

North Dallas Gazette

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Prisoners exonerated by DNA tests speak at UNT Dallas

Guilty. The pronouncement in court has far reaching effects. For Charles Chatman and Patrick Walker, it meant 27 and 16 years, respectively, in prison for crimes they did not commit.

Speaking to a room full of predominately criminal justice students at the Uni-



Former Texas prisoners Charles Chatman, left, and Patrick Walker, right, and Dallas County Public Defender Michelle Moore, center, speak to a group of University of North Texas at Dallas criminal justice students March 28. Both men spent years in prison before new DNA testing proved their innocence.

versity of North Texas at Dallas March 28, Chatman and Walker explained how that sentence changed their lives. They are two of 27 individuals who have been exonerated in Dallas County due to DNA testing in recent years.

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COVER STORY

Black counties have highest food costs and insecurity



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Banks' Foreclosure Bias Hurts Everyone

Investment community begins to question servicer actions

By Charlene Crowell
NDG Contributor

Fix or Evict, the Center for Responsible Lending's latest in a series of research reports on mortgage lending and foreclosures, reaches eye-opening conclusions in its ongoing scrutiny of America's still-unfolding foreclosure crisis. It's no secret that banks and other loan servicers are harming struggling home-

owners by pushing unnecessary foreclosure. Now, this research shows that banks are also acting directly against the best interests of loan investors – the companies that own the loans including pension funds and life insurance companies.

Most importantly, the report found that the lending industry's poor track record on loan modifications cannot be

blamed on homeowners who re-default.

"It's well documented how mortgage servicers' unfair, shoddy practices have hurt homeowners," said Mike Calhoun, president of CRL. "This research shows that servicers also routinely give the investment community a raw deal."

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Janet Jackson concert this weekend

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

COMMENTARY

Obama's War

By Herb Boyd (NNPA) Despite five days of pounding from Tomahawk cruise missiles, bombs, and attacks by coalition airplanes seeking to impose a no-fly zone over Libya, Col. Muammar Gaddafi's military ground capacity suffered only minor setbacks. Troops loyal to Gaddafi, particularly along the western coastline, continue to fire on rebels who maintain an eastern stronghold in Benghazi.

Speaking to the press in El Salvador last week during a five-day, three-nation tour of Latin America, President Barack Obama addressed one of the key issues for

Americans concerned about the possible opening of another prolonged arena of combat.

"When this transition takes place," he began, referring to the shared role of the coalition forces in the campaign, "it is not going to be our planes that are maintaining the no-fly zone. It is not going to be our ships that are necessarily enforcing the arms embargo. That's precisely what the other nations are going to do."

British Prime Minister David Cameron, upon announcing last week that the airstrikes had effectively

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Sexual abuse survivor works to offer hope to others

By Ivy N. Carter, MBA
NDG Special Contributor
Life After Advocacy Group, Inc. (LAAG, Inc.), founded in 2004, is a non-profit organization that was started based on the personal life experiences of sexual



Ketra L. Davenport

abuse of Founder, Ketra L. Davenport. After being a victim and now a survivor of the difficulties of being a sexual abuse victim, she understood the oppression of how it felt to live a life in darkness and unspoken se-

crets. With that knowledge, she wanted to help other women, men and children identify, admit and accept their life after sexual abuse and live a full life without the secrets.

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People In The News...



Shirley Sherrod



Dr. Mary Ellen Weber



Dr. John L. Cashin, Jr.

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Shirley Sherrod

(NNPA) The National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) Foundation's 2011 Newsmaker of the Year Awards Gala drew more than 200 Black publishers, politicians, business executives, and civil rights advocates to the nation's capitol to applaud the accomplishments of the event's honorees.

In the tradition of past awardees, this year's honorees distinguished themselves not only for their individual accomplishments but for the courage it took to keeping pressing for justice despite the obstacles. Honorees: Shirley Sherrod, who was forced to resign from her position at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) only to be vindicated later; John Boyd, the

steadfast leader of the National Black Farmers Association; Timothy Pigford, who led the a class action discrimination suit between USDA and Black farmers, which resulted in a \$1.25 billion settlement last year; 92-year-old Garth Reeves, publisher emeritus of The Miami Times, who used his newspaper as the voice of the Black community; and the 10 members of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) that were members of the Financial Services Committee, who fought for economic advances in the Black community during the housing crisis. Those CBC members honored were: Emanuel Clever II (D-MO),



Gwen Moore (D-WI), Mel Watt (D-NC), Al Green (D-TX), Andre Carson (D-IN), Maxine Waters (D-CA), David Scott (D-GA), Gregory Meeks (D-NY), Keith Ellison (D-MN), and William Lacy Clay, Jr. (D-MO).

"This year's honorees are equally distinguished and we applaud them for their bravery in the face of circumstances beyond their control, the valiant fight they have fought against high odds and vigilance in their stand for financial parity in Congress for the Black community at large and the longevity and contributions to the Fo-urth Estate," wrote NNPA Foundation Chairperson Dorothy Leavell, in her message to the attendees.

Receiving a standing ovation was the 2011 Newsmaker of the Year, Shirley Sherrod, who Leavell called a real heroine. "The last thing I wanted to do was bring attention to me," when she accepted the USDA position,

Sherrod told the audience, remembering her plan to "make a difference without getting anyone's attention... stay under the radar." While working at USDA, she said it became clear that the issues faced by the people she was trying to help through her work, she contends, were not racially-based.

"The issues were really about being poor," she said. The solution lies in the Black community, Latino community, White community, Asian community, every community banding together to address their common concerns, she related, then "we will be able to make a difference and will make a change."

Helping to change how USDA operates, was North-

Star Community Service Award recipient John Boyd, who has been advocating for Black famers for nearly 30 years. Introduced by event chair Harry C. Alford as "a great American hero," Boyd told the gathering that when he began talking about the problems Black farmers were experiencing with USDA in the early 1980s, "I had no idea that 26 years later we would be sitting here talking about the same issues today."

He applauded President Barack Obama for signing the Black Farmers bill last year, but noted there is still much work to be done. And, for those detractors who would give up the good fight because of the length of the battle or

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Dr. Mary Ellen Weber

Dr. Mary Ellen Weber flew into space to follow her dreams. The former NASA astronaut has operated the space shuttle's robotic arm; served as medical officer and flight deck crew member for launch, landing and a space station rendezvous; and implemented new crew procedures for engine failures during ascent for arm operations – to name only a few of her space flight duties.

Weber's experiences will feed the dreams of Dallas

County Community College District students who are exploring careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics – STEM fields that are a driving force in the global economy and future innovations for the United States.

Weber is the keynote speaker on Fri., April 8, at 1 p.m. during DCCCD's first STEM Summit, which features a number of presenters who will share inspiration and excitement about STEM careers with students. The three-day event, which is free and open to the general public as well, will be held April 7-9 at the Trinity River Audubon Center in southern Dallas.

From outer space to inner space, the event also includes a presentation by renowned computer game designer Vijay Thakkar, who shares creative credit with brothers Paul and David Bettner of NewToy for "Words with Friends."

Thakkar now is a Dallas-based studio technical director for Zynga, an international social network game developer – creator of the popular games



cial network game developer – creator of the popular games

"Farmville," "Mafia Wars" and "Scramble."

The conference is a series of informative workshops and panel discussions with industry and university leaders; participants also can tour the center's nature trails. The target audience for this event is a group of select DCCCD students who are recipients of the DCCCD STEM Fellows and Scholars awards, a program which is directed by the DCCCD Foundation and development office (the sponsor for this summit). The DCCCD STEM Scholars program receives its funding

from federal appropriations and private donations.

"We know that it is a national priority to produce more high-performing students in mathematics and science so that the U.S. can remain a leader in technology and innovation," said Betheny Reid, the district's associate vice chancellor of development and the DCCCD Foundation's president. "Our STEM Fellows and Scholars program is just one component of our college district's initiative to train and

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Dr. John L. Cashin, Jr.

(NNPA) - Dr. John L. Cashin, Jr. a Black dentist and Alabama civil rights leader who once ran for governor against George C. Wallace, died in a Washington, D.C. hospital on March 22, 2011. He was 82.

Cashin, a native of



Huntsville, Alabama, received almost 15 percent of the statewide vote in 1970

as the gubernatorial nominee of the National Democratic Party of Alabama, a Black political alternative to the state Democratic Party. During the course of his tenure with the National Democratic Party of Alabama (NDPA), Cashin and his supporters gained power at the local level and speeded up the integration of county courthouses.

Cashin once ran for Mayor of Huntsville, and between 1968 and 1974 the National Democratic Party of Alabama (NDPA) facilitated the election of more than 100 Blacks to public office in Alabama. In 1974, the Alabama Democratic Party surrendered to what had been Cashin's demands and

integrated its ballot.

Cashin was born on April 16, 1928 in Huntsville, Alabama to Grace Brandon Cashin, a school principal, and Dr. John Logan Cashin, Sr., a dentist. Cashin received his D.D.S. degree from Meharry Medical School in 1952. After his graduation, Cashin was drafted into the U.S. Army where he was a first lieutenant and Chief of Dental Services for soldiers near Fountainebleau, France.

After serving two years in the Army, Cashin returned to the U.S. where he joined his father's dental practice. He also became active in politics, particularly with the Alabama Democratic Conference (ADC), a political league formed to bring newly registered Blacks into the Democratic ranks. Whites had long dominated Al-

abama's political system at every level, and when President Lyndon Johnson signed the Voting Rights Act into law in 1965, very few African Americans were even registered to vote in the state.

Through registration drives were held successfully across the South, White party leaders at the state level were unwilling to incorporate Blacks into their organizations. As a result, many Blacks who had been successful in getting registered still found themselves excluded from the political process. Frustrated with the continuing lack of African American political power, Cashin contemplated a third-party that would allow Blacks to align with the Democratic Party in presidential elections while providing an alternative at the state and

local levels. He modeled his proposal on the Mississippi Freedom Democratic

Party (MFDP), which had

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Letter to the Editor: Irving election voter endorsements

I have lived in Irving since 1988 and this year's city election and school

board races find Irving at a major crossroad. I urge Irving voters to reelect Mayor,

Herbert Gears, City Councilwoman, Rose Canaday, Irving School Board

Trustees, A. D. Jenkins and

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neutralized Gaddafi's ability to use his warplanes against the rebels, said that the control of the operation will transition from U.S. control to a NATO-led mission to implement U.N. Security Council resolution 1973. It was this resolution, according to Obama, that the Senate approved which authorized the implementation of the no-fly zone over Libya.

Even so, a number of elected officials—Republicans and Democrats, including Rep. Dennis Kucinich (D-OH), demanded that Obama be impeached, and Congressman Charles Rangel—are incensed that the president made this decision without conferring with Congress.

"What needs to be done at this point is a call by the president or the vice president for a special session of Congress to inform us and to ask our position on this matter," Rangel said during a press briefing Monday afternoon at the State Office Building. "Obama is going along with past presidents...[and] at the end of the day we pay the price physically and financially."

Protests by anti-war groups have also sprung up across the nation, including in New York in Times Square where hundreds chanted, "No more war, we've seen this show before!" Larry Holmes, one of the demonstrators and a longtime activist affiliated with the International Action Center said, "They say this attack is for humanitarian reasons, but they are not dropping bread, but bombs. It is clear to me that we have not learned a lesson from the invasion of Iraq. It's déjà vu."

Holmes said he didn't know a lot about the opposition forces, "but I do know about American imperialism and this is another war for oil and we can't wait for change from our elected officials concerning the violation of the War Powers Act. We have to mobilize now."

Rangel, Kucinich, and Holmes are not alone in their outrage against U.S. involvement in a coalition that does not include the African Union, and include only one Arab nation, Qatar, which has sent

only one jet to the assault. Even the Arab League, which initially approved the no-fly zone initiative, is now a bit hesitant given the extent of the barrages and alleged collateral damage.

