

North Dallas Gazette

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Plano Community Forum's 26th Annual Awards Banquet

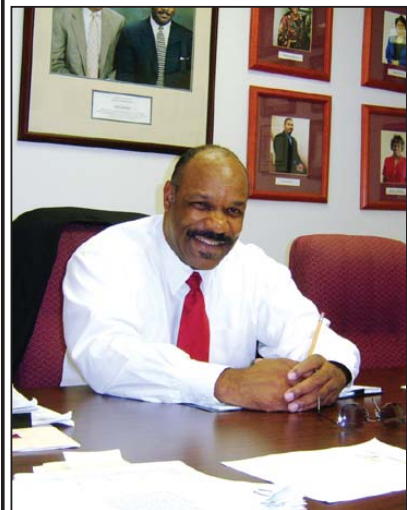


L-R: Herb Miller, PCF Vice Chair Public Relations; Educator Award recipient, Louise Davis; Business Award recipient, Ray Huffines; Civic Award recipient, Harry LaRosiere; Youth Award recipient, Latrice Anderson; Community Service Award recipients, Karen Johnson and Dollie Thomas; and Emcee Rochelle Brown of KDFW-TV Fox.

The Plano Community Forum is a non-profit 501 c (3) organization that provides scholarship opportunities for graduating minority students in Plano, promotes cultural enrichment within the community, and builds on leadership values. This year the 26th Annual Awards

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MON-The Gazette Changes To The North Dallas Gazette



Gazette Change Page 10

North American Union Driver's License Created

By: Jerome R. Corsi

The first "North American Union" driver's license, complete with a hologram of the North American continent on the reverse, has been created in the state of North

Carolina.

"The North Carolina driver's license is 'North American Union' ready," charges William Gheen, who serves as president of Americans for Legal Immigration.

"The hologram looks

exactly [like] the map of North America that is used as the background for the Security and Prosperity Partnership of North America logo on the SPP website," Gheen shared. "I object to the loss of sovereignty

that is proceeding under the agreements being made by these unelected government bureaucrats who think we should be North American instead of the United States of

Driver's License Page 14

Blackonomics

Here a Jena, There a Jena,

Everywhere a Jena Jena

By: James Clingman -
NNPA Columnist

In case you haven't noticed, Black people are under full attack in this country. The Jena Six case is just another in a long line of travesties heaped upon Black people by our so-called criminal justice system. All over this country there are cases of gross injustice against Black people, so much so that we could conduct a march every week if we chose to deal with them all. Maybe that's the point: I wonder how many of those who

went to Jena, Louisiana, have similar situations in their own cities. I also wonder if they have marched and protested in their own backyards about that injustice.

Let's put it right out there, brothers and sisters. Black folks are a mere afterthought in this country. The following is an excerpt from my book, *Black Empowerment with an Attitude - You got a problem with that?* Read it and think about our standing in the U.S.A.

Blackonomics Page 17



Ms. Miranda Easley

Person On The Street

What issue(s) is most significant or relevant to the D/FW African-American community?

I believe that Education is one of the most significant issues affecting the African-American community in the D/FW area. Although D/FW has

always been my home, I have lived in other cities both in the States and in Europe. While living in Atlanta and Houston, I noticed that there are "thriving" historically black colleges and universities in both of these cities. As a result, the African-American com-

munities seem to be active members of or have great influence over their respective local governments. With that, they are able to affect how their cities are planned and developed i.e., where and how funds are distributed.

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People In The News



Candace Watson



Jamal Frank Mathis



Lydia Sharon Garrett

See Page 12



**Pietro
Elina**

My name is Pietro; I am a student working for the North Dallas Gazette for the past two months, since I was sixteen. The press industry is the line of business I aim to make my professional career. It suits me since I love reading and writing daily. I want to finish school and explore the opportunities of journalism. There was a time in junior high when I believed it possible for my career to be that of a professional skateboarder. In the eighth grade, I had a skate shop sponsor who supplied me with free boards and wheels. Various companies flowed to me free product like hardware or clothing. I thought I was on my way to the big times. However, fate had different plans for me, at the beginning of the ninth grade the shop closed. I was upset

Working For The Gazette

and depressed, and not to mention, lacking a free skateboard supply. I skated less and less. It seemed I would never enjoy the life I sought. However, without skateboarding, I had more time to dedicate to my reading and writing. It was in reading essays by journalists, ranging from Hunter S. Thompson to Mumia Abu-Jamal, that I realized the practicality of the art form. I would look from my skate magazines, to the newspaper, to the art periodicals, then to my life, and I'd think, "I could do that." It was almost too plausible, too good to be true. I have always loved to read, and to write, and of course, account my daily adventures. Maybe, just maybe, there is something for me in this vocation. So I got to thinking, all hope may not yet be lost...

I came to the Gazette in early June and applied for employment, and

upon meeting the publisher, Thurman Jones, he decided to give me a chance. I began work as an intern, inputting data, making contact reports, tear sheets, or alphabetizing files among other major noteworthy accomplishments. Before long Mr. Jones and the assignment editor Ms. Delores Murray asked me to help with the community calendar, what you kids all know as the "Around the Town" section of the paper. I had no choice but to hit the ground running. I began researching immediately for the local haps for that particular week. I got into the groove quickly and found that I could be quite resourceful when necessary. Quite resourceful indeed, I came out ahead of schedule. About a week later, Mr. Jones and the editor Janeane Anderson ambushed me with new work, and not the eternally pleasant contact reports or alphabetiz-

ing either, oh no, this time they had it in for me. The "essential priorities", as I had come to think my previous work, was all over with now. Ms. Murray and the charismatic editor Ms. Anderson began forwarding press releases for stories that had to be written, to my email. I started working small, but the bigger articles came. In last week's edition, my first big article's headline made the front page (the Making Black Communities HIV/AIDS Smart Campaign). Ever encouraging Ms. Anderson's confidence in me began to strengthen. Mr. Jones was now realizing the young, up-and-coming Pietro's abilities. Suddenly I was barged with the enormous task of handling the Women's No Limit Expo, and promoting the paper at Viva Dallas. What a memorable experiment. At the expos, I learned new skill after new skill, I was exposed to

a completely foreign aspect of the newspaper business; I am really beginning to love my job. Now I am on the road to living my dream, earning bread and butter; how? Not by building houses, not by stocking groceries, but by writing!

I have already learned a great deal about this perilous industry from working at the Gazette. How fortunate could a guy be? I want to learn the ropes of journalism, and am allowed to work for the Gazette, and then, to top it all off, I am placed in a versatile position where I get to experience all sides of the spectrum. I understand how the stories develop from a press release, and grow into an article, which leads to an interview that ends up published in the paper. I continue

to gather behind the scenes knowledge and I am beginning to understand imperatives such as promotion and advertising. I have experienced the business aspect, as well as the editorial and journalistic facets of the game. Experience is exactly what I need in order to learn the ropes of this field. I thank the Man Jesus for this life changing opportunity I received working here at the Gazette. What I learn at the Gazette builds the foundation that I will be growing from for the rest of my long days and time crunching nights.

Editor's Note: Pietro Elina worked this summer at The North Dallas Gazette as an intern writer, he is a student at Rowlett High School and plans to pursue a career in journalism.

PFC Banquet Page 1

Banquet, "Education - The Key to a Healthy Community", will consist of dinner, award honors, and entertainment.

The Awards Banquet recognizes and awards the achievements of community leaders and citizens for their volunteerism and commitment to service in Plano. "We want our students to know that their possibilities are endless with [a continued] education. It's a night where we come together to celebrate family, education, and a healthy community." Proceeds from the banquet benefit the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Scholarship Fund, which awards scholarships to deserving graduating minority Plano ISD students.

"This is the organization's signature event", explains Plano Community Forum president, Brenda McDonald. "The community looks forward to the banquet each year because it's a shining example of the impact that we all share in the success of our future leaders." This year's banquet will be held on Saturday, October 13, 2007 beginning at 6:30pm at the Southfork Hotel, located at 1600 North Central Expressway. Tickets are \$60 per

person. For more information, please call 972-

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Is the sky clearest on the day it is most blue?

While you ponder that thought we would like to announce that Minority Opportunity News, Inc., formerly a Dallas based economic community website, founded in 1991, has relocated to Plano, Texas and changed our name to MON-The Gazette. In addition to moving our offices to Plano, our editorial coverage has also shifted to encompass Dallas' Northern Corridor. The Northern Corridor is clearly the fastest growing region in Texas, if not in America. MON-The Gazette believes that the engine to continue this growth is the support expression to McKinney, which is the largest and most visible of many area opportunities. As always, and true to tradition, MON-The Gazette will be there carrying a world of opportunity for those seeking to provide quality services. Should you desire to expand your quest for economic parity outside the southern region or just want to know what is going on up north. Think of MON-The Gazette as your paper of opportunity!

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

THE TRUTH CLINIC

Show Us The Money

By: James W. Breedlove

The All-American Presidential Forums that aired on PBS marked the first time that a panel exclusively comprised of journalists of color has been featured on prime-time television. The two political forums were hosted by nationally syndicated television host, Tavis Smiley.

The first Forum showcased eight Democratic candidates and was held on June 28, 2007 at Howard University in Washington, DC. Participants were: Sen. Joseph Biden, Sen. Hillary Clinton, Sen. Christopher Dodd, former Sen. John Edwards, former Sen. Mike Gravel, Rep. Dennis Kucinich, Sen. Barack Obama and Gov. Bill Richardson. Journalist Michel Martin of NPR, syndicated columnist Ruben Navarrette, Jr., and USA Today and Gannett News Service columnist DeWayne Wickham joined Tavis in questioning the candidates.

A forum for Republican candidates was held on September 27, 2007 at Morgan State University in Baltimore, MD. Candidates participating were: former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee, Texas Congressman Ron Paul, Kansas Senator Sam Brownback, Colorado Congressman Tom Tancredo, California Congressman Duncan Hunter, and former Ambassador Alan Keyes. Questions were posed by panelists Ray Suarez of The News Hour, Cynthia Tucker of The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, and NPR correspondent Juan Williams. Top Republican candidates conspicuous by their

absence were: Mayor Rudy Giuliani, Senator John McCain, Governor Mitt Romney, and Former Senator Fred Thompson.

The purpose of the forums was to hear the positions of the Democratic and Republican candidates on those issues paramount to Black America and what steps might be taken to address them. While the issues of Black America may be the same as the issues for all of America they do not necessarily have the same priority.

Last year following the STATE OF THE BLACK UNION symposiums in Houston the book *The Covenant With Black America* was published to delineate the most daunting concerns of Black Americans that included education, disparity in the criminal justice system, health-care, economic development, voting, employment disparity, affordable neighborhoods, immigration, rural community development, and environmental justice.

The Covenant made it obvious that Black America is well aware of the sad statistics associated with the debilitating effects on communities of poverty, high unemployment, disparate incarceration, academic achievement gaps, and disenfranchisement. There is a dire need for Blacks to be actively engaged in the public debate of ideas and to help forge the political will at the local, state, and national levels to make changes.

The All American Presidential Forums are part of that involvement process to interact with both Republicans and Democrats early in the

election cycle. For too long blacks have stayed on the sidelines and missed out on opportunities to communicate and reach out prior to political commitments being cast in concrete. The net result has usually been that the Black presence has only been recognized at the last minute when the candidates make their well publicized Sunday morning visits to black churches to soothe black pastors.

