

North Dallas Gazette



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Obama Wins Most Texas Delegates

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sen. Barack Obama has won the overall delegate race in Texas thanks to a strong showing in Democratic county conventions this past weekend.

Obama picked up seven of nine outstanding



Fmr. Plano City Councilman David Perry and Mr. Lavan Alexander attend the Collin County Democratic Convention

delegates, giving him a total of 99 Texas delegates to the party's national convention this summer. Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton won the other two, giving her a total of 94 Texas delegates, according to an analysis of returns by The Associated Press.

Texas Democrats held both a presidential primary and caucus. Clinton narrowly won the popular vote in the state's primary March 4, earning her 65 national convention delegates to Obama's 61.

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Condoleezza Rice on Race

(Washington Times) Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said yesterday that the United States still has trouble dealing with race because of a national "birth defect" that denied black Americans the opportunities given to whites at the country's very founding.

"Black Americans were a founding population," she said. "Africans



and Europeans came here and founded this country together — Europeans by choice and Africans in chains. That's not a very pretty reality of our founding."

As a result, Miss Rice told editors and reporters at The Washington Times, "descendants of slaves did not get much of a head start, and I think you continue to see some of the

effects of that." "That particular birth defect makes it hard for us to confront it, hard for us to talk about it, and hard for us to realize that it has continuing relevance for who we are today," she said.

Race has become an issue in this year's presidential campaign, which prompted a much-dis-

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Annie Dickson Named Urban League CSBG Board Chair

Annie Dickson, a community leader and former Garland City Council member was recently sworn in as chairperson of the Urban League's Managing Board of Directors. She has been a member of the board, which oversees the operation of programs under the Community Service

Block Grant (CSBG) for seven years. CSBG provides a range of services that address the needs of low income individuals including, employment, education, income management, housing, nutrition, emergency services and health.

Dickson has been involved in the Garland community for over 40

years. Dickson has also served as a long-time member of the North Dallas Gazette Advisory Board.

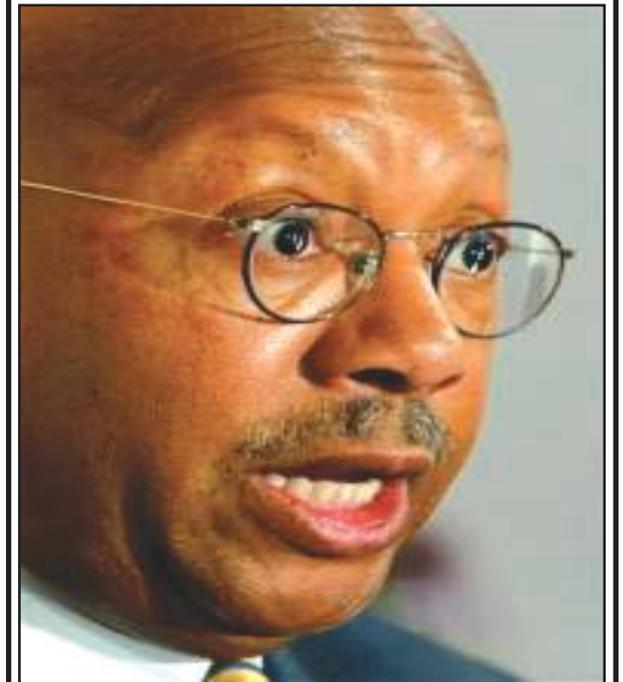
She served two terms on the Garland City Council bringing a voice to her community and the city. Her list of accomplishments are outstanding and include the opening of the Gale Fields Recreation

Center, her personal dream project. She was a staunch supporter of the Firewheel Town Center and campaigned tirelessly to keep DART public transportation in Garland. She also worked to increase citizens' voices in city government through the establishment of committees and neighbor-

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Cover Story Page 9

HUD Secretary Jackson Resigns Amid Probe



AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite

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Blackonomics

National Conference on the Black Family in America (NCBFA)

By James Clingman

March 11-14, 2008, was a very special weekend for those who attended the NCBFA in Louisville, Ken. For 35 years now, this conference has brought Black people together from across the country and has established a proud legacy of Black consciousness, self-love, education, and collective empowerment.

Dr. Joseph McMillan is the conference coordinator and has been at it for 30 of the 35 years. He and his dedicated staff impressed me beyond my expectations in every way

possible. I highly recommend this event to you next year.

As I like to do when I am invited to speak at conferences, I went in a couple of days prior to the time of my speech to get a feel of the event and to meet the attendees. I like to hear other speakers too, and this conference had several powerful speakers. Charlie Johnson, Chairman and CEO of Johnson Xpress Trucking Company, is a former professional football player whose example of being blessed and being a blessing to others should be

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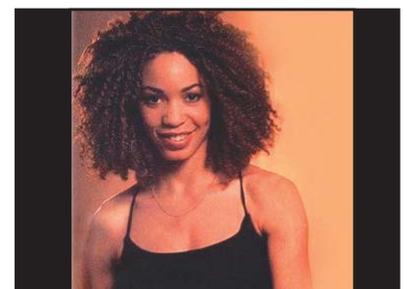
People In The News...



Reuben R. Rogers



Don Braden



Cindy Blackman

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Reuben R. Rogers

Reuben R. Rogers' ability to transport the emotion of a piece into his accompaniment is akin to that of a fine woven tapestry, creating a blanket of rhythm and harmony that is welcomed by vocalists and instrumentalists alike. From a hard-hitting groove to a featherlike touch, with each interjection, Rogers echoes



an affirmation of the soloist's statement, rendering a musical conversation in which the narrative is smoothly passed.

Born November 15, 1974, and raised in the Virgin Islands, Rogers was exposed to varieties of music that included Calypso, Reggae, Gospel and Jazz. In his formative years, Rogers received encouragement from his parents to

explore his exceptional musical talent. He began with the clarinet, experimented with the piano, drums and guitar, yet at the tender age of 14 found his true passion in the bass.

Rogers' potential was well recognized by numerous awards, grants and scholarships from the St. Thomas Arts Council and other local organizations. This in turn opened the door for

Rogers' summer studies at Interlochen Arts Camp in Michigan and in Boston at Berklee College of Music. Upon completion of their five-week summer program, Berklee awarded Rogers a scholarship toward his degree studies. He earned his Bachelor of Music in 1997 from Berklee College of Music.

Rogers' peers continue to influence and enrich

his musical style and direction. He has toured extensively all over the globe, and has recorded on over 60 CDs.

Ever committed to supporting the arts in the Virgin Islands, Rogers returns when his schedule permits to conduct music workshops in local schools and organize fundraising concerts that benefit the education of today's island youth.

Don Braden

A native of Cincinnati, Ohio (and a former Harvard University Engineering student),

saxophonist/composer/educator Don Braden has toured the world with jazz greats Betty Carter, Wynton Marsalis, Tony Williams, Freddie Hubbard, Roy Haynes, and many others. He has recorded on nearly fifty CDs as a sideman and has produced thirteen CDs as a leader, the latest of which is "Workin'", released in 2006 on the HighNote



label. He has composed music for countless concerts, for all of his CDs and for a number of independent films; plus he spent four years as composer for the CBS sitcom "Cosby" and has written for "Little Bill." In 2000, he was one of the recipients the Doris Duke Foundation New Works composer's grant.

Braden's first exposure to music came from his parents' record collection, and from radio. Although there were no musicians in his family, he showed a strong interest in music early on. At age 13, he started playing

tenor sax in middle school band class, and two years later, joined his first professional band -- influenced by and performing the music of "contemporary jazz" groups, like The Crusaders. After being introduced to acoustic jazz in high school, Braden went on to be chosen first chair for the McDonald's All-American High School Jazz Band and the McDonald's All-American High School Marching Band, and to receive a Yamaha Instrument Award.

He works extensively as an educator, teaching for

Litchfield Performing Arts, the

New Jersey Performing Arts Center, and the Prins Claus Conservatoire in Groningen, Holland. He

worked for eight years as an adjunct professor at William Paterson University, and has been a guest clinician at many other schools. His web site is www.DonBraden.com.

Cindy Blackman



instructional video entitled, "Multiplicity" through Warner Brothers publications.

Cindy has been touted as "one of the hottest drummers in the business, by the Star-Gazette and is regarded as one of the top drummers in the world. She is a solid, dependable drummer who can easily move from straight-ahead jazz to rock to funk and back again.

She's upheld the backbeat and created texture for a veritable "Who's Who" in jazz: Jackie McLean, Joe Henderson, Don Pullen, Hugh Masekela, Pharaoh Sanders, Sam Rivers, Cassandra Wilson, Angela Bofill, Bill Laswell, Buckethead.

In early 2000, Cindy released the acclaimed solo album entitled "Works on Canvas." She released her seventh solo release "Someday" in 2004.

"Some drummers act, some react. Some keep time, others create it. Cindy Blackman is

among the few who can...." says Mike Zwerin of the International Herald Tribune. One listen to her latest release, "Works On Canvas" (featuring J.D. Allen-Tenor Saxophone, Carlton Holmes-Piano/Fender Rhodes, George Mitchell-Bass) and you'll agree.

Talking Drum said, "You can be assured that Ms. Blackman will be around for a long time to come.." She is thunder. She is fire. She is energy. She is passion. She is Cindy Blackman.

According to Cindy herself, "The life of music is bigger than all of us."

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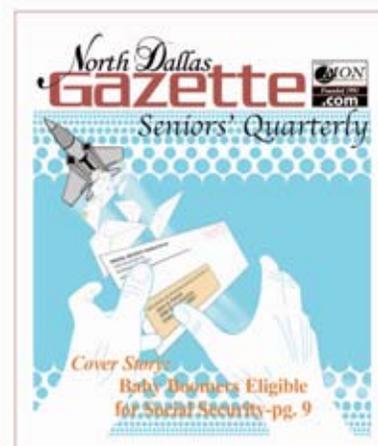
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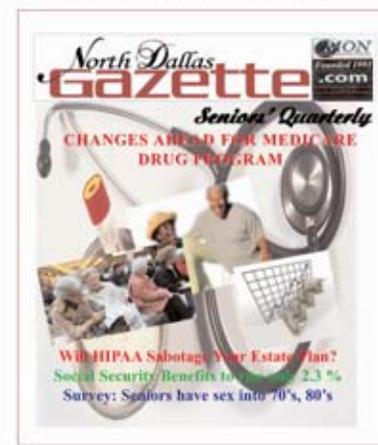
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Hot Off the Press Senior's Quarterly January-March 2008 Edition

Our first edition for 2008 of the Senior's Quarterly is now available at news outlets across the Metroplex. Senior's Quarterly provides valuable information for the Baby Boomer readers in the area.



