

North Dallas Gazette

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Payday lending reform picks up steam

(NDG Wire) Cities and towns across Texas are urging legislative leaders in Austin to close a loophole in state law that allows payday lenders and auto title lenders to charge exorbitant rates for short-term loans, fostering a cycle of dependency that often leads to financial ruin.

Recently, the El Paso City Council unanimously adopted a resolution by Councilmember Susie Byrd calling on the Texas Legislature and the Governor to stop usurious lending and require these operations to comply with the same standards as licensed consumer lenders in Texas.

Meanwhile, a group of consumer and public interest organizations, including AARP, launched a new Web site – www.stoppaydayabuse.org – with information, a call to action and opportunities for consumers who have been victimized by these practices to share their stories.

In December, the City of Brownsville placed a six-month moratorium prohibiting these lenders from opening any new “money stores” in town. Other cities have gotten into the act as well, most of them adopting zoning laws that prevent the expansion of these opera-

See REFORM, Page 5

Help for job seekers offered at Plano libraries

(NDG Wire) Plano Public Library System will offer two workshops to help job seekers. First is a Job Search class on Saturday, March 27 from 10 a.m. to noon at Davis Library, 7501-B Independence Parkway.

The class will offer information about free resources, using e-mail effec-

tively and preparing for an interview.

The second workshop is a Resume Webinar on Wednesday, April 14 from 3 to 4 p.m. offered simultaneously at three libraries; Davis Library, 7501-B Independence Parkway; Harrington Library, 1501 18th Street; and Parr Library, 6200 Windhaven Parkway.

The webinar will be presented by Barbara Safani, resume expert and author of *Happy About My Resume 50 Tips for Building a Better Document to Secure a Brighter Future*. Safani's presentation will focus on creating a powerful resume that really sells skills.

Each library will fea-

ture a door prize drawing for a copy of Safani's book.

For more information on this and other programs presented by Plano Public Library System, please visit www.planolibrary.org or call Davis Library at 972-208-8000, Harrington Library at 972-941-7175, or Parr Library at 972-769-4300.



Congresswoman
Eddie Bernice Johnson

Taxpayers receiving larger tax refunds thanks to Stimulus Package

(NDG Wire) Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson encouraged citizens to take advantage of numerous tax cuts in the Recovery Act. With only half of taxpayers having filed thus far,

tax refunds are already up nearly 10% from last year – thanks to a broad array of tax cuts in the Recovery Act.

“Most people don't realize that tax cuts are the

biggest individual piece of the Recovery Act,” said Congresswoman Johnson.

“President Obama and Congress gave 95% of working

See REFUNDS Page 13

COVER STORY

Health care finally passes: What will it mean?



President Barack Obama gives a "high five" to 11 year-old Marcelas Owens, of Seattle, Washington.

See HEALTH CARE, Page 9



Telling the Gospel in Jazz

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

COMMENTARY

Fighting childhood obesity

BY MARIAN WRIGHT EDELMAN

(NNPA) When First Lady Michelle Obama decided to launch the "Let's Move" campaign to fight childhood obesity, she brought much needed attention to a crisis facing millions of children. It's a special concern for children of color because new research shows Black and Hispanic children are disproportionately at risk for nearly a dozen factors that increase their chances to

be obese. But children of color are far from the only ones in danger. Experts estimate one-third of American children are currently overweight or obese, and these rates have tripled among children ages 12 to 19 since 1980. Some adults may see a heavy child as a sign of a healthy eater, or think that for children, extra weight is mainly just a cosmetic issue. But seri-

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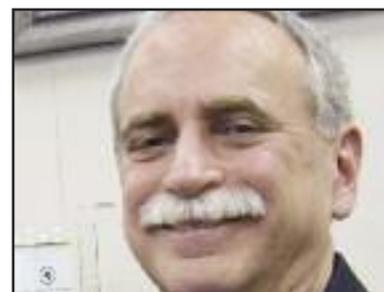
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People In The News...



Najee Dorsey



Bob Weiss



Bishop D. A. Davis

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Najee Dorsey

Najee Dorsey will be a featured artist at the South-



west Black Fine Art Show, April 9-11, 2010, at the African American Museum in Dallas, Texas.

Najee is one of the emerging American artists in the 21st century. With each brush stroke, his original storytelling creations celebrate African American history and culture.

A native of

Blytheville, Arkansas and strong family ties in Louisiana, Najee's work reflects themes strongly associated with love, family, community, perseverance, survival and celebration.

Najee has experimented with many different mediums and artistic styles, but is best known for his richly textured collages and is often compared to the legendary Romare Bearden.

Since 2005, his success has been unprecedented. His vibrant work has influenced a new generation of art collectors and has been exhibited at some of the

most prestigious venues across the country. His original designs can be found in museum collections like the Marietta Museum of Art, Sarasota, Florida as well as numerous corporate collections including Liberty Bank, New Orleans; Shaw-nee College in Illinois; and Newnan County Public Library of Georgia. Because of the international appeal of his work

Najee has recently added work to the homes of collectors in Norway, Spain and Hong Kong.

Southern splendor and elegance comes to mind

when thinking about the artwork of Najee Dorsey, a native of Arkansas with roots in Louisiana. Najee loves to express himself in mix media, using acrylic paints, decorative fabrics, inks and handmade papers are used to share the human story.

Over the last sixteen years, he has produced a body of work that has grown in substance and style.

Since the move to Atlanta, Najee has produced a body of work that has been collected throughout the country and exhibited throughout the South, in

Chicago, New York and California.

Najee is the recipient of numerous honors including the 2006 Patrons Purchase Award from the Polk Museum of Art, works purchased for Newnan County Public Library of Georgia, Marietta Museum of Art and Liberty Bank of New Orleans.

The Southwest Black Fine Art Show has stood as a cultural beacon in Dallas and the Southwestern United States.

For more information about the show log on www.aamdallas.org.

Bob Weiss

Paul Quinn College, the only historically black private college in Dallas, announced three of their newest Board of Trustee members. The college has been in the mist of historic improvements and changes, and the newest Board members are committed to strengthening the outlook of PQC and the Dallas community.

Three new Board of Trustees were recently

added to Paul Quinn College's Board of Trustees:

- William "Bill" Brewer, Co-founder of Bickel & Brewe Law Firm
- Matthew H. Hildreth, President and Chief Executive Officer—Dallas Region Amegy Bank of Texas
- Bob Weiss, Vice President for Administration of The Meadows Foundation

Bob Weiss is the Vice President for Administra-

tion of The Meadows Foundation, the position he has held since joining the Foundation in July 1989. Previously, Mr. Weiss was the founding Executive Director of The Center for Non-profit Management in Dallas, a management assistance program established in 1981 to bring business skill and knowledge to non-profit organizations.

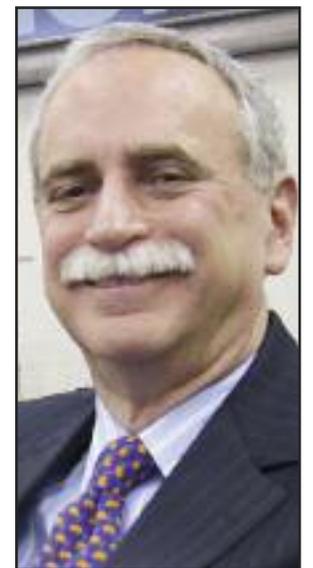
A member of the Conference of Southwest Foundations, Bob has served as Chair of the Legislative Network Committee and

currently remains a member.

Bob is actively involved in professional, civic, and community affairs. He currently serves on the board of directors of the Carl B. & Florence E. King Foundation of Dallas, and is a member of the Kalman & Ida Wolens Foundation board of directors. Recently, Bob was appointed by the Attorney General of Texas to the Board of Directors of the Burkett Foundation in El Paso. Bob served as the City of Dallas

Plan Commission Chair for the 2006-2007 term and completed his service in December. He completed his service on the City Plan Commission in November 2009.

Past board service includes Youth and Family Impact Centers of Dallas, the YMCA of Dallas, Temple Emanuel, and St. Edward's University, Austin. Bob participated in the Leadership Dallas Class of 1983 and has been a member of the Dallas Assembly.



Bishop D. A. Davis

Bishop D. A. Davis is a multi-faceted, multi-talented professional who is adept and skilled in many areas of ministry, business, literature, communication and education.

Currently, Bishop Davis pastors "The Intersection Church" or "The I Church" as it is called by the members, in Desoto, Texas. For eight years, both members and visitors are blessed to reach new spiritual horizons as Bishop Davis brings clarity, depth and analysis in the exegesis of scripture. His commitment to people is further demonstrated by leading a successful prayer line seven days a week and includes callers from across the country.

As a former President/CEO of a national

business management firm with over twenty (20) years of experience, Davis coupled his management skills and business acumen to successfully grow small to medium size companies. In addition, Davis performed in the non-profit arena by securing capital from both institutional and private lending sources. Davis identified problem areas of the business, implemented corrective measures, infused capital and managed a successful transformation. To date, Davis continues to conduct individual and group related seminars, workshops and strategies to churches and/or companies.

Davis served his country as an officer in the United States Army. Service to country and others is



the hallmark of DA's life. He served as a Chaplain at Zale Lipshy University Hospital and in the burn unit of the acclaimed Parkland Health and Hospital System. Believing that ministry seeks attention to the total person, Davis worked to meet the needs of patients in the areas of emotional, spiritual, relational and life guidance issues.

Author D. A. Davis has penned *Barren Vines and Empty Baskets Effective Habits for Developing Affective Relationships* (available through Amazon.com and theintersectionchurch.org) a book that describes how a husband can be unproductive (barren) and how a wife can be unfulfilled (empty basket) in a marital relationship.

Davis provides strategies to help couples communicate, cope and conciliate, effective habits that ensures a lasting marital relationship. Davis forthcoming book, *The Love Language of Dance* is scheduled for release in early 2010.

These books will provide conference material for the upcoming marital conferences; where by Davis and his wife, Lorita will incorporate ballroom dance

techniques to teach effective communication skills.

