

North Dallas Gazette



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The State of Black America 2012: Occupy the Vote

BY MARC H. MORIAL
PRESIDENT AND CEO
NATIONAL URBAN
LEAGUE

"The single issue that arguably stands to have the greatest impact on the future of Black America in 2012 is the vote." The State of Black America

2012

This week, the National Urban League takes its fight for jobs, education, voting rights and empowerment to Capitol Hill in Washington, DC. In meetings with Obama Administration officials and leaders from both parties in Congress, we



will demand immediate action on the persistent jobs crisis and we will offer our own 8-point plan to Educate, Employ and Empower the 13 million Americans who remain out of work.

The highlight of our

See OCCUPY, Page 13

Black Women's History Film Festival

Since its inception in the early twentieth century, (International Women's Day) now called Women's History Month has been rooted in the struggle for economic justice, growing out of local demonstrations by women workers demanding shorter hours, better



Sonia Sanchez

pay, voting rights, peace, as well as, an end to poverty, hunger and white supremacy. As the nation reflects on the contributions of women to American society, Black Cinematheque Dallas joins the South Dallas Cultural Center in asking the question. "What is the image

of the Black woman in the media and how can Black women control it?"

The festival kicks off Friday, March 16 7:30 p.m.:

Sonia Sanchez: Shake Loose Memories by Jamal Joseph 60 min. -

See FILM, Page 10

30th Congressional District candidates meet for a "Nights of Politics" in Dallas

BY DONALD WILLIS

The citizens of the 30th Congressional District of Texas were invited to meet the candidates at the African-American Museum for a "Night of Politics" presented by the Dallas Examiner and publisher Molly Finch on February 27. The district



Taj Clayton



Rep. Barbara Mallory-Caraway

stretches from central Dallas, Pleasant Grove to the suburbs of Desoto, Lancaster, Glenn Heights and Wilmer.

Congressman Eddie Bernice Johnson was schedule to appear, but in the end had another engagement. Texas state Representative Barbara

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COVER STORY

Irving Mayor Van Duyn's assault against the entertainment center continues



Looking West from "The Street"

See MAYOR, Page 9



Oprah to interview Bobbi Kristina

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

COMMENTARY

America's families carry heavy housing burdens, says new report

BY CHARLENE CROWELL

Despite continued reductions in home prices and mortgage interest rates, housing affordability remains a growing problem for many Americans. That was the key finding in a new study, *Housing Landscape 2012*, from the Center for Housing Policy. After analyzing Census data on housing costs and incomes the organization found that both homeowners and renters are struggling to pay for

housing. Since 2008, affordability has eroded for working households in 24 states. Moreover, nearly one in four working households in the country spent more than half of their total income on housing.

According to Jeffrey Lubell, executive director of the Washington-based Center for Housing Policy, "The data show that homeowners have been hit hard by the housing crisis in more ways than just lost

See HOUSING, Page 11

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People In The News...



Jackie Joyner Kersee



Latonia Donaldson



Lady Tasha Stafford

See Page 2

Jackie Joyner Kersee

The 12th Annual Destiny Awards Luncheon, benefiting St. Philip's School and Community Center, will be held at 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, March 8 at the Belo Mansion in downtown Dallas. One of the most decorated female athletes of all time, Olympian Jackie Joyner Kersee, will serve as the keynote speaker for this inspiring event that raises funds for the many quality educational and social service programs provided by St. Philip's.

"St. Philip's students lead by example," explains

Kersee, who has been a friend of the South Dallas organization for over a decade. "I have always been impressed with the school ministry and their commitment to young people and our future leaders."

At the luncheon, the Destiny Awards will be presented to those who have demonstrated exceptional work toward bridging relationships between the many diverse communities within DFW. The Award for Organization will be presented to Fort Worth Avenue Development Group for their

commitment to improving the West Commerce/Fort Worth Avenue corridor and maintaining a high quality of life for the area's diverse residential neighborhoods and businesses.

The Destiny Award for Corporation will be presented to Dallas Institute of Humanities and Culture for its numerous and effective integrated programs, including the Teachers Academy that for nearly thirty years has brought together teachers of all ethnicities and backgrounds for common study of diverse texts.

Barbara L. Watkins will receive the Destiny Award



for Individual Leadership for tirelessly championing

the rights for affordable and quality health care for all. She has positively impacted the lives of many in her role as Senior Vice President of Public Affairs/Patient Services for Parkland Hospital and through her involvement with local organizations such as the Vogel Alcove, Girls Inc. and The Senior Source.

Two individuals will be awarded the Unsung Hero

Award – Rev. S.M. Wright, II and Rev. Calvin Wright. Through their leadership of the People Missionary Baptist Church in South Dallas, the Wrights have continued a legacy of bridge building between communities that began with their father, S.M. Wright, Sr., over fifty years ago.

St. Philip's School and Community Center is an independent elementary school in southern Dallas serving over 250 students, ages two years through sixth grade and a dynamic community center, providing numerous athletic, educa-

See KERSEE, Page 6

Latonia Donaldson

Dallas-based residential mortgage originator PrimeLending, a PlainsCapital Company has announced the addition of Latonia Donaldson as a business development manager.

With more than 18 years of experience in mortgage lending, Donaldson will be focusing on multicultural and affordable lending opportunities within key markets through PrimeLending's newly created Community Outreach Program. In this new role, she is responsi-

ble for creating mortgage opportunities within multicultural segments and underserved markets by providing homeownership education and financial literacy to potential homebuyers. Donaldson will also provide training to PrimeLending loan officers on various down payment assistance and affordable housing programs, as well as coordinate educational events for homebuyers and real estate agents.

"I am very pleased to take on such a great op-

portunity in multicultural business development for PrimeLending," said Donaldson. "In my new role, I am looking forward to increasing our penetration and visibility in all multicultural segments. I have always had a very deep passion for affordable lending and community outreach."

"Latonia is a great addition to our team," said Todd Salmans, CEO and president of PrimeLending. "Her expertise will be an invaluable asset to our



Community Outreach Program."

In addition to her work experience, Donaldson holds key positions with major real estate trade associations in the Dallas/Fort Worth area. Donaldson serves as a board member and education chair for the National Associations of

Hispanic Real Estate Professionals, and is the director of special events for the Asian American Real Estate Association. She also serves as secretary for the Women's Council of the Dallas Association of Real Estate Brokers, an African American association.

Donaldson comes to PrimeLending from JP Morgan Chase, where she was a business development manager. For more information about PrimeLending's community outreach efforts, contact Latonia Donaldson at 972-447-5899.

Lady Tasha Stafford

Lady Tasha Stafford gave her life to Christ as a



She was called to serve with her husband and Pastor, Dr. W.L. Stafford, Sr. as the First Lady of Fellowship Christian Center Church (FCCC) formally known as Fellowship Baptist Church of Allen, in June 2004. After serving as First Lady for four years, Lady Stafford accepted her call into the Ministry and was licensed in October 2008, and was ordained in August 2009.

young woman at Wesley AME Church in Harrisburg, PA under the Leadership of Rev. Frederick B. Massey.

Lady Stafford considers it an honor and a privilege to walk worthy of the calling on her life at Fellowship Christian Center

Church (FCCC). God has blessed her with many gifts and talents that she is using towards Kingdom Building at FCCC. She dedicates her time and talents to the Lord by strongly supporting her husband, Dr. Stafford and serves as Director of the Associate Minister's Ministry, Women Justified by Faith Ministry (WJBF); Fellowship Intercessory Prayer Leader and Instructor for the FCCC Prayer-Deliverance-Intercession Class.

God blessed Lady Stafford to be one of nine First Ladies recognized as an "Unsung Hero" within her community by the Eta Phi Beta Sorority in May of 2008. She was also featured in the December 2008 Epitome Magazine and was the honored recipient of the 2008 Testimony of the Year Award. Lady Stafford re-

ceived her Certificate in the Ministry of Intercession from the Prayer Fast International Ministries; and has earned a Bachelors Degree from Virginia State University and Master's Degree from George Mason University.

Lady Stafford has served as the guest speaker at women's events in churches throughout the U.S. She has a passion to see women healed and set free through the Word of God.

Lady Stafford and Pastor Stafford have been blessed with two sons: Wayne L. Stafford, Jr. and Nathan Wayne.

Her favorite scripture verse is Hebrews 12:1: "Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that

hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us

run with perseverance the race marked out for us."

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ACLU urges states to reject CCA offer to privatize prisons

The American Civil Liberties Union and a broad coalition of 60 policy and religious groups urged states to reject a recent offer by the nation's largest private prison company to buy and privatize state prisons.

