

North Dallas Gazette



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Governor Rick Perry and Houston Mayor Bill White headed to showdown in November



Bill White

BY RUTH FERGUSON
NDG EDITOR

In what was initially thought unlikely, Governor Rick Perry handily won 51 percent of the votes cast in the Republican primary on Tuesday. Earlier in the race many expected Senator Kay

Bailey Hutchinson to prove more a challenge to Gov. Perry.

Three primary factors that experts believe helped Perry were: Hutchinson's indecisiveness in resigning from her senate seat. She continually postponed re-

signing and ultimately decided against it; the anti-Washington sentiment particularly with members of Congress and the influence of Tea Party candidate Debra Medina, who captured 18 percent of the votes.

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SPOTLIGHT

Charter schools closing the achievement gap among minority students



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Patti LaBelle: A force to be reckoned with



Patti LaBelle

BY M DEE DUBROFF
NDG SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR

Patti (Patsy) LaBelle was born Patricia Louise Holte in Philadelphia, PA, on May 24, 1944. She is the third of four daughters, and is the only one of her siblings to reach fifty years of age. Her three sisters died of heart disease, her father of Alzheimer's and her

mother of diabetes, a family legacy that found its deadly way to her doorstep as well. Her childhood was painfully marked by domestic violence and sexual abuse, and her parents divorced when she was only twelve.

This highly successful soul singer-song writer and actress began singing in a Baptist choir at an early

age, and in 1960 teamed with friend, Cindy Birdsong, to form a singing group known as the Ordettes. Her name change came in 1965 when as the lead singer of this group, the boss of Newtown records considered her "too plain, too dark and unat-

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Dallas 2010 Auto Show
has a Green Theme

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

COMMENTARY

Economics is local

BY JAMES CLINGMAN
(NNPA) The economic problems we face are right in our own backyards. Unfortunately, until our problems reach crisis level we are content to engage in spirited conversations and philosophical diatribes about the likes of Tiger Woods, a billionaire who could not care less about the economic plight of Black people. We live vicariously through super rich entertainers, many of whom would not even stop to shake hands with us if

we met them on the street. We get lost in the euphoria of having a Black President, arguing about his issues and his battles in DC, rather than dealing with our own in hometown USA.

With Black unemployment hovering between 35 percent-50 percent in our neighborhoods, with what many are calling "economic apartheid" when it comes to inclusion policies that simply exclude Black businesses and employees

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Frisco selected as new host site for NCAA Division I Football National Championship game

(NDG Wire) Frisco is the new host city for the 2010 NCAA Division I Football Championship game, which will played at Pizza Hut Park on January 7, 2011. The NCAA announced earlier today that the 23,500-seat multi-pur-

pose stadium will be the host site for the championship game for the next three years.

"Touchdown! We can't wait for college football to come to Frisco," said Mayor Maher Maso.

"Frisco is a sports town

and a Division I Football Championship is another chance for sports fans everywhere to not only experience great football but to also discover all our community has to offer. We also want to thank folks from all over the country

who supported our bid effort."

Less than five weeks ago, Frisco launched an online pledge drive inviting football fans to show their support for the effort to

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People In The News...



Carlos Phillips



Katie Schniebs



Krista Villarreal

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Carlos Phillips

Carlos Phillips was heartbroken and once loath the ideal of marriage because of his 2000 divorce.



He did what he feels most men do when they give into the ultimate commitment, only to have it shattered, cut his emotions off. Fortunately, he was able to process his torn marriage over the years through talking with other men who were hurt from their divorces.

"It seems like 2000 was a big year for divorce," Phillips

says, "So I decided to write a book about my experiences with divorce which could primarily help men heal from a divorce."

And in 2007, *Healed Without Scars* conceptualized. The seven chapter self-help book is a dedicated to establishing several principles men need in order to effectively move past the pain of divorce mentally and heal. Phillips took an additional two years to write the book and in February 2010 the book went to the printers and is ready for readers of all walks of life.

"It took me a while to

finally start writing *Healed Without Scars* because I was still processing my divorce and my emotions of being divorced," admits Phillips. "I had to get into the mindset that I could actually help men who were hurting like me."

In response to him encouraging divorced men and speaking with women who wanted to date a divorced man, Phillips developed an eight week divorce recovery course, *Healed Without Scars*, at the Hamilton Park Methodist Church.

"The eight week course was designed so I can have

a more intimate setting to speak with men and women, if they choose to attend, who are hurt and angry because of their divorce," Phillips stated.

"Although *Healed Without Scars* was written for me I addressed issues women might find challenging when dating a man who is divorced," adds Phillips.

"For the women who read this book, they will understand how to interact, date and possibly marry a man who has experienced divorce."

Healed Without Scars also focuses on dating, intimacy and the children who

are also involved in a divorce. "It was important that I looked at divorce through the eyes of the children. I wanted to say, 'Hey stop what you are doing (if you are bickering and fighting) and see what the kids are seeing'," Phillips confesses.

Phillips is currently in ministry school through the Potter's House and hopes to increase his self-help books into assisting single mothers with raising sons.

For information on the book, classes and other events visit www.healed-withoutscarsministries.org.

Katie Schniebs

Texas Woman's University (TWU) student Katie Schniebs is one of only 20 undergraduate students in the nation to receive a \$40,000 scholarship from the NASA Aeronautics Scholarship Program.

Schniebs, a senior, is enrolled in the University of North Texas and TWU dual degree program for engineering and math. She is majoring in math at TWU and electrical engineering at Univer-

sity of North Texas (UNT).

"I never dreamed a scholarship like this could be a possibility for me," said Schniebs of Springtown. "The opportunities that this scholarship provides, including the internship at NASA, will be invaluable for my future career in engineering."

As part of her scholarship award, Schniebs will participate in a funded internship at the NASA Ames Research Center in San Jose, Calif. this

summer.

"When one of our students receives a national scholarship like this, it speaks to the quality of a TWU education and our mathematics program," said Dr. Don Edwards, chair of the TWU department of mathematics and computer science. "Katie is one of our exceptional students, and I am extremely proud of her for receiving this scholarship. I know she has a bright future ahead of her."

The NASA Aeronautics Scholarship program awards



Photo by Ronda DuTeil

scholarships for two years to aid students enrolled in fields of study with applications promising to aeronautics.

Work conducted at NASA's Aeronautics Research Mission Directorate (ARMD) is directed toward enhancing the state of aeronautics for the nation, transforming the nation's air transportation system, and developing the knowledge, tools, and technologies to support future air and space vehicles. The ARMD focus is on cutting-edge, fundamental research in traditional aeronautical disciplines, as well as emerging fields with promising application to aeronautics.

In addition to their scholarships, students participate in funded internships with NASA researchers and directly work on projects such as managing air traffic more efficiently, improving safety and reducing emissions and noise. For more information, visit <http://nasa.asee.org/>.

In 2006, UNT and Texas Woman's University began the dual degree program for engineering and math, which allows students to attend both universities and simultaneously receive bachelor's degrees from both schools.

Krista Villarreal

This week NewsRadio 1080 KRLD-AM announced a new lead Meteorologist Krista Villarreal. Villarreal will lead the weather department seven days a week and increase the already great KRLD weather coverage of North Texas. She can be heard on 1080 AM, 105.3 HD2 and on the web at www.krld.com.

A north Texas native, credentials include a B.S. and an MBA in Meteorology, the American Meteorological Society "Seal of Approval" for Broadcasters and credentialed in emergency disaster response through the Department of Homeland Security. Villarreal is currently training as a member of the North Central Texas Incident Management Team.

Villarreal grew up in Denton County and was inspired to become a meteorologist at the age of 7 after experiencing first-hand the region's record 1981 flooding from the remnants of Pa-



cific Hurricane Norma. She explains, "My school in Argyle was evacuated and I was carried out - that makes quite an impression on a 2nd grader. I was fascinated by weather, especially tornadoes, and after reading about the Wichita Falls Monster

F4 in my Weekly Reader, I was hooked!"

Villarreal is not new to local viewers. She began her weather career at the National Weather Service Forecast Office in Fort Worth and became the "voice of NOAA Weather Radio". She moved to television in 1999 becoming the weekend morning meteorologist at KXAS (NBC) in Dallas. While working for KXAS Villarreal was the weekend weather for six years.

In January 2005 Krista joined WPXI (NBC) in Pittsburgh as the weekday morning meteorologist and learned the finer points of forecasting lake-effect snow - and LOTS of it. She offers, "if you need to know anything about the Steelers, Punxsutawney Phil or "Yinzers" (Google it!) I

can probably answer it for you."

Krista really enjoyed the beauty of western Pennsylvania, but is excited to be back home in Texas.

She left the station to return to Texas after her husband accepted a new job in the area.

"With KRLD leading the way with continuous weather coverage, we are proud to have Krista as part of the live and local team to add to the long heritage of being the number one weather choice of North Texas," said Vice-President and Program Director Kurt Johnson.

Krista lives with her husband and young daughter, Abigail, in eastern Tarrant County. Her husband, Fred, is the Design Director at a Dallas TV station and an artist with works exhibited in local galleries. They enjoy playing outside with

Abby, traveling, attending concerts and sporting events and entertaining friends and family. Krista has also been

very involved with charity work and is a member of the Dallas Red Cross Public Affairs Team.

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Website:

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

Repairing credit may save money

BY MICHAEL G. SHINN

(NNPA) Repairing your credit may save you money. Over the near term, interest rates will rise. The Federal Reserve increased the rate it charges banks for emergency loans. This was the Fed's first tangible move to tighten credit following the Great Recession. Additionally, in order to finance the burgeoning national debt the Government will become a more active player in the credit markets. Consumer interest rates on credit cards, car loans, home mortgages, etc. will all be headed up.

The rates that lenders charge consumers are based on two major factors. First, lenders look at the individual's capacity to pay, as measured by their income in relation to their monthly payments. Next, they look at their past payment history, as measured by their credit report. A poor credit history is viewed as a higher risk and therefore requires a higher return to the lender, for taking that risk.

