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EDITORIAL:
OUR VIEW

Garland ISD - Please Explain This Disparity

There appears to be unfairness in the awarding of project bids to minority- and women-owned contractors by the Garland Independent School District (GISD). It may be us, but considering the 2000 census report shows approximately 50 percent minority population in Garland, and GISD popula-

tion statistics indicate approximately 70 percent minority population, expenditures to minority businesses for the last couple of years were disproportionately low. Minority- and women-owned businesses can register for certification as a Historically Underutilized Business (HUB). By state law, state agencies must make a

good faith effort to utilize HUBs in their bidding and awarding of projects. But something is not adding up with the figures in GISD. For the 2006-2007 fiscal year, only 7.7 percent of GISD's total purchase order spend went to HUBs. That increased slightly for 2007-2008, with 11 percent going to HUBs.

Considering there are minority trade associations in the Dallas/Fort Worth metroplex, including the Black Contractors Association, the Hispanic Contractors Association and the Asian-American Contractors of Dallas, with a combined membership of around 1,000

See DISPARITY, Page 7

My Experience as An NDG Summer Intern



Denzel Battle

DENZEL BATTLE
NDG CONTRIBUTOR

My name is Denzel Battle, a student at Ranch View High School in Irving, Texas. I like to play football and basketball. After high school, I look forward to college where I will study business management and information about automobiles because I would like to have

my own business building cars.

Through the What About The Children Foundation (WATCF), I was offered the opportunity to work as an editorial intern for the *North Dallas Gazette*. I loved the job from day one.

When I first walked arrived, I was greeted by Ms. Rosie Roberts, the Office

Manager. Ms. Roberts interviewed me for the position, confirming my skills and interests. Following the interview I was put to work immediately filing. Later that day I met the Editor, Ms. Ruth Ferguson. I quickly learned the objectives for the editorial intern. Ms. Roberts and Ms. Ferguson provided

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COMMENTARY

Progressives and Blue Dogs: Battle Health Reform

BY RON WALTERS

(NNPA) In case you have missed it, there has been a battle over health care reform in the House of Representatives, but the main one has taken place within the Democratic Party between the 80-member Progressive Caucus and the 50 member Blue Dog conserva-

tee negotiated with the Blue Dogs' to take the financial reimbursement rates to doctors and Hospitals earned allowed by the government away from the Medicare Program. That would allow them to raise rates free from government interference.

The Black Congressional Caucus sounded the alarm with a letter from its Chair, Rep. Barbara Lee, saying they

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AKA Sorority Battles Internal Discord

BY JAMES WRIGHT

(NNPA) - Members of the country's oldest Black sorority are suing to remove their president, alleging hundreds of thousands of dollars of the group's money on were spent on her - some of it to pay for a wax statue in her own likeness.

Eight members of the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority filed the complaint in D.C. Superior Court on June 20 "to restore their beloved sorority to its former high standards of governance, corporate transparency and active member communication," according to the complaint. The suit

demands McKinzie be fired and the money returned to the sorority.

This is extraordinarily shocking if not illegal conduct," Edward W. Gray Jr., an attorney representing the plaintiffs suing the Chicago-based sorority, said last week according to the Associated Press.

The suit also claims President Barbara McKinzie bought designer clothing, jewelry and lingerie with the sorority credit card and then redeemed the card's reward points to buy a big-screen TV and gym equipment.

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Kertrina Dauway



Louis Carr

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SPOTLIGHT

Stephanie Lee, Clifton's Newly Appointed Principal For Irving ISD



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Gospel Recording Artist Sean Reed is Opening Act for Kirk Franklin at Six Flags Over Texas

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

Brian Ganges

Brian Ganges is a powerful figure and is both an



author and motivational speaker. Ganges is a native New Jerseyan living in Arlington, Texas.

Ganges has written many thought provoking, principled, informative and insightful articles. His topics of interest are: current events, politics, health related topics, economics, relationships, and principles for daily living; Ganges discusses these topics always from a Christian worldview.

He communicates with a growing audience via his website www.insightfortoday.blogspot.com. Information regarding Ganges' new articles, speaking engagements and upcoming events are available on the website.

Ganges has also met or worked with several prominent politicians in the past, including radio interviews with 2008 US Presidential candidates Former UN Ambassador Alan Keyes and US Congressman Ron Paul.

Recently Ganges was one of the contributors in *The Soul of the Man: A Tri-*

umph of My Soul Anthology edited by Elissa Gabrielle. The book is a "collection of enlightening stories personifies the sentiment, faith, resilience and love embodied in the creation God made in His own image." Ganges contribution is *Manning Up with God*.

Gange describes his essay, "This story is important to me because it is real and relevant. I lived it and overcame the adversity.

People told me about God's ability and willingness to deliver. But I know and have proven God to be a deliverer, and He has pro-

ven to me, once again, that He loves me regardless of my circumstance. He showed Himself strong on my behalf.

I was the one that actually struggled, and cried when no one saw me at a low point. I was the one that felt forsaken and defeated, but He lifted me up.

One thing that I have learned is that it is one thing to know about God (from a book or someone else's experiences), but it's a lot better to actually know Him personally (in your heart)."

More information is available at www.thesoul

ofaman.net/.

Ganges' passion for humankind is revealed in his forthcoming book, *Piecing the Puzzle Together* which will show readers how to bring their lives together; from raising children, to relating to co-workers, to finding and sustaining balance, to getting involved politically.

This "how-to" book will give readers a firm foundation on which they can build a principled life.

Piecing the Puzzle Together debuts in 2010 from Peace In The Storm Publishing.

Kertrina Dauway

Television host, publisher, singer, and motivational speaker for over 20 years, Kertrina Dauway is a woman who is always on the move.

She is the host/emcee of The House of Blues Sunday Gospel Brunch located in Downtown Dallas. Dauway is also hosting a new television show *ResoundLIVE Television* which airs every Monday Night at 9:30

p.m. on Channel 34 and www.access34.tv.

Dauway is a trailblazer and a woman determined to encourage everyone that you can do anything if you just try. After years of depression and low self-esteem she teaches people how to stand up and be confident in who they are no matter what background they stem from. She is a frequently requested singer and



speaker.

Her Gospel Ensemble will be in concert at the House of Blues Sunday Gospel Brunch on Sunday, August 30, 2009.

"I feel like God has always given me signs all my life of what I was meant to do on this earth. I always knew that hosting a television show was my destiny. I just needed to

know the type of TV program God wanted me to do. I am so excited about what *ResoundLIVE Television* offers the community and now the world through the internet. It is a healing resource through songs and provides a wealth of educational information of all topics to our viewers," Dauway shared.

The *ResoundLIVE Television* allows singers and musical groups throughout the opportunity to receive exposure before millions

of viewers. To appear on *ResoundLIVE* contact (469) 438-1477 or email: resoundlive@yahoo.com www.myspace.com/resoundlivetv

You always catch Kertrina Dauway hosting The House of Blues Sunday Gospel Brunch on Sundays.

On August 30, 2009, she and her special Gospel Ensemble will be in concert at 12:30 pm.

For tickets call (214) 978-2583, or visit www.houseofblues.com.

Louis Carr

Louis Carr is President of Media Sales for BET, the premiere media company serving African-Americans and those who consume Black culture. He is responsible for the strategic plans to generate revenue for BET. Carr's twenty year success at BET has made him one of the most influential African-Americans in the media and marketing industry. Prior to joining BET, he worked for *Black Enterprise* and *Ebony*. He started his professional career in the insurance industry. Carr is also CEO and President of TV, LLC (Tweetie Ventures) which is a real estate company that owns and manages multi-family apartment buildings in Chicago.

Louis Carr Internship Foundation (LCIF) pro-

vides 20 paid internships in communications to undergraduate students of color during the summer immediately following their freshman, sophomore or junior year of college.



Carr established the not for profit, 501(c)(3) Foundation in 2003 to increase multiculturalism and diversity in the communications industry.

A veteran of over 20 years in communications, Carr knew that segments of the industry such as advertising, marketing, public relations and media sales were slow to develop the multiethnic workforces which reflected the changing racial composition of the USA and the challenges of multicultural global markets.

To ensure more minority representation Louis Carr,

President of Media Sales, BET Holdings, Inc., structured the LCIF intern program with a two-fold mission.

First, LCIF internships would give highly motivated minority students, who could not afford to take non-paying summer internships, a chance to get career-building experiences in top communications companies while earning needed college money. Second, LCIF internship program would help companies to identify, recruit, and maintain a more multicultural workforce.

Since the Foundation debuted its paid summer internships, LCIF alumni include - 10 students from 2004; 15 coeds for 2005; 21 interns in 2006 and 2007; and 16 students in 2008. This summer the Foundation will award at least 10 LCIF Internships.

To apply for future internship opportunities visit the website: www.louiscarrfoundation.org/summer_lci

f_interns.htm.

In July Carr was named the MAAX 2009 Media Executive of the Year.

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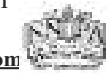
Editorial Department:

Phone: (972) 516-2992

Fax: 1 (261) 569-4191

editor@northdallasgazette.com

Website: www.NorthDallasGazette.com



North Dallas Gazette

3401 Custer Rd, Suite 169 • Plano, Texas 75023



STAFF

Chairman Emeritus

Jim Bochum

Published By

Minority Opportunity News, Inc.

Office Manager

Rosie Roberts

Production

Randon Knighten
Suzanne Plott

Special Projects Manager

Edward Dewayne
"Preacher Boy" Gibson, Jr.
Pietro Elina

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Faye Tsai

Religious/

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Shirley Demus Tarpley

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Distribution

Keith Rock
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Assignment Editor

972-606-3890

Editor

Ruth Ferguson

Publicist

Cheryl Jackson

Contributing Writers

Lakrishia Armour
Jackie Hardy
Tessa Howington
Jacqueline Murphy
LaToya S. Watkins

Theater Critic

Rick Elina

Photography

Laquisha Buchanan
Edna Dorman

National Marketing

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would not be inclined to vote for a bill with that measure in it. Then, the Progressive Caucus, which constitutes the CBS plus Hispanics and White progressives, weighed in and the deal seemed to fall apart. In the end, it was eliminated and the only thing the Blue Dogs won was delaying final passage of the bill.

