

North Dallas Gazette



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Garland NAACP plans MLK celebration

(NDG Wire) The Garland branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) will host its 22nd annual Martin Luther King Jr. parade and march on Saturday, Jan. 15, 2011, beginning at 10 a.m.



B.J. Williams, president of the Garland

NAACP branch, said the theme of this year's event is *Recognizing Our Youth and Adult on MLK Day*. The 2011 theme is *Recognizing Our Youth and Adult Members on MLK Day*. Grand marshals for the event are Lillie Scruggs Hopkins, Garland NAACP membership chairperson, and Dr. Joyce

Kyle Miller, Garland NAACP youth advisor. Parade starts on Dairy Road at Garden Drive (near Embree Park) in Garland and culminates at the Granville Arts Center, 330 North Fifth St. in the city's downtown.

After the parade and

See NAACP Page 13

Former City of Garland employee admits embezzling \$1.9 Million

(NDG Wire) Patricia Leathers, a former risk management adjuster for the City of Garland, Texas, pled guilty earlier this month before Chief U.S. District Judge Sidney A. Fitzwater to one count of conspiracy to commit theft concerning programs receiving federal funds, announced

U.S. Attorney James T. Jacks of the Northern District of Texas. Leathers, 62, of Rowlett, faces a maximum statutory sentence of five years in prison, a \$250,000 fine, and restitution. She is scheduled to be sentenced by Judge Fitzwater on March 18, 2011.

According to documents filed in the case, Leathers, who was responsible for investigating and resolving third-party liability claims against the City of Garland, admitted that beginning in January 1994, and continuing

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The next edition of the NDG will publish on Thursday, January 13, 2011. The Staff of NDG wishes you a safe and Happy New Year.



COVER STORY Displaced Katrina survivor graduates



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Comedian Tommy Davidson coming to town soon
For more information see pg. 10 www.northdallasgazette.com

COMMENTARY Dealing with Debt During the Holidays

By Charlene Crowell (NNPA) In 2010, many consumers will likely find that the traditions of the annual holiday season may be difficult – if not impossible - to observe this year. According to the Urban Institute's National Survey of Homeless Assistance Providers, more than 500,000 people in this country do not have a place to call home each night and half of these people are also without shelter. Moreover according to HUD, an estimated

2,000,000 people experienced homelessness at some time during the year. If you are one of the nearly one in four homeowners with a mortgage owing more on your home than it is now worth, count your blessings and remember that you are not alone. The most recent survey by the Mortgage Bankers Association found that as of the end of the third quarter this year, approximately 7 million

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Kidd leads clinic for Special Olympics athletes

(NDG Wire) Dribbling, shooting, scoring and always ready with a word of encouragement, Dallas Maverick All-Star and Olympic gold medalist Jason Kidd together with the Heroes Foundation held a basketball clinic Dec. 12 for 75 Special Olympics Texas-Area 10



NBA All Star Jason Kidd hosts clinic for Special Olympics athletes

athletes at the Mark Cuban Heroes Basketball Center in Oak Cliff. The athletes practiced drills and received one-on-one attention from Kidd to brush up on

their skills for the Special Olympics Texas – Area 10 competition happening February 25 – 26, 2011.

"I had a great time with the Special Olympics athletes and admire all their spirit and enthusiasm," said Jason Kidd. "It was fun

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People In The News...



Lady Justice Mrs. Georgina Theodora Wood



Michael Watson



Dr. Shayla Holub

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Lady Justice Mrs. Georgina Theodora Wood

Lady Justice Mrs. Georgina Theodora Wood has had a distinguished career on the Bench spanning over thirty-five years.

She is the Chief Justice of the Republic of Ghana, having been appointed in June of 2007, the first woman in Ghana to be elevated to this high office, constitutionally the fourth position after the President, Vice President and the Speaker of Parliament.

Justice Georgina Wood was educated at the Univer-

sity of Ghana, Legon and the Ghana School of Law and served for three years in the Police Service as a Public Prosecutor.

She was appointed to the Bench as a Magistrate of the District Court in 1973 and rose through the hierarchy of the court system culminating in her appointment to the highest judicial office in Ghana.

Between 2003 and 2007, she served as a justice of the Supreme Court of Gambia when in session.

She is also a dedicated advocate of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR), having received extensive training from the USA, and a distance learning modular program from the World Bank. She was a member of the task force which designed the Ghana Court-connected ADR program and was the Chairperson of the working committee which drafted the manuals on Court connected ADR and pre-trials in the Commercial Court of Ghana.

She also chaired the committee responsible for mainstreaming ADR in the courts in Ghana.

She has also lectured extensively in ADR (theory and practice) at the Judicial Training Institute, training key personnel including judges, lawyers and civil society organizations. She taught Civil Procedure and ADR in the Judicial Service Career Magistrates Programme, and was an external examiner in advocacy and ethics, Ghana School of



Law for more than 10 years.

Justice Wood also co-authored the practice manual on the Gambian ADR court-connected programme and has also been a Judicial educator in ADR

for the Bench, the Bar and court officials in the Gambia.

In 2007, she received Ghana's highest National Award, the Order of the Star of Ghana for meritorious public service and in August 2008 was given an LLD (Honoris Causa) from the University of Ghana. She has also received an award from the Faculty of Law, University of Ghana for outstanding Judicial Career.

In April of 2008, Her Ladyship Georgina Theodora Wood was invited

See WOOD, Page 12

Michael Watson

Michael Watson, Senior Vice President, Human Resources, directs the development and implementation of strategies, policies, and programs in the areas of staffing, employee retention, workforce planning, diversity, compensation and benefits, organizational development, employee relations, and succession planning for Girl Scouts of the USA.

Prior to joining Girl Scouts in 1999, Watson

was a human resources partner for IBM Global Services, where he served as the senior human resources strategist for two businesses with combined revenues of more than \$2 billion. Other positions he has held include manager-corporate human resources for Time Warner Inc. and manager-staffing and cultural diversity for GE Capital's 7,500-employee Retailer Financial Services business. He was awarded



GE Capital's Pinnacle Club for top performance. Before joining GE's

Human Resources Management Program, Watson worked as an IBM marketing representative and received an IBM Golden Circle Award for ranking among the top performers in sales for the year.

In 1997, Watson took a one-year self-financed sabbatical. He spent part of that year as a volunteer at two public elementary schools in New Brunswick, N.J. He has been a business coordinator and volunteer for INROADS and an Association of Yale Alumni dele-

gate, and is a graduate of Leadership Jacksonville and Leadership Canton. Watson is a lifetime member of Girl Scouts of the USA and the National Black MBA Association.

Watson is chair of the National Assembly's Human Resources Council, an association of senior human resources professionals from the nation's leading national nonprofits in the fields of health, human and community development, and human services. He is also treasurer of the Nonprofit Sec-

tor Workforce Coalition's board of directors. Composed of nonprofit organizations, associations, foundations and academic centers, the coalition focuses on identifying and addressing issues facing the nonprofit sector workforce.

Watson has a bachelor of arts in economics from Yale University and a master of science in organizational management and human resource development from Manhattanville College. A native of New Brunswick, N.J., he now resides in Stamford, Conn.

Dr. Shayla Holub



(NDG Wire) The School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences (BBS) has chosen Dr. Shayla Holub and Dr. Van Miller of the University of Texas at Dallas to receive its annual Excellence in Teaching Awards.

Holub, an assistant professor whose research focuses on children's eating behaviors and obesity issues, was named outstanding faculty member. Miller,

who joined UT Dallas as a senior lecturer after many years as a pediatric neurologist, was given the award as outstanding lecturer.

Dr. Bert Moore, dean of the school, said Holub was chosen for the award because she does an all-around excellent job of teaching in three degree programs. He said students love her infectious enthusiasm for psychology and her clear, engaging lecture style.

Miller joined UT Dallas to fulfill a lifelong desire to teach eager students, and his love of teaching comes through in all of his classes, Moore said. Among his courses is the school's largest, behavioral neuroscience, which reaches 300 students per semester.

Moore said these two

teachers excel in the classroom because they obviously enjoy working with young people.

"I am very pleased that their colleagues have recognized Shayla Holub and Van Miller for their excellence in teaching," he said. "Each exemplifies the University's aspirations for innovative and inspirational instruction. Shayla Holub wins praise for her commitment to students and her thorough and thoughtful mastery. Van Miller's students speak of his unusual ability to take complex material and integrate it in an understandable and interesting fashion. We are very proud of both Shayla and Van."

Excellence in teaching is central to the mission of UT Dallas and BBS, Moore said. "We have a reputation within the University and across the country as a place

where students get a rigorous education that emphasizes the scientific study of human behavior, the brain and the promotion of effective communication."