An individual can have damaged credit for several reasons. The most obvious reason is a poor payment and credit history. However, according to a recent study by the Public Interest Research Group, 25 percent of the credit reports surveyed had

serious errors that could result in credit denial, 79% contained other serious mistakes and errors and 30 percent contained credit accounts that had been closed by the consumer, but remained listed as open.

The Fair Credit Reporting Act sets the standards that credit reporting bureaus and creditors must follow in reporting credit files. The act also gives individuals the right to challenge the accuracy of their credit report, request a reinvestigation within a reasonable amount of time and have errors corrected or deleted.

- Get a copy of your credit reports. You can get a free copy from all three reporting agencies by going to annualcreditreport.com. You can also get your credit score for a small fee. Review your credit reports and look for errors, inaccuracies and negative credit items.

- Write dispute letters to the credit bureaus on the items you believe are errors or inaccuracies. Send your letters by certified mail with a return receipt requested. Keep copies of your letters and mail receipts. The Federal Trade Commission has sample dispute letters and more detailed information on the website www.ftc.gov.

- The credit bureaus must

reinvestigate the disputed items by contacting the information provider and requesting an investigation of their file and a follow-up report.

- The credit bureau is required to report the results of the reinvestigation to the individual. If there is an error or inaccuracy it must be corrected. However, if the information provider confirms the original information, the individual has the right to appeal. If there is no response from the information provider in a reasonable amount of time, the disputed item must be corrected or deleted.

- After the reinvestigation is completed, the credit bureau is required to provide the individual with written results and a free updated copy of their credit report.

If an individual has damaged credit because of a poor payment or credit history, there are two primary options. The self-help option works for most people. The first step of this option is to create a realistic budget. Then, develop a twelve-month plan to either eliminate or substantially reduce high interest rate debt. The overall objectives should be to reduce the total debt level, lower interest rates and reduce the number of creditors.

If self-help is not enough, contact a legitimate non-

profit credit or debt counseling service. The counseling service can set up a payment plan, in which the individual makes one monthly payment to the counseling agency, which then pays each of their creditors. The service can save money by negotiating lower payments and possibly lower interest rates. Most people can pay off their unsecured debt in three to five years by following these plans. The National Foundation for Credit Counseling (www.nfcc.org) has a referral line that automatically directs calls to the individual's local area. (1-800-355-2227)

No Quick Fix!

There is no quick fix for repairing damaged credit. Avoid the scams and either do-it-yourself or seek help from a legitimate credit counseling service. The money you save by paying lower interest rates, can be used to help achieve your financial goals.

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from construction projects, and with the myriad of other economic issues facing our families on a daily basis, we must change!

Banks, drug companies, and health insurers are raking us over the coals these days. Exorbitant fees and excess charges are the order of the day, and corporate greed is running rampant. Medical prescriptions are out of reach for those who need them most, and health insurance companies are raising their rates by 39%, cutting back on payouts to doctors, and denying life-saving treatments to toddlers. All of this in the face of huge profits, outlandish

bonuses, and ridiculously high annual salaries for the very persons who received billions of dollars from the government.

Where is the local help? How do we profit from the TARP funds, the Stimulus money? How can we reduce usury interest rates, sky-high credit card fees like \$60.00 for not using your card? What do we do about banks, insurance companies, and drug companies that are ripping off customers and making it doubly hard on the "little guy?"

If we get our local act together by showing that we are serious about our future, by refusing to be mistreated

by banks and other business entities, public and private, we will be well on our way to being able to make an impact on what happens nationally.

At a time when we cannot afford the price of a ticket to see our athletic heroes and our beloved entertainers, we scrape together our dollars and support them anyway. Time was when aristocrats sat in the stands and watched the poor people engage in contests. Now we have poor people in the stands watching the rich play.

While national politics will affect us sooner or later, local politics and surely

local economics affect us everyday. Change will not occur simply because it ought to; it will only come when we make it so. Our actions on the local level, or the lack thereof, will determine our overall economic destiny.

Pray for President Barack Obama to do what is right and for misguided celebrities to use some of their wealth to enrich the lives of others. And, work to improve your own life locally – bloom where you were planted. At the end of the day, that's what matters, because economics, like politics, is local.

Spring break vacationers advised to exercise caution, plan ahead in case of medical emergencies

(NDG Wire) March is Brain Injury Awareness Month. So, as Americans head off to sunny beaches, snowy ski resorts and other fun-filled destinations on their spring vacations, the Association of Air Medical Services (AAMS) advises them to use caution, to recognize the symptoms of traumatic brain injury (TBI), and to check into supplemental insurance and potential access to medical facilities, particularly if traveling remotely or abroad.

"Air medical crews and emergency physicians see a lot of travel-related injuries at this time of year, espe-

cially among college students on spring break," said AAMS President Daniel Hankins, MD, FACEP.

"That is why AAMS is urging everyone to exercise caution, to wear a helmet when engaging in activities that involve the risk of head injury, and to know when to seek medical attention for a TBI."

One such student is Brandon Lacko of Columbus, Ohio, who suffered a severe head injury while jet skiing off the coast of Cabo San Lucas, Mexico, and required medevac transport back to the States following his accident.

"The local hospital was not able to treat Brandon's brain swelling and other severe injuries, so he had to be airlifted," said his mother, Renae Lacko. "The air-medical crew and U.S. trauma center team saved his life."

Swift medical attention for TBI is key, experts say, because while most patients — who number about 1.4 million every year — are treated and released, TBI is still a major cause of death and disability, with approximately 50,000 Americans dying from it annually, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The good news, though, is that TBI often can be successfully treated if caught in time. "That is why it is imperative to recognize the signs and symptoms," said Dr. Hankins.

"Repeated vomiting, severe headache, dilated pupils, sudden lethargy, trouble focusing or remembering and rapid deterioration after a period of lucidity — these are all possible indicators of a potentially serious brain injury, which demands immediate medical attention."

In addition to promoting TBI awareness, AAMS offers the following spring-

break travel safety tips:

Plan for potential medical emergencies. Most medical insurance plans do not offer coverage abroad, so check into short-term travel insurance and a medical evacuation membership. Also, know the location and type of medical facilities near your travel destination, and get a MedicAlert bracelet for any potential health complications.

Make duplicates of travel and medical documents. Leave photocopies of your passport, itinerary, medical information and credit cards at home. Don't keep all IDs, money, credit cards

and travel tickets in the same place.

Do your homework. Register international travel with the State Department, at <https://travelregistration.state.gov>, and check the CDC, at wwwn.cdc.gov/travel/, for travelers' health tips.

Get adequate training before participating in potentially risky recreational activities, especially when renting equipment — including skis, motor-bikes, boats or scuba gear. Also, use caution and obey the rules.

Wear an ASTM-approved helmet when engaging in fast-action sports or recreational activities.

LABELLE, continued from Page 1

tructive;" that is, until he heard her sing. Humbled, he suggested a name change, and LaBelle, ironically meaning beautiful, was born. This was the beginning of a vibrant career for a star renowned for her passionate stage performances, tremendous vocal range and distinctive "knock 'em dead" style.

There were two groups: Patti LaBelle and the Bluebells and La Belle. By the

early 1970s, she became known for her wildly flamboyant attire and in 1974, her group became the first African-American act ever to appear at New York's Metropolitan Opera House. This landmark performance introduced their big hit of that year, *Lady Marmalade*.

She went solo in 1983 with her first album, which was certified "gold." There was no stopping this shooting star, which soared even

higher than before, earning another U.S. #1 single in 1986 with *On My Own*, a duet performed with Michael McDonald.

Her career flourished until 1995 when she was diagnosed with type 2 diabetes. Currently a spokeswoman for the American Diabetes Association, La Belle has published two cookbooks written specifically for people with diabetes. In 2005, she appeared

in ads for One Touch Ultra and Ultra 2, a manufacturer of blood glucose monitoring systems. In her recent best-seller book, *Patti's Pearls*, she spoke of her early struggles with diabetes.

"I ... had a fainting attack on stage. They rushed me to the hospital. I thought I was just overworked. The doctor told me I was a diabetic, but I didn't have a clue. I was lucky to find out early... You know, having

diabetes is like having to treat your body like a temple, not an amusement park. I work hard to treat my body right. I try to eat the right things..."

In June of 2009, Patti LaBelle was honored at New York's Harlem Apollo Theater after admirers such as Mariah Carey and Prince inducted her to the Apollo Legends Hall of Fame. LaBelle struggled for years before getting a handle on her

lifestyle and her disease. She has recently needed to add insulin to her daily regimen of medications.

Patti LaBelle's song is one of hope and courage. It resounds with the overwhelming power of the human spirit not only to endure, but also to prevail above all odds.

Here's to you, Patti LaBelle, your message and your formidable spirit.

Youth council hosts Safety Expo for teen drivers

(NDG Wire) The Garland Youth Council (GYC) will host its annual *Teens in the Driver Seat Day* at Firewheel Town Center on Saturday, March 6. The event focuses on safe-driving for teens and will take place in the park at Firewheel Town Center from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The Garland Youth Council and student teams from all seven Garland ISD high school campuses launched the Teens in the Driver Seat (TDS) program in 2007.

The program's goal is to make teen drivers and their passengers more aware of the behaviors that put them at greater risk of being in-

involved in a car crash.

The program utilizes the power of peer-to-peer communication to spread its message.

Each student team will facilitate a game or activity to help their peers understand these important safety messages.

Some of those activities include a chance to wear a special set of goggles that simulate the effects of alcohol, participation in a seat-belt pledge drive, and much more.

One of the interactive exhibits will feature the Amber Menefee Mobile Memorial Trailer. The exhibit includes the actual wreckage from a car crash

involving a drunk driver.

21-year old Amber Menefee was killed in that crash. This moving and educational exhibit will help teens understand the importance of NOT mixing alcohol or drugs with driving.

The North Texas Tollway Authority is teaming up with the GYC for the first time to help educate young drivers about how to safely navigate highways and freeways.

