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Kirk Sworn in as U.S. Trade Rep



AP Photo VP Biden swears in Ron Kirk as US Trade Rep.

(VOA News) Vice President Joe Biden has sworn in former Dallas Mayor Ron Kirk as the new U.S. trade representative.

Biden delivered the oath in a ceremony Friday at the White House complex.

The vice president said Kirk will be responsible for working to open markets

throughout the world to create new opportunities and higher living standards for American families and businesses.

Kirk was sworn in two days after the U.S. Senate voted overwhelmingly to confirm his nomination.

He is the first African-American in the trade post. He has vowed to pursue new

trade deals and to work to ensure that U.S. trading partners are not violating existing agreements.

Kirk's confirmation followed earlier revelations about a personal tax issue. He was among a number of President Barack Obama's nominees to run into problems because of tax concerns.

Regional Transportation Council Approves Projects which Benefit Garland

The Regional Transportation Council is the region's metropolitan transportation planning organization, it has approved a slate of projects that programs the region's share of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Stimulus Program) funds. Projects were selected to create jobs now and provide mobility

improvements that helps to stimulate more job growth in the future.

Garland Mayor Ronald E. Jones, a member of the Regional Transportation Council, said, "This new funding places the right emphasis on completing these critical projects. The results will benefit Garland, our neighboring communi-

ties, the region and the nation."

Two projects selected in Garland will create jobs now and serve to provide mobility and access to areas where more jobs can be created in the future. The projects are:

1. Frontage Roads and Ramp Improvements along the north side of LBJ

Freeway (IH-635) from Centerville Road to Northwest Highway.

The city and the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) have been working to plan and design this \$10 million project for some time and this funding underscores

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Books Donated to Friendship Baptist Church, The Colony



BY SHIRLEY
DEMUS TARPLEY

The North Dallas Gazette is privileged and honored to donate books valued at over \$2,000 to the Library and Media Service Center of the Friendship Baptist Church (FBC), The

Colony, where Dr. C. Paul McBride is the Senior Pastor and Sister Larita Holmes is the Librarian.

The Library, located in the C. Paul McBride Family Life Center at the church, celebrated its First Anniversary on February 22, 2009.

Services and resources

at FBC is a full functioning library that offers reading and viewing materials and a state-of-the-art Computer Lab with full Internet access. "Reading and research material available for education, fun and entertainment and for regular

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COVER STORY

Home Ownership & a Bailout Plan



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Mary J. Blige stars in Tyler Perry Movie

For more information see pg. 10
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COMMENTARY

New White House Office of Faith-Based & Neighborhood Partnerships:

Does it Silence or Support the Black Church?

BY DR. BARBARA
WILLIAMS-SKINNER

(NNPA) - The February 5 announcement by President Barack Obama of the White House Office of Faith Based Initiative and Neighborhood Partnerships offers potential hope for real change, especially for the Black Church.

Although President Obama remains incredibly popular, the Black Church leaders may do

well to ask a critical question. Will President Obama's Faith Based Office seek to silence outspoken Black Church leaders through the enticement of social service grants? Or, will the President fund high quality service programs of even those Black clergy leaders who may at times disagree publicly with policy positions of his Administration.

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People In The News...



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Myesha Ward

Editor's Note: Each of the profiles and photos this week are excerpted from an article on TheRoot.com entitled Washington's New Black Pack by Dayo Olopade, reprinted with permission.

If Myesha Ward were any less persuasive, it's pretty safe to say Barack Obama would not be president. Her official title on the campaign was deputy director of delegate operations, which meant that, a full 12 months before the aver-

age American had ever heard of a superdelegate—the shadowy party members who would end up deciding the outcome of the Democratic slugfest between Clinton and Obama—Ward was on the case. Starting in April 2007, Ward worked the phones incessantly, coordinating outreach to mayors, governors, party operatives, and members of Congress—seeking to lock down their endorsements prior to state primaries. “I knew it would

be important because of how many people were in the Democratic race,” says Ward. “The premise was, the more delegates you could bank, then you could really concentrate on winning the states.”

And win they did. Once primary states started to tip for Obama, Ward, the daughter of Jamaican immigrants, deployed David Axelrod, David Plouffe, key surrogates, her team of delegate trackers, and Obama himself to win supporters prior to the convention in Denver. “Some of the toughest conversations

were just that they didn't think he was ready,” she says of superdelegates.



“The only thing they knew about Senator Obama was the speech he gave at the 2004 conven-

tion.” Clips from local media and national polls helped sweeten the deal. “We wanted them to see the workings of the campaign,” she adds. The party brass needed to be convinced that “hope and change” would “translate into something more substantive,” a movement they could get behind.

A lawyer by training and a veteran of John Kerry's 2004 presidential campaign, Ward made her case successfully—and then hit the trail for the general election as a regional political director for the Midwest. In

Washington, she works in the office of the U.S. Trade Representative as a coordinator for intergovernmental affairs, mining the relationships she built with Democrats across the country. “There was always someone who really got it,” she says about race in the campaign. “The faces of the campaign were so diverse and it made people realize that there was a segment out there that had never been tapped—not just the campaign talent, or the delegates ... but the actual voters and constituents.”

Samantha Tubman

Samantha Tubman viewed the 2008 campaign from an unexpected perch—at 30,000 feet. Traveling on the campaign plane with Obama, herding the press in almost every state in the Union as well as on the senator's jaunt to Europe and the Middle East last July, “I spent a lot more time around the candidate,” she says, “and got a better sense than most ... of how he's perceived.” She also learned a lot about America: “People are incredi-

bly different across the country,” she says. “But we want the same things—family, friends, a comfortable life, to put food on table and go to a job every day.”

The D.C.-born aide worked her first campaign event in February 2007, the day Obama announced his candidacy in Springfield, Ill. Tubman, a history major at Haverford College, had worked in a Washington law firm for almost three years before earn-



ing a master's degree in government administration at the University of Pennsylvania. Eventually, she says, “I decided I didn't want to be a politician, but just wanted to work for a really good one.” She started as an assistant press secretary for the re-election campaign of Pennsylvania Gov. Ed Rendell, and before long, Obama was following her around the country, as she and the rest of the campaign advance team prepped town halls, high school gyms and thousand-seat arenas for the candidate.

As a quasi-“camp counselor” for the traveling press during the general election, Tubman had to be prepared for everything from buses breaking down to media meltdowns over a shortage of power outlets. She also walked the line between handling members of the press and befriending them. She recalls one moment in Chicago when one of her co-wrangers slipped on the bus. “Literally it was me and 12 members of the press marching into the emergency room, and there she was sitting with her arm, which was by

then four different colors.” Tubman is now putting her talent for handling people and situations to work in the office of Desiree Rogers, the White House social secretary, and is hopeful that other young politicians will follow her example. “We're all real people,” she says. “Fifteen years from now, I think a lot of people will look back at this campaign and say, ‘Hey, I can pack up a suitcase and travel the country for two years,’ because a lot of people—black, white, young, old—did it.”

Elizabeth Wilkins

Elizabeth Wilkins, the 25 year old native of Washington, DC, served as the Field Director in Michigan for President Barack Obama's presidential campaign. However she rallied the forces from Chicago, Michigan Ohio, Pennsylvania, Maryland and South Carolina.

Wilkins' yearning for government service is probably genetic. Roy Wilkins, the 1960s head of the NAACP, is her great-uncle, and her father Roger, now a celebrated journalist, worked for civil rights in the Justice Dept. of the Kennedy and Johnson administrations.

Her family, she says, taught her the virtues of giving a damn: “You can look at this country and

see its flaws and be disgusted,” she says, “or you can remember how it was founded and believe in it



and fight for it. I grew up very much with the latter sense—that your job is to believe in this country and

to fight for it if you have the means and the ability.”

So after graduating from Yale University, helping tenants organize in the Bronx, and working a year in the political wing of the Service Employees Interntl. Union, Wilkins moved to Chicago for months of grinding campaign work.

She describes the Obama operation as “a vicious meritocracy,” in which “people see talent, they grab it and they run with it.” She rose quickly through the ranks and praises the campaign for helping thousands of young people “realize that you can both win elections and do community organizing.”

Wilkins now joins a select group of 20-somethings working for Domestic Policy Adviser

Melody Barnes. Being so young and in demand can be a “terrifying” experience.

“I remember the day that my boss asked me to be field director for Michigan, and I said yes, and then I went home and threw up,” she says—adding that the extra responsibility was absolutely worth the trouble.

“People who would never cross the neighborhood line or cross social barriers were doing it for Barack Obama.” From Orangeburg, S.C., to Baltimore to Philadelphia to Detroit—where she would end up as the only black female director of a battleground state—“people said we couldn't do it, that there was not a culture of volunteerism in the black community. ... To

be able to go from state to state and prove people wrong over and over

again was a really incredible experience.”

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THE TRUTH CLINIC

The Comeuppance of Dallas Judge C. Victor Lander

The recent accusations that remarks of Dallas Administrative Judge C. Victor Lander were racist and his "taken out of context" counter argument serves as an enlightening case study for emerging black officials across the nation. The number of blacks in elected and appointed positions is growing but the fluctuating understanding of authority, responsibility, job boundaries, perceptions, expectations and the ever present nuance of race make for interesting side drama beyond the primary question of "Is the job getting done?"

For black officials who are moving up the ladder into positions with fancy titles and a modicum of authority walking on the tight rope between doing a superior job and being active in the black community often creates controversial situations.

In this latest off Broadway comeuppance episode of "GOTCHA" superstar Dallas councilman Mitchell Rasansky attempts to expose Judge Lander, who is little known outside his legal environment, as an uppity racist demagogue stepping outside the boundaries of his senior position.

Lander, who has been a Dallas municipal judge for 12 years and the administrative judge for 10 months, recently wrote a column in which he stated that, "black folks have been cleaning up white folks' messes for hundreds of years. so why should we expect any different now?"

Mr. Rasansky, a mem-

ber of the Dallas City Council that appoints municipal judges, led the calls for Lander to resign his post stating that he was "extremely offended and hurt by the unwarranted comments."