Davis was educated at Alabama A&M University

where he received his undergraduate degree, and

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\$69* DIVORCE

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Health care: Finally a semblance of justice

BY REV. AL SHARPTON

(NNPA) It was the second annual convention of the Medical Committee for Human Rights in 1965. And during this conference in Chicago, our great civil rights leader, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., delivered a speech that till this day resonates with those who see disparity in our health care system.

It was on March 25 – precisely 44 years ago – that MLK said: "Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in health is the most shocking and the most inhuman." To the 220 members of Congress who voted yes for health care reform on Sunday, the citizens of the United States at long last say thank you for representing our desires, thank you for representing our needs and thank you for representing the will of the people.

For decades, Presidents have tried and failed to push through health care legislation that would begin to rectify the unfair practices of health care providers and the egregious monopoly of the insurance industry.

There were efforts by Harry Truman after the Second World War, a push by Lyndon B. Johnson and who can forget the unyielding work of Bill and Hillary Clinton in the 1990s. But it wasn't until Sunday, into the late hours of the night, that the U.S. Congress effectively passed this historic health care legislation. Following a year of fierce debate and town hall meetings that ended in shouting matches, the Democrats and President Obama solidified their pledge that change would indeed come to Washington.

No one can deny that the road to health care re-

form was embedded with hurdles and difficulties beyond comprehension. Nor is anyone avowing that all problems within our health care system will be immediately resolved.

But for the first time in our nation's history, American children cannot be denied coverage because they have pre-existing conditions, small businesses will receive a tax credit for providing health care, young adults can stay on their parent's insurance until the age of 27 and insurance companies cannot cut someone when he or she gets sick.

And by 2014, annual caps will be eliminated, health care exchanges will be available, adults with pre-existing conditions will no longer be discriminated against and much much more. Let us not forget, all progressive legislation – including the Voting Rights

Act of 1965 – did not grant everything all at once. Instead, it was amendments and other additions to the initial law that created the equality we know and enjoy today. This health care reform bill therefore is the first step in finally achieving a semblance of justice in an area that has shocked and outraged everyone concerned with the betterment of humanity.

President Obama clearly outlined his plan for health care overhaul early on during his campaign for the Presidency. And after winning the election, he spent the first year in office not only fighting for this legislation, but also reaching across the aisle.

Incorporating both Democratic and Republican concepts into this bill, and making changes along the

See JUSTICE Page 4

OBESITY, continued from Page 1

ous risks for overweight children go far beyond appearance.

Diseases once associated only with adults, like type 2 diabetes, high cholesterol, and high blood pressure, are on the rise at younger and younger ages. Overweight children are at greatly increased risk of being overweight adults, so for many children, this may be more than just a "chubby" phase they'll someday outgrow.

As many as 80 percent of overweight children may be set up for a lifetime of increased health risks that come with being overweight. The most pressing risk, cardiovascular disease, remains the leading killer in America.

If childhood obesity trends continue, experts predict they could cut two to five years off the lifespan of the average child in America—making this the first generation to have a shorter life expectancy than their parents. Right now our country spends \$150 billion a year treating obe-

sity-related diseases, nearly 10 percent of all medical spending. Many experts label the current level of childhood obesity an epidemic that threatens our future national health, productivity, and security unless something can be done to stop and reverse the trend.

There are many reasons childhood obesity is on the rise. American children have been immersed in the same "supersized" culture that snares adults, surrounded by high-calorie, high-fat food that's plentiful, cheap, and often served in unrealistically big portions.

Today's children and teenagers are much less likely than past generations to spend free time running around outdoors and much more likely to spend it on the couch watching TV, playing video games, or surfing the Web, often with snacks and sodas right next to them. Very few children get the 60 minutes of moderate physical activity most days of the week recom-

mended by the Surgeon General.

Even schools have become part of the problem. Many districts have cut back on gym time and recess, often as a tradeoff for more instructional time to prepare for state testing. The quality of school meals and easy availability of snacks and sugary drinks in many school vending machines were some of the first targets in the war on child obesity, and there's been progress.

Some major school food suppliers are making improvements in response to Mrs. Obama's campaign. Advocates for better nutrition hope that as more people become aware of the risks to children's health, more industries, schools, restaurants, and communities will make a big difference for America's children.

As these kinds of changes occur in a range of child environments, Mrs. Obama and others stress the biggest influence in children's eating habits will come from home. It has

been parents who have told their children to eat their vegetables or go outside and get some fresh air.

Mrs. Obama has shared some of the simple changes she and the President have made in their own family's lifestyle, including watching portion sizes, packing more fruits and water in their daughters' lunches, limiting TV time, and, famously, starting a vegetable garden at home.

We know our beautiful children come in all shapes and sizes. But by being aware of the serious health risks many overweight children face and of the long-term value of a balanced diet, and of regular exercise for all children, we can help make sure all our children grow up to be as healthy as possible. Making healthy food and exercise part of family life is the right place to start, and will be good for many adults too! Teaching good habits to children early can have lifelong consequences, and someday our children—and grandchildren—will thank us

Remington College-Dallas Campus and Remington College-Fort Worth Campus blood drives set for April 5 and April 12

(NDG Wire) Remington College-Dallas Campus and Remington College-Fort Worth Campus are holding the first in a series of local blood drives to recruit more minority blood donors to benefit Dallas and Fort Worth residents in need of blood.

The first blood drives will be held on Tuesday, April 5th from 10:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Remington College-Fort Worth Cam-

pus and Monday April 12th from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on the Remington College-Dallas Campus as part of National Minority Health Month.

Remington College is joining forces with America's Blood Centers and the Sickle Cell Disease Association of America for the blood drives. The effort is called 3 Lives - because three lives may be saved for every one pint of blood do-

nated.

The blood drives will focus on the need for minority donors - especially African Americans. According to America's Blood Centers, the need for African American blood donors is very high.

"African American donors provide blood with unique antigens, which can mean life-saving treatments for people battling sickle cell, leukemia and other dis-

eases," said Tom Schallert, America's Blood Centers president. "The best blood match for a chronically ill patient requiring multiple blood transfusions throughout his or her lifetime will likely come from a donor of the same ethnic background."

African American donors also benefit people battling sickle cell disease.

"Many people with sickle cell disease require

frequent blood transfusions, and it's best for them to receive blood that closely matches their own," said Elizabeth Simpson, Interim President/COO of the Sickle Cell Disease Association of America. "African American donors provide blood with unique antigens that is vital for people with sickle cell disease."

While the focus is on recruiting minority donors, everyone is encouraged to

attend the drive and donate blood. All the blood collected will be used to help people in the Dallas and Fort Worth area.

Remington College-Dallas Campus is located at 1800 Eastgate Drive in Dallas and Remington College-Fort Worth Campus is located at 300 East Loop 820 in Fort Worth.

For more information, call 1-800-448-6405 or visit www.3Lives.com.

Oops! We goofed

We try our best to report the most accurate information but sometimes we goof... we're human.

Our humblest apologies go to award winning author, Francis Ray. Her first book was entitled *Fallen Angel* not *Silent Angel* and her new book is *If You Were My Man* not *Like the First Time*.



Francis Ray

We also added an extra L in the spelling of author Wil Murphy's name, but we got it right in the article. Doggone you spell check.

Again sorry Mrs. Ray and Mr. Murphy and thank you for understanding.



Wil Murphy

Keeping Meals on Wheels warm for delivery in North Dallas is no problem now

(NDG WIRE) Meals on Wheels drivers with the Visiting Nurse Association

will no longer have to worry about keeping meals warm if stuck in traffic or

delayed by bad weather. Drivers will soon be transporting meals in new thermoelectric containers that will keep food as hot as if it had just come out of the oven.

The thermoelectric containers operate by being plugged into a vehicle's cigarette lighter. This can be a tremendous help for the drivers who deliver more than 3,600 meals on 210 routes each weekday for the Visiting Nurse Association.

Purchase of the heated thermoelectric containers by the Visiting Nurse Association was made possible in part by a Walmart Foun-

dation Impact Grant. "We're glad to receive funding for this," notes Katherine Krause, managing director of community nutrition programs for the Visiting Nurse Association. "And so are the homebound elderly, sick, and disabled individuals who receive Meals on Wheels in Dallas County," she adds.

Information about becoming a volunteer driver with the Visiting Nurse Association's Meals on Wheels program can be obtained by contacting Betsy Cox, director of volunteers, at 214-689-2210 or coxbe@vnatexas.org.



New thermoelectric containers will help keep Meals on Wheels warm for the 3,600 homebound elderly, sick, and disabled who receive the service in Dallas County from the Visiting Nurse Association.

DAVIS, continued from Page 2

holds his Masters of Divinity Degree from The Criswell College. He is married to Lorita Davis. D. A. and Lorita are parents of

three children and two grandchildren. The Davis's live in the metropolitan area of Dallas, Texas.

As an appropriate side

note: When you ask what D. A. stands for Davis will not share with you what the initials mean. However; they may as well stand for

Divinely Anointed as God has seemingly poured the entire list of spiritual gifts into D.A.'s life, to the benefit of all who know him.

JUSTICE, continued from Page 3

way, the President allowed an open exchange of ideas that ultimately delayed a vote on health care reform for an entire year.

Let's be blatantly clear about one thing: Republicans influenced many alterations to this bill - including the loss of a public option - and yet not a single one of them voted in favor of it this past weekend. As

we approach the mid-term elections and other battles in key states, let us never forget this fact.

Not since the 1960s has such historic legislation passed the Congress and appeared before the President's desk. But also not since that era have we witnessed such open vitriol, bigotry and reprehensible behavior.

The idea that members of Congress had racial epithets like the 'N word' hurled at them, and others were spat at only proves the fact that we are unfortunately a long long way from even being close to a post-racial society.

And to those pundits and voices on the right that stoke this sort of behavior, you will only lose in the

end. You doubted President Obama and the Democrats - they delivered. You created hysteria surrounding health care reform all across the country - it passed on Sunday. And you continue to incite division and racial disparity - and the people will continue voting in the way of progress.

Yes we can, and yes we will.

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Census Week in McKinney includes free events for residents

2010 Census forms mailed this week

McKINNEY, TEXAS (March 19, 2010) – This week, every residence in McKinney should receive the 2010 Census form. By filling out the shortest form in Census history, residents can make a lasting impact on the future of the city.

