

North Dallas Gazette

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Prof draws social media lessons from Egypt's revolt

Political change takes a different course in a wired society, researcher says

(NDG Wire) Social media didn't lead to the recent uprisings in Tunisia and Egypt, but this new system of communication certainly played a role in the process of the revolt.

Dr. David Parry, assistant professor of Emerging Media and Communication at The University of Texas at Dallas, argues that an Internet-equipped public is substantially different from a non-Internet-enabled one, and that while we haven't been deluded by the Internet's possibili-

ties, we ought to be careful not to overestimate them.

"What happened in Egypt and Tunisia would have looked much different if the 'how' of the revolution had been different, if social media had not been

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COVER STORY

History of Gestational Diabetes?



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Sexting bill introduced to Texas lawmakers

By Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott

As more and more young Texans acquired mobile phones of their own, a troubling new practice has developed: sexting. This occurs when teenagers send sexually explicit images of themselves to one another via text message. Until recently, Texas law has not

caught up to this new phenomenon, but state Sen. Kirk Watson and I have teamed up to propose a common-sense solution that discourages young Texans from sexting but also ensures that a youthful mistake doesn't have lifelong consequences.

Current Texas law does not have an appropriate remedy to address teen

sexting. Right now, educators, parents and law enforcement officers who encounter teens explicit text messages really only have two options. Adults can either ignore teen sexting or have kids charged with violating the state's strict child pornography statute which applies because explicit images of minors constitute child

pornography, even if they are sent by a minor. Because child pornography possession and distribution is a felony, convicted youths face prison time and lifetime registration as a sex offender.

Sen. Watson and I recognized that law enforcement, parents and educa-

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Blacker than black Beyonce

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

COMMENTARY

Union busting politicians

By Judge Greg Mathis
NDG Contributor
Wisconsin Governor

Scott Walker has set off a fire storm among the state's unions and public employees. To compound matters other states are proposing similar laws and will soon have to deal with their own revolts. Walker, in the name of balancing the state budget, has proposed legislation that will essentially deny public employees their collective bargaining rights and increase their

payments to the state's healthcare and pension plans.

Union employees, including teachers and others, from around the Midwest (some even came in from New York) flocked to the Wisconsin state capital en masse to protest and continue to do so. The state legislature's 14 Democrats oppose the plan and don't want to vote on it. Instead of staying in Wisconsin and simply not

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When will the financial tide turn towards average consumers?

Survey finds hopes high among wealthy, but still low among working households

By Charlene Crowell
NDG Special Contributor
For more than 60 years, Thomson Reuters and the University of Michigan have tracked consumer trends and opinions. In their most recent survey, released just days ago, consumer confidence



rose to its highest level in three years. For the first time in more than six years according to the survey, "consumers reported hearing more positive than negative economic developments."

Also this week, a new report from the Federal Deposit

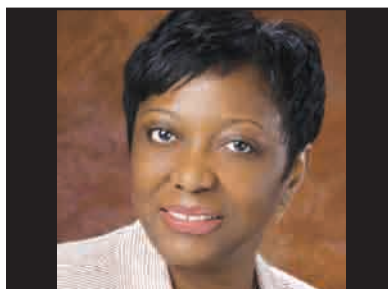
Insurance Corporation (FDIC) examined bank profits. In the last quarter of 2010, lending institutions covered by this federal regulatory agency netted \$21.7 billion. Moreover, 62 percent of these

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People In The News...



Velma Hart



Keith Murray



Sharifah Hardie

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Velma Hart

Velma Hart, the newly named partner and CFO of **bSecurity Systems LLC**, a proposed new innovative identity management software company, will visit Dallas March 7th – 15th to meet with new partners, early stage investors, media and interested members of the Dallas Metroplex area.

Hart became a voice of common sense last year when she challenged President Obama to move more aggressively to create jobs and improve the economy.

Her comments, reflecting the frustration of the middle class, stirred a national discussion about the president's economic policies.

A veteran financial executive, Hart, mother of two, said she believes bSecurity Systems, which could produce nearly **200,000 new permanent jobs** in the U.S., offers Dallas and the country a powerful solution. It could be a huge boost to the economy and could help eliminate the increasing problem of identity theft in the U.S. The Federal Trade Com-



mission recently reported that more than **9 million Americans** are victims of

identity theft every year.

"This is about innovation and creating jobs," said Hart who says she still supports President Obama, but, like so many Americans, wants more companies to start hiring again. "What we're trying to do with B-System has not been done before. It's a unique solution that is seeking the support of the business and investment community to help create jobs at time when so many

people are looking for work."

Hart decided to partner with bSecurity Systems' founder and inventor after several weeks of discussions that began last fall. "I did my homework," said the former CFO of AMVETS, a veteran service organization, "and all the people I talked to – engineers, technologists, and business experts – validated this proposal as a one of a kind opportunity."

bSecurity Systems will have two local but limited seating, *a la carte*, "meet

and greet" sessions for Hart. If you are interested in meeting Hart and/or interested in learning more about the B-System Identity Management Project, the events will be: 2:00 p.m., March 8 @ Diner at Cedar Hill, 305 W FM 1382 #536 in Cedar Hill and 6:30 p.m. March 9 @ Brooklyn's Jazz Café, 1701 S. Lamar Street, west of downtown Dallas. You must RSVP no later than 5 p.m. Friday, March 7; call at 214.731.3112 or via email at info@bsecuritysystems.com.

Keith Murray

Vendor Resource Management will mark the official opening of its new corporate headquarters at 4100 International Parkway, Suite 1000 in Carrollton, TX 75007 on Tuesday March 8, 2011 at 10:00 am with a ribbon cutting ceremony. Vendor Resource Management (VRM) is a leading national asset management firm in the foreclosure industry with over 350 employees across the country.

VRM selected International Business Park (IBP) to accommodate the growth

of the company and for its convenient location. "With 85,000 square feet of space and a centrally located campus with access to major thoroughfares connecting all of the DFW metroplex, IBP was an ideal selection for VRM," replied Irv Baker, Director of Facilities for VRM.

VRM decided to expand its operation after receiving a \$750,000 Texas Enterprise Fund Grant. VRM exceeded the grant's expectation of producing 275 jobs in North Texas and an estimated \$4.6 million dollars in investment capital in the area. VRM moves into its

new corporate headquarters in Carrollton housing 339 employees.

VRM manages over 100,000 REO properties annually for corporate sellers across the U.S. The company is a unit of PCV Murcor that is celebrating its 30th anniversary of providing collateral valuations for the real estate industry. President and CEO Keith Murray stated "when PCV anticipated the looming housing crisis; we created VRM to help corporate sellers manage their growing inventory of foreclosed properties. VRM has developed a reputation of mitigating



losses to lenders while stabilizing neighborhoods that have foreclosures. We have been able to do this by effectively selling foreclosed homes at an accurate market value while reducing the

sales cycle."

Carrollton Mayor Ronald Branson will be among the dignitaries taking part in the ribbon cutting celebration of the new VRM corporate headquarters. "It is with great pleasure that I get the opportunity to welcome Mr. Keith Murray, Vendor Resource Management founder and CEO and his prestigious company to the City of Carrollton family of outstanding companies and businesses. Mr. Murray's vision and record of success represent what is obtainable through hard work and intelligent management, even in challeng-

ing economic times. We are honored that he has chosen Carrollton to relocate his business and I wish him well in his growth plans and hope that he will call upon the City if we might ever be of assistance," stated Mayor Branson.

VRM's new home in the International Business Park is a Billingsley Company property. "We are proud to have a Texas Enterprise Grant recipient as one of our tenants. VRM will be a vibrant part of our community at International Business Park," says Lucy Burns, partner, Billingsley Company.

Sharifah Hardie

In her new book, *And Here's Your Box - From Laid Off to Loving Life*, au-



thor Sharifah Hardie seeks to prove that everything happens for a reason. Hardie believes it was those moments of sheer frustration she experienced through six layoffs and continuous workplace disappointments which gave her the strength to utilize the skills she acquired in

the workforce.

In today's world with rising unemployment rates there are many people that can relate to Sharifah's story. This inspiring story *And Here's Your Box: From Laid Off to Loving Life* will leave readers motivated to find their niche and understand that any moment, no matter how small, can change one's life.

When asked about her experiences Hardie reminds us that, "a single moment can be powerful and an instant can change the course of history." In each instance when Hardie was given the news that she was laid off, she was also given a box to collect her personal belongings from her desk. This box is Hardie's only reminder of the jobs she used

to have.

In this inspirational story, Sharifah Hardie, shares how she became Google's #1 Ranked, "Professional Business Consultant," and host of "Ask Sharifah Radio." In *And Here's Your Box* readers first follow Hardie's journey through discovering that she may have been meant to be her own boss. Determined to find a job that would not lay her off, Hardie started consulting with other business owners teaching them how to start, grow, brand and market their services. This encouraging story will keep audiences captivated as they read about Hardie and businesses she has worked with along the way.

The information, true life stories, professional advice and valuable, "step-by-simple-step" solutions and instructions to "win" one's dream job are provided by

an impressive group of business owners, CEOs, and high level managers from such prestigious companies and organizations as: Wells Fargo, Boost Mobile, Cox Communications, Producer/Actor Dorian Gregory, American Express Incentive Services, Mall of America, The Laredo Group, Feed The Children and even "self-made millionaire" and natural living mentor, Dr. Elon Bomani.

These are the successful "Movers and Shakers" who head up such diverse and varied fields of endeavor as commerce, media, electronics, high finance, telecommunications, health, human resources, entertainment, management, internet marketing and banking, just to name a few. All brought together to teach those who have ears to listen and eyes to see, precisely how to prepare for and pursue these powerful,

productive and profitable paths to personal and professional success!

For more details, visit

www.AskSharifah.com or follow her on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ILikeSharifah

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First Unions, Then You

By Gary L. Flowers
(NNPA) What the United States of America has witnessed over the past three weeks in Wisconsin is extremely historic and a big deal for all Americans. We should not view the events of Wisconsin (and soon to be Ohio and other states) in isolation.