This is the kind of political problem that has plagued the leadership of the Democratic Party, confused the public and lowered the President's poll numbers. President Barack Obama gave the initiative to the Congress on crafting the health care reform legislation wanting to avoid the problem that President Bill Clinton had by crafting his own bill and setting up a target for opposition groups to shoot it down.

The problem with this is that the issue of who is leading the show and what specifically constitutes reform has been difficult to find in the morass of committees who have had jurisdiction over the issue in both the House and Senate. Consequently, the President's poll numbers have declined an average of seven percent in the past month.

Ultimately, the Democratic Party will have to exercise more Republican-like discipline in order to achieve, not only this agenda item, but others. What continues to interest me is how conservative Democrats are allowed by their constituents to privilege issues like the cost of health care over their own access to it.

I did a little research on the issue and found that about half of the Blue Dogs represent Congressional Districts that are above the national average (15%) of people who have no health insurance. Moreover, 55 percent represent districts that are higher than the 2006 national average poverty rate.

If you look at a map of

the US, they are mostly in the bottom arc of the country from California, down through Texas and into the South where Hispanics and African Americans reside, with others in traditionally conservative Midwest. So, if it were merely

a matter of serving constituents, about half of the Blue Dogs shouldn't be blue.

Weakening the power of the Blue Dogs constitutes a legitimate political objective by the President's supporters, so that

the Democratic caucus has the discipline it needs on other issues along with the numbers. This constitutes a reasonable target for organizing during the August recess, but also in the

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Black Folk Must Advocate for Health Care Reform

BY JULIANNE MALVEAUX

(NNPA) Congress is putting the final touches on health care reform legislation, arranging to provide health care, especially, for the uninsured.

Anyone who has made the summer rounds of civil rights conventions understand that African American policy makers care about this issue. Still there seems to be no passionate advocacy for health care reform.

Our presence in this debate is much needed – we have a dog in this fight. African Americans are more likely than others to be uninsured, so the many ways our new legislation will make insurance available is important. And even when we are insured, the way that health problems hit us are most different. According to the Centers for Disease Control, African Americans and Hispanics “bear a disproportionate burden of disease, injury, and disability.” African-Americans, in particular, are more likely to be killed or to die of HIV than others are.

There is more – we are more likely to be obese, to have high blood pressure, diabetes, or to experience strokes. The obesity hits us early – our children are car-

rying more weight than they need to, and our community has done little to promote healthy eating. We experience cancer earlier than others, especially (for black women) breast cancer, and we are often diagnosed too late for diagnosis to save us.

We should be clear that many health disparities are the outcome of racial bias and racism in our lives and experiences. And many health disparities are the result of our own unwillingness to deal with the health challenges that face our community. For example, the fact that African American women are about 11 times more likely to be diagnosed with HIV than majority women is partly a function of sex education in our community.

We really can't blame racism for the fact that in an age of easily available information, too many sisters continue to put themselves at risk. Ditto obesity. While we can talk about the availability of healthy food choices in inner cities, the fact is that there is also much information available about how to eat and live more healthily.

Race may play a role in the ways our health disparities play out, but our own engagement in our health

outcomes also plays a role.

As health care reform legislation snakes its way through the congress and senate, it is disheartening to see the few who are involved in the legislation and the many who are silent.

You can't live without a healthy life, can't agitate for justice without the stamina for agitation. Yet there are so many African American people who are proud, passionate and sidelined by their health challenges. Where is the intense advocacy in our community, an advocacy that will propel us to be key activists in the health reform legislation?

African American people need the means and ends to healthy lives. We need to push hard for the health care reform that the Obama administration is promoting.

Possibly, our legislators will kick the can toward health care reform, producing legislation in the next several days. The goal was that they would have come to conclusion by August 7, but there is a clear possibility that discussion of this legislation will continue after the recess.

What needs to happen, now and later, is that we need to hear black voices raised in support of health

care reform. We need to hear black voices put all of this in context. We need to make sure that we all understand how critical it is for people to have access to health insurance and to health care.

In so many ways, access to health care is the foundation of our energy and survival. A community that has been economically marginalized gains much when health care is made available to the broadest range of people.

Health disparities are a function of the many racial inequities that plague our society. If you scratch an African American, she can tell you what she thought of the Henry Louis Gates arrest or the beer summit. How many can recite the details of the health legislation and the many ways it can enhance the African-American community. Priorities, priorities. Health

care reform will improve the health status of the African American community.

Julianne Malveaux is president of Bennett Col-

lege for Women in Greensboro, North Carolina. She can be reached at presbennett@bennett.edu.



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2010 and 2012 elections.

If these conservative Democrats can get elected having opposed the President and the party's programs, something will be seriously wrong. The challenge of the Democratic Party and, therefore, the message should be how the party's program has, or will benefit people in their districts.

The numbers reflecting the President's personal popularity are still strong, but it would be naive for his advisers to think that Obama's leadership alone can carry the day in pushing his key is-

ues. The logic here is that if he gives the initiative to the Congress, it will also take a far more disciplined party in control to enact measures that are close to what the President wants and not have them negotiated away.

In order to achieve that discipline, the conclusion I reach is that, going forward, the President must have a far more vigorous media strategy that more effectively counters Republican messaging to the people that doubles-back and is reflected in public opinion polls.

The decline of the

President's poll numbers on health care is not only a function of the confusion of leadership, but the strong access of Republicans to talk shows and to media ads that express American resentment more effectively than optimism and change.

I've just read a local Virginia paper where a conservative Democrat who represents that district is raising issues about the cost of health care, but the local message of how it would help people is missing. That is the challenge.



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Carrollton Boards and Commissions Meet and Greet

(NDG Wire) The City of Carrollton is hosting a "Meet & Greet" for anyone interested in volunteering with a Board and Commissions Committee. Stop by the Council Chambers at City Hall from 6 to 8 p.m. on Monday, August 10 to meet current Boards and Commissions

members and staff representatives. They will all be on hand to share information about their duties and special projects.

For those interested, applications are now being accepted. The Carrollton Home Rule Charter establishes certain qualifications that must

be met by all members of City Boards, Commissions and Committees.

To serve, you must:

- Have been a resident of Texas for at least one year and of Carrollton for at least six months
- Be a qualified Carrollton voter at the time of ap-

pointment

- Not have been convicted of a crime of moral turpitude

- Not be an adversary party to pending litigation against the City, except for eminent domain proceedings

- Not be in arrears on City taxes, water service charges

or other City obligations

- Have a creditable record of attendance and performance in any previous Board service

Applications can be downloaded online at cityof-carrollton.com/citysecretary or picked up at the City Secretary's office in City Hall.

Applications may be faxed, mailed or dropped off to the City Secretary's office.

All applications must be received in the City Secretary's Office no later than 5 p.m. on Friday, August 21. For more information, contact the City Secretary at 972-466-3582.

TXU Energy Lowers Prices Again

(NDG Wire) TXU Energy announced new price cuts represent the lowest term prices offered by the company since 2005. The new prices were effective August 1.

"We're able to lower prices as a result of lower wholesale electricity prices," said Dave Hennekes, vice president of residential mar-

kets. "We're passing these savings on to our customers."

In addition, TXU Energy is automatically cutting prices as much as 15 percent for over a quarter of a million existing customers on month-to-month plans by August 10.

To help existing TXU Energy customers on term plans benefit from lower prices, the company is also

waiving early cancellation fees this summer for those who want to re-enroll on a special reduced-price term plan. This is aimed at providing relief to customers who signed up for a term plan last year when prices were generally higher. Additionally, for customers who switch from another provider to TXU Energy, the company

is offering plans that include significant incentives so new customers can quickly begin to enjoy the benefits and protections of being a TXU Energy customer.

"Once again, we're in the middle of a typical hot Texas summer and lower prices couldn't come at a better time," said Hennekes. "Lower prices, energy-efficient

products at our online store, incentives to swap to a lower-priced plan and unique assistance for at-risk customers clearly demonstrate a value unmatched in the market. It's the reason we're the number one choice in Texas."

For the third consecutive year, TXU Energy declared a moratorium on disconnects through September 30 for

customers designated as low-income, ill or disabled or who are at least 62 years of age.

In order to receive these benefits, customers must contact TXU Energy at (800) 242-9113 to notify the company of their needs and to sign up for special, more flexible payment plans.

Fashion Show & Art Gallery Exhibit to Benefit Mesquite's Historic African-American Brickyard Cemetery Preservation Project

(NDG Wire) Mesquite's NAACP Chapter invite all lovers of art and fashion as top designers are showcased at the ART De'Lecour Fashion Show and Art Gallery Exhibit. The event will benefit Mesquite's Historic African American Brickyard Cemetery Preservation Project.

This event will feature a special celebrity runway walk featuring radio personalities. K104's own Cat Daddy, 97.9 The Beat's DJ Magic, Heaven 97's Carmina Barnett are a few runway participants.

Also, several Mesquite

city and school officials, State Representative Robert Miklos, and Ms. Plus America Shaurese Linwood among others.

Several special guest ap-

For information or to purchase a ticket, visit www.artdelecour.com, or contact Denise Upchurch at 214-280-0866 or www.brickyardcemetery.org.

pearances planned include Quentin Coryatt, retired Football Pro for the Colts and Dallas Cowboys, and now CEO of Perfect Jumper;

KHVN's Robert Ashley, Dickie Fears and Stafon Jackson.

