

North Dallas Gazette



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The secret relationship between African-Americans and Jews

BY NICOLE SCOTT
NDG CONTRIBUTING WRITER

At the risk of sounding presumptuous, I think it would be safe to write if you polled the African-American community most would not know what the AIPAC is, nor the huge political influence it yields. In

fact I would be willing to bet a significant wager many would probably guess the A in the acronym stands for African-American. I would not consider this an indication of their lack of intelligence



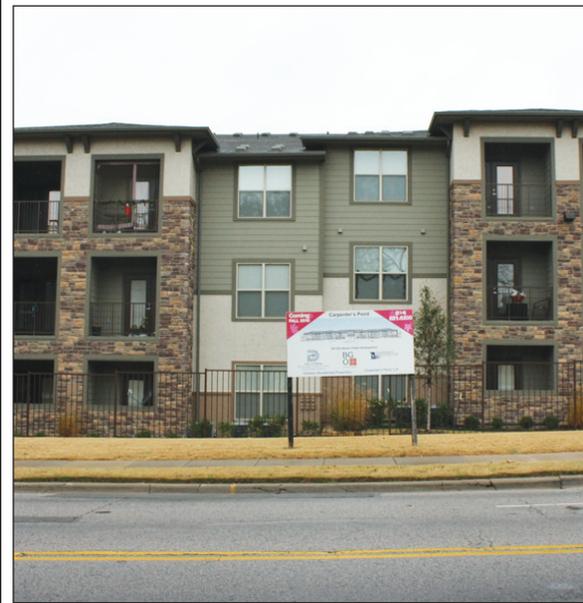
President Obama and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Source: In2EastAfrica

nor political involvement. Instead it is a general unawareness within the African-American community as it relates to the state of Israel, Jewish-Americans connection to Israel, and the political clout they carry.

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COVER STORY

Are tax credits a necessary piece of the puzzle for South Dallas Development?



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Free family fun at 2012 Community Fest

BY LATRISHA McDUFFIE
STAFF WRITER

The 2nd Annual 2012 Community Fest is Saturday, April 7 at Antioch Christian Church, in Irving. Building on the success of last year's event, the 2012 festival organizers expect excited mem-

bers all aiming to give back to the community.

All too often, communities surrounding churches complain that the church only wants to take. You can stand on any corner and hear someone say that they do not go to church because they are bombarded with three or

four offerings. Antioch Christian Church throughout the year has shared donated items to give away to those in need. For example, last year the members banded together to make the Community Fest possible.

Pastor McGill shared, "Our goal is to show the

love of Christ. We wanted not to take but to give."

The family event is completely free and open to all who wish to attend. The event will be a day of giving and will include free food, toys, diapers, new and gently used

See FAMILY, Page 5



New Edition brings their high energy show to Windstar World Casino

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

Ladies who's your Sugar Daddy?

If you have had your last Redbox night with a man still living at home with his mama, without a car, and unemployed (or self-employed as the CEO of a record label) then perhaps SeekingArrangement.com is the site for you. The site is the largest dating website for Sugar Babies looking for a Sugar Daddy.

Brandon Wade recently released a five-year statistical

study about Sugar Daddies. He collected the data via his website. Dallas ranked 16 on the list of cities with the most Sugar Daddies per capita, and 20 on the list of cities with the most generous Sugar Daddies. The Sugar Daddies in Los Angeles spend the most at \$5,710 monthly, followed by New York at \$5,002.

Ladies, there are 95 African-American Sugar Da-

ddies in Dallas with an average net worth of \$5.5 million. And don't worry if your Sugar Daddy will be too old to keep up with you because the average age for a Dallas Sugar Daddy is a very young 42 years old. The Dallas Sugar Daddy on average spends \$3,969 per month on his sugar addition, but beware 41 percent of them are married.



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COMMENTARY

Romney intends to expand war on women and everyday families

GOP Presidential candidate Mitt Romney visited Dallas last week, bringing to Texas his support of dangerous policy proposals like making even more cuts to preventive services for women and the far-right Ryan budget.

"The GOP's war on women isn't confined to Texas," said Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-Dallas). "Mitt Romney pledges to replicate Rick Perry's assault on women's preventive

care across the nation. Women cannot trust Republicans with their health. By proposing to do what Rick Perry has done here in Texas, Mitt Romney is endangering the well-being of millions of American women. Romney continues to prove that he has no core beliefs and will say and do anything to get elected."

Just in 2002, Romney sought the endorsement

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People In The News...



Dr. Venus Opal Reese



Anthony Jones



Ola Ayeni

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Dr. Venus Opal Reese

At age 16, Dr. Venus Opal Reese was living on the Baltimore streets surrounded by violence, drugs and prostitution. She was quiet; she hardly talked at all.

Today, Reese is an outspoken, accomplished playwright. She has a second master's degree and a PhD from Stanford University, and she is an associate professor of aesthetic studies at UT Dallas.

Reese will share her story on Friday, March 30, at 8th annual "WOW: Words of Wisdom"

Women's Conference at the Hyatt Regency DFW.

"The predictable outcome of my situation was welfare, addiction and, ultimately, death. My life is a living demonstration that anything is possible. My passion is for inspiring high achievers, from the inside out, to change the world," Reese said.

In the ninth grade, Reese went to class smelling as if she had slept in an alley the night before — because she had. One teacher intervened when she realized Reese's situa-

tion. Her name was Judy Francis.

"She gave me a love that can't be earned," Reese said.

Francis cared for the 16-year-old Reese with more than warm meals — the teacher also pressed the student to write poetry. When Reese set the pen to the pad, the outcome was first place in a NAACP national poetry contest.

Winning the contest fueled Reese down the path she has taken, and it has also led her to found an organization called Defy Impossible, which aims to motivate and challenge others



to break through their inner barriers.

"I allow people to feel and be heard, fulfilled, pow-

erful, peaceful and proud of the difference they make in the quality of life for the human race," Reese added.

Apart from her motivational speaking, Dr. Reese is an award winning solo performer, playwright, director, choreographer and poet. Her latest solo performance work, *Split Ends*, a piece about black women and hair, was featured on the cover of the Palo Alto Weekly, showcased at the Black Repertory Theatre in Rhode Island and run off-Broadway at La MaMa ETC.

As a scholar, Dr. Reese's research re-imagines Africa, the middle passage, antebellum slavery, minstrelsy and popular culture through stories told.

Anthony Jones

BY TONYA WHITAKER
NDG SPECIAL
CONTRIBUTOR

Thoughts of business cards and company displays danced in the heads of the 100-plus Dallas-area residents who attended the Dallas-Richardson Chocolate Blues and Business Networking Festival on March 27 at the Richardson Civic Center.

The networking event ran from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and gave business owners the opportunity showcase their businesses and learn about

services provided by their neighbors.

"It was a huge success. We had more visitors than expected," said Anthony Jones, area director of the Dallas-Richardson Chocolate Blues and Business Networking Festival. "The vendors were cooperative and self-sustaining."

Jones said approximately 70 vendors took part in the festival with at least 100 individual attendees participating in open networking. Participating companies included insurance companies,

health and wellness businesses, and small business solutions vendors.

For some participants, it was the chance to visit with friends they meet in other network events.

"The more people you see, the more opportunities you have to sell," said George Clemons, mid-market sales executive for Fonality Inc. in Plano.

Dr. Naikai Butler of Hearing Services of North Texas in Dallas has participated in network events such as this since the inception of her practice nearly a year ago. The audiologist said she

has built a network that allows her to feed patients into her practice and make valuable connections.

"The key is to figure out how to work these events, and keep the opportunity to network with those in and outside your field open," the Dallas native said.

Vendors were also treated to entertainment, door prizes, and



roundtable workshops on subjects such as cold calling techniques (TrustPoint Man-

agement CEO Karl Graf and marketing director Stephanie Ward); effective networking (Elizabeth McCormick from Tech Savvy); why salespeople fail and making the gatekeeper your friend (David Tyson of Sandler Training); and reaping the benefits of LinkedIn (Lucinda Ruch from The Alternative Board).