Students who nominated the professors cited their determination to help students engage with the material and learn.

"Dr. Miller is an amazing professor and explains things in a way that non-science majors understand," one student wrote.

The nomination submitted by another student said Holub has an effective way of making sure her students understand what is being taught.

"You can tell that she truly loves to teach, which makes it more enjoyable to learn," the student wrote.

Holub said she enjoys witnessing the moment when a student suddenly

understands something new, or sees something old and familiar in a new way. "I feel very privileged that I

was selected for this award," she said. "I have

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Increasing Black American employment in 2011

BY DR. BENJAMIN F. CHAVIS, JR.

(NNPA) Black American unemployment in 2010 soared more than 16%. As we begin 2011, there should be a more effective and concentrated national plan to significantly increase the overall employment of Black Americans in 2011. The December 2010 consumer spending reports document not only increased spending by all Americans during the holiday season, but also displays another economic indicator that the U.S. economy continues to rebound. Yet, the financial plight and sustainability of African American workers and households still face enormous challenges even amidst the recovery of the American economy.

The unemployment statistics reported monthly by the U.S. Department of Labor only tell a portion of the real economic hurdles

facing the African American community. In far too many cities and towns, Black unemployment rates are double the unemployment rates of Whites. Interestingly, the Department of Labor uses the category "Civilian non-institutional population" to cite the population numbers in calculating labor statistics.

Because of the massive increase in the overall incarceration rates of African Americans, the unemployment is actually higher for us than is statistically calculated by the Department of Labor. Black incarceration rates are nearly seven times the imprisonment rates of Whites in the United States. Of course with several million African Americans in the criminal justice system either in prison or on parole, the goal of attaining good, productive permanent employment is made much more difficult.

The issues of globalization and the tremendous ad-

vances in technology during the last decade have changed the dynamics of the world economy. American jobs with the best pay scale will increasingly be linked to the global marketplace and to the new innovations in technology. The good news is that African Americans and others have an opportunity to level the economic playing field in both attaining good paying jobs and starting up new businesses to the extent to which African Americans and others prepare to take advantage of the job creation and business development opportunities now at hand.

But, as I have continued to stress, preparation to become financially viable and productive requires a good education, proper networking, and a strong determination to be successful. At a time when we should be eradicating poverty and social suffering from our communities by demanding and

providing the best educational systems and institutions for our children and young adults, it is as if that too many of us have been lulled into a state of hopelessness. That is exactly why when I have the good fortune to meet young, intelligent, up and coming brothers and sisters in the African American communities who are striving to make a difference educationally and economically to improve the quality of life, I am always encouraged.

The priorities for 2011 have to include developing and determining effective educational options for African American parents and students, increasing support for Historical Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU's) and strengthening the National Association For Equal Opportunity in Higher Education (NAFEO), innovating and launching African Amer-

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DEBT, continued from Page 1

homeowners were 60 days or more delinquent on their mortgage. Although California, the nation's most populous state, has the dubious distinction of being home to the largest number of delinquent mortgages – over 600,000, the highest average mortgage debt per borrower is in the District of Columbia with \$342,695.

Despite deep and widespread indebtedness, the holidays will still tempt many to use credit to help make their celebrations merry. And, although access to credit is a long-standing concern for minority businesses and consumers alike, seasonal celebrations should not become an excuse to worsen already strained personal finances.

As many lenders, especially those offering mortgage loans, raise credit standards to qualify for a range of financial products, the cold and hard factor in reaching a decision on approving or rejecting a credit application will be deter-

mined by how well consumers have already managed their credit in this deepening recession. Troubled homeowners who have suffered foreclosure, a short sale or bankruptcy, should be mindful that those developments have likely already dropped your personal credit score.

Similarly, for those who are entering trial periods for loan modifications or are 30-days delinquent on a mortgage, think seriously before taking out a credit application to take advantage of a limited discount for new credit accounts. How often new credit applications are filed is one of the factors that determine credit scores.

The other factors in determining a credit score are payment history, outstanding debt, credit history length, and credit mix. Two of these factors - payment history and outstanding debt - account for 65 percent of the total score.

If you are considering

whether to purchase a home in the New Year, be mindful that your credit score will be far more important than a seasonal extravagance. As many prospective homebuyers consider applying for mortgage loans, applicants with a credit score less than 700 will likely find credit approval a dicey process.

Among the largest banks, 90 percent use Fair Isaac Corporation (FICO) scores to make decisions. For example, if a consumer had a FICO score of 680 and then missed a monthly debt payment that one failure could lower their score by 60-80 points.

FICO scores range from 300-850 and measure how well consumer credit has historically been handled. In general, higher scores lead to better credit terms. In the case of mortgage lending, the direct benefit could be a lower interest rate over the life of the loan. Consumers with scores of 700 or most often qualify

for lower mortgage rates. On a 30-year, \$300,000 mortgage, a difference of 100 points could mean saving or paying \$40,000 in interest over the life of the loan.

If you do not know your credit score, there is a convenient and free service available. Visit the government-mandated site, www.annualcreditreport.com where each year consumers can receive free credit scores. Although, many firms advertise 'free credit reports', those are usually private services that require a paid subscription for full access to your information.

If you're in doubt this holiday season about your credit, visit the government site and keep those dollars for something more useful.

Charlene Crowell is the Center for Responsible Lending's communications manager for state policy and outreach. She can be reached at: Charlene.crowell@responsiblelending.org

Local hospitals earn top improvement and performance status in pay-for-performance project

(NDG Wire) Methodist Dallas and Methodist Charlton Medical Centers, part of the nonprofit Methodist Health System, have been named top performers in a Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), Premier healthcare alliance value-based purchasing (VBP) project that rewards hospitals for delivering high quality care in five clinical

areas. Based on fifth-year results from the Hospital Quality Incentive Demonstration (HQID) project, Methodist Dallas Medical Center received six awards for Attainment Performance in the clinical areas of Acute Myocardial Infarction, Coronary Artery Bypass Graft, Heart Failure, Hip & Knee, Pneumonia, and



Surgical Care Improvement Project. Due to its successes, Methodist Dallas will receive a bonus payment of \$23,344 from CMS.

Methodist Charlton

Medical Center received five awards for Attainment Performance in the clinical areas of Acute Myocardial Infarction, Heart Failure, Hip & Knee, Pneumonia, and Surgical Care Improvement Project. Due to its successes, Methodist Charlton will receive a bonus payment of \$17,951 from CMS.

Overall, CMS has awarded Year 5 incentive

payments of approximately \$12 million to 218 hospitals.

Over the course of the first five years of the project, Methodist Dallas and Methodist Charlton have received numerous performance, improvement, and attainment awards in several clinical areas, receiving \$219,891 in total awards. CMS has awarded more than \$48 million

over the first five years of the project.

“Providing outstanding patient care has always been our primary mission,” said Methodist Health System Vice President of Quality Virginia Davis. “Our successes in this project are a testament to our ongoing efforts to improve the quality of care we offer our patients.”

Dannon Co. agrees to injunction prohibiting false claims about its products

(NDG Wire) Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott and 38 other attorneys general recently reached an agreement with Dannon Co., Inc. that resolves the states investigation into the yogurt manufacturer’s misleading and unlawful claims about the characteristics of its products.

According to court documents filed by the states, Dannon’s advertising, packaging and selling improperly overstated the health benefits of its Activia yogurts and DanActive dairy drinks. The defendant made statements that were not substantiated by reliable scientific evidence. Dannon also claimed that Activia could help prevent and treat diseases. Under state and federal law, manufacturers can only advertise the curative effects of approved drugs. They cannot associate those claims with food products. Dannon’s misrepresentations were repeatedly used in television commercials featuring actress Jamie Lee Curtis.

For example, Dannon claimed that Activia helped to regulate human digestive systems because it contained a bacterial strain with purported health benefits. Dannon trademarked this ingredient under the name Bifidus Regularis. Dannon also claimed Activia had antimicrobial benefits that could affect colon cancer.



Those claims were improper because Dannon could not lawfully market the curative properties of unapproved drugs.

The attorneys general also disputed Dannon’s claims that ingesting one serving of Activia per day for two weeks improved intestinal transit time. In fact, most studies demonstrate a person benefits only when he or she consumes three servings per day for two weeks.

Under the injunction,

Dannon must disclose that three servings of Activia per day -- not one -- are required for the advertised benefit of improved intestinal transit time. The states’ agreement prohibits Dannon from making future claims about its products unless those claims have been substantiated by legitimate scientific research.

Also, Dannon also improperly claimed that its DanActive dairy drinks could help prevent colds, flus and diarrhea in children. Both claims were unlawful because DanActive has not been approved by the federal government as a drug. As with Activia, Dannon



system. Dannon trademarked this strain under the name L. casei Immunitas. The states injunction also prohibits Dannon from advertising that its products cure, treat, prevent or mitigate diseases.