Also available is North Dallas Gazette's October-December 2007 Edition.



To advertise in the North Dallas Gazette Senior's Quarterly, contact Ms. Terry at 972-509-9049

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Changing America- Asking More Of Yourself

On March 1, 1968 the bipartisan National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders issued its final report to the American people. The report's conclusion was a succinct but memorable message: "our nation is moving towards two societies - one white, one black - separate and unequal."

In 1967, significant racial violence erupted in 126 American cities with 75 of the incidents considered major riots. The riots that were turning such cities as Los Angeles, Newark, Detroit and Cleveland into racial battlegrounds were even more troubling since in the years before the riots some of the most significant civil and voting rights reforms in the nation's history had been signed into law.

Answers were needed. President Lyndon B. Johnson responded by appointing the National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders on July 28, 1967. Better known as the Kerner Commission (its Chairman was Illinois Governor Otto Kerner) the panel of eleven experts was mandated to seek the truth in determining what had happened, why the riots had occurred, and what could be done to prevent similar events from happening again.

The commission's controversial 1968 report was brutally honest. It rejected the highly anticipated notion that black militants or any other organizations were responsible for the riots. Instead it concluded that the riots resulted from devastating poverty, hope-

lessness and limited opportunity that had long permeated America's urban ghettos.

Among their many findings: One in five African-Americans lived in squalor and deprivation in ghetto neighborhoods; the unemployment rate was double for African-Americans, as compared to whites; ghetto communities were neglected by the government, wracked with crime, and traumatized by police brutality; rates of African American infant mortality were triple the rate of white children.

The statistics weren't new. But the Kerner Commission laid the blame for many of these conditions on white racism stating, "What white Americans have never fully understood -- but what the Negro can never forget -- is that the white society is deeply implicated in the ghetto. White institutions created it. White institutions maintain it and white society condones it." Institutional racism was the culprit.

So where does America stand 40 years after Kerner? A report by the Washington, D.C. based Eisenhower Foundation updating the Kerner study confirms that progress has been made but gaps remain between blacks and whites in poverty, education, crime and unemployment.

The black middle class has grown. There are more opportunities for jobs and education. Yet some employers still steer minority applicants into the worst jobs; real estate agents send

them to less desirable neighborhoods and mortgage lenders accept fewer applications from minorities than from similarly qualified whites. The wealthiest 10 percent of school districts in the United States spend nearly 10 times more than the poorest 10 percent. African-American unemployment has remained twice as high as white unemployment during each of the four decades since 1968.

The poverty rate for blacks has dropped to about 24 percent but that is still three times the white rate. Minorities receive longer sentences than whites for the same crimes.

In spite of the obvious progress that has been made in our diverse society there is still unease in many areas, an unease that does not bode well for America.

Instead of resolving the black and white disparity described in Kerner's 1968 America we must now deal with quadruple racial societies overlaid with gradients of gender, sex and class. This adds additional complexity to the search for equitable solutions.

Experience has shown that throwing money at problems does not solve them since corrupt politicians control the ultimate distribution of funds. The result is added frustration for the aggrieved as they become encumbered by another layer of hopelessness precipitated by a perception that the system is denying equal economic, political and social opportunity.

But the beauty of

America is that the majority in this country-- black and white, rich and poor-- see within this imperfect nation a potential much greater than what had been. And the journey has begun to take this country beyond the limitations of its divisions and distrusts in order to achieve the promise embedded in its constitution.

However, the journey is not yet complete. For those that realize this the question becomes, "What are you doing about it?" What are you doing to preserve your right to live in this great country? If you are going to sit back and be a spectator who simply points an accusing finger then America will quietly append the list of great empires of the past.

This challenge is not about the President. It's not about the Congress. It's about each of us individually seeking the common goals that uplift us instead of the divisive goals that separate us. If you are willing to ask more of yourself and participate in the fight and the struggle then there is hope that America will again become a nation of "we the people" instead of "we the few", a message that was so eloquently articulated in Obama's "More Perfect Union" speech on March 18, 2007.

This is the doorway to the America of our dreams.

James W. Breedlove

Comments or opinions may be sent to the writer at: www.truth-clinic.com

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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 renaissance community tabloid, 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 airport expansion in McKinney, which is the largest and most visible of many area opportunities. As always, and true to tradition, MON-The Gazette will be there carving a world of opportunity for those seeking to provide quality services. Should you dare 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

Congresswoman Waters Receives Prestigious Award In South Africa

Pretoria, South Africa – South African President Thabo Mbeki presented Congresswoman Maxine Waters (CA-35) with the “Order of the Companions of OR Tambo Silver Award,” one of the most prestigious awards granted by the South African government. Congresswoman Waters received this great honor because of her work on behalf of the people of South Africa throughout her career, especially her role in fighting against the former apartheid regime in South Africa.

apartheid. This is a day I will never forget,” said



Waters during the presentation ceremony.

Throughout the 1980s, Congresswoman Waters organized marches and rallies in Los Angeles to protest the racist system of apartheid in South Africa. She led sit-ins at the South African consular office in

Los Angeles and put her own freedom on the line when she was arrested for protesting the apartheid regime in front of the South African Consulate in Washington, D.C.

In 1986, as a member of the California Assembly, Rep. Waters called for the divestment of funds from corporations doing business with South Africa’s apartheid regime and helped to make the call for divestment a national movement sweeping from state to state and city to city. She did this by authoring Assembly Bill 134, to divest a record \$12 billion from public pension funds in California, thus fortifying California’s opposition to the apartheid regime.

In 1990, when ANC

leader Nelson Mandela made an 8-city tour of the U.S., Rep. Waters chaired the welcoming committee that greeted him and his wife Winnie Mandela with a motorcade to City Hall, a Hollywood star-studded reception, and a 6-hour concert and rally attended by 90,000 supporters.

The following year, Rep. Waters traveled to South Africa for the first time to attend the ANC national conference in Durban, South Africa, the first ANC conference since the unbanning of the ANC and Nelson Mandela’s release from prison. Three years later, following the dismantling of apartheid and South Africa’s first democratic elections, she was a member of the official U.S. del-

egation to attend the inauguration of President Nelson Mandela in Pretoria.

Congresswoman Waters continued her efforts to expand and improve debt relief programs for poor countries through legislation and public advocacy. In 2005, she and other debt relief advocates convinced the leaders of the G-8 creditor nations to completely cancel the debts of over twenty of the world’s poorest countries. Last year, she introduced H.R. 2634, the Jubilee Act for Responsible Lending and Expanded Debt Cancellation. This bill would expand existing debt cancellation programs and ensure that the benefits from debt cancel-

lation will not be eroded by future lending to these impoverished nations. This bill now has 98 cosponsors.

Congresswoman Waters also leads congressional efforts to address the HIV/AIDS epidemic, which infects over 18% of the adult population of South Africa. She is currently the Co-Chair of the CBC Task Force on HIV/AIDS. She has introduced legislation to allow people in developing countries like South Africa to have access to generic HIV/AIDS drugs at affordable prices, and she is working with her colleagues to increase funding for international HIV/AIDS treatment and prevention programs.

Obama, pg 1

Precinct caucuses began immediately after polls closed primary night and quickly devolved into chaos in many parts of the state because of an unprecedented turnout of

more than 1 million Democrats. The state party was never able to provide complete results from the caucuses, which is why the AP withheld nine delegates.

The precinct caucuses

elect delegates to about 280 county and state senate district conventions on Saturday. The AP awarded the remaining delegates based on results from Saturday’s conventions, showing Obama with

about 58 percent of vote, compared to 42 percent for Clinton.

Obama won 38 delegates through the caucus/convention system, and Clinton won 29.

The final delegate allo-

cation will be decided at the party’s state convention June 6-7, and the numbers could change if either campaign is unable to maintain the level of support they had over the weekend.

Obama leads the overall

race for the Democratic nomination with 1,631 delegates, including separately chosen party and elected officials known as superdelegates. Clinton has 1,501, according to the latest AP tally.

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These Texas Lottery Commission Scratch-Off games will close on April 14, 2008. You have until October 11, 2008, to redeem any tickets for these games:

#757 Mega Slots (\$5) Overall Odds are 1 in 3.63

#796 Deluxe 7-11-21 (\$2) Overall Odds are 1 in 4.12

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#1018 Holiday Lucky Times 10 (\$10) Overall Odds are 1 in 3.36

This Texas Lottery Commission Scratch-Off game will close on April 21, 2008. You have until October 18, 2008, to redeem any tickets for this game:

#784 Fantastic 5's (\$5) Overall Odds are 1 in 4.65



The odds listed here are the overall odds of winning any prize in a game, including break-even prizes. Lottery retailers are authorized to redeem prizes of up to and including \$599. Prizes of \$600 or more must be claimed in person at a Lottery Claim Center or by mail with a completed Texas Lottery claim form; however, annuity prizes or prizes over \$999,999 must be claimed in person at the Commission Headquarters in Austin. Call Customer Service at 1-800-37LOTTO or visit the Lottery Web site at www.txlottery.org for more information and location of nearest Claim Center. The Texas Lottery is not responsible for lost or stolen tickets, or for tickets lost in the mail. Tickets, transactions, players, and winners are subject to, and players and winners agree to abide by, all applicable laws, Commission rules, regulations, policies, directives, instructions, conditions, procedures, and final decisions of the Executive Director. A Scratch-Off game may continue to be sold even when all the top prizes have been claimed. Must be 18 years of age or older to purchase a Texas Lottery ticket. PLAY RESPONSIBLY. The Texas Lottery Supports Texas Education. © 2008 Texas Lottery Commission. All Rights Reserved.