A pre-event marketplace will begin at 4:00 p.m. featuring vendors and other informational booths.

Fashion show attendees can enter the ballroom beginning at 5:45 p.m. General admission seating (\$25 per person) available on a first-come, first-served basis. Special reserved seating for sponsors (\$50 per person) and VIPs (\$75 per person) available. Only VIPs receive admission to post-event art exhibit and reception.

The Queen of Chinese String Music

(NDG Wire) Betty Zhang is known in China as the "Queen of Chinese String Music" and "Princess of the Ancient Chinese Musical Chamber" is performing at the McKinney Performing Arts Center on

Friday, August 7 7:00 p.m. and Saturday, August 8 at 3:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. at the Elite Culture

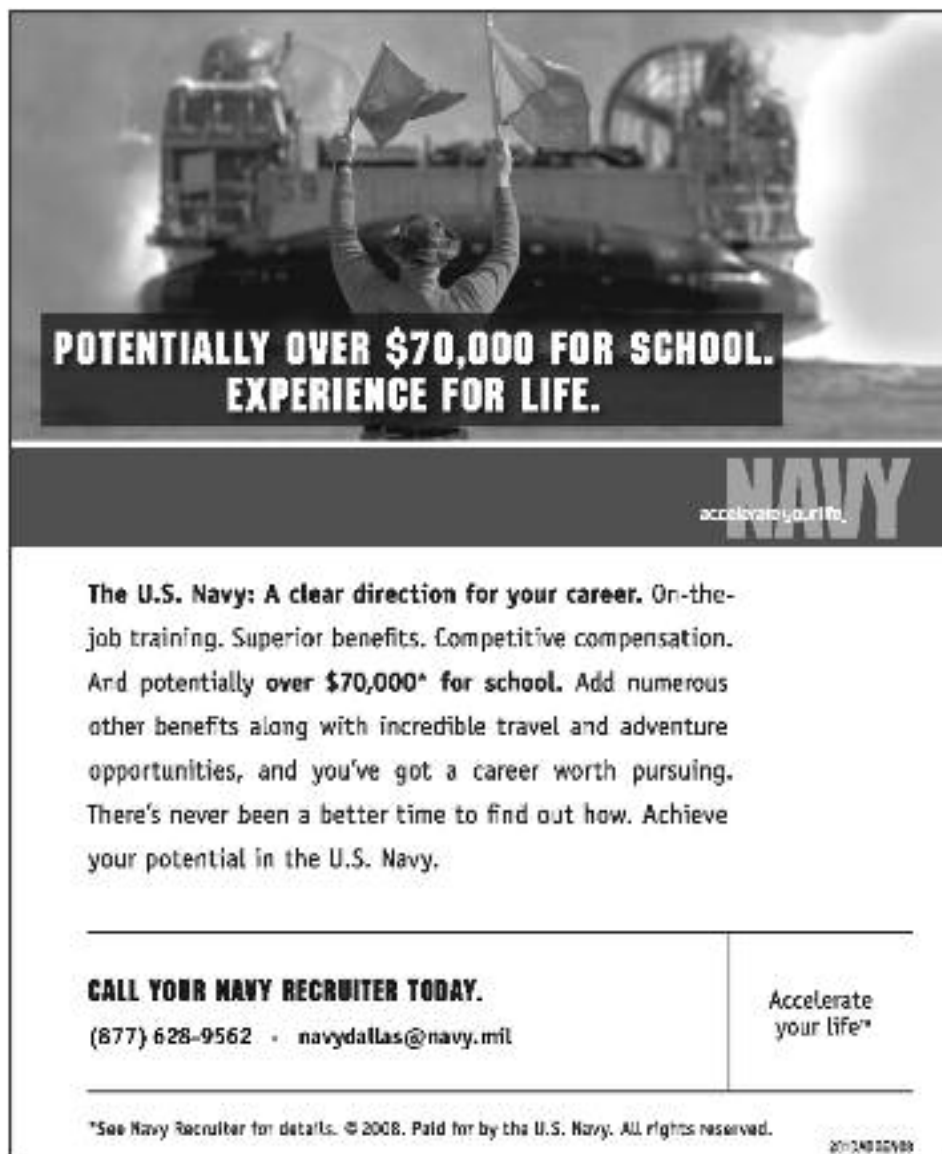
Center in Richardson. Admission is \$10.

Zhang was born in the province of Yuan Nan, China and began her studies in music at age eight, learning under such well-known teachers of Shi-Ching Lin and Dah-Hi Liu, both masters of the pipa, a Chinese 4-stringed lute.

She furthered her stud-

ies by researching the long-lost musical instruments of her native province, particularly the dingqin and hulusi of the Tai Tribe, the 4-stringed qin of the Yi Tribe, and the sanxian of the La-Gu Tribe.

For more information call 972-818-6888 or email naeyo2001@yahoo.com.



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UNCF's Emergency Student Aid Campaign Announce a \$500,000 Challenge Grant

(NDG Wire) The United Negro College Fund (UNCF) has received a \$500,000 grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to support their Emergency Student Aid Campaign, an initiative to help thousands of recession impacted students at UNCF

colleges graduate from college.

Mellon has committed \$250,000 immediately to the campaign. The second half of the Mellon donation is a dollar-for-dollar challenge grant, which match contributions to the Emergency Student Aid Cam-

paigned up to \$250,000 through December 1, 2009.

The UNCF's Emergency Student Aid Campaign kicked off earlier this year with a \$1,000,000 commitment from Exxon-Mobil.

To date, the campaign has raised \$2,354,824 and

has helped more than 1,200 seniors in Texas and other areas, pay their unpaid balances.

Job loss and pay cuts have reduced their families' ability to contribute to their education, and the credit crunch has squeezed student loans off the market.

UNCF's goal is to raise a total of \$5 million through individual, corporate, foundation and church donations in order to help students stay in school and graduate.

If you (or your company or church) are planning to donate to UNCF (NDG Wire) Tnow is the time to

double your investment. Please consider donating today.

Call the UNCF office to make a credit card donation at (972) 234-1007 or send checks to UNCF Emergency Student Aid Campaign, 2800 Swiss Avenue, Dallas, TX 75204

State Rep. Carol Kent Backs Education with Service Project

(NDG Wire) Carol Kent, State Representative in House District 102, is demonstrating her commitment to helping equip Texas students for school with a unique service project.

The 2nd Annual Back to School Backpack Drive, Rep. Kent's goal is to collect more than 100 back-

packs for area schools.

"Making sure that every student has the tools at hand to start the new school year is important. Having a new backpack is a great step in the right direction," said Rep. Kent.

With a 20-year career in higher education and extensive involvement with the

Richardson PTA and the RISD Board of Trustees, education is central to Rep. Kent's public policy.

Shortly after the 81st Legislative Session, she stated, "I am pleased that I was able to help lead our session in efforts that continue to enhance the quality of public and higher educa-

tion in Texas."

The efforts include improving teacher pay and retired teacher benefits revising the "Top 10% Rule", more funding for Tier One Universities, and improving accountability in school to move away from "teaching the test".

Rep. Kent's backpack

drive will occur shortly before the state's sales tax holiday. On August 21, 22, and 23, the state of Texas will not charge sales tax on most backpacks, clothing and footwear under \$100 dollars. New for this year, because of a bill Rep. Kent co-authored in the House last session, most school

supplies will also be exempt from sales tax.

"Times are tough right now -- for most all families in District 102," said Rep. Kent. "Between the backpacks we gather in this drive and the extended sales tax holiday, I hope to have done my part in relieving

See EDUCATION, Page 13

INTERN, continued from Page 1

me with a contract that outlined my job description.

I was then introduced to Sis. Shirley Tarpley who is the Religion Editor of the newspaper. I helped Sis. Tarpley by visiting the websites of local churches to find events for her Church Happenings column.

One of the key members of the team I work with is Ms. Suzanne Plott, she is the graphic artist who lays out the paper each week. One of my primary responsibilities was proofing each draft of the paper for spacing gaps. Then I called Ms. Plott, who works offsite, and we reviewed each article to correct those spacing errors. For spacing gaps that cannot be fixed by simply hyphenating a word, we highlight them for Ms. Ferguson and she rewrites or deletes information as needed.

While I worked at the *North Dallas Gazette*, I was assigned my own desk, computer and even a phone line. I learned the importance of deadlines. Also, I had an opportunity to see how important it is to request the right corrections and confirm they were made properly. Other tasks including filing, finding photos, researching a story for the entertainment section,

and checking to ensure cutlines correspond with photos.

I met different people here at the *North Dallas Gazette*. They include Ms. Monica Thornton, who works with Ms. Roberts; Ms. Faye Tsai who works in Sales and Marketing; and Mr. Xavier Motley, who helps fix computer problems for the staff. Also, I have learned about many community organizations in Plano, Dallas, and Irving.

I would like to thank Mr. Thurman Jones, the Publisher, for giving me this great opportunity and the challenge of writing this story for the paper. At first writing the story seemed hard, but when I actually began writing, the story began to come to me and I was able to finish the story.

Just by seeing how the newspaper business works, I have gained great experience at this job. This job is the best I have ever had, I was treated not like an intern but I was really treated like an actual staff member. The team is really nice and I would like to thank them for every thing, and I leave this job site not saying goodbye but saying see you later, because I hope I will be able to come back next summer to intern again.

WATCF is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization. A nine year-old organization has mentored, educated, motivated and encouraged children from the 75216 and 75217 community to experience different opportunities through the business mentoring and education program. Community business owners have also participated in the development of youth. They have extended their assistance without compensation or reimbursement. WATCF program provides opportunities for children to shadow adults in working situations and experience exposure to entrepreneurial/professional career leadership situations.