In a letter sent to governors in every state, the ACLU and 26 other organizations said a recent offer by Corrections Corporation of America (CCA) to buy prisons currently run by state officials is a backdoor invitation to take

on additional debt while increasing CCA's profits and impeding the serious criminal justice reforms needed to combat the nation's mass incarceration crisis.

Two similar letters are also being sent today by religious coalitions to governors. One of the letters, sent by 32 faith groups including the United Methodist Church General Board of Church and Society, the United Church of Christ/Justice and Witness Ministries, the Episcopal

Church and the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Office of Public Witness, says there is a moral imperative in reducing incarceration through evidence-based alternatives to imprisonment and re-entry policies that ease the transition of prisoners back into society. A third letter, from the Presbyterian Criminal Justice Network, argues that the principles of mercy, forgiveness, redemption and reconciliation are largely absent from the private prison in-

dustry.

"Selling off prisons to CCA would be a tragic mistake for your state," the ACLU's letter reads. "[CCA's] proposal is an invitation to fiscal irresponsibility, prisoner abuse and decreased public safety. It should be promptly declined."

The letters come in response to a letter sent last month by CCA to officials in 48 states announcing what it

See REJECT, Page 12

Letter to the editor

Dear Mayor (Irving Mayor Beth) Van Duyn,

I respectfully urge you to end your futile and destructive campaign to stop the Entertainment Center. It is very clear that you oppose it but that you do not have the votes to stop the project in a legitimate manner. Instead, your efforts, such as adding 20 meaningless and possibly illegal agenda items to the March 2 agenda, are doing a great disservice to us, the residents and voters, by circumventing a the representative democratic process.

In addition, these actions and tactics have created a dangerous situation in Irving. There is an increasingly hateful mentality at Council meetings, with catcalls, boos and shouts of "recall" directed to lawfully elected, honorable public servants on the Council. Many of these members' whose character and legitimacy to serve has been called into question were elected by substantial margins: Rose Cannaday (64%), Dennis Webb (just short of a plurality in the May election, then won the runoff by 64%), Rick Stopfer (88%), and Joe Phillip (78%) all won by larger margins than you did in the runoff, but the same people who call your election a "mandate" don't extend the same view to these other members. (Lewis Patrick ran unopposed.)

You are allowing attendees at Council meetings to make very personal at-

tacks and question the honor and integrity of those who support the EC. Anyone who received money from LCG is accused of being on the take, but there seems to be a double standard as I have never heard anyone of this same group question how the donations from your largest contributor may affect your decisions.

I certainly believe in the right of free speech, but also believe that you, as mayor and moderator of Council meetings, have the ability and duty to conduct civil and respectful meet-

ings. If you made it clear that speakers and audience members must conduct themselves in a civil, respectful manner at all times, some of this would subside. Instead, you permit, and indeed often encourage, this incivility. As you know, Marvin Randle recently told Rick Stopfer he was going to "take him down." While it may give you and your supporters a feeling that you are accomplishing something, the sad fact is that neither you, nor they, are making a persuasive case against the EC, and instead, just making

Irving a laughing stock.

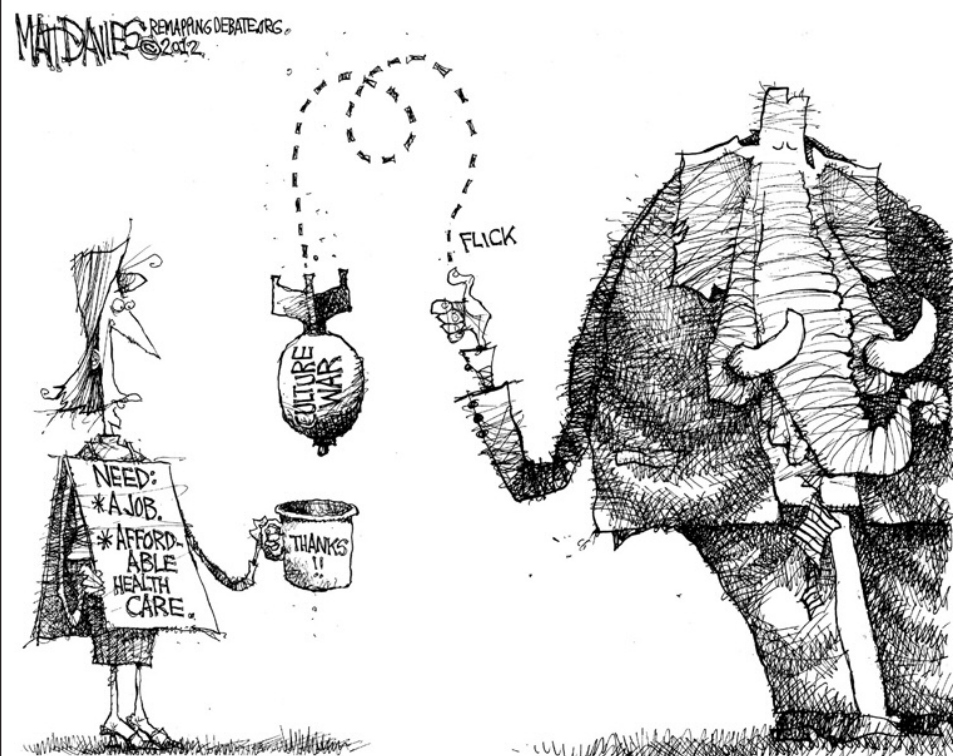
You are the leader of our city. You must set the tone of honest, respectful discourse and set a zero-tolerance policy for the kind of behavior demonstrated at recent Council meetings. Hopefully your lead may still the anger and hatred that is festering in our town.

Finally, I also ask that you honor the legal contract process that has occurred with the LCG contract. You have suggested that the contract was prepared by LCG. As I am

See EDITOR, Page 4

Can you spare a paradigm?

Matt Davies takes a look at the kind of assistance that the return of "social issues" provides to Americans in need.



Sugar-sweetened teens

Researchers say teenagers who eat or drink a lot of fructose – which is common as a sweetener in sodas and other processed foods – show signs of problems in their blood that could make things worse for them as grown-ups.

At the Medical College of Georgia at Georgia Health Sciences University in Augusta, Dr. Vanessa Bundy looked at



data on 559 teens, ages 14 to 18. She checked for things such as high blood pressure and high blood sugar levels.

"Adolescents that consumed more fructose had higher circulating levels of factors that are known to contribute to cardiovascular disease in adults."

Those factors also raise the risk of diabetes.

Community health event a success

Joyce Chibueze of Mesquite has her blood pressure checked by Rodney Young of Guardian EMS during Texas Regional Medical Center at Sunnyvale's heart event Feb. 11. More than 40 people

attended the event, which offered medical tests and cooking demonstrations.



Texas voters oppose Perry on Women's Health Program

A new Public Policy Polling survey finds that Texas voters are strongly opposed to Governor Rick Perry's decision to jeopardize the Women's Health Program. Only 38 percent support Perry's decision, while 55 percent are opposed. Key findings from the survey include:

-Women overwhelmingly oppose the decision by a 57/37 margin, while men do as well 52/40.

-Independent voters oppose Perry's decision 46/43.

We also asked more specifically about Governor Perry's decision to discriminate against women who choose Planned Parenthood as their health care provider.

59 percent oppose Perry's efforts to prevent women from using Planned Parenthood for vital preventive services, while only 38 percent support him on that front. A majority of independents, 51/45, oppose his position on the issue.

Perry and other state lawmakers who've joined him in working to end the Women's Health Program could pay a price at the polls. 53 percent of voters view this group of politicians unfavorably, compared to only 38 percent who see them in a positive light.

Dislike for officials trying to end the program unites women (36/50), men (40/57), whites (37/58), African Americans (25/64), seniors

(34/61), and independents (44/47). This is a course of action turning off voters of all stripes.

Texas voters are sending a clear message to Governor Perry: they think the Women's Health Program is important and that he should leave it alone. And they think it's wrong to use Planned Parenthood as a political piñata and deny low-income women access to critical cancer screenings, birth control, and screenings for diabetes and hypertension.

Public Policy Polling surveyed 562 Texas voters on March 2nd and 3rd. The poll was sponsored by Planned Parenthood and has a margin of error of +/-4.1 percent.

Have a health insurance question or concern?

EDITOR, continued from Page 2

sure you know, the creation and refinement of contracts is an iterative, give and take process. Both parties have input into the final product and, for you to lead those less knowledgeable to believe that LCG simply handed over a contract, signed sealed and delivered without the input of the city attorneys is unfair not only to the governance process, but to the dedicated public servants who represented the city in those negotiations.