The difficult struggle for survival of many African Americans in this country is well-documented in this country. There are a disproportionate number of both black adults and children living in poverty. America's economic prosperity train seems to have no scheduled stops in the black community. These and other aspects of black society discussed in the Covenant are constant reminders that blacks have a long way to go before real victory can be declared in achieving the goal of parity.

Without a quantified and definitive strategy black leaders will continue to be vulnerable to the instant gratification of under funded politicized programs that do nothing more than maintain the status quo. Black leaders need to stop wasting energy on nebulous emotional issues that are nothing more than bait and switch diversions that detour the focus away from Covenant priorities.

Our future is in our hands and enlightened new black leaders must step forward to help ensure that future black leaders are prepared to continue implementing meaningful efforts lead-

ing to a better tomorrow. Otherwise, we doom ourselves to repeat the mistakes of the past and the civil rights struggle becomes nothing more than a historical footnote to be recalled during Black History Month. Black America needs to stand and be counted not only because it is the right thing to do but also to ensure that future black generations are empowered.

The All American Presidential Forums gave a candid glimpse of the candidates' opinions on the Covenant issues. As expected they were varied, thought provoking, and not always in line with current Black viewpoints. But the dialogue has started.

Each candidate had drafted proposals that promise better health-care, education, jobs, social security, tax equity, economic development, and other enticing reforms that could benefit the black community.

But the one question that none of the panelists raised and black leaders seem reluctant to ask was: Where is the money coming from to fund the gold plated initiatives being offered by the presidential candidates?

Specific answers to this question should be demanded before granting support and delivering the black vote. Black voters should never again be galvanized to embrace the same hot air promises every four years.

It is not necessary that we agree on all the issues, but we should agree on the importance of being involved in the process for prioritizing Black issues on America's political agenda.

Increased Efforts Needed to Quell Hutu-Tutsi Violence in Burundi

Intensified efforts are crucial to consolidate peace in Burundi and thwart a relapse into violence and chaos, the leader of a United Nations Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) fact-finding mission to the small Central African nation, which suffered decades of ethnic conflict pitting the Hutu majority against the Tutsi minority, said today.

Ambassador Johan L. Lovald, Permanent Representative of Norway, visited Burundi for the fourth time in less than a year from September 5-7 on behalf of the PBC, which was created to prevent countries emerging from civil war and other conflicts from sliding back into bloodshed.

He told reporters in New York that his latest mission had three objectives: to see first-hand the political and security situation, to identify how the PBC's work can aid both national and regional groups; and to meet with government officials and others on a

strategic framework devised by the Burundian government in May to mobilize financial and political support to overcome the internal challenges threatening the country's long-term recovery.

Lovald voiced concern that there is a "general sense of uncertainty" on issues including the deadlock in the country's Parliament, a troubling budgetary situation and the suspension of the work of the Joint Verification and Monitoring Mechanism of the 2006 ceasefire between the Government and the Palipehutu-FNL.

"However, I left Bujumbura with a sense that the government and national partners are determined to deal with the issues that are causing the current political crisis, with the support of the international community," the Ambassador said.

Established in 2005 by parallel General Assembly and Security Council resolutions, the PBC focuses on recon-

struction, institution building and the promotion of sustainable development in post-conflict countries.

The 31-member body, which operates in conjunction with several of the UN's principal organs – namely the GA, the Council and the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) – also recognizes the importance of individual countries spearheading efforts to consolidate peace within their own borders.

Burundi, which has been the victim of violent coups and political instability since gaining independence in 1962, was the first country to receive financial support from the Peacebuilding Fund, established from voluntary contributions to aid countries, which have recently emerged from war.

Launched last year, it is a multi-year standing trust fund that has an initial funding target of \$250 million and thus far has collected \$143.9 million from dozens of donor countries.

Niger's Religious Leaders Unite to Fight AIDS

By: Abdoulaye Massalatchi, Reuters

Muslim, Catholic and Protestant leaders in Niger have joined hands to try to teach the impoverished country's young people how to protect themselves against HIV/AIDS.

The religious leaders formed an alliance meant to lend weight to government efforts to combat the spread of the disease, including promoting the need for people to take AIDS tests and helping better integrate those already infected.

"Because of their impact on communities and households, and the way they are organized and present on the ground, religious organizations are ideally placed to influence people's values and behavior," Religious Affairs Minister Labo Issaka said.

Almost half the population of the former French colony is aged under 15, and its birth rate was the highest in the world in 2006. Landlocked on the

southern edge of the Sahara, it ranked bottom of the latest U.N. human development index.

Just over one percent of people aged between 15 and 49 are infected with HIV in Niger, according to U.N. statistics, one of the lower prevalence rates in sub-Saharan Africa. But with rapid population growth authorities have vowed not to be complacent.

They set up around 40 medical centers in Niamey where people could have voluntary, free tests in late June and early July but only 9,000 youths turned up, well below the anticipated 22,000.

Niger is 95 percent Muslim and, as in the rest of Muslim West Africa, Islamic preachers have huge influence over the daily lives of much of the population.

When the government of Senegal, another predominantly Muslim West African state, started trying to fight HIV/AIDS in the

late 1980s by sending doctors into villages to teach people about condoms, they were given a hostile reception.

Religious teachers initially thought promoting contraception risked creating a generation of promiscuous infidels. But they gradually agreed to preach abstinence and fidelity while not criticizing condom use.

In a marked contrast to Nigeria, where some Muslim clerics say AIDS is part of a Western conspiracy to wage war on Islam, the strategy paid off. Senegal had the second lowest prevalence rate in sub-Saharan Africa in 2003.

Less than half of children in Niger go to school and eight in 10 adults are illiterate, making fighting AIDS by conventional educational methods difficult.

"Our aim is to establish a screening culture for HIV/AIDS in this country," said Abdoulaye Bagnou, head of a government anti-AIDS body.

US Doctors for Africa Honors Power of One Man

US Doctors for Africa recently announced its honorees for the upcoming Gala 2007 benefit honoring extraordinary philanthropists who have made a difference in the world.

On October 17, 2007, a modest man named Paul Hunter will accept a Global Humanitarian award from US Doctors for Africa for his amazing work with the Zulu tribes in Africa. He shares the stage with well-known Hip-Hop mogul and entrepreneur Russell Simmons and two other businessmen. Former UN

Secretary General Kofi Anan and the Vice President of Ghana are expected to attend.

For more than a decade Hunter has worked side-by-side with the Zulu teaching them to make beautiful butterflies and dragonflies that are sold as gift items throughout the world. The upliftment project that he started in his garage more than a decade ago has become one of the heart that now provides sustainable employment for over 20 Zulu workers and supports more than

250 Zulu family members.

Born on the Isle of Wight, the 56-year-old Hunter has the boyish good looks that belie his age. He spent 13 years on the road as a keyboard musician with his own band and a recording contract and opened for such stellar acts as Annie Lennox and the Eurythmics, Percy Sledge, the Detroit Emeralds and the Tramps.

Now the humble Paul Hunter spends his time between his South African factory and the USA promoting the sale of the beautiful Bugz prod-

ucts so that he can continue to provide jobs for his team as he calls his Zulu workers. Self-effacing and given to blushing about his accomplishments, he initially did not want to accept any recognition for his incredible work but changed his mind after realizing how much it would benefit the guys.

This unusual man has given so much to so many including the clothing off of his back and the shoes off of his feet. The Zulu live as illegal squatters in squalid conditions without electricity or

running water in Hout Bay, South Africa. Paul's dream has been to uplift them and to build low-cost housing and an emergency clinic for them all while continuing to expand the sustainable employment project he calls Bugz. So much has been done over the past decade but he realizes every day how much more needs to be done. Every step of the way is a struggle as the project is self-funded and receives no government or private donations. It is supported by the sale of the Bugz products.

He has even sold off personal property in order to keep the project going and continue employing the men. His belief, "Job creation is a healing process. By teaching an individual a skill to make a product you empower him with more than just a product he can be proud of. You enable him to put food on the table for his family, give him hope, a desire to live and ultimately gain self-respect. In turn you help a community lower the crime rate and ideally heal the community as a whole."

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**TEXAS
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College Drop out Rate Escalates: Tips to College Success

In the 60's there were college dropout rates of one in five. In the 90's this increased to one in three. Now, according to the Department of Education figures for 2000 through 2006, thirty percent leave in the first year, and an astonishing fifty percent never graduate!

As students return to college life this coming year, the numbers of dropouts are predicted to continue to escalate. A rise in financial pressures, distracting interpersonal issues, a lack of life preparation and poor study skills create an environment of distraction that leads to students falling behind and failing.

Once a student feels overwhelmed, the likelihood of dropping out increases.

Life Coach Devlyn Steele, founder of ToolsToLife.com, gives tips to struggling students. "The best solution is to gain and keep control over your life and study habits. Study your material, turn in your assignments and prepare for your exams," Steele said.

But if it was that easy the college success rate would be on the rise. As Coach Steele points out, "College success is dependent on a combination of time manage-

ment, life skills, navigating social pressures and coping with anxiety."

Steele added, "Keep in mind that college performance affects your entire life. Statistics show that a college degree results in a substantial increase in lifetime earnings, compared with those who have only a high school education. Males with college degrees earn 60% more, while female college graduates earn 90% more. Regardless of finances, successful college achievements develop many personal life skills that help an individual throughout a lifetime."

Coach Steele offers these college tips to success:

1. Know your finances. The number one cause of college dropout is financial stresses. Budget your money, work if you need to, and be realistic. See a financial planner at school if you need help.

2. Schedule your life. Students are unrealistic with their time and fall behind in every area as a result. Make a schedule and live by it.

3. Own your study time and study place. College life is full of distractions. Find a place where you know you can focus. Stay loyal to a specific study time so you do not fall behind.

4. Know what is expected. Study the syllabus of each class and if you are unsure, ask.

5. Drop a class. If a class is just too much for you this semester, drop it. It is better to drop one class than fail an entire semester.

6. Manage your fun. Everyone should enjoy a social life, but not at the expense of college success. With no parents monitoring your behavior, it's up to you to choose between being at every party, and college success. The choice will be yours.

7. Limit alcohol and drugs. These days everyone is educated and knows the truth. So as a student you will both limit your alcohol and abstain from drugs. You don't need to be told what the results will be if you abuse either.

8. Take care of yourself. Sleep, nutrition, cleanliness and exercise will make all the difference to your success.

9. Get help. If you find yourself getting depressed or anxious, get help.

10. When in doubt, ask for help. Colleges are staffed with all kinds of resources to help you. If you are overwhelmed with any area of your life, take advantage of the staff and ask for help.

Obama, Davis Initiative to Fund Predominantly Black Institutions Passes Senate

75 Colleges will be eligible for \$15 million in annual grants

U.S. Senator Barack Obama (D-IL) and U.S. Representative Danny K. Davis (D-IL) praised the Senate's passage of the Conference Report of Higher Education Reconciliation (H.R. 2669), which provides \$15 million in annual funding for Predominantly Black Institutions (PBIs). In May, Obama joined with Davis to introduce the Senate version of the Predominantly Black Institutions Act (S.1513). This proposal establishes a program for approximately 75 urban and rural colleges and technical programs that serve a large number of African American students – many who are the first in their families to attend college.

"For decades, PBIs have given our students the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in today's economy, and their recognition is long overdue," Senator Obama said.