WATCF trains participants how to stay in school, become creative learners, enjoy learning, and acquire business and entrepreneurial skills, communication, conflict resolution, leadership, and relationship and teamwork skills. In addition, they teach the students how to make positive decisions which leads to their achieving a successful lifestyle.

Again, I would like to thank WATCF, Mr. Jones, Ms. Roberts, Ms. Ferguson, Sis. Tarpley and Ms. Faye for working and helping me.

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Delta Sorority Mentoring Young Ladies in Collin County



Jasmine Nicole Bright, Megan Lindsey Tillman, Tristen Yvette Beeler, T'Keyah Tamara Conway, Paige Alexis Nelson, Courtney Renaye Turner, Jentrelle Charisma Moore

The First Debutante Cotillion sponsored by the Collin County Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., was held earlier this summer. Now seven young ladies are preparing to be presented to society in 2010. The young ladies participate in enriching activities that enhance their personal, educational, cultural, spiritual, and social lives as African American young ladies. They exhibit the essence of finer womanhood, academic excellence, strong morals and values and outstanding service to the community.

Seven young ladies are eagerly waiting for 2010 to be presented to society. The 2009 Ladies-In-Waiting were:

Lady Tristen Yvette Beeler is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bryant (Cheryl) Beeler. She attends Allen High School.

Lady T'Keyah Tamara Conway is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Francis (Nanda) Conway. T'Keyah attends Plano West High School.

Lady Jasmine Nicole Bright is the daughter of Mrs. Cheryl Bright and Mr. Don-

ald Bright. She attends the McKinney Boyd High School.

Lady Jentrelle Charisma Moore is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Moore. She attends North Garland High School.

Lady Paige Alexis Nelson is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Valdrine (Patricia) Nelson. She attends Flower Mound High School.

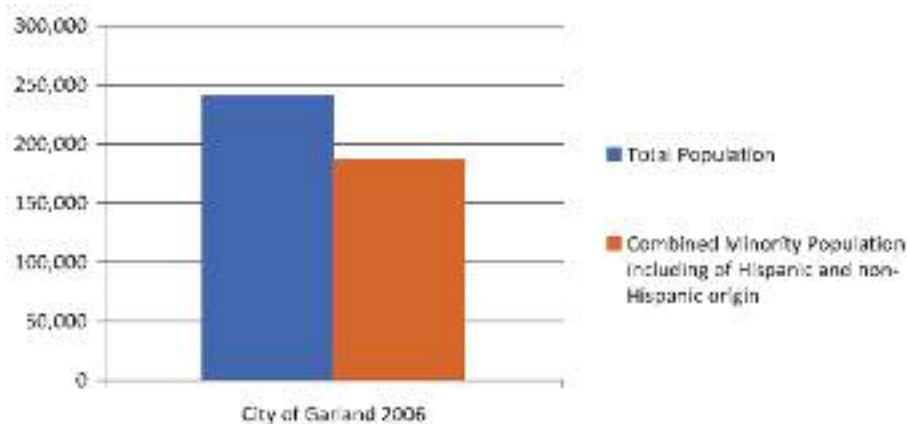
Lady Megan Lindsey Tillman is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edward (Rose) Trufant. She attends Liberty High School.

Lady Courtney Renaye Turner is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Michael (Sonya) Turner. She attends Allen High School.

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated is a public service sorority. The Collin County Alumnae Chapter was chartered in March of 2008 and has answered their mission during its first year of offering Five Star Public Service to the surrounding communities of Collin County. All requests for information may be directed to dstcca@hotmail.com.

DISPARITY, continued from Page 1

City of Garland Population Statistics provided by American Community Survey of the US Census Bureau



companies, there certainly is not a lack of HUBs available to bid on projects. So we find it perplexing that GISD spent so few dollars with these companies.

In fairness to GISD, the North Dallas Gazette attempted to contact its elected trustees by phone. We were seeking to understand why HUBs were receiving so few of the purchasing dollars - were they not bidding on projects, were they not qualified for the projects, or were they over pricing themselves? But our calls to the trustees were not returned.

We tried contacting the Purchasing Director, Mark Booker, he responded via a form letter and directed us to contact the Communications Department, with no additional response from his office. Booker has either been ordered to not talk to us, or is

conveniently hiding behind the Communications Department in an attempt to defend these abysmal statistics.

So we still do not know why only 11 percent of GISD's purchasing dollars went to HUBs in 2007-2008, when the minority population in Garland is around 50 per-

cent. But we believe it is time for GISD to include all members of the community in its projects.

There are many renovation, new building and addition projects coming up in GISD. If we can hold the school district accountable, possibly more HUBs will be

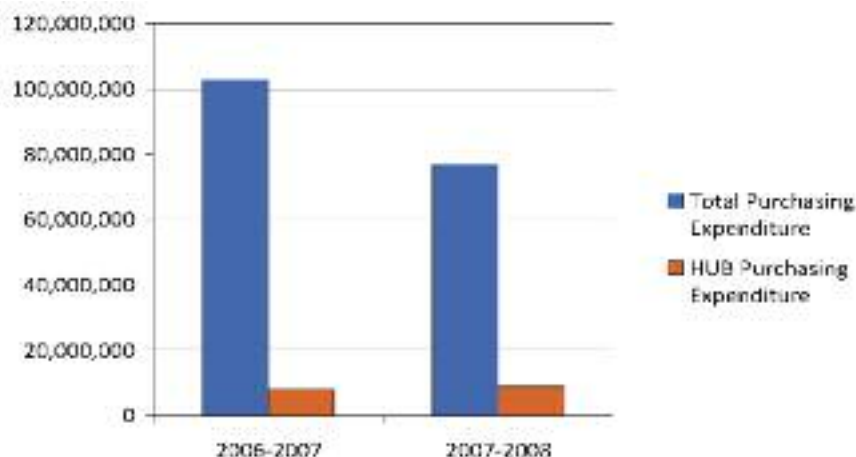
awarded some of these projects. So far though, GISD does not seem to want to be held accountable.

For a school district in a major city, and a city that has re-elected its first African-American mayor, the GISD purchasing department has fallen behind the times. The people of the city said yes to progress with the election of the mayor, but GISD seems to be saying no, and it does not appear to be apologetic.

If any of our readers have concerns, or if you have had interaction with GISD's purchasing department - positive or negative - please write us so we can share your comments.

You can reach us via Twitter at <http://twitter.com/NDGEditor> or via email at editor@northdallasgazette.com

GISD Purchase Order Expenditure provided by GISD Purchasing Department



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Ongoing

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

Collin County Black Chamber of Commerce, July 9, August 14 & September 10, CCBCC General Meetings for Summer Quarter, McKinney Public Library, 101 E. Hunt Street McKinney, TX 75069

Collin County Black Chamber of Commerce: Monthly Lunch & Learn - July 16, August 20 & September 17, \$15 for members, \$20 for non-members, 11:00am until 1:00pm at the El Fenix Restaurant, 3450 S. Central Expressway, McKinney, TX 75070. Info: (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 meeetup.com/378.

Marriage Prep Class 1st Saturdays monthly 423 West Wheatland Rd. 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 Thursday at 11:30 am - 12:30 pm every Thursday at Texas Land & Cattle Steak House 3945 N. Central Expy. Plano Must RSVP at www.TheNoLimitNetwork.com or 972-898-5882.

The National Business Women Enterprise Network (NBWEN) Learning Over Lunch Series 4th Saturdays, 11AM-1PM, Remarkable Affairs Cafe, 2727 LBJ Freeway, Suite 140,

Dallas, \$20 for members; \$35 for non-members, \$5 off for early bird registration. See <http://nbwenorg.ning.com>.

Summer Melange: Business, Pleasure & Charity Networking Event Free very 2nd and 4th Friday, 5:00 P.M. to 10:00 P.M. at Prince Bistro, 1201 E. Spring Creek Pkwy, Ste. 100, Plano. Info: 972-422-9078 melange@cause360group.com

Summer 2009

Seniors Active in Learning hosting annual summer series including Brown Bag lecture series and a variety of classes and other activities. Info: 972-985-3788, wjmartin@cccd.edu or www.cccd.edu/sailsite

March 28 - October 25

The George Washington Carver: An Extraordinary Man With A Mighty Vision Exhibit at The African American Museum, 3536 Grand Avenue, Historic Fair Park, Dallas, TX, 214-565-9026, \$5 Adults, \$2 Children www.aamdallas.org

July 30 - August 9

Ringling Bros & Barnum & Bailey Show The American Airlines Center Thurs., August 6, 7:30PM Friday, August 7, 7:30PM Sat., August 8, 11:30AM Sat., August 8, 3:30PM Sat., August 8, 7:30PM Sunday, August 9, 2:30PM Sunday, August 9, 6:30PM www.ticketmaster.com

August 6-9

Mocha Sisters 3rd National Conference. The theme is, "Embracing the Vision" at the Marriott Suites Dallas Market Center, 2493 North Stemmons Freeway, Dallas Info: www.mochasisters.org/

August 7 - August 8

14th Summer Home-school Conference Pre-register at www.NTHEN

.org or 214-495-9600.

August 7

"Music under the Dome" features the live band of "MuziQue" 7pm to 11pm located at the African American Museum in the Historic Fair Park of Dallas, TX. The \$10 admission includes food, refreshments, and entrance to the "George Washington Carver" exhibit. Parking is FREE. Info: 214-563-9026, www.aamdallas.org/, www.dallasalphas.com/

August 8

The Wiggles! Tour NOKIA Theatre 1:30 & 5:00 PM

Learning Over Lunch 2009: Creating Your Corporate Identity from 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM Info: Remarkable Affairs Café 2727 LBJ Freeway, Suite 140 Dallas, TX 75234

African Leadership Council Luncheon 12:30 p.m. at Kasbah Grill Moroccan Restaurant, 2851 Esters Rd in Irving. Advance tix \$15, \$20 at the door and includes buffet lunch.

