

North Dallas Gazette



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COVER STORY

Garland's Renewal



See *QUIK TRIP*, Page 9

A helping 'foot'



Sister Shirely Tarpley poses with autographed tennis shoe of basketball legend Shaquille O'Neal to be auctioned off to benefit the young Brittany Stene, an actress/singer/dancer who has been active with Teatro delle Muse, The ArtCentre Theatre since its

first production. Tickets can be purchased online at www.TeatrodelleMuse.us or call 972-424-MUSE. See the play, *Donkey In Horse Heaven* this weekend, Saturday, December 20th @ 3 pm or Sunday, December 21st @ 6 pm.

Williams to seek Hutchison Senate seat

From Staff Reports

Although Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison has not officially announced her plan to run for governor's house. However, clearly she has made her plans known as people are coming out of the woodwork to announce they are run-

ning for her U.S. Senate position. They include Railroad Commissioner, Michael Williams, the only African American statewide elected official in Texas announced he is running for Sen. Hutchison's seat. After the 2008 Presidential election and

other races around the country the Republican Party are looking to re-define their party to feel more welcoming to minorities. This could work to Mr. Williams' advantage.

Below are excerpts

See *SENATE*, Page 12



Tarpley reviews "*Donkey in Horse Heaven*" play

For more information see pg. 10 www.northdallasgazette.com

DCHHS, Reliant Energy Announce Major Funding

From Staff Reports

Dallas County Health and Human Services (DCHHS) and Reliant Energy today announced a \$50,000 commitment in new funding for energy efficiency improvements for low-income homes

through the DCHHS Weatherization Assistance Program. The new initiative kicked-off earlier today with \$5,000 in energy efficiency improvements being made to the first recipient's home.

Through the partnership with Reliant Energy, DCHHS will weatherize the homes of 10 Reliant Energy customers who either qualify for assistance from the county or were former recipients of the Low-Income

Discount Assistance

Program, also known as "LITE-UP." Each customer will receive \$5,000 in energy efficiency improvements, courtesy of Reliant Energy, including:

- Installing attic insulation

See *DCHHS*, Page 4

COMMENTARY

Jesus Christ vs. Santa Claus

By Michael G. Shinn
NNPA Columnist

The Friday after Thanksgiving is referred to as "Black Friday" by many in the financial industry. This is the day when American shoppers rise early, flock to the stores and unleash a month of buying that is without precedent any other time of the year. It is called "Black Friday" because the financial bottom line for many

retailers turns from red (loss) to black (profit).

The Christmas Season has become a consumer spectacular that is seemingly crucial to our nation's economy. Is that why Santa Claus, in many instances, is more revered than Jesus Christ?

Santa Claus' Gospel is a Lie

The Gospel of Santa Claus is a lie that I, like most parents, have

See *SANTA*, Page 3

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People In The News...



Karl Reid



Ingrid Saunders Jones



Eddie Glaude, Jr.

See Page 2

Karl Reid

UNCF—the United Negro College Fund—the nation's oldest and most successful minority higher education assistance organization, recently announced the appointment of Karl Reid, a national leader in minority science and technology education, as Senior Vice President of Academic Programs and Strategic Initiatives. He will be responsible for implementing strategies to develop and fund educational, research and capacity-building programs for UNCF's 39 member historically

black colleges and universities (HBCUs). Additionally, he will lead initiatives for the scholarship and internship programs for the 8,000 students who received UNCF scholarships to 900 colleges and universities around the country. Dr. Reid arrives at UNCF from MIT after serving as Associate Dean of Undergraduate Education (DUE), Assistant to the Chancellor for Diversity and Director of the Office of Minority Education, where he was responsible for the academic performance and

leadership development of over 800 minority students. He also lectured on race, identity, and achievement.

"Karl Reid brings to UNCF an unequalled record of helping minority students succeed in college," said Michael L. Lomax, Ph.D., UNCF president and CEO. "The economy needs college graduates, especially graduates with degrees in fields like science and technology, and Dr. Reid knows what it takes to provide students with the preparation they need to compete for those jobs."

Prior to his previous appointments, Dr. Reid served as the Executive

Director of Engineering Outreach Programs for MIT's School of Engineering, where he directed the nationally recognized Minority Introduction to Engineering and Science (MITES) Program, a residential summer program for talented high school seniors.

During his tenure at MIT, he also founded the Saturday Engineering Enrichment and Discovery (SEED) Academy, and the Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM) Program, both of which are year-round academic and mentoring programs for local high school



and middle school students. Additionally, he served on the School of Engineering's Committee on Undergraduate Engineering Practice and staffed the Presidential Task Force on Minority Student

Achievement.

Dr. Reid began his career in the computer industry in product management, marketing, sales and consulting for several companies, including six years with IBM. Dr Reid earned both his Bachelor and Master of Science degrees in Materials Science and Engineering from MIT and his Doctorate of Education from the Harvard Graduate School of Education. From his dissertation research on African American male achievement in college, he conducted workshops and seminars to high school and university faculty audiences.

Ingrid Saunders Jones

Ingrid Saunders Jones leads The Coca-Cola Company's global community engagement function, Global Community Connections. Under Ms. Jones' leadership, Global Community Connections works to make a unique and sustainable difference everywhere The Coca-Cola Company sells products, one community at a time, by focusing on four global priorities areas: Water Stewardship (conservation

and sanitation), Fitness and Active Lifestyles (physical fitness and nutrition), Sustainable Packaging (recycling) and Education.

As chair of The Coca-Cola Foundation, Ms. Jones leads the Company's philanthropic commitment to sustainable communities. Under her leadership, The Coca-Cola Foundation has contributed more than \$256 million to education and other community initiatives. The Foundation continues to

provide scholarships to high school students from across the country, and supports initiatives which increase the academic success of students in public and secondary schools. Additionally, Ms. Jones serves on the board of The Coca-Cola Africa Foundation and The Coca-Cola Foundation.

Earlier in her career, Ms. Jones spent three years as executive assistant to the Honorable Maynard Jackson, then mayor of Atlanta, and two years as legislative analyst for the president of the Atlanta City



Council, Mr. Carl Ware. She is a former executive director of the Detroit Wayne County Child Care Coordinating Council and also taught in the public schools of Detroit and

Atlanta.

A native of Detroit, Ms. Jones earned a bachelor's degree in education at Michigan State University and a master's degree in education at Eastern Michigan University. In recognition of her work in the corporate world, as well as her many contributions to civic and community causes, Ms. Jones' alma mater, Michigan State University, honored her with an honorary Doctor of Humanities Degree.

A teacher by training, Ms. Jones' commitment to education and community

development extends beyond the doors of the Coca-Cola corporate headquarters. She is a board member of Clark Atlanta University, the Carter Center, Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, The Ohio State University President's Council on Women, and the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies at Georgia State University. She also is a member of the Rotary Club of Atlanta, the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority and the Society of International Business Fellows.

Eddie Glaude, Jr.

A prolific author and distinguished scholar, Eddie Glaude, Jr. was a key participant in the groundbreaking essay collection *Covenant With Black America* (2006), which was described as a national plan of action on the social and economic disparities African-Americans face, ranging from education to healthcare. *Covenant With Black America* became the first book by a black-owned publisher to become the number-one non-fiction paperback on the New York Times Bestseller List. Glaude continues to discuss the book around the country with editor Tavis Smiley, including as a regular guest on Smiley's Public Radio International

talk show.

Eddie Glaude, Jr. is the William S. Tod Professor of Religion and African American Studies at Princeton, and his research interests include American pragmatism, specifically the work of John Dewey, as well as African American religious history and its place in American public life.

Among his works, Glaude authored *Exodus! Religion, Race, and Nation in Early 19th Century Black America*, and edited, *Is it Nation Time? Contemporary Essays on Black Power and Black Nationalism*. With fellow Princeton professor Cornell West, he co-edited *African-American Religious*



Thought: An Anthology, which received the 2002 Modern Language Association William Sanders Scarborough Prize for scholarly excellence.