To ensure that McKinney has full participation in the Census, City Council named March 21 – 27, 2010, officially Census Week in McKinney, and the Complete Count Committee has planned a week of activities and events.

Volunteers will be at various community events during Census Week reaching out to the community and encourage participation with the Census. From Census Sunday on March 21 to a free cook-out at Old Settler's Recreation Center, all activities center on stress-

ing the importance of the Census to the city.

The Census estimates that every family of four that does not fill out the census costs McKinney around \$50,000.

In McKinney, census data is used to determine how much funding we receive from the federal government for programs that improve quality of life and help assess the needs of the community. It helps determine where to build roads, hospitals, schools and more.

In March, every household should receive the 2010 Census form to fill out along with a postage-paid return envelope. Census workers will visit households that do not return the forms to take a count in person after April 15.

Answers are protected

by law and are strictly confidential. By law, the Census Bureau cannot share an individual's answers with anyone, including welfare and immigration agencies, and even the White House.

Census week events

Thursday, March 25
9 a.m. – 12 p.m. Salvation Army Food Pantry (same as above)

6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.: UNIDOS / P.R.I.D.E. meetings at Old Settlers Recreation Center

Saturday, March 27 - Census Awareness Day

12 p.m. to 2 p.m.: Hot Dog Cookout at Old Settler's Recreation Center

Free food, fun and music provided by a DJ during the event! 2010 Census Complete Count Committee will be on hand out Census information.

DallasKIDSRead!

(NDG Wire) The free family-friendly event designed to foster a love of literature and reading among children; celebrity book readings/storytelling, puppet shows, crafts, face painting and entertainment planned

Celebrity book readings, storytelling, puppet shows, arts and crafts, musical entertainment and much more will be on tap at DallasKidsRead!, a free family-fun event on Saturday, April 17, from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. at NorthPark Center.

Benefiting Rainbow Days, Inc., DallasKid-

sRead! is a celebration of the imagination designed to foster a love of literature and reading among North Texas children. Mrs. Laura Leppert, wife of Dallas Mayor Tom Leppert, will serve as honorary chair.

Local and national award-winning authors and illustrators will be on hand for book readings, informal illustration workshops and autographs. The DallasKidsRead! Bookstore will sell books by guest authors and illustrators with a portion of the proceeds going to Rainbow Days, Inc. Favorite storybook characters will come alive for mingling, photographs and autographs.

All 25 branches of the Dallas Public Library plus the Central Library downtown will feature special liter-

ary programming and activities as part of the DallasKidsRead! event including visits by authors and illustrators (select locations), special story times, crafts and more.

DallasKidsRead! is supported by AT&T. Major partners include the City of Dallas Office of the Mayor, Dallas County Schools Transportation, Dallas Independent School District, Dallas Public Library, Friendship-West Baptist Church, Kids in Distressed Situations, NorthPark Center and Protecting Our Children Outreach Ministry, a division of the Department of Agriculture.

DallasKidsRead! is free and open to the public. For easy access, ride DART. Activities will take place in NorthPark Center's North Court, located between Nordstrom and Macy's.

For more information, please call 214-871-3028 or go to DallasKidsRead.org.

Fastweb Winner's Circle: Stephen Nettnin Wins nearly \$200k in Scholarships via Fastweb!

BY LAUREN BAYNE ANDERSON

Stephen Nettnin applied for six scholarships before he found one that stuck. And boy was it a big one!

A sophomore at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in upstate New York, Stephen wasn't sure he'd win the SMART Scholarship for Service — which he found on Fastweb — when he applied for it. And the process wasn't an easy one.

The application process took more than three months and multiple interviews.

"There were two phone interviews leading up to becoming a finalist," Stephen said. "One with the scholarship company and one with a Department of Defense company which is considering the applicant for the scholarship."

But finally, after months of waiting and being turned down for award after award, he got word — he'd won!

The SMART scholarship paid Stephen's full tuition and gave him a stipend — that's roughly \$39,000 a year in tuition for

three years, plus a \$25,000 stipend each year. After graduation, Stephen will work for the Department Of Defense. His assignment? Working in Michigan for an Army contractor.

Stephen said he kept trying for scholarships because he had no other choice — he needed the cash to get through school. "I was motivated by the necessity of funds to continue my education."

He said he used the stipend for living expenses, but was actually able to put

some away for savings too.

Stephen's advice for students looking for awards? "Apply for as many scholarships as possible, in addition to providing money, scholarships are also excellent resume builders," he said. "They can change your life."

And, keep using Fastweb!

"I used Fastweb last year and as a result found a full-ride scholarship that has helped me tremendously," he said. "Fastweb changed my life"

In his own words...

What did you have to do to be considered for the scholarship?

"Applicants had to write an essay and fill out an online application. They had to be a senior in high school or older maintaining a 3.0 or higher GPA throughout college. The scholarship is offered for a range of degrees, spanning from Bachelors to PhD."

What was the interview process like?

"There were two phone interviews leading up to becoming a finalist, one with the scholarship company and one with a Department of Defense company which is considering the applicant for the scholarship. Upon graduation, the recipient is required to work for a Department Of Defense facility for a time equal to the time they received tuition (1:1 service commitment)."

Eastfield College Hosts Garland City Council Candidate Forum

Garland, Texas – Eastfield College is hosting a forum for candidates running for Garland City Council in the May 8, 2010 municipal election. Don Baynham, Associate Vice President for Institutional Effectiveness at Eastfield College, will moderate the forum.

The forum is scheduled for Thursday, April 8, 2010 at 7 p.m. in the Council Chamber of Garland City Hall, 200 N Fifth Street. The forum will also be broadcast live on CGTV, the City's government ac-

cess cable channel. CGTV is available on Time Warner Cable channel 16, on Verizon FIOS TV channel 44 and is streamed live on the City's website.

Garland citizens are invited to submit questions to be used during the forum. Questions may be submitted by April 2, 2010 online at www.GarlandTx.gov, by email to scook@dccc.edu, by fax to 972-860-8324, or by mail to:

Sharon Cook, Director of College Communications & Community Relations, Eastfield College,

3737 Motley, Mesquite, TX 75150 Attn: Garland City Council Forum

Please include Garland City Council Forum in the subject line of email and fax submissions.

Eastfield College personnel will evaluate the validity of the submitted questions and have the option of combining similar questions or eliminating questions that are inappropriate in nature (i.e., personal attacks on individuals or questions that are vulgar in nature).



New D.C. Internships offered to graduate students

The UT System's Archer Center will launch a new internship program this summer in Washington, D.C., offering graduate students a chance to live and work alongside our nation's most important decision-makers.

Dr. Donald Arbuckle, clinical professor of public administration in the School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences at UT Dallas, helped organize the program. The new Summer Graduate Program in Public Policy is largely modeled after Archer's prestigious Bill Archer Fellowship Program for undergraduates, which takes place during the fall and spring semesters. The center was founded to provide professional and academic experiences for UT

System students in Washington, D.C.

Any graduate student in the UT System is eligible, and the 17 competitively selected participants will come from UT Dallas, UT Austin, UT El Paso and UT San Antonio. While the program is likely to appeal most to political science and public affairs students, students from different disciplines – such as education policy, journalism, international relations, communication and economics – will participate this year and in the future.

The Archer Center will assist the graduate fellows in finding internships related to their field of study and help with finding housing.

"This is a great opportunity for students to work in

Congress or the executive branch and see how Washington really works," Arbuckle said. "There's really no way to truly understand how everything gets done, or sometimes fails to get done, in Washington until you experience it on a daily basis and spend time with people as they do their jobs."

Arbuckle speaks from longtime experience. He came to UT Dallas in 2006 after spending 25 years in the White House's Office of Management and Budget. He was the senior civil servant in charge of presidential review of new regulations.

"I'm an evangelist for public service," Arbuckle said. "I think it's incredibly

important to have smart, well-trained people going into government. We have a lot of smart people here at UT Dallas, so I'm glad we are offering them the chance to better prepare to become effective civil servants and leaders."

Kaela Smith is one of the UT Dallas graduate students planning to participate as an intern this summer. She is seeking her master's degree in public affairs.

"This program offers a 'chance of a lifetime' opportunity to gain experience and connections across the DC area," she said. "I am considering moving to D.C. in the future, and this program will help me decide if it is the place for me and if there is a career for me

there."

The program will run from the beginning of June until the last week in August. Students will earn nine credit hours for their work. Some jobs will provide a salary, though most are unpaid. Students pay their own way, though Arbuckle and Archer Center Director Katie Romano are working to arrange some scholarship opportunities to defray the costs.

Students must fulfill certain requirements to be accepted into the program and be selected by a panel of faculty, administrators and Archer Center staff. For example, they must be currently enrolled at a UT System institution, have at least nine credit hours and main-

tain a GPA of 3.3 or higher.

Michael Carriaga, who is seeking her PhD in criminology, said she expects the internship to help her achieve her career goal of working for the FBI.

"Having the opportunity to see what it's all about and to network with the people who are currently working in the federal government will help me to better prepare myself for my future career," she said. "I think opportunities like this are great because they allow students to experience the practical side their studies. It not only gives students insight about their future careers, but it also provides them with invaluable experiences that they will carry with them for a lifetime."

Brookhaven College Career Fair

(NDG Wire) More than 50 local and national companies will be recruiting new employees April 8 at the Brookhaven College Spring Career Fair.

Representatives will be on hand from Autozone, Bank of America, the Denton Fire Department, DART, the

U.S. Marine Corps, the Internal Revenue Service, Volt Workforce Solutions and lots more. Attendees are encouraged to bring résumés.

The fair, hosted by the college's Career Center, will be from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Student Services Center on the Brookhaven College

campus, 3939 Valley View Lane.

The Career Center hosts two semi-annual career fairs and offers career counseling, mock interviews, job search assistance and career testing year-round. For more information, call the center at 972-860-4894.

Dallas schools named to the 2009 Texas Business and Education Coalition Honor Roll

(NDG Wire) Eleven Dallas ISD schools are among only 254 schools in Texas named to the 2009 Texas Business and Education Coalition Honor Roll.