August 9

Caribbean Music Festival 2602 Mayfield Rd., Grand Prairie, TX FREE dfwinfo@tradersvillage.com or 972-647-2331

Spring of Harmony II -- Chamber Music Concert Series St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, 3204 Skillman, Dallas 5 pm FREE Info: standrews@airmail.net 214-821-9989

August 10

The International Museum of Cultures, 7500 W. Camp Wisdom, Dallas, will host their annual **Educator's Informational Tour** 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Educators are invited to tour the museum FREE and discuss with Docents in each exhibit the TEKS that are

covered during scheduled tours

August 11

The Multicultural Outreach Roundtable 7:00 p.m. Plano Municipal Center, Training Room A 1520 Avenue K

August 14 - August 15

Quilt Plano 2009 9am to 5pm Info: www.quiltersguildofplano.org, 972-517-7238.

August 15

The PLAN Fund hosting **"Business Basics for Entrepreneurs"** 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. at 2801 Swiss Ave. Suite 120, Dallas, TX 75204. Cost is \$45, register at www.planfund.org or 214-942-6698.

ART De'LeCour is a fundraising event for **Mesquite's Historic Brickyard Preservation Project** at the The Westin City Center Hotel, 650 North Pearl Street, Dallas. The Pre-Event Marketplace begins at 4:00 p.m.; Fashion Show at 6:30 p.m. (doors open at 5:45 p.m.); and Post-Event Art Exhibit and Reception for VIPs to follow fashion show. Info: Denise Upchurch at denise_upchurch@yahoo.com, 214-280-0866 or www.artdelecour.com/.

August 19

What a Wonderful World fun-filled family day, 1-4pm Amon Carter Museum

August 21 - August 22

Half Price Sale: Divine Consign Children's and Maternity Consignment Sale 9am-8pm Admission is free. Info: Tina Teutsch 214-513-2838, divineconsign@hotmail.com, www.divineconsign.net

August 21-23

"The 3rd Annual Fort Worth MusicFest" featuring legendary billboard-topping bands, Morris Day

and the Time, The Bar-Kays and The Zapp Band. This three-day outdoor music event will take place in Fort Worth. Tickets are \$15 per day until August 14, 2009. Kids under the age of 10 get in free. More info: www.fwmusicfestival.org or 817.923-9300.

August 21

Gospel Jam feature Christian comedian Kenn Cox and musical guests. Cost is \$10 pre-sale/\$15 door. Info: Kyle Miller at 972-821-9930 or TheGospelJam.com.

August 22

2009 Urban League of Greater Dallas Annual Gala will feature The Blue Notes, previously known as Harold Melvin and the Blue Notes at the Hilton Anatole, 2201 Stemmons Freeway at 6:30 p.m. Info: (214) 915-4600 or purchase tickets at the Urban League Headquarters, 4315 South Lancaster Road, Dallas

August 26

A Beka Book Home School A home school curriculum and text book sale. Admission is Free, 11am to 3pm; Info: Mickey Pierce at 800-613-3222 Ext. 67 or www.abeka.org

August 28-30

Tulisoma South Dallas Book Fair & Arts Festival Tulisoma, Swahili for "we read" a community based literary festival promoting literacy and the arts. Speakers include Dallas DA Craig Watkins, poet Sonia Sanchez and romance author Evelyn Palfrey. The fair will be hosted at the African American Museum and other venues, visit www.tulisoma.com

August 29

Greater Games Gathering 8am.- 11:30pm. Admission: \$15 at the door. Info: 469-277-2417, info@g3con.org or www.g3con

.org.

The Metroplex Economic Development Corp. hosting a housing fair event, **A Time To Own II**, 10am-3pm at Clay Academy, 3303 Potter's House Way, Dallas. Info: 972-708-6400

September 2

Plano Career Fair Meet with Plano and Dallas area employers. To see a complete list of jobs available and to pre-register for this event from 10am to 2pm, www.choicecareerfairs.com Admission is free. For more information call 830-393-7401

September 5-6

2009 City of Bedford Labor Day Blues & BBQ Festival a feast for the senses. The two-day event re-turns with an entertaining lineup of local talent, blues legends Buddy Guy and The Fabulous Thunderbirds and a \$10,000 barbecue cook-off. Gates open at 2 p.m. each day

September 10

The Plano City Council Neighborhood Roundtable - District 4, 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. at the Plano Sports Authority StarCenter, 6500 Preston Meadow, Plano, Texas 75024

September 13

Plano Bridal Show 12:00 p.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is \$10 for adults, children 14 and under \$5 (includes toddlers & infants). Info: 972-713-9920 or www.bridalshowsinc.com

September 17

Capacity Building with Grants Expo: Meet non-profit groups, educators, successful grant writers, and share strategies for your grant funding capacity. From 8am to 5pm Admission \$39 Info: Tasa Anderson at 903-639-4519 or www.grantexperts.info

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Proud To Be An Active Partner In The Community

Stephanie Lee, Clifton's Newly Appointed Principal For Irving Independent School District



Stephanie Lee, Principal for Clifton ECS

BY JACKIE HARDY
NDG CONTRIBUTOR

Dallas native, Stephanie Lee will be adding the title principal to her resume of notable achievements. Lee's career with Irving Independent School District (IISD) began in 2000, where she served five years in various teaching capacities which included English as a Second Language (ESL); special education; and third and fourth grade. In 2006 she was hired as vice principal for Townsell Elementary School, adding experience in administration to her five plus years in education.

Lee earned a Masters in Educational Administration and holds professional certifications in the following: Elementary Self-Contained Teacher Certificate (grades one-eight); Generic Special Education Teacher Certificate (pre-kindergarten –grade twelve); English as a Second Language Teacher Certificate

(pre-kindergarten – grade twelve); and Principal Certificate (early childhood – grade twelve).

"I get great satisfaction from serving people. I enjoy serving students directly and indirectly to help them become independent thinkers and an asset to society. Serving and teaching parents the importance of education is my passion because this reciprocal relationship benefits everyone, especially the students," states Lee.

Lee's leadership style is best described as a leader who serves. This form of leadership will be paramount in helping the school continue its success of fostering an environment that achieves their mission to improve the students' literacy, vocabulary, and higher-order thinking skills.

Lee explains, "Serving and teaching the teachers is very important because they impact children's lives, which is an unbelievable responsibility to have."

Under Lee's leadership, the school will be implementing the district's curriculum which includes using a balance literacy approach in

the students being able to read and journal, as well as having a strong foundation in basic math concepts.

"Stephanie knows the curriculum and is very strong academically. She also has a positive attitude, which is a vital quality to have as a principal," states Dugger. The ability to have a great rapport with the parents is another important quality the school district found as an asset Lee would bring to the school.

"Many of the parents have children that feed into Townsell Elementary; therefore, the strong relationships Stephanie formed while serving as vice principal at Townsell will carry over in her new role as principal," Dugger explains.

The majority of parents Lee will be interfacing with are parents of minority students. Students and parents will have the privilege to have a principal who understands firsthand what some of the needs and challenges that are specific to minorities. Clifton ECS student body

ing a large population of parents who have children with special education needs. Many of the children with special educational needs include walk in speech students.

"My special education and ESL experience will serve me well when working with the parents and teachers in Admission, Review, and Dismissal (ARD) meetings for our special education students, as well as working with parents and teachers in Language Proficiency Assessment Committee (LPAC) meetings for LEP students," advises Lee.

According to Lee, Clifton received a grant to develop a Parenting Center as an effort to allow parents to become more inclusive. The purpose for the Parenting Center will provide parenting and computer classes, access to computers and internet, and a place for the parents to bring their children, who are not students, for recreational and educational play.

The selection of Lee is one hiring among many the IISD wants to continue as it relates to hiring of minority staff. Dugger has plans to establish two 24-member advisory councils which will include a Superintendent Business Advisory Council and Superintendent Advisory Council on Diversity. Dugger's purpose for creating the Advisory Council on Diversity is to address the academic, social, cultural needs, and hiring practices within IISD. Contact the Superintendent Office at (972)600-5000 for more information.

"Over 60 percent of the administrators for the 2009 and 2010 school year are minority and we want to continue to make hiring minorities a priority, which is why I feel a advisory council is important," states Dugger.

"I appreciate the steps Dr.

Dugger is taking to address Irving's diverse population," exclaims Lee.

Dugger shares the same sentiment, a feeling of appreciation for having someone like Lee on their staff. Lee started her journey hoping to be a journalist after completing her undergraduate studies at East Texas State University in May 1996, but her career ambitions changed during the pregnancy of her daughter and she decided to become a teacher because she wanted a career that was meaningful and satisfying.

One person's turn of fate can become another person, or in this case a school district's advantage. Lee hopes the legacy she strives to pass onto Clifton will be a legacy that reaps infinite advantages.

"I want to leave a legacy that empowers the staff to continue the school's vision, build the capacity of the teachers so they are confident in producing students with a sound academic, social, and emotional foundation, as well as create and maintain positive working relationships with the parents," states Lee.

Lee goes home each night to her husband of twelve years, Henry Lee, Jr. and two children, Jesyka, age ten and Jordan, age seven with the passion of carrying out that legacy for Clifton.



Dr. Neil Dugger, Acting Irving ISD Superintendent

"Stephanie has done a great job as vice principal at Townsell Elementary and the principal there expressed confidence that she is more than ready to have her own school,"

*Dr. Neil Dugger
Acting Superintendent of IISD*

"Stephanie has done a great job as vice principal at Townsell Elementary and the principal there expressed confidence that she is more than ready to have her own school," states Dr. Neil Dugger, Acting Superintendent of IISD.

reading and writing, thinking maps to organize student's thought processes, small group instruction in all core academic subjects to intervene with struggling students. By the end of the school year, the school will have reached their goal for

consists of 20.5 percent African American; 65.2 percent Hispanic; 6.7 percent White; and 7.7 percent Asian and Pacific Islander.