Following the election of Governor Scott Walker (R) legislation was introduced with austerity measures included to streamline the state budget. Aside from asking public workers to reduce their benefit packages an unusual provision was inserted that would radically change the process of collective bargaining by state workers. Of course, Governor Walker said such was necessary to balance the budget. Baloney!

The state budget is far less of the issue than is a political attempt to weaken unions, in this case public ones that include teachers, firemen, and police. And, while some Wisconsin unions who supported Governor Walker were exempted from the legislation restricting collective bargaining the attack on workers is no less venomous.

Teachers, in particular, are one segment of the

American workforce that needs a reduction in benefits the least. In most public school districts teachers are excruciatingly underpaid and violently overworked. Teachers are asked to fill the function of parent, psychologist, truant officer, and fight referee, in addition to their primary purpose of teaching. And, by the way, the pay received for teaching is a national disgrace.

The National Education Association has done an excellent job of representing the rights of educators from Nevada to North Carolina. Yet, politically some see the NEA as less than the academic advocates that they serve.

In the face of sub-standard educational attainment by American students (as compared the students around the world) some politicians like Governor Walker would suggest that the NEA and teachers' unions are to blame. Double baloney!

Fact is, student achievement may well have as much to do with a federal commitment to fund public education as any other factor. Currently, the American government only funds nine percent of public school funds. The remaining 91%

of public education funding is derived from state, county, and local educational funding streams. While our nation pumps paltry pennies into public education our global competitors (China, India, Pakistan, etc.) fully fund their public education systems. In fact, of the 118 industrialized nations, the United States the only one that does not fully fund public education. Worse still, there seems to be little support for full funding of American education from U.S. Education Secretary Arnie Duncan.

Moreover, the idea of reducing the power of unions is not new. The history of union busting attempts fills the annals of American elitism. Following major union street battles such as the Haymarket case union membership has always met resistance by the wealthy and political parties that do the bidding for the rich.

As a result of the blood shed by union workers all Americans enjoy several employment privileges:

- 5-day work week (thus, weekend)
- 40-hour work week
- 8-hour work day
- Safe and Healthy

workplaces

- Child labor protections

The contributions of unions in this country to improve the daily lives and bank accounts of working people politicians like Governor Walker who believe in the privatization of public education blame unions—public and private—for the tremendous national debt. Triple Baloney! Let the record reflect that it was the private profiteers on Wall Street—not unions—who bankrupted the national treasury without a single Wall Streeter going to jail.

If Governor Walker and his wealthy friends have their way in state governments across the nation the United States will be less of a democracy than capitalism wherein the wealthy rule, and everyone else are the mules.

Working people must realize that the evil plan is an attack on unions, then you.

All who believe in justice and fairness must take a stand for righteousness.

Gary L. Flowers is the Executive Director & CEO of the Black Leadership Forum, Inc.

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showing up for the vote, which would have been in violation of the law, they left the state to prevent the state legislator from having the necessary number of members needed to vote on the legislation.

Wisconsin definitely has a big mess on its hands. Soon, Tennessee, Indiana, Michigan and Ohio - all of which have similar legislation in the works - may be dealing with their protests and stonewalling from state Democrats.

Supporters of the proposals in all the states say these types of cuts are necessary to reduce state deficits. Yet, Governor



Walker, a Tea Party backed Republican, has proposed tax breaks for corporations. If Walker is truly interested in sorting out Wisconsin's finance, why would he, on one hand, give away revenue by cutting corporate taxes and then, on the other,

jeopardize the job and financial security of union employees, all of whom are tax paying citizens? Something here doesn't compute.

Also interesting is the fact that Walker received more than \$40,000 in campaign contributions last year from a political group run by David and Charles Koch. The two Koch brothers run a booming gas and oil business and have been uncovered to be major financial supporters of the Tea Party movement. Is Walker, and other politicians like him, doing his own bidding, or is he paying back the Tea Party for its support by moving their

agenda forward?

We may never know for certain. But we do know this: balancing the budget, whether it be at the state or federal level, on the backs of public employees who provide the services we all need to maintain and enjoy our quality of life is unfair. Especially when rich corporations are being given tax breaks. Walker's attempt is an old maneuver from the Republican playbook of the past and the Tea Party of new. Opponents of union busting legislation must stand strong and reject these modern day union busting efforts.

New Heart Disease guidelines for women

By Sandra Jordan
(NDG Wire) Pregnancy complications are now included as risk factors for cardiovascular disease in guidelines issued from the American Heart Association. Serious problems during pregnancy such as preeclampsia, pregnancy induced hypertension and gestational diabetes are noted as additional risk factors for heart attack and stroke.

"If women have had a history of preeclampsia, they are at twice the risk of having cardiovascular disease as they age," said Dr. Jennifer Lawton, a cardiac surgeon at Washington University and Barnes-Jewish Hospital. "They should be referred to a cardiologist to be treated as a patient at higher risk of cardiovascular disease."

Another change was for treatment of atrial fibrilla-

tion and stroke in women. Atrial fibrillation, an abnormal heart rhythm, was found to increase risk of stroke by fourfold to fivefold. The new guidelines encourage women to consult with their doctor to ensure they are taking the right medications to control atrial fibrillation.

In addition, there were added changes to daily exercise as the guidelines indicate two of three Ameri-

can women are considered obese.

"Overall, these guidelines indicate a woman should ask her physician about her glucose levels, blood pressure, lipid levels, find out if weight is at a normal range and let her physician know about any complications with pregnancy so a physician can get a more global assessment of risk for the next five to ten years," Lawton

said.

"Improving adherence to preventive medications and lifestyle behaviors is one of the best strategies we have to lower the burden of heart disease in women. We also want to emphasize the importance of recognizing racial and ethnic diversity and its impact on cardiovascular disease. For example, hypertension is a particular problem among African-Ameri-

can women and diabetes among Hispanic women."

She added, "Cardiovascular disease is the number one killer of women in this country - more than all cancers combined - and women should know they may have atypical symptoms compared to men such as fatigue, abdominal fatigue that many women may attribute just to getting older."

Report: Affordable Care Act controls costs for early retiree coverage in Texas

(NDG Wire) Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius has released a new report showing that the Early Retiree Reinsurance Program (ERRP) created by the Affordable Care Act is reducing health care costs for early retirees. As of December 31, 2010 in Texas, 200 employers had been accepted into ERRP, and more than \$74,413,108 in health benefit costs have been reimbursed through the program.

Nationally, as of December 31, 2010, more than

5,000 employers had been accepted into ERRP, and more than \$535 million in health benefit costs have been reimbursed through the program. This funding provides financial assistance for health plan sponsors - including state and local governments, for-profit companies, schools and other educational institutions, unions, religious organizations and other non-profits - to help early retirees and their families maintain access to quality, affordable health coverage. The largest share of 2010

reimbursements went to governments, including state and local governments, school districts and other local agencies.

A list of approved plan sponsors, updated on January 27, 2011, is available online at www.Health-Care.gov/law/provisions/retirement.

"The Early Retiree Reinsurance Program is helping to control health care costs and protect coverage for early retirees and their families in Texas," said HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius. "This pro-

gram is providing critical financial relief to help states, private employers and other organizations preserve access to affordable health coverage for millions of Americans."

The percentage of large firms providing workers with retiree health coverage dropped from 66 percent in 1988 to 29 percent in 2009. Many Americans who retire before they are eligible for Medicare without employer-sponsored health

coverage see their life savings disappear because of medical bills and exorbitant rates in the individual health insurance market. Health insurance premiums for older Americans are over four times more expensive than those for young adults, and the deductible these enrollees pay is, on average, almost four times that in a typical employer-sponsored insurance plan.

ERRP reimburses participating plan sponsors for

a portion of health coverage costs for early retirees and their spouses, surviving spouses, and dependents. In 2010, ERRP-issued reimbursements helped pay the high costs of care for nearly 61,000 people. Sponsors receiving the largest ERRP reimbursements - totaling approximately 58 percent of the funding disbursed in 2010 - reported that program payments will benefit,

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tors need an alternative remedy that would discourage children from sexting but not ruin their young lives. We also knew that sexting typically involves willing parties teenagers giving in to their adolescent impulses, with no understanding of their actions long-term consequences.

Under Senate Bill 407, which Sen. Watson filed last month, the goal is to educate, not criminalize, teenage sexters. If enacted, SB 407 would protect kids from themselves from an instance of bad judgment that could haunt them for life. The bill would also ensure that minors are held responsible for their improper behavior but do not face life-altering criminal charges.

Under the bill, first-time violators under the age of 18 would face a Class C misdemeanor for sexting. Prosecutors could upgrade the offense to a Class A or B misdemeanor

for teens with multiple sexting convictions. Judges would be authorized to sentence minors convicted of sexting to an education program rather than prison. This educational alternative would teach young offenders about sexting's long-term harmful consequences. SB 407 also establishes a safe harbor that allows recipients of sexting messages to avoid prosecution if they report the images to authorities within 48 hours.

In addition to substituting incarceration with education, SB 407 would also allow teens to expunge a sexting offense from their criminal records. As a result, young offenders will be allowed to apply for college and move forward with their lives without the stigma of a criminal conviction.

Sen. Watson's bill also aims to educate young Texans about sexting's serious and harmful consequences. SB 407 requires

the Texas School Safety Center, in consultation with the Attorney General's Office, to create a sexting educational program by Jan. 1, 2012. The Center must make the program available to all school districts, which would be authorized to offer the program to students each year.

SB 407 proposes a modern, common-sense solution to a uniquely 21st century problem. This bill ensures that law enforcement and judges can prevent sexting among teenagers. Texas children need to understand that sexting is not acceptable or legal. Trading sexually explicit images by mobile phone can forever affect their lives.

