

North Dallas Gazette



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Dems Descend on Denver, Highlights Include Obama

By Zenitha Prince
NNPA

In what is arguably the most anticipated event of the summer, more than 50,000 Democrats will converge on Denver's Pepsi Center Aug. 25-28 for the Democratic

National Convention.

While this gathering will be glutted with the who's who of politics, business and even Hollywood, the undisputed star of the show will be Sen. Barack Obama, the Democrat's presumptive nominee for president.

"This is an inspiring, engaging celebration of Barack Obama and his vision for America," said Damon Jones, spokesman for the Democratic National Convention Committee.

And for a majority of the convention's 4,439

delegates, it will be the chance to show their ultimate support for the senator—casting their votes to elect him the Democratic Party's official presidential nominee. "I wanted to be intimately involved in this campaign," said Jeff Hart, an at-large delegate
See DEMOCRATS, Page 13



Bishop

Back to School Rally at St. Mark Baptist

From staff reports

The St. Mark Baptist Church, McKinney TX will be hosting its First Annual Back to School Youth Rally. The event will be on Aug. 23rd from 3pm-7pm and will feature McKinney Fire and Police

Departments, face painting, bounce house, refreshments, and more. The rally will also include a local Christian Rap artist, Bishop. The theme for the event is "Developing a Generation of Kingdom Seekers." Matt. 6:33.

Bishop was born in Dallas, Texas. He is the only son of Michael and Cynthia Ridge, and he has one other sibling, Kelley Ridge. Utilizing the sound of Gospel Rap, Bishop is known for his unique style of ministering by poetically speaking the word with

See RALLY, Page 12

Gov. Perry OK with gun-toting teachers

Associated Press

Texas Gov. Rick Perry indicated last week he supports a tiny school district's decision to allow teachers and staff to pack guns for protection when classes start later this month.

Trustees at the Harrold Independent School District approved a policy change last year to allow employees to carry concealed firearms to deter and protect against school shootings.

"There's a lot of incidents where that would

have saved a number of lives," Perry said.

Texas law outlaws firearms on school campuses "unless pursuant to the written regulations or written authorization of the institution."

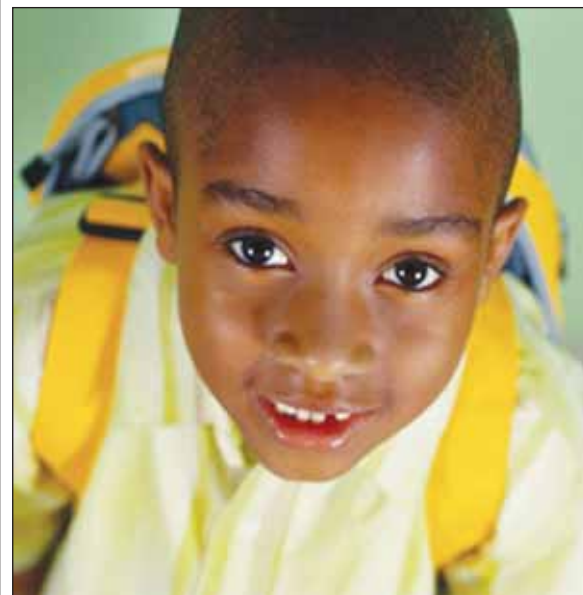
District policy requires a teacher carrying a gun to

school to have a Texas concealed handgun license, be authorized by the district to carry the weapon, have training in crisis management and hostile situations and use ammunition designed to minimize the risk of ricochet in school halls.

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COVER STORY

Making the Grade



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Jones Becomes Second Black Swimmer to win Olympic Gold

For more information see pg. 15
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Commentary

Reading is Revolution

By Julianne Malveaux
NNPA Columnist

Students need cheerleaders! They need grown folks to say that the act of learning is affirmative, important, and, especially revolutionary.

As young people return to school, whether at the K-12 level or in higher education, they need to understand that their search for knowledge is embraced and supported by a commu-

nity that not only wants them to succeed, but that is also prepared to invest in their success. I write from the cutting experience of seeing young women get discouraged because of the loan load they must shoulder to matriculate, and because of the challenges they face searching for knowledge.

I wish that I could raise enough scholarship money for every one of my Bennett students to attend our college and

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People In The News...



Kevin L. Smith-Franklin



Ebony Regina Miller



Simone Lasanya Lewis

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Kevin Lloyd Smith-Franklin

Aside from receiving a college degree, getting married, and having children, graduation from high school is among the top four celebrated moments of a person's existence. This ceremony marks the pass of a tribunal and monumental chapter in a young adult's life. One exceptional high school senior recently closed that chapter only to begin another anew. Kevin Lloyd Smith-

Franklin joined the high school's Class of 2008 as they turned their tassels in recognition of their academic and extra-curricular accomplishments.

Kevin Lloyd Smith-Franklin, son of Samon Smith-Taylor and Mack Franklin, also grandson of Dorothy Smith, graduated from Plano East Senior High (PESH) on June 10, 2008. Throughout his high school career he main-

tained a reputation as a dedicated team member and player, even though he was not always certain he would be allowed to have apart on the team. "I had to beg them [his grandmother and mother] to play, but it paid off." Kevin excelled in football, basketball, and track during his junior and senior years at PESH, which afforded him a McDonald's All-American Nomination in 2007, the

honor of making first team All-District Wide Receiver in 2006 and a trip to the Regional track meet in 2008 where he competed in the high jump. He has been "playing ball since [he] was six years old", and "loves ...football with a passion" that will follow him to WakeForestUniversity in North Carolina where he has been accepted on a full football scholarship. Kevin attributes much of his success to his motivational grandmother, mother, teachers, and friends. "I



want my family and friends to be proud of me and sup-

port me in the decisions I will make in the future." This bright young man plans to graduate from college with honors, snag a professional football contract, and pay off his grandmother's home in a single bound. We believe in you Kevin.

"If one advances confidently in the direction of his dreams, and endeavors to live the life which he has imagined, he will meet with a success unexpected in common hours." - Henry David Thoreau

Ebony Regina Miller

When life gives you lemons, make lemonade and sit down to have a chat with Ebony Miller. An inspiring young woman who can take any rainy day and find the sunshine while catching the raindrops for a thirsty passerby, her heart and her smile are as big as the ocean is wide. This amazing senior launched a new era in her life when she did something that many people overlook and take for granted. She walked across the stage, and grad-

uated.

Ebony Regina Miller, the daughter of Lawrence & Regina Green, and granddaughter of Mr. & Mrs. Eugene (Phemia) Tinner, graduated from Lake Highlands High School in June of 2008. This self-proclaimed, friendly, and outgoing personality could easily be described as a "Jack-of-All-Trades." Over the last four years, she spent hours at Medical City Hospital as a volunteer bringing joy to the cold

halls, and getting a feel for the industry out of which she plans to mold a career. Long hours of practice did not affect this bubbly teen while she served as a member of her high school's Sweetheart Step Team; she also served as the team historian for 3 years. During her senior year, Ebony took part in the Alpha Xi Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Debutante Ball, sponsored by Soror Pat Hartman, an experience she will not soon forget. Ms. Miller's co-debutantes voted her Miss Congeniality for her



high spirits, positivity, and personable attitude during their time spent together. Somehow, with her busy social and academic calendar, Ebony

found the time to acquire a job at Kroger Grocery Store who rewarded her hard work with the Food Sales Association 2008-2009 Scholarship; she was among 6 other eligible seniors whom also received the scholarship. Although she has plans to attend Texas Woman's University, she is currently enrolled at El Centro College pruning through her basics. Soon, she will apply to the School of Nursing at Texas Woman's University and study to become a Registered Nurse. Ideally, Ms. Miller would like to work

as a pediatric nurse and help usher new life into this world. She understands that accomplishing her goals and witnessing her dreams coming to fruition will take time, but she is taking it in stride and enjoying the ride. Volunteer, historian, Miss Congeniality, hard worker, and nurse. I do not think there is anything that this young woman cannot do, except fail (which is not an option!)

"Those who try to do something and fail are infinitely better than those who try to do nothing and succeed." - Lloyd Jones

Simone Lasanya Lewis

"The question isn't who is going to let me; it's who is going to stop me."

~ Ayn Rand; and who is going to stop this ambitious young lady? No one! She sings, writes, poetry and makes fudge; she could sing you a poem about fudge. Any ordinary obstacle or menace cannot defeat a superhero or this superwoman.

Simone Lasanya Lewis, daughter of Mr. Anthony Lewis and Ms. Trilanda Goode-Lewis, and granddaughter of Mrs. Mae C. Goode and Mr. Robert Lewis, Sr. Ms. Lewis graduated, cum laude, from Centennial High School (CHS) on June 6, 2008. During her tenure at CHS, Simone earned induction

into the National Honors Society, an honor experienced by students who maintain a GPA of 4.0 or higher for a full academic year. She also received recognition for her community involvement as a volunteer. Simone attends Daystar Deliverance Ministries under the divine leadership and guidance of Apostle Minnie Hawthorne-Ewing. She donates much of her time and efforts to The Giving Movement, a volunteer ministry within Daystar Deliverance Ministries. This young woman has big plans for the future. She will begin online classes during the winter semester in 2008 that will prepare her for her transition into

the arts culture flourishing in the great city of Denton, Texas where she plans to attend the University of North Texas beginning in the fall of 2009. Simone will be in high pursuit of a degree in psychology from UNT. Even though, she may not describe herself as someone with the potential to become a workaholic, any student who has ever been apart of the National Honors Society knows what it means to work yourself into a frenzy. Although, I do not believe that this scholar will soon have that issue due to her fondness of leisure activities like the expressiveness of singing, the meditation of writing poetry and the art of making fudge. Reach



for the stars, Simone, because they are just within your reach.