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Dallas Independent School District UNCF Scholarship Program Application Deadline - May 9, 2008

DALLAS, Texas, March 31, 2008 - The United Negro College (UNCF) and employees of the Dallas Independent School District are pleased to announce a scholarship program that is open to Spring 2008 Dallas ISD graduating seniors who will attend a

UNCF member college/university or any other historically black college or university (HBCU). Scholarships valued up to \$2,500 will be awarded to students who demonstrate financial need and academic potential. Student must have a cumulative GPA

of 2.5 or higher, be a 2007-08 graduating senior from a Dallas ISD high school and be enrolled full-time at a UNCF member institution or Historically Black College or University.

UNCF's Area Development Director Diane Stephenson said,

"We are pleased to partner once again with the Dallas ISD as they help deserving young people pursue their dream of a college education. Their continued support has helped UNCF play a critical role in the future of our local and national communities by prepar-

ing students with the skills and knowledge necessary to succeed in today's economy. We salute Dallas ISD Superintendent Michael Hinojosa and all of the Dallas ISD employees who have generously invested in UNCF and the future leaders of

tomorrow."

To apply visit: <http://www.uncf.org/forstudents/onlinescholarships.asp>. The application deadline is May 9, 2008. For more information contact Cortney Lewis Smith at the UNCF office: (972) 234-1007.

Students' Service to Community Honors Former Dallas Leader

(Dallas) - A special group of students from the Dallas County Community

College District knows what it means to be motivated. They study, learn and succeed every day both in the classroom and in the community. Those seven students - each representing the seven campuses of DCCCD - have

been recognized for their efforts as recipients of the 2008 Max and Rosa Goldblatt Endowment

Awards in Community Service.

The students' efforts reflect Max and Rosa Goldblatt's dedication

to community service, and their scholarships were awarded during a recent ceremony. The seven scholarship recipients, their home towns and

colleges are: Huang Dai of Farmers Branch, Brookhaven College; Michael

Isom of Irving, North Lake College; Jennifer

Pereyda of Garland, El Centro College; Evens

Pierre of Dallas, Mountain View College; Juan

Sifuentes of Waxahachie, Cedar Valley College; Winnie Widjaja of Dallas,

Richland College; and Christin Yonley of Richardson, Eastfield College.

The scholarship is given biennially to DCCCD students who show

leadership in volunteer and community service

work. Each awardee receives a \$600 scholarship (\$300 per semester) from the DCCCD

Foundation, which administers the Goldblatt scholarship endowment. The

seven DCCCD students receiving Goldblatt scholarships have been involved

in community service projects, such as tutoring in area schools, shelters and libraries; participating in community clean-ups and food

drives; volunteering at area animal shelters, in churches and for hurricane relief efforts; mentoring; working with the homeless; making toys; fundraising for special causes; and more.

The scholarship was established in 1986 to honor Max and Rosa Goldblatt, who both served as former Dallas leaders and longtime supporters of DCCCD. Max Goldblatt served three terms as a Dallas city

councilman and played a major role in the creation of DCCCD (then the Dallas County Junior College District). Rosa Goldblatt was involved in many community service projects and, together, the couple inspired their children to continue that tradition of service to others.

For more information, call Kathy Hammontree in the DCCCD Foundation office at (214) 860-2455.

SMU Engineering Camps

Registration is now open, and students are encouraged to explore engineering and college this summer at Southern Methodist University (SMU). Gain hands-on, engineering experience through team projects. Learn about careers in engineering from female professionals. Learn about different types of engineering through tours, while exploring

SMU's campus. Make new friends who share your interest in math, science and engineering.

The cost is a \$25 nonrefundable registration fee. Financial assistance available for those who need assistance. Application deadline is April 30, 2008. For more information visit:

http://enr.smu.edu/parts/precollege_camp-girls.html

Engineering Camp for Girls

8th grade girls
Session 1: June 16-20, 2008 9:00a.m.-noon

9th and 10th grade girls
Session 2: June 16-20, 2008 1:00-4:00p.m.
Session 3: June 23-27, 2008 9:00a.m.-noon

11th and 12th grade girls
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Session 5: July 7-11, 2008 9:00a.m.-noon
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SMU Engineering Seniors Camp

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Session B: July 21-25, 2008 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. daily

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Southern Methodist University will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age,

disability, or veteran status. SMU's commitment to equal opportunity includes nondiscrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

The Gazette wishes you a Happy Administrative Professionals' Day on Wednesday, April 23rd!

Rice, Page 1

cussed speech last week by Sen. Barack Obama, one of the two remaining contenders for the Democratic nomination.

Miss Rice declined to comment on the campaign, saying only that it was "important" that Mr. Obama "gave it for a whole host of reasons."

But she spoke forcefully on the subject, citing personal and family experience to illustrate "a paradox and contradiction in this country," which "we still haven't resolved."

On the one hand, she said, race in the U.S. "continues to have effects" on public discussions and "the deepest thoughts that people hold." On the other, "enormous progress" has been made, which allowed her to become the nation's chief diplomat.

"America doesn't have an easy time dealing with race," Miss Rice said, adding that members of her family have "endured terrible humiliations."

"What I would like understood as a black American is that black Americans loved and had faith in this country even when this country didn't love and have faith in them — and that's our legacy," she said.

Miss Rice also said that what "attracted" her to candidate George W. Bush during the 2000 presidential campaign was not foreign policy, but his "no child left behind" initiative, which she said gave equal opportunities to black and white students.

The proposal, much criticized by Mr. Obama and his Democratic rival Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, has been successful, Miss Rice said.

Trying to Get Your Foot in the Door?

Community Newspaper seeking Freelance Writers to cover Community Events.

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The program is held on Tuesday's and Thursday's, from 6:00 - 7:15 pm, in the clubhouse at Indigo On Forest Apartments, 9669 Forest Lane, Dallas TX 75243.

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N2NE is expanding to Plano and Allen, TX. If you are interested in volunteering please send your information to: Rich_etta@n2ne-ym.com. We are also partnering with Plano Housing Authority Family Self Sufficiency Program to reach the parents of our future generation. These meetings will be held at Plano Housing Authority, 1740 Avenue G, Plano, TX.

For more information, please contact:
Founder/CEO - Rich Etta Weathersbee (469) 223-5618
or VP - Penny Francis (214) 793-7178.

Join the "Keep Garland Beautiful" Trash Off

Garland, Texas - Garland citizens are invited to join in the effort to Keep Garland Beautiful by participating in the annual Trash Off on Saturday, April 19. The event is being held in conjunction with the Garland Goes Green Environmental Expo.

Individuals, neighborhood groups, community organizations and youth groups are encouraged to participate from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. Registration begins at 7:30 a.m. at Audubon Park, 342 Oates Road and at the Garland Goes Green site at Firewheel

Town Center, Beebalm Lane at River Fern.

Participants may cleanup litter along Duck Creek from Audubon Park to Central Park or host a cleanup in their neighborhood. Organizations are welcome to focus on adopted roadways and parkways.

Keep Garland Beautiful is committed to promoting efforts to maintain and improve the overall environment and the physical conditions of Garland. Each year during the Trash Off, volunteers help improve local water quality, restore natural beauty,

and reduce potential threats to human health and wildlife. Litter blocks storm drains, reduces property values and aesthetic appeal, and injures thousands of animals through ingestion or entanglement each year. As a result of great public participation during organized cleanup events and with litter prevention programs, Garland is well on its way to becoming clean and green.

For more information about this year's Trash Off event, call 972-205-3896 or log onto the City of Garland website at www.ci.garland.tx.us.

Castle Road Reconstruction Begins, Detours Necessary

ROWLETT, TX - Motorists will need to make way for heavy construction equipment and seek alternate routes as the project began on Monday, March 31 for the Castle Road reconstruction work begins between Merritt Road and Miles Road.

Castle Road will be closed between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. daily for approximately two to three weeks to expedite

the project. By closing the road during the off peak hours of the day, the contractor estimates saving several days on the project.

The road will remain open during the peak travel times of the day, but Castle will be completely closed to thru traffic at Merritt Road and Miles Road for the duration of the project.

Message boards are in place

and adjacent residents have been notified of the project schedule, which will take about two to three weeks to complete.

Suggested alternate routes are:

. Traffic from Merritt Road will be detoured to Hickox to Rowlett Road to Castle Road.

. Traffic from Rowlett Road will be detoured to Miles to Pleasant Valley to Merritt.

Plano's Multicultural Outreach Committee National Prayer Day Event to be Moved to the Courtyard Theatre in Downtown Plano

The City of Plano's Multicultural Outreach Committee's (MCOR) National Prayer Day Event (Thursday, May 1, 2008) has been moved from the City Council Chamber at Municipal Center to the Courtyard Theatre, 1509 H Avenue,

in downtown Plano. The event will begin as previously scheduled at 12 noon.

Pastor Roy Frady will be allowed to use the City Council Chamber, Plano Municipal Center, 1520 K Avenue, for his event on National Prayer Day.

It has always been the City's intent and interest to be all-inclusive and multi-denominational. There was never any intent to be exclusive to any party requesting the use of City facilities on the National Prayer Day.

Dickson, Page 1

hood associations and worked to improve the public safety of all Garland residents.

Dickson was the first chair and delineator of goals for the City of Garland's first Community Multicultural Commission. As part of her personal commitment, she made the city's first commemorative multicultural quilt which she says symbolizes her love for all people.

