

North Dallas Gazette



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Bernie Mac



Isaac Hayes

Black Community Loses Entertainment Icons

NNPA

Two stalwarts in the entertainment field provided an untimely one two punch with their back to back deaths over the weekend.

Award-winning actor

and comedian Bernie Mac died on Saturday, Aug. 9, at the age of 50. Legendary soul singer and arranger Isaac Hayes died Sunday.

Bernie Mac

"[He] passed away this

See **ICONS**, Page 20

NABJ In Full effect at Unity 2008 Chicago

From staff reports

The UNITY '08 Convention was held in Chicago July 23- 27, 2008 and was the largest gathering of journalists of color. Nearly 7,000 journalists and media executives met to discuss timely issues

affecting journalism and the media industry.

UNITY: Journalists of Color, Inc. is a coalition of the four alliances, the Asian American Journalists Association, the National Association of Black Journalists, the National Association of

Hispanic Journalists and the Native American Journalists Association. Their mission is to advocate fair and accurate news coverage about people of color, and aggressively challenge the industry to staff its organizations at all levels to reflect

the nation's diversity.

The five-day convention includes working journalists discussing diversity in the middle of a rapidly evolving news industry, plus scores of journalism students working on projects including a newspaper and online

See **NABJ**, Page 13

Former Donors Become Recipients in this Economy

From staff reports

When you think of a person that needs help with their groceries, you think of the person on the street holding the sign "will work for food". Unfortunately with the rise in gas prices, the fail-

ing economy and the high price of groceries, the look of the hungry has changed.

All it takes is for one husband or wife to lose their job and they become a statistic. This is an increasing problem in the community and it's one that Cheryl Jackson hopes

to help resolve.

The new face of the hungry is now driving an escalade, and it may be the person next door to you. Cheryl Jackson had a dream to open a food pantry to honor her mother and she wanted to do that on her 40th birthday,

as a little girl and a pastor's kid, she watched as her home doors revolved like a grocery store, her parents were always giving food, clothes, and prayer. She was taught how to give. She and her husband were once homeless and the only food she

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COVER STORY

In Plain Sight



See **SIGHT**, Page 11



African-American Athlete to Chronicle experiences in blogs

For more information see pg. 15
www.northdallasgazette.com

Blackonomics

Let's Turn Our Energy into Synergy

By James Clingman
NNPA Columnist

With all of the challenges Black people face in this country, from economics to politics, from crime to unemployment, from health care to education, and the list goes on, it is incumbent upon us to find effective and efficient ways to confront those challenges.

You may call them problems, which gives

many of us an excuse to become overwhelmed and fall into a state complacency – and then make no attempt to do anything about our situation. But, with every challenge there is an opportunity, and Black people can take advantage of them if we choose to do so. In my opinion, the most efficient way to get relief from our collective doldrums is through synergy.

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People In The News...



Lawrence Jenkins



Punkaj "Peter" Trivedi



A. Tish Mercer

See Page 2

Lawrence Jenkins

Dallas-based photographer Lawrence Jenkins will share the secrets of his success on "American Airlines Living Your Dream," a radio series, which airs each month on The Michael Baisden Show.

Jenkins has been called one of the best photographers in the country. He has photographed nearly every major African-American event in recent years, including Hurricane Katrina and the official event to mark the 40th anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr, which was held at the site of his death, Lorraine Motel in

Memphis.

After several years as a photojournalist with The Dallas Morning News, Jenkins opened Lawrence Jenkins Photography in 2004. The firm's client roster has included American Airlines, General Motors, 7-Eleven, Comerica Bank, the Texas Rangers, the American Heart Association, and worldwide public relations firms Weber Shandwick and Ketchum Public Relations. Jenkins' work has also appeared in such publications as Ebony, Black Enterprise, The New York Times, The Washington Post, and USA Today.

In an effort to expand his creative outreach, Jenkins published his first book in 2006 entitled, "We Remember," which documents the weekend of Coretta Scott King's funeral in Atlanta. "We Remember" is also a photography exhibit that captures 20 never-before-seen images of those who paid tribute to King. The exhibit is currently on display at various Dallas Public Library facilities through December.

"American Airlines Living Your Dream" is a collaboration with The Michael Baisden Show, which is broadcast weekdays, 3 p.m. – 7 p.m. EDT, on ABC Radio Networks.

The Michael Baisden

Show was launched in national syndication by ABC Radio Networks in January, 2005 and is hosted by author, TV talk show personality and emerging community leader Michael Baisden. The entertaining four-hour afternoon radio program airs Monday – Friday and combines the best in music, comedy and social outreach to inspire real change in local communities across the country. Heard in 22 of the top 25 urban radio markets, The Michael Baisden Show reaches more than 4.6 million listeners each week.

American Airlines is the world's largest airline. American, American Eagle and the American Connection® airlines serve



250 cities in over 40 countries with more than 4,000 daily flights. The combined network fleet numbers more than 1,000 aircraft. American's award-winning Web site, AA.com, provides users with easy access to check and book

fares, plus personalized news, information and travel offers. American Airlines is a founding member of the oneworld® Alliance, which brings together some of the best and biggest names in the airline business, enabling them to offer their customers more services and benefits than any airline can provide on its own. Together, its members serve nearly 700 destinations in over 140 countries and territories. American Airlines, Inc. and American Eagle Airlines, Inc. are subsidiaries of AMR Corporation. American Airlines, American Eagle, the AmericanConnection® airlines, AA.com.

Punkaj "Peter" Trivedi

Punkaj "Peter" Trivedi has been named Vice President of Sales for CompuPros, Ltd., a Dallas-based and Dallas-grown IT Staffing and Professional Services provider. Trivedi brings with him 20 years of success in developing a sustainable services sales pipeline along with a sense of humor that this

multi-cultural professional works and lives by.

"It's amazing what you can achieve through laughter and fun," Trivedi said. "Using humor makes people feel good and thus creates a team environment. A company is not a company without its people."

Trivedi believes in coaching and motivating

people to change their belief systems – the difference between succeeding and not succeeding. His motto is "you're only as rich as your network." Trivedi is a Master Practitioner of Neuro-Linguistic Programming (NLP) & Design Human Engineering (DHE). NLP and DHE are a set of techniques/strategies for enhancing communication and influencing positive



behavior.

Trivedi's vision for CompuPros over the next

three years is to expand its business throughout the U.S. "We will be creating jobs and a powerhouse leadership team," he said. CompuPros provides value-added, high quality IT staffing solutions to support contract, contract-for-hire and direct hire needs.

Trivedi was born in Kenya, moving to England when he was seven years old. He was

educated in England and has worked in several countries around the world. Trivedi moved to the U.S. in 2001, establishing himself in the IT contract staffing market which encompasses wireless and professional services. He is fluent in English, Hindi, and Gujarati. He is also conversational in Swahili and Punjabi.

A. Tish Mercer

A. Tish Mercer, Managing Senior Partner of ATM Global Resources, LLC, can best be described as an "Architect of Change," in the dynamic and ever changing world of human capital management strategies. With over twenty years in the critical area of Human Capital Development, Ms. Mercer is a personable, articulate and dependable professional who brings to the equation exceptional resource and succession planning, team building and management. Her expertise, which has been gained while working in the private and public sector in human resources, includes Talent Acquisition and Retention;

Leadership Training and development; Organizational Planning and Restructuring; Workforce/Succession Planning Strategies; Policy Development; Performance Management; and Labor Negotiations. Her consistent use of these skills has made her the "go to" person when organizations are looking to gain an inside tract to prospective government as well as corporate clients.

As a strategic partner, Tish has an established reputation for high level competency, including rebuilding organizational infrastructures and creating collaborative partnerships across enterprises that have



ensured highly productive and efficient workforces. In the every changing, silo to matrix and matrix to consultative environments, Ms. Mercer has proven that she can effectively and successfully lead and maneuver through the most difficult organizational cultures while at the same time developing relationships that push once stagnant

teams beyond their perceived limitations to the brink of excellence.

Tish has managed HR functions in both the private and public sectors, and has led assignments in local, state, federal and foreign governments.

She also developed and conducted workshops for the National Black Conference of Mayors; the NAACP's Conference for the State of Maryland; and the National Association of Housing

As a motivational speaker, Tish has a long list of speaking engagements among her credits. Expect client-focused and customer service-driven leadership with an in-depth understanding of the value of human capital. Our approach to managing

human capital is designed to ensure maximum utilization of available resources at all times.

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

The Truth Clinic: A Letter Sen. Obama

By James Breedlove

NNPA Commentary

Dear Mr. Obama

It is crunch time and the right wing attack dogs have been released en masse with explicit orders to track you down, force you into a state of turmoil by nipping at your heels on nonsensical pretext, and flood the presidential landscape with irrelevant garbage designed to focus voter attention toward emotional bias and away from the reality of their economic suffering and uncertain future.

Mr. Obama, with only three months remaining until the November election extreme care must be exercised by your campaign to not become side tracked by the concerted scorched earth tactics of the Republican party. Truth, facts, and issues are beside the point. The strategy is to keep you so occupied defending the inanities that you will be perceived as a naïve, inexperienced, and confused dolt not fit to assume the mantle of president.

While these unwarranted negative campaign tactics must be responded to quickly and decisively the efficient and effective use of your campaign resources must not be totally directed at neutralizing McCain's surrogate minions. In other words, Mr. Obama, you cannot let the McCain camp control the terms of the presidential discussion.

You orchestrated an especially brilliant primary campaign that resulted in your becoming the presumptive democratic presidential nominee. The knowledge, insight, and complete

understanding of the practical nuances of the democratic primary/caucus process permitted your campaign to skillfully maneuver to victory over what is perhaps the most formidable political dynasty of the last two decades.