Around 1,000 U.S. adults were recently polled by CNN and asked if they approved of the president's handling of the situation in Libya. Fifty percent said yes and 41 percent said no. With only half of respondents approving of the war measures, the number is decidedly lower by some 20 percent than the expected popular approval in the first days of a war or foreign excursion.

That 50 percent, according to the pollsters, breaks down in the following way: "Democrats approve 73 to 20 percent. Independents are exactly split, 44 to 44 percent, and Republicans disapprove 27 to 63 percent. And remember, 50 is probably his high point here. The American people are impatient, leery and above all adamant that no ground troops be involved. And they are more than a little worried about that."

When asked if they felt the U.S. would achieve its goals in Libya without introducing ground troops, the confident to non-confident score was only 55 to 42 percent; better than the obverse, but indicative of a fair degree of nervousness.

Americans have every reason to be nervous and a little apprehensive about the effectiveness of merely targeting Libya with missiles and bombs. Will this be enough to completely neutralize Gaddafi and his loyal supporters? National anxiety will not be allayed when the inevitable reports of American casualties begin, already only narrowly avoided on Monday when a Marine F-15E jet crashed as a result of a mechanical malfunction.

In his first appearance in public since March 15, Gaddafi told reporters in Tripoli, the nation's capital where his partially damaged compound is located, that "We will not surrender...We will defeat them by any means."

"We are ready for the fight, whether it will be a short

or a long one, we will be victorious in the end," he declared. "There are demonstrations everywhere against this unjustified assault, which breaches the United Nation's Charter. This assault...is by a bunch of fascists who will end up in the dustbin of history."

On more than one occasion since the turmoil began Gaddafi has asserted that he is willing to be a martyr, and people who know him and his fortitude believe he will not capitulate and is determined to die fighting.

Activist Gerald Perreira has lived in Libya for a number of years. He has some understanding of Gaddafi and the aims of the rebels. "The battle in Libya is not about peaceful protesters versus an armed and hostile state," he said in an email. "All sides are heavily armed and hostile. The battle being waged in Libya is essentially a battle between those who want to see a united and liberated Libya and Africa, free of neo-colonialism and neo-liberal capitalism."

"They want be free to construct their own system of governance compatible with African and Arab personalities and cultures," Perreira continued. "And both sides are willing to pay the ultimate price to defend their positions. Make no mistake about it, if Gaddafi and the Libyan revolution are defeated by this opportunistic conglomerate of reactionaries and racists, then progressive forces worldwide and the pan-African project will suffer a huge defeat and setback."

Minister Louis Farrakhan of the Nation of Islam shared similar sentiments about the status of Gaddafi, with whom he has immutable emotional and economic ties.

"Why don't you organize a group of respected Americans, and ask for a meeting with Gaddafi?" Farrakhan asked Obama rhetorically during an interview with Chicago broadcaster Cliff Kelley. "You can't order him to step down and get out—who do the hell you think you are, that you can talk to a man that built a country over 42 years, and ask him to step down and get out?"

"Can anybody ask you?"

Farrakhan continued. "Well...there's going to be a lot now [who are] going to ask you to step out of the White House because they don't want a Black face in the White House."

On the other hand, there are those who contend that if Gaddafi succeeds in beating back the rebels it will have a chilling effect on the democratic impulse that has swept across North Africa and the Middle East since the successful uprisings in Tunisia and Egypt.

At one point during an interview on Al Jazeera television, noted Middle East authority and author Tariq Ali summarized the rebellion in Libya as a continuation of the general thrust for democracy and the overthrow of tyrants. But, he later amended that position in an interview with New Zealand television commentator Paul Holmes.

"Well, I think it's a loss, and, tragically, the Libyan upsurge ran out of steam," Ali concluded. "They were hoping that the military would split and some of it would come over to their side. Some did. A few pilots fled the land, but it wasn't enough to sway the thing. My own feeling about the Western intervention is that it's a disastrous intervention that will strengthen Libya. And, of course, the Libyan propaganda outfits are saying, you know, 'Who are these people to attack us? They were doing deals with us. We are paying [French President] Sarkozy's election campaign money and the Brits money'—all these sort of questions."

If the so-called experts are not sure what to make of the situation in Libya, then what are we to do? And the uprisings in Bahrain, Syria, Morocco, and Yemen adds complexity, particularly with the tribal differences in Libya, to the turmoil in North Africa and the Middle East, making it mighty difficult for the U.S., if it seeks to continue its role as world cop.

Obama inherited the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, but now he can claim Libya as his own.

Caregivers to elderly urged to register for ID program

CARE Alert program keeps database of elderly or infirm in Murphy

People who provide care to elderly or who know older persons living on their own are encouraged to register these individuals with the Murphy Police Department's Contacting And Reuniting Elderly (CARE) Alert Program, according to Detective Kyle Kucauskas, administrator of the program.

"CARE Alert gives us an added advantage when we get a call for a missing elderly person. If that person is registered into our database, we will already have critical identifying information that will help speed up the search and recovery effort," he said.

The program, which is provided at no cost, is designed to assist Murphy Police in searching for elderly individuals who may suffer from dementia, Alzheimer's disease, are susceptible to diabetic shock, disorientation or other temporary or permanent debilitating condition.

"The MPD wants to take a proactive approach in pro-

tecting our elderly citizens. Rather than wait for a caregiver to try to remember important details in a time of crisis, the CARE Alert pro-

rent face picture and mail it to CARE Alert Registration Coordinator, Murphy Police Department, 206 North Murphy Road, Murphy, Texas



file gives us what we need in an instant. It can mean the difference between a quick recovery and uncertain delay," said Kucauskas.

Caregivers to elderly or relatives of older citizens should complete a registration form online by visiting <http://www.murphytx.org/policedepartment/care.asp>. Once completed, registrants should print it, attach a cur-

75094. The registration form is confidential and will be kept in a secured file located in the 24-hour Telecommunications Center.

"Saving seconds in an emergency will always pay dividends, and having critical information at hand when an emergency arises helps us be more effective," he concluded.

City of Dallas honors Hockaday science teacher

Jennifer Stimpson recognized for her work with city's 'Cease the Grease' program

Officials with Dallas Water Utilities on March 30 presented a certificate of appreciation to Jennifer Stimpson, science faculty with The Hockaday School, for her efforts to help citizens understand the benefits of recycling used cooking oil. Stimpson has taken her passion to the classroom, incorporating within her lectures the "how-to's" of converting used cooking oil into bio-fuel.

DWU and the Dallas County Schools (DCS) are in a partnership to collect and recycle used cooking oil into bio-diesel that helps power almost 1,000 county school busses. The relatively easy chemical process to convert used cooking oil into bio-diesel has helped DCS save more than 150,000 gallons of diesel fuel at a savings of \$330,000 so far this school year.

"We truly appreciate the efforts of Jennifer and her students to demonstrate the multiple benefits of our grease and oil recycling program," said Jody Puckett, director of Dallas Water Utilities. "Used cooking oil can be used to fuel school busses as opposed to being poured down the kitchen drain and possibly clogging

indoor plumbing and city sewer pipes," Puckett added.

As an educator, innovator and scientist, Jennifer brings a festive approach to learning chemistry by blending style, intelligence and key subject matter. Her self-designed program, "Get a 'KIC' out of Science: An Innovative Strategy to Attract Students to Chemistry," demonstrates how science curriculum should be applicable and meaningful for today's youth. Her work has garnered numerous accolades including an appearance in *O: The Oprah Magazine* and a grant from the Jordan Fundamentals Schools, Inc.

"Jennifer has pioneered educational efforts geared toward awareness and implementation of environmentally beneficial programs," said Larry Duncan,

President of the Dallas County Schools Board of Trustees. "Those efforts include improving efficiencies and reducing costs involving student transportation in Dallas County," Duncan added.

The Hockaday School applauds Jennifer's involvement with this important community project.

"We are delighted that the City of Dallas is recognizing Jennifer for her efforts," said Cathy Murphree, Assistant Head for Academic Affairs and Provost. "Her work demonstrates that students are active, engaged learners and scientists themselves when the curriculum is relevant to their lives."

For more information about the Dallas recycling program, visit the "Cease the Grease" website at www.ceasethegrease.org

SEXUAL, continued from Page 1

The difference of LAAG, Inc. is we focus solely on life after being victimized. We strongly focus on awareness and prevention in the community and local churches. Working with churches is our strongest passion, because we believe there are many individuals attending church Sunday after Sunday, hearing the word of God and yet still taunted by the dark secrets of sexual abuse from their past.

The goal for LAAG, Inc. is to become the beacon of hope for those individuals hurting from sexual abuse. We want to excel in all areas we serve by setting trends and breaking down strongholds of sexual abuse. We want these people, God's people, to understand that what happened to them was not their fault, but merely the illness of the perpetrator who stole their innocence.

We offer one-on-one counseling sessions, workshops, group sessions and a

safe environment for individuals to begin the healing process from their hurt. We help individuals ages 12-18 as well as adults. Because we are a nonprofit we operate on donations and funding opportunities.

At the end of the day we want individuals who were hurt from sexual abuse to never give up on your dream even when there are times when it appears that nothing is working and your hard work is not paying off. Also, adopt a strong support system and if you have one dedicated person in your life, then he/she will open the door for more to come. Be patient and remain faithful, adopt Jeremiah 29:11 as their mantra and watch God work!

For more information about Life After Advocacy Group, Inc, please contact Ketra L. Davenport, Founder, Executive Director at kdavenport@lifeafterag.org or visit www.lifeafterag.org. You can also call the offices

at 214.421.5433. Remember "The Struggle Has No Hold on the Outcome."

Ivy N. Carter, MBA, Writer, WrittenByInc, LLC to contact Ivy, please email her at writtenbyinc@aol.com.

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HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF MCKINNEY ANNOUNCES COMMENT PERIOD AND PUBLIC HEARING FOR PLAN ADOPTION

Public Hearing Date: Tuesday, April 5, 2011

Time: 5:15pm

Place: McKinney Housing Authority

Community Center; 200 N. Tennessee Street; McKinney, Texas 75069

In accordance with Sec. 903.17 of the Code of Federal Regulations, the McKinney Housing Authority Five Year/Annual Plan to be submitted to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development will be available through the public comment period. The Public Hearing for adoption of the final Plan will be held on Tuesday, April 5, 2011 at 5:15pm.

For further information, please call 972-542-5641, ext. 14.

Designers release new collections for 'Organic in the City Fashion Show + Auction'

Dallas designers Nicolas Villalba and Mari Hidalgo are hard at work completing new collections to be introduced at Texas Discovery Gardens' Organic in the City Fashion Show + Auction. The third annual event is Thursday, April 14, from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

"I attended last year's show," Nicolas Villalba said, "and was very impressed with the organization and its goals. I wanted to participate this year to do my part to promote Texas Discovery Gardens and the importance of sustainability."

Villalba, the award-winning owner and principal designer of NICOLAS – Couture for body + Couture for the home, runs a Dallas studio that specializes in

custom clothing for men and women as well as items for the home. He is creating all-natural silk pieces for the upcoming show at Texas Discovery Gardens.

"My design style is a mix of traditional couture technique with contemporary edge and glamour," Villalba said. "My designs incorporate a bold use of color, and a definite sense of flair. Everything I do is custom and one-of-a-kind. Therefore, each client feels unique and special in Nicolas Villalba Couture. I provide a dramatic mix of color and design to create entrance-making apparel, while still respecting the client's personality."

Joining Villalba for Texas Discovery Gardens' show is Mari Hidalgo, with

ReWeRKeD. Hidalgo describes her custom pieces as "androgynous with a bohemian flair, with attention to curves and an active lifestyle."

