

# North Dallas Gazette



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## North Dallas Gazette partners with Bear Creek Baptist Church to encourage learning

The North Dallas Gazette Newspaper is proud to announce its partnership with the Summer Reading Program at Bear Creek Baptist Church. We started this wonderful program to pro-



vide students in grades 1-8 the opportunity to create and develop a two page newsletter highlighting the accomplishments and activities of the students during this program. The Bear Creek Baptist

Church Summer Reading Program was started in 2006 as a way to assist students with improving their reading skills for the next grade level. The pro-

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## Veasey's "Fair Texas Plaintiffs" call on Court to overturn GOP Partisan Congressional Map

Texas State Representative Marc Veasey (HD95 - Fort Worth) is leading a group of plaintiffs in filing a federal lawsuit to block the partisan congressional redistricting plan approved by the Texas Republican leadership earlier this summer.

The Republican plan is particularly harmful to vot-

ers in the house district that Veasey represents in Fort Worth and to minority voters across Texas. For example, in order to diminish their impact on elections, the predominately African American and Hispanic urban neighborhoods in Fort Worth have been divided into three different bizarrely contorted dis-



Marc Veasey

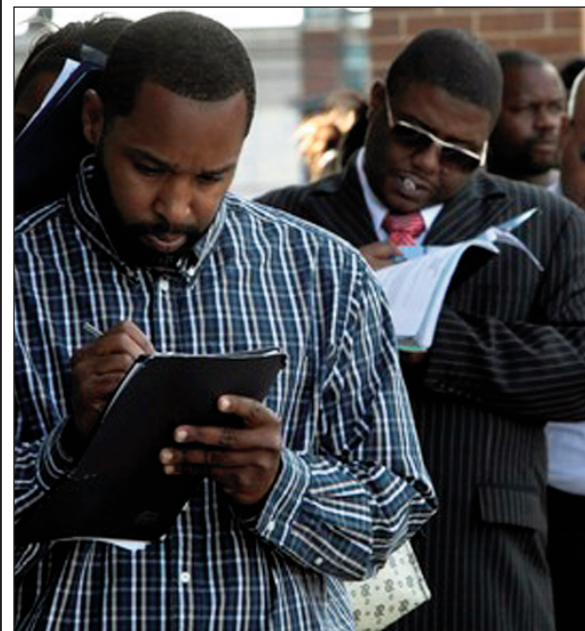
tricts. All of these districts are controlled by Anglo Republican voters who live in suburban neighborhoods.

Explaining why he is leading the legal battle, Representative Veasey said, "I have a duty to fight such an overt attack by the

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COVER STORY

## Black unemployment through local eyes



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### Shaunie O'Neal talks "trash" and Basketball Wives

For more information see pg. 10  
[www.northdallasgazette.com](http://www.northdallasgazette.com)

COMMENTARY

## Minorities would suffer if Social Security cut

By Earl Ofari Hutchinson (NAM) President Barack Obama is well aware of the devastating impact that any cuts in Social Security, either through direct benefit slashes or a formula change that virtually eliminates or dampens the already abysmally low cost of living increases, would have. In a ringing statement in 2008, then-Democratic presidential candidate Obama flatly said that more than two-thirds of Social Security recipients rely on Social Security for more than half of their monthly income.

But Obama also gave a

guarded hint that Social Security might not be the sacred cow that prior Democratic and even Republican presidents have regarded it as. He repeatedly said that his concern was with the long term "solvency" of Social Security. He did not spell out exactly what "solvency" meant or what steps he would take to ensure that solvency. It was apparent that Obama -- even then -- believed that Social Security was in some danger and that some steps had to be taken to shore it up.

Obama, though, left the

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## National bodybuilding at Eastfield

Jason Cole had a successful year with the International Natural Bodybuilding Association (INBA) in 2010. Jason, a Master Certified Fitness Trainer and an instructor for a national fitness training institute resides in Keller, Texas. Last year, was Jason's first year to compete in any bodybuilding venue. He unbelievably



Jason Cole

won:

- 1st Place for Male Fitness Natural Olympia in Reno, Nevada (Mr. Fitness Natural Olympia, the highest category in his category)
- 1st Place for Male Fitness Natural Universe in Hollywood, Cali-

fornia (Mr. Fitness Natural Universe)

- 1st Place for Male Sports Model Natural Universe
- 1st Place for Mr. Fitness USA in Las Vegas, Nevada
- 1st Place Male Sports Model USA
- Mr. Fitness Texas in Keller, Texas

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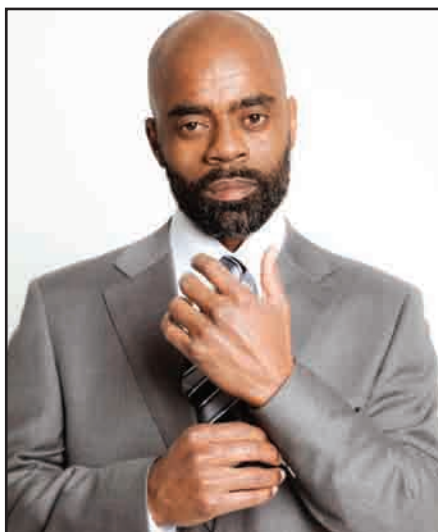
## Freeway Ricky Ross

The Freeway Ricky Ross Kouncil, Give Me 5 Reading Foundation 501(C)(3), Marion County Department of Health and "THE REAL" are on a mission in Indianapolis, Indiana to educate and enlighten urban youth with powerful Mind, Body & Soul forums. Following the forums the organizations will come together for a talent showcase, the "On the Real" talent competition will help fund local performing arts programs and increase HIV Awareness in Marion County.

"Our combined efforts

are meant to educate and help stop the high rate of Illiteracy, STDs and Obesity in Marion County by increasing awareness and driving home the importance of Exercise, Safe Sex and knowledge though: reading, while highlighting area talent in a safe, fun environment," says Denise China Mial, On The Real Talent Competition Founder, Comedian, The Kouncil GM and Event Coordinator.

Area youth and their parents are invited to come out to B.A.S.E. Life Skills &



Mentoring Program located at 4548 North College Ave. Indianapolis, Indiana on Fri-

day, July 29, 2011 from 10a-2p, for fun, interactive forums, which will be moderated by the areas top health & wellness professionals. Participation is Free.

The Give Me 5 Reading Foundation will be on-site to encourage and challenge youth to spend at least 5 minutes a day reading. Mr. Rick Ross himself

and Indy Hustlaz's Anthony Simpson will conduct forums addressing health &

wellness. Free HIV testing will be provided on-site by Marion County Department of Health along with area community centers. There will be a \$100 raffle for all who take an HIV/AIDS test.

Rick Ross says he is on a mission to bring unification back to our communities. For more information on Rick Ross and his cause visit his site FreewayRick.

The Give Me 5 Reading Foundation is a nonprofit tax-exempt organization recognized under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Give Me 5 is a reading and literacy organization founded in Phoenix, Arizona by Jasmine and

Jesse Crowe, a father and daughter team. Their vision was simple, if youth would just read 5 minutes every-day, they would discover the unprecedented joy of reading and fight the crippling effects that illiteracy places on our society. Recognizing the direct correlation of a lack of literacy to increasing prison populations and poverty they knew that Give Me 5 was a necessary endeavor. Give Me 5 works with schools, celebrity influencers and community organizations to provide books for youth and inspire youth as well as their parents

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## Stephen W. Neal

K. NEAL International Trucks, Inc. (K. NEAL) of Hyattsville, Maryland is pleased to announce that it was recently named to Black Enterprise Magazine's annual Top 100 Largest Black Businesses list for 2011 (BE 100s). The list itself is recognized as the most respected measure of black-owned business performance in the United States. The BE 100s, which are 51 percent black-owned, were ranked according to their gross revenues, billings or assets ac-

quired over the course of the preceding year, business acumen and potential for long-term growth.

With 2010 sales of over \$62 million, K. NEAL is the top-grossing black-owned commercial truck, bus and school bus dealership in the United States. K. NEAL made its debut appearance in the BE 100s list, ranked at No. 58. As a result of making the BE 100s list for 2011, Black Enterprise has also named K. NEAL International Trucks, Inc. as One of the

20 Most Successful Black Businesses to Watch in 2011.

"This ranking and acknowledgement is significant to K. NEAL International Trucks, Inc. because it demonstrates the strength of black businesses and more specifically, a black-owned commercial truck and bus dealership. In this competitive environment, it is also a testament to the hard work that all of my employees have put into this dealership year-round. K. NEAL has been truly blessed to assemble a fantastic team of people who use their God-given talents



to ensure that our customers always receive a high level of service. Customers

service is our first priority. Our company is surrounded by the right people: dependable, skilled employees, suppliers and the most important people of all - our wonderful customers," says, President and CEO of K. NEAL, Stephen W. Neal. "As our economy continues to recover, it's evident that black businesses will continue to play a significant role in leading the U.S.

economy back to recovery and will indeed spur growth in local communities," continued Neal.

K. NEAL International Trucks, Inc. is the leading commercial truck, bus and school bus dealership in the Washington, DC metropolitan area. K. NEAL's overall mission is to "Take Care of the Customer", "Take Care of the Associates" and "Reinvest in the Business".

K. NEAL International Trucks, Inc. (K. NEAL) is a full-service multi-location commercial truck, bus and school bus dealership rep-

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## David Marshall Pryce

David Marshall Pryce, one of the West Coast's



entertainment lawyer, Amy Bobbitt, Vice President and CFO and his father George Pryce, who serves as a public relations consultant where necessary.

Headquartered in both Hollywood, California and Tempe, Arizona, The PVIPE Group consists of three different companies, Phoenix VIP Events, PVIPE Music and PVIPE Media. This synergistic group of companies creates cost-effective marketing planning for its' clients over multiple channels, increasing positive exposure for their projects.