Rasansky's accusations precipitated a storm of criticism and outrage. Lander responded that he would not resign but did make a public apology for his comments. "I shouldn't have used those words with respect to the city, and that comparison shouldn't have been made. We have worked and done a lot to keep the justice and court system working and I'd hate to see something like this happen to undo our efforts."

Judge Lander added that the intent of his column was to acknowledge the magnificent efforts of Dallas District Attorney Craig Watkins in reforming a broken justice system and President Barack Obama in addressing the nation's economic meltdown.

And therein lays the crux of the dilemma. Was Judge Lander expressing a biased mindset or merely educating his readers on a forgotten but relevant historical fact?

Judge Lander has written his "View from the Bench" column for a primary black oriented weekly newspaper, The Dallas Weekly, for several years. During that time his commentary has not been delicate, often chastising the black community for irresponsible behavior, and keeps it real in addressing various aspects of politics, race and unfairness in the

justice system.

While the public has provided a mixed response to the Lander commentary even a perpetual resident at the bottom of the SAT rankings would recognize that the racial characterizations in Lander's article do not make the commentary racist.

Truth must stand no matter the ferocity of the attack against it. The real question then is if Judge Lander believed his remarks were factually correct why did he apologize? If clarification, not justification, was needed he should have provided additional evidence to support his assertions.

Even judges, from those sitting on the U.S. Supreme Court to newly elected Justices of the Peace, are infected with biases inherited from the environment that spawned them.

However, the majority of judges by virtue of their training and strength of character are able to rise above their ingrained bias to objectively apply applicable law in making decisions on cases that come before them.

But humans are not perfect and reality has shown that there are judges that set aside objectivity and impartiality in favor of biased interests.

The Supreme Court's involvement in the 2000 presidential election is a national example. The cases of Tyrone Brown (a black man) and John Wood (a white man) that were profiled in the Dallas Morning News and on TV's 20/20 program to expose the gross bias exhibited by

the same judge in his disparate sentencing of the similar cases are local examples.

Judge Lander, based on purely pragmatic considerations it serves no purpose to be involved in a no-win debate over the motives or objectives of this thinly veiled racism outrage currently being championed by Councilman Rasansky. The bottom line is that the Golden Rule is paramount and applicable. That is, he who has the gold makes the rules.

Therefore, if you are dependent on the \$100,000 plus annual paycheck that comes from your appointed position then salute the flag, sincerely apologize, and shut up. Everyone understands the leverage that the boss man has when the pocketbook is at risk.

There are other ways to use your unique perspective to keep the public educated about the peculiarities of the law without painting an obvious bull's eye on your back that hints at the possibility of judicial partiality.

It is no dishonor to be the silent power behind the throne. There are many qualified activists in the community that would be honored to act in a surrogate capacity to ensure that your message of enlightenment, so essential to proactive participation in our democratic society, is made available not only to the black community but also to the entire Dallas community.

James W. Breedlove

*Comments or opinions
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Excerpt from President Obama's Tuesday Press Conference

"We will recover from this recession. But it will take time, it will take patience, and it will take an understanding that when we all work together; when each of us looks beyond our own short-term interests to the wider set of obligations we have to each other – that's when we succeed. That's when we prosper. And that's what is needed right now. So let us look toward the future with a renewed sense of common purpose, a renewed determination, and most importantly, a renewed confidence that a better day will come."

U. S. Aid to Africa Must Stop, Argues African Economist

(NNPA) - In a provocative new book, Zambian economist Dambisa Moyo argues that foreign aid in Africa, has been an "unmitigated political, economic and humanitarian disaster," an idea that "seemed so right" but is in fact "so wrong" that, like asbestos or the Hummer, it should be phased out entirely within the next decade.

"Why?" asks Sonia Shah in The Nation magazine. "Well, he who pays the piper calls the tune."

Foreign aid, in some African countries, has become government's primary source of revenue, Moyo points out. In Ethiopia and Gambia, for example, a whopping 97 percent of the government's budget derives from foreign aid.

Small businesses selling food, clothing, mosquito nets are cruelly shuttered out of business by avalanches of well-intentioned donations. The effect is anti-democratic, destabilizing, soul-crush-

ingly "malignant," Moyo writes, and "exceptionally corrosive" to government accountability, civil society and the prospects for economic development.

Moyo is a global economist at an investment bank in London. She previously worked at the World Bank in Wash. DC. She holds a PhD in Economics from Oxford University and a Masters from Harvard University. Her book, Dead Aid, is available online at Amazon.com.

Women's Peace Center Launched in Liberia

(NNPA) - Named after a distinguished Liberian jurist and diplomat, The Angie Brooks International Center was opened with fanfare by Pres. Ellen Sirleaf Johnson.

The Center, the President said, will draw women from every part of the globe, including women world leaders who will meet and engage in training and research that will pro-

mote and enhance women's leadership development. The Center will also serve as an international repository for documentation on women's issues and accomplishments, partnership, networking and advocacy on women's leadership.

The daughter of a Baptist minister and one of nine children, Brooks was raised by a widowed seamstress. She died

on September 9, 2007 in Houston, Texas.

The Project is being supported by the African Women's Development Fund, the African Union, the UN Economic Commission for Africa, the Mo Ibrahim Foundation, United Nations Human Rights Commissioner Madam Mary Robinson, among others.

The Reality Behind the Reality Star's Cancer

BY TAMIKA FELDER

Editor's Note: Jade Goody lost her battle with cancer on Saturday, March 21, 2009.

British reality star Jade Goody has risen to stardom overseas by exposing nearly every aspect of her life to a hungry media audience. Now the 27-year-old mother of two plans to die in front of the cameras, as she invites the media to chronicle each step of her final fight against cervical cancer.

Despite the sensationalized nature of Ms. Goody's case, her story is tragic, as are the stories of so many other women worldwide who are struck by cervical cancer in the prime of their lives.

I was 25 when I was diagnosed with advanced cervical cancer and my world was turned upside down. After a radical hysterectomy and weeks of tough chemotherapy and radiation treatment, I was declared cancer-free. I survived and consider myself lucky. But I'll never be able to bear my own children – something I had always dreamed about – and I'll have to deal with medical complications from my treatment for the rest of my life.

Cervical cancer is the second most common cancer in women around the world, killing nearly 300,000 women each year. In the United States, the American Cancer Society estimated that 11,070 women would be diagnosed with cervical cancer in 2008, and that 3,870 women would die from it.

The most frustrating aspect of cervical cancer is that it is almost completely preventable. Experts know that it is caused by "high-risk" types of a common infection – the human papillomavirus, or HPV. And we now have available preventive technologies, including the Pap test, the HPV test and the HPV vaccine, to help stop this disease in its tracks.

Despite these advances, why are so many women still dying? There are two key problems.

First, women need access to screening. In the U.S., approximately half of all cervical cancer cases are in women who have never been screened. Minority women and those with lower incomes are less likely to have access to screening programs and consequently, are affected by cervical cancer at higher rates.

Second, women need to know what technologies

are available and appropriate for them. At around age 21, women should get screened with the Pap test, the traditional way to screen for cervical cancer. When women reach 30, they should get an HPV test along with their Pap. The HPV test detects the virus that causes cervical cancer. Studies show that using both tests together to screen women aged 30 and older offers the best protection against cervical cancer. This approach is included in leading medical organizations' screening guidelines.

HPV vaccination now offers significant potential to reduce cervical cancer rates. One HPV vaccine is already FDA-approved for girls and young women aged 9 to 26, and another vaccine is under FDA review. Both vaccines have been shown to be 100 percent effective – in women not previously infected -- at preventing infection from the two HPV types that cause 70 percent of all cervical cancers. Importantly, women who have been vaccinated still need to be screened regularly.

Having advanced technologies, however, is not enough. Every woman and girl must be informed about and have access to these

preventive methods. In January of this year, my organization, Tamika & Friends, Inc., along with several other leading advocacy groups, launched the U.S. Pearl of Wisdom Campaign to Prevent Cervical Cancer, a united, global effort to help ensure that women and girls everywhere know about and have access to lifesaving cervical cancer preven-

tion tools. The campaign also promotes the Pearl of Wisdom as the global symbol for cervical cancer prevention.

I encourage women everywhere to educate themselves about how to prevent cervical cancer. And then spread the word to your mother, daughters, sisters, friends, and others. Please help make the elimination of cervical cancer a

reality – and help ensure that Jade Goody does not die in vain.

Felder is the founder of Tamika & Friends, Inc., a national nonprofit organization that raises awareness about cervical cancer, and a partner in the Pearl of Wisdom Campaign to Prevent Cervical Cancer (www.pearlofwisdom.us).

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140 DAYS OF OPPORTUNITY

Controversy in Austin: House to Review Education Decision; Senate Passes Voter ID Bill and Approves Needle Exchange Programs

BY: TESSA HOWINGTON

Rep. Allen Fletcher announced the filing of his bill, House Bill (HB) 3769 on Tuesday, March 17. HB 3769, if passed, would increase the punishment for fraudulent investment schemes in Texas.

His bill proposes allowing the State Attorney General to freeze assets of the suspected person after they have been indicted, have access to at least the six months of financial records prior to the indictment, set minimum bail at \$500,000 after their arrest, increase jail sentences from 15 to 99 years, and allow victims to recover up to 50% of their losses after the suspect is found guilty.

Fletcher added, "In light of the recent indictments of Bernard Madoff and Robert Stanford, I believe the state of Texas should have the harshest penalties in the

country for greedy people like these suspects so they will be fearful of committing this crime in Texas."

Rep. Wayne Christian announced the filing of HB 4224, requiring public schools to teach "analyze, review, and critique scientific explanations, including hypotheses and theories, as to the strengths and weaknesses using scientific evidence and information."

Teaching students the "strengths and weaknesses" of science has become controversial since The State Board of Education voted in January to change the way science is taught by removing the words "critique" and "weakness" from the classroom, discouraging students from asking questions and exploring scientific principles.

Christian said "Texas classrooms should be science-friendly and encourage discussion, without fear of

being punished or penalized for asking critical questions and discussing weakness of scientific theories."

