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Court releases interim redistricting plans

Plan includes new North Texas minority opportunity congressional district, but not Travis County-based district

On Wednesday, Feb. 28 the Federal District Court in San Antonio released the interim maps to be used for the 2012 elections in Texas. The court's congressional map (Plan C235) appears to be nearly identical to a compromise plan agreed to by the Latino Task Force and Texas Republicans.

The interim plan is a victory for African American and Hispanic voters in North Texas. New District 33 is a coalition district that includes the core African American and Hispanic neighborhoods in Tarrant County and then extends east into Dallas County to include Hispanic neighbor-



Henry Cuellar

hoods in Oak Cliff and parts of Grand Prairie and Irving. The turnout in Democratic primaries favors Tarrant County. The new congressional district includes most of the State House District of Representative Marc Veasey. Veasey is expected

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Goal of 400 paid summer internships for Dallas students

Stating "there is no greater contribution a city can make than educating our children," Dallas Mayor Mike Rawlings Tuesday announced a goal to recruit 150 Dallas businesses to support 400 summer internships as part of the Mayor Mike



JaVonte Starling

Rawlings Intern Fellows program. The eight-week internships will give Dallas public and charter high school students an opportunity to soak up real-world knowledge and eye-opening experiences at Dallas' top corporations, large non-profits, legal and

professional firms.

"Educating our young people will strengthen our neighborhoods, our families, our economy – and our future," said Mayor Rawlings.

The Mayor's Office founded the program in 2008

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ACLU files motion in federal district court to stop law that would disenfranchise voters

Comment letters opposing a voter ID law in Texas also filed

The American Civil Liberties Union and the ACLU of South Carolina last week asked a federal court to block South Carolina's discriminatory voter identification law that would keep minorities and others from exercising



their right to vote.

"South Carolina's voter ID law is a prime example why the Voting Rights Act is necessary and relevant today," said Nancy Abu-

du, senior staff attorney with the ACLU Voting Rights Project. "If it were not for the protections that the Voting Rights Act provides, South Carolina and many other states would enact discriminatory vot-

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Dallas doctor and staff arrested for alleged health care fraud of nearly \$375 million



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NDG Gossip: Curves and Natural Hair at the Oscars

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

COMMENTARY

Global Salute to Nelson Mandela

By DR. BENJAMIN F. CHAVIS JR.
NNPA COLUMNIST

All of humanity continues to be irreversibly uplifted by the indefatigable leadership and irrepressible spirit of Nelson Mandela. South Africa, the African National Congress (ANC), as well as all people throughout the world should pause with the greatest of respect while "Madiba" is still alive to express the highest tribute to him for a lifetime of achievement and

commitment to worldwide freedom, justice, equality, empowerment and human dignity.

African Americans and all African people in particular are so inspired by the perseverance and bold courageous example of Nelson Mandela who not only helped to lead the dismantlement of apartheid in South Africa, but also he continues today to stand at the age of 93 as a global role model and force for progressive change, moral in-

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People In The News...



JJ Smith



Candace Hickey



Dr. Julianne Malveaux

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JJ Smith

After appearing on the *Steve Harvey Morning Show* last week, nutritionist JJ Smith's new book, *Lose Weight Without Dieting or Working Out* was the #1 Health, Fitness and Dieting book, and #4 in overall books, on the Amazon.com bestseller charts.

The book offers a breakthrough solution that "helps you lose weight without counting calories, starving yourself, or eating bland packaged foods. You will

see results even if you don't maintain an exercise regimen."

"I can recall two times in my life, in my twenties and again in my thirties, that I was very committed to losing weight so I followed all the typical advice to 'eat less and exercise more' but it just didn't work for me. So, being a nutritionist, I designed a weight-loss system, the Detox-Eat-Move (DEM) System, that has helped me and my clients

shed pounds fast. The results in just a few short weeks are remarkable," says Smith.

According to Smith, "the DEM System is NOT a diet, but a lifestyle of healthy living! The DEM System is a three-phase system that allows you to get rid of stubborn body fat and reverse some of your health issues and ailments, restoring your body to optimal health." Interested ones can learn more about the book at www.jjsmithonline.com/products/lose-weight.html



The nutritionist-designed program provides easy-to-follow guidelines for eating "clean and balanced" foods that not only helps readers lose weight, but cause them to look and feel younger and healthier than they have in years. The DEM System features methods to detoxify the body, balance hor-

mones, and speed up metabolism. Readers will learn how to eat foods that help them stay slim and avoid foods that cause them to get fat.

Smith comments, "I realized there were a lot of hard-working people like me who didn't always have time to diet or exercise, but still wanted to lose weight and stay slim; And now, this program is designed just for them."

In the book, readers will learn to:

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Candace Hickey

Local reality TV star and proud mother of triplets, Candace Hickey, is among the cast of the WE tv reality series, "*Texas Multi Mamas*." This energetic and dramatic series captures the multi-faceted lives of six Texas mothers as they face the many challenges that come with raising twins, triplets and quadruplets. Following a successful first season, a marathon of the "*Texas Multi Mamas*" episodes will air on March 5 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the WE tv network.

"I am extremely excited

to be part of a show that highlights the joys and challenges of being a mother of multiples," said Candace Hickey, Texas Multi Mama of triplets. "It is a show that every woman will find relatable as we all have many roles and responsibilities that we have to juggle daily."

The "*Texas Multi Mamas*" reality TV show follows the lives of six mothers of multiples providing a peek inside the exclusive world of parenting twins, triplets and quadruplets.

From packing lunches

and preparing baths to coordinating play dates and arranging traveling, these mothers have the unique challenge of simultaneously managing two, three and four young children of the same age. Not lacking signature reality TV drama, Candace Hickey along with the other mothers let their pony tails down to explore the social scene, while also experiencing their fair amount of break-ups, make-ups, tears and fights. From episode to episode, viewers experience a



journey of emotional highs and lows with these energetic mothers of multiples who possess huge personalities, strong opinions and big hearts.

"*Texas Multi Mamas*" is an authentic and relatable reality series. It appeals to all women and successfully captures the chaos of raising mul-

tiples, along with the challenges of balancing the many roles in life such as wife, friend, and mother. Episodes from the first season will air on Monday, March 5 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the WE TV network. For additional information about the "*Texas Multi Mamas*" series, please visit www.wetv.com/shows/texas-multi-mamas. For additional information on Candace Hickey and the additional cast of moms, please visit www.wetv.com/shows/texas-multi-mamas/cast/candace.

Dr. Julianne Malveaux

Dr. Julianne Malveaux, President of Bennett College, announced her inten-



tion to step down as the institution's chief executive, effective May 6, 2012. Malveaux has been president of the college since 2007.

Dr. Malveaux, an econ-

omist, author, and popular speaker, cited her desire to pursue other challenges as the reason for her resignation.

"Leading Bennett College has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. In my five years at the college, we have embraced Bennett's historic commitment to create an oasis where women are educated, cele-

brated, and transformed into 21st century leaders and global thinkers. As I reflect on my accomplishments and of the college's growth and transformation during my tenure, I realize

that it is time for Bennett, and for me, to embark on a new chapter. Five years is the longest time I've ever held a job in my life, and while I remain committed to HBCUs and the compelling cause of access in higher education, I will actualize that commitment, now, in other arenas. I will miss Bennett College and will remain one of its most passionate advocates."

Charles Barrentine, Chair of the Board of Trustees, expressed appreciation for Malveaux and noted the progress that Malveaux has ushered in during her tenure at Bennett.

"The Board of Trustees respects Dr. Malveaux's desire to pursue her other interests at this time. We have been extremely fortunate to have her at the helm of Bennett College for the last five years. Given her many talents, the college

has been enhanced by having Dr. Malveaux as our leader. Under Dr. Malveaux's leadership the college completed an ambitious \$21 million capital improvements program that renovated existing facilities and erected four new buildings – the first new construction on campus in 28 years. She increased enrollment to a historic high of more than 735 students in 2009, expanded alumnae involvement, and enhanced the curriculum with a focus on women's leadership, entrepreneurship, excellence in communications, and global awareness."

"Also, under Dr. Malveaux's leadership, Bennett's accreditation has been reaffirmed through 2014 by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. She also created a 2020 Master Plan, which advocates, among other

things, construction of a new high-tech library. Overall, Dr. Malveaux empowered the college to build on its historic legacy.

In recognition of her distinguished work, she will be named President Emerita of Bennett College

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Consumers welcome scrutiny of bank overdraft practices

BY CHARLENE CROWELL

When the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau visited New York City on February 22, a roundtable discussion with bankers and consumer advocates began a day of focused discussion of bank products that cost customers billions per year in unfair fees. In his opening remarks, CFPB Director Richard Cordray called for a "candid discussion" and

noted how less than 10 percent of checking account customers bear the brunt of more than 80 percent of all overdraft fees charged by banks.

Director Cordray announced new a new initiative wherein the agency will examine the practice of reordering customer transactions to boost overdraft fees. CFPB will also look at disclosures and marketing, particularly with an eye toward impact on the low-income and young

consumers.

Roundtable participant Rebecca Borne, senior policy counsel with the Center for Responsible Lending, advised that overdraft fees are the number one reason bank customers lose their checking accounts.

"We are so pleased that there is finally a regulator, the CFPB, whose primary responsibility and commitment is to ensuring that reasonable rules of the road are in place

to reform harmful and reckless financial practices" said Borne. "Today's typical bank overdraft practices remain in dire need of that reform."