PVIPE Music is an ex-

citing record label that boasts distribution, publishing and digital outlets for recording artists, boutique labels and music producers, guiding them through every aspect of getting product seen and heard. Pryce's expertise in carrying out all aspects of branding an artist or label comes from his industry background. He is formerly National Sales Director of Black Radio Exclusive Magazine, Senior Vice-President of D3 Entertainment/Rivera Entertainment, where he oversaw the label's management of Death Row Records' multi-million dollar RIAA certified platinum catalogue. David has spearheaded multiple catalogue projects including: Etta James, Nina Simone, The Oak Ridge Boys, Kenny Rodgers, A Tribute to Neil Diamond, Back Street Boys and with recording artists including

Daryl Hall, Snoop Dogg, Insane Clown Posse, Ol Dirty Bastard, RZA, Layzie Bone, Sticky Fingaz, Sunz of Man, Fredro Star, MC Eight, Mac 10, ONYX, Lil J and Big Syke from 2Pac and the Outlawz of which most titles topped the Billboard Independent Retail Charts debuting at #1.

Prior to creating The PVIPE Group, David began Phoenix VIP Events as a leader in revolutionary grassroots marketing and has now expanded into a full-service agency with web, mobile and new media methods. "We provide consulting, strategy and execution for all aspects of our client's marketing initiatives, including music, film, fashion, sports, new media and consumer products. Our company is comprised of a talented and creative group of people who are passionate about their work and the

combining of marketing methods resulting in maximum visibility. Our com-

pany culture is intense, excited, hard-working, inspiring

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## \$69\* DIVORCE

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- DWI / Suspended License
- WARRANTS Removed\*
- 24 Hour Jail Release\*
- Occupational license, felonies
- Protective Order
- Misdemeanor/Felonies\*

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- Restraining Order
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- Name Change / Adoption
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# North Dallas Gazette

P. O. Box 763866 • Dallas, Texas 75376-3866

Phone: 972-516-4191

Fax: 972-509-9058

**Publisher's Office:**

publisher@northdallasgazette.com

**Sales Department:**

opportunity@northdallasgazette.com

**Editorial Department:**

editor@northdallasgazette.com

**Online:**

www.twitter.com/NDGEditor

www.facebook.com/NorthDallasGazette

**Website:**

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Lora Cormier

**Published By**

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**Production**

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**Staff Writer**

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**Contributing Writer**

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The North Dallas Gazette, formerly Minority Opportunity News, was founded July, 1991, by Jim Bochum and Thurman R. Jones

## Obama Budget Concessions to the Right of Republican Voters

By George E. Curry  
NNPA Columnist

A recent Gallup poll shows that most Americans support President Obama's plan to raise the nation debt ceiling, set to expire Aug. 2, with a mix of spending cuts and tax increases, especially on corporations and the wealthy. Republican leaders, on the other hand, are resisting any tax increases, a position not favored even by Republican voters.

In the poll, taken July 7-10, only 20 percent of Americans say deficit reduction should be achieved solely through spending cuts. Another 30 percent say it should be done mostly with spending cuts and 32 percent believe the goal should be reached equally with spending cuts and tax increases.

Among Republicans, 24 percent favor an equal split between spending reductions

and tax cuts, 26 percent favor only spending cuts and 41 percent favor reaching the target with mostly spending cuts. Among independents, 30 percent favor mostly tax increases, 28 percent support an equal share of spending cuts and tax increases and 23 percent prefer mostly spending cuts.

The largest share of Democrats – 42 percent – favor an equal split between spending cuts and additional taxes, followed by 23 percent who mostly want spending cuts and 12 percent who favor mostly tax increases.

Writing in the New York Times, Nate Silver noted: "Much to the chagrin of many Democrats, the mix of spending cuts and tax increases that Mr. Obama is offering is quite close, or perhaps to the right of, what the average Republican voter wants, let alone the average

American."

Make no mistake about it, this posturing over the deficit is directly related to the 2012 presidential election. Republicans have concluded that making a deal with a Democratic president, even one who is willing to give them most of what they want, will not help them in the next election cycle. For his part, Obama has concluded that a deal on raising the debt ceiling, even a bad deal, bodes well for his re-election campaign.

New York Times columnist Paul Krugman, an economist, said, "President Obama has made it clear that he's willing to sign on to a deficit-reduction plan that consists overwhelmingly of spending cuts, and includes draconian cuts in key social programs, up to and including a rise in the age of Medicare eligibility.

"...If a Republican president had managed to extract the kind of concessions on Medicare and Social Security that Mr. Obama is offering, it would have been considered a conservative triumph. But when those concessions come attached to minor increases in revenue, and more important, when they come from a Democratic president, the proposals become unacceptable plans to tax the life out of the U.S. economy."

Obama has public opinion on his side yet he is caving in to conservative Republican leaders who are being forced to move even more out of the mainstream by right-wing Tea Party fanatics.

A June 9 poll by Quinnipiac University found that voters will blame Republi-

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matter there. However, three years later, that is no longer the case. With the GOP breathing down his neck to cut a deal to slash and burn programs that have profound effect on health, education, and infrastructure spending, nothing is out of bounds and that obviously includes Social Security. In a review of the positions on Social Security of the top three 2008 Democratic presidential candidates Hillary Clinton, John Edwards, and Obama, a summary question was "Does he or she pledge to NOT cut Social Security benefits?" The answer for Clinton and Edwards was an unequivocal "yes." Obama's answer was "no."

That "no" has now ignited alarm and anger among House Democrats at the report that Obama had put the "tweak" of Social Security on the bargaining table to get a budget deal with the GOP. It has stirred even greater panic and alarm among those who need and depend on Social Security the most -- and those are minorities.

There is good reason for their anger -- in fact several good reasons. Social Security has been the jewel in the crown of the Democratic Party's domestic program since FDR put pen to paper in

August 1935 and signed the Social Security Act into law. No Democratic president, and only one Republican president, has dared to even breathe a hint that Social Security should be changed. George W. Bush tried it with his scheme to privatize part of the program, and that failed miserably.

The success of Social Security has rested on two major pillars. It provides a financial lifeline for millions of seniors, sick and disabled, despite the GOP's con job that it is an entitlement program that must be cut. It isn't and never has been. It is self-supporting, has not added a nickel to the national debt, and has provided a major boost to the economy by pumping up spending.

The Social Security "tweak" that Obama reportedly put on the table would change the inflation measure that determines whether recipients get a cost-of-living boost or not. But the bigger reason for the Democrats' panic and horror at the thought of this or any other change to Social Security is that it would spell even greater destitution for minorities.

Two figures tell the devastating impact that any cut in Social Security would have on minorities. Nearly 40 percent

of African-American recipients rely solely on a Social Security check for their income. One out of three African-Americans and Hispanics would sink below the official poverty line without their Social Security payout.

The original idea was that Social Security would strictly be a supplement to the retirement income of older Americans. But as the figures on income and poverty show, that notion has long since been rendered moot. In 2008 only one out of four African-Americans got any income from private assets compared to nearly 60 percent of whites. While more than 40 percent of older whites received income from pensions, the figure for blacks was slightly more than 30 percent.

The massive shrink in public worker employment, the assault on labor union protections, private sector outsourcing, and relentless rises in cost of living, have all sledge-hammered health and pension programs that traditionally were the primary income source for minorities and most workers. Social Security will have to fill even more of the plunging income void for them in the coming years.

It's not just the aged

among minorities that stand to be big losers with any benefit cut or cost of living formula change in Social Security. The burden will also fall heavily on the disabled. African-Americans have higher rates of disability and are more likely to receive benefits from the Social Security Disability Insurance program. They have even less chance than able bodied retirees of supplementing their Social Security benefits with outside income.

The GOP and President Obama will battle over how to slash Social Security. And as always, the biggest casualties of that battle will be those who rely on Social security the most. And that's minorities.

*Earl Ofari Hutchinson is an author and political analyst and Monday co-host of the Al Sharpton Show. He is an associate editor of New America Media. He is host of the weekly Hutchinson Report Newsmaker Hour on KTYM Radio Los Angeles streamed on ktym.com podcast on blogtalkradio.com and internet TV broadcast on the-hutchinsonreportnews.com*

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## Garland seeking volunteers for fair

Volunteers are the backbone of any important undertaking. The same is true for the Healthy Living Expo on Saturday, September 24, 2011 at the Garland ISD Special Events Center.

The Expo will provide important information about healthy lifestyles for both people and the environment in which we live.

Organizers are planning a new twist this year by adding exhibits and demonstrations

focusing on safety issues such as fire prevention, safe driving tips for teens, bicycle safety and much more. In addition, the Expo will offer health screenings and immunizations, as well as information on stress reduction, fitness, recycling, conservation, energy efficiency, gardening, alternative fuel vehicles and much more.

Volunteer opportunities are available for adults and older teens. Duties will in-

clude exhibitor check in, guest and exhibitor relations, kids' activities, and other interactive features. Some exhibitors will need volunteer manpower to help accept donations and recycling drop-offs.

Anyone interested in volunteering can download a volunteer application at [www.GarlandGoesGreen.org](http://www.GarlandGoesGreen.org) or contact Sharon Brown at 972-205-2438 or [sbrown@garlandtx.gov](mailto:sbrown@garlandtx.gov).

## Mexican-American births outpace immigration

(New America Media) Births have surpassed immigration as the main driver of the dynamic growth of the Mexican-American population, according to a new analysis of U.S. Census Bureau data by the Pew Hispanic Center, a project of the Pew Research Center.

Between 2000 and 2010, the Mexican-American population grew by 7.2 million as a result of births and by 4.2 million as a result of new immigrant arrivals. This is a change from the previous two decades when the number of new immigrants either matched or exceeded the number of births.

