganza** at the Hilton Garden Inn located in Allen, Texas. Cocktail hour and vendor exhibits will begin promptly at 5:30 p.m.

Celebrated chamber choir The Texas Voices continues its eighth season of public concerts with *The Angels Sing Concert*. The 24-member professional chorus, directed by Alan Dyer, will perform its second concert of the season at 6:30 p.m. at Northway Christian Church, 7202 W. Northwest Highway in Dallas. Tickets are \$22 regular, \$15 for seniors (65+), and \$10 for students and may be purchased online at www.thetexasvoices.org, at the door, or by calling 214-384-6336.

December 22

The 2010 Dallas Jingle Bell Run benefiting the Trinity Strand Trail and the Mavericks Foundation is at the Hilton Anatole. This is a family friendly and dog friendly festive event. There is a 1 mile fun run at 6:30 p.m. and the 5K starts at 7 p.m

January 8 - 9, 2011

The Zookeeper's Journal at the Bath House Cultural Center gives a personal glimpse into animal lives, how they deal with love, conflict, and their own mortality. Tickets: \$8-\$10.

Barney Live in Concert - Birthday Bash! bops into the Verizon Theatre in Grand Prairie. \$16, \$22 & \$27. A limited number of \$35 Gold Circle Seats and \$65 Dino Seats* are also available. Additional fees and discounts may apply. Ticketmaster 800-745-3000 or www.ticketmaster.com.

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Proud To Be An Active Partner In The Community

The High Financial Cost of HIV/AIDS in the Black Community

By Lynnette Khalfani-Cox (NNPA) As World AIDS Day approaches, Black advocates say the deadly disease continues to inflict a staggering human and financial toll on the African American community.

The AIDS epidemic has claimed the lives of more than 230,000 African Americans during the past three decades. And although Black Americans constitute just 12 percent of the U.S. population, they account for 46 percent of the 1.1 million Americans currently living with HIV.

To some observers, the fact that America hasn't yet won the battle against AIDS boils down to pure economics.

"If we had large numbers of millionaires, billionaires and those impacting the economy dying of AIDS, I guarantee you a cure would be found virtually overnight," says LaMont Evans, CEO of Healthy Black Communities Inc. in Atlanta.

"It's sad to say," Evans told BlackVoices, "but there's a lack of urgency in addressing this problem because those impacted are seen as disposable and not economically important."

Whether one agrees with Evans, he may be on to something: Wealth and status indeed play a huge role in the likelihood of becoming infected with HIV in America.

In a first of its kind study on the link between economic status and HIV, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found in 2010 that those living in poor neigh-

borhoods were more than four times more likely to be stricken with HIV, compared with the national average. Researchers theorized that residents in poor areas had limited access to health care and other basic services, along with higher rates of substance abuse and incarceration – factors that heighten one's risk for HIV.

"This study reveals a powerful link between poverty and HIV risk and a widespread HIV epidemic in America's inner cities," said Kevin Fenton, director of the CDC's National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention. "In this country, HIV clearly strikes the economically disadvantaged in a devastating way."

So, if it's clear that individuals in poor communities in general, and African Americans in particular, are being disproportionately ravaged by AIDS, what is being done to prevent the disease from spreading? Critics say not nearly enough.



HIV/AIDS Strategy, designed to reduce the number of new HIV infections, increase access to care for people living with HIV, and reduce HIV-related disparities and health inequities.

For 2011, Obama's federal budget includes a \$27.2 billion request for HIV and AIDS. That's a 4.6 percent increase over 2010 funding, which totaled \$26 billion.

But just three percent of the 2011 AIDS budget, or \$900 million, is earmarked for prevention. Many AIDS advocates say this is completely insufficient, especially considering that one study conducted by the CDC and John Hopkins University showed that for every HIV infection prevented, \$355,000 is saved in the costs of providing lifelong HIV care and treatment. The study concluded that an investment of \$4.5 billion in HIV prevention during 10 years would save \$104 billion in medical costs.

With relatively few dollars devoted toward prevention, it's little wonder,

perhaps, that every year, about 56,000 Americans are infected with HIV; 25,000 of them are African-Americans.

The CDC says one in 22 African-Americans is expected to get HIV during their lifetime. The CDC estimates that the chances of a Black person being diagnosed with the AIDS virus is more than twice the risk for Hispanics and eight times that of Whites. For Hispanics, the odds of contracting HIV in one's lifetime is one in 52; it's one in 170 for Whites. Meanwhile, Asian Americans had the lowest lifetime risk, at roughly one in 222.