I hope you consider these concerns. If you don't tamp down these fires while they are relatively small, they will grow out of your control, further damaging the city and its reputation. And the result will be that under your leadership, we will continue to lose commercial tenants, and the city's ability to attract developers will be irreparably

damaged. That would be a sad legacy and one that I'm sure you don't intend to create.

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Make a Difference Makeover 2012 to benefit Dress for Success Dallas

In celebration of Women's History Month, Lameka Weeks, owner of the HEIGHT GODDESS clothing line catering to women 5'9 and taller, has teamed with Xhemistry the Salon to host the "Make a Difference Makeover 2012" event for women needing a day of posh and pampering. This fundraising event benefitting Dress For Success Dallas will be held at the Diva Styles Salon on Sunday, March 11 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

"As women, it is important to take the time to love and celebrate ourselves" said Lameka Weeks, owner of HEIGHT GODDESS. "The 'Make a Difference Makeover 2012' event is a way do just that, while giving back to Dress for Success Dallas, an organization that provides to women all year long."

The "Make a Difference Makeover 2012" event is a day of posh and pampering benefitting Dress for Success Dallas, a nonprofit organiza-

tion that promotes the economic independence of disadvantaged women by providing professional attire, a network of support and the career development tools to help women thrive in work and in life.

Guests can choose from an array of beauty services performed by well-known stylists that include a chic haircut for \$25, a refreshing shampoo and style for \$25, application of makeup for \$20, and a full makeover with hair and makeup for \$65. This event is open to the public, however appointments are required and can be made online at <http://www.facebook.com/themadm> and clicking the "Book Your Makeover" tab. All proceeds from the event will be donated to Dress for Success Dallas. In addition, three lucky women going through the Dress for Success professional development program will be selected to receive complimentary makeovers.

"Our organization believes in empowering women by equipping them with key essentials for being successful in life," said Alonzo Peterson, executive director of Dress for Success Dallas. "The 'Make a Difference Makeover 2012' event increases awareness of our mission, while also raising funds for our signature programs."

The "Make a Difference Makeover 2012" event will take place on Sunday, March 11 at the Diva Styles Salon located at 17610 Midway Road, Ste. 122, Dallas, TX 75287. For additional information about the event and/or to make donations, please contact Lameka Weeks of HEIGHT GODDESS at 214-960-4619 or via email at madm2012@heightgoddess.com.

For more info visit www.dressforsuccess.org/dallas, www.heightgoddess.com or www.xhemistrythesalon.com.

25th Funny Bunny Festival at Railroad Park March 31

The 25th Annual Funny Bunny Festival is scheduled for Saturday, March 31, from 8:30 a.m. to noon, at Toyota of Lewisville Railroad Park, 1301 Railroad Street. Admission is \$1 per person, free for children younger than 3.

Visit with the Funny Bunny, play carnival games, enjoy face painting and join in the annual egg hunt. Souvenir photos will be available at a minimal cost. All egg hunts will

begin simultaneously in the ballfield areas, divided into age groups. Egg hunt participants younger than 3 should be accompanied by one parent only.

A pancake breakfast, prepared by Lewisville Noon Rotary Club, will be served 8:30-11 a.m. Breakfast tickets are \$3 for adults (ages 12 and up), \$2 for children, free for children younger than 3. This "all you can eat" pancake breakfast will be served

under the pavilion. All proceeds are used to benefit Lewisville area charities such as Christian Community Action, CASA and PediPlace.

Advance tickets for the Funny Bunny Festival go on sale March 15 at Memorial Park and Frederick P. Herring recreation centers. Express Entrance Lanes will be available at the event for those who pre-purchase tickets.

Recyclers can receive free Dallas Stars tickets

Sims Recycling Solutions, the global leader in electronics reuse and recycling, and the Dallas Stars will host a free electronics recycling event to encourage the community and Dallas Stars hockey fans to recycle their electronics. The event will be held on March 10 at American Airlines Center located at 2500 Victory Avenue in Dallas, on AT&T Plaza from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

The first 100 participants to drop off an item for recycling will receive two tickets to a Dallas Stars hockey game courtesy of Sims Recycling Solutions and will also receive a raffle ticket for a chance to win exclusive autographed merchandise and memorabilia from the Dallas

Stars.

"Together, the Dallas Stars and Sims Recycling Solutions are providing area residents with convenient access to a safe and responsible electronics recycling method that safeguards their personal data and protects the environment," stated Steve Skurnac,

President, Sims Recycling Solutions, Americas. "Our first year of partnering with the Dallas Stars to raise awareness of and work toward solving the growing problem of electronic waste has proven to be very successful. During the first event

See STARS, Page 6

Dallas Lawyers Answer Legal Questions – FREE!

Volunteer attorneys will answer legal questions at no cost from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Wednesday, March 14, and Wednesday, March 21, via LegalLine, a call-in program sponsored by the Dallas Bar Association.

LegalLine is a community service for DFW-area residents, provided the second

and third Wednesdays of each month. On these designated nights, anonymous lawyers are available to answer questions in many law-related areas ranging from divorce and child support matters, to wills, insurance, employment and criminal law matters.

Residents needing assistance should call LegalLine at

(214) 220-7476 from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Wednesday, March 14, or Wednesday, March 21.

Individuals may also receive referrals to local, legal, or social service agencies. LegalLine volunteer attorneys typically answer between 50 and 90 calls each night.

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Cutting Edge Youth Summit

Local students are invited to the Cutting Edge Youth Summit at Tarrant County College-Southeast Campus on April 14. The event is designed to recognize organizations/students for their hard work, and educate students on how to become effective student leaders. The summit workshops for students will focus on education, mental and physical health, civic responsibility, and leadership skills. The summit will also have workshops for community leaders and parents that will focus on grant funding for non-

profit organizations, career building, and child development.

A few of the workshops include:

- College Application Process: The 411;
- Grants and Scholarships: Show Me The Money;
- Stepping Out: All You Need To Know About College Life; and
- Grants Connection; Finding Funding For Your Organization

Candice Bledsoe is the founder of Poetic Diamonds and The Cutting Edge Youth Summit. She

helps girls, minorities, and economically disadvantaged youth with their written and oral communication skills. Candice Bledsoe believes, works for, and loves her community. She is the Founder of Poetic Diamonds and the Cutting Edge Youth Summit. The Cutting Edge Youth Summit helps to develop students in the area of academic excellence, mentorship, leadership, and scholarship.

Candice works at TCC as an English faculty member. She empowers her students to become all that

they can holistically. Known for her abilities in the classroom, she works to help bring each student to their best.

She also supports women in ministry through conferences and local organizations. Candice L. Bledsoe, poet, world traveler, and motivational speaker, says her work is to "...encourage the broken and withered soul."

After graduating from Baylor University, Candice traveled to Southeast-Asia where she served as an Instructor at Yonok College in Lampang, Thailand. As

a beacon of light for many citizens is Southeast-Asia, she spoke to several audiences about supporting human rights issues.

Currently, Candice is an Instructor and doctoral student in Dallas/Fort Worth Metro area where she resides. You can always find her "speaking into the lives of others" by encouraging women, minorities, impoverished persons, and those who suffer

from a broken and withered soul. "I am only one person, but I can make a difference."

The Cutting Edge Youth Summit is scheduled for 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. The school is located at 2100 Southeast Parkway in Arlington. For more information about the Cutting Edge Youth Summit or more info reach out cuttingedgeyouthsummit@gmail.com to 214-957-9512.

Zeta Sorority hosting scholarship dinner

Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. -Kappa Zeta Chapter is inviting the public to join them at the 2012 Blue Revue Dinner & Dance. Their goal is help make "Dreams Come True" for 11 young ladies in the community. The Blue Revue is a scholarship program that focuses on etiquette, community service, and college

preparation for female high school seniors. Over the past decade, more than \$50,000 in scholarships has been awarded through the Miss Blue Revue Scholarship Program.

Proceeds from the Miss Blue Revue Scholarship Program benefit the Stork's Nest Charity Fund of Dallas (SNCFD). Stork's Nest

Charity Fund is a 501.c3 tax-exempt entity of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., Kappa Zeta Chapter. All proceeds go to support scholarships and educational enrichment programs in the Dallas Metroplex.

The 2012 Miss Blue Revue Scholarship Program is scheduled for

Saturday, March 24 for

7 p.m. to 12 Midnight at The Westin Park Central, located at 12720 Merit Drive, Dallas. The cost is \$45 plus a \$2 online service fee.

For more information and to purchase tickets, please visit the Blue Revue website at missblurevue.org.

Petco and Hill's Science Diet Host National Pet Adoption Weekend

Liberty Tax Service of North Texas to salute firefighters, police and law enforcement officers is offering free tax preparation through March 26 at participating locations. These tax breaks on preparation fees are offered to first-time customers.