Representative Harvey Hilderban filed a child protective bill asking courts to determine if the child or the adult accused should be removed from the home, instead of automatically removing the child from their home, after a report of abuse. HB 4255, would also stiffen penalties for doctors or other caregivers that do not report abuse. Failure to report abuse would result in a Class A misdemeanor charge instead of a Class B.

Rep. Veronica Gonzales announced the filing of HB 4423 to create more hospital residency programs for medically underserved counties in Texas.

The state has a shortage of doctors, with 179 counties considered medically underserved, where the

death rate, child sickness and fatality rate, and general sickness rate is high coupled with a low ratio of doctors per 1,000 people.

By creating new residency programs in these underserved counties, more medical care would be provided to citizens at a lesser cost. Also, the state hopes to retain doctors after they finish their residency.

None of the bills filed have been heard or scheduled to be heard in committees as of Friday, March 20.

The Senate was also busy with a very productive week as well. On Monday, March 16, the Ambassador to the United States from the European Union, John Bruton, addressed the Senate. He praised the lawmakers for making public education a priority and urged them to focus more on air quality and environmentally friendly energy policies. He also congratulated

Texas for being economically stronger than most other states.

Overall, he wanted to make sure Texas and Europe had a strong economic relationship, as 61% of all foreign investments in the state are from the European Union.

Throughout the week the Senate held various committee meetings and passed three bills to the House for approval.

First, the "Voter ID Bill," Senate Bill (SB) 362, was approved and passed to the House. If approved by the House and signed into law, SB 362 would require voters to show proof of identification at polling places during elections in the form of a photo ID, or 2 non-government issued IDs, such as a utility bill and a library card, from the registrar's precinct.

The Senate passed SB 52 by Sen. Judith Zaffirini.

Her bill proposes an increase fine, from \$500 to \$750, for first time offenders who illegally park in handicap parking spaces. It also proposes various increased fines and community service requirements for multiple offenders.

SB 188 was approved by the Senate and passed to the House. SB 188, introduced by Senator Bob Deuell, allows needle exchange programs in Texas. Individuals could exchange dirty needles for clean syringes, gain access to drug counseling, education, and awareness. Experts believe providing clean needles prevent the spread of diseases, such as HIV and hepatitis. Texas is the only state that currently does not allow such programs.

Bills passed by the Senate have not been scheduled to be heard by the House as of Friday, March 20.

Democratic Party of Collin County Appoints New Leader *Marlene Byndon to Serve as Assistant County Chair*

The Democratic Party of Collin County (DPCC) appointed Marlene Byndon to serve as Assistant County Chair.

"I look forward to working with Marlene," said Dan Dodd, Chairman of the Democratic Party of Collin County. "She is very passionate about the Democratic Party and she has a wealth of skills to move our Party forward."

Byndon recently retired after 36 years in the corporate arena.

"Most of my career was spent in the telecommunications industry where I held a variety of positions from Union Steward to Leadership Development Specialist," Byndon said.

She stated that the one thing that she took away from all of her experiences in the corporate world was the importance of relationships. "Relationships connect us to each other and can result in ordinary people doing extraordinary things," explained Byndon.

Chairman Dan Dodd appointed Marlene Byndon as Assistant County Chair. Byndon was later ratified by the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee currently consists of 105 Collin County Precinct Chairs.

Byndon will assist the County Chair in the execution of his duties and in the absence of the County Chair will act as presiding officer at Executive Committee meetings (held

every fourth Wednesday) in the absence of the County Chair. You may reach Marlene at asstchair@collindems.us.

The Real Estate Council Government Affairs Committee Announces 2009 Dallas City Council Candidate Endorsements

The Real Estate Council (TREC) has announced its Dallas City Council candidate endorsements today for the May 9th election.

Members of TREC's Government Affairs Committee conducted in-person interviews with 21 of the Dallas City Council candi-

dates vying for public office this year.

"It's difficult to select from such a strong field of qualified candidates, but we feel that this list represents those candidates who are committed to working on Dallas' most pressing issues, and who possess the skills and experience to get

things done," said Michelle Corson, president of The Real Estate Council.

TREC supports the following candidates for Dallas City Council: District 1, Delia Jasso; District 2, Pauline Medrano; District 3, David Neumann; District 4, Dwaine Caraway; District

5, Vonciel Jones Hill; District 6, Steve Salazar; District 7, Ron J. Price; District 8, Tennell Atkins; District 9, Sheffie Kadane; District 10, Jerry Allen; District 12, Ron Natinsky; District 13, Ann Margolin and George "Brint" Ryan; and District 14, Angela Hunt.

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Your Partner for Success

American Airlines Executive Appointed to the Paul Quinn College Board Of Trustees

American Airlines announced Denise Lynn, Vice President – Diversity and Leadership Strategies, has been appointed to the Paul Quinn College Board of Trustees. Paul Quinn College is the only historically black college in the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

Lynn replaces Peggy Sterling, Vice President – Safety, Security and Environmental at American Airlines, who served eight years on the board. In 2008, Paul Quinn College honored Sterling by establishing the American Airlines Peggy Sterling Trustee of the

Year Award for her long-time support of the institution.

Lynn joined American Airlines in 1989 as a financial analyst in Airline Planning and moved to the Human Resources Department in 1992. In her current role, she oversees all of the airline's diversity programs and talent management initiatives. She previously served as the Vice President – People for American Eagle Airlines, the regional affiliate of American Airlines, where she was responsible for all human resources and labor matters.

Berkeley's Plan to Promote Diversity in Schools Upheld *California Appellate Court rejects claims student assignment plan is racially discriminatory*

On March 17 the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc. (LDF) along a coalition of civil rights groups including the ACLU of Northern California, successfully represented a group of parents who intervened to protect the student assignment plan in the schools in Berkeley, California against a challenge brought by Ward Connerly's American Civil Rights Foundation.

Berkeley's plan seeks to promote diversity in its schools by taking account of the demographics of the neighborhoods where students live, including more parental education level; family income; and race and/or ethnicity.

"This is an important victory for those who understand the importance of a diverse learning environment and believe that opportunity should be equally afforded to all," said John Payton, LDF President and Director-Counsel.

The Appellate Court in California concluded that as the plan considers the racial makeup of neighborhoods, instead of the characteristics of individual students, they ruled it did not constitute discrimination or grant a preference that was based on race and therefore, did not violate California's Proposition 209. The court's decision appropriately recognized the

importance of school district efforts to bring students together across lines of race and class and to provide access and opportunities to students who live in areas of concentrated disadvantage. In 2007, the United States Supreme Court similarly recognized the importance of efforts to promote diversity and avoid racial isolation in schools in Seattle and Louisville, and the ability of school districts to take account of neighborhood demographics, including race, as part of those efforts.

Berkeley's most recent efforts to integrate its schools is challenged by this lawsuit Berkeley has been at the national fore-

front of such efforts for decades. In 1954, on the heels of Brown v. Board of Education, a citizens' commission was formed which concluded that Berkeley suffered from severe housing segregation that led to racial isolation in the schools.

In 1968, the school district became one of the first in the nation to integrate its schools voluntarily.

Over time and in light of the continued residential segregation in Berkeley, the school district continued to adopt and revise its student assignment plans to preserve integration in its schools, leading up to the 2004 plan successfully defended today.

Internet Safety: A Priority for Parents & Schools

BY RUTH FERGUSON

According to published reports, children ages 10-to-14 now spend more time on the Internet than they spend watching television. Therefore, educating parents, school officials and the children themselves regarding the dangers involved in the online world is critical. This is especially true in light of thirty-one percent of youth admitting they have broken one or more safety rules such as using inappropriate language, posting inappropriate pictures, posting per-

sonal information, or pretending to be someone they are not.

Recently speaking with Judi Westberg Warren, President of Web Wise Kids (WWK), by phone she offered tips from the "Safe Search Schools" program.

Warren shared WWK was invited to participate in the project by the popular website Ask.com and NASCAR, in an effort to highlight "the good things educators are doing to keep kids safe online."

Dallas Independent School District 5th Grade

teachers and administrators were invited to visit www.safesearchschools.com, register and share what they are doing to teach Internet safety to their students. A panel of experts will review the entries that were submitted by March 24, and the winning school will be awarded new computers for their computer labs.

In addition, the students will be excited to receive a visit from NASCAR driver Bobby LaBonte. In fact, one 5th grader will get a ride to school. Software will also be given to the

school. Warren shared the software utilizes computer games to teach Internet safety tips.

Meanwhile, Warren stressed that it is very important for parents to become involved in their children's online usage. "The best defense is their [children] relationship with parents." She advises that parents should not threaten to deny them online access but, "help them to understand the choices they make. It is important that the children feel like they can confide in their parents."

COLLEGE CORNER Florida A&M Looking for Black Female Students

The Florida A & M University is providing an outstanding opportunity for Black women entering college in the fall of 2009. It is designed to address their absence in the field of computer technology.

Dr. Jason Black is the Principal Investigator of a recently awarded \$552,000 NSF Grant entitled African-American Women in Computer Science. The grant provides scholarships from \$4000 to \$10,000 per year for

female African American students.

They need the publics help to get the word out about this great opportunity to build back up the enrollment of women in the CIS Department. Pass this information along to high school or community college students, parents, and guidance counselors.

The full text of the scholarship can be found at <http://www.cis.famu.edu/~aawcs/>



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Harley-Davidson Crowns "Hot Model" Competition Winners

The nationwide search comes to an end with two lucky winners

Harley-Davidson Motor Company searched nationwide for the next "Hot Model" to be featured in a 2009 Harley-Davidson Motor Clothes catalogue. In August 2008, finalists gathered at the 105th Anniversary celebrations in Milwaukee, Wis. to strut their stuff on the runway and compete for a chance to be crowned a winner.

As the finalists from across the country took to the "Hot Model" stage, the crowd voted and Patrick Brinkley of Lewisville,

Texas won the men's competition and Brandy Brim of Bakersfield, Calif. won the women's competition. The two are featured exclusively in the Harley-Davidson Motor Company Spring 2009 Motor Clothes catalogue.