Staff members from the NTTA will provide the latest safety information compiled by a team of in-house experts.

Special information for parents will be provided by Dee Dee Bates State Farm

Insurance about how to train your teen to be a safe driver. The theme will be *Arrive Alive Don't Text and Drive*. The State Farm booth will offer information about keeping auto insurance rates lower with a teen driver in the family.

Firewheel Town Center is providing discount coupons for a variety of Town Center stores for youth who visit the GYC booth during the event, as well as special gifts for each participating high school student team.

For more information about Teens in the Driver Seat Day and the Garland Youth Council, visit www.GarlandYouthCouncil.org or call 972-205-2879.

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North Dallas
Gazette

Rock 'n' Roll Dallas announces a 13.1-Mile scenic course of fun

Inaugural Rock 'n' Roll Dallas ½ Marathon and 2- Person Relay promises bands, cheerleaders and a scenic city tour

(NDG Wire) Rock 'n' Roll Dallas ½ Marathon has officially released the course map for its inaugural race taking place on March 14, 2010 -- plotting out a 13.1 mile route tour that will provide a scenic tour for runners and walkers.

"It gives a good foot tour of the City of Dallas," said

Kari Logan, a general manager with Competitor Group, which owns and manages the 14 Rock 'n' Roll series events across the country. "It's a nice mix of urban and residential, downtown and the American Airlines Center, Highland Park and Swiss Avenue."

However, a scenic route



is not all that this half marathon offers. On 14 different stages set up along the course, bands of all genres -- from country to pop, rock to rhythm and blues -- are guaranteed to energize runners

and onlookers as 16 cheerleading squads from all over the Dallas area will encourage them all the way to the finish line. A complete list of participating bands will be released soon.

"Our plan is to make this race seem more like a block party than a half marathon," said Logan.

"We will have a great roster of bands, amazing cheerleaders and a route that will make you forget that you've been running for 13.1 miles. If that doesn't make someone want to run and dance in the streets, I don't know what will."

In addition to the entertainment, The Competitor

Group, Inc. also recently announced a partnership with Susan G. Komen for the Cure, making it the national charity of the first Rock 'n' Roll Dallas ½ Marathon.

For a downloadable course map, registration schedules, and more information, go to <http://dallas.competitor.com>.

McKinney Economic Development Alliance formed

Committee crosses city organizations, determines direction

(NDG Wire) McKinney City Manager Frank Ragan presented the City Council with a proposal for the formation of the McKinney Economic Development Alliance (MEDA) at the work session on Monday, Feb. 15.

The objective of the MEDA is to unite various boards and commissions that deal with economic development within the com-

munity, all with a goal to develop a community economic development plan.

Recommended MEDA members will be represented by three members from the following groups: City Council, the McKinney Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) and the Chamber of Commerce. The McKinney Airport Development Corporation, McKinney Convention

and Visitors Bureau, McKinney Community Development Corporation, McKinney Main Street and the Planning and Zoning Commission boards will also be represented with one member each. Ragan will act as the project manager of the group.

"The MEDA will allow us as a city to decide what our optimum and most sustainable economic develop-

ment opportunities are and then chart a course to get us there. All of these groups who have expertise and a vested interest in McKinney's economic development, and working together can lead us to reach our goals," said Ragan.

While a definitive time frame is not yet established until the scope is determined, the project is estimated to take approxi-

mately ten months to finish once a consultant is named and hired. The cost, expected between \$125,000 and \$175,000, will be shared between the city, MEDC and the Chamber of Commerce.

The MEDA will act as an advisory committee to City Council, with Council acting with final approval authority for the economic development plan. Specific

areas of the city will be targeted for economic development. The SH 121 corridor, including the interchange with U.S. 75, the Highway 5 corridor and Town Center, the area surrounding the Collin County Regional Airport, and farther north in McKinney along U.S. 75 and U.S. 380 will all be examined for optimum development potential.

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District takes creative approach to increase enrollment

(NDG Wire) McKinney ISD will be taking creative steps in an effort to maximize the efficiency of its high school facilities. As a result of the economic downturn, and subsequent slowdown in new housing starts in the district, McKinney North High School student enrollment has not met previous demographic projec-

tions. As a result, the school currently enrolls approximately 1,400 students, in a facility designed to hold 2,400 students. The McKinney ISD Board of Trustees approved a plan to concentrate a number of Career and Technical Education courses and programs at McKinney North High School beginning next

fall, as well as a plan offering open enrollment at the school to increase student enrollment.

"The focus throughout the process was to create a plan that offers choice, if at all possible, rather than simply rezone high schools," said Cody Cunningham, Assistant to the Superintendent for Communica-

tions. "We will have an application process with specific criteria to be considered, and we'll monitor the number of students transferring. This is the least disruptive option currently available to us, and our hope is that these collective efforts will help us to utilize our facilities as efficiently as possible."

The strategies are also expected to provide some relief to McKinney Boyd High School. The school currently enrolls over 2,800 students with a building capacity of 3,000 students.

The open enrollment will apply to any high school student whose residence is in the McKinney ISD, and is currently zoned

for McKinney High School or McKinney Boyd High School, with a desire to transfer to McKinney North High School. We have listed several of the guidelines, but more comprehensive information will be communicated from the campuses to high school students and incoming ninth graders.

Well-trained teachers protect children

(NDG Wire) Thousands of parents go through the motions – and emotions – every day of dressing their toddlers, packing their lunches and leaving their little ones in the care of adults whom they trust at licensed child care facilities. The ritual is automatic. The reality, however, is that high turnover rates and less training for care givers – plus lower capacities in licensed facilities – could mean that children do not receive the level of care that parents want.

A major part of the solution to this dilemma for children, parents and educators is more education for child care providers. Three colleges in the Dallas County Community College District have received a \$987,302 grant titled "DCCCD Child Care Quality Initiative" from Workforce Solutions for Dallas County – stimulus funds provided under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

Eastfield, Brookhaven and Cedar Valley Colleges

are collaborating on the grant, delivering credit and continuing education courses – including tuition and materials – to more than 300 individuals this spring who already are child care providers in Dallas County.

"We are excited about this unique collaboration among our three colleges," said Nancy Beaver, Eastfield College child development program administrator, who will supervise all grant activities. "We have been working together since last summer to develop this plan to provide a comprehensive child care training initiative that will enhance the qualifications and skills of child care providers throughout Dallas County."

The grant, which was awarded in October 2009, provides the three colleges with funds to offer credit and continuing education courses at a variety of locations both on and off campus, using multiple methods, including online instruction, webinars and hybrid classes. An internship

or co-op is included as part of each specialized series of credit courses, which allows the instructor to provide on-site technical assistance and coaching for each student.

"Receiving this grant and being able to offer either credit or continuing education courses, plus materials, is critical," added Beaver. "For example...in Dallas County, the child care situation has worsened over the past five years. Licensed child care capacity has decreased three percent, while the child population has increased two percent. Staff turnover rates are high, complicating the problem, which creates a continuously untrained or undertrained workforce."

Eastfield and Brookhaven also plan to expand infant toddler care by training child care teachers to be prepared to offer quality care and early education for infants and toddlers; and by equipping two new and two expanded infant toddler classrooms in Eastfield's Laboratory School. The expansion, housed in the col-

lege's new Center for Child and Family Studies, will

serve 26 additional infants and toddlers over the next

two years and become a model in that field.

House passes resolution supporting 4th Annual America Saves Week

(NDG Wire) The House of Representatives passed H. Res. 1082, a resolution Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson introduced in support of the fourth annual America Saves Week. The Consumer Federation of America established America Saves, an annual nationwide campaign to encourage financial literacy and personal savings, nine years

ago, and the fourth annual America Saves Week was February 21 through February 28.

"I believe that a financially-literate public is a key component to a strong and robust economy," Congresswoman Johnson said. "A national culture of financial responsibility can help to support American families in this struggling economy.

"We have already seen Americans increase their personal savings rates in response to the recession—personal savings as a percentage of disposable income rose from 1.2 percent in the first quarter of 2008 to 4.8 percent in the fourth quarter of 2009," Congresswoman Johnson continued.

See RESOLUTION, Page 14

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Iota Phi Lambda Sorority, Inc. – Southwestern Region to honor Marian A. Willard, Business Educator

(NDG Wire) Iota Phi Lambda Sorority, Inc. – Southwestern Region will honor Marian A. Willard during the Educational Luncheon on Saturday, March 13, 2010, at the Dallas/Addison Marriott Quorum by the Galleria in Dallas, Texas.

Willard is the principal of “The Great” James Madison High School where she believes in bringing out the best in her students and everyone associated with them including faculty, staff and parents. Her work with youth and community has brought her honors as a

trailblazer for special community programs. She focuses on student success and has helped numerous students receive scholarships for academics and creative arts.

Iota Phi Lambda Sorority, Inc. is a professional businesswomen’s sorority

founded in Chicago, Illinois in 1929. The Southwestern Region will host its 63rd Regional Conference March 12-14, 2010, in Dallas. On March 13, 2010, the Southwestern Region will hold its Educational Luncheon where Dr. Doris Browning Austin, National

President of Iota Phi Lambda Sorority, Inc., is the keynote speaker.

The Educational Luncheon will begin at 12:15 p.m. at 14901 Dallas Parkway in Dallas. Tickets are \$50.00 with all proceeds benefiting the Southwestern Region Education and Schol-

arship Fund. For more details contact, Wendy B. Jacques at webmaster@iota-sw.org, 214-435-9570 or Charlotte D. Berry, Southwestern Regional Director at 972-971-2204.

Visit Iota on the web at www.iota1929.org or www.iota-sw.org.

Bee champs take word wizardry to the next level

(NDG Wire) What does the technical word for a bone marrow cell have to do with a word of German origin that means “spirit of the time”?

Both words earned the students who correctly spelled them a place in *The Dallas Morning News* televised regional bee, to be broadcast Saturday, March 20.