Sen. Watson and I worked hard to craft a solution to sexting that holds young offenders accountable but leaves room for them to correct their mistakes and still have a chance for a bright future.



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Census shows McKinney population grew 141 percent

(NDG Wire) According to the U.S. Census Bureau, McKinney's population on April 1, 2010, reached 131,117. This marks a 141 percent increase since the last Census was taken in 2000, when McKinney's population was just 54,369. McKinney jumped up to number 19 on the list of the biggest cities in Texas from number 49 the last time the Census was taken.

The U.S. Census Bureau conducts the Census every 10 years to determine the national population. The 2010 Census, conducted on April 1, 2010, provides detailed demographic information for national, state, regional and local populations. Much of this information will be released over the next several months and years.

The City of McKinney

website, www.mckinney-texas.org, has all of the details about the Census 2010, including access to additional information related to the City of McKinney as it is released from the Census Bureau. The next release of information is anticipated in May and should include population and housing characteristics at the city level.

Garland accepting nominations for Good Neighbor Award



(NDG Wire) Mayor Ronald Jones' office is accepting nominations for the next Mayor's Good Neighbor Award.

The award is given quarterly to residents or property owners in Garland that have demonstrated significant im-

provements or upgrades to their property that will provide a positive physical impact to their neighborhood. The award will be granted based on project innovation, potential for replication, mitigation of unsightly conditions, collaboration or partnership,

volunteer contributions, and increased property value.

Residents and property owners are encouraged to nominate their neighbors for this award. Nomination packets are available on the City's website (www.garlandtx.gov) or at the Mayor's Office, City Hall, 200 N. Fifth Street in Downtown Garland. Call 972-205-2400 for more information.

The deadline for 1st Quarter 2011 nominations is March 31. The winner will be announced at the April 5 regular meeting of the Garland City Council.

Garland police announce new promotions

(NDG Wire) New promotions within the Garland Police Department will become effective this week and will lead to changes within the leadership of the department. Five officers are promoting to the rank of Lieutenant and two Lieutenants will promote to the rank of Captain.

Two current lieutenant assignments affected in the changes are in the successful and high profile Neighbor Police Officer (NPO) program. Lieutenants Gary Gregory and Jeff Bryan, who have lead the NPO program for the past several years, are promoting to the rank of Captain. They are transferring to the Patrol Division in order to fill two



captain's positions recently vacated by retirements.

Transferring to the NPO supervisor positions are Lieutenants Scott Vornberg and Ben St Clair. Vornberg has been with the department 17 years and St Clair

14 years. These two lieutenants bring a wide range of career experience that is expected to be very helpful in leading the NPO program. The NPO unit consists of two lieutenants and 17 officers. The unit has a team approach that works throughout the City with citizens and business owners in an effort to solve problems and make Garland a safer place to both live and work.

The new promotions with assignments include;

- Lieutenant Gary Gregory to Captain / Patrol
- Lieutenant Jeff Bryan to Captain / Patrol
- Officer Shawn Roten to Lieutenant / Patrol
- Officer Ramiro Moreno to Lieutenant / Patrol
- Officer Ernest Smith to Lieutenant / Patrol
- Officer Daniel Wortman to Lieutenant / Patrol
- Officer Dan Colasanto to Lieutenant / Patrol

McKinney fire chief announces retirement plans

(NDG Wire) McKinney Fire Chief Mark Wallace has announced his plans to retire effective June 1. Wallace has been McKinney's Fire Chief for the last 10 years of his 41-year career.

"I have been honored to serve the citizens of McKinney as their Fire Chief for the last decade," said Wallace. "I have developed many important relationships with members of the community and the employees of the city, especially the staff of the Fire and Police Departments, who have joined together to develop one of the best public safety service delivery systems in the country."

During Wallace's tenure, there have been many significant achievements, including the fol-



lowing:

- Helping to pass three bond elections
- Building five fire stations and a state-of-the-art Public Safety Building
- Adding more than 100 positions within the Fire Department
- Reducing the ISO Rating to Class 2, saving McKinney residents and businesses more than \$5

million per year

"We appreciate Chief Wallace's service to our entire city," said Interim City Manager Rick Chaffin. "We wish him all of the best in his well-earned retirement and appreciate his willingness to stay on during a transitional period while a search for McKinney's next Fire Chief can be conducted."

Eldercare volunteer training set for March 16

(NDG Wire) The Visiting Nurse Association's Eldercare Friends program is looking for volunteers to visit the homebound elderly in Dallas and Collin Counties and provide assistance with shopping, escorted transportation, er-

rands, or other activities.

Volunteer training will be held March 16 from noon to 1 p.m. at the Visiting Nurse Association's headquarters on 1440 W. Mockingbird Lane in Dallas. Volunteer training can also be scheduled by ap-

pointment.

There is no cost to attend a volunteer training class, but registration is requested. Contact Nancy Jellinek, VNA Eldercare Friends manager, at 214-689-2209 or jellinekn@vnatexas.org.

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Six MISD schools named to NCEA Higher Performing Schools list

(NDG Wire) Six McKinney ISD schools were named to The National Center for Educational Achievement (NCEA) Higher Performing Schools List (formerly known as Just for the Kids Schools).

The following schools received the honor and Higher Performing recognition in the following areas:

- Dowell Middle School, Higher Performing in Reading and Social Studies

ies

- Eddins Elementary School, Higher Performing in Science and Writing

- Johnson Middle School, Higher Performing in Social Studies

- McKinney Boyd High School, Higher Performing in Social Studies

- McKinney North High School, Higher Performing in Science and Social Studies

- Walker Elementary

School, Higher Performing in Science

The Higher Performing Schools are identified by two measures: consistent improvement in student achievement from previous years (growth) and/or absolute student achievement using the school's Recommended Performance results on the spring 2010 TAKS (Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills) test.

NCEA's higher performing methodology controls for school and student demographics to allow for an apples-to-apples comparison of school achievement and to demonstrate that with the commitment of educators, all schools can have success no matter the zip code. NCEA provided award certificates to each Higher Performing School and the district.

"Making the list is a

great achievement for these schools. With education reforms focused on higher standards and rigorous accountability measures such as the coming of the STAAR (State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness), these higher performing schools show us that all students can, and will, get there," says Efrain Mercado, Director of Outreach at NCEA. "Our Texas educators are doing great

work, but if we want every student to graduate with the skills to be successful beyond high school, there's still more work to do. The schools on this list show us that Texas is making college and career readiness a priority."

To view the 2010 NCEA Higher Performing Schools List for Texas, please visit www.nc4ea.org/HPschoolstx.

UT Dallas graduate game design program rated in Top 10

(NDG Wire) The University of Texas at Dallas has been included in *The Princeton Review's* list of the "Top Schools for Video Game Design Study for 2011," based on a survey of administrators at 150 schools offering video game design programs or degrees.

UT Dallas made the list of top 10 graduate programs for its innovative Arts and Technology (ATEC) program.

The Princeton Review – in conjunction with *GamePro* magazine – started ranking video game design programs last year after recognizing a surge in the

number of options available at schools. This marks the first year *The Princeton Review* ranked the top graduate programs for video game design.

"I am particularly pleased by this recognition of one aspect of our comprehensive program," said Dr. Dennis Kratz, dean of the

School of Arts and Humanities. "In addition to designing games, we explore the philosophic and practical implications of games and all aspects of digital technology for human life and culture. We emphasize and plan to be an international leader in the development of 'tough content' games

for education."

Robert Franek, Senior VP/Publisher of *The Princeton Review* said, "It has long been our mission to help students find – and get into – the schools best for them to pursue their interests and develop their talents. For the burgeoning number of students aspiring

to become game designers, we highly recommend The University of Texas at Dallas as one of the best and most innovative places to study and succeed in this exciting field."

The complete list will be featured in the April issue of *GamePro* magazine.

Rev. Jesse Jackson espouses the value of career school education

In a commencement address at Virginia College, Rev. Jesse L. Jackson espoused the value of post-secondary education, applauding 387 graduates of the career school that specializes in preparing students for careers in health services, business, information technology, personal care, culinary arts, interior design and other fields.

"This graduation today is cause for another family celebration, enhanced by the fact that 150 of you have already been placed in jobs," Rev. Jackson told the graduates, their friends and relatives, and the school's staff and faculty. "Put your hands together. That's a big deal. These jobs range from culinary and pastry arts to medical assistance, business administration, master's degrees, accounting specialists and cosmetology...The range of skills for which you have developed is coming into a growing market."

"I congratulate you because of your passion for education," he said. "Many of you finished high school long ago and just wouldn't give up. Strong minds bring strong change. The great

tradition of Tuskegee, the spirit of self-reliance and skill development - Booker Washington argued that you should not starve on the farm because you have a dysfunctional education."

Tom Moore, CEO of Education Corporation of America, which operates Virginia College campuses around the country, as well as other accredited learning institutions, said he was honored to have Rev. Jackson deliver the commencement address. "He has been a strong and vocal supporter of the kind of practical educational alternatives we provide our students. His appreciation of the diversity of our student body and the catalyst we play in their career development is an important message for our students and this entire community."

Further, Moore expressed his appreciation for Rev. Jackson's strong support for career colleges as they seek to amend or stop a series of regulatory changes proposed by the US Department of Education that would make it difficult for some for-profit educational institutions to continue operating.

In his address, Rev. Jackson noted that his mother attended an alternative school to learn a trade when he was a child. "My mom went back to school after 10 years of my birth to become a beautician," he said. "She just wouldn't - she just wouldn't give up."

Rev. Jackson also recalled the economic struggles that other members of his family overcame, some

with the help of alternative education. He said one aunt had five children before she was 20 years old, but had a dream of a college education for herself and her children. She worked at a Veterans Hospital at night and sent all five children to college. At age 53, he said she got her GED, earned a community college associate degree four years later, and then proceeded to get

her bachelors and master's degrees.