Hidalgo is a big advocate of recycling and acting sustainably, and upcycles clothing into new, comfortable pieces with her clothing line, ReWeRKeD.

"ReWeRKeD should be an example of innovation created from what already exists, updating the style into wearable silhouettes for everyday wear," Hidalgo said. "ReWeRKeD creates a stylish, progressive, eco-conscious product designed for the hour-glass, curvy customer. When you wear a piece from ReWeRKeD, be prepared to feel comfortable & be prepared for

compliments."

Hidalgo sells her pieces online at the popular handmade goods sales site etsy.com, as well as local outdoor markets.

The organic and sustainable fashion at the show continues as Texas Discovery Gardens showcases once more the talented student design stars at El Centro College. The students were challenged with a project from Nicolas Villalba to produce couture pieces from French muslin. Also featured at this event will be handmade silk scarves that have been hand painted by the students.

Sustainable jewelry designers, Nasly Duarte with Seeds of Love and Melissa Ashton with Indie Thrift, will accessorize the cloth-

ing designer's couture pieces with their jewelry. Duarte, whose jewelry will be featured with Villalba's and the El Centro students' designs, uses seeds for her necklaces in vibrant shapes and colors. The seeds come from plants growing in the Amazonian rainforest, across the Andean uplands, and along the lush Pacific coasts of South America. Ashton, whose jewelry will be featured with Mari Hidalgo's fashions, specializes in upcycled, found object and assemblage art, accessories, jewelry, apparel and more.

The evening begins with hors d'oeuvres, wine, signature vodka cocktail showcasing Savvy Vodka, music (jazz harpist, Carlos Guedes) and a silent auction

featuring exciting clothing, jewelry, spa treatments, home and garden, dinner and entertainment packages from Dallas hot spots. The organic fashion show follows with sizzling sustainable pieces.

Tickets are \$50 through April 11; \$65 at door. Exclusive \$600/VIP tables for eight. All tickets include complimentary valet service. For details, call Susan Lee, Director of Development, at 214-428-7476 x 260 or SLee@TexasDiscoveryGardens.org.

Funds raised at this event support the expansion of the EarthKeepers® children's education programs and support Texas Discovery Gardens' student garden initiative.

First United Bank and McKinney Fire Department Remind You: Stay Fire Smart!

Have you seen the McKinney Fire Department's latest education tool? Thanks to a donation from First United Bank of McKinney, the Fire & Life Safety Education Division's Chevrolet Tahoe is wrapped with bright, eye-catching graphics of Sparky®, the internationally recognized mascot of the National Fire Protection Association. The wrap transformed the vehicle into a rolling billboard with life-saving messages reminding us to 'Stay Fire Smart – Don't Get Burned,' and that 'Smoke Alarms Save Lives!'

According to Stacie Durham, Fire & Life Safety Education Coordinator for the McKinney Fire Department, as she travels around to bring life-saving messages like 'Stop, Drop, Cover & Roll' to the community, simply seeing the vehicle reinforces critical information for both children and adults.

"First United Bank is committed to community leadership and to the well-being of our citizens. Partnering with the McKinney Fire Department provides an outstanding opportunity to honor that commitment,"

said Dean Castillo, President of First United Bank – McKinney. "Through sponsorship of the 'Family Safety Tips Program' on local radio station KLAK and with the design and application of graphics to this vehicle, we are keeping life-saving messages in front of the public. First United is thrilled to assist the Fire Department in implementing these educational tools."

"Teaming with First United Bank has provided greater visibility to our programs, and we are very appreciative of their generous support," stated Assistant

Fire Chief Frank Roma. "We will never know the numbers of individuals reminded about life-saving

tools thanks to this car that serves to further educate the public as a moving billboard."

For additional fire and life safety education information, visit www.mckinneyfire.org.

Day At The Races for the Plano Links

The Plano North Metroplex Chapter of The Links, Incorporated will hold its annual fundraiser, "A Day At The Races XII: Le Chapeau Affaire" on Saturday, April 30, at Lone Star Park in Grand Prairie, Texas. The event lasts from 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Also, beginning at noon, entertainment will be provided by Grammy Award Nominee Jazz Artist Gerald Albright.

A portion of the proceeds will support Boys & Girls Clubs of Collin County Plano-Douglass Branch (Youth & Teen Center), Religieuses St. Francois d'As-

sise Sacre' Coeur-Preventorium Orphanage in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Plano Community Charity, and the community outreach programs of the Plano North Metroplex Chapter, including College Scholarships.

Over the years, The Links, Incorporated has contributed more than \$22 million to charitable causes and over 500,000 documented service hours to assist communities locally, nationally, and internationally.

The event, chaired by Shari K. Lamb and co-chaired by Delores C. Stephens, is a day of fun that

includes an all day buffet luncheon, silent auction, and a zany creative hat contest for all attendees. It is an exciting Derby Day affair for the ladies of the Plano North Metroplex Chapter and all guests donning gorgeous chapeaus and welcoming smiles.

Individual tickets are \$85. For information on sponsorships, or to make a donation or donate an auction item, please contact Mrs. Helen Watkins, P.O. Box 863417, Plano, Texas 75086-3417, 972-248-8081, www.planonorthmetroplexlinks-inc.org.

LEGAL NOTICE

These Texas Lottery Commission Scratch-Off games will be closing soon:

GAME #	GAME NAME / ODDS	\$	Official Close of Game	End Validations Date
1288	Gifts Galore - Overall Odds are 1 in 4.86	\$2	04/07/11	10/04/11
1243	24 Karat Cash - Overall Odds are 1 in 4.73	\$2	04/15/11	10/12/11
1290	Winter Bucks - Overall Odds are 1 in 3.84	\$10	04/15/11	10/12/11
1229	Crazy Wild 5's - Overall Odds are 1 in 3.87	\$5	04/28/11	10/25/11
1164	Monthly Bonus - Overall Odds are 1 in 4.94	\$5	05/02/11	10/29/11
1272	Veterans Cash - Overall Odds are 1 in 4.46	\$2	06/01/11	11/28/11
1282	Ruby Red 5's - Overall Odds are 1 in 4.00	\$5	06/01/11	11/28/11
1284	Winter Green - Overall Odds are 1 in 3.32	\$7	06/01/11	11/28/11
1294	Triple Win - Overall Odds are 1 in 4.85	\$1	06/01/11	11/28/11



For detailed odds and game information, visit txlottery.org or call 1-800-37LOTTO. Must be 18 or older to purchase a ticket. The Texas Lottery supports Texas Education. © 2011 Texas Lottery Commission. All rights reserved.

Garland Youth Council applications accepted

The Garland City Council wants to hear from the city's youth and invites young people to apply to serve on the Garland Youth Council. The Youth Council's mission is to provide a forum, which educates Garland's youth to the various workings of City business, and allows youth to voice ideas and concerns.

Garland residents who will be grades 9-12 during the 2011-12 school year are eligible to apply. Each applicant

should submit a completed GYC application and two letters of reference by May 16, 2011 to Dorothy White, Public & Media Affairs Manager, 200 N Fifth Street, Garland, TX 75040.

Applicants should plan to attend at least one Youth Council meeting. Regular meetings are set for the second Tuesday of each month, with committee meetings on the fourth Tuesday of each month. The GYC meets at

Granger Recreation Center, 1310 W. Avenue F. The Mayor and each of Garland's eight City Council members will select two applicants to serve a one-year term.

Applications and meeting agendas are available at Garland City Hall, 200 N. Fifth Street, in the City Secretary's office and www.garlandyouth-council.org. For additional information, contact Dorothy White at 972-205-2879 or dwhite@ci.garland.tx.us.

Greyhound funding UNCF scholarship

Greyhound Lines, Inc., a division of First Group, and UNCF— the United Negro College Fund — the nation's largest and most effective education assistance organization, announced Monday the renewal of the Grey-

hound Scholarship Program. The program was first initiated last year from funds raised through a workplace campaign and matched by the company. This year's program will again help to reduce financial barriers and

increase access to higher education for low-income college students. Scholarships valued up to \$2,000 will be awarded to qualifying students for this academic semester. The deadline to

See UNCF, Page 7

DNA, continued from Page 1

Chatman said he is driven to help other exonerees since he was given very little help when he was first freed from prison. After 27 years, Dallas was completely different than when he went to prison as a 21-year-old. He described the hardships that exonerees go through because they do not get the support given to parolees.

Chatman said he was lucky to have had some family alive who were able to provide him a place to live for awhile. Other exonerees' family and friends died during their time in prison. Chatman was released three years ago and is still trying to put his life back together. Even though it was proven that he was not guilty and it was expunged from his record, he still cannot get hired for a job because of the 27 year gap in his employment history.

Chatman urged the criminal justice students to have integrity in their careers. The district attorney at the time he was convicted boasted of having a 99 percent conviction rate. Chatman believes the DA was more concerned with his conviction rate and political career than with the truth. Chatman said the future is in the hands of criminal justice students, and he hopes that no other innocent person will go to prison.

In a riveting speech, Waller described his time in prison and the prison culture, even showing scars from when he was stabbed four times by prison gang members. He was angry for a long time, but he said he rejoices in his ability to do anything he wants to do now that he is out of prison. Dressed in a bright red shirt, sunglasses, gold rings and

gold chains, Waller said he takes joy in being able to dress flamboyantly. He dresses in that style, he said, to make sure he is never falsely identified again.

Dallas County Public Defender Michelle Moore was instrumental in getting Chatman and Walker exonerated. She described their attempts to use new DNA testing, including Chatman having one chance because the lone DNA sample was the size of a pen head that could not be used twice. In answer to a student's question, Moore said that in many cases there is no DNA sample to be tested or it is so small that it is difficult to test. Chatman chose to wait two years for new testing technology because of the size of his case's DNA sample.

Chatman and other exonerees filed suit against the State of Texas, but the case was dropped when Texas passed a law to compensate those who are falsely convicted. Chatman, Waller

and the other exonerees were given a settlement, which included a lump sum and an annuity which started one year after the lump sum was paid. That settlement has given them the opportunity to help other exonerees as they are freed before they receive their settlements.

Chatman and other exonerees will be featured on the Black Entertainment Television network next fall in a program titled "Vindicated." Their stories also are published in the book, "Tested, How Twelve Wrongly Imprisoned Men Held Onto Hope" written by former Dallas County Assistant District Attorney Dorothy Budd and her daughter Peyton Budd. The book profiles 12 of the men exonerated in Dallas County.

For more information about similar cases, go to the Innocence Project Web site at www.innocenceproject.org.

Dallas gospel drummer featured in national tour

By Tonya Whitaker
NDG Staff Writer

Dallas' Tymeshia Lloyd gained a little more exposure in her quest to become a well-known gospel drummer.

Lloyd and her band were featured in *Tom Tom Magazine's* national tour stop on March 20 at Live in Deep Ellum's Kettle Arts Building in downtown Dallas. *Tom Tom* — a publication that exclusively caters to female drummers — highlighted the talents of female drummers and female beat makers. Also on the bill were Dallas acts Catching Chloe and Beauty and the Beats and Black Cherry from the United Kingdom.

Thanks to a contact on Facebook, Lloyd was able to perform in the show. Although

she was asked to perform the Monday before the show, Lloyd said the quick turnaround was not an issue.

"I sat down and picked music that fit my personality, and a tune that would excite people when they hear it," she said. "The melodies and rhymes and chose would get people to hear me, to say, 'Hey, this is me.'"

During Lloyd's 20-minute performance, she drummed selections such as *Glory* from New Direction, *Unity* by Queen Latifah and *Request* by Q-Tip.

In addition to her performance, Lloyd was interviewed by *Tom Tom* staff, took part in a photo shoot and her entire performance was recorded.