Jones, who is managing director of business Development at Alternative Business Consulting Solutions in Dallas, said he expects that two more Chocolate Blues and Business Networking events to be held in 2012 in the Dallas area.

Ola Ayeni

MillerCoors granted \$125,000 to four small business owners through its MillerCoors Urban Entrepreneurs Series (MUES). The grand prize winner, Ola Ayeni, CEO of



Dining Dialog, which helps food and beverage companies grow their cus-

tomers base, received a \$50,000 investment grant and three runners-up will receive \$25,000 each.

"This is a big step for me and my business," said Ayeni. "This will help me get the resources I need to succeed and one day do the same thing MillerCoors is doing — help other entrepreneurs bring their businesses to life."

The ultimate goal of the MUES program is to create a pipeline of potential MillerCoors suppliers. Supplier diversity, community investment and

economic empowerment are priorities for MillerCoors. The brewer has set a target to cumulatively spend more than \$2.5 billion with minority-owned and women-owned suppliers by 2015.

"We believe these emerging businesses and the jobs they are creating are the key to growing and developing urban communities across the U.S.," said Larry Waters, director of multicultural relations for MillerCoors. "The entrepreneurs involved in MUES are dynamic and innovative business owners. Our support and guidance gives them the motivation and resources they need to take their business to new heights."

The business plan competition was established in 1999 as a valuable resource for entrepreneurs to grow their businesses, cre-

ate jobs and make a powerful impact in their communities. MUES has awarded nearly \$1.7 million in grants to more than 100 emerging businesses and offers fundamental resources for all participating entrepreneurs, including instructional webinars, interactive social media platforms and guidance from some of the leading business minds in the country.

MillerCoors awarded Ayeni a \$50,000 grant and three runners-up each received \$25,000. Winners were honored during a special reception on Thursday, March 8, at the MillerCoors Corporate Headquarters in Chicago, IL. Co-star of ABC's Shark Tank and founder of FUBU, Daymond John, served as the event's guest speaker, sharing his entrepreneurial experiences.

The complete listing of this year's winners follows:

* Ola Ayeni | \$50,000

Dining Dialog — Bolingbrook, IL

Dining Dialog is an in-

See AYENI, Page 4

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Affordable housing Out of Reach

BY CHARLENE CROW-ELL

Late last year America's homeownership rate dropped to 66 percent, the lowest since 1998. Amid continuing foreclosures and short sales, millions of former proud homeowners now find the cost of their American Dream financially out of reach. For many displaced by foreclosures, rental housing has become a long-term housing alternative. But new research finds that the huge growth in America's renters has worsened an already troubling problem: an inadequate supply of affordable housing.

According to Out of Reach 2012, an annual report by the National Low Income Housing Coalition, renter households rose by nearly 4 million between 2005 and 2010.

In 2012, a household must earn the equivalent of \$37,960 in annual income to afford the national average cost of a two-bedroom market rate of \$949 per month. To comfortably afford market price for the typical rental, incomes must meet or exceed \$18.25 per hour. However Out of Reach found that the 2012 average renter's wage was a few dollars less at \$14.15.

This gap between housing costs and typical worker earnings will continue to grow until or unless more affordable housing becomes available. Looking ahead, over the next decade the report predicts that the number of renters may increase by upwards of 470,000 annually.

See HOUSING, Page 11

Letter to the editor: Agent 007's Slate for Irving

Many people jokingly and fondly call me, James Bond, Agent 007, when they first discover my last name is Bond. But in all seriousness it does not take an undercover agent of any kind to decipher what is going on in the upcoming, Irving city, school board, and the newly formed 33rd Congressional district elections during the month of May.

The "Old White Guard" in Irving is up in arms and organizing like never before to keep candidates who embrace the diversity in Irving from being elected to the Irving City Council, The Irving Independent School Board (IISD) or to the U.S. Congress in the 33rd District.

In my opinion, we the Minority community cannot sit back apathetically and let this happen. We are now the majority group in Irving. If Black, Hispanics,

Asians, and Native Indians, all voted there is no way this Old White Guard subgroup can ever control an election in Irving ever again.

Former IISD Interim Superintendent, Niel Dugger said it best, "We need to have a salad bowl mentality in Irving now." Meaning just like in a salad, for it to be the best salad it needs to have all the ingredients in it and they all must be there together to make that salad the best that it can be. Likewise for Irving to be the best that it can be, all of the subgroups in Irving must be respected equally by our elected leaders and appreciated for what they represent and bring to Irving.

Therefore, this Agent 007 is recommending, Valerie Jones and AD Jenkins for the IISD Board, Bill Mahoney, Rick Stopfer and Fran Bonilla for Irving City

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ROMNEY, continued from Page 1

of Planned Parenthood in Massachusetts. Now that he's running for President, Mitt Romney said he'd balance the federal budget in part by defunding Planned Parenthood. Millions of American women rely on Planned Parenthood for cancer screenings and low-cost contraception, and other preventive services.

Republicans like Mitt Romney continue to prioritize special interests and corporations over the needs of everyday families," said Representative Roberto Alonzo (D-Dallas). "Texans have unfortunately already gotten a glimpse of what something like the Ryan budget would do to essential state services. Families in our state are dealing with an irresponsible budget passed by Texas Republicans that cuts taxes for corporations and the wealthy and cuts critical services for kids and seniors. Just like the Texas Legislature, national Republicans are doubling down with the Ryan budget that hurts our children, our

schools and our seniors." Both Romney's and Ryan's budget plans turn Medicare into a voucher program, increase health care costs to seniors by

thousands of dollars, and give massive tax cuts to the wealthiest. Paul Ryan's plan would use deep budget cuts to help pay for \$150,000 in tax breaks for

millionaires and billionaires, while Romney's plan would provide even deeper tax cuts for the wealthy, adding trillions to the deficit.

How low can you go?

Matt Davies speculates on what some of James Cameron's unreleased video of the deep sea might reveal.



Seniors await fate of Health Reform following Supreme Court hearing

Seniors were among the many supporters and opponents of the 2010 health care law kept a close eye on the Supreme Court last week, as the court heard oral arguments on the case to overturn the Affordable Care Act. At the center of the case is whether the mandate to buy health insurance is constitutional.

In arguing their side in the press, supporters of the law highlighted all of the benefits that millions of Americans have received thanks to the law's provisions. The Maryland/DC Alliance for Retired Americans was one of several or-

ganizations present at the front of the Supreme Court this week, and their members expressed their confidence that the law is constitutional.

The court's ruling, which is set to come in June, could change the interpretation of Congress' scope of power and have major implications for modern government.

Should health care reform be struck down, seniors risk losing many of the new benefits provided through the law. The shrinking doughnut hole - the coverage gap that leaves seniors paying thousands out of

pocket for lifesaving medications - will open back up, leaving many seniors to pay much more for vital and costly medications. The free preventive care and annual wellness visit benefits that are now offered will disappear as well.

"If any part of the law is repealed, seniors could lose a great deal of their health care protection and security," said Ruben Burks, Secretary-Treasurer of the Alliance. "In addition, Medicare Advantage overpayments to insurance companies could end, meaning that Medicare's Trust Fund would run out sooner."

VNA Bereavement Luncheon

Matt Wadsworth, a licensed social worker, will speak on "How to Ride the Grief Waves" at the April 26 bereavement luncheon hosted by the Visiting Nurse Association.

The luncheon is from

noon to 1 p.m. at the Church of the Incarnation on 3966 McKinney Avenue in Dallas. There is no cost to attend the luncheon, but reservations are requested and can be made through April 24 by calling 214-

689-2633.

VNA's bereavement luncheons offer supportive company from friendly and understanding people to individuals who have suffered the loss of a loved one.

AYENI, continued from Page 2

novative business that helps food and beverage companies increase revenue, through a mix of effectively proven customer acquisition and retention marketing programs.

* Sulaiman Sanni & Benjamin Lamson | \$25,000

WeDidIt - Brooklyn, NY

WeDidIt is a web-based, online crowd-funding platform, allowing organizations to raise money, reach new donors and increase their exposure, at a lower cost than any other method in use today.