Sarah Ludwig, executive director of the New-York based Neighborhood Economic Development Advocacy Project, drew a connection between costly overdraft fees and the emergence of bank payday loans. As

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tegrity and equal justice for all. In short, Mandela represents the best wisdom-consciousness for the affirmation of the oneness of humanity. Even after spending 27 years imprisoned unjustly by a brutally vicious apartheid regime, Mandela came out of prison with the strength and insight to lead South Africa nonviolently into a multiracial democracy and a growing emerging world economy.

While we live in a world where millions of people on each continent are crying out louder and louder by the hour for an end to poverty, injustice and inequality, the Mandela-leadership example of social transformation that transcends race, ethnicity, tribe, religion, and political ideology needs to be highlighted and better understood. In fact the ANC continues to have a long tradition and legacy of leadership icons that first and foremost strive to represent the interests of the masses of African people who struggle for a better quality of life. It is so sad today that in many other places in the international community some rulers use violence and war to suppress the cries of the masses of the people for freedom, democracy and justice.

Here in the United States, the 2012 national elections season appears to be focused on who has the most money in politics over against the best leadership to offer the nation and global community progress on the critical issues. Of course America is not South Africa. That is not the point. The point is that while billions of dollars are being

spent to hijack the democratic process in the United States, we should learn valuable lessons from how Mandela and the ANC were guided successfully by principles of inclusive, participatory democracy verses the voter suppressive moves and exclusivist views of those want a backwardly divided and regressive future America.

Those of us in Occupy the Dream embrace both the dream of Martin Luther King Jr. and the democratic wisdom of Nelson Mandela. We will soon be in the south to recognize the anniversary of the voting rights struggle in Selma, Alabama with the annual retracing of the crossing

of the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma for the march to Montgomery, Alabama that witnessed the horrible consequence of those who would go to any extent to deny the voting rights of Blacks and others. We have come a long ways since the original Selma voting rights march back in 1965. But we must renew our vigor and commitment to achieve more progress toward making our democracy more equal and just. Income inequality is increasing the ranks of those in poverty. We need a Constitutional Amendment to get money out of politics in America.

We should work to build a global movement for economic justice and equality.

Thank God for Mandela.

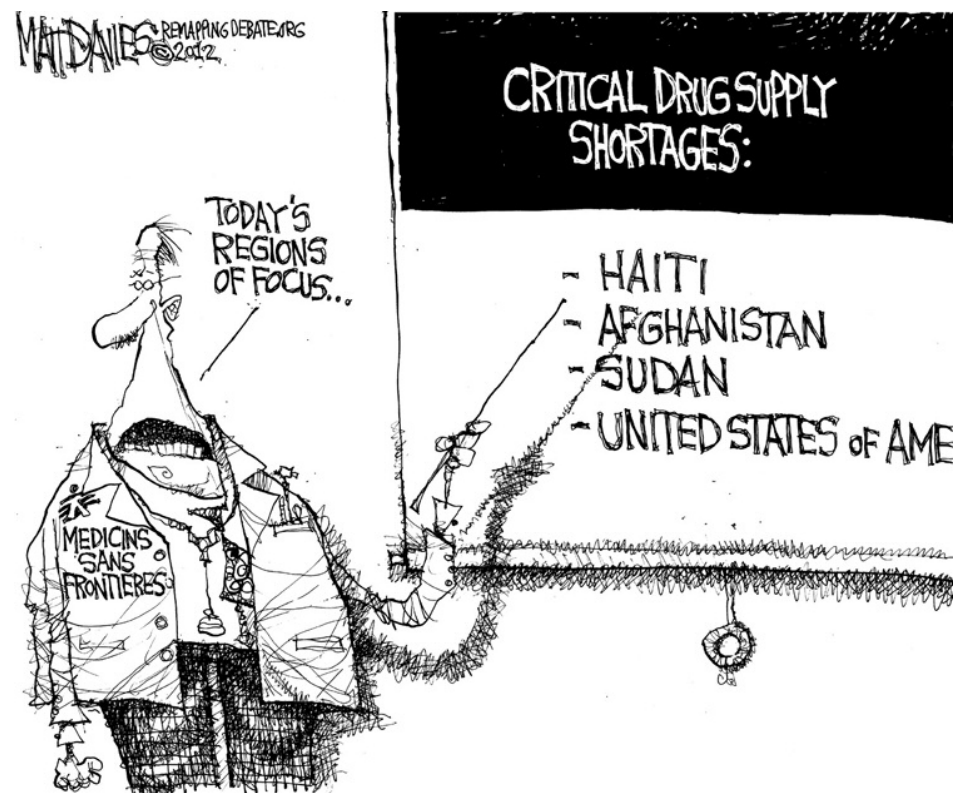
Let's also work harder now in America to further transform our society and to make our democracy representative of all of the people.

Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr. is President of the Hip-Hop Summit Action Network and Education Online Services Corporation, as well as serving as the National Director of Occupy the Dream and can be reached at drbenjamin.chavis@gmail.com.

Read more: <http://www.nnpa.org/news/global-salute-to-nelson-mandela-by-dr-benjamin-f-chavis-jr/#ixzz1nfEyKvgU>

The real drug problem in the U.S.?

As India and Australia lend the U.S. a hand in attempting to overcome the market failures that have led to severe drug shortages in this country, Matt Davies shakes his head in wonder."





**Dr.
Oscar
Molina**

Ask the Expert

Besides eating healthy foods what else can I do to keep my heart healthy?

Exercise on a daily basis, which can be as simple as walking 1 to 2 miles per day. You should always

consult with your doctor before starting a new workout regiment.

For more information, contact Dr. Oscar Molina at the Molina Medical Center at 972-259-6900.

Hospice Volunteer Training by VNA of Collin County starts March 13

The Visiting Nurse Association of Collin County needs hospice volunteers who want to help terminally ill patients and their families.

An 18-hour class in volunteer hospice care will be held Tuesdays and Thursdays, March 13 to March 29, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the VNA of Collin County office on 2414 West University Drive, #200 in McKinney. There is no cost

to attend the training.

Volunteers are an essential part of the hospice team and help in many ways. Direct patient care volunteers provide support for terminally ill patients and their families through friendly visits, caregiver relief, and assistance with errands.

Caring companion volunteers help comfort terminally ill patients and their families during the final stage of the illness.

Bereavement volunteers provide follow-up calls and visits to families after the death of their loved ones, co-facilitate grief support groups, and assist with bi-monthly luncheons.

To register for the volunteer training class, contact Connie Williams, VNA of Collin County Hospice Volunteer Coordinator, at 972-562-0140 or williamsc@vnatexas.org.

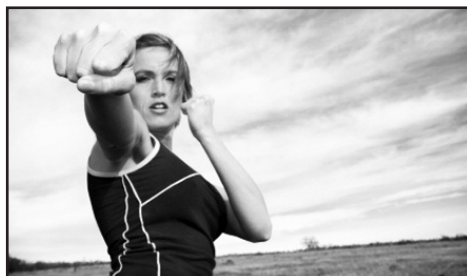
Women's Defense Class offered in Irving

Irving PAL is hosting a rape aggression defense class for women, ages 13 years and older, from 6 to 9 p.m. March 5-7 at the Irving Police Training Academy, located at 2603 Esters Road. Registration closes March 2.

The Rape Aggression Defense System is a program of realistic self-defense tactics and techniques. The comprehensive, women-only course begins with awareness, prevention, risk reduction and risk

avoidance, while progressing to the basics of hands-on defense training. Each participant must provide a \$20 donation for kids' programs, sign three waivers, and attend all three sessions.

For more information, call Officer Joseph Palomar at 972-721-2545 or visit



www.irvingpal.org and choose "Community Training."

CMS and Text4Baby using texts to share health coverage news and information

The Centers for Medicaid & Medicare Services (CMS) announced Tuesday that it will partner with Text4Baby, a free national health texting service, to promote enrollment in both Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and provide pregnant women and new mothers free text messages on important health care issues.

The announcement is part of activities marking the anniversaries of both the signing of the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009 (CHIPRA) and the launch of Text4Baby, whose partners include Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition, Voxiva, which provides the mobile health platforms, and a host of wireless carriers.

"As a mother, I know how important health coverage and health information is for pregnant women and new moms," said HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius. "Through CHIPRA, the health care law and this partnership, we are helping more and more women across the country have the insurance and information they need to have healthy babies and keep them healthy as they grow up."

Organizations across the country are using the

CHIPRA and Text4Baby anniversaries to highlight how access to both health coverage and health information is critical for families.

"The partnership announced today will help encourage eligible mothers and children to enroll in Medicaid and CHIP," said Marilyn Tavenner, CMS Acting Administrator. "Text4Baby users will be alerted to the availability of health insurance options, and we are encouraging our partners and other organizations working to help get children enrolled in health coverage to make sure that new moms know how to sign up with Text4Baby for all kinds of health tips and reminders."

"Text-messaging is a part of the culture in terms of how we communicate," said U.S. Surgeon General, Regina Benjamin. "Using text-messaging to help conduct outreach to families about health coverage for their children is just one more way that the appropriate use of technology is enhancing how we make sure pregnant women and children get the health care they need."

In 2011, Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program covered 43.5 million children. Under CHIPRA, CMS has

awarded a total of \$90 million in grants to states, Tribes, nonprofit groups, schools, health care providers and others to conduct activities to ensure that eligible children are enrolled in health coverage and remain enrolled for as long as they qualify.