"This is the beginning of a new day. You have been given this day to use, as you will. You can waste it or use it for good. What you do today is important because you are exchanging a day of your life for it. When tomorrow comes, this day will be gone forever; in its place is something good."

that you have left behind...let it be something

~ Unknown

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North Dallas Gazette

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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

Back to School: Financial Basics

By Michael G. Shinn
NNPA Columnist

August is the time when most parents are preparing to send their children back to school. The lazy days of summer are nearly over and it's time to get back and "hit the books."

One of the key reasons for America's success as a nation is the mandatory education of its citizens. However, the country with the highest per capita wealth suffers from a financial education gap.

Less than 25 percent of U.S. high schools and colleges have money management courses in their curriculum. If we didn't get it in high school or college, where are we expected to receive the financial education that will help us manage our money properly?

Financial Literacy

Financial literacy is a basic understanding of personal finance and how money works in today's society. It is the ground floor for building and sustaining wealth. Unfortunately, most people receive their financial education from either the "college of hard knocks" as a result of mistakes, bad advice from friends or high-pressure sales pitches from sales people with their own vested interest. However, the good news is that we can improve our financial IQ and move down the road to financial success.

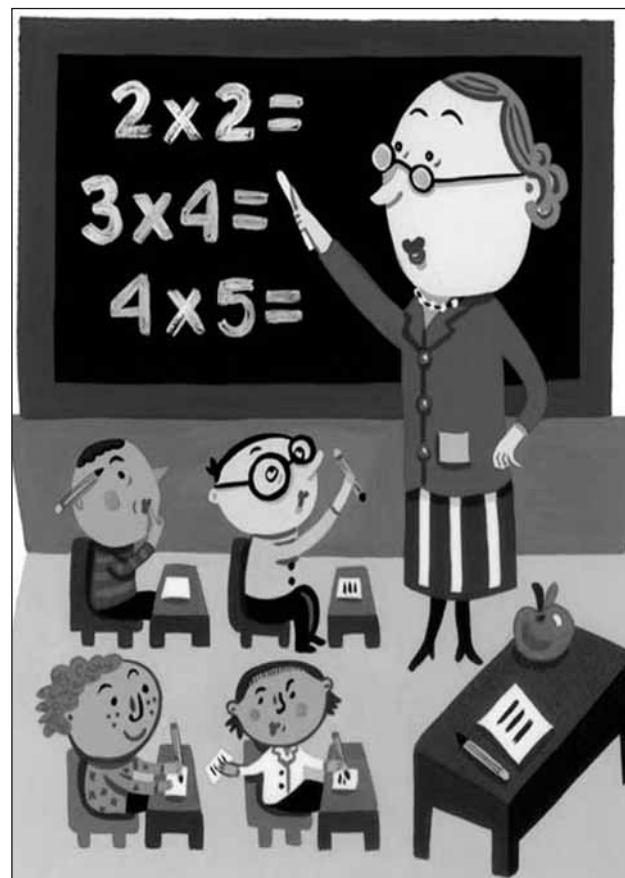
What is your financial IQ? To find out, answer the following 10 questions, rating your current situation from 1 to 5, with 5 being the highest score. When you are done total your score.

1. Do you have written family financial goals?
2. Do you have cash reserves to cover 3 months expenses?
3. Do you have a regular savings and investment plan?
4. Are your investments diversified?
5. Do you have adequate health, disability, property and life insurance?
6. Is your credit card debt less than one week's pay?
7. Are you adequately participating in a qualified retirement plan?
8. Do you have a plan to legitimately reduce your income tax burden?
9. Are your beneficiary designations and Will current?
10. Have you read a personal finance book during the last three months?

If your financial IQ is above 40, you are ready for more advanced planning. If your score is 30-40, then you are above average and headed in the right direction. If your score is 20-30 you have taken some steps, but have work to do. If your score is below 20, start now, since it is never too late.

Improving your Financial IQ

There are a number of



ways to improve your Financial IQ, but it will take time and effort on your part. The best recommendation is to take an adult education course at a local high school or community college. The courses typically have 3-4 evening sessions of 2-3 hours each and the tuition is generally \$60-\$100. Also, I recommend reading two personal financial books per quarter. Either borrow the books from the library or purchase them at a local bookstore or off the web.

To keep abreast of current financial news, read the business page of your local newspapers, USA Today or the Wall Street Journal. Business magazines such as Business Week or Black Enterprise provide more in-depth articles related to personal financial planning. The web has some interesting sites devoted to financial education, however many are commercially motivated and are trying to sell their products. Some of the sites that I have

visited are:

- www.mymoney.gov
- www.blackenterprise.com
- www.finance.cch.com
- www.personalfinance.byu.edu

(These websites are provided as a courtesy and are not under the control of Financial Network Investment Corporation)

Developing financial literacy requires personal education, thinking, planning and application. It is a life long learning process that will provide you and your family the opportunity to pursue your financial goals.

Michael G. Shinn, CFP, registered representative and advisory associate of and Securities and Investment Advisory Services offered through Financial Network Investment Corporation, member SIPC. Visit www.shinnfinancial.com for more information or to send your comments or questions to shinnm@financialnetwork.com. © Michael G. Shinn 2008.

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.

Workplace Challenges Persist for African Immigrants

By Brian Stimson
NNPA

In a nation of immigrants, cultural misunderstandings are bound to happen. From the mundane to the abusive, both employers and employees share a role in understanding the other's culture, says Tomas Schabwe, senior safety and health instructor with Oregon's Occupational Safety and Health Division.

"Even if a person is first generation, they begin to learn the new ways immediately," said Schabwe, who is teaching cultural awareness classes starting in August.

The classes – "Safety Training and Your Multicultural Workforce" – focus mainly on the cultural clashes of Oregon's fastest growing and largest minority workforce – Hispanics. But Hispanics aren't the only group of immigrants experiencing challenges when adapting to a foreign culture. African immigrants and refugees are a diverse group of people who struggle to learn new languages, new customs and new ways of earning a living.

Djimet Dogo (pronounced "Jimmy") says many of the problems facing Africans are similar to those facing Hispanics – language barriers, different work customs, lack of formal education and a system that doesn't recognize much of the skilled training obtained in African countries. But with Africans, many cultural differences are largely misunderstood by American employers.

That's where Dogo comes in. He is the program manager for Africa House, a division of the Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization and the first to say that African employees are some of the best around.

"They will never quit

their jobs," he says, and many employers, once they have worked with refugees and immigrants, come back to Dogo's organization looking for more workers from the same country. But that's not to say the Africa House and IRCO don't have to help jump-start a healthy working relationship. Many problems are created out of a misunderstanding or a lack of sympathy from the employer.

"Someone got fired for missing two or three days of work to take care of a sick relative," he said. Such a thing wouldn't happen in many African countries. "Where's the humanity?"

While the list of the cultural norms and mores of America are taken for granted by many, it's the little things that are unknown to the recently arrived: Holding hands or touching, a normal African practice – considered by some to be sexual harassment in America, is something that many Africans do not even have a word for; learning to arrive to work on time when you have lived your entire life in a refugee camp and do not know how to read and write in your native tongue? An unknown obstacle to most; or not wanting to clean a woman's bathroom when you've been told you are not allowed inside, but haven't been told you are allowed to clean it is a real-life misunderstanding that could have cost someone his job.

"So if there is a problem, we can intervene," Dogo says. "Employers should not automatically fire an individual."

Dogo, himself an immigrant who has lived in the United States for nine years, says despite his formal education and experience there's always something new.

"There are a lot of

things we're learning all the time," he said. "Everyday is a learning process."

Paying payroll taxes, contributing to a retirement account, benefit deductions – all that stuff is new to the thousands of Africans who have spent their entire lives in rural villages.

One of the main concerns that OSHA's Hispanic training course shares with African communities is the top-down hierarchy of authority on a job site. What the boss says is rarely questioned, says Schwabe. Same goes for many Africans, says Dogo. And when it comes to asking or not even knowing to ask about the minimum safety requirements on a job, not questioning a boss that is either malicious or negligent in their regard to safety can be fairly standard.

But Schwabe says most employers he knows want to get to know their workers.

"What I tell employers is to pick up a book on travel to where their workers are from," he says. "Learn the do's and don'ts."

In addition, it's important to build a relationship of trust, he says. Ask the worker about labor laws in his or her country and it lets the worker be the person in charge of the information.

"It puts the worker in the driver's seat," he said. "It helps bridge the trust gap."

Equally important is hiring qualified interpreters who can adequately translate the duties, rules and expectations of a given job in a cultural context. Both Dogo and Schwabe say many immigrants and refugees speak a tribal or regional language as their first language, meaning Spanish or French can be a second language, with English as a third.

Dogo says refugees still come to his office for help translating documents or other correspondence – even after they hit the official 5-year cutoff time for assistance established by the government.

"It takes time to take care of all those issues," Dogo says. "So long as they are alive, we will help."

Currently, Africa House is hoping to reestablish their daytime English as a Second Language program with new grants and is looking for volunteers, specifically those of African descent.

In addition, Africa House held its second annual African Youth Leadership Conference, Aug. 16. The event allows African youth and their friends and family to meet with others in their community, build on individ-

ual leadership skills, participate in a local service project and much more.

OSHA's next multicultural workforce workshop will be held Sept. 17 from 8 a.m. to noon at OSHA's

Eugene Field Office. Register for the class by faxing a request on your company letterhead to 503-947-7462 or at www.oroosha.org under "Education."