The surge in births is attributable to two factors. Mexican Americans, many of whom are immigrants, are younger and have higher fertility than other groups. The median age of Mexican-Americans in the U.S. is 25, compared with 30 for non-Mexican-origin Hispanics, 32 for blacks, 35 for Asians and 41 for whites. And the typical Mexican-American woman ages 40 to 44 (at the end of her child-bearing years) has given birth to more children (2.5) than similar aged non-Mexican-Hispanic (1.9), black (2.0), white (1.8) or Asian (1.8) women.

Meanwhile, the number of Mexicans annually leaving

Mexico for the U.S. declined from more than one million in 2006 to 404,000 in 2010--a 60 percent reduction. This contributed to fewer new immigrant arrivals to the U.S. from Mexico in the 2000s (4.2 million) than in the 1990s (4.7 million). However, the Mexican-American population continued to grow rapidly, with births accounting for 63 percent of the group's population increase.

Mexican-Americans are the nation's largest Hispanic group. At 31.8 million in 2010, they comprise 63 percent of the U.S. Hispanic population and 10 percent of the total U.S. population. Among Mexican-Americans, some 39 percent--or 12.4 million--are immigrants. More than half of these immigrants (6.5 million) are in the country without authorization.

The report, "The Mexican-American Boom: Births Overtake Immigration," is available at the Pew Hispanic Center's website, [www.pewhispanic.org](http://www.pewhispanic.org).



## NEAL, continued from Page 2

resenting the International, IC, Hino, and Mitsubishi Fuso brands. Mr. Neal is the only African-American to own both a commercial truck and bus dealership in the world. The dealership provides new and previ-

ously owned sales, service, parts and maintenance for commercial trucks and buses sold under the above mentioned brands. K NEAL Idealease provides full-service lease, rental and contract maintenance

on commercial trucks and buses. The dealership services the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area. Additional information is available at [www.knealinternational.com](http://www.knealinternational.com).

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## Changes to Texas Democratic Party delegate selection plan

With the Texas legislative session over and the 2012 Primary Election date certain, the Texas Democratic Party seeks to remind voters of some basic elements of the Texas Democratic Party (TDP) Delegate Selection Plan.

The Texas Delegate Selection Plan maintains the delegate allocation process based on Primary and Convention results, as the TDP was overwhelmingly instructed to do by our State Democratic Convention delegation.

The hybrid Primary-Caucus system allocates delegates based on both the Primary Election votes candidates receive and on the number of supporters who

turn out for precinct conventions after the polls close.

Following the 2008 convention, TDP Chairman Boyd Richie appointed a Commission chaired by Senator Royce West and Representative Jessica Farrar. The Commission was tasked with studying and reporting on the Texas delegate selection process and held over a dozen meetings in all parts of the state, taking testimony from interested Democrats. The Commission recommended several reforms and concluded that the current system, which includes allocation of delegates by convention, was highly beneficial to Party growth and activism.

Under the system, 75%

of the base delegation (208 delegates) will be allocated by the Primary vote, and 25% by the Convention vote. The 29 individuals who are delegates by virtue of position will remain separate from the base delegation. Additionally, there will be 31 Party leaders and elected officials selected by delegates at the Convention, making the total delegation number 268.

The TDP will issue periodic releases on the Plan in the coming months and additionally, will hold 31 meetings (one per senate district) to ensure voters' familiarity and understanding of the Plan.

Additionally, TDP would like to restate that as

one of the largest delegations in the country, we will make certain that all voices of our broad constituency are heard at our National Convention.

"The Texas Delegate Selection Plan points the way for the selection of a delegation to the National Convention that truly represents the diversity of our great state," explained TDP Chairman Boyd Richie.

"The Texas Democratic Party remains committed to ensuring that Texans from all walks of life are included and welcome in our Party, and that the level of diversity among our delegates is a true reflection of that commitment," Richie concluded.

## West Dallas business community to 'focus on the future'

Next month, the West Dallas Chamber of Commerce will debut its new Focus on the Future fundraising luncheon.

Planned for Thursday, Aug. 4, from 11:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m., the event will be held at Salon Las Americas, 1004 Fort Worth Avenue. Lunch will be catered by award-winning chef Tim Byres of Smoke restaurant.

"This year, Focus on the Future will spotlight three breakthrough developments that hold great promise for economic development in West Dallas," says luncheon chair Ana-Maria Ramos.

Recognized as game-changing developments will be the March, 2012, opening of the Margaret Hunt Hill Bridge; the City of Dallas'

implementation of the City-Design Studio's Urban Structure and Guidelines for West Dallas; and Sylvan/Thirty, West Dallas' first mixed-used development.

"Proceeds from the luncheon will launch the Chamber's new Future Fund. This Fund will provide scholarship assistance to Pinkston High School graduates attending El Centro College West Campus, help endow a business internship program, and promote small- and medium-sized business development in West Dallas," Ramos adds.

Open to the public, tickets or tables to the luncheon are available – and donations can be made – through the Chamber's website at [www.westdallaschamber.com](http://www.westdallaschamber.com).

## Military families get in free to Genghis Khan: The Exhibition at Irving Arts Center

Thanks to the launching of the Blue Star Museums Program, all active duty military and up to five immediate family members may attend Genghis Khan: The Exhibition at the Irving Arts Center for FREE. The Blue Star program is a partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts, Blue Star Families, and more

than 1,500 museums across America through Labor Day 2011.

"To share Genghis Khan's life and culture with our active military personnel and their families through the Blue Star Museum Program is a great way to show our appreciation for their service," said Tommy Gonzalez, Irving City Man-

ager and a retired Lt. Colonel in the Army Reserves. "The City of Irving is proud to host Genghis Khan: The Exhibition and we look forward to welcoming all visitors who want to learn more about this historic figure."

The Blue Star Museums Program is available to all active duty military and up to

five immediate family members on presentation of a Geneva Convention Common card (CAC), a DD Form 1173 ID card, or a DD Form 1173-1 ID CARD, including those stamped URW and DB. The ID must be presented in person at the Irving Arts Center's Box Office to receive the discount. These include active duty mil-

itary (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard), National Guard and Reserve

members and up to five immediate family members, defined as spouse or child.

## 5K Family Fun Run announced for disabled veteran

The Texas Sentinels Foundation, the 501 (C) (3) nonprofit which builds debt-free homes for wounded Veterans, and the Collin County Association of REALTORS are joining forces with Stonebridge Ranch Beach Club in McKinney to host a family fun run. This non-competitive run will support the Collin County Texas Sentinels Foundation Team and the building of Army Sergeant Justin Feagin's new Family home in Melissa Texas.

"We've made a commit-

ment as a community to build a home for one of our own, a Veteran who suffered severe injury in the protection of our freedom in Afghanistan," says Mal Smith, leader of the Collin County Texas Sentinels Team that is spearheading the project. "This run is one of several fundraising events we are hosting this summer to raise funds and meet out groundbreaking deadline of early autumn. We invite the entire community to come out the Stonebridge Ranch and walk or run with us in support

of this American Hero and Service men and women everywhere!"

The 5K Walk & Run will start at 8:00am sharp (registration at 7:00am) on Saturday, August 6th at Stonebridge Ranch Beach Club in McKinney. Registration is \$25 for an individual and \$75 for a group of four, and registration is available online through [www.texassentinels.org](http://www.texassentinels.org)

Another option for helping the Feagin family, Romano's Macaroni grill at Preston and Park in Plano will be hosting a

Texas Sentinels Foundation Night on July 12th. From 5pm – 10pm, all diners who present the event flyer to their server will have 10 percent of their bill donated to the Texas Sentinels Foundation and the building of the Feagin Home. The event flyer is also available to download at [www.TexasSentinels.org](http://www.TexasSentinels.org), where you can also find more information about the Foundation, its mission and other projects and a full list of events supporting the Collin County Texas Sentinel project.

## Kroger partnering to help UNCF again

Kroger Food Stores and UNCF—the United Negro College Fund—the nation's largest and most effective minority education assistance organization, today announced that UNCF will be featured on Kroger's "coin canisters" donation

program at all North Texas store locations from July 17 through September 10. Kroger's coin canisters are placed at every checkout lane to encourage customers to donate their change to support non-profit organizations. Pro-

ceeds from the UNCF program will help financially disadvantaged students at UNCF's five private HBCUs (historically black colleges and universities) in Texas. Kroger, a longtime community supporter, also supports UNCF through its

Neighbor-to-Neighbor program.

"UNCF and Kroger make a good team working together to help students earn their college degrees and start careers of success and service," said UNCF

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## BODY, continued from Page 1

At all competitions, Jason's platform was "Stomping Out Obesity." Last year, Jason competed with men from: New Zealand, Africa, Australia, Argentina, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Canada, Albania, and Egypt. Bodybuilders from the USA came from the states of: Texas, California, Nevada, Arizona, Michigan, Florida, Indiana, Oregon, and Utah.

As a result of Jason winning "Mr. Natural Fitness" statewide, nationally, and internationally, Denny Kakos, World President and Founder of the INBA decided to do State competition in Jason's city of choice. Jason chose Mesquite, Texas the city his parents live in.

On Saturday, July 30 the first ever International Natural Bodybuilding Association's Texas State Muscle & Fitness Championships in Mesquite, Texas. It's an all day event in the Performance Hall (Building F), at Eastfield College, 3737 Motley Drive in Mesquite. Pre-judging is at 10 a.m. and the Main Show at 5 p.m. The INBA holds 125 competitions in 40 countries each year including the U.S. (Hollywood, CA and Reno, NV), Italy and Greece. Visit their website at [www.naturalbodybuilding.com](http://www.naturalbodybuilding.com) for more information.

The natural bodybuilding movement has grown in recent years and drug free athletes are receiving more exposure and opportunities than ever. Competitors from across the State of Texas have signed up for the Texas State Muscle & Fitness Championships in Mesquite, including natural bodybuilders from: San Antonio, Lufkin, Dallas, Allen, Henderson, Azle, Plano, Arlington, Mansfield, Richardson, and Fort Worth.