"On the third anniversary of this law being enacted, we are providing an important new tool that can help connect mothers and children to affordable coverage," said Cindy Mann, CMS Deputy Administrator and Director of the Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services. "This new tool is an important vehicle for reaching young mothers."

More than 184,000 current Text4Baby users are receiving a new message alerting them to the availability of free and low-cost health coverage through Medicaid and CHIP. The message will provide a connection to the InsureKidsNow phone number and website for information about how to sign up. Additional messages will be periodically texted to provide Text4Baby users information about the importance of prenatal visits for women and the value of health coverage for keeping children healthy and getting the care they need when they're sick.

MALVEAUX, continued from Page 2

at the May 6 commencement."

The Board of Trustees asked Dr. Malveaux to spend the remaining months of her tenure focusing on critical fundraising efforts. As she devotes the bulk of her time to that task, Dr. Esther Terry, Chief Academic Officer,

will have responsibility for the day to day operations of the College in coordination with Dr. James Dixon, Chief Administrative Officer. Effective with Dr. Malveaux's resignation, Dr. Esther Terry will assume responsibility as Interim President on May 7, 2012.

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Teen Court volunteer application deadline April 12

The Lewisville-Flower Mound Teen Court will hold a volunteer training session Saturday, April 14, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Lewisville Municipal Annex, 1197 West Main Street. Registration deadline is Thursday, April 12.

Youth ages 13 through 17 or still in high school are eligible to volunteer as attorneys, bailiffs, judges, jurors or check-in clerks. Lunch will be provided along with door prizes for attendance and participation.

Teen Court is advantageous to both the offender and the volunteers who run it. Teen Court is an alternative, voluntary program that offers young offenders an opportunity to make restitution for an offense in lieu of a fine. They are court-ordered to perform community service hours at a non-profit agency, as well

as serving as a Teen Court juror.

Instead of paying a fine for the offense, successful completion of the court order dismisses the case from their record. By bringing the youth offender before a jury of peers, the program seeks to prevent unlawful behavior in the future while educating the offender and volunteers about the judicial system. All roles in Teen Court are filled by teenagers, except for an adult judge and a few adult volunteers.

Many of the Teen Court volunteers are students who enjoy learning about the judicial system. Some are on debate teams, involved in Green Chord programs at school, National Honor Society and other organizations. By volunteering for Teen Court, the volunteers earn community service hours for the organ-

izations which they are involved in. Other students just enjoy volunteering and being a part of the process. Teen Court improves confidence, public speaking skills and community involvement for the volunteer.

Teen court is held twice a month on Tuesday evenings from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. High school seniors who volunteer can earn a \$1,000 scholarship for their participation in the program. Teen Court is open to the public and can be observed by anyone.

To register for Teen Court volunteer training, please contact Teen Court Coordinator Laurie Yonkers at 972.219.3671 or email lyonkers@city-oflewisville.com. Leave the following information: name, age, school, email address and phone number.

Visiting Artists for Dallas International Festival on May 26



Dallas Councilwoman Ann Margolin, Honorary Chair for the Dallas International Festival and Chair of Dallas' Arts, Culture & Libraries Committee announces that visiting artists from Russia and Mexico will lead the lineup at the May 26 Dallas International Festival. The free event will be held at the Dallas Arts District along Flora Street from Pearl to Routh from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Krystall Balalaika from Saratov Russia and Las Artesanas de Michoacan from Mexico will be featured along with groups from Houston and Austin and

musical tour of the 'longest nation' in the Americas. Among the 60 dance, music and martial arts ensembles from across the North Texas region who will perform on three stages are the following:

BRAZIL: Capoeira Angola and Capo-eira Dallas

MEXICO: Garland I.S.D. Mariachi Estrellas

USA: 4 Ever Young Barbershop Quartet

WEST AFRICA: Bandan Koro African Drum and Dance Ensemble

ZIMBABWE: Zimmarimba Marimba and Rattle-tree Marimba

dozens of metroplex arts groups representing cultures from Asia, Africa, Europe, and the Americas.

In addition to the visiting artists from Russia and Mexico, the Paredes Middle School Orchestra from Austin will present music of the Middle East while Houston's Chilean Folklife share a

Federal grants available to purchase new homes in Irving

The City of Irving, in partnership with Key Life Homes, is set to begin construction on new single-family residences on Tudor Lane. The construction begins a new chapter for the Lamar/Brown neighborhood. Fourteen single-family attached and 13 single-family detached homes will be available for purchase.

Federal grant fund assistance is available for qualified first-time homebuyers. Seminars are planned to educate prospective buyers about the program, qualification requirements and eligibility for

assistance. The seminars are set for 2 to 3 p.m. at 125 N. MacArthur Blvd., on the following dates:

- March 17
- April 21

- May 19

Reservations are required and space is limited. To sign up, visit www.irealty.us.com or call 214-396-4071.

2nd Annual Glam Galore Shopping Soiree

The 2nd Annual Glam Galore Shopping Soiree is April 21 at the Richardson Civic Center, 411 W. Arapaho, Ste. 102, from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. With 40 local vendors, a fashion show, free mini makeovers and cocktails and so much more, the Glam Galore Shopping Soiree is sure to make any Just for the Girls

night out fun filled. Guests will enjoy a night of music, fun, shopping, treats and cocktails and they will be surprised by special appearances and a special guest host.

Ladies will enjoy a night filled with laughter, fun and did we mention free cocktails and mini makeovers? Tickets start at

\$20. VIP tickets are also available and include the exclusive Glam Galore SWAGG bag, sponsored by Perfected Magazine.

Vendor and sponsorship opportunities are still available, so contact Melissa Franz, at 214-810-6176 or email melissa@glamgalore.co.



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Texas Declaration and rare photos online for Texas Independence Day

Only one state celebrates its independence with an official holiday – Texas.

Texans will celebrate March 2 the 176th anniversary of the adoption of the Texas Declaration of Independence. DeGolyer Library at Southern Methodist University (SMU) possesses one of 12 existing copies of the Texas Declaration of Independence, as well as a 5,000-photo collection of Texas history ranging from 1846 to 1945.

"The people of Texas do now constitute a free, Sovereign, and independent republic."

The Texas Declaration of Independence was adopted March 2, 1836, at Washington-on-the-Brazos. After it was signed by the 59 delegates to the convention, five copies were distributed to the towns Bexar, Goliad, Nacogdoches, Brazo-



College Altamirano in Hebbronville, Texas, was a school for Hispanic students founded in 1887. Photo taken about 1899.

ria and San Felipe. The printer at San Felipe was asked to print 1,000 copies to be distributed as handbills. The DeGolyer copy, acquired in 1984, is one of the surviving handbills.

The only original photo of kidnapped Texas pioneer Cynthia Ann Parker, formal portraits of Mexican General Antonio Lopez de

Santa Anna and photographs of Comanche Chief Quanah Parker are among the 5,000 Texas historical photos acquired by DeGolyer Library in 2009 from Austin collector Larry Jones. The Lawrence T. Jones III Texas Photography Collection also includes hundreds of photos of everyday life ranging from cattle roundups to cotton gins. Much of the collection can be viewed online <http://digitalcollections.smu.edu/all/cul/jtx/>.

Nationwide and ExxonMobil donations to UNCF helping college seniors this spring

Nationwide Insurance conducted a "Quote for Cause" cause-related program that raised \$5,000 for UNCF's Campaign For Emergency Student Aid. This emergency scholarship program is helping thousands of college seniors at historically black colleges and universities pay their bills in time for graduation.

Also, UNCF (United Negro College Fund) the nation's largest private provider of scholarships to African Americans and other students of color, has received a grant from ExxonMobil worth up to \$500,000. The grant will provide emergency education assistance to college juniors and seniors impacted by the struggling economy and facing bills for tuition, books, and room and board that must be paid before seniors can graduate and juniors can continue to their senior year.

The ExxonMobil contribution is in the form of a challenge grant. ExxonMobil has made an immediate contribution of \$250,000, and will match, dollar-for-dollar, each contribution, large or small, up to a total of \$250,000. Meeting the ExxonMobil challenge would yield a total of \$750,000 for the emergency scholarship fund, enough to help 500 students stay in school.

The emergency scholarship fund was established in 2009 and by the end of 2011 raised \$12 million to help more than 7,000 students stay in college so they could graduate.

"ExxonMobil's investment in UNCF students could not be more welcome and could not come at a better time," said UNCF President and CEO Michael L. Lomax, Ph.D. "These juniors and seniors have done their part. They have studied hard and kept their grades up. Seniors are within sight of graduation day in May. Juniors will be re-enrolling for their final year. They cannot afford to fall short now. We cannot afford to have them fall short."

The up-front portion of ExxonMobil's grant has already made a difference. Travis Lindsey, Jr., a Morehouse College senior in Business Development, faced a financial shortfall after his parents lost their jobs of 25 years due to layoffs. But thanks to ExxonMobil's contribution to the Campaign for Emergency Student Aid grant, he will graduate in May.

Another senior, Deaweh Benson of UNCF member institution Spelman College, was left with unpaid college expenses after her mother lost her job and got sick. An Emergency Student Aid scholarship, supported by the ExxonMobil grant, will also allow Deaweh to graduate on

time. "When I received the emergency funding from my angel, UNCF," said Benson, "I was speechless. They believed in me enough to invest in me and help me graduate. Now I can stay in school and focus on being successful in school and after college in



(left to right): Damon Johnson – Nationwide Insurance – AVP, Exclusive Agency Sales, Diane Stephenson – UNCF Area Director, and Terrance Williams – Nationwide Insurance Regional Vice President

my career."