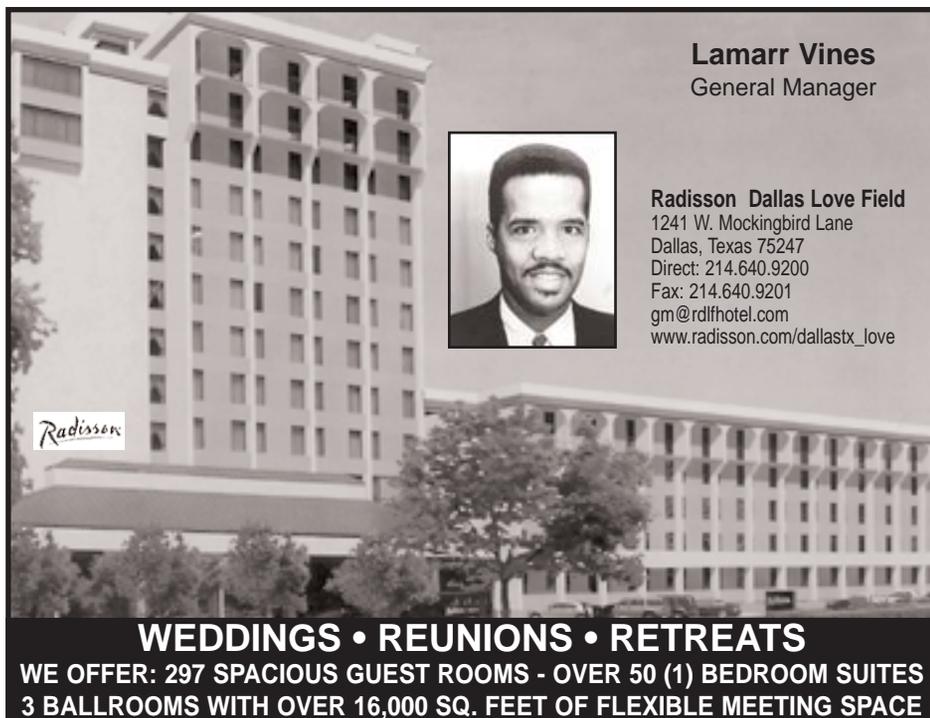
Dickson has received numerous community and state awards for her leadership on the city

council and in the community. She recently received a proclamation from the City of Garland Mayor's Office for her community service in honor of African-American Month. The mayor and city council also declared February 17th-23rd 2008 as Annie Dickson Week.

She is an active member of the Garland NAACP Executive Committee and co-chaired the Garland NAACP's first Health Fair which served over 900 children and adults. She served as president of Garland Independent

School District PTA at her granddaughter's school and continues to be a mentor and advisor to individuals who become involved in civic, city and political activities.

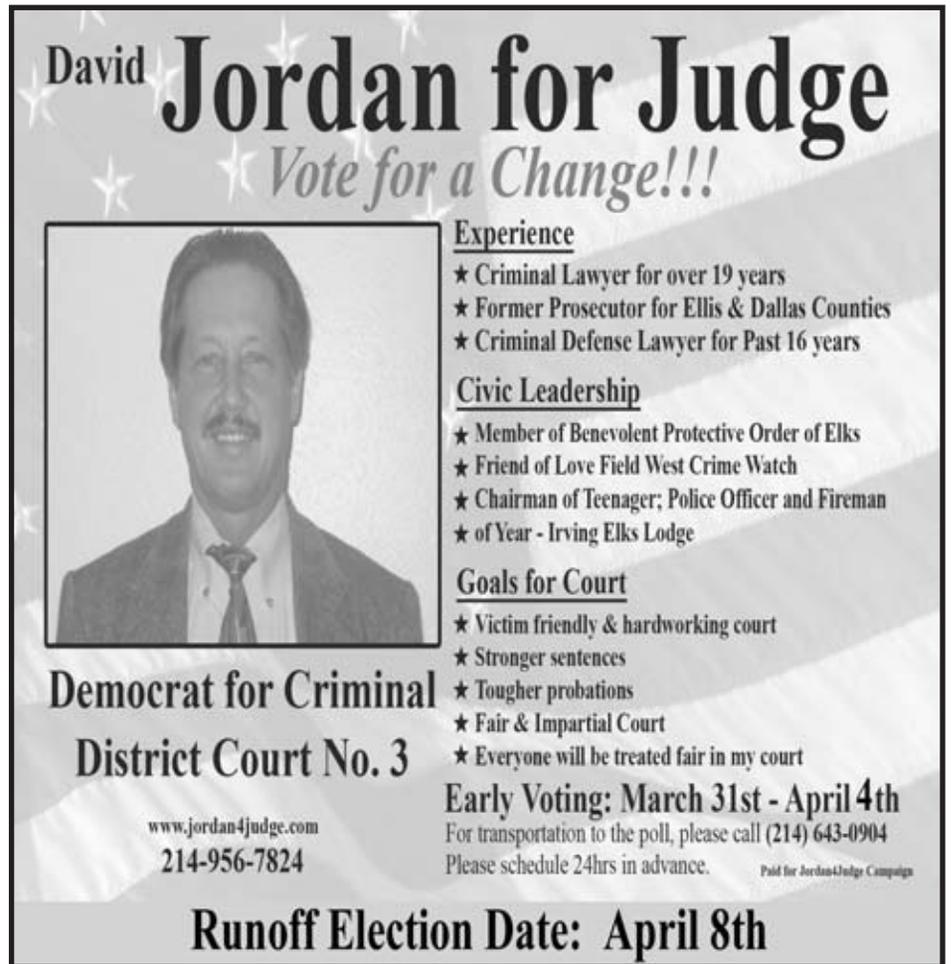
"Her strength and compassion knows no bounds and she is an inspiration to not only the City of Garland but all the many lives she touches. We are proud and fortunate to have her serve as Chairperson," said Dr. Beverly Mitchell Brooks, President and CEO Urban League of Greater Dallas and North Central Texas.



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- ★ Criminal Defense Lawyer for Past 16 years

Civic Leadership

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- ★ Friend of Love Field West Crime Watch
- ★ Chairman of Teenager, Police Officer and Fireman of Year - Irving Elks Lodge

Goals for Court

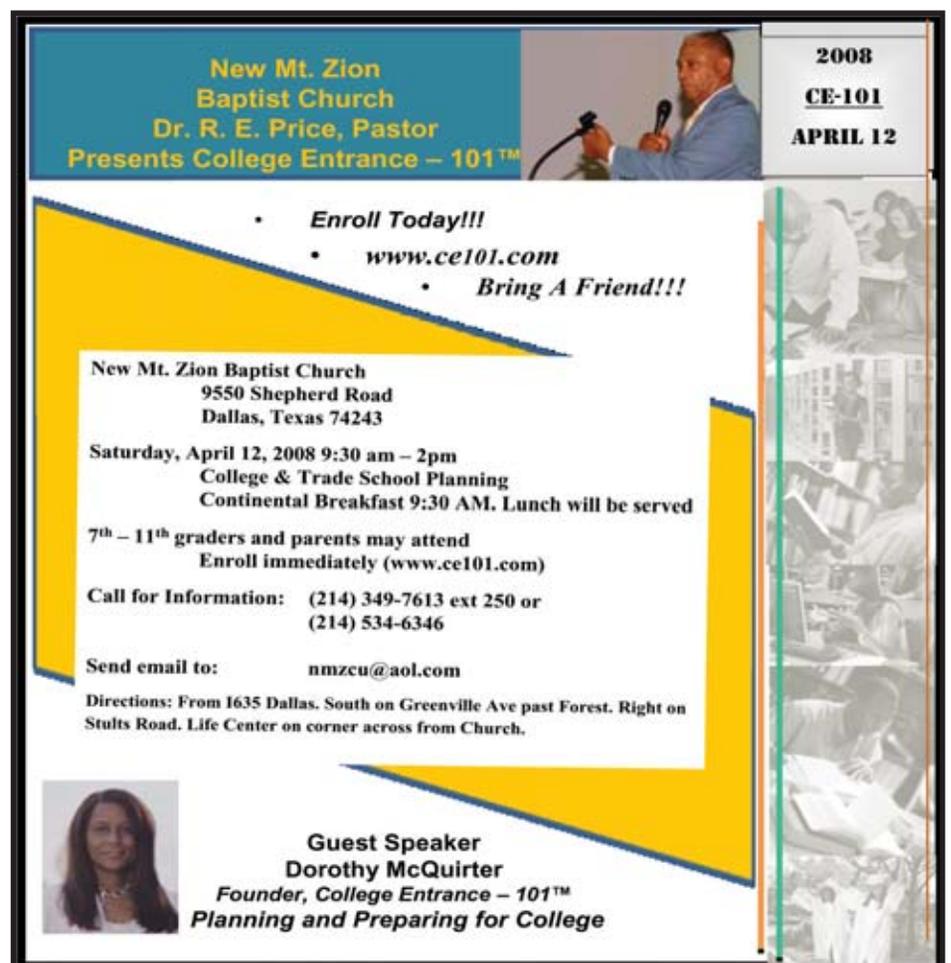
- ★ Victim friendly & hardworking court
- ★ Stronger sentences
- ★ Tougher probations
- ★ Fair & Impartial Court
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Please schedule 24hrs in advance. Paid for Jordan4Judge Campaign

Runoff Election Date: April 8th



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Guest Speaker
Dorothy McQuirter
Founder, College Entrance - 101™
Planning and Preparing for College

Ongoing

African American Republican Club of Collin County meets 3rd Tuesday of every month at 7:00pm (Doors will open at 6:30 pm) Collin County Republican Party Headquarters 8416 Stacy Road, McKinney Call Fred Moses at 972 618 7027 or fred@tes.com for more information.

Collin County Black Chamber of Commerce General Meeting is 2nd Thursday monthly, 6:30pm - 7:30pm. McKinney Housing Authority 1200 N Tennessee St McKinney 75069 The general public is welcome. For additional information call 469-424-0120.

Collin County Black Chamber of Commerce Monthly Lunch & Learn every 3rd Thursday \$15 for members; \$20 for non-members, 11:00am-1:00pm, Ralph and Kacoos - 401 S. Central Expwy, Allen. For general information and reservations call 469-424-0120.

DFW Financially Empowered Women meet monthly for lunch or dinner and a fun, informative seminar on various financial topics. For more information call 469-952-0809 or visit www.meetup.com/378.

Marriage Prep Class 1st Saturdays monthly 423 West Wheatland Road Suite 101, Duncanville 75116 \$10 fee for materials. For more info call Karen Duval at 972-709-1180.

No Limit Network Business Networking Lunch 1st and 3rd Thursday 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. every Thursday at Texas Land & Cattle Steak House 3945 N. Central Expressway Plano 75023 Must RSVP at www.TheNoLimitNetwork.com or call Sylvia Williams at 972-898-5882.