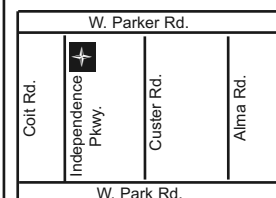
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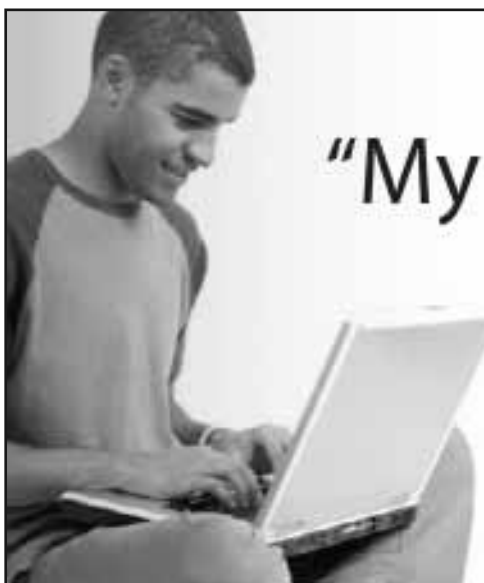
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New Resource Targets Diabetes among African Americans

From staff reports

The National Diabetes Education Program has developed a curriculum designed to provide program leaders with the tools they need to increase diabetes prevention and control within African American communities.

Power to Prevent: A Family Lifestyle Approach to Diabetes Prevention (Power to Prevent) is a product of the National Diabetes Education Program (NDEP), a joint effort of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

More than three million African Americans aged 20 years and older have diabetes. In addition, African Americans are 1.6 times as likely to have diabetes as non-Hispanic whites of the same age.

"Diabetes is a growing epidemic among African Americans -- yet one third of all people who have this condition aren't even aware that they have it," said Dr. Gladys Gary-Vaughn, Director Office of Outreach, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Agriculture and Chair of the NDEP's African American Work Group. "Power to Prevent gives program leaders the

“

Diabetes is a growing epidemic among African Americans -- yet one third of all people who have this condition aren't even aware that they have it...

”

resources and information they need to inform people that it is possible to prevent or delay type 2 diabetes in people at high risk," she added.

Power to Prevent provides community-based organizations, faith-based organizations, diabetes educators, and other program leaders with a step-by-step, easy-to-read

resource that best reaches their target audience. People with diabetes can also use this curriculum independently. The curriculum consists of:

Twelve 60-90 minute interactive modules that trained or untrained facilitators can use to guide small groups through discussions on physical activity, nutrition and dia-

betes prevention

A guide for program leader's that discuss steps for a successful program

In the 2002 findings of the Diabetes Prevention Program research study, scientists found that people can prevent or delay type 2 diabetes by losing weight (5-7 percent of their weight or 10-15 pounds for a person who

weighs 200 pounds), eating healthy (consuming less fat and fewer calories) and increasing physical activity. Power to Prevent is a resource that will help organizations, groups, and families implement some of these strategies to prevent and control diabetes. The curriculum was developed by the NDEP's African American Work Group, which includes representatives from national minority organizations, medical, and government organizations that develop culturally appropriate initiatives and promote diabetes education campaigns for African American audiences.

Sweet Dreams: Alternative Approaches to Sleep Disorders

From staff reports

John Gilmer, a Dallas High school teacher and long time insomniac, is hosting a Sleep Disorders Fair in which the public will have the opportunity to benefit from free consultations from alternative health care professionals. Aromatherapy, Naturopathy, Homeopathy, Reiki,

Chiropractic and Hypnotherapy will be just a few of the various alternative health care fields represented. The Fair will take place Saturday, September 6th at the Center for Spiritual Living. There is no admission fee, and the event will run from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. There will be a variety of donated items to be raffled off including

gift certificates from health care professionals in the fields above and other sleep related items. Gilmer created the project while participating in a Landmark Education

leadership program. Part of the coursework involves creating a project that benefits the community. "Insomnia is something I've suffered from for quite some

time," Gilmer said. "When I was told that we had to create a project to serve our community, I immediately decided on hosting a Sleep Disorders Fair as a means of provid-

ing fellow insomniacs with valuable information....which I so badly needed" For more information, call (972) 754-6330 or e-mail John at anand2874@yahoo.com.

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IT ALL BEGINS HERE.

Volunteers needed for Empowerment Academy

From staff reports

The African American Advisory Committee is hosting the first Parental Empowerment through the Academy of Knowledge (PEAK) on Saturday, September 20, 2008 at the Special Events Center. We are in need of volunteers to assist in making this an event to remember for parents and community members. If you are able to donate an hour or more of your time, please contact Cynthia Woolcock at (972)

487-3263 or e-mail at cwoolco@garlandisd.net.

This event, which is the first of several planned community endeavors, is designed to alert families about the changes and requirements in the Texas educational system. It is free to the public, with registration, and will run from 8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. The PEAK sessions will include an opening ceremony, three breakout sessions, a lunch presentation and closing assembly. The information is designed to

help parents and guardians of African American children who attend GISD schools, and highlights college preparation, workforce alternatives and state testing strategies.

The morning's first session will highlight the district's online grade book and how parents can monitor their child's academic progress. Attendees will learn the GISD infrastructure and where to turn for help with educational issues in session two. The third session will feature a

question-and-answer aspect with committee members. A light breakfast will be available in the morning and lunch will be served between sessions two and three. Transportation can be arranged once attendees complete a registration packet.

For event details, contact Cynthia Woolcock at (972) 487-3263 or e-mail at cwoolco@garlandisd.net.

Dr Michael L. Lomax on Bush's Signing of the Reauthorization of the Higher Education Act

From staff reports

This is a great day for education, and an especially great day for minority higher education. We thank the leaders of the House and Senate and President Bush and his administration for the hard work and dedication that led to this outcome.

Since the Higher Education Act was last reauthorized ten years ago, a college education has become a minimum requirement for entry into almost every profession. The U.S. has a system of college education that is the envy of the world, and we at UNCF—the United Negro College Fund—are especially proud of the 39 historically black colleges and universities that are UNCF members. But as the cost of going to college has increased, federal support for higher education in general and HBCUs in particular has remained stagnant.

The re-enactment of the Higher Education is a major step to remedying that neglect. The level of Pell Grants, the largest federal education assistance program for low-income students has increased. Funds have been authorized to help HBCUs repair and rebuild

their historic campuses and install the 21st century technology a 21st century education demands. The Digital and Wireless Technology Opportunity Program in the reauthorized HEA will close the "digital divide" between HBCUs and other minority-serving colleges and universities and majority institutions.

Although the passage of HEA Reauthorization is an important step, it is only a first step. Pell Grant levels, though higher, are still far short of the purchasing power they

had a decade ago. HBCUs remain a valuable but under-supported resource in the nation's effort to helping students get the education they need and deserve. And most important, far too many qualified and deserving minority and low-income students are unable to attend or complete college because of the high cost of college and the low level of financial assistance.

On behalf of UNCF, the 60,000 students we support at 900 colleges around the country, and our 39 member colleges,

we thank everyone who made HEA Reauthorization possible.

COLLEGE CORNER

Gaia Community Scholarship

Gaia Community provides an oasis for those of us committed to waking up, listening to our deepest calling, and living the lives we were meant to live—while empowering and inspiring others to do the same. Applicants must be crazy enough to dream big, to aspire to do things differently, to follow your heart, and (most importantly!) to be the change you want to see in the world.

To apply for the scholarship, students must answer the following questions:

- 1) What is your purpose?
- 2) What do you love, and how do (or will) your actions demonstrate this? (250 words or less.)
- 3) Write your ideal job description. (250 words or less.)

Deadline:
December 31, 2008

Award Amount:
\$1,000

Website/Contact Info:
<http://scholarships.gaia.com/>

Source:
Blackstudents.com



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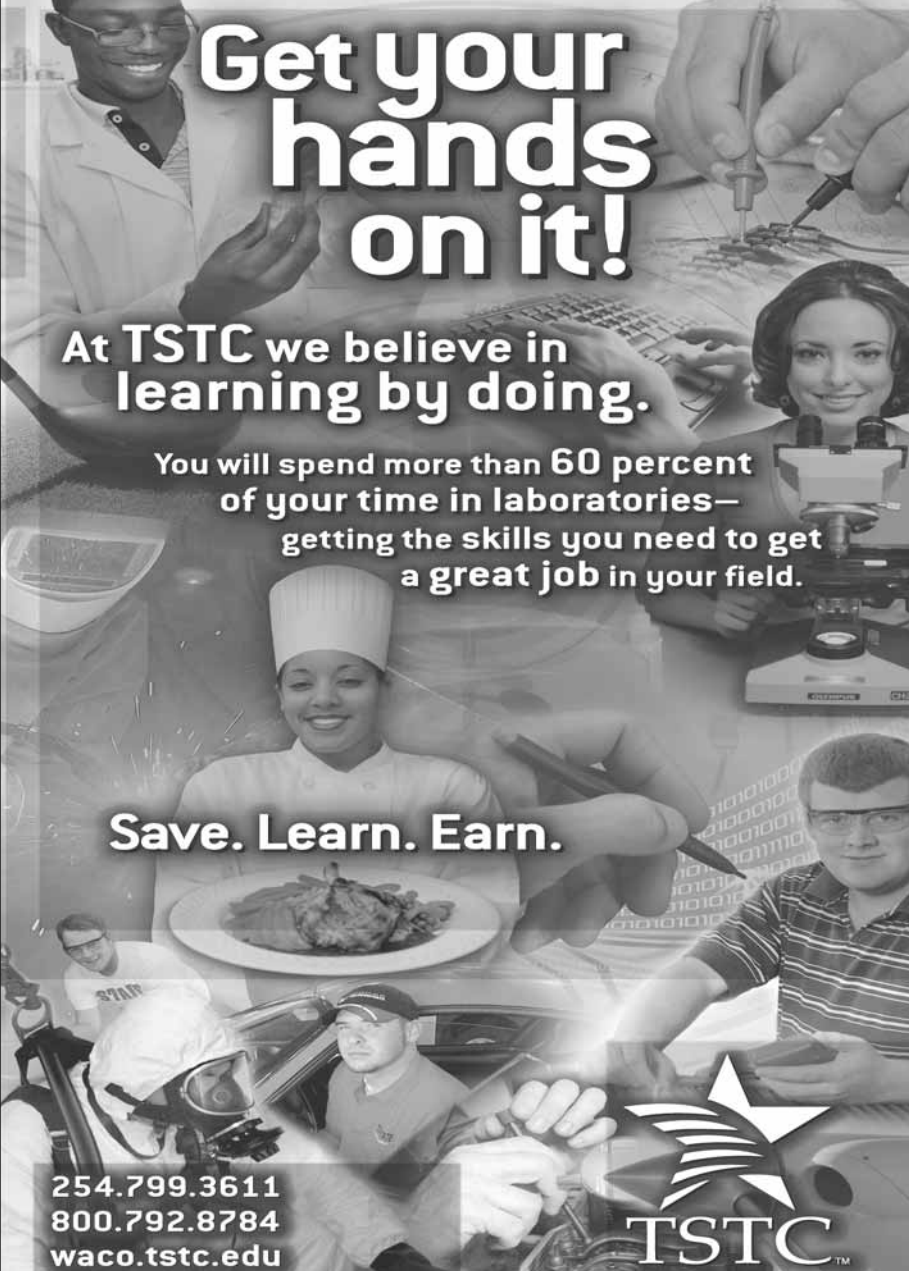
The program is held on Tuesday's and Thursday's, from 6:00 – 7:15 pm, in the clubhouse at Indigo On Forest Apartments, 9669 Forest Lane, Dallas TX 75243.