"Clifton has a large population of Limited English Proficient (LEP)," states Lee. The school will also be serv-

If your church or community organization is planning any back-to-school events please send the details to editor@northdallasgazette or <http://twitter.com/NDGEditor>.

Restoring Family Memories

(NDG Wire) Photography tells a story and Gabrielle Castaneda Pruitt encourages families to keep their history safe and archived to disk and to albums. "We can help you or show you how to put your images in a digital album and then make a printed book for you."

14th Street Imaging Studio owner, Pruitt points out, "We have a small gallery space and with the decline in the economy we've put some of our gallery shows on hold

for the time being. We're just not selling much art."

Pruitt added, "For the present time we are focusing on our services. These include photo restoration, picture framing, fine art printing, art reproduction, printing on canvas, photography, and business cards."

According to Pruitt, "Sometime color photos especially those made in the 60-70's fade. We can restore some color back to them. You may have only a few heirloom pictures from your

parents wedding or the birth of the first baby. Brothers and sisters, aunts and uncles, great grandparents, those photos are so important to other members of the family. Archive them into a digital album. Memories are fragile and you need to treasure them and share them. If you are into your family's genealogy, we can help you restore those old family documents and photos."

14th Street Imaging Studio offers photography services for weddings, mother to

be portraits, head shots, senior portraits, as well as event photography.

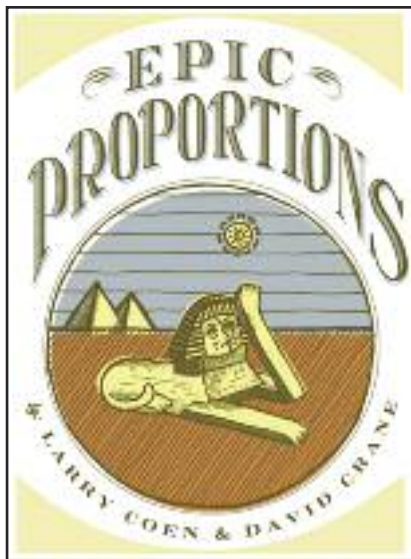
Starting on September 5th they are hosting a beginning Photoshop Class for those interested in archiving family photos. Seven seats are available, students can bring their laptop. Call for registration information 972-633-3822.

14th Street Imaging Studio hours are Tuesday thru Friday 10 a.m. -6 p.m., and is located at 1412 14th Street in Plano.

Final Weekend to See *Epic Productions*

BY RUTH FERGUSON
NDG EDITOR

This is the final weekend to see *Epic Productions* brought to the local stage by Rover Dramawerks in Plano. The comedy follows the antics of two brothers, Benny and Phil who are extras on a lavish epic movie being filmed in Arizona in the 1930s. The brothers are not leading actors or directors, they are literally members of a cast of thousands as they say in show biz. In this case, 3,400 extras fill-



ing out the scenes - think *Ben Hur*, *The Ten Commandments*, and *Lawrence of Arabia*.

The hilarity ensues when the brothers fall madly in love with the same woman, Louise. She is the assistant director responsible for extras.

However, following a few

mishaps such as ten plagues and a misfiring burning bush, Phil is now the director and the film stars are Benny and Louise. But the show must go on with lavish costumes, a sweeping musical score and a cast of thousands brought to life by four actors.

Epic Productions is written by Larry Coen and David Crane, and the director is Carol M. Rice. Crane's work is very familiar to many as he is one of the writers and creators

Gospel Recording Artist Sean Reed is the Opening Act for Kirk Franklin at Six Flags Over Texas

(NDG Wire) Gospel Recording Artist and Pastor, Sean Reed will open up for Multiple Grammy® award-winning gospel artist Kirk Franklin at the *Fight of Our Life Health Tour* concert at Six Flags Over Texas, hosted by the American Heart Association and the Power To End Stroke organization. The concert will be held on Saturday, August 8, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

Maintaining good health is one of the greatest struggles in life, but

everyone has the POWER to take charge of their health.

"To all my brothers and sisters, we have a serious health issue that is claiming the lives of our loved ones. It's called stroke. Join me in making a declaration to stand up and do something about it," Kirk Franklin encouraged.

For tickets and more information see <http://fightfourlife.blogspot.com/> or contact Sean Reed Ministries at (817) 734-5339.

of the popular sitcom *Friends*, and the spin-off *Joey*.

Theater fans looking for laughter and a break from the return of summer heat can purchase their tickets at www.roverdramawerks.com

All tickets are general

seating and also available for purchase at the door. The cost is \$15 or \$18 depending on the evening selected.

Performances begin at 8:00 p.m. Thursday - Saturday at the Cox Building Playhouse located at 1517 H Avenue.

Julie & Julia - A Recipe for Success

BY RUTH FERGUSON
NDG EDITOR

Writer and director Nora Ephron, best known for the classic romantic comedies *Sleepless in Seattle* and *When Harry Met Sally* returns to good form when she

creatively blends two best selling memoirs to tell the story of Julia Childs and Julie Powell. *Julie & Julia* is interesting, clever, well acted and most importantly - funny.

Stuck in a cubicle in New York city taking phone calls from families and victims of the 9-11 attacks, Julie (Amy Adams) is craving a little zest in life. She and her husband have moved to a tiny apartment above a pizze-

ria. The best thing that can be said about this apartment is that it has "character." Julie loves to



cook but she is a writer at heart. Suffering from a bit of writers block, Julie decides to launch a blog featuring her daily adventures for a year discussing her attempts at cooking a different recipe from Julia Child's legendary cookbook, *Mastering the Art of French Cooking*.

Meanwhile, the film flashes back to Julia Child's (Meryl Streep) life in France and abroad with her husband Paul (Stanly

Tucci). It was fascinating to discover that Child's was not a stodgy old lady, in fact she was a feisty broad - in more ways than you can imagine. She received training at the renown Le Cordon Bleu in Paris, despite a rather unwelcoming admissions official.

Naturally, Ephron cannot leave romance out of the film. The love story of Julia and Paul, a mature couple madly in love, works so well because of the fine performances by Streep and Tucci.

Julie & Julia is rated PG-13, opens on Friday at theaters across the Metroplex and is well worth the price of admission.

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MillerCoors Salutes Next Generation of Urban Entrepreneurs



Pictured above (second from left) is Larry Waters, director, Multicultural Relations for MillerCoors, along with (from left) grant winners ReShon Anderson, Demetrius Walker, Olaolu Yemitan, Sebastine Ujereh, Jr., Robert Bryant, Joyce Johnson, Jolanda Powell, Joanne Tabellija-Murphy, grand prize-winner Termetrice Gibbons and Justin Giboney.

(NDG Wire) Honoring the spirit of today's young people aspiring to business ownership and success, MillerCoors has announced the winners of its 2008-2009 Urban Entrepreneurs Series and Business Plan Competition (MUES). The recipients, selected from a field of more than 130 applicants nationwide, were awarded business grants totaling \$150,000 at a special dinner and reception held in Chicago recently.

This grand prize winner received a \$50,000 business grant, with the four runners-up each re-

ceiving grants of \$25,000 to contribute to their company's start-up capital, or to expand their existing businesses.

Over nine years, MUES has provided more than \$1 million in business grants to over 100 urban professionals across the country, empowering urb-

an American communities by

creating jobs and sustaining economic development. For details about the upcoming MUES competition, including next year's \$100,000 grand prize package, visit www.millercoorsmues.com.

Home Staging - A key ingredient in the recipe for a home sale

BY: KAREN OTTO
NDG SPECIAL
CONTRIBUTOR

Are you a fan of HGTV, the DIY Network or a host of many other cable access channels that specialize in home enhancement? Then you have probably watched a show that involved home staging. While the home staging industry is growing in recognition, especially by those who can't get enough of home improvement shows, the concept itself is still not widely understood by those who could benefit from it the most, the home seller.

Home staging is fast becoming a key ingredient in the recipe for a successful home sale especially in today's tough real estate market.

Put simply, home staging is a marketing tool for merchandising and showcasing a home for sale just like any product on a shelf. Consider though how much more equity you have in your home than say your car.

If you were to sell your used vehicle you would most likely make sure to have the car serviced and detailed for the prospective car buyer, why should your home be any different? In fact, even more care should be taken for a home to be properly merchandised as to inspire buyer appeal and desire to

purchase. There is a recipe that can help you achieve this and there are 3 main ingredients:

- Price
- Location
- Condition

In the right combination this recipe has proven very successful. In real estate markets of the not so distant past, price and location were king. In some cases just putting a sign out front, regardless of the condition of the home, the house might sell. That was known as a "seller's market".

Multiple offers over asking price were not unheard of and bidding wars were a common practice. Imagine that! Unfortunately for home sellers those days appear to be gone with no sign of immediate return and buyers are in the kitchen now and they are heading out to the real estate market but they are calling the shots on what they would like with their order.

For the home sale recipe to work today, all three ingredients are vitally important. While price is dictated by what the current market will bear (even though a seller may think their home is worth more than it is - please listen to your Realtor®!) and the location of your home cannot be changed, condition is one

ingredient that a home seller has complete control over and buyers are taking notice. Savvy home sellers must do everything they can to properly position their home as the one buyers want and condition is key.

A Realtor® can only do

so much and it is up to the home seller to take care of the condition of their home. Home staging is the way to achieve that and create a home that is buyer ready. Whether you hire a profes-

See STAGING, Page 12

ATTENTION!!!