Proudly pointing out
See JACKSON, Page 12

Jury Issues Mixed Verdict in Michael Baisden's Copyright Infringement Case

(NDG Wire) Michael Baisden's attorneys, Daryl K. Washington and Aubrey "Nick" Pittman, announced on Monday, a jury in Houston Federal Court reached a verdict in the copyright lawsuit filed by nationally syndicated radio and TV personality Michael Baisden. The mixed verdict allows for the return of Baisden's copyrighted rights and allows the best-selling author to proceed with upcoming movie and television projects.

In the lawsuit, Baisden claimed damages from past conduct of I'm Ready Productions and Image Entertainment for the unauthorized distribution of DVD's based on two of his best-selling novels. According to Baisden's attorneys, I'm Ready Productions filed a counterclaim against Baisden seeking compensation related to a movie based on one of Baisden's

best-sellers that Baisden had originally planned to write and produce.


According to the original lawsuit, I'm Ready argued that it had all rights to the stage-play versions of Baisden's best sellers, *The Maintenance Man* and *Men Cry in the Dark*. Documents filed in the case also showed that I'm Ready Productions was marketing movie rights to these best sellers and entered into an agreement with Image Entertainment to do a film from one of the stageplays. In earlier arguments to the Court, the Court rejected I'm Ready's arguments that it had the right to sell Baisden's movie rights. Pittman noted that after the Court denied I'm Ready's contention, the jury had to decide whether Baisden was entitled to monetary damages from the past conduct of the Defendants.

See BAISDEN, Page 16

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Bruce Luster still shines – even at 100 years old



Bruce Luster, his sister Jewell Oliphant, Mayor Brian Loughmiller and Councilman Travis Ussery

(NDG Wire) Bruce Luster was born on Feb. 23, 1911 in East Caney, Texas in Hopkins County to Elder Joe and Henrietta Luster. He was the second of 14 children. In 1925, at the age of 14, Luster and his family moved on Jan. 1 to McKinney. When Luster was 16, he started shining shoes at The Palace Barbershop in McKinney. He opened his own business Luster's Shine Place and

was self employed for more than 50 years.

February 23, 1996 was declared Bruce Luster Day by Mayor John E. Gay. Luster has also been recognized by the Texas House of Representatives, they honored him for his "dedication to the welfare of others." He received his proclamation from Rep Brian McCall.

Many residents of McKinney hold him dear.

In many instances, Luster has shined shoes for 3 generations of family members. He is a staple of the community and has shined shoes in McKinney for more than 75 years. Luster retired and closed his shop in 2007 at the age of 96.

Bruce celebrated his 100th birthday on Monday, Feb. 21, 2011 at Bill Smith's Cafe in McKinney with family, friends, and city officials.

McKinney Homebuyer Assistance Program helps make dream of home ownership a reality

(NDG Wire) The City of McKinney's Community Services Department is helping first-time home buyers fulfill their dreams of owning a home. The Homebuyer Assistance Program provides down payment and closing costs assistance up to \$10,000 for first-time homebuyers purchasing in McKinney with low to moderate income. Funds are made available through a grant from the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs' HOME Investment Partnership Program.

"We plan to assist 30

first-time homebuyers in purchasing their first home with this grant. The City of McKinney's Affordable Housing Office is helping make the dream of home ownership a reality," said Cristel Todd, Affordable Housing Administrator.

Some requirements of the program include:

Being a first-time homebuyer, or an individual or household who has not owned a home in the last three years or is a displaced homemaker

Proof of U.S. citizenship or permanent legal resident alien status

Qualifying for a mort-

gage loan with a private lender Income that does not exceed 80 percent of the Area Median Income

The home purchased through the program will be the principal residence

The home must be located within the city limits of McKinney

Completion of a HUD and City of McKinney approved homebuyer counseling workshop

For more information or to apply for the Homebuyer Assistance Program, please contact Cristel Todd at ctodd@mckinneytexas.org or 972-547-7519.

Sunnyvale Heart Health event



Jessy Paul of Sunnyvale (left) received advice from Dr. Prem Pillay, a cardiologist, during Texas Regional Medical Center at Sunnyvale's Heart-Health Event Feb. 26. One hundred people attended the event, which offered various medical tests, healthy cooking demonstrations and advice.

Termite Trouble

(Family Features) Springtime showers aren't the only thing warmer weather brings. It can also trigger termite swarms—and the presence of winged termites can be a bad sign for homeowners.

According to Terminix, a national pest control company, homeowners pay an average of \$3,000 in out-of-pocket expenses for repairs.

"A termite swarm is a group of winged, reproduc-

remain hidden behind walls and other structural elements for months—and even years—before their presence is detected. Homeowners should look for signs such as mud tubes, which are hollow, drinking-straw-sized roadways for termites, and check for wood that makes a hollow sound when tapped. Also, look for discarded wings around windows and doors, which termite swarms may leave behind as a sign of activity.

Keep Termites Out

The pest control experts at Terminix recommend the following tips to help make your home less attractive to termites:

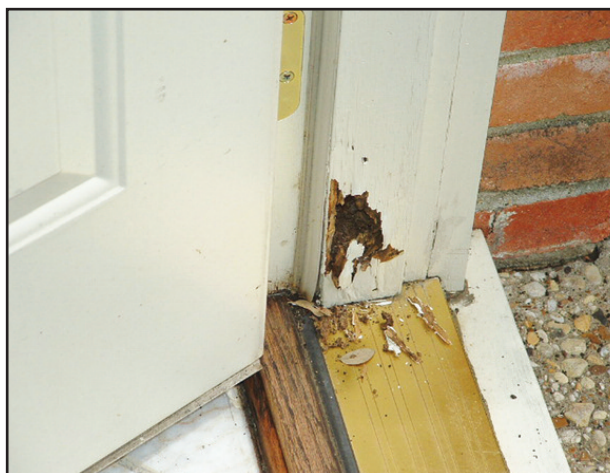
- Fix roof or plumbing leaks. The moisture from these leaks allows termites to survive above ground.

- Eliminate all wood-to-soil contact around the foundation, keeping firewood or other wood debris from being stacked against the side of the home.

- Keep mulch or soil away from the home's siding. It's best to have a barrier of a few inches.

- Remove items like

See TERMITE, Page 11



Termites can enter a home through cracks as thin as a few sheets of paper and devour enough wood and wood products to do serious damage. Even though they are smaller than a grain of rice, termites cause more than \$5 billion in damage to homes all across the United States, according to the National Pest Management Association (NPMA). To make matters worse, most insurance policies don't cover termite damage, and ac-

tive termites that leave their existing colony to establish new ones," said Paul Curtis, entomologist for Terminix. "Swarming is weather-driven and normally occurs on warm spring days, after a rain. The presence of a termite swarm is the most obvious, and often first, sign of a termite infestation, so it's important to know what to look for and what to do if you experience a swarm in or around your home."

Termite colonies can

Every Saturday

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

Every Tuesday

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

Ongoing

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

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

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

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

No Limit Network Business Networking Lunch 1st

Thursday at 1 pm in Plano Must RSVP at www.TheNoLimitNetwork.com or 972-898-5882.

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

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

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

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

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

Through March 8

The Eisemann Center, 2351 Performance Center in Richardson, will host a painting collection of Lisa M. Cardenas **Metaphoric Landscapes: Then and Now** exhibition at in the Green Mezzanine-Gallery. www.eisemanncenter.com

Through March 26

The PDNB Gallery, 1202

Dragon St. in Dallas, will host **Neil Leifer: For the Love of the Game**, every Tuesday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. in the Photographs Do Not Bend Gallery. Leifer, a longtime *Sports Illustrated* photographer, showcases the greatest moments of professional sports since he began shooting pro football at the NFL Championship Game in 1978. The exhibit is free.

Through – March 11

Texas Sculpture Association's Annual Membership Exhibition at The Oak Cliff Cultural Center.

March 3

St. Philip's School 2011 Destiny Awards Luncheon features Director of the W.E.B. Dubois Institute for African and African American Research at Harvard University - Dr. Henry Louis Gates, Jr. Tickets are \$150 at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue in Dallas. Info: devoffice@stphilips.com or 214-421-5221

Urban Ministries Prayer Breakfast and Forum at Dallas Market Center Grand Pavilion, 2100 Stemmons Freeway in Dallas from 7-9 a.m.

March 3 – 6

Sesame Street Live "Elmo's Healthy Heroes" Verizon Theatre at Grand Prairie, 1001 Performance Place, Grand Prairie, TX 75050

March 5

UTA African American Alumni Association will honor the recipients of the **2011 Outstanding African American Alumni Award** at the Hilton Arlington, 2401 E. Lamar Blvd., in Arlington from 6 to 9 p.m. Honorees are Gary Bailey ('77), Rickey Rush ('82), and Laurretta Hill ('93). Tickets are

\$50. RSVP by Feb. 23. www.utablackalumni.com

11 am to Noon **Butterfly House Discovery Tour** is a guided tour of and a behind the scenes look at these winged wonders. Texas Discovery Gardens admission is \$8/adults, \$6/seniors, and \$4/children 3-11.

March 6

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

1 pm to 4 pm. **Nature Challenge Opening Day** - Learn about this second annual summer-long challenge that gets you and your family outside visiting more than 20 environmental attractions across DFW. Free Texas Discovery Gardens admission if attending challenge.

March 10

Willson Lecture Series at SMU features Chaplain Stephen Rankin on *Seeking a Better Way: SMU as a Leader in Church-Affiliated Higher Education* at 11:30 a.m. reception, noon for lecture in the Ballroom Hughes-Trigg, 3140 Dyer Street, Dallas. The cost is FREE. Info: 214-768-4502; www.smu.edu/chaplain

March 12

UT-Southwestern Medical Center and Friendship-West Baptist Church presents **My Sista's Keeper**, a program to inform the community of the increasing rates of HIV on Black women and girls in the Dallas area, is scheduled for 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 2020 W. Wheatland Road in Dallas. Guest speakers include the Rev. Sheron C. Patterson, senior pastor of Highland Hills United Methodist Church in Dallas. Call 214-456-0461 for reservations by March 4.