This is a history in the making INBA Competition. For the Texas State Muscle & Fitness Championships, in Mesquite on July 30, 2011, Governor Rick Perry has already sent a letter recognizing the competition and on Saturday evening at

5 p.m., the Deputy Mayor Pro Tem for the City of Mesquite will present a proclamation.

Jason lives the INBA Motto Daily – Train Hard, Train Smart, Train Natural.

"Last year, each competition was more challenging," recalls Jason. I always go in confident that I will win and I do my best. Having two international titles gives me the opportunity to do bigger and better things for myself, my clients, my students, and the State of Texas. I'm proud to be born and raised in Texas!"

This is Jason's second year to compete professionally in bodybuilding with the INBA. This year he did his first competition in Carona, California. He won the first place title for "Mr. Fitness Natural Iron Galdiator."

In addition, Justin Cole, Jason's identical twin brother was encouraged by his brother's success and for the first time competed in Carona, California. Winning first place, Jason and Justin "wowed" the crowd with a "Team Challenge Duo." The twins competed together in a spectacular routine that brought the spectators to their feet in a screaming and standing ovation.

Jason and Justin's second competition together for 2011 will be in Mesquite, Texas on Saturday, July 30, 2011 at the Texas State Muscle & Fitness Championships. In October, Jason will defend his Natural Universe Fitness title in Queensland, Australia; and in Hollywood, CA in November; Jason defends his Natural Olympia Fitness title in Reno, Nevada.

"I enjoy competing in the INBA," said Jason. "I think the INBA is a great idea because there are other athletes like myself who don't take abusive drugs and we need a safe way to participate in the sport of bodybuilding. There's no way we could compete with steroid users."

Jason and Justin became personal fitness trainers as a result of their

mother nearly dying in September 2004 from 7 stress-related diseases. They decided to step in and help save her life without prescribed medication, over-the-counter medication and surgery. Afterwards, the twins changed their college major from International Business to Kinesiology.

There's another side to Jason, an even more personal side of his story that hasn't been told, but needs to be shared. Jason was the first born of identical twins. He was born naturally and his brother Justin was born by cesarean section. This is rare. A skinny and sickly child and adolescent, Jason was diagnosed with a weak immune system, a weak respiratory system, asthma, and chronic eczema. He was hospitalized twice for pneumonia and for over 5 years had to use a nebulizer twice a day. Jason longed to be healthy, strong, and free of asthma and eczema.

At the age of 13, for Christmas, his mother surprised him with a weight set. The next year, his mother enrolled him in Martial Arts to gain discipline and balance. Jason grew stronger and his breathing better. Two years later Jason's mother gave the weight set to the Salvation Army for fear of him becoming obsessed with weight lifting and harming his body. At age 21, Jason left home and got his own apartment. He began working out with a punching bag, doing advanced martial arts, and hand-held weights. Jason reshaped his body and his muscles started developing. Within 2 years, he had the physique he had always wanted.

Jason is the President of Health Wise and Justin is Vice President of Development. Health Wise is a fitness and wellness company. Jason and Justin are 2000 graduates of Rockwall High School in Rockwall, Texas. Jason was employed at 24 Hour Fitness in Lewisville, Texas for 3 years before becoming a full-time train-the-trainer instructor for a national career institute in North Richland Hills. Justin

was employed at the same 24 Hour Fitness for 2 years and is also teaches at the same place in North Richland Hills.

Now that Jason is Mr. Fitness Natural Olympia, he feels that he is in a better position to help others throughout America become fit. He does personal fitness training for over 30 clients each week and along with his identical twin brother Justin teaches 6 to 8 weeks boot camps for the City of Denton and various groups throughout North Texas.

"Obesity is preventable," said Jason. "Exercise and nutrition are the keys to being fit, but fitness begins in the mind. Give me six weeks and I can set anybody on the path to becoming fit."

Last year, Jason's story also featuring his mother Earnestine Cole, first appeared on the Channel 8 News on August 30, 2010 by Health Reporter Janet St. James. The Dallas Morning News featured Jason in the Metro Section on November 6 and November 7. Channel 11 News did a feature on November 10. In 2010, Jason was also fea-

tured in community newspapers: The North Dallas Gazette, LaVida News, and The Dallas Weekly. Jason was quoted in the January 2011 issue of the national magazine Heart & Soul. The article, "Best Body Moves at 20s, 30s, 40s and 50s & Beyond" was written by Tamara Jenkins.

Since, 2007, through his company Health Wise, Jason has volunteered his services in South Dallas and other cities in North Texas to help adults and youth improve their health. In addition, with his mother, Jason co-hosts a weekly radio show on KHVN 970AM at 8:30 a.m. – The Health Wise Talk Show.

Denny Kakos, ABA/INBA/PNBA International President and Founder, held the first INBA natural bodybuilding competition in 1988. Today, the organization is the world's premier natural bodybuilding association and holds 125 competitions in 40 countries. The association is approved and supported for international events by the U. S. Department of State.

The INBA is the largest

drug free bodybuilding and sports organization in the world. "It has been years of integrity, spirit, dedication, and excellence to get us to this point," said Diana Kakos, Denny's wife. "The INBA is fun and positive. It's all about the athletes."

Denny Kakos said there was a need to start the ABA/INBA/PNBA because, "Thoughtful athletes realized that the drug usage associated with strength training and bodybuilding was contrary to good health, sportsmanship, and the true spirit of athletics. People are finally recognizing natural bodybuilding and fitness."

"It's not just about building a good athlete," continued Kakos. "It's about giving back and supporting natural bodybuilding. We will do whatever it takes for you to have an even playing field."

The INBA has built relationships with Korea, Asia, and South America. These countries will join the competitions in 2011. Last year, Jason shared some time with "Mr. Korea" after his "Mr. Fitness Natural Olympia" win.

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## Clown auditions scheduled August 5

Ever dream of running away with the circus but didn't know how? Were you always the class clown in school and wanted to try making a living at it? Now is your chance, as Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey is holding auditions to find qualified candidates to don the red nose and oversized shoes as members of the world-famous Clown Alley! If you think you have what it takes to entertain "Children of All Ages" as one of the merry mirth-makers of The Greatest Show On Earth®, then come to American Airlines Center on Friday, August 5, 10:00 AM. The arena is located at 2500 Victory Avenue, Dallas, TX 75219.

Ringling Bros. talent scouts will be in Dallas to personally oversee the hopefuls as they attempt to tickle funny bones by showing off their comedic cleverness and prat-falling proficiency at this rare open call for those who

take their clowning seriously.

Anyone interested in auditioning may register at [www.buzzecc.com/auditions](http://www.buzzecc.com/auditions). Auditionees must be 18 or older and will be asked to show their ability to display exaggerated facial expressions, athleticism or any unique physical skills, as well as a sense of personality and why they wish to become part of The Greatest Show On Earth. Auditionees should be prepared to three to five minute routine. Auditionees should not wear any clown makeup and should not wear any costumes. Loose, comfortable clothing should be worn. It is preferred, but not required, that you bring a headshot and a resume to your audition. No previous professional clowning experience required.

Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey® presents *BARNUM 200*® is coming to American Air-



lines Center, July 27-August 7, and Fort Worth Convention Center, August 10-14.

## Starbucks invite customers to enjoy an afternoon break

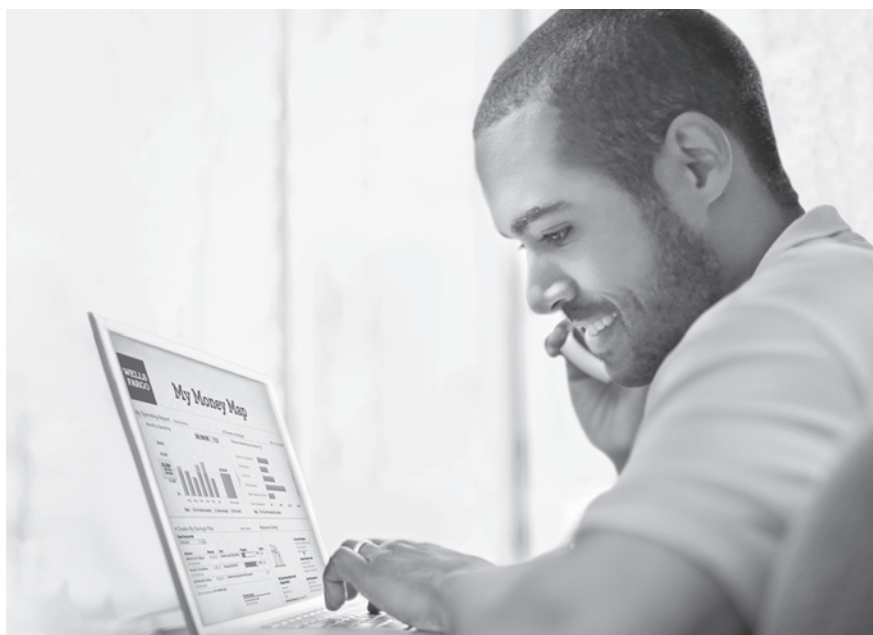
Starbucks Treat Receipt offers customers a refreshing afternoon break with their favorite Starbucks® cold beverage. From July 18 through September 5, 2011, customers who make a purchase in the morning can bring in their receipt after 2 p.m. and enjoy any Grande cold beverage (16 fl. oz) for just \$2 (plus tax) at participating Starbucks stores\* in the U.S. and Canada.

Customers can choose from an extensive selection of customizable, handcrafted cold beverage including delicious and refreshing iced



coffee and iced tea beverages. For more information, visit [www.starbucks.com](http://www.starbucks.com).

