

North Dallas Gazette



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UNT Dallas Will Be Boon To Local Economy

From staff reports

If the future University of North Texas at Dallas grows at the same rate the UNT Dallas Campus has since its founding in 2000, the city's first and only public university will contribute \$459 million each year to the

local economy by 2030.

That is the finding of an independent economic impact analysis conducted by Economics Research Associates, Inc., of San Francisco, Calif.

Conducted over a four-month period, the study measures the economic

impact of the future UNT Dallas at two time horizons (the first at the new school's projected opening in 2010, and the second when its student population reaches 16,000 around 2030).

In the first time horizon, the total economic impact (direct, indirect and

induced) is projected to reach \$103 million considering current expenditures, staffing levels and the physical development of the UNT Dallas Campus. By the time the university grows to 16,000 students,

See UNT DALLAS, Page 4

Rowlett Council Votes On Stricter Smoking Ban

From staff reports

Following much public input and weeks of discussion, Rowlett now has a stricter smoking ordinance following a 4 to 3 vote by the City Council to tighten up smoking restrictions in the city.

The new ordinance,

which will become effective on May 1, 2009, is similar to the recently adopted stricter smoking restrictions implemented in the City of Dallas.

On January 20 during a work session discussion, the Council instructed the City Manager to have staff draft an ordinance similar to Dallas' new smoking ordi-

nance, incorporating the input received from citizens through emails, letters, calls and the January 6 public hearing.

The new ordinance includes the following:

- Places smoking is prohibited
- Indoor or enclosed areas
- Within 15 feet of an

indoor/enclosed area

- Any area designated non-smoking by the owner or operator in control and marked with a no smoking sign

Note: Bars, currently defined as having at least 75% of gross annual sales of

See SMOKING, Page 4



Viola Davis Stepping into the Spotlight

By RUTH FERGUSON
North Dallas Gazette

Sometimes work can be hazardous to your health – and dress size. Earlier this month Viola Davis visited Dallas and laughed about gaining twenty pounds during the filming of *Doubt*.

Davis indicated, "When the broad offers you donuts and coffee, you take donuts and coffee!" She points out this is especially true if the "broad" happens to be one of the most acclaimed actresses of a generation, Meryl Streep.

Fortunately for Davis,

twenty pounds is not all she gained from the experienced. Her career, often underappreciated in roles such as the mother of Antwone Fisher in the film of the same name, received a huge boost with an Oscar

See DAVIS, Page 12

CBC Applauds Stimulus Package



See STIMULUS PACKAGE, Page 9

Acclaimed Crooner Tony Rich is back with new Project

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

Stimulate Your Own Economy

By JAMES CLINGMAN
NNPA Columnist

"The principal affliction of poor communities in the United States is not the absence of money, but its systematic exit." Michael Shuman, Going Local.

Of all the ways being recommended to stimulate the economy, very few are directed toward the fact that, like politics, economics is local. The tried and true method for stimulating our local economies is by mutually

buying and selling to one another. You have heard it all before, what has become an aphorism in the so-called Black community: "The Black dollar doesn't circulate even one time among Black people before it leaves the Black community." Whose fault is that, y'all?

If we would somehow turn that cliché into a myth, by acting upon its truth alone, then we could stimulate our own

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People In The News...



Dwight Evans



Towanna B. Freeman



Vicki D. Blanton

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Dwight Evans

Democratic Appropriations Chairman Dwight Evans was born and raised in Philadelphia and educated in its public school system. He was first elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in 1980. Since his first day in the state Capitol, Evans has provided vibrant visionary leadership that has marked his professional career and community-related endeavors.

Evans taught in the Philadelphia Public School system. He also worked for the Urban League of

Philadelphia as a job developer, employment counselor and director of several employment projects prior to being elected to the House of Representatives. His ability to forge relationships and build coalitions has been demonstrated again and again. Evans took the lead in bringing together a bipartisan coalition of legislators to examine the issues of public safety in Philadelphia.

On the local level, one of Evans' most successful efforts is the founding of the Ogontz Avenue Revitaliza-

tion Corporation, a nonprofit, community development corporation. Through his leadership and dedication, Evans has been able to foster meaningful relationships between grassroots community organizations, government agencies, private sector employers and others that have resulted in a thriving business corridor.

As the Appropriations Chairman, Evans broadened the committee's work to include comprehensive looks at how to make government perform better to build a stronger Pennsylvania. Evans has focused most of

his legislative energy on his two passions - improving public education and rebuilding communities. Evans is a thoughtful policymaker who has traveled the country meeting with educational leaders and visiting some of America's most innovative schools trying to find solutions to the current public education crisis. He is on the National Board of Directors of the Black Alliance for Educational Options and founded the Philadelphia chapter of BAEQ.

Evans championed the state's charter school law and has been the number one vol-



unteer of the West Oak Lane Charter School in Philadelphia since it opened in 1998. He supported the Education Empowerment Act designed to help students in failing school districts and the School District of

Philadelphia's public-private partnership with Community Education Partners to create an alternative school for disruptive students. He is currently focusing his efforts on education reform, teacher recruitment and retention and increasing educational alternatives for families.

Evans is currently serving on the boards of directors of the Public School Employees' Retirement System, Black Alliance for Educational Options, Fox Chase Cancer Center, Pennsylvania Convention and Visitors Bureau, and Concerned Black Men.

Towanna B. Freeman

Towanna B. Freeman, D.D. career strategist, coach, mentor, counselor, and philanthropist has worked with thousands of over the past 15 years. Known for her compassionate and straightforward approach, Towanna guides her clients to clarify their career direction and supports them as they find and take the necessary steps to realize their professional and personal goals. Towanna has

been a career professional in both federal government and private practice for a combined 18 years, serving a broad population of executives, sales and IT professionals. She has extensive interviewing and recruiting experience and is knowledgeable about a wide variety of business sectors nationwide.

A Washington DC native, Towanna started her college career at Howard University

with aspirations of creating mentoring programs for youth needing assistance getting their lives launched. In 1999 as a response to the community's demands for assistance with troubled teenage girls, Towanna founded the Young Women's Empowerment Network (www.ywen.org) a nonprofit that provides resources and services through education, networking, and counseling to empower its members to achieve personal, educational, and professional success.

In 2008, as an extension of



her work with young women, Towanna accepted

the opportunity to collaborate with In a Perfect World Foundation (www.iapw.org) where she serves as the Executive Director, furthering their mission to inspire and empower children to become compassionate, socially-conscious, and responsible leaders.

She is an adviser to organizations on the impacts of popular music, specifically Hip-Hop music, on today's youth. She speaks to groups on a variety of business, parenting, career, and professional development topics.

As a committed professional concerned with teaching others to trust themselves and explore their interests, Towanna has been a consultant to numerous public and private organizations assisting them with organizing and implementing a career exploration mentoring program by pairing students and junior professionals with senior managers and executives.

As the spouse to a senior military officer, she volunteers her time in support of the soldiers and their families in Hawaii.

Vicki D. Blanton

Editor's Note: We recently published Ms. Blanton's bio but the info was dated, please enjoy the latest info on Ms. Blanton's endeavors.

Vicki D. Blanton is the Senior Benefits Counsel practicing ERISA, employee benefits and executive compensation for American Airlines, Inc. She handles the legal issues related to the Company's various union and non-union retirement plans, health and welfare plans, international benefits, and executive compensation plans. She joined American Airlines in August 2008 after working at JCPenney for 8 years. Vicki began her legal career in 1991 at Thompson & Knight as a trial lawyer. In 1995, Vicki became an Assistant City Attorney for the City of Dallas, Texas,

changing her practice from litigation to employee benefits.

Vicki received a J.D. from the Southern Methodist University School of Law, and a Bachelor of Journalism from the University of Texas at Austin. Vicki has been named to D Magazine's list of Best Lawyers twice, and Eclipse Magazine's inaugural Dynamic Lawyers list. She was also named as one of the Best Corporate Counsel by the Dallas Business Journal. Vicki is the Vice-Chair of the Corporate Counsel Forum of the American Bar Association Tax Section's Employee Benefits Subcommittee. Vicki is a Barrister in the Patrick E. Higginbotham American Inn of Court.



As a native Dallasite, community involvement is very important to Vicki. She is an appointee to the City of Dallas South Dallas/Fair Park Trust Board and the State of Texas Emancipation Juneteenth Cultural and Historical Commission. Vicki has volunteered with several community boards including the Central

Allocation Committee of the United Way of Metropolitan Dallas and the Dallas Bar Association Board, the Dallas Bar Foundation, as well as chairing the board of the Home Health Services agency.

She is the 2007 Past President of the J.L. Turner Legal Association. Her work with the J.L. Turner Legal Association garnered several awards over the years including the State Bar of Texas Star of Achievement Award, the State Bar of Texas Presidents' Award, and Chapter of the Year of the National Bar Association Region V. Also, Vicki was selected as an American Marshall Memorial Fellow of the German Marshall Fund.

Vicki is married to Donald Yarbrough with 2 teenage daughters, Sydney and

Devon. The family is a "Community" United member of St. Luke Methodist Church.

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

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

THE TRUTH CLINIC

Understanding Stimulus, Bailouts and Partisan Politics

“Any city, however small, is in fact divided into two, one the city of the poor, the other of the rich; these are at war with one another.” - Plato

By JAMES W. BREEDLOVE
The Truth Clinic

The stimulus and bailouts that the government has used to attack America's economic meltdown for the past six months is akin to treating a severe cold. Even though the patient takes all kinds of medicines they only treat and ease the symptoms; stop the runny nose, quiet the cough, numb the aching pain but the medicines do not cure the cold. The cold virus must run its course.

The same is true with America's economic virus no matter how many billion doses of stimulus are taken. In a sad, but apparently necessary step the powers that be in Washington have agreed to spend more billions of taxpayer money to bail out huge private sector institutions whose business legacy can be characterized by incompetence and greed.

There is a confusing and strange dichotomy in witnessing the wanton begging by corporate giants for government aid when their mantra just a short time ago was that government intervention in the free market should be avoided like the plague.

In fact the partisan bickering over getting the latest \$787 billion dollar stimulus package passed was the foot dragging of the republican minority caucus as they attempted to infuse its bedrock philosophy of small government into the stimulus plan.

The legislation, is certainly among the costliest ever considered in Congress, provides billions of dollars to aid victims of the recession through unemployment benefits, food stamps, medical

care, job retraining and more. Tens of billions are ticketed for the states to offset cuts they might have to make and there is more than \$48 billion for infrastructure projects. Democrats said part of the bill's tax cuts, in the form of \$400 for individuals and \$800 for couples would help 95 percent of all Americans.