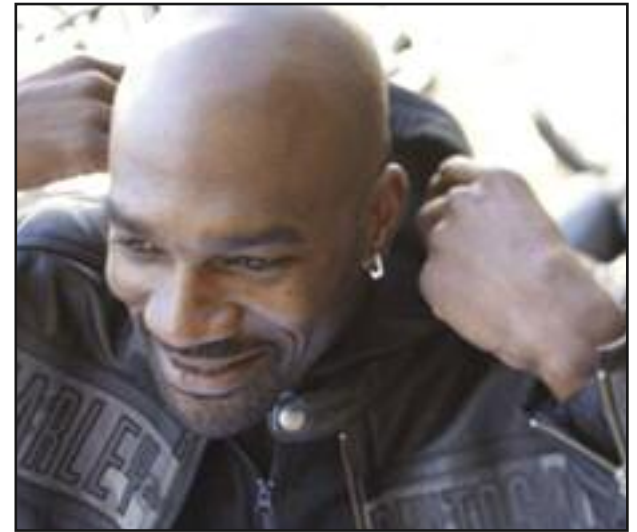
"Winning the competition was incredible," said winner Patrick Brinkley. "It's an honor to be featured in a Harley-Davidson Motor Clothes catalogue and to have been part of the Harley-Davidson experience."

Finalists were selected from various events held nationwide including, Bikers in the Park during Daytona Bike Week, the 31st Annual National Bikers Roundup, Urban Beach Fest, West Coast Bikers Roundup and the LAMA National Rally. Plenty of people turned out for the chance to become a Harley-Davidson "Hot Model" finalist at each event. The finalists were flown to Milwaukee to reunite for the grand finale competition and fashion

show.

To find out more about Harley Davidson Motor Clothes, visit www.harley-davidson.com or your local dealer.

Harley-Davidson Motor Company, the only major U.S.-based motorcycle manufacturer, produces heavyweight motorcycles and a complete line of motorcycle parts, accessories and general merchandise. For more information, visit Harley-Davidson's Web site at www.harley-davidson.com.



Patrick Brinkley of Lewisville, Texas

Fresenius Medical Care West Plano Launches Night-Time Dialysis Program in Collin County

Overnight Dialysis at Facility Can Offer Lifestyle Benefits More Time for Daily Activities

In the past, Marcus McCain received life-sustaining dialysis treatments for four hours three days a week during the day. Now, thanks to a new treatment program in West Plano, he can go back to work full-time and spend more time with his wife.

Fresenius Medical Care North America, operator of the nation's leading network of dialysis facilities, has launched a new night-time dialysis program at Fresenius Medical Care West Plano. The new service allows patients to receive treatments in the

clinic at night, for eight hours, while sleeping or resting, usually three times a week. In addition to having their days free for other activities, patients often report having more energy and better dialysis results.

"Since I began dialyzing at night, I have more energy during the day and I've been able to return to my full-time job at a telecommunications company," said Mr. McCain. "I feel better overall, and even my medications have been reduced. I used to take five blood pressure

pills on a regular basis and now I only take one as needed."

Isabel Valera, RN, area manager, of Fresenius Medical Care, says, "Nocturnal, or night-time dialysis can improve patients' overall quality of life. During the day, they may be able to work, spend more time with their families or enjoy their favorite hobbies."

The Medicare-certified Fresenius Medical Care West Plano, which is located at 4405 Tradition Trail in Plano, is now accepting new dialysis

patients. For more information on the program or facility, call 972.943.7656.

Dialysis is a life-sustaining process that cleans waste products from the blood, removes extra fluids, and controls the body's chemistry when a person's kidneys fail. Dialysis patients typically require treatment on an ongoing basis unless they receive a kidney transplant.

Craft Fair in Garland Set for May 2

The St. Mark Baptist Church Women Fellowship is hosting a Crafts Fair on Saturday May 2, 2009 from 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. The church is located at 601 Rowlett Road, Garland, Texas. The event is open to the public, admission is free. Food and wonderful craft items will be available.

Vendors and bakers are invited to participate by registering via email to Renea Thompson at reneathompson2002@yahoo.com.

A \$30 registration fee is due at time of registration. The fee will include the rental of one table and two chairs, additional tables are available for \$10 upon request. The set up time for vendors will be 7:00 a.m. on May 2nd.

Battle of the Chefs on April 1st

The 13th annual Dining Out in Dallas, "Battle of the Chefs," which benefits the Texas Neurofibromatosis Foundation, will be held on Wednesday, April 1 from 6:30-10 p.m. at the Frontiers of Flight Museum. More than twenty of Dallas' most prominent chefs will offer samples of their signature dishes for attendees.

Nine year old Kyleigh Hinojosa, a neurofibromatosis patient, will serve as sous chef for chefs from restaurants like Abacus, III Forks, and Dragonfly at Hotel ZaZa.

All proceeds from Dining Out in Dallas support Texas NF in its education and research efforts for Neurofibromatosis – a lesser known neurological disease that affects one in every 4,000 births, and is more common than most forms of Muscular Dystrophy and Cystic Fibrosis combined.

Table sponsorships start at \$1,500 and individual party tickets are \$50. They can be booked online at <http://www.texasnf.org/DiningOutInDallas/index.html>. The event also includes a live and silent auction.

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mglendavis@sbcglobal.net

Ongoing

African American Republican Club of Collin County meets 3rd Tuesday of every month at 7 pm (Doors will open at 6:30 pm) Collin County Republican Party Headquarters 8416 Stacy Road, McKinney Call Fred Moses at 972 618 7027 or fred@tes.com for more information.

Collin County Black Chamber of Commerce: Monthly Lunch & Learn every 3rd Thursday \$15 for members; \$20 for non-members, 11:00am-1:00pm. At Reel Thing Catfish Cafe, 600 East Main Street - Suite A, Allen, TX 75002. For general information and reservations call 469-424-0120.

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

Marriage Prep Class 1st Saturdays monthly 423 West Wheatland Road Suite 101, Duncanville 75116 \$10 fee for materials. For more info call Karen Duval at 972-709-1180.

No Limit Network Business Networking Lunch 1st and 3rd Thursday 11:30 am - 12:30 pm every Thursday at Texas Land & Cattle Steak House 3945 N. Central Expressway Plano 75023 Must RSVP at www.TheNoLimitNetwork.com or call Sylvia Williams at 972-898-5882.

The National Business Women Enterprise Network (NBWEN) Learning Over Lunch Series: Monthly workshop and networking event giving members and guests the opportunity to network, build relationships, present information on their business and services, and most importantly, learn different ways to improve upon and

grow their business. 4th Saturdays, 11AM-1PM, ReMarkable Affairs Cafe, 2727 LBJ Freeway, Suite 140, Dallas, \$20 for members; \$35 for non-members; \$5 off for early bird registration. Visit <http://nbwenorg.ning.com> for more information. **THIS IS A PREPAID EVENT** so register early!

Wit Women Conference Call join this weekly conference call if you need encouragement, prayer, or inspiration. Dial in Tuesdays 7 pm - 7:15pm to 218-486-1616, Code 10984 (may change each week).

March 18 - April 18 Through Her Lens: Emerging Female Exhibit at Bath House Cultural Center, 521 East Lawther Drive, Dallas (214) 670-8749

March 27 The Allen Community Outreach 7th Wine Masters Food & Wine Pairings 7:00 - 10:30 p.m. Heritage Ranch Golf and Country Club. aco-cares.com.

UNCF Night At the Dallas Theater Center 6:30 pm Reception, 8:00 pm Performance begins of the play BACK BACK BACK. A portion of ticket sales will benefit UNCF's Campaign for Emergency Student Aid - when purchasers use promo code: "UNCF". Tickets are also discounted. To order call box office - speak to Mgr Tommy Looney (214) 252-3925

March 27 - April 18 Closer performances are Thursday - Saturdays at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$15 for students & Seniors at www.EnterStageLeft.org. All performances will take place at Teatro Dallas, 1331 Record Crossing Rd. Dallas, TX 75235.

March 28 The Heard Museum &

Volunteer McKinney Cntr. 9 - 11 a.m. Take a hike! for your community, see heardmuseum.org for info.

Conservation in Action - Texas Discovery Gardens at Fair Park, 11a.m. - 3p.m. 'Green' your family! The first 500 attendees get free hot dogs, popcorn, T-shirts and other cool stuff! This family fair is sponsored by the City of Dallas, University of North Texas and Texas Discovery Gardens. Free admission

Christian World Hands of Praise presents "Praise in Motion" at 5:00 p.m. at the Granville Arts Center. Tickets are \$10 at the door, 214-727-9784 or 214-460-1802.

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Founders Day 11:30 AM at Hilton Dallas Lincoln Centre.

March 29 The Arts District Chorale presents Transformed by Time and Space at 7:30 p.m., a multi-sensory event in the Grand Lobby of the Meyerson Symphony Center.

April 1 The Friends of the Alzheimer's Disease Center hosting a Spring Public Forum at UT Southwestern Medical Center. Dr. Craig Powell, assistant professor of neurology and psychiatry at UT Southwestern, will discuss "Mechanisms of Memory: Therapeutic Opportunities in Alzheimer's Disease." The 7 p.m. forum, in the Simmons/ Hamon Biomedical Research Buildings on UT Southwestern's North Campus, 6000 Harry Hines Blvd. Complimentary valet parking is available. Attendance should be confirmed by calling the UT Southwestern Office of Development at 214-648-2344.

April 3 Underwater Easter Egg Hunt in the Community Activity Center for kids 3 to

10 years old Hunt for eggs in the indoor pool, eat candy, and enjoy splashing around the pool. The Hunt begins at 5 p.m. with staggered times for different age groups. Cost is \$5 per participant for CAC members and \$6 for non-members. Register at the CAC front desk. Details at: www.flower-mound.com

April 4 Junior League of Plano's 20th Annual Trinkets to Treasures 8AM - 11:30 PM Collin County's largest Rummage Sale! Admission is \$5 from 8am to 10am and \$3 from 10am to 2pm, Children 11 years of age and under are admitted free. Contact the Junior League of Plano Hotline at 972.769.1142 or visit www.jlplano.org.