Topics Discussed: Family Values, Juvenile Homes, Alcoholism & Drug Addiction, Teenage Pregnancy & Self Preservation, etc.



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 kdemon@cokece.com

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



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Sylvan Dell Publishing Awards Educational Resource Grants

From staff reports

Children's book publisher Sylvan Dell has passionately pursued its mission of "bringing science and math to children through literature." Now, they are reaching out to schools and school districts nationwide with an unprecedented educational resource grant offer, and Texas schools have already reaped the benefits.

The grant is for a free, one-year site license, pro-

viding unlimited access to all 35 Sylvan Dell eBooks, featuring flipviewer technology with selectable English and Spanish text and audio. The license can be used on all school computers and may be placed on secure school websites, enabling students and their families to log in and have access from their homes.

Grants will be awarded to one elementary school per district and are open to every district in Canada. To facilitate submission, indi-

vidual schools may submit the grant application directly. When more than one school from a single district applies, Sylvan Dell will ask the district contact to make the selection.

Four Sylvan Dell clients reside in Texas: Salima Alikhan (illustrator of Pieces of Another World), Doris Fisher (co-author of One Odd Day, My Even Day, My Half Day and Happy Birthday to Whooo?), Susan Mitchell

(author of The Rainforest Grew All Around) and Dani Sneed (co-author of One Odd Day, My Even Day and My Half Day). Sylvan Dell picture books with science, math and nature themes excite children's imaginations through fun stories, vibrant artwork and a 3-5 page "For Creative Minds" educational section in the back of each book. But that is just the start...what really makes the books unique, is their tremendous amount

of free, online educational material available for cross-curricular learning, including: 30-80 page Teaching Activities, Interactive Reading and Math Quizzes, and more.

The educational component has been a priority at Sylvan Dell from the beginning. "We hope that school district and school curriculum folks will take a hard look at our picture books and free online resources and appreciate that we are creating content

and technologies to help them in the classroom," says Sylvan Dell co-founder Lee German. "What we have created is a set of serious tools for teachers and parents to use to both entertain and teach their children. We don't want to be just another picture book publisher. We want to be loved for our products and our commitment to excellence, and we want to be part of the education solution."

Make it an OLYMPIC Christmas In August For The Elderly

From staff reports

The Gospel Guide Community Outreach and Home Care Network join forces in their efforts to keep our elderly cool during the hot summer

months. "We need your help says Community Outreach Director Sakina Glenn, join us in making it an OLYMPIC Christmas in August for the elderly."

Oftentimes we hear about the elderly succumb-

ing to unnecessary heat related deaths. Many elderly residents live in homes, that does not have central air so they rely on window units or fans to keep them cool during the scorching summer months.

Summer temperatures can reach well over one hundred degrees inside a home that does not have central air. The Gospel Guide Community Outreach and Home Care Network want to be a bea-

con of hope for our local elderly.

They are asking businesses, churches, and individuals to assist them in serving our elderly by holding fan drives making it an Olympic Christmas in

August for the elderly.

If your organization, ministry, business, groups or individuals would like to take part call 972-283-9665 or email Theggepgroup@aol.com.

Collin County Democrats to Focus on Education, next meeting

From staff reports

The Democratic Party of Collin County announced their next general meeting will Focus on Education. A panel of Educators and Candidates will discuss issues related to Education,

Schools, Students, and Parents. Bring your questions. This is an opportunity to express your concerns to a candidate on August 23, 10:30 AM at the Spring Creek Campus of Collin County Community College system. The event

is sponsored by the Democratic Party of Collin County.

Everyone is invited to participate, door prizes will be given. For further infor-

mation, please contact: Mary Ann Patrick, Executive Director

(972) 578-1483, office@collindems.us.

Sister Tarpley Thinks You Should Share Your Milestone Events With The Community....

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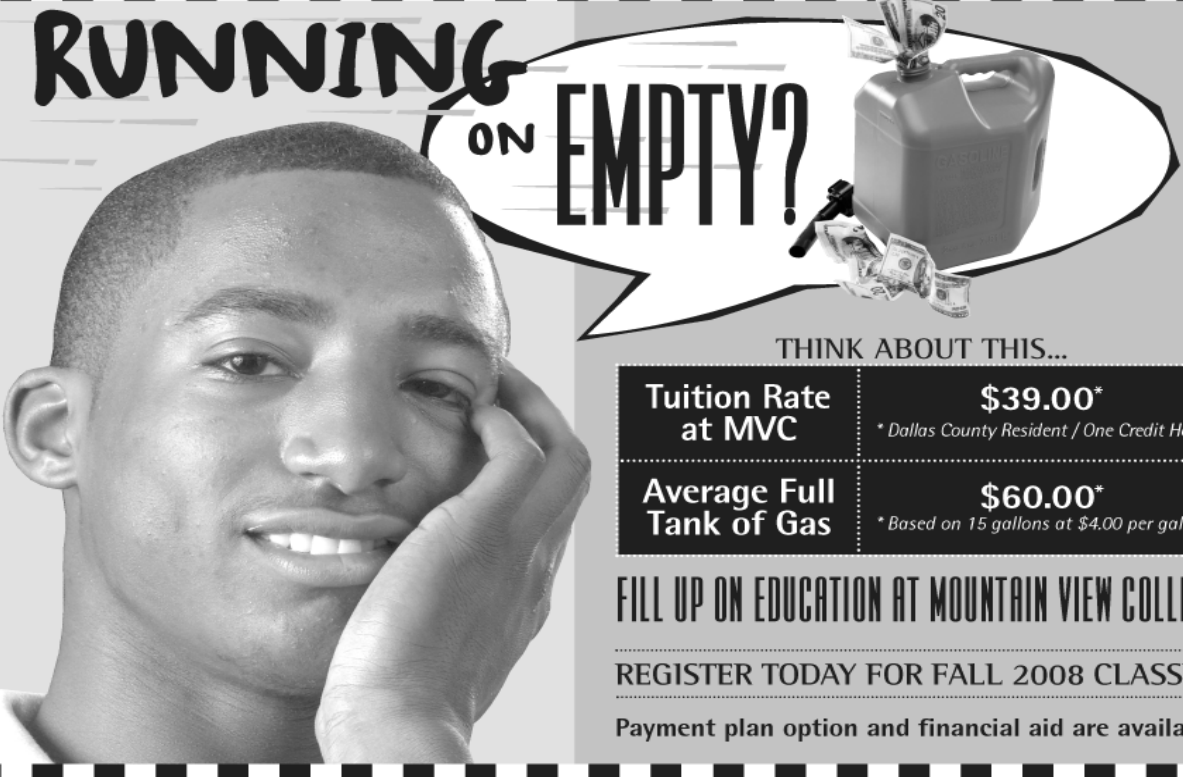
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Mayor's Intern Fellows Program Reaps Rewards

From staff reports

For most high school students, a summer job – which has been tough to find in this tightening economy – means fast food or working entry-level retail positions.

But thanks to the Mayor's Intern Fellows program, 90 Dallas ISD students are working 40-hour weeks in coveted positions, soaking up real-world knowledge and eye-opening experiences at Dallas' top corporations, non-profits, city departments and legal firms.

Depending on their internships, the students have done everything from going to late-night crime scenes with Dallas Police detectives to evaluating recipes at a national restaurant corporation, from helping manage million-dollar construction accounts, to shadowing and lunching with senior executives on a regular basis.

Dallas Mayor Tom Leppert and lead partner AT&T (NYSE:T) launched the program this spring in conjunction with

Education Is Freedom (EIF), a non-profit organization working to reduce the high school dropout rate; eliminate the social, academic and financial barriers to higher education; and promote equality of opportunity in college attendance. The Mayor's Intern Fellows is an eight-week paid internship program that has given qualified students a realistic view of the working world, allowing them to utilize their potential and visualize their future. Students have seen firsthand where a quality education can lead and the education paths they'll need to follow to get there.