If you are to achieve victory in November then the same type of maximization strategy used to attract delegates in the primary must be adapted to be responsive to the nuances ingrained in the Electoral College. As the 2000 election showed it is possible to win the popular vote and still not be elected president.

The Electoral College is a unique voting system that is designed to give proportionate power to the states based on their votes. The number of electoral votes allocated to each state is equal to the number of representatives and senators the state has in the Congress. Currently, the total number of electoral votes is 538 and a candidate must receive 270 of the 538 votes to win the election.

All states—except Maine and Nebraska—employ a winner-takes-all method that awards their presidential electors as an indivisible bloc. This means that a candidate winning the popular vote, even by the razor thin margin of 50.1 percent, in 48 states plus Washington, D.C. takes all of the electoral votes in that state. However, in Maine and Nebraska one elector is selected from each congressional district by popular vote with two additional electors selected by the statewide popular vote.

So what must campaign

Obama do to win in November?

While conventional polls must be taken into account they cannot be the basis for making critical decisions. The vast Obama organization of professionals and grass roots volunteers should be divided into units of attack commandoes, holding armies, and persuasion mentors who will be specifically trained for their respective duties.

The attack commandoes will monitor and instantly respond to the divisive and diversionary negative ads, blogs, and statements made by the McCain campaign. The mission is to expose and neutralize the negative information before it becomes rooted in the public discussion. They will also counter with pro-active insight into the horrors of a third term Bush presidency and questions on McCain's claim that being tortured for five years qualifies as leadership experience.

The holding army's objective will be to keep voters that are already supporting the Obama candidacy from being unduly influenced by the McCain attacks and switching allegiance.

Persuasion mentors have the responsibility to interface with and work tenaciously to bring borderline and undecided voters into the Obama fold by addressing any misconceptions, doubts, and misunderstandings on how the Obama positions are in the voter's best interest.

Additionally, each of the field groups will continuously gather firm evidence on voter intentions. This information is especially important in areas with large contingents of

independents, white working class voters, and white women loyal to Clinton. Accurate voter data gathered by your dedicated field team during face to face meetings is more accurate than the telephone polls taken by the networks and other media outlets.

Wait until the last possible moment, just prior to the nominating convention, to announce your Vice President. Why? So you can take advantage of the latest data from your field organization in identifying which voter blocks are tenuous. Each of the potential VP candidates brings a particular voter constituency to the campaign. The critical voters that you need to achieve your goal of 270 electoral votes should be a prime factor in selecting the VP that can deliver those crucial votes.

Continue to act presidential, not with arrogance or patronization of the common people, but with the self assurance that you are that special someone that the people can look up to. While the opposition tries to characterize you as elitist and out of touch with the average American, in reality Americans want a leader who can rise above the fray and look, act, and think like a president. They are not looking for a beer buddy.

If you stay focused on your agenda of change and abiding faith in the decency of the American people on November 5th you will be the president of these United States of America.

Comments or opinions may be sent to the writer at: www.truthclinic.com

EDITOR'S NOTE:

The North Dallas Gazette has recently conducted research on Wells Fargo Bank and their lending practices within the minority community. If you would like to offer any special comment regarding your interactions with Wells Fargo Bank – pro or con – please contact our Publisher, Mr. Thurman Jones at publisher@northdallasgazette.com. Please include "Wells Fargo" in the subject line of your email. You may also send any comments to P.O. Box 940226, Plano, Texas 75094-0226.

African Players Shine in Beijing

NNPA

Africans scored victories in soccer, softball and swimming in the world's most-watched sports event of the year in Beijing, China.

Soccer teams of the Ivory Coast, Nigeria and Cameroon all chalked up early wins, defeating Japan, Serbia and South Korea. Decisive matches with the United States, Argentina and Brazil will be held this week.

Kirsty Coventry, a Zimbabwe-born swimmer took the first silver medal for the embattled Southern African nation in the women's 400 meters indi-



vidual medley final. She went on to break a world record in the 100 meter backstroke – winning the first medal of any color won by an African country in any discipline at the start of Day Three of the competition.

Commenting on her time, Coventry said: "It's awesome. I'm very happy. 4:29 is so fast."

And finally, in handball, Nina Kamto Njitam of Cameroon playing for France, helped that country defeat Angola, 21-18.

Experts Offer Tips During Triple Temps

From staff reports

Weather forecasts continue to predict triple digit temperatures for Dallas County, continuing what is traditionally the hottest period of the year. The combination of daytime highs above 100 degrees, nighttime lows over 75, and high levels of humidity during extended periods of time places everyone at increased risk of heat-related illnesses, injuries and death. The elderly, the very young and persons with pre-existing health conditions are at higher risk for these heat-related illnesses. DCHHS is asking for the community's help to ensure the safety of every resident of Dallas County. Start an "Each One Reach One" group in your community and check on your neighbors.

This is especially important for elderly persons and those who live alone. Daily welfare checks can identify issues, such as lack of air conditioning that can cause serious injury or even death. If you notice someone suddenly experiencing sudden high temperature (but less than 104 degrees), hot and flushed skin that might be clammy to the touch, muscle or stomach cramps, nausea and/or vomiting, headache, profuse sweating, rapid pulse, or dizziness, cool the person's

body with fans, cool towels, or sprays and give them plenty of water or sports drinks. Seek Medical attention IMMEDIATELY if symptoms do not improve!

In 2006 there were 21 deaths; in 2005 there were no deaths; in 2004 there was 1 death; in 2001 there were 15 deaths, and in 1998 there were 35 deaths.

Troops Invade Nigera's Oil Delta

NNPA

Troops that raided a village in the oil-rich Niger Delta said they recovered two surface-to-air missiles during a search for militants in the area.

The attack in Bomadi area in Delta State was reportedly in retaliation for a rebel attack on a military camp on Saturday. According to the Daily Champion of Lagos, the invasion by troops left 500 homeless and 600 locals missing.

Last week, the leading Nigerian militant group threatened retaliation over

a road accident in which a German construction truck crashed into a commuter bus, killing 12.

The Niger Delta area is a conflicted zone due to the presence of profit-taking multinational oil companies in the midst of abject poverty and unemployment.

Oil flow stations have especially contributed to the contamination of groundwater, and the destruction of plant and wildlife. A new report from the Minister of Environment, Housing and Urban Development gave the number of

recorded oil spills between 2006 and 2008 as 1,260.

Meanwhile, the Presidential Committee on Oil and Gas Sector Reform Implementation this week submitted to President Umaru Yar'Adua a draft Petroleum Industry Bill seeking to repeal all existing laws on oil and gas.

The presidential panel advised that the state oil company be run as an "independent limited liability company," to operate as a commercial organization and make a profit.

Eduardo Urges 'Peaceful' Climate for Elections

NNPA

Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos called on Angolans to show "respect and tolerance" in the lead-up to September elections, the country's first since the end of a 27-year civil war.

"Let's show the continent and the world about the ways to hold elections," he said. "Let's frustrate those who without any reason believe that these elections are doomed."

The ruling MPLA will

be facing the main opposition party, the former rebel movement UNITA led by Iasias Samakua. The elections are being seen as a measure of the popularity of President Dos Santos, who has been in office for 29 years.

Elections were held in Angola 16 years ago, but came to nothing when the result was rejected by UNITA.

Official campaigning for the vote started Aug. 4. Angola is Africa's largest oil-producer, topping Nigeria since April.



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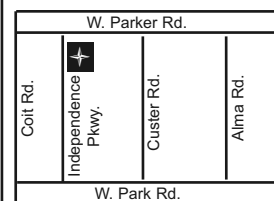
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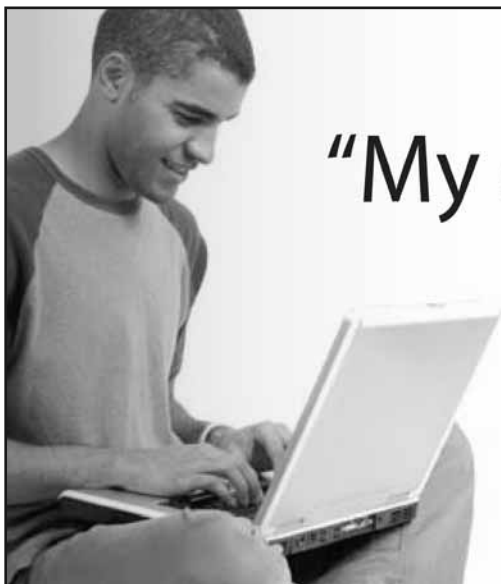
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DFW Taps United Nations, Becomes Exclusive U.S. Host Site

From staff reports

Dallas Texas will be the exclusive U.S. host site for the Global Slavery Remembrance Day. The event brings awareness to the United Nations Education, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Slave Trade Project for the Revolt and

Abolition of the Transatlantic Slave Trade, and the Celebration of the Commemoration of the 200th Anniversary of the United States Abolition of the Slave Trade Act (January 1, 1808). UNESCO named and designated August 23rd as the official

International Day for celebrating the Revolt and Abolition of The Slave Trade Act.

On Saturday, August 23, 2008 there will be a Reception and Ceremony hosted at "City View" located on the roof top of the West & Associates Building 320 S. R. L. Thornton Freeway,

Dallas, Texas, 75230 from 8:45 p.m. to midnight (a special unveiling ceremony will occur at 9:15 p.m.). Special guest dignitaries will include guest speaker, Reverence Peter Johnson, Director of Texas Operations of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) {friend of and

marcher with slain civil rights leader Reverend/Dr. Martin Luther King} and others. Attendees will receive a commemorative wristband. Complimentary appetizers will be served. Space is limited arrive early.