Is It Nation Time? gathers essays on the Black Power movement and its legacy by renowned thinkers who deal rigorously and unsentimentally with such issues as the commod-

ification of blackness, the piety of cultural recovery, and class tensions within the movement. For anyone who wants to understand the roots of the complex political and cultural desires of contemporary black America, this will be an essential collection.

Born on the coast of Mississippi, in a small town called Moss Point, Glaude brings to his scholarship and public service a sense of passion and vocation shaped by the tradition of African American struggle. As a graduate of Morehouse College, he was inspired by the courage and devotion of Martin Luther King, Jr., the institution's most famous graduate. According to Dr. Cornel West, "Eddie Glaude is the towering intellectual of his generation. There is simply

no else like him emerging on the intellectual scene!"

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EARTH TALK

From the Editors of E/The Environmental Magazine

Dear EarthTalk: How can the new Obama administration and/or Congress undo the many anti-environmental actions the Bush administration undertook over the last eight years, including the obstruction of Bill Clinton's landmark "roadless rule" legislation?

-- Ann Lyman, Lake Tahoe, CA

The Bush administration has certainly been no friend to the environment. Besides working for eight years to overturn the Clinton administration's "Roadless Rule" that prevented road building (and the logging that usually follows) on 58.5 million acres of national forests, the Bush White House has opened up 45 million additional acres of public land across the American West to oil and gas drilling during its tenure.

Right now Bush is pushing to open up thousands more acres in sensitive areas around three national parks in Utah to more oil and gas extraction. According to The New York Times, these new oil and gas "leases" (the government leases drilling rights on public land to private companies) will be auctioned off on December 19, 2008, the last day the White House may carry out such transactions before leaving office.

Obama transition team insiders have already hinted that they will work to overturn the Utah oil and gas leases once they are in power. Obama's trump card might be the fact that Bush failed to give his own National Park Service (NPS) sufficient opportunity to comment on the proposed leases before forcing them through. Green leaders hope that Obama can at least re-set the decision-making process to give the NPS and other interested parties time to voice their concerns before the oil rigs and gas pipelines move in. Green leaders also hope that, beyond stopping the Utah leases, Obama will curtail the number of leases sold altogether, in part by forcing extraction firms to develop sites they already have rights to before leasing more acreage. Oil companies have already leased 68 million acres of lands they have yet to access.

On the Roadless Rule,

itself an 11th-hour executive order by Bill Clinton that has been mired in the courts since Bush tried to overturn it in 2001, Obama promised during the campaign that he would work with Congress to codify it as the law of the land. Luckily for greens, the back-and-forth on the issue over the past eight years has meant that only seven miles of new roads—yielding access to just 500 acres of timber—have been cut on lands slated for protection under the Roadless Rule during Bush's tenure.

Obama also has his work cut out on a number of other environmental initiatives ignored or opposed by the Bush White House. Chief among them is taking action on global warming. If one can believe the campaign rhetoric, Obama will work to get the U.S. on track to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 80 percent by 2050 through a number of initiatives. Jason Grumet, the Obama campaign's lead energy

and environment advisor, has indicated that the president-elect plans to move quickly on getting climate change legislation through in 2009 and working to make the U.S. a leader on mitigating global warming.

Another way Obama can win green friends is to undo a Bush proposal, slated to take effect in December, to cut wildlife experts out of decisions affecting plants and animals protected under the Endangered Species Act. Bush has faced sharp criticism for disregarding or ignoring the input of scientists on many issues. Obama seems likely to want to re-assert the importance of science in policy decision-making.

GOT AN ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTION?

Send it to: EarthTalk, c/o E/The Environmental Magazine, P.O. Box 5098, Westport, CT 06881; submit it at: www.emagazine.com or earthtalk@emagazine.com

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MON-The Gazette assumes no responsibility for unsolicited material and reserves the right to edit and make appropriate revisions.

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

SANTA, continued from Page 1

helped to perpetuate. We have been aided, co-opted and brainwashed by the masters of imagery on Madison Avenue, Wall Street and Disneyland.

Bing Crosby, Nat King Cole and even Luther Vandross have helped to paint images of a White Christmas, red nosed reindeers and happy shoppers gleefully looking for that last minute gift. The gospel according to Santa Claus is about money - big money - and how big corporations

can coax that money out of our pockets by turning "wants" into perceived "needs".

I have a couple of questions for you. Of the gifts you received or gave this Christmas, how many were really needed by you or the person you gave them to? What did you give to the proverbial person "who has everything?" If they have everything, why did you even give them a gift?

During the Christmas Season, too many people

buy things they don't need, with money they don't have, run up debts that they can't afford and all this for the wrong reasons.

The Holiday Season is supposed to be a religious observance, but that fact has been lost in the omnipresent marketing hype. The Christmas Spirit in modern day America is all about selling products! The social and psychological pressure to overspend is at its zenith during this time of the year.

"Advent is the four weeks preceding Christmas. It is a time of

preparation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. Each Sunday we light a candle symbolizing the four gifts that Christ brought to us--- Love, Hope, Peace and Joy," states Reverend Paul H. Sadler, Sr., Pastor of Mt. Zion Congregational Church in Cleveland, Ohio. "Santa Claus represents materialism. Material objects, fame, fortune and power are fleeting. We have to invest and believe in the Holy Spirit. Santa Claus can't take you to Heaven. Jesus Christ is the Truth and the Light."

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.

Ghanaian Beauty Tapped as 'Face of Africa'

NNPA

This year's prized "Face of Africa" award goes to the stunning 23-year-old Kate Tachie-Menson of Ghana. The

competition was held in Sun City, South Africa on Nov. 29.

The very first Face of Africa winner and now global model icon and businesswoman, Oluchi

Onweagba-Orlandi, announced the award of a modeling contract valued at \$50,000 with Oluchi's OModel Africa agency.

M-Net (originally an abbreviation for

Electronic Media Network) is a subscription-funded television channel in South Africa, established in 1986 by a consortium of newspaper companies.

Today, M-Net boasts an array of general entertainment and niche channels and broadcasts to over 1.23 million subscribers in 41 countries across Africa.



34 Nigerian Babies Dead in Teething Syrup Tragedy

NNPA

A locally-made teething syrup has taken the lives of 34 infants, according to local reports from the Nigerian city of Zaria.

"My Pikin", was contaminated with diethylene glycol, a taste sweetener, linked to kidney failure.

Nigeria's National Agency for Food and Drugs Administration and Control said it was making every effort to address the problem, including importing an antidote and pulling the tainted medicine off the shelves.

But the government agency was itself drawn

into the tragedy by charges that it failed to sufficiently test the product it had already approved for use.

Meanwhile, the detained chairman of Barewa Pharmaceuticals, Kola Okunlola, reportedly confessed to knowledge of a product pur-

chased in a plastic container from a street merchant that was added to My Pikin.

Diethyleneglycol has been linked to poisonings of children in South Africa, India, Argentina, Haiti and in the U.S. under conditions of poor or infrequent testing.



DCHHS, continued from Page 1

- Checking and servicing heater/air conditioner
- Sealing ducts, caulking and weather-stripping
- Installing energy-efficient refrigerator
- Installing water-saving devices and compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs)
- Repairing and/or replac-

ing windows/doors
 "The DCHHS Weatherization program has helped hundreds of families in Dallas County to conserve energy and reduce their costs for heat, cooling, and electricity and while leaving our community a little greener in the process,"

said Zachary Thompson, DCHHS Director. "Thanks to Reliant Energy's commitment we will be able to boost the number of people we serve."

"We're committed to helping our customers use less energy, and working with Dallas County Health and Human Services is a great way for us to reach out to those in need," said

Tracy Carmen-Jones, Reliant Energy vice president, Community Marketing. "We are truly pleased to be able to extend the outreach of Dallas

County Health and Human Service's existing weatherization program by providing additional financial support for the program during tough economic

times."
 For more information or for an application, please call (214) 819-1909 or visit www.dallascounty.org

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VISIT HIVTEST.ORG OR CALL 2-1-1.

Keeping pets safe during the Holidays

From staff reports

The holidays are filled with special decorations, seasonal plants and festive food. But these traditional symbols of the season can be potentially dangerous to pets.