Those who want to help a UNCF student stay in school can go to UNCF.org and click on the Campaign for Emergency Student Aid box to charge a contribution to a credit card. Ten-dollar contributions can be made by texting "UNCF" to 50555 on cell phones to help students walk the last mile of their education. Donors can also send checks to UNCF, 8260 Willow Oaks Corporate Drive, Fairfax, VA 22031. Thanks to the ExxonMobil challenge, every contribution up to \$250,000 will be doubled; a \$100 contribution, for example, means \$200 to help a senior graduate in May.

Urban League luncheon a success

Over 400 people gave standing ovations to Willard Stimpson, pharmacist and owner of Cut-Rate Pharmacy and Donald Stafford, retired Executive Assistant Chief of Dallas Police Department, Legacy Honorees at the 2012 Urban League of Greater Dallas and North Central Texas Annual Meeting Community Report Luncheon. The event was held on Friday, February 24,

2012 at the Hilton Anatole Hotel. The honorees were recognized for their outstanding contributions to the Dallas Community in the healthcare and civil service professions. They passed their Legacy torch to Robert Mayes, a local pharmacist and Dallas Police Department Deputy Chief Vernon Hale who are the next generation of individuals who have made achievements in

their professions and outstanding contributions to their communities.

"Our honorees have a history of accomplishments in their professions which are exemplary," said Dr. Beverly Mitchell-Brooks, Urban League President and CEO, "and they continue to set high standards through their volunteerism

See SUCCESS, Page 7

LEGAL NOTICE

These Texas Lottery Commission Scratch-Off games will be closing soon:

Game #	Game Name/Odds	\$	Official Close of Game	End Validations Date
1367	Black Onyx 7's Overall odds are 1 in 3.84	\$5	03/18/12	09/14/12
1341	Loteria® Texas Overall odds are 1 in 3.99	\$3	05/02/12	10/29/12
1342	Bonus Break The Bank Overall odds are 1 in 3.81	\$5	05/02/12	10/29/12
1356	Texas Lottery® Black III Overall odds are 1 in 3.32	\$10	05/02/12	10/29/12
1366	Quick 6's Overall odds are 1 in 4.56	\$1	05/02/12	10/29/12
1371	Holiday Gold Overall odds are 1 in 4.23	\$2	05/02/12	10/29/12
1373	Season's Greetings Overall odds are 1 in 3.35	\$10	05/02/12	10/29/12
1374	Armadillo Cash Overall odds are 1 in 4.69	\$1	05/02/12	10/29/12

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For detailed odds and game information, visit txlottery.org or call 1-800-37LOTTO. Must be 18 or older to purchase a ticket. The Texas Lottery supports Texas Education. © 2012 Texas Lottery Commission. All rights reserved.

SUCCESS, continued from Page 6



Urban League Board of Trustees & CSBG Managing Board Officers

and community service.

Proclamations from U.S. Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson and State Representative Yvonne

gram by the Veterans Administration. He has been drug free for six years and is a supervisor in charge of clinical staff members and

Treatment Center.

Glendel Johnson, representing the Housing Department, was at the brink of foreclosure when he came



Outgoing Bd Chair Stan Levenson accepts Gavel from Bd Member H. Ron White Esq.

Davis were also presented to the honorees.

The theme, "I Am Urban

responsible for the rehabilitation of 50 clients at the Dallas County Judicial

to the Urban League for help. His Housing Counselor was able to negotiate a much smaller mortgage payment with his lender. He can now enjoy his retirement and work only part time as a warehouse manager.

It was not long ago that Darrell Brown was serving time in prison for selling drugs. After completing the Urban League's Project 4 Victory Re-entry Program he is now employed as a Sales Consultant for a local car dealer.



Judge John Cruzot, Outgoing Bd Chair Stan Levenson, Bd Chair Emeritus Dr. Wright Lassiter Jr..

League", was highlighted at the Luncheon when testimonies were given by participants from different Urban League Departments.

Donald Foreman representing the Veterans Program told of being on drugs and homeless after serving his country in the United States Air Force. He was referred to the League's Efficiency Apartment Supportive Housing Veterans Pro-



Dr Beverly Mitchell-Brooks and 2012 Legacy Honorees

Nakia Douglas, Principal of the Barack Obama Male Leadership Academy, participated in the League's 100 Fellows Program when he was a senior in high school. He says the program equipped him for college through the motivational

speakers, college visits and workshops. He now offers the young men at his Academy exposure to an advanced college prep curriculum.

In the League's Annual Report to the Community, Dr. Mitchell-Brooks de-

tailed the outcomes and impact of the investments of League supporters who contribute their time and funding. "Weaving the threads of each individual's life makes us all a better community, thus a better city," said Dr. Mitchell-Brooks

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Ongoing

Every two weeks on Monday the Plano City Council holds its **City Council Meeting** at the Plano Municipal Center, Council Chambers, 1520 K Avenue, Plano, from 7pm – 9:30pm. FREE and open to the public. Info: planotx.org.

Harwood 609, 609 Harwood Street, Dallas, has **Salsa Night** every Thursday night starting at 9:30pm. Info: harwood609jazz.com or 214-740-0609.

Be Fit Frisco presents weekly **Fitness in the Square** sessions Thursday evenings 6:30pm – 7:30pm at Simpson Plaza in front of City Hall, 6101 Frisco Square Blvd., Frisco. FREE. Info: friscotexas.gov.

The Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 Harwood Street, Dallas, hosts **Jazz in the Atrium** every Thursday 6pm – 8pm. Performance included with general admission \$10 and under. Info: dallasmuseumofart.org or 214-922-1200.

Harwood 609, 609 Harwood Street, Dallas, hosts an **All You Can Eat Sunday Brunch with Smooth Jazz Sounds of Majik Touch** every Sunday at 11am. Info: harwood609jazz.com or 214-740-0609.

Want to become a better public speaker? **Toastmasters International** has helped people for decades in a mutually supportive, positive, and fun environment. See what it is like for FREE!!! Mtgs are every Monday at 5:45 p.m. Info: 214-566-4086 or <http://texins.freetoasthost.org/>

Collin County Black Chamber of Commerce general membership event, Monthly every 2nd Thursday, 6:30 p.m., at various locations within Collin

County. Speakers, Power Networking, Business Referrals, and more! www.ccblackchamber.org or call 469 424-0120.

Through April 2

Intermediate Sign Language Classes will be offered on Monday nights from 5:30-6:45 p.m., in the Britain library, 631 Edmondson. Classes are free to families of deaf students, \$10 for district employees and \$20 for all others. For more information, call 972-600-3821

Through December 8

New Life Skills Certificate program for African Women each Saturday morning from 9:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Audelia Branch Library located 10045 Audelia Rd. (at Church St.) in Dallas. Info: hellen.fissihai5@gmail.com

Through April 16

AARP is offering free tax assistance 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. every Monday at the Lewisville Senior Activity Center, 1950A S. Valley Parkway. Info: 972-219-5050.

Through April 29

Texas Discovery Gardens' gallery space unveils a new exhibition, **"Echoes of Remembered Gardens,"** by Dallas artist Susan Lecky; admission applies. \$8/adults, \$6/ages 60+, and \$4/ages 3 to 11. Free for members or on Tuesdays (butterfly house admission regular price).

March 1

FREE screening of **Harry Belafonte SING YOUR SONG** at 7 p.m. at Studio Movie Grill, 225 Merchant Row in Arlington

Matt Wadsworth is the guest speaker at the Visiting Nurse Assn. on "How to Ride the Grief Waves"

March 1 – 24

Garland Civic Theatre will present **Love from a Stranger** Tickets: 972-205-2790, www.GarlandCivicTheatre.org or 972-485-8884

March 2 – 22

GISD Senior Art Show at Granville Arts Center Gallery in Garland

March 2-3

FREE screening of **Harry Belafonte SING YOUR SONG** at 7 p.m. at Dock Cinema, 6637 Meadowbrook Dr. in Fort Worth

March 2-4

Opening celebration of the Margaret Hunt Hill Bridge

Camp Dragonfly is a community-based grief camp for children at All Saints Camp on Lake Texoma, info: www.homehospice.org/events.

March 3

Dallas County Sheriff Lupe Valdez's **Wine and Cheese Fundraiser** from 4- 6 p.m. Info: msnilknarf22@att.net

March 4

The Turtle Creek Chorale's Madonna to **Madonna - The Ageless Strength of Women** at 8 p.m. at the Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center (2301 Flora Street, Dallas).

Walk in Writing Clinic from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. at the Pan African Connection Bookstore located at 828 4th Ave., Dallas

March 8

The Texas Discovery Gardens "Books 'N Bugs" from 11 a.m. to noon. <http://texasdiscoverygardens.org>

The DBA Democratic Forum at 5:30 p.m. at the Pavilion at the Belo Mansion, 2101 Ross Avenue in

downtown Dallas

St. Philip's upcoming **Destiny Award Luncheon**, featuring Olympian Jackie Joyner Kersee at the Belo Mansion.

March 11

"Preach Woman Preach" & "The Pastor's Wife" at 7:30 p.m. at the Plaza Theatre in Garland Bridgette Monroe's two-in-one gospel music stage tickets available at www.JabezEntertainment.ws are \$20 in advance or \$25 at the door. Info: 214-259-6052 or 214-607-2363.