Please contact Venita M. Benitez at

214.682.0444 or venitabenitez@tx.rr.com and visit www.global-slaveryremembranceday.com. Bring your family and friends and take part in this historical celebration. Students, staff, and faculty of schools and universities are strongly encouraged to attend.

Mocha Moms, Inc. will launch Boys Booked on Barbershops initiative

From staff reports

Mocha Moms, Inc. and the National Institute for Literacy Council have launched an innovative partnership to support early literacy and help foster a love for books and reading.

North Dallas Chapter Mocha Moms, Inc. will kick-off Boys Booked on Barbershops on August 23, 2008 from 9:00 am-11:00 am. The event will be held at Hair for U Salon located at 230 W. Parker Rd #200, Plano, TX 75075.

Event activities will include: FBCA Step Team will start the event with a performance; Community leaders and organizations will read books to the children every twenty min-

utes; Door prizes will be given out every 15 minutes; Face painting will be available, donuts and beverages will be served.

The Boys Booked on Barbershops initiative is designed to increase the number of parents who read to their children. Children's books, as well as National Institute for Literacy publications will be available to parents and children. The books will be in a designated reading area of the salon.

Mocha Moms, Inc. was founded in 1997 by four mothers of color in Maryland who saw the need for a growing segment of stay at home mothers of color to connect and support each other. Today, the fast growing national, non-profit organization has



almost 100 chapters and 3,000 members throughout

the country. Mocha Moms, Inc. welcomes people of all

genders, religions, races, educational backgrounds,

and income levels. Anyone who supports the mission of Mocha Moms, Inc. is welcome.

The National Institute for Literacy, a federal agency established in 1991, provides leadership on literacy issues, including the improvement of reading instruction for children, youth, and adults. In consultation with the U.S. Departments of Education, Labor, and Health and Human Services, the Institute serves as a national resource on current, comprehensive literacy research, practice, and policy.

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IT ALL BEGINS HERE.

DFW Expo For Educators on August 23rd

From staff reports

The DFW EXPO FOR EDUCATORS is a one-day event that provides a fun, casual arena for educators! Meet with

exhibitors to gather knowledge, tools, materials and resources, learn quick healthy-cooking tips to meet your busy schedule; rejuvenate at Relaxation Station for

with a free massage to ease stress before school begins, and enjoy an Reception with complimentary food and net-working to celebrate the kickoff of the 2008-2009

school year. This expo is the place to be before the school bells start ringing! Register at 4star-events.com. FREE for educators/personnel with district ID; \$7 for public.

Garland NAACP Host Back To School Health Fair

From staff reports

August 23, 2008
9:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.
Gale Fields Recreation Center
1701 Dairy Road,
Garland, Texas

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Angel Faces Host Free Hair Cuts, Supplies Event

By Monique "M. P." Stone
Special to North Dallas Gazette

In celebration of our one year anniversary serving the Oak Cliff and Southern Dallas community in the martial and performing arts, Angel Faces presents "Kids Day Out" August 23, 2008, from 9am-5pm. Angel Faces is inviting parents to bring their lil' angels out for a day of precious pampering and performing possibilities. The event will take place at Angel Faces Playhouse & Performing Arts Center located at 1111 W. Ledbetter, Suite 750, in the Cliffview Crossing Shopping Center between 67 & Polk.

In the morning, we are offering free haircuts, hair styles, facials and manicures courtesy of L&J Hair Design, Don's Barber Shop and Vatterott Cosmetology School. We will giveaway youth oriented gift bags, gift certificates, school supplies and uniforms (while supplies last) to our underprivileged youth in preparation for the new school year.

In the afternoon, we will teach them the art of

dance, modeling, and acting while entertaining them with a youth fashion and talent show. A photo shoot will capture their precious youth as they play make believe in our funky fresh or Shakespearean costumes. Auditions will be held in search of the next fresh face of Angel Faces Modeling & Talent Division and the most talented singers and dancers will be signed for a local and national touring group.

We will wrap up the day with amazing Gospel Hip Hop performances by some of Dallas's most talented recording artist and youth choirs. "Kids Day Out" is not only a day of self esteem and confidence building for our disadvantaged youth, it is an opportunity for our organization and other local businesses in the area to give back to the underprivileged in our community. Don't forget to mention, that there will be bounce house fun all

day and free hot dogs and drinks for all event guest.

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To get more information on scholarship criteria and applications please go to www.efc.dcccd.edu/rcd/NSF or (972) 860-7389.



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Lake Highlands Recreation Center 9940 White Rock Trail, Dallas, Texas "Presents" N2NE Basketball and Soccer League. Registration deadline is May 24th 2008. Registration fee: \$25.00 per youth. League starts June 7th -July 31st We are in need of referee's and coaches for our league if you are interested please send your resume to one of the following: Rich_eta@n2ne-ym.com, penny@n2ne-ym.com, or kdedmon@cokece.com

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United Way, Energy Future Holdings, Churches Host Youth Camp

From staff reports

Approximately 600 children and teens of low income families – many of whom have been relocated to Dallas from southern Louisiana – came together today for the final day of the 3rd Annual Texas-Louisiana Camp for Youth (TLC), a United Way of Metropolitan Dallas (UWMD) special initiative, sponsored by Energy Future Holdings (EFH). The 600 youths have been participating in the ten-week TLC through local churches. For the first time all summer, the entire group of campers came together to enjoy an afternoon of horseback rides, fishing, swimming, and bounce houses for their official last day of camp. More than sixty volunteers from EFH were on hand to help facilitate the ranch activities.

“When we discovered how many families were still in Dallas from Hurricane Katrina and how many kids had no where to go during the summer, we were committed to developing a program to meet their unique needs,” Gary Godsey, UWMD CEO said. “We are so pleased the camp participation has more than tripled in size – an example of a long-term solution that would not have been possible without the collaborative efforts of all involved.”



Children from Antioch Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church, Concord Baptist Church and Friendship West Baptist Church came together for the United Way Texas-Louisiana Camp for Youth.

ble without the collaborative efforts of all involved.”

“At Friendship West we believe in putting our time, money and energy into positively impacting this generation of young people to give them hope,” said Henry H. Baston III, Youth Pastor, Friendship West Baptist Church. “United Way has this same goal in mind and we are happy to partner with them for our summer program.”

TLC is a partnership of

EFH, UWMD, Operation Relief Community Development Corporation, Antioch Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church, Concord Baptist Church and Friendship West Baptist Church. Energy Future Holdings (formerly TXU Corp.) has been a significant

supporter of TLC since 2006.

“Today’s Texas-Louisiana Camp celebration is a wonderful opportunity for these children to enjoy a fun-filled day with laughter and excitement,” said Don Montgomery, United Way Campaign Chair for EFH.



Participants enjoyed horseback rides, rock-climbing and many other activities sponsored by United Way.

“We are honored to participate with United Way in making a difference in these children’s lives.”

Texas-Louisiana Camp was created in 2006 in response to the large number of displaced families with limited resources who relocated to Dallas due to Hurricane Katrina. Participation has exploded from 140 kids the initial year to 600 this year. TLC was blended with existing summer camp programming at the participating organizations, allowing the children from Louisiana to establish new friendships. The camp also provides opportunities for networking and fellowship among families facing shared challenges. The camp was initially launched and continues to benefit from significant support of the John and Susan Wilder Foundation.