* Roberto Torres, Michael Gil, Luis Montañez, & Christopher Findisen | \$25,000

Black and Denim Apparel - Tampa, FL

Black and Denim is an apparel brand with roots in American heritage principles: hard work and functionality where "Made in America" is not a slogan, but a way of business.

* Jamien Sills, Gwendolyn Tucker, Ricky Tucker, Tracy Bryant, Christopher Lee | \$25,000

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lutionary footwear for the everyday hero, focusing on 360° protection safety-wear, as well as ecofriendly footwear without the use harmful chemicals and adhesives.

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Garland Youth Council accepting applications

The Garland City Council invites young people to apply to serve on the Garland Youth Council (GYC). 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 in grades 9-12 during the 2012-13 school year are eligible to apply. Each applicant should submit a completed GYC application and two letters of reference by May 18, 2012 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.garlandyouthcouncil.org.

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Did you know that as a result of tobacco use and exposure to second hand smoke, more African Americans in Texas die from tobacco related cancers compared to other races and ethnicities? Did you know that 3 out of 4 African American adults in Texas are either overweight or obese, which contribute to the onset of diabetes?

Are you or your organization working to make your community healthier? Want to learn about tools and resources that can help you develop successful tobacco and obesity prevention and intervention programs? Get the new "Community Resource Guide to Address Tobacco Related Health Disparities". The Texas Health and Human Services Commission Center for the Elimination of Disproportionality and Disparities (CEDD) developed the guide with funding from the Texas Department of State Health Services' Communities Putting Prevention to Work Initiative. The guide is free and will be available online. In addition, for obesity prevention information and to build a plan for action that will make a difference in your community, visit: www.planhealthytexas.org <<http://www.planhealthytexas.org>>.

For more information about accessing the guide and addressing disproportionality and health disparities, please contact CEDD at: http://www.hhsc.state.tx.us/hhsc_projects/cedd/.

Water District Board recommends easing Stage 3 Water Restrictions

The North Texas Municipal Water District (NTMWD) Board of Directors last week recommended making the Stage 3 water restrictions less stringent by allowing once-per-week watering rather than the current twice-monthly schedule.

Most of the local cities are following the board's

recommendation. However, contact City Hall in your community before resetting your sprinklers.

The North Texas Municipal Water District (NTMWD) made its recommended change to Stage 3 restrictions because recent rainfall has replenished its water supplies. However, Lake Texoma remains un-

available because of the presence of zebra mussels, an invasive species. Lake Texoma provides approximately 28 percent of the NTMWD water supply.

Conservation remains a priority as the hot summer months approach and NTMWD's water supply is restricted because of Lake Texoma.

Frisco student enjoys lunch with Olympic legend

Jinsyn Barnes, a third year varsity track athlete at Frisco High School recently enjoyed lunch with Olympian Jackie Joyner-Kersey during a recent Destiny Awards event at the Belo Mansion in Dallas.

As one of the most decorated female athletes

of all-time, Joyner-Kersey dominated the track and field circuit for 13 years and won three gold, one silver and two bronze medals spanning four Olympic Games during her illustrious career. At the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles, she won the silver medal in the heptathlon.

Four years later, at the 1988 Games in Seoul, Korea, she struck gold in both her signature events - the heptathlon (world record) and long jump. Joyner-Kersey followed up at the 1992 Games in Barcelona, Spain by win-

See LEGEND, Page 7

LeukemiaTexas appoints Mandy Hamilton-O'Neill as Chief Executive Officer

LeukemiaTexas, a non-profit organization dedicated to fighting the life-threatening blood cancer of leukemia through research and patient aid, announced the appointment of Mandy Hamilton-O'Neill as Chief Executive Officer.

Before joining LeukemiaTexas, Mandy worked nearly 15 years in the non-profit sector, leading small and large non-profits, such as the American Heart Association and MADD, focusing on education, health, equality, and victim's rights. She has been responsible for executing

stimulating programs and substantial revenue generation to exceed organizational goals across the country which has resulted in close to \$20 million dollars for these organizations.

"I am honored to lead an organization whose mission is so critical, financially supports patients in our great state, and has a dedicated team who works daily to eradicate this disease" Mandy said. "For close to half a century, LeukemiaTexas has been the leader in improving the lives of those with leukemia and supporting

research in Texas and we will continue to champion our cause."

Mandy currently serves her community as a member of the Women's Auxiliary to Children's Medical Center of Dallas, member of the Auxiliary to the Genesis Women's Shelter, volunteer for the Kilgore College Rangerette Alumni organization, an official ambassador for the American Stroke Association, a certified Victim Advocate for MADD, and a Big Sister in the Big Brothers Big Sisters program.

Debate with candidates for the 33rd Congressional District April 11

The Dallas Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, BuscaAyuda.com, and the Hispanic Leadership Forum will host a debate forum with candidates for the 33rd Congressional District. The debate will center on current and relevant issues impacting the Latino community.

The debate will be held Wednesday April 11 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Dallas City Club located in the Bank of American Plaza Building in Dallas.



by April 5.

Complimentary parking will be available at the Texas Club Parking Garage located on the corner of Lamar and Main only. Attendees should take the garage elevator down to Tower/Retail for entry to the concourse leading to the Bank of America Plaza.

Due to limited space a ticket (sent via email) is required for admission. Voters can obtain a ticket by sending a RSVP email to info@busca-ayuda.com

Please, be sure to bring parking ticket for validation. The Dallas City Club is located at 901 Main Street, Suite 6900 in Dallas.

FAMILY,

continued from Page 1

clothing, and shoes. Those who attend will also have a chance to win gas cards and Wal-Mart gift cards.

"Just come and receive," invited Pastor McGill.

There will be a variety of entertainment throughout the day. This year for the kids there will be bounce houses to enjoy. And the event will have musical performances, praise dancing, and mime presentations.

The Antioch Christian Church, located at 2041 W. Walnut Hill Lane, West Irving, is hosting the festival. For more information, contact Elder Dwayne Allison at 972-756-0010, or visit www.AntiochChristianFamily.org.

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Alexis Jones from Irving's MacArthur participates in McDonald's All American Game

Irving Independent School District's MacArthur High School basketball star Alexis Jones traveled to Chicago to participate as a member of the ladies East team in the McDonald's All American Game on March 28. Although not a starter for the nationally televised game, Jones scored 9 points, and was credited with 3 assists and 3 steals. Thanks to a last second free throw, the West beat the East 79-78.

Jones has averaged 25.2 points, 8.0 rebounds, 6.5 assists, and 4.8 steals. In leading MacArthur to a 35-3 record, Jones had 20 dou-



Alexis Jones, MacArthur High School basketball star

ble-doubles, and four triple-doubles this season.

Throughout her successful basketball career Jones

has received numerous awards including:

- MacDonald's All American Team
- WBCA All American Team
- Chevrolet Female Athlete of the Year for the second year in a row
- Gatorade Girls Basketball Player of the Year for the second year in a row
- Dallas Morning News Player of the Year for the second year in a row

In Fall 2012, Jones will be a freshman and play for Duke University's Blue Devils next year.

LEGENDS, continued from Page 5

ning gold in the heptathlon and bronze in the long jump.

In her final Olympic appearance at the 1996



Jinsyn Barnes & Olympian Jackie Joyner-Kersey

Atlanta Games, she won the bronze medal in the long jump. In addition, she won a total of four gold medals (two in the heptathlon and two in the long jump) at three different World Championships and finished first in the long jump at the 1987 Pan American Games.

Joyner-Kersey holds the world record in the heptathlon (7291 points) and is the American record holder in both the heptathlon and long jump (24-7). Joyner-Kersey attended college at UCLA and starred in both track & field and women's basketball from 1980-to-

1985. Barnes and Joyner-Kersey shared up close and personal conversation during lunch, afterwards autographing her Nike spikes, which has further inspired Barnes to con-

tinue her current successful high school track record. She has high aspirations to continue track during her forthcoming senior year and upon entrance into college next year.