The Honor Roll represents less than 4 percent of all public schools in Texas. The schools were expected to improve their commended performance—the state's highest standard for academic achievement—from 2008, and every school was required to have a minimum of 20 percent of students tested performing at the commended

level on all tests.

Dallas ISD schools named to the TBEC Honor Roll are:

1. Irma Lerma Rangel Young Women's Leadership School
2. School for the Talented and Gifted at Yvonne A. Ewell Townview Center
3. School of Science and Engineering at Yvonne A. Ewell Townview Center
4. Dallas Environmental Science Academy
5. George Bannerman Dealey International Academy

6. William B. Travis Academy for the Academically Talented and Gifted

7. George Peabody Elementary School

8. James B. Bonham Elementary School

9. Lakewood Elementary School

10. Stonewall Jackson Elementary School

11. William B. Travis Vanguard for the Academically Talented and Gifted

The Honor Roll schools will be honored November 9 at an awards reception and dinner in San Antonio.

Gift to boost ranks of math and science teachers

(NDG Wire) UTeach Dallas has received a gift of \$500,000 from the O'Donnell Foundation to help increase the number of middle and high school teachers certified to teach math or science.

The gift will help support the UTeach Dallas endowment and provides flexibility to support scholarships, internships and other aspects of the program.

"We are very pleased that the Foundation has provided support to the UTeach Dallas effort to encourage science and mathematics majors at UT Dallas to prepare for teaching careers," said Dr. Myron Salamon, dean of the School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics.

NMSI is a broad public-private partnership formed to reverse the decay of national math and science education and prepare students for the rigors of collegiate science classes.

NMSI has helped replicate UT Austin's original UTeach program in 15 universities across the country, including UT Dallas, the University of Florida, the University of California, Berkeley, Louisiana State University and others.

President Barack Obama announced in early January that NMSI would receive support to expand to 20 universities nationwide. The new replication sites for UTeach include, among others, UT Arlington and UT Tyler, bringing the number

of UTeach sites in the UT System to four.

UTeach Dallas launched in 2008 and expanded rapidly to include 150 students. Sixty percent of UTeach Dallas students are seeking certification to teach science, and 40 percent are seeking certification in math.

Although nearly 50 percent of the nation's teachers walk away from the profession within five years, about 80 percent of UTeach graduates are still teaching five years after graduation.

"The generous support from the O'Donnell Foundation allows us to target areas essential to the continued success of UTeach Dallas," said Dr. Mary Urquhart, co-director of UTeach Dallas.

Plano ISD key communicators & PTA council to host school board candidates forum April 15

(NDG Wire) Eight candidates who have filed in three places for election to the Plano ISD Board of Trustees will speak at a forum to be hosted by the Plano ISD Key Communicators and Plano ISD Council of PTAs at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, April

15, at the Plano ISD Administration Building, 2700 W. 15th Street. Early voting in the annual election begins on April 26. Election day is May 8. Candidates and their positions on the ballot are:

Place 1: Robert Canright, Tammy Richards,

Bart Ridley
Place 2: Paul P. Kaminsky, Raj Menon, Carolyn Moebius

Place 3: Bret Cullers, Nancy Humphrey

For more information, visit the school board election website

Dallas City Manager Mary Suhm receives award from community group

(NDG Wire) Dallas City Manager Mary Suhm received an award on March 19th from Gang Intervention Community Outreach Program (GiCOP), a local organization which helps at risk youth. Suhm was instrumental in locating a space for the group's basketball practice and games after they had lost their prior space. She was given the award in a ceremony at Turner Courts recreation center in Pleasant Grove..

The group had used a church facility in Pleasant Grove for over 10 years. Originally it was a small run-down building in back of the church. Although there is no steady funding, the group provided \$60,000 of renovations through the years with money raised through small grants and donations. The Dallas Mavericks Cuban provided the funds for a new basketball court flooring a few years ago. The church was recently assumed by new management who decided that the group must pay a steep monthly charge to use the facility. Run on a shoestring budget, they had no choice but to find another space.

GiCOP President Leroy Quigg was interviewed on a



Minnie Caruth, Leroy Quigg, City Manager Mary Suhm, and Donnell Hayden

newscast in January and the story was seen by Minnie and Bill Caruth. Mrs. Caruth contacted Leroy and, when she learned the full story, she was determined to help the group find another facility. She met with City Manager Mary Suhm, asking if there was a vacant building or other facility that could be used. Within a few weeks, Suhm found that Turner Courts in Pleasant Grove had the space and time slots needed to continue the program.

The organization was started in 1998 by Leroy Quigg, a Dallas policeman in gang unit, and Donnell

Hayden who is a Dallas County Probation Officer. To engage and keep these at risk youth out of gangs, the group encourages them to participate in their basketball program and then they provide other needed services such as counseling and tutoring. Many lives have been turned around through this innovative program, educating the parents as well as the students. Currently 150 youth from ages 8-18 are participating. The group has no steady funding and many expenses have come from the pockets of the two founders.

DART hopes rally boosts census participation

Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) officials rallied employees at a March 18 event aimed at encouraging widespread participation in the 2010 U.S. Census.

Speakers at the rally included DART Board Chairman Bill Velasco, Presi-

dent/Executive Dir. Gary Thomas, Regional Census Director Gabriel Sanchez and Dallas Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Pauline Medrano. Employees were given an opportunity to tour a U. S. Census Bureau traveling public exhibit and see a

DART bus wrapped with Census 2010 information.

DART's Thomas told employees that making sure DART gets its fair share of the billions in available funding is reason enough to ensure as accurate a count as possible.

"We need to make everyone aware of the importance of the census," Thomas said.

"If we do not get a good accurate count from the region, funding local transportation projects will miss out," he said.

"Everyone needs to understand that this will affect our quality of life for the next 10 years."

Eight specially wrapped buses will be used to spread the word about the census across DART's 13 member cities. The Census Bureau began mailing out census forms on March 15. Forms are due by April 1.



DART President/Executive Director Gary Thomas, DART Board Chairman Bill Velasco, Dallas Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Pauline Medrano and Regional Census Director Gabriel Sanchez stand before one of eight specially wrapped DART buses showcasing information concerning Census 2010.



Dallas Theater Center Supports Congresswoman



A fundraiser was recently held at the Dallas Black Dance Theater to benefit Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson. Congresswoman Johnson (center) is shown with event sponsors, Gail Warrior Lawrence, president and CEO of Warrior Group (left) and Wayne Lawrence, VP of business development of Warrior Group.

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.

Every Tuesday

The Irving Public Library invites families to enjoy stories and music in both English and Spanish. **Family bilingual storytimes** are offered at 11 a.m. Tuesdays at the East Branch Library, 440 S. Nursery Road, and at 7:30 p.m. Thursdays at the Central Library, 801 W. Irving Blvd. For more information, call 972-721-2458.

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, CCBCC 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

LimitNetwork.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 27

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

Life Enrichment Boot Camp: Designed for singles, divorcees and couples. Admission Fee \$200 per person. www.lifeenrichmentbootcamp.com and **Marriage Boot Camp:** Designed for all couples. Admission Fee \$800 per couple. www.marriagebootcamp.com. Info: 214-736-9991.

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.

Through 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 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.

Plano (DFW) Career Fair Meet face to face with Plano/Dallas area employers. To see a complete list of jobs available and to pre-register for this event, see www.choicecareerfaairs.com. Admission and parking are free, info: 702-257-1562

Garland Mayor Ronald E. Jones will host his quarterly **"Mayor's Evening Out"** event from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Central Library, 625 Austin Street in Downtown Garland.

March 27

Annual Free Family Green Festival 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Texas Discovery Gardens at Fair Park, 3601 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Dallas, near Gate 6 at Fair Park. FREE family event. There is a fee for entry into the butterfly house, but the gardens and event are free. Call 214-428-7476 or visit www.TexasDiscoveryGardens.org.

Fine Arts Chamber Players presents chamber music of Brahms, Beethoven and Hindemith on the free Bancroft Family Concert Series at the Dallas Museum of Art at 3:00 p.m. The museum is located at 1717 North Harwood, Dallas. Info: 214-520-2219 or visit www.fineartschamberplayers.org.

March 28 - April 10

Dr Pepper Dallas Cup XXXI The Dallas Cup International Youth Soccer Tournament will celebrate its 31st Anniversary during the week of March 28 – April 10, 2010. In past years, teams and referees have traveled to Dallas from ninety-eight countries and six continents. Details at www.dallascup.com

April 2

The African American Museum in conjunction with Alpha Phi Alpha and Alpha Kappa Alpha will host **First Friday - Music Under the Dome** from 7:30 p.m. until 12 a.m. Featuring live music by Charles Young. The cost is \$10.00 and it includes: parking, food, and drinks at 3536 Grand Ave in Dallas. Info: 214-565-9026, www.aamdallas.org or www.DallasAlphas.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. The festival features more than 100 decorative and visual artists, muralist, the Deep Ellum Pet Parade, and abundant food and drink 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.deepellumartsfestival.com

April 10

Junior League of Plano's 21st Annual **Trinkets to Treasures** Collin County's largest Rummage Sale! Shoppers may choose from gently used furniture, computer hardware, clothing, appliances, collectibles, home electronics, sports equipment, children's toys, books and more. This year's sale will also offer health and safety related activities to benefit the entire family. Admission is \$5, Children 10 years of age and under are admitted free \$4 Admission for seniors 65 and older, Free Admission - 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. For more information visit www.jlplano.org

April 11

Fair Park will "un-leash" the Cotton Bowl for the free fourth-annual **Dog Bowl** from 1 to 5 p.m. Pups and pooches of all sizes will get to run, play, scamper and splash as Dallas' most historic football field transforms into Texas' largest dog park.

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.

DallasKIDSRead! at North Park Center, 8687 North Central Expressway, Dallas. Event is free and open to the public. Info: 214-871-3028, DallasKidsRead.org.

April 21

Eldercare Friends volunteer training from noon to 1 p.m. at the Visiting Nurse Association's headquarters, the Patrick and Beatrice Haggerty Center, located at 1440 W. Mockingbird Lane in Dallas. Volunteer training can also be scheduled by appointment.