Book signing for Melvin Childs the author of Never Would Have Made It with Bridgette Monroe two and one stage plays "The Pastor's Wife" and "Preach Woman Preach" from 1 – 2:30 p.m. with showtime 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. at the Garland Plaza Theatre 512 West State Street Garland, Texas 75040 Presale Tickets: \$20 at the door \$25

Family Craft Day between 2 and 3 p.m., at the Lewisville Public Library located at 1197 W. Main Street. Join for a drop-in crafting day. Just bring your crafty selves, everything else is provided in the Cynthia Bennett Children's Wing.

Lewisville Public Library Teen Advisory Group will meet at 7 p.m. Teens will be asked to help create the teen experiences available at the library. Pick up an application at the youth service desk, and come to the meetings on the third Thursday of the month.

March 15

The DBA Republican Forum at 5:30 p.m. at the Pavilion at the Belo Mansion, 2101 Ross Avenue in downtown Dallas

March 16-17

Lewisville Summer Musicals season will kick off with **"His Eye in on the Sparrow: The Ethel Waters Story."** This powerful musical drama by playwright Larry Parr is based on the heart-wrenching tale of Ethel Waters and her early life in Philadelphia. Tickets and info: www.Texasfamilymusicals.com or 800-547-4697

March 17

Dallas Observer and House of Blues Entertainment, a Live Nation Company are presenting **St Patrick's Day Concert** featuring RYAN BINGHAM AND THE DEAD HORSES with JONA-THAN TYLER AND THE NORTHERN LIGHTS. Info: www.DallasStPats.com

Fine Arts Chamber Players invites you to free Bancroft Family Concert at the Dallas Museum of Art at 3 p.m. Info: 214-520-2219 or www.fineartschamberplayers.org

March 24

"Sharia: Threat or Hype?" - Open House at Islamic Center of Irving from 11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. at 2555 Esters Road in Irving. Food and refreshments will be served. Also includes mosque tour. This event is FREE and OPEN to the public of all faith backgrounds. Pre-registration at <http://outreach.irving-masjid.org> or call 972-812-2230, ext. 1005.

March 25

LegoMania! from 2 – 3 p.m., at the Lewisville Public Library located at 1197 W. Main Street in the Bennett Program Room. Creating with Legos takes place on the fourth Sunday of each month. Children under 6 years must be accompanied by an adult in the program.

March 29

"Elections, the Law and Languages at the Border" discussion by Luis Fraga, director of the Diversity Research Institute and political science professor at the University of Washington; Luis Plascencia, social and behavioral sciences professor at Arizona State University; and John Lipski, professor of Spanish linguistics at Pennsylvania State University. 5:30–7:30 p.m., SMU McCord Auditorium, 306 Dallas Hall

March 30

UT Arlington's annual **World-Class Glass Art Show and Sale** at the Studio Art Center, 810 S. Davis Dr., Arlington from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. with silent auction bids accepted 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

April 1

2nd Annual Academy of McKinney & Plano Theatres 2012 AMP Awards at The Courtyard Theatre located at 1520 Avenue H in Plano.

April 2

"What is New About Immigration in the United States?" Nancy Foner, a Distinguished Professor of Sociology at Hunter College and the Graduate Center, City University of New York, will present SMU's 2012 George and Mary Foster Lecture in Cultural Anthropology. 5:30–7:30 p.m., SMU McCord Auditorium, 306 Dallas Hall

April 4

"Screening of El Norte, with Commentary by SMU Distinguished Anthropology Professor Caroline B. Brettell." The 1983 documentary El Norte, directed by Gregory Nava, is the story of two Guatemala Mayan peasants, a brother and sister, who flee their country because of political persecution and head north. 6:30–8:30 p.m., SMU McCord Auditorium, 306 Dallas Hall

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Dallas doctor and staff arrested for alleged health care fraud of nearly \$375 million

A physician and the office manager of his medical practice, along with five owners of home health agencies, were arrested today on charges related to their alleged participation in a nearly \$375 million health care fraud scheme involving fraudulent claims for home health services.

The arrests and charges were announced Tuesday by Deputy Attorney General James Cole and Health and Human Services (HHS) Deputy Secretary Bill Corr, along with Assistant Attorney General Lanny A. Breuer of the Justice Department's Criminal Division; U.S. Attorney Sarah R. Saldaña of the Northern District of Texas; HHS Inspector General Daniel R. Levinson; Special Agent in Charge Robert E. Casey Jr. of the FBI's Dallas Field Office; Dr. Peter Budetti, Deputy Administrator for Program Integrity for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS); and the Texas Attorney General's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit (MFCU).

The indictment, filed in the Northern District of Texas and unsealed, charges Jacques Roy, M.D., 54, of Rockwall, Texas; Cynthia Stiger, 49, of Dallas; Wilbert James Veasey Jr., 60, of Dallas; Cyprian Akamnonu, 63, of Cedar Hill, Texas; Patricia Akamnonu, RN, 48, of Cedar Hill; Teri Sivils, 44, of Midlothian, Texas; and Charity Eleda, RN, 51, of Rowlett, Texas, each with one count of conspiracy to commit health care fraud. Roy also is charged with nine counts of substantive health care fraud, and Veasey, Patricia Akamnonu and Eleda are each charged with three counts of health care fraud.

In addition to the in-



Feds hold press conference discussing the largest healthcare fraud case in U.S. history

dictment, CMS announced the suspension of an additional 78 home health agencies (HHA) associated with Roy based on credible allegations of fraud against them.

The enforcement actions are the result of the Medicare Fraud Strike Force operations, which are part of the Health Care Fraud Prevention & Enforcement Action Team (HEAT). HEAT is a joint initiative announced in May 2009 between the Department of Justice and HHS to focus their efforts to prevent and deter fraud and enforce anti-fraud laws around the country.

"Thanks to our new fraud detection tools, we have greater abilities to identify the kind of sophisticated fraud scheme that previously could have escaped scrutiny," said HHS Deputy Secretary Corr.

According to the indictment, Dr. Roy owned and operated Medistat Group Associates P.A. in the Dallas area. Medistat was an association of health care providers that primarily provided home health certifications and performed patient home visits. Dr. Roy allegedly certified or directed the certification of more than 11,000 individual patients from more than 500 HHAs for home health services during the past

five years. Between January 2006 and November 2011, Medistat certified more Medicare beneficiaries for home health services and had more purported patients than any other medical practice in the United States. These certifications allegedly resulted in more than \$350 million being fraudulently billed to Medicare and more than \$24 million being fraudulently billed to Medicaid by Medistat and HHAs.

"Today, the Medicare Fraud Strike Force is taking aim at the largest alleged home health fraud scheme ever committed," said Assistant Attorney General Breuer. "According to the indictment, Dr. Roy and his co-conspirators, for years, ran a well-oiled fraudulent enterprise in the Dallas area, making millions by recruiting thousands of patients for unnecessary services, and billing Medicare for those services."

HHS Inspector General Levinson said, "In this case, our analysts discovered that in 2010, while 99 percent of physicians who certified patients for home health signed off on 104 or fewer people – Dr. Roy certified more than 5,000."

FBI Special Agent in Charge Casey pointed out, "Today's arrests by the

Dallas Medicare Fraud Strike Force send a clear message to those persons who are not only defrauding our federal Medicare and Medicaid and private health insurance programs, but victimizing the elderly, the disadvantaged, and those who are at a vulnerable time in their lives due to legitimate health issues."

Dr. Roy and other Medistat physicians certified and recertified plans of care so that HHAs also were able to bill Medicare for home health services that were not medically necessary and not provided. In addition, Dr. Roy allegedly performed unnecessary home visits and ordered unnecessary medical services.

According to the indictment, Medistat maintained a "485 Department," named for the number of the Medicare form on which the plan of care was documented. Dr. Roy allegedly instructed Medistat employees to complete the 485s by either signing his name by hand or by using his electronic signature on the document.

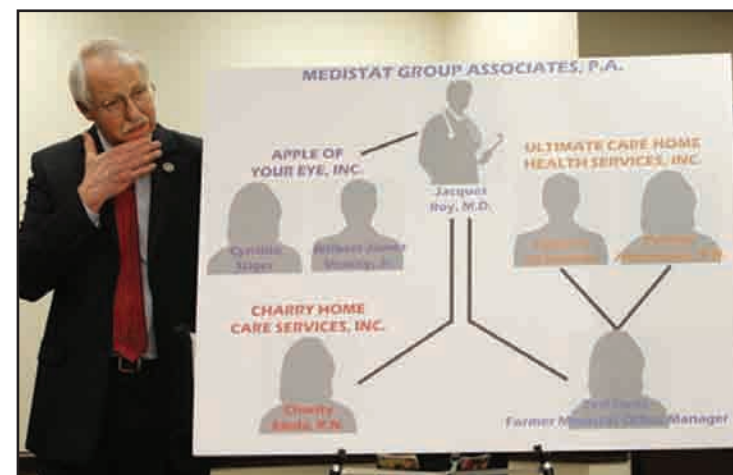
Three of the HHAs Dr. Roy used as part of the scheme were Apple of Your Eye Healthcare Services Inc., owned and operated by Stiger and Veasey; Ultimate Care Home Health Services Inc., owned and operated by Cyprian and Patricia Akamnonu; and Charry Home Care Services Inc., owned and operated by Eleda. According to the indictment, Veasey,

Akamnonu, Eleda and others recruited beneficiaries to be placed at their HHAs so that they could bill Medicare for the unnecessary and not provided services.

As part of her role in the scheme, Eleda allegedly visited The Bridge Homeless Shelter in Dallas to recruit homeless beneficiaries staying at the facility, paying recruiters \$50 per beneficiary they found at The Bridge and directed to Eleda's vehicle parked outside the shelter's gates.