SHARE! PISD International Exchange Student Program is in the process of finding new host families to share their hearts and home with an exchange student for the 2008/2009 School Year. For more information on or how to

become a host family, call 1-800-941-3738, or visit www.sharesouthwest.org.

Watermarks Invitational Exhibit runs through April 12th 9:00 am - 8:00 pm Mondays through Thursdays, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm Fridays, and 10:00 am - 2:00 pm Saturdays. FREE Collin College 800 E. Spring Creek Parkway. For more info call 972-881-5873, or visit www.ccccd.edu.

The National Business Women Enterprise Network (NBWEN) hosts monthly lunch and learn workshop and networking event giving members and guests the opportunity to network, build relationships, present information on their business and services, and most importantly, learn different ways to improve upon and grow their business. For more information visit www.nbwen.org or email info@nbwen.org.

Wit Women Conference Call join this weekly conference call if you need encouragement, prayer, or inspiration. Dial in Tuesdays 7:00pm - 7:15pm to 218-486-1616, Code 10984 (may change each week).

April 2 - 4

Addison's North Texas Jazz Festival Crowne Plaza Hotel, 14315 Midway Road Addison April 2 through 4, 6:00 p.m. - Midnight For further details call 800-233-4766 or email webmaster@addisontx.gov.

April 2 and 5

Auditions for The Importance of Being Earnest are Tuesday, April 2 from 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. and Saturday, April 5 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Plano Community Theatre 1301 Custer Road, Suite 832 Plano, Texas 75075. Contact Nicole Woodall 972- 422-2575.

April 3

Love and Logic presents: Teacher and Parent Strategies Learn simple and practical techniques to raise responsible kids, how to put an end to backtalk, how to end power struggles and much. Admission is \$99.00. 8:30am-2:30pm Plano Centre, 2000 E. Spring Creek Parkway. For more information call 800-338-4065 or visit www.loveandlogic.com.

April 4

The Dallas Chapter of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference Commemorate the 40th Anniversary of the Assassination of Civil Rights Leader, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. with a citywide moment of silence, followed by Memorial March from the Fair Park entrance to the Martin Luther King Center for a prayer vigil. For more information contact SCLC President, Reverend Derrick Bowman at 972-792-0240.

April 5

African Cultural Festival at UNT Concert Hall Celebrate African Culture at the University of North Texas Denton 8:00 p.m. Admission \$10 For more information email galor@music.unt.edu.

8th Annual Oak Cliff Spring Fest Health Fair free children's immunizations, medical screenings, and other activities, 11:00 am until 3:00 pm All Smiles Dental Center 123 West 10th Street For more info email fmartinez@allsmilesdental-centers.com, or call 214-342-5757.

An Evening with Donnie Ray Albert 3:00 pm -8:00 pm at The Dallas Black Academy of Arts and Letters, Dallas Convention Center Theatre Complex. Admission \$15 For additional information call 214-943-2442.

Rover Dramawerks Gilligan's Island: The Musical Auditions Saturday, April 5 from 2:30 to 5:30 p.m., Monday, April 7 from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m., and Tuesday, April 8 from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. Appointments, resume and head shot required, may be made via email to audition@roverdramawerks.com. For more info visit www.roverdramawerks.com or call 972-849-0358.

Rover Dramawerks Celebrates Pot Luck Family Day from 10:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. in Haggard Park, in Downtown Plano, which will feature a Scavenger Hunt. Cost to participate is \$10 per person or \$25 per family/team (up to 4 people).

April 8

UNT International Week Food Fair is a special part of UNT's International Week 2008: Celebration of World

Cultures. The fair will feature authentic food and drinks from around the globe at 415 Union Circle in Denton; from 11:00 am until 1:00 pm. Admission is \$0.25 per ticket. For more information please email sheenamaria@unt.edu, or call 940-369-8625.

April 8 - 9

Rover Dramawerks announces auditions for the regional premiere of Mary's Wedding on Tuesday, and Wednesday from 7:00 to 9:30 p.m. Appointments are required; please email audition08@roverdramawerks.com. Auditions will be at the Art Centre of Plano, 1039 East 15th Street.

April 9

Brookhaven College Celebration of Cultures a celebration of different cultures through arts, music, dances, and an international fashion show Brookhaven College, 3939 Valley View Lane Farmers Branch 10:00 am - 2:00 pm. Admission free. For further information email SVancourt@dcccd.edu, or call 972-860-4683.

Texas Tech University College of Mass Communications Scholarship Luncheon will honor Brad Sham and feature a keynote address by Jerry Jones. The event will be held at the Frontiers of Flight Museum 6911 Lemmon Avenue in Dallas from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. For more info call Texas Tech at 1-806-742-3385 ext. 259.

April 10

Second Thursday Gallery Talk Learn what Deep Ellum was like in the 1920s and 30s - the heart and soul of the African American community. Out of this politically charged era came blues music that influenced scores of musicians in later decades. FREE 12:30 - 1:00 pm. For further information, call 214-745-1100 ext. 1931, or email edprograms@oldred.org.

Second Annual Purse Auction hosted by The Irving International Women's Consortium at Las Colinas Country Club. Purses will be donated from celebrities and around the world. Admission \$40 for more info call the Irving International Women's Consortium 469-524-4509.

April 11

20th Anniversary Live From Collin County Roasted and Toasted benefiting the Assistance Center of Collin County, Child and Family Services, My Possibilities, and Crossroads Family Services. McKinney Performing Arts Center 111 North Tennessee Street Tickets \$35, may be purchased at www.mckinneyperformingartscenter.org. For more info contact Glenna Blackstone at gbllks@man.com, or call 888-671-0994.

The Dallas Black Chamber of Commerce 11th Annual Excellence in Education Scholarship Luncheon at the Dallas Convention Center - Ballroom A (650 South Griffin Street) 12:00 noon; Admission is \$30, sponsorships are available. For more information, please contact the Dallas Black Chamber office at 214-421-5200 or log onto www.dbcc.org.

April 12

T.C. Carson and Patrice Rushen at The Dallas Black Academy of Arts and Letters, Dallas Convention Center Theatre Complex, 3:00 pm and 8:00 pm. Admission \$20. For more info call 214-743-2442.

Plano Stages presents A Bowl Full of Blues, a blues jam, from 6:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. in the Amphitheater at Oak Point Park in Plano. The concert will feature legendary blues performers Bugs Henderson and Anson Funderburgh. Joining them on the bill will be five North Texas blues acts - Jim Suhler, Mike Morgan, Hash Brown, Bulldogs and Blue Lisa.

Mary J. Blige & Jay-Z live in concert at the Superpages.com Center (formerly Smimoff Music Center) 1818 First Avenue Dallas, 75210; 7:30 214-373-8000.

The Live Green Expo is a free program at the Plano Centre (2000 E. Spring Creek Parkway, Plano 75074) designed to teach people how to save energy and stay environmentally friendly. Visit www.livegreenplano.com or call 972-816-9489.

April 15

Volunteer of the Year Awards Breakfast will be located at the Plano Centre, 2000 E. Spring

Creek Parkway, Plano 75074. For more information contact Maggie Cole, Event Chair, at 469-233-0161/972-612-8129 or email MaggieC@air-mail.net.

April 13 - 19

National Library Week Celebration at Plano Public Library System joins libraries nationwide to celebrate the 50th anniversary of National Library. Several special FREE activities are planned at Plano's five libraries.

April 14

UNT International Week 2008: Celebration of World Cultures International Education Awards Banquet will feature ethnic food, live entertainment, awards, scholarships, and special guest speaker Ambassador to Saudi Arabia, James C. Oberwetter 7:00 - 9:00 pm. Reservations required call 940-565-2197. For additional information, email sheenamaria@unt.edu, or call 940-369-8625.

April 16

Collin College will host an Earth Day Celebration on April 15 -16 at the Preston Ridge Campus, 9700 Wade Boulevard, in Frisco. Learn how easy it is to recycle and reuse to cut down on expenditures and waste. For more info, call Marsiela Cardena-Smith at 972-758-3896.

Aretha Franklin In Concert at Nokia Theatre At Grand Prairie 1001 Performance Place (Nextstage Drive) Grand Prairie, 75050; 8:00 PM 214-373-8000.

April 17

2008 Leadership Recognition RISD Tomorrow Foundation will honor RISD Teachers and Administrators 6:30 - 9:00 pm Renaissance Hotel, 900 East Lookout Drive, Richardson Individual Tickets \$125 and sponsorships available. For more information call RISD Tomorrow Foundation at 469-593-0241, or email elizabeth.hart@risdtomorrow.org.

City Council Candidate Forum 7:00 p.m. Council Chamber Garland City Hall 200 North Fifth Street Moderator Dr. Carol Brown, President Eastfield College.

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HUD Secretary Jackson Resigns Amid Probe

By PETE YOST

WASHINGTON (AP) — HUD Secretary Alphonso Jackson, his tenure tarnished by allegations of political favoritism and a criminal investigation, announced his resignation Monday amid the wreckage of the national housing crisis. He leaves behind a trail of unanswered questions about whether he tilted the Department of Housing and Urban Development toward Republican contractors and cronies.

The move comes at a shaky time for the economy, with soaring mortgage foreclosures imperiling the nation's credit markets.

In announcing that his last day at HUD will be April 18, Jackson said only, "There comes a time when one must attend more diligently to personal and family matters."

Some Congressional Democrats had pushed for him to leave.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., said HUD will be called on to work with Congress on assisting refinancing for borrowers faced with imminent foreclosure.

The ethical allegations against Jackson "meant that the Bush administration's ineffective housing policies were being burdened by an even more ineffective HUD Secretary," Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash., said after Jackson's announcement.

President Bush called Jackson "a strong leader and a good man." Ties between the two men go back to the 1980s when they lived in the same Dallas neighborhood. It was Jackson's personal ties to Bush that brought him to Washington, where he displayed a forceful personal style at HUD for seven years, first as the agency's No. 2

official and since 2004 in the top slot.