"I am particularly pleased that the Conference Report of Higher Education Reconciliation -- HR 2669, reserves significant new resources to

strengthen the capacity of PBIs," said Congressman Davis. "Working with Senator Obama we have been successful in recognizing these institutions for the first time in statute, creating grants for them to offer programs promoting science, technology, engineering, health education and teacher education. Given the number and caliber of PBIs in Chicago, I am confident that many of our local institutions, and most importantly many of our young men and women, will benefit from this new program."

More than a quarter of a million students would benefit from grants awarded as a result of the PBI designation. Grants can be used for a variety of purposes, from acquiring laboratory equipment to supporting teacher education to establishing community outreach programs for pre-college students.

This legislation would amend the Higher Education Act to provide resources to PBIs. These institutions are primarily urban and rural two-year colleges that serve at least 50 percent low-income or first-generation college students. This designation is projected to apply to 75 institutions in

17 states, benefiting approximately 265,000 students.

While Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) also serve African-American students, institutions with this designation were established prior to 1964 and are not required to serve students with financial hardship. The PBI grants will provide more opportunities for equal academic achievement to minority students.

In Illinois, examples of institutions that could benefit from this program include: City Colleges of Chicago – Kennedy-King College; Chicago State University; South Suburban College; City Colleges of Chicago – Harold Washington College; City Colleges of Chicago – Malcolm X College; City Colleges of Chicago – Olive-Harvey College; and East-West University.

The PBI bill is supported by the Thurgood Marshall Scholarship Fund, the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education (NAFEO), the United Negro College Fund, and the American Association of Community Colleges.

Obese Girls less Likely to Attend College, Research Shows

Obese girls are half as likely to attend college as non-obese girls, according to a new study from The University of Texas at Austin.

The study also shows obese girls are even less likely to enter college if they attend a high school where obesity is relatively uncommon. The findings appear in the July issue of the journal *Sociology of Education*.

The study tracked near-

ly 11,000 American adolescents, using data from the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health.

"Obesity has been identified as a serious public health issue, but these results indicate the harmful effects extend far beyond physical health," said Robert Crosnoe, author of the study and a sociologist at the university.

Crosnoe suggests a number of mental health

and behavioral issues seem to play a significant role in keeping obese girls from enrolling in college. The study found obese girls were more likely to consider committing suicide, use alcohol and marijuana and have negative self-images.

The disconnect between obesity and college enrollment was more pronounced among non-whites and among girls whose parents did not

graduate from college. Obese boys did not differ from their non-obese peers in college enrollment.

"That girls are far more vulnerable to the non-health risks of obesity reinforces the notion that body image is more important to girls' self-concept and that social norms have greater effects on the education of girls than boys," Crosnoe noted.

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“Working Together - We Can Help Save A Life” The Potter’s House And American Red Cross

Bishop T.D. Jakes and Serita Jakes Present, “For Ladies Only” A National Blood Drive hosted by the American Red Cross

Dallas – Statistics show that someone needs blood every two seconds in this country, and so the need for blood donations is ongoing. To serve patients in need of blood, from October 18 to October 20, the American Red Cross Blood Services, Southwest Region – Texas will partner with the community’s most influential leaders for help. At the national conference “For Ladies Only”, the Red Cross will host with globally-renowned leader and pastor of the 30,000-member Potter’s House church, Bishop T. D. Jakes and his wife Serita Jakes, a national blood drive. This is the second national blood drive presented by The Potter’s House and the Red Cross. The first national event was held during the “For Men’s Only” conference in May. More than 100 units of blood were collected and Red Cross officials expect to double that amount next month.

“We are encouraged by this crucial partnership which is helping our community,” says Bishop Jakes. “Minorities are at greater risk than any other group of people for cancer, heart disease, sickle

cell and birth complications – all of which may require blood transfusions. We must continue to work diligently, to step up and help our people overcome blood born ailments by giving life.”

The conference, “For Ladies Only,” will take place at the Gaylord Texan from October 18 to October 20. Bishop Jakes and Serita Jakes along with other Potter’s House officials will encourage the ladies in attendance to either make an appointment or give blood on-site at donation centers located on the Gaylord Texan campus.

“We are excited about the ladies conference and our partnership with The Potter’s House,” said John Anukem, Director of Donor Recruitment of the American Red Cross Blood Services, Southwest Region – Texas. “It’s a great honor to work with local churches and organizations that are making a positive difference in our community. Together, we can save a life.”

“We look forward to working with the Red Cross at the For Ladies Only conference. Together, we can educate the community and empower women to become donors, reflect God’s redemptive work and provide a gift of life

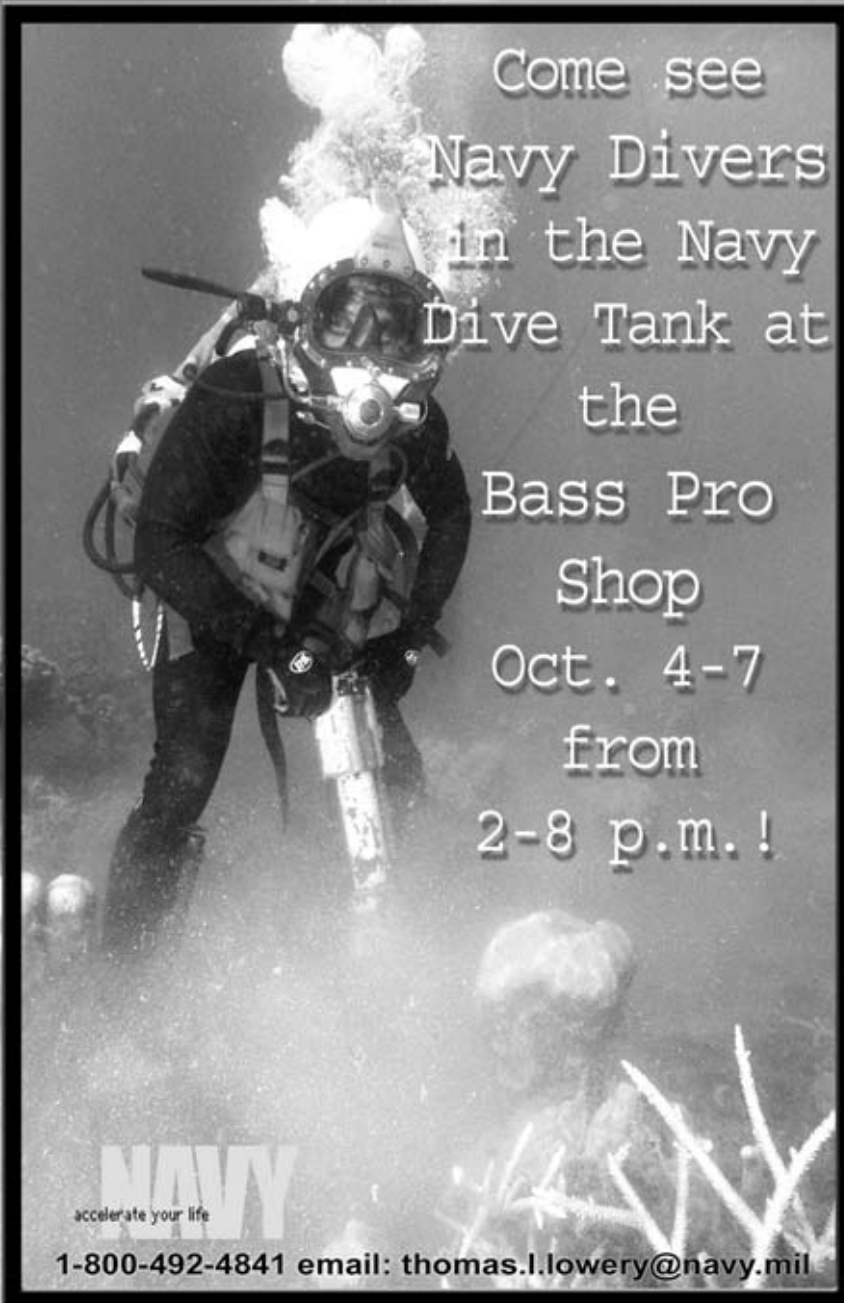
themselves,” stated Serita Jakes.

Donors must be in general good health, weigh at least 110 pounds and be at least 17 years of age or older. Volunteer blood

donors must also show identification at registration – a valid driver’s license with photo, a Red Cross donor card or another form of official picture identification. You

don’t need a Social Security number or Social Security card. To make an appointment during “For Ladies Only,” attendees are encouraged to call

1.800.GIVE LIFE (1.800.448.3543) or become an e-Donor by logging on to www.GiveLife.org and enter the sponsor code “forladiesonly”.



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N2NE [In Tune] Youth Mentoring and Intervention/Prevention Program

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N2NE is a non-profit youth mentoring and intervention/prevention program that was established to instruct, mentor, encourage, and gain insight from our future generation. Rich Etta Weathersbee, founder/CEO would like to introduce Penny Francis as V.P. & Dir. of Community Development. Penny received an A.S. in Computer Science, and a B.S. in Business Admin., from Sacred Heart Univ. in Fairfield, CT., and a M.B.A. in Business Mgmt from the Univ. of Phoenix. She is also an active member at Fellowship Baptist Church of Allen under the leadership of Pastor W. L. Stafford, Sr.

The mentoring program is currently being held on Monday’s and Wednesday’s, from 6:30 – 7:45 pm, in the clubhouse, at **Indigo On Forest Apartments**, 9669 Forest Lane, Dallas TX 75243. For more information, please call: 469-223-5618 or 214-793-7178.

Leading Congress Members To Host Dallas Forum

(Dallas) Several leading House of Representatives members including House Majority Whip, the chairs of the House Judiciary, Homeland Security Committees; and Congressional Black Caucus will be among the members of Congress in attendance at the Congressional Black Caucus' Political Education and Leadership Institute's Southern Region Outreach Forum. The event is slated for Saturday, October 13 at the Yvonne Ewell Townview Center in Oak Cliff beginning at 9:00 a.m.

House Majority Whip, Congressman James

Clyburn; Judiciary Committee Chair, John Conyers; Homeland Security Chair, Bennie Thompson; and Congressional Black Caucus Chair, Congresswoman Carolyn Kilpatrick will be present with eight other members of Congress as the organization holds a Community Forum with two panel discussions centered on education. The forum and panels will address "Closing the Disparities Gap" and "Teacher Preparedness" featuring leading authorities on both subjects.

"We wanted to bring members of the Congressional Black Caucus to meet and hear

what the community has been doing in these two important areas," said Dallas Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson who, along with Houston Congressman Al Green are serving as Honorary Event Chairs.

The morning panel on "Closing the Disparities Gap" will highlight new and innovative ways that have been used in the areas of math, science, and technology. Members of congress attending will also participate in the panel discussion. Tom Luce, noted Dallas attorney; former assistant Secretary for the US Department of Education; and founder of the National Math and

Science Initiative will be a featured panel member.

The second panel will focus on Teacher Preparedness and what is needed to address the shortage of math and science teachers. A Community Town

Hall meeting is also scheduled for 2:00 p.m. at the same location.

Congressional Black Caucus Chair Carolyn Kilpatrick, Congress members Shelia Jackson Lee, Melvin Watt, Gregory Meeks,

Bobby Rush, Diane Watson, and Barbara Lee will join Johnson and Green at the day long event.