"They asked me about my future as a drummer, what type of music I liked to play and who I looked up to as a female drummer," she said. "It was sad that I couldn't name many female gospel drummers because there aren't many of them out there."

Lloyd said the interview, performance and photos will appear on the magazine after the national tour is complete.

"It is a great idea for *Tom Tom* to put this together," she said. "They are taking the vision of highlighting the talents of female drummers and making it a reality. I was blessed to be a part of it."

Read more about *Tom Tom Magazine* at www.tomtommagazine.com

WEBER, continued from Page 2

produce the best STEM professionals and teachers in the community. The summit provides an opportunity for our STEM scholars to explore career options and to be inspired by those opportunities."

Weber, recipient of the NASA Exceptional Service Medal, joined an elite group of women when she was chosen in 1992 by NASA for its astronaut program. One of the youngest candidates selected for the program (at age 29), she flew on two space shuttle missions: Flights STS-70 on *Discovery* in 1995 and STS-101 on *Atlantis* in 2000. During those flights, she completed 297 earth orbits and traveled a total of 7.8 million miles. The *Atlantis* mission involved critical early construction for the International Space Station; the scope and complexity of building the station is unmatched in the history of space exploration. Weber's mission on *Discovery*

included launching a \$200 million communications satellite and performing groundbreaking bio-technology experiments in space that explored the growth of human cancer tissues.

Currently, Weber serves as vice president of government affairs and policy for the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas. A respected NASA expert on biotechnology, she also is an instrument-rated pilot; an active skydiver; the recipient of 14 medals for her skydiving efforts; and a world-record holder (for the largest freefall formation with 300 skydivers). She earned her doctorate in physical chemistry from the University of California at Berkeley; her master's degree in business administration from Southern Methodist University; and her bachelor's degree in chemical engineering (with honors) from Purdue University.

More than 100 DCCCD STEM scholars will attend Weber's keynote address and participate in more than a dozen sessions (both presentations and panel discussions) related to science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

In addition to keynoter Weber and presenter Thakkar, other speakers during the DCCCD STEM Summit include: Torrence Robinson of Fluor; Steve Lee from the Quicksilver Group; Marvin Applewhite; Dr. Mark Spong; plus students and faculty from DCCCD, the University of North Texas, the University of Texas at Arlington, the University of Texas at Dallas (UTD) Center for Brain Health), Southern Methodist University, Brookhaven College and Richland College.

For the full schedule of speakers and activities, visit: <http://www.foundation.dcccd.edu/steminitiative/summit/index.html>.

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Toll-free Hotline Helps women find college degree programs and financial aid

Many women in the United States are looking to attend college, either to finish a program they've already started or to begin college for the first time. Because of this, a new toll-free hotline has been designated for women as the official go-to resource for finding the right online or offline degree program, and for locating financial aid that may be available.

The hotline is offered through a special program called Degrees For Women via a company called College Degree Connect. They are a very unique service,

offered in all 50 states, that have helped thousands of women over the past decade to find the right college degree program. Available to women age 18-45, the main advantage of the program is that it is managed by education counselors who understand how to get you on the right education track. Men can use the service too, but they are especially reaching out to women because more women are in need.

The process starts with a free consultation with one of their education advisors, who will work with you on

the phone in total confidence in a completely private conversation to review your education needs and your eligibility for financial aid. Next, they will suggest a college program that fits you and your family. Once this is done, with your permission, you will be put in contact with the institution that they feel is best for you. Within a few days or less, they will follow up with you and proceed to the next step to get you enrolled as soon as possible.

To get started, call 877 266-4161 or visit www.WomenDegrees.com

UNCF, continued from Page 6



Photo courtesy of Grace Photography
Eric Wesley – Greyhound Communications Manager, left, Diane Stephenson – UNCF Area Development Director, and Myron Watkins – Greyhound VP Customer Experience announce UNCF scholarship renewal March 28. apply is May 20, 2011.

“UNCF is sincerely grateful to Greyhound for their continued partnership” said UNCF’s Area Development Director Diane Stephenson. “Greyhound’s investment in our nation’s youth will help deserving – yet financially disadvantaged students pay their tuition and other college costs so they can graduate this spring or continue their college education next year. A

college education is necessary to effectively compete in the 21st century job market and a more college-educated workforce is vital to the well being of our national economy. We salute Greyhound for their generosity.”

“Greyhound has always been about moving forward and improving, and we are confident that this scholarship program will help a number of students achieve

their educational goals,” said Myron Watkins, vice president, customer experience, Greyhound. “We are proud to support such a worthwhile organization that helps to make a difference for tomorrow’s leaders.”

Eligible students must have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher, be enrolled full-time at a UNCF or other accredited 4 year college or university, have a financial need and submit an essay on how alternative fuel will impact the transportation industry.

For more information visit: <http://www.uncf.org> or contact David Ray, UNCF Program Services at 703-205-3562 to learn more about the program. To support UNCF scholarships or other programs, please contact UNCF at (972) 234 – 1007.

DBA president-elect Paul Stafford participates in ABA Bar Leadership Institute

Joining over 300 other emerging leaders of lawyer organizations from across the country at the American Bar Association’s Bar Leadership Institute (BLI), March 10-11, was Dallas Bar Association President-Elect Paul Stafford, of The Stafford Law Firm.

The BLI takes place annually in Chicago. It offers incoming officials of local and state bars, special focus lawyer organizations and bar foundations the opportunity to confer with ABA officials, bar leader colleagues, executive staff and other experts on the operation of such associations.

Stafford joined ABA President Stephen N. Zack of Miami, FL, and ABA Presi-



Photo courtesy of American Bar Association

dent-Elect Wm. T. (Bill) Robinson III of Florence, KY, in sessions on bar govern-

nance, finance, communications and planning for a presidential term.

Buttons Restaurant and Chef Keith ‘Buttons’ Hicks launches new restaurant concept

Buttons Jazz Café to Premier in DeSoto Town Center

Chef Keith “Buttons” Hicks and the management team of Buttons Restaurant have announced the launch of Buttons Jazz Café, a new restaurant concept featuring an intimate and upscale ambience for savoring Buttons Restaurant’s signature food and music for the soul. Buttons Jazz Café is slated to open on Thursday, April 21, 2011 in The DeSoto Town Center located in DeSoto, Texas.



Chef Keith “Buttons” Hicks

“We are excited about opening in DeSoto, the entire community has been so welcoming since some of the business owners located in DeSoto approached us about opening in their community” said Herbert Hughes, President of Buttons. “The Buttons Jazz Café will be more like the supper clubs of yesteryear featuring jazz groups and some great vocalists. Great music,

See BUTTONS, Page 13

Verizon's national church choir competition includes Dallas

Registration is now open for the 2011 Verizon's How Sweet the Sound Gospel Celebration, the country's most prestigious gospel music experience. Interested choir representatives can visit www.HowSweetTheSound.com until Friday, April 15, to sign up to be part of the How Sweet the Sound community. By registering, choirs will have the chance to rejoice in song and praise; sing in front of gospel greats and fans; and win up to \$50,000.

Verizon's How Sweet the Sound Gospel Celebration pays tribute to gospel music and provides choirs a platform to showcase their talent. Dallas is one of the cities that will host a regional event.

Last year, the Compton-based choir, Voices of Destiny, won the How Sweet the Sound grand prize, receiving over \$40,000 and the opportunity to perform at the 2011 Stellar Awards and Super Bowl Gospel Celebration. The choir is building a youth center with the prize money.

“Winning Verizon's How

Sweet the Sound Gospel Celebration has been such a blessing,” said Voices of Destiny choir director Pastor Michael Fisher. “Verizon has given us an opportunity to show the world that Compton is filled with young people working for positive change in their lives and those around them.” Entry and Selection Process

Verizon's How Sweet the Sound Gospel Celebration invites faith-based choirs to submit an application and audition video, 2011. The audition video may be submitted by mail, uploaded online or dropped off at participating Verizon Wireless Communications Stores. Both small and large choirs are eligible to enter the competition. The “Small/Medium Category” is for choirs consisting of six to 35 performers, while the “Large Category” is for choirs with 36 to 100 performers.

After April 15, 2011, a panel of independent judges, selected by Verizon in its sole discretion, will review the eligible Round 1 Videos sub-

mitted. The selected videos will be posted on HowSweetTheSound.com where members of the community can vote for their favorite choirs. Online voting results will be taken into consideration to determine the V CAST People's Choice Award Winner at each regional event and the grand finale.

Up to eight choirs will then be selected to perform onstage at the regional event and two winners, one from the Small/Medium and one from the Large Category, will win \$10,000. One overall winner will be selected at each regional concert, and each choir member from the overall winning choir will receive a Verizon Wireless phone and a \$50 gift card and advance to the grand finale where they will compete to win more than \$25,000 in cash and prizes. The V CAST People's Choice Award winners will receive \$5,000 at each regional event and at the grand finale.

Visit www.HowSweetTheSound.com for more details.

Ongoing

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

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

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

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

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

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

Target Second Saturdays at Latino Cultural Center On the second Saturday of every month family-friendly activities celebrating Latino arts and culture. Come in for one hour, or stay the whole day.

Business Empowerment Sessions. Learn to grow a successful small business. 1st Thursday of each month at Christian Chapel Temple of Faith, 14120 Noel Rd., Dallas. Info @ 214-942-6698.

How to start a business. Free sessions on getting started the right way. Sessions held the last Monday of each month. Call The PLAN Fund for details 214-942-6698.

March 31 and April 7

The Dallas Theatre will present *Dividing the Estate* at 2 p.m. www.DallasTheaterCenter.org

Through April 1

3rd Annual Spring Flower Fund Raiser to Benefit the Network of Community Ministries Dental Clinic in Richardson is accepting flower orders now. Choose from a variety of flowers including Begonias, Periwinkles, Dusty Miller, and many others in flats of 18 four-inch pots. The benefit sale is hosted at Loveable Smiles, 1410 N. Plano Rd., Suite 200, Richardson. Contact Loveable Smiles for an order form by phone at 972-231-0585, email info@loveablesmiles.com, or download at <http://www.loveablesmiles.com>. Pre-order deadline is Friday, April 1. Orders will be ready for pick up on Friday, April 8, 4—6 p.m.

Through April 2

The **Garland Civic Theatre** will present Harper Lee's *To Kill A Mockingbird* at the Granville Arts Center, 300 North Fifth St., in downtown Dallas. Thursday performances are slated for March 10 and March 17 at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$20 for all shows except the March 10 show (\$15). Friday and Saturday evening shows start at 8 p.m. and matinees at 2:30 p.m. Call the Arts Center Box at 972-205-2790 for tickets.

Through April 2

The **Oak Cliff Cultural Center** gallery, 223 W. Jefferson Blvd. in Dallas, will host the 2011 *Dia de los Niños* art exhibition. The two-week exhibition will feature multi-media art work created by students from four Dallas ISD and Oak Cliff elementary schools.

Through April 3

Disney on Ice presents *Disney/Pixar Toy Story 3* at American Airline Center at 7:30 p.m. on March 30, 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. March 31, April 2 at 11:30 a.m., 3:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. (Spanish performance) and April 3 at 1:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.

April 1-2

Antioch Christian Fellowship Church of Lancaster will host its annual **No Plan B Marriage Conference** at the Hampton Inn and Suites, 1311 E. Centre Park Blvd. in DeSoto. 469-789-6313.

April 2

Modern Victory Gardens: Discover the Art of Summer Vegetable Gardening at Texas Discovery Gardens 9 a.m. to noon, \$25 per class or become a Garden Member and save \$5! Info: Programs@TexasDiscoveryGardens.org and 214-428-7476 x 240.

Iota Phi Lambda Sorority, Inc., Psi Chapter will hold its annual **Business Month Education and Scholarship Luncheon** from 11:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. at Crowne Plaza Market Center, 7050 N. Stemmons Freeway Dallas

April 3

The **Dallas County Cinderella Scholarship Pageant** is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. at the Plaza Theatre, 521 W. State St. in Garland.