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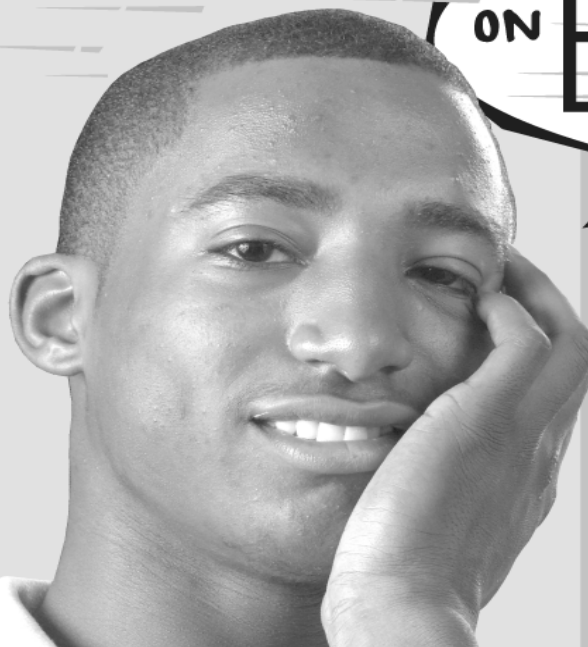
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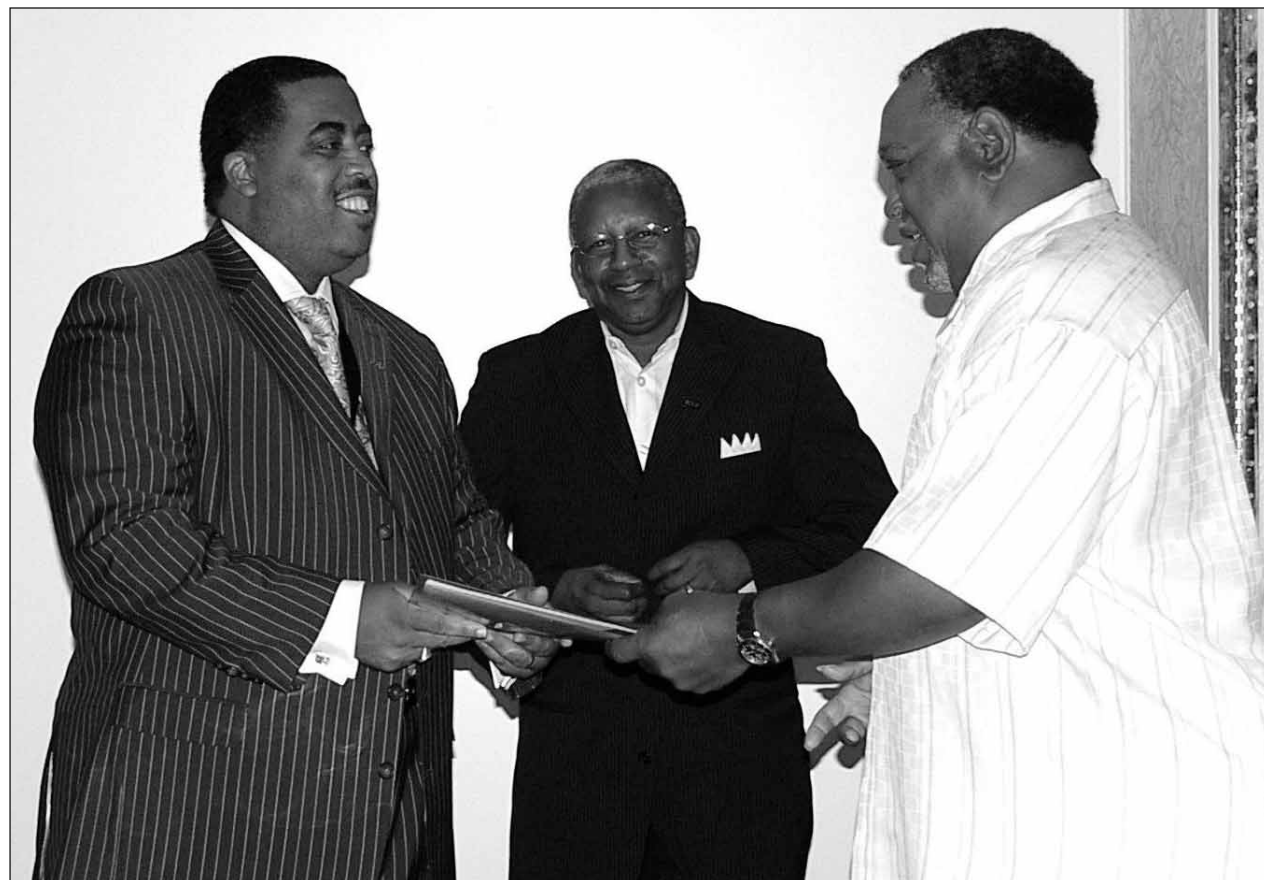
Dallas SCLC Receives Chapter Charter

By. Jacquinette D. Murphy
North Dallas Gazette

After many years of local dormancy, the Dallas chapter of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference received its official chapter charter from the national SCLC organization during its national conference in New Orleans, Louisiana. The local chapter was re-organized in December 2007, and has been working on the local level help-

ing to aid in the improvement of race relations and economic disparities in the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex and throughout the state of Texas.

Specifically, the group has been present in helping to bring awareness and resolution to the nationally profiled case of racially motivated hate crime involving the Arlington couple, Broderick Gamble and Silk Littlejohn earlier this year. SCLC Dallas has also hosted a widely-pro-



SCLC Dallas Chapter President Derrick Bowman (left) and Vice-Chairman Glen Lacy(center) receives charter from Rev. W. Shanklin (right) of the SCLC National Board during SCLC National 50th anniversary conference.

filed gas protest as a part of the organization's national Rolling Gas Boycott demonstrations and has built partnerships across cultural boundaries to enable a united effort for local change through the creation of the Greater North Texas Coalition.

The Southern Christian Leadership Conference was originally founded by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., in 1957 and through the chapters located in many

cities through the United States, his message and quest for equal rights for all humanity is still marching on. For more information or to be a part of the

chapter, please contact the local organization via phone (972) 792-0240 or email slcdallas@live.com.

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While overall drug use among teens is down in recent years, there are still too many brilliant young people whose potential is ruined. Don't let drugs destroy their chance of going to college or landing a good job.

MARIJUANA CAN LIMIT YOUR TEEN'S ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

- A teenage marijuana user's odds of dropping out are more than twice that of a non-user.¹
- The short-term effects of marijuana can include impaired memory and ability to learn.²

Parents and family are still the most important influence in young peoples' lives so keep the lines of communication open, set a clear, "no marijuana" rule, stay involved, and continue to discuss the dangers and consequences of drug use. You make the difference. Knowing that education is the key to a better tomorrow, you have the power to protect their potential and help lead them on the road to success.

For more information,
visit www.TheAntiDrug.com or call 1.800.788.2800

Signed,

- 100 Black Men of America, Inc.
- American Council on Education
- American School Counselor Association
- Boys and Girls Clubs of America
- National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education (NAFEO)
- National Association of Black Social Workers, Inc.
- National Association of School Nurses
- National Council of Negro Women
- National Medical Association
- National Urban League
- Partnership for a Drug-Free America
- PTA
- United Negro College Fund (UNCF)

PARENTS.
THE ANTI-DRUG

1. Bray JW, Zarkin GA, Ringwalt C, Qi J. The relationship between marijuana initiation and dropping out of high school. *Health.com*. 2000 Jan;9 (1):9-18.

2. NIDA Info Facts: Marijuana. Revised. NIDA. September 2003.



Ongoing

African American Republican Club of Collin County meets 3rd Tuesday of every month at 7 pm (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. 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 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 am - 12:30 pm 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 www.sharesouthwest.org.

Watermarks Invitational Exhibit runs through April 12th 9 am - 8 pm Mondays through Thursdays, 9 am - 5 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 www.nbwen.org or info@nbwen.org.

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

August 13-16

National Sales Network's 12th Annual Conference and Career Fair will feature leadership workshops and live entertainment. The conference is located at the Fairmont Hotel in Dallas. Visit www.salesnetwork.org to register.

August 15

Anthem's Rock the Block Back to School Bash Bring the whole family, leave with free stuff, and

tools for strengthening your family. This bash will be held at 2427 Macon St. In Dallas, Texas at 10 a.m. Admission Is free. Call 972-824-4786 or email tonya.mcgee@anthem-northtexas.org.

August 16

Keepin' It Real! Youth empowerment conferences will provide teens with an opportunity to meet local leaders and ask challenging questions of their own. The event will be held at Richland College, 12800 Abrams Road in Dallas, Texas. www.teengraffiti.com, or call Sharon Jones-Scaife at 972-496-9457.

Foreclosure Prevention Workshop from 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at the Dallas Convention Center Ballroom A 650 South Griffin Street, Dallas, TX 75201. If you are behind on your mortgage payments and would like to speak with HUD certified counselors bring the appropriate documentation and your questions. Call 214-946-3500 ext. 10.

Community Comedy Jam a celebration of diversity and voter awareness at the Will Rogers Auditorium located at 3401 W. Lancaster Avenue, Fort Worth, TX at 8:00 p.m. Five of Texas's own will serve Olympic-sized laughs. Tickets are \$20-35. Call 817-467-2787 or www.ticketmaster.com

Meet Dallas Crilley who recently became an entrepreneur at the age of 15. Bring your youth to our next T.O.W.E.R. Network Connection to find out how Dallas makes money and allow him to teach your youth how to do the same. Come to the La Quinta Inn at 1503 Breckenridge Rd, Mansfield, TX 76063 from 10 a.m. - Noon. Admission Is \$15. Call 1-877-867-3234 ext. 702.

August 16-17

Camp Equality Training

by Human Rights Campaign at the Sheraton Dallas Hotel, 400 N. Olive Street, Dallas, TX 75201 from 8:45 a.m. - 5:15 p.m. Saturday, and 9:30 a.m. - 3:15 p.m. Sunday. Support or participate in the search for talented and committed supporters of equality who are engaged in the political process, and eager to build the skills necessary to win. Apply at www.hrc.org/

August 17

Power of Forgiveness gospel music festival with Gladys Staines from 5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Admission is free. Call 214-679-7393 or ymefna@gmail.com.

August 22 and 23

Sheryl Underwood will perform live at the Addison Improv at 4980 Belt Line Road #250, Addison, 75254. Admission to the event is \$22. Call 972-404-8501.

August 22-23

13th Annual Summer Homeschool Conference and Bookfair sponsored by the North Texas Home Educators' Network. Attend education seminars, shop at exhibitor booths, and network with other parents, and more. Pre-registration is available at www.nthen.org. Call 214-495-9600.

August 23

The Urban League of Greater Dallas presents the "B'Jeweled" Gala 2008 celebrating 41 years of service with the Urban League. The Gala will feature live entertainment by WAR at the Hilton Anatole Hotel 2201 Stemmons Freeway, Dallas. Call 214-915-4600.

August 23

Jimmy Walker Golf Tournament all golfers are invited to participate in the 14th annual Jimmy Walker Memorial Scholarship Golf Tournament. Proceeds from the tournament benefit

students attending Paul Quinn College, the John A. Woods Memorial Scholarship and four high school programs. Call 972-220-0477, visit www.dmcbaa.org, or email dmcbaa@yahoo.com.

August 23

Dare to Dream and Dream Big Join Legacy of Success as we award our Hazel Hatcher Scholarship to a deserving LGBT student of color at the Addison Conference and Theatre Center 15650 Addison Road, Addison, TX 75001 from 11 a.m.- 2:30 p.m. Admission Is \$40 advance and \$50 at the door. Call 214-440-9300 or visit www.losf.org.