The internships ended earlier this month. To celebrate, the Mayor and the participating companies will honor the students and celebrate their accomplishments at a noon luncheon at the Crescent Club.

"Without a doubt, the Mayor's Intern Fellows program is a big success," said Dallas Mayor Tom Leppert. "The students are working hard, they're being mentored and get-



Shown here (from left to right) are Joseph Pelton (12th grade, Adamson HS), Tristin Williams (11th grade, Adamson HS), Dallas Mayor Tom Leppert and Joe Posada-Triana (12th grade, Adamson HS)

ting a close-up look at a variety of careers. They've been given a behind-the-scenes opportunity – one that high schoolers rarely get – to get a glimpse of how businesses operate and what their futures can be."

EIF Dallas students from W.H. Adamson, James Madison and North Dallas High Schools participated as well as David

W. Carter High School students involved with Senator Royce West's "It's About Our Community" program. In addition to AT&T, 41 other companies actively support the program, including JP

Morgan Chase, Brinker International, Deloitte, Haynes & Boone, TXU Oncor, Central Dallas Ministries and many others.

"Bottom line, these young people's lives have

been changed for the better, as a result of these internships," said Mayor Leppert. "We're excited about the initial results. We are already working to double the size of the program next summer."

Minority Chambers Award Scholarships to Area Students

From staff reports

Students from across the Dallas area have received scholarships from the Dallas County Community College District -- through a special tri-chamber agreement with the Dallas Hispanic Chamber

of Commerce, the Dallas Black Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Dallas Asian American Chamber of Commerce -- for interested students who would like to attend one of DCCCD's seven colleges: Brookhaven, Cedar Valley, Eastfield, El Centro, Mountain View, North Lake and Richland. Each year, the \$1,400 scholar-

ship that each student receives will pay for tuition and books, up to \$700 per semester.

Scholarship recipients from the Dallas Hispanic Chamber of Commerce are:

- Marissa Gonzales of Dallas, Brookhaven College;
- Elsa Olvera of Dallas, Eastfield College;
- Rosa Yeng of Dallas, El Centro College; and
- Martha Chavarria of Dallas, Richland College.

Awardees from the Dallas Black Chamber of Commerce are:

- Tia Davis of Dallas, Brookhaven College;

- LaVondvia Odom of Dallas, Eastfield College;
- Cyndae Wallace, Mountain View College;
- Cherele Belcher, North Lake College; and
- Okechukwu Okeke, Richland College.

Tri-chamber scholarship recipients for the Greater Dallas Asian American Chamber of Commerce are:

- Date Chin of Carrollton, Brookhaven College;
- An Lu of Dallas, Eastfield College;
- Duy Nguyen of Irving, North Lake College; and
- Lisa Nguyen of Garland, Richland College.



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Don't Let Your Teen's Future Go Up In Smoke

It's simple, marijuana and teens are not a good mix—especially when it comes to learning and academic success. We know that all young people face challenges as they grow and mature and that the dangers and temptations of drugs are all around. We also know that as a parent or someone who cares about young people, you want the very best for them; you want them to do even better than you did and lead productive lives.

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 21-31

Making Black Communities HIV/AIDS Smart Campaign HIV/AIDS baby pamper drive, AIDS children teddy bear drive, Pre-teen backpack drive, requesting for movie passes for HIV/AIDS teens. Call 972-748-4648 or email aidsawarenessexpo@yahoo.com.

August 21

Making Black Communities HIV/AIDS Smart Campaign AIDS Drama Explosion featuring "AIDS In the HOOD" from 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. at African American Museum at

Historic Fair Park, 3536 Grand Avenue, Dallas TX 75315. Admission is free. There will be a series of plays, poetry and monologues. Call 972-748-4648 or email aidsawarenessexpo@yahoo.com.

Urban League of Greater Dallas Young Professionals & Michael Guinn Present Poetry at the Center at the African American Museum at 7 p.m.

August 22

Treatment Options for Leg and Back Pain due to osteoporosis, presented by Michael B. Rimlawl from 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Methodist Dallas Medical Center In the Hitt Auditorium. Lunch will be served.

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.

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 23-24

Cabela's Fall Great Outdoor Days Cabela's will host pro-staff and vendors from your favorite outdoor gear brands. There will be Interactive seminars held throughout the day. Come to Cabela's Fort Worth 12901 Cabela Drive, Fort Worth, TX 76177. Admission is free. Visit www.cabelas.com or call 817-337-2400.

August 23

Mocha Moms Free Family Event- Boys Booked on Barbershops The North Dallas Chapter of Mocha

Moms, Inc. will kick-off Boys Booked on Barbershops from 9 a.m. - 11 a.m. at Hair For U Salon 230 W. Parker Road #200, Plano, TX 75075. This event is designed to increase the number of parents who read to their children. Books will be available. Email president@mochamomsnorthdallas.com or visit www.mochamomsnorthdallas.com.

August 23

Continuing Education to Host Computer, Technology Open House Collin College Continuing Education is hosting an open house for those Interested In Its computer and technology courses and certificate programs from 10 a.m. - Noon. Admission Is free and open to the public at the Courtyard Center for Professional and Economic Development, 4800 Preston Park Blvd. In Plano, TX. Call 972-985-3753 or email jbyers@cccdd.edu.

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.

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.

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.

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

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.

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

A Beka Book Home Sale A home curriculum and textbook sale at the Plano Centre 2000 E. Spring Creek Pkwy, Plano, TX 75074 from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Admission is free. Call 800-613-3222.

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.

August 28

Making Black Communities HIV/AIDS Smart Campaign Youth Rally Against AIDS, a play "What's Up with AIDS" at the Boys and Girls Club, Linfield Road In Oak Cliff from 5:45 p.m. - 6:45 p.m.

6th Annual Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony with a 6 p.m. reception and 7 p.m. dinner held at the Fort Worth Club. Tickets are \$100 per person and \$1000 per table of 10. Visit www.cowboysofcolor.org.

August 29

The Labor Day Concert featuring Montell Jordan, The Latin Express Band, Comedian AJ Jamal & Grammy Award Winner, Sunny Ozuna. Begins at 7 p.m. at the Fort Worth Will Rogers Auditorium. Tickets are \$18, \$28, and \$38 respectively. Visit www.cowboysofcolor.org.

August 29-30

Divine Children's, Consign Juniors, Maternity Consignment Sale the Metroplex's favorite twice yearly children's consignment sale specializing in the highest quality gently worn children's, juniors, and maternity clothing, toys, books, and children's furniture. Sale lasts from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. on the 29th and 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. on the 30th. Admission is free. Call 214-513-2838, email http://email.secure-server.net/divineconsign@hotmail.com, or visit www.divineconsign.net.

August 30

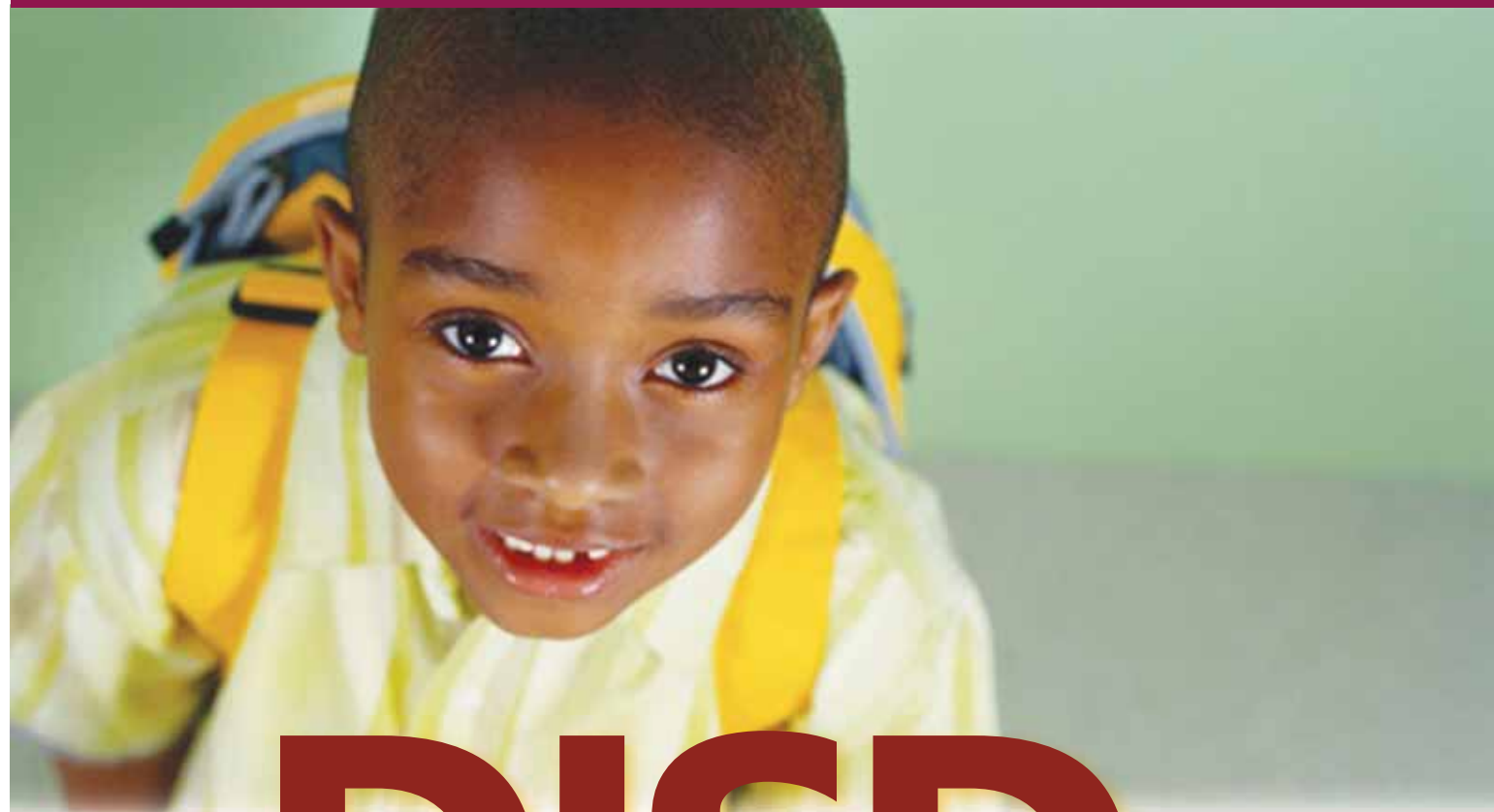
13th Annual Fort Worth Cowboys of Color Rodeo the parade begins at 12 noon followed by children's activities from 1 p.m. - 6 p.m. and the rodeo at 7 p.m. The event will take place at the Fort Worth Will Rogers Coliseum. Admission Is \$12 fro children 3-12 years, \$15 for adults, and \$20 for box seats. Call 817-922-9999, email Info@cowboysofcolor.org or visit www.cowboysofcolor.org.