Despite a strong commitment to housing for

lessness. And we have preserved affordable housing and increased minority homeowner-



those in need, Jackson was capable of ill-advised public comments.

Last year, after the subprime mortgage crisis erupted, many policy-makers underlined the disproportionate impact of the high-risk, high-cost mortgages on minorities and the elderly, who often are targets of predatory lending practices that lure people into loans they are incapable of repaying.

Asked about the problems with subprime mortgages last June, Jackson insisted that many such borrowers were not unsophisticated, low-income people but what he called "Yuppies, Buppies and Guppies" — well-educated, young, black and gay upwardly mobile achievers — with expensive cars who bought \$400,000 homes with little or no money down.

In announcing his departure, Jackson said that in his time at HUD, "We have helped families keep their homes. We have transformed public housing. We have reduced chronic home-

ship."

Bush has been cool to the idea of a big federal housing rescue. "The temptation of Washington is to say that anything short of a massive government intervention in the housing market amounts to inaction," the president said recently. "I strongly disagree with that sentiment."

On Monday on his way out of the country for a trip built around a NATO summit, Bush said he wants Congress to modernize HUD's Federal Housing Administration, allowing more struggling homeowners to refinance their mortgages.

In October, the National Journal first reported on the criminal investigation of Jackson. The FBI has been examining the ties between Jackson and a friend who was paid \$392,000 by Jackson's department as a construction manager in New Orleans. Jackson's friend got the job after Jackson asked a staff member to pass along his name to the Housing

Authority of New Orleans.

In another instance of alleged favoritism that came to light in February, the Philadelphia housing authority alleges that Jackson retaliated against the agency because it refused to award a vacant lot worth \$2 million to soul-music producer-turned-community developer Kenny Gamble for redevelopment of a public housing complex.

Jackson's problems began in 2006, when he told a group of commercial real estate executives that he had revoked a contract because the applicant who thanked him said he did not like President Bush. Jackson later told investigators "I lied" when he made the remark about taking back the contract.

The probe of Jackson's comment by the HUD inspector general ended with no action taken against him, but the investigators brought to light friction between the HUD secretary and some contractors who have long done business with the agency, a number of them donors to Democrats.

In the IG probe, some of Jackson's own aides contradicted his account of one incident in which investigators found the HUD secretary had blocked a contract for several months to one heavily Democratic donor. Jackson blamed his aides for the delay in the award.

Jackson was the first black leader of the housing authority in Dallas, where his integration efforts caused clashes with some local homeowners in predominantly white neighborhoods.

Associated Press writers Marcy Gordon, Ben Feller, Hope Yen and Devlin Barrett contributed to this report.

Advancement Project Applauds Resignation Of HUD Secretary Alphonso Jackson

Advancement Project, a national racial justice organization that brought a lawsuit against U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary Alphonso Jackson on behalf of public housing residents in New Orleans who were shut out of their homes after Hurricane Katrina, is pleased to learn the Secretary is resigning, effective April 18. Secretary Jackson's announcement comes amid allegations of impropriety and favoritism at the agency, including a federal criminal investigation into contracts Jackson awarded after Katrina relating to New Orleans public housing. While the hurricane caused the worst affordable housing crisis in recent history, HUD responded by demolishing thousands of habitable public housing apartments and devising a redevelopment plan to replace less than 20 percent of the units. Consequently, a majority of the public housing families remain displaced and New Orleans' homeless population is double what it was before Katrina.

Alphonso Jackson will be most remembered for having turned his back on the people of New Orleans. We are glad to see him go, but the damage has been done. The people suffering, without a place to call home, are the people of New Orleans; the thousands of families who lived in public housing before Katrina and the working poor, many of whom remain displaced outside the city they used to call home.

While it is HUD's mission to provide affordable housing across the country, the exact opposite took place in the recovery and rebuilding of New Orleans. It therefore comes as no surprise that Jackson is under criminal investigation for his post-Katrina dealings. HUD agents, city officials, and developers appeared to have colluded in the largest Black removal in U.S. history. HUD's intent in New Orleans was never to bring back the majority-black and working poor residents of New Orleans. In the storm's aftermath, when Jackson said that 'New Orleans was not going to be as black as it had been for a long time, if ever again', we realized that we had to fight for people's right to return home.

In addition to the lawsuit filed by the Advancement Project, residents organized themselves and met with members of Congress, including Representative Maxine Waters (D-Calif.), who took the lead to pass the Gulf Coast Hurricane Housing Recovery Act of 2007 in the House. The legislation, opposed by HUD and now stuck in the Senate, would provide for one-for-one replacement of demolished units.

Secretary Jackson's resignation and tarnished tenure as the nation's housing chief should be a call-to-action for HUD to reverse decisions made in New Orleans and the Gulf Coast. With the change in leadership, HUD now has the opportunity to fulfill its mission and provide affordable housing for families who are still in desperate need.

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*Request program guidelines for detailed borrower and property requirements.



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Sean Levert, One-Third of the 1980s R&B Trio LeVert, Dies at 39

Family Requests FBI Investigation

CLEVELAND (AP) - Sean Levert, one-third of the 1980s R&B trio LeVert and a son of the lead singer of the O'Jays, Eddie Levert, died on Sunday after falling ill while serving a jail term at the Cuyahoga County jail where he was locked up for not paying child support. He was 39. The family of the R&B singer wants the FBI to look into his death after a



jail medical emergency. His cousin, Michael Gibson, says Levert never had any kind of outburst like the kind he the jail warden described. The warden says Levert was pounding on his cell door so guards strapped him in a restraint chair. The warden says his breathing became shallow and he was taken to the hospital. An autopsy was incon-

clusive about a cause of death, according to the Cuyahoga County coroner's office, but foul play has been ruled out. He died at Lutheran Hospital in Cleveland late Sunday, less than an hour after he was taken there from the jail, said the coroner, Frank Miller. Mr. Levert was sentenced last week to one year and 10 months in jail for failing to pay \$89,025

in child support. FBI spokesman Scott Wilson says agents would meet with Levert's family. Sean and Gerald Levert formed LeVert in the 1980s with a childhood friend, Marc Gordon. Their hits included "Baby I'm Ready," "(Pop, Pop, Pop, Pop) Goes My Mind" and "Casanova." "Casanova" was nominated for a Grammy in 1988 for best

R&B performance by a duo or group with vocal. It was also nominated for best R&B song. Gerald Levert had success as a solo artist after leaving their trio; he died in 2006 at age 40 of an accidental mix of prescription and over-the-counter drugs. Sean Levert found a new partner last year and was trying to revive the group.

Performing to Sold Out Crowds Around the Globe, Rahsaan Patterson Announces Dallas Performance on April 4th at Nokia Theatre

Patterson's Wines and Spirits Is One of the Hottest CDs Out Continuing to Climb Billboard's Heat Seekers Chart, Top 100 R&B/Hip-Hop Singles Chart and Urban Adult Contemporary Chart

As a soulful winter treat, neo-soul vocalist Rahsaan Patterson

Arena Theatre in Dallas on April 4th. With his new CD

fan acclaim and his first single, "Stop Breaking My Heart,"

let, Rahsaan has launched an international listening tour, performing for sold out crowds from Chicago, Oakland and Detroit to London and Japan, to name a few.

Since its debut, *Wines and Spirits* continues to climb the charts. The first single "Stop Breaking My Heart" entered Billboard's Hot R&B/Hip-Hop Songs Chart as the Hot Shot Debut and highest debut of the week. On the Adult R&B chart, the single remains in the top 20, which an amazing feat for an independent artist.

Receiving stellar reviews from Vibe, Billboard, USA Today and the Associated Press to name a few, *Wines and Spirits* is Rahsaan's musical leap of faith exemplifying his artistic growth over the

years. His soulful and melodic voice seamlessly joins together soul, jazz, blues and gospel, infused with a rock & roll sound which is distinctly edgier than his previous work.

Rahsaan has influenced numerous artists over the years, writing and collaborating with such industry greats as

Brandy, Jody Watley and Chico DeBarge, to name a few. Combining Rahsaan's three previous solo releases with songs he has written and performed on soundtracks as well as songs written and recorded by outside artists, Rahsaan's talents have touched over ten million CDs sold to date.



has announced he will be performing at the

Wines and Spirits receiving critical and

continuing to climb the charts with a bul-

Gallery 219 Presents FutureMakers 2008

Gallery 219 at Eastfield College presents: FutureMakers 2008: Works by Mesquite High School Advanced Placement Art Students from March 31 - April 11. A student artist reception will be held April 1, from 5:30 - 7 p.m.

This show consists of more than 80 works of art, including drawing, painting, and mixed media by rising art talent in Mesquite High Schools. Many MISD art students continue their art studies at Eastfield and other North Texas colleges and

universities. This show provides the community with an opportunity to witness the beginning of some very promising visual arts careers.

Gallery 219 is located on the main floor of the Fine Arts building (Bldg. F). Park and enter at the

Performance Hall on the west side of campus. Gallery hours are Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

For more information contact David Willburn, Gallery Director, at 972-860-7162 or davidwillburn@dcccd.edu.

ATTENTION!!!

Collin County Black Chamber of Commerce

◆ Meeting: Thursday, April 10, 2008

◆ Location: McKinney Housing Authority
1200 N Tennessee St
McKinney, TX

◆ Time: 6:30 pm

◆ If Interested In Joining
Contact: Ramona Giddings
469-424-0120 ext. 703
866-377-4002 (toll free)
rgiddings@ccblackchamber.org

Black Business Coach: Is Your Company Green?

By Dante Lee

www.BlackBusinessCoach.com

No, I'm not asking if your company is environmentally safe or if your company uses organic products. Nor am I asking if your company recycles plastic and cardboard. I'm asking whether or not your company is money green. Do you actually make money? Is your cash flow flowing?

Believe it or not, I meet minority business owners all the time who have lost sight of this very goal. They start off with the idea of generating revenue, and then they end up just casually floating around.

I see them at conferences and such, and they are just there for the association. Others believe they are making money, but they really aren't.

Does this describe you? If so, you need to find a way to get back on board the train of success and profitability. Thousands



Dante Lee

of African American entrepreneurs are generating billions of dollars in business revenue every single year. Unless you are running a non-profit organization, you should be generating a steady cash flow.