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**Ongoing**

**Collin County Black Chamber of Commerce, CC-BCC** General Meetings, 2nd Thursday of every month at 6:30pm. Call 469-424-1020 or email: [info@CCBlackChamber.org](mailto: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 [meeetup.com/378](http://meeetup.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](http://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. [www.nbwenorg.ning.com](http://www.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-fri-endly 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. Info @ 214-942-6698.

**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.

**Oak Cliff Cultural Center,** 223 West Jefferson Blvd. in Dallas, offers Tango classes every Wed-nesday from 7:30 to 8:45 p.m. Cost is \$10 per person or \$15 per couple per class. [www.tangocanyen-guedallas.com](http://www.tangocanyen-guedallas.com)

The **Art Centre Theatre**, 5220 Village Creek Drive in Plano, will hold auditions for its summer productions. *Seussical* on May 7 and May 14; *Into the Woods* on May 21 and May 28 and 13 on June 11 and June 18. All auditions will take place from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The theatre will also host a slew of summer dances for young children. [www.art-centretheatre.com](http://www.art-centretheatre.com)

**Through July 22**

**Shakespeare Dallas** presents performances of *Cyrano De Bergerac* on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday at 8:15 p.m. at the Samuell Grand Amphitheatre, 1500 Tenison Parkway in Dallas. Admission for shows is \$10 adults and \$7 seniors and students. Tuesday and Wednesday are free. Children 12 and under are always free.

**Through July 23**

**Shakespeare Dallas** presents performances of *As You Like It* on Sunday, Tuesday and Saturday evenings at 8:15 at the Samuell Grand Amphitheatre. Admission for shows is \$10 adults and \$7 seniors and students. Tuesday and Wednesday are free. Children 12 and under are always free.

**Through July 30**

**Rover Dramawerks** presents the charming musical *Little Mary* at the Courtyard The-

ater, 1509 H Avenue in Plano, next to the Cox Building Playhouse with shows on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays at 8 p.m., and an additional matinee performance on Saturday, July 23 at 2 p.m.

**July 21**

South Dallas community meeting to discuss potential budget cuts in school district 6:30 p.m. at the Turner Court Gymnasium 6601 Bexas Street, Dallas Info: Juanita Wallace, Chair District 9 Schools 972-803-3052

**July 22**

The gospel stage play *Ain't Nothin Like The Family* featuring singers Tony Terry and Dave Hollister is slated for 8 p.m. at Friendship West Baptist Church, 2020 West Wheatland Road in Dallas. Call 903-283-5799 or 903-520-5977.

The gospel stage play *Ain't Nothin Like The Family* featuring singers Tony Terry and Dave Hollister is slated for 8 p.m. at Friendship West Baptist Church, 2020 West Wheatland Road in Dallas. Call 903-283-5799 or 903-520-5977.

**Swim-In Cinema** – Enjoy a poolside movie, *Despicable Me*, on July 22 from 7-10 p.m. at Rosemeade Rainforest Aquatic Complex (1334 E. Rosemeade Parkway). Tickets sold at the event. Open swim from 7 p.m. to dusk; movie from dusk until 10 p.m. The cost to attend is \$5 for residents, \$7 for non-residents and \$3 for all children ages 4-6 (swim pass holders receive a \$2 discount). For more information, call 972-466-9833 or visit [cityofcarrollton.com/pools](http://cityofcarrollton.com/pools)

**July 23**

**A WOMAN'S INTUITION VOL2** - a socially conscience, unconventional comedic drama about the things men know that women THINK they have figured out. Featuring David Ruffin Jr.(son of the late David Ruf-

fin of the Temptations) ADULT AUDIENCES ONLY. July 23 and July 24th, 3pm and 7 pm both days. Carrollton Arts Plaza Center 1115 Fourth Avenue Carrollton TX -Raffle prizes.Tickets are \$20 general admission \$25 VIP tickets come with complimentary wine. Visit website to meet the cast! Written by Playwright Gina-Nacole. <http://www.wix.com/gina8989/ginasys-productions>

**Hawaiian Night** at the Juanita Maxfield Aquatic Center, 1701 N. McDonald, McKinney starts at 5:30 p.m. with games, prizes, food and family fun. Admission for the event is \$2 for ages 9 and under and \$3 for 10 and older. Info: [www.mckinneytexas.org](http://www.mckinneytexas.org).

**July 24**

**SADE** with special guest **John Legend** at American Airlines Center, 2500 Victory Ave. in Dallas at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$52.50 to \$152.50. [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com)

**July 26**

**Irving's Business Welcome to Mayor Beth Van Duyne** from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. at the Hilton Garden Inn DFW Airport South, 2001 Valley View Lane, Irving RSVP at [irvingchamber.com](http://irvingchamber.com)

**July 27 - August 7**

**The Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey Circus** will bring its 200th anniversary show coming to American Airlines Center. [www.ringling.com](http://www.ringling.com)

**July 28-July 31**

Comedian **John Witherpoon** at Addison Improv, 4980 Beltline Road #250 in Dallas. Tickets are \$25. Call 972-404-8501.

**July 30**

**3rd Annual Scholarship Concert** will kick off at 6:30 p.m. This year's theme is Wow Gospel- Lincoln High School Style. The world-

renowned Maurine F. Bailey ALUMNI Concert Choir of Dallas Lincoln High School invite you to attend this free gospel concert full of contemporary and traditional songs. All current and former students, community organizations, musicians, and gospel music lovers are encouraged to come and be blessed. The concert will be held at New Friendship Missionary Baptist Church, 2419 Metropolitan Avenue, Dallas, Texas 75215-3535 Telephone: 214-421-7211 Donations accepted. Proceeds from the concert benefit the Audrey Louis Jones/Maurine F. Bailey Concert Choir Scholarship.

**The Black Academy of Arts and Letters**, corner of Canton and Akard streets in Dallas, will host a listening party for *Medicine*, featuring Ruben Studdard, Ann Nesby and Jasmine Guy at 6 p.m. at the Clarence Muse Theatre. Attendees must RSVP at TBAAL Box Office by 2 p.m. July 30.

**July 31**

North Dallas Community Baptist Church at 1718 Trinity Valley Drive, Ste 101 in Carrollton, TX 75006 (near Luna & I-635) will celebrate their **PASTOR & WIFE 11TH ANNIVERSARY** for Billy R. Robinson, Sr. Pastor at 11 a.m. The guest speaker is Rev. Charles S. Wattley, Pastor at St. Mark Missionary Baptist Church. Food served after church service, ALL ARE WELCOME!

**August 6**

**Maze** featuring **Frankie Beverly and Boys II Men** will play the Verizon Theatre. Doors open at 7 p.m., show begins at 8.

**August 20**

AnyEvent Event Planning Services is hosting **Event Planners Boot Camp** at UTA, 701 S. Nedderman Dr. Arlington, from 8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Info: Teri Robinson at 214-376-6530 or at

[teri@anyevent.org](mailto:teri@anyevent.org). Register online at [www.anyevent.org](http://www.anyevent.org).

**Aug. 1-Sept. 2:**

**"Citizens at Last: The Women's Suffrage Movement in Texas,"** at The Women's Museum, Dallas

**August 3 – September 6**

**"Seen and Unseen" Pastel Exhibit by Sue Parks** at the Garland Granville Arts Center Gallery is a retrospective collection of pastel and watercolor paintings created from 1990 to 2011, from Monday thru Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and during all performances.

**August 12-14**

**Suspicion! Lies! & Sweet Potato Pies** starring Jennifer Holliday is slated to play at the Naomi Bruton Theatre. Tickets are available through Ticketmaster. [www.tbaal.org](http://www.tbaal.org)

**August 13**

**5th Annual "Do the Write Thing" Writing Workshop** 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. at Tarrant County College – North-east Campus, 828 W. Harwood in Hurst, Texas. The cost is \$50.00; includes meals and workshop materials; On-site registration is \$75.00; \$25.00 for students

Collin County Black Chamber of Commerce is hosting **"Leadership Roles and Responsibilities"** Workshop. The guest speaker is LaShon D. Ross the Deputy City Manager, City of Plano, Texas from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Reel Thing Catfish Café, 600 E. Main Street, in Allen phone number is 972-396-5000 the cost is \$10. RSVP online at [CCBLACKCHAMBER.org](http://CCBLACKCHAMBER.org)

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# Black unemployment through local eyes

## Dallas-area residents feel exhausted, pessimistic about employment

By Tonya Whitaker  
NDG Staff Writer  
Emma West, Kathy Peterson and Jason Powell are all African American. And, they are all unemployed.  
While people of all

these (education and employment) should be his number one priority – and that's us."

In June, the Texas Workforce commission reported the Dallas-Plano-

West said the main reason why blacks cannot find jobs is because they don't have the connections within companies to get their feet in the door. She said while other races find

school to further his education, but he is debating his major.

"I don't want to get hired by another computer company that will turn around and decide to ship

"Outsourcing is the reason why these numbers are so high," he said. "The jobs have left America, but the workers are still here."

Coppell Kathy Peterson is in the same predicament as West. Peterson, who is in her late 50s, has been unemployed since December 2008. Before being laid off, Peterson worked in human resources and information technology. She has a bachelor's of business administration, but few opportunities have arisen.

Peterson said she has attended plenty of job fairs. When she first became unemployed, she took part in various networking groups, where she was able to meet with a resume guru and participant in interviewing classes.

"I was in a networking circle with 15 white women. They are all now employed," she said. "Some of them don't even have a college degree."

Peterson said her experience with job fairs have not been positive. For instance, she recently at-

tempted to individuals with bachelor's degrees or higher.

"Avon, Mary Kay and University of Phoenix were there. They (University of Phoenix and the other schools) were not there to highlight job opportunities; they were there to get you to go to their schools," she said. "Job fairs are a way for companies to get the word out about their business."