Apple allegedly sub-

mitted claims to Medicare from Jan. 1, 2006, through July 31, 2011, totaling \$9,157,646 for home health services to Medicare beneficiaries that were medically unnecessary and not provided. Dr. Roy or another Medistat physician certified the services. From Jan. 1, 2006, to Aug. 31, 2011, Ultimate submitted claims for medically unnecessary home health services totaling \$43,184,628. Charry allegedly submitted fraudulent claims from Aug. 1, 2008, to June 30, 2011, totaling \$468,858 in medically unnecessary and not provided home health services.



W. Rick Copeland, Director of Medical Fraud Control Unit of the Office of the Texas Attorney General, stands next to a chart outlining a healthcare fraud scheme during a news conference Tuesday, Feb. 28, 2012

The indictment alleges that Sivils, as Medistat's office manager, helped facilitate the fraud scheme by, among other actions, supervising the processing of thousands of plans of care that contained Dr. Roy's electronic signature and other Medistat physicians' signatures, permitting HHAs to bill Medicare for unnecessary home health services and accepting cash payments from Cyprian Akamnonu in exchange for ensuring plans of care contained Dr. Roy or another Medistat physician's signature.

As outlined in the government's request to the court to detain Dr. Roy, in June 2011, CMS suspended provider numbers for Dr. Roy and Medistat based on credible allegations of fraud, thus ensuring Dr. Roy did not receive payment from Medicare.

Immediately after the suspension, nearly all of Medistat's employees started billing Medicare under the provider number for Medicare HouseCalls. The court document alleges that Dr. Roy was in fact in charge of day-to-day operations at Medcare, and that Dr. Roy continued to certify patients for home health despite the suspension.

NDG Gossip: Curves and Natural Hair at the Oscars

BY LATRISHA McDUFFIE
NDG STAFF WRITER

I was jumping up and down on my couch when Octavia Spencer's name was called for Best Actress in a Supporting Role at the Oscars. Davis looked absolutely beautiful in a white gown by her favorite designer Tadashi Shoji that accentuated the curves honey. BBW's (Big Beautiful Women) are back! And to all the haters who complained

about Davis taking the role of Minny Jackson; how about you eat some special pie!

Also, making a comeback on the red carpet was natural hair. Viola Davis who was also nominated for her role in *The Help* tossed her usual wigs and rocked a short, sassy, and all natural mini fro. I must say that I think she looks much better with her natural hair. No, wonder her new husband was smiling from ear to ear.



Octavia Spencer

Author Sylvia Lucas launches new novel with book signing

Local author Sylvia Lucas launches her new novel *Brighter Side of Darkness* on Saturday, March 3 from 12 p.m. – 3 p.m. at Mardel in Plano.

Twenty years in the making, Lucas' inspirational narrative urges women to stop settling for less and to start building better relationships and making better choices. *Brighter Side of Darkness* follows Donna Brown, a thirty-something Creole/African American, on an incredible journey to finding



Sylvia Lucas

is determined to find love even if it means dealing with the occasional Internet stalker or wayward fiancé. If that weren't enough, after years of substance abuse, her recently "born again" younger sister leaves Chicago with her son and comes to live with Donna.

Throughout all this and the ever present doubt as to her paternity, Donna's determination to overcome low self-esteem, failed relationships and making bad decisions is a testament to all women seeking true love.

Lucas was born and raised in Chicago, Illinois where she discovered her gift for writing at the age of 12 when she won 1st place in an essay competition about Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. sponsored by Operation Push.

In 1993, Lucas wrote her first unpublished novel *Diamond in the Rough*. While the novel received many praises, she could not find an agent willing to take on new talent. Wearing the

multiple hats of wife, mother, writer, chauffeur, cook and teacher just to name a few posed many challenges throughout the years as she pursued her dream. It was her faith that upheld her and strengthened her belief that nothing is impossible for those who believe in their dreams and God's power.

In 2003, Lucas decided to rewrite her first novel and changed the title to *Brighter Side of Darkness*. Meanwhile, she participated in an anthology with fellow members of the Writer's block, Inc. and officially became a published author with the publication of her short story Hannah's Hallelujah. The short story later became a play performed by a local theatre troupe in Dallas.

July 3, 2011, Lucas officially reached her goal of becoming a published author of a novel when *Brighter Side of Darkness* was printed. It took nearly 20 years, but she never gave up on her dream.

In December 2012, Lucas became the owner and CEO of Page Publishing, LLC.

Lucas is a youth leader at Mt. Olive Church of Plano and a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. She resides with her husband and three children in Dallas County.

To read more about the author and *Brighter Side of Darkness*, go to www.sylvialucas.com.

Dallas Black Dance Theatre's Cultural Awareness Series is a worthy family affair

BY LATRISHA McDUFFIE
NDG STAFF WRITER

Every parent should take their little girl to see the Dallas Black Dance Theatre.

In a world where the only images of beauty are of barely clad pop stars dancing provocatively on BET's *106 and Park*, the Dallas Black Dance Theatre program paints a picture of true beauty and elegance. The company presented the Cultural Awareness Series at the Wyly Theatre. The night began with *In*ter*pret* set to Peter I. Tchaikovsky's *Serenade for Strings* in C major and choreographed by Hope Boykin (2005). The dancers moved spiritedly across the stage like children on a playground setting a gaily mood.

The mood shifts dramatically as the program moved into the second piece. Nycole Ray danced to Donald McKayle's *Angelitos Negros* (1972), set to music composed by Manuel Alvarez Maciste and sung by the incomparable Roberta Flack in

Spanish. In a white flowing dress designed by Beth Thomason of Designs Unique, Ray was a vision. Fusing the passion of flamenco and the grace of the ballet, Ray moved through the air like notes from a Spanish Guitar.

In one word, Ray's performance was stunning. I could not breathe throughout her entire performance.

Amber J. Merrick and Jamie Thompson were brilliant in Milton Myers' *Pacing* (1986), set to Francis Bebey of Cameroon. The suite was a mishmash of African and European-infused movements and highlighted powerful torso action and linear pattern complemented by a provocative musical arrangement.

The show closed with Dianne McIntyre's, *The Nina Simone Project*, a tribute to the High Priestess of Soul with autobiographical narration performed by Melissa M. Young. *The Nina Simone Project* was set to the soundtrack of Simone's life and chronicles her journey from the church in

North Carolina to love, and through the Civil Rights era. I found *Backlash Blues* and *Funkier than a Mosquito's Tweeter*, to be absolutely divine.

The Dallas Black Dance Theatre II will restage Bruce Wood's *Smoke* for their annual performance series, *Spring Fiesta* at the Latino Cultural Center March 2 -3. DBDT II Director, Nycole Ray, will present her work *Love Songs* and Richard A. Freeman Jr. choreographs his premiere work *Agony*.

Tickets can be purchased online at www.DBDT.com.



Visit
Facebook.com/NorthDallasGazette
for more Oscars
recap photos

Alfre Woodard and fellow Hollywood Divas enjoy Pre-Oscar Grey Goose party



2012 Academy Award nominees Viola Davis (left) and Octavia Spencer (right) share a laugh with Alfre Woodard (center). Photo credit: (Casey Rodgers/AP Images for Grey Goose)



Grey Goose pre-Oscar dinner hosted by Alfre Woodard honoring African American women in film. Photo credit: (Casey Rodgers/AP Images for Grey Goose)

SMITH, continued from Page 2

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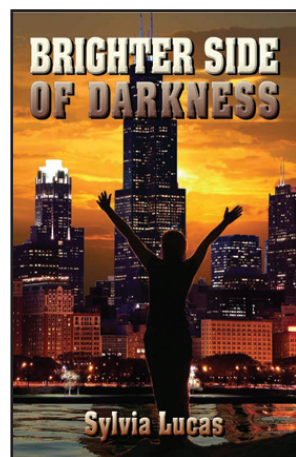
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For more details about the book, visit www.jj-smithonline.com/products/lose-weight.html.



love and herself.

As an ambitious news anchor new to Dallas, Donna faces all the pressures of women in the modern day workplace trying to get ahead. She struggles with her weight, her relationships, her family and finding a balance.

Coming from a broken home, she craves approval and acceptance from men. Ignoring her spiritual upbringing and values, Donna

Financial Takeover: Leaving a Legacy

BY CEDRIC DUKES
NDG SPECIAL
CONTRIBUTOR

Two things are guaranteed in life—taxes and death.

One of the most difficult challenges for families to handle is the death of a loved one. There is a painful void and a long, healing process that takes place. There is also a realization of a harsh but undeniable truth: In most cases, when a loved one

dies, so does his or her income.

Let's refer back to 2 Kings 4:1-7. We talked about the woman who was in debt and the creditors were coming to take her sons. Her husband was dead, and she did not have any way to pay her bills. We do not know how she got into this position, but we do know that her needs had to be met. All she did was obey the prophet of God and, immediately, her situation turned around.

Often God answers your need—immediately. I wrote that to say this: Yes, God gives us miracles and He can allow us to experience His supernatural presence. However, we have a responsibility to try to prevent our lives from spiraling out of control. God can and will deliver and comfort in your time of loss.

How does God want us to meet the needs of our family? Proverbs 13:22 says, "A good man leaveth an inheritance to his chil-

dren's children..." Good man is defined in this scripture as someone who is agreeable, pleasant, happy, prosperous and upright. A good man leaves his inheritance to others since he cannot take the riches with him or her. In my estimation, your inheritance in this time of life is insurance. We should leave something to those who are remaining.