The general public is invited and encouraged to attend. For additional information, call (214) 744-1428.

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Expo

The Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Expo targeting the more than 15,000 reported grandparents in Dallas County that are responsible for raising their grandchildren will be held Saturday, October 6, 2007 from 9:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. at James Madison High School, 3000 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Dallas, Texas 75215

Grandparents are

encouraged to attend this FREE Expo, which will provide vital information to help become more knowledgeable of their legal options and how to receive legal aid. Information will also be available on becoming eligible for state and federal benefits, (financial, food and medical), and public assistance specifically for grandparents raising grandchildren. Grandparents may also

be qualified to receive a one-time caregiver grant of \$1,000.00.

There will be free health screenings, team-building activities on becoming one family and lunch will be provided.

The event is sponsored by the Women Of Excellence of Concord Church. For more information please contact Sonja Brown at 214.331.8522.

Local Businessmen Raise Funds for Art Magnet School

(Richardson) - Doug Tucker and Wayne Cummins are using what they do best to raise money to further art education in North Texas.

"We are art focused in our lifestyle, and we want to take this opportunity to help children who can't afford an art education," said Tucker, co-owner of Parlour Café and Wine Bar, 3610 Shire Blvd. Ste. 112, Richardson, TX.

The restaurant will

raise scholarship money for Booker T. Washington High School for The Performing and Visual Arts. The restaurant will offer patrons an evening of dinner, wine and live jazz on Saturday, October 6, 2007.

Restaurant owners have chosen a special three course meal and cocktails to go with the live jazz.

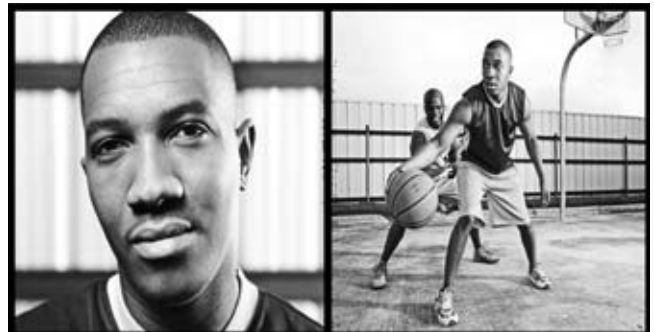
Lady Liz Spraggins, an Atlanta, Georgia legend, will play two sets at 6:30 p.m. and 9:00 p.m.

Saturday.

For over 30 years, she has been amazing and captivating audiences all over the world, including Russia, Japan, China, Atlanta, Georgia, and Birmingham, Alabama where she was born and now resides. Lady Spraggins' music range from soul, to Billie Holiday blues and jazz, to the sounds of the Beatles.

"We are so grateful, glad and excited that

Local Businessmen Page 19



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Community Calendar

Ongoing

African American Republican Club of Collin County: Collin County's newest Republican Club meets on the 4th Tuesday of every month at Collin County Republican Party Headquarters beginning at 7 p.m. The purpose of this club is for men and women to discuss issues important to African American Republicans. For more info, please call Fred Moses at 972 618 7027 or email him at fred@tes.com.

DFW Financially Empowered Women is a group for women interested in taking charge of their financial security. We meet monthly for lunch or dinner and a fun, informative seminar on various financial topics. For more information call 972 542 1530 or visit www.meetup.com/378

Reggae Saturdays Every Saturday at the Daiquiri Dump, located at 2612 Commerce St. Dallas, Texas 75226, is Reggae Night. The fun starts at 9pm. Admission is free before 11, with RSVP. You can RSVP at www.minglemonday.com. For more info call 214-629-0077.

October 4

Fall Job Fair sponsored by the North Central Texas Workforce will assist Collin County Employers in recruiting workers. The upcoming fair will be located at the Summit Ballrooms, on 2553 Summit Ave. in Plano

Texas. Call 469-229-0099 ext. 224 for more information.

October 4

Quinta Terra Evening in Africa Gala Event includes dinner, entertainment, silent and live auction, and an African theme. Please remember your formal attire. This event benefits Quinta Terra, a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization that helps orphans, children with disabilities, and other underprivileged children in developing countries. Please RSVP by no later than Sept. 27. This gala event is located at the Northwood Club, 6524 Alpha Road in Dallas, TX 75240, beginning at 6:30pm. Admission is \$100.00 per person. For more information email info@quintaterra.org, or call 972-231-9331.

October 4

2007 Chick Flicks Film Festival Annual film festival celebrating women filmmakers from Texas and the world at large. This festival is located at the Angelika Film Center-Dallas, Mockingbird Station, 5321 E. Mockingbird Lane. This event is hosted by the Angelika Film Center-Dallas, Entertainment Partners, 100.3 JackFM, and Spike Global Grill. The event lasts from 7-8:30pm. Admission is \$8 for WIF members and \$10 for non-members. For more information call 214-954-4488, or email wifdallaschickflicks@yahoo.com.

October 5

Domestic Violence Awareness Month Open House at The Family Place. RSVP to 214-367-7707. This event is located at The Family Place,

and is free.

October 5

FREE Lebanese Food Festival includes Lebanese food and live entertainment, children's games, raffle, and family fun for all! The festival is located at 719 University Dr. in Lewisville at Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Catholic Church. The fun lasts from 11 am - 10:30 pm. Admission is FREE. For more information, please call 972-436-7616, or email LOLFFoodFestival@aol.com.

October 5

Friday African Village Night at the Sandaga Market, 1325 Levee St. beginning at 8:00 p.m. Admission is FREE. Please call 214-298-5858 for more information.

October 5

World Premiere: 5th Avenue Jazz Collective An evening of original jazz compositions by Fort Worth's native artists including Leonard Belota, Pat Brown, Damon Callahan, Joey Carter, Eddie Dunlap, Kip Green, and Dave Williams. The performance is located at Arts Fifth Avenue 1628 5th Avenue in Fort Worth, TX 76104. The music starts at 7:30 p.m. Admission is \$10. Call 817-923-9500 for more information, or email artsfifthavenue@aol.com

October 5 - 6

Dallas Tenors performing from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Clarence Muse Café Theatre, located at the Black Academy of Arts and Letters, on the corner of Canton and Akard Streets in downtown Dallas. Admission is \$15.

October 6

Nigerian Independence Thanksgiving Service This is a discussion group for Nigerians residing in Dallas Fort worth metro area, Texas USA. Organization of Nigerian Nationals (ONN) is the umbrella organization for all Nigerians in Dallas - Fort Worth Metro Area. This Forum will discuss issues concerning ONN members, regarding Nigeria and the interests of Nigerians in DFW metro and Africa. This discussion will be located at Quality Park Central, 7815 LBJ Freeway at Coit Rd. The ONN and the Pentecostal Canaan land Mission will meet from 8 - 9:30 pm. For more information email felixoti@yahoo.com.

October 10

A Conversation with Doctors Without Borders Texas Public Radio's David Martin Davies takes the stage with Executive Director Nicolas de Torrenté and fellow aid workers to discuss their work in conflict zones around the world, including the Congo. Reception begins at 5:30 p.m. and the presentation starts at 6:30 p.m. at the Angelika Film Center at Mockingbird Station.

October 11

Literary Voices Series Voices of Poetry # 1 starting at 7:30 p.m. at the Clarence Muse Café Theatre. Admission is \$10.

October 12 - 13

Comedy Night at the Muse featuring Marlon Mitchell starts at 9:00 p.m. at the Clarence Muse Café Theatre. Admission is \$15.

October 13

Education - The key to a Healthy Community and the Plano Community Forum 26th Annual Awards Banquet will be hosted at the Southfork Hotel, 1600 North Central Expressway Plano 75074. For more information, call 972-422-0012.

October 19

Kirk Whalum and Chuck Anderson live jazz performance at the Eisemann Center in Richardson HAS BEEN CANCELLED.

October 20

"I Never Lost My Praise" concert tribute celebrating Tramaine Hawkins' four decades in Gospel Music. The show begins at 7:00 p.m. at the Naomi Bruton Main Stage. Admission is \$20 Orchestra seats; and \$15 Mezzanine seats.

October 20

Seventh Annual Binational Health Week The DFW Planning Committee for the annual health fair invite you to participate in this year's gathering. The Binational Health Week is a collaborative effort with the active participation of the Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Ministry of Health. The fair will include screenings and educational material suiting the target population of Mexican immigrants and migrants. The event will be held at Mountain View College, 4849 W. Illinois Avenue, Dallas, Texas 75211 from 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM. For more information, call Dr. Lori Millner at 214 648 8338, or email at lori.millner@utsouthwestern.edu; or contact Ms. Graciela Salinas at

214 947 8060 or email gracielasalinas@mhd.com

October 27

"Many Voices, One Vision: A Dance of Praise" is a presentation located at the Naomi Bruton Main Stage of The Black Academy of Arts and Letters at the corner of Canton and Akard Streets in Downtown Dallas. The show starts at 7:00 p.m. so do not be late. Admission to the event is \$15 in advance, and \$20 at the door. Call TBAAL's Box Office at 214-743-2400 for more information.

October 27

Poets N' Jazz #1 A night with actress and writer Irma P. Hall at the Clarence Muse Café Theatre, which is located at The Black Academy of the Arts and Letters. The event begins at 8:00 p.m.

November 13-14

Scholarships Available for Grant Writing Workshop in Dallas. Partial scholarships in the amount of \$74.00 are available for nonprofit and faith based organizations, government agencies, and schools. Students are to attend a two day grant writing workshop presented by Zocklein and Associates from 8:30 am to 5 pm. The presentation is being held at the Holiday Inn Select, 10650 North Central Expressway, Dallas Texas. To register call Zocklein and Associates at 800 371 5703 or visit the website at www.zockgrant.com.

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Since MON-The Gazette moved to Plano from the southern sector of Dallas in October 2000, the world has changed, America has changed, and North Dallas has changed. And we believe it is time for us to change. With this issue, we are changing our name to The North Dallas Gazette, to better reflect our territorial coverage and the people we serve.

Our vision when we relocated was to serve the interests and needs of the growing minority community in the northern sector of Dallas. We have accomplished this with thanks to a dedicated editorial and business staff, and with the support of our

readers and sponsors.

And although we knew our move would bring change and challenges, nothing could have prepared us for the changes that have occurred locally, nationally and around the world during that time, and the challenges they have brought.

It was with you in mind, the citizens we serve in the north Dallas sector, that we faced those challenges head on - through hard news reporting, features, spiritual insights and editorials. We did it by building business and personal relationships in our new area, whilst maintaining some of the ties we had when we were based in

the southern Dallas corridor, knowing that what happens in the minority communities around Dallas affects the minority communities of North Dallas.

But we recognize that North Dallas is one part of a big picture, and is affected not only by what happens in other areas of Dallas, but by what happens state-wide, nationally and internationally. And we've been there for you every week for over six years.

MON-The Gazette - now The North Dallas Gazette, has been with you through two controversial general elections, local governmental elections and even the Texas redistricting debacle of 2003.

Together, we saw the Twin Towers being destroyed, and we have served you through the ensuing economic and emotional trauma. We've seen our sons and daughters go to war, and have provided hard news reporting, editorials and spiritual columns to keep you informed and encouraged.

In December 2002, we welcomed DART Rail to Plano with you; yet only two months later we were mourning the loss of the space shuttle Columbia when it exploded over Texas.