"A Christmas tree can seem like a giant Jungle Gym for active cats and dogs," said Jonnie England, Director of Animal Advocacy for the Metroplex Animal Coalition (MAC). "Climbing cats and dogs with wagging tails can easily knock over a tree, so it's important to anchor it securely and watch pets closely when they're around the tree."

Pets should also be prevented from drinking from the tree stand if preservative chemicals—which can be poisonous—have been added to the water. "In addition," England added, "pine needles can be toxic if eaten by your pet, so it's important to clean them up as they drop off the tree."

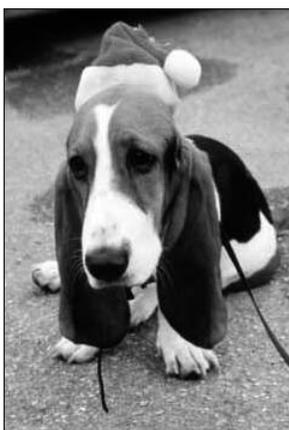
Holiday ornaments are another possible risk for

pets. "Cats, especially, like to bat at dangling ornaments," said England. "If broken, tiny pieces of glass and the metal hooks are easily stepped on or swallowed." Breakable and heirloom ornaments should be on the higher branches to protect both the decorations and curious cats.

Tinsel, ribbons and garland are also holiday hazards for pets. If ingested, they can become lodged in the intestines, cause obstructions and lead to surgery or death, said England.

Bright, twinkling lights and extension cords are other potential problems. They should be safely secured or covered to discourage chewing, which can lead to electric shock or even electrocution. "Better yet," said England, "purchase pet-proof extension cords, or spray with deterrent products such as Bitter Apple or Chew Stop."

Pets should also be kept away from seasonal holiday plants, including poin-



settias, mistletoe and holly. If eaten, they can cause stomach upset, serious illness and—in the case of mistletoe berries—fatal heart problems.

The festive and fattening foods that are traditional at this time of year can be health hazards for dogs and cats. "No matter how much they beg or look up with those big, sad eyes, pets should not be given 'people food,'" said England. "Rich, fatty foods, such as turkey skins or gravy, can cause painful pancreatitis, which is serious and can lead to hospitalization."

Turkey and chicken bones can tear or obstruct

an animal's intestinal tract or get stuck in the throat. "Also watch the string that ties up the turkey or roast, as well as the little red 'pop-up' thermometers," said England. "Dogs and cats often eat these tasty treats, which can cause intestinal blockage." Another food risk is onions, which are toxic and can destroy a dog's red blood cells, leading to anemia.

Chocolate, especially baking chocolate, is very dangerous to dogs and can even lead to death. It affects the nervous system and can damage the urinary system and heart muscle. It also contains theobromine, which can be especially harmful to dogs if ingested in large quantities.

"If you take some preventive measures, watch your pets around the decorations, and resist giving them treats from the table, you can help ensure that you and your pets will have a happy and healthy holiday season," said England.

Genesis Women's Shelter to Benefit from Cooking for Domestic Peace

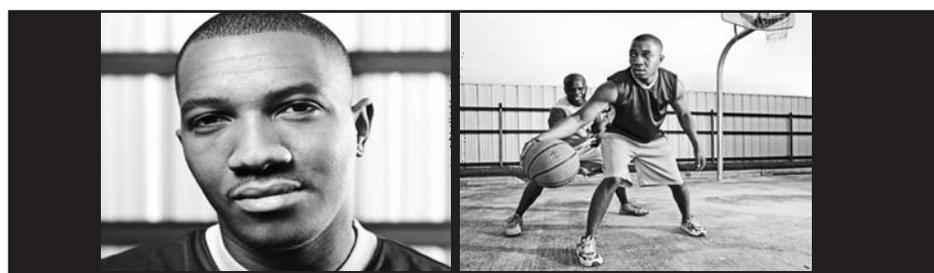
Chef Tonné Bobsaith, Dallas' own celebrated Executive Sous Chef and CEO of Chef Tonné announced her holiday campaign against domestic violence called Cooking for Domestic Peace. For every event or party scheduled through Chef Tonné, a donation will be made to Genesis Women's Shelter, a non-profit crisis intervention organization that helps Dallas women and their children.

"We are ecstatic to partner with Chef Tonné in her holiday campaign to help bring a sense of peace and calm to homes that have been shattered by domestic violence," said Lara Gaither, Director of Outreach and Community Development, Genesis Women's Shelter. "It is important for people to not forget this holiday season, the Dallas women and children that need our help."

Chef Tonné's Cooking for Domestic Peace holiday campaign will donate 15% of every scheduled Corporate Event, Private Party, Social Event, Holiday Party to Genesis Women's Shelter. The campaign drive starts immediately and runs through the first week in January. Chef Tonné will present Genesis Women's Shelter in January, with a check for the full sum collected during the campaign.

Chef Tonné described how she deeply believes in Genesis Women's Shelter and the services they provide, "I have worked with Genesis on a variety of projects and I am intimately aware of the great work they do. I wanted to do something special for them this holiday season."

For more information on Chef Tonné's Cooking for Domestic Peace contact Eli Hernandez at 469-441-9696 or ehernandez@theyeworks.com.



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PUBLIC NOTICE

The community is invited to share its opinions about the program and service needs for the poor of Dallas County at the Urban League Community Service Centers fiscal year 2006 Community Forums at the following locations:

- | | |
|---|---|
| Tuesday, January 13, 2009, 12:00 noon | Urban League Community Service Center at Irving
1424 W. Pioneer Parkway, Suite 230
Irving, TX 75061 |
| Wednesday, January 14, 2009, 11:00 a.m. | Urban League Community Service Center at Pleasant Grove
10325 Lake June Road, Suite 118
Dallas, Texas 75217 |
| Wednesday, January 14, 2009, 1:30 p.m. | Urban League Community Service Center at Garland George Washington Carver Center
210 Carver Street, Suite 102B
Garland, Texas 75040 |
| Friday, January 16, 2009, 6:00 p.m. | Urban League of Greater Dallas Headquarters
4315 South Lancaster Road,
Room 168
Dallas, TX 75216 |

Any questions regarding this application may be directed to Shirley Walker at (214) 915-4600.

UNCF Praises Secretary of Education appointee

From staff reports

UNCF is delighted that President-elect Obama has decided to nominate Arne Duncan, Chief Executive Officer of Chicago Public Schools, to be Secretary of Education. Duncan will bring to the Department of Education a background that combines experience as the successful leader of one of our largest big-city school systems with an unflinching commitment to educational reform that will stand him in good stead as he tackles a national education policy badly in need of being over-

hauled.

Duncan's direct responsibility in Chicago has been for a pre-school-through-high-school system. But he has made preparing Chicago students to attend college one of his top priorities. The percentage of Chicago high school graduates enrolling in college has increased more than 13 percent under his



Michael L. Lomax



Arne Duncan

leadership, and he created an Office of Post-Secondary Education to track students' persistence in college. He has also urged his high school principals to help their students fill out eligibility forms.

As the nation's largest provider of college scholarships to minority students and the representative of 39 historically black

colleges and universities (HBCUs), UNCF welcomes Secretary-designate Duncan's recognition that young people need an education that begins with pre-school and doesn't end until at least graduation from college. We hope that as Secretary, he will work to make sure that all students receive a rigorous, accessible and affordable education.

UNCF supports 60,000 students at 900 colleges around the country. UNCF administers 400 scholarship programs and supports 39 historically black colleges and universities.

COLLEGE CORNER

ACT Seeks Teachers for Summer Program

From staff reports

ACT is looking for outstanding high school teachers to participate in a summer program designed to help develop and evaluate ACT's newest educational program – QualityCore.

ACT's Visiting Teacher Program seeks eligible teachers from high school in the areas of science, mathematics, social studies, and language arts. Minority teachers are especially encouraged to apply.

Started in 1995, the Visiting Teacher Program brings teachers from across the United States to ACT's national headquarters in Iowa City, Iowa. The program gives practicing teachers an opportunity to use their classroom expertise and experience to review, evaluate, and develop English, math, science

and social studies teacher resources and instructional support materials.

Participating teachers will work collaboratively with ACT staff to gain practical knowledge and skills in educational measurement that will help them in their own classrooms and provide them with hands-on experience in developing and reviewing multiple-choice and constructed-response test items.