Under the agreed final judgment, Dannon agreed to pay \$21 million to resolve the states’ investigation. Texas’ share will be \$911,000. A previous class action case handled consumer restitution.

promoted DanActive as a probiotic bacterial strain that product enriched with a pro- could improve the digestive

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Annual Christmas Tree Recycling Drive gets Dallas neighborhood involved in the spirit of giving

(NDG Wire) It's time for Texas Discovery Gardens' annual Christmas Tree Drive! Preservation Tree Services is offering, for the fourth year in a row, to mulch donated Christmas trees for use in our gardens. Each year, we receive enough mulch to cover several of our individual gardens, keeping trees out of the landfill and helping us to garden organically!

The drive owes its success to the Swiss Avenue Historic District Association, which hosts its own tree drive every year for the Gardens. Families are enjoying the tradition. Last year, they provided half of our donated trees (15 out of 30), and they hope to beat their record this year. Preservation Tree Services is making a special drive out to the neighborhood January 11 to chip all of the trees.



DFW residents outside of the neighborhood can drop off their trees at Texas Discovery Gardens between January 7 and January 10, 2011 - 3601 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., through Gate 6 at Fair Park (follow signs to the back of the gardens at Ranger Circle). All ornaments, tinsel, lights, nails and stands need to be removed prior to dropping

off. Preservation Tree Services will chip the trees for Texas Discovery Gardens use throughout 2011. Recycling keeps trees out of landfills and provides an excellent mulching material for the Gardens. Mulch helps trees and shrubs retain moisture, protects plants against the cold and absorbs necessary nutrients.

Life Changing Faith Christian Fellowship Church to sponsor for MLK Legacy Celebration and Essay/Oration Scholarship Contest

(NDG Wire) In celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday, Life Changing Faith Christian Fellowship Church will sponsor an Essay and Oration Scholarship Contest on Saturday, January 15, 2010 from 10:00am to 12:30pm. The event will include performing arts in music, dance and a special performance of the "I Have A Dream" speech. The finale will entail five finalists of Frisco high school seniors competing in oration for 1st place (\$1,500) & 2nd place (\$1,000) college scholarships.

Scholarship Guidelines are as follows:

- Required Theme: "The Drive Behind The Dream..."
- Essay: 2-3 pages double spaced, typed maximum emailed to: angeliapelham@lifechangingfaith.com

- Compelling Oration: 6-8 minutes maximum - note cards allowed. Judging criteria to be provided to finalists.

- Essays Due: By 5:00 pm on Jan 5th. Top 10% finalists will be notified by January 7th and will be narrowed further by 1st round orations

on Jan 8th. Top 5 Finalists will proceed to final orations on January 15th.

In addition to the required theme, each essay MUST include why winning this specific contest is important to you, 3-5 sentences maximum.

Life Changing Faith

Christian Fellowship Church is located at 7185 W. Main Street and Sunday service starts at 10:30am. For additional information, please contact the church office at 214-387-8040 or Angelia Pelham at angeliapelham@lifechangingfaith.com.

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Everson Walls to Serve as FCS Ambassador for 2011 NCAA Division I Football Championship Game

(NDG Wire) Everson Walls, former Grambling State University student-athlete and former Dallas Cowboy, was named by the NCAA as the FCS Ambassador for the 2011 NCAA Division I Football Championship game.

Walls, a 13-year NFL veteran, is the second former student-athlete to serve as the ambassador of the football championship. Wayne Chrebet served as the inaugural ambassador for the 2009 football championship game.

Everson Walls symbolizes the character and deter-

mination of the student-athletes that comprise the FCS, said Damani Leech, NCAA director for football and baseball.

As ambassador, Walls will lend his support to the championship game in a number of ways, including pre-game interaction with fans, serving as an instructor at a youth clinic event, performing the pre-game coin toss and participating in the postgame awards ceremony on the field.

"I am honored to be a part of the Division I Football Championship, as it pro-

vides young student-athletes with an opportunity to showcase their talents on a national scale," Walls said. "As a former student-athlete, I can attest to the excitement and success these young men will experience in their collegiate and professional careers."

The 2011 NCAA Division I Football Championship game will be played Friday, Jan. 7, at Pizza Hut Stadium in Frisco, Texas. For more information or to purchase tickets for the game, log on to www.NCAA.com/fcs

Carrollton library story times resume Jan. 3

(NDG Wire) Free weekly stories for preschoolers resume for 2011 in January at the Carrollton Public Library. Toddler Time for children ages 1-3 will be Mondays and Wednesdays at 10:15 a.m. at Hebron & Josey Library (4220 N. Josey Lane), as well as at Josey Ranch Lake Library (1700 Keller Springs Road) at 10:45 a.m. on Mondays and 10:15 a.m. on Tues-

days. Story Time for ages 3-6 will be Tuesdays at 11 a.m. at Josey Ranch Lake and Wednesdays at 11 a.m. and Thursdays at 7 p.m. at Hebron & Josey. Mother Goose Time for Babies will be at 11 a.m. on Mondays at Hebron & Josey.

For more information about Library programming or story times, visit cityofcarrollton.com/library.

LEGAL NOTICE

These Texas Lottery Commission Scratch-Off games will close on March 2, 2011. You have until August 29, 2011, to redeem any tickets for these games:

- Game #1101 **\$140,000,000 Extreme Payout** (\$50) Overall Odds are 1 in 2.61
- Game #1110 **Maybe It's Your Lucky Day™** (\$1) Overall Odds are 1 in 2.75
- Game #1175 **In The Money** (\$2) Overall Odds are 1 in 4.86
- Game #1176 **Lucky 7's** (\$7) Overall Odds are 1 in 3.56
- Game #1236 **Casino Royale** (\$5) Overall Odds are 1 in 3.82
- Game #1266 **Loteria® Texas** (\$3) Overall Odds are 1 in 3.86
- Game #1268 **9's In A Line** (\$1) Overall Odds are 1 in 4.80
- Game #1278 **Quick Cash** (\$1) Overall Odds are 1 in 4.31
- Game #1313 **Lucky 13** (\$2) Overall Odds are 1 in 4.30

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Westwood College Texas campuses fined and placed on probation

High-pressure recruitment practices and other violations result in unprecedented penalties

(NDG Wire) The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) has levied \$41,000 in fines and ordered probation for Westwood College Texas campuses owned by Denver-based Alta Colleges Inc. In response to the pending loss of licensure, Alta Colleges has agreed to pay the fines and to comply with probationary conditions placed on its license due to a pattern of noncompliance. The agreement cites marketing and recruiting-related violations, failure to comply with applicable Texas law, and failure to inform TWC of significant business developments such as legal action against the school and change of ownership. The schools will hold a Conditional Certificate of Ap-

proval (license) during the probation period.

As part of the agreement, Alta Colleges must pay all fines and commit to future compliance to all relevant Texas laws governing career schools and colleges. Alta College's two Colorado-based Westwood College campuses were placed on probation last week by the Colorado Commission on Higher Education for "unresolved problems with national accreditors regarding recruitment tactics and student achievement."

The \$41,000 in penalties include \$1,000 for coaching a prospective student at its Dallas campus to make false statements in order to qualify for financial aid, \$24,000 for failing to

file changes of ownership with TWC, and \$16,000 for failing to notify TWC of four pending lawsuits against the school.

Other terms of the agreement include that Alta Colleges contract with a third party to perform "secret shopper testing" of college compliance for its Texas campuses; respond promptly to all TWC requests for information and documentation demonstrating compliance; and comply with all TWC provisions related to change in ownership, notification of legal action, advertising, and cancellation and refund policies.

In a separate action last December, TWC shut down operation in Texas of West-

wood College Online, also owned by Alta Colleges, due to the school operating in Texas without a Certificate of Approval.

Alta Colleges' schools in Texas now hold Condi-

tional Certificates of Approval during this probationary period, and will face revocation of licenses at any time should the schools fail to meet the terms of the agreement. TWC has the

authority to arrange alternative educational programs or provide refunds to students in the event the agency is forced to revoke or deny a Certificate of Approval.

Free community workshop for parents

(NDG Wire) Sign up now for the free community workshop entitled "What is a normal teen and how do you keep them that way?" for parents offered by the City of Carrollton on Thursday, February 3 from 7 until 8:15 p.m. in the Courts Community Room (2001 Jackson Road).

Guest speaker Lori

Vann, Licensed Professional Counselor, will talk about identifying normal teen behavior and how parents can set boundaries with their kids. She will help answer these questions: How can parents tell the difference between normal teen behavior and risky behavior? How can parents successfully set boundaries with

their teens to try to keep them out of trouble?