"This month we'll honor the courage and dedication of our men and women in law enforcement and public safety to show appreciation for their work to keep this community safe," said Johnathan King, Managing Partner of Liberty Tax Service of North Texas.

Liberty Tax Service of North Texas has also partnered with the Guns and Hoses Foundation of North Texas to provide free tax re-



turns for the families of all fallen police and firefighters in North Texas throughout the 2012 Tax Season. For more information regarding the Guns and Hoses Foundation, visit their website, www.gunsandhoses-northtx.org.

For more information about the promotion call 972-292-7399 or 972-624-7717, or stop by the offices located in Frisco at 6803 Preston Rd., Suite 115, Frisco, TX 75034 or 8200 Stonebrook Pkwy., Suite 108, in Frisco.

STARS, continued from Page 5

we hosted with the team, we collected nearly 3,300 pounds of e-waste. We look forward to collecting even more at this next event."

Sims Recycling Solutions can accept the following: computers, laptops, keyboards, mice, printers, cell phones, radios, stereos, phones, CD and DVD players, MP3 Players or Portable

Audio Devices, and clocks. Sims Recycling Solutions is unable to accept appliances, liquids, toner cartridges, hazardous materials, cans, bottles, oils, cleaners (liquid), automotive parts, tires, large appliances, refrigerators, microwaves, construction materials or paper.

More info at us.simsrecycling.com/stars.

KERSEE, continued from Page 2

tional and social services to over 1,500 children, youth, and adults annually. In addition to presentations by St. Philip's alumni and students, Mrs. Kersee will share her inspiring story at the luncheon. "The glory of sport comes from dedication, determination, and desire," she says. "Achieving success has less to do with

wins and losses than it does with knowing that there was nothing more you could have done to reach your ultimate goal."

For more information or to make a contribution toward this worthy cause, please contact St. Philip's Advancement Office at 214-421-5221 or devoffice@stphilips.com.

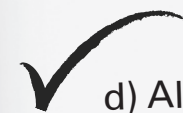
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Which of these appeals to you?

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b) Taking a nap on the way to the office

c) Getting to work like clockwork



d) All of the above

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214.979.1111
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Wingstop announces Destination 500 Sweepstakes winners

Wingstop may not yet offer delivery of its signature wings, but the company made an exception on March 1 when members of the corporate office surprised wing fan Diana Clary and her family with balloons, a platter of Original Hot and Louisiana Rub wings, and a trip for four to Orlando.

Clary was the grand prizewinner in the Wingstop Destination 500 Sweepstakes, where she won a four-day, three-night trip for four to Orlando, Fla.

Wingstop guests were invited to enter the online sweepstakes Dec. 19 through Jan. 19 as part of the company's 500th restaurant celebration, which recently opened in Brooklyn, N.Y. More than 123,000 entries were submitted for the contest.

"This is so exciting! My family is thrilled," said Clary. "We are already



(From left): Lauren Neels (friend of family), Kayla Anderson (daughter), Diana Clary (grand prize winner) and Wingstop marketing manager Rahman Johnson.

making plans to take our trip this summer."

The Destination 500 Sweepstakes also crowned second place winner, Oklahoma City resident Jeannie Pine, with Wings for a Year and two round trip tickets on American Airlines.

Third prize went to Konny Reece Church of North Wilkesboro, N.C. Konny received an autographed Troy Aikman football, \$100 in Wingstop

Bucks and two round trip American Airlines tickets.

"This was our first national sweepstakes, and it was a huge success," said Andy Howard, Wingstop Chief Marketing Officer. "We always love giving back to our fans and are so excited for Diana and her family, and all our winners, who helped us to reach 500 stores. Now upward and onward!"

Plano park receives honor from TRAPS

Plano's Haggard Park is one of nine Texas parks honored with the inaugural designation as a Lone Star Legacy Park by the Texas Recreation and Parks Society (TRAPS) on Feb. 29. TRAPS Board Member Stacey Dicke remarked, "The purpose of the designation is to recognize what a park means to a particular community."



Plano's Haggard Park often features community events such as concerts in the park

Carrollton, Texas teen named Distinguished Young Woman of Texas

On February 26, Marin Helppie-Schmieder of Carrollton, Texas was named the Distinguished Young Woman of Texas and awarded \$500 in cash scholarships during a statewide scholarship program for high school girls held at St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Houston, Texas.

Helppie-Schmieder was one of 13 high school senior girls from Texas who competed to represent the state as the Distinguished Young

Woman of Texas for 2012. Participants were evaluated in the categories of Scholastics (20%), Interview (25%), Fitness (15%), Self-Expression (15%) and Talent (25%).

Throughout the next year, Helppie-Schmieder will repre-



Marin Helppie-Schmieder, Distinguished Young Woman of Texas for 2012; Judy Hong, Distinguished Young Woman of Texas for 2011.

See TEEN, Page 11

Lady Tasha Presents...

Women Justified by Faith 2012 Conference

"The Woman in the Mirror"

Dr. W.L. Stafford, Sr. EdD
Fellowship Christian Center Church | Allen, TX

FEATURED SPEAKERS

Minister Charita Howard
Prayer and Worship Leader
New Light Community Fellowship
Frisco, TX

Pastor Nellie Bryant
New Birth Christian Fellowship
Harrisburg, PA

Minister Donna Edwards
First Lady
Kingdom Life Fellowship
McKinney, TX

Elder Faith Johnson
The Potter's House
Dallas, TX

A Life Changing Women's Conference You Don't Want To Miss!

Vendors, Door Prizes, Spoken Word, Ministry in Dance, Break out sessions, Ministry of the Word, Deliverance & More!

Dates: Friday, March 23 and Saturday, March 24
Location: Hilton Garden Inn | 705 Central Expressway South | Allen, TX 75013

"But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves. For if you listen to the word and don't obey, it is like glancing at your face in a mirror. You see yourself, walk away, and forget what you look like." (James 1:22-24 NLT)

Lady Tasha Presents

Women Justified by Faith 2012 Women's Conference

Friday, March 23, 2012
6:30p.m. (Registration)
7:00p.m. (Conference Session)

Saturday, March 24, 2012
8:00a.m. (Registration/Full Breakfast)
9:00a.m.-1:00p.m. (Conference Sessions)

The cost of the conference is \$30.00.
If paying by check, mail checks to:
FCCC
200 W. Belmont
Allen, TX 75013
Attn: WJBF Ministry

To register and pay online, visit:
<http://www.theship3c.org/women-justified-by-faith-2012.html>

Friday Speakers (March 23)
Keynote Speaker:
Dr. W. L. Stafford Sr. EdD,
Fellowship Christian Center Church,
Allen, TX

Saturday Speakers (March 24)
Break Out Session I
Naked and Free
(Delivered to do His Will)
Break Out Session II:
Challenged but Courageous
and Committed to Christ
(SuperWoman)
Break Out Session III:
Fabulous and Anointed
(Let Your Light Shine)
Special Session for ages 18-25
General Session:
The Woman in the Mirror
(You Are Beyond Fine)
Sunday (March 25)
Woman's Day at Fellowship Christian Center Church

Ongoing

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Through April 2

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

Through December 8

New Life Skills Certificate program for African Women each Saturday morning from 9:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Audelia Branch Library located 10045 Audelia Rd. (at Church St.) in Dallas. Info: hellen.fissahaie5@gmail.com

Through April 16

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

Through April 29

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

Through March 24

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

Through March 22

GISD Senior Art Show at Granville Arts Center Gallery in Garland

March 8

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

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

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

March 10

First Time Homebuyer Workshop at Mount Hebron Missionary Baptist Church, 1233 State Highway 66, Garland from Noon – 2 p.m.

Homebuyers Workshop – 9 a.m. – Noon at Urban League Headquarters, 4315 S. Lancaster Road, Room 168, Dallas

FREE Verizon Web Design for Adults & Students - 9 a.m. at Paul Quinn College at 3837 Simpson Stuart Rd. in Dallas

March 11

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

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

75040 Presale Tickets: \$20 at the door \$25

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

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

March 15

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

Urban League 2012 Career Fair - 9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. at Radisson Hotel Dallas Central University Park, 6070 North Central Expy.

March 16-17

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

March 17

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

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

March 24

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

The 2012 Miss Blue Revue Scholarship Program 7 p.m. to 12 midnight at The Westin Park Central located at 12720 Merit Drive, Dallas. The cost is \$45 + \$2 online service fee

March 25

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

March 29

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

March 30

UT Arlington's annual

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

March 31

25th Annual Funny Bunny Festival from 8:30 a.m. to noon, at Toyota of Lewisville Railroad Park, 1301 Railroad St., Lewisville. Admission is \$1 per person, free for children younger than 3.