In some parts of the country, namely the nation's capitol, the rate of HIV infection is particularly alarming. In 2009, a Washington Post story, citing CDC data, reported an HIV prevalence of at least three percent among individuals age 13 and above in the Washington D.C. area. That's an infection rate similar to some parts of sub-Saharan Africa.

Recent Promising Developments:

The news about AIDS isn't all doom and gloom. In fact, three recent promising developments in the fight against AIDS all emerged on the same day:

- A new research study showed that a daily pill now being sold in pharmacies nationwide could help prevent the spread of AIDS among gay and bisexual men. The pill is called Truvada and is marketed by Gilead Science. It was shown to reduce the risk of infection by anywhere from 44 percent to 73 percent.

- Likewise, AIDS advocates cheered the news that the number of HIV cases has dropped significantly during the past decade. According to the United Nations, the total number of HIV cases worldwide fell by 20 percent in the last 10 years, and there are now 33 million people living with HIV.

That news came the

same day in which the Pope issued a statement saying condom use is acceptable in order to prevent the spread of HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.

While the general population greeted these developments with great enthusiasm, the reaction in the Black community was more tempered.

Evans, who is leading the efforts to organize National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day on February 7, 2011, questioned who would pay for the pricey drug Truvada. "Will it be insurers or the government?" he asked, suggesting there's ambiguity on whether or not members of poor and minority communities will have access to those pills.

The Truvada pills cost between \$5,000 and \$12,000 annually in the U.S. They sell for a tiny fraction of that – around \$140 a year – in some poor countries that are selling generic versions of the pill.

In America, AIDS patients with good health care coverage can get anti-retroviral treatment. But those who are uninsured or under insured typically have to go without or resort to public programs like Medicare, Medicaid, and the Ryan White program.

With funding for those programs subject to Congressional approval, many AIDS prevention advocates worry that the battle against this deadly disease is far from over.

The high rate of HIV infection among African-Americans is, "compelling proof that you get what you pay for, or that you don't get what you fail to pay for," says Wilson, of the Black AIDS Institute, adding, "We simply won't be able to turn the epidemic around in Black communities without stronger federal support for HIV prevention."



Trio of female drummers highlight Black Academy of Arts and Letters event

By Tonya Whitaker
NDG Staff Writer

On Friday, Dec. 10 and Saturday, Dec. 11 at 9 p.m., three prolific female drummers will electrify the Clarence Muse cafe theatre at the Dallas Convention Center Theatre Complex with their jazz, funk and gospel sounds. The Black Academy of Arts and Letters' (TBAAL) Women in Rhythm Triple Threat concert will feature Pockett (Danielle Brown), Quita (JaQuita Jones) and Tymeshia Lloyd showcasing their craft to the crowd. The women are slated to perform a tribute to the most famous female drummer of this generation, Sheila E. Accompanying the ladies are April Roy on keys and

vocals, Joyce Spencer on saxophone and Candace "Mahogany" Miller on keys and vocals. Tickets are \$10 and are on sale at the TBAAL box office, at the corner of Akard and Canton streets, by calling 214-743-2400.

The *North Dallas Gazette* interviewed Lloyd, who serves as youth minister for Threshold Ministries International in Richardson, about the concert and her development into a gospel drummer.

NDG: Do you have any drummers who inspire you?

TL: I admire Chris Coleman because he is very knowledgeable of his craft and his presentation and showmanship is awesome, and he has fun with his craft.

Calvin Rogers (a gospel drummer) has played for everybody from Marvin Sapp to Shirley Caesar. Sheila E. has been out for years, and I know she has had challenges in her life. I want to be like Sheila E. because she has done it all as a female drummer. Cora Dunham; she is bad.

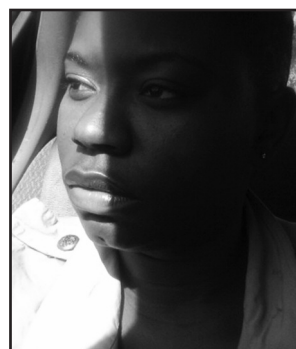
NDG: What do you enjoy most about being a drummer?

TL: By God blessing me with the gift to be a drummer, it brings a lot to my worship life and it allows me to be closer to Him. Being a musician for Him has brought me some of the most peaceful times in my life.

NDG: How long have

you been a drummer?