We sat in traffic with you as we waited for, and saw in 2005, the completion of the High Five Interchange. We've driven down the ever-

expanding President George Bush, joining the eastern part of our territory to the west.

When the Rev. Zan Holmes retired, we were with you. When our area churches held their anniversary services, we were with you. When two of our board members died (Mr. John Hightower and Mr. Ben Thomas), we mourned with you.

And when Hollywood agent, Benny Medina, and actor Blair Underwood attended the grand opening of Kicks Coffee Café in Plano, we were there with you.

The world we knew when we moved to Plano has changed. The City of Plano has changed. But our dedi-

cation to providing our readers with a quality publication that addresses your needs, interests and desires stays steadfast.

Our name has changed, but our resolve to serve the minority community of the north Dallas region remains constant. We are proud to have served you through many changes. And we thank you for inviting us into your homes and hearts every week with our publication.

We look forward to the years ahead, as we continue to address issues important to the minority community, and to build positive business and personal relationships in the North Dallas region.

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Candace Watson

Candace Watson, founder of Hype and Humble, an organization offering resources and referral services for women in crises. Many of the organizations' clients were victims of domestic violence. Ms. Watson's life was touched by domestic violence when her best friend was killed. Compelled by the senseless death of her best friend and her own terrible experiences with domestic violence, Ms. Watson began writing her novel and soon-to-be-best-seller, *Ice*. She is also the

author of *Something To Help You On Your Journey*, a self-help workbook.

Ms. Watson has been



featured in *Essence* magazine, *Watts Times*, *Monte The Gazette* news, *Rolling Out* magazine, *Black Voice* newspaper, *Percent Reporter* and the *Long Beach Times*, where her weekly motivational

column finds her encouraging readers with gentle words of wisdom.

Ms. Watson travels, speaking in auditoriums, shelters, and wherever the Spirit moves her. She has appeared on stations such as KJLH, HEAVEN 97, KTYN, 90.3, and 100.3 to share her story of domestic violence.

Meet Candace Watson, Author/Motivational Speaker, October 13, 2007, Valley View Mall @ Body Harmony Store from 2pm- 6pm.

Retreat Encourages Couples to Love Marriage

By: Shewanda Riley

With Dallas County once again having one of the highest divorce rates in the country, a coalition of DFW area groups is sponsoring a unique retreat poised to give area couples practical tools to reverse the troubling trend. "Married and Loving It," the Life Matters Couples Conference, is designed to show married and engaged couples how to build strong marriages.

Along with the African American Healthy Marriage Initiative, Friendship West Baptist Church, 2020 W. Wheatland Rd., is hosting the one day program Saturday, October 13th from 4:00 pm - 9:00 pm. In addition to enjoying dinner and dancing, attendees will receive workshop materials and a special keepsake journal. Special guest speakers are Drs. Clarence and Brenda Shuler of Building Lasting Relationships, nationally recognized marriage and relationship training

experts.

The Shulers have conducted marriage seminars for over 21 years and are co-founders of the African American Healthy Marriage Initiative (AAHMI). Clarence Shuler says their workshops are fun and interactive so couples



can feel like they can share in a safe environment. Shuler says, "We provide practical tools to help couples understand why they are struggling in marriage."

Shuler adds that even singles will benefit if they choose to attend. Conducting workshops nationwide, Shuler notices that because of pressure from the church, in particular, singles sometimes make poor relationship choices. "We rush into mar-

riage because we get goose bumps when we are around that person," Shuler says. He adds that it is often a lack of preparation that causes many relationships to fail.

In addition to lack of preparation, Shuler laments that the increasing rate of divorce within the faith-based community might be attributed to the theology of "me - ism." According to Shuler, some pastors promote this self-centered ideology that places too much emphasis on the idea of happiness and not holiness. "If they don't say it, they live it and imply that God wants me happy. My spouse needs to make me happy. If they don't make me happy, I'll go out and find someone else."

Helen Wilson, local AAHMI coordinator, says the goal of the seminar is to build strong marriages. "We are seeking to enrich marriages and increase relationship

Marriage Retreat Page 20

Lydia Sharon Garrett

Lydia Sharon Garrett is a gifted actor, comedian, interpretive dancer and motivational speaker. The Columbia native is a gifted actor, comedian, interpretive dancer and motivational speaker.

Garrett was born in Columbia, South Carolina. A graduate of Johnson C. Smith University in



Charlotte, North Carolina, earning a B.A. degree in Mass Communications, has allowed her opportunities to specialize in both television and public relations.

Her television credits include "A Different World,"

"Days of Our Lives," "The Steve Harvey Show," "All My Children," and "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno." She has opened for such acts and events as Gospel Rap, Mike E, the Williams Brothers, the Clark

Sisters, and hosted "The Gospel Day on CityWalk" at Universal Studios in Hollywood, California. Her trademark is making audiences

laugh in Los Angeles comedy clubs such as the Comedy Underground, the Comedy Store, the Ice House and is currently playing at the Famed Ha' Ha' Comedy Club in North Hollywood Ca. Her stand up comedy and motivational

speaking, takes her to various high schools, colleges and churches, corporate and charitable events; bringing both laughter and inspiration to the young and the old.

A talented dancer, Garrett's specialization is Christian Interpretation. In 1984, she was crowned the seventeenth Miss Black America. She is also a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. Other credits include Miss Fashion Columbia, South Carolina, Miss Black Columbia, South Carolina, and Miss Homecoming, C.A. Johnson High School. She was also named to Who's Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities.

Jamal Frank Mathis

Jamal Frank Mathis, an active Pianist/Composer/Producer grew up in Dallas. His interest in



music began at the early age of ten. While taking piano lessons, Mathis performed in eight annual piano recitals and was awarded for completing the John W. Schaum Piano Course from Jan Thompson Music Studio. He has been given numerous awards for his

achievements and dedication to City Temple S.D.A. Church where he serves as the accompanist for the Young Praise Choir. By age sixteen, his skills and repertoire increased when he discovered the art of composing music. During his discovery, Mathis composed samples of tunes and melodies on his own. His first composition was "Memories" (the last tune on his debut CD: Music In The Mix).

His love for performing and composing led him to study jazz and music com-

position at Cedar Valley College where he earned a Certificate of Completion for Performing Musician in Commercial Music. He later transferred to Andrews University and earned a Bachelor of Music degree in Piano Performance. Mathis plans to work with various musicians and help new and up coming artists entering the music industry. He is a member of the American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers. Mathis credits and give all the glory to his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

To purchase Jamal Mathis CD go to: www.jamalmathis.com visit www.myspace.com/jamalmathis to listen to a few full samples.

Ethiopia: Love.Beauty.Joy



The Dallas Photographer is putting a new face on Ethiopia with bold colors and smiling faces. "There is more to Africa than war, famine and bulging bellies, I want to show the love that people hold in their hearts," said Karise Allen.

The Photographer will exhibit her series of photographs at the gallery and proceeds from

the show will go directly to address the needs of the advancement of the Jelduh community in Ethiopia for their irrigation system and farming, the students at biftu academy, and teacher training.

Her work, of 72 color photographs will be released in a self published book October 6, and will be for sale on line at www.kariseallenphoto.com

and at Stephanie Ward Gallery 920 18th St. Plano, Tx 75074.

Who: Karise Allen Photography

The event will be held on Saturday, October 6 from 4-6pm at 920 18th St. Plano Tx, 75074

For More information about this topic, or an interview with Karise Allen, please call 267.975.2511 or email info@kariseallenphotography.com

October Events at the TBAAL

The Black Academy of Arts and Letters (TBAAL) has launched their 31st season of providing quality entertainment featuring nationally and internationally acclaimed artists throughout the years. This year the line-up events includes everything from comedy to spoken word, dance, film, literary discussion, music, and one of the mainstays of the TBAAL, live theater. October will include musical perform-

ances by the Dallas Tenors, the comedic talents of Chicago performer Marlon Mitchell and award winning gospel music artists.

The Dallas Tenors will perform Friday and Saturday October 5 & 6 at 8:00 PM in the intimate setting of the Clarence Muse Café Theatre. The duo feature Brian Wilson, "the phenomenal voice that led the Mississippi Children's Choir hit single His Eye's on the

Sparrow," and Richard Odom. Mr. Odom has served as a vocal coach for gospel music legend Donald Lawrence and the Tri-City Singers.

TBAAL is offering the opportunity to purchase one ticket for Dallas Tenors and receive one FREE ticket to Comedy Night at the Muse with Marlon Mitchell. Mr. Mitchell will perform the following weekend Friday and Saturday October 12 & 13 at 9:00 PM. Previously seen on

BET's Comic View, Mr. Mitchell will appear on the Clarence Muse Café Theatre stage.

The TBAAL is hosting "I Never Lost My Praise!" concert in celebration of Tramaine Hawkins' forty years in gospel music. Hawkins' has created music that has shaped the African American worship experience across the country for four decades. Gospel music legends slated to perform include the Queen of Gospel

Albertina Walker, Dorothy Norwood, Inez Andrews, Delores Washington, Andrae Crouch, Sandra Crouch, Vanessa Bell Armstrong, Regina Belle, Lil Mo, and Dallas' own Rick James, Tommye Young West and many more. Tickets for this special event are only \$20 for Orchestra and \$15 for Mezzanine seating.

To purchase tickets you can charge by calling TBAAL's Box Office at (214) 743-2400, your

tickets will be held at the Will Call Window and available for pick up one hour prior to the program. Alternatively, you can purchase your tickets at TBAAL's Box Office from 10 AM - 5 PM Monday - Friday or Saturday Noon - 4 PM. Please note the Box Office is closed each Tuesday from 11 AM - 1 PM. Cash only is accepted on the evening of the performance. You may also visit www.tbaal.org

Dallas Native Headlines At State Fair

Dallas Soul & Inspirational Singer, Angela Blair, will headline the Chevrolet Main Stage at the State Fair of Texas on Friday,

Earth/Wind/Fire, Destiny's Child and so many others.

Then meet Angela Blair, up close & personal for a VIP Post-

Party Reception @ the Fuse Restaurant & Lounge at 10pm on 1512 Commerce Street, Downtown Dallas. (EMAIL CONFIRMA-

TION REQD by Thurs, Oct 4th) www.fusedallas.com.

For more information, visit www.angelablair.com



October 5, 2007 during the Red River Shootout Weekend. Enjoy three special performances from this phenomenal entertainer beginning at 4pm, 5:45 pm, & 8pm.

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America."

"To protest, I don't plan on applying for a North Carolina driver's license," Gheen shared, "even though I am a resident of the state. I don't see how a Division of Motor Vehicles authorized in a Department of Transportation of a state of the United States can force me to have a license place that is designed with a North American Union insignia printed on the backside."

"My decision not to get a North Carolina driver's license could have very difficult consequences for me," Gheen stated. "Without a valid driver's license, I may not be able to drive a car, fly on an airplane, or enter a government building."

Gheen does not have a U.S. passport.

Marge Howell, spokeswoman for the North Carolina DMV confirmed the state was embedding a hologram of North America on the back of their new driver's licenses.

"It's a security element that eventually will be on the back of every driver's license in North America," according to Howell.

Howell explained the hologram of the North American continent was the creation of the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators(AAMVA) a tax-exempt, non-profit organization that, according to the group's website, "develops model programs in motor vehicle administration, law enforcement and highway safety."