April 23

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

May 1

1st Annual Douglass Senior Citizens Prom for all seniors citizens 55 years of age and up at the Southfork Hotel-Plano, TX starting @ 7-11p.m. Tickets are \$30 per person, formal prom attire is required. Info: 972-941-7174

April 24

Farmers Insurance's 2nd Annual Charity Poker Tournament to benefit March of Dimes. "Farmers Agents for Babies" is an event with all of the proceeds going directly to March of Dimes at 5:00 p.m. at Rock Creek Ranch. Info: www.farmersagentsforbabies.com

May 3

Eisemann Center Presents **Celebrating CHOPIN!**, featuring concert pianist Jeffrey Siegel. The concert, titled *Chopin and the Future*, will be held in the Eisemann Center's Bank of America Theatre at 7:30 pm. *Chopin and the Future* will include the works of Chopin that both delight the ear and point to the future. Info: www.eisemanncenter.com or 972-744-4650.

May 15

The Hamilton Park Historic Preservation Foundation is hosting its first Hamilton Park Golf Classic at the Eastern Hills Country Club, 3000 Country Club in Garland. The shot-gun starts at 8:00 a.m.

June 26 – September 5

Constructive Spirit: Abstract Art in South and North America, 1920s–1950s at the AMon Carter Museum of Art www.cartermuseum.org/exhibitions

July 28 – August 8

Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey® at the American Airlines Center

October 2 –

January 2, 2011

American Modern: Abbott, Evans, Bourke-White at the AMon Carter Museum of Art www.cartermuseum.org/exhibitions

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Health care finally passes: What will it mean?

BY HAZEL TRICE EDNEY
NNPA EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

(NNPA) It finally passed. The health care bill for which President Barack Obama has vehemently fought almost since Day One at the White House has finally passed both houses of Congress and was headed to his desk for his signature this week.

As Congressional Black Caucus Members celebrated the 219-212 vote, the President put the historic moment in perspective on Sunday evening:

"Tonight, after nearly 100 years of talk and frustration, after decades of trying, and a year of sustained effort and debate, the United States Congress finally declared that America's workers and America's families and America's small businesses deserve the security of knowing that here, in this country, neither illness nor accident should endanger the dreams they've worked a lifetime to achieve."

He explained, "If you have health insurance, this reform just gave you more control by reining in the worst excesses and abuses of the insurance industry with some of the toughest consumer protections this country has ever known - so that you are actually getting what you pay for."

"If you don't have insurance, this reform gives you a chance to be a part of a big purchasing pool that will give you choice and competition and cheaper prices for insurance. And it includes the largest health care tax cut for working families and small businesses in history - so that if you lose your job and you change jobs, start that new business, you'll finally be able to purchase quality, affordable care and the security and peace of mind that comes with it."

President Obama has

fought long for the bill, escalating the battle after the death of his friend and former colleague Sen. Ted Kennedy last year. Kennedy was considered the Senate's champion for health care. The bill passed the Senate on Christmas Eve.

Still, many will now wonder what it all means for African-Americans who

that disproportionately affect our community. To those who suffer from those health disparities, our vote tonight carries significance similar to the passage of the Civil Rights Act in that it fulfills a dream that has been elusive for far too long and for far too many Americans."

According to a CBC



Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi (R) holds a pen given to her by US President Barack Obama after signing the healthcare insurance reform legislation

suffer the most from low quality health care and health disparities. Members of the CBC say they believe the bill will make significant impact in the Black community.

"We cast our votes for all those people who deserve health care but simply can't afford it. We cast our votes for our senior citizens who will see their prescription drug costs go down. We cast our votes for our children and grandchildren, so that they can live longer, fuller and healthier lives. We cast our votes in the memory of those people who didn't have preventive care and died prematurely," said a statement from Congressional Black Caucus Chair Barbara Lee (D-Calif.), applauding the passage. "We were vocal advocates for provisions in the bill to combat health disparities, illnesses and diseases

document, other key provisions in the legislation that CBC members fought to have included are:

- Expanded support for community health centers, which play a vital role in expanding access to preventive and other care in our

nation's most vulnerable communities.

- Greater support for programs that will increase the racial and ethnic diversity in the nation's health workforce, as well as improved data collection so that we can better measure health inequities and develop solutions to end all health disparities.

- Strengthening the existing Office of Minority Health at HHS, creating new Offices of Minority Health across HHS agencies, and establishes the National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities at NIH an Institute.

- Inclusion of coverage for resident of the U.S. territories, including a significant infusion of new Medicaid dollars, as well as access to the Exchange so that Americans in the territories will have access to affordable, high-quality health insurance plans.

- Guarantees transparency on rates and enables state insurance commissioners to recommend to the National Insurance Commissioner whether a particular insurer should participate in the Health Insurance Exchange, taking into account excessive or unjustified premium increases in making that de-



President Barack Obama signs the healthcare insurance reform legislation during a ceremony in the East Room of the White House in Washington, DC, March 23, 2010. Obama Tuesday signed into law sweeping reforms that will for the first time ensure health care coverage for almost every American.

termination. This will hold private insurers accountable, ensure affordability and help provide quality coverage for American families.

In addition to significant health care provisions, the CBC also fought for the inclusion of many very important education provisions including:

- Invests \$35 billion over 10 years to increase the maximum annual Pell Grant to \$5,550 in 2010 and to \$5,975 by 2017.

- Invests \$2.55 billion in Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Minority-Serving Institution

- Invests \$2 billion in a competitive grant program for community colleges to develop and improve educational or career training programs.

- Saves taxpayers \$61 billion over by switching to the less expensive Direct Loan program.

House Majority Whip Jim Clyburn (D-S.C.) also applauded the long-awaited passage. "Despite deafening protests from the other side, the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office said the reforms included in this bill will reduce our deficit by \$143 billion in the first 10 years and \$1.2 trillion in the second 10 years. This bill will also create jobs, 400,000 good-paying jobs, reliable jobs, for every year and for small businesses. Small businesses will get a tax break on their health care premiums that will free up money for them to hire 80,000 more employees," he said in his floor speech. "Mr. Speaker, we have debated this issue for several generations. The time has come to act. This is the Civil Rights Act of the 21st Century. Tonight, we will take a significant step to move our country forward."



Lawmakers applaud as President Barack Obama finishes signing the healthcare insurance reform legislation during a ceremony in the East Room of the White House

Telling the Gospel in Jazz

BY IVY N. CARTER, MBA
And God said, 'Let there be light.' And there was light. Then God said, 'Let there be a firmament in the water.' And it was so. Finally, God said, 'Let there be jazz.' And...ok maybe He did not say the last part



Kirk Whalum

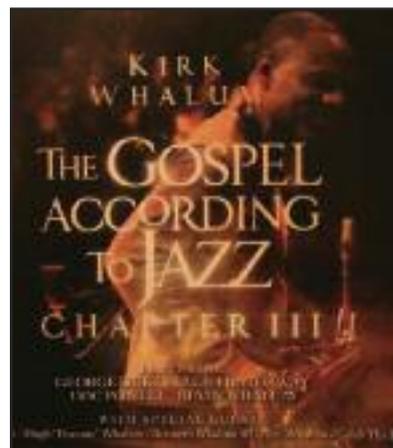
but when you hear the jazz saxophone styles of legendary jazz artist Kirk Whalum, you know his abilities were God given. And in his latest CD, *The Gospel According to Jazz: Chapter III* was released on March 16, continues to show how anointed his talents are.

The Gospel According to Jazz is another soul-stirring gospel music centered compilation combining jazz music and vocal artists, such as Lailah Hathaway, George Duke, Kevin Whalum (Kirk's younger brother) and Doc Powell. His music is causing both supporters of

gospel jazz and naysayers a like to admit a fondness for the CD and its DVD counterpart.

"My latest CD brings listeners into the incomprehensibility of God," Whalum said in our over the phone interview. "We wanted to give a snapshot of the grandness of the God of creation. So we improvised a lot of the music. The DVD that we shot for the CD release was on the spot to represent that God is incomprehensible."

Whalum admits that working with Hathaway, Powell and Duke was energizing because he was able to become a better musician and see the ramification of generations playing the same instrument, the saxophone. During the record-



ing and taping of *The Gospel According to Jazz* Whalum played alongside his brother, uncles and nephews but gives credit to the matriarchs of his family, both of his grandmothers who taught music and sang gospel.

Limiting his creativity is not an option for Whalum

as he has been recently appointed the CEO of Stacks Music Academy in Memphis, TN where he currently resides with his wife. Stacks Records is the foundation of soul music artists like Rance Allen, The Staple Singers, and other iconic singers. Whalum is also working on a tribute CD to the late Donnie Hathaway but his first love is telling people either vocally, musically or through his actions about the goodness of God.

"I strive to follow Christ and mimic Him," Whalum

admitted, "Jesus was radical when He chose to be a servant and not be served; to welcome differences; to help the deserving and undeserving."

We should all be servants and give God the glory."

To testify and purchase his latest body of work you can visit Target, Wal-Mart or Amazon.com for the third installment of *The Gospel According to Jazz: Chapter III*. Whalum will be in the DFW on April 7-8 at Main Street for more details and ticket information visit www.kirkwhalum.com. If you are on Facebook you can become his fan and also receive half of the songs on his 14 track CD by downloading the application Share 12.

Have You Heard?



Let's just be friends...
Yeah Right

Kim K. and Reggie B. are claiming they have broken up again and now they just want to be friends. OK, let's see how that goes.

What goes around comes around

Reports have circled that Sandra Bullock stole Jesse James from his former pregnant wife, so we want to know...why are you upset Sandra?

Kate's got a lot of babies and an ego to boot

We all knew long ago that Kate Gosselin allowed



success to go to her head and that she chose stardom over her mini sized sports team (her eight kids) but has she gone too far?