Turtle Creek Chorale is gearing up for Flight 404, its 2009 spring gala at the Frontiers of Flight Museum at Dallas Love Field at 7:00 p.m. at the Frontiers of Flight Museum (6911 Lemmon Avenue, Dallas Love Field Airport). First class seating is \$100 per person and includes VIP seating, champagne reception, access to Admirals Club Lounge Area VIP gift bag and coach ticket amenities. Coach tickets are \$50 per person and include superb hors d'oeuvres, complimentary champagne, wine and tropical spritzers, live music and much more. Tickets may be purchased online at www.turtlecreek.org or by calling 214-526-3214.

G3: Greater Games Gathering -A non-profit event designed to bring table top gamers together in a thrice-annual gaming convention. Come join the fun whether you're a veteran gamer, brave newcomer, or just curious about this unique and engaging hobby. Admission: \$12.99 for Internet Pre-registration; \$15 at the door. Contact 214-683-8153, info@greatergamesgathering.org.

April 8 The Richland College Financial Aid Fair 10:00-2:00 in El Paso hallway.

April 9 The Brookhaven College Career Fair 10 a.m.-2 p.m. in the Student Services Center, more than 50 employers expected. Call 972-860-4894

April 14 Newsmakers Breakfast 7:30 - 9 a.m. Personal Finance Hosted by Univ. of Texas Dallas School of Management, visit www.insidetxbiz.com

April 16 Stars of Texas ... Racing Against the Odds 5:00 p.m., Lone Star Park at Grand Prairie. Call 1-888-DIABETES or email Roxann Pishnick at rpishnick@diabetes.org. Fundraiser for American Diabetes Association.

April 16-May 9 Garland Civic Theater season finale "Sweeney Todd" at the Granville Arts Center. Evening performances are at 7:30 p.m. on April 16, 23, 30 & May 7 at 8:00 p.m. on April 17, 18, 24, 25, May 1, 2, 8, and 9. Matinees run April 19, 26, May 3 and May 9 beginning at 2:30 p.m. www.garlandcivictheatre.org

April 18 EarthKind Plant Sale from 8AM - 3PM at 17360 Coit Road, Dallas, TX, contact Gregory Church 972-548-4232, gtchurch@ag.tamu.edu or ccmgatx.org.

YMCA's Healthy Kids Day 9 a.m. to Noon at Plano Family YMCA - Legacy Park Visit www.planoyymca.org

3rd Annual Fiesta Latinoamericana! at the Amphitheater at Oak Point Park, 2801 E. Spring Creek Parkway (across from Collin County Community College). \$1 per person. Food available for purchase.

chase, and coolers, lawn chairs and picnics are welcome. 972-661-2764 or visit <http://www.dfwinter national.org/FiestaLatino americana>.

April 10 The International Museum of Cultures, 7500 W. Camp Wisdom, Dallas, will host a Good Friday Observance at the Museum on Friday, April 10th at 2 p.m. A special music presentation will be followed by the presentation of the "Crucifixion" monologue by David Bates. The event is open and free to the public, call 972 708 7537.

April 17 Health Yes! Preventive Screening for Stroke & Heart Disease 9AM-4PM Easy, affordable, non-invasive screenings for Stroke, Abdominal, Peripheral Artery Disease, Osteoporosis and Heart Disease. All screening results are reviewed by Austin-area, Board-Certified Radiologists and returned to patients within 4 business days. Screening Packages start at \$139.95. Pre-registration is required as appointments are limited. Reserve your spot at 1-886-718-0412 or website www.HealthYes.com.

April 18 Live Green Expo 9AM-5PM Enjoy a free, family event encouraging environmentally friendly lifestyles. Drop off electronics, books and plastic bags for recycling! "Food Alley" with cooking demos, local producers, organics and more. Call 972-816-9489 or visit www.livegreenexpo.net

April 25 African Film Festival is part of the African Unity Festiva at SMU's Meadows School of the Arts, from 1p.m. to 5 p.m. Four films will be shown that represent multiple African nations and social issues, and will be presented in their original language, with English subtitles. Admission is FREE.

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Home Ownership and A Bailout Plan

BY SHIRLEY DEMUS
TARPLEY

With all of the pomp and circumstance and the multiple standing ovations received by President Barack Obama during his first Presidential address to the U.S. Congress, one would think that America's financial recovery effort with bi-partisan support would be imminent. President Obama outlined a myriad of both international and domestic policy goals effectively charting a course focused on long-term stabilization, growth and dominance in energy, economics, education and health care.

Yet, even with a theoretical map to recovery and rhetorically outlined by President Obama, the U.S. economy remains in a perpetual state of limbo as capital markets have yet to stabilize and consumer confidence continues to wane. The president called it a "destructive cycle" that cannot be remedied until banks extend credit to consumers and businesses. "If we do not restart lending in this country, our recovery will be choked off before it even begins," he said.

Much of the problem is attributed to banks having allowed ill-qualified borrowers to obtain homes that they could not pay for. But not all lenders agree with this reasoning for the root of the economic gridlock.

"What's sad is that people blamed us" (mortgage brokers and mortgage bankers) for the current economic crises," said Dallas area mortgage banker, Chalamaine Carr. Like many in the mortgage industry, Carr's company has been impacted by the calamity in the capital markets. "My business has been steady but we have experienced a decline in closings due to the bad economy; but I strongly believe everything is going to be alright," she added.

Many critics point to excessive deregulation of Wall Street investment banking as the true source of the U.S. financial downturn. Yet, as more banks shut their doors, the banks that do remain open continue to tighten their guidelines, making it increasingly difficult for consumers to access business loans and mortgages.

The result of this financial conundrum has led to an exacerbating rise in unemployment. At the end of 2008, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported more than 11 million Americans were unemployed. The beginning of 2009 signaled a worsening trend, as approximately 651,000 payroll jobs were lost in February alone. Combine that with the fact that 1 in 10 homeowners with mortgages were either behind on their payments or were being foreclosed upon.

For many Americans, this is the worst economic crisis to hit the U.S. since the Great Depression of 1929.

Communities throughout the entire country, the rich along with our nation's poor citizens have been ravaged by foreclosures and economic stagnation.

But in the South, Texas remains a beacon of hope and prosperity. Texans for the most part, escaped the financial hardships that hit the majority of the country due to thriving technology and healthcare industries, in addition to its longstanding oil and gas businesses.

"Texas has fared better than other parts of the country," said Tom Krolik, Economist at the Bureau of Labor Statistics in Washington, D.C. The unemployment rate in Texas is at 5.8%, up from 4.2% in 2008, which is 1.3 percentage points lower than the national average of 7.1% unemployment.

"North Texas has particularly fared well, with

over 54,000 jobs created over the last 30 days in the Dallas-Ft. Worth Metropolitan area," Krolik said.

It is statistics like these that give hope to emerging business owners like Carr who recently opened her American Mortgage Services office in the South Dallas suburb of Cedar Hill.

In addition to mortgage

entails to purchase a home and maintain it. I attribute the reason that I'm still in business is by not putting people in houses that they could not afford," Carr said.

And also, the wife and mother of three endured by reaping the benefits of giving back to those less fortunate than herself.

"I want to be the peo-



Chalamaine Carr, Mortgage Broker and Consultant

services, Carr also teaches classes on the entire process of home ownership and she provides credit counseling to credit-challenged clients who could later become homeowners.

"My motto is home ownership for a lifetime. I want to teach people what to do once they get into their homes, so they can keep them," the 15-year mortgage veteran said. "There's a lot of business out there, and people like me, who really know what they're doing are needed."

Carr says that the key to her endurance in this rocky industry is that she never originated any high-risk stated-income loans. All of her business is generated from referrals, people only refer people when they are happy and in most cases, they are still in their home because of something that I refused to put them through."

"Consumers need to understand all of what it

ple's mortgage consultant. I differ from the big boys – I am a personal mortgage consultant that people can reach out and touch with their hands. I answer my own phones. I want people to come and tell me what their situation is and we'll work that situation. I'm only as good as you are – we have to work together to make your situation favorable to qualify you for a mortgage loan," she added.

Yet, even with a stellar business reputation, the general economic picture of gloom and doom painted by mass media outlets has had its effect on potential mortgage customers.

"I wish the news media would stop telling people that you need a 720 FICO score, or that you must pay off all of your debt to purchase a home." Instead, Carr emphasizes that the media rarely discusses the options available to people who may want to purchase

or refinance a home, and these individuals happen to also have few resources.

"Right now the banks are really trying to work with people. It is a buyer's market and with the constant stream of government programs and legislation targeting the housing and mortgage industries, if you are a qualified borrower you can purchase a home." If you buy a HUD home and you offer what they're asking, you can get those loans for as low as \$100 down and HUD will pay up to 3% in closing costs" she said.

"I tend to get people that have unique circumstances. Hard working people that lack credit, or sufficient funds for down payments." She does not mind because the benefits are well worth the effort it takes to get these types of people qualified.

"It inspires me to see families in homes because it gives families a sense of stability and security. Owning a home is an investment in your future and the pride of ownership is the number one reason why people yearn to own their home.

Appreciation, mortgage interest deductions, and property tax deductions are other benefits, just to name a few.

There are bond programs for first-time homebuyers and with credit counseling that we provide it helps people with credit issues." Carr says that she explains to her customers that their personal credit report is the needed infrastructure and the goal is to improve credit scores. Understanding what credit means is the primary tool to building a strong foundation towards qualifying for any form of loan.

In this economy, it's important that homebuyers and homeowners know the benefits available to them; and having insurance on your mortgage that will

cover 6 months worth of payments up to \$1,800.00 a month in the event of a catastrophic event for the first 2 years of the mortgage history is worth the nominal fee.

A catastrophic will cover anything that would prohibit you from making your mortgage payment, i.e. your car breaking down (must show receipts of repairs paid), a job loss, or an illness.