TL: At six years old, I began to play around with music. My mother played a lot of jazz and gospel music in the house. I would beat around on my grandmother's bake ware. I also beat boxed with my brother, Reginald.



Tymeshia Lloyd

At that moment, I knew my gift. In 1998, one of my aunts

died. She was a singer and an inspiration for me. After she died, something inside of said to go ahead and pursue drumming. After high school, I got to play with several people including Rebecca Friedlander and Anna Howard and I performed in the Gospel Music Workshop of 2006.

NDG: Tell me a little about the Women in Rhythm Triple Threat event?

TL: This is my first big debut to come together with three female drummers in the public eye and not just in the church. I am 100 percent happy. I have always wanted to do something that brings honor and glory to God. I want to move in the gospel arena and jazz and neo-soul

arenas. I am asking God to open the doors so I can do.

NDG: Do you play other instruments?

TL: I do play the lead guitar that I practice on continually. I have a desire to learn it.

NDG: How would you go about encouraging females who want to become a drummer?

TL: First and foremost keep God first, practice on your craft and get around people who believe in you and don't give up on you because people will discourage you from your craft. Always take constructive criticism; and don't let arrogance and hinder you and going farther in life.

Have You Heard?

By Tonya Whitaker
NDG Staff Writer

Don't take it personal

Jermaine Jackson is in a little child support trouble. According to TMZ.com, Jackson had his driver's license suspended by the Los Angeles County Child Support Division because he is

approximately \$100,000 in arrears for the two kids he had with his brother Randy's ex lady. I thought that interfamily relations stuff only happened on *Bold and The Beautiful*?

Crime and punishment

I think the four walls are just getting to the poor TL.



Nicki Minaj

The rapper recently told a hip hop website he is tired of going to jail. May I make a simple suggestion? Stop breaking the law!

Bye, bye world

Montell Jordan has found is calling and isn't singing and producing music. Jordan has left his

secular music career behind to become a minister at Victory World Church in Atlanta, according to Electronic Urban Report.

Too much information

Regis Philbin must have really enjoyed Nicki Minaj's recent performance on *Live With Regis and*

Kelly. It was so pleasing that he patted the rapper on her derriere. Check out our website to find how far the interview went.

Read more about these stories and more at www.northdallasgazette.com.

'Round about DFW

Through Dec. 23 – The Dallas Children's Theater presents a new holiday treasure with **Kathy Burk's The Snow Queen** playing through Thursday, Dec. 23 in the Studio Theater at Dallas Children's Theater's Rosewood Center for Family Arts, 5938 Skillman Ave. Friday shows at 7:30 p.m., Saturday and Sunday shows at 4:30 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 21, Wednesday, Dec. 22 and Thursday, Dec.

23 shows at 11:30 a.m. Tickets start at \$14. Contact the DCT box office: 214-740-0051. Tickets also available online at www.dct.org

Through Dec. 12 – **Dr. Seuss' How The Grinch Stole Christmas!** The musical comes to the Winspear Opera House. Tickets start at \$30. www.attpac.org

Dec. 12 – **Yo Gabba**



Gabba! Live! With DJ Lance Rock to hold two shows (2 and 5 p.m.) at the Dr Pepper Arena, 2601 Avenue of Champions in Frisco. Rapper

Biz Markie will also make an appearance. www.drpepperarena.com

Dec. 16 - Dec. 19 – Celebrity gossip comedian **Huggy Lowdown** brings his humor to the Addison Improv, 4980 Beltline Road, Suite 250 in Dallas. Various show times planned, and tickets start at \$20. www.improv.com

Read more entertainment

online at www.northdallasgazette.com. Submit entertainment announcements to

assignmenteditor@northdallasgazette.com.

LAWSUIT, continued from Page 1

process took a lot of time, evaluation and planning to accomplish. We needed assurance that we had full control of the site," said Mayor Loughmiller.

The Mayor explained, "The settlement vests in the city all ownership and control of the entire 90-acre Gateway parcel."

The Mayor went on to state, "I appreciate the confi-

dence of the City Council in our negotiating team that included me along with our MEDC liaison Councilmember David Brooks, representatives of the MEDC Board and representatives of our MCDC Board and our legal counsel. The settlement has been ratified by both Boards as well as the City Council as of Dec. 7, 2010."

Mayor Loughmiller ad-

ressed the project's future with these remarks.