The five-week program begins June 22 and continues through July 24, 2009. Participants receive a stipend of \$5,500 and the cost of round-trip transportation. ACT secures and partially subsidizes housing for the visiting teachers.

To apply, teachers must submit a completed application available on ACT's website: www.act.org/path/secondary/visit.html.

Hill Harper Inspires Students To Stay Focused

From staff reports

McDonald's recently unveiled a new, in-school achievement program, McDonald's All American Achievers, an opportunity for teachers nationwide to celebrate their top-performing students. With the support of "CSI: NY" star Hill Harper, McDonald's will launch All American

Achievers as an interactive program that not only motivates 7th and 8th graders to excel academically, but also encourages character development and community service.

Teachers can find entry materials at www.365Black.com. Students are eligible to become an All American Achiever through submit-

ting an expository essay, written by the student and submitted by his or her teacher, answering questions about the student's academic accomplishments, extracurricular activities and community citizenship. Teachers score and submit the classroom's essays for consideration. A panel of judges, including educators and actor and longtime edu-

cation activist Harper, will select the Grand Prize winners from the highest scoring essays submitted.

"It's great to see McDonald's is leading the path and shaping the next generation of leaders. We need to keep our students encouraged and motivated now so they can be prepared for the future," Harper said.



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Dallas Black Dance Theater, A&E Legend Ann Williams honored

From staff reports

Dallas Arts & Entertainment Pioneer, Ann M. Williams, the founder and artistic director of the Dallas Black Dance Theatre wins the 2008 BCAG Gala award presented at the 3rd Annual Business Community Awards Gala hosted by the DFW Chapters of the National Association of Black Accountants and the National Black MBA Association. Williams was the winner out of four finalists nominated for their consistent contribution to the educational, professional and cultural growth of their community.

Specifically, Williams was honored for

her establishment and operation of the Dallas Black Dance Theatre for more than 32 years. The theatre has grown from a community-based organization and a



Ann Williams

professional organization to a full scale professional dance company that tours nationally and internationally. It has an contemporary modern dance company, known as the ensemble that consists of 12 professional dancers performing a mixed repertoire of mod-

ern, jazz, ethnic and spiritual works by nationally and internationally known choreographers. The mission of the theatre is to create and produce contemporary modern dance at its highest level of artistic excellence through performances and educational programs that bridge cultures and reach diverse communities.

Williams' vision to educate, promote diversity and to raise cultural awareness in the DFW community and abroad along with her many personal accomplishments embodied the criteria of the recipient of the 2008 BCAG Award. Regarding her selection as an award recipient, Williams simply stated, "I

am honored to be considered for such an award. To see all the young people that were also finalists, I know where their journey is going and it is good to be recognized along the way. I wish them all the success in their journey and just keep going."

The Business Community Awards Gala is an annual professional and community-oriented event that aims to highlight outstanding professional and community leaders of the DFW metroplex while generating funds to support the scholarship programs of the host non-profit organizations, the National Association of Black Accountants and the National Black MBA

Association. Over 200 people attended the cocktail-styled evening held at the Omni Hotel at Park West. The event sponsors included Sterling Bank, BDO Seidman, LLP, McKesson, JCPenney, Ernst & Young, LLP, Raytheon, University of Dallas School of Management, PriceWaterhouseCoopers, LLP, Nationwide, and Deloitte, LLP.

The complete list of award finalists included: Vonja Fleet (founder and program director) and Peter Burns (program director) of The National Pre-Law Institute for Youth, Tony Reed, CPA, PMP (co-founder and executive director) of The

National Black Marathoners Association, and Alicia D. Sanders, CPA (founder and CEO) of Amenity Financial Services.

President Michael Sorrell, of Paul Quinn College, served as the Master of Ceremonies for the evening and Tiffany Blue kept the evening ablaze with jazz and R&B serenades throughout the reception and awards ceremony.

For more information on the DFW Chapters of the National Association of Black Accountants and the National Black MBA Association, please visit www.nabadfw.org and www.dfwmbas.org respectively.

Local Author hosts Holiday Break Writing Contest for Teens

From staff reports

While many teens will spend the holiday break vegetating, bestselling fiction author and educator Michelle Stimpson hopes that some will use the time more constructively. Stimpson will oversee the "Holiday Break Short Story Writing Contest", open from December 20, 2008 – January 17, 2009. "We're searching for the best teen writers across the country," Stimpson challenges. "No excuses – school's out. Just write!"

The contest, sponsored by independent educational publisher Right Track Academic Support Services, LLC, is open to teens ages 13–19 enrolled in grades 9–12. Entries must be original, unpublished works between 1250 - 1500 words. Winners will receive Visa® gift cards and have their entries posted online at www.wegottheread.com alongside other free

resources for secondary teachers.

The monetary prize demonstrates the contest organizer's belief that students should be exposed to a variety of well-paying career options. Stimpson encourages teens from her own experience as an



Michelle Stimpson

entrepreneur who combines her gift of writing with her background as a classroom teacher. "I want kids to understand that you don't have to sing or dance or play a sport to get paid. If you love reading and writing, there are lots of opportunities for you to pursue your passion professionally."

For complete rules and entry information, visit www.wegottheread.com/holidaybreakcontest.html.



PRESENTS



Donkey In Horse Heaven

By Rick A Elina

A Benefit Show and Silent Auction Event for the Brittany Stene Medical Fund

The ArtCentre Theatre
December 13 through December 21
Saturdays at 3:00 pm
Sundays at 6:00 pm
Tickets may be purchased online by
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972.424.MUSE (6873)

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: 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.

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).

Nov 15 – Dec 21

Each Saturday and Sunday from 12 noon to 5pm, bring the kids to the **Santa's Wonderland** at Bass Pro Shops located at 5001 Bass Pro Drive, Garland, TX and enjoy a different craft activity – Free. www.basspro.com

November 15 – January 11

The Old Red Museum of Dallas County History & Culture will open the first annual **Deck the Halls** at Old Red exhibit, located in the West End of downtown Dallas at 100 South Houston Street. General admission is \$8 for adults, \$6 for seniors, and \$5 for children ages three to sixteen. Admission to Deck the Halls without general admission is \$3 for adults and \$1 for children, visit www.oldred.org.

November 22, 2008 – January 4, 2009

The Trains at NorthPark is the most elaborate toy train exhibit in Texas, with vintage locomotives whizzing by on a journey across America. Located on Level Two next to Neiman Marcus, the exhibit is open during regular shopping center hours, Monday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. and Sunday from 12:00 to 6:00 p.m. Early closing dates are Thanksgiving Eve (Nov. 26th), Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve. The exhibit is closed on Thanksgiving Day and on Christmas Day but is open on New Year's Day.

Ticket prices are \$5.00 for adults, \$3.00 for children aged 2-12 years and senior citizens (65 and older). Children under the age of 2 years are admitted free of charge. Discount tickets are available at Tom Thumb stores.

November 28 - December 24

Santa Claus at NorthPark Center Visits and Portraits with Santa in His New Location NorthPark Center offers free one-on-one visits with Santa Claus in his new location on Level One between Nordstrom and Neiman Marcus. Parents may take their own photographs of their children with Santa or purchase high-quality portraits by Marc Robins Photography available in several different sizes and formats. Tickets are available starting at 9:00 a.m. Monday through Saturday, and starting at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday.

November 28 – December 26, 2008

SPCA of Dallas Remote Pet Adoption Center at NorthPark Center with adorable dogs and cats available for adoption, featured on Level One between Macy's and Dillard's, near the NorthPark Boulevard entrance and Victoria's Secret. Regular adoption fees are \$185-\$285 for puppies 0-6 months, \$95 to \$195 for dogs 6 months and older, \$75 for senior dogs 7 years and older, and \$50 for VIP dogs (those which have been waiting for a home for over 30 days); \$125 for kittens, \$95 for cats, \$75 for senior cats 7 years and older and \$50 for VIP cats. The fee includes spay/neuter surgery, all age-appropriate vaccinations, de-worming treatment, a heartworm test for dogs six months and older, a feline Leukemia test for cats four months and older, a microchip and a free leash or cardboard cat carrier.