Here are some tips on how to keep your company green:

1) Stay focused. If it doesn't make money for your company, then minimize your time with it. Too often, entrepreneurs waste time doing things that do not contribute to their bottom lines.

2) Stop making excuses. Some businesses can rightfully blame the economy as the reason why they're not making money. More than likely though, you can't. The reason why you're not making money now is the same reason why you weren't making money when the economy was booming. Whatever that reason is, that's what you need to address.

3) Learn to adapt. If it is so that your business has been highly affected by the current status of the economy, find out how people have shifted their spending habits. You

may be selling something that people want, and you may need to shift to selling something that people need.

4) Stay in contact. One thing I learned just recently is that if you stay in contact with your industry leaders, you will make more money. It happens all the time: People are handed contracts just for being at the right place at the right time, or for knowing the right person.

Dante Lee is the 26-year old president and CEO of Diversity City Media, a multicultural marketing and public relations firm based in Columbus, Ohio. His daily blog, www.BlackBusinessCoach.com, offers a FREE email and RSS subscription for Black entrepreneurs and business owners.

Texas Boasts Top 10 Economy In National Ranking

WASHINGTON, DC—In the American Legislative Exchange Council's (ALEC) first economic ranking of all 50 states, Texas, with no income or inheritance tax, low business taxes, low minimum wage, "right-to-work" status, and recently enacted tax cuts, was ranked as the 10th best state in the country. The report, RICH STATES, POOR STATES: ALEC-Laffer State Economic Competitiveness Index, was a collaborative effort from authors Dr. Arthur Laffer, nationally recognized economist, and Stephen Moore of the Wall Street Journal.

According to the authors, Texas was also ranked number one in terms of economic performance and has attracted almost 700,000 residents of other states

since 1997, a net domestic migration. The state could improve its competitiveness by lowering its property and sales taxes, improving its tort liability system, and reducing workers' compensation costs.

The authors identify 16 policy variables with a proven impact on the migration of human and investment capital in and out of states. According to their findings, a record eight million Americans moved from one state to another last year, revealing which states have the most dynamic and desirable economies, and which are "has-been" states. The winners in this contest are generally the states with the lowest tax, spending and regulatory burdens. The biggest losers are California, the Northeast, and the Midwest.

"The historical evidence is clear: States that keep spending and taxes low exhibit the best economic results, while states that follow the tax-and-spend path lag far behind. Today, many states stand at a crossroads, and it will soon become apparent if lawmakers choose to use history as a guide for their actions. No state has ever taxed its way into prosperity. This is not about Republican

versus Democrat, or left versus right. It is simply a choice between economic vitality and economic malaise," said Jonathan P. Williams, Director of ALEC's Tax and Fiscal Policy Task Force.

The complete book is available online at www.alec.org; each state can be downloaded individually. Also available is a link to the C-SPAN video presentation by the authors.

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Manufacturing Job Fair in Garland

GARLAND, TEXAS - Manufacturing is the engine that drives American prosperity. It is central to our economic security and national security. Be a part of what makes America so great. Join us for the 2nd Annual Dallas County Manufacturers' Association Job Fair being held on:

Wednesday, April 16, 2008
Noon - 5:00 p.m.

The Atrium at the Granville Arts Center
300 N. Fifth Street
Garland, Texas 75040
Direct access from the DART blue rail line - Garland Downtown Station

Local manufacturers need talented and motivated individuals. The employers who will be participating are seeking workers from entry-level to experienced. Salaried management positions will also be available. A partial listing of participating companies includes Karlee, Garrett Metal Detectors, Micropac Industries, Inc. Plastipak Packaging, Marlow Industries, Inc., Atlas Copco, GTM

Plastics, DaveCo Industries, NOV Brandt, Craftmaster, and SST Truck Company, LLC.

Richland College will be providing seminars on resume writing and interviewing skills at 12:30 pm, 2:00 pm and 3:30 pm. WorkSource for Dallas County staff will also be on hand to talk with job seekers about their career goals and how to reach them.

For more information on the manufacturing job fair, please contact the Dallas County Manufacturers' Association, Cecilia Wells at 469-326-7447

Minister of Music

Hopewell Missionary Baptist Church is looking for an experienced musician with Christian leadership skills. This person must be able to lead the entire music ministry. Should be well versed in hymns, anthems, gospel and contemporary gospel. Must have at least 5-7 years of music leadership experience. References are required. Please submit salary requirements with your resume. Send resumes to Hopewell@hmbconline.org or fax to 214-824-3813.

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The City of Plano invites you to apply as a Plano police officer.

The Plano Police Department is a nationally accredited law enforcement agency with strong community relationship values. Historically, Plano achieves one of the lowest crime rates for Texas cities with population over 100,000. In 2006, Money Magazine ranked Plano number eleven in the nation of the top 100 best places to live. Policepay.net ranks Plano as the ninth highest police pay in the nation when adjusting for the cost of living. After 36 months of service, a Plano officer earns an annual salary of more than \$68,000.

You will find this is a tremendous career opportunity.

Plano police officers are hired from an eligibility roster consisting of individuals who have successfully passed a police recruit civil service entrance examination. The next exam will occur on Saturday, April 26, 2008 at 8:00 AM at Plano West Senior High School (5601 West Parker Road in Plano).

You must pre-register to take the exam.

A registration form and instructions are available at www.planopolice.org. To be eligible to take the exam, a properly completed registration form must be received by the Civil Service Test Administrator before 5:00 PM on Wednesday, April 9, 2008. Follow the instructions. An admission slip will be mailed to you. The admission slip allows you entrance to the exam site.

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February 20, Collin County Purchasers Forum

March 14, City of Garland

April 16, Lancaster

Church Happenings

DFW INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY ALLIANCE

April 13, 4 pm

Unit Church of Dallas, 6525 Forest Lane (between Preston Road and Hillcrest), in Dallas will present "Global Sacred Music Celebration" and you are invited.

April 19, 2008

Join us at "Fiesta Latinoamericana!" @ The Amphitheatre @ Oak Point, 2800 E. Spring Creek Parkway in Plano (across from Spring Creek College Campus). At 5 pm there's a FREE Family Fiesta with Latin American storytelling and folkloric dance workshops. At 8 pm it's the 2nd Annual Fiesta Latinoamericana! With dance, live music, theater, and Im by 14 local arts groups.

Call 972-661-2764 for more information, ticket fees, and directions for the above events.

DFW International Community Alliance
Anne Marie Weiss, President
12800 Hillcrest Road
Suite A211
Dallas, TX 75230
972-661-2764

EIRENE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

April 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, 7 pm

Join us each Wednesday in April for "SHAPE" in our Lecture Hall. You have a unique purpose in life; now

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Eirene Christian Fellowship
Rev. Terrance Autry, Pastor
701 E. Centennial Blvd.
Richardson, TX 75081
972-991-0200

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF HAMILTON PARK (FIRST CHURCH)

April 13, 6 pm

Join us for our Annual Fine Arts Recital in the sanctuary.

April 19, 9 am

It's time for our 9th Annual Health, Wellness, & Fitness Clinic. There will be health screening, wellness presentations, fitness classes and more. Contact Lucinda Butler for details.

April 26, 2008

Registration for our 2008 Women's Conference has begun. It will be at the Marriott Dallas/Plano @ the Legacy Town Center this year.

First Baptist Church of Hamilton Park (First Church)
Dr. Gregory Foster
Senior Pastor and
Rev. Anthony Foster, Pastor
300 Phillips Street
Richardson, TX 75081
972-235-4235

FRIENDSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH OF THE COLONY

April 11 & 12, 2008

You are invited to our Annual Fellowship and Campout at Hidden Cove Park. Sign up in the foyer or contact Bro. Marlon Dawson, Bro. Ray Williams, Bro. Tim Williams, or Bro. Truman Green.

Friendship Baptist Church, The Colony
Dr. C. Paul McBride,
Senior Pastor
4396 Main Street
The Colony, TX 75056
972-625-8186

MT. HEBRON MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

April 5, 2008

Join us at our Leadership Conference @ 8 am and our Jubilee Concert in the evening @ 6 pm.

April 28-May 1, 2008

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Mt. Hebron Missionary Baptist Church
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1233 State Highway 66
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972-276-5218

MUNGER PLACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Tomorrow, April 4, 7 - 9 pm

In the spirit of peace and in memory of the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. we proudly present our first Peace Concert, "I've Been to the Mountain Top" at the church. FREE to all, but a suggested donation of \$10 will be appreciated. Willis Johnson, KKDA Radio 730AM radio personality will be the Master of Ceremonies. Featured performances by St. Luke "Community" UMC choir and the Sacred Dancers; the Minnesingers and the Treble Varsity Choir from Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts. A video montage featuring Dr. King during the 1960's movement to end segregation and racial injustices and a tribute by 10-year-old Dalton Sherman will be presented. The program will conclude with a candlelight ceremony to reflect on the sacrifices by Dr. King and countless other heroes within the non-violent movement, and the importance of peace in our lives today.

Munger Place UMC
Rev. Charles Stovall,
Senior Pastor
5200 Bryan Street
Dallas, TX 75206
214-823-9929

NEW MOUNT ZION BAPTIST CHURCH OF DALLAS

April 6, 2008

You are invited to our 62nd Church Anniversary. We are preparing for an awesome time in the Lord as we celebrate 62 years of God's goodness.

April 12, 10 am - 2 pm

We present "College Entrance - 101." Enroll Today! www.ce101.com. Students in grades 7-11 and their parents are invited to attend. Please bring a friend to partake in this learning experience.

New Mount Zion Baptist Church of Dallas
Dr. Robert E. Price,
Senior Pastor
9550 Shepherd Road
Dallas, Texas 75243
214-341-6459

SAINT MARK BAPTIST CHURCH

April 12, 2008, Noon - 2 pm

Senior Saints (ages 55 and above) please join us for lunch, bingo and prizes during the "Double Nickel Luncheon" @ Newsome Homes Community Center, 230 Amcott Street, McKinney, TX 75069. FREE home delivery available to house-bound seniors within the city limits only. Please call 972-542-6178 no later than Friday, April 11th with your name, phone number, address, and the number of meals desired.