April 1

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

April 2

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

April 4

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

April 21

2012 March for Babies at White Rock Lake in Dallas; Info: www.marchforbabies.org, 972-669-3463

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Irving Mayor Van Duyne's assault against the entertainment center continues

BY ANTHONY BOND

Mayor Beth Van Duyne's campaign against the entertainment center project in Las Colinas appears to continue. Her opposition to the project was at the center of her heated election against former Mayor Herbert Gears last year.

Recently, in a 6-3 vote, the Irving City Council defeated Mayor Van Duyne's proposal to place a non-binding referendum on the May 12 ballot regarding the latest financing plan for the entertainment center project. Council members Gerald Farris and Joe Philipp voted with Mayor Van Duyne in favor of allowing the voters to weigh in on changes made to the 2007 financial model. Council members Mike Gallaway, Roy Santoscoy, Rose Canaday, Dennis Webb, and Rick Stopfer voted against the referendum. The majority of the council argued the referendum would divide the city.

Also, the efforts could possibly impede Las Colinas Group's (LCG) efforts to obtain the \$80 million in private funding needed for the project. This is what

asking the public to vote on the project.

In an open letter in a letter to the mayor, William "Bill" Beuck of the LCG wrote, "This project is too important to the future of the City and the Irving citizens to make it the victim of divisive political tricks and political posturing. This is clearly an attempt to obtain, by political slight-of-hand [*sic*], something you have not been able to achieve through a vote of the City Council."

Irving City Councilman Dennis Webb shared, "I believe the mayor's actions are obvious that she is trying to prevent the developer from getting the final go ahead on the project. She has said many time she does not want this developer to do this project."

It appears she is backing those words up with actions.

The financial details

Despite then council member's Van Duyne's objections, the citizens of Irving did vote at the beginning of this ambitious project. On November 15 2007, the citizens approved the plan in a margin of 66 percent to 34 percent in favor



hotel occupancy tax;

- \$3 tax on cars that utilize the entertainment center parking facilities; and

- 10 percent ticket tax on events held at the center.

In March 2008 the City Council, including Van Duyne, approved the implementation of the (the "Venue Hotel Tax"), often referred to as the Brimer Tax or Brimer HOT. The city began assessing the tax April 1, 2008.

Then along came the Great Recession.

To raise the needed \$130 million for the Irving Convention Center, on January 8, 2009 the City Council, with Van Duyne the lone nay vote, approved "Pledge 7% HOT and tax pledge."

Eventually the Convention Center was built and opened in 2011. The facility includes a 275,000

space.

For the Entertainment Center the City Council approved and the issuance of bonds as outlined below. They also allocated 2 percent of the Brimer hotel occupancy tax (HOT) and 7 percent city HOT. The bonds approved were:

- February 19, 2009, the City Council approved, with Van Duyne as the only no vote again, the issuance of \$8 million Hotel Occupancy Tax Revenue Bonds,

- August 6, 2009 the City Council approved with Van Duyne as the only no vote again, the issuance of \$8 million Hotel Occupancy Tax Revenue Bonds

- February 4, 2010 the City Council approved with Van Duyne and Thomas D. Spink voting no, the issuance of \$9 million Hotel Occupancy Tax Revenue Bonds

Recently, LCG requested modifications in the 2008 rental and development agreement with the city. LCG is a private development company that is seeking up to \$80 million in private funding for the Entertainment Center. Project investors want the interconnected companies with the project to restructure into a single business.

The City Council on Friday, March 2, in a special meeting authorized the spending of up to \$200,000

to obtain a public bond rating on the city's \$170 million contribution to the project.

Mayor Van Duyne's placement of 20 proposed changes to the city's agreements with LCG on a special meeting's agenda, led to foul play call by supporters of the project. The council did not approve the suggested contract changes offered by the mayor. The bottom-line is she simply does not have the votes needed to push her agenda on the Entertainment Center.

Decorum – or her lack thereof

The other issue raising a red flag of concern for Irving citizens is the mayor's management of City Council meetings. Many feel she clearly allocates speaking time generously only to those who support her agenda.

Van Duyne has conducted City Council meetings in the most unethical way that I have ever seen in my lifetime. At the same time she is calling for an ethics policy to be adopted by the Irving City Council she presides over council meetings where she rudely and abruptly cuts off citizens who obviously oppose her views and lets citizens who obviously agree with her repeatedly violate the time limit for speaking. She allows speakers to verbally belittle and berate her other City Council colleagues

with no rebuke or correction from her.

Another concerned citizen, Jill Martinez, last week wrote a letter to the mayor about the tension at the recent meetings and the danger they represent to the city.

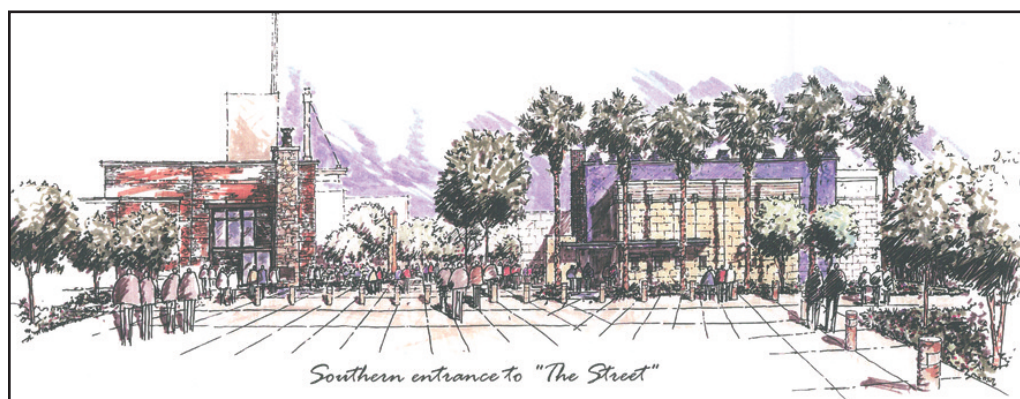
"You are the leader of our city. You must set the tone of honest, respectful discourse and set a zero-tolerance policy for the kind of behavior demonstrated at recent Council meetings. Hopefully your lead may still the anger and hatred that is festering in our town," Martinez wrote. (The full letter can be read on page 3 of this edition.)

Many citizens in Irving need jobs and the Entertainment Center can provide up to 2,700 jobs reportedly. The City of Irving needs the revenue the tax sales the restaurants and surrounding businesses such as hotels and their suppliers would generate.

So, why is the Mayor of Irving so determined to undermine a project so vital to the city? And when will she show true leadership in her council meeting leadership?

The timeline provided on Jill Martinez's blog was utilized for the chronology details regarding the Irving Convention Center and Entertainment Center project. To read the full timeline, visit irvingonlinetx.blogspot.com.

For more information, please contact Anthony Bond at 972-830-6719.



many suspect is the ultimate goal of Mayor Van Duyne. Otherwise why is she so determined to put this issue to a public vote, when as a City Council member she voted no to

of funding a joint entertainment complex and convention center. The plan for the city's contribution of funding the two facilities through:

- 2 percent citywide

square-foot multi-functional building with a 50,000 square-foot, column-free exhibit hall, 20,000 square-foot ballroom, and 20,000 square feet of breakout meeting

NDG Gossip: Oprah to interview Bobbi Kristina

BY LATRISHA MCDUFFIE
NDG STAFF WRITER

Although Oprah Winfrey retired, she still managed to land an exclusive interview with Bobbi Kristina, Whitney Houston's only child. Winfrey will also interview Gary Houston the singer's brother and Patricia Houston, the singer's sister-in-law.

The interview will be featured on *Oprah's Next Chapter* and is slated to air March 11 on the Oprah Winfrey

Network.

Everyone will remember that Houston opened up on television to Oprah in 2009. She described in detail her relationship with Bobby Brown, her struggles with drugs, and her relationship with God.



Bobbi Kristina Brown with her mother Whitney Houston in 2009. CREDIT: AP

Read more celebrity gos-

sip online at www.northdallasgazette.com.

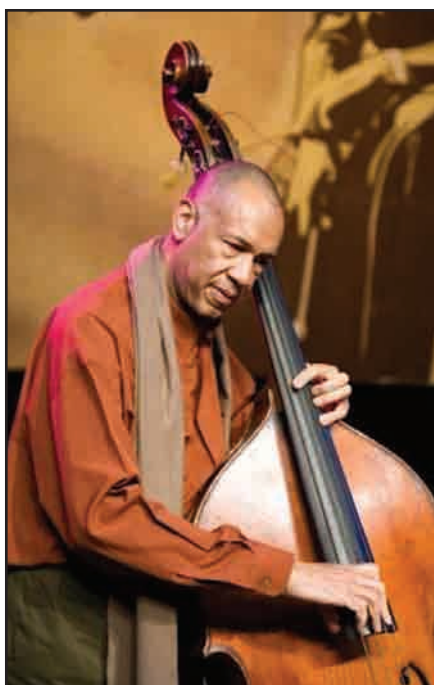
Grammy winner John Clayton performing at UNT

Grammy-winning bassist, composer and conductor John Clayton will perform with University of North Texas jazz faculty members and the six-time Grammy-nominated UNT One O'Clock Lab Band as part of the 2012 Glenn E. Gomez artist residency.