FREE "The Makeover Mile" – a one mile community health walk will begin at 11 a.m. at Kiest Park in Dallas. It will end at the CVS/pharmacy on 2323 W. Illinois Avenue, Dallas and end at 4 p.m. Info: 888-604-0333 or visit www.cvs.com/toyourhealth

The 1st Ladies of Verity Teddy Bear Brunch will feature food, fun and inspiration on from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at The Cascade Event Center 5909 Stone Creek Drive The Colony, Texas 75056. Everyone will have the opportunity to make their very own cuddly friend... complete with birth certificate and take home carrier! For more details and ticket information, go to www.NoahsArkTeddyBearWorkshop.com or call 214-614-8468.

March 15

Essilor Vision Foundation and the **Kids Vision for Life Coalition** will host **KidsVisionFest** from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Cathedral Shrine of the Virgin of Guadalupe, 2215 Ross Ave. in the Dallas Arts District. Free and open to the public, the event will offer free eye exams and glasses to qualifying children, ages 4 – 12, plus free vision screenings to all children. www.essilorvision.org

March 16

Eldercare volunteer training is from noon to 1 p.m. at the Visiting Nurse Association's headquarters on 1440 W. Mockingbird Lane in Dallas. Info: Nancy Jellinek, VNA Eldercare Friends manager, at 214-689-2209 or jellinek@vnatexas.org.

May 21

Dallas Free to Breathe® 5K Run/Walk and 1 Mile Walk 6:45 a.m. – Event day registration begins at Oak Point Park and Nature Preserve located at 2801 East Spring

Creek Parkway, Plano. Fees range from \$15 - \$25, info at <http://www.freetobreathe.com/>

March 21 & 28

SMU's **Godbey Lecture Series** features Ezra Greenspan, professor of English discussing *Researching and Writing African American Biography: The Life and Writings of Williams Wells Brown* at 11:30 a.m. lecture, noon lunch at the Maggiano's at NorthPark Center, 8687 N Central Expy, Suite 205, Dallas, \$45 for members, \$65 for nonmembers for individual lectures. Info: 214-768-2905; www.smu.edu/Dedman/AboutDedmanCollege/GodbeyLecture

March 25

UTD Spring Lecture Series: **"When Couples Become Parents: Keeping your Marriage Strong for Your Child"** by Dr. Karen Prager

March 30

Real Girls Real Women - East Texas Annual Awards Luncheon - Doors open at 11:30 a.m. at Hollytree Country Club, Tyler

April 17-24

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

April 26

Garland City Manager's Quarterly Meeting 7 p.m.

April 29

UTD Spring Lecture Series: **"Play Dates and Peer Groups: Forming Friendships across Childhood"** Dr. Lisa Rosen.

May 20

UTD Spring Lecture Series: **"Helping Adolescents Use Electronic Communication for Good"** Dr. Marion Underwood.

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History of Gestational Diabetes?

Healthy habits can help prevent diabetes in your future

(Family Features) Gestational diabetes is diabetes that is found for the first time when a woman is pregnant. If you had gestational diabetes when you were pregnant, you and your child from that pregnancy have a lifelong risk for developing diabetes, a serious disease that can lead to health problems such as heart disease, blindness, kidney disease and amputations. The good news is there are steps you can take to prevent or delay diabetes and lower that risk for yourself and your child.

"Women with a history of gestational diabetes can lower their chances for developing diabetes by taking steps to reach and maintain a healthy weight, making healthy food choices, and being active," according to Judith Fradkin, M.D., of the National Institute of Dia-

betes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases. "Keeping a healthy lifestyle as a family is good for everyone."

Keep up healthy habits — even after the baby is born.

Many women who have gestational diabetes see a dietitian or a diabetes educator to guide them in developing healthy habits during pregnancy. But what many women don't realize is that it's just as important to keep up with those healthy habits even after the baby is born.

If you are a woman who had gestational diabetes, it is important to get tested for diabetes 6 to 12 weeks after your baby is born, and at least every three years after that.

It is also important to reach and maintain a healthy weight by making healthy food choices, such as following an eating plan lower in fat and calories and high in fiber, and being active for at least 30 minutes, 5 days a week. Even if women do not reach their "goal" weight, research

shows that maintaining a healthy lifestyle can help reduce risk.

Busy? Build physical activity into your day one step at a time.

Physical activity is an important part of maintaining a healthy weight and preventing type 2 diabetes. Set a goal to be active at least 30 minutes, 5 days per week. If you have not been active, start slowly, building up to your goal. Take small steps to include physical activity in your day-to-day routine.

Busy moms can use these tips to get started:

- Park your car farther away from the store, movie theater, your office, etc.
- Get your friends and family involved. Set a regular walking date, such as after dinner. Or do something that all ages can enjoy — shoot hoops, take a bike ride, or just dance around the house.
- Take a walk during your lunch break or push the baby's stroller around the mall.
- Don't just watch the



Photo courtesy of Getty Images

kids at the playground ... play with them.

- Deliver a message to a co-worker in person instead of by e-mail, and take the stairs instead of the elevator.
- Exhausted from a busy day and just want to plop on the couch in front of the TV? Use the commercial

breaks to stretch, take a quick walk around your home, do some sit-ups, or march in place.

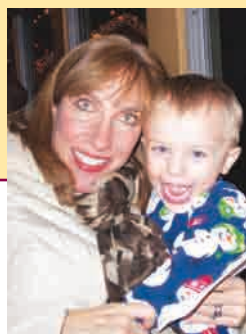
For more information, visit the National Diabetes Education Program (NDEP) at www.YourDiabetes-Info.org/GDM.

Get Tested!

Women who develop gestational diabetes have high blood glucose (blood sugar) levels during pregnancy. Immediately after pregnancy, 5 to 10 percent of women with gestational diabetes are found to have diabetes, usually type 2. All women with gestational diabetes should be tested for diabetes 6 to 12 weeks after their baby is born. In many cases, their blood glucose levels show they are no longer considered to have diabetes at this time.

But what many people don't realize is that having gestational diabetes increases a woman's future chances of developing diabetes by 35 to 60 percent. Any woman who had gestational diabetes should get tested for diabetes and pre-diabetes at least every three years. This follow up testing is very important and usually consists of a simple blood test.

Women with a history of gestational diabetes should also talk to their health care provider about earlier screening for gestational diabetes in future pregnancies. Children born from a mother who had gestational diabetes are at increased risk for obesity and diabetes, so it's a good idea for mothers to let their child's doctor know that they had gestational diabetes and take steps to promote healthy habits for their child.



- Had gestational diabetes
- Exercises daily
- Satisfies her cravings in a

healthy way by adding a tablespoon of peanut butter to a smoothie

- Practices portion control by occasionally eating one 100-calorie cookie pack
- Enjoys walking with her kids at the park, on the boardwalk, and at the beach
- Favorite healthy snacks: raw veggies and salads

Holly's Story

Holly Romans was diagnosed with gestational diabetes when she was pregnant with her first child. After the baby was born, a blood test showed Holly's blood glucose was back to normal, so she didn't think any more about it. But later a follow-up test showed she was at risk for developing diabetes.

She shared her history of gestational diabetes with her daughter's doctor and a note was made in her daughter's health record. Holly also made sure a note was made in her own health record as well.

Holly joined a diabetes prevention program at a local hospital and learned how to have a healthy lifestyle for herself and her family. She lost weight by making small changes in her daily routine, such as replacing her chocolate snack-cake stash with fresh fruit, preparing more salads, eating smaller portions, and taking daily walks.

In just a few months, Holly's glucose numbers had returned to a normal level. And thanks to her lifestyle changes, she did not develop gestational diabetes when she became pregnant with her second child.

Today, Holly knows she needs to continue her healthy lifestyle habits and get tested for diabetes at least every three years. Holly continues to work to keep her weight down by doing aerobics and walking with her two kids. She makes sure she and her family maintain a healthy lifestyle by staying physically active and making healthy food choices.

Gazette Gossip: They got nuttin' on Weezy

By Tonya Whitaker
NDG Staff Writer
It seems that **Lil Wayne** has learned from his time behind bars, unlike another



Lil Wayne

rapper (uh-hum T.I.). According to Straight-fromtheA.com, when Weezy exited his private jet at the Opa-Locka Executive Airport in Miami, he was greeted by multiple agents from the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA). A search was conducted; the rapper was free to go after the DEA found no reason to detain Wayne. As y'all know, Wayne is currently on felony probation stemming from weapons and drug charges. If you stay clean

like you supposed to while you are on probation, even those who think you are doing wrong will have no other choice but to leave you alone.

Blacker than black Beyonce

Last week on Facebook, we posted a story about **Beyonce** posing in blackface on the cover of French fashion magazine *L'Officiel Paris* to pay tribute to Nigerian musician and human rights activist **Fela**



Beyonce

Kuti. I don't buy it. The staff for *L'Officiel Paris*

thought they would not offend black folk by allowing a black person to go in blackface. Wrong. That makes matters worse. This nation already has a problem of bias toward light-skinned black people (the group Beyonce belongs to) being "superior" to darker-skinned blacks. Plus, "borrowing" a racist stereotype as a tribute to a Nigerian person is idiotic.

Nasty gal

I am not the biggest fan

of **Rihanna**, and neither is Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan. He recently said the music she performs is "filthy" and those who listen to her are "swine." BTW, Rihanna and **Ciara** are in the midst of Twitter war because of comments Ciara made about Rih-Rih's latest choices of fashion E!'s *Fashion Police*, hosted by Joan "Rubberband Ma'am" Rivers.

Read more entertainment news online at www.northdallasgazette.com.