August 23

Plano Chamber Business After Hours at 5:30 p.m. at the Presbyterian Center for Diagnostics & Surgery.

August 23

Save the Boobs- Hip Hop Helps Heal Breast Cancer Benefit Show presented by H4 and T.he I.ntelligent S.outh will be hosted by radio personality Vincent Tucker. This event will be about getting the word out to the hip hop generation about the seriousness of breast cancer and take place at The Bone In the Deep Ellum Entertainment District at 2724 Elm Street, Dallas, TX 75226. Admission Is \$5 and you must be 21 or older. Email hiphophelpsheel@gmail.com.

August 23

Kid's Day Out Angel Faces Is Inviting parents to bring their lil' angels out for a day of precious pampering and performing possibilities from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. at Angel Faces Playhouse & Performing Arts Center 1111 W. Ledbetter, Suite 750. Call 214-372-0216 or 469-767-2111.

August 27

12th Annual Government

Procurement Conference offers Information about doing business with Government Agencies (Federal, State & Local), their prime contractors and subcontractors! The Conference will take place at the Arlington Convention Center 1501 Convention Center Drive, Arlington, 76010, from 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

September 6

Stand Up for Families New Beginning Center would like to announce the Silver Anniversary of this Texas-themed event that will be held at the Renaissance Hotel at 900 E. Lookout Dr. In Richardson, Texas at 6:00 p.m. This is an exciting and fun way to help end domestic violence and win great prizes. Individual tickets are \$75, \$550 for eight, and \$675 for ten. Call 972-276-0423 ext. 245 or email nsmith@new-beginningcenter.org.

September 9

Project Green Summit: "Putting Green Into Action" Ed Begley Jr. will deliver the keynote address and cover how his eco-journey began, outline how positive changes in the environment can benefit us, and explore the challenges and solutions to adopting green practices. Come out to the Hill Performance Hall at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$8. Call 972-744-4650 or visit www.wfaa.com/project-green.

September 13

NAACP Garland Branch Presents 18th Annual Freedom Fund Silent Auction and Brunch at the GISD Special Events Center 4999 Naaman Forest Blvd at North Garland Ave. and President George Bush Turnpike, Garland, TX 75040. The silent auction begins at 9:00 a.m.; the brunch begins at 10:00 a.m. and costs \$40 for Individuals and \$400 for a table. Call 972-381-5044.

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In Plain Sight

Couple recounts struggles, triumphs in business, personal life

By Tessa Howington
North Dallas Gazette

At first glance, the Anderson's story sounds pretty typical – high school sweethearts that got married, had 4 wonderful children, are involved in their church, own a business and seem to be living the good life. However, they will be the first to tell you that's not reality.

"It's been a long, crazy, journey . . ." Chris Anderson says, but is interrupted by his mother-in-law Sue, "And the best is yet to come."

Meeting while Chris and Adrienne were in high school and falling in love is exactly what happened. However, Adrienne became pregnant in high school and didn't finish, while Chris quit the last semester of his senior year finding a job in an ophthalmologist's office to support his soon to be family. In the office, Chris worked in the lab, creating eyewear for the doctor's patients and learning more and more each day about optics. They were fortunate enough to live with family members, allowing them to cut living expenses and provide help for Adrienne with the new baby.

It also allowed Chris to continue to be involved with some rather shady individuals and doing things he shouldn't. He'll admit, "I was in a gang. Alcohol, drugs, you name it, I was around it or involved with it." He describes himself as a "wild child" while growing up in Pleasant Grove. While his past actions are not something he's proud of, he knows he doesn't need to hide them either. He adds, "What good are the trials I went through if I don't use my experiences to educate at least my children?"

But, while he was involved in these activities, he continued to work as an

optician and did try his best to take care of Adrienne and their baby, Ivy. Around the age of 24, he hit, what he describes, as "rock bottom." He had quit working in optics, and had a receptionist and sales type job with Earthlink. He didn't like his job, was realizing that the life he was leading was going no where fast, and had a great concern for his wife and daughter's overall wellbeing and future. At the time, he didn't know why he was at Earthlink, but knew he needed to do something to better his life. Fortunately, Earthlink had an insurance program that paid to send him to rehab.

Looking back, he now realizes that the only reason God sent him to Earthlink was to get the help he needed. "I've been clean for about 8 years now." That program was a "blessing," and he never would have been able to go "if it wasn't for that job."

After finishing rehab, things began to turn around for Chris and Adrienne. Chris decided to go back into optics, realizing that field was one he really enjoyed. By this time, he and his wife both had their GEDs and he became certified with the American Board of Opticianry. They borrowed \$4,500 from his father and bought some lab equipment to start their own wholesaling business. Leasing a 120 sq ft space in Dr. Wilken's office in Coppell, it wasn't long before their business took off. "Within 6 months I had to make a decision," Chris says. And that decision was to expand.

After they moved to a larger facility, they were able to invest in newer and more equipment to help fulfill the numerous amounts of orders they were receiving. Adrienne's grandparents also purchased a home for them so they could



From left, Emily, Krislyn, Chris, Ivy and Adrienne

move to The Colony and have extra money to invest in the business. He describes the way everything came together as "amazing."

But while things were seemingly going great, tragedy struck. Chris' mother died of cancer not long after they opened the larger lab. He describes this event as "the most horrible experience of suffering ever." The silver lining was that he had already given jobs to his brother and sister, so working together and being with each other every day helped them overcome their mother's death. Not long after, his father, who was set to retire from Kmart, was laid off, and after the company filed for bankruptcy, lost his entire life savings. Chris, wanting to help his dad however he could, gave him a job.

Needing an office manager, Chris also gave a job to one of his church's elders who had been laid off from Boeing after September 11. Adding more employees, at the height of their business, they were doing wholesale orders totaling around \$60,000 a month and had 7

employees. They also worked with other doctors in the area to provide free eye clinics on Saturdays, a program that helped kids without social security get glasses, and helped with Hurricane Katrina relief. Chris was also heavily involved with church activities as well. "Chris's heart is just incredible," Adrienne says. "Helping out unfortunate families is a priority of his."

Within the last year, the officer manager left, and finding a replacement became a huge hassle and created a downhill slide. Investing time and money bringing in new people almost cost the business everything it had. Adrienne describes what happened as Chris being "so generous, but people took advantage of that." Adding to mounting financial pressure, they decided to add a retail storefront to the lab and sell directly to the public. During this time, Chris's uncle and grandfather had also past.

Chris and Adrienne decided to downsize the lab and store to try to save money. Other wholesalers and larger companies began

undercutting them and lessening their business. And, they did not want to have to lay off any of their 7 original employees either. On January 12th, they officially opened their new, smaller store, Eyewear Direct, which is a retail wholesale eyewear store with its own lab behind it.

The opening was also a 4 month notice for their employees that things may drastically have to change.

While things were looking tough, the good news was that Adrienne was expecting their 4th child, and both were excited. This February, on Chris's birthday, they went in for a seemingly regular check up and sonogram to find that their baby, Stella, had already past.

Devastated, Chris decided to take some time off to cope with the recent events, help Adrienne get through the loss, and spend time with his girls. Once he believed things settled down, he returned to work to find that their biggest client had canceled their contract for another distributor, something that could have been avoided had he not taken the time off.

Struggling to make ends meet, he helped all of his former employees find other jobs and made some severe cutbacks and financial sacrifices to help his family and their business stay afloat.

Now, he and his wife Adrienne believe that the best is yet to come. Even though sales are still slow, business is starting to pick up again. And they are extremely proud of their oldest daughter, Ivy, who is excelling through Junior High. Adrienne recently enrolled in the Cooper Institute to become a personal trainer and is an Independent Consultant for Arbonne Pure Swiss Skin Care, and the two youngest daughters, Emily 5 ½ and

Krislyn 3, are "crazy," happy and healthy.

Chris is still trying to do as much work within the community as he is financially allowed, working with nurses in The Colony ISD to provide free eyeglasses to kids in need and those with Medicaid programs. Their goal is to "help everyone see better without having to empty your checking account; eye care shouldn't depend on what mommy or daddy makes." Adrienne adds, "That's why we wholesale, to give the patient the best service and fair price."

The Andersons feels that this path is where they "need to be." Chris says, "It's rewarding. When you are only doing lab work, all you hear is the bad things – you get beat down. But with the retail side, you get to see the patient's reaction."

Even though the journey has been hard, Chris hopes that in five years this is all behind them, their out of debt, and still in business. He also hopes to become more involved with charity work and let everyone know that you have to "dream big and be world changers, not followers." He wants to work with children and provide eye care where it is needed. His ultimate goal is to open a free rehabilitation clinic to help people turn their life around like he has his.

The Anderson's store, Eyewear Direct, is located at 4300 South Main Street in The Colony and can be reached at 972-370-2043. You don't need an appointment, just your prescription. They offer prescription and non prescription frames, sunglasses, and have a large kids section. For August, they have a "Back To School Special" for kids – buy 1 get 1 frames for all school age children, elementary through high school.

DONORS, continued from page 1

had was the meatballs he would bring home from the Pizza place where he worked.

Her nickname is Cheryl "Action" Jackson and putting her dreams into action, didn't come without obstacles. She asked for a building and one was finally donated to her. Feed the Children donated 35,000 pounds of food to her pantry but because the pantry had not passed inspection, Jackson fed the hungry from her Giving boutique which is two doors down from the pantry. Over the last few months the boutique located in WEST Plano fed over 200 families and 800

people while Jackson worked to complete the remodeling of the pantry. The pantry didn't have any walls, flooring and the electricity wasn't connected properly. All Jackson had was a dream and a prayer. After months of having this vacant building, one Friday, Jackson received a call from a man who had heard about her dream, he asked if she still needed help remodeling the pantry, "She said yes" the next morning he had 27 volunteers at the pantry and they did an extreme pantry makeover. It was amazing, Jackson said. I remember crying and thanking God. Mary L.