"The economy, the U.S. 75 interchange construction and the retail/hotel market have all impacted this project over the last two years. But the McKinney City Council remains fully committed to the Gateway site, and to that end, the City Council, MEDC and MCDC will continue to refine the project's plans over

the next few months, and when ready, will bring to the citizens details on its scope and when activity will again commence at Gateway. This was a total team effort that will enable us to begin a positive new chapter in the economic development of our city as we continue to move forward on our City Council priorities in 2011."

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Plano ranked seventh in nation for use of information technology

(NDG Wire) e.Republic's Center for Digital Government and *Digital Communities* program has named Plano as one of the nation's top-ranked local governments in the 2010 *Digital Cities Survey*. The survey recognizes municipalities that successfully incorporate information technology into operations to better serve constituents

and businesses.

Plano placed seventh in the category of municipalities boasting a population of 250,000 or more.

"Our position in the survey indicates the adoption and impact of technology in all municipal departments to support the goals of our City Council and citizens," said David Stephens, Director of Technology Services.

"Technology is an enabler for the City of Plano to allow our workforce to be more productive and to provide our citizenry with services in a more timely and efficient manner."

"This year's winners continue to demonstrate the transformative power of information technology," said *Digital Communities* Director Todd Sander. "Eco-

nomic conditions are bringing about a fundamental rethinking of local government structures and support strategies. It is clear from the results that digital technology is a critical factor in helping organizations not only maintain, but actually improve service delivery when faced with fewer employees and smaller budgets."

Now in its tenth year, the survey was open to all U. S. cities with a population of 30,000 or more. Recognized cities have continued to realize operational objectives despite financial challenges, strategically investing to maximize dollars and effectively conduct the business of government.

Plano continues to climb the survey ladder,

placing ninth in the 2009 compilation. The 2010 top-ranked cities, one through ten, in the "250,000 or more" population category are: Boston, MA; Louisville, KY; Aurora, CO; Charlotte, NC; Chicago, IL; Corpus Christi, TX; New York City, NY; Plano, TX; Riverside, CA; San Antonio, TX; Tucson, AZ; Fort Worth, TX.

IRS helps small employers claim new health care tax credit

(NDG Wire) The Internal Revenue Service today released final guidance for small employers eligible to claim the new small business health care tax credit for the 2010 tax year.

New Form 8941, Credit for Small Employer Health Insurance Premiums, and newly revised Form 990-T are now available on IRS.gov. The IRS also posted on its website the instructions to Form 8941 and Notice 2010-82, both of which are designed to help small employers correctly figure and claim the credit.

Included in the Affordable Care Act enacted in March, the small business health care tax credit is designed to encourage both small businesses and small tax-exempt organizations to offer health insurance coverage to their employees for the first time or maintain coverage they already have.

The new guidance addresses small business questions about which firms qualify for the credit by clarifying that a broad range of employers meet the eligibility requirements, including religious institutions

that provide coverage through denominational organizations, small employers that cover their workers through insured multiemployer health and welfare plans, and employers that subsidize their employees' health care costs through a broad range of contribution arrangements.

In general, the credit is available to small employers that pay at least half of the premiums for single health insurance coverage for their employees. It is specifically targeted to help small businesses and tax-

exempt organizations that primarily employ moderate- and lower-income workers.

Small businesses can claim the credit for 2010 through 2013 and for any two years after that. For tax years 2010 to 2013, the maximum credit is 35 percent of premiums paid by eligible small businesses and 25 percent of premiums paid by eligible tax-exempt organizations. Beginning in 2014, the maximum tax credit will increase to 50

percent of premiums paid by eligible small business employers and 35 percent of premiums paid by eligible tax-exempt organizations.

The maximum credit goes to smaller employers — those with 10 or fewer full-time equivalent (FTE) employees — paying annual average wages of \$25,000 or less. The credit is completely phased out for employers that have 25 or more FTEs or that pay aver-

age wages of \$50,000 or more per year. Because the eligibility rules are based in part on the number of FTEs, not the number of employees, employers that use part-time workers may qualify even if they employ more than 25 individuals.

Eligible small businesses will first use Form 8941 to figure the credit and then include the amount of the credit as part of the general business credit on its income tax return.