Having insurance does not negate God's sovereignty or ability to take

care of your loved ones. It provides protection for your family in the future. It is a legacy you can leave your family. They will remember you because you have left them in better shape than they could have been. Life insurance is used to support the living survivors until the rest of the family is stable enough to replace the missing income of that loved one. Or it can be used as another part of the wealth building plan. You can get any type

of insurance for any price at any time. You have to realize that insurance is one of your building blocks for the investment pyramid.

In the next column we will take a look at the steps to build this strategy.

Cedric Dukes is the author of *Hostile Takeover - Manifesting God's Plan and Purpose for Your Finances* and newly released book, *The Power of Time*. You may contact him at www.cedricdukes.com.

Hispanic Association seeks nominees for Its Hall of Champions

The Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) are seeking nominations for the HACU Hall of Champions will be accepted through Friday, April 13, 2012, 5:00 p.m. (CDT).

The HACU Hall of Champions was established to honor those who embody the mission of the Association through exemplary efforts "To Champion Hispanic Success in Higher Education." Dr. Antonio Rigual, a pioneer of Hispanic higher education, became the inaugural inductee during the Association's Silver Anniversary last year.

"HACU encourages individuals to consider nominating a peer who has made a lasting contribution to Hispanic higher education," said HACU President and CEO Antonio R. Flores. "For HACU Hall of Champion inductees, a great part of the honor is to have been nominated by their peers for their dedication and contributions to Hispanic higher education."

Any individual can submit a nomination. The eligibility criteria are:

- Nominees may be living or deceased.

- Nominees must have made extraordinary contributions to Hispanic higher education success over a significant period of time.

- Nominations shall document nominees' special accomplishments in championing Hispanic higher education success.

Nominations can be made online or sent by postal mail to the attention of the HACU Hall of Champions Selection Committee, 8415 Datapoint Drive, Suite 400, San Antonio, Texas 78229.

It's Tax Time: AARP Texas Can Help!

Filing your 2011 federal tax return doesn't have to be a pull-your-hair-out experience. AARP Tax-Aide volunteers are here to make filing your taxes as stress-free as possible.

AARP Tax-Aide is the largest free, volunteer-run tax service in the nation. It assists taxpayers with low- and moderate-incomes, with special attention to individuals ages 60 and older. Last year, more than 2,200 Tax-Aide volunteers served nearly 160,000 taxpayers in Texas alone. This year, the program is back with even more volunteers at 325 sites in communities around the state.

"We know that filing tax returns gets complicated. Of-

fering a free service lets us really help people who struggle with it, or might not have access to other types of tax preparation services... and we're glad to do it," says AARP Tax-Aide Western Region Coordinator Ron Craig, who oversees the program in Texas. "It's great to see how many people use the service, and would recommend it to a friend."

Tax-Aide volunteers are

trained to assist with filing the 1040 form and standard schedules A and B. Electronic filing is offered at most sites at no charge to the taxpayer, ensuring more accurate tax returns and faster processing of refunds. Tax-Aide volunteers will be helping file returns until April 15.

To search online for a Tax-Aide site near you, visit <http://www.aarp.org/taxaide>.

ACLU, continued from Page 1

ing laws that make it harder for minorities to vote."

The ACLU filed a motion in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia in order to intervene in South Carolina v. Holder, in which South Carolina is seeking to have its voter ID law approved. In order to intervene in the case, the court must first grant the ACLU's motion. The ACLU has already had similar motions granted in other voting rights cases, including in Arizona, Georgia and North Carolina.

The motion was filed on behalf of three registered voters, including two African-Americans, who do not have an acceptable form of ID under the new law.

"Despite the lack of proof that voter impersonation is a problem in South Carolina, and despite evidence that African-Americans are less likely than whites to possess the forms of ID that the law requires, state officials have chosen to defend this unnecessary and unfair law," said Victoria Middleton, executive director of the ACLU of South Carolina. "Our elected officials should make it easier for South Carolinians to exercise their right to vote, not put more barriers in their way."

The motion was also filed on behalf of the Family Unit, a Sumter-based non-profit organization that helps people register to vote. As a result of the law,

the organization would have to devote more of its limited resources to helping people obtain ID.

"The voter ID law has placed substantial burdens on the shoulders of countless voters, primarily those who are African-American, elderly and low-income," said Brenda Williams, executive director of the Family Unit. "These individuals are being denied rights guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution. By passing this law, our state is going back to a dark time in history when it comes to civil rights."

Under Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act, states with a history of discriminatory voting laws — including South Carolina —

must have changes to their voting laws approved, or precleared, by the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) or the federal district court in Washington. The ACLU submitted two comment letters to DOJ opposing preclearance of South Carolina's law, Act R54. DOJ blocked the law in December and on Feb. 7, South Carolina took the issue to court.

To read the motion to intervene, go to: www.aclu.org/voting-rights/south-carolina-v-holder-memorandum-support-motion-leave-intervene-defendants.

For more information about voter suppression, go to: www.aclu.org/voter-suppression-america.

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CONSUMERS, continued from Page 3

lenders sat nearby, Ms. Ludwig presented a letter with signatures from more than 250 national, state and local organizations from across the country calling for immediate federal action to stop bank payday loans.

The list of supporters included representatives of religious, civil rights, labor, higher education, fair housing, consumers and community activists. Together, these organizations warned against the looming prospect of overdraft fees worsening consumer financial circumstances once bank payday loans are made. The letter and its full list of signers is available at: <http://rspnsb.li/vd-fUSO>

In part the letter advised, "Ultimately, payday loans erode the assets of bank customers and, rather than promote savings, make checking accounts unsafe for many customers. They lead to uncollected debt, bank account closures, and greater numbers of unbanked Americans. All of these outcomes are inconsistent with consumer protection and harm the safety and

soundness of financial institutions."

The letter was also mailed to three other federal regulators: Federal Reserve, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, and the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency.

Currently, Wells Fargo Bank, US Bank, Fifth Third Bank and Regions Bank use a system previously developed by storefront payday lenders. As banks market the loan as a short-term cash advance for checking account customers, the predatory product typically leads to a long-term cycle of high-cost debt – just like a storefront payday loan.

Banks offering payday loans repay themselves first. The entire loan and its accompanying fee are taken directly from the account as soon as a customer's paycheck or benefits check is deposited. Typically, banks charge \$10 per hundred borrowed; with an average loan of only 10 days, the annual percentage rate for bank payday loans is 365 percent. According to research the Center for Responsible Lending, bank payday borrowers are in

debt an average 175 days of the year. Social Security recipients are especially vulnerable, making up one quarter of bank payday borrowers.

Once bank payday loans are repaid, the likelihood of accounts falling short of funds for regular purchases runs high for customers with little or no cushion in their checking accounts. With an average overdraft fee of \$34, multiple fees can be charged to these customers without their knowledge – until after fees are assessed when a bank statement arrives.

The connection between bank payday and overdraft fees is akin to that of the knee bone's connection to the leg bone – financially they affect the same consumer. No one needs or wants a product that devastates their finances and builds debt instead of wealth. Consumer lending shouldn't make anyone financially crippled.

Charlene Crowell is a communications manager with the Center for Responsible Lending. She can be reached at: Charlene.crowell@responsiblelending.org.

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PLANS, continued from Page 1

to run for the seat and should be considered the early favorite.

Lone Star Project Director Matt Angle released a statement saying the new map includes good news for minority voters in North Texas. However minorities did not far as well in other parts of the state.

"The court's map is good news for North Texas, especially Fort Worth. Tarrant County minority voters will finally have a chance to elect a responsible representative to Congress in new District 33. The plan is not particularly good news for minority voters outside of North Texas. Minority voters in Austin, Corpus Christi and in San Antonio lost ground. New District 33 in North Texas is the only real new minority opportunity district. Everywhere else in the State, the new minority districts simply replace existing districts where minority voters elect their candidate of choice, according to Angle"

Outside of North Texas, the interim plan does not reflect the population growth of Hispanics and African Americans in Texas.

- While new District 35 is created and extends from Austin to San Antonio, it is offset by the dismantling of Travis County-based District 25 which is converted from a minority crossover district to a safe Anglo Republican District.

- New District 34 based in Cameron County is offset by the loss of District 27 from a Latino opportunity district to a Anglo Republican-controlled District.

- The Latino voting strength in San Antonio/West Texas District 23 is also reduced. However Democrats are fielding a very strong candidate in State Representative Pete Gallego, so he can likely win disproportionate support from some Anglo voters and defeat Republican incumbent Francisco Canseco.

Most of the plaintiff groups who challenged the Republican congressional plan hoped for a better interim map. These hopes were undermined, however, when Congressman Henry Cuellar and one of the Latino plaintiff groups – the Latino Task Force – agreed to a

compromise proposal that gave up at least three, and perhaps all four, of the additional Texas seats to the Republicans.

Next month, the Federal District Court in Washington, DC is expected to release its decision detailing all of the violations in the State's originally enacted redistricting plan. Ultimately, the DC Court's decision will guide the redrawing of new maps when the Legislature meets again in 2013.