Harvey, former wife of comedian Steve Harvey donated the money to get the electricity repaired.

The final straw came last week when the City of Plano health department inspected the building, the inspector said he could not approve the place because it had new carpet, unfortunately Jackson was unaware that a food pantry can only have vinyl tile as the flooring. Jackson said "I didn't know what to do except pray and cry." I wondered why something with good intentions so difficult to do. On Friday, I called my friend Darrell Robertson and told him my dilemma, he referred

me to the Murrilo group when the owner Sal Murillo heard the story he donated the entire tile to the pantry. When I picked the tile up it was different colors, but I didn't mind. They asked if I had the glue to lay the tile down, I said no. They called Anderson flooring and when I went to pick up the glue for the floor the owner heard about my story and he offered to install the tile for FREE!!! He said in the bible Joseph had a coat of many colors; well Jackson will have a

floor of many colors. It is the most beautiful floor I have ever seen, Jackson said!

You may recognize Jackson as the host of the Deals and Steals segment on Sister of Savings, the two natural sisters that cut coupons to reduce their grocery bill by up to 90%. Her sister Lynette purchases food using coupons for her church pantry and on August 26th, Jackson's 40th birthday, she will cut the ribbon on Minnie's Food Pantry using the same concept. The Mayor

from the City of Plano will be there to celebrate the event. Jackson is inviting the city to come together to support her efforts, the pantry currently needs non-perishable food and a deep freezer.

Jackson is the President of the Giving Movement Organization, a 501 C(3) charity. All donations are tax deductible. For more information and a list of all items the pantry currently needs visit www.thegivingmovement.org or call (214) 736-1006.

BLACKONOMICS, continued from page 1

gistic tactics and strategies.

Synergy: "The working together of two or more persons, organizations, or things, especially when the result is greater than the sum of their individual effects or capabilities." The original meaning of the word, synergy, was "cooperation" and was used to describe physiological efficiency. You can also read about synergy in the Bible (1st Corinthians Chapter 12) where the writer uses the human body to describe how we can be diverse yet unified through the synergistic process.

Thus, we have the pattern for collective work, despite our having different approaches to the same challenges. We can and must work together, cooperatively, if we are going to move forward in a country that is hell-bent on maintaining status quo, which for Black people means that we are, as we have been for centuries, relegated to the bottom level of every good category and the top level of every negative category.

This is not meant to be a diatribe on the problems of Black folks; it is not a woe-is-me pronouncement. Rather it is a call to arms, a

reflection of our opportunities, and an introspective look at the possibilities that lie within and among our people. I believe, as I have written about for nearly 15 years now, that there is nothing we cannot do as a collective, determined, focused group of people in this the wealthiest and most powerful country on the face of the earth. Irrespective of the "leadership" of the moment, regardless of who resides in the White House, and despite the clandestine efforts of those who want to keep us solely dependent on the largess of "new slave masters," as the new in vogue saying goes, "Yes we can!"

Synergy is the answer. Our collective economic clout, exercised properly, consistently, and from a position of strength, will take us to heights not seen since we succumbed to the integration trap. Before you get scared, I am not suggesting that Black people should not have fought for public accommodations; I am not positing that we should have stayed separated.

I am saying, however, that prior to integration we had greater economic con-

trol of our lives because we worked together in support of one another. In other words, we functioned like a whole body rather than a bunch of disjointed body parts all doing their "own thing."

We took integration as if it was a privilege to support the businesses of others, albeit, at the expense of supporting our own. We looked upon integration as an opportunity to assimilate into a majority pool, thereby, causing our Blackness to disappear, which to some of our people was quite all right with them. They didn't want to be Black anyway.

Instead of appreciating the economic enclaves we had built during segregation, we abdicated our economic authority over them; we turned our children over to others to educate; and we went about our lives thinking that all we had to do was elect Black folks to public office and everything would be just fine after that. We thought we had finally "made it" to the big house, while most of our people were well on their way to the "poor house."

See BLACKONOMICS, Page 13

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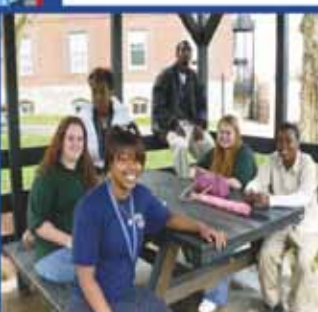


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NABJ, continued from page 1

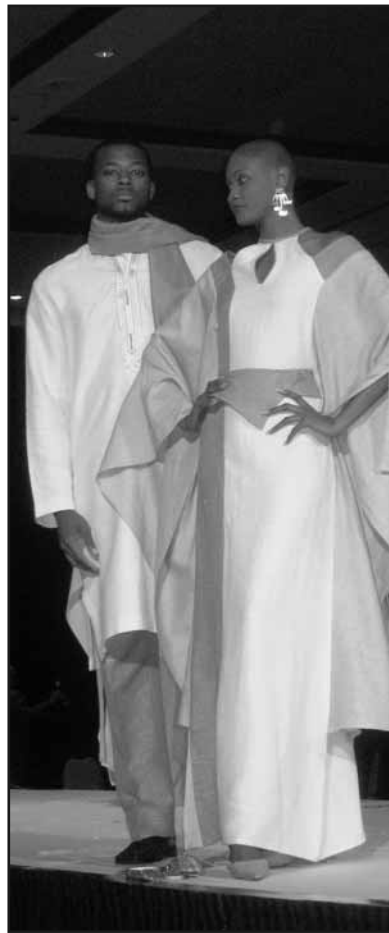
newscast, a student training campus at Columbia College Chicago, a Media Showcase and Career Expo, author appearances, awards galas recognizing journalism leaders and special evening events.

Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Barack

Obama came to address the attendees of UNITY '08, for the quadrennial convention of UNITY. Obama's speech was the final event of the conference. Obama's appearance was his first public address after returning from his trip to Europe and the

Middle East. Only attendees of the UNITY convention and working press who received prior press credentials were permitted to attend.

The key event of the conference was aired live on CNN



Clockwise, National Association of Black Journalists board members Deirdre M. Childress, Ernie Suggs, Kathy Times, and Aprill O. Turner at awards dinner at UNITY 2008. Bottom right, The President of Senegal, President Abdoulaye Wade hosted a dinner at UNITY 2008 and bought Senegalese fashion models to showcase the latest Senegalese fashion. Bottom left, Oprah Winfrey provided opening session remarks via satellite at the UNITY 2008 Opening Ceremony.

BLACKONOMICS, continued from page 12

Now, after forty years or so, we have come to a point where we can truly see the error of our ways and, as I said before, we must look for and get busy on realizing the opportunities that lie beneath the problems. The only way for us to reverse this downward spiral is through synergistic work. We must look for ways to capitalize on the individual resources, both financial and intellectual, that we have accumulated over the years.

We have hundreds and maybe even thousands of Black social and religious organizations; we have many efforts and causes

being worked on by thousands of brothers and sisters across the country; we have schools and informal educational programs; and we have skills and talents in every form of endeavor. With all of that going for us there is nothing stopping us from pooling those resources, creating synergy from our individual energy, and bringing to fruition the rich rewards that are certainly due to our people. For every challenge there is an opportunity. Question is: Will we seek and take advantage of the opportunity through synergistic means for the collective benefit of our people?

We like to quote the eco-

nomic philosophies of Marcus, Malcolm, Martin, and Maria Stewart. We love some of the sayings of Booker T. and DuBois. Our main dilemma is caused by not following through on their instructions to us.

Here are two quotes to consider: "We must cooperate or we are lost!" "We should not allow our grievances to overshadow our opportunities."

Let's get busy, brothers and sisters. Put your egos aside, get in touch with other groups and like-minded individuals, and utilize the synergy of our collective and cooperative work.

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Part 2: Business Survival Tips

From staff reports

Many small companies set up advisory boards of outside professional people. These are sometimes known as Power Circles and once in place, the business always benefits, especially in times of short operating capital. Such an advisory board or power circle should include an attorney, a certified public accountant, civic club leaders, owners or managers of businesses similar to yours, and retired executives. Setting up such an advisory board of directors is really quite easy, because most people you ask will be honored to serve.

Once your board is set up, you should meet about once a month and present material for review. Each meeting should be a discussion of your business problems and an input from your advisors relative to possible solutions. These members of your board of advisors should offer you advice as well as alternatives, and provide you with objectivity. No formal decisions need to be made either at your board meeting, or as a result of them, but you should be able to gain a great deal from the suggestions you hear.

You will find that most of your customers have the money to pay at least some of what they owe you immediately. To keep them current, and the number of accounts receivable in your files to a minimum, you should call them on the phone and ask for some kind of explanation why they're falling behind. If you develop such a habit as part of your operating procedure, you'll find your invoices will magically be drawn to the front of their piles of bills to pay. While maintaining a courteous attitude, don't be hesitant,

or too much of a "nice guy" when it comes to collecting money.

Something else that's a very good business practice, but which few business owners do is to methodically build a credit rating with their local banks. Particularly when you have a good cash flow, you should borrow from your banks every 90 days or so. Simply borrow the money, and place it in an interest bearing account, and then pay it all back at least a month or so before it's due. By doing this, you will increase the borrowing power of your signature, and strengthen your ability to obtain needed financing on short notice. This is a kind of business leverage that will be of great value to you if or whenever your cash position becomes less favorable.