Volunteers are available at NorthPark Center to work with families to help choose each family's new best friend. The Adoption Center is open from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and from 12:00 noon to 6:00 p.m. on Sundays.

December 5, 7, 11, 17, 19 African Children's Choir and complete tour itinerary, more info at www.africanchildrenschoir.com or email info@africanchildrenschoir.com

December 5-21

Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol Frisco Community Theatre. Performances Thursdays through Saturdays at 8:00 p.m. and Sundays at 2:00 p.m. and tickets are \$18 for adults, \$15 for seniors and students. Tickets can be purchased at www.FriscoCommunityTheatre.com. All performances will take place at the Cox Building Playhouse, 1517 H Avenue, Plano, TX 75074.

December 21

1st Annual "All Wrapped Up in Christmas" Sunday Brunch December 21st 12:30pm-3pm at Ziziki's Restaurant, 4514 Travis Street, No. 122, Dallas, Texas 75205 \$ 21.95 includes all-u-can-eat Brunch Buffet, (sales tax and gratuity not included). RSVP: Send an email by Friday 5pm with your name, and number of guests to Brunch@letsdobrunch.net or 469-274-5271

December 26

Gwaride (Parade) Participants lineup at Lincoln H.S at 11:30 am – Hatcher & Malcolm X Blvd. Gwaride starts promptly at 1:00 p.m. Co-sponsored by The Act of Change, Inc. & The Pan African Connection Bookstore, Call 214-372-3500 or 214-943-8262.

"Celebration of Umoja" The Act of Change, Inc. 3200 Lancaster, Ste. 320, 7pm An evening of cultural activities celebrating the principle of unity. Call, 214-372-3500.

December 27 -31

12:00 p.m - 2:00 p.m **Kwanzaa ya Watoto** (Kwanzaa for Children) Storytelling, drumming, theatre, crafts, with a live dressed performance by the participants on January 1st at the feast. The Act of Change, 3200 S Lancaster, Ste. 320 - Call 214-372-3500 or 214-374-1192.

6:30 p.m. **"Reparations: More Important Now Than Ever Before"** Africans/African-Americans for Reparations. Pan African Connection Bookstore, 612 E Jefferson (near Marsalis): Thomas Muhammad, 214-460-7672,

December 28

7:00 pm – **"Tribute to Paul Robeson" Film & collective discussion.** Pan African Connection Bookstore, 612 E Jefferson Blvd. Call Akwete 214-943-8262.

December 29

7:00 pm – **"Organizing & Mobilizing for Reparations"** N'COBRA sponsors event. Pan African Connection Bookstore, 612 E Jefferson Blvd. Contact: Akwete or Bande, 214-943-8262.

December 30

7:00 pm – **"Organizing & Mobilizing Our Youth"**, Dramatic presentation, and poetry, from local youth organizations. Pan African Connection Bookstore, 612 E Jefferson Blvd. "call Akwete today before 4pm for the rest of the program: Akwete or Bande, 214-943-8262.

December 31

7:00 p.m. South Dallas Cultural Center, 3400 S Fitzhugh – **"Cultural Celebration"** Contact: Vicki Meek 214-939-2787.

7:00 pm – **"Tribute to Amy Jacques Garvey"** Collective discussion. Pan African Connection Bookstore, 612 E Jefferson Blvd. Call: Akwete or Bande, 214-943-8262.

January 1

2:00pm – 6:00pm **Karamu Feast**, Irie Connection, 2642 Beckley Ave., Dallas, TX. Please bring a covered dish of beef, fish, chicken, vegetables. Call 214-374-1192, or 214-372-3500.

January 6-29

25th Annual KidFilm® Festival, sponsored by the USA Film Festival, will be held in Dallas, January 6-25, 2008 at the Angelika Film Center, 5321 E. Mockingbird Lane, Dallas

January 10 & 17

"Business Basics for Entrepreneurs." This class combines financial management and other key business concepts, such as Marketing, Forecasting, Cash Flow, Pricing, and Business Planning. Upon completion of the training class, prospective members will receive a PLAN Fund certification and become eligible for business loans. MEED Center 1327 N. Peak Street, Dallas, TX 75204. \$40 - www.planfund.org or call 214-942-6698.

January 11th

Sunday Brunch at Hotel Intercontinental January 11th 12:30pm-3pm Hotel Intercontinental in the Malachite Room of Monte Carlo Restaurant 15201 Dallas Parkway Addison, TX 75001.

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Proud To Be An Active Partner In The Community

Garland's District 2 citizens will have a convenience store to meet basic needs.



A Renewal

By Camille Davis
North Dallas Gazette

Residents of Garland's District 2 will soon have access to a new QuikTrip convenience store on the corner of Main and First streets, an amenity long over due, according to their former Councilwoman, Terri Dunn.

"My goal as a council person was to work to bring back those services that the residents said they needed," said Dunn.

District 2 is what Ms. Dunn affirmingly refers to as a "vintage" area of Garland.

"I call this area vintage-not old or bad," she said.

Garland's First Quarter, the area where First and Main streets are located, once was the site of a thriving business community that provided groceries, gas, and profes-

sional services to its' citizens. Now the area is a mecca for tire and automotive shops- businesses that Dunn believes are important to the area but not enough to provide all of the needs of those living near by. Dunn has lived in her current home in the District 2 area for over 30 years and ran for the City Council seat that her husband, Jimmie, was vacating in 2004. She ran on a platform of community renewal and revitalization of what she calls, "quality of life services."

"The inner city should be provided for," Dunn said. "This is my home, and these are my neighbors."

Dunn said she recommended the building of a Quik Trip convenience store to her fellow council members because of its' competitive prices, cleanliness and quality food product. She said that its' prices and selection are

similar to some of the better grocery stores in Garland. She wanted residents to have a place to purchase gasoline and food without leaving their neighborhood. Dunn said that it was unfair for District 2 citizens to travel inordinate distances in order to purchase basic services. According to Dunn, "District 2 citizens were paying more for their needs," because of the distance they had to travel in order to make purchases.

According to QuikTrip.com all store locations are open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The website also boasts of "bright lighting both inside and out, as well as video cameras and raised checkout for better visibility." Perhaps most unique is the store's pledge not to carry "adult magazines."

QuikTrip will also benefit District 2 by deliver-

ing jobs. Although the convenience store site is still under development, signs are posted advertising positions for employment. At a time when numerous Americans are losing jobs, any organization that advertises work is a positive change from the national trend.

QuikTrip was voted one of Fortune Magazines Top 100 Best Companies to work for in 2008, and one of its' local stores in Plano received a score of A- from the Better Business Bureau.

According to Dunn, a member of the NAACP Executive Committee, many of the residents of District 2 are elderly and/or minorities. She said that many District 2 residents are responsible for building Garland and should not be forgotten solely because the city has new development.

"You don't have to be brand new to have some-

thing clean and have a good quality of life," she said.

Terri Dunn also refers to the citizens of the district as "residents" instead of "constituents" or something else, less personal.

"[The word} resident is more of a heart thing," she explains. "It has more of a meaning of people with a vested interest in a city."

If this is so, then Dunn is a resident of District 2. She expresses a "love for the city and the home" in which she and her husband former Councilman Jimmie Dunn live.

Former Councilman Jimmie Dunn believes that the opening of the QuikTrip will be the beginning of other positive changes in the area.

"I'm quite sure that this will be the catalyst that puts the long needed revitalization into a high gear," he said.

During his two terms in office, Councilman

Jimmie Dunn also had similar goals of community refurbishment for District 2.

"Many of the buildings[in the district] had outside storage with high wire fences, and razor wire and barbed wire on top," he said.

"We (he and other council members) passed an ordinance prohibiting razor wire and barbed wire."

Both Dunns hope that the Quik Trip convenience store is the beginning of many new businesses in the First Quarter and in District 2. They vow to continue working for the district, whether or not they hold public office.

"Things come to those who wait, as long as they work really hard while they wait," Mr. Dunn said.

"Mrs. Dunn adds, "It's about the people, and I am one of them."