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Salt N Pepa's DJ Spinderella teaches music industry workshop

In the 1980s, DJ Spinderella was a pioneer among female deejays as one third of the hip hop sensation Salt N Pepa. Since then Spinderella has gone on to become one of the world's top deejays and has carved out a prolific career in a male-dominated industry. She shared her experiences with more than 200 Dallas youth participating in the Thriving Minds Career Connection spring break camp.

DJ Spin led a hands-on workshop in which youth learned the art and craft of being a DJ using a traditional turntable and mixer. In addition, participants explored the business side of the industry and available career paths such as artist management, marketing, finance, sound engineering and more.

During the weeklong Spring Break camp, DJ Spinderella was among dozens of professionals from a variety of fields providing students a behind-the-scenes



Dallas ISD student Desari Cleto mixes beats as DJ Spinderella and other workshop participants watch.

look at careers in a variety of industries, including dentistry, botany, engineering, fashion design, criminal justice and law. In addition to the music workshop, participants will experience careers in sports management with FC Dallas; fashion design and retail management at Fossil (the watch manufacturer); dentistry at the Baylor College of Dentistry; and engineering and science careers at Lockheed Martin.

Additional tours and workshops took place at

Central Market, 6th Floor Museum, Dallas Police Department and other locations.

Participating Dallas ISD middle schools included Anderson, Dade, Comstock, Cary, Edison, Hill, Lang, Long, Marsh, Medrano and Stockard. Sixth grade students from Dallas ISD's Blair, Carpenter, Cochran, Donald, Douglas, Moreno, Moseley, Stemmons and Stevens Park elementary schools, as well as youth from Jubilee Park Community Center also participated.

Health and Wellness Fair

Ben Washington Baptist Church
Mission Department
615 Davis Drive
Irving, TX 75061

Time: 8:30 a.m.-12 p.m.

Date: Saturday, April 14, 2012

Healthy Living = Healthy Life!

Treasure Your Health!
Everyone is invited!

For more information Contact:
Church 972-790-8421
Erma Boudreaux 972-841-3288
Ruby Walker 972-693-2267
Ann Gibson 972-402-9380

Get Started with a community walk/run! Beginning at 8:30 a.m.

Healthy Snacks

Free Health Screening
(Must fast for all blood work)

Health Screening

Activities & Education

Dietary Teaching

Medical Professionals on site offering seminars and demonstrations...

Ongoing

Every two weeks on Monday the Plano City Council holds its **City Council Meeting** at the Plano Municipal Center, Council Chambers, 1520 K Avenue, Plano, from 7pm – 9:30pm. FREE and open to the public. Info: planotx.org.

Harwood 609, 609 Harwood Street, Dallas, has **Salsa Night** every Thursday night starting at 9:30pm. Info: harwood609jazz.com or 214-740-0609.

Be Fit Frisco presents weekly **Fitness in the Square** sessions Thursday evenings 6:30pm – 7:30pm at Simpson Plaza in front of City Hall, 6101 Frisco Square Blvd, Frisco. FREE. Info: friscotexas.gov.

The Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 Harwood Street, Dallas, hosts **Jazz in the Atrium** every Thursday 6pm – 8pm. Performance included with general admission \$10 and under. Info: dallasmuseumofart.org or 214-922-1200.

Harwood 609, 609 Harwood Street, Dallas, hosts an **All You Can Eat Sunday Brunch with Smooth Jazz Sounds of Majik Touch** every Sunday at 11am. Info: harwood609jazz.com or 214-740-0609.

Want to become a better public speaker? **Toastmasters International** has helped people for decades in a mutually supportive, positive, and fun environment. See what it is like for FREE!!! Mtgs are every Monday at 5:45 p.m. Info: 214-566-4086 or <http://tex-ins.freetoasthost.org/>

Collin County Black Chamber of Commerce general membership meeting, monthly every 2nd Thursday, 6:30 p.m., at var-

ious locations within Collin County. Speakers, Power Networking, Business Referrals, www.ccbblackchamber.org or 469-424-0120.

Through April 16

AARP is offering free tax assistance 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. every Monday at the Lewisville Senior Activity Center, 1950A S. Valley Parkway. Info: 972-219-5050.

Through April 26

VNA Bereavement Luncheon at noon at the Church of the Incarnation on 3966 McKinney Avenue in Dallas. RSVP 214-689-2633

Through April 29

Texas Discovery Gardens' gallery space unveils a new exhibition, **"Echoes of Remembered Gardens,"** by Dallas artist Susan Lecky; admission applies. \$8 / adults, \$6 / ages 60+, and \$4 / ages 3 to 11. Free for members or on Tuesdays (butterfly house admission regular price).

Through December 8

New Life Skills Certificate program for African Women each Saturday morning from 9:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Audelia Branch Library located 10045 Audelia Rd. (at Church St.) in Dallas. Info: hellen.fissahaie5@gmail.com

April 7-16

Spirit of Uganda's farewell performance and event at SMU's McFarlin Auditorium.

April 7

Free Walk-In Writing Clinic from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. at the Pan African Connection Bookstore located at 828 4th Ave. in Dallas. Experienced writers will be available to assist with your writing needs.

Info: 214-943-8262 or 214-803-3920

Conversaciones @ Your Library in Irving Conversation tables will be available weekly for English and Spanish language learners to practice conversational skills. Central Library, 801 W. Irving Blvd. in Irving from 1 to 2 p.m. Info: ahipp@cityofirving.org or 972-721-2606

April 8

House of Blues Gospel Brunch 10 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Live Show by Lady Diamond and Special guest at :2200 N. Lamar, Dallas; Tickets: 214-978-2583 or www.ticketmaster.com

April 12

Guitarist Ricardo Cobo at the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth at 7:30 p.m.

April 13

4th Annual Spring Flower Fundraiser to benefit Richardson's Network of Community Ministries Dental Clinic at Loveable Smiles, 1410 N. Plano Rd., Suite 200, Richardson. Info: 972-231-0585 or email info@loveable-smiles.com

April 14

Guitarist Ricardo Cobo at SMU's Caruth Auditorium at 7:30 p.m. Tix: Guitar-Society.org or 817-498-0363. Tickets \$35

April 15

5th Biennial Democratic Candidate Forum at 2 p.m. at the Campbell Green Recreation Center located at the corner of Hillcrest and Campbell Road

April 19

DFW International Dinner with the Mayors at the Fairmont Hotel - 1717 North Akard Street Dallas at 6 p.m.

Irving Int'l. Women's Consortium Presents 6th

Annual Purse Auction at 6 p.m. at the Las Colinas Country Club, 4400 N. O'Connor Blvd., Irving; Tickets \$50 Info: www.IIWC.net or 972-831-8866

April 20

Shakespeare's Spring Soirée at Samuel Lynne Galleries, 1105 Dragon Street in Dallas, event features jazz and starts at 7 p.m.