However, when seeking to obtain any form of mortgage loan, be sure to research your lender to know that you are dealing with a reputable lender or lending institution. And by all means, do your due diligence to the point of knowing what is available to you in the form of programs provided by the federal government.

You are considered a first-time homebuyer if you have not owned a home in the last three years (prior to seeking a loan.) Knowledge is not only power, it is priceless.

For now, Carr says that she is excited about her career and the potential to grow her mortgage-lending firm. In spite of the economic crises, she is determined to see her new company thrive.

The mortgage market is experiencing a slow-down to a mild form of paralysis, but I believe the economy will turn around in the near future," Carr said.

Ultimately, "People will always need a place to call home; and the American Dream is home ownership. I really want to help people make good solid decisions in regards to owning a home."

Ms. Carr can be reached by calling 469-272-7778 (office) or 214-738-4913 (cell); by faxing information to 469-272-7779; by mailing information to 201 W. Beltline Road, Suite D, Cedar Hill, TX 75104, or by email chalamaine@sbcglobal.net.

Richland College presents Carnival of Steel 2009, April 18

Feel "da riddim" with the sixth annual Richland College Carnival of Steel on April 18.

Hear steel bands and steel drum performers from all over the world including renowned guest artists Shelly Irvine and Jose Aponte. The fes-

tival includes steel drum and drum set clinics as well as a Caribbean cultural presentation by Chris John.

Sample a variety of Caribbean food and clothing from the many vendors at the Carnival of Steel. Sway to the sounds

of steel drum bands, world jazz groups, and drumming ensembles who will play outdoors all day.

The festival culminates with the evening guest artist concert on stage in Fannin Performance Hall featur-

ing the Richland College Steel Band directed by Derrick Logozzo.

The morning performance (11 a.m. outside Fannin Performance Hall) is free. The clinics are \$5 per person and the evening concert is \$10 per person.

Started in 2003, Carnival of Steel focuses on many genres of music played on the steel drum instruments including calypso, soca, classical, flamenco, jazz, rock, samba and salsa. Steel drum instruments were invented in the early 20th

century in Trinidad and crafted from 55-gallon oil drums.

Richland College is located at 12800 Abrams Road in Dallas. For information, call 972-238-6254 or visit www.richlandcollege.edu/carnivalofsteel.

The Fly Jock Grounded in Chicago

On Monday Clear Channel Chicago replaced Tom Joyner's syndicated morning show after 13 years on WVAZ-FM 102.7, moving "The Steve Harvey Morning Show" from WGCI-FM 107.5 to on Tuesday.

Until March 31 Harvey's show will be heard on both radio stations. Initial reports indicate Clear Channel will announce future plans later.

"Tom Joyner has been a great partner with V103 for the past 13 years, making it difficult to part ways," WVAZ-FM Program Director Derrick Brown

said in a statement. "We appreciate all Tom's hard work and wish him continued success."

"Steve Harvey is an entertainment and marketing juggernaut," Brown also added. "There are very few entertainers who have successfully tackled radio, TV, film, stage, online and publishing. ... Being a 'King of Comedy,' nobody can beat Steve being funny."

In a press release Joyner responded to the change with this message:

"We always say that when we come back from vacation something big has either happened or is about

to happen. Well, this one topped them all. After 16 years, the Tom Joyner Morning Show won't be broadcast on a local Chicago radio station, at this time.

For Sybil and me, our relationship with the Chicago radio listeners goes back more than 20 years and believe me it has not ended by any stretch of the imagination.

Friends and family in the Chicago market will continue to listen to the Party with a Purpose on www.BlackAmericaWeb.com. So this isn't the end, it's just a change, so please pass

his e-mail along to them.

Even though we're heard in more than 100 markets around the country, Chicago is home, it's the Mother Ship, the Flagship, all those words that mean it is the place that launched the TJMS. It's where we came from and where we always could go back to. And we're still there, just in a different way—for now!

We've had great times

in Chicago and we'll be there soon to officially



thank the thousands and thousands of you who made

us what we are, and will be here with us as we take this to another level. We got where we are by knowing who you are, what you want and by Super Serving our audience, just like my mentor John H. Johnson taught me to do. This world is changing but the doing the right thing never does, and we will continue to do what we've always done for the African American Community."

In Dallas, Tom Joyner is on 94.5KSoul and Steve Harvey is broadcast on 105.7. There are no indications of upcoming changes locally.

Mary J. Blige Stars In Tyler Perry Movie

Mary J. Blige is set to star in Tyler Perry's forthcoming Lionsgate film, "I Can Do Bad All By Myself." Scheduled for nationwide release September 11, 2009, the film also stars Academy Award nominee Taraji P. Henson.

Based on Perry's stage play of the same name, the film centers around Blige's character Tanya, a nightclub manager, and her good friend April, played by Henson. Also part of the cast is Perry's comedic alter ego, Madea. Principal photography is already under way at Tyler Perry Studios in Atlanta.

Blige is also set to guest in a popular primetime television series, which will be announced at a later date.

She previously appeared on HBO's "Entourage" in 2007. The singer/songwriter is recording songs as well for the follow-up to her 2007 Matriarch/Geffen album, "Growing Pains." The new album slated for release later this year.



Jennifer Hudson Returning to American Idol Stage

(AP) Jennifer Hudson is returning to "American Idol" — for one night only.

The Grammy- and Oscar-winning actress, singer and "Idol" alum is scheduled to tape a performance in front of the studio audience on Wednesday after the live broadcast has ended, says a person close to the show who did not want his or her name used because the person was not authorized to speak to reporters.

Hudson's appearance will air on an upcoming segment, the person says. It will be the 26-year-old superstar's first time as a performer on the stage that made her famous since the slayings last year in Chicago of her mother, brother and 7-year-old nephew.

Hudson will likely sing a song from her self-titled debut CD, which won the Grammy for best R&B album in February. She was a finalist on the third season of "American Idol."



Finding Money to Start Your Home-Based Business

BY. FARRAH GRAY
NNPA Columnist

From the person who wants to start a lawn mowing service to the Harvard graduate that is going after their own commercial consulting firm, young and mature entrepreneurs alike, often get creative in finding money to start their own home based business.

As the economy continues its historic crisis, many people look to get rich working from home, two questions usually come up. How can I do it and how much business startup capital do I need? A typical home based business can get started on anything from no money down knocking on doors for work to less than \$1,000.

For example, try handing out printed business cards in your neighborhood. You may also want Internet access with email or cell phone services. Many Fortune 1,000 CEOs launched their businesses with \$10,000 or less. And

more than a third of those CEO bootstrappers started with less than \$1,000.

If presently, business startup money is not an option for you. Do not fear as there are several steps you can follow to ensure that whatever business startup money you do have, no matter how small, is able to stretch. Finding money may be as simple as knocking on doors in your neighborhood for work.

It is also important for you to cut back on expenses in your personal life. In the beginning you will have to make sacrifices. Write out your monthly personal budget and cut out non-essentials, such as going to the movies, eating out or buying the unnecessary new shoes.

Did you know the average person that uses coupons saves 12 percent on their family food budget? So if you are spending \$600 a month on groceries and household items by using coupons, it saves you \$78 per month.

Cutting back on coffee drinks saves the average person \$28 per month while cutting costs for spa salon visits and beauty products saves over \$45 per month. That's a combined total savings over \$150 per month to invest in your home-based business more than enough to get the word out by securing a web domain name and creating an online business presence with any of the website hosting services.

During the first year of business, it may be appropriate to ask close family, friends, local organizations, and wealthy individual "angel" investors in your community such as lawyers, doctors, professors or established business owners to come onboard as partners in order to raise more money to invest in building your business.

Talk to people, network for advice and read books. Many valuable potential money sources exist for example, the Self Employment Resource

Network (Chicago, IL), Work Force Solutions, U.S. Chambers of Commerce, and the U.S. Small Business Association all offer excellent small business grants, loans and support information.

Financing your business on credit cards may save time and allow you to keep business expenses separate from personal ones. But without careful management, credit cards can quickly put your startup on the sidelines. Half of all start-ups are financed with credit cards. But be careful: Sky-high interest rates could bury you for years. Plastic can jumpstart any business, but use it wisely.

Inevitably as your business begins to grow, in order to raise significant capital it is valuable to write a business plan. Your business plan must address a real market need clearly demonstrating a realistic path to profitability building real assets on the balance sheet. Keep it straight

forward and less than 20 pages with factual graphics.

Learn to take advantage of FREE community library resources including standard computer software courses such as Microsoft WORD and Excel both excellent tools for writing your business plan. Include full historical and projected financials within the body of your business plan.

Remember more than half of the world's self-made millionaires are entrepreneurs or self-employed professionals. Historically, small businesses have always been the engine of growth in the economy with entrepre-

neurs who saw a need, met it and made a fortune in the process. Stay organized, keep a focused positive attitude.

Farrah Gray is the author of The Truth Shall Make You Rich: The New Road Map to Radical Prosperity, Get Real, Get Rich: Conquer the 7 Lies Blocking You from Success and the international best-seller Reallionaire: Nine Steps to Becoming Rich from the Inside Out. He is chairman of the Farrah Gray Foundation. Dr. Gray can be reached at fg@drfarrahgray.com or his web site at http://www.drfarrahgray.com.

Claiming a Deduction for Your Home Office

Taxpayers who use a portion of their home for business purposes may be able to take a home office deduction if they meet certain requirements.

In order to claim a business deduction, you must use part of your home for one of the following two reasons:

1. Exclusively and regularly as either: your principal place of business, or as a place to meet or deal with patients, clients or customers in the normal course of your business. Where there is a separate structure not attached to your home, the regular and exclusive use does not need to be your principal place of business as long as the use is in connection with your trade or business.

2. On a regular basis for certain storage use -- such as storing inventory or product samples -- as rental property, or as a home daycare facility.

Generally, the amount you can deduct depends on the percentage of your home that you used for business. Your deduction for certain expenses will be limited if your

gross income from your business is less than your total business expenses.

If you use a separate structure not attached to your home for an exclusive and regular part of your business, you can deduct expenses related to it.