Although Congress did not come together in this time of a national peril to address what President Obama has somberly suggested is a crisis rivaling that of the Great Depression. The future portends more political partisanship since it is likely that more money will be needed to complete the recovery from America's economic collapse.

The question of "big government" versus "small government" has been an ideological debate since the founding of this country. In truth, not only have we always had government involved in our economy but also that intervention has been welcomed by corporate captains when it served their needs. These corporate titans have only railed against "big government" when government threatened to regulate their activities or contemplated distributing a significant portion of the nation's wealth to the lower classes.

America's first congress began to interfere in the affairs of business with subsidies and other cooperative arrangements. Tariffs were established to aid the manufacturers and partnerships were formed with private banks to create a national bank.

Over the years the railroad, airline, oil, auto, defense, steel and many other industries that were "too big to fail" received bailouts. The

role of big government privatizing the profits and socializing the losses of business has continued throughout the nation's history.

If President Obama is going to distance himself from the historical Washington status quo, make his campaign slogan of change a reality, and ensure that his economic stimulus works for all the people instead of the privileged few he will need to tread carefully through the Washington maze guided more by his Chicago street smarts than his Harvard intellect.

The following are a few of the items that should be given priority attention.

The President must use the influence of his office to repeal the current creditor friendly bankruptcy law supported by the banks and credit-card companies. The law needs to be restored to that favoring the debtor to permit debt write downs to realistic levels that reflect the debtor's ability to repay.

Paying debt service will overshadow spending on goods and services mitigating meaningful economic recovery. Without debt relief lost assets will be transferred into the hands of the wealthy, as has occurred in previous economic downturns, continuing the cycle of the rich get richer and the poor get poorer.

Get rid of the Bush tax cuts

that favor the wealthiest and has concentrated over 60 percent of the wealth to the richest 1 percent of the population.

Continue to extend the hand of bi-partisanship but do not expect a republican conversion. The Republican minority have been Limbaughed into joining the quest to ensure an Obama failure. Obama must use his bully pulpit to emphasize the public perception of Republican negativity. This will pave the way for Democrats to increase their congressional majority in the 2010 elections.

At bailed-out institutions replace the overpaid executives with new capable executives who will be responsible for reviving their corporate enterprises and not for personal enrichment. Insist on strong oversight over how bailout money is spent.

Reform the regulatory buddy system that permits hollow laws to be enacted and never enforced.

As Adam Smith, father of modern economics explained, "The government of an exclusive company of merchants is, perhaps, the worst of all governments."

President Obama, the golden opportunity for change is in your hands.

Comments or opinions may be sent to the writer at: jaydubub@swbell.net

The offices of the North Dallas Gazette have relocated to 3401 Custer, Suite 169, Plano, Texas 75023. Our phone numbers remain the same (972) 516-2992 and 1-216-569-4191 (Fax). Please feel free to write, call or email us at editor@northdallasgazette.com with any concerns, questions, or community news.

U. S. Senator Urges Buildup of Military Presence in Africa

N/PA

U.S. Sen. Russ Feingold, chair of the U.S. subcommittee on Africa, is urging a new Africa policy under Pres. Obama "to further our national security goals while developing sustainable partnerships with Africans that advance our mutual interests and support nascent democratic institutions."

The Senator, an avid supporter of AFRICOM, a military command center proposed for Africa, said in a hearing last month that there are "very important and

strategic roles that AFRICOM, if advanced properly, can play. It could," he said, "help to develop effective, well-disciplined militaries that adhere to civilian rule, strengthen regional peacekeeping missions, and support post-conflict demobilization and disarmament processes."

But AFRICOM is widely unpopular among African leaders who are skeptical of a U.S.-led professionalization of their armies. All but Liberia and Chad have refused to allow the U.S. "command center" to be

sited in their country. Currently, AFRICOM is sited in Stuttgart, Germany.

Meanwhile, an "Africa Partnership Mission" is headed toward Senegal, Ghana, Nigeria, Cameroon and Gabon as part of an initiative to improve security.

The U.S. Navy deployment works with countries in the region "to develop maritime security and safety capacity and capability in West and Central Africa," says Captain Cindy Thebaud, mission commander, speaking from the waters off Dakar, Senegal.



Sen. John Kerry and Sen. Russ Feingold

U. S. Faces Fallout Over Failed Ugandan Mission

From staff reports

A U.S.-backed military attack on the rebel Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) in Uganda "went awry," according to media reports, and in the aftermath, "rebel leaders have escaped, breaking their fighters into small groups that continue to ransack town after town in

northeastern Congo, hacking, burning, shooting, and clubbing to death anyone in their way."

Details of the botched attack were released this week in The New York Times and other international media. According to the Times, the US helped plan and fund the attack from its new Africa Command, but

the plan backfired, causing the deaths of up to 900 civilians in towns across the northeastern Congo.

John Holmes, the UN's humanitarian chief, called the incident "catastrophic" for Congolese civilians, after a visit to Doruma in Congo's northeast. Trained by the American military for counterterrorism opera-

tions, the Ugandan army had been attempting to attack the rebel's stronghold near Garamba National Park in northern Congo in mid-December.

Due to thick fog that delayed the arrival of the Ugandan forces, LRA fighters were able to escape and unleash a massive wave of terror among

neighboring Congolese villages. Many have criticized the army, comprised of Ugandans and Congolese, for not attempting to curtail the violence despite their previous knowledge of LRA battle tactics.

The LRA is still free to continue to murder, pillage and set fire to villages as well as kidnap children to become

LRA slave soldiers.

So far, the American military has denied responsibility for the actions on the ground. "We provided insights and alternatives for them to consider, but their choices were their choices. In the end, it was not our operation," a military official was quoted by The Times to say.

UNT-DALLAS, continued from Page 1

the total economic impact of UNT Dallas should reach \$459 million in a single year. Construction of the 2.2 million square feet of space necessary to house the university's academic programs, library, conference space, residences and office spaces — assuming continuous growth — will alone contribute more than \$700 million to the local economy (in 2008 dollars) by 2030.

And student expenditures, the campus' payroll and benefits, and supplies purchased from local area vendors and historically underutilized businesses will lead to nearly 3,500 new jobs by the same year, according to the ERA study.

UNT System Chancellor Vice Chancellor John Ellis Price, CEO of the UNT Dallas Campus, said the campus has demonstrated the demand for



John Ellis Price

higher education in southern Dallas County.

"The legislation that created the Univ. of North Texas in statute in 2001 required us to enroll 1,000 full-time equivalent stu-

dents to move from our status as a branch campus of UNT in Denton to an independent university," Price said. "We have met that goal this semester and will begin the hard work of creating an independent, self-sustaining university. As we grow, with the support of the state of Texas and the people of Dallas and the surrounding region, our economic impact will continue to increase."

Though the campus' budget is



Sen. Royce West

only \$10.3 million, it will grow to \$140 million by 2030 in order to hire the faculty and staff that run the university and purchase the goods and services neces-

sary to sustain it, ERA projects.

"Those resources are resources that will directly and indirectly impact the community. And as those faculty and staff come to the campus and attract more students, we will be doing more than growing an economy. We will be growing a more educated populace."

When administrators at the UNT System agreed to plant a university campus in southern Dallas County a decade ago, ana-

lysts speculated about the economic impact, but it was difficult to measure while the campus was functioning in a temporary space — as it did from 2000-2006.

Today, the UNT Dallas Campus occupies its place on the landsite of the future university. The first 76,000-square-foot building opened in January 2007 and enrollment has grown steadily — at an average annual rate of 14 percent.

In the spring 2009 semester, 2,333 students were enrolled (or 1,032 full-time equivalent students), according to unofficial figures taken on the 12th class day. The ERA study claims that UNT Dallas will be instrumental in raising the college-going rate in the Dallas-Fort Worth area in order to help meet the State of Texas' goals in the 'Closing the Gaps by 2015' Higher Education Plan.

SMOKING, continued from Page 1

alcohol, are grandfathered.

Exceptions:

- A private residence (except when used as a childcare, adult daycare, or health care facility)
- A stage/set of a production company of a television program, a theatrical presentation, or movie
- A cigar bar that was lawfully operating on February 3, 2009
- A tobacco shop
- An unenclosed outdoor seating area
- A private, rented guest room designated as "smoking" (with additional stipulations)

The ordinance will take effect on May 1, 2009, following an extensive public information campaign to allow time to raise awareness of the new ordinance and provide comprehensive education for citizens and the business community.

Subscribe to Garland E-News

From staff reports

The City of Garland now offers instant notification of City news and information. Citizens may subscribe to

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Congratulations to the 2009 Trailblazer Award Nominees

From staff reports

The Collin County Black Chamber of Commerce (CCBCC) applauds its 2009 Trailblazer Award nominees for their business management acumen, philanthropy, educational and leadership achievements in the Collin County community.

This year's festivities will be hosted by Master of Ceremony, Mr. Clovis Prince. Mr. Prince is the President & CEO of Prince & Associates and owner and the Prince Bistro chain of restaurants. Mr. Prince was the recipient of the prestigious Trailblazer Award.

The Trailblazer Award

Nominees are:

• **Harry LaRosiliere - Deputy Mayor Pro Tem, Place 5**

Harry LaRosiliere is a proud 11 year citizen of Plano and representative for Place 5. First Vice President of Investments, Financial Advisor, and a Certified Financial Planner with a major brokerage firm in Plano. He is married to wife Tracy and they have two daughters.

• **David Stephens, President and CEO of Stephens Dealership Management Group**

David Stephens is the first African-American auto dealer for Jaguar and Audi

brands. Stephens Dealership Management Group includes Millennium Motor Cars in Plano, Texas and Millennium Audi of Houston, as well as other companies.

• **Iola Lee Davis Malvern, Philanthropist and Educator**

Iola Lee Malvern Davis has been a longtime resident of McKinney, Texas. She was an Educator in McKinney from the early 1950's until she retired in 1983. Today Mrs. Malvern lives in McKinney and is an active member of McKinney First Baptist Church and enjoys working at many church and community

organizations.

Formal presentation of the Trailblazer Award and recognitions will take place on Thursday, February 19, 2009 at CCBCC's Annual Trailblazer Dinner at Ralph & Kacoo's Restaurant in Allen. The evening will start with a cocktail hour at 5:30pm; followed by dinner at 6:30pm. The cost for scrumptious Cajun themed dinner is \$25.00 for CCBCC Members and \$30.00 for Non-CCBCC Members!