April 21

Irving Black Arts Council Presents High School Drama at 8 p.m. at the Irving Arts Center - Dupree Theatre, 3333 N. MacArthur Blvd. Tickets: \$20 Advance/\$25 Night of Performance, Info: www.irvingartscenter.com or 972-252-ARTS (2787)

2012 March for Babies at White Rock Lake in Dallas; Info: www.marchforbabies.org, 972-669-3463

Global Rhythms: Mixed Percussion Ensemble at UNT at 1155 Union Circle #311277 at Voertman Hall in Denton at 8 p.m. FREE INFO: nkolsti@unt.edu or 940-369-8625

TBAAL Comedy Night at the Muse at Clarence Muse Theatre, 650 S. Griffin St., Dallas at 9 p.m. \$15 214-743-2449

Earth Day Dallas 2012 The second-annual Earth Day Dallas begins April 21, 2012, with a two-day festival in Fair Park. Events will focus on entertaining, inspiring and educating Dallasites with various ways to think, work and live green by showcasing emerging green technology, providing eco-friendly family activities, presenting enlightening lectures from environmental leaders, a variety of music and much more. FREE – INFO: www.earthdaydallas.org/contact or

Easter Events

April 5 - 8

Son's Of Thunder at Shiloh Church Of God In Christ at 1707 W. Harrison Street, Melissa, TX

April 5 at 7:30 p.m. Evangelist Hugh Mitchell

April 6 at 7:30 p.m. Evangelist Jessie Mitchell

April 8 at 11 a.m. Communion and Tag Team (Sounds of Thunder)

April 6

Good Friday at the International Museum 2 p.m. *Crucifixion Monologue* presented by David Bates at 7500 W. Camp Wisdom, Dallas Info: info@internationalmuseumofcultures.org or 972-708-7406

April 7-8

Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden Special Easter Weekend activities including a petting zoo, Saturday from 12 - 4 p.m. and Sunday from 1 - 4 p.m.; face painting, Saturday from 12 - 4 p.m. and Sun-

day from 1- 4 p.m. Stroll through the gardens and snap photos of the kids. Bring Your Own (stuffed) Bunny at 8525 Garland Road, Dallas, 214-515-6500

April 7

First Annual Easter Egg at Texas Discovery Gardens, included with admission from 1 - 4 p.m. at 3601 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Gate 6 at Fair Park, Dallas

April 8

Join the **EASTER GOSPEL BRUNCH** at the House of Blues at 10 a.m. for *delicious* southern buffet and live show. Reservations 214-978-2583 www.ticketmaster.com

Dramatic presentation of **Perspectives on the Cross** at 7:50 a.m. and 11 a.m. at Mt. Hebron Missionary Baptist Church, 1233 State Highway 66, Garland

214-310-1200

DFW Int'l / Wells Fargo Program for First Time Homebuyers This free bilingual workshop will introduce the basic steps in the purchase of a new home at the Ohrys Restaurant, 7750 N Macarthur Blvd in Irving from 3 – 5 p.m. FREE – INFO: president@dfwinternational.org or 972-661-2764

April 26

"Environmental Justice and the Maquilladora Murders" presented by Daisy L. Machado, dean of Academic Affairs and professor of church history at Union Theological Seminary in NYC. Evelyn Parker, associate professor of practical theology at SMU Perkins School of

Theology. 6:30–8 p.m., Prothro Hall at SMU Perkins School of Theology, 5901 Bishop Blvd.

April 28

Jazz with Nick Collione & Richard Elliott at Bishop Arts Theater Center, 215 S. Tyler Street in Dallas at 7 p.m. and 9:45 p.m. INFO: \$62.50 - \$57.50, education@tecotheater.org or 214-948-0716

May 5

2012 Bloomin' Ball at 6:00 p.m. at the Hilton Anatole Hotel in Dallas

May 18-20

The 20th Wildflower! Festival will take place at the Galatyn Park Urban Center in Richardson.

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Proud To Be An Active Partner In The Community

Are tax credits a necessary piece of the puzzle for South Dallas Development?

BY: JACQUINETTE MURPHY
NDG CONTRIBUTING
WRITER

Reverend Donald Parish, Sr. the senior pastor of True Lee Missionary Baptist Church at 3907 Bertrand Avenue in South Dallas is looking for a spark of hope for his community.

"This community has been so depressed that we are just looking for anything that would stimulate growth in this area," he shared.

For more than a decade, Dallas developers used tax credits as a key to unlock the door to building



Frazier Courtyard Homes features forty single family townhome units standing in the place of the once barrack-styled multi-housing project built in the 1940s and 1950s. This renovation was enabled through the federal tax credit program and the partnership of the city with local community developers. Eleven more units are scheduled for building by the Inner Community Development Corporation.

a recreation center and early childhood center. In 2011, the Carpenter's Cove

30.

Tax credits are defined as a dollar-for-dollar reduction in the income tax liability for the investors of housing tax credit properties. After the amount of tax is calculated on the property, the tax credit award is deducted from the total fees. This deduction aims to make the construction offer more attractive for potential investors by putting "free" dollars into a project. This results in the investor actually spending less money out-of-pocket.

Parrish stated, "We need tax credits to do development in our area because not a lot of people are doing development to the Fair Park area. It makes the project more doable."

The idea of awarding tax credits is a result of the 1986 Internal Revenue Service (IRS) federal tax reform code (Public Law No. 99-514, 100 Stat. 2085) developed to form a funding mechanism to ensure the sustained availability of affordable housing properties in the United States. It provides a legal means of directing private capital toward the development and preserva-

tion of affordable rental housing for low-income families.

Although, the initiative began on a federal level, the tax incentives are actually distributed by the state-level government agencies managing the funds for projects within their boundaries. Annually, a regional allocation formula (RAF) dictates the amount of tax credit awards assigned to the states for disbursement to developers through a competitive bidding process.

In Texas, the Texas Department on Housing and Community Affairs Agency (TDHCA) is the overseer of the tax credit allocation for the construction projects in the state of



The Frazier Townhomes Community Center offers a variety of programs and services.

area of development. This can also create jobs for the community, and at the same time it does not displace the residents.

Unlike traditional investment projects, when developers use federal tax credits to fund their project, these initiatives must

of tax credits has brought revitalization to the housing aspect of the still incomplete Southern Dallas community development puzzle, but Parrish sees it as kindling. "It is my hope that this would be a catalyst to spur more development and that people would start move in instead of moving out of the area. Success breeds success. We need something to stimulate this area." He continued, "Once it starts, other people would want to come in."

Recently, Dallas Mayor Mike Rawlings expressed his focused initiative to bring full-scaled development to the Southern Sector of Dallas. He unveiled Grow South, a master economic development plan aimed to create sustainable neighborhoods. In the one-hour presentation, he outlined and pledged to create and personally oversee private equity investment funds directed to cleanup, promote and attract corporate business, major restaurant and retail establishments south of the Trinity.

With the introduction of the mayors plan, and the continued HTC construction projects the community development of the long desolate Southern Dallas area has a dual opportunity to be revitalized.



Frazier Community Center serves as a resource for the area residents and houses a police substation, computer lab and other resources. Across the street an early childhood center also offers additional educational opportunities for the community's children.

affordable housing in the Southern Dallas area. However, they have failed to find an effective combination to open the gateway to creating economically sound communities for its residents.

Since 1999, 125 tax credits supported constructions have been completed in the City of Dallas according a recent housing report. Approximately 75 percent of the projects are in the South Dallas area. In 2004 and 2005, tax credit awards supported the renovation of the Frazier Courts multi-housing project into a town home community complete with

252-unit senior facility was completed in the Southeast Dallas area. Current housing tax construction efforts include the Buckeye Trails Commons on Bexar Street and the Wynnewood Senior Housing facility on Zang Boulevard.

Yet today, the North-South Gap remains a stubborn divisor in the city's overall economic growth plan and brings to question of whether or not the use of tax credits alone has simply been a patch for the long absence of a true master plan for communities south of the Trinity River Corridor, I-45 and I-



Carpenters Point Senior Living Apartments : Located in the Dolphin Heights in Dallas, this multi-housing community provides affordable housing options to citizens age 55+. The facility opened in 2011 and includes hair salons, a wellness center and even a walking trail for its residents.

Texas. Its program, called the Housing Tax Credit Program (HTC) allows private developers to apply for project funding awards to offset the cost of constructing the housing developments.

Cities such as the City of Dallas become conduits that help funnel the developers through paperwork, and manage the process for gaining the essential project permissions. The city benefits from this program through the increase in the base value of the

offer the majority of the housing units under the market rate to accommodate the lower income families. Additionally, little to none of the project can be combined with retail, restaurant, transit or other related development plans. Developers that do not comply or keep to the TDHCA guidelines, from conception and up to 40 years after development, can be penalized or even barred from participation in the HTC program.

Over the years, the use

Gabrielle Union and Luke James entertain Dallas audience for TV One's Verses & Flow special event

BY LATRISHA MCDUFFIE
STAFF WRITER

The beautiful Gabrielle Union and sexy R&B singer Luke James delighted the audience at a taping of *The Verses and Flow Live* at eM The Venue in Dallas last week.