Registration is limited to the first 100 persons who register. If you plan to attend as a couple, each person must register. Please attend without children and teens. Register by email to pamela.dickinson-norris@cityofcarrollton.com.

Local college students finish third in national programming competition

(NDG Wire) Bion Oren, a senior from Dallas majoring in computer science and mathematics at LeTourneau University (LETU), competed with Team 1, the "DotHackSlashers," which placed 26th worldwide in a recent international computer programming competition organized by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers. IEEE is the world's largest professional association for the advancement of technology. The students took third place nation-

ally.

In an inaugural year for LETU to compete, students took third place nationally and 26th place worldwide in a recent international computer programming competition organized by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers. IEEE is the world's largest professional association for the advancement of technology.

In the 24-hour computer programming competition called IEEEExtreme, 970 teams totaling more than

2,500 students from 52 countries competed. The competition presents competing teams with a number of unique programming challenges designed to test their skills program design and analysis. Some of the skills tested include analyzing task requirements, identifying the appropriate solution, and testing the program to ensure that it meets all the problem requirements. Teams could have up to three people and were required to work independently of each other.

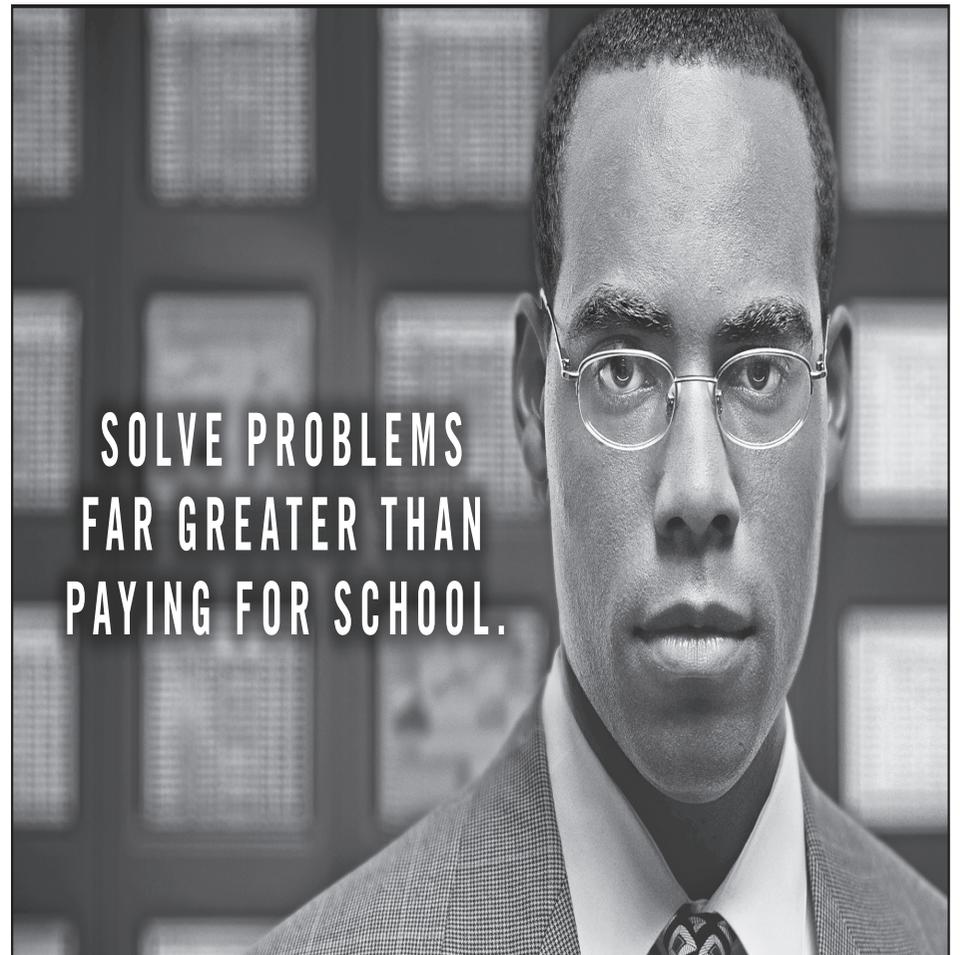
HOLUB, continued from Page 2

numerous colleagues that I admire for their excellence in teaching, so I feel especially grateful to be recognized for my efforts. I take teaching very seriously and

greatly appreciate this recognition."

Miller said he was surprised and delighted to receive the teaching recognition. "My real teaching re-

ward is seeing students have the same enthusiasm as I have for clinical neuroscience and knowing that I helped engender that," he said.



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UNT Dallas students provide gifts for five families

(NDG Wire) Students at the University of North Texas at Dallas made Christmas a little nicer for five families.

Members of the Alpha Phi Sigma criminal justice honor society at the nation's newest university delivered gifts for five families to Thomas Marsalis Elementary School in Oak Cliff Dec. 16. Children in the families attend or have attended Marsalis.

Faculty Advisor Tiffney Cottledge-Barfield contacted Marsalis Principal Kimberly Richardson about the possibility of the honor society sponsoring families in the school. The society held fundraisers and collected bags of toys.

"Any time someone looks at our school and wants to help enrich the lives of our kids and our parents, it's an exciting time for us," Richardson said.



University of North Texas at Dallas students watch as Thomas Marsalis Elementary School counselor Telisa Ingram gives Christmas gifts to a family Dec. 16. The UNT Dallas students are members of the Alpha Phi Sigma criminal justice honor society.

"It's humbling; it's a beautiful thing because we have a lot of kids in need."

"Personally, I enjoy giving back to the community," said legal information management student Romel Smith.

"That's just one of my goals in life. We know there are a lot of people that are having hard times, and helping a family is one of our principles in the criminal justice honor society—

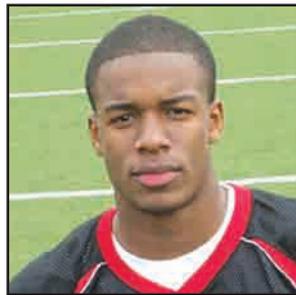
giving back to the community."

After watching two families receive their gifts, Cottledge-Barfield called it a wonderful experience.

"Just to be able to serve the kids and see that our organization can bring happiness and joy during this holiday season is wonderful. It's heartbreaking to see the number of kids in need in our community."

Cedar Hill's Driphus Jackson wins Army All-American Bowl spot

(NDG Wire) Cedar Hill High School quarterback Driphus Jackson scored the top notch in his quest to land a spot on the U.S. Army All-American Bowl. The senior will play on the west team in the annual bowl game slated for noon Jan. 8.



Driphus Jackson

The game will be broadcast on NBC.

His win was captured Dec. 17 in the final episode of MTV2's The Ride. The show followed eight under-the-radar high school quarterbacks fighting for a spot on the bowl team and a chance at a Division 1

scholarship. Viewers got to see the grueling process the athletes went through as they were scrutinized by top coaches in the nation.

This season, the senior standout racked up 2,900 yards passing, 500 yards rushing, 29 passing touchdowns and two rushing TDs

with the Longhorns. Jackson recently committed to play collegiate football at Rice in Houston.

The U.S. Army All-American Bowl is the premier high school football game in the country held each January at the Alamodome in San Antonio. The

game features the best high school football players in the nation and has helped launch the careers of Adrian Peterson, Mark Sanchez, Tim Tebow, Michael Oher, and many other college and NFL stars since its inception in 2001.

Wingstop ranked #1 for wings

(NDG Wire) Wingstop, the 470-unit chicken wing chain is making a strong impact on guests, according to recent Technomic, Inc. research which found that in markets where there is a Wingstop restaurant, consumers ranked the chain as the number one quick-service concept for wings.

The surveys were conducted over several weeks by Technomic, Inc., a re-

search and consulting firm that specializes in restaurants and food suppliers. The results found:

Wingstop had the highest top-of-mind, unaided awareness among wing concepts in its markets when consumers were asked "what concepts come to mind when you think of boneless or bone-in wings?"

Wingstop received 61 percent, more than twice as

many as any other limited-service chicken wing brand, when consumers were given a list and asked "which is a place for great wings."

Fifty percent of people surveyed who indicated they frequent Wingstop, said they purchase wings at Wingstop over another establishment



because "Wingstop makes the best wings."

With a sole focus on

cooked-to-order chicken wings, the Wingstop menu features traditional and boneless wings sauced and tossed in nine proprietary flavors including Original Hot,

Lemon Pepper and Garlic Parmesan, and side dishes like fresh-cut, seasoned fries.

"Wingstop prides itself on being The Wing Experts. We do one thing and we do it better than anyone else, so we are thrilled with the results and feedback we've received from consumers," said Andy Howard, chief marketing officer for Wingstop. "We have a product people crave that turns customers into loyal fans one wing at a time."