Collin County Black Chamber of Commerce

Meeting: **Thursday, August 13, 2009**

Location: **McKinney Public Library
101 E. Hunt St.
McKinney, TX 75069**

Time: **6:30 p.m.**

If Interested In Joining
Contact: **ccbccsecretary@yahoo.com
469-424-0120 ext. 703
866-377-4002 (toll free)**

See STAGING, Page 12

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DISCORD, continued from Page 1

McKinzie denied what she called the lawsuit's "malicious allegations," saying they were "based on mischaracterizations and fabrications ... not befitting our ideals of sisterhood, ethics and service," according to a statement issued this week by the sorority.

The lawsuit also accused the sorority's board of directors of signing off on spending funds on McKinzie without the required approval by the group's membership. For example, the lawsuit says the board approved a monthly "pension stipend" of \$4,000 for four years after she leaves office and purchased a \$1 million life insurance policy for her.

The presiding position of a Black Greek letter organization is generally voluntary with the person receiving expenses incurred for perform-

ance of duties and sometimes honoraria for speaking to sorority members for such activities as Founder's Day.

Within the 38-page lawsuit, the sorority, which Gray called "one of the crown jewels of our community," is portrayed as a troubled organization rife with financial improprieties.

For example, the lawsuit alleges McKinzie and Betty James, the executive director who is also named as a defendant, oversaw the preparation of the organization's tax return that include many "unreasonable large and inappropriate" deductions.

McKinzie also allegedly invested millions of dollars of the sorority's money in stocks and bonds, investments that have since lost huge amounts of money.

But the president refutes the charges, claiming that

under her leadership the organization has erased "past IRS liabilities and cost overruns" and improved auditing practices.

In the statement, McKinzie took particular offense to accusations that she commissioned a \$900,000 life-sized wax figure of herself. She said the sorority's board approved the money to "help defray overall expenses for our 2010 convention."

According to McKinzie, a total of \$45,000 was spent on a wax figure of her and the sorority's first international president and founder, the late Nellie Quander, not \$900,000. She said these expenses were "consistent with furthering AKA's mission" and did not violate any of the sorority's bylaws.

Although the lawsuit says \$900,000 was spent on the McKinzie wax statue,

Gray said he has since learned the amount was for the two statues. The figurines will be displayed in the National Great Blacks in Wax Museum in Baltimore.

Alpha Kappa Alpha painted the District pink and green last summer during its centennial celebration.

Thousands of AKA members swarmed the District for a week-long series of forums, public meetings and social events. The sorority event set a Guinness world record for the largest sit-down dinner in the history of conventions worldwide.

The lawsuit is a rare sign of discord among the sorority, founded in 1908 at Howard University. Alpha Kappa Alpha boasts a worldwide membership of 250,000 women, including author Toni Morrison, U.S. Reps. Eddie

Bernice Johnson (D-Texas), Sheila Jackson Lee (D-Texas) and Diane Watson (D-Calif.), Radio One chairwoman and founder Catherine Hughes, actress Jada Pinkett Smith, the late civil rights leader Coretta Scott King and author/poet Dr. Maya Angelou.

Doxie McCoy, a District member of the sorority, said despite Alpha Kappa Alpha's now public imbroglio it remains an important organization. "Alpha Kappa Alpha has a proud history of serving the community and of preparing women for service and leadership," said McCoy. "In the midst of controversy, this heritage and mission remain and will be the purpose of my fine sorority well into the future."

Within the 38-page lawsuit filed last month, the sorority, which Gray called

"one of the crown jewels of our community," is portrayed as a troubled organization rife with financial improprieties.

For example, the lawsuit alleges McKinzie and Betty James, the executive director who is also named as a defendant, oversaw the preparation of the organization's tax return that include many "unreasonable large and inappropriate" deductions.

McKinzie also invested millions of dollars of the sorority's money in stocks and bonds - investments that have since lost huge amounts of money, according to the lawsuit.

But the president said that under her leadership, the organization has erased "past IRS liabilities and cost overruns" and said auditing practices have improved.

STAGING, continued from Page 1

sional home stager, do it yourself, or enlist the help of your friends, properly packaging and merchandising a home in today's real estate market is key.

Here are 5 home staging tips to get started:

Emotionally disconnect from the home you are selling. You're moving on to make memories in a new home, allow prospective buyers to envision their

dreams in the home you're selling.

Declutter and de-personalize. Most of us have too much anyway, sell what stays with the home and that's not your stuff. De-personalizing the home allows the prospective buyers to see themselves and their family in their new home. Remember you're taking your things with you to the next house.

Neutralize to create

move in ready spaces. Bright, bold color choices and dated wallpaper translate to not move-in ready in the buyer's eyes. Even though you love it, many buyers may not and what you see as work to do they see as double. Don't let a weekend of painting on your part drag on as potentially months of a home lingering on the market because of paint choices.

Do cost effective up-

dates. Now is not the time to be putting in a new kitchen and master bath if your local market doesn't demand it or if so be willing to adjust your listing price accordingly. Changing dated light fixtures, replacing hardware and faucets and of course painting give a great return on your investment.

Shop the local competition. If you haven't kept up with the Jones's, set realistic

expectations as to the true value of your home as compared to homes in your market.

Selling a home in today's market does not need to be difficult. Get the ingredients right the first time you list and be sure to cook up a successful sale.

Karen Otto is the owner of Plano, TX based Home Star Staging, a Real Estate Staging and Consulting com-

pany; is an Accredited Staging Professional. With extensive experience in Real Estate Staging, Karen knows what it takes to get a house shown and sold in the competitive Real Estate market. Karen is the 2009 Dallas Chapter President of the Real Estate Staging Association. For more articles and information visit <http://activerain.com/blogs/kareno> or www.homestargating.com.



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EDUCATION, continued from Page 6

some of the pressure on the parents I represent in the Legislature."

Community members are invited to bring \$5 or a new backpack, and get a free hamburger on August 18, 6:00 p.m. to Coach's

Burgers, 9310 Forest Lane, Suite 362, Dallas (at the intersection of Forest & Abrams behind CVS).

All checks need to be paid to the order of the RISD Partner's Fund. This event is not funded at tax-

payer expense.

For more information about the Back to School Backpack Drive, e-mail Backpack@ReElect-CarolKent.com.



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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: Fort Worth

Contract 6194-08-001 for GUARDRAIL INSTALLATION/REPAIR in TARRANT County, etc will be opened on September 09, 2009 at 1:00 pm at the State Office for an estimate of \$2,190,256.40.

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

NPO: 30294

State Office
Constr./Maint. Division

200 E. Riverside Dr. | Austin, Texas 78704
Phone: 512-416-2540

Dist/Div Office(s)

Fort Worth District | District Engineer
2501 Southwest LP820 | Ft. Worth, Texas 76133
Phone: 871-370-6500

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.

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Church Happenings

AVENUE F CHURCH OF CHRIST 10 am – 2 pm

In conjunction with the Douglass Community Center and the National Hook-Up of Black Women, Inc. we are having a Back-to-School Drive and Give-Away for all Plano students in the District. If you are in need of school supplies and attend a school in Plano, meet us at the Douglass Community Center, 1111 Avenue H, Plano, TX. Info: 972-941-7174.

Brother Ramon Hodridge,
Senior Minister
1026 Avenue F
Plano, TX 75074
972-423-8833

C. D. DIXON MINISTRIES

August 6 & 7, 7:30 pm

Join us for "The Prophetic Voice Speaks in 2009 with Apostle C. D. Dixon @ God's Tabernacle of Deliverance Event Center, 1020 E. Pleasant Run Road, Desoto, TX 75115.

Apostle C. D. Dixon
Founder
1020 E. Pleasant Run Rd.
Desoto, TX 75115
214-398-0340 (Church)

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On Going, 9 am-4 pm

Monday – Friday

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need are 972-649-0566 and 972-649-0567.

August 12, 7 pm

Come to our Wednesday Night Live Service to get your praise on.

August 30, 3:30 pm

Join us for Pastor and 1st Lady Tasha's Anniversary Celebration @ the Allen Civic Center with speaker Dr. J.R. Sheppard, Senior Pastor of Ben Washington BC of Irving.

Rev. W. L. Stafford, Sr.
M.Div., Senior Pastor
305 N. Alder Drive in
Allen for Sunday
Morning Worship
Church Address is
200 Belmont Drive
Allen, TX 75013
972-359-9956

FELLOWSHIP OF BELIEVERS MINISTRIES

August 13 & 14, 7:30 pm

All Youth Departments are invited to our Annual Youth Revival with speakers Ministers Ty Jones from Greater Mt. Olive COGIC in Dallas and Patrick Gunnell from Freedom Fellowship Church in Corsicana. Call Minister Sheaniqua Batty @ 214-780-7856 for details.

Bishop Gregory Crawford,
Founder and Pastor
3121 Nandina Drive
Dallas, TX 75241
214-780-7856

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF HAMILTON PARK August 15, 8 am

Join us as we partnership with Richardson ISD for our Annual and successful Back-to-School Rally for K-12 Grade students in the local school district.

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

300 Phillips Street
Richardson, TX 75081
972-235-4235

GRACE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH August 7 – 9, 2009

Don't miss our FREE Back-to-School Gospel Explosion III, "Just the Beginning." Friday night Music is from 7–10 pm with various church choirs, B Holy, Da Chosen One, Monae Miller, RJ & Group, mime dancers and Adrian Peace. Saturday is our Health & Safety Fair from 10 am – 2 pm. And Sunday is "Raise the Praise" Service at 4 pm; our Youth Minister brings the message of the hour.

Rev. Maurice Floyd,
Senior Pastor
1602 College Parkway
Lewisville, TX 75077

NEW LIFE IN JESUS CHRIST MINISTRIES

August 15, 10 am – 2 pm

School supplies for K-7th Grade students only in the

Plano ISD for our Annual Back-to-School event. We are also selecting one boy and one girl (ages 5 - 15) to buy school clothes for. Students must qualify by writing and essay. For details call 972-424-5100.