Lokesh Nagineni, a student from Universal Academy in Coppell, won the Feb. 9 contest for private-school students. He correctly spelled myelocyte, the term for a bone marrow cell. The runner-up in the private-schools contest was Sophie Druffner from All Saints Catholic School in Dallas. A total of 42 students competed.

Emily White, of Richardson West Junior High, correctly spelled zeitgeist to win the public-schools contest on Feb. 16. The word describes the general intellectual and moral state or the trend of culture and taste characteristic of an era. The runner up was Sean Beck of Lorenzo de



Emily White of Richardson West Junior High spelled zeitgeist to win the public-schools contest.

Zavala Middle School in Irving. A total of 40 students competed.

“Each year, the competitors impress me with their spelling skills and ability to remain calm under pressure,” said pronouncer Sherry Coleman. “I wish both winners – and all the regional contestants – the best of luck at the next level of competition.”

It was the second year for UT Dallas to host the Dallas County bees, which have been sponsored by Dallas County Schools for more than 25 years. Other sponsors included *The Dallas Morning News*, North Dallas Honey Company and Whataburger.

The University also is the presenting sponsor of the 52nd annual *Dallas Morning News* Regional Spelling Bee, which will be broadcast live on WFAA-TV (Channel 8) at 11 a.m., Saturday, March 20. Whataburger and North Dallas Honey Company are also sponsors.

The winner of the regional bee will compete in the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C., May 31-June 5. The bee is the nation’s largest and longest-running educational promotion, administered on a not-for-profit basis by The E.W. Scripps Co. and sponsors.

More defendants sentenced in Dallas City Hall Corruption Case

(NDG Wire) Monday, U.S. District Judge Barbara M.G. Lynn sentenced two more of the 13 defendants who were convicted in what has become known as the “Dallas City Hall Corruption Case.”

Judge Lynn sentenced Darren L. Reagan, 50, of DeSoto, Texas, to 14 years in federal prison. Reagan, a community activist and the chairman and CEO of the Black State Employees Association of Texas, was convicted at trial in October 2009 on two of four counts charged, including

dering. This morning, Judge Lynn ruled that there was insufficient evidence to show that Robertson knew the funds he received as a part of the scheme were from an illegal source. Robertson was also a principal of RA-MILL, a sham construction firm for which defendant D’Angelo Lee

Fisher. Fisher was working as an FBI informant.

The money laundering conspiracy conviction against Robertson that Judge Lynn overturned, revolved around his acceptance of money related to the purchase of four automobiles, coupled with his willingness to place the title to one of Hill’s BMWs in a name other than Don Hill. Robertson was convicted at trial along with Hill; Hill’s wife, Sheila Farrington; Lee and Reagan of pressuring Fisher for hundreds of



Darren Reagan



Don Hill

served as a secret partner. Lee was then Mayor Pro Tem Don Hill’s Plan Commissioner. Robertson was also ordered to surrender to the Bureau of Prisons on April 27.

Reagan’s association, BSEAT served as a front for his shakedown schemes. On wiretapped conversations played during trial, Reagan told then Mayor Pro Tem Hill to pull developer Bill Fisher’s contracts off the city council agenda while he made more extortionate demands for money from

thousands of dollars in extortion money.

On Friday, February 26, 2009, Judge Lynn sentenced Hill to 18 years in prison; his wife, Sheila Farrington, to nine years in prison; and D’Angelo Lee to 14 years in prison. Hill was also ordered to pay \$112,500 in restitution; Lee was ordered to pay \$112,800 in restitution. Hill and Farrington were ordered to surrender to the Bureau of Prisons on April 27. Lee is presently in federal custody.

Arts District Chorale receives major grant

(NDG Wire) Arts District Chorale announced their receipt of a major capacity building grant from the Dallas-based Carl B. and Florence E. King Foundation, given to support the installation of a full-time Executive Director position.

Over its twenty-year history in downtown Dallas, the Arts District Chorale has evolved into a signature performing arts organization in need of an infusion of sustained administrative support, in order to realize its mission to pro-

vide a major cultural and economic impact in the completed Dallas Arts District. A permanent, full-time Executive Director position, an organizational first, will allow the Arts District Chorale to sustain and vastly improve its role in

the Dallas cultural arts community.

Carl B. and Florence E. King started the Foundation that bears their names in 1966. Beginning with gifts from Mr. and Mrs. King, as well as a later bequest from their daughter, Dorothy, the

Foundation has now grown to more than \$53 million in assets and distributes approximately \$2 million each year.

In 2009 the Foundation broadened its funding interests to include arts, culture, and history; and to add a

grants program for non-profit capacity.

The Foundation’s geographic funding area includes five core counties in the Dallas-Fort Worth area, West Texas, and Eastern and Southern Arkansas.

Every Saturday

Pure Saturdays 2026 Commerce Street 23 & up preferred DJ Steve Nice in The Mixx. Doors open @ 10 p.m. Info text or call 214-810-5483.

Ongoing

African American Republican Club of Collin County meets 3rd Tuesday of every month at 7 pm. (Doors open at 6:30 pm.) Collin County Republican Party HQ. 8416 Stacy Rd., McKinney. Call Linda Wynn Drain, 214-498-7574 or website www.aarcc.com

Collin County Black Chamber of Commerce, CCBC General Meetings, 2nd Thursday of every month at 6:30pm. Call 469-424-1020 or email: info@CCBlackChamber.org for location.

DFW Financially Empowered Women meet monthly for lunch or dinner and a fun, informative seminar on various financial topics. Info: 469-942-0809 or meeetup.com/378.

Group Business Seminars at 4907 Spring Avenue, Dallas, (214) 11:30 a.m. 12:30 p.m.; 3rd Friday of the month 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. for those interested in starting your own business, it is a Brown Bag Lunch with Free Parking

No Limit Network Business Networking Lunch 1st Thursday at 1 pm in Plano Must RSVP at www.TheNoLimitNetwork.com or 972-898-5882.

The National Business Women Enterprise Network (NBWEN) Learning Over Lunch Series: 4th Saturdays, 11am-1pm, Remarkable Affairs Cafe, 2727 LBJ Fwy., Suite 140, Dallas. \$20 for members; \$35 for non-members, \$5 off for early bird registration. <http://nbwenorg.ning.com>.

North Dallas Texas Democratic Women Regular Meetings 4th Thursday, 6:45 p.m. Northaven United Methodist Church, 11211 Preston Rd (between Forest & Royal Lanes).

Through March 28

The Arthur Primas Collection: 200 Years of African American Art Free admission. Irving Arts Council Gallery. Significant collection of African American Art including paintings, sculptures, works on paper, graphics and documents covering a period of 200 years.

March 3 - 7

Dallas Auto Show is the ideal opportunity to compare styling and pricing of every major line make under one roof in just a few hours. See more than 550,000 square feet of new cars, trucks and SUVs at the Dallas Convention Center and an attendance of close to 400,000. More than 40 manufacturers will display more than 700 vehicles. Details at www.dallasautoshow.org.

March 4-27

Greater Tuna at Granville Arts Center at various times, info: 972-205-2790.

March 5-6

Pilobolus at Eisemann Center at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$28-\$58, www.pilobolus.com

March 5-7

Annual Dallas Home and Garden Show Featuring Clive Berkman, Home Décor, energy efficient products, outdoor storage solutions, builders & remodelers, kitchens, bath & more, Info: www.texashomeandgarden.com.

28th Annual North Texas Irish Festival features many of the top Irish musicians and dancers in the world and a number of cultural presentations on eight stages at Fair Park. As in the past, the festival will also offer a variety

of delicious Irish and international food and drink, cultural crafts, and ethnic vendors. Details at www.ntif.org.

March. 5

Savor Dallas Arts District Wine Stroll featuring wine and food tasting in the Dallas Museum of Art - Seventeen Seventeen Restaurant; Meyerson Symphony Center; Nasher Sculpture Center; Winspear Opera House; and Wyly Theatre (from 5-7 p.m.); Wine, food, music, and art in the new Dallas Center for the Performing Arts Park, featuring the restaurants of One Arts Plaza, Dali Wine Bar, Fedora Restaurant and Lounge, Jorge's, Screen Door, and Tei-An (5-8 p.m.). Details at www.savordallas.com

Live Smart! Health and Safety Fair from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. on Friday, March 5 at Collin College's Central Park Campus in McKinney. For more information, call Dr. Linda Adams at 972-881-5777.

March 6

Booker T. Washington Scholarship Gala at 8 p.m. at the Dee and Charles Wyly Theatre in the Dallas Arts District. VIP reception from 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. on the Wyly rooftop terrace. The main event will be held in the Wyly's Potter Rose Performance Hall.

Plano Civic Chorus Presents Grand Music for Grand Spaces as a part of its 37th concert season. This uplifting concert of 20th Century choral music by Franz Biebl, Henryk Mikolaj Gorecki, Gustav Holst, Glenn Rudolph, John Rutter, Ralph Vaughan Williams and other composers whose music was often performed in the lofty cathedral spaces of Europe. The concert will take place at St. Andrew United Methodist Church in Plano at 8:00 p.m. To purchase advance tickets for

\$20, visit www.planocivicchorus.org, or call the chorus hotline at 972-606-5220. Groups of 10 or more can save \$5 per ticket. Tickets at the door will be \$25.

Garland Opry Country / R&R Plaza Theatre at 7:30 p.m. Info: 972-494-3835

March 6 - April 11

Dallas Blooms - The showcase of this Dallas Arboretum event is over 450,000 spring-blooming bulbs; including tulips, as well as daffodils, Dutch Iris and Hyacinth, flowering alongside over 100,000 pansies, violas and poppies and thousands of other spring-blooming annuals and perennials. Info at www.dallasarboretum.org

March 7

Plano Family Symphony Sundays Series presents **Gone with the Winds** at 3 p.m. at The Courtyard Theatre, 1501 Avenue H, Plano. Call 972-473-7262, ticket prices range from \$7 - \$11.

March 11

Taylor Swift in concert at the American Airlines Center.