Peterson said she will continue to submit resumes, but she has decided to further her education.

"Companies are not hiring professionals with bachelor's degrees because they don't want to pay them what they are worth," she said. "It is especially crushing for the older African American. They would prefer to hire someone younger and pay them less."

Peterson, Powell and West agree that, in today's job market, it is all in who you know.

"You must know someone in the company to get



rates are affected by unemployment, it is astronomically high in the African American community. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, in June 2011, the unemployment rate for the general population was 9.1 percent. But, for African Americans the number skyrocketed to 16.2 percent. The number for African American males was 17.5 percent.

There is enough blame to go around. The Congressional Black Caucus has attempted to point fingers at President Barack Obama. U.S. Representative Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-Texas) recently questioned Obama's priorities during a CBC summit.

"Unemployment and education is a common thread among all of us. I have great respect for the president. I knew he was going to inherit a whole lot more problems. I understand all of that, but the people with the least of

Irving had one of the lowest unemployment rates in the state, at 7.9 percent. Jobs exist, but competition for jobs is fierce. During a job fair sponsored by Career Solutions, a nonprofit job-seeker organization based in Euless, at least 60 employers attended, but at least 600 individuals attended the fair.

While the state does not maintain unemployment rates by race or gender, signs show there are still numerous African Americans who are out of work in Dallas/Fort Worth area.

Take Emma West of Irving, a 50-plus-year-old former medical recruiter. West said she has attended job fair after job fair only to see little results.

"For me, I don't see big job fairs as a positive move," she said. "You are like a fish in a can of sardines. There are so many people at these job fairs that you cannot find your own space."

little shame in hiring individuals of their own race, African Americans who have the authority to hire other blacks sometimes shy from it because of fear of being labeled.

"Those who can extend a hand are not doing it," West said.

Garland resident Jason Powell, 30, has been unemployed since April, when he was laid off from his job with Spring Wireless. At this point, Powell said, his career is up in the air.

"For the first time in my life, I don't know what to do," the father of one said. "I have not started to look for a new job, but I really dread doing it."

Before being laid off in April from Spring Wireless, Powell said he worked for three years as a tech support contractor for the Frito Lay division of the Pepsi Corporation in Plano.

Powell has a computer certificate, and he is thinking about going back to

their services overseas."

While there is plenty blame to go around for the African American male un-



employment crisis, his reason has nothing to do with Presidents Barack Obama, George W. Bush or racism.

tended an Urban League of Greater Dallas job fair. She said the employers in attendance where nothing that

your resume to the top. Otherwise it goes into a black hole," Peterson said.



## Don't talk this season Jerry!

By Donald Willis  
NDG Special Contributor

Mark Cuban decided to keep his mouth shut as his Dallas Mavericks defeated the law firm of LeBron, Wade & Bosh to win the 2011 NBA Championship and taste the sweet revenge from 2006 when the Miami Heat defeated the Mavericks 4-2 in the series.

For years Cuban tried to get a championship by intim-

idating David Stern and his stable of referees with trash talking, tight muscle t-shirts and his infamous emails. His antics embarrassed the team and got him into Guinness Books of records with the most fines by an owner.

Head coach Rick Carlisle went to Mr. Cuban and requested he not speak during the playoffs and for some reason he zipped his lips. He finally realizes that it's a

player's league and owners stay in the board room and players go to work on the basketball court.

Texas Rangers owner Nolan Ryan knows a little something about talking the talk and walking the walk during his playing day as the "Ryan Express." For seventeen years he saw owners like Charlie Finley of the Oak-

See JERRY, Page 16

## NDG Gossip: Shaunie O'Neal talks "trash" and *Basketball Wives*

By Tonya Whitaker  
NDG Staff Writer

I know all you *Basketball Wives/Fiancés/Baby Mommas/Girlfriends* (that's my title of the show) freaks have heard that Shaunie O'Neal's spawn to her VH-1 reality show – *Basketball Wives LA* – will premiere Aug. 29. But, according to Young, Black and Fabulous, Shaq's ex is not too pleased with some of the women who will appear on the show. She didn't mince words during an interview with Ebony.

"The L.A. cast – there are some wives and fiancés, which I'm fine with. But there's a little bit of trash kind of sprinkled into that cast that I'm totally against. I was really very hands off with that cast."

Signed on for the show thus far are the cast includes Kimsha Artest, wife of Los Angeles Laker Ron Artest; Jackie Christie, wife of Doug Christie, former player for the Los Angeles Clippers; and Imani Showalter, ex-fiancée of Charlotte Bobcats' Stephen Jackson, and Gloria Govan, fiancée of Laker baller Matt Barnes. Also expected to make an appearance on the show is Gloria's sister, Laura. O'Neal spoke well of the other ladies – except for the Govan sisters.

Hmm, I wonder if the "trash" she conspicuously omitted were Laura and Gloria. Remember, it was Laura who was rumored to have messed around with Shaq while Shaunie was still married to the retired NBA star. And, she ain't necessarily a fan of Gloria either; they were always neck and neck on BBW.

**Shaq da hitman?**

Speaking of Shaunie's ex, TMZ reported July 15 that an ex-gang member is suing Shaq O'Neal for masterminding a plot to have him kidnapped by



Shaquille O'Neal

other gang members in 2008.

Robert Ross contends Shaq organized and funded a series of murders and attacks on people who "did him wrong," including a Crip who disrespected him in front of

Shaunie, ordering the murder of a woman he impregnated, and breaking the shooting arm of an NBA player's shooting arm.

I cannot imagine Shaq doing this at all. Shaq acting like Rae Carruth? I know the black male unemployment rate is high, but dang! We don't need to resort to scamming brothas with money by making up silly accusations. According to the report, Ross does not disclose if he followed through with these "hits" took place. Wow, that makes us believe anything he says.

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## 'Round About DFW

July 22

The gospel stage play *Ain't Nothin' Like The Family* featuring singers Tony Terry and Dave Hollister is slated for 8 p.m. at Friendship West Baptist Church, 2020 West Wheatland Road in Dallas. Call 903-283-5799 or 903-520-5977.

July 23

Second annual Dallas Reggae Festival to come to The Bandshell at Fairpark, 1200 S. 2nd Ave. in Dallas. Gates open at 3 p.m. Pressure, Richie Spice and Sanchez slated to perform.



General admission is \$35, students \$25, VIP \$70 and

kids 15 and younger admitted free. www.dallasreggaefestival.com

July 24

Sade with special guest **John Legend** at American Airlines Center, 2500 Victory Ave. in Dallas at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$52.50 to \$152.50. www.ticketmaster.com

July 27-August 7

The **Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey Circus** will bring its 200th anniversary show coming to American Airlines Center. www.ringling.com

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Executive Producers & National Promoter Blair Mitchell  
Written by Thomas Meloncon



## OBAMA, continued from Page 3

cans over Obama by a margin of 48 percent to 34 percent if the debt limit is not raised. Additionally, by a margin of 67-25, voters believe that the agreement to raise the debt ceiling should include tax hikes for the wealthy and corporations, not just spending cuts.

The public debate is being framed in the context of lowering the deficit, but that's a smokescreen. The real GOP goal is to shrink the size of the federal government, especially agencies with regulatory power.

Even with public opinion on his side, Obama is unlikely to force Republicans to take a stand. It is part of an increasingly disturbing pattern: President Obama makes major concessions to Republicans in hopes of reaching a bipartisan agreement, but in the end GOP leaders walk away from the table, with the administration gaining nothing in the process.

Mark my word: Republicans are not going to agree to even minor increases in taxes to accompany the draconian cuts in social spending that

Obama has put on the table. They know by now that they can always play a game of chicken with Obama and he invariably blinks.

More than likely, Obama will accept the scheme of Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell – the man who said his top priority is denying President Obama a second term – to empower the president to raise the debt ceiling without Republican support.

Under the so-called Plan B, which has been endorsed by Senate Majority Leader Harry M. Reid [D-NV], Congress would empower the president to raise the debt ceiling by \$2.5 trillion in three increments over the next year. Republicans in the House and Senate would seek to pass a resolution of disapproval, allowing them to blame Obama for raising the debt limit. Obama would veto resolution of disapproval, if it passes both chambers. Congress is unlikely to have the two-third votes needed to override the president's veto.

No-drama-Obama is

likely to go along with the scheme and defend it by saying America's economic health was at risk. But Republicans share that responsibility. Obama should reject the McConnell proposal and have a showdown with Republicans more interested in their political fortunes than the future of the country. They should not be given an easy way out.

If Obama walks into the political trap set by McConnell, he will give Republicans the cuts in domestic programs they wanted, no tax revenue will be added to the pot, and the GOP will be able to blame Obama in 2012 for raising the debt. That's not the change we've been waiting for.

*George E. Curry, former editor-in-chief of Emergence magazine and the NNPA News Service, is a keynote speaker, moderator, and media coach. He can be reached through his Web site, [www.georgecurry.com](http://www.georgecurry.com). You can also follow him at [www.twitter.com/currygeorge](http://www.twitter.com/currygeorge).*

## Consumer Financial Protection Bureau becomes official July 21

### Early efforts solicit public comment, address mortgage servicing and Predatory lending targeted to Military

By Charlene Crowell  
NDG Contributor

For everyday people who know what it means to be snookered financially, July 21 is a day worth noting. On this date, the federal Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) becomes the official consumer cop on the beat, fighting predatory lending in its multiple forms. The office will craft important steps and procedures that together will promote transparency on the front end of transactions and enforcement in the aftermath of alleged violations.

"Consumers deserve the peace of mind that financial companies – both banks and nonbanks – are following the rules," said Elizabeth Warren, Special Advisor to the Secretary of the Treasury. "The CFPB will be able to examine companies that have never

been subject to federal oversight to ensure that no one is gaining an unfair advantage by breaking the law. This will ultimately create fair competition, better product offerings and more transparent markets for consumers."