CCBCC is a non-profit organization that was founded in 2005 by a group of African American business owners and leaders who saw the need to provide a forum

for minority business to connect resources and opportunity in the Collin County area. CCBCC provides the direct link to today's affluent and progressive African-American business professionals in the state of Texas. The goal of the CCBCC is to create more opportunities for minority business owners in Collin County. CCBCC will continue the mission to build economic prosperity and enhance the quality of life in Collin County for minority businesses. The organization is poised to develop programs and events that benefit the membership and community.

If you are interested in



Harry LaRosiliere

joining the Collin County Black Chamber of Commerce feel free to call 469 424-1020 or email: info@CCBlackChamber.org

Correspondence may be sent to: CCBCC, 3001 S. Central Expy, Suite 301 PMB 133, McKinney, TX 75070.

140 DAYS OF OPPORTUNITY

TX Supreme Court Chief Justice says these are "Critical Times"

By **TESSA HOWINGTON**
North Dallas Gazette

The Legislature held a joint session on Wednesday, February 11th, to hear Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Texas, Honorable Wallace B. Jefferson, give his State of the Judiciary address.

Early in his address, the Chief Justice noted these are "critical times for Texas and the nation."

He said that the Texas Judicial System has made great improvements over the past two years in public access and accountability, strengthening the system and better serving Texans, because Texas has "greatly increased transparency in the judiciary," and "the public has greater access to judicial information."

The Chief Justice then

set forth his requests for this legislative session.

Jefferson asked the Legislature continue to focus on protecting children. He said the Supreme Court's Permanent Commission on Children, Youth, and Families helps families and children "who are thrust into the legal system through no fault of their own."

Jefferson added that the commission has been "thoughtful and swift," and because of their "great work," Texas has been chosen to host the National Judicial Summit of Child Protection in October of this year. The hope is to learn from other states to improve Texas' program and serve as a role model for states that have struggling programs.

Chief Justice Jefferson

also spoke about the effectiveness of the Texas Task Force to Ensure Judicial Readiness, a program created after Hurricane Katrina. He says "Disaster can have serious consequences to the rule of law." The goal of the Task Force is to make sure that the law is not suspended, broken, and that those "serious consequences" do not occur in the State of Texas after a disaster as they did in Louisiana.

The Task Force allows people to have access to courts and vital records, ensures that the orders of protection and laws are not ignored, lost, or not enforced in case of an emergency. They also look for gaps in court security and Texas' overall readiness in the event of a catastrophe.

They have developed several contingency and response plans in the event of a hurricane, pandemics, mass violence, terrorism, and computer threats. Jefferson sites their successful involvement in Hurricane Ike and recommends the Legislature provide more funding for the group. He also hopes that they are allowed to work more closely with the State Operations Center, where the state plans for all disasters.

In his address, Jefferson noted the need for court appointed counsel and access for low income families to justice was on the rise. He asked for more funding to provide legal services for the poor and people who are suffering

See **JEFFERSON**, Page 12

**American Airlines
Presents**

Urban League of Greater Dallas



**Annual Meeting &
Luncheon**

**Thursday, February 26, 2009
11:45 a.m.**

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Barbara Cambridge Ph.D.**

For ticket information Call (214) 915-4600

Eastfield College Hosts African-American Read-In

From staff reports

Eastfield College's African-American Read-in is scheduled for Wednesday, February 25, 11:28 a.m. - 1 p.m. in Building S, Room 100.

This year's theme is "A Celebration of Firsts," a tribute to the courageous African-Americans who were among the "firsts." From politics, education, science, technology, business,

inventions, etc. Who among these is most admired? How did their journey in life inspire others? Did they refuse the social order of society to earn their right to finish first?

Readers are encouraged to research and share literary works of the first to go into space, the first to stand up while others sat, the first to practice law in a court room, the first cowboy to write about the western

frontier, the first to cross the finish line, to coach in the major leagues, the first surgeon to successfully open a heart, the first African American man and woman to run for President of the United States, and just recently, the first one to win.

Or simply, if you prefer, come listen as others read.

Special guests include students from the following high schools: Bryan Adams,

Skyline, North Mesquite, W.W. Samuell and Booker T. Washington; Richmond Punch, scholarship winner and professional Violinist from Juilliard School of Music; local poet, John L. Mack and Eastfield Jazz Ensemble under the direction of Oscar Passley.

For more information, contact Bryndah C. Hicks at 972-860-7385 or email your tribute to bhicks@dccc.edu.

Deadline Near For Prepaid Tuition Program

From staff reports

Texas Comptroller Susan Combs reminds parents that the current enrollment period ends Feb. 28 for the Texas Tuition Promise Fund, the state's new prepaid college tuition program. Enrollment opened last September for the program, which allows families to lock in college tuition and required fees at current prices of Texas public colleges and offers many flexible options to prepay those expenses before a child is ready for college.

"The Texas Tuition Promise Fund makes it easy to save for college, even in these challenging economic times," Combs said. "If your child attends a Texas public college, you don't have to worry about the volatile stock market, and you can prepay for as much of your child's college costs as your family budget allows."

During the current enroll-

ment period, more than 4,800 children have been enrolled in the Texas Tuition Promise Fund. The contracts purchased are worth almost \$100 million in future college tuition and required fees.

"You must enroll your child in the Texas Tuition Promise Fund by Feb. 28 to take advantage of current contract prices," Combs said. "When the current enrollment period ends, enrollment will close until September, except for newborns born in March through August. We will survey colleges and universities regarding their future tuition and fees and set new contract prices for the next Texas Tuition Promise Fund enrollment period."

Families enrolled in the Texas Tuition Promise Fund purchase tuition "units" with three levels of pricing to prepay undergraduate resident tuition and required fees at schools ranging from public

community colleges to four-year state universities. (A detailed explanation of prepaid tuition units is below.)

During the current enrollment period, parents of a newborn can pay as little as \$15.16 per month until their child's high school graduation to prepay a year of tuition at a community college. Parents of a 7-year-old who want to prepay the weighted average cost of one year's tuition at a four-year Texas public university could spread the payments over 10 years for \$81.53 a month.

"The Texas Tuition Promise Fund allows families from any economic background to achieve their education goal — whether it is a four-year college degree or a training program at a community college to gain the technical skills that good, well-paying jobs require," Combs said. "The U.S. Department of

Education estimates about 80 percent of the fastest-growing job categories in the near future will require some education beyond high school, but not a bachelor's degree. Texas employers report a growing shortage of workers with technical skills needed for the jobs in Texas' future."

Combs' Web site, Every Chance, Every Texan, can help families plan and save for college. The Web site provides information on careers that will be in demand in the future and the education requirements for various fields. It also includes tools to help families calculate college costs and determine whether they are saving enough money. To learn more about the Texas Tuition Promise Fund, EveryChanceEveryTexan.org or go directly to the Texas Tuition Promise fund www.TexasTuitionPromiseFund.com.

Minority Enrollment at The University of Texas at Austin Increases

From staff reports

Total enrollment in spring 2009 increased slightly for Hispanic, African American and foreign students compared to the 2008 spring semester at The University of Texas at Austin, a preliminary report shows.

Kristi D. Fisher, associate vice provost and director of the university's Office of Information Management and Analysis, said the data are preliminary 12th class day

numbers. The report shows total enrollment for the spring 2009 semester is 47,334, a decrease of 234 students (-0.5 percent) from spring 2008. Fisher said the decrease is primarily due to fewer continuing students at the undergraduate level.

The number of Hispanic students for spring 2009 is 7,484, a 1.5 percent increase over spring 2008. African American student enrollment for spring 2009 is 2,093 (up 4.2 percent) and the foreign

student total is 348 (up 1.5 percent). The enrollment decreased for white students to 25,757 (a 1.9 percent decrease), for American Indian students to 197 (a 4.8 percent decrease) and for Asian American students to 7,199 remained about the same, with only two fewer students than in spring 2008.

Fisher said proportional representation on campus for the spring 2009 semester, based on the preliminary figures, includes: white students,

54.4 percent compared to 55.2 percent in spring 2008; American Indian students, 0.4 percent unchanged; African American students, 4.4 percent compared to 4.2 percent last year; Asian American students, 15.2 percent compared to 15.1 percent; Hispanic students, 15.8 percent compared to 15.5 percent; and foreign students, 9.0 percent compared to 8.8 percent. Students whose ethnicity was not known remained unchanged at 0.7 percent.

COLLEGE CORNER

The Coleman Entrepreneurial Scholarship

Donald A. Coleman, chairman of GlobalHue, the nation's largest multicultural marketing communications agency, has established a scholarship to assist students who have an entrepreneurial spirit and aspire to establish thriving businesses.

Coleman has consistently promoted the importance of education throughout his career, as well as the benefits of entrepreneurship. He believes that establishing and sustaining one's own business contributes to a community's growth and America's vitality. Scholarships are offered each year to full-time juniors and seniors who attend selected Historically Black Colleges and Universities or Hispanic Serving

Institutions and clearly demonstrate entrepreneurial spirit and promise.

This scholarship program is administered by Scholarship Management Services®, a division of Scholarship America®. Scholarship Management Services is the nation's largest designer and manager of scholarship and tuition reimbursement programs for corporations, foundations, associations and individuals.

Deadline:

February 28, 2009

Award Amount:

\$5,000

Website/Contact Info:

www.thecolemanscholarship.org

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www10.americanexpress.com/sif/cda/page/0,1641,22316,00.asp

Journalism Workshop Set

From staff reports

The Dallas-Fort Worth Association of Black Journalists will present its 19th annual Urban Journalism Workshop for high school and college students at Lincoln Humanities and Communications Magnet, 2826 Hatcher Street, beginning Saturday February 21, 2009.

This 12-week workshop is open to students in Dallas, Tarrant, Ellis, Collin and Denton counties. Students receive hands-on experience working with seasoned professionals who have gained a reputation locally and nationally, as well as internationally.

The program, which emulates one started by George Curry, Gerald Boyd and other members of the Greater St. Louis Association of Black Journalists in St. Louis, has graduated students who have gone on to anchor newscasts, edit newspapers, open public relations firms and produce

radio shows.

Curry visits the Dallas workshop students annually to conduct his "basic training." He encourages journalists to keep the workshops going because so many professionals today got their start sitting in a classroom at an urban journalism workshop.