Elder Arthur Felton, Jr.
Senior Pastor
1108 W. Parker Road
Suite 130
Plano, TX 75075
972-424-5100

NEW MT. ZION BAPIST CHURCH OF DALLAS

August 19 – 20, 2009

Come to our Annual Back-to-School Youth Revival as we prepare for a new school year and honor God. Call the church @ 214-341-6459 for details.

August 22, 2009

Join us for our Youth Summit at the church, call the church for details.

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

OASIS WORSHIP CENTER IN IRVING

August 28, 7 pm

Join us for our Women's Fall Fellowship for a change in your life.

August 29, 10 am – 4 pm

We will conclude our Women's Fall Fellowship with workshops at the Wingate Hotel Meeting Room, 850 W. Walnut Hill

Lane, off of 114, John Carpenter Freeway, in Irving. Call Dorothy Anthony for details.

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4070 N. Beltline Road
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Sunday Morning Services
8:15AM: Story Elementary
10:45AM: Story Elementary
10:50 Fellowship - Allen, TX

Wednesday Night Live
Word Prayer Service - Bible Study
7:00 PM
200 Belmont Dr - Allen, TX

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7:15 pm

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Things to Ponder



Sister Tarpley

The Pink Dress: There was this little girl sitting by herself in the park. Everyone passed by her and never stopped to see why she looked so sad.

Dressed in a worn pink dress, barefoot and dirty, the girl just sat and watched the people go by. She never tried to speak. She never said a word. Many people passed by her, but no one would stop.

The next day I decided to go back to the park in curiosity to see if the little girl would still be there. Yes, she was there, right in the very spot where she was yesterday, and still with the same sad look in her eyes.

Today I was to make my own move and walk over to the little girl. For as we all know, a park full of strange people is not a place for young children to play alone.

As I got closer I could see the back of the little girl's dress. It was grotesquely shaped. I figured that was the reason people just passed by and made no effort to speak to her.

Deformities are a low blow to our society and, Heaven forbid if you make a step toward assisting someone who is different.

As I got closer, the little girl lowered her eyes slightly to avoid my intent stare. As I approached her, I could see the shape of her back more clearly. She was grotesquely shaped in a humped over form. I smiled to let her know it was okay; I was there to help, to talk. I sat down beside her and opened with a simple, 'Hello'. The little girl acted shocked, and stammered a, "Hi"; after a long stare into my eyes.

I smiled and she shyly smiled back. We talked until darkness fell and the park was completely empty. I asked the girl why she was so sad. The little girl looked at me with a sad face said, "Because, I'm Different." I immediately said, "That you are"! And I smiled. The little girl acted even sadder and said, "I know."

"Little girl," I said, "You remind me of an angel, sweet and innocent." She looked at me and smiled, then slowly she got to her feet and said, "Really?"

"Yes, you're like a little Guardian Angel sent to watch over all the people walking by."

She nodded her head yes, and smiled. With that she opened the back of her pink dress and allowed her Wings to spread, then she said, "I am."

"I'm your Guardian Angel with a twinkle in her eye."

I was speechless surely I was seeing things! She said, "For once you thought of someone other than yourself." And she said, "My job here is done."

I got to my feet and said, "Wait, why did no one stop to help an Angel?" She looked at me, smiled, and said, "You're the only one that could see me;" and then she was gone.

And with that, my life was changed dramatically. So, when you think you are all that you have, remember, your Angel is always watching over you. —Author Unknown.

Encouraging Words: It has been, "We all need someone, and, every one of your friends is an Angel to you in their own special way." The value of a friend is measured in the heart.

Why worry about tomorrow, God is already there!

"Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free,

and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage." Galatians 5:1 (KJV)

Jesus said, "These things I have spoken unto

you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." John 16:33 (KJV)

FBCA
Fellowship Baptist Church of Allen
Anniversary Celebration
Pastor W.L. Stafford, Sr. & Lady Tasha Stafford
August 30, 2009
3:30 p.m. – Allen Civic Center
300 N. Allen Dr. | Allen, TX
Guest: Ben Washington Baptist Church
Irving, TX | Dr. J. H. Sheppard, Pastor

FBCA Worship Services

Sunday Morning Worship: 8:15 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.
Location: Story Elementary School
1550 Edelweiss Drive
Allen, TX 75002

Wednesday Night Live
Prayer & Bible Study
Every Wednesday Night at 7:00 p.m.
Location: 200 W. Belmont Drive
Allen, TX 75013

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972-423-8833
www.avefchurchofchrist.org

Early Sunday Morning8:00 am
Sunday Bible Class9:45 am
Sunday Morning Worship10:45 am
Evening Worship3:00 pm
Wednesday Bible Class7:00 pm

Radio Program @ 7:30 am on
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Friendship Baptist Church
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website: www.fbc-online.net

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

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

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

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

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

Contact Info: Mt. Pisgah Missionary Baptist Church
11611 Webb Chapel Road • Dallas, TX 75228
Office: 872-241-8151
Email: info@dallemtpisgah.org
Website: www.dallemtpisgah.org

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972.991.0200
www.followpeace.org

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

Protect Pets From High Heat and Hot Summer Sun

(NDG Wire) With the temperature in North Texas staying at 100 degrees and more, pets are at risk for heat stroke and other life-threatening conditions. Pet owners should take precautions to protect their dogs and cats when the temperature and humidity are dangerously high.

"It may seem like dogs and cats tolerate the heat better than we can, but keep in mind that their normal body temperature is 101-102 degrees, and they're wearing fur coats," said Jonnie England, Director of Animal Advocacy for the Metroplex Animal Coalition.

"The heat, humidity and

hot summer sun can take a toll on our pets, causing heat stroke, dehydration, sunburn—yes, animals can get sunburned, too—and even death."

England offers common sense precautions:

- Never leave your pets unattended in your vehicle—not even for a few minutes or with the windows open and the car parked in the shade. If the outside temperature is 100 degrees, it will get to 140 degrees inside the car within 15 minutes.

- If you're traveling with your pet, invest in a gallon-sized thermos and fill it with cold, fresh water.

- Don't take your dog for

walks during the heat of the day. Avoid paths or parking lots paved with asphalt. The hot surface can quickly burn a dog's paw pads.

- Outside pets must have plenty of shade and fresh water at all times.

- A sunburned dog can result in death, or at the least, high vet bills. Sunscreen for dogs is available, but make sure to use one that's specially formulated for animals. The ingestion of the wrong kind of sunscreen or insect repellent can result in drooling, diarrhea, excessive thirst and lethargy. And using an insect repellent that contains DEET on an animal can lead to neurological

problems.

- Older and overweight dogs and cats are at greater risk when the temperature and humidity are high, as are those with heart problems or lung disease. Snub-nosed dogs such as bulldogs, pugs, Boston terriers, Lhasa Apsos and Shih Tzu should be kept indoors and only allowed outside briefly for potty breaks.

- Shaving a dog's coat—especially one that's heavy or thick—can help prevent overheating, make flea and tick control easier, and keep your dog cooler.

"Everyone should know and watch for the symptoms of overheating or heat stroke

in animals," said England. These include excessive panting, drooling and mild weakness, along with an elevated body temperature and, in cats, open-mouth breathing. Symptoms include:

- Move him into the shade or an air-conditioned area.

- Apply ice packs or cold, wet towels to his head, neck and chest.

- Give him small amounts of cool water or ice cubes to lick.

- If a water hose is available, spray him gently with water—but first let the water run until it's cool.

ROCKBRIDGE BIBLE CHURCH

Meeting at Fellowship Bible Church of Allen
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www.ndcbf.org

Dr. Leslie W. Smith,
Senior Pastor

New Mt. Zion Baptist Church of Dallas

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

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

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



Dr. Robert E. Price, Sr.
Senior Pastor


A Praying Church Family
"Watchmen on the Walls"

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

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

The Inspiring Body of Christ Church

7710 S. Westmoreland Rd.
Dallas Texas 75237
Phone: 972-572-4262 Fax: 972-709-3888
Sunday Services: 7:30 am, 10:00 am, 12:30 pm.
Monday School 7pm
Men's Fellowship: Friday 7:00pm
Website: www.ibccjoy.org


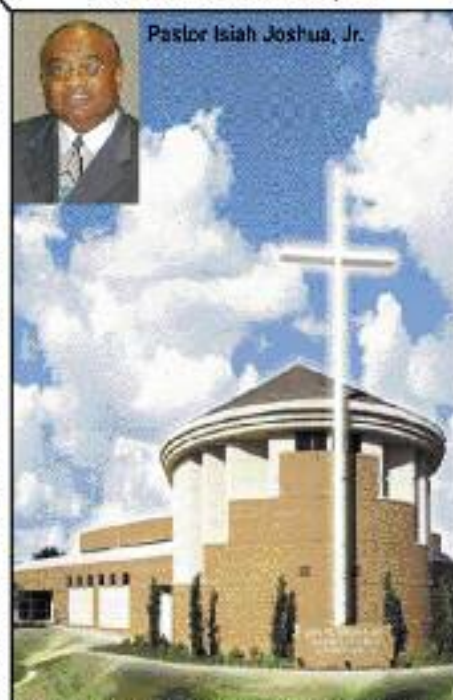


Pastor Rickie G. Cook

Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church

920 E. 14th Street Plano, TX

Pastor Isaiah Joshua, Jr.


Sunday Worship Services 8AM & 11AM

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


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

FANNING THE FLAMES OF OUR FAITH


Worship Services
7:30am & 10:30am
Sunday School
9:30 am



Wednesday
Night Service
8:00 pm



Dr. Gregory Foster Senior Pastor




Rev. Anthony Foster Pastor


Our Mission
To fulfill The Great Commission until Christ comes.

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Charles S. Wattley
Senior Pastor



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

WEDNESDAY
Family Ministries
7:00 p.m.

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