March 11-14

The Talk of the Town at Eisemann Center, tickets are \$33-\$39. Info: www.talkofthetownmusical.com

March 12-13

Sweet Life Cafe is a place where women can slow down and savor time with God and each other. It feels like a cozy day at your favorite coffee shop--a place where women can find rest, laughter, share their stories, and grow closer to each other. Best Western Park Suites, 640 E Park Blvd, Plano. RSVP: <http://3tm-group.eventbrite.com>

March 13

DFW Interantional Community Alliance presents **CARNAVAL for Haiti** at Hyatt

Regency DFW Airport - Terminal C. Tickets & Info: 972-661-2764 or www.dfwinternational.org/Carnaval/

31st Annual Greenville Avenue St. Patrick's Day Parade The event is FREE and parking is available all along Greenville Ave. at the various business parking lots. The Post Parade is on Greenville and University at Energy Square across the street from Desperados. Details at www.greenvilleave.org

March 17

The Visiting Nurse Association's Eldercare Friends volunteer training is noon to 1 p.m. at 1440 W. Mockingbird Lane in Dallas. There is no cost to attend the class. Info: 214-689-2209 or jellinekn@vnatexas.org.

March 18

House of Blues is hosting **Black Rebel Motorcycle Club** at 7 p.m. at 2200 North Lamar St. White Swan Bldg Dallas; Info 214-978 -2583

March 25

Annual Irving Police Awards Banquet will be held at 6:30 p.m. at the Dallas Marriott Las Colinas, 223 W. Las Colinas Blvd. Info: 972-721-2598 or www.irvingpd.com.

March 19-20

The Binding of Strongmen & Ruler Spirits conference speakers include Elder Cathy Moffitt and Prophetess Vanessa Weatherspoon. The event will be held at 1735 W Belt Line Road, Desoto, Info: 972-663-9400 or dapastorichurch@aol.com.

March 28 - April 10

Dr Pepper Dallas Cup XXXI The Dallas Cup International Youth Soccer Tournament, one of the most prestigious youth tournaments in the world, will celebrate its 31st Anniversary during the week of March 28 - April 10, 2010. Its reputation over the

years has attracted many of the top international and USA clubs to send their youth teams to compete in the week long competition held each year in Dallas Texas In past years, teams and referees have traveled to Dallas from ninety-eight countries and six continents. Details at www.dallascup.com

April 2 - 4

16th Annual Deep Ellum Arts Festival The biggest weekend of the year for the Deep Ellum Entertainment District, this free-to-attend outdoor "street party" features four outdoor stages with non-stop performances by over 75 national, regional, and local original bands. With more than 100 top-notch juried decorative and visual artists, muralist, the renowned Deep Ellum Pet Parade, and abundant food and drink, the festival attracts a diverse audience and includes affluent art and music enthusiasts. This is an adult-oriented visual and performing arts festival - while supervised young children and teenagers are welcome, there are no planned activities for them. Details at www.deep-ellumartsfestival.com

April 17

Dallas Art Dealers Association's Annual Spring Gallery Walk 2-8 p.m. at 35 of its members' galleries and non-profit art spaces. Panel discussions (topics and location to be announced)

The March of Dimes will hold its annual **March for Babies fundraising walk** at 8:45 a.m. at the Norbuck Park at White Rock Lake. Register online at www.marchforbabies.org or call 972-669-3463.

April 23

Dallas Black Chamber of Commerce's **13th Annual Excellence in Education Scholarship Luncheon** Noon at the Dallas Convention Center. www.dbcc.org

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Charter schools closing the achievement gap among minority students

BY JACKIE HARDY
NDG CONTRIBUTING WRITER

According to *U.S. News and World Report*, President Barack Obama submitted a 1.35 billion dollar budget proposal to Congress in the effort to extend education grant programs for states. The Obama Administration's aggressive Education budget will include allocating funds for more charter schools, which operate independently of local school boards.

Charter schools are gaining national support and many states like Massachusetts are opening more charter schools in the effort to eliminate the achievement gap that low-performing public schools are experiencing typically among minority students.

On the state level, Texas is also recognizing the need and importance of charter schools. Senators Dan Patrick (R-Houston) and Florence Shapiro (R-Plano) are two Senators who supported House Bill (HB) 1423 that went into effect on June 19, 2009.

HB 1423 grant charters to public junior colleges for open-enrollment charter schools. Senate Bill (SB) 308, a proposed bill to lift the current 215 cap of open-enrollment charter schools granted by the State Board of Education and SB 1830, a proposed bill to allow charters to rent space on public school ground failed to pass in the June 2009 legislative session.

"House Bill 1423 allows community colleges to create charters in a variety of ways to either improve the college preparation of students, create schools that grant college credit and/or create schools focused on earning certifications while earning a high school diploma," explains Shapiro.

Charter schools are traditionally found in communities with a high concentration of minorities. According to the website Resource Center for Texas Charter Schools, 80 percent of minorities attend charter schools compared to 57 percent in traditional schools thus making HB 1423 a vital legislation for minorities. This legislation can help open the door for better opportunities for minorities to attend charter schools that offer college preparatory curriculums.

"I believe the more people are exposed to the success stories about charter schools such as KIPP (Knowledge is Power Pro-

Gold Medal List. Irving's North Hills Preparatory School, a campus of Uplift Education which is a non-profit and community based college preparatory public schools organization, ranked ninth in the 2009 *Newsweek, Top 1500 Best U.S. High Schools*. KIPP Houston High School ranked number 16 in the same *U.S. News and World Report* list, as well.

KIPP Founders, Mike Feinberg and Dave Levin were two Houston inner-city elementary school teachers who witnessed first-hand the academic gap amongst minorities, which led them to start KIPP charter schools. Currently KIPP

that can be achieved for all students," exclaim Steve Mancini, KIPP national spokesperson.

KIPP TRUTH of Dallas serves a predominately African American and Latino student body. In the 2008-2009 school year, the eighth grade class scored from the tenth to the sixtieth percentile in reading and from the twentieth to the eighty-fifth percentile in math during their four years at KIPP TRUTH. The school has also been a Recognized Campus for the past two years.

North Hills Preparatory School's largest percentage of minorities is Asians (46.1). African Americans (4.7) and Hispanics (12.7) make up less than 20 percent of its minorities. Of its graduating seniors, 93.5 percent earned at least one passing grade on the Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB) test, one attributing factor to earning a ninth rank in the 2009 *Newsweek* poll.

"Charters have the flexibility to explore innovative methods that may be better suited for a more personalized learning experience and the more types of innovation we have, the better chance we have of closing the achievement gaps," states Shapiro.

"In the 2009-2010 school year, KIPP Texas char-



ter schools consist of 29 percent African American and 67 percent Latino. Nationally over 85 percent of KIPP's alumni have matriculated to college," states Mancini.

Charter schools are not immune to its challenges. High turn-over rate and misappropriation of school funds have been some of the past negative stigmas associated with charter schools. Unlike traditional public schools that have a board of trustees and require strict compliance of district rules; charter schools do not follow district rules, but many of the charter schools like North Hills Preparatory have their own Board of Education.

"Being that North Hills has been around for 13 years, we have had the experience to understand how to hire teachers and leaders and develop them over time," states Laura Cobb, Chief of Schools for Uplift Education. "Uplift's Board demands fiscal responsibility and we actually pride ourselves on the fact that we have considerably more impact on preparing our students for success in college on a much smaller cost per student than our neighboring Independent School Districts account for."

The positives seem to outweigh the negatives with

respect to charter schools successfully addressing this academic gap among minorities. One possible reason is charter schools operate under a 501 (c) (3) corporation status giving it the flexibility to be innovative with its teaching methods and curriculum.

Many charter schools follow an AP and/or IB college prep-atory curriculum(s). The IB program adopts a teaching method that promotes intercultural understanding and respect, not as an alternative to a sense of cultural and national identity, but as an essential part of life in the 21st century.

"Promoting intercultural understanding helps all students to explore our country and many other countries and look at the world in a more holistic way to gain a more thorough understanding of what our responsibilities are as future citizens and leaders," states Cobb.

For more information on enrollment at KIPP TRUTH contact Shaniqua Rischer, Development Director at the following email: srischer@kipprtruth.org. For more information on one of Uplift Education Campuses contact Laura Cobb, Chief of Schools at the following email: lcobb@uplifteducation.org.



Sen. Dan Patrick



Sen. Florence Shapiro

gram), Yes Preparatory Public Schools of Houston, and North Hills Preparatory School of Irving the sooner people will support opening more charter schools in the state of Texas, as well as see the good these charter schools are doing for our children," states Shapiro.

Three of North Texas charter schools made prestigious lists based on academic excellence. The School for Talented and Gifted ranked fifth and the School of Science and Engineering Magnet both at Yvonne A. Ewell Townview Center ranked eighth in the 2009 *U.S. News and World Report, Best High Schools*:

has 82 charter schools serving over 21,000 students in 19 states, including the District of Columbia.

"At KIPP, we are showing that your zip code need not determine your destiny and that college is a reality



North Hills School in Irving

2010 Out of the Loop Fringe Festival

WaterTower Theatre is proud to announce that the 2010 Out of the Loop Fringe Festival (OOTL), a 10-day celebration of theatre, dance, music and art, featuring performances by Mike Daisy, Seth Rudetsky, The Three Redneck Tenors, and WaterTower Theatre as well as other arts organizations from the local area and the region on March 4 - 14, 2010.

Mike Daisy will be performing on the festival Main Stage. Mike has been called "the master storyteller" and "one of the finest solo performers of his generation" by The New York Times for his groundbreaking monologues which weave together autobiography, gonzo journalism, and extemporaneous performance to tell hilarious and

heartbreaking stories that expose secret histories and unexpected connections.

Joining Mike on the Main Stage will be Broadway maestro Seth Rudetsky with his hilarious one-man show Broadway Seth Rudetsky Style. Seth is the star of Sirius/XM Radio's daily Broadway show and was also featured as the on-camera vocal coach on MTV's Legally Blonde: Search for Elle Woods.