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

'Round About in the DFW

Concerts

Silky Soul Tour featuring Angie Stone and Joe with Chico DeBarge at the Nokia Theatre on 3/27 at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$39.50-\$59.50. Info: www.nokiatheatredfw.com

Theatre

Lerner's and Loewe's present **Brigadoon** at the Artisan Center Theatre in Hurst, 3/5-4/10 at 7:30 p.m. Info: 817-284-1200

Spring Awakening at the Winspear Theatre in Dal-

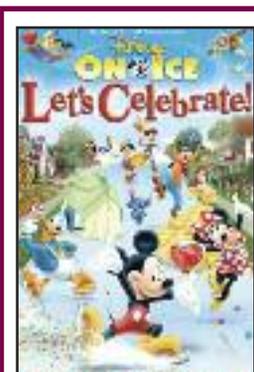
las, 3/23-4/4 at 8 p.m. Info: www.attpac.org

Parties

Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity presents **Kufflinks and Stiletos: The Sophistication Affair** on 3/27 at The Skye Bar at 10 p.m. Info: 214-741-1059

Comedy

The 2010 Dallas Comedy Festival at Deep Ellum 3/24-3/27. Info: dallas-comedyhouse@gmail.com



Family

Disney on Ice at the American Airlines Center, 3/24-3/38. Various show times. Info: www.ticketmaster.com

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

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

Dallas' Tupinamba's selects Frisco for its second location



A Dallas landmark and 63 years of Tex Mex tradition, Tupinamba's is coming to Frisco at The Shops at Starwood located at the Dallas North Tollway and Lebanon Road. Frisco diners will find the same quality and traditional recipes of

Tupinamba's at this new location which will be named Tupy's – a nod to the original location and youthful play on words which reflects this location's contemporary look.

Owner, Jeff Dominguez is the grandson of Tupinamba's founder bringing

three generations of experience to Frisco. It is generally believed that both Tex Mex style nachos and the sour cream enchilada were introduced to Dallas by the Dominguez family.

"We believe Frisco is need of an authentic Tex

Mex restaurant like Tupinamba's. Frisco is a family-oriented area of growth that appeals to us and The Shops at Starwood offers a beautiful shopping center in a convenient and desirable location for our new customers," states Jeff

Dominguez, owner of Tupy's.

"Our family is confident this new location will become a tradition like our home in Dallas and Frisco will embrace the Tupy's brand," continues Dominguez.

More than 180 local IRS offices open this Saturday to help taxpayer

WASHINGTON — The Internal Revenue Service announced today that IRS offices will be open nationwide on Saturday, March 27 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., local time, to help taxpayers. The location of participating offices is listed on IRS.gov.

"We are holding these special open houses to give taxpayers who are struggling in these difficult economic times more opportunity to work directly with IRS employees to resolve their tax issues," said IRS Commissioner Doug Shul-

man. "We will host more than 180 open houses this Saturday."

During the expanded open-house hours on Saturday, taxpayers will be able to address economic hardship issues, make payment arrangements or get help claiming any of the special tax breaks in last year's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, including the:

Homebuyer tax credit - a refundable credit equal to 10 percent of the purchase price up to a maximum of

\$8,000 (\$4,000 if married filing separately). A first-time homebuyer is an individual who, with his or her spouse if married, has not owned any other principal residence for three years prior to the date of purchase of the new principal residence for which the credit is being claimed.

American Opportunity Credit - a federal education credit to offset part of the cost of college under the new American Opportunity Credit. This credit modifies the existing Hope credit for

tax years 2009 and 2010, making it available to a broader range of taxpayers. Income guidelines are expanded and required course materials are added to the list of qualified expenses. Many of those eligible will qualify for the maximum annual credit of \$2,500 per student.

Making Work Pay credit - In 2009 and 2010, the Making Work Pay provision of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act will provide a refundable tax credit of up to \$400

for working individuals and up to \$800 for married taxpayers filing joint returns.

Expanded Earned Income Tax Credit - There is now a new tax classification for EITC recipients who have three or more children and a higher credit amount – up to \$5,657.

In addition to IRS help, community organizations partner with the IRS. Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) programs assist people who earned \$49,000 or less, and Tax Counseling for the Elderly

(TCE) programs assist individuals 60 and over with their 2009 income tax return preparation and electronic filing. Many of these sites have Saturday hours while others offer assistance at various times during the week. To locate the partner sites in this area call 1-800-906-9887.

In addition to the open houses this Saturday, the IRS will open many of its offices on three additional Saturdays in the spring and early summer.

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African Film Festival at SMU

DFW International Community Alliance is hosting the region's only African Film Festival, the first event in the three-weekend African Unity Festival. The African Film Festival will be held on Saturday, May 1 at SMU's Meadows School of the Arts, 6101 Bishop Blvd (at Hillcrest) from 1 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Four films will be shown in their original languages, with English subtitles.

Admission is free and the films are suitable for families. Parking is also free, either in front of the Meadows School or in the Meadows Museum Parking Garage located at 5900 Bishop. The African Film Festival is supported by

SMU's Meadows School of the Arts.

Theater 1: 1:00 p.m. & 5:00 pm- *Inch Allah Dimanche* - Algeria

Upon arriving in France with her three children, Zouina is sent off to live in a house that her husband has rented for them. Unfortunately, she quickly realizes that her husband has no intention of allowing her to leave the house. Without friends and family and constantly under the surveillance of her domineering mother-in-law, Zouina finds her only source of relief is Sunday when her husband takes his mother out for the day and Zouina and the children are able to explore the outside world. (98 mins)

Theater 1: 4:00 p.m. panel discussion on Women's Issues, panellists include:

- Dr. Venus Opal Reese- University of Texas at Dallas. Gender Studies.
- Sofia Ismail - President, Somali Women's Association
- other panelists pending

Theater 1: 2:30 p.m. - *Moolaade* - Burkina Faso

Senegalese writer-director Ousmane Sembene makes an impassioned plea against the practice of salinde, or female circumcision, in this moving and sensitive portrait of a society in transition. In a West African village run by uncompromising Muslim males, fiery

Colle (Fatoumata Coulibaly) provides safe harbor for young girls fleeing their "cleansing" rituals. But what one man terms "a minor domestic issue" soon puts the whole town on the verge of bloodshed. (124 mins)

Theater 2: 1:00 p.m. & 5:00 p.m. *v Amandla! A Revolution in Four Part Harmony*, South Africa

Interviews, archival footage, and filmed performances highlight the role of music in the South African struggle against apartheid, where songs united those who were being oppressed and gave those fighting a way to express their plight. The music consoled those incarcerated, and created an effective underground form

of communication inside the prisons. (108 mins)

Theater 2: 2:30 p.m. panel discussion on Contemporary Music and the Struggle for Justice with panelists:

• Professor Gideon F. Alorwoyie-University of North Texas. African Percussion Ensemble

• Dr. Michael Varner-University of Texas at Arlington. Coordinator of Percussion

• Ferdinand Bangirirama - Barundian Drummers

• Baba Kwas i- Ayuba Kamau Sacred African Drum and Dance Society

Theater 2: 2:30 p.m. *Youssou N'Dour: I Bring What I Love* - Senegal,

Egypt

At the height of his career, Youssou became frustrated by the negative perception of his Muslim faith and composed *Egypt*, a deeply spiritual album dedicated to a more tolerant view of Islam. The album's brave musical message was wholeheartedly embraced by Western audiences but ignited serious religious controversy in his homeland of Senegal. The film chronicles the difficult journey Youssou must undertake to assume his true calling. 102 mins

More information at www.dfwinternational.org/AfricanUnity/African-Film.php.

"Private Eyes" can increase profitability

How hiring a private investigator may increase your bottom line

BY BRIANNE JOSEPH, "THE SLY FOX"

Employers invest valuable time and money in efforts to hire and train honest employees. However, many employers may eventually find that their supposed 'cream of the crop' new hire was not as honest as he/she appeared to be. Contrary to the company's efforts, chances are many employees may not always have the company's best interest in mind when they are hired. Over time, some employees may develop tendencies that negatively impact the company's mission or goals.

In these instances, the employee can quickly become a huge liability and cost the company hundreds, if not thousands of dollars in losses. Private investigators are a valuable resource businesses utilize to prevent and deter many fraudulent activities in the workplace. There are many ways businesses can benefit from hiring a private investigator. The most common reasons for hiring private investigators are for background checks and investigating employee theft.

When businesses grow, the excitement often leads to large hiring spurts. In the

midst of all the hasty hiring, the need to conduct a thorough background check can sometimes fall through the cracks. Calling a few personal references is not the same as conducting a thorough background check. Hiring quality employees requires serious due diligence. Some businesses mistakenly utilize old internet databases offered by "internet detectives" whose reports do not accurately depict an individual's background. For example, a company called "Consumer Advice" conducted research to determine the accuracy of such reports.

Out of more than 100 internet sites they reviewed, 80% of them did not deliver correct information. (www.consumer-advice.org/BackgroundChecks).

A private investigator can benefit businesses when accuracy matters. Private investigators can read deeper into the retrieved data by recognizing potential "red flags" that inexperienced researchers may overlook. A red flag can range from anything like an invalid Social Security Number to finding no record of an individual's degree or certification. A red flag may even be an active

warrant. As a matter of fact, one company had a high price to pay for neglecting to conduct a thorough background check.

Case in point: Two employees of a cleaning company were cleaning a home in California. While working in the home, the two apparently roamed around, casing the alarm systems, doors and windows. The pair had previously spent hours in the home as carpet cleaners before they devised their scam.

They left the home, only to return several months later to rob the place. The armed robbers were caught ran-

sacking the home and wound up shooting the homeowner.

As it turns out, both men had criminal records and felony convictions before they were hired. Needless to say, the company who hired them was charged with negligent hiring and was ordered to pay \$11 million in damages. (www.microsoft.com/smallbusiness/resources/management/recruiting-staffing/you-cant-skip-on-employee-background-checks.aspx) Having a private investigator discover and address those

See PROFITABILITY, Page 16

REFORM, continued from Page 1

tions without a special permit. Among them are Irving, Mesquite, Sachse, Richardson, Garland and Little Elm.

Bob Jackson, director of AARP Texas, noted that AARP will continue working with local officials in every corner of the state to urge similar actions.

"The abusive lending practices of these largely unaccountable operations drain community wealth and trap consumers into a destructive

cycle of debt," Jackson said. "We hope that these efforts at the local level will spread like wildfire in 2010 and signal to the Texas Legislature that Texans are serious about ending these abuses."