Clayton will work with students on campus March 4 – 8 (Sunday through Thursday) before a performance at 8 p.m. March 8 in the Murchison Performing Arts Center's Winspear Hall, located along the north side of Interstate 35E at North Texas Boulevard. Jazz faculty members from UNT's acclaimed College of Music will join Clayton for the first half of the concert, and the One O'Clock Lab Band will perform with Clayton during the

second half. Tickets are \$10 to \$15 and are available by calling the box office at 940-369-7802 or www.mpac.com.

The Gomez endowment allows the UNT College of Music to invite internationally acclaimed jazz artists to the university for a brief residency, establishing relationships between artists and UNT students. Gomez, a graduate of UNT's College of Busi-



John Clayton

ness Administration, has been a lifelong jazz fan.

FILM, continued from Page 1

Sonia Sanchez—poetry icon, professor emerita at Temple University, mother, co founder of the Black Arts Movement, pioneer of the Black studies program at San Francisco State, and tireless fighter for human rights. She is a stuttering child from Alabama, abused step-daughter from Harlem, single mother struggling to raise her children, an artist, & a revolutionary battling oppression on all front

Miss Lizzie Devine by James Ransom & Cherie Johnson: 3 min. - Miss

Lizzie Devine a powerful and loving Sunday school teacher goes door to door and picks up children for Sunday school—willingly or unwillingly. Say Amen, Somebody.

Girls Like Me by Kiri Davis 8 min. - What messages does our society give African American children about their value and worth as human beings? In her documentary, *A Girl Like Me*, 16 year old filmmaker Kiri Davis conducts interviews with her peers to explore the impact and consequences of corporate

messages about identity, culture and history.

The festival will be held at the South Dallas Cultural Center, 3400 S. Fitzhugh Street in South Dallas. The tickets cost \$10 each night but films for youth on Saturday morning are free.

For a complete listing of all events celebrating Black Women's Month at the South Dallas Cultural Center visit <http://www.dallasculture.org/SDCulturalCenter/eventCalendar.asp> or call 214-426-1683.

Dallas Pays It Forward!

Live Wright Society began as a little mother-daughter project and has now expanded into a community of thought provoking conversations, artistic expression, and pay-it-forward actions. Their efforts have helped to raise awareness for Multiple Sclerosis, Crohn's and Colitis, youth who age out of foster care, Lou Gehrig's disease, organ transplant, and Music Brings Healing

and Hope program.

The organization will host "Eclectic and Unique Night of Organo Gold Coffee, Art, Music, and Film for Six Worthy Causes," this Friday, March 9 at the House of Blues located at 2200 N. Lamar Street in Dallas. Doors open at 7 p.m.

"Through film and live performance, our goal is to encourage attendees to learn how they can Pay It

Forward," said Jenny Bai, Executive Director, Live Wright Society. "Many people want to get involved but don't know what to do. This unique and creative event will offer the opportunity to learn and become a part of a bigger movement of collective positive actions."

For more information visit www.livewrightociety.org

Sherri Shepherd to host The Newlywed Game

Aside from her upcoming appearance on ABC's *Dancing with the Stars* and her day job as a co-host on *The View*, Sherri Shepherd has one more job to add to her resume. *The Newlywed Game*, premiering Monday, March 12 5 p.m. New episodes of *THE NEWLYWED GAME* will air every Monday and Tuesday at 6 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. on



Sherri Shepherd

GSN.

There's more to marriage than moonlight and roses—there's also those uncomfortable moments of "too much information," embarrassing marital quirks and plenty of annoying habits. GSN offers all of the above with 41 new episodes of *THE*

See *GAME*, Page 13




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Dallas Diggs, Principal, Diggs Group presents

How Trends in Technology Effect Your Business at 10:30 a.m.

Renee McMillion Clark, Owner, Picture this in Video presents

How Video Can Enhance Your Brand at 11:30 a.m.

When: March 24, 2012

Where: The University of Texas at Dallas
17919 Waterview Pkwy
Dallas, TX 75252

Time: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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BearCom releases instructional video detailing sweeping impact of FCC Narrowbanding Mandate

BearCom, a nationwide provider of wireless communications equipment and solutions, made available an instructional, animated video detailing the important changes coming soon to the federal regulation of two-way radios.

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is requiring companies and public

agencies that use two-way radios to employ 12.5 kHz narrowband technology. Users must modify their FCC licenses and, when appropriate, reprogram or replace existing equipment to meet the narrowbanding requirement. BearCom has been a leader in educating the public about the federal mandate, which aims to increase capacity and effi-

ciency for the industrial/business and public safety radio pools.

The video, which can be viewed at www.YouTube.com/BearComTV, was produced in partnership with Motorola Solutions. It compares the new FCC rules to the restriping of a busy highway. With more lanes, the video explains, the highway can ac-

commodate more traffic. The video reminds users that while many newer radios can be reprogrammed, some older ones must be replaced. The deadline for compliance is January 1, 2013, and violators face the prospect of heavy fines and the possibility of losing their FCC licenses.

"The narrowbanding mandate is causing hundreds of

thousands of two-way radio users to make investments in their equipment," said Jerry Denham, BearCom's President & CEO. "We at BearCom want to help them understand the new rules and what steps they may need to take to be in compliance by January 1."

BearCom, Motorola Solutions, and the Enterprise Wireless Alliance (EWA) worked

together to launch www.Narrowbanding.com last year to serve as another important resource to help educate the public about the narrowbanding requirement. BearCom also released its 2012 Two-Way Radio Narrowbanding Guide, which is available free for downloading at www.BearCom.com/Resource-Library.

Richardson plan a study to identify opportunities for retail growth

The Richardson City Council has hired Catalyst Commercial, a market research consultant, to develop a strategy to build Richardson's retail base. During their February City

Council meeting, the group outlined its process, saying the research will begin with a market analysis and culminate in a merchandising plan that will lead to active recruitment of prominent

retailers. Increasing retail opportunities in Richardson is one of the top priorities the City Council identified in the 2011-2013 Near Term Action Items.

Catalyst Commercial's

study will examine what drives retail activity in the City and will analyze demographics, create an inventory of current retail and identify opportunities for retail development. Catalyst

Commercial's past work includes successful merchandising plans for the Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport, the City of Colleyville and numerous other cities in Texas.

The final phase of the study will match stakeholder vision, demand for retail and the retail market to create a plan to recruit retailers to Richardson.

TEEN, continued from Page 7

sent Texas at various public events and serve as a role model to young people by spreading the program's national outreach message of "Be Your Best Self." The outreach program is designed to encourage self-esteem and excellence in all young people through its five principles: Be Healthy, Be Involved, Be Studious, Be Ambitious, and Be Re-

sponsible.

Helppie-Schmieder is the daughter of Sally Helppie and is a senior at Creekview High School. Helppie-Schmieder's achievements include: Class Officer; Interlochen Center for the Arts Merit Scholar; Crimson Honor for Excellence in Dance; Presidential Achievement for Academic Excellence; Merit Award for

Dance Choreography, PTSA; High School Academic Honor Roll; Girl Scout Silver Award. In addition, Helppie-Schmieder's activities include: National Honor Society, Vice President; Moving Ground Dance Company; Ballet Academy of Texas, student; Bent Tree Church; National Honor Society for Dance Arts, President; Creekview

Choir Department-A Cappella Choir; National French Honor Society; Dance Zone Studio, Teacher; Papa John's Pizza, in-store team member.

The 55th National Finals will take place on June 28, 29, and 30, 2012, in Mobile, Ala. Helppie-Schmieder will travel to Mobile, Ala. along with 49 other state representatives to

participate in personal development activities and community service projects before competing for the opportunity to become the Distinguished Young Woman of America for

2012 and for a share of more than \$130,000 in cash scholarships. Tennessee's Katie Brock, who is attending the University of Tennessee-Knoxville, won the 2011 overall award.

HOUSING, continued from Page 1

equity. Many homeowners have been laid off or had their hours cut."