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DISD

Grade

trying to make the

Dallas Independent School District is making headlines as students head back to school. Wednesday they were even featured in the Wall Street Journal. However, they are likely not the sort of headlines the school district would like to see.

The community and media have spent over a week dissecting the new rules regarding DISD's grading policy include the following standards for all campuses:

- Homework grades should be given only when the grades will "raise a student's average, not lower it."
- Teachers must accept overdue assignments, and their principal will decide whether students are to be penalized for missing deadlines.
- Students who flunk tests can retake the exam and keep the higher grade.
- Teachers cannot give a zero on an assignment unless they call parents and make "efforts to assist students in completing the work."

(Source: Dallas Morning News)

While the district officials felt perhaps they were taking a needed step to ensure



E. B. Comstock Middle School

students are learning content versus material for standardized tests, they were perhaps surprised at the largely negative reaction.

Frequent initial responses online and in various media reports reflect concerns these policies will encourage laziness and not allow students the opportunity to really learn from the consequences of their actions. In conversations and blogs phrases like, "no do overs in real life" and "lack of accountability" are frequently cited.

Dallas Independent School District superintendent Michael Hinojosa firmly stands by the policy. Monday he was quoted in the Dallas Morning News, "We want to make sure that students are mastering the content [of their classes] and not just failing busy work." That is a laudable goal, but many question the method.

According to DISD: "The new policy holds students accountable while providing them with limited opportunities to recover from short-term failure, which is recognized by several studies as one of the factors for long-term student failure. The policy also recognizes that not all students learn at the same pace and emphasizes mastery of knowledge and skills whether it takes place at the beginning to the end of a six-weeks grading period.

In an effort to address public concerns the district released a clarification statement on the new policy:

Students can't be given grades below 50. Fifty is the lowest grade on the report card. This does not apply to daily classwork grades/homework grades/tests, etc.

Students can retake any test they fail anytime. Students at every level must be

given one opportunity to retake any MAJOR test (as defined by grade level/dept. teachers) within 5 school days the failing grade was received or no later than 10 days of the date of the test.

Teachers cannot give grades on homework unless they help kids pass. True, but only at grades 2-5. At grades 6-12, homework grades can be recorded at teacher discretion as previously practiced.

Students cannot receive a zero or grade penalty for work not done or not completed on time. As part of their grade level/departments grading procedures, teacher teams at each campus determine the grade penalties and/or grade reduction procedures. As campus instructional leaders, principals have the authority to approve the teacher-developed procedures.

Parents must be called before recording a zero in the grade book. True, but only at grades 2-5. Teachers at grades 6-12 are encouraged to contact parents if a zero would result in a failing six weeks grade for a student, but are not required to do so.

This policy will lower academic standards for students. This policy holds students accountable while providing them

See DISD, Page 20

READING, continued from page 1

emerge debt-free, but I've not been able to do that just yet. I implore my friends, colleagues, and partners in the educational endeavor to help make matriculation affordable, and I also encourage friends to deal with the higher education policy that makes it so daunting for students to attend college.

Reading is revolution. North Carolina was one of several southern states that made it illegal to teach slaves to read. The General Assembly of the State of North Carolina passed a law, in the 1830-31 session that reads, in part, "Whereas the teaching of slaves to read and write has a tendency to excite dissatisfaction in their minds,

and to produce insurrection and rebellion, to the manifest injury of the citizens of the state: Therefore, (1) Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of North Carolina and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, that any free person who shall hereafter teach or attempt to teach, any slave within this State to read or write, the use of figures excepted, or shall give to or sell to such slave any books or pamphlets, shall be liable to indictment in any court of record in this state having jurisdiction thereof, and upon conviction shall, at the discretion of the court, if a White man or women, be fined not less than one hundred dollars,

not more than two hundred dollars or imprisonment; and if a free person of color, shall be fined, imprisoned, or whipped at the discretion of the court, not exceeding thirty nine lashes, nor less than twenty lashes." In some states, slaves who learned to read were blinded. Those who taught them to read risked whipping or worse. Why were slaveholders so afraid of reading slaves? Think of the words, "to excite dissatisfaction" and what they mean.

Let them roll over your tongue. It's a nice way of saying that ignorance is bliss. It's a way of saying if you read the Constitution ("all men are created equal") in your

slave state, you'll start asking questions.

It means that if words make you want to soar while your feet (or your mind) are shackled in chains, you aren't going to be a happy slave. Knowledge is power. That was true during slavery and it is also true now.

Knowledge is power, and there are those who count on our not knowing to empower themselves at our detriment. It's why we tell folks to "read the fine print". It's why the mortgage lending and foreclosure crisis has hit the African-American community harder than almost any other.

There is power in the written word, and whenever

the written word is eschewed, power is forfeited. When the repressive North Carolina law was passed, reading, learning to read, teaching someone to read was a revolutionary action, an act designed, in the words of the law to "excite dissatisfaction". This excitement of dissatisfaction, the will to read, to break the law to read, were the very seeds harvested when former slaves sat in the unpaved basement of St. Matthews church and planned the development of Bennett College for Women and for so many historically black colleges and universities.

This excitement of dissatisfaction must be the foundation of our embrace

of excellence and equality. It ought to touch us in our bones. I want someone to touch every young person who is returning to school to tell them that reading is revolution, that exciting dissatisfaction is honorable work, and that we rise when we embrace our space and our place. Our students need cheerleaders!

We need to excite dissatisfaction in a nation that has not yet embraced the possibility of positive learning for everyone.

Dr. Julianne Malveaux is president of Bennett College for Women. She can be reached at presoffice@bennett.edu.

TEACHERS, continued from page 1

"The issue with handguns is the training and registration," Perry said. "After that, you're trained and registered."

The 110-student district is 150 miles northwest of Fort Worth on the eastern

end of Wilbarger County, near the Oklahoma border. It has about 50 teachers and staff members

Asked if other school districts should take similar measures, Perry said, "It's up to those local school

districts."

Superintendent David Thweatt has said the small community is a 30-minute drive from the sheriff's office, leaving students and teachers without protection.

RALLY, continued from page 1

other special events nationwide. As a minister first and a artist second, he desires above all else to drive people to Christ and see the walking in the purpose and destiny that God has before them his goal is

to educate the body of Christ, in this modern culture, discover the most effective tools of evangelism to reach those closest to them with the message of Jesus Christ!

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1308 Wilcox St. McKinney TX. 75069. For more information please contact Youth Pastor Frank Bradford at 214.497.9409.

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DEMOCRATS, continued from page 1

from Denver and Obama supporter. "Obama's the only candidate that can bring our country together—Democrats and Republicans, liberals and conservatives, Blacks and Whites, rich and poor, urban and rural—to heal the country and heal the world."

But first, the candidate and the Democratic Party will have to heal the breach opened up during the primaries. Supporters of Sen. Hillary Clinton, D-N.Y., have called for her name to be on the ballot and some supporters have even said they will protest if proper recognition isn't given to the New York senator during the convention.

"There's a special effort behind Clinton supporters to bring us all together to defeat McCain and that's going to be an ongoing process because you have some individuals who supported Clinton and don't

want to come over," said at-large delegate James Tucker of Colorado Springs.

Obama and Clinton have been negotiating ways to give voice to her millions of supporters while furthering the convention's ultimate goal, but it would demand the cooperation of her devotees.

"I hope that 100 percent of her delegates will honor the joint decision of Clinton and Obama," Hart said. "I believe that Sen. Clinton and Obama understand that the most important thing to come out of this is 100 percent unity behind Obama."

That theme of unity has been incorporated into all aspects of the convention.

For example, on Aug. 24, the convention will kick off with the first-ever interfaith service, which, Jones said, "reflects our desire to bring a number of people under our big tent

in the spirit of unity."

The nightly themes also reflect Obama's mantras of unity and change.

"Millions of Americans are facing tough challenges every day [and] they know we can't afford four more years of the same old divisive politics that are light on policy specifics and ways to help people and heavy on cynicism and negativity," said Convention Co-Chair and Kansas Gov. Kathleen Sebelius about the themes in a statement.

"From Monday through Thursday, our convention program will highlight the people of this country who want positive change and who believe Barack Obama is the leader who will listen to their concerns and get our country moving in the right direction again."