Former Dallas Cowboys special guests at networking luncheon

M.I.N.G.L.E. Football Edition is a professional networking luncheon featuring a panel of former NFL players turned entrepreneur, January 28, 2011 from 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. M.I.N.G.L.E.™ - The acronym appropriately stands for Meet, Interact, Network and Grow with Local Entrepreneurs. The panel will provide insight on becoming successful in today's economic climate and how



Former Dallas Cowboy Timmy Newsome

they transitioned from sports to entrepreneurship.

Hosted by Tarsha Polk, a prominent Dallas business owner, and including former NFL players: Erik Penick-Denver Broncos, Carl Miller-Dallas Cowboys, and Timmy Newsome of the Dallas Cowboys.

You can register online for \$40-\$50 at www.themarketinglady.com/events.

The event will be held at Studio Movie Grill 11170 N Central Expressway in Dallas.

The Margaret Hunt Hill Bridge is coming

Extract from City of Dallas 2011 Calendar for the month of January.

When the bridge opens in 2011, it will provide a seamless connection between West Dallas and Woodall Rodgers Freeway, and will also reinvigorate one of Dallas' most cherished resources; the Trinity River. The bridge will be a beautiful landmark for The Trinity project and redefine Dallas as a 21st century city for generations.

The Margaret Hunt Hill Bridge is designed by internationally known architect



Santiago Calatrava.

The cable stayed steel bridge includes 58 cables

attached to the center of the deck and one 400 foot arch pylon comprised of 25 segments. When complete, it will be the first vehicular bridge designed by Calatrava in America. The Continental Avenue Bridge will become a pedestrian enclave for walking, city events and parties.

Photo Credit: Keirston Jacobs, Honorable Mention, Pro Architecture/Structures

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, CCBC 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 me 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

LimitNetwork.com or 972-898-5882.

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

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

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

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

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

January 8

Chamber Music International to present pianist Leon Fleisher at the Caruth Auditorium (campus of Southern Methodist University), 6101 Bishop Blvd. in Dallas. Call 972-385-7267 for tickets or visit www.cmi-now.org.

January 8 - 9

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.

January 14-16

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

January 15

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

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

Science Fair Kickoff with Science Safari Susan Campbell, founder of Science Safari, will lead a fun, idea-filled, free session designed to spark lots of scientific thinking for children ages 6-12 at Josey Ranch Lake Library (1700 Keller

Springs Road) at 2 p.m. Children will learn how their questions about the world can turn into successful science fair projects. Info: cityofcarrollton.com/library or 972-466-4800.

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

January 17

The **15th Annual Fort Worth Cowboys of Color Invitational Rodeo** is scheduled for 2:00 p.m., at the historic Will Rogers Coliseum during the Fort Worth Stock Show.

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

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

January 17

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

2501.

January 17 & 20

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

January 21 - 30

The Plano Children's Theatre, 1301 Custer Road Suite 706 in Plano, will present several productions of **Godspell**. www.planochildrenstheatre.org

January 25

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

January 27

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

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

January 28

M.I.N.G.L.E. Football Edition is a professional networking luncheon featuring a panel of former NFL players turned entrepreneur, January 28, 2011 from 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. You can register online for \$40-\$50

at www.themarketinglady.com/events. The event will be held at Studio Movie Grill 11170 N Central Expressway in Dallas.

January 29

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

February 4

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

February 6

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

February 12

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

February 19-16

The annual two-day **Spring Master Composter Training Course** will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at Senter East Building, 228 Chamberlain St. To register, call 972-742-2296, or visit www.cityofirving.org/begreen, select "Educational Opportunities" and select "Master Composter Training." A refundable deposit of \$20 is required for registration. Registrants must attend both days to receive their deposit at end of the course.

March 6

Comerica Collin County Marathon Info: www.collinmarathon.com.

April 17-24

Dr Pepper Dallas Cup XXXII Info: www.dallas-cup.com

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Displaced Katrina survivor graduates

(NDG Wire) The University of North Texas at Dallas held its first commencement ceremony Dec. 19, and hundreds of guests had to watch the ceremony by closed-circuit television in classrooms throughout the campus.

The first graduating class included one grandmother who relocated to Dallas after Hurricane Katrina. Lena Johnson, who turns 60 Dec. 20, worked for the New Orleans Chamber and Greater New Orleans, Inc. for 24 years. One of 12 children, the New Orleans native had a lot of siblings to take care of, so she dropped out of high school in the 11th grade, something she said she regrets. A few years later she had her first child when she was 20. She eventually went back to school and earned her GED and later enrolled in Delgado Community College in New Orleans.

"I went through a lot of challenges because I was raising my kids by myself," she said. She earned an associate's degree in 1994. By that time, she was rising through the ranks of her career with the New Orleans Chamber of Commerce.

Johnson started working at the Chamber in the mailroom as a mail clerk, was promoted to information specialist in the economic development department and then became a research associate in economic development.

"We brought in new industry into the New Orleans area and helped local businesses that wanted to expand, and I would put together proposal packets." She was promoted into the communications department and then moved into public policy. The Chamber had a mentoring program called School to Career. School children would go to local businesses to learn skills and get exposure to various careers.

Johnson became in-

involved in the junior achievement program during the summers where they helped kids learn how to set goals, how to follow through on their goals and how to make decisions in life. That involvement helped prepare her for what she would do at UNT Dallas 20 years later and helped her discover her passion.

The Chamber split and Greater New Orleans, Inc. spun off as the economic development steering wheel for the city, she said. She continued working there in economic development until four years later when Hurricane Katrina hit in August 2005. Johnson stayed in Lafayette for several months hoping to get her job back, but eventually she got the bad news.

"They had to reduce staff in order to survive, and me being a senior and kind of grandfathered into a lot of the perks, I was one of the first ones to go," she said.

In March 2006 she decided to make Dallas her new home, in part because of the many opportunities here, especially in education, she said. In addition, two of her four daughters lived in Lancaster and in Grand Prairie. She moved to the area, got plugged into a local church and began volunteering.

Pursuing her passion, she became director of the Vacation Bible School. She put together the traditional spiritual program but also challenged the children to explore career paths "because I wanted them to know that going to school is part of developing who you are, and you need to know where you're going from here."

Johnson had an associate's degree and always wanted to get a bachelor's degree, so she applied and was accepted to the University of North Texas.

Her daughters jokingly said, "You're going to be

60 years old. You're going back to school?" I told them, "Well guess what? I'm going to be 60 with a degree."

She chose to take all of her courses at what was then the UNT Dallas Campus because "It had that

has also been a victory for me. I hope to encourage my 11 grandkids to stay in school and seek a degree and not be afraid of higher education."

This fall Johnson served as a G-Force mentor at Kathlyn Joy Gilliam Col-

lege Academy through the university's college readiness program. Just like the New Orleans Chamber program, preparing kids, connecting them with career paths and helping them identify where they fit before they get out of high school is her passion.

Johnson earned a sociology degree and will continue taking classes in the spring semester to complete a second degree in May. She wants a job, but she's interested in running her

own non-profit "because I'm going to be 60, and I'm not sure what the market is like for someone in their 60s. I still feel vibrant; I still have a lot of energy left, so I think I might want to do something on my own." She is interested in develop-

young. I think she has so much more to offer. She's very patient and doesn't mind you coming in and talking to her."

UNT Dallas will begin awarding its own degrees after the school is separately accredited, which is ex-



University of North Texas at Dallas student Lena Johnson gives brochures to Avery Dejuan (left) and Bryan Tryon, students at the DISD's Kathlyn Joy Gilliam Collegiate Academy, outside the school's "GO Center" Dec. 15. The GO Center has computers and resources to help students with college access and scholarships. Johnson relocated to Dallas after Hurricane Katrina. She graduated from UNT Dallas Dec. 19.

small, family environment. It wasn't so big that you got lost. The smaller campus was just right. The staff here was very pleasant; you felt like you're at home. Everybody was so willing to help you, and I just felt like this was the place for me."

Her daughters were supportive of her going back to school. They all pitched in and took care of her, she said. In fact she switches being living with both of her daughters in the area, although she does have an apartment in Euless.

She is a member of the university's Tau Sigma National Honor Society for transfer students with a 3.5 GPA. In her first semester, Johnson impressed herself by earning a 3.7 GPA.

"I was like, wow, I didn't know I could do this. It has been a challenge, but it

legiate Academy through the university's college readiness program. Just like the New Orleans Chamber program, preparing kids, connecting them with career paths and helping them identify where they fit before they get out of high school is her passion.

The school counselor at Gilliam, Lenora Brown said Johnson was fantastic working with students.