In the aftermath of millions of foreclosures, landlords faced a higher market demand. With more people searching for rental units, many landlords began charging higher prices. Even for homeowners who were able to keep up with mortgages, weak employment figures that translated into either unemployment or fewer working hours reduced available monies for living costs.

The report defined 'working households' as those with members working at least 20 hours per week on average and a household income of no more than 120 percent of their area median income. In 2010, nearly one-third of all owner-occupied families met the definition of

working families. Nationally, the median income for working household owners in 2010 was slightly higher than \$41,000 or about 80 percent of the median income for all American homeowners.

Families are considered housing cost burdened if their costs exceed 30 percent of monthly income. Severely cost burdened households spend 50 percent or more of their income on housing.

Other key findings from the report:

- The share of working households with a severe housing cost burden increased from 21.8 percent in 2008 to 23.6 percent in 2010.

- Despite falling house prices, working households who own their homes continue to face severe housing cost burdens. This fi-

nancial stress is driven in large part by a decrease in the median number of hours worked per week and a resulting drop in income.

- With both increased rents and decreased incomes in these years, working renters fared even worse over the two year period studied. Although incomes increased somewhat between 2009 and 2010, the housing costs of renters over the two-year period rose by four percent.

Among the 50 metro areas with the highest housing burdens, 13 were in the South.

These disturbing statistics tell us that while every family needs a home, it is increasingly difficult for parents to provide for their loved ones. Homes, whether rented or owned, are where children come

home from school and parents come home from work. It's also where birthdays, anniversaries and other activities provide a sense of place and belonging.

In the film classic, *It's a Wonderful Life*, George Bailey understood the importance of a home. In a memorable scene, George, played by actor Jimmy Stewart, pleaded with a local banker to understand how the people who did most of the working, living and dying in their town deserved a decent place to live. In 2012, this nation needs a real life George Bailey.

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

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DISTRICT, continued from Page 1

Mallory-Caraway and Taj Clayton, a local lawyer and Harvard graduate exchange views and their agendas for the district.

Rep. Caraway stressed the importance of new technology in schools so students can experience an environment that resembles the workforce setting. Access and understanding technology is important to facilitate the ability of student to compete with other nations. She also discussed the importance of local government participation, as opposed to heavy dependence

on federal government to solve all the needs of cities.

Hall's comments focused on the need for economic development of the 30th district due to the high unemployment rates and the closing of several small businesses unable to compete with the Wal-Marts, Targets and other big box stores. Jobs creation and tax incentives will serve as key objectives of his if elected. Hall wants to see the commercial and residential value produce better quality of life for those in the 30th district.

Others topics discussed were building a better relationship with law enforcement agencies from the local to the national level – a point Clayton stressed. Rep. Caraway spotlighted her previous experience serving on several transportation committees and working with DART for economic development on the rail lines.

A standing room only crowd filled the auditorium with questions about their community and the politics and the great divide Washington.

REJECT, continued from Page 3

is calling a "corrections investment initiative," in which CCA is offering to purchase prisons from states so long as they contain at least 1,000 beds and the states agree to pay CCA to operate the prisons for at least 20 years and keep the prisons at least 90 percent full.

"It is unconscionable to line the pockets of private companies whose existence depends on the nation's ad-

diction to incarceration, a grave social crisis that exacts a huge toll on taxpayers while providing no public safety benefit and leaving a disproportionate number of people of color behind bars," said David Shapiro, staff attorney with the ACLU National Prison Project. "In order to reduce corrections spending, we need to commit to the systemic reform of our criminal justice system."

The United States today imprisons far more people – both per capita and in absolute terms – than any other nation, including Russia, China and Iran. Over the past four decades, imprisonment in the U.S. has increased explosively, spurred by criminal laws that impose steep sentences even for low-level, non-violent offenses and curtail opportunities for probation and parole.

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OCCUPY, continued from Page 1

three-day occupation of the nation's capital is the March 7 release of our annual *State of Black America* report at a 7 pm town hall meeting on the campus of Howard University. In this election year, no issue is more important than galvanizing Black voter participation and turning back the current assault on voting rights that threatens to disenfranchise as many as 5 million Americans this year.

As Congress wrestles over measures to create jobs and grow the economy, a multi-state effort is underway to exclude those Americans most profoundly affected by the political process. Last year, more than half a century after the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, thirty-four states attempted to pass legislation that would impose unreasonable voting restrictions or absurd penalties limiting the registration process. Despite the efforts of civil rights groups and others, these bills have become

law in 14 states, with bills in 26 states still pending.

This coordinated attack on the rights of citizens to participate in their government comes at a particularly perilous time for communities of color. The African American unemployment rate is hovering above 13 percent. Latino unemployment stands at nearly 11 percent. And as various "Occupy" movements across the country have made clear, millions of Americans are fed up with growing income inequality.

Our own 2012 State of Black America "Equality Index" finds the economic status of African Americans relative to Whites is only 56.3 percent. For Hispanics the economic Equality Index is 60 percent. In a moment that cries out for greater civic participation, some are intent on silencing our voices and taking away the most powerful weapon in the arsenal of democracy — the right to vote.

GAME,

continued from Page 10

NEWLYWED GAME.

THE NEWLYWED GAME is GSN's modern installment of the classic series showcasing three newly married couples of wide-ranging backgrounds who face off in a series of question rounds. During each round, a spouse attempts to guess his or her mate's answer to questions about their relationship, ranging from the first time they met to the details of their love life. At the end of the game, the couple scoring the most points wins exciting prizes.

Sherri Shepherd is a Daytime Emmy® Award-winning co-host of "The View" and an actress who appeared in the award-winning film "Precious" and can currently be seen in "One for the Money." Shepherd's other film credits include "Who's Your Caddy," "Beauty Shop," "Cellular," and "Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa."



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Fortunately, this issue is catching fire in Washington and throughout the nation. Citizens across the country are joining the U.S. Department of Justice, civil rights groups and the Congressional Black Caucus in challeng-

ing these blatant attacks on voting rights.

Our 2012 State of Black America report also contains essays from national experts on ways to improve urban education, support small businesses, and promote better nutri-

tion, especially among urban youth.

Although the State of Black America is not yet what we want it to be, it is my hope that this year's report will inspire all Americans to Occupy the Vote to Educate, Employ

and Empower.

To find out how you can get a copy of the 2012 State of Black America log on to www.iamempowered.com.

Marc H. Morial is the President and CEO of the National Urban League.



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March 15, 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.

**Brother Ramon Hodridge,
Minister**
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**BIBLE WAY COMMUNITY
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March 16, 7-9 p.m.

Join us at our Women's Fellowship for fun, fellowship and giving God praise.

March 17, 8-10 a.m.

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March 14, 7 p.m.

Reverend Sisters in Christ, join us in praise and worship in our Lecture Hall. For details call the

church or email womens@ccommunity.org.

March 16, 6:30 p.m.

All students, 6-12 years old, sign-up for Fun Friday Fellowship at the church; dinner served at 6:45 p.m. For information call Viveca Bonner at 972-991-0200 or email vbonner@ccrichardson.org.

**Dr. Terrence Autry,
Senior Pastor**
701 E. Centennial Blvd.
Richardson, TX 75081
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www.followpeace.org

**FELLOWSHIP CHRISTIAN
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**Monday – Friday
9 a.m.-1 p.m.**

TheShip3C's 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

March 14, 7:00 p.m.

You're invited to our Wednesday Night Live in the Joycie Turner Fellowship Hall on Belmont Drive. Also, come to our Corporate Prayer and our Kidz Zone (an environment to equip children to grow and to show God's love.)

March 23-24

Lady Stafford presents: Women Justified by Faith 2012 Conference, "The Woman in the Mirror." "Anyone who listens to The Word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself/herself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like." James 1:23-24 (NIV)

Friday Night registration starts at 6:30 p.m. followed by a conference session at 7 p.m. Saturday Morning registration/continental breakfast start at 8 a.m. followed by some conference sessions at 9 a.m.-1 p.m. There will be ven-

dors, door prizes, spoken Word, Ministry in Dance and breakout sessions, Ministry of the Word, deliverance and more at the Hilton Garden Inn, 705 Central Expressway South, Allen, TX 75013.

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March 11, 10 a.m.

Join us in Sunday Worship as we give God excellence praise without excuse.

March 14
Come to our Noonday Bible Study to learn more about the Word of God; and at 7 p.m. for our Wednesday Night Bible Study.

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March 10, 12 Noon

For those in need, come to our Grief Recovery Support Group. Call Tera McFarland at 972-437-3493, Ext 111 or email her at tmc-farland@ndcbf.org for details.

March 24, 8 a.m.

Men of God our Brotherhood of the Cup presents: Men 2 Men Summit 2012 in our Fellowship Hall. There will be sharing, bonding, fellowship, leading and worshipping God. Breakfast and lunch will be served.