To demonstrate that willingness to listen, the DNC hosted listening

forums in the months leading up to the convention, which allowed average citizens to contribute to the Party's platform.

"This lays out what the party stands for, its vision and its plan of action," Jones said. "And this year there was a real effort to make sure voices from all across America are heard."

Jones continued, "We've been committed to making it more open than it has ever been and to make the local community feel a part of the convention. And that's what influenced our decision to move the last day's program to INVESCO Field at Mile High which will allow more than 75,000 citizens to stand shoulder-to-shoulder behind Sen. Obama."

That event has created "an awful lot of excitement" in Denver, Hart said. Already, some 60,000 Coloradans have submitted requests for tickets.

Beyond that event, however, people are excited about the convention in general. Residents and businesses have been sprucing up their properties and bartenders and waitresses at downtown establishments are preparing to offer their best service to the flood of guests.

And there seems to be a renewed interest in the Democratic Party and Sen. Obama as well, Hart added. Hundreds of new volunteers have come forward for the Obama Campaign for Change like those who gathered at his house over the weekend and a monthly Denver Democratic Party forum was filled to the rafters.

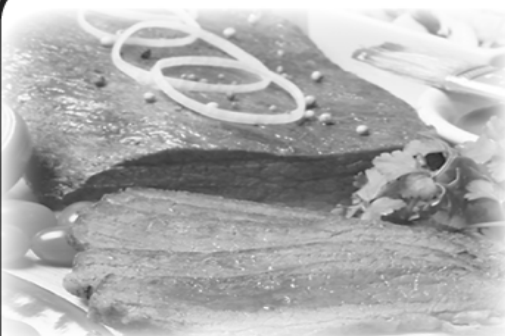
"For all those people who say they don't know who Sen. Obama is, after this convention they'll know exactly who he is and what he stands for," Hart predicted.

Colorado is a swing state, its politics juxta-

posed between conservative cities like Colorado Springs, Grand Junction and the Denver suburbs and liberal college towns like Boulder and Fort Collins and metropolitan Denver. The state can also boast to electing President Bill Clinton in 1992 and later electing President George W. Bush in 2000.

Holding the convention in Denver was highly symbolic of the party's determination to lobby in both red and blue states.

"This is the first convention in Colorado in 100 years and so very much consistent with the direction set by Chairman Howard Dean that this is a 50-state strategy," Jones said. "A western convention is a great way to highlight this idea and the belief that if we stand up for what we believe and reach out to everyone, we can win up and down the ballot everywhere."



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International Business Degree Offered At Collin College

From staff reports

Beginning in fall 2008, Collin College students will have the opportunity to learn about global commerce while earning an associate of applied science degree in International Business.

The new degree – offered through the Business Information and Engineering Technology Division – totals 61 credit hours and includes the courses “Principles of Import” and “Principles of Export,” “Introduction to International Business and

Trade,” “Global Logistics Management,” “International Marketing Management” and “Global Supply Chain Management.” A certificate in International Business also will be available this fall.

All courses will transfer to institutions offering a bachelor of applied arts and science degree and with which Collin College has articulation agreements.

“Students who take the classes included in the International Business degree will be offered

information that will serve them well no matter what industry they enter,” Gloria Cockerell, chair and professor of business management and marketing, said. “They will have courses specifically constructed for import and export, and international marketing and management, as well as courses which will help them to deal with people in the workforce from different cultures, genders and generations. They will have information which should prepare them to work now and in the future in a

workforce that is constantly changing.”

According to Cockerell, students who are not working toward an International Business degree or certificate should still consider taking some of the courses because of their relevance to what is happening in Texas and the United States as a whole with respect to working and being international consumers.

For more information about the new degree, contact Cockerell at gcockerell@ccccd.edu

New Mechatronics Program at Eastfield College

From staff reports

Earn up to \$50,000 starting salary with a degree or certificate in Mechatronics-Electronics at Eastfield College. Mechatronics is a relatively new engineering discipline that integrates mechanical energy with electronic and intelligent computer control in the design and manufacture of industrial products and processes.

Eastfield College offers both introductory and intermediate level courses that will satisfy requirements for completing a Mechatronics Certificate. These certificate hours can then be applied to the Electronics-Computer Technology Industrial Automation and Mechatronics Technology AAS.

The Automated Manufacturing Course is an introduction to electrical and electronic principles utilized in automated manufacturing processes. Students will describe microcontroller applications in manufacturing; identify electrical/electronic components, circuits, and schematics/diagrams used in manufacturing; describe operations and applications of sensors and actuators used in

manufacturing; apply interfacing techniques used in manufacturing; and apply programming techniques used with microcontrollers.

An example of an intermediate level course would be Automated Manufacturing; this course is an introduction to electrical and electronic principles utilized in automated manufacturing processes. Students will describe microcontroller applications in manufacturing; identify electri-

cal/electronic components, circuits, and schematics/diagrams used in manufacturing; explain operations and applications of sensors and actuators used in manufacturing; apply interfacing techniques used in manufacturing; and apply programming techniques used with microcontrollers.

A Mechatronics Technology Certificate prepares you for a wide range of job opportunities locally in the DFW metroplex in Industrial

Maintenance across many sectors of the economy, including manufacturing, health care, service and leisure, government, education and the military. Careers include working for manufacturing, defense manufacturing, telecommunication or electrical energy generation companies.

For more information contact Dr. Chuck Dale, at cdale@dcccd.edu or 972-860-7670 or Dr. Sue Byrd, at sbyrd@dcccd.edu or 972-860-7671.

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OLYMPIC GAMES 2008

Jones Becomes Second Black Swimmer To Win Olympic Gold

By Perry Green
NNPA

When the U.S. men's swimming team won gold by setting a new world record in the 4x100-meter freestyle relay at the Olympics Aug. 11, most of America celebrated the fact that swimming sensation Michael Phelps had just earned his third gold medal.

But while Phelps keeps the nation tuned in on his possibility of becoming the first swimmer to win eight gold medals in a single Olympic season, his relay teammate, Cullen Jones, has already added his name to the rich history of African American sports.

The 24-year-old swim-



mer out of Bronx, N.Y. became just the second swimmer of African-American descent to win Olympic gold.

The first Black swimmer to win a gold medal is Anthony Ervin, who took the gold in the same 4x100 event back in the 2000

Olympics.

Jones, who now resides in New Jersey, believes his performance in this year's Olympics, along with

Ervin's performance from eight years ago, reflects a change of how America views Blacks in the sport of competitive swimming.

"The stigma of [thinking that] black people don't swim, I think, has come to an end at this point," Jones told the media.

Like Ervin, Jones' advanced swimming skills allowed him the opportunity to receive a higher education as he majored in English at North Carolina State University. Ervin swam for the University of California, Berkeley.

Jones now has intentions of touring the U.S. in attempt of encouraging more Blacks and Hispanics to learn how to swim competitively. "I can talk to

kids all day. It's more about getting the parents to support them because the kids can't get to practice on their own," said Jones, who immediately acknowledged his parents for the great role they played in his swimming career.

"I'd have practice in New York and we lived in New Jersey...that's an hour away, and I had 5:30 in the morning practices, and we'd get up really, really early, and my parents would sit in the car and wait for me to finish practice," Jones told the media, while showing his medal to his mother in a center reserved for relatives of the Olympic athletes. "I guess their commitment to me paid off."

Williams sisters win gold in Olympic doubles

Associated Press

Venus and Serena Williams of the United States have won the Olympic gold medal in women's doubles.

The Williamses beat the Spanish duo Anabel Medina Garrigues and Virginia Ruano Pascual, 6-2, 6-0 in Sunday's final.

The American sisters, seeded second, shrieked

when Ruano Pascual sent the championship point long. Then they jumped for joy and hugged each other.

The Sunday win improves the sisters' Olympic record to 10-0

and gives them their second gold medal. The Williamses won the doubles event at the Sydney Games but didn't play Athens because Serena was hurt.



ENTERTAINMENT

Never Goes Out of Style: Tennessee Williams Classic Still a Hit

By John Mallory Land
North Dallas Gazette

Some theater companies feel compelled to update a classic in order to make it more "relevant" and "accessible" to today's audience. However, the hallmark of any classic is that—if done well—it will entertain us, tug at our heartstrings, and prod us to contemplate deeper matters through themes that are very specific to the time and place of the story, yet universal.

The Contemporary Theatre of Dallas' current rendition of Tennessee Williams' *A Streetcar Named Desire* shows us why this gem became a classic by skillfully bring-

ing the play to life in all its vintage glory. Set in post-World-War-II New Orleans, the atmosphere is sultry: the humid heat oppressive, the living rough-edged and unrefined, the lust palpable.

Insightfully directed by René Moreno, the cast deftly breathes life into the iconic characters that have become embedded in our cultural heritage. The ambiance of the Elysian Fields neighborhood near the French Quarter roils, lively and tempestuous, with the raucous, fickle relationship of upstairs neighbors Eunice (Marianne Galloway) and Steve Hubbell (John Venable).

The marriage between

Stella Kowalski (Jessica Wiggers) and Stanley Kowalski (Clay Yocum) is propelled by young love and animal attraction, punctuated by Stanley's violent outbursts. Into the scene stumbles Stella's sister, Blanche DuBois (Lydia Mackay), desperately seeking refuge from the spoiled, crumbling life she's left behind in rural Mississippi. The dear but tense relationship between the sisters and the antipathy, laced with latent lust, between Blanche and her brother-in-law gradually seethe.

Amid the tumultuous domestic squabbles, the late-night card games—including Stanley's poker buddy Pablo Gonazles

(Thiago Martins)—the screeching alley cats and rattling streetcars, Blanche is haunted by the loss of the old plantation homeplace and her long-ago young husband. As she makes one last, desperate stab at finding true romance by courting Stanley's war buddy, Harold "Mitch" Mitchell (Russell DeGrazier), we see each of them struggle with his own loneliness, anxious yet unable to connect and meet each other's needs. Their awkward attempts are notably moving.