The final weekend of the festival includes The Three Redneck Tenors featuring their new show Broadway Bound. Join our 3 singing cousins as they stampede their way through Broadway's greatest hits! You'll hear the belt out tunes from such favorite shows as Phantom of the Opera, The Sound of



Out of the Loop Fringe Festival gets underway Thursday

Music, Little Orphan Annie, Les Miserables, A Chorus Line and many others.

The Out of the Loop Fringe Festival provides opportunities for existing and emerging theatre, dance and music companies and artists to present work that may vary in form and presentation from their typical content. Together, these companies provide the North Dallas and surrounding areas with a diverse range of

artistic endeavors. National, regional and Dallas-based artists in theatre, dance, music, comedy, puppetry, and poetry will be presented side by side throughout the Festival.

Festival passes, good for one admission to each event, are \$60 and will be available starting January 4, 2010 by calling the WaterTower Theatre Box Office at 972.450.6232. Tickets to individual shows went on sale February 15, 2010.

Productions may contain adult language, sexual situations, and/or violence. Please visit with the Box Office Staff for content information regarding a particular production.

Dallas 2010 Auto Show has a Green Theme

(NDG Wire) It seems like everyone is trying to live a more earth-friendly lifestyle these days, and the 2010 Dallas Auto Show is joining the crusade March 3-7 at the Dallas Convention Center.

"Consumers have made small changes in their day-to-day activities to help reduce their carbon footprints by lowering the thermostat, recycling, and skipping bottled water. And 'going green' without a doubt extends to automobiles; following the speed limit, keeping tires properly inflated, getting regular tune-ups and, of course, purchasing hybrids, or vehicles with clean diesel engines and

higher mpg ratings," said Don Herring, Jr., 2010 Dallas Auto Show chairman.

This year, the Dallas Auto Show also is proud to present a special "green" area dedicated to environmentally-friendly products and services. The City of Dallas will distribute information about air quality, phone recycling and water conservation. Stormwater Management will educate consumers on how to keep pollution out of area creeks and lakes.

Tickets are \$11 for adults, \$5 for senior citizens 65 and older, and children 12 and under are admitted free. For info, visit dallasautoshow.com.

Have You Heard?



RHOA has lost their minds

• Lying, cheating and down right foolishness is what the RHOA are ex-

hibiting. Is it really worth your dignity to stay on the air?

P. Diddy has a stalker

• A woman was arrested for illegal trespassing on Hip Hop Mogul's Hampton Estate property. We guess mo' money does cause mo' problems.

Are Brad and Angelina raising Shiloh to be gay?

She wants to be called

by a boy's name and dress like a boy but she's only 3.



Read more on the latest Have You Heard? topics at www.northdallasgazette.com.

'Round About in the DFW

Concerts

John Mayer at the American Airlines Center on March 9 at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$36-\$71, www.americanairlinescenter.com

Black Eyed Peas at the American Airlines Center on March 19 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$49.50-\$79.40. Info: www.americanairlinescenter.com

Fashion

Fashion Exhibit at Chestnut Square Historic Village in McKinney from March 2-21.

Time 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tickets are \$5, 972-562-8796

Family

Kids Artistic Revue at the Majestic Theatre, March 13-14. Info: www.dancekar.com

Symphony

Plano Symphony Orchestra presents Gone with the Winds at Plano Courtyard Theatre on March 7 at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$7-\$11. Info: www.planosymphony.org



Theatre

Tyler Perry's Madea's Big Happy Family at Nokia Theatre in Grand Prairie, March 12-14 at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$47-\$57. Info: www.nokiatheatreDFW.com

For more entertainment events this week, visit www.northdallasgazette.com.

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Tyler Perry's Madea's Big Happy Family
March 12-14th
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Angie Stone, Joe and Chico DeBarge
March 27th
ON SALE NOW



Alicia Keys with Special Guest Melonie Fiona
April 2nd
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at grand prairie



FOR MORE INFO LOG ON TO: WWW.THESILENTPARTNER.BIZ

Tickets available at all participating outlets. Group Inquiries: 972.373.8800 or info@www.nokiatheatreDFW.com



Our Pledge To Toyota Drivers

When Kiichiro Toyoda brought Toyota into the auto business in 1937, he created a set of principles that has always guided how we operate. The pillars of the "Toyota Way" are "respect for people" and "continuous improvement." These remain core values – and we'll adhere closely to them as we make vehicle safety our top priority.

We have already taken decisive steps to make things right for our drivers.

- All 172,000 team members and dealers across North America are working day and night to fix our recalled vehicles – and one million have already been repaired.
- Our solutions are effective and durable – and we are confident that no problems exist with our electronic throttle control system.
- We've asked a world-class engineering firm to conduct a comprehensive independent analysis of this system. Their interim report confirms that its multiple fail-safes work – and we will make their final report public.

But we are not stopping there.

Toyota will set a new standard for speed of response on safety issues. For example, we are expanding our field monitoring team with the goal of conducting on-site inspections of unwanted acceleration reports as soon as possible.

And we'll be a leader in introducing advanced safety technologies to provide you with added confidence – including an advanced brake override system that automatically cuts engine power when the accelerator and brake pedals are both engaged.

We'll ask distinguished independent safety experts to ensure that the enhanced quality controls we're putting in place conform to best industry practices.

We continue to produce many of the best vehicles on the road. Many of you who are bringing your vehicles to our dealers for repair continue to tell us that, and we deeply appreciate your loyalty.

More than anything, we want you to feel safe, knowing the vehicles you are driving are among the safest, most reliable in the world.

Sincerely,

Jim Lentz
President and Chief Operating Officer
Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A., Inc.

To learn more about what we're doing for customers, please visit:
toyota.com

Texas Comptroller's free seminar answers business owners' questions about state taxes

(NDG Wire) A diverse economy, growing work force and friendly business climate attract more businesses to the Lone Star state every day. Texas Comptroller Susan Combs' office regularly presents free taxpayer seminars throughout the state to help new and existing business owners understand their state tax responsibilities.

The next seminar in the Dallas area is Thursday, March 11, from 6 to 8 p.m.,

at the Comptroller's Dallas Northeast Field Office, located at 9221 LBJ Freeway, Suite 100.

At the seminar, taxpayers can learn about sales tax forms, filing and paying taxes electronically, taxable goods and services, e-services to help taxpayers manage their accounts online, the Comptroller's e-mail subscription service that alerts taxpayers when new tax information is posted online, and the array of other serv-

ices and information available from the Comptroller's office to assist taxpayers. Comptroller representatives will answer questions and provide assistance to attendees.

"A strong and diverse business community is the key to Texas' economic strength," Combs said. "We are committed to assisting Texas businesses by making taxes simpler, smarter, faster and, above all, transparent. We owe it to our taxpayers to

provide the best customer service possible."

For more information about the seminar, call the Comptroller's Dallas Northeast Field Office at (972) 792-5800.

Those who are unable to attend the seminar can call the Comptroller's tax assistance line at (800) 252-5555. Tax forms and tax information can also be found on the Comptroller's Web site, www.window.state.tx.us.

Seven important facts about claiming the First-Time Homebuyer Credit

(NDG Wire) If you purchased a home in 2009 or early 2010, you may be eligible to claim the First-Time Homebuyer Credit, whether you are a first-time homebuyer or a long-time resident purchasing a new home.

Here are seven things the IRS wants you to know about claiming the credit:

1. You must buy – or enter into a binding contract to buy – a principal residence located in the United States on or before April 30, 2010. If you enter into a binding contract by April 30, 2010, you must close on the home on or before June 30, 2010.

2. To be considered a first-time homebuyer, you

and your spouse – if you are married – must not have jointly or separately owned another principal residence during the three years prior to the date of purchase.

3. To be considered a long-time resident homebuyer you and your spouse – if you are married – must have lived in the same principal residence for any consecutive five-year period during the eight-year period that ended on the date the new home is purchased. Additionally, your settlement date must be after November 6, 2009.

4. The maximum credit for a first-time homebuyer is \$8,000. The maximum credit

for a long-time resident homebuyer is \$6,500.

5. You must file a paper return and attach Form 5405, First-Time Homebuyer Credit and Repayment of the Credit with additional documents to verify the purchase. Therefore, if you claim the credit you will not be able to file electronically.

6. The new homebuyers must attach a copy of a properly executed settlement statement used to complete such purchase. Buyers of a newly constructed home, where a settlement statement is not available, must attach a copy of the dated certificate of occupancy. Mobile home purchasers who are unable to

get a settlement statement must attach a copy of the retail sales contract.

7. If you are a long-time resident claiming the credit, the IRS recommends that you also attach any documentation covering the five-consecutive-year period, including Form 1098, Mortgage Interest Statement or substitute mortgage interest statements, property tax records or homeowner's insurance records.

For more information about these rules including details about documentation and other eligibility requirements visit IRS.gov/recovery.

Texas reaches agreements with Western Union, three other states in anti-money laundering effort

(NDG Wire) Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott entered into two agreements that will help Texas and other border states crack down on illegal money laundering. These agreements—one with Western Union Financial Services, Inc., and the other with the States of Arizona, California and New Mexico—establish new protocols for sharing Western

Union's extensive wire transfer information; provide for the creation of the Southwest Border Anti-Money Laundering Alliance; and will allow Texas law enforcement agencies to apply for grants from a newly established multi-state \$50 million border crime prevention fund.

Under the agreement with Western Union, the

company has agreed to provide:

- Information regarding certain wire transfers that are sent to or from authorized Western Union locations within the State of Texas;
- Suspicious Activity Reports about wire transfers to or from Western Union locations within the State of Texas; and
- Information about tra-

nsactions that are suspected of having a connection to human trafficking operations.

The multi-state agreement with the States of Arizona, California and New Mexico creates the Southwest Border Anti-Money Laundering Alliance, which is charged with facilitating increased cooperation, collaboration and information-

New Marketing Opportunities



By
Tarsha Polk
NDG Special Contributor

In tough economic times business owners look for new marketing opportunities to improve sales. The number of opportunities may vary depending on your business cycle and resources available. What I mean is, you may normally show an increase in sales during the summer months but due to the economy, business is slower.