April 6

Oak Cliff Cultural Center, 223 West Jefferson Blvd. in Dallas, will begin offering tango classes every Wednesday from 7:30 to 8:45 p.m. Classes are free for April 6. Afterward, cost is \$10 per person or \$15 per couple per class. www.tangocanyenguedallas.com.

April 8-April 10

The **African American Museum at Fair Park**, 3536 Grand Ave., will host the annual **Southwest Black Art Show** at 11 a.m. The exhibit is free and will feature 60 na-

tionally renowned artists.

April 6-May 12

Gideon Math and Reading Center, 3110 Main St. in Frisco, will host creative writing workshops by award-winning journalist Linda Jones for 4th through 9th graders at the center. Tuition costs \$240 per student; those who register online receive a \$10 discount. To register (deadline April 2), contact manelock@yahoo.com.

April 7-10

Dallas Auto Show dal-lasautoshow.com

April 9

Youth Conflict Resolution Center's 4th Annual **"Strike Out for Youth Conflict" Bowlathon** is from 6 - 9 p.m., USA Bowl (formerly Don Carters) 10920 Composite Dr, in Dallas. \$25 individual registration, \$100 a team (registration fee includes 3 games, shoes and your donation). Info: www.youngmediators.org

April 7 and 21

The **Visiting Nurse Association Meals on Wheels volunteer training** is scheduled for April 7 and 21 from 10:30 a.m. to noon at the Visiting Nurse Association's headquarters on 1440 W. Mockingbird Lane in Dallas. Info: 214-689-2210 or www.vna-texas.org.

April 7

George Clinton and Parliament Funkadelic are coming to South Side Music Hall, 1135 S. Lamar in Dallas, at 7:30 p.m.

April 8-9

WINGSPAN THEATRE COMPANY and ONE THIRTY PRODUCTIONS, in partnership and in cooperation with The Bath House Cultural Center will present *Horton Foote's The Carpetbagger's Children*. This partnership production is part of a two month long celebration of the late legendary Texas playwright Horton Foote. The Horton Foote Festival is

slated to run March 14 - (Foote's birthday) through May 1. During this time, various arts organizations in Dallas and Fort Worth will be presenting plays, screening film adaptation of his work, and presenting insights into his life through readings, and other related events. All performances will be at The Bath House Cultural Center on White Rock Lake, 521 East Lawther Drive, Dallas, Texas 75218. Ticket prices are: \$5.00 for matinee performances and \$10.00 for evening performances. Info: 214-675-6573 or via: www.wingspantheatre.com. One Thirty Productions 214-532-1709 or via: www.bathhousecultural.com.

April 17-24

Dr Pepper Dallas Cup XXXII Info: www.dallas-cup.com

April 19

SMU Athletic Forum: AT&T Luncheon with Mike Krzyewski, Duke University current head men's basketball coach and coach of U.S. men's national basketball team at Noon at the Anatole Hotel, 2201 Stemmons Freeway, 27th Floor, Dallas. Info: 214-768-4314, <http://smu.edu/athleticforum/events.asp>

April 21

The American Diabetes Benefit, "Stars of Texas ... Racing Against the Odds." from 5 – 10 p.m. at Lone Star Park at Grand Prairie. Info: www.diabetes.org/starsoftexas or Roxann Pishnick at 214.616.3868

April 23

Sci-Tech Discovery Center and *North Texas Kids* are teaming up to present an **Earth Day Extravaganza** from 10 am - 4 pm at the Frisco Discovery Center.

August 20

AnyEvent Event Planning Services is hosting **Event Planners Boot Camp** at UTA, 701 S. Nedderman Dr. Arlington, from 8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Info: Teri Robinson at 214-376-6530 or at teri@anyevent.org. Register

online at www.anyevent.org.

April 26

Garland City Manager's Quarterly Meeting 7 p.m.

April 28

Dallas candidates for mayor forum will feature Ron Natinsky, David Kunkle, Mike Rawlings, and Edward Opka will attend 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the Northaven United Methodist Church, 11211 Preston Road, Dallas. More info at <http://blog.farnorthdallas-democrats.org>

April 29

UTD Spring Lecture Series: **"Play Dates and Peer Groups: Forming Friendships across Childhood"** Dr. Lisa Rosen.

April 30

The Plano North Metroplex Chapter of The Links, Inc. hosting **"A Day At The Races XII: Le Chapeau Affaire"** at Lone Star park in Grand Prairie from 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tickets are \$85. Info: 972-248-8081, www.planonorthmetroplexlinks-inc.org.

May 19

Garland Chamber of Commerce 2nd Annual Business to Business Expo Noon - 3:00 p.m.; 520 N. Glenbrook Dr., Garland, TX 75040

2011 Business to Business Expo will be held from noon - 3:00 p.m. at the Garland Chamber of Commerce.

May 20

UTD Spring Lecture Series: **"Helping Adolescents Use Electronic Communication for Good"** Dr. Marion Underwood.

May 21

Dallas Free to Breathe® 5K Run/Walk and 1 Mile Walk 6:45 a.m. – Event day registration begins at Oak Point Park and Nature Preserve located at 2801 East Spring Creek Parkway, Plano. Fees range from \$15 - \$25, info at <http://freetobreathe.com/>

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Black counties have highest food costs and insecurity

Over one third of counties with both the highest food insecurity and food costs are majority African American

Feeding America, the nation's largest domestic hunger-relief organization, today released a landmark study, "Map the Meal Gap," providing insight for the first time about the number of meals missing from the tables of America's hungry each year - an estimated 8.4 billion nationwide.

The findings of "Map the Meal Gap" are based on statistics collected by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and food price data from The Nielsen Company. The study was funded by the Howard G. Buffett Foundation and Nielsen.

Map the Meal Gap shines a light on food insecurity at the local level in the United States, revealing new information about how food insecurity, food costs, and ethnicity interact at the county level. A key finding of the report is that among the 44 counties in the United States that fall into

"What this study does is help us focus our response to this overwhelming issue. With the first county-by-county data, we can tailor our response to each community."

According to USDA data, people struggling with hunger estimate they would need about \$56 more each month on average to address the shortages in their food budget. On a national level, "Map the Meal Gap" shows this shortfall represents an estimated \$21.3 billion on an annual basis.

African American Communities & Hunger

African Americans experience food insecurity and poverty at a higher rate than the general population, in part because they have lower than average median income and higher than average unemployment. In turn, African Americans are also more likely to participate in federal nutrition programs.



who come to emergency food program sites, like Feeding America, 5 million (34 percent) are non-Hispanic African American, the second largest racial or ethnic group served. While African Americans make up only 12.4 percent of the U.S. population, 22.5 percent (7.4 million) of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly food stamps) participants are African American. Similarly, African Americans make up 19.6 percent of Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC). 90 percent of African American children will receive SNAP benefits at some point before age 20, compared to 49 percent of all American children.

"The Map The Meal Gap" Study

In a departure from the standard of measuring meals in pounds, "Map the Meal Gap" estimates the relative cost of a meal, adjusting the national average of \$2.54 per meal that food secure people report they usually spend on a meal according to food prices in each county.

"Map the Meal Gap" also provides critical infor-

mation that has never been previously available -- food insecurity rates for each county and Congressional District. Previously, food insecurity data was only available at the state level in the USDA's annual report. The study further analyzes each county's food insecure population to determine their income eligibility for federal nutrition assistance. This data has the potential to redefine the way service providers and policy makers address areas of need.

"We know hunger exists in every state across the nation, but it looks different from county to county, and therefore, so do the solutions. The results of this study show that the best way for us to help people facing hunger is to understand who is hungry and why they are hungry at the community level," said Vicki Escarra, president and CEO of Feeding America.

"Together, the emergency food system and critical federal nutrition programs weave a comprehensive nutrition safety net reaching at-risk Americans at different income bands and in different settings, with special focus on vulnerable child and senior populations."

"There is no 'one size fits all' solution for hunger. For example, in Pulaski County, which is at the southern tip of Illinois, more than 20 percent of the population is food insecure. Of those individuals, 63 percent are potentially eligible for enrollment in the SNAP program (formerly known as Food Stamps). This sample alone shows just how significant the SNAP program can be for many communities in this country," said Escarra.

"But in Lake County Illinois, a suburb of Chicago, 54 percent of the food insecure population does not qualify for food stamps or other government programs, so they often must rely on Feeding America and other charities to help feed themselves and their families."

"Map the Meal Gap" provides the following data for each county in the United States in an interactive map format available online:

- * The percentage of the population who is food insecure.

- * The percentage of the food insecure population who qualify based on income for SNAP (Foods Stamps) and other federal nutrition programs.

- * The percentage of the food insecure population who do NOT qualify for federal nutrition programs and often must rely on charitable food assistance programs and who also need better wages and employment opportunities to help them meet their basic needs.

- * The average price per meal in each county, based on new research by The Nielsen Company, using the USDA's "Thrifty Food

Plan."

"The interactive map will, for the first time, allow policy makers, state agencies, corporate partners and individual advocates to develop integrated strategies to fight hunger on a community by community level," said Escarra.

"Map the Meal Gap" was conducted using well-established, transparent methods. Data provided by the US Census Bureau, the USDA, and the Nielsen Company were analyzed by Feeding America in partnership with Dr. Craig Gundersen, Associate Professor of Agricultural and Consumer Economics at the University of Illinois, Executive Director of the National Soybean Research Laboratory and member of Feeding America's Technical Advisory Group.

The executive summary of the report features additional information that describes how various ethnic groups are disproportionately affected by high rates of hunger and high food prices.

Additional Resources

A summary of the findings, an interactive map of the United States, and the full report are available on Feeding America's website at www.feedingamerica.org

Join the national conversation on hunger and learn more about Feeding America: <http://blog.feeding-america.org>



both the highest food insecurity and the highest food costs categories, over a third have a majority African American population.

"We know that African Americans in this country struggle with hunger at a disproportionately high rate," said Brian Banks, Director of Public Policy and Community Outreach, Capitol Area Food Bank.

On average, 1 in 4 African American households are food insecure, including 1 in 3 African American children, 1 in 4 African Americans live in poverty, and according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics more than 1 in 7 African Americans are unemployed as of February 2011.

Among the adult clients

**Tweet about
#Meal-Gap at
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NDGEditor](http://www.twitter.com/NDGEditor)**

'Round About DFW

Through April 23

The African Company presents **Richard III** at the Jubilee Theatre, 500 Main St. in Fort Worth. Tickets start at \$10. Call 817-338-4411 or visit www.jubileetheatre.org

March 31-April 3

Mike E. Winfield brings his comedy to the Arlington Improv, 309 Curtis Mathes Way in Arlington at 8 p.m. on Thursday, 8 and 10:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and 7:30 p.m. on Sunday. Tickets are \$15 to \$17. 817-635-5555.

March 31-April 17 The African American



Lorraine Hansberry

can Repertory Theatre, 211 E. Pleasant Run in DeSoto, presents *To Be Young, Gifted and Black: A Portrait of Lorraine Hans-*

berry In Her Own Words. Preview show March 31 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10. Friday and Saturday shows begin at 7 p.m.; tickets are \$20. Matinee Saturday and Sunday shows at 2:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$15. www.aareptheater.com

April 1-2

So So Def recording artist **Dondria** will perform Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. at the Clarence Muse Café Theatre in the Dallas Convention Center, corner of Canton and Akard streets in Dallas. Admission \$15. www.tbaal.org

April 2

Janet Jackson will perform her No. 1 hits at the Verizon Theatre in Grand Prairie. Tickets start at \$49. www.verizontheatre.com

April 2-3

Ikura Lounge, 604 W. Bethany in Allen, will hold **SubUrban Nights** every Saturday from 9 to 2 a.m. From 9 p.m. to midnight, *Rhythm and Grooves* featuring live performance

takes place, and from midnight to 2 a.m. *The Afterset* featuring some of the hottest DJs in the metroplex will wow the crowd. Must be 25 and older to enter. 214-801-1562.