**Sister
Tarpley**

What in the world is a donkey doing in Horse Heaven? This is the question on everyone's mind in Teatro delle Muse's current offering, "Donkey in Horse Heaven," by Rick A. Elina, theatre critic for the North Dallas Gazette. An unassuming donkey named Horace (Hope Henderson) finds himself in not just any old corner of Horse Heaven, but in the "seventh level," among the creme de la creme of the upper echelons of horsehood. The famed and lauded horses who inhabit this realm are a veritable "who's who" of horses. Of course you can imagine their reaction when a lowly donkey enters their "hallowed hall." We learn of the great contributions to history of such Horse-Heaven luminaries as Nelson (Mardi Robinson), Traveller (Shelby-Marie Sloan), Man O'War (Jay

No Kicking or Braying in This Heaven

Reavis), and and of course, the "spirited" Blackjack (Rachel Southworth). Though their names may not be household, or horsehold, now, but you will remember these noble creatures long after the curtain falls. As the story unfolds, each of these respected and honored equines one by one recounts his exploits and valor. This only serves to raise even more doubt as to why a donkey would be in Horse Heaven. And the most doubtful of all is poor Horace. The petit Ms. Henderson plays well against the older actors. This contrast in stature with the other horses fuels the underlying theme of self-doubt and heaven-worthy qualifications. But in the end, kindness and acceptance trumps all. In fact each cast member holds their own, ably portraying a selection of horses (and donkey) with a wide range of personalities and styles. Cam Wenrich as Trigger adds comedic

moments that work well as a foil to the more serious horses. As scenic designer, Sarah VC Henderson creatively explores the idea of just what might constitute heaven for a horse, giving the angelic equines plenty of space to do what they love: eat, roll in the dirt, and play games. As director, Henderson has struck just the right balance of humor, rivalry, and tenderness with this carefully crafted script. The lighting design, by Jason Fehrm, superbly illuminated the celestial realm. Making this production all the more poignant during this holiday season is the fact that it is a benefit for the young Brittany Stene, an actress, singer and dancer who has been active with Teatro delle Muse from its first production. Brittany has been battling cancer this year, and all proceeds from this show and an accompanying silent auction will go toward her medical fund.

The opening performance audience enjoyed an addi-

tional treat in a warm-up turn on piano and vocals by Louisiana musician Talmadge Wells. This opening act was hard to follow,

but the talented cast was up to the challenge and kept everyone rapt to the final revelatory moments. Donkey in Horse Heaven

continues through December 21. Tickets may be purchased online at www.TeatrodelleMuse.us or by calling 1-866-811-4111.

"Your Sports Station" The New 105.3 The Fan Launches Today

From staff reports

Your Sports Station, 105.3 The Fan hit the Dallas/Ft. Worth area today at 3:00 CST on-air on KLLI-FM and online at www.1053thefan.com. The station features a variety of sports talk with an emphasis on hearing from the fan's point of view.

The Fan is anchored by the popular Jagger Show from 6:00-10:30AM, followed by market veteran Kevin Scott and former NFL and Texas A&M football player Greg Hill from 10:30AM-3:00PM. KLLI's midday program, The Ben and Skin Show, moves to afternoons (3:00-7:00PM) with The Fan rounding out the day's lineup with Pete Stein and Mike Rodriguez

from 7:00-10:00PM. FOX Sports programming will air beginning at 10:00PM.

David Henry, Senior Vice President and General Manager for the new 105.3 The Fan commented, "An area as big as Dallas/Fort Worth deserves a station just as big devoted to nothing but sports. With the launch of The Fan, more listeners than ever before in the market will have access to programming geared specifically to the local sports fan."

Added Gavin Spittle, who will serve as Program Director of the station, "A successful sports radio station is built on the dialogue its hosts have with the listeners. And there's no question that The Fan will spark some great sports debates. Dallas/Fort Worth residents

are passionate about sports – now they have a bigger and better venue to share their opinion." "Our tagline is "Your Sports Station" because this station is created for the fan to express their passion.

The Fan will continue to serve as the flagship station of Texas Motor Speedway and the broadcast home of NASCAR Sprint Cup Series races. The station also will air the NFL playoffs and 2009 Super Bowl, as well as this year's Alamo Bowl from San Antonio on Monday, Dec. 29, the Holiday Bowl on Tuesday December 30th, the Sugar Bowl on Friday January 2nd and the BCS National Championship featuring Oklahoma vs. Florida on Thursday, January 8, 2009.

Bring Home Holiday Refreshment

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GIVE * LIVE * LOVE™

Obama Economic Plan aims for 2.5M New Jobs by 2011

By Will Lester
NNPA

President-elect Barack Obama has promoted an economic plan that would provide 2.5 million jobs by rebuilding roads and bridges and modernizing schools while developing alternative energy sources and more efficient cars.

"These aren't just steps to pull ourselves out of this immediate crisis. These are the long-term investments in our economic future that have been ignored for far too long," Obama said in the weekly Democratic radio address Nov. 22.

The goal is to get the plan quickly through Congress, with help from both parties, after Obama takes office Jan. 20. The plan, which envisions those new jobs by January 2011, is "big enough to meet the challenges we face," he said. The president-elect said he has asked his economic advisers to flesh out the recovery plan - one "big enough to meet the challenges we face. ... We'll be working out the details in the weeks ahead, but it will be a two-year, nationwide effort to jump-start job creation in America and lay the foundation for a strong and growing economy."

Obama's radio address talked about the goal of job creation and said his economic plan "will mean 2.5 million more jobs by January of 2011." The Obama Web site said his plan will "save or create" 2.5 million jobs. Obama spokesman Robert Gibbs confirmed that the plan "will save and create" the 2.5 million jobs.

The African-American community has been the hardest hit with joblessness with consistently twice the number of unemployed as the White community and consistently in double digits. Last month, the African-American jobless rate was 10.6 percent.

In his address, Obama



President-elect Barack Obama, accompanied by Vice President-elect Joe Biden, responds to a reporters question after introducing Education Secretary-designate Arne Duncan, not shown, Tuesday, Dec. 16, 2008, during a news conference at the Dodge Renaissance Academy in Chicago. (AP Photo)

noted the growing evidence the country is "facing an economic crisis of historic proportions" and said he was pleased Congress passed an extension of unemployment benefits this past week. But, he added, "We must do more to put people back to work and get our economy moving again."

Nonetheless, he said, "There are no quick or easy fixes to this crisis, which has been many years in the making, and it's likely to get worse before it gets better."

It will take support from Democrats and Republicans to pass the economic plan, Obama said. "I'll be welcome to ideas and suggestions from both sides of the aisle," he said. "But what is not negotiable is the need for immediate action."

People "are lying awake at night wondering if next week's paycheck will cover next month's bills," if their jobs will remain, if their retirement savings will disappear, he added.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., said congressional Democrats will "continue pushing for aggressive but necessary measures. Part of that is passing a substantial economic recovery package, like the one President-elect Obama discussed this morning, that creates good-paying jobs here in America and stabilizes a volatile market."

In a slap at President George W. Bush, Reid added, "We will soon finally have a leader and partner in the White House who recognizes the urgency with which we must turn around our economy, and I

look forward to working with him and the new Congress to do so."

The Labor Department reported that claims for unemployment benefits jumped last week to the highest level since July 1992, providing fresh evidence of the weakening job market.

"We'll put people back to work rebuilding our crumbling roads and bridges, modernizing schools that are failing our children, and building wind farms and solar panels," Obama said. He also made a commitment to fuel-efficient cars and alternative energy technologies "that can free us from our dependence on foreign oil and keep our economy competitive in the years ahead."

Greg Wetstone, director of government and public affairs for the American

Wind Energy Association, applauded Obama's plans to expand alternative energy resources and called it a "concept very much branded in reality."

"With the policies he has outlined for renewable energy, President-elect Obama is removing the single largest impediment to renewable energy development in this country, which has been the absence of a long-term federal commitment to deploy these technologies."

A spokesman for the trucking industry's main trade group on Saturday said the group, the American Trucking Associations, supports investments in infrastructure as a method of reducing the nation's overall carbon emissions and cutting delays and congestion.