"She's very conscientious about her work, and she's dedicated to getting the students enrolled in whatever endeavor she's working on, if it's a college search or SAT preparation."

Johnson earned a sociology degree and will continue taking classes in the spring semester to complete a second degree in May. She wants a job, but she's interested in running her

ing a non-profit that helps kids learn what she calls "soft skills"—presentation skills, how to dress, how to take a message, how to deliver a message, how to present themselves overall—in addition to college readiness.

"Our youth have problems with style, and if you want to be the one to get the job, then you have to present yourself accordingly."

Johnson said she highly recommends UNT Dallas because it isn't overwhelming.

"I was able to go in, and if I had any issues I could talk to my instructors and they took the time to talk to me." She called Assistant Professor of Sociology Helen Potts her favorite instructor because "she keeps it real. She's very open. She's young, and I'm like, wow, she's awesome to be so

pected to occur in 2013. Until then, UNT Dallas maintains its accreditation through the flagship of the UNT System.

One hundred ten students walked in the UNT Dallas commencement ceremony. Students will continue to earn a UNT degree, but they can declare Dallas as their home campus and have their diploma name UNT Dallas as the location where the degree was conferred, UNT Dallas Registrar Nichole Mancone said.

The University of North Texas at Dallas is a 21st century teaching institution and a component of the University of North Texas System. The University's goal is to train citizens to be productive and lead in a global environment and to promote the values of virtue, civility, reasoning and accountability.

'Round about DFW New Year's Celebrations

December 31

The South Dallas Cultural Center, 3400 S. Fitzhugh Ave. in Dallas, presents **Kwanzaa at the Center** at 7 p.m. The event is free.

December 31 – January 1

New Year's Eve with Tommy Davidson at the Arlington Improv, 309

Curtis Mathes Way in Arlington begins at 10 p.m. and includes party favors and champagne toast at midnight. Tickets are \$35.

BITTERSWEET, V.2 The Future Past New Year's Eve celebration slated for the Aloft Hotel, 1033 Young St. in Dallas from 8 p.m. to 2 a.m. Age 25 and older. Must RSVP



Tommy Davidson

before 5 p.m. on Dec. 31. Ten dollar admission before 9:30 p.m. with RSVP. <http://dbrsvp.com/bittersweet>

The Release **Roc the Year** is coming to the Red Room, 4950 Belt Line Road in Addison starting at 9 p.m. To enter, ladies must be 23 years old and men 25. Complimentary

admission for everyone for everyone until 10:30 p.m. with RSVP. <http://dbrsvp.com/release>

The **7th annual New Year's Eve Extravaganza** slated for 9 p.m. to 3 a.m. at the Radisson Hotel Love Field, 1241 Mockingbird Lane in Dallas. Men must be 25 years old and women 23 to enter. Tickets start at

\$45. Visit <http://thesilentpartner.ticketleap.com/courtesy-nissan-presents-the-7th-annual-new-year-extravaganza/> for tickets.

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

Have You Heard?

By Tonya Whitaker
NDG Staff Writer

I Got Da Hookup

The oh-so-generous P. Diddy is spreading holiday cheer. Visit www.northdallasgazette.com to find out what college student received a special surprise from P. Diddy.



P. Diddy

A Wealth Full of Lies
Last week, Jermaine Jackson was a poor man who could not pay \$3,000 a month in child support arrears because he earned approximately \$1,400 a month. If he is so broke, why did he recently report \$150,000 in furs, jewelry and clothes stolen from his

home?

Now That's Better

I was not saddened when Paula Abdul departed *American Idol*. Admit it y'all, she ain't the greatest singer. When I used to watch *Idol*, I would always cringe when she made a suggestion about someone's



Paula Abdul

singing. Now, dancing is one thing Abdul can do. Abdul's upcoming judging gig on CBS' *Live to Dance* is more appropriate for her.

Happy New Year everyone!

Read more celebrity gossip online at www.northdallasgazette.com.

Cowboys of Color Rodeo returns to Stock Show

(NDG Wire) The 15th Annual Fort Worth Cowboys of Color Invitational Rodeo will take place on Monday, January 17, 2011, 2:00 p.m., at the historic Will Rogers Coliseum during the Fort Worth Stock Show, for the second year in a row. A portion of the proceeds from this rodeo will be donated by the Stock Show to benefit the educa-

tional programming provided by National Multicultural Western Heritage Museum (NMWHM) to area youth. The museum offers free Cultural Heritage Youth Workshops that are held throughout the school year for students K-12.

The museum's goal is to assist 1,500 youth from across the city attend the Ft. Worth Cowboys of Color

Rodeo on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Monday, after the parade, on Monday, January 17, 2011.

The day will include pre-rodeo activities for families such as the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Parade held in downtown Ft. Worth, Grand Entry Parade at the rodeo, cultural entertainment between traditional rodeo events and an oppor-

tunity to obtain autographs from the rodeo contest winners. The \$16.00 ticket price includes admission to

grounds activities throughout the day (petting zoo, exhibits, midway, etc.).

Tickets may be pur-

chased via mail, the museum's website www.cowboysofcolor.org, or by calling 817-922-9999.

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— TIME Magazine

Al Jarreau performing in Richardson



Al Jarreau

(NDG Wire) Al Jarreau's unique vocal style is one of the world's most precious treasures. His innovative musical expressions have made him one of the most critically acclaimed performers of our time, with seven Grammys (jazz, pop and R&B), scores of international music awards, and accolades worldwide. After

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See JARREAU, Page 12

Texas employers add 19,100 jobs in November but state rate increases

(NDG Wire) Texas total non-farm employment was up by 19,100 jobs in November, representing the addition of 192,100 jobs in the last year. The Texas unemployment rate rose slightly to 8.2 percent in November and continued to trend well below the U.S. unemployment rate for November at 9.8 percent. The Texas unemployment rate has ranged between 8.1 and 8.3 percent during 2010.

"Texas employers have added jobs in eight of the last

12 months, setting the pace for the rest of the nation," said Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) Chairman Tom Pauken. "Most industries recorded positive growth over the year."

Professional and Business Services increased by 5,600 jobs in November, adding 61,200 positions from a year ago. Leisure and Hospitality employment increased by 4,700 positions in November for a total job gain of 19,100 jobs since November 2009. Fi-

"Consistent job growth over the past year offers employment opportunities for Texas workers," said TWC Commissioner Representing Labor Ronny Congleton. "Staff at TWC and the 240 workforce centers across the state are committed to assisting those job seekers who remain unemployed."

Employment in Education and Health Services increased by 4,300 jobs in November with a total of 47,900 jobs added in this industry since November 2009. Fi-



nancial Activities employment increased by 2,000 jobs in November, adding 5,900 jobs over the year.

In November, Information employment increased by 1,700 jobs; Construction added 1,000 jobs; and Mining and Log-

ging grew by 300 positions.

"Recent job growth has spurred an increase in the Texas labor force which has continued to expand for the third consecutive month, currently at 12.2 million workers," said TWC Commissioner Representing the Public Andres Alcantar. "Job seekers should take advantage of the many services available at no-cost from their local workforce development boards across the state."

RTC awards airport, regional governments \$1.2M for clean vehicles

(NDG Wire) The Regional Transportation Council approved \$1.2 million in projects in December intended to help move Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport and local governments toward cleaner vehicle fleets through the Clean Fleets North Texas: Recovery Act Project.



Among the projects is conversion to compressed natural gas of 37 DFW Airport shuttle buses. The airport will receive \$784,400 in grant funding for the \$2.77 million project, and \$16,000 for two CNG sweepers.

The money comes from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, which provided the North Central Texas Council of Governments \$19.4 million for air quality programs it administers. The State Energy Conservation Office (SECO) contributed \$2.5 million of the funds.

The city of Fort Worth was awarded \$259,910 for fleet and infrastructure upgrades. The city will convert

four heavy-duty and six light-duty trucks to propane. Fort Worth will upgrade propane infrastructure at three locations with money it received for infrastructure improvements.

Eules, Garland, McKinney and Tarrant County also received funding for alternative-fuel and advanced-technology projects aimed at making their fleets more efficient. Eules plans to use its funding for a biodiesel project. Garland and McKinney were awarded funding for all-electric and plug-in electric vehicles and recharging infrastructure.

A total of 19 light-duty and 43 heavy-duty vehicles will receive funding, as well

as five infrastructure projects. With adoption of cleaner technologies, the recipients are expected to save 195,107 gallons of diesel and 508,525 gallons of gasoline over the life

of the vehicles. This was the second time NCTCOG distributed ARRA funds for clean-vehicle projects under this same program. Plano, Midlothian, Garland, DFW Airport and the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center were awarded about \$275,000 in ARRA funds in Round 1 of the Clean Fleets North Texas: Recovery Act Project for natural gas and electric vehicle and infrastructure projects.