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

ROCKBRIDGE CHURCH

March 11

Join us in Prayer with Pastor at 8:30 a.m. and stay for Worship Celebration at 10 a.m. as we honor and praise God for His blessings.

March 14, 7 p.m.

You're invited to Bible Study and Awana as we worship and praise God.

**Timothy Jones,
Lead Pastor**
21 Prestige Circle
Allen, TX 75002
214-383-9993
www.rockbridgechurch.com

**SAINT MARK MBC
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March 10, 12 p.m.

All Senior Saints are invited to our Double Nickel (55 and above) Luncheon @ the Newsome Center on Amstcott Street in McKinney. Activities include lunch, bingo and door prizes. Come and bring a friend. If you are homebound, we will deliver to you. Please call 972-542-6178 no later than the Friday, (March 9th this month) before the luncheon and leave a message with your name, address, phone number and how many meals you need.

March 11, 9:30 a.m.

Join us in our Education Ministries and stay for our Worship Celebration at 10:45 a.m.

March 25

You're invited to join us for our Friends and Family Day as we fellowship, worship and praise God.

**Dr. Charles Wattley
Senior Pastor**

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March 9, 6 to 10 p.m.

Don't miss our Human Resource Ministry's "Girls Night Out" event for fun, fashion, personal care/career tips and networking; also relax and enjoy a feet soak. Call the church for details or log on our website below.

**March 11, 8 a.m.
And 11 a.m.**

Join us in our Morning Worship times and stay for our Sunday School at 10 a.m.

March 14, 7 p.m.

You're invited to our Midweek Service as we worship and praise God.

**Dr. Isaiah Joshua, Jr.
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**THE INSPIRING BODY
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March 11, 7:30 a.m.

Join us as we worship, honor and magnify God's Holy name.

March 12, 7 p.m.
Come to Monday School as we study the Word of God and worship and praise His Holy name.

Pastor Rickie Rush
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**Sister
Tarpley**

Nannie Helen Burroughs was one of the best known and well-respected African Americans of the early twentieth century. She was called 'The Black Goddess of Liberty'. She was an educator, institution and organization-builder and a major figure in the Black church and secular feminist movement.

In 1900, at the annual meeting of the National Baptist Convention (NBC) in Virginia, Burroughs gave a speech, "How the Sisters are Hindered from Helping." This oration gained her national recognition and served as a lightning rod for the formation of the largest Black women's organization in the United States, the Woman's Convention (WC) an auxiliary to the NBC.

Furthermore, in 1896, Burroughs joined other women and formed the National Association of Colored Women (NACW) to promote political mobilization of Black women. Burroughs became a much sought after participant, particularly by the Republican Party. When Herbert Hoover was elected President in 1928, he chose Burroughs to head a fact-finding commission on housing. In 1909, she founded the National Training School for Women and Girls, which was renamed the Nannie Helen Burroughs School in 1964.

Patricia Roberts Harris (May 31, 1924 – March 23, 1985). In 2000, she was a committed public servant and champion of civil rights, the first Black woman to hold a U. S. Ambassadorship in Luxembourg under President Lyndon B. Johnson, and the first to enter the line of succession to the Presidency in case the President is unable to perform his duties. She served as the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services in the administration of President Jimmy Carter.

Roberts was born in Mattoon, Illinois, the daughter of a railroad dining car waiter. She graduated Summa Cum Laude from Howard University in 1945; and she participated in one of the nation's first lunch counter sit-ins, in 1943. She was also the first national executive of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. Her first position with the U.S. government was as an attorney in the appeals and research section of the criminal division of the Department of Justice in 1960. President John F. Kennedy appointed her co-chairman of the National Women's Committee for Civil Rights.

Vernice Armour is a former Captain in the United States Marine Corps. She was the first Black female naval aviator in the Marine Corps; and America's first Black female combat pilot in the U.S. military. Armour

flew the AH-1W SuperCobra attack helicopter in the 2003 invasion of Iraq; and served two tours in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Armour was born in 1973 in Chicago, Illinois to Gaston Armour, Jr. and Authurine Armour. She was raised in Memphis, Tennessee where she was a member of the mathematics honor society at Overton High School. In 1993, while a student at Middle Tennessee State University Armour enlisted in the Army Reserves and later the Army ROTC.

Mae C. Jemison (October 17, 1956) is an American physician and NASA astronaut. She became the first Black woman to travel in space when she went into orbit aboard the Space Shuttle Endeavour on September 12, 1992. Jemison served in the Peace Corps from 1985 to 1987. She is also a dancer and a T.V. actor and has appeared in an episode of Star Trek: The Next Generation. Jemison holds nine honorary doctorates in science, engi-

neering, letters and the humanities.

Jemison was born in Decatur, Alabama, the youngest child of Charlie Jemison who was a maintenance supervisor for a charity organization and her mother, Dorothy Green, was an elementary school teacher of English and math at the Beethoven School in Chicago; and she said that she was inspired by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Annie Onieta Plummer was dubbed The Dictionary Lady; Plummer was born in 1936 in Sylvania, Georgia. In 1992, she noticed that many school children in Savannah, Georgia were not carrying any books. On her own initiative, she invested 50 dollars in 30 pocket dictionaries and proceeded to hand them out on the street corner. Her project gained nationwide attention and was emulated in other areas and mushroomed. Always aware of the value of education, she went back to school at the age of 42. In each dictionary she handed out, she inscribed the motto



Sister Tarpley with her niece, Lady Lynn Merseberg enjoying a day at the 2012 Male Author Summit at Buttons Restaurant in Addison, TX

of the United Negro College Fund, "A mind is a terrible thing to waste," supplemented by her personal message, and "I challenge you not to waste yours."

**Gina Smith,
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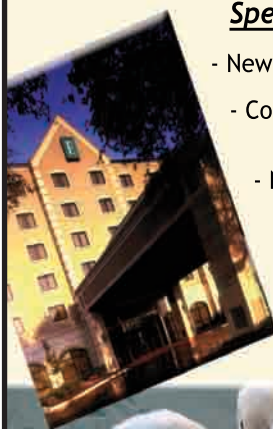
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Former Dallas City Council Member running for newly created Congressional District

Former City Council Member and Dallas Deputy Mayor Pro-Tem, Steve Salazar, announced last week he is running for the Democratic Primary for the recently created Texas 33rd Congressional District (CD-33).

46 year-old Salazar, expressed his intention to run as a continuation of his

commitment to serve a community that he knows well: for the past 17 years, Salazar has been elected by residents in what is now CD-33, 3 years as Dallas County Community College Trustee and 14 years as a Councilman in Dallas Place 1 and 6, including serving as Dallas Deputy Mayor Pro-Tem.

The district is located in parts of Dallas and Tarrant counties and has a 61.3 % of Hispanic, 18.4 White and 17.8 of Black people of age 18 and older (1). "The creation of the district is the result of the growth of the Hispanic/Latino community in the area, and it should be represented by a Latino/Latina who under-

stands the needs of our community" Salazar stated.

"People in the district are ready to support my candidacy, some have already donated money, others have expressed they intention to make phone calls and walk the district knocking on voters doors," Salazar reported.

His goal will be to fight

in Washington for the 700,000 residents in the district. Salazar ended: "We need a voice for issues affecting the working-class; we need better education for our children, bet-

ter health care access for our families, more jobs and an economy that continues improving, and that's why I will be seeking people's support in the months ahead."

Councilwoman Delia Jasso Hosts 3rd Annual Graffiti Workshop

Dallas students and parents will have the opportunity to attend Councilwoman Delia Jasso's 3rd Annual Graffiti Workshop on Saturday, March 24 at Felix G. Botello Elementary School at 225 South Marsalis Avenue in Dallas. This is an educational workshop where parents/guardians attend sessions led by the Dallas Police Department and Code Compliance. They

will receive information on the negative effects of graffiti and the consequences for participating in this sort of illegal activity. Students attending this workshop will participate in an art class led by a Dallas artist, where they will create mural designs and submit them in a competition for the top-three designs.

Local Dallas Cowboys running back #34, Phillip

Tanner, will welcome workshop attendees and lead a morning exercise session. Additionally, Gina, the pink "graffiti-busting" giraffe, will also be appearing to entertain workshop attendees and encouraging them to use their creativity for positive pride in their neighborhoods.

This event is absolutely FREE for all attendees, and although this

program is targeting students in grades 1-6, everyone is welcome. A continental breakfast will be provided.

Parents and students may register for the 2012 Graffiti Workshop by calling 214-671-8520 or 214-670-4052. Seating is limited, so please register by Thursday, March 15, 2012. This program will be available in English and Spanish.

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