"We're excited about continuing the tradition that was started almost 30 years ago," said Eva Coleman, one of the instructors for the program. "I am looking forward to working with students this year."

Coleman, who teaches radio and television at Frisco High School and is also employed at KRLD radio, will be overseeing the radio and television segments of the workshop, pulling together experts in the field.

Alumni of the program have gone on to become viable members of the media community. Such as Christopher Saunders, sports director for ZNS Broadcasting of the

Bahamas, Ron Murray, asst. sports director for KKDA AM, Shane Hefner, CEO of Black Business Directory, Jennifer Martin, public relations Specialist, City of Fort Worth and Janeane Anderson, Journalism professor at Lincoln High School.

Returning to the directorship of the program is longtime director, Cheryl Smith, executive editor of the Dallas Weekly, professor at Paul Quinn College and host of Reporter's Roundtable on KKDAAM.

Smith, who has been with the program since its inception, took over the directorship in the mid 90s and continued through 2004. Since her return in 2007 Smith has continued to take the program to new heights.

At the conclusion of the workshop, the students will participate in a closing ceremony where they will present a newspaper, television and radio broadcasts, a web site and a special project.

For more information, call 214-428-8958.

N2NE Youth Mentoring presents *Dreams N-2 Destiny*

N2NE (In-Tune) Youth Mentoring presents *Dreams N-2 Destiny*, a fundraiser & talent show featuring youth in the Dallas-Ft.Worth area. The event will take place **Saturday, March 7, 2009** from **2:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.** at the **Lake Highlands North Recreation Center**, located at **9940 White Rock Trail, Dallas, Texas.**



Datwon Thomas
Master of Ceremony



Adell Henderson
Presenter



Mesha Millington
Judge

DREAMS N-2 DESTINY

Dallas' first *Dreams N-2 Destiny* fundraiser. Presented by founder and chief executive officer, **Rich Etta Weathersbee** of N2NE (In-Tune), a non-profit youth mentoring program that encourages the youth to "Focus on your future and Believe in your dreams," the event will gather versatile individuals with talent in areas ranging from dance, music (gospel, R&B, country, rap, etc...), poetry, on one platform for a chance to showcase their talent, meet celebrities, win prizes and more! *Dreams N-2 Destiny* will raise money for the youth mentoring non-profit while simultaneously giving money back to these driven teens.

HOST, GUESTS & JUDGES

Datwon Thomas, the creator of *KING & RIDES* Magazines and currently the editor of hip-hop magazine *XXL* joins N2NE as the official host. The multi-talented mogul will be introducing local talent and surprise celebrity guests who will be speaking, judging and performing. **Mesha Millington**, NY-based singer, actress and director of *Gloria Eve Performing Arts Foundation* is bringing in her expertise as an accredited artist to the judging panel. Gospel Rap group **Tru Prophets** from McKinney, Texas will also be on hand for an aspirational performance.

AWARDS

A segment of the fundraiser will be dedicated to community activists and companies in the Dallas area making a difference in the lives of the youth. Nationally published writer, producer and business consultant **Adell Henderson** is heading up the N2NE awards ceremony during the fundraiser, presenting awards and certificates to ordinary people doing extraordinary deeds.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Entry Inquiries: **Penny Francis**
tel: 214.793.7178 / e-mail: penny@n2ne-ym.org
Event PR/Sponsorship: **Rachelle Gauthier**
tel: 917.501.2007 / e-mail: rachelle@n2ne-ym.org

For more information or to register online, visit:
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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. At Reel Thing Catfish Cafe, 600 East Main Street - Suite A, Allen, TX 75002. 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 info: 469-942-0809 or 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 TheNoLimitNetwork.com or call Sylvia Williams at 972-898-5882.

The National Business Women Enterprise Network (NBWEN) Learning Over Lunch Series: Monthly 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. 4th Saturdays, 11AM-1PM, ReMarkable Affairs Cafe, 2727 LBJ Freeway, Suite 140, Dallas, \$20 for members; \$35 for non-members, \$5 off for early bird registration. Visit <http://nbwen.org.ning.com> for more information. **THIS IS A PREPAID EVENT** so register early!

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).

February 13-21

The Plano Community Theatre presents Peter Pan, the musical. The performances are the weekends of February 13-21. Friday and Saturdays at 7:15 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday at 2:15 p.m. Tickets are \$7 in advance and \$9 at the Courtyard Theatre, 1509 Avenue. For tickets, call (972) 422-2575.

February 14, 21, 28

The Richardson Humane Society holds an **Adopt A Pet** event at noon-4 p.m. Feb. 28 at Petco, Coit and Campbell. Also, Feb. 21 at Petco at Spring Valley and Plano roads.

For information: 972-234-5117 or www.richardsonhumanesociety.org to view pictures of adoptable pets.

February 16-20

Lipid Profile and Glucose Screening 7-10 a.m. Campbell Campus Medical Plaza I, Conference Center Stop by to test your

blood fats – including cholesterol, glucose and triglycerides – for just \$15. A 10-hour fast is required. No appointment necessary.

February 18-21

Dallas Auto Show For 2009, more than 40 manufacturers from A to V will display over 700 vehicles. www.dallas-autoshow.org

February 19

Collin County Black Chamber of Commerce 2009 Trailblazers Award Luncheon, 11am to 1pm.

February 20 – March 15

Teatro Dallas presents ORINOCO! which honors Mexican playwright Emilio Carballido and directed by Cora Cardona. Performances are Thursdays-Saturdays at 8:15 p.m. and Sundays at 3:00 p.m. Tickets are \$18 for adults and \$15 for students, children and seniors. Tickets can be purchased at www.TeatroDallas.org. All performances will take place at 1331 Record Crossing Rd, Dallas, TX 75235.

February 21

UNCF's 10th annual **Red, Hot & Snazzy Benefit Gala!** Featuring national recording artist saxophonist Gerald Albright and singer Toni Redd! Sheraton Hotel Dallas,

For more info www.uncf.org/dallas or call the UNCF office (972) 234-1007.

Green EcoFair at the downtown Dallas Elliott's Hardware store from 9am-4pm.

February 22

The Plano Symphony Sunday Ensemble Concerts: Boomin' Brass 3 p.m.

at Courtyard Theatre Call 972-473-7262.

Feb. 22 -Mar. 1, 2009

Sesame Street: Elmo's Green Thumb Join all your favorite friends on an amazing adventure as they help Elmo find a new home for Sunny in the all new Sesame Street Live stage show, "Elmo's Green Thumb". NOKIA Theatre Grand Prairie, nokialivedfw.com or sesamestreetlive.com

February 22

Krewe of Barkus Parade Historic Downtown McKinney will feature a parade and costume contest! Humans and their dog escorts are invited to participate. Children may also enter decorated wagon floats. Participants should meet at Mitchell Park located at the corner of Louisiana & Church in Historic Downtown McKinney at 12:30pm. Following the parade there will be a costume contest in Mitchell Park. Couple these festivities with an enjoyable shopping environment and plenty of parking which leads us to expecting a very successful event. Visit www.downtownmckinney.com or call McKinney Main Street at 972.547.2660.

February 23

The Richardson Rotary meets at noon at Canyon Creek Country Club. Information: 972-690-0637.

February 24

IHOP celebrates **National Pancake Day** 7 am to 10 pm and offer each guest a free short stack of buttermilk pancakes. To donate online, visit www.ihoppancakeday.com

LEAN tools can transform Health Care organiza-

tions. Learn how at an Executive Briefing for Health Care Professions at 9 A.M. The briefing will be held at the Bill Priest Institute, 1402 Corinth St. in Dallas. Call the LEAN Institute of El Centro College at 214.860.5934 for more information. The event is free to the public.

February 25 – 28

The Marriage Boot Camp An interactive workshop to improve relationships. \$400 per person for basic training; \$600 per person for advanced training. Call 214-641-3866 or visit www.marriagebootcamp.com

February 26

The Urban League will host the 2009 Annual Meeting Community Report Luncheon the theme is The Legacy Continues: Passing the Torch. Call the League office (214) 915.4631 for more information.

February 27

The North Texas Business Conference: Business Solutions EXPO! This is the first business conference of its kind for small and medium business. Those attending this business transforming platform will be learning sales, marketing and advertising strategies from experts. More information at: www.businesssolutionsexpo.com

February 28

"Business Basics for Entrepreneurs" This class combines financial management and other key business concepts, such as Marketing, Forecasting, Cash Flow, Pricing, and Business Planning. The class will be held 9:00 am to 6:00 pm, no lunch provided at the Hamilton Park United

Methodist Church, 11881 Schroeder Road Dallas, TX 75243. The cost is \$40.00 if paid in advance, \$45.00 at the door, to register visit www.planfund.org or call 214-942-6698.

The Alpha Iota Iota Graduate Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., will present its 18th **Annual Talent Hunt**, at 2:00PM, at the Plaza Theatre, Garland, TX. Students from our local schools (9th-12th grade), are invited to participate. Talents such as interpretive movement, instrumental, poetry, vocalist, and speech will be graded by a panel of judges. Contact Horace Satisfield, 972 424-0930 or Wayne Powe at 214-906-9079.

2009 Collin Cabaret Scholarship Benefit Gala Collin Radio Variety Hour at the Embassy Suites Frisco. Call Mary Frazier 972-599-3145.

The Invisible War Freedom Conference A unique and special event to share with other believers in the study of God's Word concerning the spiritual battles of life. 9AM – 10PM \$50 per person; \$75 per family; scholarships available call 877-808-8886 or www.theinvisiblewar.org

March 1 – 3

The Divine Consign Childrens, Juniors and Maternity Consignment Sale children's consignment sale specializing in the highest quality gently worn children's, juniors and maternity clothing, toys, books, games, DVDs, baby equipment and baby & children's furniture. Admission is free. Contact Tina Teutsch at 214-513-2838 or divineconsign@hotmail.com or visit www.divineconsign.net

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CBC Applauds Passage of Stimulus Package

By HAZEL TRICE
EDNEY
NNPA Editor-in-Chief

Now that President Barack Obama has succeeded his first major political hurdle from the White House, the passage of the \$787 billion economic stimulus bill, the success is being met with strong applause from the Congressional Black Caucus.

"This package will help businesses create jobs and families afford their bills while laying a foundation for future economic growth in key areas like health care, clean energy, education and a 21st century infrastructure," says U. S. Rep. Barbara Lee (D-Calif.) chair of the Congressional Black Caucus.

The extensive bill passed the Senate Friday night 60-38 only hours after passing the House 246-183 with clear party lines.