"But nothing is going to

help the trucking industry except for an increase in trade and repairs to the economy," said Clayton Boyce, vice president of public affairs for the ATA.

Obama pointed to the past as a reason for optimism, saying that Americans in this country's darkest hours have risen above their divisions to solve their problems, as a hope for the future.

"We have acted boldly, bravely, and above all, together," Obama said. "That is the chance our new beginning now offers us, and that is the challenge we must rise to in the days to come. It is time to act. As the next president of the United States, I will."

AP Correspondent David Espo and AP Business Writer Samantha Bomkamp contributed to this report.

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Youth Invited to Share Vision for Garland

From staff reports

The Garland Youth Council invites all Garland youth to help shape the future of Garland. The GYC's January 20, 2009 meeting will be devoted to

gathering input for the City's Envision Garland comprehensive plan process.

"Garland's youth have a unique perspective on our city's strengths and weaknesses," says GYC Chair

Jaywin Malhi. "City planners want to hear from young people as they formulate a strategic roadmap for Garland's future."

The GYC's Envision Garland workshop will include an overview of the

comprehensive plan process and interactive sessions designed to allow participants to discuss specific issues. Participants also will have an opportunity to create a vision statement for Garland's future.

The workshop will be held at the Audubon Recreation Center, located at 342 West Oates Road. It will begin at 5:30 p.m. and will conclude by 7:30 p.m. Please pre-register your plans to attend by calling

972-205-2445.

For more information about Envision Garland, visit EnvisionGarland.org or call the information line at 972-205-2865 or GarlandYouthCouncil.org or call 972-205-2879.

Social Security's New Retirement Estimator Rated the Federal Government's Best Online Service

From staff reports

In the latest quarterly ratings of the University of Michigan's American Customer Satisfaction Index for Federal Websites, the Social Security Administration's

new online Retirement Estimator ranked as the best in government. The Retirement Estimator debuted with a score of 90, the highest score in this survey and the second-highest score ever received by a government

website. Several other Social Security online services also are rated among the government's top performers and equal to the highest caliber private sector sites, such as Amazon and Google.

"It's great to be recog-

nized as the best, but we're not resting on our laurels," said Michael J. Astrue, Commissioner of Social Security. "We will have a series of new services in the coming year,

and we are also improving some of our already successful online services."

The new Retirement Estimator is available at www.socialsecurity.gov/e

stimator and gives the public the opportunity to run accurate, personalized scenarios for Social Security retirement benefits in a user-friendly way.

SENATE, continued from page 1

from his announcement:

stronger retirements.

We are at a critical juncture in time, and the likelihood of a special election to replace Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison provides an historic opportunity for Texans to rekindle our can-do spirit and offer forward-looking solutions to the great challenges posed by an economic crisis, record debt, two simultaneous wars, and our dependence on foreign energy.

I have served at every level of government: in three cabinet departments under two presidential administrations, as an elected member of the Texas Railroad Commission and as a local prosecutor in the Midland County District Attorneys office. I know the honor of public service is not holding an office, but preserving the public trust.

If elected, I will address these issues that demand national and international leadership:

1. Economy: we need a long-term prosperity agenda starting with a tax code that rewards work, encourages saving, investment and entrepreneurship; incentives for innovation, research and development yielding to solutions for more and higher-valued jobs, steadier wages and

2. Energy and Environment: we need to develop pro-growth energy and environment solutions for greater energy security that will produce more American energy, accelerate the use of alternative energy technologies and promote greater energy efficiency and conservation.

3. Education: we need to rekindle a love of learning in America's classrooms, specifically a renewed focus on math, science, engineering and technology.

4. National Security: we need to ensure safer communities and neighborhoods by enforcing our laws, protecting our borders and making sure our military continues to be the strongest in the world to defend America and defeat our enemies.

5. Health care: we need transformational health solutions and policies that create better health care, more choices at affordable costs.

I am uniquely experienced to address these great challenges. Having served in the U.S. Departments of Education, Justice and Treasury, I know we can do so much more to unleash the power of innovation and

job creation and to make education and opportunity accessible to all. And as an elected leader in the energy industry, I know we can increase exploration at home, invest in cleaner sources of energy, and protect the environment for future generations.

We can have economic prosperity and cleaner air and water. We can have financial security without our elected officials compromising their conservative principles. We can have an efficient, effective government that controls spending and lives within its means. We can have government accountable to the people.

This campaign is not about me. It's about you. As a candidate, I hope not to be the focal point, but the mirror that reflects the hopes, dreams and concerns of every Texan.

To me change is not just a slogan, it is a lifelong calling. Thousands of Texans have called upon me to take this step—to offer myself up in service to change the way Washington works. I take this step neither lightly nor flippantly, but with full faith in the possibilities of a new tomorrow, and undying devotion to the greatest people on the face of the earth—the people of Texas.

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RECESSION SURVIVAL

You were laid off, so now what?

By Eileen AJ Connelly
Associated Press

More than half a million people lost their jobs in November, and the layoff announcements keep coming from companies in almost every industry.

Eleta Jones, associate director for the Center for Professional Development at the University of Hartford in Connecticut, said workers should be prepared to negotiate. For instance you may be able to get access to additional services such as job search assistance.

But it's a particularly important time to discuss benefits such as health care coverage. You may need to look into the cost of extending your current plan through COBRA, or check into what's available through your spouse's job.

"Getting laid off, you don't have to wait until your spouse has open enrollment to get on their health insurance," said Andrea Eaton, a financial planner at Cornerstone Wealth Advisors in Edina, Minn.

Next, it's time to plan for life without a paycheck.

— Reduce withholding taxes. If you've got any time left at work, reduce the amount of taxes taken from your remaining paychecks to maximize your take-home pay. If your spouse works and you file a joint tax return, have his or her withholding reduced as well.

— Defer payment. If your job is ending this year, and you will receive severance pay in a lump sum, try to get it deferred until after Jan. 1 to minimize 2008 taxes. Far better is to get severance paid over time like a paycheck. If it's paid in a lump sum, it's "almost a sure thing" that you will have too much withheld, said Jonathan T. Guyton, a certified financial planner and principal at Cornerstone Wealth Advisors.

— Manage severance wisely. If you receive a lump sum, deposit the funds into a separate savings account and make weekly transfers to a checking account.

— Act promptly. Apply for unemployment insurance right away. "I think sometimes people feel embarrassed to do that, but it can be a help in a time that's difficult," Jones said.

— Slash expenses. Take a hard look at your household budget and trim wherever possible — and don't wait until cash is running low to do it. "You should get serious about

reducing your expenses, particularly the 'nice to haves' as opposed to the 'need to haves,' right away," said Guyton. Among his suggestions: pare down your Internet and cell phone plans to basic services, giving up things like wireless access.

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Church Happenings

DFW INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY ALLIANCE

December 20, 7:30 pm

You're invited to Mary Immaculate Catholic Church, 2800 Valwood Parkway in Farmers Branch, TX 75234 for the second North Texas 3rd Navidad Latinoamericana Concert in the area. Call Eric Hubbell @ 972-661-2764 for tickets, directions or details on the two events above.

Ms. Marie Weiss-Armush
Alliance President
12800 Hillcrest,
Suite A-211
Dallas, TX 75230

FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH OF ALLEN

ON GOING, 9 am-4 pm
Monday-Friday

Prayer Lines for those in need are 972-649-0566 and 972-649-0567.

Wednesdays, 7 pm
In December

Get your praise on, Wednesday Night Live (WNL) @ our main campus, 200 Belmont Drive in Allen. Call the church for details.

December 20, 6 pm

Theatre & Arts Ministry presents: "The Only Thing Greater Than Thysself" a celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ @ Story Elementary in Allen.

December 31, 9 pm

Club FBCA presents "Unveiling the Spirit of Excellence" Annual New Year's Eve Celebration @ the

Plano Centre Ballroom. Ring in the New Year with food, music, a talent show and the "Spirit" of God with us.

January 23-25, 2009

Mark your calendar, 1st Lady Tasha Stafford and Women Justified By Faith presents their 2009 Women Conference, "More Than Conquerors." Speakers include Pastor W.L. Stafford, Sr. and 1st Lady Tasha; Dr. Rita Twigg from the Potter's House in Dallas; Pastor Cheryl Coleman from Dover, DE; and Minister Monicah Johnson from Epitome Magazine. This one event you don't want to miss!