The region still has more than \$985,000 in ARRA funds to distribute to local governments seeking cleaner fleets. NCTCOG has opened another call for projects to allocate this money to entities seeking to contribute

to the region's improving air quality.

Efforts to reduce petroleum use and improve the region's air quality are important because the nine-county Dallas-Fort Worth

area is in nonattainment for the pollutant ozone. Despite major strides made in recent years, the region has work remaining before it meets the Environmental Protection Agency's ozone stan-

dard. Encouraging local governments to adopt cleaner technology is just one tool NCTCOG is using to reach the goal of cleaner air.



New Year's Eve at 'The Light'

Watch Night Service

December 31, 2010 – 10:00 p.m. (Doors open at 9:30 p.m.)

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Longtime publisher and community activist is mourned

The North Dallas Gazette joins family and friends in mourning the passing of Eddie P. Richardson, a longtime community activist and co-founder of East Lubbock's community newspaper, *Southwest Digest*. Richardson passed away on Sunday December 19 at his home. He was 74 years of age.

Richardson is survived by his mother, Helen Here-

ford, his two daughters, Angela of Lubbock, TX and Karen of Atlanta, GA. Other members of his surviving family include eight grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Richardson dedicated his life in the black community of Lubbock. He founded the city's Black Chamber of Entrepreneurs, where he served as a governor's appointee to

a statewide Juneteenth Celebration Board. For several years, Richardson spearheaded the city's Martin Luther King Jr. celebrations. One of his biggest contributions to the black community in Lubbock was working with his partner and dearest friend for 40 years, T.J. Patterson, at the *Southwest Digest*, the newspaper they co-founded together.

Irving hosting CERT Training

The Office of Emergency Management is hosting a free Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. January 8-9, 2011. Training will take place at the Fire and Police Training Academy, 2603 Esters Road.

CERT members will learn how to be self-sufficient for up to 72 hours following a major emergency or disaster. CERT members are volunteers who others in the community will rely on to meet their immediate life-saving



and life-sustaining needs.

Space is limited. To sign up for this volunteer training opportunity, contact Emer-

gency Management Planner Billy Owens at 972-721-2183 or bowens@cityofirving.org by December 31.

JARREAU, continued from Page 10

more than 30 years, Al Jarreau is undoubtedly one of the greatest performers and innovative vocalists the music world has ever known, and will light up the *Eisemann Center Presents Spotlight Series* in the Hill Performance Hall on Sat., Jan. 15, 2011 at 8 p.m.

Still one of the hardest working men in show business, 2009 saw Al embark on a six-week European spring tour visiting theatres & festivals in Germany, France, Scandinavia and

Eastern Europe. Al also put together *The Very Best of Al Jarreau: An Excellent Adventure*. The 16-song collection highlights some of Al's best-known songs, alongside one new track "Excellent Adventure," which was produced by Richard Nichols and The Randy Watson Experience (Grammy® winning songwriter James Poyser and The Roots drummer Amir "Questlove" Thompson) - who have also produced songs for Erykah Badu, Al

Green and The Roots, among others.

Tickets for the Sat., Jan. 15 performance range from \$39-\$68 and are available online at www.eisemanncenter.com or by calling the Eisemann Center Ticket Office at 972-744-4650. Ticket Office hours are 10:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. Monday thru Saturday and one hour before performances. Group discounts are available for 10 or more by calling 972-744-4657.

WOOD, continued from Page 2

by Fordham Law School in New York, where she delivered a paper on the topic *The Dynamic of Law and Development in Ghana*; The case for Judicial Reform in an Emergent Democracy. She was the keynote speaker for the 16th Commonwealth Law Conference (CLC2009) in Hong Kong, where she spoke on the topic *Democracy, Good Governance and the role of the Legal Profession: The*

case of Ghana in April 2009.

In September last year, Chief Justice Wood was appointed a member of the special team of the International Bar Association (IBA) and International Legal Assistance Consortium (ILAC) to Kenya at the invitation of the Kenya Law Society on Judicial Reforms.

In January Chief Justice Wood will be celebrated as

the International honoree at the 19th Annual Trumpet Awards black-tie ceremony, sponsored by the Trumpet Awards Foundation, Inc.

"We will continue to build upon this commemorative memorial to the civil rights struggle that depicts the tireless efforts and passionate concern of these determined individuals whose footsteps appear in this Walk of Fame," said Clayton.

GARLAND, continued from Page 1

to March 2008, she conspired with others to embezzle from the City of Garland by creating false claims for damage and repairs to personal and real property. The false claims totaled more than \$1.9 million. The checks, issued in the true names of co-conspirators as well as fictitious names, were cashed by co-conspirators who shared the proceeds with

Leathers.

On December 8, 2010, Leathers' sister, Connie M. Powell, 59, of Garland, pled guilty to her role in the con-

spiracy. She faces a maximum statutory sentence of five years in prison, a \$250,000 fine and restitution. Sentencing is set for March 2, 2011.

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DART awarded \$700,000 for light rail planning

(NDG Wire) Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson announced last week that the Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) System will receive \$700,000 from the Federal Transit Administration for Light Rail Planning.

The \$700,000 in planning funds will be used to evaluate a

second light rail transit alignment for downtown Dallas, commonly known as D2. This new line is being undertaken to alleviate congestion along the DART transit mall, which runs along Bryan Street and Pacific Avenue.

"The award of these funds represents a critical step for-

ward to moving ahead with the D2 line," said Congresswoman Johnson. "I am pleased to support the allocation of these funds to DART, which adds to my ongoing effort to help relieve congestion and ensure that Dallas residents have multiple transportation options available to them."

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NAACP, continued from Page 1

march, the celebration continues with an MLK commemorative program in the Granville Arts Center. Slated to perform are the MLK community-wide youth choir, the St. Luke AME puppet ministry and the Ida Handley Elementary choir will perform.

Keeping with the event's theme,

the MLK youth extravaganza will take place Sunday, Jan. 16, 2011, at 4 p.m. at the Granville Arts Center main auditorium. Youth groups from area churches will showcase their spiritual talents in praise dance, step routines and military style drills on Sunday afternoon.

All events are free and open to the public. For more information on these events, please contact the NAACP Garland Branch at 972-381-5044, voice box #5, or visit the NAACP Garland Branch's web site at www.garlandtxnaacp.org.



DALLAS COUNTY CONSTABLE OFFICES

NOTICE OF ENTRY LEVEL DEPUTY CONSTABLE TESTING

Dallas County Registration begins Monday, December 13, 2010 through Tuesday, December 28, 2010. For additional information visit our website @ www.dallascounty.org. EOE

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January 1, 2011, 7 a.m.
Join us for our Ladies Prayer & Breakfast meeting at the IHOP, 933 N. Central Expressway in Plano, TX 75075. Come fasting, if you can, and have a thirst for righteousness. Everyone is welcome. For details call Sis. Misty Rockwell at 214-244-1142 or Sis. Deadra Pete at 469-667-5865

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

Brother Ramon Hodridge, Minister
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Pastor Minnie Hawthorne-Ewing
635 W. Campbell Road
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Join us in our New Worship Times: 8:45 a.m. and 11 a.m.

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Pastor Autry
701 E. Centennial Blvd.
Richardson, TX 75081
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www.followpeace.org

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Monday – Friday
Prayer Lines for those in need are 972-649-0566 and 972-649-0567.

Rev. W. L. Stafford, Sr., M.Div.
Senior Pastor
305 N. Alder Drive, in Allen for Sunday Morning Worship.
Church Address is 200 Belmont Drive Allen, TX 75013
972-359-9956
www.fbcallen.org

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF HAMILTON PARK "FIRST CHURCH"

December 31st, 9 p.m.
You're invited to an evening of anointed New Years Eve Worship Experience of prayer, testimonials and music from New Mount Zion and First Church

mass choirs; plus Psalmists Helen Baylor and Tramaine Hawkins.

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

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

MT. PISGAH MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH "THE ROCK"

December 31, 10 p.m.
Join us for Watch Night Service as we close the Year 2010 and welcome the New Year 2011.

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

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

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December 31, 9 p.m.
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Street for Watch Night Service of prayer, testimonials and songs. Call 214-341-6459 for details.

On Going
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On Going
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God never expected us to bear our burdens alone; our Stephen Ministers are ready to provide emotional and spiritual care when you need them. Call 972-437-3493, Ext. 153 for details.

December 31, 9 p.m.
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Dr. Leslie W. Smith, Senior Pastor
1010-1020 S. Sherman Street

Richardson, TX 75081
972-437-3493
www.ndcbf.org

SAINT MARK MBC IN MCKINNEY

December 31, 10 p.m.
Join us for Watch Night Service as we close the Year 2010 and welcome the New Year 2011.