By all means, join your industry's local and national trade associations. Most of these organizations have a wealth of information available on everything from details on your competitors to average industry sales figures,

new products, services, and trends.

If you are given a membership certificate or wall plaque, you should display these conspicuously on your office wall. Customers like to see such "seals of approval" and feel additional confidence in your business when they see them.

Still another thing often overlooked: If at all possible, you should have your spouse work in the business with you for at least three or four weeks per year. The important thing is that if for any reason you are not available to run the business, your spouse will be familiar with certain people and situations about your business. These people should include your attorney, accountant, any consultants or advisors, creditors and your major suppliers. The long-term advantages of having your spouse work four weeks per year in your business with you will greatly outweigh the short-term inconvenience. Many couples share responsibility and time entirely, which is in most

cases even more desirable.

Whenever you can, and as often as you need it, take advantage of whatever free business counseling is available. Most local universities, and many private organizations hold seminars at minimal cost, and often without charge. You should also take advantage of the services offered by your bank and local library.

The important thing about running a small business is to know the direction in which you're heading; to know on a day-to-day basis your progress in that very direction; to be aware of what your competitors are doing and to practice good money management at all times. All this will prepare you to recognize potential problems before they arise.

In order to survive with a small business, regardless of the economic climate, it is essential to surround yourself with smart people, and practice sound business management at all times.

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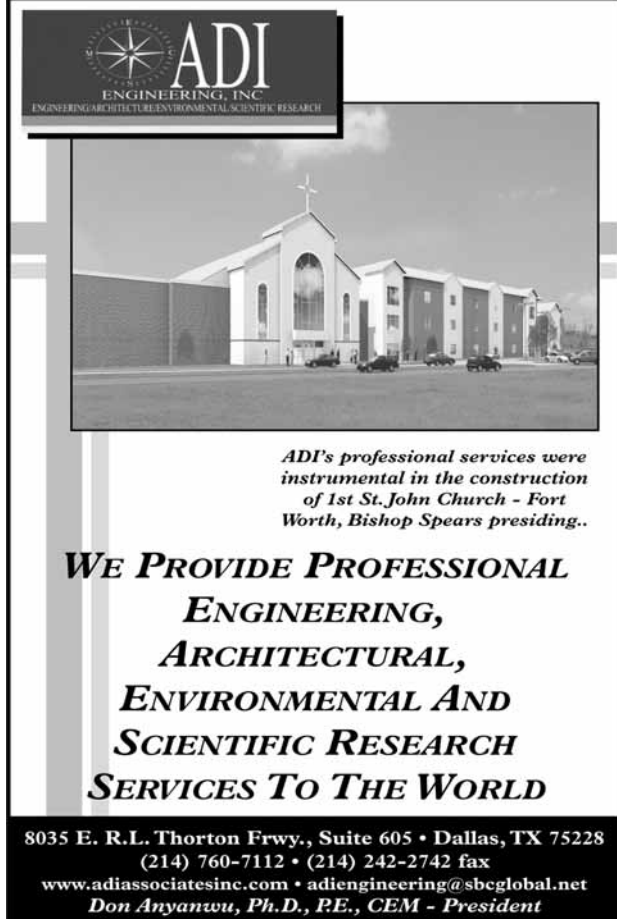
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FOOTBALL

High School Powerhouses Collide in Labor Day Showdown

From staff reports

Intersport, the Chicago-based sports marketing and media company, announced today the creation of "The Showdown," a new high school football event featuring six of the best teams from around the country scheduled for Labor Day at Texas Stadium in the City of Irving Texas. In addition to creating a new platform for dream match-ups at the high school level, the games will benefit the National Football Foundation's scholarship programs.

"The interest in high school football has never

Game Matchups

- 11:00 a.m. CST No. 1 Eules Trinity High School (TX) vs. No. 23 River Ridge John Curtis (LA)
- 2:30 p.m. CST Klein Oak (TX) vs. Mandeville (LA)
- 6:00 p.m. CST Colleyville Heritage (TX) vs. Clovis East (CA)

been greater and no one can deny the passion Texans have for the sport," said Dan Jones, Intersport's Vice President of Events. "The Showdown will give these players the opportunity to play on a national stage in one of the country's most storied venues in a battle for state pride."

On Monday, September 1 six of the top high school football teams in the country will faceoff, including a battle between two of the

top 25 teams in ESPN's recently released preseason high school football rankings. Number one ranked Eules Trinity High School (TX) and No. 23-ranked River Ridge John Curtis High School (LA) will battle in the opening game at 11:00 a.m. A second Louisiana team (Mandeville) will join a team from California (Clovis East) as they invade the Lone Star State and face two Texas teams to round out the tripleheader.



WRESTLING

TNA Wrestling Announces Return to Dallas

From staff reports

The superstars of Total Nonstop Action (TNA) Wrestling will bring TNA Live! to Dallas for an unforgettable night of action at the House of Blues on

Friday, August 15, starting at 8 p.m.

Appearing live and in person will be TNA World Heavyweight Champion Samoa Joe, Booker T, Christian Cage, Robert Roode, TNA Tag Team

Champions The Latin American Xchange, Jacqueline, James Storm, TNA X-Division Champion Petey Williams, Kaz, Jay Lethal, The Rock N Rave Infection, TNA Knockouts Champion Awesome Kong,

Roxxi, Sonjay Dutt, Shark Boy and more!

Tickets on at the House of Blues Box Office, all Ticketmaster locations, www.ticketmaster.com, or charge by phone at 214-978-BLUE.

OLYMPIC GAMES 2008



EbonyJet.com, NBC Team Up For 2008 Olympic Coverage Via Blogs By African-American Athletes

From staff reports

EbonyJet.com is pleased to partner with NBC to provide daily reports directly from several athletes competing in the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing, China.

Check the Web site daily for first-person perspectives on life in the Olympic Village, daily workout regimens in preparation for

events, and first (and last) impressions of Beijing.

The partnership between EbonyJet.com and NBC is a historic and entertaining way to obtain a firsthand perspective on the 2008 Olympics.

Visit Ebony-et.com daily through the conclusion of the 2008 Summer Olympic Games to follow the athletes during their quest for gold.

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www.MOCOP.org

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Rev. Melissa Alfaro
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Prophetess Tricia Butcher
Gospel Tabernacle Church
Dallas, Texas

Pastor Pat Willie
Open Door Worship Center
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Are You too Nice at Work?

By Clea Badion

Robert Half International

Creative, talented, brilliant. You would be thrilled if your boss used any of these words to describe you. But how about nice? Consider it for a moment: When asked to come up a definitive description of your capabilities, your manager says, "She's very nice." True, there are far worse labels, but if someone used that description of you following a first date, there might not be a second one.

The trouble with being too nice is that it often goes hand in hand with other traits, such as being too accommodating, unwilling to speak up for yourself, or hesitant to offer constructive criticism to your colleagues. Following are some tips to help you be nice and creative, talented and brilliant:

Set boundaries. People who are too nice rarely say no. The next time a colleague asks for your help, and you're slammed with your own work, ask if you can lend a hand later, when you're less busy.

Speak up. You'll gain more visibility if you regularly contribute at meetings or brainstorming sessions and while serving on proj-

ect teams. As long as you remain professional, others will respect your ideas, even if they don't adopt them.

Avoid being overly empathetic. There's another reason nice people take on too much work: They are overly empathetic. Next time this happens, pause before you offer assistance. It's often enough to lend an ear and offer encouragement without jumping into action.

However, by sticking to your new approach, you can be nice and not have to worry about being taken advantage of.



Store Management Opportunities

Hobby Lobby is a leader in the Arts & Crafts industry with 400 stores located in 32 states.

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Building supply chain
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www.hobbylobby.com

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www.plano.gov
AA / EOE / ADA



The City of Allen Planning and Development Department is seeking qualified General Contractors for their Home Repair Program relating to the Community Development Block Grant Program.

Contact Kellie Wilson at 214-509-4165 to receive additional information and to request a Contractor application packet.



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TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS OF PROPOSED TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (TxDOT) CONTRACTS
Sealed proposals for contracts listed below will be received by the State Office until the date(s) shown below, and then publicly read.

CONSTRUCTION/MAINTENANCE/BUILDING FACILITIES CONTRACT(S)

Dist/Div: Fort Worth

Contract 0918-45-777 for COMPENSATORY MITIGATION FOR RIPERIAN FORESTS in DALLAS County will be opened on September 09, 2008 at 1:00 pm at the State Office.

Plans and specifications are available for inspection, along with bidding proposals, and applications for the TxDOT Prequalified Contractor's list, at the applicable State and/or Dist/Div Offices listed below. If applicable, bidders must submit prequalification information to TxDOT at least 10 days prior to the bid date to be eligible to bid on a project. Prequalification materials may be requested from the State Office listed below. Plans for the above contract(s) are available from TxDOT's website at www.txdot.gov and from reproduction companies at the expense of the contractor. NPO: 27390

State Office

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

Dist/Div Office(s)

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

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



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Recreation Attendant*

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Church Happenings

AVENUE F CHURCH OF CHRIST

August 23, 9 am – 11 am
Our Men's Ministry presents, "Am I My Brother's Keeper" featuring Brother Patrick Worthy from Greenville Avenue C of C.

August 30, 6 pm - 9 pm
Join us for "Men's Night Out." An evening of Prayer, Praise and Preaching with Brothers Brett Pascal and Ramon Hodridge. Dinner will be served @ 6 pm. For information call the church @ 972-423-8833.