Texas Lottery invalidates *Jumbo Bucks III* November second-chance drawings, schedules new drawings

(NDG Wire) The Texas Lottery Commission (TLC) has invalidated the November 2 and 3 *Jumbo Bucks III* second-chance drawings after discovering entries for the different games inadvertently were commingled before the drawings. In response to a complaint, the TLC conducted a thorough review of the drawings, which has prompted the TLC's executive director to invalidate the November 2 and 3 drawings. The TLC's primary instant ticket manufacturer, Scientific Games International, Inc. (SGI), conducted the drawings and will honor the entries selected. SGI also will conduct new drawings at the direction of the TLC.

"We are pleased with the decision by Scientific Games to pay the lottery

players whose names were selected in the November 2 and 3 drawings and to conduct new drawings," said Texas Lottery Executive Director Gary Grief. "Scientific Games takes its commitment and responsibility to the Texas Lottery and our players seriously. In making this decision to honor the original entries selected, Scientific Games has demonstrated their joint commitment with the Texas Lottery to the integrity and security of our games and the public trust we must maintain with our lottery players."

Players that entered these drawings can visit the *Jumbo Bucks III* game page on the Texas Lottery website, www.txlottery.org, to determine if their entries were selected in the Novem-


ber drawings. The Texas Lottery will also proactively contact all entrants selected and notify them of the payment process that will be utilized by Scientific Games.

New drawings will be held December 16 and 17. All entries that were submitted timely for the November drawings, including those selected in November, will be included in the December 16 and 17 drawings.


Jumbo Bucks III is a suite of three scratch-off games introduced by the TLC in May 2010. Players can submit their non-winning tickets in second-chance drawings for a chance to win cash prizes. For more information about the *Jumbo Bucks III* scratch-off games and other games of the Texas Lottery, visit www.txlottery.org.

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www.newlightchurchdallas.com
PASTOR SHAUN RABB



Local police department offers holiday safety tips

(NDG Wire) The holiday season is often a joyous time of giving, sharing and spending time with family and friends. This time of year may also be marked by a higher crime rate, according to Prosper Assistant Police Chief Gary McHone.

The Prosper Police Department offers the following tips to help residents have a safe and happy holiday season.

At home:

- Be extra cautious about locking doors and windows when leaving home, even for a few minutes.

utes.

- Do not display holiday gifts where they may be seen from a window or doorway.

- Store gifts away before you go on a holiday trip. Also, test smoke detectors.

- Use only fire resistant ornaments on your holiday tree and make sure electric lights are in good order.

- Don't leave lights on overnight or when you are away from home.

While shopping:

- Do your shopping before dark if possible.

- Try to coordinate shopping trips with a friend.

- Do not park in a poorly lit parking lot or area, no matter how convenient it may seem.

- Lock packages in your vehicle's trunk or out of sight if your vehicle does not have a trunk.

- Keep your car doors locked and windows closed.

- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash.

- When possible, pay with a credit or debit card or a check.

- Teach your children to go to a store clerk or security guard and ask for help if you become separated.

Children should never go into a parking lot alone.

"The holiday season is also time of year when people come together and

enjoy each other's company. If you're hosting a holiday party, have non-alcoholic beverages available for your guests. Also have alternative transportation available for intoxicated

persons. Do not let your guests to drink and drive," he advised.

"By following these few basic tips, you should have a safer and happier holiday season" he said.

Now you can follow the IRS on Twitter

The Internal Revenue Service is using Twitter and other social media tools to share information with taxpayers and the tax professional community.

The IRS Twitter news feed, @IRSnews, provides the latest federal tax news and information for taxpayers. The focus of the IRS Twitter messages will be on easy-to-use information, including tax tips, tax law changes, and important IRS programs such as e-file, the Earned Income Tax Credit and "Where's My Refund."

Anyone with a Twitter account can follow @IRSnews by going to <http://twitter.com/IRSnews>

Another important IRS Twitter feed, @IRStaxpros, is designed for the tax professional community. Follow @IRStaxpros by going to <http://twitter.com/IRStaxpros>.

The IRS also tweets tax news and information in Spanish at @IRSenEspanol. Follow this Twitter feed by going to <http://twitter.com/IRSenEspanol>.

The IRS Twitter feeds

will work in conjunction with <http://www.irs.gov> and the IRS YouTube channels to bring IRS information direct to taxpayers. Since August of 2009, there have been more than 1 million views of videos on the IRSvideos (<http://www.youtube.com/irsvideo>), IRS Multilingual (<http://www.youtube.com/user/IRSvideo>) and IRS American Sign Language (ASL) (<http://www.youtube.com/IRSvideosASL>) channels.