Founded in 1933, AAMVA represents state and provincial officials in the United States and Canada who administer and enforce motor vehicle laws. The government of Mexico is also a member, though the individual

Mexican states have yet to join.

According to the group's website, AAMVA's programs are designed "to encourage uniformity and reciprocity among the states and provinces."

"The goal of the North American hologram," Howell explained, "is to get one common element that law enforcement throughout the continent can look at on all driver's licenses and tell that the driver's license is an official document."

Jason King, spokesman for AAMVA, affirmed the North American hologram was created by AAMVA's Uniform Identification Subcommittee, a working group of AAMVA members.

He explained the goal is to create a continental security device that could be used by state and provincial motor vehicles agencies throughout North America, including the United States, Canada, and Mexico.

King referenced a document on the AAMVA website that describes guidelines for using the North America continent hologram as an Optical Variable Device (OVD) that AAMVA has now licensed with private manufacturers to produce.

AAMVA supplies member motor vehicle agencies with a quantity of North American continent hologram OVD foils to use on their driver's licenses and ID cards as needed.

As the guidelines document on the AAMVA explains, each North American continental hologram OVD foil is embedded with a unique set of control numbers that permit law enforcement electronic scanners to identify

the exact jurisdiction and precise individual authorized to hold a driver's license or ID card with that particular OVD foil embedded.

"AAMVA understands its unique positioning and the continuing role identification security will play in helping the general public realize a safer North America," King explained. "The association believes ID security will help increase national security, increase highway safety, reduce fraud and system abuse, increase efficiency and effectiveness, and achieve uniformity of processes and practices."

Jim Palmer, press director for ALIPAC, first became aware of the hologram when Missouri State Rep. Jim Guest held a seminar in North Carolina to protest the Real ID law.

"The surprise came at a meeting on the Real ID that Palmer held in Raleigh, North Carolina, on Saturday, July 28," Palmer told WND. "When Rep. Guest asked participants to take out their driver's license and see what was on it," Palmer explained, "one gentleman was a state employee and on his license there was this hologram with the North American continent on the back. We were all surprised to see that on a North Carolina driver's license."

Rep. Guest has formed a coalition called Legislators Against Real ID Act, or LARI. "I was astonished when I saw that North American hologram on the North Carolina driver's license," Guest said. "I thought to myself that the state DMV has already included this North American symbol on the back of the driver's

license without telling the people of North Carolina they were going to do this."

"I thought right then that this was going to be the prototype for the driver's license of the North American Union," Guest stated.

"When we called the North Carolina DMV, they hedged at first," Guest said, "but finally they admitted that, yes, there was a North

American continent hologram on the back of the license."

"This is part of a plan by bureaucrats and trade groups that act like bureaucrats to little by little transform us into a North American Union without any vote being taken and without explaining to the U.S. public what they are doing," Guest argued.

King explained AAMVA's Uniform

Identification Subcommittee created a number of task forces, including the Card Design Specification that developed the North America continent hologram OVD.

"The Task Group surveyed and met with many stakeholders during the development effort," King indicated. "The Task Force gathered information from

Driver's License Page 17

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Marcia Donaldson

If you have young children, you may want them to attend college someday — and you may want to help them pay for it. At the same time, you also need to save for a comfortable retirement lifestyle. Are the two goals compatible?

There's no easy answer to this question. But one thing seems clear: for many parents, saving and investing for their children's future is every bit as important — and maybe more so — than saving and investing for their own. In fact, two-thirds of parents said they would postpone retirement if necessary to help pay for their children's college education, according to a survey by Alliance Bernstein Investments,

Inc. Parents have good reason to believe that investing in a college education will pay off for their children: Over the course of their lifetimes, college graduates will earn, on average, about \$1 million more than high school graduates, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

So, since a college education appears to be quite valuable, shouldn't you do everything you can to help pay for it?

Ultimately, you'll have to weigh your potential college contributions against your need to save for your own retirement. On one hand, you'd like to help your children as much as possible; as a parent, you do not want your children saddled with enormous debts when

they leave college. But on the other hand, that may be based more on emotion than on sound financial planning. After all, college graduates seem to find a way to eventually pay off their loans. Furthermore, your children may be able to find grants, scholarships and work-study opportunities. Many students can earn a decent amount of money at summer jobs, too.

Nonetheless, you still may feel obligated to pay something toward your children's college education. But if you're going to help pay for college, be smart about it. For example, think twice before borrowing from your 401(k). Such a move would slow the growth potential of your retirement funds — and it could prove costly in

other ways, too. For one thing, if you leave your job, voluntarily or involuntarily, you'll need to repay your 401(k) loan completely, usually within 60 days. If you cannot, the balance will be considered a taxable distribution — and you may even have to pay a 10% penalty on it.

Instead of tapping into your 401(k), IRA or other accounts you have designated for retirement, look for other ways to help build your children's college funds. You might decide to open a Section 529 plan, which offers tax-free earnings potential, provided the money is used to pay for higher education costs. Contributions are tax-deductible in certain states for residents who participate in their own state's

plan; however, a Section 529 plan could reduce your child's ability to qualify for financial aid.

You might also want to consider a Coverdell Education Savings Account, which offers another tax-advantaged way to save for college.

As you already know, much of your life involves balancing acts of one type or another, so you should be able to handle one

more — college for your kids against a comfortable retirement for you. By making the right moves, though, you may be able to reach an "equilibrium" that works for everyone.

Article contributed by Marcia Donaldson, a licensed Financial Advisor with Edward Jones Investments. You can contact her at (972) 542-1530.

Financial Focus - Strike A Balance Between Saving For Retirement, College

Networking Opportunities at 2nd Annual RRC HUB Forum

Austin, Texas — The 2nd Annual Railroad Commission HUB Economic & Networking Opportunity Forum is set for Wednesday, October 10, 2007 from 9:00 a.m. — 12:00 p.m. in Room 1-104 of the William B. Travis Building at 1701 N. Congress Avenue in Austin, Texas 78701. The free event offers an opportunity for HUB vendors to network with other HUB and non-HUB vendors as well as program and procurement staff from the Railroad Commission and other state agencies.

The forum also will increase awareness of the contracting opportunities with the represented agencies and further educate HUB and Non-HUB vendors on different topics such as HUB Subcontracting Plans, the Mentor-Protege Program, HUB certification, and the importance of registering for the Centralized Master Bidders List (CMBL).

Enjoy some light refreshments while marketing your company and its services to state agencies and finding out more about their procurement processes!

Parking will be available on the top levels of Garages Q & R, and parking meters are located around the WBT Building. Additional information is available online at: www.rrc.state.tx.us/procurement/hubforum2007/vendor.html

For more information, please contact Brandi Harrison, RRC HUB Coordinator, at (512) 463-3778 or brandi.harrison@rrc.state.tx.us.

Former Governor George W. Bush appointed Michael Williams to the Railroad Commission in December 1998. Williams chaired the Commission from September 1999 to September 2003. Williams was elected statewide most recently in November 2002 to a

six-year term expiring in 2008. He is the first African-American in

Texas history to hold an elected position in the *RRC HUB Forum Page 20*

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Driver's License Page 14

government and non-government users of the driver's License/ID card to determine their uses for the DL/ID card and how they believe the card should function. In addition, the Task Group surveyed and met with industry experts in the area of card production and security to gather their advice, especially about the physical security of the card."

In 2005 it was reported that North Carolina was the state where illegal immigrants go to get a driver's license, with busloads of aliens travel south on I-95 to get an easy ID.

The Tar Heel State's requirements to obtain a license are weaker than those of many surrounding states.

"People who think the Real ID was created to keep illegal aliens from getting driver's licenses and IDs should come to North Carolina," Gheen said. "What the North

Carolina DMV is doing is creating the basis for a continental driver's license."

"What difference does it make to North Carolina if an illegal alien gets a driver's license?" Gheen asked. "The photo on the license creates a close face scan that can be identified by face recognition technology, whether the DMV admits it or not."

"Illegal aliens who get driver's licenses or IDs in North Carolina are just being prepared for their admission into the North America Union driver pool that North Carolina is at the vanguard of creating," Gheen said. "That is the truth, whether the North Carolina DMV or the AAMVA want to admit it, or not."

King confirmed North Carolina is the first AAMVA member jurisdiction to use the North America continent hologram on a driver's license or ID card.

Person On Street Page 1

The youth in these cities see this as a reality and know that their voices can be heard. In the D/FW area, we need to make our youth understand that a college degree is no longer an option but rather a necessity. They need to be made aware that their dreams and goals are easily attainable using education as a foundation. It is something that no one can ever take from them.

Are you active in community service organizations or projects? If so, which ones? Why did you become involved?

Yes, I am an active member of the Dallas Chapter of the National Black MBA Association (Professional organization) as well as the Dallas for Senator Barack Obama group (Grassroots political group). Both of these groups serve the community with various activities such as food and cloth-

ing drives, scholarship programs, etc. I became involved in the Black MBAs because I wanted to surround myself with like-minded individuals in hopes of collectively affecting change in the D/FW area. As for the Dallas for Obama group, I became involved with them because I truly believe that Senator Obama should be our next President! Also, what he appears to represent makes me believe that I no longer have to vote for the lesser or two evils but rather a candidate who I truly believe in.

Do you think mainstream media does an adequate job of keeping you informed about issues relevant to your needs and interests? Why or why not?

No, I do not believe that mainstream media does an adequate job of keeping me informed of the issues relevant to me within my community. In mainstream media, there is sometimes a bias spin

on how issues are reported to us. This is reason why there is a need for newspapers like the Gazette as well as internet news sites such as Black America Web because we need to be informed of what matters to us. We can count on these two periodicals to report the facts as well as recognize individuals in our community who are achieving great things in spite of the odds.

About what topics are you most interested in learning more? Why?

I would like to learn more about urban planning and economic development in the D/FW area as there seems to be regentrification going on especially in the area south of I-30. I am curious to know how things will shake out once the property values start to rise and the existing inhabitants can no longer afford to live there. Where will the new "inner city" in D/FW be? How can our

community and churches make certain that African-Americans and other minorities in these areas are not displaced by this?

What do you do to relax, unwind and reconnect to your spirit?

If I need to relax, unwind, and connect with my spirit then I pray. I am living witness to the power of prayer and believe that is a powerful means of meditation. I also like to vacation. My favorite places to visit are Puerto Rico, France, and Italy. I always seem to be more aware in new environments because I have a lot of new stimuli (Foreign languages, cultures, foods, etc) to process, which forces me to slow down and take all of it in. I always return from vacation with a renewed sense of presence and much greater appreciation for small blessings, namely, sleeping in my own bed.

Blackonomics Page 1

"After our 'official' arrival in this land, in 1619, up until now, we have been overlooked, mistreated, denied access, used and abused, enslaved, auctioned off, whipped, branded, raped, lynched or otherwise murdered, unjustly incarcerated, corralled in urban centers and then destroyed by urban renewal, shot 27 times, 41 times, and 50 times by police officers, hosed down, bitten by dogs, beat down for trying to walk across a bridge, cheated by banks and insurance companies, used in wars, used as guinea pigs for medical experiments, denied the right to vote even after the 15th Amendment, excluded from economic development projects, paid less than white folks for doing the same jobs, denied employment and promotions, discriminated against at every turn,

gerrymandered, fire-bombed, maced, tasered, choked, prodded in the rectum with a broomstick in the hands of police officers, abandoned to drown in the polluted and alligator infested water left in Katrina's wake, and then, to add insult to injury, or just to really let us know how much of an afterthought we truly are, nearly two years after Hurricane Katrina, Black people in New Orleans are still homeless, still jobless, and still suffering."