'Round About DFW

Through March 8

The Eisemann Center, 2351 Performance Center in Richardson, will host a painting collection of Lisa M. Cardenas **Metaphoric Landscapes: Then and Now** exhibition at in the Green Mezzanine-Gallery. www.eisemann-center.com

Through March 13

The Dallas Theatre Center will present **Arsenic and Old Lace** starring Broadway legends **Betty Buckley** and **Tovah Feldshuh** at the Kalita Humphreys Theatre of the AT and T Performing Arts Center. Visit www.attpac.org to purchase tickets.

March 3-6



Donnell Rawlings

Comedian **Donnell Rawlings** to appear at the Addison Improv, 4980 Beltline Road in Dallas Showtimes for March 3 are 8 p.m., March 4 are 8 and 10:30 p.m., March 5 are 6:30 p.m. and 9 p.m. and March 6 at 7:30 p.m.

March 4-5

The Black Academy of Arts and Letters sponsors the seventh annual **Weekend Festival of Black Dance Rhythm and Soul of a People** at 8 p.m. at the Naomi Bruton Main Stage in the Dallas Convention Center Theatre Complex, corner of Canton and Akard streets in Dallas. Enjoy

two evenings of dance featuring Ndini Wako Dance Company, Happy Nia Dance Theatre and Djely Kunda West African Dance Company. Admission is \$10. www.tbaal.org

March 3-March 6

Frisco Children's Theatre presents **Winnie the Pooh** at the Frisco Black Box Theatre, 8004 North Dallas Pkwy., in Frisco. Performances will be Thursday, Fridays and Saturdays at 5:30 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays at 1 p.m. Thursdays are half-price. Ticket prices are \$12 online or \$15 at the door. Advanced online purchase (before opening) is only \$10 with coupon code "PAN" For tickets. Online ticketing is available with no service fees and allows patrons to select preferred seating. www.ArtCentreTheatre.com

www.ArtCentreTheatre.com

March 6

Donna West's **Black Women Beg Too Much** is coming to the Will Rogers Auditorium in Fort Worth at 7:30 p.m. General admission tickets are \$40; VIP passes are \$47. www.donnawest-inc.com

March 11-April 2

The Garland Civic Theatre will present Harper Lee's **To Kill A Mockingbird** at the Granville Arts Center, 300 North Fifth St., in downtown Dallas. Thursday performances are slated for March 10 and March 17 at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$20 for all shows except the March 10 show (\$15). Friday and Saturday evening shows start at 8 p.m. and matinees at 2:30 p.m. Call the Arts Center Box at 972-205-2790 for tickets.

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Letter to Editor: Was it necessary to drop the 'F' bomb at the Oscars?

I think it's very unfortunate that we live in a culture where celebrity figures, of all people, feel as though they have to use certain words on television that I wouldn't dare say in church, much less out of it. And for actress Melissa Leo to say one of them words while accepting an Academy Award (while

millions tuned in), and then to follow that up with "Oops?" Come on, now? You just know that was staged. It doesn't take a fool to figure that one out. A deaf person can read lips and just know.

I find it very disheartening that people prefer to be controversial and say and do things along that line to

upset others. It's not cool. It's uncalled for. And it should have no place in anyone's television set!

A.J. Chilson
Poet/Freelance Writer
Princeton, Texas

Something you want to share with the Editor? Send an email to editor@northdallasgazette.com.

Mardi Gras Celebrate Mardi Gras with "Fat Tuesday" All Day Long

(Family Features) New Orleans may be the official home of Mardi Gras, but you don't have to live in the Big Easy to enjoy the party. Mardi Gras, or literally, "Fat Tuesday," is the final day of the Carnival celebration, the festive season that occurs before Lent.

While some people associate Mardi Gras with lavish parades and French Quarter parties, food is an integral part of the tradition. In fact, many locals skip the parades and spend time at home feasting with friends and family instead. Join the Fat Tuesday frenzy by throwing your own party.

"I love sharing the spirit of this season," said John Besh, Louisiana native and nationally acclaimed chef. "It's so easy to bring the fun of Mardi Gras home — wherever you are. Whip up some tasty New Orleans-Style meals, hang up some beads and masks for decoration, then invite folks over for good times all around."

Celebrate like a true New Orleanian by jazzing up an entire day's menu with popular and authentic dishes. Start with a savory brunch, a true Southern tradition. Snack on a creamy dip in the afternoon as you decorate and welcome



guests. Then, dish out a traditional New Orleans-Style jambalaya, perfect for a Mardi Gras crowd.

These tried-and-true recipes will ensure your party will start a tradition to be celebrated for years to come. For more information on New Orleans-Style

See **MARDI GRAS**, Page 16



Roger D. Behymer
NDG Special Contributor

Saving for your retirement just got a little easier

Your 2010 tax refund is one way to help add to your retirement savings goals. You can instruct the IRS to directly deposit your tax refund into as many as three separate accounts. This includes any checking, savings and retirement accounts, such as an Edward Jones IRA.

- This split refund op-

tion is available whether you choose to file electronically or by mail.

- All you need to do is provide the necessary account and routing numbers.

- For all or a portion of your tax refund to be deposited into your Edward Jones IRA, you will need to complete IRS Form 8888.

Even if you use only a portion of it for retirement

savings, your 2010 tax refund can help make it a little easier to achieve your retirement goals.

Roger D Behymer is a Financial Advisor. His office is located at 1705 W University Dr., Ste. 121 in McKinney. He can be reached at 972-542-7045 or www.edwardjones.com/taxtalk

ICTN Video Views on YouTube

(NDG Wire) Videos on the City of Irving's YouTube site continue to gain in popularity, having been viewed more than 100,000 times in the past 12 months. That is about 20 times more views than the

previous year.

Irving Community Television Network (ICTN) adds new stories and web-exclusive content weekly. YouTube, video on demand, iTunes and the city's homepage are avenues ICTN

uses beyond traditional cable programming to reach as many viewers as possible.

Find the city's YouTube site at www.youtube.com/thecityofirving

TERMITE, continued from Page 7

scrap lumber, boxes and even old books or newspapers from crawl spaces.

- Maintain adequate ventilation in crawl spaces.

- Use a mesh screen on all windows, doors and ventilation openings.

- Have your home inspected by a trained professional at least once a year. Prompt treatment and regular inspections can save thousands of dollars in damage repair.

You should also prevent



moisture accumulation around your home's foundation by making sure water is diverted with downspouts and gutters. Don't let shrubs or other landscaping cover up vents, and remove old tree stumps and roots close to the building.

It's very difficult for homeowners to treat a termite problem themselves. Curtis says that treatment will vary depending on the severity of the infestation, the termite species, and the location of the building.

Your best bet is to have a trained and licensed pest control company, like Terminix, assess the problem and recommend the appropriate treatment plan.

To learn more about termites and to download a swarm map for your area, visit www.terminix.com.



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Competitors shown are subject to change. ©2011 FELD MOTOR SPORTS, INC.

TIDE, continued from Page 1

institutions reported growth in their quarterly net income from a year ago. Compared to their \$1.8 billion net loss in the fourth quarter of 2009, it is clear that banks are in a recovery mode.

Unfortunately, the same cannot be said for many consumers and homeowners with mortgages. For example, while consumer confidence is climbing, it isn't rising equally across all households. The Reuters/University of Michigan study found that confidence in the economy rose by nearly 10 percent among consumer households with earnings of \$75,000 or more. But among lower income households, confidence fell by 1.4 percent. This difference in perspective was attributed by the survey to more favorable job and income prospects among upper income households.

Another example: a new report from the Mortgage

Bankers Association shows that the number of homeowners currently in some stage of the foreclosure process increased during the third quarter of 2010. As a result, over five million homeowners with mortgages that are 60 days or more delinquent remain at risk of foreclosure.

The financial troubles fall more heavily on communities of color too. For example, a 2010 CRL research report, found for every 100 African-American homeowners, 11 have either lost their homes or at imminent risk of foreclosure. For Latino families, the figures are even worse – 17 of every 100 Latino homeowners are affected by foreclosures.

These widespread foreclosures have drained an estimated \$350 billion from communities of color. Additionally, alternative financial services such as auto title and payday loan stores are heavily concentrated in these same

communities of color. And in these highly-visible neighborhoods, the people who frequent them become poorer from the high fees assessed.

In 2011 and beyond if these troublesome trends continue, they will worsen the racial wealth gaps that are already too broad. The Institute on Assets and Social Policy (IASP), part of Brandeis University's Heller School for Social Policy and Management, reported last year that the wealth gap between whites and blacks was now \$95,000, compared to \$20,000 in 1984.

It seems that while some economic recovery has been accomplished, there is more – much more – to be accomplished.

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

SOCIAL, continued from Page 1

one of the tools used as a means of communication," Parry stated.

Parry homed in specifically on the Egyptian government's decision to shut down citizen access to the Internet. The government also cut mobile phone service, forcing protesters to rely on more traditional means of communication.

"While other countries have 'pulled the plug' on the Internet, namely Burma in 2007 and Nepal in 2005, this is the first time that a country with such a large Internet penetration had entirely shut off access. But while the Egyptian government could shut down the hardware of the Internet, it could not shut down the social effects of the digital network.

"In the same way a pub-

lic is fundamentally changed by the existence of print technology, a public is fundamentally altered by access to the digital network," Parry said. "This is what makes the situation in Egypt different from Burma and Nepal – in the latter cases the government was shutting down access to information from the outside and controlling the flow of news; but Egypt was shutting down the way that a substantial portion of their populace was communicating."

Parry also cites China as an example of an authoritarian government that can shut off access to the Internet at any time. Internet censorship in China is conducted under a wide variety of laws and administrative regulations, and is consid-

ered more extensive and more advanced than in any other country in the world, Parry said. The regime not only blocks website content but also monitors the Internet access of individuals.

However, Parry argues that the situation in China differs from that in Egypt because the Chinese people use Chinese-based Internet services, and remain largely unaffected when Western sites such as Facebook or even Google are shut down. The Egyptians were much more reliant on Western services, and therefore felt the effects and demanded change.