Gazette Gossip: Foxy Brown irked Tom Joyner's nerves enough to get kicked off cruise

By Tonya Whitaker
NDG Staff Writer

Rapper **Foxy Brown** does not have many fans these days, and now we can count Tom Joyner as one of them jumping of the ship (so to speak). Young, black and fabulous.com reported March 28 the rapper and Joyner had a disagreement so he had her escorted off the *Fantastic Voyage* cruise ship and to a plane. While the details of the problem were not revealed, all Joyner said was, "We put Foxy off the cruise. Let's just say she got put off. You have to really act a fool to get put off."

Foxy was not that cordial when asked about the fiasco. She took to Twitter and told everyone she was upset with some of the questions Joyner's crew asked during an interview. Brown went on to say that "grandpa" (Joyner) is a liar and he and his crew are only starting drama.

I am glad Joyner kept his cool about this, and Foxy should listen to old-schoolers like Joyner. Brown needs to kick the ego and listen to what successful individuals like Joyner have to say, and disrespecting the brotha by calling him "grandpa" ain't the best place to start.

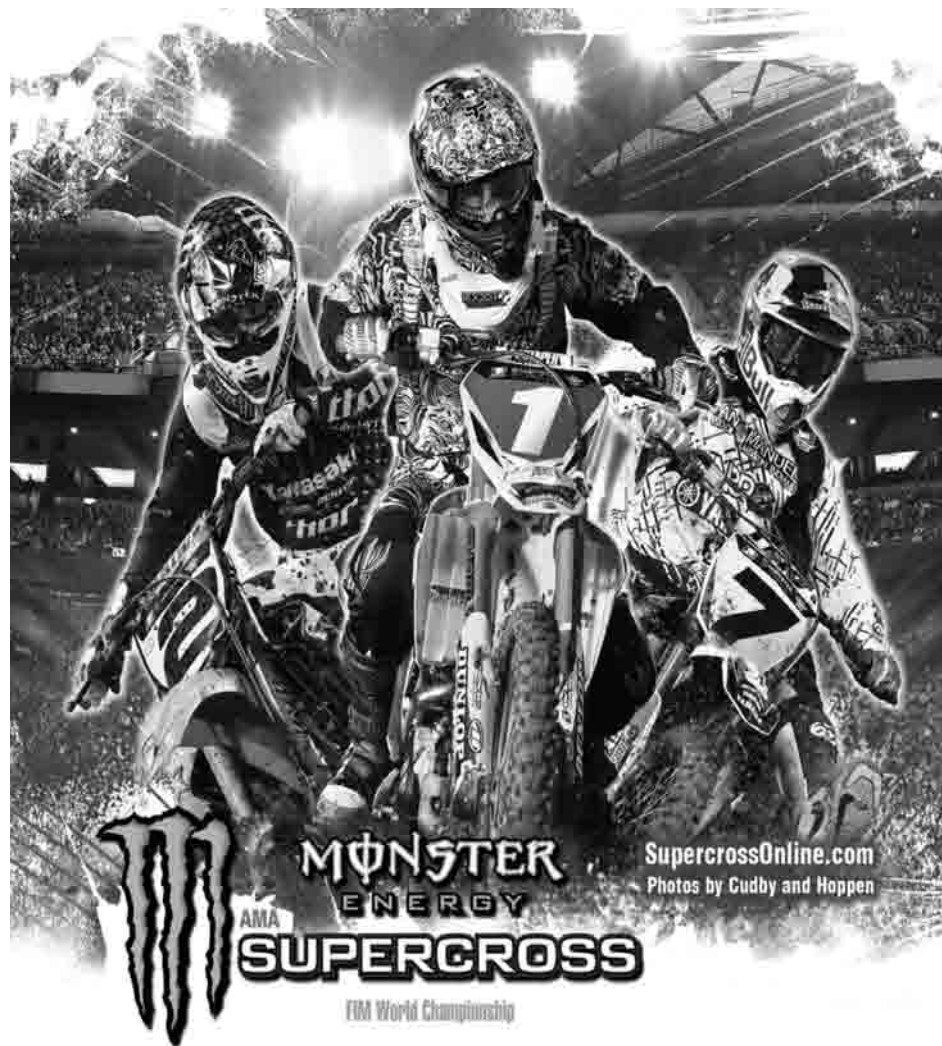
Party moved to jail? Shreveport was not a good

place for rapper Rick Ross and the Philadelphia Eagles tackle Jason Peters.

Both ran into trouble with the law while they were in town for the same party. *TMZ* reported that "Officer Ross," who performed the bash, was arrested for possession of marijuana, while Peters, a guest at the party, was taken in for playing his music too loud. In doo-doo head fashion, Peters tried to beat the cops by refusing to turn his music down. Not

smart. Then, when asked by the police to show identification, he told them to speak to the hand. Another dumb move.

Ross and Peters were booked at the Shreveport city jail where they got summons and were later released, according to the report. Note to Ross and Peters, you know when a bunch of black folk get together the law gonna be on its Ps and Qs. So why let them get the leg up on you by doing stupid stuff?



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Controversial ad featuring Serena Williams shelved

(NNPA) A racy video game ad featuring Serena Williams won't be aired on broadcast television after the game's developer said it was too risqué.

The ad for "Top Spin 4" features Williams as "the world's sexiest tennis

player" facing off against Rileah Vanderbilt, an actress labeled "the world's sexiest tennis gamer." The scantily-clad women make suggestive facial expressions, motions, and moaning while showing lots of skin, to the tune of a techno soundtrack.

The public response to the ad, after Vanderbilt allegedly introduced it to cyberspace through her Twitter account, was negative. As a result, 2K Sports, the game's developer, canned the commercial and distanced itself from it.

"As part of the process for creating marketing campaigns to support our titles, we pursue a variety of creative avenues," the company said in a statement. "This video is not part of the title's final marketing campaign and its distribution

was unauthorized."

However, to some people, 2K Sports' response rings hollow. Many say that the company was behind the ad from the start, but didn't want to deal with the negative attention it brought.

"2K Sports deliberately

created an absurdly racy ad to drum up interest in the game but didn't have the courage to officially endorse the commercial because of possible public backlash," a commentary on the Web site Sports by Brooks said.

Auto Show driving into Dallas April 7-10

For 30 years, manufacturers, franchised new car dealers and auto show staff have worked diligently to produce a world-class Dallas Auto Show. On April 7-10, the Dallas Auto Show will once again give consumers what they want – the opportunity to spend just a few hours talking to knowledgeable salespeople and product specialists from more than 35 manufacturers all under one roof.

David Thomas, 2011 Dallas Auto Show chairman, explained the Dallas Auto Show's history. "In 1982, Classic BMW's Lee Maas and a contingent of local car dealers spearheaded a cam-

paign to bring a springtime auto show to the Dallas area. Dallas Market Hall was the Dallas Auto Show's first home, and the catch phrase 'The Cars are the Stars' was adopted. Only one of the two halls at Market Hall was used that first year. Today, exhibit space has grown almost 10-fold to more than a half million square feet at the Dallas Convention Center."

In 2010, the Dallas Auto Show rolled out the "green" carpet, emphasizing hybrids, and all-electric and fuel-efficient vehicles. This year, Thomas said, the focus will continue to be on "green" vehicles. Some of the "green" vehicles scheduled to appear

at the Dallas Auto Show include: the Cadillac Escalade Hybrid; the Chevrolet Tahoe Hybrid; Silverado 1500 Hybrid and all-electric Volt; the Ford Fusion Hybrid; the GMC Yukon Denali Hybrid; the Hyundai Sonata Hybrid; the Mitsubishi all-electric "i"; the all-electric Nissan Leaf; and the Toyota Camry Hybrid, Highlander Hybrid and Prius V prototype. Evcarco and Venta will display the Tazzari Zero (all-electric Italian Vehicle), a Foton Delivery Truck equipped with a CNG engine, and an all-electric hunting vehicle. A special "green" exhibit area once again will feature variety of eco-friendly products and

services designed to help consumers reduce their carbon footprints.

In addition to an impressive lineup of 2011s, manufacturers also are looking toward the future with a variety of 2012s and concept vehicles displayed at the Dallas Auto Show including: the 2012 Aston Martin Virage, the 2012 Bentley Continental GT, the 2012 Chevrolet Sonic, the Chevrolet Stingray Concept, the 2012 Fiat 500, the 2012 Ford Focus, the Ford C-Max Prototype, the 2012 Mazda MAZDA5, the 2012 Nissan GT-R, and the 2012 Volkswagen EOS, Passat and CC. The Dallas Auto

Show also is pleased to welcome the return of Bentley and Rolls Royce, and first-time exhibitor Bugatti.

An all-new Ride & Drive event also will be highlighted at the Dallas Auto Show. Not only will show visitors be able to peruse the hundreds of vehicles from the manufacturers' 2011 lineups inside the Dallas Convention Center, they will have the opportunity to test drive some of their favorite cars, trucks and SUVs from Ford, General Motors, Kia, Subaru and Toyota outside in the C Hall parking lot.

The 2011 Dallas Auto Show also will include the

Southwest Automotive Aftermarket Show, which is designed to bring together car dealers, consumers and automotive aftermarket companies. Operation KidSafe, a child security/identification system sponsored by Univision, will take children's pictures and capture their fingerprints with the only record of the visit going home with the family. On Saturday and Sunday, April 9 and 10, Univision will be on location along with an expert to discuss the safe installation of children's car safety seats. A total of twenty certified safety seats

See AUTO, Page 13

BIAS, continued from Page 1

At present, families facing eviction outnumber those with a modification by a 12-1 margin. Updated statistics show that residential mortgage foreclosures are on track to reach 13 million by the end of 2014 at a cost of nearly \$1 trillion in direct losses to families, local governments and financial institutions. When CRL factored in the lost value to homes in close proximity of foreclosures, \$1.9 trillion in losses will be stripped away by 2012.

From CRL's perspective, it is time for the banks to accept consequences for the hundreds of billions of dollars in damages that have been inflicted on the nation. It was the lack of accountability by banks that is so disturbing when the public bailed them out. Before any foreclosure is allowed to proceed, there needs to be full disclosure for homeowners and investors to ensure that every loan got a good look from the servicer. Further, the current loan servicing investigation by the nation's attorneys general must result in remedies to reform an industry that perpetuated the

crisis. Let's not forget that this crisis began with foreclosures and spread to the rest of the economy.

Findings from Fix or Evict? also corroborate recent data from the Home Affordable Modification Program (HAMP) which showed how four out of five households that received HAMP modifications are still current on their mortgages. Unlike many short-term loan repairs that occur outside the HAMP program, HAMP loan modifications are most likely to involve reducing the homeowner's monthly payment – and this is the type of modification that is likely to be the most successful.

It is amid this growing body of objective analyses that some from the investment side are questioning the low number of modifications as well.

"The misalignment of economic interests between the owners of mortgages and those who service them is the single reason why the mortgage problem has become a crisis and a massive economic

drain on this country", said Bill Frey, president of Greenwich Financial Services and a longtime investor advocate.

"Servicers have been allowed to follow their own voluntary loan modification program", said CRL's Calhoun, "and the result has gone against the best interests of everyone but the servicers themselves. We need mandatory reforms that ensure servicers follow the law and act in the best interests of their clients – that would end up benefiting everyone."

Perhaps if investors with deep pockets could align themselves with the people whose pockets have been picked, we could have a real and sustainable recovery. Sure, it would be an odd couple alignment. But maybe after so many losses to so many, it's the one that could make the true difference.