Gabrielle Union and Latrisha McDuffie

The celebrated TV One series *Verses & Flow* hosted a special event sponsored by Lexus as the show gears up for a second season. The show placed a national spotlight on renowned spoken word artists and neo-soul/new school vocalists. Lexus has hosted "The Lexus Listening Lounge" in Dallas, Atlanta, and Los Ange-

les to showcase regional musicians, vocalists, and poets.

The always stylish Ebony Steele from 97.9 The Beat emceed the event. Ebony Steele is a co-host for the *Rickey Smiley Morning Show* as well as a Survivor Ambassador for General Mills' Pink Together Campaign and a Susan G. Komen for the Cure Circle of Promise Ambassador.

Award-winning spoken word artist Prentice Powell who was featured on *Verses & Flow's* first season recited *Not Your Average Black Man* encouraging Black men to embrace stereotypes linked to strength and creativity. The 2011 Grand Slam Champion Don Juan Hutchinson and local Dallas spoken word artist T. Odis also took the stage with powerful pieces.

Actress and star of upcoming movie, *Think Like a Man*, Gabrielle Union was presented with the Lexus Pursuit of Perfection Award for her philanthropic work. The actress was emotional as she watched video remarks from Dewayne

Wade and Hill Harper. A visibly moved Union began her acceptance speech speaking about the murder of Trayvon Martin. Union paused before stating that she has had trouble sleeping and forgetting Trayvon's cries. Union is a champion for many worthy causes including Susan G. Komen. The actress also passionately speaks out in particular about violence against women. She accepted the award for "those who continue to fight."

The night ended with a soul-stirring performance by rising R&B star Luke James. A very handsome James sang a string of R&B classics. He oozed old school sexiness from all of his pores as he moved around the stage belting out hits like *Sexual Healing*, *Love You Down*, and Mint Condition's *Pretty Brown Eyes*. As promised, James also sang his hit single *I Want You*.

Check out video of Luke James singing *Hurt Me* on our Facebook page at www.Facebook.com/NorthDallasGazette.

New Edition brings their high energy show to Windstar World Casino

BY DONALD WILLIS
NDG CONTRIBUTOR

R&B super group New Edition graced the stage on Friday March 30, 2012 at the Winstar Casino in Thackerville, Oklahoma to a sold-

Hit Me Off an upbeat jam from the *Home Again* album produced by Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis and followed with *If It Isn't Love* the debut single that introduced Johnny Gill to the group after Bobby

year and that New Edition are brothers and it's a blessing to have them in his life. The group showed their talents as individuals with Bobby's singing *My Prerogative* and *Roni* which had the crowd singing acapella. Ralph Tresvant sang his smooth ballad *Sensitivity* as he glided across the stage and Johnny Gill finished the set with *My, My, My*, as the other members sang the background vocals.

The night wouldn't be complete without the classics of *Mr. Telephone Man*, *Candy Girl*, *Cool It Now*, and the crowd favorite *Can't You Stand the Rain*.

Also, the threesome of Bell, Biv, Devoe energized the audience with *Do Me*, and *Poison* the anthem for party animals.

The group ended the night with *Home Again* a song that states the longevity of the group and after 29 years you can always go home no matter what the circumstances.



New Edition

out crowd of 5,000 die-hard fans. These loyal fans made the journey from as far away as Austin, Texas to be entertained by The Temptations of their era with smooth grooves, romantic ballads and dance routines that could be seen in a Fred Astaire movie.

The group opened with

Brown departure.

After these two opening numbers Bobby Brown emerged from the curtain with screams from the plethora of ladies in the audience.

He testified about the trials and tribulations he has been through during the last

JR COOK

DEMOCRAT FOR JUDGE - Criminal District Court 4

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HOUSING, continued from Page 3

The report states in part, "The analysis illustrates a wide gap between the cost of decent housing and the hourly wages that renters actually earn. The numbers in Out of Reach demonstrate that this year in every community across the country, there are renters working full-time who are unable to afford the rents where they live."

In 2012, many who are severely cost-burdened are adult workers whose wages are less than their locale's fair market rent. Determined by HUD on an annual basis, fair market rent reflects the cost of both shelter and utilities. This federal standard is also used to determine eligibility for HUD's Housing Choice Voucher program and Section 8 contracts.

Out of Reach found that in every state an individual working full-time at the federal minimum wage of \$7.25 per hour cannot afford a two-bedroom apartment for his or her family. In fact, there are very few places in the country where even a one-bedroom apartment at fair market rent is affordable to these workers.

Currently 18 states have minimum wages higher than that of the federal government and earlier this year, the City of San Francisco became the first in the nation to have a minimum wage above \$10 an hour. Unfortunately, California rates third highest in the nation's rental housing costs with \$26.02 an hour needed for a two-bedroom dwelling. Other states where a two-bedroom apartment would require an hourly wage of \$20.00 or more are: Connecticut, DC, Hawaii, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, and Virginia.

Based on a federal standard, affordable housing should cost no more than 30 percent of a

household's gross income. When housing costs exceed this threshold, the residents are considered 'housing burdened'. When housing costs more than 50 percent of household income, the households are 'severely cost burdened'.

By 2010, extremely low-income (ELI) workers, those earning less than 30 percent of the area median income rose to 9.8 million people, or one out of every four renter households. For every 100 ELI households in search of an apartment, only 30 affordable units are available. NHLIC estimates that an additional 6.8 million additional rental units are needed to overcome this shortage.

Commenting on the NHLIC report, HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan said, "This perfect storm of growing need and rising costs is why it is more

important than ever that we provide a supply of affordable rental homes at the scale that families require and in the places that need them."

Secretary Donovan has proposed that HUD's FY13 budget make renewing rental assistance for over 5.4 million families the agency's top priority.

Here's hoping that Secretary Donovan's budget request will fare better than earlier housing efforts. In 2008, the National Affordable Housing Trust Fund was enacted for the purpose of building more affordable housing. In 2012, it remains unfunded.

Charlene Crowell is a communications manager with the Center for Responsible Lending. She can be reached at: Charlene.crowell@responsiblelending.org



**Sports
Talk with
Spider**

BY DONALD WILLIS

Trayvon Martin's life was just beginning as a young man with goals and aspirations to become a football player like many other kids in America. That all changed on February 27, 2012 when George Zimmerman took the law in his hand and killed him. Zimmerman decided the teen looked like he was up to something. The fact he was wearing a hoodie was a factor.

The mainstream media, and thus the American public, equates a hoodie with being a "gangsta" because so many rappers wear them. However, throughout history men have worn "hoodies" for a variety of reasons.

There are plenty of cultures whose attire includes hoodies for protection from bad weather, reli-

Don't judge a hoodie by its cover

gious reasons, fashion and sometimes hatred. For example, Eastern European monks wore hoods to hide their identity as they prepared for priesthood.

Until recent years, many associated hoodies as the signature look of the Klu Klux Klan when it was founded in 1865. Their desire to hide their identity certainly predates gangsta rap.

Where are the Rush Limbaugh, Geraldo Rivera, Sean Hannity and others so quick to judge an African-American youth wearing a hoodie, but remarkably silent when it comes to an organization who wears a white hood to hide their face?

Where are the pundits when Bill Belichick the head coach for the New England Patriots wears a hoodie on the sidelines with cut off sleeves? Does his attire make him dangerous?

High school, college, and professional athletes wear hoodies regularly. The players are merely trying to protect themselves from the cold weather of a stadium or gymnasium.

Yes, the hip-hop community created a fad. Then mainstream rushes to spotlight negative connotations, as they did with Ken Griffey Jr. who wore his cap backward during batting practice. Once urban kids began wearing their caps that way it became a problem.

It's time for America to put a hoodie on its heart and protect it with warmth and love.

You can listen to Donald "Spider" Willis on Sport Talk with Spider each Sunday from 7 - 9 p.m. CST on fishbowlradio.com. For suggestion and topics call 469-335-6668 or email dwillisdw@yahoo.com.