A Black teenaged boy in L.A. was beaten by a cop; the officer sued and received over a million dollars. In Palmdale, California, a young sister, 16 years of age, was manhandled by a school security guard after she accidentally dropped some birthday cake on the floor; the brute threw her across a table and broke the girl's arm. Another young sister was

kidnapped, raped, and tortured by a group of degenerates in West Virginia; the Feds said it was not a "hate crime."

William Mayo still sits in a Georgia prison after 15 years; it sure would be great to see 50,000 folks marching on his behalf and sending in money for his defense. Genarlow Wilson is still in jail too. A minister, Lennox Yearwood, was gang tackled by police outside a U.S. Congressional hearing room as he stood in line to get into a hearing on the Iraq war; they broke his leg. Fourteen year-old Shaquanda Cotton was thrown in prison for seven years for shoving a hall monitor.

A Black woman in Cincinnati was sent to jail without bond because a dead dog was found in her backyard, while a white woman was not even prosecuted for leaving her 2-year old daughter in her car for

eight hours, where the temperature rose as high as 140 degrees. The baby died. Another Black woman was sent to jail for leaving her 6-year old in bed asleep while she walked down the street to the drugstore. She gets back to find seven police officers and television news reporters with their cameras in her home. She was also arrested and kept in jail until the Cincinnati NAACP rallied to get her out, as was the result in the "dead dog" case.

A Black man sits in Cincinnati's jail with a \$100,000 cash bond because he forgot about a small knife in his backpack as he went through the metal detector at the courthouse. No, he was not trying sneak it in; he just forgot it was in the bag, as some of us forget things in our bags when we go through airport security. The Black

man "forgot" about the knife, but instead of confiscating it, the police arrested him. The white woman "forgot" her child, who died a horrible death, but instead of charging her with child neglect, the prosecutor said "it was mistake...an accident...she didn't mean to do it." Obviously, the "I forgot" defense does not work for Black folks.

We have young Black children across this country being assaulted, handcuffed, threatened, and intimidated by police and security guards, and we even have laws on the books that 7 year-olds can be electrocuted with Taser Guns. What have we become? Or, as my Letter to White Americans points out, we are what we have always been: a country where Black life is just an afterthought, so much so that we are contributing

to our demise by abusing and killing one another. Self-fulfilling prophecy?

We are at war with those who are supposed to protect and serve us, and we are at war with those among us who have succumbed to the death-grip of crime, thuggery, gangsterism, self-hate, and fratricide. What must our young children think about us, their parents? How do you think they feel about our failure to protect them from this madness?

Yes, we have Jena's all over this country. Let the marches begin everywhere. Let the collective work and responsibility begin. Stand up against injustice and crime wherever they exist, regardless of the perpetrators' skin color. Oh yeah, and let your dollars do the talking and the walking when it comes to dealing police brutality and discriminatory courts.

Church Happenings

ABUNDANT LIFE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

October 4 @ 11 am

As a new church in the area, we invite you to our Sunday Worship Service each week @ 11 am; and our third (3rd) Sunday only, 4 pm Worship Service. Services are currently being held @ the Southfork Hotel, 1600 N. Central Expressway (East side of the Freeway) in Plano, TX 75074. Call 972-781-8225 for information.

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October 3 - 5, 7 pm

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October 7, 8 am and 11 am

Please join us for our 66th Church Anniversary

Celebration. Guest Minister is Rev. E. J. Tyson, Pastor of New Hope Baptist Church, Oklahoma City, OK in our 8 am Morning Worship Service; and Rev. Robert Castle, Pastor of Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, Wichita Falls, TX in our 11 am Morning Worship Service. Dinner will be served immediately after Morning Worship Service in the Fellowship Hall.

For directions and more information, please call the church @ 972-790-8421.

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November 3, 1 pm

Make plans to attend our Annual Scholarship Banquet Luncheon @ Brookhaven Country Club, 333 Golfing Green, Dallas, TX 75234. Sponsor Levels: Platinum = \$1,000; Gold = \$750; Silver = \$350; and a single ticket = \$35.

CCC is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization that is a concerned community of citi-

zens with a commitment to the education of our children. We have awarded numerous scholarships and financial assistance to students in area. We need your support to continue this tradition. For more information, contributions, and to volunteer, call 972-242-0933.

Christ Community Connection, Inc. (CCC)
Rev. Willie Rainwater, Founder
2006 Southern Oaks
Carrollton, TX 75007
972-242-0933

EBENEZER WORSHIP CENTER

October 21 &

October 28, 3:30 pm

You are invited to our pastor's and wife's appreciation services with guest speakers Pastor Ron Shaw, The Light Church, Dallas, on October 21st and Pastor Don Bright, Open Bible Fellowship Church, Plano, on October 28th. For information call NaTasha Smith @ 214-797-0150.

Ebenezer Worship Center
Rev. Cecil T. Smith II,
Pastor
14000 Preston Road @
Spring Valley
Dallas, TX 75254
214-797-0150

FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH OF ALLEN

October, 2007 & On Going

Our Education Department is providing FREE English as a Second Language Class for everyone; and a FREE GED preparation, including pre-testing and tutoring every Wednesday @ 6 pm. If you or someone you know needs assistance, contact Marcia Jones @ the church.

Fellowship B. C. of Allen
Rev. W. L. Stafford, Sr., M. Div.
Senior Pastor
200 Belmont Drive
Allen, TX 75013
972-359-9956

GRACE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

November 10, 12:30 pm

You are invited to our 2nd Annual Charity Golf Tournament @ Indian Creek Golf Course. Funds raised will be used to build a Family Center which will include a gym and facilities to nourish the bodies & spirits of the community. For information, golf fees, and directions, call Kim Teamer @ 972-636-1334

Grace Missionary Baptist Church
Rev. Maurice Floyd, Pastor
1602 College Parkway
Lewisville, TX 75067

HOPEWELL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

October 13, 12 pm - 4 pm

You are invited to enjoy our 79th Church Community Fellowship event. There will be singing, praise dancing, talent show, face painting, FREE blood pressure screening and FREE clothing give-away, and more fun activities.

October 14, 3:30 pm

Please join us for our Pre-Church Anniversary Hour with guest church, Ebenezer Baptist Church, as we celebrate our 79th Church Anniversary and Homecoming Services.

October 21, 3:30 pm

You don't want to miss our Anniversary Hour Services with guest speaker, Rev. Roy Locke, Pastor of New Mt. Gilead Baptist Church.

Hopewell MBC
Rev. Michael Hubbard, Sr., Pastor
5144 Dolphin Road
Dallas, TX 75223
214-823-1018

ST. JAMES CME CHURCH

October 5, 7 pm

You are invited to our Friday night "Family Fish Fry." We will have fish, fun, and fellowship. Please help us support our youth, proceeds will benefit our Jesus and Me (JAM) Squad Children's Ministry. For

information contact the church @ 972-529-2970.

St. James CME Church
Rev. Thomas Jagours
316 Watt Street @ Hwy 5
McKinney, TX 75069
972-529-2970

THE PLANO COMMUNITY FORUM

October 13, 6:30 pm

"Education - The Key to a Healthy Community @ our 26th Annual Awards Banquet @ the Southfork Hotel, 1600 North Central Expressway, Plano, TX 75074. For information call 972-422-0012.

Plano Community Forum
P. O. Box 860242
Plano, TX 75086
972-422-0012

WOMEN TOURING AMERICA CONFERENCE

November 9-11, 2007

Ladies, please join us for our annual conference @ The Florida Hotel and Conference Center in Orlando, FL. There will be Workshops, Book Signing, Keynote Luncheons, and Diva Marketplace shopping. For conference fee or more information call JoAnn Tolbert Yancy @ 972-417-3071.

Women Touring America
JoAnn Tolbert, Coordinator
P. O. Box 110691
Carrollton, TX 75011-0691
972-417-3071

EBENEZER WORSHIP CENTER



"We are Living Stones in God's Temple"

SUNDAY

10:00 am: Sunday School

11:00 am: Morning Worship

MONDAY

7:00 pm - 8:30 pm: Men of Power and Women of Power

TUESDAY

7:00 pm - 8:00 pm: Bible Study & Worship Service

14000 Preston Road • Dallas, TX 75254 • 972-980-0977 (Church Phone)

PRIME BURIAL LOTS FOR SALE

One, two or three lots for sale at Restland in North Dallas; located in the beautiful and peaceful Serenity Gardens Section (Southeast corner of Greenville Avenue & Restland Road.) Market value \$3450 each, but selling price negotiable. View plots by appointment only. Call 972-606-3878, 972-416-6109, or 469-235-5808.



Fellowship Baptist Church of Allen

200 Belmont • Allen, Texas • 75013
Phone: 972-359-9956 Fax: 972-359-6048
www.fbcfofallen.org



Pastor W.L. Stafford Sr., M.Div.
First Lady Tasha Stafford

Sunday School 9:45 am
Sunday Morning Worship/
Children's Church 8:15 am & 11:00 am
Wednesday Prayer & Bible Study 7:00 pm
"Youth for Christ" - Every Monday 7:00 pm

Come experience the Worship Atmosphere at Fellowship, you will never be the same!

If you need a ride to worship with us, please call the church.

"A Kingdom
Building Church"



Mt. Olive Church of Plano

300 Chisholm Place Plano, TX 75075 972-633-5511

WWW.MOCOP.ORG

Serving the Plano
Community for 13 Years



Pastors Sam & Gloria Fenceroy

Call Pastor Sam on:
"Vision & Truth Live"

Radio Broadcast: KWRD 100.7 FM Sundays 9pm - 10pm

HEAR PASTOR SAM DAILY ON: "TRUTH MADE SIMPLE"
KGGP 1040 AM MONDAY - FRIDAY @ 5:25pm - 5:30pm



Hill Chapel

Christian Methodist Episcopal Church

1113 Ave. I, Plano, TX 75074 (972) 423-4090

Rev. Clarence J. Ford, Jr., Pastor

Sunday School: 9:30 A.M.
Sunday Worship Service: 11:00 A.M.
Wednesday Night: 7:30 P.M.
Community Bible Class:



Sister Tarpley



Sister Tarpley

I am the salt of the earth. I am the light of the world. Matthew 5:13 & 14. I am a part of the true vine, a channel of Christ's life. John 15:1, 5. I am chosen and appointed



Picture of The Week

The late great Eddie Robinson (Coach Rob) as he was affectionally called, the winniss football coach in the 20th century Worldwide, and Sister Tarpley. He was recently honored @ the GramblingPVAMU 2007 Annual Classic Cotton Ball Football Game.

by Christ to bear His fruit. John 15:16. I am a son of God. God is my spiritual Father. Romans 8:14-15; Galatians 3:26 & 4:6. I am a joint heir with Christ, sharing His inheritance with Him. Romans 8:17. I am a temple—a dwelling place

of God. His Spirit and His life dwell in me. 1 Corinthians 3:16 & 6:19. I am united to the Lord; I am one Spirit with Him. 1 Corinthians 6:17. I am a new Creation. I am reconciled to God. I am a minister of reconciliation. 2 Corinthians 5:17-19.