Charlene Crowell is the Center for Responsible Lending's communications manager for state policy and outreach. She can be reached at: Charlene.crowell@responsiblelending.org

DELTA DENTAL

HUB Vendors Wanted

Delta Dental is seeking Historically Underutilized Business (HUB) vendors in Texas to assist us in providing the following services for the Texas Dental Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP):

Translation Services:

- Translate (6th grade reading level if applicable) or proofread member materials for grammatical or typographical errors in any language deemed appropriate by Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC). Expected volume per item is approximately 7,000 – 10,000 words.
- Translate member materials to Braille and/or audio formats for use by visually impaired members. Expected volume per item is approximately 7,000 – 10,000 words.
- Receive and/or place approximately 100 monthly calls for members and providers in Spanish and/or any other language deemed necessary by HHSC.
- Offer face-to-face translation services as deemed necessary.

Communication and Media Services:

- Produce newspaper advertisements, pamphlets, and brochures as required by HHSC.
- Provide graphic and ad design services as required by HHSC.

Health Services:

- Develop health care education materials.

Printing, Fulfillment and Related Services:

- Provide printing services for the following materials and their respective, approximate volumes:
- Member materials in large and/or Braille print: 1,000 – 3,000 items
- Member welcome letters/ID cards: 70,000 – 80,000 items
- Provider directories: 70,000 – 80,000 items
- HIPAA inserts for EOC: 280,000 – 320,000 pages
- Packet envelopes: 70,000 – 80,000 items
- Evidence of Coverage/Member Handbook: 70,000 – 80,000 items
- Provider Manual-hard-copy and CD: 500-1000
- Provide fulfillment and storage services for the above-mentioned items and volumes.
- Manage mailing, courier and/or delivery services for the above mentioned items and volumes.
- Ability to handle changes to format and content as requested by HHSC.
- System must be capable of receiving HIPAA compliant transaction in the format determined by Delta Dental and/or HHSC.
- Ability to meet aggressive turnaround times.

If your company is interested, HUB certified and can meet the criteria for any of the services listed above, please contact Anita Callahan at (916) 861-1942 or by email at acallahan@delta.org by April 14, 2011.

If your company is selected, you must provide evidence of bonding and insurance as required by HHSC.

Viva La (Shopping) Différence!

By Cheryl Pearson-McNeil
NDG Contributor

Who wears the (shopping) pants in your house? Ok, I know that was a really old school kind of question, but it got your attention, right? Unless you've lived under a rock, we all know that the definition of families and households is ever-evolving (Note the success of ABC's uber-popular, multiple award-winning "Modern Family," which features the gamut of non-traditional.)

My employer, The Nielsen Company, which measures consumer trends and behaviors in almost every area of consumption around the globe, recently honed in on some major differences in the shopping "habits" of men and women. Fact is, in the United States, men are actually doing the food and household shopping more than ever before. (Now, this is really good news for someone like me who has done the grocery shopping as the head of my household for more than 20 years now. I keep hoping I'll meet a nice, eligible man in the produce section of my local grocery store. Hope springs eternal.) According to Nielsen research, women still do the majority of shopping; but men are pulling up the rear. However, shopping behavior for men and women is a bit different. Women continue to dominate shopping trips in all retail channels (grocery, super centers, warehouse clubs, dollar and drug) except convenience

stores; but men have increased trip shares between 2004 and 2010 in all retail outlets but drug stores.

Nielsen research also shows that women tend to be the biggest spenders per trip, which indicates that they handle the weekly planned shopping trips for their families. At grocery stores, women's basket totals average \$44.43 per trip; a man spends an average of \$34.81 per trip. However, although women rule shopping at dollar stores and warehouse clubs (72% versus 28%), we only spend \$3 - \$5 more per trip than men.

And, there are more interesting shopping stats. Did you know that Sunday is the most important shopping day of the week for both sexes, although Saturday is almost as important at warehouse club stores? That piece of information makes me wonder if I'm the only single person on the planet who thinks it's a good idea to do the grocery shopping on a Saturday night. (I think I am going to have to switch up my routine and maybe get a life.) Well, at least I'm in line with my demographic (women under 55), who shop mostly on the weekends. Women (and men) aged 55 and over spread their trips out more evenly over the course of the week.

While Nielsen research does not predict that men will be the predominant shopper at the grocery store anytime soon, it is important for marketers to note the increase in

male shopping activity. We can blame the increase in shopping on the economy. According to a February 2011 U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics report, men face a higher unemployment rate than women (8.8% compared to 7.9%). That means more men are staying at home than in the past, and in many cases are becoming more engaged in managing the day-to-day household duties. Because of our new economic reality, manufacturers and marketers are going to have to re-evaluate traditional ads, circulars and other promotional materials. One major consumer-packaged-goods manufacturer has already developed a site targeting male homemakers. Others will surely follow suit because, as always, it's all about how and where your valuable consumer dollars are spent.

One area where the sexes are pretty much running neck and neck is in online shopping. More Nielsen research shows that almost three-fourths of women (72%) and more than two-thirds of men (68%) shopped online in the past 30 days. Consumers of both sexes between age 35 and 54 had the highest level of online shopping activity (74%), which makes sense because younger consumers have traditionally been the ones most on the cutting edge of technology. However, those numbers for online and mobile activity among seniors will increase as Baby Boomers (those born between 1946 and 1964), who

are comfortable with technology, age. The oldest Boomers this year started turning 65 and a number of retailers are already using their websites to target senior citizens with special online promotions, clubs that offer discounts and an array of other

attractive features. As for me, I have a fabulous marketing idea. How about turning the "Meat Market or Department" into the "Meet Market?" Especially on Saturday nights, say between 9 and 10 pm? I know of at least one single Black female who

is usually there.

Cheryl Pearson-McNeil is the senior vice president of public affairs and government relations for The Nielsen Company. For more information and studies go to www.nielsenwire.com.

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EDITOR, continued from Page 3

Nancy Jones and elect Dennis Webb for the first time to the City Council in District 3. This is my slate of candidates because Irving to me has a question to answer in this election.

That question is do we as a City want to maintain the peace and progress our City and School District is currently experiencing or do we want to go backward with a lot of political bickering. We are an international City just like the Mayor has often said. Every person who lives in Irving is valuable and deserves to live with dignity and respect. Our crimes are

at an all time low and our City is on the verge of becoming a destination point of interest to all who visit the DFW Metroplex. Particularly in the Mayor's race, it seems all of Herb's opponents are running just to defeat him and his regime versus running on their ideas of how to make

Irving a better city. Rose A.D., Nancy and Dennis will ensure that our City Council and School Board continues to lead us into a peaceful and progressive future.

*Anthony E. Bond
Irving, Texas*

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BUTTONS, continued from Page 7

but you can still have a conversation while enjoying Keith's cuisine."

More than just great food, Buttons Jazz Café will offer patrons an overall dining and entertainment experience. Modeled after the popular jazz clubs and speakeasies of the 30's and 40's, the Buttons Jazz Café provides an upscale venue for enjoying southern-

cuisines, tasty cocktails and live jazz entertainment. The cozy and intimate ambience will serve as the perfect setting for savoring Chef Keith "Buttons" Hicks signature dishes that include Chicken and Waffles, Old School Pot Roast and Shrimp, Fish and Gritz. The Jazz Café will feature live music weekly including the signature Jazz/Gospel Brunch.

"Buttons Jazz Café is the next step of the movement" said Chef Keith Hicks. "We really offer an experience at Buttons, and use the food and the music to bring people together. That is what the vision of Buttons is all about."

Buttons Jazz Café is located at 209 E Pleasant Run Road Suite 141, DeSoto, Texas, 75115, www.buttons-

jazzcafe.com, 972-223-5800. The café will be open for dinner Mon. - Thu 5 p.m. - 10 p.m., Fri & Sat. 5 p.m. - midnight and Sundays 5 p.m. - 10 p.m. Buttons Jazz Café also offers happy hour specials Mon. to Fri. from 4pm-6:30 p.m., a Saturday Brunch from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. and a Sunday Gospel & Jazz Brunch 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

AUTO, continued from Page 11

also will be given away during the presentations. In addition, classic car enthusiasts will enjoy displays by classic Chassis Car Club, Corvette Legends, Lone Star Corvette

Club, North Texas Mustang Club, Z Car Club, Evo Car Club and Dallas Area Classic Chevys.

Hours of the show are: 4 to 10 p.m. Thursday, April 7;

10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday and Saturday, April 8 and 9; and 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sunday, April 10. Tickets are \$12 for adults, \$5 for senior citizens 65 and older, and children 12

and under are admitted free. \$1 discount coupons are available at participating franchised new car dealerships. For more information, visit dallasautoshow.com.

CASHIN, continued from Page 2

mounted serious but unsuccessful challenges to Mississippi's White Democratic Party in 1964 and 1965.

In 1967, Cashin helped found the National Democratic Party of Alabama (NDPA) and was elected the first party chairman. The NDPA embraced the ideals of the "Black power" movement and marked a shift in the methods of civil rights activists in Alabama. Instead of direct-action protests, such as marches and sit-ins, which targeted the elusive and intangible goal of "equality," the NDPA engaged in Black power politics. He led a delegation to the Demo-

cratic National Convention in 1968, challenging the representative nature of the regular Democratic Party delegation.

Although it failed to make significant headway in statewide campaigns, the National Democratic Party of Alabama (NDPA) did have some local success, and more importantly, it provided many African Americans with their first experiences in politics.

Cashin moved to Washington, D.C. in 1997. He is survived by his wife of 14 years, Louise; three children, two sons, Carroll and John, and a daughter Sheryll.

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**AVENUE F CHURCH
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April 2, 7:30 a.m.

Join us for our Ladies Prayer & Breakfast meeting at the IHOP, 933 N. Central Expressway, Plano, TX 75075. Come fasting, if you can, and have a thirst for righteousness. Everyone is welcome. For details call Sis. Misty Rockwell at 214-244-1142 or Sis. Deadra Pete at 469-667-5865.

April 3

You're invited to our First Worship at 8 a.m.; our Sunday Bible Study at 9:45 a.m.; our Second Worship at 10:45 a.m.; our Afternoon Worship at 3 p.m. and our Afternoon Bible Study at 4:30 p.m.

**Brother Ramon Hodridge,
Minister**
1026 Avenue F
Plano, TX 75074
972-423-8833
www.avefchurchofchrist.org

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**Shola Adeyemo,
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2115 Teakwood Lane
Suite 550
Plano, TX 75075
972-398-0999
www.covenantembassy.org

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**Pastor Minnie
Hawthorne-Ewing**

635 W. Campbell Road
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972-480-0200

**EIRENE CHRISTIAN
FELLOWSHIP CHURCH**

You're invited to our Wednesdays Bible Study at 7:45 p.m.

Now Through April 23

Join us for Lent. Walk with Jesus: A Journey to the Cross and Beyond by Charles Swindoll. Call the church for times and other details.

Pastor Autry
701 E. Centennial Blvd.
Richardson, TX 75081
972-991-0200
www.followpeace.org

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ALLEN
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9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Monday – Friday

Prayer Lines for those in need are 972-649-0566 and 972-649-0567 or they may be submitted via email to: prayerline@theship3c.org

On Going, 7 p.m.

Wednesday Night Live in the Joyce Turner Fellowship Hall on Belmont Drive. Corporate prayer starts at 7 p.m. and our Kidz Zone, an environment to equip children to grow and to show God's love.

April 23, 7 p.m.