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**This Texas Lottery Commission Scratch-Off game will close on April 9, 2012.
You have until October 6, 2012, to redeem any tickets for this game:**

Game #1343 **Monthly Bonus** (\$5) Overall Odds are 1 in 4.94

**This Texas Lottery Commission Scratch-Off game will close on April 30, 2012.
You have until October 27, 2012, to redeem any tickets for this game:**

Game #1360 **Triple Tripler** (\$3) Overall Odds are 1 in 4.85

**These Texas Lottery Commission Scratch-Off games will close on May 30, 2012.
You have until November 26, 2012, to redeem any tickets for these games:**

Game #1293 **Double Blackjack** (\$2) Overall Odds are 1 in 4.85

Game #1370 **Silver Bells** (\$5) Overall Odds are 1 in 3.86

Game #1378 **Instant Cash Five**® (\$1) Overall Odds are 1 in 2.63

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Rep. Gonzalez asks Romney to stick to the facts

Congressman Charlie Gonzalez (D-Texas) issued the following statement expressing disappointment over Governor Mitt Romney's comments that mischaracterized President Obama's record on immigration reform:

"Perhaps if Governor Romney hadn't spent the last six years campaigning for President, he might have noticed that it was members of his own party that defeated the DREAM Act and thwarted passage of comprehensive immigration reform. Additionally, it was only during the past few months that Governor

Romney proclaimed Arizona's S.B. 1070 anti-immigrant bill to be a 'model' and promised to veto the DREAM Act. President Obama is committed to passing comprehensive immigration reform and the DREAM Act, but is unable so long as Republicans like Governor Romney, continue to pander to the far-right wing of their base.

"Governor Romney's attempts to rewrite history



Congressman Charlie Gonzalez (D-Texas)

with campaign rhetoric will fail because he cannot change the facts about himself or his party."

EDITOR, continued from Page 3

Council and Domingo Garcia for the 33rd US Congressional District which covers all of South Irving. I believe this is the slate that will honor the salad bowl approach to governing, the best.

I believe these candi-

dates will embrace the diversity in Irving the best and are the best candidates in these respective races to move Irving forward rather than backward like this Old White Guard wants to do. I urge all who seek justice and long for the truth and

peace to go to the polls and take your friends and family members to vote for this very worthy slate of candidates.

Anthony E. Bond
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SECRET, continued from Page 1

After President Barack Obama was elected and forming his cabinet, I remember receiving from one of my Israeli Jewish friends a widely circulated email. The email posed the question whether Obama was forming a cabinet or a minyan. [A minyan is the minimum number of adult men needed for a communal Jewish religious service.]

Obama's administration is inundated with Jews. Some include:

- Former Chief of Staff Rahm Emanuel;
- Former Director of the National Economic Council (for the Obama administration) and U.S. Secretary of the Treasury (during President Bill Clinton's administration), Larry Summers;
- U.S. Secretary of the Treasury, Timothy Geithner;
- Chairman of the U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission Gary Gensler; and
- New Chief of Staff Jacob Lew

Their presence and Obama's allegiance to them can be seen in his various forms of placating. For example, the annual hosting of a Pesach seder at the White House, Hanukkah celebration and trip to the Western Wall in Jerusalem.

Despite the fact Jews comprise approximately 2 percent of the American population Jewish dollars in politics account for a disproportionate amount.

Media mogul and Democratic National Committee (DNC) "sugar daddy" Haim Saban in 2007 donated upwards of \$13 million to political campaigns. He was Clinton's as well as Obama's largest donor, respectively.

Claims from varying sources as the *Washington Post* to the *Jerusalem Post*, as well as authors Steven Pease and Henry Feingold contend anywhere from 45 percent to 60 percent of political contributions come from Jews. Leading that charge is the behemoth of lobbying groups, AIPAC the American Israel Public Affairs Committee.

In an interview with Bill Maher, Elizabeth Warren spoke of the relentless barrage of coaxing of Congress by lobbyists and their unrivaled financial backing. She equated them to a "Goliath."

Referring to the bank lobbyists Warren said, "They're coming, not just you know, once a month, once a week or even once a day. These guys are coming in two and three and four times a day. They're making phone calls. They've got the position papers and they just keep slamming in the same direction over and over and over."

AIPAC, which is considered to be one of the most influential lobbying groups on Capitol Hill, spent \$4 million in 2010 alone. Its affiliate, the American Israel

Education Foundation spends up to \$28,000 on elaborate trips to Israel for elected officials and their spouses.

One of AIPAC's more recent gambits is the courting of African-American college students to posture as spokespeople in favor of Israel, and more specifically pro-Israel policy. AIPAC offers African-American students a front row seat in politics by providing all expense paid trips to Washington, D.C., where they can meet congressmen, senators, even the President.

In 2011, at its national policy conference in Washington, AIPAC featured sev-

eral speakers from HBCU's (Historically Black College and Universities). A semi-annual workshop the *Saban Leadership Summit* offers the opportunity for, in AIPAC's own words "more than 400 of its top student activists from over 140 campuses to participate in four days of intense political programming and advocacy training. During these seminars, students interact with leading Washington policy makers, Middle East experts and AIPAC leadership development professionals." *Saban Leadership Summit*, yes brought to you by none other than the aforementioned Haim Saban. The

same Haim Saban who has openly stated he has one issue and that issue is Israel.

So while African-Americans are sending their children to HBCU's with the intent of empowering them to better serve the communities from which they come, many are being indoctrinated and recruited to act as buffers against increasing condemnation of the state of Israel and its treatment of the Palestinians. Many of these students previously had limited, if any, knowledge or understanding of Israel's policies. However, after completing AIPAC's crash course in Middle East politics, they rise to become

avid mouthpieces championing Israel's "democracy" claiming it "a country whose laws of democratic government ensure the rights of every man, woman and child."

Well, if you are going to impose apartheid upon a people without being called to the carpet, who better to do your bidding than the descendants of slaves?

Who's your daddy?

Nicole Scott is a freelance journalist based in Israel. She is a contributing writer for the North Dallas Gazette. She is an American-Israeli, born in the United States but has lived in Israel for the last 9 years.

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April 7, 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 19, 12 Noon

Come to a "Between Jobs Support Group" meeting at the Christian Works for Children, 6320 LBJ Freeway, Dallas, TX 75240. Call 972-960-9981 to register.

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

BIBLE WAY COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH

April 8, 8-10 a.m.

You're invited to our Bible Class as we study the Word of God and give Him honor and praise.

Dr. Timothy Wilbert, Sr. Senior Pastor
4215 N. Greenview Drive
Irving, TX 75062
972-257-3766
www.biblewayirving.org

CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH (Formerly EIRENE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP)

April 11, 7 p.m.

Reverend Sisters in Christ, join us in praise and worship in our Lecture Hall. For details call the church or email womens@ccommunity.org.

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

DAYSTAR DELIVERANCE MINISTRIES

April 2012, New Days, 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Visit Helen's House Tuesdays and Fridays (exceptions are bad weather and holidays) to receive, to give, to comfort and to fellowship. The give-a-way of food, love and household items is given freely to all those who could use a little touch.

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

FELLOWSHIP CHRISTIAN CENTER CHURCH IN ALLEN "The Ship"

Monday – Friday 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

TheShip3C's Prayer Lines for those that are in need are 972-649-0566 and 972-649-0567 or they may be submitted via email to: prayerline@theship3c.org

April 14

Come to our Men Empowered by Christ Annual Prayer Break-

fast at the Old Fire Station in Allen. Call the church for details.

Dr. W. L. Stafford, Sr., Ed.D. Senior Pastor
1550 Edelweiss Drive
In Allen for Sunday Morning Worship.
Admin. Building Address
Is 200 W. Belmont Drive
Allen, TX 75013
972-359-9956
www.theship3c.org

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF HAMILTON PARK "First Church"

April 7, 10 a.m.

The Men of First Baptist Church invites all kids between the ages of 2-12 to an Easter Egg Hunt at the Family Life Center. Kids are asked to bring an Easter basket.

April 8, 9:15 a.m.