Though Obama appeared to try hard to win a bi-partisan agreement, the result is clearly a defeat for past Republican policies.

"The disastrous economic policies of the previous administration - including irresponsible tax cuts for the wealthy and the war in Iraq and deregulation of the financial industry have left our nation in shambles," Lee says in a statement. "Millions of people are living in poverty, without health insurance, and unemployment is through the roof...Our communities of color have been especially hard hit - and it's only getting worse," she said, calling the bill "a positive step in the right direction for our country."

The President was signed the bill in Denver on Tuesday.

House Majority Whip Jim Clyburn describes the new plan as "bold action that President Obama called for. It will create and save 3.5 million jobs, cut taxes for 95 percent of American workers, and strategically



U.S. President Barack Obama signs the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Bill next to U.S. Vice President Joseph Biden at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science February 17, 2009. Obama signed a \$787 billion economic stimulus bill into law on Tuesday as global markets plunged on fears that the recession would deepen despite government action in many countries. (Reuters)



President Barack Obama speaks to a crowd at Dobson High School on in Mesa, Arizona about his \$787 billion stimulus package that will fund infrastructure projects, renewable energy projects, health care, and provide for tax breaks.

transform our economy for years to come."

But, the mission is daunting, he concedes.

"Our economy is shedding 20,000 jobs a day. Just last month nearly 600,000 jobs were slashed, marking the deepest cut in payrolls in 34 years. The unemployment rate in January reached 7.6 percent, the highest level in more than 16 years. Of the top 20 highest months of job loss in America's history, five occurred in the last seven months. It's time to turn those statistics around," he said in a statement.

Among the primary focuses of Black legislators has been the Black unemployment rate, which is 12.9 percent and more than 14 percent for Black males.

Though Lee applauds the bill, she still questions whether it will be enough when President Obama has predicted possible double digit unemployment for all of America before it's all over.

"Given the magnitude of the economic crisis, this bill could and should be much bigger - at least \$1 trillion," Lee said.

Clyburn says the bill was carefully crafted to include relief in African-American

Texas' Stimulus Impact

The White House is forecasting 269,000 jobs will be created in Texas as a result of the stimulus bill signed into law by President Barack Obama on Tuesday. These jobs will primarily be in the construction sector. A list of estimated jobs created by congressional districts nationwide was released. Listed below are selected North Texas districts totaling up to 51,600 possible jobs in the Metroplex.



Congressional District 6, represented by U.S. Rep. Joe Barton, R-Ennis, 8,800 new jobs



Congressional District 24, represented by U.S. Rep. Kenny Marchant, R-Coppell, 9,000 new jobs



Congressional District 3, represented by U.S. Rep. Sam Johnson, R-Plano, 9,700 new jobs



Congressional District 12, represented by U.S. Rep. Kay Granger, R-Fort Worth, 8,800 new jobs



Congressional District 30, represented by U.S. Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson, D-Dallas, 7,800 new jobs



Congressional District 32, represented by U.S. Rep. Pete Sessions, R-Dallas, 7,500 new jobs

communities.

"The last time our country faced an economic crisis of this magnitude, the government's response in large measure omitted the communities that I represent and for which the NAACP advocates," he says. "As we craft-

ed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, we targeted our efforts on traditionally underserved communities and rural communities using census tracks and poverty levels to direct the greatest need. I believe we met the challenge put for-

ward by the NAACP for equity and fairness, and I expect this recovery package to deliver the hand-up that Americans so desperately need."

Lee promises to remain vigilant in legislation to repair the damage.

"Although the American dream has turned into a nightmare for many during this economic crisis," she concludes, "Many people have been living the nightmare for years. So we must continue to fight on their behalf, and we will."

A Different View of *Cuckoo's Nest*

By JOHN MALLORY

LAND

Special Contributor

Contemporary Theatre of Dallas' current rendition of *One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest*, adapted in 1963 by Dale Wasserman from Ken Kesey's 1962 novel, aims to redefine the dynamic fixed in our minds by the landmark film version, starring Jack Nicholson. Chief Bromden (Jim Johnson) introduces us to life on the mental ward: ordered, regimented, controlled. Into this world walks new patient Randle P. McMurphy (Mark Nutter), feigning mental illness to dodge work on the prison farm. His vibrant personality and rebellious attitude immediately begin to shake up the staid, dour atmosphere on the ward, even before he launches into a conscious effort to buck the system.

When this impulse leads to the inevitable butting of heads with Nurse Ratched (Sue Loncar), McMurphy bets his fellow patients that he can "pull her plug," and the course is set. He pushes her buttons with some success, until he learns that she can decide how long he stays - perhaps forever. He discovers that even his attempts to cooperate with the system put him at odds



with Ratched, however, as he is swept toward an ultimate confrontation that will affect them both profoundly.

Under the innovative direction of Marianne Galloway, this staging offers a fresh take on the relationship and its fallout. With charisma and a seemingly sane quality, Mark Nutter makes McMurphy quite sympathetic. Sue Loncar brings a creditable portrayal of Nurse Ratched, giving her a decidedly maternal, rather than cruel, motivation. Hence, our loyalties feel somewhat divided between the two characters.

Randy Pearlman stands out as Dale Harding, the de facto (if reluctant) leader among the patients. Billy Bibbit, a shy, self-conscious young man, is played deftly by Andrews Cope, who makes the character real and compellingly

sympathetic. Because the actors portraying the other patients - Scanlon (Ryan Martin), Cheswick (Nye Cooper), Martini (Andrew Borgeois), and Ruckly (Bubby Selah) - seem to enjoy exploring their characters' idiosyncrasies, we can enjoy them too, although some of the obvious humor here does not help set the foundation for the more serious cataclysm to come.

Overall, the able cast, including taunting aides Warren (Ben Bryant) and Williams (Brian Witkovitz) work well as an ensemble and go far to make the extremes of this world seem plausible. The set, designed by Clare DeVries, convincingly evokes a sense of drab confinement during the mid-twentieth century. This fly by a classic provides a unique perspective and a wild ride.

Rich is back with a new project

By EUNICE MOSELEY

The Pulse of Entertainment

"I started as a staff writer at Laface Records," singer/songwriter/producer Tony Rich said about his career in the music industry. "I penned hits for Boyz II Men, Elton John, Johnny Gil, TLC and Tony Braxton."

Rich was later signed as a recording artist on Laface Records and his first Tony Rich Project was released, "Words." That 1997 debut went platinum and garnered him a Grammy Award as Best R&B Album and two hit singles were released

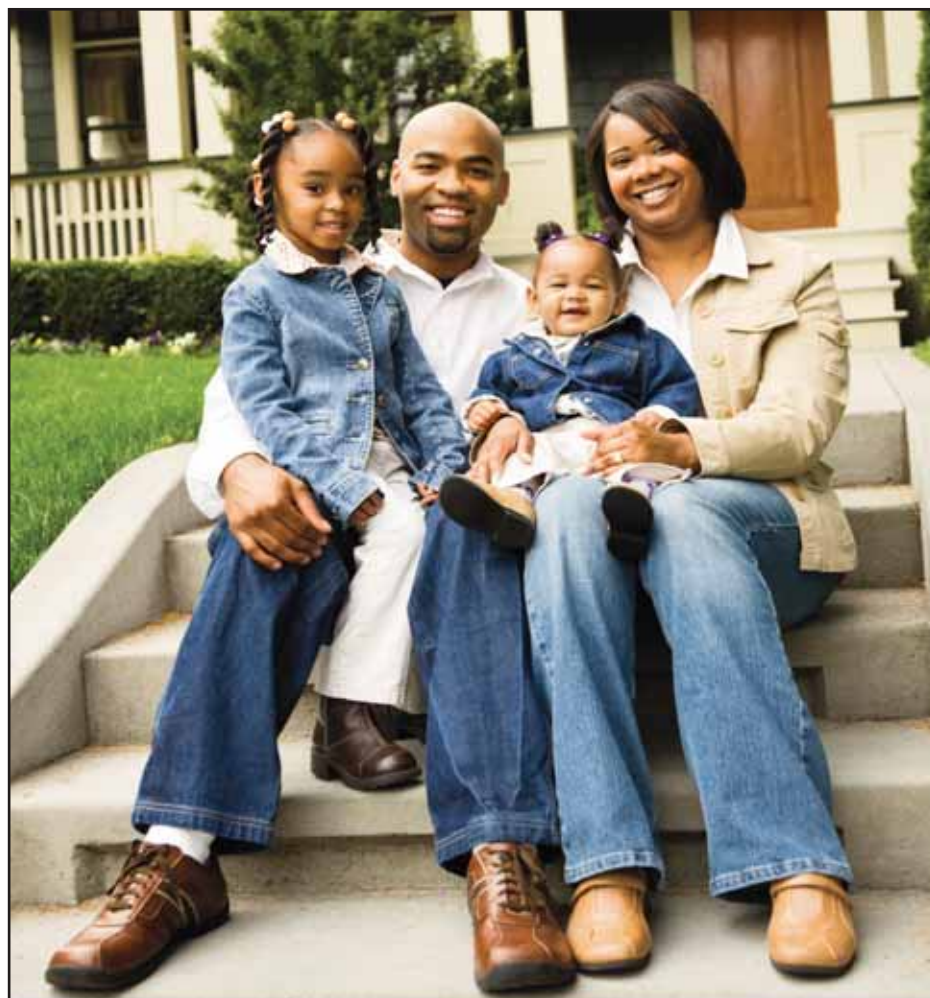
"Nobody Knows," which reached number two and "Like a Woman," which received a Grammy Award nomination. Three more albums were released "Birdseye" in 1998; "Resurrection" in 2003 and in 2006 "Pictures."

Tony called a friend to see how he was doing, that friend was founder and CEO of Hidden Beach Recordings and by the end of the conversation Tony had a recording contract. The Hidden Beach debut, "Exist," has 11 tracks. The first single is "Part the Waves" which was the number one most added single at

Urban radio for its first week of release. The feel and sound of the CD is R&B, Jazz and Soul.

"Most people are not true to themselves," Tony said about his unyielding demand to always be the artist he wants to be and not the artists a label would want him to be. "They build illusions, false perceptions in their music."

The "Exist" CD is a must to get for those who love good songwriting. My favorite cuts on the "Exist" album are "I'm Thinking You Love Me," "Take Me to Jordan," "Sugar Hill," "Sad Day," and "Face the Wind."