There are special rules for qualified daycare providers and for persons storing business inventory or product samples.

If you are self-employed, use Form 8829 to figure your home office deduction and report those deductions on line 30 of Schedule C, Form 1040.

Different rules apply to claiming the home office deduction if you are an employee. For example, the regular and exclusive business use must be for the convenience of your employer.

For more information see IRS Publication 587, Business Use of Your Home, available at IRS.gov or by calling 800-TAX-FORM (800-829-3676).

BOOKS, continued from Page 1

check-out or on-site use covers the full spectrum of library categories to include philosophy, religion, social studies, language, natural sciences and math, technology, the arts, literature,

geography and history", stated Sis. Holmes. She also indicated she is excited and optimistic about the success of FBC Library and Media Service Center because "It has become a regular

Sunday location for our Youth Department."

Church members Sisters LaMargo Branch and Sylvia Arnold recently donated their 36 years collection of Black Studies to the library

also. When Sister Tarpley delivered the books, Sis. Holmes shared after reviewing many of the books donated by North Dallas Gazette and added several titles to her wish list for purchase.

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Ahmad Abdallas, CEO & Founder
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Mahogany Wood 6 chairs
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PARTNERSHIP, continued from Page 1

A few clues into the scope of changes in President Obama's Faith Based Initiative have already been revealed. A first area of change is in the broadening of the mission to include four key policy areas: (1) Reducing poverty as part of the economic recovery; (2) Reducing the need for abortion; (3) Supporting fathers who stand by their families; (4) Encouraging and fostering interfaith dialogue around the world.

Another major change is that faith groups are being encouraged to engage both in providing critical social services and in helping to shape policies as true partners of the Administration.

The change in the name of the office to the White House Office of Faith Based and Neighborhood Partnerships reflects this focus. It is the same spirit of partnership that we have seen when President Obama appointed three Republicans to his cabinet and when he conducted several meetings with Republican congressional leaders in seeking to pass the Stimulus Package.

There are two other important signs that the Obama Faith-Based Office will reflect real "change that we can believe in."

First, the executive order expands the scope of the office to establish an Interfaith Council comprised of up to 25 faith and

secular leaders with 15 having been announced. Of the four African American Council members on the Council, both AME Bishop Vashti McKenzie and Civil Rights Movement icon Reverend Dr. Otis Moss, Jr., are well known for their progressive politics.

The African-American Church community can be confident just knowing that no amount of grant funds for social service program will silence these two prophetic voices.

A second important signal of the kind of White House Faith Based office will emerge is in the appointment of the new director, Rev. Joshua Dubois, a 26-year-old former Pentecostal pastor who

headed religious affairs during the Obama campaign.

Dubois, who represents a new generation of clergy leaders, has a reputation of fairness and integrity. He has repeatedly affirmed his commitment to reach out to both faith and secular leaders in addressing serious human needs now facing American communities.

Despite the positive changes in the White House Office of Faith Based and Neighborhood Partnerships from the office in the past, one question still remains. What about the ability of Black Church leaders to use faith as a criteria for hiring employees in serving broken commu-

nities in need of both spiritual and physical transformation? President Obama, a strong supporter of the separation of Church and State, sidestepped potential political and legal battles on this issue by agreeing to refer problem cases concerning religious hiring to the White House Counsel.

Finally, how should the Black Church judge the overall success of the White House Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships?

Success should be based on such factors as genuine efforts to provide technical assistance that equips the Black Church to effectively receive and manage social service

grants.

It should be based, as well, on inclusion of additional African American females and younger clergy leaders on the Interfaith Council. But ultimately success will be based on whether progressive African American clergy leaders feel the freedom to respectfully and publicly voice their concerns about Administration policies even as they secure and manage federal grants that address pressing human needs. This is change we can believe in.

Dr. Barbara Williams-Skinner is president of Skinner Leadership Institute and contributor to the Black Women's Roundtable.

GARLAND, continued from Page 1

its job creation, mobility and economic development importance to the region and Garland. The project will enhance access and circulation to the City's Centerville Marketplace commercial area, currently the home to a Wal-Mart Supercenter, Target Superstore and many other retail establishments. The area has capacity to grow by 70% and create 440 more jobs.

2. Expansion of SH 78 from 4 to 6 lanes from just north of the Firewheel Town Center to the Dallas/Collin County lines. This roadway has become congested in the peak hours due to the commercial and residential growth in far northeast Dallas County and southeast Collin County. The expanded roadway will improve access to the President George Bush Turnpike, which is currently being extended to

IH-30, and to the Firewheel Town Center commercial areas.

The Town Center will accommodate more than 500,000 square feet of additional development, which in turn could provide some 1,300 jobs.

Both projects will create construction and support jobs now, improve mobility and create economic development opportunities.

EarthTalk™

From the Editors of E/The Environmental Magazine

Dear EarthTalk: I want to start an organic vegetable garden in my yard and I would like to know how to combine crops to make better use of time and space.

-- Val Thomason, Denton, TX

Most commercial farms concentrate on growing a few select crops to supply a wide variety of customers, but gardening at home is a different story entirely. Most backyard food gardeners are looking to augment their family's diet with a variety of seasonal fruits, vegetables and herbs throughout the growing season.

For those of us who face time and space constraints in our gardening endeavors, combining crops within the same planting areas makes a lot of sense. Such techniques are particularly well-suited to organic gardens where chemical fertilizers and pesticides aren't used to artificially boost crop productivity.

The most common way to combine garden crops is via an age-old technique called interplanting, which in essence means planting various garden edibles with different growth and spacing attributes together in the same soil beds or rows. One example involves combining fast-maturing vegetables, such as lettuce, field greens or beets, with slower-maturing ones like winter squash or pole beans. According to the informational "Our Garden Gang" website, mixing tall plants, like sweet corn, peas or staked tomatoes, with low-growing crops such as melons or radishes, is another way to maximize diversity and yield.

Building on the idea of interplanting, Better Homes & Gardens magazine suggests that gardeners combine plants that produce vines and can be grown on trellises or fences along with low-growing crops. So-called "vertical gardening" concentrates much more production into each square foot of planting area. Also, the magazine reports, crops grown off the ground "tend to be healthier because they are less likely to contract fungus infections or soil-borne leaf diseases." Tomatoes, pole beans, cucumbers, snap peas, melons and winter squash are all examples of crops suitable for vertical gardening if staked or supported properly.

Another common technique often employed by "week-end" gardeners, organic or otherwise, is succession planting, which entails replacing a finished crop with a different one, or planting a single crop in small amounts over an extended period of time. One example would be to replace a spring crop with a summer crop, such as planting cucumbers—which thrive in warmer weather—where the peas had been growing earlier. Another form of succession planting involves staggering the planting of seeds from one specific crop throughout its growing season to ensure a continuing supply as long as possible.

Some crops particularly well-suited to succession

planting include bush beans, lettuce, spinach and radishes, each of which have long growing seasons but can be harvested after only a few weeks. A related technique would be to plant both early- and late-maturing varieties of the same type of crop around the same time, and harvesting the resulting crops successively. Tomatoes and corn, for example, each come in varieties that ripen at different times during their respective growing seasons.

And while it may be easy to get carried away with edible gardening, don't forget to plant a few flowers to spruce up the look of your garden and also attract bees to help pollinate your food crops. Marigolds and sunflowers are good choices as they are relatively easy to grow organically and tend to attract lots of bees.

Visit *Our Garden Gang* and *Better Homes & Gardens* at <http://ourgardengang.tripod.com> and www.bhg.com respectively.

SEND YOUR ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTIONS TO: EarthTalk, P.O. Box 5098, Westport, CT 06881; earthtalk@emagazine.com. Read past columns at: www.emagazine.com/earthtalk/archives.php. EarthTalk is now a book! Details and ordering information at: www.emagazine.com/earthtalkbook.

National Black PR Society Shifts April Conference to Free Webinars in Response to Economy

Group also creates resource guide and local conference & opportunity fairs to stimulate PR jobs and business

In a bold step reflective of its commitment to provide meaningful information to its membership in a difficult economic environment, the National Black Public Relations Society (NBPRS) today announced it will convert its Annual Conference & Career Fair to a series of free online, interactive webinars in April. In addition, a resource guide and local events will be planned to aid employment, business development and networking for communication professionals.

“Now is a critical time for communication professionals to connect; however, tough economic constraints

have prohibited travel and conference expenses for both our members and our sponsors,” said Wynona Redmond, NBPRS presi-

dent. “We decided to be innovative and use a combination of technology and the grassroots approach of taking the conference

directly to our target audience which is our local Chapters.”

The webinars will take place on Thursday and

Friday, April 23 and 24. Full details and registration will be announced on the organization’s website at www.nbprs.org

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www.plano.gov

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TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS OF PROPOSED TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION (TxDOT) CONTRACTS

Sealed proposals for contracts listed below will be received by TxDOT until
the date(s) shown below, and then publicly read.

CONSTRUCTION/MAINTENANCE/BUILDING FACILITIES CONTRACT(S)

Dist/Div: Dallas

Contract 6172-61-001 for REFLECTORIZED PAVEMENT MARKINGS &
MARKERS in DALLAS. County will be opened on May 07, 2009 at 1:00 pm at
the State Office for an estimate of \$926,844.67.

Contract 6190-03-001 for ILLUMINATION in DALLAS County, etc will be
opened on May 08, 2009 at 1:00 pm at the State Office for an estimate of
\$395,509.00.

Contract 6190-28-001 for PERFORMANCE BASED PAVEMENT MARKINGS
in DALLAS County will be opened on May 07, 2009 at 1:00 pm at the State
Office for an estimate
of \$25,000,000.00.