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

SHILOH MBC IN PLANO

December 31, 10 p.m.
Join us for Watch Night Service as we close the Year 2010 and welcome the New Year 2011.

On Going Wednesdays, 7 p.m.
You're invited to our Mid-Week Service as we praise and worship God for His blessings.

Dr. Isaiah Joshua, Jr. Senior Pastor
920 E. 14th Street
Plano, TX 75074
972-423-6695
www.smbcplano.org

THE NEW LIGHT CHURCH

On Going
Join us every Wednesday at 6:30 pm for Girls in Action meeting. Girls 6-17 are en-

couraged to explore Christ and the Word of God.

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

WORD OF LIFE CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST

December 31, 9 p.m.
Join Prophet Gregory Voss, pastor & guest speaker as he reveal future events for 2011 and beyond for Watch Night Service at the St. Andrews COGIC at 608 Lakey Street, Denton, Texas 76205; with Supt & Pastor Clarence Harden, his congregation; and guest Psalmist Tommye Young-West with other anointed ministers for a Holy Spirit night of closing out 2010 and welcoming the New Year 2011. Call 214-514-9147 for details. Theme: Pressing Forward, Going Higher! Found in Philippians 3:14.

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

Thursdays, 7 p.m.
You're invited to hear anointed men and women bring the Word of God.

Dr. Gregory Voss, Senior Pastor
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Building 300
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Watch Night Services

December 31, 2010 will end with "Watch Night Services" at various churches in America. For 100 years or more my ancestors celebrated "Night Watch Services" every December 31st; and later, I did the same with my children not knowing the meaning of the annual celebration.

From my cousin, Vickie Terry Byrd I learned the history of Watch Night Service; a tradition that brings fond memories to me. Perhaps this story will educate and enlighten you, or at the very least bring back loving memories of your past.

Many of you who grew up in Black communities in America have probably heard of "Watch Night Services"

(the gathering of Christians in church on New Year's Eve.) Service usually begins anywhere from 9 or 10 pm, and ends at midnight with prayer into the New Year. Some people go to church before going out to celebrate the New Year. For others, church is their only New Year's Eve celebration. I always assumed that Watch Night Service was a fairly standard Christian religious service—a bit more Afro centric because that's what happens when elements of Christianity become linked with the Black Church. It seems that predominantly Anglo Christian churches did not include Watch Night Services on their calendars in the past, but focused on Christmas Eve programs. In fact, there were instances where clergy in main-

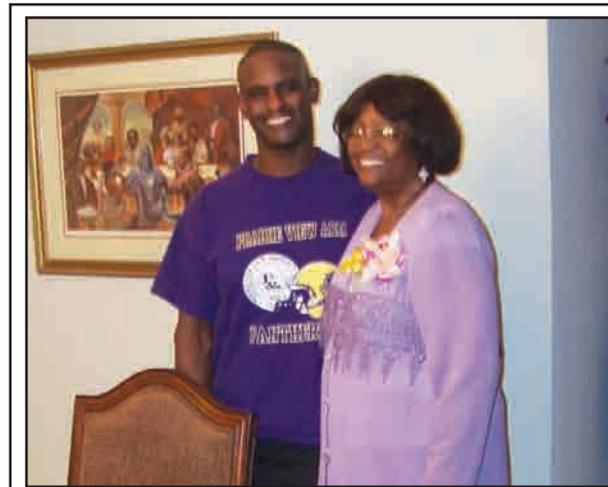
line denominations wondered aloud about the propriety of linking religious services with a secular holiday like New Year's Eve.

However, there is a reason for the importance of New Year's Eve Services in Black congregations; it can be traced back to gatherings on December 31, 1862, also known as "Freedom's Eve." On that night, Blacks came together in churches and private homes all across the nation, anxiously awaiting the news that the Emancipation Proclamation actually had become law. Then, at the stroke of midnight, it was January 1, 1863; this meant that all slaves in the Confederate States were declared legally FREE. When news was received, there were prayers, shouts and songs of joy as

people fell to their knees and thanked God. Some Black folks have gathered in churches on New Year's Eve since; and there are praises to God for bringing families safely through another year.

It's been 148 years since that First Freedom's Eve in Texas; many of us were never taught the African America's history of Watch Night, but custom still brings us together at this time every year to celebrate, how God blessed us.

For the New Year, may you find God to be: Your peace for every struggle; the supply for your every need; your solution for every problem; your escape for every temptation. Your release for every burden you may have and your balm for every pain. Your comfort for every sorrow; the victory for every bat-



Sister Tarpley and son, Jarrell Edwin, today is his birthday; I thank and praise God for a wonderful and caring son. **HAPPY BIRTHDAY JARRELL!**

tle you will have; your wisdom for every decision; your strength for every endeavor; your hope for every tomorrow and your song for every day.

Remember, **Philippians**

4:13 (KJV) says, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

God's Peace, Joy, Hope and Blessings to you and your family in the New Year!

EMPLOYMENT, continued from Page 3

ican owned businesses that have both local and global reach into the marketplace, and supporting sustainable economic development in our communities with a focus on job training and long term employment programs and projects.

According to the U.S. Department of Commerce Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA), there is a new focus on growing the minority business community in the United States. In

other words, to grow employment in our communities, we must grow the development of new businesses in our communities. U.S. Commerce Secretary Gary Locke recently announced the appointment of 25 individuals to serve on the National Advisory Council for Minority Business Enterprises. This new council is led by the MBDA and is the first such federal advisory council that will be focused on promoting minority businesses since the

early 1970's. Thus, another milestone for the Obama Administration.

David A. Hinson, the MBDA National Director, is an accomplished expert on minority business development in the African American and other minority communities. Hinson stated, "The nation's 5.8 million minority-owned firms have significant untapped potential that can benefit the United States. The advisory council has an opportunity to shape future

policies and programs that will set the foundation for the growth of \$100 million companies across all industries that are owned and operated by U.S. minorities."

The outlook, therefore, in 2011 is more promising than it was two years ago. Opportunity is on the horizon for African American businesses and workers. But, let's stay focus. Let's be prepared. Our long fight for freedom, justice, and equality has to result in more employment and

thus empowerment. Let's continue to fight.

Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis is Senior Advisor for the Black

Alliance for Educational Options and President of Education Online Services Corporation



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1026 Avenue F • Plano, TX 75074
972-423-8833
www.avefchurchofchrist.org

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Sunday Bible Class9:45 am
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Wednesday Bible Class7:00 pm

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

KIDD, continued from Page 1

seeing how much they love the game.”

The next day (Dec. 13), the athletes had the opportunity to catch up with Kidd at the American Airlines Center during a tour of the Dallas Mavericks locker room and shoot around on the court with Kidd before he and the Mavericks took on the Milwaukee Bucks. The 75 game tickets for the Special Olympians were provided by the Heroes Foundation, a nonprofit that provides programs for opportunity for Dallas youth to participate in team sports and educational and cultural curriculums while building self confidence. In addition, the foundation brings sports training and competition to children and adults with intellectual disabilities.

“Special Olympics Texas has worked with the Heroes Foundation for a while now, and it has really evolved into a fantastic partnership,” said Cyndi Murchison, development di-



rector for Special Olympics Texas –Greater Dallas area. “We appreciate the people and all their support and especially want to thank Jason for spending his Sunday with the athletes.”

The clinic also provided a chance to see improvements to the Mark Cuban Heroes Basketball Center since its recent facelift. Thanks to the Heroes Foundation, the once-abandoned YWCA has undergone a \$2-million renovation to expand and transform the heavily vandalized facility

into a top-of-the-line NBA-style youth sports center with areas for technology, academics and community gatherings. The latest enhancements include artist-inspired graffiti walls, a new NBA/NCAA-sized basketball court, a completed workout and training facility, and a scouting room. Updates are currently in progress for the YOUNiversity room, an academic-savvy area equipped with computers, an SAT/ACT training center, a study hall room plus a large commu-

nity center and small meeting room for gatherings.

In addition to Kidd and the Special Olympics athletes, other attendees at the clinic included Cyndi Murchison, Special Olympics Texas Program Director-Area 10; John Sherrod, Heroes Basketball board member; Charlie McKinney, founder and president of the Heroes Foundation; plus players from the Heroes select basketball team who are volunteering as part of Heroes Cares, an initiative modeled after NBA Cares to get youth to give back to their community.

“Heroes Cares is truly the cornerstone of the Heroes Foundation,” said Heroes Basketball board member John Sherrod. “We’re giving our kids the chance to give back to the community and in turn they begin to understand what it really means to be winners on the court.”

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7:30 am & 10:30 am
9:00 am Sunday School

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

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

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9:30 am

Wednesday Night Service
8:00 pm

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