Our Theatre & Arts Department presents "Behold, the Lamb" a play to be performed at Story Elementary School. "For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes." Revelation 7:17 (KJV)

**Rev. W. L. Stafford, Sr.,
M.Div.
Senior Pastor**
1550 Edelweiss Drive

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Morning Worship.**
Admin. Building Address
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Allen, TX 75013
972-359-9956
www.theship3c.org

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
OF HAMILTON PARK
"First Church"**

April 23, 12 Noon

You're invited to our Mothers/Daughters Tea in our Family Life Center; for mothers, grandmothers, daughters, spiritual mothers and aunts. Theme: "Preserving the Legacy" from Psalm 78:4. Attire: Sunday best with hats and gloves.

Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m.

Let your children join us for fun, fellowship and Bible learning at our Annie Pearl Foster Children Center in Room 238.

**Dr. Gregory Foster,
Senior Pastor**
300 Phillips Street
Richardson, TX 75081
972-235-4235
www.fbchp.org

**NEW LIFE IN JESUS
CHRIST MINISTRIES**

You're invited to our Sunday School Service at 9:30 a.m.; our Sunday Morning Worship at 11 a.m.; our Wednesday's Bible Study at 7 p.m. and our Friday Night Service at 7 p.m. as we worship and praise God.

**Pastor A. L. Felton, Jr.
Senior Pastor**
17720 Dickerson Street
Dallas, TX 75252
972-380-4100
www.nljcm.org

**NEW MOUNT ZION
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OF DALLAS**

On Going

You are invited to visit our Job Re-

source Center on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 12 Noon in our Computer Training Room in the Educational Building.

On Going

Let your child or children attend TTS (Test Taking Skills) for math classes for TAKS (5th – 12th Grades) and special TTS for math Class (5th – 8th Grades.) Call 214-235-3190 or 214-541-8292 for time, place and other details.

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9550 Shepherd Road
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214-341-6459
www.nmzb.org

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Wednesdays

Youth Living in the Word at 6:30 p.m.; Worship and Prayer Service at 6:30 p.m. and Bible Study at 7:40 p.m.

**Dr. Leslie W. Smith,
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1010-1020 S. Sherman Street
Richardson, TX 75081
972-437-3493
www.ndcbf.org

**PROFESSIONAL
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April 16, 11:30 a.m.

Join us for our annual scholarship fundraising banquet at Brookhaven Country Club, 3333 Golfing Green Drive, Dallas, TX 75234. PACE is a 501(c)(3) organization that gives scholarships to high school graduates in the local area to help them

attend college. There is a \$35.00 donation for a banquet ticket. Vendors will be available for some smart shopping. See any member or log on our website for tickets.

**Rachel Lewis,
President**
P.O. Box 112721
Carrollton, TX 75011-2721
www.pacedfw.org

**SAINT MARK MBC
IN MCKINNEY**

**On Going Every 2nd
Saturday of the month
April 9, 12 pm**

All Senior Saints are invited to our Double Nickel (55 and above) Luncheon @ the Newsome Center on Amcott Street in McKinney. Activities include lunch, bingo and door prizes. Come and bring a friend. If you are homebound, we will deliver to you. Please call 972-542-6178 no later than the Friday (April 8 this month) before the luncheon and leave a message with your name, address, phone number and how many meals you need.

On Going

Join us each Wednesday for Prayer at 6:30 p.m. and for Family Ministries at 7 p.m.

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

**SHILOH MBC
IN PLANO**

Wednesdays, 7 p.m.

You're invited to our Mid-Week Service as we praise and worship God for His blessings.

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

THE NEW LIGHT CHURCH

On Going

You're invited to worship with us on Sunday Mornings at 9:30 a.m. for Sunday School and 11 a.m. for Morning Worship as we praise and worship God.

On Going

Join us every Wednesday at 6:30 pm for Girls in Action meeting.

All girls ages 6-17 are encouraged to explore Christ and the Word of God.

Shaun Rabb, Senior Pastor
9314 Elam Road
Dallas, TX 75217
214-391-3430
www.newlightchurchdallas.com

**WORD OF LIFE
CHURCH OF
GOD IN CHRIST**

April 3, 4 p.m.

You're invited to our 3rd Church Anniversary. Come to hear a message from God and the exciting things that He has done for Word of Life these past three years.

On Going

Join us in prayer early in the morning at 6 a.m. on Monday - Friday at 1-661-673-8600, Code # 142219 and please put your phone on mute. Prayer will change people and things.

Thursdays, 7 p.m.

You're invited to hear anointed men and women bring the Word of God.

**Dr. Gregory Voss,
Senior Pastor**
2765 Trinity Mills Road
Building 300
Carrollton, TX 75006
214-514-9147

*"I have come into the world
as a light, so that no one who
believes in me should stay in
darkness."*

--- John 12:46 (NIV)

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www.newlightchurchdallas.com
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Morning Worship – 11:00 a.m.

Evening Service – First Sundays – 6:00 p.m.

Thursday Night Live (Prayer, Praise and Proclamation) - 7:00 p.m.

**Pastor Shaun Rabb &
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10:00 am
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KGGK 1040 AM, Monday - Friday @ 5:25 pm - 5:30 pm



Sister Tarpley

We continue to address the importance of Black women in America and honor the spirit of possibility and hope set in motion by generations of Black women and their encouragement of dreams.

Ruane Jeter invented a digital Toaster in 1987. **Virgie Ammons** invented a Fire-place Damper actuating tool in 1975. The instrument opens and closes a fireplace damper and is also intended to operate as a securing means to prevent fluttering of the damper due to wind.

Marie Van Brittan Brown invented the Video Home Security System that utilized television surveillance in 1969.

While home security systems today are more advanced than ever, back in 1966 the idea for a home surveillance device seemed almost unthinkable. That was the year famous African-American inventor Marie Van Brittan Brown, and her partner Albert

Brown, applied for an invention patent for a closed-circuit television security system – the forerunner to the modern home security system.

Brown's system had a set of four peep holes and a camera that could slide up and down to look out each one. Anything the camera picked up would appear on a monitor. An additional feature of Brown's invention was that a person also could unlock a door with a remote control.

A female Black inventor far ahead of her time, Brown created an invention that was the first in a long string of home-security inventions that continue to flood the market today.

Alice Parker in 1919 from Morristown, New Jersey invented a new and improved gas heating furnace that provided central heating.

Valerie Thomas received U.S. patent #4,229,761 on October 21, 1980 for her illusion transmitter. This futuristic invention extends the idea of television, with its images located flatly behind a screen, to having three dimensional pro-

jections appear as though they were right in your living room.

Thomas worked as a mathematical data analyst for NASA after receiving a degree in physics. She later served as project manager for the development of NASA's image-processing system on Landsat, the first satellite to send images from outer space. In addition to having worked on several other high-profile NASA projects, Thomas continues to be an outspoken advocate for minority rights.

Mahalia Jackson, "Queen of Gospel Music." She received national recognition by appearing at Carnegie Hall. She sang at the "March on Washington" in 1963 and at the funeral for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. **Roberta Martin** was the operator of her own "Gospel Music Publishing House." **Sister Rosetta Tharpe** was a Gospel Singer that was known for her signature guitar style; she also introduced gospel music into nightclubs as well as concert halls. **Jackson, Martin and Tharpe** all had U. S. postage stamps issued in their honor in

1998.

Ethel Payne, a longtime correspondent and columnist for the Chicago Defender who pioneered foreign affairs coverage in the Black press. Payne, a Chicago native, first went overseas as a reporter in 1955 to cover an international conference in Indonesia. She interviewed Chinese Premier Chou Lai, Ethiopian Emperor Haile Selassie and Ugandan dictator Idi Amin, among others. In the 1970s, she was featured on the CBS program "Spectrum." She worked as a broadcast commentator into the 1980s.

Wilma Rudolph, "The World's Fastest Woman," as a child suffered from polio and wore leg braces for years, she won three gold medals in sprint events at the 1960 Olympic Games in Rome, Italy.

Evelyn Ashford, winner of four Olympic gold medals in 1984, 1988, and 1992. Also won a silver medal in 1988 and was inducted into Track and Field and Women's Sports Hall of Fame in 1997.

Lucy Craft Laney,



Sister Tarpley with the honorable Mr. Arthur Harness, an original Buffalo Soldier, enjoying the 2011 Black History program at Saint Mark MBC in McKinney, TX, Dr. Charles Wattle, Senior Pastor.

(1854 – 1933); She was born a slave in Macon, GA. She became Founder/Principal of Haines Normal Institute in GA. Laney was taught to read and write at the age of four by her master's sister, who helped her attend Atlanta University. When funds promised from

the Presbyterian Board of Missions for Freedom did not materialize for a private school for Blacks, Laney raised the money herself. Her school was opened in 1886. In 1975, it had grown to a prospering educational community of over 1,000 students.

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7:30pm

SHERROD, continued from Page 2

the size of the opponent, Boyd stressed "don't give up. Don't never, never, never, never give up."

Equally grateful was Timothy Pigford, who was very humble in accepting the award. He credited Mary Alice Thatch, publisher of the Wilmington Journal and Dorothy Leavell, NNPA Foundation's chair, for twisting his arm to get him to the nation's capitol for the festivities.

The semi-formal awards ceremony was one of the highlights of Black Press Week, which celebrated the founding of the first Black newspaper – Freedom's Journal. "As we gather to celebrate Black Press Week in honor of the founding of the first Black newspaper in America, we must dedicate ourselves to a very simple truth: If Black publishers are unified and truly stick together, we are a force in America to be reckoned with – like no other," wrote Bakewell, Sr., in his message to the gathering. "Our newspapers must be dedicated to doing everything they can to elevate the quality of life for African Americans and the communities we serve

in any and every way possible!"

Recognizing the strength and importance of the Black Press, honorees accepted their awards while acknowledging the significant role Black newspapers have played in telling their stories.

In his acceptance remarks Congressman Clay said, "Growing up in St. Louis, I was truly blessed to regularly read the work of some the giants of the black press... NNPA pioneers like Nathaniel Sweets of the St. Louis American; Ben Thomas of the Evening Whirl; Eugene Mitchell of the St. Louis Argus; and Howard Woods of the St. Louis Sentinel.

Rep. Maxine Waters (D-CA), a member of the CBC Financial Services Committee, said she and her colleagues on Capitol Hill understand the power of the Black Press and applauded the publishers for the collective work they have been able to accomplish. "When we want to get a story out," said Waters, "it is about getting that information to you."

Standing in agreement,

Rep. Frederica Wilson, one of the newest members of the CBC, said "I am what I am today because of the exposure the Black Press has given me.

These are challenging times in urban communities. And the role of the independent Black Press has never been more important.

Mrs. Leavell said it was "significant that tonight we honor one of our own in Garth Reeves, who at 92 is vibrant and is a role model for all of us in the Black Press. Reeves said "it has been quite a ride (his years of publishing The Miami Times)," one in which there was no thought of doing anything else when taking over the reins from his father Henry S. Reeves. His daughter, Rachael Reeves is now the Publisher of the publication, who Reeves gave credit for new innovations and the success of the publication.

Not to be left out, sponsor Jocelyn Allen of General Motors told of the importance of the Black Press and how her own stories may well have gone untold had it not been for the Black Press. She lauded the Michigan Chronicle for

keeping her in the spotlight in Detroit. McNeil announced how The Nielsen Company, through the Black Press intends to tell the story of the importance and power of the Black Consumer in coming months, while Morrison reiterated his commitment to supporting the Black Press through UniWorld Group, whose clients include Home Depot and Ford Motor Company. Other speakers included Larry Waters, who Leavell praised for his years of support through Black Press Week and the A. Philip Randolph Awards given annually at the NNPA Convention. Michelle Thornhill, Senior Vice President at Wells Fargo expressed her pleasure in joining as a sponsor this year of Black Press Week activities.

A surprise presentation of an award to Moses Brewer of MillerCoors Brewing Company was presented by Leavell, who said she wanted to make this award just in case she was not around when he finally decided to retire. Brewer she said has been a supporter of the Black Press for many years.

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