For the Center for Responsible Lending and other civil rights and consumer advocates, CFPB represents the best available opportunity to correct the current mismatch between the huge volume of consumer needs and borrower needs from a lack of transparency in many financial transactions as well as the lack of one-on-one contact – especially with mortgage servicers.

By the end of July, CFPB expects its staff to include more than 100 examiners operating in Washington and in satellite offices in Chicago, New

York and San Francisco. One of the early bureau efforts will be examinations of the nation's 111 depository institutions with total assets of over \$10 billion. These institutions represent more than 80 percent of the banking industry's assets. CFPB is also authorized to examine all sizes of non-bank mortgage companies, payday lenders and private education lenders; and monitor fair lending, fee structures and marketing practices.

Consumer issues with mortgage servicing were the topic of a July 7 House subcommittee hearing. Testifying in that forum was Raj Date, Associate Director for Research, Markets and Regulation at CFPB. He related the bureau's concerns with mortgage servicing and the lack

See PROTECTION, Page 16

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**UNCF,** continued from Page 5

Dallas Area Development Director Diane Stephenson. "Kroger's contributions have helped hundreds of promising young people get the education they need and that the nation needs them to have. Kroger's continued support has helped UNCF play a critical role in the future of our communities in Texas and around the country by preparing students to succeed in today's economy. We salute Kroger for

investing generously in UNCF and the future leaders of tomorrow."

"As college costs continue to rise, more students and their families are facing financial challenges. In an effort to help raise funds for talented and deserving students across the region, Kroger has once again selected UNCF to be the beneficiary of our coin canister donation program," said Kroger Consumer Affairs

Director Gary Huddleston. "Kroger takes pride in being a community partner and we are committed to building strong alliances with organizations such as UNCF that are dedicated to enriching the lives of others."

For more information about UNCF, or to support UNCF scholarships or other programs, please visit UNCF.org or call UNCF at 972-234-1007.

**PARTNERS,** continued from Page 1

gram has been successful in its five years and is steadily growing.

The partnership between the *North Dallas Gazette* and Bear Creek Baptist Church will expose these students to the world of print. We have taken the time to develop this starter

program to educate the students on every aspect of the production of a newsletter. The project includes article writing, editing, and interviewing; graphic design and layout; photography and other key components.

The enthusiasm of the

students has been overwhelming in our pilot program. We can boast a nearly 90 percent participation out of approximately 40 kids and our goal was just 8-10 students. The student's completed newsletter will be in our July 27, 2011 edition.

**PLAINTIFFS,** continued from Page 1

Republicans against the constituents I represent and against justice itself. This is not Republicans versus Democrats. It is Republicans harming minority voters and breaking the law in order to hold and expand their power. It is shameful that Republican leaders in Texas would rather attack and destroy the voting rights of minority citizens than work hard to earn the respect of African American and Hispanic voters."

Representative Veasey

serves on the House Redistricting Committee. Throughout the regular and special legislative sessions, Veasey has been an effective critic of Republican efforts to increase GOP clout by attacking the voting strength of Texas African American and Hispanic voters.

Prior to any resolution of the federal court action that will be brought tomorrow in the Federal Court in San Antonio, the State plan must first win pre-clearance

in Washington, DC. The Veasey Fair Texas plaintiffs also intend to actively and vigorously oppose preclearance of the congressional plan.

*State Representative Marc Veasey is serving his fourth term in the Texas House. He is a member of the Elections; Pensions, Investments and Financial Services; and Redistricting Committees. Residents of District 95 are encouraged to contact Rep. Veasey at (512) 463-0716.*

**PRYCE,** continued from Page 2

ing, innovative and obsessed with delivering value and innovation to our clients."

Realizing that the upscale city of Tempe where he and his wife Amy (Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of The PVIPE Group) reside needed to further its efforts toward giving back to the community, David organized charitable events to benefit hospices for those whose lives were ending and food banks for those who were among the hungry.

A member of the Tempe Chamber of Commerce, Pryce is praised throughout Arizona for his generosity,

time and effort spent in fundraising throughout the state. Among various charities that he is associated with are: the Mill Avenue District Community Arts Project (MADCAP), the Hospice of the Valley, the Arizona Music & Entertainment Hall of Fame, the Tempe Chamber of Commerce, the St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance and the Hispanic Community Liaison to name a few.

One of the PVIPE Group's companies, Phoenix VIP Events has most recently been contracted by The Wrigley Mansion of Phoenix, Arizona to produce and stage a

"Membership VIP Appreciation Event." The gala to be held in late May or early June will feature performances to include an International Artist who is yet to be announced.

Following in the footsteps of his father George C. Pryce, former Editor and Publisher of Modern Black Men (MBM) Magazine and legendary publicist at Death Row Records, David M. Pryce personifies the same work ethic as his father and is destined to go down in history as someone to make us proud.

For more details about the company, visit [www.thepvipegroup.com](http://www.thepvipegroup.com)

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**ROSS,** continued from Page 2

across the country to take the pledge of reading at least 5 minutes everyday. Give Me 5 hopes to not only prepare, but also motivate children to read by delivering free books and literacy resources to those children and families who need them most.

To register your school, church or organization for participation for this great program or for more information contact Denise China Mial at 317-500-0222. The REAL Tour will also span across several US Cities throughout the fall.

KHVN Radio is seeking a fulltime sales professional, preferably with Christian radio sales experience. Applicants should be knowledgeable in creating, managing and maintaining accounts as well as being a self-motivator with excellent communication skills. All interested parties should fax their resume to 214-331-1908 or you may mail your resume to the attention of KHVN office manager at 5787 South Hampton Road; Suite 285, Dallas, TX 75232.

**No phone calls please.**

*KHVN/Mortenson Broadcasting is an equal opportunity employer.*

**NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS OF PROPOSED  
TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (TxDOT) CON-  
TRACTS**

Sealed proposals for contracts listed below will be received by TxDOT until the date(s) shown below, and then publicly read.

**CONSTRUCTION/MAINTENANCE/BUILDING FACILITIES  
CONTRACT(S)**

Dist/Div: Dallas  
Contract 0047-07-220 for LANDSCAPE DEVELOPMENT in DALLAS County will be opened on August 09, 2011 at 1:00 pm at the State Office. Contract 0095-13-025 for CONSTR 2 NEW RAMPS CONNECT IH 20 WITH KLEBERG in DALLAS County will be opened on August 10, 2011 at 1:00 pm at the State Office.  
Contract 0430-01-054 for REPAIR AND NOVACHIP PAVEMENT in DALLAS County will be opened on August 09, 2011 at 1:00 pm at the State Office. Contract 0581-01-128 for ACP OVERLAY OF EXISTING HIGHWAY in DALLAS County will be opened on August 10, 2011 at 1:00 pm at the State Office.  
Contract 0918-00-169 for UPGRADE VIDEO DETECTION FOR HIGH SPEED APPROACHES in DALLAS County, etc will be opened on August 09, 2011 at 1:00 pm at the State Office. Contract 2374-03-057 for WIDEN BRIDGE TO TWO LANES in DALLAS County will be opened on August 10, 2011 at 1:00 pm at the State Office.  
Contract 2374-07-060 for REHAB HIGHWAY INCL PAVEMENT AND BRIDGE REPAIRS in DALLAS County will be opened on August 10, 2011 at 1:00 pm at the State Office.  
Contract 2374-07-065 for FULL DEPTH CONCRETE REPAIR OF FRONTAGE ROAD in DALLAS County will be opened on August 09, 2011 at 1:00 pm at the State Office.

Plans and specifications are available for inspection, along with bidding proposals, and applications for the TxDOT Prequalified Contractor's list, at the applicable State and/or Dist/Div Offices listed below. If applicable, bidders must submit prequalification information to TxDOT at least 10 days prior to the bid date to be eligible to bid on a project. Prequalification materials may be requested from the State Office listed below. Plans for the above contract(s) are available from TxDOT's website at [www.txdot.gov](http://www.txdot.gov) and from reproduction companies at the expense of the contractor.  
NPO: 37231

**State Office**

Constr./Maint. Division  
200 E. Riverside Dr.; Austin, Texas 78704; Phone: 512-416-2540

**Dist/Div Office(s)**

Dallas District; District Engineer  
4777 E. Hwy 80; Mesquite, Texas 75150-6643; Phone: 214-320-6100

Minimum wage rates are set out in bidding documents and the rates will be part of the contract. TxDOT ensures that bidders will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, sex, or national origin.

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requests bids for the DFW Airport - Parking Control System Infrastructure be submitted before 3:00 pm Monday, July 25, 2011.

Renovation & expansion of administration bldgs, and the construction of new parking plazas.

Bid documents are available for review at McCarthy's Private

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For a complete list contact McCarthy.

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**July 31**

Join us for our 5th Sunday Fellowship: Bible Classes at 9:45 a.m.; Morning Worship at 10:45 a.m.; a meal and activities afterwards.

**Brother Ramon Hodridge,  
Minister**  
1026 Avenue F  
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972-423-8833  
avefchurchofchrist.org

**BIBLE WAY  
COMMUNITY  
BAPTIST CHURCH**

**July 24**

You're invited to join us in Sunday School at 9:35 a.m. and stay for our 11 a.m. Morning Worship as we honor and praise God.

**July 27, 7 p.m.**  
Join us for our Midweek Bible Study as we learn more about God's Word.

**Dr. Timothy Wilbert, Sr.  
Senior Pastor**  
4215 N. Greenville Drive  
Irving, TX 75062  
972-257-3766  
www.bwcbc.com

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**Pastor Minnie  
Hawthorne-Ewing**  
635 W. Campbell Road  
Suite 210  
Richardson, TX 75080  
972-480-0200

**EIRENE CHRISTIAN  
FELLOWSHIP CHURCH**

**July 24**

You're invited to our Couples Ministry at 8 a.m.; our Morning Workshops at 8 a.m.; 8:45 a.m. and our 11 a.m. service.