Rev. W. L. Stafford, Sr.
M. Div., Senior Pastor
1550 Edelweiss
(Service Location)
200 Belmont Drive
(Church Address)
Allen, TX 75013
972-359-9956

FELLOWSHIP OF BELIEVERS MINISTRIES

February 14, 10:30 am - 4 pm

Join us @ "Hell in My House, Heaven in My Heart; Marriage Conference 2009." Theme: A Match Made in Heaven with speaker, Elder Olivia Stith, Book Author, "If God is My Lover Then Why is My Bed so Cold" from Norfolk, VA. The conference will be @ Holiday Inn Express & Suites, 2287 Northwest Hwy, Dallas, TX 75220. For registration, information, or direction, call Minister Sheaniqua Batty @

214-780-7856.

Bishop Gregory Crawford,
Founder
214-780-7856

MOUNT GILEAD BAPTIST CHURCH

December 21, 4 pm

Our "Annual Twilight Musical" it's FREE (but please bring a can good item for the needy) with the Adlee H. Trezevant Memorial Choir of the Historic I.M. Terrell High School performing the "George Frideric Handel's MESSIAH."

Dr. Cedric Britt,
Senior Pastor
600 Grove Street
Fort Worth, TX 76102
817-336-2695

MT. OLIVE CHURCH OF PLANO (MOCOP)

Tomorrow Night,
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7 pm - 11 pm

Bring your family to our Christmas Extravaganza in the Multi-Purpose Room @ the church. The attire is

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Pastor Sam Fenceroy,
Senior Pastor
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Lady Tasha Stafford

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





Sister Tarpley

Pastor Sam: "Jesus is the Problem"

During morning worship at Mt. Olive Church of Plano (MOCOP), Minister Sondra Howard-Foster, their new Minister of Music, was singing *Jesus is the answer for the world today*, but Pastor Sam Fenceroy, Senior Pastor, stopped her and said, "Jesus is not the answer but the problem;" he further said, "I know that many of you have heard that Jesus is the answer, but, if He is the answer, we must first know the question.

Proverbs 18:13 says, "He that answereth a matter before he heareth it, it is folly and shame unto him." Pastor Sam also said that the Bible contradicts that song. He supported his claim with his first text from **Genesis 11: 1-11** "And the whole earth was of one language, and of one speech. . . 5" And the LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of

men builded. 6And the LORD said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do. 7Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech. 8So the LORD scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the city. 9Therefore is the name of it called Babel; because the LORD did there confound the language of all the earth: and from thence did the LORD scatter them abroad upon the face of all the earth. . ."

Pastor Sam further said that the Israelites were doing great without God, but God was not pleased; therefore, He confused their languages and scattered them all over the face of the earth.

Pastor Sam then explained to us that from the passages of scriptures we can see that God spoke in the plural; "Let us go

down". The book of John tells us who the 'us' in the book of Genesis was. **John 1: 1** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2The same was in the beginning with God. And in **verse 14:** And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld His Glory, the Glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

Pastor Sam said that based on those scriptures, Jesus was God and Jesus was the Word. His second scripture also proved his belief that Jesus is the problem as found in **Luke 12: 51** "Suppose ye that I am come to give peace on earth? I tell you, Nay; but rather division:" and in 53The father shall be divided against the son, and the son against the father; the mother against the daughter, and the daughter against the mother; the mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law, and the daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law."

Finally, Pastor Sam summed up the message from

the book of **Genesis 3:16**, "Unto the woman He said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.

When studying these passages, it literally means she will desire to run over him or take her husband place, but he would rule over or dominate her. This is why marriages will not function properly without Jesus.

In all three scriptures we see that the Bible reveals that God was not satisfied with man having great relationships with others without including Him. Pastor Sam concluded by saying that when we do wrong; and it is exposed; Jesus exposed us. He confounded their languages so they could not be one without Him; He divided families who refused to follow Him and He will not allow nations to get along without Him.

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Pastor Sam Fenceroy, Senior Pastor of MOCOP; his message to the world today, "Jesus Is The Problem!"



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Magic Johnson Voices Support for @15

From staff reports

Best Buy Co., Inc. recently unveiled a new Teen Service Announcement featuring basketball legend Earvin "Magic" Johnson at www.at15.org.

"There were all sorts of chances and times that I could have gotten into trouble, but instead of turning right, I turned left," Johnson says in his online TSA. "You should dream high, because I'm a big

believer that if you don't dream it, you can't become it. Life passes you by so fast. So, enjoy the moment. Enjoy the time."

In addition to serving as the chairman and chief executive officer of Magic

Johnson Enterprises (MJE), Johnson is currently vice president and part owner of the Los Angeles Lakers. A version of the @15 TSA will begin airing during Lakers games with in the next month.

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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.

Dr. C. Paul McBride, Pastor

"The Church with a Vision"

Auto Burglars Target Unattended Vehicles During Holiday Season

From staff reports

This holiday season, auto burglars will shop the easy way – by stealing gifts, purses, wallets, packages, electronics, or other valuables left in plain sight inside vehicles. Every two minutes, a vehicle is burglarized in Texas and the contents stolen. These crimes escalate during the holiday season when people shop more often. And unfortunately, drivers often don't take necessary precautions to avoid becoming burglary victims.

The Texas Automobile

Burglary and Theft Prevention Authority (ABTPA), offers three basic safety tips to motorists to help prevent vehicle crimes during the holidays and throughout the year: hide belongings from view, lock vehicles, and take keys.

"We want everyone to enjoy the holiday season and not experience the violation and frustration of having their vehicles burglarized or stolen. We encourage all vehicle owners and operators to help prevent such crimes from happening by practicing simple theft prevention

measures," said Charles Caldwell, interim director of the Texas ABTPA.

When vehicles are stolen, thieves have easy access to everything left inside, including items such as garage door openers, house keys, and personal information, which can all lead to additional

and more serious crimes as well as further victimization of the vehicle owner.

"We know that auto burglars scout malls, shopping centers, and other retail parking lots this time of year looking for the perfect opportunity to break into vehicles. Within seconds, these criminals can

get inside a car, steal the contents, and be on their way from the scene. And experienced thieves can steal a vehicle without keys in less than a minute," said Michelle Lanham, program coordinator for ABTPA's Reduce Auto Theft in Texas (RATT) public awareness

task force at the University of North Texas Caruth Police Institute in Dallas. "Texas drivers need to understand that carelessness with items left inside vehicles actually helps thieves carry out their crimes more efficiently and potentially engage in further criminal activity."

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Pastor Dave Jenkins, Jr.

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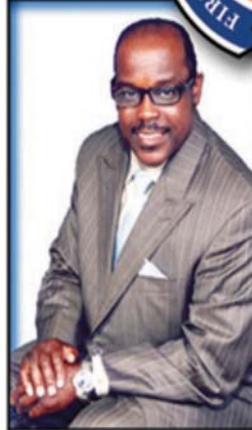
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Wednesday
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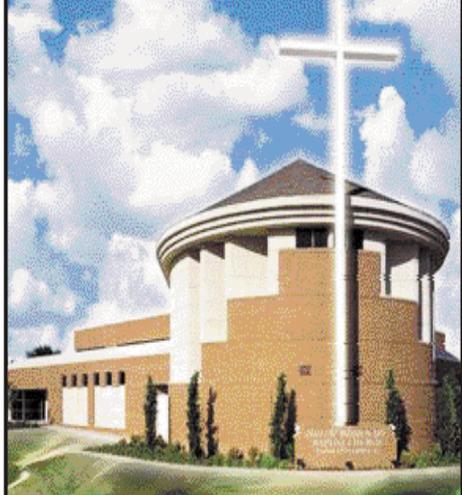
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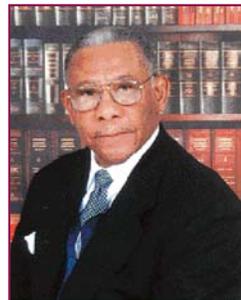
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