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Job Worries? Consider Skills Training

From staff reports

At a time of deepening economic concerns, encouraging more young Texans to get the appropriate training to fill the available positions in the skilled trades becomes even more important than in good times. We need to match skills training to the needs of the modern workplace, and that doesn't necessarily require a four-year college degree.

A college diploma signifies one kind of preparation

for life. Thanks to rapid advances in science and technology, another kind of diploma (just as valuable to society) is a credential certifying that the individual in question has received the training necessary for a particular kind of skilled work.

Whatever we call the certificate, it is significant because it shows that the student has been well prepared to

work in a particular field of endeavor. The name doesn't matter. The stan-

dardized, supervised, preparation it represents is what counts.

More and more Americans are receiving these credentials, but Texas, and the country as a whole, can do a lot more to train the individuals needed to handle the work that is there to be done.

Here's one example. If you want a construction worker trained to the exacting standards of the construction industry, you want to make sure that the person hired has the ability

to do the job. One way to do that is for the worker to have a certificate showing training with the appropriate curriculum designed by an organization like the National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER), in Gainesville, Fla. NCCER is a 12-year-old nonprofit organization created by construction industry leaders to help ensure that tomorrow's workers receive today the specialized training and preparation they need.

NCCER tailored an instruction curriculum to fit standards developed by the industry as a whole. It's a national curriculum, consistent with federal guidelines. And here's the real beauty of it: Graduates acquire portable skills. What qualifies them for work in Texas also qualifies them for comparable work in many other states.

It gets better yet. A document certifying skills training of a higher order is a point of pride for the one

who carries it. It tells the world he or she knows the job and how to do it: the very same message a college diploma is meant to convey.

The construction industry's needs happen to be large, as I was reminded in a recent conversation with Ed Prevatt, senior manager for workforce development at NCCER. According to the NCCER, U.S. schools aren't "preparing young people for the career

See TRAINING, Page 12

ECONOMY, from Page 1

economies all across this country; and we would not be sitting around waiting for the politicians, who have already proven how inept and greedy they are, to pass a stimulus package that won't do diddly-squat for the collective empowerment of Black people.

How can we keep more of our money among ourselves? Glad you asked. Support and grow our own businesses instead of everyone else's. Teach our young people how to create jobs through entrepreneurship rather than merely how to "get a job" that belongs to someone who couldn't care less about their future security.

"But we need something we can do right now, Jim." Here is something, and it is quite timely. Who is preparing your tax return? If there is a Compro Tax Service in your town, or another Black owned tax preparation company where you live, then PLEASE go to them and get your taxes done.

For God's sake! What could be easier? What makes more sense than this simple but empowering way to contribute to our own stimulus package? Like death, taxes are inevitable, but some of us would rather run to every Tom, Dick, and Harry to use their services instead of using our own Black firms.

How sad!

Compro Tax, the largest Black owned tax return Corporation in the country, should be overwhelmed with business right now, and not just from Black people, but from all other groups as well.

They are professionals and, more importantly, they have proven time and again that they are conscious when it comes to financially supporting our communities. The corporate office in Beaumont, Texas, recently completed construction and opened a convention center: The Compro Event Center.

Designed and built by Black architects and builders, wired by a Black owned computer and technology company, staffed and managed by Black folks, catering provided by Black owned companies, and supported by other Black entrepreneurs who rent the retail spaces that are attached to the convention center, the Compro Event Center is the model for other Black businesses to follow.

Because of the foresight and consciousness of its owners, Compro Tax has demonstrated yet again that it is willing to invest in the community by putting its money here its mouth is. How about an event center in every town that has a Compro tax office?

During its grand opening in December 2008, esteemed Professor and Psychologist, Dr. Na'im Akbar and the talented young "Master Teacher" from Atlanta, Chike Akua, followed by the "Networking Guru," George Fraser, were the featured speakers at the weekend "Christening" event.

Another way we can "keep our dollars circulating among ourselves" for a while longer, is by using conscious speakers who also have demonstrated a willingness to "give back."

So, find a Compro Tax office and let them do your taxes; and don't fall for the heart-rending commercials with Black spokespersons that are currently running on television. Where are these companies when the tax season ends? What are they building in your neighborhood that will provide a job or a contract for your people?

Leave them alone and support your own. Create your own economic stimulus.

Here's another way. Support the education of your children by doing what Oprah did for the school in Atlanta.

Her check for \$365,000 was a drop in the bucket for Oprah, but many drops into the buckets of our local African-Centered schools, put there by Black people

who want our children to be properly and consciously educated, can go far to improve our lot. Determine what your particular "drop in the bucket" is and send a donation; the future result will surely be a self-supported economic stimulus for our children.

Right now, there is a capital campaign being headed by Roger Madison (www.izania.com) and Keidi Awadu (www.libradio.com), who reside in Ohio and California, respectively, in support of the Joseph Little School in West Palm Beach Florida.

How's that for "stepping up"? You want to do something to help stimulate our own economy? Invest a drop or two into the Joseph Little's bucket.

I get so tired of hearing us complain about not being able to do things for ourselves. Surely there is something you can do to stimulate your local Black economy, or even that of a city in which you do not reside.

Just look around, make the commitment and follow through on it by supporting your own businesses and educational institutions. You may not be an Oprah, but I believe that we have a lot of little Oprah's who can, if only we would, combine our individual dollars and pro-

vide an economic stimulus nationally. Try it; it may become a great habit.

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Ahmad Abdallas, CEO & Founder
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Good Condition

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Sears Brings Back Layaway

From staff reports

Responding to savvy consumers who want to continue to manage their finances in the New Year while taking care of their families' needs, Sears announced it will offer its layaway program year-round. Just as it did during the holiday season, Sears will enable

customers to reserve Sears' best merchandise, pay in installments and pick up the items within 90 days.

"The response to Sears' offering layaway over the holidays was quite positive, and as a result, we decided to extend into 2009," said Don Hamblen, Sears' chief marketing officer. "The feedback

from shoppers was incredible. By offering great values and an affordable way to pay for their purchases with layaway, we are confident that customers will be able to continue to give their families the things they want and deserve in the New Year."

Merchandise from a wide selection of Craftsman* tools and stor-

age, lawn & garden equipment, and patio furniture for spring and summer, as well as the well-respected Lands' End and Ty Pennington lines, along with jewelry and fitness equipment to fit every need are eligible for layaway.

Please visit sears.com/layaway for more information.

TRAINING, continued from Page 11

opportunities that are available in our workplace."

The NCCR study points out that "28 percent of today's ninth-graders will complete college, but only 20 percent of the jobs will require a four-year degree ... 32 percent of the population will have the necessary skills that 65 percent of the jobs will require." Prevatt told me 275,000 construction jobs go unfilled every year due to

the lack of worker training. And that's before the baby boomers, some 75 million strong, begin retiring in large numbers. Prevatt also told me about a study which shows that high school graduates with NCCER training earn, over a lifetime, \$375,000 more than they would have otherwise.

What works in construction would work with all skilled trades. And, by

the way, nearly all trades and occupations these days require skilled workers. Technology sets the pace. Gone are the days when a strong back was all the qualification one needed for many American jobs. Nuclear development, nursing, refinery operation, computer science – the whole roster of modern jobs – requires a knowledge of the basics combined with appropriate

skills training.

Job preparation, under the model I am talking about, can be tied to an existing secondary school, community college, or qualified job training provider. The time necessary to complete it can be a matter of months or two years or more, depending on the difficulty or technical nature of the particular job. Flexibility counts.

A good job is a goal that

any successful society strives to make available. Having a recognizable skill and using one's talents to fill needed demands in the workforce is my definition of a good job. Work boosts the worker's morale, gives a sense of purpose in life, and a reason to get out of bed in the morning. In addition, proficiency in a skilled trade can become a path to a secure economic future, even in

difficult times that we are currently facing.

It's high time we got over the notion that a four-year college degree is the only piece of paper that shows a man's or woman's readiness for success and achievement. No well-trained worker is a second-class citizen. He or she is a contributor to the economic well-being of our society and to the long-term good of the place called home.

JEFFERSON, continued from Page 5

because of the economy. Jefferson also mentioned a need for state wide reform and the need for an independent commission to study wrongful convictions.

Lastly, Chief Justice Jefferson spoke about Texas' election system for judges. He advocates that the State move away from a full election based system and move

towards a merit based system, where judges would be appointed to their position. His reasoning is that campaign contributions can potentially sway a judge's decision if the contributor appears in court.

Additionally, he said that a political party affiliation, instead of the quality of a person's character, has a

large role in electing judges.

"Justice must be blind" he says. Adding, "I commend any innovation in which the goals are to recruit and retain qualified judges and to reduce the role of money in judicial campaigns."

Currently, Texas is 1 of 7 remaining states that hold

traditional elections for judges.

Also at the Capitol, on Thursday, February 12th, House Speaker Joe Straus appointed Representative Craig Eiland as Speaker Pro Tempore. Straus also appointed all House committee members and created the House Select Committee on Federal

Economic Stabilization Funding.

This committee is to "monitor actions of the Federal Government," and their goal is "to promote federal funding to the State." The committee has nine members who are to focus their efforts on gaining federal funding for health care, transportation, education, and

monitor other states to see how much funding they get and for what purposes.

The House Appropriations Committee began work immediately by starting hearings on the general revenue estimate for the state, expected Federal funding, supplemental needs, and Hurricane Ike costs and recovery.

DAVIS, continued from Page 1

nomination for best actress in a supporting role for *Doubt*.

Davis recognized the role as Mrs. Miller was a much sought after job.

"Every black actress in America was auditioning for this role," including Oprah Winfrey according to Davis. Ultimately she and six other performers completed a screen test in full costume and make-up in New York. Once she learned of her selection, rehearsals began the next day.

The prospect was exciting but also terrifying for Davis, she felt this performance would be a key hallmark for her career. "Either I will be a great failure or great success,"

is how Davis described her options.

However, Davis acknowledged that options are something Black actresses have too little of in Hollywood. Although she is a lovely woman, Davis is not offered the same type of roles the more fair skin Halle Berry receives. She is often portrayed as plump, wearing unattractive clothing and occasionally suffering from alcohol or drug abuse.

When asked how she feels about this dual system for black women in Hollywood, Davis candidly shares, "It bothers me." Unfortunately black women with darker

skin tone "cannot be the girl next door, or even anything in the neighborhood of attractive," this according to Hollywood images. She worries this could result in a, "cap to my career. How far can you go, what do you do?" Davis asks.

A reflective Davis wonders aloud, "Do people see me? I'm shy and quirky, things not attributed to black women. You do not see that on the screen. Yet she is me."