I am a Saint. Ephesians 1:1; 1 Corinthians 1:2; Philippians 1:1; Colossians 1:2. I am God's workmanship—His handiwork—born anew in Christ to do His work. Ephesians 2:10. I am a fellow citizen with the rest of God's family. Ephesians 2:19. I am righteous and holy. Ephesians 4:24. I am chosen of God, holy and dearly loved. I am an expression of the life of Christ because He is my life. Colossians 3:12; 1 Thessalonians 1:4. I am a citizen of Heaven—seated

in Heaven right now. Philippians 3:20; Ephesians 2:6. I am hidden with Christ in God. Colossians 3:3. I am a holy partaker of a heavenly calling. Hebrews 3:1. I am a partaker of Christ; I share in His life. Hebrews 3:14. I am one

As A Christian, Who Am I?

of God's living stones, being built up in Christ as a spiritual house. 1 Peter 2:5. I am a member of a chose race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people of God's own possession. Peter 2:9-10. I am an alien and stranger to this world in which I temporarily live. Peter 2:11. I am an enemy of the devil. 1 Peter 5:8. I am born of God, and the evil one—the devil—cannot touch me. John 5:18. I am not the great "I AM." Exodus 3:14, John 8:24, 28, 58, but by the grace of God, I am what I am. 1 Corinthians 15:10.

The Power of God: Have you ever been down and out, and nobody seems to be around for you to talk to... That's God... He wants you to talk to Him.

Have you ever been just sitting and all of a sudden you felt like doing something nice for someone... That's God... He talks to you through the Holy

Spirit in a quiet still voice.

Have you ever been thinking about somebody that you haven't seen in a long time and the next thing that you know you see them or receive a phone call from them... That's God... there is no such thing as "coincidence."

Have you ever received something wonderful that you didn't even ask for, like money you didn't expect, a debt that mysteriously disappear, or that warning citation instead of a ticket... That's God... He knows the desires of your heart.

Have you ever been in a situation and you have no clue how it is going to get better, but now you look back on it... That's God... He passes us through tribulation to see a brighter day.

Share the Power of God. In all that we do we should totally give Him thanks!

Local Businessmen Page 8

such a great and exciting talent is coming all the way to Dallas to support our school and our kids" said Ruth Woodward, principal of Booker T. Washington.

Booker T. Washington has long been considered one of Dallas' pearls. The school evolved from a court order desegregation in 1976. Dallas Public School District was ordered to meet the educational needs of students gifted in the performing and visual arts. Since its inception, BTWHSPVA has received national acclaim as a prototype for subsequent magnet schools throughout the United States and Canada.

The school's emphasis on art and academics has produced a stellar list of famous graduates including Grammy award win-

ners - R&B Vocalist, Erykah Badu; jazz trumpet player Roy Hargrove, and members of the gospel group, God's Property.

The Parlour Café and Wine Bar is tucked away in a small strip center south of George Bush Freeway. The recently opened cafe gives patrons a warm yet chic and trendy feel of restaurants in some of the more popular hot spots in Dallas. The 80-seat café is open for lunch, dinner and Sunday Brunch and has a full and inviting menu of New American food with a New Orleans and New England influence. The menu includes items such as bar-b-que braised short ribs & crawfish ravioli with pumpkin cream.

For reservations call (972) 423-9463 or log on to www.parlourwinebar.com.

Friendship Baptist Church

4396 Main Street

The Colony, Texas 75056

(972) 625-8186

website: www.fbc-online.net

Schedule of Services:

Sunday

Early Morning Worship

8:00 a.m.

Sunday School Classes

9:30 a.m.

Morning Worship

11:00 a.m.

Evening Worship (1st Sunday) 6:00 p.m.

Tuesday

Early Bird Bible Study 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday

Morning Bible Study 9:30 a.m.

Prayer Meeting and 7:30 p.m.

Evening Bible Study

"The Church with a Vision"

THE EURENE! EXPERIENCE
701 E. CENTENNIAL BLVD.
RICHARDSON, TX 75081
WWW.EURENECF.ORG
PH 972.991.0200
MORNING WORSHIP - 10AM
WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY - 7PM

Macedonia Ministries
702 S. Mill Street • Lewisville, TX 75057
972-436-2011
"We Choose Love to Nourish and Cherish One Another"
John 13:34 & Ephesians 5:28-29
www.macedoniaministries.com
Saturday: Intercessory Prayer @ 7:00 am
Sunday Services: Sunday School @ 9:30 am • Morning Worship @ 11:00 am
Monday Service: Men's Group & Women's Group Bible Study @ 6:30 pm
Wednesday Service: Family Bible Study @ 6:30 pm

New Life Fellowship Church of Rowlett
Bishop Miller E. Johnson, Senior Pastor
New Worship Home
7401 Miller Road • Rowlett, TX 75088
972-463-4964
A Place of New Beginnings... II Corinthians 5:17
Sunday Life Bible School 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Life Celebration Worship Service 10:45 a.m.
First Sunday: Ingredients for Life 4:00 p.m.
Wednesdays: Life In The Word Prayer and Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

Mt. Pisgah Missionary Baptist Church

The Rock

Still standing... Est. June 1864

A Kingdom Building Church offering DELIVERANCE, RESTORATION, PURPOSE and PROSPERITY



Rev. Robert Townsend, Pastor



Worship Services

Sunday Worship 7:45 am & 11:00 am
Sunday School 9:45 am - 10:45 am
Wednesday Bible Study 12:00 noon & 7:00 pm

Office Hours

Monday & Friday 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 8:00 am - 6:00 pm
Saturday & Sunday Closed

Contact Info

Mt. Pisgah Missionary Baptist Church
11611 Webb Chapel Road • Dallas, TX 75229
Office: 972-241-6151
Email: info@dallasmtpisgah.org
Website: www.dallasmtpisgah.org

Church Directory

Marriage Retreat Page 12

competency. We are hoping to give couples the necessary skills, knowledge and principles that make marriages last and keep families together," says Wilson.

Wilson adds that research shows that marriage and relationship

seminars have positive long-term effects. "90% of couples over a five year period have continued relationship success and prove that what they learned lasts," notes Wilson.

Shuler agrees with Wilson about the effectiveness of marriage

seminars and also notes that it emphasizes another important factor that helps build healthy relationships: being content with God and yourself.

Shuler says the marriage retreat should be seen as an investment in your relationship. "It might make a difference

for a lifetime."

Cost per couple is \$25 pre-registration and \$35 at the door. Singles and others interested in healthy relationships are also invited to attend. For more information, please visit www.youmatteredmore.org or call 972-228-5200.

RRC HUB Forum Page 15
executive branch of Texas state government and is currently the highest-ranking African-American in state government. In December 2002, Governor Rick Perry appointed Williams to chair the Governor's

Clean Coal Technology Council. In March 2006, U.S. Department of Energy Secretary Bodman appointed Williams to the National Coal Council. visit www.rrc.state.tx.us/commissioners/williams/index.html

Ben Washington Baptist Church, Inc.
3901 Frisco Avenue
Irving, TX 75061
Church 972-790-8421 Fax 972-986-6390
Email: church@bwbccirving.org
Web: bwbccirving.org
Dr. Joseph R. Sheppard, Pastor
"THE CHURCH WITH AN OPEN BIBLE"
Sunday Worship Services
8:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
9:45 a.m. Sunday School
6:00 p.m. Baptist Training Union
Wednesday
12:00 p.m. Bible Study
7:00 p.m. Prayer Hour
7:30 p.m. Bible Study

Avenue F Church of Christ
1026 Avenue F • Plano, TX 75074 • 972-433-8833
"Our Pilgrimage to Heaven in 2007" - Hebrews 11:13-16
Sunday Bible Class9:45 am
Sunday Morning Worship10:45 am
Men Bible Class5:00 pm
Women Bible Class5:00 pm
Evening Worship6:00 pm
Wednesday Bible Class7:00 pm
Radio Program @ 7:30 am on KHYN 970 AM Sunday Mornings
Emery Tease, Associate Minister
www.avefchurchofchrist.org
Ramon Hodridge, Minister

Temple of Faith Christian Chapel C.M.E. Church
"Where Jesus is the Main Attraction"
Sunday Worship Experience - 8:00 am & 10:45 am
Wednesday Bible Study - 12:00 Noon & 7:00 pm
14120 Noel Road • Dallas, TX 75254
972-239-1120 (Office) • 972-239-5925 (Fax)
templeoffaith_cme@sbcglobal.net (Email)
Dr. Jerome E. McNeil, Jr., Pastor
Healthy Beginnings Child Development Center - 972-404-1412

The Inspiring Body of Christ Church
7710 S. Westmoreland Rd.
Dallas Texas 75237
Phone: 972-572-4262 Fax: 972-709-3888
Sunday Services: 7:30 am, 10:00 am, 12:30pm.
Monday School: 7:30pm
Men's Fellowship: Friday 7:00pm
Pastor Rodin G. Reed
Website: www.ibccjoy.org

NORTH DALLAS COMMUNITY BIBLE FELLOWSHIP
"A Spiritual Oasis for a Thirsty World" Isaiah 55:1
SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES:
8:00 AM • 9:30 AM • 11:30 AM
972-437-3493
1010-1020 South Sherman Street • Richardson, TX 75081
www.ndcbf.org
Dr. Leslie W Smith, Senior Pastor

Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church
920 E. 14th Street Plano, TX
Pastor Isiah Joshua, Jr.
FANNING THE FLAMES OF OUR FAITH
Sunday Worship Services 8AM & 11AM
Sunday 9:45AM Sunday School
Monday 7PM Youth, Brotherhood, Mission & Young Adult Ministries
Tuesday 7PM Bible Study & Men's Choir
Wednesday 7PM Mid-Week Service
Thursday 7PM Mass Choir
For more information call (972) 423-6695
www.shilohbaptistchurch.org

Spiritual Direction
"Each One, Reach One"
Worship Services
7:30 am and 10:30 am
Sunday School - 9:30 am
Wednesday Night Service
8:00 pm
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF HAMILTON PARK
Dr. Gregory Foster Senior Pastor
Rev. Anthony Foster Pastor
Our Mission
To fulfill The Great Commission until Christ comes.
300 Phillips Street • Richardson, TX 75081 • 972.235.4235
www.fbchp.org

New Mt. Zion Baptist Church of Dallas
Sunday Service
Morning Worship
7:30 am & 10:30 am
9:00 am Sunday School
Wednesday Service
Prayer Meeting 7:00 pm
Brotherhood 7:00 pm
Missions 7:00 pm
Singles Group 7:00 pm
Bible Study 7:45 pm
Dr. Robert E. Price, Senior Pastor
A Praying Church Family
"Watchmen on the Walls"
214-341-6459 (Phone) • 214-342-8403 (Fax)
9550 Shepard Road
Dallas, TX 75243
www.nmzb.org (Website) • newmzb@aol.com (Email)

Saint Mark Missionary Baptist Church
1308 Wilcox Street, McKinney TX
Pastor Charles S. Wattle
Sunday
Education Ministries - 9:30 a.m. • Worship Celebration - 11:00 am.
- Nursery Facilities Available -
Wednesday Family Ministries... 7:00 p.m.
Friendly Fellowship with A Family Focus
For More Information Call 972.542.6178
www.saintmarkbc.com • stmarkmissionary@aol.com