Parry takes issue with the belief that social media produces a revolution in and of itself, but also acknowledges that the tools we use alter our means of

communication. Social media is able to give a voice to those who previously had none – dissidents, anarchists, and even the average everyman – and in the case of Egypt, that voice appears to have been

heard and answered.

But Parry warns potential copycats hoping for a similar outcome: "A digitally networked public can just as easily be used for social ill as for social justice; nothing guarantees that

civic engagement yields civic progress. But it does guarantee that a public with the Internet has a substantially different relation to its government than a public without the Internet."

JACKSON, continued from Page 6

her accomplishments, Rev. Jackson told the graduates it's about "learning to use what you got - some beautician, some chef, some computer specialist, using what you got. And don't cry about what you do not have."

The civil rights leader, who marched with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., also talked about the social progress in America and the unification that is needed for the nation to

continue moving forward.

"It is such a joy to be with you and family today," Rev. Jackson said. "Congratulations on this graduation day, the end of one journey, the beginning of another. To look at your faces here today, black and white, male and female, Dr. King would rejoice in looking at this graduation in Birmingham, once a steel and coal industry, then the barbaric division and the violence, and now a kind of

calm after the storm. We have learned to survive apart, survive as black, survive as white, survive as brown. Now we have a more difficult challenge than surviving apart: learning to live together. We need each other.

"Today, beyond this college experience, you must fight for an even playing field, public rules and clear goals to make this a better state and a better nation."

RETIREE, continued from Page 4

either directly or indirectly, more than 4.5 million retirees, spouses, dependents, and active workers.

The program allows plan sponsors to either reduce costs of health care for plan participants or the costs to the plan sponsor to help them keep their coverage. For example, approximately 80 percent of plans that received reimbursements are using some or all of those dollars to lower the cost of health care for plan participants. The reimbursements helping to lower plan participant costs account for 97 percent of funds disbursed in 2010.

Overall, the 2010 report demonstrates that ERRP is

already having a meaningful impact on employers and unions as well as millions of early retirees, their families and other plan participants. The program has seen robust participation from all major sectors of the economy, with additional

sponsors applying to participate every day.

To find more information about companies participating in ERRP in your Texas visit www.Health-Care.gov/law/provisions/retirement.

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The Un-comfort Zone: Thrown into the Driver's Seat by Robert Wilson

On June 29, 1863, a 23 year old First Lieutenant received an unexpected promotion. The freckle faced, strawberry blonde, who graduated at the bottom of his class at West Point, was elevated directly to the rank of Brigadier General in the Union Army. He completely skipped over the traditional ranks in between of Captain, Major, and Colonel. As you can imagine such a promotion was met with skepticism, dismay, and envy by his former peers and superiors. Especially at a time when the South was winning against the North during the American Civil War.

Major General Alfred Pleasonton, who promoted the boy, saw his gamble put to the test just four days later in the Battle of Gettysburg. The young general was put in charge of the Michigan Cavalry and tasked with keeping Confederate General Jeb Stuart from attacking the Union Army's rear.

Was he up to the task? Could he keep that dubious star on his shoulder that so many wanted removed? Motivated by the desire to prove himself, George Armstrong Custer, his gleaming saber outstretched in front of him, led the cavalry charge and held the Union line. His successful leadership served as a crucial contribution to the battle that was the turning point in the North winning the war.

When leadership is thrust upon us, many of us are motivated to rise to the occasion. Sometimes, however, leadership must rise in a vacuum. What motivates us to become leaders when there are none?

A few years ago, five friends and I went white

water rafting for the very first time. We went on the upper Ocoee River in Tennessee where the rapids are rated Class Four. Not exactly the best choice for beginners, but we had a competent guide, who gave us plenty of instructions on when and how to paddle. He was so good that we were the only rafters in a group of ten rafts that did not capsize and get soaked.

Then halfway through our trip, we went over a small waterfall. When our rubber raft hit the bottom it bent in the middle and folded up like a book.

When it sprung back apart our guide was catapulted from the boat and landed several feet behind us. As our leaderless raft sped forward, getting further and further away from our guide, five of us thought, "Uh, oh, what are we going to do!" Before we could panic, my friend Bill started barking commands, "Left side four strokes! Right side two strokes!" With great relief we followed his orders and within minutes he had us safely out of the rushing white water and into the calmer water by the river bank where our guide

was able to catch up to us.

A leadership role can jump start motivation. When you have the responsibility of guiding others, it forces you to guide yourself first. I have found that volunteering for leadership roles at work and for non-profit organizations to be self-motivating. Back in the early 1990's, I had a particularly bad year. My mother passed away, a business venture failed, and I had a falling out with my best friend. Needless to say, I was in a funk, and seriously needed something to move me out it.

That's when I learned that my community association needed a new President. It was a huge job with a two year commitment that required fund raising, event planning, managing several committees, and supervising dozens of volunteers. It consumed tons of my time, but it also taught me that I could do more in a day than I ever knew. During that same two year period, I launched two new businesses both of which became success stories.

As a manager, you can motivate your employees (or your volunteers) by giving them a mantle of leadership. Suddenly he or she will no longer be just an-

other disaffected cog in the wheel. But with a position of responsibility, those persons will be empowered to do more and be more. Sure, it may require a greater effort on your part, but you will challenge their minds, expand their abilities, and imbue them with a sense of accomplishment.

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



Store Management Opportunities

Hobby Lobby is a leader in the Arts & Crafts industry with nearly 450 stores located in 34 states.

Candidates must have previous retail store management experience in one of the following:
Supermarket chain, Craft chain, Mass merchant, Drug chain, Building Supply chain
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**AVENUE F CHURCH
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March 3, 12 Noon

Come to a "Between Jobs Support Group" meeting at the Christian Works for Children, 6320 LBJ Freeway, Dallas, TX 75240. Call 972-960-9981 to register.

March 5, 7:30 a.m.

Join us for our Ladies Prayer & Breakfast meeting at the IHOP, 933 N. Central Expressway, 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.

March 6

You're invited to our First Worship at 8 a.m.; our Sunday Bible Study at 9:45 a.m.; our Second Worship at 10:45 a.m.; our Afternoon Worship at 3 p.m. and our Afternoon Bible Study at 4:30 p.m.

**Brother Ramon Hodridge,
Minister
1026 Avenue F
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On Going

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**Shola Adeyemo,
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**Pastor Minnie
Hawthorne-Ewing
635 W. Campbell Road
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Richardson, TX 75080
972-480-0200**

**EIRENE CHRISTIAN
FELLOWSHIP CHURCH**

On Going

You're invited to our Wednesdays Bible Study at 7:45 p.m.

March 9-April 23

Join us for Lent. Walk with Jesus: A Journey to the Cross and Beyond by Charles Swindoll. Call the church for details.

**Pastor Autry
701 E. Centennial Blvd.
Richardson, TX 75081
972-991-0200
www.followpeace.org**

**FELLOWSHIP CHRISTIAN
CENTER CHURCH IN
ALLEN
"The Ship"**

On Going,

9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Monday – Friday

Prayer Lines for those in need are 972-649-0566 and 972-649-0567 or they may be submitted via email to: prayerline@theship3c.org

On Going, 7 p.m.

Wednesday Night Live in the Joyce Turner Fellowship Hall on Belmont Drive. Corporate prayer starts at 7 p.m.

March 4, 9 p.m.

Join our youth for a Spiritual Friday Night Open Mic in our Youth Center at 201 East McDermott

Drive in Allen.

**Rev. W. L. Stafford, Sr.,
M.Div.**

**Senior Pastor
305 N. Alder Drive, in
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Morning Worship.
Church Address is
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Allen, TX 75013
972-359-9956
www.theship3c.org**

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
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"First Church"**

March 5, 8:30-10:15 a.m.

Come and support The Young Ladies of Purpose "all you can eat" Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser in the Fellowship Hall with sausage, eggs and beverage for a donation of \$5.00 each.

**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**

**NEW LIFE IN JESUS
CHRIST MINISTRIES**

On Going

You're invited to our Sunday School Service at 9:30 a.m.; our Sunday Morning Worship at 11 a.m.; our Wednesday's Bible Study at 7 p.m. and our Friday Night Service at 7 p.m. as we worship and praise God.

**Pastor A. L. Felton, Jr.
Senior Pastor
17720 Dickerson Street
Dallas, TX 75252
972-380-4100
www.nljcm.org**

**NEW MOUNT ZION
BAPTIST CHURCH
OF DALLAS**

On Going

You are invited to visit our Job Resource Center on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 12 Noon in our Computer Training Room in the Educational Building.

On Going

Let your child or children attend TTS (Test Taking Skills) for math classes for TAKS (5th – 12th Grades) and special TTS for math Class (5th – 8th Grades.) Call 214-235-3190 or 214-541-8292 for time, place and other details.

March 4, 6:30 p.m.

You are invited to a Pre-Revival Service at Bexar Street Baptist Church with Pastor Price bring the message.

March 5-13

Join us for a City-Wide Revival at Good Street Baptist. March 5 is Young Adult Night; March 12 is Youth for Christ and March 13 is Ushers/Nurses Day. Call the church for details.

**Dr. Robert Price, Sr.
Senior Pastor
9550 Shepherd Road
Dallas, TX 75243
214-341-6459
www.nmzb.org**

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On Going

Youth Living in the Word at 6:30 p.m.; Worship and Prayer Service at 6:30 p.m. and Bible Study at 7:40 p.m.

**Dr. Leslie W. Smith,
Senior Pastor
1010-1020 S. Sherman Street
Richardson, TX 75081
972-437-3493
www.ndcbf.org**

**PROFESSIONAL
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April 16, 11:30 a.m.

Join us for our annual scholarship fundraising banquet at Brookhaven Country Club, 3333 Golfing Green Drive, Dallas, TX 75234. PACE is a 501(c)(3) organization that gives scholarships to high school graduates in the local area to help them attend college. There is a \$35.00 donation for a banquet ticket. Vendors will be available for some smart shopping. See any member or log on our website for tickets.