Avenue Church of Christ
Brother Ramon Hodridge,
Senior Minister
1026 "F" Avenue
Plano, TX 75074
972-423-8833

FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH OF ALLEN

August 31, 2008
Join us for our Spirit-filled Pastor's & Wife's Anniversary @ 8:15 am, Rev. Derrick Bowman from Faithway Fellowship BC is our speaker @ 10:45 am; Rev. Eric Tate Martin, M.Div. from

NewLightBibleFellowshipChurch will be our speaker and @ 3:30 pm, Dr. Joseph Sheppard from Ben Washington BC will be our speaker.

September 14, 8:15 am & 10:45 am
We will have our Founders Day and Church Anniversary featuring John Fuller, Sr. from Lewis Chapel MBC, Fayetteville, NC. For information, call the church @ 972-359-9956

Fellowship BC of Allen
Rev. W. L. Stafford, Sr.
M. Div., Senior Pastor
1550 Edelweiss is our
Service Location
Allen, TX 75013
972-359-9956

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF HAMILTON PARK (FIRST CHURCH)

August 16, 8 am
Join us and the Richardson ISD as we hold our Annual Back-to-School Rally and School Supplies Donations. Call the church @ 972-235-4235 for details and how you can help.

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

MOUNT HEBRON BAPTIST CHURCH (THE MOUNT)

August 16, 8 am
You're invited to our Leadership Conference.

August 23, 8 am – 12 Noon
Our Back-to-School Drive @ Gale Fields Recreation Center, 1701 Dairy Road, Garland, TX 75040. Come @ 6 pm for our Fine Arts Ministry Dance Concert @ the church.

August 30, 2008
Join us @ Unity Fest, a 3-on-3 basketball tournament, community picnic and carnival all rolled into one.

Mt. Hebron Baptist Church,
Garland (The Mount)
Rev. Leonard Leach,
Pastor

1233 State Highway 66
Garland, TX 75040
972-276-5218

MT. OLIVE CHURCH OF PLANO (MOCOP)

August 20 – 24, 2008
MOCOP Women of the Word Ministry presents our 5th Annual Women's Conference, "Princess With A Purpose, Promise, Power, Passion & Praise." Wednesday @ 7 pm Evangelist Joy Polydore is the speaker. Friday @ 7 pm Evangelist Prophetess Sharon Denise Julien is the speaker. Saturday @ 8 am, speakers are Prophetess Trica Butcher, Rev. Melissa Alfaro, and Pastor Pat Willie. Sunday @ 10 am Pastor Gloria Fenceroy, Conference Host, is the speaker. Daycare will be provided. First 25 paid registrants will be eligible to have their name placed in a grand prize drawing. Included with registration is a conference bag with materials, Saturday's breakfast and lunch. There will be gifts and door prizes.

Vendors are welcome, call 972-633-5511 for information, registration fee, and

directions.

Mt. Olive Church of Plano
Rev. Sam Fenceroy,
Senior Pastor
300 Chisholm Place
Plano, TX 75075
972-633-5511

TRINITY CHRISTIAN WORSHIP CENTER

August 16, 4 pm
We will present, "Can't Stop The Praise" by NonStop Productions, featuring Sister Cantaloupe, Apostle Darrell Yancey, Ordered Steps Productions, Pathway of Life Choir, Xsedous, Big Saint, Mimes of Miracles, Minister Felecia Erwin, Unique Deliverance and Sisters in Christ. Radio personality Carmina Barnett from KHVN 970AM, Heaven 97, will be our host.

Call the church @ 972-698-0006 or Heaven 97 @ 214-610-1970 for ticket prices and details.

Trinity Christian Worship Center
Rev. Archie Greer, Pastor
3330 N. Galloway, #121
Mesquite, TX 75150
972-698-0006

SAINT MARK MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH, MCKINNEY

August 23, 3 pm – 7 pm
We are hosting our 1st Annual Back to School Youth Rally featuring the McKinney Fire and Police Departments, face painting, a bounce house, refreshments and more. Bishop, a local Christian Rap Artist will be there also. Theme: Developing a Generation of Kingdom Seekers. Matthew 6:33.

September 6,
Come to our Pastor's Anniversary Banquet; Call 972-423-6695 for youth & adult tickets.

September 21, 2008
Join us for our Pastor's Anniversary Service.

Saint Mark Missionary Baptist Church in McKinney
Rev. Charles S. Wattley,
Pastor
1308 Wilcox Street
McKinney, TX 75069
972-542-6178

EBENEZER WORSHIP CENTER



Rev. Cecil T. Smith, II
Senior Pastor

"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

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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-Community Bible Class: 7:30 P.M.

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www.newlightchurchdallas.org

"Encouraging Empowering Evangelizing"
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Sunday School 9:30AM
Thursday Night Live At The Light 7:00PM

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Shaun Rabb, Senior Pastor



Sister Tarpley

"For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts." —Isaiah 55:8 & 9.

Listening to the radio or looking at television and it seems that everywhere you go; someone is making bad decision in almost every portion of their life. Dreadful choices about employment, purchasing a car, a home, a place of worship, selecting friends, what school to attend, where to live, who to

Before Making Decisions—Listen to God

marry, killing someone, etc. It seems that people are not hearing what God has to say about every aspect of their life. Not only should Christians listen to God before making decisions, but we should encourage those around us to listen to what God has to say about their choices in life. God speaks to His children in many varied ways; however, if left to our reasoning, we will fail to walk in the full counsel of God, which leads to poor judgments. Don't be deceived by what you think is your accomplishments in making decisions. Pray to develop a listening ear that hears the voice of God with confidence; however, this doesn't mean that you can't

use the intellectual and logical skills that God has blessed you with. Your desire or goal should be to have such an intimacy with God that you can walk in the full blessing of your resolutions and be assured they are not based on your own reasoning alone; that your decisions are in keeping with God's Will.

Preacher A.W. Tozer said that the man or woman who is wholly and joyously surrendered to Christ can't make a wrong choice — any choice will be the right one. And Christian author J. Oswald Sanders explains his method of receiving guidance from God for decisions; "I try to gather all the information and all the facts that are involved in a decision, and then

weigh them up and pray over them in the Lord's presence, and trust the Holy Spirit to sway my mind in the direction of God's Will. And God generally guides me by presenting reasons to my mind for acting in a certain way."

Decisions that are to be made should be submitted to God first, ask Him for clarity. Ask God to make the desires of your heart the same desires that He has for you in this matter. Finally, wait on God's perfect timing on the matter. Only God knows the 'end to the beginning;' then and only then can you be sure the right resolution was made.

Apostle Paul said, "For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do



From left, Antonia Curlin and Davida Tarpley after worshipping together @ Love Chapel COGIC, Elder Philip White, Pastor.

of His good pleasure. —Philippians 2:13. Because of His goodness, God has equipped us with everything that we need to make good decisions. But, hearing His voice is the first step toward making right choices in life.

Christ in You: All through the Old Testament there is a common phrase — "God was with . . . 'Israel,' 'Moses,' 'David,'" but in these last days we have a

phrase that is humbling and magnificent, "Christ in You." He is in us and if we believe, we are in Him.

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Tuesday
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Wednesday
Morning Bible Study - 9:30 a.m.
Prayer Meeting and Evening Bible Study - 7:30 p.m.

"The Church with a Vision"

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ICONS, continued from page 1

morning from complications due to pneumonia in a Chicago area hospital," Bernie Mac's publicist, Danica Smith, said in a statement from Los Angeles. "No other details are available at this time. We ask that his family's privacy continues to be respected."

On Aug 1, Mac was admitted to a hospital hospital with pneumonia, said his rep, adding that he was expected to recover, despite widespread rumors about the seriousness of his condition.

Mac suffered from sarcoidosis, an inflammatory lung disease that produces tiny lumps of cells in the body's organs, but had said the condition went into remission in 2005. He recently was hospitalized and treated for pneumonia, which Smith said was not related to the disease.

Born Bernard Jeffrey McCullough in Chicago, Mac began his career as a stand-up comedian in the

small comedy clubs in 1977, at the age of 20.

The comedian drew critical and popular acclaim with his Fox television series "The Bernie Mac Show," which aired more than 100 episodes from 2001 to 2006.

The series about a man's adventures raising his sister's three children often poked fun of Mac's own life and proved a favorite of both critics and audiences - receiving a prestigious Peabody Award, as well as honors from the Television Critics Association (for best individual achievement in comedy).

Last spring, Mac wrapped the upcoming film Soul Men, a comedy costarring Samuel L. Jackson about a former singing duo staging a comeback.

Isaac Hayes

Relatives found Hayes, 65, unconscious in his home next to a still-running treadmill, said Steve

Shular, a spokesman for the Shelby County Sheriff's Department in Memphis.

Paramedics attempted to revive him and took him to a hospital, where he was pronounced dead shortly after 2 p.m., the sheriff's department said.

Wednesday medical officials indicated that they

stroke.

Family members said the singer, who had a history of high blood pressure, had recently been treated for various medical conditions.

Hayes released his first solo album in 1967, and his 1969 follow-up, "Hot Buttered Soul," became a platinum hit.

In 1971, the theme from

"Shaft" topped the Billboard Hot 100 for two weeks and won an Academy Award for best original theme song. The song and the movie score also won Grammy awards for best original score and movie theme.

He was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2002.

Legacy.com has featured

Hayes and Mr. Bernie Mac on its site. They are offering a way to allow the general public to express their condolences. You may find the Guest Books at <http://www.legacy.com/gb/guestbookview.aspx?personId=115344639> and <http://www.legacy.com/gb/guestbookview.aspx?personId=115220922>, respectively.

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