Saint Mark Baptist Church

Rev. Charles S. Wattley,
Senior Pastor
1308 Wilcox Street
McKinney, TX
972-542-6178

WOMAN OF STRENGTH MINISTRY

April 12, 11 am - 2 pm

Please join us for a Benefit Luncheon @ the Desoto Civic Center, 211 E. Pleasant Run Road in DeSoto, TX. This luncheon will be hosted by Donna A. Gantt and will benefit the Deborah Proctor Educational Scholarship Fund. Keynote speaker is Cheryl Wesley and musical guest is Carolyn Traylor.

For ticket prices, information or directions call 972-296-4590.

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





Sister Tarpley

Scriptures For April 2008

angel said to the women, "Fear Not; I know ye seek Jesus which was crucified."

From the monthly calendar of Full Gospel Holy Temple, Apostle Lobias Murray, Founder & Senior Pastor: You cannot successfully walk with God while running with the devil. **Matthew 6:24.** Let Christ conquer things within you and you will conquer thing without! **1 John 4:4; Romans 8:37.** And when Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in clean linen. **Matthew 27:59.** There was a great earthquake, the angel came and rolled back the stone. **Matthew 28:2.** Although the tongue weighs very little, few people are able to hold it. **Proverbs 8:21 & 34:13.**

"Evil communications corrupt good manners." **1 Corinthians 15:33.** Prayer is a shield to the soul, a delight to God and a scourge to the devil. **James 5:16.** Peace floods the soul when Christ rules the heart. **Philippians 4:7.** All power is given unto me in Heaven and in earth. **Matthews 28:12.** Rivers of water is the Word of God. **John 7:38.** While there is life there is hope. **Psalms 6:5.** Submit everything to God and take the worry out of life. **Matthews 6:34.**

He is not here: for He is risen as He said. **Matthews 28:6.** The



Mrs. Hallie B. Conwright will celebrate 5 Scores (100 years old) on April 5, 2008 at Greater Mt. Hebron Baptist Church in Dallas; her grandson, Rev. Fred Conwright, is the pastor. Her brother, Monaque Carter, Sr. & North Dallas Gazette staff says, "Happy Birthday!"

Matthews 28:5. God turned on the light nearly 2,000 years ago. Can you see? **John 1:9-10.** A man never shows his character so plainly as by the way he portrays others. **Proverbs 23:7.** "So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts to wisdom."

Psalm 90:12. Faith sees by the ears. **Roman 10:17; Hebrews 11:1.** When God forgives the contrite sinner, He also forgets the confessed sin. **1 John 1:9.**

The winds of the spirit are always blowing. Are we opening windows, or building windbreakers? **Acts 2:2.** The human spirit fails unless the Holy Spirit falls. **1 Thessalonians 5:19; Ephesians 4:30.** No man is truly ready to live until he is fully prepared to die. **Hebrews 9:27; Philippians 1:21; Amos 4:12.** Spoken words cannot be realized. We need help to say the right thing. **Ephesians 4:25.** Room for improvement is the largest room in the world. **Hebrews 6:11.** Salvation is like a parachute, there isn't any substitute. **John 14:6.** And shall deliver Him to the Gentiles to mock, to scourge and to crucify Him; the third day He shall rise again. **Matthews 20:19.**

If your troubles are deep seated and long standing, try kneeling. **Psalm 55:16-17.** He weighs well and makes decisions wise who keeps eternity before his eyes. **2 Corinthians 4:7-18.** It's better to be alone than to be in bad company. **Proverbs 1:10.** Flowers leave part of their fragrance on the hand that gives them. **Deuteronomy 16:17.**

National, pg 1

taught among all of today's athletes. He shared his thoughts and expressed his feelings in a way that assured us he understands what life is all about, which includes an obligation to "give something back."

Theda Rudd, Professor at Michigan State University and Business Consultant, painted a vivid picture of her life, which included the untimely death of her 33 year-old husband, during her pregnancy, and all of the issues she faced immediately thereafter. Her story is one that moved from trials to tragedy but ultimately ended in triumph because she refused to give up and was dedicated to carrying on the legacy of her husband's hard work to build a franchise business. I told her there's a great book inside of her waiting to be written. Keep an eye out for this sister.

Dr. Boyce Watkins, "The People's Scholar," Professor at Syracuse University, and regular guest on nightly news shows, is a refreshing young brother who is unafraid and unwavering in his "callouts" to awaken our people. He also gets in the faces of those "conservative" talk show hosts; he doesn't allow them to talk-over his response, take him off track, or twist his words. He is intelligent and on his game all the time. Check out his website at boyce-watkins.com.

Dr. Claud Anderson, President of the Harvest Institute and author of Powernomics, is a man who really needs no introduction to those who read my books

and this column. A fighter, a staunch advocate for Black people, a doer, an educator, a businessman, Claud has been on the economic empowerment front-line for decades, trying as best he can to teach and to bring economic initiatives to our people. You may remember him in Detroit where he tried to develop a Black business enclave but was rebuffed by the Mayor and a few other City Councilpersons. Kwame Kilpatrick could sure use Dr. Anderson's project now. Looks like he's gonna need a new gig.

Haki Madhubuti, Owner of Third World Press in Chicago, just celebrated his 40th year in the publishing business. A pioneer in Black pride, economic empowerment, and Black consciousness, Haki gave a stirring spoken word in remembrance of his friend and colleague, Dr. Asa Hilliard. It was an emotional moment and a special moment because Dr. Hilliard's wife, Patsy Jo, was in attendance. Haki's words, written for that special occasion, were absolutely beautiful.

Nowhere else can you get a line-up like that, along with educational workshops, entertainment by four of the best soloists and spoken word artists I have ever heard, and great food and fellowship.

I felt so blessed to be in the company of those in attendance, and even after the conference was over many of us convened to listen to Baba Serikali and witness the talents of his young "men" as they demonstrated

their Marshall Arts skills, their discipline, their Black consciousness, and their educational acumen.

I appreciate the opportunity they gave me to speak, especially Dr. Thomas Scott (Brother K) who recommended me. I also appreciate now being added to the "Hall of Fame" list of past speakers. Just go to the website (<http://louisville.edu/edu/bfa/>) and you will see what I mean.

Finally, but certainly not in the least was the pleasure and honor of meeting Dr. Joseph McMillan and his family. At 80 years of age, yes, slowed down a little by illness and other issues in his life, was there every morning bright and early, ready to "start on time."

He is a man among men and a glowing example of staying in the race, determined to finish his course. Despite obstacles that would make most of us give up, Dr. Mac seems to thrive on challenges and has a history of turning stumbling blocks into stepping stones. It is to him that I owe my deepest gratitude for allowing me to be a part of this historic national conference.

Those of you reading this article should make plans now to attend next year; you will not be disappointed. Please spread the word to your friends and relatives as well. This is a meeting everyone can (and should) attend. No big "I's" and little "U's" at this one, y'all. Just plain folk, dedicated to working together for the benefit of us all. Hope to see you there in March of 2009.

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"The Church with a Vision"



Dr. C. Paul McBride, Pastor

Celebrity Shopping Spree At Designing Dreams: Young Entrepreneurs Program

Dallas, Texas –Forest Whitaker, actor, director, producer, Oscar winner, and most recently seen in The Great Debaters, visited Dallas a few weeks ago to speak at Barack Obama's rally at his campaign headquarters located at South Side on Lamar. Prior to their departure, Whitaker's wife Keisha Nash-Whitaker accepted an invitation extended by

the young entrepreneurs to visit their studio located directly across from the campaign headquarters. Keisha, model and entrepreneur, recently launching her line of luxury cosmetics currently sold at Henri Bendel NYC and online at www.kissablecouture.com, was highly impressed with the program and creations of the aspiring designers ranging



Keisha Nash - Whitaker & Youth

from 8-15 years of age. After a tour of the studio, while sharing personal business tips and offering encouragement, she started her shopping spree within the boutique. Just minutes before being whisked away by her husband, Keisha quickly exchanged business cards, email addresses and information to send her products back to the young entrepreneurs.

Designing Dreams is the brainchild of leather craftsman Arthur Porter, milliner and designer Dalph Johnson, two Dallas artists who have joined forces to help others transform their artistic dreams into tangible creations. For additional information or to partner with us, visit our website at www.designingdreams.ifp3.com or contact us directly at (214) 421-9900.

Ben Washington Baptist Church, Inc.
 3901 Frisco Avenue
 Irving, TX 75061
 Church 972-790-8421 Fax 972-986-6590
 Email: church@bwbcirving.org
 Web: bwbcirving.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
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Avenue F Church of Christ
 1026 Avenue F • Plano, TX 75074 • 972-423-8833
 "Striving Towards the Pearly Gates in 2008"
 (Revelations 22:14)

Early Sunday Morning	8:00 am
Sunday Bible Class	9:45 am
Sunday Morning Worship	10:45 am
Men Bible Class	5:00 pm
Women Bible Class	5:00 pm
Evening Worship	6:00 pm
Wednesday Bible Class	7:00 pm

Radio Program @ 7:30 am on KHVN 970 AM Sunday Mornings
 Emery Tease, Associate Minister
www.avefchurchofchrist.org

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF HAMILTON PARK

Worship Services 7:30 am & 10:30 am
 Sunday School 9:30 am
 Wednesday Night Service 8:00 pm

Dr. Gregory Foster Senior Pastor
 Rev. Anthony Foster Pastor

Our Mission
 To fulfill The Great Commission until Christ comes.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF HAMILTON PARK
 300 Phillips Street • Richardson, TX 75081 • 972.235.4235 • www.fbchp.org

Promiseland Television Network Broadcast – KTAQ-TV
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 Weekly 30 minute broadcasts, each Saturday at 5pm and Sunday at 4pm

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: 7pm
 Men's Fellowship: Friday 7:00pm
 Website: www.ibocjoy.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

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) • newmzbc@aol.com (Email)

Saint Mark Missionary Baptist Church
 1308 Wilcox Street, McKinney TX
 Pastor Charles S. Wattley

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