**Rachel Lewis,
President
P.O. Box 112721
Carrollton, TX 75011-2721
www.pacedfw.org**

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IN MCKINNEY**

On Going

Join us each Wednesday for Prayer at 6:30 p.m. and for Family Ministries at 7 p.m.

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

**SHILOH MBC
IN PLANO**

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

You're invited to worship with us on Sunday Mornings at 9:30 a.m. for Sunday School and 11 a.m. for Morning Worship as we praise and worship God.

On Going

Join us every Wednesday at 6:30 pm for Girls in Action meeting. Girls 6-17 are encouraged to explore Christ and the Word of God.

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

**WORD OF LIFE
CHURCH OF
GOD IN CHRIST**

March 20, 11 a.m.

Come to see a miniature display of many inventions by African Americans and learn more Black history facts."

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. Prayer will change people and things.

Thursdays, 7 p.m.

You're invited to hear anointed men and women bring the Word of God.

**Dr. Gregory Voss,
Senior Pastor
2765 Trinity Mills Road
Building 300
Carrollton, TX 75006
214-514-9147**

NEW LIGHT CHURCH



9314 ELAM ROAD - DALLAS, TEXAS 75217
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Morning Worship – 11:00 a.m.

Evening Service – First Sundays – 6:00 p.m.

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**Pastor Shaun Rabb &
Co-Pastor Marian Rabb**



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A Kingdom Building Church
200 BELMONT DRIVE - ALLEN, TX 75013
(972) 359-9956 - www.theship3c.org



Sunday Morning Worship
Story Elementary
1550 Edelweiss Drive
Allen, TX 75002
9:30 AM

Wednesday Night
Live Service
200 Belmont Drive
Allen, TX 75013
7:00 PM



MT. OLIVE CHURCH OF PLANO (MOCOP)
300 Chisholm Place Plano, TX 75075 972-633-5511

Harvest His Night
International Interdenominational Service
Last Sunday, Every Month
7:00 pm
Sunday Morning Worship
10:00 am
Wednesday Nights
7:15 pm

Call Pastor Sam on:
"Vision & Truth Live" Radio Program
Broadcasted on KWRD 100.7 FM THE WORD
(Sundays 9 pm - 10 pm)
Hear Pastor Sam on: "Truth Made Simple"
KGGR 1040 AM, Monday - Friday @ 5:25 pm - 5:30 pm



Sister Tarpley

March is "Women's History Month;" I will highlight some African American Facts about Black women and their contribution to mankind. Thank God for godly Black women.

First I would like to pay my tribute and the highest honor to Black women that I know or have known in my life. Again these women may not have done things that have made great changes for mankind, but they have made a big difference to me; I thank God for each of them and what they mean to me. Each lady has left me with cherished memories or is currently very precious and loved by me.

Mrs. Cedella Baker Demus, my mother; to this day, I thank God for every day that He allowed her to live and the wonderful memories that she left behind for her family and friends. **Mrs. Jessie Baker Green**, my aunt, a great mother. My mother's best friend all of her life. The late **Mrs. Ida Rutherford Demus** and **Mrs. Maggie Smith Baker**; my grandmothers; I had the privilege of knowing both, although not for long but it wasn't the length of time I knew

them; it was the quality of time that I was with them.

Minister Sheila Tarpley Lott, my daughter, she is doing God's work. She is a great mother to three of my precious grandchildren and wonderful wife to Bill. My sisters, **Nurse Eloyd Avery**, **Beautician Billie Daye**, **Evangelist Ida Eggins**, and **Teacher Rose Fielding**; they are the greatest and can't be beat. **Mrs. Phemia Solomon Tinner**, a great wife, mother, grandmother, great grandmother, a wonderful godmother to my daughter and a great friend to me. **Mrs. Esther Levy Dugay**, my college roommate at Prairie View A & M and friend for over 50 years. **Sister Elizabeth White** at Love Chapel COGIC in West Dallas.

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** on April 20, 1853 started organizing the Underground Railroad; and on June 2, 1863 she led the Union Army guerillas into

'Women's History Month'

Maryland and freed more than 700 slaves.

The Mary McLeod Bethune stamp, a 22¢ on March 5, 1985. **The Sojourner Truth** stamp, a 22¢ on February 4, 1986. **The Ida B. Wells** stamp, a 25¢ on February 1, 1990. **The Dinah Washington** stamp, a 29¢ on June 16, 1993. **The Ethel Waters** stamp, a 29¢ on September 1, 1994. **The Mildred Bailey** stamp, a 29¢ on September 17, 1994. **The Billie Holiday** stamp, a 29¢ on September 17, 1994. **The 'Ma' Rainey** stamp, a 29¢ on September 17, 1994. **The Bessie Smith** stamp, a 29¢ on September 17, 1994. **The Bessie Coleman** stamp, a 32¢ on April 27, 1995. Another **Harriet Tubman** 32¢ June 29, 1995.

Bessie Coleman, the first Black American woman aviator, born on January 26, 1893. She had a U. S. postage stamp issued in her honor on April 27, 1995. **Rosa Parks**

known as the "Mother of the Montgomery Bus Boycott" in Alabama was born on February 4, 1913; the stamp was issued on December 1, 1955. **Parks** refused to yield her seat to a white male initiating the famous bus strike.

Figure skater **Debi Thomas**, on February 27, 1988 became the first Black American to win a medal in the Winter Olympics. **Aretha Franklin**, known as the "Queen of Soul" was born on March 25, 1942.

Hattie McDaniel, first Black person to win an Oscar for the movie *Gone With The Wind*, on June 10, 1940; she was born in 1898. **Dr. Mae Jemison** on June 5, 1987, becomes the first Black female astronaut.

Cathay Williams, the first and only female Buffalo Soldier of the 9th and 10th Cavalry. She served from 1866 to 1868. **Gwendolyn Brooks** on May 5, 1950 becomes the first



Mrs. Karen Harkey, Co-founder and Director of Choices Leadership Academy School in North Dallas and Aha Voss, a first year student posing for a picture at the 1st Mardi Gras school dance.

Black person awarded a Pulitzer Prize for **Annie Allen**. **Leontyne Price**, a world renowned opera singer on May 24, 1966, opens the Metropolitan Opera Season. **Toni Morrison** on October 7, 1993 was awarded the Nobel Prize in literature. The Honorable **Shirley Chisholm** on November 5th became the first Black woman

elected to Congress in 1968. **Sojourner Truth**, an abolitionist and orator, was born November 18, 1787. **Madam C.J. Walker**, the first known African American woman to become a self-made millionaire was born on December 26, 1867. She developed and marketed a method for straightening curly hair.



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Early Sunday Morning8:00 am
Sunday Bible Class9:45 am
Sunday Morning Worship10:45 am
Evening Worship3:00 pm
Wednesday Bible Class7:00 pm

Radio Program @ 7:30 am on
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Wednesday 7:00p.m. Bible Study
Friday 7:00p.m. Prayer/Victory Service

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Sunday School 9:45 am - 10:45 am
Wednesday Bible Study ... 12:00 noon & 7:00 pm

Office Hours

Monday & Friday 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday ... 9:00 am - 6:00 pm
Saturday & Sunday Closed

Contact Info

Mt. Pisgah Missionary Baptist Church
11611 Webb Chapel Road • Dallas, TX 75229
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Wednesday Bible Study
7:30pm

MARDI GRAS, continued from Page 10

cuisine, visit www.facebook.com/zatarains.

Carnival Jambalaya

Prep Time: 5 minutes

Cook Time: 25 minutes

Makes 12 (1-cup) servings

5 cups water

1/4 cup oil (optional)

2 packages Zatarain's Jambalaya Mix, Original

1 pound boneless skinless chicken breasts, cubed

1 pound smoked sausage, 1/4 inch thick

1/2 cup sliced green onions (optional)

Bring water and oil to boil in large saucepan. Stir in Rice Mixes, chicken and sausage; return to boil. Reduce heat to low; cover and simmer 25 minutes or until rice is tender.

Remove from heat. Let stand 5 minutes. Sprinkle with green onions before serving.

Red Bean and Rice Party Dip

Prep Time: 10 minutes

Cook Time: 40 minutes

Makes 60 (2-tablespoon) servings

3 cups water

1 package Zatarain's Red Beans and Rice

1 cup salsa

2 tablespoons chopped jalapeño peppers

2 packages (8 ounces each) cream cheese, softened

2 cups (8 ounces) shredded cheddar cheese

Prepare rice mix as directed on package, using 3 cups water instead of 3 1/4 cups.

Reserve 1/4 to 1/2 cup of the shredded cheese to garnish dip, if desired. Stir remaining ingredients into rice mixture. Place mixture into food processor or blender; cover. Process or blend until smooth.

Keep dip warm in a chafing dish or slow cooker, if desired.

BAISDEN, continued from Page 6

The jury also had to determine whether I'm Ready Productions was entitled to any compensation from Baisden's upcoming movie deals on his copyrighted works. In the end, the jury answered no to both questions.

"I have mixed feelings about the case. On the one

hand I am ecstatic that my copyrighted rights have been returned to me to allow me to proceed with upcoming movie and TV projects without continued interference from Image and I'm Ready Productions," said Michael Baisden. "On the other hand, I am disappointed that this

jury did not punish the Defendants for their open infringement by awarding monetary damages for their actions. I have asked my general counsel to proceed with an appeal of the jury's finding as to the decisions on the past conduct. The fight goes on, but I am excited to now be able to go

forward with our movie and TV plans that had been put on hold for the last five years"

For more information on Michael Baisden, go to <http://www.BaisdenLive.com> or join him at "Michael Baisden Live" on Facebook and "Baisden Live" on Twitter.

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Senior Pastor

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9:00 am Sunday School

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Sunday School
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Wednesday Night Service
8:00 pm

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