Here is a breakdown of the Districts under the Court's plan where minority voters can elect their candidate of choice:

CD 9 – Al Green, Houston – African American Opportunity District

CD15 – Ruben Hinojosa, Hidalgo County – Hispanic Opportunity District

CD16 – Silvestre Reyes, El Paso – Hispanic Opportunity District

CD18 – Sheila Jackson Lee, Houston – African American Opportunity District

CD20 – Charlie Gonzales, San Antonio – Hispanic Opportunity District

CD23 – Francisco Canseco, San Antonio/West Texas – Marginalized Hispanic Opportunity District*

CD28 – Henry Cuellar, Laredo – Hispanic Opportunity District

CD29 – Gene Green, Houston – Hispanic Opportunity District

CD30 – Eddie Bernice Johnson, Dallas – African American Opportunity District

CD33 – New Open, Fort Worth/Dallas – Minority

Coalition District

CD34 – New Open, Cameron County – Hispanic Opportunity District

CD35 – New Open, Austin/San Antonio – Hispanic Opportunity District

*The Court's interim plan reduces the Latino vot-

ing strength in CD23 below the level of the benchmark plan, but strong Democratic candidate Pete Gallego should be able to claim the district against Republican Francisco Canseco.

Source: Lone Star Project



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Although women now outnumber men in American colleges nationwide, the reversal of the gap is a very recent phenomenon. The fight to learn was a valiant struggle waged by many tenacious women, especially Black women.

I will highlight some facts about Black women and their contributions to mankind. "To God be all the glory" for Godly women.

I thank God for the Black women that He has allowed to cross my path in life. Those women may not have done things that made great changes for mankind, but they made a big difference to me. Each lady left me with cherished memories and godly wisdom.

In 1978 the United States Post Office Department issued the first stamp to commemorate the contributions of African Americans females. You can log on the Internet to see the contribution each lady made to our society. The Harriet Tubman stamp was the first female in the Black Heritage Series, a 13¢ stamp was issued on February 1, 1978.

Tubman (born Araminta Harriet Ross, 1820 – March 10, 1913) was a Civil War Nurse and spy; Suffragist and Civil Rights activist. On June

2, 1863 she led the Union Army guerillas into Maryland and freed more than 700 slaves using the network of anti-slavery activist and safe houses known as the Underground Railroad which was organized on April 20, 1853. A devout Christian, Tubman ascribed the visions and vivid dreams to revelations from God.

The Mary McLeod Bethune stamp, a 22¢ on March 5, 1985. Bethune (July 10, 1875 – May 18, 1955) was an educator and civil rights leader started a school for Black students in Daytona Beach, FL that eventually became Bethune-Cookman University. The school's educational quality far surpassed the standards of education for Black students and rivaled those of schools for Caucasian students. She was also known for being an advisor to President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

The Sojourner Truth stamp, a 22¢ on February 4, 1986. Sojourner Truth (November 18, 1787 – November 26, 1883) was the self-given name, from 1843 onward, of Isabella Baumfree, an African-American abolitionist and women's rights activist. She was born into slavery in Swartekill, Ulster County, New York, but escaped with her infant daughter to freedom in 1826. After going to court to recover her son, she became the first Black woman to win such a case against a Caucasian man.

Women's History Month

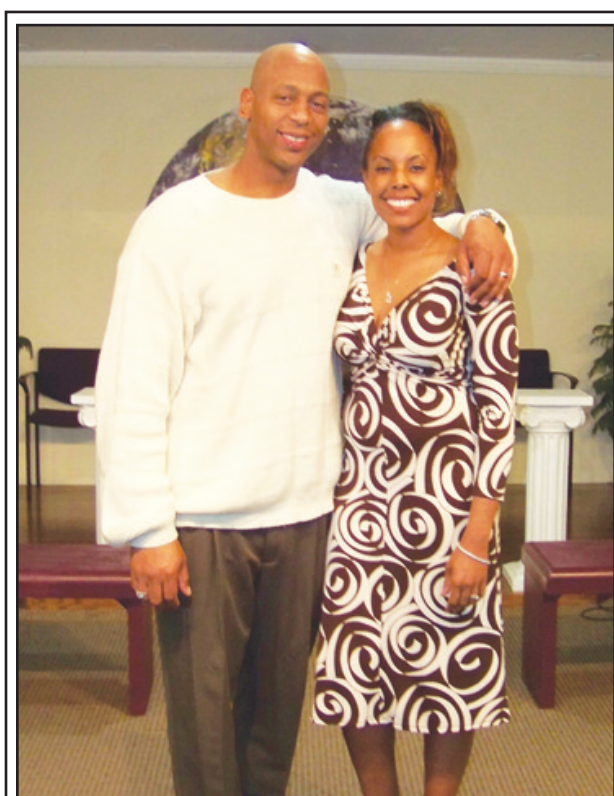
Her best-known extemporaneous speech on racial inequalities, "Ain't I a Woman?" was delivered in 1851 at the Ohio Women's Rights Convention in Akron, Ohio. During the Civil War, she helped recruit Black troops for the Union Army; after the war, Truth tried unsuccessfully to secure land grants from the federal government for former slaves.

The Ida B. Wells stamp a 25¢ on February 1, 1990. Ida Bell Wells-Barnett (July 16, 1862 – March 25, 1931) she was an African American journalist, newspaper editor and, with her husband, newspaper owner Ferdinand L. Barnett, an early leader in the civil rights movement. She documented lynching in the United States, showing how it was often a way to control or punish Blacks who competed with Caucasians. She was active in the women's rights and the women's suffrage movement, establishing several notable women's organizations. Wells was a skilled and persuasive rhetorician. She re-

ceived her education at Freedman's School, Rust College and Fisk University. She also traveled internationally on lecture tours.

Elizabeth "Bessie" Coleman (January 26, 1892 – April 30, 1926) was an American civil aviator. She was the first female pilot of African American descent and the first person of African American descent to hold an international pilot license. She was born in Atlanta, Texas, the tenth of thirteen children. Her father was part Cherokee. Coleman began school at age six and had to walk four miles each day to her all-Black, one-room school. She was an excellent student and she loved to read; and established herself as an outstanding math student. She had a U. S. postage stamp issued in her honor on April 27, 1995.

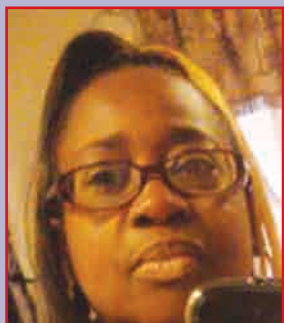
Cathay Williams (September 1844 - 1892) was an American soldier. She was the first Black female to enlist, and the only documented Black female to serve in the United States Army posing as



Mr. Larry D. and Ms. Davida Tarpley Johnson from Wolf City, TX in the City of Carrollton to witness their young cousin, Chance Jones-Thompson's Christening.

a man under the pseudonym. She served as a Buffalo Soldier of the 9th and 10th Cavalry from 1866 to 1868.

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MAYOR, continued from Page 1

in partnership with Dallas-based nonprofit Education is Freedom and lead partner AT&T. Over the past four years, 340 students have participated. Of the interns that graduated since 2008, 82% are currently enrolled in college attending schools such as Georgetown, Northwestern University, Southern Methodist University, UT-Austin, Texas A&M and other schools.

Richard Boyd, the Vice President of Business Development & Marketing and Texas Health Partners joined the program in 2008. Their intern during the last 18 months is JaVonte Starling, a senior at Skyline in Dallas. Starling has worked for Texas Health Partners since last summer, with a long-term goal of becoming a surgeon. He was accepted to the University of Texas-Austin for fall 2012 enrollment.

Starling's performance throughout the internship has deeply impressed staff and customers across the board at Texas Health Partners. Boyd



Richard Boyd, VP of Business Development & Marketing, Texas Health Partners, JaVonte Starling, a senior at Skyline and Mayor Rawlings.

shared, "We put him in very difficult situations," and believe he met the challenge. Starling brings dedication to every assignment whether it is filling out paperwork or interacting with customers. Starling displays not only a high IQ, but business acumen as well, an unusual combination according to Boyd.

"We are trying to help him excel. Everyone works with him; on making sure he can greet customers professionally and having him understand what we provide to our customers," Boyd said.

For example, Dr. Soren

Singel a spine and neurosurgeon, has allowed Starling to observe during surgeries and clinic visits. This opportunity provided Starling with exposure to a variety of diagnosis and patient interaction.

Usually the internship program is reserved for summer participation only. However, the human resources department provided approval to allow Boyd to return during Spring, Thanksgiving and Christmas breaks.

When asked what advice he would offer to companies participating in the mayor's internship program Boyd said, "Ask yourself what is that you do; and allow what you do to transcend into someone's life. They will take what you teach them and use it for the rest of their life."

For Boyd, being a part of the Intern Fellows program is important and it is personal.

"I grew up in a strong Catholic family and I am a product of the people who invested in me. It is important to me to reach back, letting them know, I just didn't make it overnight. You have to set goals, you have to reach for both attainable and unattainable goals; failures are accomplishments as long as you continue to reach forward," Boyd shared.

The deadline for companies to sign up is April 1. On April 4, human resource professionals from the participating companies will interview students at a real-life job fair to be held at the Dallas Sheraton Hotel. The eight-week internships will begin on June 6.

The program is open to students 16 and older who are sophomores or juniors at any Dallas public or charter high school who are eligible to work in the U.S. Students must have a minimum 2.5 GPA and solid attendance

record and must participate in at least one full day of training prior to beginning their sessions. The comprehensive training sessions focus upon office etiquette, communication skills, professional dress, financial

planning and other topics.

To learn more or register online, go to www.mayorsinterns.org or call Education is Freedom at 214-432-8552.

Additional reporting by Ruth Ferguson, NDG Editor

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