RECOVERY, continued from Page 3

means of sustaining life and economic production. Whether this phenomenon will include past and new Black farmers remains to be seen. The point here is African Americans spend annually nearly \$1 trillion dollars. Some of that money should be used to reinvest in land acquisition including regaining ownership of some the millions of farm acres that were lost over the last century.

The economic recovery of African Americans should not be limited to the urban centers. We must see anew the positive potential

for the redevelopment of rural areas as well, in particular farmland in the Deep South. As the American economy slowly recovers, our farmers, business leaders, and others who are interested in the well being of the African American community must be vigilant and take full advantage of all prudent economic development opportunities. I believe that Black farmers deserve our support. Let's find better ways and means to express out support of those who farm and provide a vital lifeline for our communities across the nation.

Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr is Senior Advisor to the Black Alliance for Educational Options and President of Education Online Services Corporation.

Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr is Senior Advisor to the Black Alliance for Educational Options and President of Education Online Services Corporation.

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THE UN-COMFORT ZONE: Pack Mentality

By Robert Wilson
NDG Special Contributor

When my son was two years old, we got a Samoyed puppy, and for the next 18 months they were the best of friends. Then the dog changed. Suddenly she started growling at my son and biting him. At first I thought that maybe he was pulling her tail or something else that was irritating her, but that wasn't it.

My dog had become an adult and instinct kicked in. She became concerned with her place in the pack hierarchy. I learned that our family was her pack, that I was alpha-dog, and that she had no intention of being at the bottom of the pecking order. That meant someone had to be beneath her and the easiest choice was my toddler.

Through training and discipline we got the biting to stop, but to this day she still considers my son subordinate to her.

It's all about status and exclusivity. And human beings are just as motivated by it as a pack animal. When Abraham Maslow created his Theory of Human Motivation in 1943, he identified five levels of motivation or five needs that humans strive to satisfy. Those needs are, in

order: Survival, Safety, Social, Esteem, and Fulfillment.

Status is an esteem need and regardless of where we fall on the economic ladder, we all strive to achieve status before we can move on to the highest need. Whether we admit it or not, we all want to feel as if we are a little bit better than the

have shown that after reaching a certain income level (usually around \$250,000 a year) an individual's happiness does not increase until they reach the status of super rich (approximately \$10,000,000 a year).

But, status can continue to motivate us long after money ceases to do so. Be-

when the volunteer was a Boy Scout. When I attend formal full uniform functions, I find myself scanning fellow leaders' square knots to note their status. There is one we all look for; it is the red, white and blue knot that indicates the wearer earned the highest status in scouting as a youth: the Eagle Scout award.

When the United States was founded, one of its distinguishing characteristics from the rest of the world was the lack of a feudal or caste system. That doesn't mean status doesn't exist in America. Indeed it does, but here we must earn it. Best of all, people have a choice and can rise above the station they were born into

Lacking status puts us in the Un-Comfort Zone and drives us to achieve. When you help someone up the social ladder, you can motivate them in a powerful and positive way.

Robert Evans Wilson, Jr. is a motivational speaker and humorist. He works with companies that want to be more competitive and with people who want to think like innovators. For more information on Robert's programs please visit www.jumpstartyourmeeting.com.

"That doesn't mean status doesn't exist in America. Indeed it does, but here we must earn it. Best of all, people have a choice and can rise above the station they were born into."

people around us. We begin to establish that - at least in our own minds - with the accouterments of wealth such as branded clothing, jewelry, luxury automobiles, and exclusive neighborhoods. Even the poorest of people find symbols with which to establish their status. The visibility of these status symbols can create the powerfully motivating emotion of envy.

Most happiness that is acquired by achieving status symbols is short lived. Overtime such trappings become meaningless to us, at which point, we seek genuine achievements to prove our worth. Studies

stowing a new title with added responsibilities yet without any added pay is a common method for rewarding employees.

Volunteers can be motivated in a similar fashion. I have been a Boy Scout leader for the past five years. The Boy Scouts of America rewards its leaders with patches embroidered with colorful square knots that are worn on the adult uniform. Different colored square knots represent the variety of services a volunteer has provided or achievements that he or she has earned. Some square knots represent achievements earned years earlier



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R&B DUO, continued from Page 7

main.html.

KwanzaaFest, a 501(c) 3 organization, and its contributions to the north Texas communities it has served for the past 20 years have been plentiful and varied. The annual festival that hosts more than

50,000 people during a two-day event (the second weekend in December) at Fair Park in Dallas, Texas, has become a staple of substantive family friendly activities and services needed by the community.