Not one to sit back and wait, Davis is developing a plan and it includes writing and producing. However, she does not have any ambition to direct. Davis laughs, and

shares she does not want to work with an actor like herself, "neurotic and needy."

In *Doubt*, Davis really has only one scene but it is a pivotal moment in the film. When asked if she modeled Mrs. Miller as someone in her life, she promptly replies her mother.

"In 1965 our family moved from South Carolina to Rhode Island." There Davis' family was not only the only black family but they also were not Catholics. Davis shared, "I watched my mother have to fight doctors wanting to do experiments on me and neighbors who saw us as bad influences because

we were black." Her mother had to contend with, "teachers who did not see us as intelligent." Those memories show through in the determination of Mrs. Miller to fight for her son in the film.

Although many refer to Davis' portrayal as Mrs. Miller as a breakout performance, actually she is not a newcomer to film or the stage. Davis simply is not a household name - yet. She was awarded the 2001 Tony Award for Best Performance by a Featured Actress in a Play for her portrayal of Tonya in *King Hedley II*.

Davis does not mind the lack of recognition by the public at this stage in her career. She is a consummate thespian and it is work she greatly enjoys. The awards and accolades are wonderful, and she described the experience as "an overwhelming sense of accomplishment." Davis is living her dream because she knew at an early age she, "wanted to be an actor at all costs."

Davis is crossing her fingers that Tony will have a new friend, Oscar after Sunday night. The Academy Awards will be broadcast on ABC-TV (WFAA Channel 8) beginning at 7:00 p.m.

5 Ways to Stimulate U.S. Employment for Only \$15

Based on the book, "Guerrilla Marketing for Job Hunters 2.0" (Wiley, May 2009), author David E. Perry and contributing author Kevin Donlin reveal 5 free and low-cost ways people can get hired fast.

"More important than positive thinking is positive action. In our 35 years of combined experience, we've found that job hunters can get hired faster if they do just a few things differently," says Donlin.

The 5 Guerrilla Job Search methods are as follows:

1. Start sending sales letters to employers. Job seekers

should take a cue from sales letters and include a P.S. at the end of every cover letter. Why? The P.S. always gets read, so it's a perfect place to include a provocative statement for employers to see, even if they skim the letter. Cost: Free.

2. Use testimonials in your resume. The easiest and most-effective way to sell yourself to employers is to let others sell you via testimonials - just as infomercials do. Get testimonials from your LinkedIn profile, letters of recommendation, emails from happy customers, or annual performance reviews.

3. Start working before you're hired. The easiest way to ace an interview is to demonstrate your skills.

4. Use thank-you notes - differently. What comes in small, square envelopes? Invitations and thank-you notes. Both are good things. If you mail your resume inside a thank-you note, the employer will be smiling expectantly as s/he opens the envelope. Your note can begin, "Thank you for reading my resume!" And you gain an instant advantage over other job seekers. Cost: \$0.42 for a stamp.

5. The final Guerrilla Job

Search tactic costs about \$15. It produces phone interviews with employers in approximately 66% of cases, is 100% legal, 95% non-fattening, and eliminates all competition from ordinary job seekers.



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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 0095-13-028 for LANDSCAPE DEVELOPMENT in DALLAS County will be opened on March 11, 2009 at 1:00 pm at the State Office.

Contract 0442-02-147 for PVMNT REPAIR AND COLUMN PROTECTOR in DALLAS County will be opened on March 10, 2009 at 1:00 pm at the State Office.

Plans and specifications are available for inspection, along with bidding proposals, and applications for the TxDOT Prequalified Contractor's list, at the applicable State and/or Dist/Div Offices listed below. If applicable, bidders must submit prequalification information to TxDOT at least 10 days prior to the bid date to be eligible to bid on a project. Prequalification materials may be requested from the State Office listed below. Plans for the above contract(s) are available from TxDOT's website at www.txdot.gov and from reproduction companies at the expense of the contractor. NPO: 28965

State Office

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

Dist/Div Office(s)

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

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

CARROLLTON TEXAS

CITY OF CARROLLTON

Alternate School Crossing Guard
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Maintenance Worker I - Grounds Maintenance
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Maintenance Worker II - Drainage
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PW Heavy Equipment Operator - Wastewater
Student Intern II - Public Works - GIS
Student Intern II - Public Works - Maintenance
Swim Instructor
Swimming Pool Attendant
Telecommunications Dispatcher

Workforce Services 1945 E. Jackson Road
Carrollton, TX 75011-0535
Direct Line: (972) 466-3090

Website: <http://www.cityofcarrollton.com>
•You must apply online via our website
Equal Opportunity Employer

Church Happenings

ALLEN COMMUNITY CHURCH

February 22, 10:15 am

Join us as we present "The Black Family Making History." Message is, "The Power of the Black Woman."

Rev. Dave Jenkins,
Senior Pastor
1501 S. Jupiter Road
Allen, TX 75002
972-390-2746

DELTA SIGMA THETA NORTH DALLAS ALUMNAE CHAPTER

Now through April 18, 2009

In conjunction with the Delta Sorority, the IRS, United Way, and the City of Dallas, will offer taxpayers with \$40,000 or less income in 2008, or any senior citizen FREE tax preparation each Saturday in February, March and April @ the Willie B. Johnson Recreation Center, 12225 Willowdell Drive in the Hamilton Park Community from 9:30 am to 2 pm. You must bring a photo I.D.; a W-2 Form for 2008; Form 1099; a copy Social Security card; and any other information concerning their income and expenses for the year of 2008.

Carolyn Matthews,
Chapter President
P.O. Box 8306004
Richardson, TX 75083-001
214-452-7835

FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH OF ALLEN "THE SHIP"

ON GOING, 9 am-4 pm
Monday-Friday

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

In February 2009
Wednesdays, 7 pm

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

February 20 & 29, 7 pm

Mark your calendar for Friday nights in recognition of Black History Month with our Annual "Black History Cinema" at our main campus, 200 Belmont Drive in Allen. Enjoy a FREE movie, receive a Black History overview and enjoy some FREE refreshments. You don't want to miss Friday nights at "The Ship!"

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 24-27, 7:30 pm

Join us for a 4-Night City Revival with Bishop G.D. Crawford, FOBC Ministries; Bishop D.C. Thompson, Miracle Temple Church in Dallas; Elder Steve Cornett, The Potter's House, Dallas; and Pastor Lee Sherrell, Owner/Operator of Access Channel 34 in Dallas. Theme: Pursue, Overtake and Without Fail, Recover All."

Bishop Gregory D. Crawford
Founder & Senior Pastor
3121 Nandina Drive
Dallas, TX 75241
214-780-7856

FRIENDSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH, THE COLONY

On Going Tutoring, 7 pm

Monday nights for Math & English, and Wednesday nights (only) for Math.

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

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY OF S. COLLIN COUNTY

March 7, 6:30 pm

Join us for a "Building Foundations Building Lives Samsung 2009 Gala & Casino Night @ the Radisson Hotel, Campbell & Central Expressway in Richardson, TX. This will be an evening of fun to benefit a great organization. There will be a reception, a live and silent auction, gourmet meal and a casino night. Black tie is optional. Auction items include hotel stays in New York, Hawaii and Santa Fe; a two bedroom Ocean Reef condo in Key Largo for four days. Call Scott Blair @ 214-405-3134 for details and sponsorship opportunities.

P. O. Box 868117
Plano, TX 75086
214-405-3134

MOUNT GILEAD BAPTIST CHURCH

February 22, 5 pm

Join us for our Worship Celebration, "Songs in the Night" Musical in culmination of Black History Month with Director Mark Davis from Shiloh MBC in Ft. Worth; Dr. Albert Chew is the Pastor.

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

SANCTUARY OF PRAISE FELLOWSHIP OF PLANO

February 22, 10:30 am

Join us for "Soul Food Sunday 2009 - A Celebration of African-American Culture, Food and Worship. We'll have music, speakers, African Dancing and more. Call the church for details.

Rev. John Wilson, III
Pastor
1318 J Avenue
Plano, TX 75074

469-853-2380

SHILOH MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH, PLANO

March 7, 9 am - Noon

Don't miss our celebration of National Women's History Month. Church and community leaders, along with young women professionals, which

include medicine, engineering, law, computer science, pharmacy and accounting, will attend. Black authors will share important facts. Call the church for details.

Dr. Isiah Joshua, Jr.
Senior Pastor
920 14TH Street
Plano, TX 75074
972-423-6695

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PRIME BURIAL LOTS FOR SALE

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

FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH OF ALLEN

For Kingdom Building
200 BELMONT DRIVE - ALLEN, TX 75013
(972) 359-9956 - www.fbcfallen.org



Sunday Morning Services
8:15AM Story Elementary
10:45AM Story Elementary
1550 Edelweiss - Allen, Tx

Wednesday Night Live
Wed Prayer Service / Bible Study
7:00 PM
200 Belmont Dr - Allen, Tx



Pastor W.L. Stafford Sr.
Lady Tasha Stafford

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Sunday School 9:30AM
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Sunday Morning Worship

10:00 am

Wednesday Nights

7:15 pm

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Hill Chapel

Christian Methodist Episcopal Church
1113 Ave. I, Plano, TX 75074 (972) 423-4090
Rev. Clarence J. Ford, Jr., Pastor

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





Sister Tarpley

Black History is a continuing strength in our society. Society is reminded of the great contributions made by African Americans.

Some distinguished Blacks: Richard Allen, organizer and first Bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church (AME). James Armistead a Black American spy; born a slave was a valuable intelligence agent during the Revolution by gathering information concerning British forces at Portsmouth, VA. George Bonga a Black American trader of considerable wealth, served as interpreter at the signing of the Chippewa Treaty of 1837.

Ambrose Caliver was a senior specialist in the education of Blacks in the U.S. Office of Education from 1930 to 1946. He initiated and directed the FERA and

Distinguished Black Americans

WPA emergency education programs under the New Deal; created and directed "Freedom's People"

a series of nationwide radio broadcasts on the participation of Blacks in American life. George Carruthers, a Physicist, one of the two naval research laboratory persons responsible for the Apollo 16 lunar surface camera/spectrograph which was placed on the lunar surface in 1972.

Elmer Simms Campbell, a master cartoonist of sophisticated humor for Esquire and Playboy magazines. His art also appeared in hundreds of newspapers and magazines as a syndicated feature. Albert Cassell, an Architect, he worked on the construction of five buildings at Tuskegee Institute; as a draftsman, he was responsible for designing an industrial plan for the manufacture of silk.