**July 27, 7:30 p.m.**

Join us for Bible Study as we study the word of God; and give Him honor and praise.

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

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**9 a.m.-1 p.m.**

**Monday – Friday**

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

**July 27, 7 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.

**July 30, 8 a.m.**

We will bless the community with a Community Give Back lunch at the Samaritan Inn; visiting Victoria Gardens Nursing Home and have other special projects lined up. To volunteer contact Deacon Frank Gray, Jr. at 972-359-9956.

**July 31, 9:30 a.m.**

Join us for Super Sunday as we celebrate family, friends and we praise and worship God.

**August 5, 8:30 p.m.**

Join us for "Spiritual First Friday's Open Mic Night!" at First Baptist Church of Allen's Youth Building, 303 E. Main Street in Allen. There will be food, poets, singers, rappers and more. Open to all ages. For information email OpenMic@theship3c.org.

**Dr. W. L. Stafford, Sr.,  
Ed.D.**

**Senior Pastor**  
1550 Edelweiss Drive  
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Admin. Building Address  
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Allen, TX 75013  
972-359-9956  
www.theship3c.org

**MT. PISGAH  
MISSIONARY  
BAPTIST CHURCH  
"The Rock"**

**July 24, 7:45 a.m.**

You're invited to our early morning worship service as we praise and worship God.

**August 19 & 21, 5 p.m.**

Join us for our Back-to-School Drive as we distribute supplies to Herbert Marcus Elementary students. Also, our Women's Ministry Fabric of Faith Clothes Closet will collect new or gently used uniforms for students that are in need. Donations will be accepted through August 12th. Call the church for details or contact Kameka\_West@yahoo.com

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

**NEW LIFE IN JESUS  
CHRIST MINISTRIES**

**July 22, 7 p.m.**

Join us as we worship and praise God in our Friday Night Service.

**July 24**

You're invited to our Sunday School Service at 9:30 a.m. and our Sunday Morning Worship at 11 a.m.

**July 27, 7 p.m.**

Come to our Wednesday's Bible class as we study the word of God and praise Him for His goodness.

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

**NORTH DALLAS  
COMMUNITY  
BAPTIST CHURCH  
IN CARROLLTON**

**July 31, 11 a.m.**

Join us for our Pastor and Wife's 11th Anniversary as we praise God for them and honor them for 11 years of service to God, our church and our community.

**Rev. Billy R. Robinson  
Senior Pastor**  
1718 Trinity Valley Drive  
Suite 101  
(Near Luna Road & I-635)  
Carrollton, TX 75006

**NORTH DALLAS  
COMMUNITY  
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CHURCH**

**On Going Help**

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

**July 22, 7 p.m.**

You're invited to our Single Parent Support Group. Call Pastor Cooper at 972-437-3493, Ext. 104 for details or email him at rcooper@ndcbf.org

**July 23, 12 Noon**

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

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

**SHILOH MBC  
IN PLANO**

**July 27, 7 p.m.**  
Join us for our Midweek Service as we worship and praise God.

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

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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.

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

**THE WAY FELLOWSHIP  
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**August 11 & 12, 7 p.m.**

Young ladies, 12 through 18 years of age are invited to a FREE Full Bloom, "I Am" Girls Conference with a mega shopping spree give-a-way, music, steppers, inspirational testimonies, faith teaching and more.

**August 13, 1 a.m.  
and 4 p.m.**

Join us for the conclusion of Full Bloom, "I Am" Girls Conference with Evangelist Barbara Calloway and others. For details and registration, email fullbloom@barbaracalloway.org.  
3415 S. Polk Street  
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**July 24, 9 a.m.**

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**July 26, 8 p.m.**

You're invited to our Pastoral Care Night as Pastor Voss bring the Word of God; and we worship and praise God.

**July 21, 8 p.m.**

Join us in our Gift Stirring Night as Saints of God bring God's Word and reveal their God-giving talents.

**July 31 through August 2**

You're invited to our Prayer Conference 2011 with Mother Betty Walton, Evangelist Barbara Calloway, Mother Lillie Voss-Norris and Pastor Gregory Voss. Sunday School at 9:30 a.m., Morning Worship at 10:30 a.m. and a Miracle and Healing Service at 4 p.m.

**August 1 & 2**

Prayer Conference Morning Glory in the Sanctuary at 6 a.m. & Evening Worship at 7 p.m.

**August 2, 12 Noon**

Come to our Prayer Conference Day Service, as we worship and praise God.

**August 7, 4 p.m.**

You're invited to join us as we praise God and honor Sis. Reese Huland Wilson for her faithful service to God, the church, her family and friends and her community.

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*"That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him: The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of His calling, and what the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, And what is the exceeding greatness of His power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of His mighty power;" Ephesians 1:17-19.*

### Three Things to Understand

When Apostle Paul wrote a letter to the Ephesians, he urged the believers to experienced three important things in their spiritual lives that he had personally experienced. As a mentor to the

Ephesians he wanted them to follow his example. He didn't just tell them to do as he said; but to follow him as he follows Christ.

First, as a believer in Christ, God wants your heart enlightened in order to know the hope to which He has called you. God has called each of us to a purpose, a future and a hope. Many people do not nor can they realize the dreams that they envision for their lives. But because Apostle Paul experienced this, he prayed that every believer will experience the joy that the eyes of their heart are enlightened to know a purpose, a future and a hope.

Second, God's desire for every believer is to know that there is an inheritance for each believer in Jesus Christ. There are spiritual riches that are laid up for every saint. If a believer is faithful to God's calling in

his/her life, there is a reward for your faithfulness and trust in God. And, there will be God's peace for the believer.

The third important thing that Apostle Paul wants every believer to experience is the power that is available to every believer. Apostle Paul often exhorted believers not to look at his persuasive words, but the demonstration of the power of God in his life. He wants every believer to know that the same power that is available to him in Christ is available to them. Remember, Jesus said that believers would do even greater things than He did, because He would send the Holy Spirit to believers.

As a believer in Christ, you should pray that God reveals your purpose, your future and the hope that exists inside you; to be encouraged that there is an inheritance



Brother Eric Brinkley one of the Tech-Men at Word of Life C.O.G.I.C in Carrollton, Texas

awaiting you; and to know that you have God's

power residing in you and all that you have to do is exercise your faith to release it. God sees the big picture, and you need help to see yourself as God sees you. You need help in understanding your role

on earth. You should want to know how others see you. What you say and do in your life should glorify God. You should want to live the life that God planned for you.

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## PROTECTION, continued from Page 11

of opportunity for most consumers to even choose their mortgage servicer.

"Mortgage servicing rights can be, and quite frequently are, bought and sold among servicers irrespective of the borrowers' consent. . . I get to choose my pharmacist. I don't typically get to choose my mortgage servicer," said Date. "The current structure of servicing fees creates a strong incentive to under-invest in adequate technology, people, and processes to handle cyclical spikes in delinquencies."

At the same hearing, Mike Calhoun, President of the Center for Responsible Lending was even more direct. "For at least a decade community-based organizations, housing counselors and advocates across the country have documented a shoddy, abusive, and illegal practices by many mortgage servicers, who staffs are trained for collection activities rather than loss mitigation; whose infra-

structure cannot handle the present level of demand, and whose business records are a mess. The harm to which borrowers have been subjected cannot be overstated", Calhoun concluded.

In another recent CFPB development, an ongoing alliance with the nation's military is hoped to stem the illegal foreclosures and other predatory lending that the armed forces and their families confront.

In a joint statement, the military officials said, "Too often our Soldiers, Marines, Sailors, Airmen and Coast Guardsmen are targeted by predatory lenders and they become victims of unfair financial practices. This agreement recognizes the crucial role financial readiness plays in mission readiness and we look forward to partnering with the CFPB to vigorously protect service members and their families from unlawful acts or practices by providers of consumer financial products or serv-

ices."

With these and other activities begin implementation, the public is also being asked to provide input on a key element of the agency's non-bank oversight program. Consumers who may have wished there was an office to listen and act on their pleas for financial fairness, now is the time to speak up.

CFPB needs to know how lenders have mistreated customers or misrepresented their products. Right now is the public's chance to help shape the rules that affect a range of alternative financial services that operate in many urban neighborhoods.

For more information on how to comment, go to:

<http://www.consumerfinance.gov/notice-and-comment/defining-larger-participants-in-certain-consumer-financial-products-and-services-markets/>.

## JERRY, continued from Page 10

land A's, and George Steinbrenner of the New York Yankees let their egos ruin some dynamic teams. Now as owner/president he has brought the same intensity from the pitcher mound to a Rangers organization where Ron Washington directs the team to another division title. He's supportive but stays out of the limelight because the Rangers went on to the World Series in 2010 for the first time in franchise history before losing to the San Francisco Giants.

Mark Cuban and Nolan Ryan jumped on the bandwagon of the Los Angeles Lakers owner Dr. Jerry Buss and the Rooney family of the Pittsburgh Steelers where it's about the players and not the owners and their millions that win championships. As the NFL lockout ends maybe the Dallas Cowboys can get Jerry Jones to keep his ego on his private jet and stay quiet for the 2011-2012 seasons.

Maybe head coach Jason Garret can call Jerry in his office and ask him to layoff the interviews, YouTube chats, parties, and just sit back and write the checks. Even suggest that he remain in the

owner suite and don't come on the field after the game. Coaches and players are superstitious and do not like to be "jinx" by anyone. Staying quiet and low keyed seems to work for the Mavericks and Rangers organization and could help the Cowboys if

up.

You can listen to Donald "Spider" Willis on Sport Talk with Spider each Sunday from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. CST on fishbowlradionetwork.com. For suggestion and show topics call 469-335-668.

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