If you are not marketing via Facebook, Twitter and Myspace; go sign up right now! Social networks are free advertising for your products and services. Find groups to join, offer tips and advice to engage your audience and expand your brand. You should also include a personal and company profile on LinkedIn.

Opportunities will always exist, you just have to be creative and find them. Finding the right opportunities mean you need to think outside the box. Learn to find opportunities where there is an unmet need. This is called, niche marketing.

For example, I host an Internet talk radio show and I was contacted by someone who offers transcription services. She normally targets doctors and educators, but due to the increasing online radio stations, she determined that Internet radio is a good niche to target. A niche can be geographic

areas, a specialty industry, a demographic or ethnic group, a specific gender group, or other special group of people.

Think of new ways to modify your product, combine it, offer different sizes, or add new features to it. I remember the time when banks had stand alone locations. Now, you can find banks in grocery stores. Did you know you can buy Krispy Kreme donuts at 7-11? These companies found ways to combine its services with something else by going where their customers already visit. Where can you look for new places to sell your products? Do research on companies that offer complimentary products and create strategic alliances.

Once I met a lady who owns a personal training business. She expanded her services by offering classes to her clients on how to make your own healthy smoothie. The purpose was to educate her clients on eating healthy to maintain a good weight. Conduct a survey or focus group with existing customers to brainstorm ideas on improving your products.

Don't be discouraged by all the bad news about the economy, be creative and look for new marketing opportunities to survive in this downturn.

Tarsha Polk, The Marketing Lady, is a marketing coach, consultant, and talk show host. Visit www.themarketinglady.com

sharing between the four states' attorneys general. Alliance members will also recommend how to distribute money from a \$50 million fund that was created to help local law enforcement agencies throughout the U.S.-Mexico border region

prosecute money laundering, weapons smuggling and related criminal activity. Funding for the initiative was provided by Western Union as part of a settlement agreement it entered into with the Arizona Attorney General's Office.

Why is it so important to read positive literature?

BY ROLLIS FONTENOT III,
HOUSTON SALES
COACH EXAMINER

Reading positive literature is an absolute must to help you grow into the career and life you want. Unlike a physical workout that can take one to two hours, the brain workout only involves 15 minutes a day.

Reading or listening to positive literature edifies you and is a relatively small task that pays enormous dividends if done consistently and meaningfully. It

will help you generate fresh ideas and strategies to help you get to where you need to be in order to accomplish your goals.

Here are 3 important things reading positive literature can accomplish:

1. Mentally exercises your mind to process new ideas and rekindle old ones that are of value.

2. Counteracts negative or neutral influences such as: TV, radio, and other forms of entertainment, as well as friends, family, your

job, etc.

3. Helps you to counteract your own habitual negative thoughts and emotions, by reinforcing them with positive ones.

For example, let's say that you decided to read something positive for 15 minutes per day. If you multiply the 15 minutes a day that you read times 365 days, you will get 5,475 minutes. Divide that 5,475 minutes by 60 minutes, and you come up with over 91



hours of positive literature reading per year. That's very powerful!

"You are the same today you'll be in five years except for two things: the people you meet and the books you read." Charlie Tremendous Jones

dous Jones

So, just what is positive literature?

Nonfiction books, magazines, videos, or audio books that have the potential to help you improve your life, including your career. This would include the books on personal development, or biographies of successful people you would like to emulate in at least one area of your life such as personal finance, business, motivational, negotiation, etc. Whether you are in

sales or not, you are still selling yourself and your ideas to others constantly, so I suggest including a book on sales as well. Here is a link to some of my favorite positive literature to read.

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Interested candidates should email resume to publisher@northdallasgazette.com

FRISCO, continued from Page 1

move the championship games to Pizza Hut Park. Frisco received pledges from people living in 103 cities throughout Texas and from 17 other states. Frisco estimated the pledges represented more than 8,000 tickets.

"Pizza Hut Park and Hunt Sports Group couldn't be more excited to host the NCAA Division I Football Championship games," said John Wagner, President, Hunt Sports Group. Along with Southland Conference and the City of Frisco, we look forward to showcasing our venue and our city."

The local organizing committee consists of the City of Frisco, its Economic Development Corporation

and Convention & Visitors Bureau, Hunt Sports Group Pizza Hut Park, the Frisco Chamber of Commerce and Frisco based Southland Conference.

"The Southland Conference is honored and privileged to serve as the host conference for the NCAA Division I Football Championship Game," said Southland Commissioner Tom Burnett. "Since beginning the planning process last August, our Team Frisco local organizing committee has worked diligently to bring this national championship to Pizza Hut Park. We also knew from the start our community would support this effort. Given all the built-in ad-

vantages of Frisco and the greater Dallas-Fort Worth metropolitan area, we always felt confident the NCAA would be attracted to what we were offering the game."

Frisco emerged from a pool of several cities that submitted bids to serve as the host site for the championship games, beginning with the 2010 season.

The championship game will be the culmination of a newly expanded 20 - team championship bracket. As a result of this expansion, the game will be played a few weeks later than in years past.

The Football Championship Subdivision (FCS), formerly known as Division

I-AA, includes the conferences and institutions that compete in the NCAA Division I Football Championship, in addition to two conferences who choose not to participate in the football championship, the Ivy League and the Southwestern Athletic Conference.

The decision to award the championship site to Frisco, Texas, was recommended by the Division I Football Championship Committee and approved by the Administrative Committee of the Division I Championships/Sports Management Cabinet.

"We are excited about the opportunity for the football championship game to

be played in Frisco," said Damani Leech, NCAA director of baseball and football. "With the quality of bids that were submitted, it was not an easy decision to make. But we feel the right decision and right place to serve as the site for the Division I football championship is indeed Frisco."

GRAPHIC ARTIST

Small Community Newspaper looking for a parttime student graphic artist.

Prefer student (intern) that's available on a per project basis.

Must have knowledge of Quark and Indesign software.

Work will be done at company office.

Must be professional and dependable. Fax resumes to: 972-509-9058, or email to: trj1909@tx.rr.com



The City of Allen is currently accepting applications for the following positions:

Administrative Assistant

Day Camp Counselor (Seasonal)

Golf Attendant (PT/Seasonal)

Maintenance Worker - Golf Course (Seasonal)

Recreation Specialist - Youth Center (Seasonal)

Water Safety Instructor (PT)

Please visit the City of Allen's Employment Opportunities Page at

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www.cityofirving.org

**AVENUE F CHURCH
OF CHRIST
IN RICHARDSON**
March 6, 7 a.m.

All ladies are invited to our Ladies Prayer and Breakfast meeting at the IHOP Restaurant, 933 N. Central Expressway, Plano, TX 75075. Call Sis. Misty Rockwell @ 214-244-1142 or Sis. Deadra Pete @ 469-667-5865 for details.

March 6, 11 a.m. - noon
You're invited to our Ladies Book Reading, *A Woman After God's Own Heart*. Call Sis. Wakita Lamb for details.
Brother Ramon Hodridge,
Minister
1026 Avenue F
Plano, TX 75074
972-423-8833

**CHRISTIAN CHAPEL
CME TEMPLE OF
FAITH**
March 27, 9:30 a.m.
12:30 p.m.

In conjunction with Delta Sigma Theta Sorority we present a Candidate's Forum with invited participants Democratic Gubernatorial Candidate Bill White, Democratic Senatorial Tom Berry and Dallas Mayor Pro Tem Dwaine Caraway. There will also be representatives from the U.S Census Bureau speaking. Call the church for details.

Dr. Jerome McNeil, Jr.
Senior Pastor

14120 Noel Road
Dallas TX 75254
972-239-1120

**DAYSTAR
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9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Visit Helen's House every Monday and Friday to receive, to give, to comfort and most of all to fellowship. The give-a-way of food, love and household items is given freely to all those who could use a little touch.

Pastor Minnie
Hawthorne-Ewing
635 W. Campbell Road
Suite 210
Richardson, TX 75080
972-480-0200

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BAPTIST
CHURCH OF ALLEN**
"THE SHIP"

On Going, 9 a.m.- 4 p.m.
Monday - Friday
Prayer Lines for those in need are 972-649-0566 and 972-649-0567, 9 a.m.- 4 p.m.

Wednesdays Only
Join us for Wednesday Night Live at our main campus @ 7 p.m.
W. L. Stafford, Sr.,
M.Div.
305 N. Alder Drive in
Allen for Sunday
Morning Worship
Church Address is
200 Belmont Drive
Allen, TX 75013

972-359-9956

**NEW MOUNT ZION
BAPTIST CHURCH**
On Going

You are invited to visit our Job Resource Center on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. in our Computer Training Room in the Educational Building.

March 5-14
Join us for our 52nd Annual City-Wide Revival at Good Street Baptist Church. On March 9 our choir will perform; on March 13 our Youth for Christ Musical will perform at 7 p.m.; and on March 14 we will have our Annual Ushers/Nurses March at 7 p.m.

March 6, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.
Come to the Greater Rising Star District's 1st Women and Girls Conference at Bethany M.B. Church, 6710 Webster Street, Dallas, TX 75209. The theme is "Women Nurturing Women" with speaker Evangelist Jackie Ross-Roy. Call the church for details and registration fee.

March 28
You're invited to our 64th Church Anniversary as we give God the praise and glory in our Worship Service.
Dr. Robert Price, Sr.,
Senior Pastor
9550 Shepherd Road
Dallas, Texas 75243

214-341-6459

**NORTH DALLAS
COMMUNITY
BIBLE FELLOWSHIP
CHURCH**
March 7 p.m.

Join us for Life Group 7 1st Year Anniversary Celebration with Chicken & Waffle Throw Down in Room D219 after service. Call the church for details.