You're invited to join us for "The Crucifixion" our Easter production for 2012

April 21, 12 Noon

Join us for our Women of the Word Luncheon in our Fellowship Hall with guest speakers Thelma Wells, A Woman of God Ministries and Benita Arterberry, an anointed singer. Theme: Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly . . ." Colossians 3:16. Call the church for details.

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

MT. PISGAH MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH "The Rock"

April 8, 7:45 a.m. and 11 a.m.

Join us in Sunday Worship as we give God excellence praise

without excuse.

April 11

Come to our Noonday Bible Study to learn more about the Word of God; and at 7 p.m. for our Wednesday Night Bible Study.

Pastor Robert Townsend
11611 Webb Chapel Road
Dallas, TX 75229
972-241-6151
www.dallasmtpisgah.org

NORTH DALLAS COMMUNITY BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

April 7, 12 Noon

For those in need, come to our Grief Recovery Support Group. Call Tera McFarland at 972-437-3493, Ext 111 or email her at tmcfarland@ndcbf.org for details.

April 14, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

You're invited to a FREE event, "Getting you FIT to do God's Work" by Assessing Your Temple Mind, Body and Soul Wellness Fair. Workshops and Lectures on Disease Prevention, Nutritional and Natural Healing, Weight Loss, Fitness, Diabetes, Children's health, and Prostate Screenings. Demonstrations will be on Zumba, Christian Yoga Alternative, Reflexology, Chiropractic and more. Enjoy food tastings, Music, Kids' Fun. Prizes every 30 minutes; PLUS Special Wii Fit give-away. For information go to www.ndcbf.org or call 972-437-3493.

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

ROCKBRIDGE CHURCH

April 8

Join us in Prayer with Pastor at

8:30 a.m. and stay for Worship Celebration at 10 a.m. as we honor and praise God for His blessings.

April 11, 7 p.m.

You're invited to Bible Study and Awana as we worship and praise God.

Timothy Jones, Lead Pastor
21 Prestige Circle
Allen, TX 75002
214-383-9993
www.rockbridgechurch.com

SAINT MARK MBC IN MCKINNEY

April 8, 9:30 a.m.

Join us in our Education Ministries, stay for our Worship Celebration at 10:45 a.m. and you're invited to join us for our Friends and Family Day as we fellowship, worship and praise God.

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

SHILOH MBC IN PLANO

April 8, 8 a.m. And 11 a.m.

Join us in our Morning Worship times and stay for our Sunday School at 10 a.m.

April 11, 7 p.m.
You're invited to our Midweek Service as we worship and praise God.

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

THE INSPIRING BODY OF CHRIST CHURCH

April 8, 7:30 a.m.

Join us as we worship, honor and magnify God's Holy name.

April 9, 7 p.m.

Come to Monday School as we study the Word of God and worship and praise His Holy name.

Pastor Rickie Rush
7701 S. Westmoreland Road
Dallas, TX 75237
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Sister Tarpley

Perhaps you have read or heard this before. I have had this for a number of years; now that Easter is April 8th, I thought that this is worth thinking about again. It is food for your soul.

A very wealthy man and his only son loved to collect great works of art, especially rare paintings. They had everything in their collection, from Picasso to Raphael. They would often sit together and admire their rare and priceless art.

When the conflict broke out, the son went to war. He was very courageous and died in battle while rescuing another soldier.

The father was notified and grieved deeply for his only son (I can imagine how he felt; I too would grieve deeply if something happened to Jarrell, my only son.)

About a month later,

there was a knock at the door. A young man stood at the door with a large package in his hand. He said, "Sir, you don't know me, but I am the soldier for whom your son gave his life. He saved many lives that day, and he was carrying me to safety when a bullet struck him; he died instantly. He often talked about you, and your deep love for rare and priceless art." The young man held out this package. "I know this isn't much. I'm not really a great artist, but I think your son would have wanted you to have this."

The father opened the package. It was a portrait of his only son, painted by the young man. He stared in awe at the way the soldier had captured the personality of his son in the painting. The father was so drawn to the eyes that his own eyes welled up with tears. He really cried!

He thanked the young man and offered to pay him for the picture of his only

son, perhaps it was the last picture taken of his son. The young man said, "Oh, no sir, I could never repay you for what your son did for me, he saved me! It's a gift."

The father proudly hung the portrait over his mantle. Every time visitors came to his home to look at his priceless works of art, he took them to see his most valuable possession, the portrait of his son, before he showed them any of the other great and rare works of art that he had collected.

The man died a few months later. There was to be an auction of his rare and priceless paintings. Many influential people from around the world gathered; they were very excited over seeing the great paintings and joyful at having an opportunity to purchase one for their own collection.

On the platform set the painting of the son. The auctioneer pounded his gavel. "We will start the bidding with this picture of

Take My Son! (Part 1)



Sister Tarpley with two of her three grandsons, Philip Immanuel Lott, the youngest and David Edward Lott, the oldest of the three. Not shown is grandson Devan Jaquan Tarpley.

the son. Who will bid for this picture?" There was dead silence; you could hear a pin drop on cotton.

Then a voice in the back of the room shouted, "We want to see the famous and priceless paintings.

Skip this one." But the auctioneer persisted. "Will someone bid for this painting? Who will start the bidding? A \$200 bid? Perhaps \$100 as a starting bid for the son? Another voice shouted angrily. "We didn't come to

see this painting. We came to see the Van Goghs, the Rembrandts. Get on with the real bids!"

But the auctioneer continued. "The son! The son! Who'll take the son?" *Next Week, the conclusion.*

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NDG Bookshelf



BY TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER

Once upon a time, Retired Air Force Master Sergeant Thurmond Giles had surely been tall and handsome, even athletic. But there he was, naked and gray-haired, his cocoa skin dry in the Wyoming desert.

Giles made many friends over the course of his long career. But in the new book *Astride a Pink*

***Astride a Pink Horse* is amusing but not as colorful as you might expect**

Horse by Robert Greer, some of them were no friends at all.

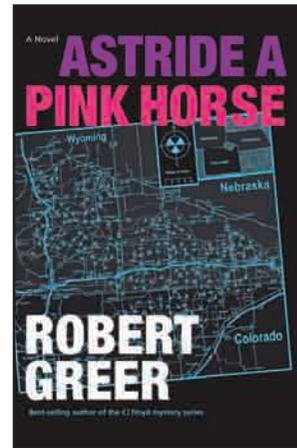
Because the man had been found hanging out near an abandoned nuclear missile site – which was clearly posted “No Trespassing” – Air Force officials were keen to know why he was trespassing. Platte County sheriff Art Bosack wanted to know who’d stabbed the man five times and had mutilated his corpse.

The death of Thurmond Giles was just the kind of news that Freddy Dames thrived on. Dames, former baseball-star-turn-

ed-millionaire, owned Denver’s *Digital Registry News* and prided himself on doing whatever it took to get a story, whether it was 100 percent right or not. That included sending his best friend and employee Elgin “Cozy” Co-seia wherever Dames thought the juiciest lead might be found.

And Cozy was okay with that. Actually, he was better than okay with it when he learned that Major Bernadette Cameron would be spearheading the Air Force’s investigation into Giles’ death.

For his part, the re-



cently deceased Thurmond Giles had led an interesting life.

By all accounts, he’d been a terrible womanizer,

which was more-or-less why the Air Force had demoted him and banished him to their version of Siberia before discharging him. Giles had left a trail of jilted women and jealous husbands.

Yes, there were a lot of people who had reason to see Giles dead. But was he the only target?

Right in the middle. That’s where I’d place *Astride a Pink Horse*. It’s a five, dead center, both good-and-bad. It’s okay. If you’re looking for a thrill-a-minute, though, this book bombs.

There’s a great mys-

tery here, but the protagonist is implausibly weird. The characters are likeable enough, but not enough to make me want to see them again. Author Robert Greer created a couple of good corpses, but he didn’t give me much of a reason to care why they became so. There was excitement in this book, but there’s also a stilted, predictable romance that made me roll my eyes.

Astride a Pink Horse by Robert Greer (North Atlantic Books, 376 pages, \$23.95)

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