In a brief but highly charged turn, the Young Collector (Andrews Cope) is visibly shaken by his encounter with Blanche. Stella tries admirably to

steer Blanche on a steady course while maintaining her own even keel as a wife and expectant mother. Yet, as Blanche retreats further and further into the empty comfort of her delusions, she is unable to escape the pain of the past or the inevitable confrontation with Stanley that will push her over the brink. The Flower Seller (Tippi Hunter) exudes an ominous foreboding that seems to spring from Blanche's own dreading subconscious. The capable cast is rounded out by the Nurse (Nancy Sherrard) and the Doctor (Kyle May), who come to dourly escort Blanche to her destiny.

The technical elements combine to transport us to

the languid, sexually-charged New Orleans of the past. In particular, the exceptional sound design by Marco E. Salinas sets the mood and smooths over the scene changes with seductive jazz interludes. For those who are new to this remarkable work and for those who know and love its familiar allure, this is a production you won't want to miss.

A *Streetcar Named Desire* continues through August 31. Tickets may be purchased online at www.contemporarytheatreofdallas.com or by calling 214-828-0094.

Guest Theater Reviewer John Mallory Land is a freelance writer based in Dallas.

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To learn more about the State of Texas HUB Program, visit the Texas Procurement and Support Services web page at: <http://www.window.state.tx.us/procurement/prog/hub/>



CCBCC Inks Youth Initiative with the NTJC

From staff reports

The Collin County Black Chamber of Commerce and the North Texas Job Corps recently signed an agreement to provide youth job opportunities.

The North Texas Job Corps is engaged in the field of vocational and academic training for young adults. It's the desire is to establish cooperative partnership memorandum of understanding with companies to establish work base

learning sites for students.

To learn more about this historic alliance and other programs, contact us at info@ccblackchamber.org or white.mar-chalee@jobcorps.org.

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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 TxDOT until the date(s) shown below, and then publicly read.

CONSTRUCTION/MAINTENANCE/BUILDING FACILITIES CONTRACT(S)

Dist/Div: Dallas

Contract 0094-07-039 for PLANE, OVERLAY AND PAVEMENT MARKINGS in DALLAS County will be opened on September 09, 2008 at 1:00 pm at the State Office. Contract 0261-02-070 for SIGN REFURBISHING in DALLAS County will be opened on September 10, 2008 at 1:00 pm at the State Office. Contract 0918-00-144 for NON-SITE SPECIFIC SIGN REPLACEMENT in DALLAS County, etc 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 pre-qualification 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: 27438

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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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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
"Men's Night Out" is an evening of Prayer, Praise and Preaching with Brothers Brett Pascal and Ramon Hodridge. Dinner 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 OF BELIEVERS INTERNATIONAL CHURCH ASSOCIATION

August 27-28, 7:30 pm
Women's Conference: "Women of Character Armed in the Word and Dangerous @ the Spirit Holiness COGIC, 2026 Calypso Street in Dallas. Call Sis. Sheaniqua Batty @

214-780-7856 for details.

Fellowship of Believers International Church Association (F.O.B.I.C.A.)
Bishop G. D. Crawford,
Presiding Prelate
214-780-7856

FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH OF ALLEN

August 31, 2008
Join us for our exciting and 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 New Light Bible Fellowship Church 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
Founders Day and Church Anniversary will feature 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.

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972-359-9956

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF HAMILTON PARK (FIRST CHURCH)

September 13, 8 am
You're invited to our "Women In Red Prayer Breakfast" sponsored by Daughters of Sarah.

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

HOPEWELL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

Join us for the following:
August 24 @ 3:30 pm, Pre-Anniversary Services;
August 27 – 29 @ 7:30 pm, Anniversary Services;
September 7 @ 3:30 pm, Pastor's & Wife's 7th

Anniversary Services

Hopewell Missionary Baptist Church
Rev. Michael Hubbard
Senior Pastor
5144 Dolphin Road
Dallas, TX 75223
214-823-1018

MOUNT GILEAD BAPTIST CHURCH

August 23, 12 Noon – 2 pm
We are having a Back-to-School Rally @ the church. We will have prayer, lunch, and school supplies.

Mount Gilead Baptist Church
Rev. Cedric Britt, Pastor
600 Grove Street
Ft. Worth, TX 76102
817-336-2695

MOUNT HEBRON BAPTIST CHURCH (THE MOUNT)

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
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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
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Plano, TX 75075
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Wednesday Night-Community Bible Class: 7:30 P.M.



Sister Tarpley

A friend called one evening lamenting about a trial that was causing stress in her life and asked for prayer. Not long after that another friend asked for prayers about a problem causing her anxiety. Of course I prayed; I also asked for prayers from those I knew that was in constant prayer to God, interceding on behalf of others.

God often use circumstances in lives of people to direct them in making and confirming decisions. He will lead you in directions that you are unaware how something came about or where you are going to do

Trials as Blessings

about a particular situation facing you. However, some people will discover this after a situation has occurred. But, "As thou knowest not what is the way of the Spirit, nor how the bones do grow in the womb of her that is with child: even so thou knowest not the works of God who maketh all." Ecclesiastes 11:5.

Perhaps there is something in your life that is causing you stress. There maybe a particular situation that you are facing that you wish that you didn't have to face at this particular time; and if you could you would not have this stress.

Apostle Paul experienced an ongoing burden

that he called a "thorn in his flesh." Although Bible scholars have speculated as to what this thorn might have been, no one knows for sure. We do know that it was so hurtful to Apostle Paul that he asked God on three different occasions to remove it from his life. "And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations. There was given to me a thorn in the flesh . . . And He said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for My strength is made perfect in weakness . . ." 2 Corinthians 7-10.

Perhaps God has given you such a thorn designed to allow you to place greater trust and reliance upon Him. Ask God to reveal to you the blessing

of the thorn He has placed in your life at this time. Seek His face to learn the lessons that He has in the trials of life. The bloom of a rose is beautiful, but the thorn of a rose produces only pain. Trials hurt us, yet they humble us. Since God often confirms His direction through circumstances; we must be on the lookout when God sets up situations that are out of our control-He may be giving you direction through these circumstances.

Thank God for His promises; thank Him for lifting you up and sustaining you. Then ask Him to renew your strength; to help you run this race of life without becoming weary, and for the unexpected things that come



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Vice President
of YOKE
Fellowship
Men's Group,
Security for
First Baptist
Church of
Hamilton Park,
and Church
Coordinator for
Forest Lane
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Middle School.

your way. Ask God for help in standing for what is right; to walk forward and not faint. God's desire is for you to be like salt on the earth, like a candle in the dark, a lighthouse on a hill, so that others will come to you because your life is a witness for Him. Ask God to cleanse you anew. Ask Him to help you be a positive influence where you live and work.

Christian Wisdom: "The winds of God are always blowing, but you must set the sails." -

Unknown. "To take up the cross of Christ is no great action done once for all; it consists in the continual practice of small duties which are distasteful to us." -John Henry Newman. "I drop my fears into your ocean and watch them sink from sight. I place my fears on your broad Earth and see them rot away. I put my fears into your hands and they are no more. When you offer Your arms to me, Your hands hold nothing but love. -Ceisiwr Serith.

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Contact Info

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Sunday
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Sunday School Classes-9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship-11:00 a.m.

Tuesday
Early Bird Bible Study - 6:00 p.m.

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

"The Church with a Vision"

DISD, continued from page 11

with limited opportunities to recover from short term failure as academic standards are raised and students are held accountable for "college ready" level work.

This policy shifts accountability away from students and on to teachers. Instructional accountability is a student, teacher, district, and home shared responsibility. The district's grading procedures still leave plenty of room for teachers to hold students accountable for unacceptable work. The goal is high achievement and student mastery of every subject.

These procedures were developed by central office without campus input. These procedures were developed as directed by Board policy by a committee of teachers, principals, and instructional support staff. Teachers were recommended by learning community executive directors, volunteered, or were

nominated by the Coordinating Teacher Organization (CTO). The Board approved a new grading policy in March 2008, and the committee began its work in May after TAKS testing was completed. The work continued over the summer in preparation for Fall 2008 teacher training and implementation.

These grading procedures are not preparing students for the "real world" of college and the workforce. Many real world professions including teaching, medicine, law, etc. offer multiple opportunities to obtain mastery/certification. However, the district's goal is to fully "prepare" students for college and the workforce, not to "replicate" college and the workforce in K-12 settings. Grading procedures become more stringent and student accountability increases with every grade level.

The second headline is

officially bad news: The Texas Education Agency has assigned a monitor to oversee three academically failing Dallas schools. They are H.G. Spruce, W. W. Samuell High School and E. B. Comstock Middle School.

After four years of poor academic performance,

the three chronically low-performing schools might be shut down by the state, The Dallas Morning News reported. State officials can close schools after five consecutive years of "academically unacceptable" ratings.

District trustees voted this summer to dismantle

Spruce High School and send its sophomores and juniors to other campuses. Samuell faces a similar reorganization if its scores don't improve. Comstock improved its standing in the spring when it received an "academically acceptable" rating.

The monitor, Judy

Castleberry, is a former administrator with Fort Sam Houston Independent School district and former director of a regional Education Service Center in San Antonio. Some question how effective she can be in light of the fact Castleberry will not have hiring nor firing authority.



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9:00 am Sunday School

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Young Adult Ministry 7:00 pm

Wednesday Service
Intercessory Prayer 6:15 pm
Bible Study 7:00 pm



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