Payday loans are cash advances due by the borrower's next payday. Auto-title loans are similar but secured with car titles. Borrowers of these two types of loans can incur fees from both their lenders and their

banks. They can lose their vehicles, even if they've paid hundreds or thousands of dollars in interest and fees.

Payday and auto title lenders use a loophole in state law to charge Texans an annual percentage rate (APR) of more than 500% for loans by operating as "credit service organizations." This allows them to escape any regulatory oversight and consumer protections that apply to other

lenders. They operate a multi-billion dollar lending business in this state, yet, unlike most other lenders, are not licensed, regulated or subject to any meaningful consumer protections.

Texas has more than 2,800 payday lenders and auto title lenders. Among the key characteristics are:

- Average payday loan borrower pays \$840 for a \$300 loan.
- Women make up the

majority of payday loan borrowers.

• Payday and auto-title loans do not generate sales tax revenue for local governments.

• Concentrations of payday and auto-title locations give neighborhoods a look of economic decline and hinder other, more beneficial businesses, from locating in those neighborhoods.

Fifteen states and the District of Columbia have

adopted an annual percentage rate limit of 36% or lower for these small loans. The federal government has adopted a similar rate cap for payday and auto title loans to the military based on a Department of Defense finding that the loans "undermine military readiness, harm the morale of troops and their families, and add to the cost of fielding an all-volunteer fighting force."

Could business coaching be your next career move?

Seasoned corporate executive Rich Perry is joining forces with the growing Entrepreneur's Source franchise to bolster economic development opportunities in the state of Texas. Perry's new business practice focuses on helping people start new businesses in Texas as well as working with existing businesses to improve their performance.

As a regional developer of The Entrepreneur's Source, Perry's state-wide 'business coaching' practice will be awarding territories to selected individuals who have a passion for helping aspiring and established entrepreneurs, who see business coaching as a career and who are willing to invest in long-term self sufficiency.

"With continual downturns in the labor force, a trend toward leaner companies and an increase in service sector jobs, the market for business coaching is ripe," says Perry. "Owning a business coaching franchise gives aspiring business owners a built-in formula for success and an opportunity to leverage their professional skills to deliver financial success," he added.

As a regional developer, Rich Perry brings a background in corporate finance, strategic planning and senior leadership roles to his state-wide team of business coaches. His leadership, the proven business coaching systems of The Entrepreneur's Source and the realities of the New Ca-

reer Economy create a solid financial opportunity for investment.

"The Texas market is ripe for coaches that can assist people with exploring new career alternatives and business ownership," says Perry. "And in this economy, many small businesses need the help of a coach to identify new ways to improve both the top and bottom line results. Our coaches are uniquely positioned to assist both aspiring and existing business owners," he added.

Business coaches who work within The Entrepreneur's Source system have the benefit of coaching on two-levels:

Business Placement Coaching take clients through a discovery process to iden-

tify their desired lifestyle, goals and expectations. Clients are then presented with new business concepts that complement their goals.

Business-to-Business Coaching work with small to medium size businesses to increase performance through coaching in several key areas including financial management, human capital, business and market planning, sales, sales management, communications and leadership.

"As companies hire less and outsource more, it presents opportunities in the business coaching sector," says Rich Perry.

This increased demand for business coaching has created an opportunity for the corporate-trained indi-

vidual to use their business experience in an entrepreneurial venture like business coaching. In fact, the multi-billion dollar business coaching and consulting industry has been growing at an annual rate of 40 percent nationally. This increase in demand has put the profession of business consulting/coaching on the top list of hot franchise trends, according to Entrepreneur Magazine.

For more information on business coaching opportunities in Texas, contact Rich Perry at 425-677-8637 or email him at rich.c.perry@gmail.com.

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REFUNDS, continued from Page 1

Americans one of the largest tax cuts in history through the Recovery Act; and as you file your 2009 income taxes, you may qualify for a series of other generous tax cuts – for example, you could save money for attending college, making energy-saving home improvements, purchasing a home for the first time, or buying a new car. I encourage all the residents of the 30th Congressional District to take advantage of these and other tax cuts as they file their 2009 taxes over the coming weeks."

The variety of benefits on their 2009 tax returns, include:

- *The Making Work Pay tax credit* – Ninety-five percent of working families are already receiving the Recovery Act's Making Work Pay tax credit of \$400 for an individual or \$800 for married couples filing jointly in their 2009 paychecks – and will continue to see these benefits in 2010. In the 30th District, 238,000 families are benefiting from the Making Work Pay tax credit.

- *Tax credits for college expenses* – Families and students are eligible for up to \$2,500 in tax savings under

the American Opportunity Credit as well as enhanced benefits under 529 college savings plans, which help

families and students pay for college expenses.

- *The First Time Homebuyers tax credit* – First time homebuyers can get a credit of up to \$8,000 for homes purchased by April 30, 2010 under the First Time Homebuyer tax credit. In Texas, 161,911 households have already taken advantage of the First Time Homebuyers tax credit.

- *Tax credits for energy efficient renovations* – Taxpayers are eligible for up to \$1,500 in tax credits for making energy-efficient improvements to their homes, such as adding insulation and installing energy efficient windows.

- *The vehicle sales tax deduction* – Taxpayers can deduct the state and local sales taxes they paid for new vehicles purchased from

Feb. 17, 2009 through Dec. 31, 2009 under the vehicle sales tax deduction.

- *Expanded family tax*

We still have a long way to go to put more Americans back to work, but we are moving in the right direction.

– Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson

credits – Moderate income families with children may be eligible for an increase in the Earned Income Tax Credit and the additional Child Tax Credit.

- *Tax-free unemployment benefits* – Thanks to the Recovery Act, individuals who received unemployment insurance in 2009 do not have to pay taxes on the first \$2,400 of such earnings.

To find out what tax cuts you may qualify for, check

the White House online tax calculator by clicking www.whitehouse.gov/recovery/tax-saving-tool

"When President Obama took office, our economy was in freefall, losing nearly 800,000 jobs a month, cutting into Americans' retirement savings and freezing lending to small businesses," said Congresswoman Johnson.

"We passed the Recovery Act and were able to save and create more than two million jobs in the first year of a two-year effort. We still have a long way to go to put more Americans back to work, but we are moving in the right direction. And in the meantime, these tax cuts will ease the burden on American families who are struggling to make ends meet."

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Must be professional and dependable. Fax resumes to:

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AVENUE F CHURCH OF CHRIST IN RICHARDSON
March 28

Come to worship and stay for our Blood Pressure Clinic after Morning and Evening Worship Services.
Brother Ramon Hodridge, Minister
 1026 Avenue F
 Plano, TX 75074
 972-423-8833

CHRISTIAN CHAPEL CME TEMPLE OF FAITH
March 27, 9:30 am-12:30 pm

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 DELIVERANCE MINISTRIES
On Going
9:30 - 11:30 am

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

FAITHWAY FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH OF HAMILTON
March 21, 3:30 pm

We invite you to Pastor Derrick, Sr. & Lady Diane Bowman's 7th Year of Ministry with a Pre-Anniversary Musical featuring Faithway Music Ministry, Mt. Tabor Male Chorus, New Leaf MBC Music Ministry, Sis. Chimberly Carter, Sis. Wilma Vallery-Johnson and more. Our theme: Faithful to the Call.

April 18, 3:30 pm
 You're invited to Pastor & Lady Bowman's Anniversary Service with Fellowship BC of Allen, Senior Pastor W.L. Stafford, Sr.

April 25, 3:30 pm
 Help us celebrate and honor our Pastor & Lady on their 7th Anniversary Service with First Baptist Church of Hamilton Park, Senior Pastor Gregory Foster and Pastor Anthony Foster.

Rev. Derrick Bowman, Senior Pastor
 8219 Bunche Drive
 Dallas, TX 75243
 972-792-0240

FELLOWSHIP 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.

Wednesdays Only
 Join us for Wednesday Night Live at our main campus @ 7 p.m.

April 3
 You are invited to an inspiring Easter play, *Living Word* by our Theater & Arts Ministry. Call the church for details.

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

MT. PISGAH MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH "THE ROCK"

April 4
 You are invited to our Resurrection Services at 6 a.m., 8 a.m. or 11 a.m.

April 14-16
 Join us for our Spring Refreshing Service with Pastor S. Veal from Temple

Baptist Church in Cleveland, Ohio.

April 17, 6:30 p.m.-11 p.m.

Come to our Singles Outing "Ol' School Game Night"

Pastor Robert Townsend
 11611 Webb Chapel Road
 Dallas, TX 75229
 972-241-6151

NEW MOUNT ZION BAPTIST CHURCH

On Going
 You are invited to visit our Job Resource Center on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 am to 12 pm in our Computer Training Room in the Educational Building.

March 28
 You're invited to our 64th Church Anniversary as we give God the praise and glory in our Worship Service. Our guests are St. John of Grand Prairie, Marsalis Avenue B.C. and Greater Mount Sinai.

April 17, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
 Our Young Adult Ministry and Youth Department will host a Financial Workshop for all students in grades 9th-12th, college students and adults. There will be Financial Planners from Prosperity Bank with financial management information.

Dr. Robert Price, Sr., Senior Pastor
 9550 Shepherd Road
 Dallas, TX 75243
 214-341-6459

NORTH DALLAS COMMUNITY BIBLE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

March 27 10 a.m.-12 p.m.
 All youth, ages 12 to 18, come to our "Motion of Praise for Christ" Youth Ministry Dance Team meeting in Room D211.

April 16 & 18
 You are invited to commune with God and enjoy a time of rest at our Women's Retreat at the Hilton Garden Inn Las Colinas, 7516 Las Colinas Blvd., Irving, TX 75063. Call the church for fees and details.

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

SAINT MARK MBC IN MCKINNEY

March 27, 3:30 - 5 p.m.
 Come to our yearly "Women's Tea" @ the Heard Museum.

March 28
 You're invited to our Passion Week Musical. Call the church for details.

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

SHILOH MBC IN PLANO

March 27, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

You're invited to The New Generation Children's Church Open House in the Chapel. Call the Church for details or questions.