Plans and specifications are available for inspection, along with bidding propos-
als, and applications for the TxDOT Prequalified Contractor's list, at the applica-
ble State and/or Dist/Div Offices listed below. If applicable, bidders must submit
prequalification information to TxDOT at least 10 days prior to the bid date to be
eligible to bid on a project. Prequalification materials may be requested from the
State Office listed below. Plans for the above contract(s) are available from
TxDOT's website at www.txdot.gov and
from reproduction companies at the expense of the contractor.
NPO: 29283

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

Dist/Div Office(s)
Dallas District
District Engineer
4777 E. Hwy 80
Mesquite, Texas 75150-6643
Phone: 214-320-6100

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



Dallas County

Dallas County is currently recruiting for the follow-
ing positions:

Building Inspector
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Field Nurse Supervisor
LVN II
Microbiologist I
Registered Nurse II

Qualifications vary for each position. To apply visit
www.dallascounty.org and complete the online
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Site Coordinator
Swim Instructor
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Workforce Services 1945 E. Jackson Road
Carrollton, TX 75011-0535

Direct Line: (972) 466-3090

Website: <http://www.cityofcarrollton.com>

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Church Happenings

CALVARY PHILADELPHIA MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

March 29, 3:30 pm

Join us as we honor Evangelist Shirley Stevenson, our Minister of Music; it's also her birthday.

Rev. J. H. Moore, Jr., Pastor
4703 Sunnyvale Street
Dallas, TX 75216
214-371-3581

CHRIST COMMUNITY CONNECTION (CCC) A NON-PROFIT 501(C)3 ORGANIZATION

April, 7:30 am

Tee-up for a great cause, Tee-up fun at our 10th Annual Scholarship Golf Classic Tournament, at the Indian Creek Lake in Carrollton, TX. The #7 best public golf course in Texas. Sponsorships are available. Platinum for \$2,000; Gold for \$750; Silver for \$300; Hole for \$100; and Cart for \$40. Call 972-242-0933 for details.

**Rev. Willie Rainwater
CEO and Director**
2006 Southern Oak
Carrollton, TX 75007
972-242-0933

DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY'S NORTH DALLAS ALUMNAE CHAPTER

Now thru April 18, 2009

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

**Carolyn Matthews,
Chapter President**
P. O. Box 8306004
Richardson, TX 75083
214-452-7835
(Voice Mail and Fax)

FAITH FAMILY ACADEMY OF OAK CLIFF

March 28, 10 am – 2 pm
Come to our FREE Community Health and Wellness Fair, which will include a variety of health screenings as well as wellness testing. There will be FREE immunizations, dental screening, information, FREE food, fun games, children's activities and prizes. Call Agnes Douglas for details.

**Agnes Douglas
Coordinator**
300 W. Kiest Blvd.
Dallas, TX 75224
214-375-7682, Ext. 28

FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH OF ALLEN "THE SHIP"

ON GOING, 9 am-4 pm
Monday-Friday
Prayer Lines for those in need are 972-649-0566 and 972-649-0567.

March 2009
Wednesdays, 7 pm

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

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

FELLOWSHIP OF BELIEVERS MINISTRIES

March 28, 6:30 pm

All musical departments from any church are invited to sing a selection for our "Annual Spring Musical" as we sing for the community and praise God. Theme: Indescribable Praise. We will also honor Bro. Jamie Crawford, Church Musician. Call Minister Sheaniqua Batty @ 214-780-7856 for details.

**Bishop Gregory D.
Crawford
Founder and Senior
Pastor**
3121 Nandina Dr.
Dallas, TX 75241
(214) 780-7856

FRIENDSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH, THE COLONY

On Going Tutoring--
On-going
Math & English, 7 pm
Monday a night for Math
and English and

Wednesday nights tutoring
is only for Math.

March 27, 6 pm – 6 am
Calling men & women to our Prayer Summit and Lock-In with 12 hours of continuous power prayer, sponsored by the Women Enrichment Ministry. Call Sis. Nicole Monroe for

details.

March 29, 2009

Our long anticipated Annual C.O.O.K Day is an event that you don't want to miss. Call for details.

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

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For Kingdom Building
200 BELMONT DRIVE - ALLEN, TX 75013
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Sunday Morning Services
8:15AM: Story Elementary
10:45AM: Story Elementary
12:30: Edelniss - Allen, Tx

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



Pastor W.L. Stafford Sr.
Lady Teasha Stafford

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Sunday Worship Service 11:00AM

Thursday Night Live At The Light 7:00PM

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10:00 am

Wednesday Nights

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Christian Methodist Episcopal Church

1113 Ave. I, Plano, TX 75074 (972) 423-4090

Rev. Clarence J. Ford, Jr., Pastor

Sunday School:

9:30 A.M.

Sunday Worship Service:

11:00 A.M.

Wednesday Night:

7:30 P.M.

Community Bible Class:



Women's History Month



In closing the month of March, I honor a few more "strong" women. Mrs. Rhoda (maiden name unknown) Baker Calico. My maternal great grandmother, who, with her two daughters and two of her sons, after slavery, she left Texas and settled in Elizabeth, New Jersey; praying, I have been told, to go back to her native land, Madagascar.

In the middle 1990s while researching family history, I discovered new cousins and new family history.

Mrs. Ida Rutherford Demus (known as Mother Ida by her family and Mother Demus in the community and at church,) Union Primitive Baptist Church, in Mexia, TX. My paternal grandmother; was an eloquent, proper, and a strong lady. She insisted that her children and grandchildren dressed presentable and use correct English at all times.

Mrs. Maggie Smith Baker (known as Mama Mag.) What a great lady and cook Mama Mag was. She and Papa James and their 17 children grew fruit and veg-

etables crops; they raised cows, chickens, hogs, etc. so that the family would always eat well. Her philosophy was that what ever you had to eat, if nothing but beans, then have plenty of beans to eat.

I have very fond memories of visiting both sets of grandparents during winter and summer. There was always plenty of food and a lot of fun playing with cousins.

The Demus' lived in Freestone County and the Baker's lived in Limestone County, both counties are in Mexia and only two miles apart. Both grandmothers were members of the same church; I strongly believe that the church is where my parents met and fell in love. My father sang in the church choir and my mother, following in her mother's footsteps was a great cook, and when food was served at church functions, she was responsible for helping to prepare the meal.

In researching family history, I would tell individuals in the community who my mother and father was; once I mentioned my mother's name, the folks would say, "We knew your mother, she was the prettiest lady in the county, with her long black pretty hair; she was the best cook, and her food was always great."

I thank God and truly appreciate the values and goals that were handed down to me. Church attendance was important. High honor and praises to God for His abundance of love and peace to the family was extremely important as was a formal education.

Both sets of grandparents, donated land for a school for the children in each county; and paid the teacher's salary and gave her room and board.

When I traveled to Elizabeth, New Jersey to meet my family and to trace family history, I was privileged to meet cousin Pauline Robinson Drake. Cousin Pauline is into everything good. In 1995 she was President of the Aberdeen-Matawan New Jersey Chapter of Hadassah; the only African-American Hadassah President in America.

She was always fascinat-

ed by biblical stories and the Hebrew language and in her early 50's she went to a synagogue, was befriended by members of the Jewish religion and learned to speak Hebrew. She spoke the language so well that she soon was teaching Hebrew to young Jewish children.

There are two stories I love to tell about Cousin Pauline. One is when she attended a Holocaust Observance Service, at the end of the program; she greeted the speaker from Israel in Hebrew; he was surprised and delighted that she could engage in a long conversation with him in the Hebrew language. He invited Pauline and her husband, WW II War Veteran, Howard, to visit him at his palace-home in Israel and they did. Pauline said they were treated royally.

The other is that on one of Pauline's trips to Israel, she was on a tour bus to



Ms. Dvorah Evans, Dallas Black Chamber of Commerce (DBCC) Membership Chair and Sister Tarpley at the 1st Annual Women's Community Health Luncheon by DBCC and Aetna Health Insurance Company.

important landmarks and a tour guide told a joke in Hebrew, when the two young men laughed, Pauline did also; the young men were shocked that she could speak and understand their

language. I think that from now on, they will be very careful about what they say in front of anyone.

It is great to honor women, especially God-fearing women.

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

"The Church with a Vision"

U.S. Department of Labor to release \$4.9 million representing final increment of grant to Texas for continued recovery from Hurricane Dolly

Total grant exceeds \$7 million, with initial amount provided in August 2008

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Department of Labor announced the release of \$4,900,171 in grant funds to create 534 temporary jobs in Texas to help clean up the state following Hurricane Dolly.

“Texas continues to recover from Hurricane Dolly, which hit in late July 2008,” said Secretary of Labor Hilda L. Solis. “Today’s grant will create additional jobs for workers to help affected areas recover from hurricane

damage.”

The Texas Workforce Commission will receive the grant to create temporary jobs for eligible, dislocated workers to continue cleanup. It also will help workers with re-employment assistance.

On July 24, 2008, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) declared the following counties in Texas eligible for FEMA’s Public Assistance Program: Aransas, Bexar, Brooks,

Calhoun, Cameron, Hidalgo, Jim Wells, Kennedy, Kleberg, Nueces, Refugio, San Patricio, Starr, Victoria and Willacy.

On Aug. 13, 2008, Texas received funding for

up to \$7,350,171, with \$2,450,000 released initially to create approximately 475 jobs related to cleanup and recovery. The grant will increase the number of temporary jobs

to 534 and will serve as the final funding increment for the grant.

National Emergency Grants are part of the secretary of labor’s discretionary fund and are

awarded based on a state’s ability to meet specific guidelines.

For more information, visit the website at <http://www.doleta.gov/NEG>.

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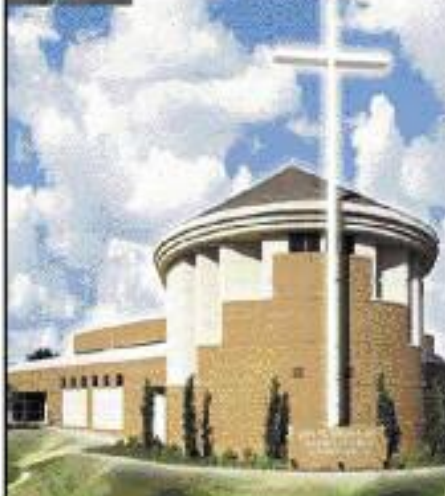
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For more information call (972) 423-6695
www.shilohbaptistchurch.org

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