William Tucker was the

first Black child born in America in 1624. Captain B. Collins patented the portable electric light in 1938. Prince Hall petitioned the city of Boston to establish schools for Black children equal in quality to those for white students in 1787. John Rock was the first Black to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court in 1865.

Andrew "Rube" Foster organized the first Black baseball league – the Negro National League in 1920. In 1997, Vernon Baker became the only living Black person to receive the Medal of Honor for WWII. In 1944, Matthew Henson receives a medal from Congress as co-discover of the North Pole. In 1844, Richard Greener became the first Black to graduate from Harvard University.

Henry Lewis in 1968 became the first Black conductor to lead a symphony orchestra. John Lee in 1947 became the first Black

commissioned officer in the U.S. Navy.

John Matzeliger receives a patent for the shoe-lasting machine that allowed the bottom of the shoe to be attached to the top of the shoe without hand stitching in 1883. Hank Aaron, a Black man, breaks Babe Ruth's major league record with his 715th home room in 1974. Jackie Robinson becomes the first Black major league baseball player in 1947.

The first Black newspaper "Freedom's Journal" is published in New York in 1827. The first Black Masonic Lodge in the U.S. was formed in 1787. In 1619 the first groups of Africans are forcibly settled in U.S.A.

Black Inventions: Peter Hill, born a slave, was a highly skilled clock maker; only the most skilled craftspeople could create one. Two of the clocks Hill made still exist today. One is in the Westtown School in



(L to R): Pastor Gregory Voss, Word of Life Church, Carrollton, TX; Pastor Paul Jackson, Shiloh COGIC, Melissa, TX; Supt. Clarence Harden, Trinity Temple COGIC, Gainesville, TX; and Pastor Charles Niblet, Greater Harvest North, Sherman, TX; four pastors conducting a Quad-County Fellowship Baptism Service of 31 individuals.

Westtown, Pennsylvania. The other is in the National Museum of History and Technology at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. Inventor Thomas Martin receives a patent for the Fire Extinguisher in 1872.

Andrew Jackson Beard lost his leg by crushing it between two railroad cars, while linking them together. Beard then created a device

to hook cars together automatically; it became the model for a national standardized linking mechanism. Paul Boli in 1955 invented the first heart pacemaker. On the other hand, Otis Boykin created an electrical mechanism as a regulating unit for it. Raised in Dallas, TX, Boykin device uses electrical impulses to maintain a steady heart beat.

Soles4souls Announces Partnership With Liberty Tax

From staff reports

Soles4Souls, the international charity dedicated to providing free footwear to those in desperate need, announced the creation of a national partnership with Liberty Tax Services.

Customers can use coupons to receive a \$20 discount on their 2008 tax services and Liberty Tax will donate an additional \$20 to Soles4Souls for each coupon used. In addition, at participating locations customers will be

able to donate their "gently worn" pairs of shoes. Visit www.giveshoes.org to find a participating location near you. All shoes donated will go directly to helping needy people around the world.

"Our Liberty Tax team is

energized to help this worthy cause by creating a buzz in our offices and communities that will generate collections, donations and further national awareness for Soles4Souls," said John Hewitt, CEO and Founder of Liberty Tax.

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



Rev. Robert Townsend, Pastor



Come Experience A Church that Believes in Giving God Excellence Without Excuse

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

Office Hours

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

Contact Info

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

Ben Washington Baptist Church, Inc.
3901 Frisco Avenue
Irving, TX 75061
Church 972-710-8421 Fax 972-986-6590
Email: church@bwbcriving.org
Web: bwbcriving.org
Dr. Joseph R. Shoppard, Pastor
"THE CHURCH WITH AN OPEN BIBLE"

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES	WEDNESDAYS
(8 am & 11 am)	12 pm: Bible Study
9:45 am: Sunday School	7 pm: Prayer
6:00 pm: Baptist Training Union	7:30 pm: Bible Study

Temple of Faith Christian Chapel C.M.E. Church
"Where Jesus is the Main Attraction"

Sunday Worship Experience - 8:00 am & 10:45 am
Wednesday Bible Study - 12:00 Noon & 7:00 pm

14120 Noel Road • Dallas, TX 75254
972-239-1120 (Office) • 972-239-5925 (Fax)
templeoffaith_cme@sbcglobal.net (Email)

Dr. Jerome E. McNeil, Jr., Pastor

Healthy Beginnings Child Development Center - 972-404-1412

Casual Contemporary Fresh

THE *Eirene!* EXPERIENCE

Come see for yourself!

701 E. Centennial Blvd
Richardson, TX 75081
972.991.0200
www.followpeace.org

Two Sunday Worship Times
8:00am & 10:30am
Wednesday Night Bible 7:30pm

Friendship Baptist Church
4396 Main Street The Colony, Texas 75056
(972) 625-8186
website: www.fbc-online.net

Schedule of Services:

Sunday
Early Morning Worship-8:00 a.m.
Sunday School Classes-9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship-11:00 a.m.

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"

Black History Month Events

Afrikan Storyteller Melody "AFI" Bell will cast her storytelling magic at the Richardson Public Library at 3-4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 21. "AFI" will present traditional African tales accompanied by songs and African instruments.

Formerly a DISD special education teacher, AFI currently is a full time storyteller traveling across the Southwest. The whole family is invited to this free storytelling performance in the Library's Basement Program Room. For more information call the Library at 972-744-4350.

Soul Food Dinner on Sunday, February 22, 12 Noon—4:00 P.M. for \$10.00 at Michelle's Homestyle Cooking 9203 Skillman Street Dallas, Texas 75243 (214) 341-6315

The Women's Empowerment Read-In will be hosted by Sherry Bronson, TV Host, speaker, and author at the La Madeleine French Bakery and Restaurant located at 1320 W. Campbell Road, Richardson, TX 75080 on Saturday, February 28, 2009. The event is scheduled for 1:00pm - 3:00pm. There is no cost to attend

and each attendee will receive a free gift bag.

Lunch is available for purchase at the restaurant, everyone is invited to bring their favorite book. Mothers are invited to bring their teenage daughters. For more information contact Shaniqua Neal at promotions@sherrybron-

son.com or (214) 315-2298.

DBDT Announces 2009 Cultural Awareness Series

The Dallas Black Dance Theatre announces Cultural Awareness Series February 27-28 at Dallas' Majestic Theatre. For over 20 years, Dallas Black Dance Theatre's Cultural Awareness Series has cele-

brated Black History Month for the Dallas Metroplex. Richard Holt, President, Bank of America says, "Bank of America is pleased to support Dallas Black Dance Theatre's Cultural Awareness Series and its educational outreach programs that provide youth with creative learning opportunities and access to the arts."

You will not want to miss

this performance. Dallas Black Dance Theatre has celebrated Cultural Awareness for over 20 years. "In recognition of the African-American heritage, Dallas Black Dance Theatre dedicates this series to creating artistic excellence with our trademark style of heart and technique," says Ann Williams, Founder/Artistic Director.

Join us for our sermon series: **The Black Family Making History**



Pastor Dave Jenkins, Jr.



ALLEN COMMUNITY Church

Sunday School.....9:30am
Morning Worship.....10:45am

Prayer/Bible Study.....7:00pm (Wed)

Teaching the Word with *Compassion not Compromise!*!"

1501 South Jupiter Rd. Allen, Texas 75002 972-390-2746



Dr. Leslie W Smith, Senior Pastor

NORTH DALLAS COMMUNITY BIBLE FELLOWSHIP

"A Spiritual Oasis for a Thirsty World" Isaiah 55:1

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES:
8:00 AM • 9:30 AM • 11:30 AM

972-437-3493

1010-1020 South Sherman Street • Richardson, TX 75081

www.ndcbf.org

New Mt. Zion Baptist Church of Dallas

Sunday Service
Morning Worship
7:30 am & 10:30 am
9:00 am Sunday School

Monday Service
Men's Ministry 7:00 pm
Women's Ministry 7:00 pm
Young Adult Ministry 7:00 pm

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



Dr. Robert E. Price, Sr. Senior Pastor

A Praying Church Family
"Watchmen on the Walls"

214-341-6459 (Phone) • 214-342-8403 (Fax)
9550 Shepard Road
Dallas, TX 75243

www.nmzb.org (Website) • newmzbc@aol.com (Email)

Avenue F Church of Christ
1026 Avenue F • Plano, TX 75074 • 972-423-8833
"Striving Towards the Pearly Gates in 2009"
(Revelation 22:14)

Early Sunday Morning8:00 am
Sunday Bible Class9:45 am
Sunday Morning Worship10:45 am
Men Bible Class5:00 pm
Women Bible Class5:00 pm
Evening Worship6:00 pm
Wednesday Bible Class7:00 pm
Radio Program @ 7:30 am on KHVN 970 AM Sunday Mornings

Ramon Hodridge, Minister

www.avefchurchofchrist.org

The Inspiring Body of Christ Church
7710 S. Westmoreland Rd.
Dallas Texas 75237
Phone: 972-572-4262 Fax: 972-709-3888

Sunday Services: 7:30 am, 10:00 am, 12:30pm.
Monday School: 7pm
Men's Fellowship: Friday 7:00pm

Pastor Rickie G Rash

Website: www.ibocjoy.org

Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church
920 E. 14th Street Plano, TX

Pastor Isiah Joshua, Jr.

FANNING THE FLAMES OF OUR FAITH

Sunday Worship Services 8AM & 11AM

Sunday	9:45AM Sunday School
Monday	7PM Youth, Brotherhood, Mission & Young Adult Ministries
Tuesday	7PM Bible Study & Men's Choir
Wednesday	7PM Mid-Week Service
Thursday	7PM Mass Choir

For more information call (972) 423-6695
www.shilohbaptistchurch.org

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

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF HAMILTON PARK

Dr. Gregory Foster Senior Pastor
Rev. Anthony Foster Pastor

Our Mission
To fulfill The Great Commission until Christ comes.

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

Promiseland Television Network Broadcast - KTAQ-TV
"WALKING IN THE WORD"
Weekly 30 minute broadcasts, each Saturday at 5pm and Sunday at 4pm

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

Sunday
Education Ministries - 9:30 a.m. • Worship Celebration - 11:00 am.
- Nursery Facilities Available -

Wednesday Family Ministries... 7:00 p.m.

Friendly Fellowship with A Family Focus
For More Information Call 972.542.6178
www.saintmarkbc.com • themark07@yahoo.com