SANTA, continued from Page 4

and Jill of America, Incorporated are delighted to share the holidays with members of the community.

The NSDJJ 2010 Breakfast with Santa will be held Saturday, December 18 from 9 a.m. until noon at the Plano Center in Plano. The

cost is \$25 for all adults and \$15 for non-NSDJJ children. There will be a \$10 additional fee for payment at the door.

Guests can visit their website at <http://nsdjj.org/Fundraisers.aspx> to submit payments online via PayPal.

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December 10-12, 7 p.m.
Tickets are available for our Christmas Celebration. The 1st part includes sights and sounds of the season. The 2nd part includes the birth, ministry, death, resurrection and ascension of our Lord through music-drama.

December 18, 6:30 p.m.
Our Theatre & Arts will present "King of King" at Story Elementary. "Behold, a King will reign in righteousness and princes will rule with justice."

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rate Prayer Ministry Open Prayer Time in Room D219. Call Dunrue Wilson @ 972-495-6532 for details.

**Dr. Leslie W. Smith,
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972-437-3493
www.ndcbf.org

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December 11, 12 p.m.
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All Senior Saints are invited to our Double Nickel (55 and above) Luncheon @ the Newsome Center on Amscott Street in McKinney. Activities include lunch, bingo and door prizes. Come and bring a friend. If you are homebound, we will deliver to you. Please call 972-542-6178 no later than the Friday, October 8th this month) before the luncheon and leave a message with your name, address, phone number and how many meals you need.

December 18
Join us for "The Christmas Story." Scripture: Matthew 6:26. Call the church for details.

December 19, 11 a.m.
You're invited to our Christmas Cantata as we worship and praise God. Jesus is the reason for the season.

**Dr. Charles Wattlely
Senior Pastor**
1308 Wilcox Street
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972-542-6178
www.saintmarkbc.com

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Sister Tarpley

NOTE: This is the time of the year that we are busy thinking about gifts for family, friends, co-workers and others. It is a time of house decorations, giving to the less fortunate and spreading good cheer. It is near the end of the year, and as my grandson, David Edward Lott once said, "We are going to celebrate Jesus' birthday." But, many of us will celebrate Christmas the wrong way. I believe now is a good time to ponder what your life has been like up to this point; are you happy, sad, or wondering if you could have done more to help your fellowman? As we end one year and approach a new year, I want to ask

Have you thought about your soul?

you a question,

Have you thought about your soul?

Have you ever stopped to wonder what this life is all about? Why you're here and where you're going when your lease on time runs out? May you've been far too busy trying hard to reach your goal; would you let me ask you kindly; "Have you thought about your soul?"

You may reach the highest portals, and your dreams may all come true; wealth and fame may be your portion, and success may shine on you. All your friends may sing your praises, not a care on you may roll; what about the great tomorrow, "Have you thought about your soul?"

Don't forget your days are numbered, though you

may be riding high, but like all of us poor mortals, someday you'll just up and die. Your success, your fame and your glory won't be worth the bell they toll; let me ask just one question, "Have you thought about your soul?"

If you've never thought it over, spend a little time today, there is nothing more important that will ever come your way, than the joy of sins forgiven, and to know you've been made whole, in the name of Christ the Savior, "Have you thought about your soul?"

Things to Ponder: The best vitamin for a Christian is B-1 (Be One.) We are operating under the same management for over 1900 years. Plenty of "Soul" food served here; come in and try some for your life. Give a

liberal offering if you love Jesus – Anyone can honk and most will.

Don't wait for the hearse to bring you to church and thank God that you can walk in on your own power. Life has many choices. Eternity has only two – what's your choice?

The most destructive habit is worry, because worry is interest paid on trouble before it is due. Don't be guilty of paying high interest rates when you don't have to.

Prevent truth decay; brush up on your Bible, the Word of God. It's hard to stumble when you are down on your knees. Never give the devil a ride; he will always want to drive.

Can't sleep? Peace of Mind is the most effective sleeping pill. Or try count-



Sister Tarpley and her only granddaughter, Miss Tyanna Donnise Lott, enjoying the Christmas Holidays.

ing your blessings and thank God for what he has done for you.

Forbidden fruit creates many jams; however, if you don't want to reap the fruit of sin, stay out of the devil's vineyard.

Don't let the littleness of

others bring out the littleness in you. The deadliest weapon is the tongue. It is true, God answers knee-mail, try Him.