Dr. Leslie W. Smith,
Senior Pastor
1010-1020 S. Sherman St.
Richardson, TX 75081
972-437-3493

**OPEN BIBLE
FELLOWSHIP
CHURCH**
March 14, 3 p.m.

You're invited to our 20th Church Anniversary. Now is the time to celebrate with us, our theme: "Family, Friends & Faith"
Rev. Don Bright, Pastor
2701 Briarwood
Plano, TX
972-422-4248

**SAINT MARK MBC
IN MCKINNEY**
March 13, Noon

All Senior Saints are invited to our Double Nickel (55 and above) Luncheon @ the Newsome Center on Amscott Street in McKinney. Activities include lunch, bingo and door prizes. Come and bring a friend. If you are homebound, we will deliver to you. Please call 972-542-

6178 no later than the Friday (March 12th this month) before the luncheon and leave a message with your name, address, phone number and how many meals you need.

Dr. Charles Wattley
Senior Pastor
1308 Wilcox Street
McKinney TX 75069
972-542-6178

**SHILOH MBC
IN PLANO**

March 6, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Join us for our FREE Women's Mission Ministry and the Greater North Dallas Club NANBPWC, Inc, "Mother & Daughter Tea" featuring "The Pink It Factor Health Care Providers. All women and girls are invited. Call the church for details.

Dr. Isaiah Joshua, Jr.
Senior Pastor

920 E. 14th Street
Plano, TX 75074
972-423-6695

**THE INTERSECTION
CHURCH**
March 19 & 20

You are invited as we present a weekend of "A Prayer & Prophetic Conference" with speakers Elder Cathy Moffitt, a former school teacher and Community Relations Manager on Friday night @ 7 p.m. and Prophetess Vanessa Weatherspoon, an Industrial Engineer in Corporate America on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Our theme is "The Binding of Strongmen and Ruler Spirits."

Bishop D. A. Davis
Senior Pastor
1735 W. Belt Line Road
Desoto, TX 75115
972-663-9400

RESOLUTION,

continued from Page 6

"It is my hope that Americans of all ages and all walks of life will continue to increase their personal savings rate in the months and years to come."

In introducing H. Res. 1082, Congresswoman Johnson recognized Congresswoman Stephanie Tubbs Jones, who introduced legislation recognizing past America Saves

Weeks prior to her death in 2008.

"I want to acknowledge the vigorous efforts of the late Congresswoman Stephanie Tubbs Jones to improve the overall economic situation of all of those who reside in the United States," Congresswoman Johnson said.

For information visit www.americasaves.org/.

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10:45AM Story Elementary
11:50 Edgewood - Allen, Tx

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



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Shaun Rabb, Senior Pastor



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10:00 am
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7:15 pm

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Hear Pastor Sam on: "Truth Made Simple"
KGGR 1040 AM, Monday - Friday @ 5:25 pm - 5:30 pm





March is National Women's History Month

The 2010 theme for Women's History Month is: *Writing Women Back into History*.

On March 8, 1980 President Jimmy Carter issued a Presidential Proclamation declaring that week as the first National Women's History Week; and in 1987 Congress expanded the week into a month with March being National Women's History Month.

It has been said that the history of women is often written in invisible ink. Even when recognized in their own times, women are frequently left out of history books. This month I will highly some Women of Color and their accomplishments.

I praise and thank my God for wonderful Black women that have been a great part in who I am and what I have done with my life. Each lady is very precious and dearly loved by me.

Mrs. Cedella Baker Demus, my mother for being a great mother and the glorious memories that she left behind; Minister Sheila Tarpley Lott, my daughter who published her first book in December 2009, *Without Fear or*

Favor which can be purchased at www.lulu.com and Mrs. Phemia Tinner, one of the best friends that anyone can have, especially me.

In 1978 the United States Post Office Department issued the first stamp to commemorate the contributions of African Americans females. Abolitionist **Harriet Tubman** stamp was the first female in the Black Heritage Series, a 13¢ stamp issued on February 1, 1978, she organized the Underground Railroad.

The **Mary McLeod Bethune** stamp, a 22¢ on March 5, 1985, a noted educator and social activist, she was an advisor to President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

The **Sojourner Truth** stamp, a 22¢ on February 4, 1986. She was considered one of the greatest orators of her time, she traveled and lectured on women's rights and the evil of slavery in 1886. The **Ida B. Wells** stamp, a 25¢ on February 1, 1990. She devoted her life to educating people about the horrors of discrimination and lynching. The **Madam C. J. Walker** stamp, a 42c on January 28, 1998. She was one of the

nation's first female millionaires and an advocate of women's economic independence and empowerment.

The **Patricia Roberts Harris** stamp, a 33¢ on January 27, 2000. She was a committed public servant and champion of civil rights, the first Black woman to hold a U. S. Ambassadorship and to serve as a member of a Presidential Cabinet. The **Bessie Coleman** stamp, a 32¢ on April 27, 1995. She was the first woman to earn an international aviation license and the first licensed Black aviator. The **Marian Anderson** stamp, a 37¢ on January 27, 2005. She received a Honorary Doctorate Music Degree from Howard University and was invited to sing in the open at Lincoln Memorial Park in Washington which drew 75,000 people, which was the largest crowd at the time to assemble at the Memorial. The **Hattie McDaniel** stamp, for 39¢ on January 25, 2006. She was the first Black to win an Academy Award (the Oscar); and Jazz Singer **Ella Fitzgerald** stamp, a 39¢ on January 10, 2007.

Distinguished Black

Woman: Phillis Wheatley, an internationally known poet during the Revolutionary Period; **Maria Stewart**, outspoken Abolitionist, the first Black woman to speak in public and leave extant texts of her addresses, her farewell speech *What If I Am A Woman*, defended her right to speak against slavery; **Mae Jemison, M. D.**, the first Black woman Astronaut. Soprano **Leontyne Price**, world renowned opera singer opens the Metropolitan Opera Season in 1961. **Constance Motley**, first Black female federal judge in 1966; **Hallie Quinn Brown** became well-known as a teacher



Sister Tarpley and Ms. Esther Levy celebrating National Women's History Month going on a shopping spree.

and elocutionist, she taught at Allen University and Tuskegee Institute, but is probably well known as a speaker and dramatic reader; she recited the works of

Paul Laurence Dunbar in Germany, France, Switzerland and Great Britain, where she appeared before **Queen Victoria**.

SHOWDOWN, continued from Page 1

Perry will now face former Houston Mayor Bill White, who initially was running to fill Hutchinson's seat. When it became apparent she was not going to resign, he was recruited by the state democratic officials to run for governor.

Despite his late entry into the race, White crushed hair care businessman Farouk Shami in the Democratic primary on Tuesday.

White describes himself as a "fiscal conservative" which gives democrats hope he can actually defeat Perry.

The three-term mayor of the nation's fourth-largest city gained national attention with the way he handled the influx of Katrina victims during his first term.

Given the fact the democrats have not won a state-wide election since 1994, many still believe

White is facing an uphill battle. Perry has already employed the same strategy he used against Hutchinson by suggesting White has too many ties to President Barack Obama and other Washington insiders.

Democrats however feel Perry can be defeated, their only disappointment is that he was able to avoid the runoff by gaining 51 percent of the votes cast.



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972-423-8833

www.avefchurchofchrist.org

Early Sunday Morning.....8:00 am
Sunday Bible Class.....9:45 am
Sunday Morning Worship.....10:45 am
Evening Worship.....3:00 pm
Wednesday Bible Class.....7:00 pm

Ramon Hodridge, Minister

Radio Program @ 7:30 am on
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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.

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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
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Email: info@mtspisgah.org
Website: www.dallasmtspisgah.org

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

Wheel of Fortune fans get an opportunity to try out for the show

(NDG Wire) *Wheel of Fortune's* Wheelmobile, the show's promotional vehicle, will be in North Texas in search of good game players who are energetic, enthusiastic and fun. Viewers who are interested in being a contestant on an upcoming episode are invited to attend.

Fans will have the opportunity to fill out an application, have his or her name drawn at random to play a simulated version of the game onstage, win

unique prizes and be evaluated as a potential contestant for the broadcast version of the show.

Saturday March 6 from 2 p.m. – 6 p.m. they will be at the Dallas Convention Center, 650 S. Griffin Street. Sunday March 7 also from 2 p.m. – 6 p.m. the Wheelmobile will be at Billy Bob's Texas in Fort Worth at 2520 Rodeo Plaza.

Saturday, parking will be available inside the Dallas Convention Center Garage for a charge of \$10.

There will be no charge for admission to the Wheelmobile event.

Sunday, self-parking will be available in the Billy Bob's Texas parking lot for a charge of \$5. There will be no charge for admission to the Wheelmobile event.

The majority of contestants who appear on *Wheel of Fortune* come out to Wheelmobile events in their hometowns. Since its in-



ception in 1999, the Wheelmobile has logged over 200,000 miles and has visited over 150 cities, with over 600,000 *Wheel of Fortune* fans attending the events.

Wheel of Fortune airs weeknights at 6:30 p.m. on CBS11.

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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

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"Watchmen on the Walls"

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2010 Theme:
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Uncompromising Preaching
Unwavering Teaching

Worship Times: 8 and 11 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.
Mid-week: Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.
Children's and Youth Worship
Service: Every 3rd, 4th, and 5th, Sunday at 10:45 a.m.
AWANA: Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.
Contact Information: 972-423-6695
www.smbcplano.org

Town hall meeting planned to discuss MPAC

(NDG Wire) A town hall meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 9 at 5:30 p.m. in the Courtroom Theater at the McKinney Performing Arts Center (MPAC). Mayor Brian Loughmiller will speak on the city's arts fa-

cility and take questions from attendees.

The second public forum, also hosted by the McKinney Arts Commission, is scheduled for Thursday, March 18 at 5:30 p.m. at the MPAC, 111 N. Tennessee St.

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.

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pressing forward

Charles S. Wattley
Senior Pastor

SUNDAY
Education Ministries
9:30 a.m.
Worship Celebration
10:45 a.m.

WEDNESDAY
Family Ministries
7:00 p.m.

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