Dr. Isaiah Joshua, Jr. Senior Pastor
 920 E. 14th Street
 Plano, TX 75074
 972-423-6695

Charity Poker tournament in McKinney

(NDG Wire) Farmers Insurance will host 2nd Annual Charity Poker Tournament to benefit March of Dimes. "Farmers Agents for Babies" is an event with all of the proceeds going directly to March of Dimes.

The public is invited on April 24 at 5:00 p.m. at Rock Creek Ranch for

food and fun. Bar drinks are on the house! Rock Creek Ranch is located at 4934 E FM-1461 in McKinney.

Enter for the chance to win a \$10,000 seat at The 2010 World Series of Poker. For more information and to register please log on to www.farmersagentsforbabies.com.

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Sunday Morning Services
 8:15AM Story Elementary
 10:45AM Story Elementary
 11:50 Ed Hawkins - Niles, 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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Hear Pastor Sam on: "Truth Made Simple"
 KGGR 1040 AM, Monday - Friday @ 5:25 pm - 5:30 pm





Sister Tarpley

National Women's Month Continues

Synthia Saint James, a world renowned and celebrated artist, author and architectural designer was honored with the History Maker Award for designing the first Kwanzaa Stamp for the U.S. Postal Service; a 37¢ stamp, it was issued on October 16, 2004. She was also the first painter to receive the prestigious Trumpet Award on January 30, 2010 at their 18th Annual Awards Ceremony.

Saint James serves as an ambassador for the Susan G. Komen for the Cure Foundation.

Barnes & Noble celebrated Black History Month 2009 and will do so in 2010 by featuring her art on merchandise in their 800 stores nationwide and on their website. She will also be inducted into the Hall of Fame of the National Association of Women Business Owners.

At an interview, Saint James said of herself, "Modest and proud, sincere and strong, hardworking and light-hearted, warm and witty, audiences love her! She is the consummate professional." --Synthia Saint James.

Ida B. Wells, was a journalist, anti-lynching cr-

usader And a women's rights advocate. She was born into slavery in Holly Springs, Mississippi in 1862. Her parents died of yellow fever when she was 14, and Wells, though minimally educated, began teaching to support her seven younger siblings. She later graduated from Rust College and got a teaching position in Memphis, TN in 1888.

In 1889 she became co-owner of a Memphis newspaper, *The Free Speech and Highlight*. Her editorials protesting the lynching of three Black friends led to a boycott of White businesses, the destruction of her newspaper office and threats against her life.

Undeterred, she carried her anti-lynching crusade to Chicago and published *Southern Horrors: Lynch Law in All Its Phases*, which documented racial lynching in America.

In 1895 she married Ferdinand L. Barnett, attorney and owner of the *Conservator*, Chicago's first black newspaper, and hyphenated her name to Wells-Barnett.

She was a founder of the National Association of Colored People (NAACP), marched in the parade for universal suffrage in Washington, D.C. (1913) and es-

ablished the Negro Fellowship League for Black men and the first kindergarten for Black children in Chicago.

She once said: "One had better die fighting against injustice than die like a dog or a rat in a trap." She also said, "I'd rather go down in history as one lone Negro who dared to tell the government that it had done a dastardly thing than to save my skin by taking back what I said."

The U.S. Postal Service honored her with a 25¢ on February 1, 1990.

Ethel L. Payne was an inspiration among her peers and a voice of her people. She dedicated her career to topics that touched her heart. Dubbed 'the first lady of the Black press,' many of her writings revolved around civil rights and international politics. Payne dedicated her life to a journalism career and even forfeited marriage and children so that she could further her craft. Unafraid to expose injustices, she became known for her hard-nose tactics and her ability to cover all angles of a story. Such traits won her many praises, but she found that everyone was not a fan of her mission.

Payne was born on August 14, 1911 and raised in

Chicago. She was the granddaughter of slaves and the daughter of William Payne and Bessie Austin Payne. Her interest in writing arose from nightly sessions where her mother read the Bible and literature to her and her siblings. Originally, Payne wanted to be a civil rights lawyer, but when she was not accepted into law school, she had to find a new career ambition. She left the city in 1948 to work as director of an army club in Tokyo, where her journalism talents were discovered. The U.S. Postal Service honored her with a 37¢ on September 14, 1990.



Cedric, Meredith Haughwaut Bellevue and Chester Haughwaut at a family gathering in Portales, New Mexico honoring wife and mother Marline Green Haughwaut.

Coffee Party Meeting in Dallas this Saturday

The Progressive Center at South Side on Lamar is hosting a Coffee Party Meeting Saturday March 27 2 - 4 p.m. The Coffee Party is not affiliated with either major political party.

From the organizer, Casey Lloyd, "As a grassroots idea, our group will only grow if we show up to take care of it. With that in mind, the next meeting is set and here's what we want from you:

- Three topics you

would like to have discussed

- Bring a friend to a Coffee Party program

The three topics can be anything you want to talk about.

Per discussions with other groups, if you raise facts, please be ready to show where the sources are. Otherwise the field is wide open." The Progressive Center is located at 1409 Lamar St., Suite 1021.



Avenue F Church of Christ
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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

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Ramon Hodridge, Minister

Friendship Baptist Church
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(972) 625-8186
website: www.fbc-online.net

Schedule of Services:

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

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

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

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

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

Contact Info
Mt. Pisgah Missionary Baptist Church
11611 Webb Chapel Road • Dallas, TX 75229
Office: 972-241-8151
Email: info@mtspisgah.org
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Two Sunday Worship Times
8:00am & 10:30am
Wednesday Night Bible 7:30pm

PROFITABILITY, continued from Page 12

types of red flags and hidden issues before employment begins is much easier and less costly than attempting to correct a problem uncovered after employment begins.

Employee theft may come in many forms. It's not just about employees taking a few extra ink pens home but may include anything from stealing time, cash and property to employees filing fraudulent Worker's Compensation claims. Over time, employers may become targets for theft because employees learn their internal systems too well and eventually learn

their weaknesses. Time and opportunity may be all an employee needs to commit such crimes.

Employee theft costs American businesses billions of dollars each year. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce estimates that employee theft costs American businesses in excess of \$40 billion annually. The Chamber of Commerce also reports that an employee is fifteen times more likely to steal from an employer than a non-employee. private investigators work with businesses everyday to identify and prove fraudulent insur-

ance claims. Some employees may even stage workplace injuries in order to file for Worker's Compensation Benefits.

Fortunately for businesses, private investigators frequently reveal the people who lie about the severity of their injuries. In fact, the majority of the Worker's Compensation claims that I have personally investigated have proven to be false. Covert investigations of these false claims help businesses save thousands of dollars by reducing the number of insurance settlements that are awarded to unde-

serving employees.

Employers must be vigilant in their efforts to conduct proper background checks and reduce employee theft. Experience has shown that private investigators help businesses increase their bottom line by helping them prevent, deter, and investigate various unfavorable workplace situations. A well planned and executed investigation by a licensed private investigator can be an effective way to identify those involved with theft and prevent it from recurring. An effective investigation allows employers to have a

solid basis for taking corrective action to protect their assets and enables them to seek prosecution against the person(s) involved in the crime.

Let's face it. Businesses are in business to make profit. Regardless of the method in which the crime is committed, your business'

profitability is adversely affected by employee theft and mediocre background checks.

Fortunately for business owners, utilizing a set of "private eyes" can help keep their money where it belongs – in their pockets instead of those of dishonest employees.

'Bridging the Gap between God and man'
Come Join Us!
Community Alliance

SUNDAY
10:00am Morning Worship • 11:00am
Worship Celebration • 10:00am

Wednesday
Bible Study • 7:00pm

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IBOC
LESSONS

SERVICE TIMES:
SUNDAY
LIVE ON **ITV** 7:30 AM
10:30 AM
MONDAY SCHOOL
7:00 AM
TUESDAY
MUSIC FELLOWSHIP
7:00 PM

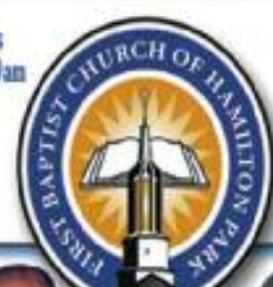
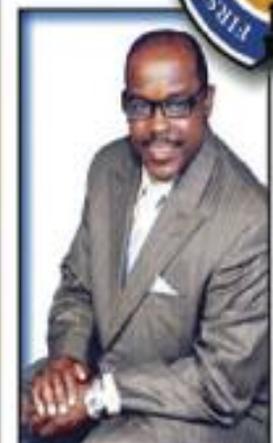
RICKIE G. JONES, PASTOR

INVITED BY: _____



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF HAMILTON PARK

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


Dr. Gregory Foster Senior Pastor **Rev. Anthony Foster Pastor**

Our Mission
To fulfill The Great Commission until Christ comes.

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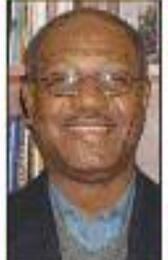
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Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.
Mid-week: Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.
Children's and Youth Worship Service: Every 3rd, 4th, and 5th, Sunday at 10:45 a.m.
AWANA: Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.
Contact Information: 972-423-6695
www.smbcplano.org

New Mt. Zion Baptist Church of Dallas

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

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

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



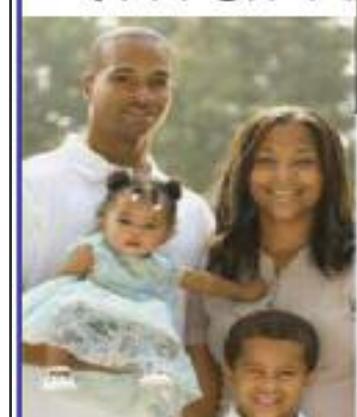
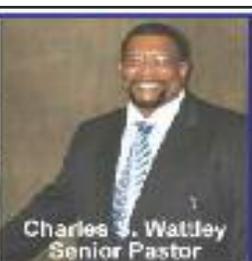
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Charles S. Wattlely Senior Pastor

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9:30 a.m.
Worship Celebration
10:45 a.m.

WEDNESDAY
Family Ministries
7:00 p.m.

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