The greatest advice is, "Try Jesus; if you don't like Him, the devil will always take you back."

HOLIDAY, continued from Page 7

brother's comment meant. Ask questions, and you might find out something surprising that sheds a whole new light on the situation.

Taking the time to lay out these communication ground rules with your family will help you navigate this stressful time with less tension and more positive interactions.

Being a caregiver is a



generous, loving, and difficult thing to do, and with today's resources you don't

have to go it alone. "I experienced just about everything that's on the

Caring.com site: dealing with their illnesses, moving Dad, organizing advance directives, handling end-of-life-planning, finding hospice, coping with death -- and stress," says Spencer. "Sites like Caring.com provide articles, resources, expert tips, and a community of caregivers who understand your challenges. Using these rich resources can help you with the many

aspects of caregiving that arise all year round."

Photo courtesy of Caring.com

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POOR, continued from Page 1

friend often and was blessed to have him in my life."

Blue Baron also donated an Eagles Guitar signed by members of the legendary Eagles to the Campaign. The annual Campaign for Equal Access to Justice funds the Dallas Volunteer Attorney Program in providing free assistance to low-income residents with civil legal needs.

Helping to bring services to those in need is Blue Baron's priority. She not only gives monetary support, but she also gives her time. She is a DVAP volunteer who has used her Spanish-speaking skills to interview clients at the West Dallas Legal Clinic and to help finalize family law cases for Spanish-speaking clients who are participating in DVAP's Spanish Pro Se Program. Over the years, Blue Baron has also made CLE presentations to Legal Aid staff attorneys and launched Baron & Budd's pro bono program while she was at the firm.

"We are truly touched by Lisa's generosity," said Ike Vanden Eykel, President of the Dallas Bar Association. "Her gift is an incredible memorial to Judge Hartman who made it his life's work to bring justice to the poor. Thousands of poor people have been helped, and thousands of lawyers have heeded the call. And, now, many more will be served."

The DVAP is a joint initiative of the Dallas Bar Association and Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas. Recognized by the American Bar Association for its exemplary services, DVAP conducts neighborhood clinics each month at four community locations, and provides a specialty clinic to assist the elderly with wills and other needs. DVAP recruits and trains volunteer attorneys, and provides staff support to the volunteers. Each year, DVAP provides free legal assistance to approximately 3,475 families in Dallas

Texas, 19 states resolve antitrust investigation of Bank of America

(NDG Wire) Bank of America has entered into a \$67 million agreement with 20 state attorneys general that will resolve the states antitrust investigation into the bank's marketing of municipal derivatives.

Under the agreement with Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott and 19 other state attorneys general, Bank of America must also make full restitution to any state, local and not-for-profit entities with which it entered into municipal derivative agreements between 1998 and

2003. The settlement stems from an investigation that was opened after Bank of America self-reported its own wrong doing to the U.S. Department of Justice in 2007.

Other state attorneys general participating in the Bank of America settlement include Alabama, California, Connecticut, Florida, Illinois, Kansas, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania and South Carolina.

County.

The Sewell Choice Raffle offers the winner a choice of three vehicles—an Infiniti FX, Lexus RX or a Cadillac SRX. First Runner-Up will receive airfare and 7-night stay at the Vancouver & Whistler Conde Nast Gold Hotels in British Columbia, Canada. A Second Runner-Up will receive a Bachendorf's stainless steel watch on an alligator strap. Third runner up receives the donated Eagles Guitar signed by the legendary Eagles.

Tickets are \$100 each, and no more than 1,500 raf-

file tickets will be sold. The raffle drawing will be held January 15, 2011, at the Inaugural of the DBA's 2011 President Barry Sorrels, a lawyer with the firm of Sorrels, Udashen & Anton, who specializes in criminal law. The raffle winner does not need to be present to win.


To purchase a raffle ticket, visit www.dallasbar.org/dvap/raffle.asp. For more information, contact Alicia Hernandez, director of the Dallas Volunteer Attorney Program, at ahernandez@dallasbar.org or (214) 220-7499.




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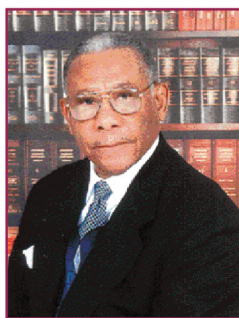
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Young Adult Ministry 7:00 pm

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Intercessory Prayer 6:15 pm
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